

THE NATIVITY

Carol



Vol. 62 Issue 2 February 2025

NEWSLETTER OF NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
PALM BEACH GARDENS, FLORIDA

WORDS FROM

Pastor Steve

A Moment of Thanks

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, **give thanks in all circumstances**; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thess. 5:17-18*

In his letter to the congregation in Thessaloniki, the apostle Paul directs the congregation to give thanks to God in all circumstances. This is no small task. At first glance, not all circumstances appear to be worthy of thanksgiving. Why would we give thanks to God for being sick? Why would we give thanks to God for being in financial stress? Why would we give thanks to God for anything that is not understandably good? Unless we are fully detached from God, and doing and being what is "good", then, well, we don't. (Many would argue that we cannot fully detach ourselves from God in the first place. See Romans 8:38-39). We don't thank God for being sick and broke. Just as we don't thank God for suffering. But what we ought to thank God for is the ability to navigate the difficult circumstances of life that are ultimately inevitable. That ability is granted to us through the gift of faith through the Holy Spirit, trust in God.

Nothing is more beneficial and formative to one's faith than to witness the peace-filled and assured heart of something hoped for. And nothing is more uplifting to one's spirit than to witness someone else's trust in what has not yet been revealed by God (Hebrews 11:1).

Lately, I have been blessed to witness the conviction of faith in things yet seen and realized in persons literally fighting for their lives, living paycheck to paycheck, and being told they are not worthy because of _____ (fill the blank). There are plenty of dignity and liberty stripping labels to choose from these days! This strength of heart, mind and soul comes from none other than the one who formed us in our mother's womb (Jer. 5:1). Thanks be to God for those who persevere

in spite of life's circumstances, rejoice always, and whose life is a living prayer that never ceases to give hopeful determination to us all. It is because of them that we can say, I know that my redeemer lives (Job 19:25).

As a sort of new year's resolution Nativity is being more mindful about giving thanks in worship. In between the prayers and sharing of the peace we are taking a moment to be thankful to God for just about anything. The first few weeks the assisting minister led us in devotions of thanksgiving for our God-given gifts for the kingdom, the gift of time and presence, and the church as a place of sanctuary.

There are plenty of topics for me to look up and feed you on Sundays. But what I really want, what you really want, and more importantly, what God truly wants is for you to feed each other's spirit with moments of thanks. What are you thankful for, and why? Take a moment, many moments, and inventory in what circumstances of life God has met you in, provided for you, and delivered you through. What better place than with your church family on Sunday to exercise your faith, hope and love of God. Your pastor, your church family need your words of hope. Pray about it, and then talk to me. I am all ears, and heart.

Thanks be to God,

Pastor Steve

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

All voting members of Nativity are invited to join us Sunday, February 23 after worship for a meeting.

GIVING TO NATIVITY

To explore and give to a specific ministry of Nativity, us the QR codes below to navigate to our webpage where you can learn about us and through PayPal. Thank you, and God bless!

Church Operations



Preschool



Community Service & Outreach



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR!

You can purchase books in person at church or through QR code. In house purchases available Sunday, February 2nd through Monday, February 10th. Buy a book and support the preschool and the little readers in your life. It's a win-win!



BOOK STUDY FOLLOWING WORSHIP BEGINS ON SUNDAY 2/9

The Gospel Abducted: A Biblical and Theological Assessment of "Christian Nationalism". This book study will be led by co-author of and member of Nativity, Chuck Miller. The book study conversation will run from February 9th through March 16th. Use Qr code to purchase book on Amazon.

TAKE HOME SANDWICH MAKING

We supply the ingredients. You make the sandwiches at home and return them to church. We deliver them to the food insecure of our community. Questions? Contact Linda Roehl at 561-493-8873. Use QR code to sign up online. Pickup is going to be between 11am-4pm the Thursday before a second Saturday. Drop off will be the next day, Friday, between 9am-3:30pm.



