



# Happenings at NLC

## November 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

**November 25, 2025**

**Thanksgiving Service, 11:00AM**

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**

**2301 Deltona Blvd, Spring Hill, FL 34606**

**Happy Thanksgiving, November 27, 2025**

Thanks be to God



### Upcoming Events

November 2 - All Saints' Day

November 15 - NLC 40th Anniversary Lunch

November 22 - Crafty Christmas

November 27 - Office Closed



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Please visit our website at  
**[www.nlcww.org](http://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](http://www.nlcww.org)

# SPIRITUAL LIFE

## Spiritual remembrances in November:

**All Saints Day. Saturday, November 1, 2025** - The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On the following Sunday, we will remember the faithful who have died during the past year. You may also call the office to have your loved ones deceased this past year added to the list and/or light a candle.

**Martín de Porres, renewer of society, died 1639. Monday, November 3, 2025** - Martín was the son of a Spanish knight and a freed Black woman from Panama. As a lay brother in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he engaged in many charitable works in Lima, Peru. He founded an orphanage, a hospital, and a clinic for cats and dogs.

**John Christian Frederick Heyer, died 1873; Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, died 1719; Ludwig Nommensen, died 1918; missionaries. Friday, November 7, 2025** - Heyer was the first missionary sent out by American Lutherans. After teaching at Gettysburg College and Seminary he was assigned to the Andhra region of India. A worker among the Tamil people on the southeast coast of India, Ziegenbalg was opposed both by local Hindus and by Danish authorities who favored a different missionary style. He was known for caring about the welfare of the whole person. Nommensen was born in northern Germany and was sent to Sumatra as a Lutheran missionary. Working among the Batak people, he translated the scriptures into their language, and honored their native culture.

**Martin, Bishop of Tours, died 397. Tuesday, November 11, 2025** - Martin's pagan father enlisted him in the Roman army. Approached by a beggar, Martin cut his cloak in half and gave part to the man, whom he later understood as representing Christ. He asked to leave the army, but was jailed instead. After his release, he became a preacher, and later a bishop.

**Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, died 1855. Tuesday, November 11, 2025** - Kierkegaard was a Danish theologian whose writings also gave rise to the modern philosophy of existentialism. He frequently attacked the complacency of the state church of his day, as well as its desire to be accepted by polite society rather than be a stumbling block.

**Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231. Monday, November 17, 2025** - Born in Hungary, Elizabeth was betrothed to the son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, and at age four was taken to be raised with him at the Wartburg Castle. Ten years later they were married. She was very generous to the poor, and after her husband's death she lived in cruel hardship until her own death at age twenty-four.

**Clement, Bishop of Rome, died around 100. Sunday, November 23, 2025** - Clement was the third bishop of Rome. He is best remembered for a letter he wrote to the congregation in Corinth, still struggling with the same problems that led to Paul's letters to them. As did Paul, he focused on the need for love among Christians.

**Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr, died 1927. Sunday, November 23, 2025** - Pro grew up in a time when the Mexican revolutionaries accused the church of siding with the wealthy. He became a Jesuit priest, and worked on behalf of the poor and homeless. Falsely accused of throwing a bomb at a government official, he was executed, but not before crying out "Long live Christ the King!"

**Justus Falckner, died 1723; Jehu Jones, died 1852; William Passavant, died 1894; pastors in North America. Monday, November 24, 2025** - Not only was Falckner the first Lutheran ordained in North America, but he published a catechism which was the first Lutheran book published on the continent. Jones was the Lutheran church's first African American pastor and carried out missionary work in Philadelphia which led to the formation there of the first African American Lutheran congregation (St. Paul's). William Passavant helped to establish hospitals and orphanages in a number of cities and was the first to introduce deaconesses to the work of hospitals in the United States.

**Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748. Tuesday, November 25, 2025** - Thought by many to be the greatest hymnwriter in the English language, Watts as a youth was critical of the quality of the metrical psalter of the time. He wrote about 600 hymns—many based on the psalms, but others that are not.

