



Happenings at NLC

APRIL 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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 2, 6:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 3, 6:00PM

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 5, 9:30AM

Upcoming Events

Church Office closed (Easter Monday) - 4/6

Trinkets & Treasures - 4/17 & 4/18

Weeki Wachee Winds Concert - 4/26



RECONCILING IN CHRIST



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

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

SPIRITUAL LIFE

REMEMBERING OUR ANCESTORS IN THE FAITH.

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589. Friday, April 4, 2025 - Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists. Sunday, April 6, 2025 - These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945. Wednesday, April 9, 2025 - Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557. Thursday, April 10, 2025 - Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the pope, Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.

Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573; renewers of the church. Saturday, April 19, 2025 - These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.

Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109. Monday, April 21, 2025 - This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

Day of the Creation (Día de la Creación) (LLC). Tuesday, April 22, 2025 - This observance invites us to notice and give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe. As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it.

Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960. Wednesday, April 23, 2025 - Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

Mark, Evangelist. Friday, April 25, 2025 - He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.

Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380. Tuesday, April 29, 2025 - This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

Philip and James, Apostles. Thursday, May 1, 2025 - Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." He later responded to an Ethiopian official's request for teaching and baptism. Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373. Friday, May 2, 2025 - Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 2, 6:00PM is the commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ when he broke bread and poured wine as his body and blood and commanded his disciples to do the same in memory of him. This way, he established the sacrament of Holy Communion (a.k.a. the Eucharist or Sacrament of the Altar) prior to his arrest and crucifixion. According to tradition, Jesus celebrated the dinner as a Passover feast. Christ would fulfill His role as the innocent Lamb of the Passover celebrating the "exodus" from slavery to sin to the Promised Land of eternal life in him. During that meal, Jesus washed his disciples' feet as a sign of servant leadership.

GOOD FRIDAY - FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 6:00PM. A communal time of prayer, meditation, music, and Scripture reading. The reading of the Passion story will guide our reflection on Jesus' sacrificial love and final days of his physical life on earth.

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 5 - During our worship service on Easter Sunday (9:30AM), we will rejoice and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The Author and Sustainer of life cannot be held hostage to cruelty and evil. His love response overcomes death and the grave and triumphs over fear. Those crafted in him and his words, Baptized in his death, rise with him to a new life of joy and hope.

ALTAR GUILD – APRIL 27, 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.**



Rev. Dr. Carolyn Schneider, missionary to Guyana, delivered her sermon during our March 8 worship service, followed by a presentation during our fellowship time. Nativity is very grateful for her presence in our midst. Over \$1,000 was collected for the mission in Guyana.

ON MARCH 22 ANNABELLA RIZZO RECEIVED THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM



RACHEL'S DAY, MAY 3, 2026 - Rachel's Day, a project of the Women of the ELCA observed annually on the first Sunday in May. The day takes its name from Jeremiah 31:15-17, in which the matriarch Rachel grieves for her children. It is a time set aside to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of violence and fear that plague our nation. We will be taking a special offering during the service. Our offering will be given to Pastor's Good Samaritan Fund to help all struggling families with children.

ALTAR FLOWERS. If you would like to purchase flowers starting Sunday, April 12 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.

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE GRADUATES. If you have a family member graduating this year, please call the office (352-597-1456) with their name and school they are graduating from, even if they are out of state. **We will have a special blessing for them on Sunday, May 31.** Out-of-state graduates will be able to follow the service on line at www.nlcww.org.

CHRIST IN OUR HOME - The April/May/June issues of *Christ in Our Home* 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.

WE WELCOMED THREE NEW MEMBERS ON MARCH 15



Donna Rojas: 2048 Carson Ave, Spring Hill 34608
616-308-2470

Marilyn Leonhardt: 2048 Carson Ave, Spring Hill 34608
352-650-2548

Michelle Maves: 12633 Eddington Rd , Spring Hill 34609
352-556-6052

OUTREACH

APRIL MISSION OF THE MONTH - GLOBAL REFUGE

We are a church that does God's work in the world and in local communities pursuing justice, peace and human dignity for and with all people.

In partnership with Lutheran congregations and Lutheran social ministry organizations, Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) has welcomed more than 379,000 refugees to the United States since 1939. This ongoing partnership and work is driven by God's love for all people and a vision for congregations to be welcoming and generous centers for mission and ministry.