HIS LOVE

Is Above Everything!

Don't be discouraged.
Don't be disappointed,
for the world, and all that is in it,
belongs to Christ, the Lord.

His Love is above everything in your life.

Jesus has not left you alone.
He still stands
at the door of your heart and knocks.

If you will trust more and more in
His love,
His power, and
His name,
what a peace,
what a comfort, and
what a hope you will have!

For His Love is above EVERYTHING!

Poem by Ken Pilcher, Jr. © All Rights Reserved/ www.faithclub.org

NATIVITY *News*

A LOSS IN THE NATIVITY FAMILY

Nativity member and friend, Moon (Mark Rockswold) passed away Monday, January 6 after a long battle with cancer. His partner, Chere Jacobs was by his side.

BAPTISM

Nativity Preschool student Jameson Terzier was baptized here on Sunday, January 12.

BIBLE, BITES AND BREW BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study on Tuesday from 9:30-10:30. A time of faith, fellowship and the preaching text for the coming Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

WOW- WOMEN OF WORTH

Come join Nativity's women's group for a fun event. Thursday, February 13th at 5:30pm, join us at Craft Haus in North Palm Beach as we get creative with painting pottery. The pieces of pottery to choose from begin at \$25 and up. You choose your piece, paint it and then leave it with them for a week to fire. Sign up to bring snacks on the reception desk. 1201 US Highway 1, Suite 35, North Palm Beach.

Questions, please talk to Shonda.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Women, save the date for April 4-6, 2025 if you are interested in attending God Spa at Luther Springs. God Spa is a weekend retreat for women of faith to be restored, renewed, and refreshed in the beauty of God's creation at Luther Springs, relaxing mind, body and spirit. Activities may include faith-filled conversation, devotions, music, journaling, guided meditation, and relaxing spa-type activities, such as facials, manicures, pedicures, and massages. Prices for food lodging and non-spa activities range between \$185 and \$270 for the weekend. Manis, pedis, and massage are extra. If you want to be added to the list to receive more information, please text Abby Moore (214) 354-4827 with your name and phone number!

FEBRUARY SCHOOL BIRTHDAYS AND SPECIAL DAYS

2/12 Michael Lian
2/21 Remington Poteet
2/23 Margot Borrows
2/26 Lydia Vung Kim



2/3-2/7 Scholastic Book Fair in the Loggia. We accept cash, check and credit cards. A special invitation to Grandparents and Godparents on Thursday 2/6/2025. Come and read to your little one.

2/14 10am in-house fieldtrip to the dentist with Children's Dentistry of the Palm Beaches.

No School February 24/Teacher Work Day

FUTURE ENGINEERS AT NATIVITY'S PRESCHOOL... WORKING IN TEAMS!!





Family Newsletter



THIS MONTH'S THEME

Health & Fitness

If your children are hungry for learning, they will love this delicious experience. Follow food from the farm to the truck that picks it up, then on to the market, bakery and all the way to your table. Learn the basics of measuring, pouring, stirring and chopping. After a well-balanced meal, go outside for a marathon of jumping, kicking, catching and relay races. Everyone is a winner in this learning adventure.

Look for the daily notes about your child's art projects!



Making food & fitness a priority!

Research shows that a child's eating habits are largely shaped between two and four years old. Support the importance of healthy food choices, healthy lifestyle choices and help build healthy habits.

- **Involve children in the food preparation process.** This gives children ownership over the snack or meal and makes it more likely they will try new foods.
- **Give children limited choices.** Provide two vegetables and ask them if they would rather have corn or peas.
- **Make healthy habits a part of the daily routine.** Encourage children to wash hands and set the table before a meal.
- **Eat family style.** This encourages conversation. Children will also be more likely to try certain foods when they see others eat them.
- **Role-model good manners at the table** and encourage children to do the same.
- **Discuss where food came from,** which food group it is from, other recipes that can be made with the same foods and how much is enough.
- **Make movement and exercise a standard part of the daily routine,** including outdoor free play every day possible.