**Andrew, Apostle. Sunday, November 30, 2025** - The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 - ALL SAINTS' DAY** - Votive candles will be placed in the Baptismal Font area for you to light at the beginning of the service if you so choose. One of the Altar Guild people will assist you.

**ALTAR GUILD – NOVEMBER 17.** 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 which is held on the 4th Monday of each month at 10:00AM with the exception of November, it is on the third Monday, November 17, 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.**

**ATTENTION LECTORS (READERS):** Please, mark your calendar. All Readers are cordially invited to attend a refresher meeting on **Sunday, November 23**, following the worship service.

**THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE - NOVEMBER 25, 11:00AM.** This is a good time to come out in gratitude and give thanks to God for all the blessings received. Service will take place at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2301 Deltona Blvd, Spring Hill 34606. Our siblings in Christ from Holy Cross will also be with us. Fellowship time to follow.



# Christmas Poinsettias



Order your Poinsettia to adorn our sanctuary for the Christmas Eve service for \$10.00 each. The poinsettias are large 3 stem red plants FRESH from Knox Nursery of Winter Garden, FL. With proper care they will last weeks after Christmas.

Send your check to the office or use the order envelopes located in the Narthex and identify your memorial. You may pick up your poinsettia following the Christmas Eve service or beginning Friday, Dec 26.






We will start taking orders on Sunday, December 7. Special envelopes will be available in the narthex by the poinsettia display.

We also have available 6 large white poinsettias with red foil. They will cost \$25.00 each, and are on a first-come first-serve basis. You may purchase these through Linda at the church office.

**CHRIST IN OUR HOME** - We have received our copies of the October/November/December 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.

**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.

**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](http://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. Older video recordings of the worship service may be found on YouTube under Nativity Lutheran Church Weeki Wachee. Older sermons may be found on our website, [NLCWW.org/Service & Sermons](http://NLCWW.org/Service%20&%20Sermons).

**TRINKETS & TREASURES -** The sale was a huge success and we were able to make over \$8,900. Thank you to the more than 40 volunteers who put in over 1,000 hours to make it happen. It was also a great time of fellowship and a chance to make new friends.

## **MEMBER UPDATES**

**New Address:** Kathy Olson  
1343 7th Ave SW  
Hickory, NC 28602

# OUTREACH

**NOVEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH - LUTHERAN GLOBAL MISSIONS.** The ministry of the Florida-Bahamas Synod's Global Mission Table (GMT) is to foster growth and deepen relationships with our Companion Churches and institution using the ELCA model of Accompaniment. We pray for our Companions, listen to them, and learn from them, as we share Christ and His love in our various contexts and cultures. When feasible, we visit each other to worship together and experience each other's countries and cultures. If you are interested in receiving the Synod's Global Table Newsletter, please call us.

The Florida-Bahamas Synod has 5 companion relationships:

- The ELH – Eglise Lutherienne d'Haiti
- The ELCG – Evangelical Lutheran Church of Guyana
- The ELKS – Evangelical Lutheran Kierke in Suriname
- The IEU-SL– Iglesia Evangelica Unida en Cuba – Sinodo Luterano
- The UTCWI – The United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI) in Jamaica, a primary training facility for Lutheran clergy in the Caribbean

Our donations will go forward promoting several locally identified ongoing projects in our Synod's Companion Churches, including school supplies, seeds, goats, theological classes, women's support groups etc. Use a green envelope and mark it Lutheran Global Missions.



