



Happenings at NLC

MAY 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

Sunday, May 3 - Rachel's Day

Saturday, May 9 - USPS Food Drive

Sunday, May 10 - Mother's Day

Sunday, May 24 - Memorial Day Cookout



Upcoming Events

May 31 - Blessing of Graduates, Sunday School Staff
& Children

June 4-6 - Synod Assembly

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



RECONCILING IN CHRIST



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

REMEMBERING OUR ANCESTORS IN THE FAITH.

Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387. Sunday, May 4, 2025. Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416. Thursday, May 8, 2025. When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303 (TFF). Thursday, May 8, 2025. Also known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan.

Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760. Friday, May 9, 2025. When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

Matthias, Apostle. Wednesday, May 14, 2025. Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.

Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160. Sunday, May 18, 2025. Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330. Wednesday, May 21, 2025. Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.

Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783; scientists. Saturday, May 24, 2025. These two men were both scientists who helped to explain the wonders of God's universe. Copernicus is best known for promoting the idea that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of our solar system. Euler was one of the founders of pure mathematics, and contributed to many other fields.

John Calvin, renewer of the church, died 1564. Tuesday, May 27, 2025. Gifted both as a systematic theologian and as an interpreter of scriptures, Calvin embraced the Reformation, and as a preacher in Geneva, Switzerland, brought a theocratic government to it. He is regarded as the father of the Reformed churches.

Jiri Tranovský, hymnwriter, died 1637. Thursday, May 29, 2025. Tranovský is considered to be the father of Slovak hymnody as well as an important reformer of the Slavic church. He translated the Augsburg Confession (the basis of Lutheran teachings) and published a collection of Slovak hymns.

Visit of Mary to Elizabeth. Saturday, May 31, 2025. This festival marks the occasion when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visited her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant with John. Elizabeth pronounced Mary "blessed among women," and Mary responded with the song called the Magnificat.

RACHEL'S DAY, MAY 3, 2026 - Rachel's Day, a project of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) 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.

BIBLE STUDY - Join us for a Bible study on selected chapters of the Book of Act every Sunday through May 31. The study will follow the worship service and will take place in Al Lien Hall.

ALTAR GUILD – NO MEETINGS UNTIL SEPTEMBER. Members beautify the worship space and prepare the altar for our Sunday celebration. We invite anyone (male or female) to attend one of our meetings which are 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.**

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.

We will also have a Sunday School Staff and Children's Blessing on this day.

**ON APRIL 12 FRANCESCA BUGINI RECEIVED THE
SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**



Pictured: Franco Bugini, Diane Alt, Francesca Bugini, Mark Major, and Pastor Mattei

MEMBER UPDATES:

Dearlly departed:

Dottie Haney

Condolence cards: Mike Haney (her son)
9720 Southern Belle Drive
Weeki Wachee, FL 34613

John Capell

Condolence cards: Libby Capell
3959 Van Dyke Rd., #108
Lutz, FL 33558

Evelyn Lawlor

Condolence cards: Daniel and Susan Lawlor (son & wife)
16 Meadow Road
Bolton, CT 06043

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.

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.

OUTREACH

MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH - REZ HOUSE

Each year Nativity raises money to purchase “Back to School” shoes for the children of the migrant workers who use the services of Rez House or who worship there on Sunday. Make your check payable to Nativity Lutheran Church and indicate Rez House on the memo line. THANK YOU. Blessings to All, Linda Russo 352-596-0673

FOOD PANTRY TIDBITS

SHOPPING CART DONATION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY IS:

mixed fruit / fruit cocktail
best price at Aldi's

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

U.S. POSTAL FOOD DRIVE - MAY 9. The annual postal food drive will commence on Saturday, May 9 @ 2PM, @ Forest Oaks Lutheran Church, on Forest Oaks Blvd, Spring Hill. Volunteers with SUV's or pick-up trucks are needed to pick up donated food at Forest Oaks and bring it to Nativity. Volunteers are needed at our food pantry to sort the food. Please contact Noel Prettyman for more information, 352-515-3345. Volunteers may sign up Wednesday or Thursday during regular food pantry hours (9:30AM - 12:30PM).