THIS MONTH'S FEATURED CONCEPTS

Letters Aa, Gg & Qq
Shape Heart
Numbers 11 & 12
Color Purple
Character Trait Fair

Letter Aa apple, airplane & alligator
Letter Gg grapes, gorilla & goat
Letter Qq queen, quilt & quarter



RECOMMENDED READS

Cuddle Up WITH A GOOD BOOK

How Did That Get in My Lunchbox?
by Chris Butterworth & Lucia Gaggiotti

Grains Are Good
by Amanda Rondeau

Good Enough to Eat
by Lizzy Rockwell

We Eat Food That's Fresh
by Ange a Russ-Ayon and Cathy June

Food From Farms
by Nancy Dickmann

My Food
by Heidi Leigh Johansen



Favorite Food

(To the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

Ask your child to fill in their favorite food,
favorite fruit, favorite meat, etc.
to come up with new verses.

My favorite food is pizza.
My favorite food is pizza.
Oh how I love it so,
My favorite food is pizza.



Family Activities

Food Explorers

Visit a local farm, grocery store or specialty building such as a bakery, meat market or local deli. Discuss where the food comes from, where it is going and how it will get there. Buy ingredients for a favorite recipe, then prepare, cook and serve it as a family.



FEEDING *Ministries*

ACT, LOVE, WALK (MOBILE FEEDING MINISTRY)

The food pantry shelves of ALW are in need of restocking. The pantry's needs can be found on the church website, a bulletin insert on Sunday morning, or on the wall in the family room. Items purchased for the pantry can be brought to church and put on the wire carts in the Family Room. Thank you and God Bless! Would you like to help, and or give to Act Love Walk? Contact Mike Moore at mtmoore1313@gmail.com, or talk to him at church! God is good!

February needs for Act Love Walk:

Canned Meats (fish, chicken, ham, etc.)	Canned Vegetables, Beans, Fruit
Stuffing/Cornbread/Rice	Instant Mashed Potatoes
Microwaveable rice/pasta dishes	Canned Soups (pop tops, if possible)
Shelf stable milk	Instant Oatmeal/Cereal
Protein/Meal Replacement bars	Muffin/Quick Bread mixes ("just add water")
Sugar	Vegetable Oil
Baby Food/Formula	100% Juice boxes
Individually Wrapped snacks	Microwaveable popcorn
Nuts/Tail Mix/Dried Fruit	Adult/Infant Hygiene products
Hot Cocoa packets	Mini Marshmallows



SANDWICH MAKING

Our February 8th Saturday Take Home Sandwich Making has a few kits remaining. Please sign up if you would like to reserve a kit containing supplies to make 50 sandwiches. Go online to the link below to sign up for one or more of the kits. The kits may be picked up on the Friday prior to the second Saturday of each month between 11am and 4pm. You take them home to assemble and then bring the completed sandwiches back on the following day, Saturday at 9:00am in front of Nativity for delivery. Please sign up today to help feed the homeless and hungry at Signup genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040549A4A72BA7F94-46859274-2ndsaturday>

Thank you January sandwich makers: Gloria and Dennis Jackson, Kelly Hoekstra & family, Linda, West and Max Roehl, Theresa Saccone, Amy Winsor & family, Lakesa Ferguson & family, Michael Segal and Carol Duvall. Thank you to Thrivent for hosting this event and Linda Roehl for shopping, preparing and delivering.

THIRD MONDAY SANDWICH MAKING

Our onsite sandwich making ministry will be Monday, February 17th at 9:30am in the church reception area where we will prepare approximately 400 sandwiches to be delivered for the homeless and hungry. Please join us if you have an hour to spare. Plastic gloves will be provided.