## **TROMPETER FUND GRANT FORMS AVAILABLE -**

Applications for 2026 grants from the David Trompeter and Dorothy Marie Trompeter Endowment Fund are now available in the church office. The applications must be returned to the church by December 31, 2025. Trompeter Fund grants are made to supplement “worthwhile ministries of Nativity Lutheran Church” and may not be used for ongoing budgeted programs or building programs of the church. The guideline rankings used for determining a grant include meeting human needs for food, water, and shelter; alleviating human trauma; religious education; and enriching the quality of life. Applications may be picked up in the church office or requested to be sent by mail by calling the office at 352-597-1456. For questions about the grant process, please contact Ed Lewis of the Mission Endowment Committee at [edelweis21@verizon.net](mailto:edelweis21@verizon.net).

## **THRIVENT NEWS**

Thrivent Members - have you used your Thrivent Choice Dollars?

Thrivent Choice Dollars is celebrating its 15 year anniversary giving away \$640 million dollars to churches (Nativity) and nonprofit nationwide organizations since the program was launched in 2010.

Have you used your Thrivent Action Team? You need to submit a project before year-end.

Please contact Ernie Horeis @352-600-5906, or Tim Cotter @352-442-4884, if you have any questions.

Nativity Lutheran.

We extend our thanks For joining us  
For the Blessing of the Animals. You provided  
much Support to our Shelter Family, including  
the wonderful pets in our care. I also  
thank you For the wonderful monetary  
donation. I look forward to more events  
in the Future with you!

Sincerely,  
Melissa Creighton  
Volunteer & Event Coordinator

*Thank You!*

*Your generous donation will help the  
dogs and cats of the Nature Coast  
find their fur-ever homes!*

*With much appreciation,*

The Staff, Volunteers, and Board of Directors  
of the Humane Society of the Nature Coast



## TRUNK OR TREAT OCTOBER 18, 2025

There were 27 cars and over 30 volunteers who put in over 105 volunteer hours. Thank you to all who purchased candy goods for the successful event. We had over 190 children participate in our annual Trunk or Treat.





3627 West Waters Avenue  
Tampa, Florida 33614  
Ph: 1-800-651-1853  
Fx: 813-875-1302  
lsfnet.org

LSF serves to bring God's healing, hope and help  
to people in need in the name of Jesus Christ.

Nativity Lutheran Church  
6363 Commercial Way  
Weeki Wachee, FL 34613

Dear Friends,

Thank you and your congregation for providing the life-changing gift of God's healing, hope and help to people in need! Like the Good Samaritan in the Bible, who took pity on the wounded traveler – bandaging and transporting him to the inn while also covering all expenses – your compassion blesses and serves our struggling neighbors throughout Florida.

Our impact is truly YOUR impact! It is your generosity that shelters and supports youth in crisis, provides healing services to victims of sexual abuse and human trafficking, strengthens children in poverty through education and nutrition, assists and protects vulnerable adults, guides and empowers refugee families, and more.

I encourage you to stay up to date with LSF by visiting [www.lsfnet.org/makeadifference](http://www.lsfnet.org/makeadifference) to sign up for our email newsletter, *Hands of Hope*, where you can hear more about the lives impacted by your donations and our work throughout the state.

On behalf of the children, adults and families we serve, thank you for your big-heartedness!

Stay safe and well,

Sam Sipes  
CEO

Pastor Giuseppe &  
Nativity Lutheran Church,  
We are so incredibly  
grateful for your support  
towards so many in need.  
Thank you, thank you! *Mary Blessings*  
Tina Wilkerson

## THANK YOU!

Gift Amount: \$1,708.00  
Date Received: 8/25/2025  
YTD Amount: **\$5,318.00**

Nativity Lutheran Church  
6363 Commercial Way  
Weeki Wachee, FL 34613  
[Donor ID: 110811550]



Gift Description: Greatest Need

3627 West Waters Avenue | Tampa, Florida 33614 | (800) 651-1853 | [makeadifference@lsfnet.org](mailto:makeadifference@lsfnet.org) | [www.lsfnet.org](http://www.lsfnet.org)

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION (BCH-33359) AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE 1-800-HELPFLA (1-800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. LUTHERAN SERVICES FLORIDA RECEIVES 100 PERCENT OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED. NO GOODS OR SERVICES WERE PROVIDED IN RETURN FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION; THEREFORE, THE FULL AMOUNT OF YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE AS ALLOWED BY LAW. FOR TAX PURPOSES, PLEASE RETAIN THIS LETTER AS YOUR RECEIPT.

