



Happenings at NLC

December 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

Christmas Cantata

12/14 @ 9:30AM

**Congregational Meeting for
Budget & Elections**

12/21 @ 10:45AM

Christmas Eve Service

12/24 @ 6:00PM

Christmas Day 12/25 - OFFICE CLOSED



Upcoming Events

December 6- W.O.N. Christmas Luncheon

December 13-Angel Tree Party

December 14-Weeki Wachee Winds Concert



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 December:

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552. Tuesday, December 3, 2024. A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749. Wednesday, December 4, 2024. A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342. Friday, December 6, 2024. Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397. Saturday, December 7, 2024. While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591. Saturday, December 14, 2024, John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552. Friday, December 20, 2024. Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.


Stephen, Deacon and Martyr. Thursday, December 26, 2024. Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

John, Apostle and Evangelist. Friday, December 27, 2024. The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.


The Holy Innocents, Martyrs. Saturday, December 28, 2024. This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

December 13 - Santa Lucia: A symbol of hope and light. Lucia was born in the year 283 in the Sicilian city of Siracusa, Italy. She was of noble birth and came from a prosperous family. With a name derived from the Latin lux (light), Lucia was a Christian during the reign of Emperor Diocletian, who sent forth an edict to eradicate Christianity.

Lucia was a martyr of the faith and is the patron saint of the blind.









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 through the 21st. 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS. NO ALTAR FLOWERS 12/28. If you would like to purchase flowers starting up again in January 2026 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.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA, DECEMBER 14TH - Nativity Chancel Choir will be offering a beautiful Christmas Cantata, ***A Thrill of Hope***, at the 9:30am service.



CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - December 24, 2025, at 6:00PM. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the World.

ALTAR GUILD – NO MEETING IN DECEMBER. 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 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.**

CHRIST IN OUR HOME - We have received our copies of the January/February/March issue of *Christ in Our Home*. They are available in the narthex, or stop by the office between 9:00AM and 12PM. A donation would be appreciated to offset the costs of the devotionals as they cost \$2.00 for the small devotional and \$3.75 for the large devotional. 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. 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).

BAPTISM OF FAITH - NOVEMBER 2, 2025

On November 2nd we celebrated the baptism of one of our newest members - Chris Piermatteo.



NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED - NOVEMBER 9, 2025

Nativity welcomed the following people on November 9.
We are glad you chose Nativity as your church.

Kay Broyles



Norman Davis



Krista DiBerardino



Kathy Drach

Picture N/A

Suzanne Gentry



Sandra Hyatt



Janet Johnson



**Rose, Mary, Jason,
Beverly & Christine Kriley**



Chris Piermatteo



Tom St. Clair



**Stephen & Debbie
Wendelgass**



NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION NOVEMBER 15, 2025

We had a wonderful turnout with over 120 people. It was great to share this special occasion with special guests, former members, members and visitors, especially hearing stories from some of our charter members. Old photo albums were available for everyone to look at and a video presentation on the history of Nativity was broadcast on TV screens. We will be posting the video on the Nativity website in the next week or so (we will announce it in a future email). A great time was had by all and we look forward to the next 40 years. A special thank you goes out to the Anniversary Committee for putting together such a wonderful program.



OUTREACH

DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH - LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED AND BLIND. This organization started in 1983. There are almost 27,000 visually impaired people living in Pasco, Hernando, and Citrus Counties. Rehabilitation programs are provided at no cost thanks to the generosity of donors. Lighthouse has programs for all age groups: birth to 5 years, children 5-13, teens 14-22, and adults and seniors 23+. These training programs and services are to help people meet the challenge of vision loss and lead safe, independent and productive lives for oneself and their family. To learn more about ways to help visit: www.lvib.org/get-involved/ways-to-give/

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. 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.

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.

FOOD PANTRY TIDBITS

SHOPPING CART DONATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER IS:

Instant Mashed Potatoes and/or Stuffing

For this holiday season, the Food Pantry would like to give a meal to those who visit. This meal consists of a 1 lb. ham or Hormel turkey meal, instant mashed potatoes and stuffing. We have already bought items for these meals, however, we need to buy more. If you would like to sponsor a meal for a family (families), please consider donating a few dollars to make their holiday season brighter. Put your donation in a green envelope and mark it "Food Pantry-holiday meal." Your generosity would be greatly appreciated. We will gladly accept other items. Please help our church family bring light and love to those in need.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Every Sunday, following the Children's Message at 9:45AM until communion time. Any questions please call Noel Prettyman at 352-515-3345.

