



Happenings at NLC

January 2026

"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

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| January 1 - | Office Closed |
| January 11 - | Thankoffering Service
W.O.N. Meeting & Luncheon |
| January 18 - | Congregational Annual Mtg
and Council Members
Installed (during service) |



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



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



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

SPIRITUAL LIFE

In January, we remember the following saints:

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872, Thursday, January 2, 2025. Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.

Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710 (TFF), Thursday, January 9, 2025. African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968, Wednesday, January 15, 2025. An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356, Friday, January 17, 2025. One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.

Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346, Friday, January 17, 2025. Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.

Confession of Peter, Saturday, January 18, 2025. Today the church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God." This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week in which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in faith and witness.

Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, died 1156, Sunday, January 19, 2025. When Erik, King of Sweden, determined to invade Finland for the purpose of converting the people there to Christianity, Henry went with him. Henry is recognized as the patron saint of Finland.

Agnes, martyr, died around 304, Tuesday, January 21, 2025. Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome. The details of her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword. The church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.

Conversion of Paul, Saturday, January 25, 2025. The week of prayer begun by the remembrance of Peter's confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul. His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the followers of Christ to one of their leaders.

Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries, Sunday, January 26, 2025. These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.

Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith, Monday, January 27, 2025. Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.

Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274, Tuesday, January 28, 2025. One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.

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.

THANKOFFERING SERVICE – SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026, 9:30AM. On Sunday, January 11th, W.O.N. (Women of Nativity) will have their annual Thankoffering service which will be led by various women of the congregation. It is a time to acknowledge the work of the women's ministries of Nativity. During the service, prayer shawls, quilts, and school kits will be blessed. The quilts and school kits will then be sent to Lutheran World Relief to be sent out around the world. During this service, a special offering will be collected to support the ministries of the WELCA. After the service, the annual meeting for elections and budget approval for the Women of Nativity will be held followed by a potluck lunch in Winemiller Hall, provided by the ministry groups. During the same time, special refreshments will be set up for the men to enjoy in Al Lien Hall. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex for the potluck luncheon. If you have any questions, please see Ellen Lapinski or Janet Jones.

ALTAR GUILD – January 26, 2026, 10:00AM. 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.

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. New children can join Sunday School at any time. Register by calling the church office (352-597-1456). Any questions please call Noel Prettyman at 352-515-3345.

OUTREACH

JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH - FOOD PANTRY.

Nativity Lutheran Church operates a food pantry to help feed those in our community who are in need. Our food pantry is open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Donations of non-perishable items are always needed and can be dropped off during church hours Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Money donations are also accepted. You can use the green envelope in the church pew and make sure to note "Food Pantry" on the envelope. For more information, please contact Gwen Mahon (352-200-6028) or Noel Prettyman (352-515-3345).

FOOD PANTRY TIDBITS

SHOPPING CART DONATION FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY IS:

jars of instant coffee

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

THANK YOU: To all the volunteer Head Counters, Counters, and Data Entry people who count and enter the donations received each week for 52 weeks!

THANK YOU to all the Thrivent Members who submitted Action Team Projects to help our Mission Outreach for local and worldwide communities.

PUT YOUR GENEROSITY IN MOTION.

Thrivent Action Teams: enables clients with membership to make a meaningful impact in their communities. Thrivent.com/actionteam

Thrivent Choice^R: offers eligible clients the chance to influence how Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funding and to contribute to causes they care about. Thrivent.com/choice

Thrivent Cause KitTM: give the gift of light and clean water to communities around the world. A Thrivent Cause Kit is a pre-packaged volunteer experience to help you make an impact right from your home. Thrivent.com/causekit

Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent partnership: partners with families around the world in need of decent, safe, and affordable housing. Thrivent.com/habitat

Disaster response: offers immediate relief and long-term support to help people get back on their feet after a disaster. Thrivent.com/disasterresponse

Thrivent CharitableTM: empowers people with giving flexibility to support to the causes they cherish. Thriventcharitable.com

You may call Thrivent with any questions at 1-800-847-4836

COMMUNITY LIFE

CARDS R US—JANUARY 5th and 12th. The Cards R Us Circle will be making cards on Mondays, January 5 and January 12, 9:30am-12:30pm, in Winemiller Hall. If you've ever thought you might enjoy making cards, just do it! No experience is necessary. Thank you for donations of your used greeting cards. It is obvious that some of these cards meant a lot to you. Rest assured, we recycle those we can and are very appreciative. Bins labeled "Cards R Us" are located in both the Narthex and the Administration building hallway; please leave your donated cards in these bins. You can also help by shopping our card kiosks. Suggested donation is 75 cents. All proceeds are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, to help those in financial stress. For information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918. We want to again thank our mystery donor for the \$100 bill left in the kiosk cash box--what a surprise!

MARY JOY BIBLE STUDY - JANUARY 14TH. All Women of Nativity are invited to join our bible study on January 14th at 9:45AM. For more information, please call Elva Posewitz at 352-584-9362.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - our next meeting will be TUESDAY, January 6th and 20th at 9:00AM in Al Lien Hall. 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.

