



Happenings at NLC

September 2025

"With the birth of Jesus in our hearts,
we carry light and love to the world."

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30am

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei



Upcoming Events

September 1 - Labor Day (*office closed*)

October 3 & 4 - Trinkets & Treasures Sale

October 5 - World Communion Day

October 7 - Blessing of Animals

October 25 - New Member Class



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Please visit our website at
www.nlcww.org to view the NLC
calendar, submit requests for
dates/events, download sermons,
among other things.



6363 Commercial Way
Weeki Wachee, FL 34613
352-597-1456 • www.nlcww.org

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Spiritual remembrances in September:

Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, died 1654. Tuesday, September 9, 2025 - Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary, and served in present-day Colombia. His ministry was focused on the enslaved people who arrived there. He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity.

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407. Saturday, September 13, 2025 - John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

Holy Cross Day. Sunday, September 14, 2025 - Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258. Tuesday, September 16, 2025 - Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179. Wednesday, September 17, 2025 - A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961. Thursday, September 18, 2025 - A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.

Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996 (TFF). Saturday, September 20, 2025 - A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist. Sunday, September 21, 2025 - Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.

Michael and All Angels. Monday, September 29, 2025 - Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels. The word "angel" means messenger, and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these beings have a fully spiritual nature and no physical body.

Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420. Tuesday, September 30, 2025 - Jerome was a biblical scholar and translator, but rather than translating the original Hebrew and Greek scriptures into classical Latin, he worked in the commonly-spoken Latin of the day, creating a version called the Vulgate.

Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226. Saturday, October 4, 2025 - Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864. Saturday, October 4, 2025 - Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.

ALTAR GUILD – SEPTEMBER 22. Members beautify the worship space and prepare the altar for our Sunday celebration. They also set up the sanctuary for the celebration of weddings and for funeral/memorial services. It is always a joy to make the necessary preparations to support everybody's worship experience. We invite anyone (male or female) to attend one of our meetings, starting in September, which is held on the 4th Monday of each month at 10:00AM, to find out what we do and how we do it. If you have any questions you would like answered before that please, call **Suzanne Chelf at 352-684-7329.**

ALTAR FLOWERS. If you would like to purchase flowers in honor or memory of a loved one or event, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex on the kiosk. You can also call the office at 352-597-1456. Cost is \$25.00 per arrangement. For those people who have purchased bouquets, the Altar Guild will have them ready for you to pick up after the 9:30AM service. PLEASE, do not remove flowers from the altar. Members from the Altar Guild will remove them for you.

CHRIST IN OUR HOME - We have received our copies of the July/August/September 2025 issue of *Christ in Our Home*, and summer issue of *Living Lutheran*. If you would like a copy they are available in the narthex, or stop by the office between 9:00AM and 12PM. A small donation would be appreciated to offset the costs of the devotionals. You can use a green pew card and mark it “devotionals”. If you have any questions, or want to make sure copies are still available, please call the office at 352-597-1456.

NLC'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - If you are traveling or unable to attend in person but have internet access, you may follow the service by clicking on the link made available on our web site (nlcww.org) or via email on Saturday, or watch a recording of the service during the week. Conversely, you may listen to Nativity Lutheran's Sunday Worship Service every Sunday night at 6pm. Tune in to WZEU-FM 102.9 on your radio for a broadcast of this week's Sunday Service.

OUTREACH

SEPTEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH - NATURE COAST HUMANE SOCIETY.

Founded in 1964, the Humane Society of the Nature Coast, Inc. is a private, no time limit, non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue and health of orphaned, surrendered, and abandoned pets. All pets who reside at the shelter are spayed or neutered, have age-appropriate vaccines, and receive parasite prevention. Volunteers work every day to find alternatives to save lives and find forever homes for homeless pets.

Nativity Lutheran Church is going to offer a Blessing of the Animals on Thursday, October 7 at 9:30 AM at the shelter located at 7200 Mobley Rd Brooksville, FL 34601 (corner of Wiscon & Mobley). Anyone is welcome to attend and bring pets to receive a blessing. This will be our way to support the shelter and at the same time, let people know about Nativity. In the meantime, we may collect the following items:

Purina One dry adult dog/cat and kitten/puppy dry food - wet cat/kitten food and wet dog/puppy food - clumping cat litter - Dawn dish soap - window cleaner - 13 and/or 33 gallon garbage bags - laundry bleach/soap - paper towels - disposable gloves - gallon size ziplock bags - manila file folders - bath towels - Walmart gift cards.

