



Happenings at NLC

February 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

Ash Wednesday Service - 2/18 @ 5p

Lent Services - 2/25, 3/4, 11, 18 & 25 @ 5:45p, preceded
by Lenten Suppers at 4:45p

New Members Orientation - March 7 @ 8:45a



RECONCILING IN CHRIST

Please visit our website at
www.nlcwww.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.nlcwww.org

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Spiritual remembrances in February:

Presentation of Our Lord. Sunday, February 2, 2025

- Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel. You may read about it in Luke 2:29-32.

Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865. Monday, February 3, 2025

- A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597. Wednesday, February 5, 2025

- Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.

Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs. Friday, February 14, 2025

- These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546. Tuesday, February 18, 2025 - Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156. Sunday, February 23, 2025 - Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921. Tuesday, February 25, 2025 - Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633. Saturday, March 1, 2025 - An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.

LENT SERVICES - Lent is a significant season in the Christian liturgical calendar, observed by many denominations, including Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans, and Methodists. It is a period of 40 days of fasting, prayer, and penance, beginning on Ash Wednesday and culminating on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday.

The 40-day period symbolizes the time Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness, enduring temptation by Satan. The themes of repentance, sacrifice, and renewal are central to this sacred time, encouraging believers to deepen their faith and seek spiritual growth.

Ash Wednesday Invitation - Begin your Lenten journey with us on **Ash Wednesday, February 18, at 5:00PM**. This special service invites all ages to gather for prayer, reflection, and the ancient ritual of receiving ashes as a sign of repentance and hope. Come as you are and enter this sacred season with a spirit open to God's renewing presence.

Lenten Midweek Series: Growing in Spirit - Following Ash Wednesday, which opens the season of Lent, we invite you into a five-week journey of spiritual renewal called "**Growing in Spirit**." Each week explores a different movement of growth in the Christian life: Rooted, Nourished, Stretched, Opened, and Made Fruitful by God's Spirit. Through Scripture, prayer, silence, and simple ritual actions, we will reflect on how God shapes us for deeper faith and compassionate living.

Join us on Wednesday evenings for a light meal at 4:45PM in Winemiller Hall and/or at 5:30PM for a reflective prayer service in the sanctuary starting on **February 25**. Whether you come seeking quiet, community, or a renewed sense of purpose, you'll find space here to breathe, listen, pray and grow.

ALTAR GUILD – February 23, 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.**

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 8, 2026 - Guest Missionary Pastor Preaching at NLC

Help us welcome the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Schneider to Nativity Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 8, 2026. She is currently serving as a missionary Pastor in Guyana to help strengthen church leadership development.

This will be a very special time to learn about her work and how we can support her in South America.

Our congregation is fortunate to host Dr. Schneider on her limited visit to Florida. She will share her ministry with us during worship and invite our ongoing support. A reception will be held for her following the service in Winemiller Hall. We hope you will attend this unique opportunity!

NLC Mission and Outreach Committee

ALTAR FLOWERS. There will be no altar flowers during Lent from February 22 - April 5. 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 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.

CONFIRMATION CLASS - Preparation for the Affirmation of Baptism continues with a study of the Christian Scripture (NT) on Wednesday mornings over zoom.

NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION CLASS - MARCH 7, 8:45A - 12N. If you are interested in membership, please contact the office to register. You will receive a packet to fill out for class. New members will be received on March 15.

OUTREACH



Lutheran

Disaster Response

FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH - LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is the ELCA's ministry to provide short- and long-term recovery when disasters strike in the United States and around the world.

LDR shares God's hope, healing, and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

LDR strives to help the church continue to be church during disasters — following Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbor in need. Some key areas of work include:

Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster. Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates.

Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters. Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes.

When a gift is designated to a specific disaster, 100% of it goes toward helping survivors and communities. Like Lutheran Disaster Response on Facebook, follow @ELCALDR on Twitter and follow @ELCA_LDR on Instagram. Donations can be put in the green envelopes in the pews, and mark it "LDR" and placed in the offering basket.

FOOD PANTRY TIDBITS

SHOPPING CART DONATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY IS:

12 or 16 oz. bags of egg noodles

Best price is at Dollar Tree.

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

COMMUNITY LIFE

CARDS R US—FEBRUARY 2nd and 9th, in Winemiller Hall Thank you for your donated, used cards. Please note: give us the entire card, not just the front. Cutting off part of the card most often makes it unusable for us, as we need the inside printed message as well as the front. And cutting off personal messages inside the cards makes them much more difficult, if not impossible, for us to use. Please shop our kiosks for a large selection of cards, including valentines. All donations are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, to help those in financial difficulty. For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

MARY JOY BIBLE STUDY - FEBRUARY 11TH. All Women of Nativity are invited to join our bible study at 9:45AM. For more information, please call Elva Posewitz at 352-584-9362.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - our next meeting will be TUESDAY, February 3rd and 17th 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.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE, FEBRUARY 4. On Wednesday, February 4, Friendship Circle will see the American Revolution Experience Traveling Exhibition at the Dunedin History Museum, sponsored by the Caladesi DAR Chapter and located at the historic train station at 349 Main St., Dunedin 34698. Admission is \$4-\$5. This powerful display brings to life the people, stories, and defining moments of the American Revolution to offer a deeper understanding of the ideals that shaped our nation. After the tour, we will join the other side for lunch at Cricketer's British Pub and Restaurant, 2634 Bayshore Blvd., Dunedin 34698. We will meet at Nativity at 9:30am to carpool, returning to Nativity at about 4:00pm. For further information, contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

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, FEBRUARY 19 @ 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.