CONFIRMATION CLASS with Pr. Giuseppe every Wednesday morning

ADVENT ADULT BIBLE STUDY - Every year the problem of the commercialization of Christmas recurs. While Christians appropriately celebrate the coming of the "Light of the world" (to use Johannine imagery) with lights and decorations, the full meaning of Jesus' birth can too easily be overwhelmed by snowmen, Santa Claus, reindeer, and an avalanche of advertisements. The study of the infancy narrative (according to Matthew this year) can help refocus our priorities. Come to a Bible study on Monday, December 1 & 8 at 11:00 AM.

COMMUNITY LIFE

THE WEEKI WACHEE WINDS - COMMUNITY CONCERT
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 AT 2PM. Weeki Wachee Winds will be presenting their **Winter Concert** at Nativity in the sanctuary. The concert is free. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

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.

CLUB 75 LUNCHEON - DECEMBER 16 @ 12:00N. Place TBD. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Any questions, please call Vicki Page @ 352-210-8407.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 at 10:45am. Our annual **Congregational Meeting for Budget and Elections** will be held after the morning service. This meeting is to: 1) propose and adopt a congregational budget and a program of ministry for the following fiscal year, 2) hold annual elections, 3) vote on Constitutional amendments, and 4) transact any other business that may be necessary. Your attendance is greatly appreciated.

QUILT MAKING WITH THE CRAFTY LADIES - Fridays, 9:00AM - 12:00PM. We meet every Friday morning at Nativity in Al Lien Hall. Would you like to learn new skills? Start this new hobby, have some fellowship, and make new friends. Call Jill Helgeson at 352-410-0226.

WOMEN OF NATIVITY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH @11:30A.M. All women of nativity are invited to attend this luncheon. Please bring a dozen cookies to share. Any questions see or call Ellen Lapinski at 773-556-4466.

DAYS FOR GIRLS, DECEMBER 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, 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.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13. The December activity for Friendship Circle will be a visit to the Hernando Historic Museum Association's train depot in Brooksville on Saturday, December 13. This will be a 1-hour guided tour beginning at 10:00 a.m. The depot, built in 1885, will be decorated for Christmas and is climate controlled. Charge is \$15 and includes a visit to the Countryman Family One-Room Schoolhouse Museum next door to the depot. Those of our circle who visited the Schoolhouse in July have already paid admission to the Depot. Others who want to join us can visit the schoolhouse at their convenience. Address is 70 Russell St., Brooksville 34601. From there, we will enjoy lunch at the charming Lazy Maid Creperie, 419 Howell Ave., Brooksville, 34601. To carpool, meet at Nativity at 9:15 a.m.. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Susan Nordstrom (352-428-1918) if you plan to attend.

NATIVITY'S CARDS R US CIRCLE, DECEMBER 8 & 15.

The Cards R Us Circle will be making cards in Winemiller Hall on Monday, December 8 and December 15, from 9:30am-12:30pm. Please shop our kiosks for your Christmas cards, as well as cards for birthdays, anniversaries, get well, thank you, congratulations, sympathy, and more, for a suggested donation of 75 cents. All proceeds are given to The Good Samaritan Fund to help those suffering financial setbacks; thanks in advance for supporting this mission project. All who would like to try their hand at this fun and addictive craft are welcome to join us. No experience necessary. Call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918 for information.

SARAH CIRCLE - DECEMBER 18. 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.

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 now through December 21st.** Additionally, you can order by email at: nativitycraftychristmas@gmail.com.

MEMBER UPDATES

New Address: Mary & Harold Reber
7030 Evergreen Woods Trail
Spring Hill, FL 34608
Phone #: 352-442-6118

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY
OCTOBER 2025

2025 Income and Expenses (Thru October)



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.



December Birthdays

Will Schantl	12/3
Johnny Mullins	12/5
Scott Henkel	12/8
Crystal Burchhardt	12/9
Gayle Howland	12/9
Ann Kopp	12/9
Jay Jensen	12/10
Suzanne Chelf	12/12
Brenda Mullins	12/15
Desiree Mattei	12/16
John Kunoo	12/20



Karen Napoli	12/23
Gene Kortier	12/24
Scott LaFranca	12/24

December Wedding Anniversaries

Royale & Tom Pugh	12/06
Candice & William Kochounian	12/08
Janet & Michael Jones	12/26
Libby & John Capell	12/27



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 **JANUARY** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com by **DECEMBER 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.