You may place your donations in a special container provided for you in the narthex or bring them when you on the day of the blessing. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Simply use a green envelope and mark it "Nature Coast Humane Society".

THRIVENT NEWS - Once again Thrivent members in August have submitted Action Team Projects to benefit our church and our community outreach.

1. Rez House Shoes - was August 8th
2. Trinket & Treasures - October 3 & 4, miscellaneous expenses and food for volunteers
3. Oak Hill Senior Living Facility - Church service every Wednesday afternoon with documents and communion bread and juice
4. N.L.C. Choir - brochures for Christmas Concert

Other projects you may wish to consider submitting are:

1. Lighthouse for the Blind - equipment for babies/teens/ adults
2. N.A.M.I. - brochure
3. Trunk or Treat—candy
4. Homeless Shelters—they will notify you what they need
5. Animal Shelters—food
6. Individual or Family Help - emergency expenses
7. Pastor - discretionary fund
8. Friendship Circle—ELCA goat program
9. Angel Tree - food/fellowship/Christmas gifts for children

It's up to you to use your Action Team Donation before you lose it.

Contact Ernie Hories (352-600-5906) or Tim Cotter (352-797-9682) for any help you might need in filling out paperwork for your project, or bringing it to a successful completion.

ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEE LEADERS, CIRCLES, CHOIR, WOMAN OF NATIVITY AND COUNCIL MEMBERS. If you are planning an event to help our congregation or community, both local or worldwide, think about submitting an Action Team Project and receive back seed money from Thrivent to help fund your outreach. Example: Rachel's Day we missed submitting an Action Team Project which could have brought in seed money, a donation from Thrivent of \$250.00. Contact Ernie Horeis @ 352-600-5906 or Tim Cotter @ 352-797-9682.

FOOD PANTRY TIDBITS

SHOPPING CART DONATION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER IS:

Syrup (24 oz) and/or Pancake & Waffle Mix (32 oz)

While we will gladly accept any and all donations, we are going to highlight a couple of items each month that could help out.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Class will start up again September 21. If you wish to register your child for the upcoming school year, please call the church office at 352-597-1456, or call Noel Prettyman at 352-515-3345.

COMMUNITY LIFE

NATIVITY 2025 PHOTO DIRECTORY. Copies of the new 2025 Photo Directory are available in the narthex on Sunday mornings as well as in the office Monday-Friday from 9am-12pm. In addition, if you would like to have it sent to you electronically, please send an email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com and we will send a PDF copy to you.

COUNCIL UPDATE AT A GLANCE...

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Nativity,

Many are now returning from summer vacations and some are still gallivanting the globe. However, the Council welcomes each of you back home. A reminder to the Congregation, all general Council Meetings are open to our Congregational members and we encourage you to attend. The meetings are generally held on the last Tuesday of every month at 10am. The next meeting is September 23rd. Please know you are always welcome.

Our “Long Term Planning Committee” here at NLC continues moving forward in determining what NLC enhancements may be required as our Congregation moves forward in this ever changing world. Council also created a sub-committee that is reviewing specific areas of the NLC Employee and Contractor Handbook and making updates where necessary.

As many of you may be aware, our Food Pantry is a wonderful outreach ministry and one which we care deeply about. ELCA's "God's work. Our hands." is true as we continue to feed the less fortunate who rely on our assistance. Beginning September 1, the Food Pantry will be co-chaired by Gwen Mahon and Noel Prettyman, and a committee of eight individuals committed to this ministry. Please know as with any of the committees here at NLC, all are welcome to help where you have an interest. Please join us and enjoy the fellowship and blessings.

Fall is a busy time here at NLC. October will be here soon and that means our Trunk or Treat outreach, which is well attended by the families in our community, will be upon us. What a fun time for the children and those from our church family. Please consider buying several bags of wrapped candies and hand them to the trick or treaters from the trunk of your vehicle.