CRAFTY LADIES - Fridays, 9:00AM - 11:00AM. We are a group of approximately 12 women, who meet every Friday morning at Nativity from 9:00AM until 12:00 noon. 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, JANUARY 15 @ 10:00AM. Do you know someone who is undergoing a medical procedure, in need of comfort after a loss, desiring to increase their time of prayer or meditation, preparing for marriage, in the midst of an illness, recovering from surgery, or otherwise in need of prayer? ***Prayer shawls are always available. All you need to do is ask!*** When someone receives a prayer shawl, Sarah Circle (the women who sponsor the ministry and make the shawls) also prays for that recipient. If you enjoy crocheting or knitting, join Sarah Circle 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.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE, JANUARY 3. Friendship Circle will see the movie SONG SUNG BLUE on Saturday afternoon, January 3. This musical drama is about the true story of a Neil Diamond tribute band, starring Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson. It's described as a heartwarming, emotional film. Movie theater, show time and restaurant will be determined a few days prior, when movie times are released. If anyone other than a member of Friendship Circle wants to attend, please contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918. Circle members and others will be notified of the specifics.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - JANUARY 18.

The agenda for this meeting will include the Annual Report, and our year-end financial reports from the Financial Secretary and Treasurer. We are asking congregational members to make the time to attend this important meeting which will occur after the 9:30AM service.

SPAGHETTI LUNCH, JANUARY 18. Everyone is invited to a free spaghetti lunch sponsored by W.O.N. (Women of Nativity) in Winemiler Hall immediately following the January 18 Congregational Annual Meeting. We hope you can join us for a time of fellowship over a nice meal.

CLUB 75 LUNCHEON - JANUARY 20. 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.

TACO/BINGO NIGHT - JANUARY 24. Fellowship will be hosting a taco/bingo night . Cost is \$5 per person. Sign-up before/after Sunday services. Any questions, please see or call Carol Anderson @ 630-564-7135.

TRINKETS & TREASURES - We have set the date for the next Trinkets & Treasures sale. It will be Friday, April 17th and Saturday, April 18th. We will have a meeting on Monday, January 26th at 10am in Al Lien Hall and appreciate all who are willing to volunteer to come. We will start accepting items for donations only on Mondays from 9am - 12pm, and Tuesdays 1pm - 4pm, beginning February 23rd from 9am-12pm. If you have any questions, you may contact Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119 or Janet Jones at 352-515-3931.

COURTYARD MEMORIAL PAVERS. If you would like to purchase a paver and have it inscribed in memory or in honor of someone, there are forms in the office, or pick one up in the narthex. The cost is \$75 per paver. We are hoping to place an order beginning of February 2026.

RESULTS OF DECEMBER ELECTIONS

Elected to Congregation Council: Three-year term: Scott Henkel, Linda Russo, Karen Napoli; Two-year term: June Kristoferson

Elected to the Nominating Committee: Three-year term: Suzanne Chelf, Diane Alt; One-year term: Judith Brayman

Elected to the Mission Endowment Committee: Three-year term: Will Schantl

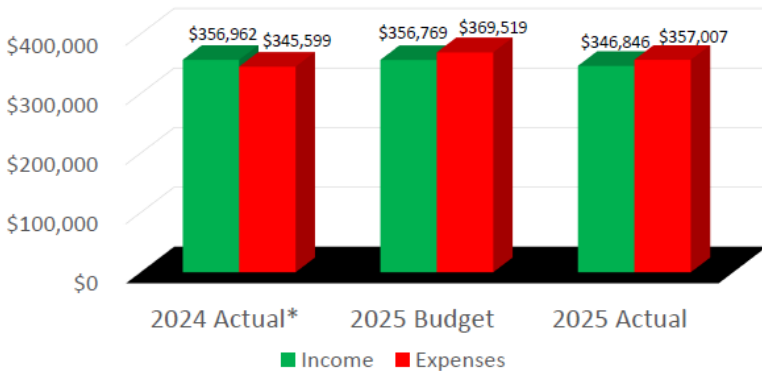
Elected as 2026 Synod Assembly Delegates: Nina Vaznelis and Donna Olsen

In addition, the 2026 Church Budget was approved.

The officers for the Congregation Council will be elected at the January meeting.

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY
NOVEMBER 2025

2025 Income and Expenses (Thru November)



* 2024 income and expenses do not include \$17,379 in maintenance reserve for sanctuary project

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.



January Birthdays

Henry Wittschieben	1/1
Elaine Malone	1/2
Jena Kleiber	1/6
Ken Nicholas	1/7
Stephanie Mattei	1/10
Emma Wozniak	1/10
Gina Fell	1/13
Lou Prettyman	1/16
Philip Schroeder	1/24
Daisy Kunoo	1/31



January Wedding Anniversaries

Marylou & Robert Bonesteel	1/3
Joyce & Russ Colombo	1/28



MEMBER UPDATES:

New Address: Ruth Ann Hoy
711 Davis Street
Daytona Beach, FL 32118

Steve Miller & Wayne Morris
19057 SW 98 Loop
Dunnellon, FL 34432

Dearly departed: Judy Kortier

Condolence cards: Gene Kortier
18429 Clearcreek Court
Hudson, FL 34667

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 **February** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com by **January 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.nlcww.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). We, therefore, welcome equally all people, regardless of religious office, position, possessions, education, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability or other distinctions. (Adopted 9/7/07)