The work of the ELCA through Global Refuge includes responding to people caught in conflict and facing persecution, advocating for their needs and interests, helping people access resources for basic human needs, working with foster care programs for minors, legal assistance, developing new and innovative service programs and partnerships, and much more.

Join us in this courageous work of serving and loving our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ. Learn more about Global Refuge go to www.globalrefuge.org.

Donations can be made by filling out a green envelope and marking it "Global Refuge."

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM "PROJECTS APPROVED"

1. Lighthouse for the Blind: purchase magnifying glasses, Alexa device and bump dots, for helping their daily living activities.
2. Trinket & Treasures: paying for volunteer food for workers.
3. Trinket & Treasures: paying for price stickers, banner date change, food propane gas, and miscellaneous expenses.
4. H.O.P.E.: food, clothing, tents, bug spray, grill and charcoal, bills, and transportation.

Attention members: contact Ernie Hories (352-600-5906) and/or Tim Cotter (352-797-9672). We will help you submit your project that will help our community both local and worldwide.

FOOD PANTRY TIDBITS

SHOPPING CART DONATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL IS:

Great Value 16 oz. Peanut Butter
(available 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.

TEDDY BEAR PROJECT

The congregation of Nativity Lutheran Church donated plush animals that we gave to the Hernando County Fire and Rescue Station No. 2. These animals are given to children experiencing trauma during emergencies.



EYEGLASS DONATIONS. We are still collecting used prescription glasses to benefit the Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, one of our church's local missions. A collection box is situated in the narthex for your convenience.

COMMUNITY LIFE

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.

CARDS R US—APRIL 6th. The Cards R Us Circle will make cards in Winemiller Hall once in April, on Monday, April 6, from 9:30am-12:30pm. This is a fun and even addictive craft. We provide all supplies and no experience is necessary, so please join us. Thank you to those who purchase our birthday, anniversary, sympathy, get well, and congratulations cards. We have many Easter cards on our racks, so please do your card shopping with us, where donations for our cards are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, to help those in financial distress. To get more information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918. Or just stop by on April 6th!

MARY JOY BIBLE STUDY - APRIL 8th. All Women of Nativity are invited to join our bible study at 12:45PM. For more information, please call Elva Posewitz at 352-584-9362.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - our next meeting will be TUESDAY, April 7th and 21st 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 FOR APRIL 11TH. Friendship Circle will embark on a 2-hour 15-minute pontoon tour with Island Girl Cruises on Saturday, April 11. Their narrated tour of the Homosassa River covers history, the springs, Monkey Island, and hopefully manatees and dolphins. A complimentary water or soda is included. Small coolers and snacks can be brought on board. Their new-last-year, 19-passenger pontoon has a restroom. The Island Girl is located behind the Seagrass Waterfront Restaurant, 10386 Halls River Road, Homosassa 34448. Reservations are for a 10:30a.m. tour, so we'll meet at Nativity at 9:30a.m. to carpool for the half hour drive. When we return to the dock, we'll have a short meeting, devotions, and meal together at the Seagrass. Tentative reservations are for 12 of us--first come, first reserved. Cost is \$25 cash per reservation, including any no-shows. **The deadline to reserve a spot is Tuesday, April 7;** please contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918. Everyone is welcome, Friendship Circle member or not.

TRINKETS & TREASURES - The sale dates are Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18 from 9am-2pm.

We will need many volunteers to make it a success as follows:

1. Empty containers with donations on Monday, April 13 (8:30am).
2. To help set up and price items Monday, Apr. 13-Thursday, Apr. 16 (generally from 9am-1pm).
3. To work on the 2 sale dates (we need a few people to come at 7am on Friday, Apr. 17 to empty items from the container that we will be selling outside).
4. To help break down on Monday, Apr. 20 (9am).

BAKE SALE: As we are having a bake sale both days, we would appreciate donations of cakes/cookies/brownies/cupcakes for Friday and Saturday. Please contact Mae Haines at 727-863-4329 or Janet Jones at 352-515-3931 for more details.