In addition to Trunk or Treat in October, NLC will also be having another Trinkets & Treasures sale on October 3 & 4, as well as our Crafty Christmas event on November 22. All of these are amazing outreach programs for NLC.

Nativity will be celebrating our 40th Anniversary with a lovely luncheon on Saturday, November 15. Please mark your calendars and buckle-up for a great fall line-up and some wonderful fellowship.

As a reminder NLC has established a "Family Restroom" located in the NW corner of the Narthex for guests and members who prefer or need the accommodation. Given NLC has many wonderful ministries to which we are proud and committed to each one, helping hands are always needed and welcomed.

Blessings,
Steve Miller
NLC Council President

WOMEN OF NATIVITY. All women members of Nativity Lutheran Church are automatically members of W.O.N. and are welcome to participate in all sponsored activities of W.O.N.

DAYS FOR GIRLS, SEPTEMBER 2 & 16. Days for Girls is a non-profit organization formed to help girls in developing countries stay in school. Through the Trompeter Fund and Thrivent Financial, WON (Women of Nativity) has been able to participate in this life changing mission. For more information, contact Jill Helgeson at 352-410-0226.

NATIVITY'S CARDS R US CIRCLE, SEPTEMBER 8 & 24. Nativity's Cards R Us Circle will be making cards out of your used, donated greeting cards on Monday, September 8, and Wednesday, September 24, 9:30am-12:30pm, in Winemiller Hall. This is a fun and addictive time for us and we invite anyone to give it a try. No experience is necessary and we supply the materials. We have new card makers, so you're invited to check out the new styles and talents you'll find on our kiosks. Your monetary donations for the cards we make are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help those in financial crisis. And, on behalf of our circle and especially on behalf of the recipients who have been helped via Pastor's Discretionary Fund, we want to extend a big THANK YOU to the person who recently slipped a cool \$100 bill into our kiosk cash box. What a surprise!!! We are all very grateful! For further information, please contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

CRAFTY LADIES - Fridays, 9:00AM - 12:00PM. We are a group of approximately 12 women, who meet every Friday morning at Nativity from 9:00AM until 12:00 noon, in Al Lien Hall. These dedicated ladies, iron, cut squares, pin and sew the quilts together, and tie a knot in every square. Please come and join us. Questions? Call Jill Helgeson at 352-410-0226.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27. Friendship Circle will see *Beyond Van Gogh* and *Beyond Monet: The Immersive Experience* at the Straz Center in Tampa on Saturday, September 27th, at 1:45pm. We will meet at Nativity at 12:00pm to carpool. The experience brings the visions of two of history's most celebrated artists to life in breathtaking detail. Iconic works like "The Starry Night," and "Water Lilies" are projected onto walls, surrounding guests in vibrant color and movement, accompanied by an original score. Included is a virtual reality journey. For 8 or more, admission is \$40.20 each. The Straz Center is located at 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, 33602. Afterwards, we will enjoy authentic Cuban food at La Teresita Restaurant, 3248 W. Columbus Dr. 33607. Anyone wishing to attend, please contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918 no later than Tuesday, September 9; she will purchase tickets for the group.

CLUB 75 LUNCHEON - SEPTEMBER 30, 12:00pm @ The Silver Dolphin Restaurant, 4036 shoal Line Blvd, Hernando Beach, 34607 The only criteria to be part of this fellowship group is that you must be 75 years old or older! More details coming. You can also call Vicki Page with any questions (352-210-8407). A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.

SARAH CIRCLE. The women of Sarah Circle crochet/knit prayer shawls that are readily available to all members. If you have a family member or friend that is in need (undergoing/recovering from a medical procedure or is ill, suffering from a recent loss, or in need of prayer) you are welcome to come to church and request a prayer shawl so that you can give to them, or mail out to them. We have shawls for both women and men. When someone receives a prayer shawl, the women of Sarah Circle ministry also pray for that recipient. We are always looking for people to help with crocheting or knitting of the prayer shawls. Sarah Circle meets on the third Thursday of the month in the Youth Room at 10:00AM. Or, if you prefer, the prayer shawls can be made in your home. For information, call Peggy Sanders at 352-382-1781.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Our first meeting will be Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 10:30am. We will be discussing our upcoming events. If you are interested in joining our group, please come to our first meeting. We try to have an event once a month starting with September and ending in May. Our committee is a vital part of Nativity and welcome anyone who would like to help us plan our events. If you cannot make the meetings, and there is something you would like to discuss, please contact Carol Anderson @ 630-564-7135.