# FARMWORKERS SELF-HELP, INC.

*Campeños de Ayuda Voluntaria*

37240 Calle de Milagros / Lock Street • Dade City, Florida 33523  
(352) 567-1432



October 8, 2025



Nativity Lutheran Church of Weeki Wachee  
6363 Commercial Way  
Weeki Wachee, FL 34613

Dear Church:



Thank you for being so Generous we cannot say thank you enough even though you may get tired of seeing and hearing it.

The shoe purchase went well, and then we had also received the cards not used for later purchase, well, I had two families that are raising all their grand children, and they come to our church. We made sure they were clothed and ready for school, another family with a Down syndrome young man, mother works very hard, and she also cares for a grandson as he goes to high school. We believe we were good stewards and we thank you for allowing such a privilege. Over 50 children received shoes!

TEEN DREAM TEAM



Please know how much we appreciate all you do.

Sincerely,



*Margarita*  
Margarita Romo  
Executive Director

*P.S.  
forgive the little mistake  
but I hate to waste  
paper!  
Blessings*

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE AT (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. OUR REGISTRATION NUMBER IS CH3551

# FOOD PANTRY TIDBITS

## SHOPPING CART DONATION FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER IS:

**Instant Mashed Potatoes and/or Stuffing**  
**Dollar Tree has the best price for these.**

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** - Every Sunday, children will start the worship service with their guardians, and will be dismissed at 9:45AM until communion time. Register by calling the church office (352-597-1456). Any questions please call Noel Prettyman at 352-515-3345.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** - Our Confirmation students, Arabella and Juliet Wright, connect with Pr. Giuseppe every Wednesday morning over zoom. Even though they are traveling abroad, class still goes on. At this time they are in their second year of studies tackling the Christian Scriptures (aka, New Testament).

**ADVENT ADULT BIBLE STUDY** - In Advent we prepare for the coming of Christ and we read only in Matthew and Luke a few stories of Jesus' birth and his early years. There is symbolism galore in the stories the Evangelists thought important enough for us to hear. The purpose of the stories is to connect us to ancient divine promises. Come to a Bible study based on the gospel of Matthew on six Mondays from November 17 through December 15 at 11:00 AM in the church library.

# COMMUNITY LIFE

## WHAT A WONDERFUL DAY!

Thanks to all those who made our World Communion Sunday such a beautiful and memorable day in worship! We appreciate all who carried flags in our Processional and those who shared their languages in the international language Litany (Danny Diaz, Evelyn Galli, Morgan Hsieh, and Phan Squires). Special thanks to Pat Squires, Danny Diaz, Al Wright, and Ed Lewis for helping to set up the flag stands and poles; to Jill Helgeson, June Kristoferson, Mary Krol, and Suzanne Chelf for ironing the flags; and to Donna Olsen, Pat Squires, Jane Henkel, Jill Helgeson, Al Wright, Peggy Sanders, Mary Krol, Joanne Johnson, Luann Cavanaugh, Kathy Hackemer, Clarence Crawford, Kathy Drach, and June Kristoferson for hanging the flags.

**NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION CLASS** - 11 people attended class and 16 people will be received during worship service on November 9.

**SAVE THE DATE - 40th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 - 1PM.** We will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Nativity Lutheran Church with a catered buffet luncheon featuring a mixed green salad, chicken marsala, carving station of roast pork, mini new potatoes, California vegetable medley, rolls & butter, dessert, wine, coffee and ice tea. Cost is \$10.00 per person. As this is being catered, it is necessary to RSVP and submit your payment no later November 1, 2025 (we must give caterer final count by November 2). We are selling tickets in the narthex before and after service. If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, please call Janet Jones at 352-515-3931 or email her at [j92403553@gmail.com](mailto:j92403553@gmail.com). We hope you join us for this special celebration.