Thank you to January sandwich makers: John and Nancy Steffen, Hedy Rossmeissl, Paul and Charly Stone, Pastor Steve Winsor, Kari Donnelly, Mary Ann Spech, Tom Kuhn and Natalie MacDonald. Thank you to the John and Nancy Steffen for shopping and delivering the finished sandwiches to St. George's. Thank you to Thrivent for funding our ministry.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH TO:



2/1 Ashton Flynn
2/1 Evan Flynn
2/2 David Hoecker
2/2 Laurel Winsor
2/6 Kelly Rogers
2/13 Leigh Clark
2/16 Kari Donnelly
2/17 Steven Staudt
2/20 Karen Glas

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH TO:

2/1 Mark & Nikki Cirullo
2/1 Brian & Kari Donnelly
2/14 Carl & Lois Erickson

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed in our newsletter, please contact the church office with your information, 561-622-4998 or kari@pbnativity.com.

FOLLOWING LIFE AT NATIVITY

Keep up with what's going on at Nativity by following us on Facebook. Search *@PBNativity* within Facebook. Follow us on Instagram at *nativitylutheranpbg*.

Thank you to all for your continued support!

Your support and contributions will enable us to meet our goals and improve our ability to serve. Your generous donation will help fund our missions. Donate today on our website or by scanning this QR code with your phone:

Website: <https://nativitylutheranpbg.com/>



NEW! THE GOOD NEWS FROM THE GARDENS PODCAST

This is the audio of Sunday morning's scripture and message made available following Sunday's service.



LISTEN! CONVERSATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Listen! Is an occasional series of conversations with members of Nativity Lutheran.

Who will we listen to next? Maybe you! Contact Pastor Steve at pastor@pbnativity.com before he contacts you!

Dear readers:

There are few instances where we can recall people publicly admitting they were wrong, though as humans we should be saying that more often. However, this is one of those moments.

Last year *Living Lutheran* ceased as a print publication and continued as a digital-only service because of financial constraints. Running a monthly publication grew too expensive during a time of consolidated resources and shrinking readership. Since then, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and staff have heard from many of you who have shared concerns about members who don't have access to computers or don't read content online for various reasons. As a result, people have felt disconnected from the ELCA.

We heard you and listened. At the request of Bishop Eaton, we have found a way to bring back the magazine's print publication. Beginning in 2025, *Living Lutheran* will again appear in your mailboxes with four issues a year (spring, summer, winter and fall). The cost for one year will be \$19.95 for an individual subscription and \$17 per year for a congregation group subscription.

To start receiving your print magazine, you can:

Call 800-328-4648 (use this method for congregation group subscriptions).

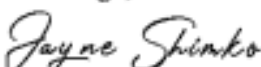
Sign up at www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe.

Fill out the form below and mail it to Augsburg Fortress, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730.

Please note: You will be invoiced in spring 2025 for your subscription. If your subscription didn't lapse at the end of 2023, you will receive a renewal notice when it expires. Rostered ministers don't need to sign up—we already have your addresses.

Thank you for your support in the past—and in the future. We look forward to again sharing in print our church's stories of God's people living their faith.

Blessings,



Director, Content Strategy



Manager, Editorial Services/*Living Lutheran*

Living Lutheran

Yes, I want to subscribe to *Living Lutheran*!

Name: _____

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Mail this form to: Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730.

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9a Worship 5:30p Act Love Walk	3 5:45p 12-step-FH	4 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 12-12:45p Tippy Toes	5 8:45a Children's Chapel	6 11a-4p Sandwich Kit pick up 5:30p Choir	7 9a-3:30p Sandwich Kit drop off	8
Scholastic Book Fair						
		6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH				
9 9a Worship 10:20a Stewardship Mtg. 10:15a Book Study "Christian Nationalism" 5:30p Act Love Walk	10 5:45p 12-step-FH	11 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 12-12:45p Tippy Toes 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	12 8:45a Children's Chapel	13 5:30p Choir 5:30p WOW Women's group at Craft Haus	14	15
16 9a Worship 10:15a Book Study 5:30p Act Love Walk	17 9:30a Sandwich Making 5:45p 12-step-FH	18 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 12-12:45p Tippy Toes 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	19 8:45a Children's Chapel	20 5:30p Choir	21	22
23 9a Worship 10:15a Annual Cong. Mtg. 5:30p Act Love Walk	24 No School 5:45p 12-step-FH	25 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	26 8:45a Children's Chapel	27 5:30p Choir	28	