TABLES/POP-UP CANOPIES: If you have a folding table and/or card table that we could borrow for the T&T sale, please call Evelyn at 516-909-3119 to arrange a drop off day/time. Make sure your name/phone number is clearly indicated on bottom of table so we can make sure it gets returned to you. Also, if you have a pop-up canopy we can borrow for the sale, it would be greatly appreciated. It can be dropped off between 9am-12pm Monday, Apr. 13 - Thursday, Apr. 16.

We hope you can help us make this event a great success. If you have any questions, please contact Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119 or Janet Jones at 352-515-3931.

SARAH CIRCLE, NO APRIL MEETING WILL BE HELD DUE TO TRINKETS & TREASURES SET-UP.

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 (May) 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.

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.

FELLOWSHIP

FELLOWSHIP EASTER BRUNCH. Fellowship is hosting an Easter Brunch on Sunday, April 5, 2026 (Easter) immediately after our Easter Service.

Everyone is invited to attend. If you have family or friends who will be attending our Easter Service they are all invited to attend.

Our menu will be waffles with strawberry and blueberry toppings, hashbrown potatoes, sausage patties, raspberry spinach salad, assorted pastries and breads and beverages.

There will be a sign-up sheet for those attending just so we know how many to prepare for. Let us celebrate our Fellowship on this Resurrection Sunday.

APRIL'S FELLOWSHIP MEETING will be held on Tuesday, April 14 @ 1:00PM.

SPRING CLEANING - SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH AT 9AM.

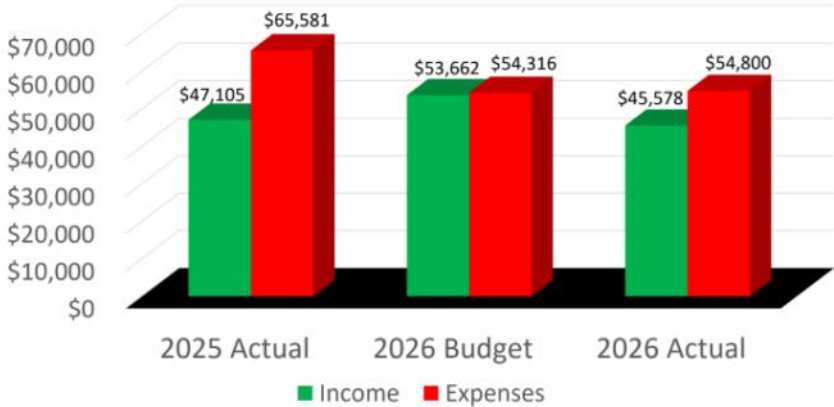
It is time again for our annual “spring cleaning” of the Sanctuary. We are looking for volunteers of all ages and all physical abilities to help us with this project. It is great fun and deeply rewarding to help make our Church shine. The event will start at 9:00a.m. on Saturday, April 25th. We expect that this will take about 2-3 hours to complete. We truly appreciate any help that you can provide for this event. Please contact Scott Henkel at 612-868-9512 if you have any questions concerning this event.

CLUB 75 LUNCHEON - APRIL 28. 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.

THE WEEKI WACHEE WINDS - COMMUNITY CONCERT - SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH AT 2PM. Weeki Wachee Winds will be presenting their Spring Concert at Nativity in the sanctuary. The concert is free. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

**FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY
FEBRUARY 2026**

2026 Income and Expenses (Thru February)



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

April Birthdays

Carlan Helgeson	04/03
Sue Vincent	04/03
Ashley Hoy	04/04
Howard Schaefer	04/05
Olivia Haaland	04/08
Philip Phoel	04/11
Allen Yttri	04/12
Catherine Hill	04/13
Martin Salzbach	04/18
Karin German	04/18
Linda Rizzo	04/19
Giacomo Mattei	04/20
Betty Lou Bernhardt	04/21
Charlotte Downing	04/24
Gary Hopkins	04/24
Ann Wright	04/24
Ken Larsen	04/25
Joshua Wozniak	04/26
Nancy Hoffmann	04/27
Joanne Morrow	04/28
Jack Chase	04/29
Meredith Wozniak	04/30



April Wedding Anniversaries

Lou and Noel Prettyman	04/01
Kim and David Porter	04/15
George and Lonora Smith	04/18



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)