TRINKETS & TREASURES

**Sale Dates: Friday, Oct. 3rd
and Saturday, Oct. 4th
9AM-2PM.**

We are only accepting items for donations on Mondays from 9am - 12pm (no collection on Labor Day Sept. 1) and Tuesdays 1pm-4pm. Last day for donations will be Tuesday, Sept. 23. If you can help us sort and price items during any of those days/times, please join us. If Mondays/Tuesdays do not work for you to drop off your donations, please call either Janet Jones (352-515-3931) or Evelyn Galli (516-909-3119) and we can see if we can arrange a time that is convenient for all of us. We would appreciate it if you do NOT drop off items when we are not at church.

We will also need many volunteers to make it a success as follows:

1. Empty containers with donations on Monday, Sept. 29 (8:30am).
2. To help set up and price items Monday, Sept. 29-Thursday, Oct. 2 (generally from 9am-1pm).
3. To work on the 2 sale dates (we need a few people to come at 7am on Friday, Oct. 3 to empty items from the container that we will be selling outside).
4. Saturday, Oct. 4 at 1:30pm - to help with packing up items and getting the church ready for Sunday worship service.
5. Monday, Oct. 6 - 9am - to help finish packing and storing the remainder to the items from the sale.

Please consider helping us as it's a great time for fellowship as we work and you might even find a bargain or two prior to the sale.

Crafty Christmas

Over the coming months, you'll hear from friends in our congregation who participated in last year's Crafty Christmas. During select Sunday Temple Talks, they'll share their personal stories of how this experience touched their lives. These testimonies will offer inspiration and encouragement as we continue living out Nativity Lutheran Church's mission of carrying light and love to the world – this time through participation in Crafty Christmas 25. Please sign up in the narthex, talk or text with June Kristoferson at 352-650-0036 or Vicki Page at 352-210-8407.

Read the transcript of the testimony given by Al Wright on July 20, 2025

**"Behold how good and how plentiful it is for
brethren to dwell together in unity"**

Psalm 133:1

When Crafty Christmas reached out last year for members to join the team, I graciously accepted the invitation and was designated an Ambassador.

My task was to greet visitors and patrons, hand out fliers with information, direct them to the location of vendors and displays, and to give an overview of the premises making them feel much at home.

"To dwell together in unity" we must first remember that all good things come from God, the first is LOVE, and secondly, we must be at peace with ourselves and with each other.

One must maintain that inner peace and spirit because, when we share our positive message with others, be it verbally or by telepathy, we usually get similar feedback as they return that welcoming smile or comforting word.

Bearing that in mind, my obligation was to welcome everyone with love, at times using a little humor as they arrived at Nativity. When they were leaving, I also took time to thank them for their support on behalf of Nativity Lutheran and the vendors.

For me, it was not only welcoming patrons but an opportunity to see the creative talents of the vendors which I greatly appreciated.

The refrain of one of the hymns we sing is.

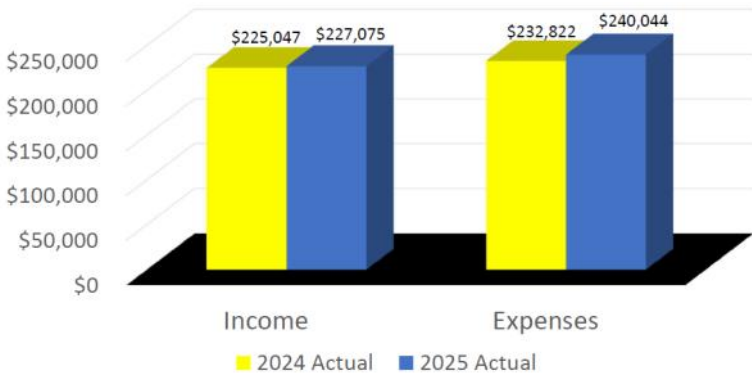
"We are called to act for justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve on another
To walk humbly with God"



Many hands lighten the load,
and you are invited to be a member of the Crafty Christmas **T E A M** because,
Together **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**iracles.

