



Happenings at NLC

March 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

Lent Services & Suppers

March 4, 11, 18 & 25

Suppers: 4:45PM

Services: 5:30PM

Palm Sunday Service - March 29

Upcoming Events

Weeki Wachee Winds Concert - 2P	3/1
New Member Orientation - 8:45A	3/7
Harmonizers Concert - 2P	3/15
Western Night - 5P	3/21



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

REMEMBERING OUR ANCESTORS IN THE FAITH.

Spiritual remembrances in March:

John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church. Sunday, March 2, 2025.

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202. Friday, March 7, 2025.

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society. Monday, March 10, 2025.

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604. Wednesday, March 12, 2025.

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public

worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.

Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461. Monday, March 17, 2025. A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.

Joseph, Guardian of Jesus. Wednesday, March 19, 2025. Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.

Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556. Friday, March 21, 2025. Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758. Saturday, March 22, 2025. A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980. Monday, March 24, 2025. Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord. Tuesday, March 25, 2025. Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824. Saturday, March 29, 2025. Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

John Donne, poet, died 1631, Monday, March 31, 2025. After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

ALTAR GUILD – March 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.**

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.

EASTER LILIES. We will be accepting orders for Easter Lilies starting March 15 through March 29. There will be special envelopes in the narthex. The lilies will adorn our altar in the sanctuary Easter Sunday.

MEMBER UPDATES:

Dearly departed: Judy Dietz

Condolence cards: Erik Dietz
37 Allen Street
Newark, OH 43055

CHRIST IN OUR HOME - We still have issues of the Jan/Feb/March *Christ in Our Home* and are available in the narthex, or stop by the office between 9:00AM and 12PM. The April/May/June issues will be available starting March 8. 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE	MARCH 29 (9:30AM)
HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE	APRIL 2 (6:00PM)
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	APRIL 3 (6:00PM)
EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE	APRIL 5 (9:30AM)

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 - 11AM. 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

MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH - HERNANDO HOPE.

Helping Other People with Empathy

Hernando Hope is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that assists the homeless in Hernando County.

What is the need?

- In the United States, homelessness is up 18% in the last year
- Newly homeless are mainly mothers with children and the elderly
- Hernando County homeless head count is 218 from last year's count
- More than 100 people have been identified since last September
- Several homeless people live in the woods near us

What do we do?

- Obtain ID Cards, Birth Certificates, and Social Security Cards
- Apply for Food Stamps
- Obtain prescription glasses
- Supply food, clothing, bedding, and tents
- Supply shoes and socks
- Apothecary
- Assist with access to Medical & Psychological Treatment

THRIVENT CHOICE FOR BENEFIT MEMBERS.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

- Through Thrivent Choice, Thrivent Benefit members may donate their Thrivent Choice Dollars accrued to **our church.**
- The amount of choice dollars a Benefit member has is determined by the value or amount of the financial instruments they have with Thrivent.
- Choice Dollars can be directed during any calendar year and until March 31st of the following year.

If you are a Thrivent Benefit Member and have not donated your Choice Dollars or wish to have information on becoming a benefit member, contact Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836.

THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

Action Teams are a great way to make an impact in our **church or community.** If you are a Thrivent Benefit member, you have 2 Action Teams a year. Thrivent Associate members have 1 Action Team a year.

In a nutshell, an Action Team provides a **\$250 grant** to offset the expense of a project, your project.

You'll simply need to gather a team of friends for the project. Apply online. If you need help, Ernie Hories (352-600-5906) and/or Tim Cotter (352-442-4884) will help.

If you need help deciding on a project, Ernie and Tim can provide ideas to help guide you. Thrivent offers resources you need to get started and the **\$250 in seed money.**

FOOD PANTRY TIDBITS

SHOPPING CART DONATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH IS:

Great Value Classic Roast Instant Coffee (7 ct)

Best price is at Walmart.

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

ST. PETERSBURG WINTER PRIDE



On February 15th, Pastor Mattei, Carlan Helgeson, Ed Lewis, Donna Olsen, Wayne Morris, Steve Miller, and Jill Helgeson traveled to St. Pete to participate in Winter Pride with three other ELCA churches under the name of Lutherans for Love. The group of churches had two booths at the street fair. We helped hand out brochures that provided information about each of the four churches, gave away LGBTQIA+ themed books, wristbands with the words “I am a child of God” embossed on them, and temporary rainbow tattoos. It was a wonderful day of sharing God’s love with the individuals attending the street fair and letting people know that there is a place at the table for everyone.

COMMUNITY LIFE

CARDS R US—MARCH 2nd. The Cards R Us Circle will be making cards in Winemiller Hall just once in March, on Monday the 2nd, from 9:30am-12:30pm. You are welcome to join us, even to make your own personal cards to send. Thanks to all of you who purchase our birthday, anniversary, sympathy, get well, congrats cards. To spread the joy of shamrocks and leprechauns, select from the St. Patrick's Day cards on our kiosks. The money you donate will be given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, helping people in dire financial straits. To get more information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

MARY JOY BIBLE STUDY - MARCH 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, March 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.