EYEGLOSS 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—MAY 4th AND 12th. The Cards R Us Circle will make cards in Winemiller Hall on Mondays, May 4 and May 12, from 9:30am-12:30pm. No experience is necessary to join us in this fun craft which is also a mission. Donations for our cards are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, to help those in need of financial assistance. We provide all supplies. As always, we appreciate your donations of used greeting cards, congregation. Please note: We need the cards' inside greetings, so please provide us with the entire cards. Do not cut off the inside and provide us with only the faces of the cards. Remember Mom--Mother's Day is May 10 and we have a large selection of cards. We also offer Birthday, Anniversary, Get Well, Congratulations, Sympathy, etc. cards. For more information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

MARY JOY BIBLE STUDY - MAY 13th. 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 meetings will be TUESDAY, May 5th and 19th 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 - MAY 24TH. Friendship Circle will celebrate America's 250th Anniversary on Sunday afternoon, May 24, at the Anclote Symphonic Winds' concert, "For the Red, White, and Blue", Hudson First United Methodist Church. This symphony includes professional and semi-professional musicians from the Tampa Bay area. Time is 3:00-4:00p.m. and the address is 13123 U.S. Highway 19 N., Hudson 34667. Following the concert, we will enjoy the church's ice cream social. Both the concert and social are at no charge, with free will offerings. To carpool, meet at Nativity at 2:00p.m. For information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

SARAH CIRCLE, MAY 21 @ 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.

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. Last day for Sunday School will be May 24. We will start up again in September.

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

DEEP SEA DISCOVERY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL -
Please join us for a fun filled week Diving Deep Into God's Love! June 8-12, 9:00AM-12:00PM. Registration forms are available online or in the narthex.

FELLOWSHIP

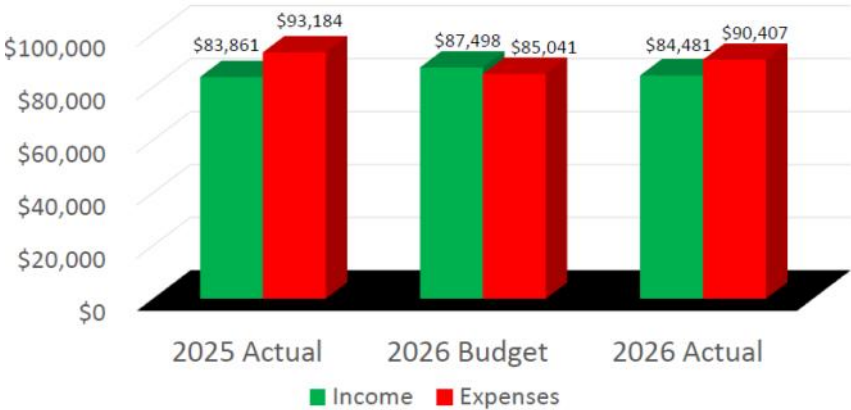
MEMORIAL DAY BBQ, SUNDAY MAY 24th. On the menu will be brats or hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, macaroni salad, sauerkraut and all the trimmings, apple pie and ice cream. **We will start selling tickets on Sunday May 3rd for \$5.00 per person.** Any questions please contact Carol Anderson @ 630-564-7135.

We will reconvene our Fellowship meetings in September. We have new events planned, so stay tuned!

CLUB 75 LUNCHEON - MAY 26. 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.

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY
MARCH 2026

2026 Income and Expenses (Thru March)



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

May Birthdays

Murial Bishop	5/1
Luetta Hassis	5/2
June Heinecke	5/2
Noel Prettyman	5/2
Roselind Rosten	5/4
Jeff Werner	5/6
Gary Kopitzke	5/7
Cherylann Schneider	5/7
Lonora Smith	5/9
Irma Haig	5/11
Linda Wagner	5/13
Joyce Colombo	5/14
Russ Colombo	5/16
Mark Major	5/17
Judith Nelson	5/18
Susan Nordstrom	5/21
Ginger Wielk	5/22
Joan Lombardo	5/24



Tom Kull	5/25
Winona Binns	5/27
Alice Seeholzer	5/28
Monika Brennan	5/29
Connie Chase	5/29
Carol Fisher	5/29
Linda Russo	5/29
Ruth Edwards	5/30
Julie Hopkins	5/30

May Wedding Anniversaries

Jack and Connie Chase	5/7
Bob and Cherylann Schneider	5/17
Tom and Carol Anderson	5/18



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)



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God's work. Our hands.



RECONCILING IN CHRIST