**CLUB 75 LUNCHEON - NO luncheon in November.**

## **COUNCIL UPDATE AT A GLANCE...**

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Nativity,

By now most of you know NLC had a very successful “Trinkets & Treasures” with over \$8,000.00 raised. A major Thank You! to Evelyn Galli, Janet Jones, and the many individuals who helped with this enormous project. Again, our congregation deserves a big Thank You also for taking time and energy to search your homes, closets and garages for items no longer needed and donating them to this project.

Thank you Linda Russo and those who helped make “Trunk or Treat” a success again this year. Many thank you’s were received from parents and families who attended this fun filled event. Our next big event here at NLC will be “Crafty Christmas”. The crafters are lined up and everyone affiliated with this project is working diligently towards yet another “Success!”

Please be sure to mark your calendars for NLC 40th year Anniversary Luncheon which is quickly approaching. Thinking ahead to our annual meeting, there will be several issues which require NLC membership to vote on. One will require changes to the position of Treasurer and some additional minor changes to NLC Constitution required by the ELCA. The council will continue to work on these initiatives and deliver them to the congregation in time for voting as required by NLC Constitution. A reminder to our members and guests, NLC has many opportunities for sharing our skills and talents. The Synods slogan “God’s Work Our Hands” is definitely true here in the life of NLC.



A reminder to the Congregation, all general Council Meetings are open meetings to our members and we encourage you to attend. The meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month at 10am (there are occasionally exceptions to this so please make sure you check the church calendar). Please know you are always welcome.

Please don't forget the needs of our Food Pantry 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, join us and enjoy the fellowship and blessings.

Blessings,

Steve Miller  
NLC Council President

**NATIVITY 2025 PHOTO DIRECTORY.** They 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](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com) and we will send a PDF copy to you.

## REMINDER

**Sunday, November 2**



**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.

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1.** We will see the movie **SPRINGSTEEN: DELIVER ME FROM NOWHERE** on Saturday, November 1. This biographical musical drama depicts Bruce Springsteen as a young musician on the cusp of global superstardom, struggling to reconcile the pressures of success with the ghosts of his past. The theater, time, and restaurant will be chosen once schedules are released, a few days prior; Circle members and any others who have indicated they wish to join us will be notified. If anyone other than a member of Friendship Circle wishes to join us, please contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

**NATIVITY'S CARDS R US CIRCLE, NOVEMBER 3 & 10.** The Cards R Us Circle will be meeting in Winemiller Hall on Mondays, November 3 and November 10, at 9:30am-12:30pm to make new cards from your used, donated greeting cards. Please shop our large selection of Thanksgiving cards, as well as cards for birthdays, get well, thank you, thinking of you, sympathy, anniversaries and more. Thanks in advance for your support of this mission project; all proceeds are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help those suffering financial setbacks. We welcome all who would like to try their hand at this fun and addictive craft. No experience is necessary. Call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918 for information.

**DAYS FOR GIRLS, NOVEMBER 4 & 18.** 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, W.O.N. (Women of Nativity) has been able to participate in this life changing mission. For more information, contact Jill Helgeson at 352-410-0226.

**MARY JOY BIBLE STUDY - NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>.** All Women of Nativity are invited to join our bible study on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:45AM. For more information, please call Elva Posewitz at 352-584-9362.