American Association of University Women Northern Palm Beach County Charitable Foundation, Inc.

You are cordially invited!

45th Annual Gala Benefit Luncheon & Auction

Keynote Speaker
Mayor Chelsea Reed

Saturday, March 1, 2025 - 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

DoubleTree by Hilton - 4431 PGA Blvd, Palm Beach Gardens

\$70 per person (\$73 with credit card) -RSVP by February 21st

To: Ann Hutchins, 2207 Masterpiece Way, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410



Your support funds: Tech Trek Camps for 8th-grade girls,
National Conference for College Women Student Leaders,
Doris Karlik Scholarships, and AAUW's National Mission



American Association of University Women Northern Palm Beach County Charitable Foundation, Inc.

45th Annual Gala Benefit Luncheon & Auction

DoubleTree by Hilton - 4431 PGA Blvd, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

Saturday, March 1, 2025 - 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

\$70 per person (\$73 with credit card)

\$23 may be tax-deductible.

Print and complete this form, and RSVP by February 21st, 2025, to Ann Hutchins, 2207 Masterpiece Way, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410. Include a check made payable to **NPBC AAUW Charitable Foundation, Inc.**

Name _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Meal choice: Chicken Masala___ Teriyaki Salmon (GF) __ Pasta a la Verdure __

Please seat me with: _____ Total meals: _____

To pay by credit card: Email Cheryl Plotkin at aaunpbc@gmail.com with (1) how many of each meal choice you wish to purchase, (2) the total number of meals, and (3) your name, phone number and email. She will send you a confirmation email invoice into which you may securely enter your credit card information.

Additional donation \$_____. Can't attend? Your monetary contribution is appreciated! \$_____

Pastor:
Pastor Steve Winsor
swinsor73@gmail.com
(727)542-0287

School Director:
Pia Heiser
pia@pbnativity.com

Office Manager:
Kari Donnelly
kari@pbnativity.com
Cell: 561 676-7361

Music Director:
Yinyu Li
yinyugrandpiano@gmail.com

Teachers:
Judy Novoa 2's Teacher
Theresa Saccone 3's Teacher
Sandra Calle, VPK Teacher
Caitlin Morrissey, VPK Co-Teacher

President: Abby Moore
214-354-4827
abigailbmoore@gmail.com

Vice-President: Carol Duvall
410-570-1735
carol.a.duvall@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jim Clark

Secretary: Hollond Romaine
561-267-0543
hollondann45@gmail.com

Council Members at Large:

Shonda Staudt
561-358-2442
cpateach13@gmail.com

Micah Miller
407-415-7367
millermicah15@gmail.com

Denise Varlack Joseph
561-371-3035
varlack.de@gmail.com

OTHER CHURCH

Leaders

Prayer Chain: Sandy McClellan
alexandria.mcclellan@gmail.com

Women's Ministry: Ceil Thomas
bamacat7@gmail.com

Act, Love, Walk (Mobile Ministry):
Michael Moore mtmoore1313@gmail.com

Take Home Sandwich Making:
Linda Roehl lindaroehl411@gmail.com

3rd Monday Sandwich Making:
John & Nancy Steffen
nancysteffen7@gmail.com

Development Committee: Michael Segal
msegal524@gmail.com



God's work...

...Our hands



NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
4075 HOLLY DRIVE
PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL 33410
561-622-4998
Pbnativity.com