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY JULY 2025

2025 vs. 2024 Income and Expenses (Thru July)



If you have any questions, please contact Scott Henkel at scott.henkel@capgemini.com.

WAYS TO DONATE TO NATIVITY. Nativity has a Venmo account. You can send a donation to: @Nativity-LutheranChurch. Also, if you prefer, Nativity has a Zelle account. Send to: nativitylutheran63@gmail.com. Also available is the QR code (see code on right) that is specifically for Nativity donations. Just point your phone's camera at it and a website address will pop up.



REPORT ON MATCHING FUNDS

Pastor made an appeal earlier in the year to qualify for “matching funds” in which every dollar of increase in the income to the General Fund of our Church is matched by an anonymous donor. Thanks to the generosity of our members, I am pleased to announce that we have received more than \$12,000 in “matching funds” thus far this year. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. Your generosity is so appreciated!

I would also like to inform you of the opportunity to achieve roughly another \$8,000 in “matching funds” this year. How can we do that? Every dollar of income that we can generate for the General Fund of the Church that is more than the income from 2023 will qualify for a dollar-for-dollar donation of “matching funds”. My plea to everyone is to prayerfully consider whether you can help us to meet this goal in order to qualify for these “matching funds”. This is measured at the end of each quarter each year. Therefore, anything that you can do to help us with this goal by the end of September would be greatly appreciated.

I need to again thank all of you for your generous support of our Church. God has truly blessed us with such a generous congregation.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 612-868-9512.

Scott Henkel
Financial Secretary

MEMBER UPDATES

New Address: **Brian & Linda Wagner**
5072 Helton Drive
Sykesville, MD 21784

Dearly Departed: **Mary McDowall**
Condolence cards: Jim McDowall (son)
7456 Atwood Dr.
Webster, FL 33597

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Gene Long	9/1
Mae Haines	9/5
Ruth Ann Hoy	9/9
Gwen Mahon	9/9
Gordon Lienau	9/14
Glenna Schantl	9/17
Joanne Manos	9/18
Alice Wells	9/20
Donna Long	9/22



Frani Barnes	9/24
Beryl Clements	9/27
Kendall White	9/27

SEPTEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Patricia & Jeff Werner	9/3
Debra & Joseph LaFranca	9/4
Roselind & Clyde Rosten	9/9
Stephanie & Giuseppe Mattei	9/19



REMINDERS

OFFICE HOURS - Monday through Friday - 9AM-12N

INTERNET SERVICE - If you would like to connect to our internet when on campus look for **Nativity 2**, the password is **guest1234**.

MAILBOXES: When you come to church, please take a moment to check your mailbox in Winemiller Hall and see if anything was left for you.

NEWSLETTER: If you would like to have something included in the **OCTOBER** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com by **September 15**.

WE WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU - We understand that not everybody is online and receives the church information through emails, Facebook, or our web-based calendar. If you know of anyone that has not been able to attend church for some time, you may be the only link between them and Nativity. We would appreciate it if you would keep them included in the happenings at Nativity so that they may not miss out on activities or schedule changes. In addition, please let us know as well so that we can work to keep them in the loop about things at NLC. In addition, should you have a change in your address, phone number and/or email address, please let the office know.

NLC CALENDAR: You can view it on the website, www.nlcwww.org. If you do not have access to the website, please let us know, and we can arrange for you to receive a printed copy. In addition, on the website you can submit a request to schedule a meeting. We have many ministries scheduling meetings including non-NLC groups. If you need to reserve a room, please make sure you submit your request to the office. Submissions can be made using a form that can be obtained in the office, or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com or via the form on the website. This will help resolve any conflicts that may arise.

MISSION STATEMENT

With the birth of Jesus in our hearts
we carry light and love to the world.

VISION STATEMENT

Working as a supportive family of faith to extend God's gracious welcome through worship, community service, and spiritual growth opportunities.



OUR VALUES STATEMENT

We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

We recognize that God is making us, through grace, into a Fellowship that embodies and expresses the spirit of Christ.

In this fellowship there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of us are one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28). Therefore, we welcome all people, regardless of religious office, position, possessions, education, race, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability or other distinctions; and work to promote anti-racism. (Adopted 4/6/25)



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