**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.

**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.

# SAVE THE DATE

## *Special Events Coming in December*

**Saturday, December 6** - W.O.N. Christmas Luncheon

**Saturday, December 13** - Angel Tree Party

**Sunday, December 14** - Christmas Cantata

**Sunday, December 14** - Weeki Wachee Winds Concert

**Sunday, December 21** - Congregational Meeting

**Wednesday, December 24** - Christmas Eve Service

**Sunday, December 28** - Lessons and Carols

## **CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS DUE DECEMBER 15th.**

All ministry teams and committees are asked to turn in an annual report to the church office by December 15. Any questions, please call the church office at 352-597-1456.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21. Our annual Congregational Meeting for Budget and Elections** will be held after Sunday service. The purpose is to propose and adopt a budget and a program of ministry for the following fiscal year, to hold annual elections, and transact any other business that may be necessary. Copies of the budget will be available in the narthex. You may also stop by the office (or call 352-597-1456) to request a copy.

# GIRL SCOUT TROOP 24401 PRESENTS OUR FIRST CLOTHING SWAP

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Nativity Lutheran Church

6363 Commercial Way,

Brooksville, FL 34613



## WHAT'S A CLOTHING SWAP?

A CLOTHING SWAP IS A FUN AND ECO-FRIENDLY WAY TO REFRESH YOUR WARDROBE!

BRING GENTLY USED CLOTHES YOU NO LONGER NEED, AND SWAP THEM FOR "NEW-TO-YOU" TREASURES.

## HOW IT WORKS:

♥ PAY THE SMALL ENTRY FEE  
(\$1 PER PERSON / \$5 PER FAMILY)

♥ TAKE WHAT YOU NEED, LEAVE  
WHAT YOU DON'T

♥ EVERYONE LEAVES WITH  
SOMETHING NEW TO LOVE

## ALL SIZES WELCOME

ADULT, MENS, WOMENS, CHILDREN ETC.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARD HELPING  
TROOP 24401 REACH THEIR GOAL TO  
VISIT KEY WEST, FL & GO CAMPING



One of the girl scout troops who meets at Nativity is having a clothing swap fundraising event (see details above). If you have any clothes you'd like to donate, you can bring them to the church office from November 3-7 between 9AM -12PM, and we will put them aside for them.

You may also bring them on Saturday, November 8 as well. Let's try to support them in their event. Any questions, call Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119.

# Crafty Christmas

During these past few months and continuing through November you are hearing from friends in our congregation who participated in last year's Crafty Christmas event. In these select Sunday Temple Talks, they share their personal stories of how this experience touched their lives. Their 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.

## **|Read the transcript of the testimony given by Betty Lou Barnhardt on October 5, 2025**

I'd like to share how Crafty Christmas became a journey for me.

On the day of the event, I walked into the courtyard as a vendor. As I looked around, Gayle Howland greeted me with a great big hug and showed me where to register, get my gift bag and to the table where I was to set up. I instantly felt so welcomed and at ease.

I met many friendly people, other vendors, shoppers and church volunteers. I grew my business not only with sales, but with future possibilities. During this time, Carlan Helgeson stopped by to see if he could be of any help and we talked about different faiths and what Nativity was like.

I decided to attend the Sunday service that week . And you all know how that ended. **(Betty Lou joined NLC a few months later! )** Now, I feel as if every one of you are with me on my journey.

The peace I feel puts me to mind of Psalm 23 .... “ ... Surely, goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

Please sign up to volunteer in the narthex to volunteer for *Crafty Christmas 25*.

For more information - **Talk, phone or text June Kristoferson at 352-650-0036.**

# *Nativity Lutheran Church Christmas Ornaments*

This year, **Crafty Christmas** is offering beautiful custom Christmas ornaments that will add a special touch to your holiday décor. Available in five distinctive designs and presented in elegant gift boxes, these ornaments make wonderful gifts as well as cherished keepsakes for Nativity families. When you select an ornament, you're not only adding beauty to your Christmas tree, but you are also supporting two vital area charities that serve those in need: **The Starfish Foundation** and **Life Center of Hernando**.