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.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE FOR MARCH. Information to be communicated when available. For further information, contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

W.O.N. SPRING GATHERING, MARCH 14 - Lutheran Women, you are invited to a Gathering of Women from the Gulf Coast Area to celebrate America's 250th and "God's Work, Our Hands" on the morning of Saturday, March 14th in Winemiller Hall. Registration and coffee start 9 AM. Please sign up in the narthex. Cost is \$10 per person. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. You are welcome to bring a food pantry donation like pasta, sauce, canned peaches or canned pears. Thank you!

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

TRINKETS & TREASURES - Sale Dates Friday, April 17th and Saturday, April 18th. We have started accepting items for donations only on Mondays from 9am - 12pm, and Tuesdays 1pm-4pm. **Last day for donations will be Tuesday, March 24th.** If you can help us sort and price items during any of those days/times, please join us. It's a great time for fellowship as we work and you might even find a bargain or two prior to the sale. If you have any questions, you may contact Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119 or Janet Jones at 352-515-3931.

EYEGLOSS DONATIONS. Used prescription glasses can 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. A collection box is situated in the narthex for your convenience.

FELLOWSHIP

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

WESTERN NIGHT - SATURDAY, MARCH 21. Break out those cowboy boots and hats and be ready to have some fun! We will have a line dance instructor to help us with our two step. Menu: pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, baked beans, corn nibblets, corn bread and dessert. **Tickets go on sale in the narthex on Sunday, March 1st for \$10 per person.** Any questions, please see or call Carol Anderson @ 630-564-7135.

THE WEEKI WACHEE WINDS - COMMUNITY CONCERT - SUNDAY, MARCH 1 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.

HARMONIZERS CONCERT - SUNDAY, MARCH 15 AT 2PM. The Hernando Harmonizers, who have been rehearsing at Nativity for over 20 years, is a mixed voice chorus and a chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. With approximately 20 singers, they sing all acapella (no instruments) music in the barbershop style (4 part close harmony).

They are giving a free concert (a love offering will be collected) which will feature popular songs - old and new - all celebrating the sweet sounds of four-part a cappella harmony, sung in the unique barbershop style. Some of the songs, among others, include:

Chances Are - a classic tune by Johnny Mathis

When I'm 64 - a fun tune by the Beatles

You Make Me Feel So Young - classic American song covered by many artists like Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald

Swing Down Chariot - a rousing spiritual with a big finish

The Tin Roof Blues - a song about a classic New Orleans jazz club

What a Wonderful World - a beautiful song about hope, made famous by the great Louis Armstrong

This will be a wonderful afternoon of music and we hope you can come and support both the Harmonizers and Nativity.



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](https://www.llsa.com/social/habc)

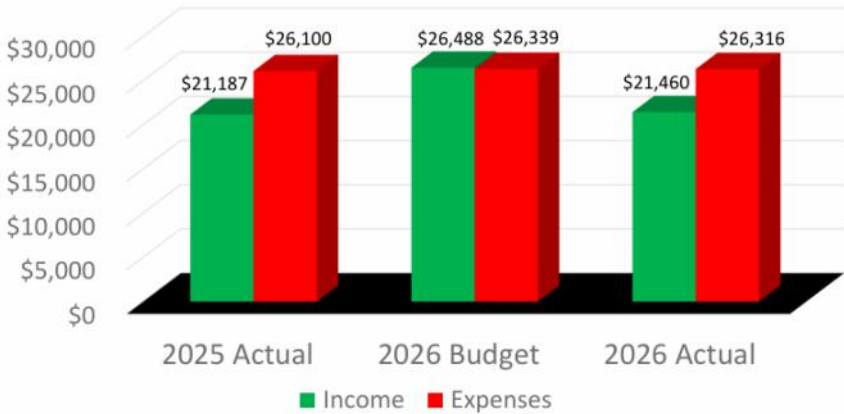


Text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607

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
JANUARY 2025**

2026 Income and Expenses (Thru January)



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

March Birthdays

Barbara Hofving	03/04
Janet Holly	03/05
Ernie Horeis	03/08
Donna Olsen	03/08
Gloria Wright	03/10
Ella Wozniak	03/10
Joanne Johnson	03/11
Eileen Smith	03/11
Christine Kriley	03/13
Cheryl Lorenzo	03/15
Clarence Crawford	03/15
Leonore Kopitzke	03/19
Anita Pierce	03/20
Marilyn Henkel	03/22
Dana LaFranca	03/22
Kris Hyypio	03/23
Sandy Peeters	03/24
Clyde Rosten	03/29



March Wedding Anniversaries

William & Windy Binns	03/05
Will & Glenna Schantl	03/09
Johnny & Brenda Mullins	03/18



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)