CLUB 75 LUNCHEON - FEBRUARY 24. The only criteria to be part of this fellowship group is that you must be 75 years old or older! Restaurant: Bonefish Grill, Cortez Blvd. Call Vicki Page with any questions (352-210-8407). A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY'S FELLOWSHIP MEETING will be held on Tuesday, February 10 @ 1:00PM.

MYSTERY DINNER - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17. We will be going to a local restaurant in Hernando County starting with appetizers in Winemiller at 4:00pm. Then you will receive directions for the "mystery" restaurant. Sign-ups will be held in the narthex starting February 1st before and after service. Please contact Carol Anderson @ 630-564-7135.



TRINKETS & TREASURES SALE

Friday, Apr. 17 & Saturday, Apr. 18 - 9am-2pm

Starting Monday, February 16 and ending on Tuesday, March 24, we will be accepting donations at church on Mondays from 9am-12pm and Tuesdays from 1pm-4pm. Items include dishes, glassware, CDs/DVDs, jewelry, knick knacks, small appliances, frames, linens, pocketbooks, holiday decorations, books.

We are looking for volunteers for this fundraising event. Help is needed in sorting and pricing items on Mondays/Tuesdays. We will also need volunteers Monday, April 13-Thursday, April 16 to help unpack the items we have collected and to set up the various rooms as well as on the two 2 sale dates. If you can help out, you will find sign-up sheets in the narthex and admin building.

We also need newspaper and bags so if you have any, please drop them off during the same days/times as your donations.

In addition, we are planning another bake sale and barbeque on the sale dates. More info to come as we get closer to the sale.

If you have any questions, please call Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119 or Janet Jones at 352-515-3931.



Nativity Lutheran Church of Weeki Wachee
6363 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee, FL
352-597-1456 • nlcww.org

CPR TRAINING CLASS - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21 from 10A - 1P. It will be held at CPR Rescue, 5126 Commercial Way, Spring Hill. Please consider signing up for this class. The class is \$25 which will be covered by the Nativity Endowment Fund up to 10 people. Any questions, or to sign up, call Suzanne Chelf at 352-263-6459, or the church office at 352-597-1456.

DONATE YOUR OLD EYEGLASSES

There is a box in the narthex for collecting used prescription glasses. They will be donated to the Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, one of our church's local missions, and will be used to benefit people in our area.

MEMBER UPDATES:

Dearly departed: Bob Bonesteel

Condolence cards: Marylou Bonesteel
6506 Mulligan Court
Spring Hill, FL34606



Life Line Screening will be here at Nativity Lutheran Church on March 9, 2026, offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today.

There is no time like the present to take action!

Three ways to register:

- **Call toll-free: 1-800-324-9458 promo code HABC001**
- **Online: [LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC](https://llsa.social/habc)**
- **Text: the word **circle** to **216-279-1607****






**You're invited to a
Life Line Screening event!**

Nativity Lutheran Church
6363 Commercial Way
Weeki Wachee, FL 34613
March 9, 2026

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings**.

Trusted by over 11 million customers.

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Who should attend:

Anyone **age of 40+**

Special Pricing for \$129

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening

4 ways to book your appointment...

Call **800-324-9458** and use
promo code **HABC001**

Visit  **LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC**

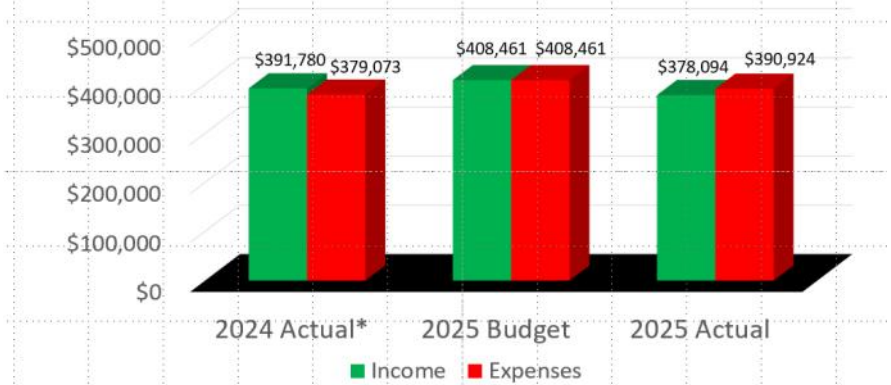


Text the word **"circle"**
to **216-279-1607**

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease. Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

**FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY
DECEMBER 2025**

2025 Income and Expenses (Thru December)



* 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. If you prefer, Nativity has a Zelle account. Send to: nativitylutheran63@gmail.com.

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.



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

February Birthdays

Eugene Burkart	2/05
Roger Wendrzycki	2/07
Simone Mattei	2/09
Robert Rios	2/10
Beverly Houdek	2/15
Valerie Mahon	2/16
Galina Maras-Kesteloot	2/19
Kristin Hope	2/21
Carol Anderson	2/23
Debra LaFranca	2/23
Cynthia Preston	2/23
Robert Sanders	2/24
Dieter Steffens	2/24
Carol White	2/26
Sandra Hyatt	2/28



February Wedding Anniversaries

Daisy & John Kunoo	2/01
Donna & Gene Long	2/10
Steve Miller & Wayne Morris	2/16
Carol & Richard Fleschner	2/17
Linda & Brian Wagner	2/26



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)