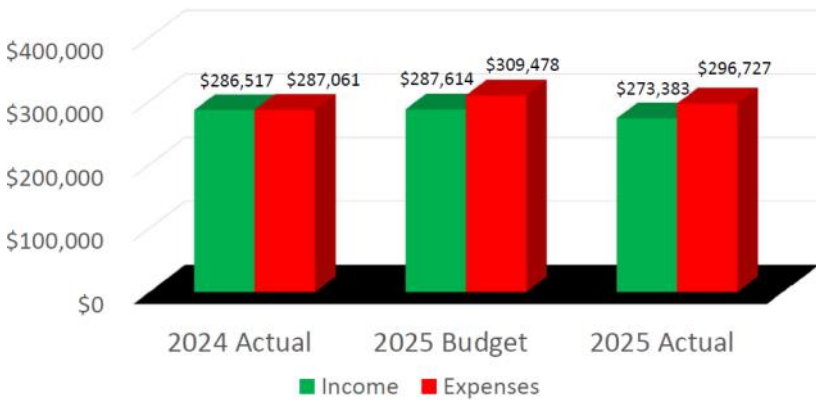
These organizations provide transitional housing for the homeless and essential mental health services for individuals who cannot afford care. Ornaments are available by donation. Every contribution goes toward supporting our charitable partners. Ornaments will be available for selection in the narthex on Sundays from November 2nd through December 21st. Additionally, you can order by email at: [nativitycraftychristmas@gmail.com](mailto:nativitycraftychristmas@gmail.com)

*Celebrate the season by bringing home a meaningful ornament that gives back to our community.*



## FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY SEPTEMBER 2025

### 2025 Income and Expenses (Thru September)



If you have any questions, please contact Scott Henkel at [scott.henkel@capgemini.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.





## **MATCHING FUNDS**

I am delighted to report that Nativity has qualified for the full \$20,000 in “Matching Funds” for this year. Thank you for your deep generous support for our church!

The Matching Funds are based on increasing the income for the General Fund compared to the General Fund income from 2023. While we have more income than 2023, our income this year is \$23,344 less than our expenses this year. This is largely due to (planned) one-time expenses to pave the parking lot, fix our gutters, and replace phone equipment damaged in one of the storms over the summer as well as general (planned) increases in our expenses. I would therefore stress the need for your continued financial support for our church through the end of the year.

Thank you again for all your support for Nativity. God has blessed us with a congregation that is so supportive for the needs of our church. Thank you!!!!

Scott Henkel

Financial Secretary

## November Birthdays

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Marylou Bonesteel | 11/3  |
| Annie Douglas     | 11/5  |
| Diane Alt         | 11/7  |
| Carole Schaefer   | 11/8  |
| Michele Oliver    | 11/11 |
| Marian Lyons      | 11/13 |
| Eleanor Southey   | 11/13 |
| Kim Porter        | 11/14 |
| William Binns     | 11/16 |
| Glenn Houdek      | 11/17 |
| Joseph LaFranca   | 11/17 |
| Elva Posewitz     | 11/17 |
| Cam Martin        | 11/20 |
| Michael Jones     | 11/21 |



|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Walter Johnson     | 11/22 |
| Bob Benson         | 11/27 |
| Krista DiBerardino | 11/27 |
| Grace Signor       | 11/28 |

## November Wedding Anniversaries

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Monika & Michael Brennan | 11/4  |
| Nancy & Ted Hoffmann     | 11/7  |
| Agnes & Eugene Burkart   | 11/14 |
| Nancy & Martin Salzbach  | 11/16 |
| Leonore & Gary Kopitzke  | 11/18 |
| Mary & Harold Reber      | 11/21 |
| Darinka & Gordon Lienau  | 11/21 |
| Nancy & Andrew Trott     | 11/24 |
| Daisy & Robert Rios      | 11/24 |



## 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 **DECEMBER** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to [nativitylutheran63@gmail.com](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com) by **NOVEMBER 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](http://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](mailto: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.

