

THE NATIVITY

Carol



Vol. 62 Issue 4 April 2025

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

WORDS FROM

Pastor Steve

What Makes Us Blessed?

Ms. Brenda was the cafeteria manager at the hospital I worked at in my much younger days. She had a genteel, commanding presence. A sharp dresser, she always looked like she was ready for a night out on the town. To match her dress, she drove what I called a land yacht, a huge vintage white on white 1950's convertible Cadillac that you dock, not park. Ms. Brenda was always pleasant, well-articulated, and outgoing.

Besides her put together outward appearance, it's what Ms. Brenda shared from within that gave you pause. You see, every time you asked her how she was doing, or what's new, or if the cafeteria special was good, or anything for that matter, without fail she would respond, "I am blessed.", "It is blessed", or "They are blessed." In other words, she chose to see everything as being blessed by God. For the better part of 7 years she shared a simple acknowledgement that everything good is a blessing. Seems harmless, right? However, is it safe to say that everything that's good, is blessed by God?

I still think about Ms. Brenda's statement a lot, and wonder if she was watering down what a blessing truly is, something I could be accused of as well now and again. My family is in good health. We have food, water, clothing, shelter. The Spirit continues to add new persons to the ministry of Nativity. Am I, and are we any more deserving of these basic necessities, and successes in life and ministry any more than the next person, or church? Or how about when someone wins the lottery? Is that the hand of God, or luck of the draw? As you can see, it gets kinds theologically dicey.

I recently came across an article by a Presbyterian missionary named *Scott Dannemiller*, who wrote, "calling myself blessed because of material good fortune is just plain *wrong*. For starters, it can be offensive to the hundreds of millions of Christians in the world who live on less than \$10 per day. You read that

right. *Hundreds of millions* who receive a single-digit dollar "blessing" per day." If we subscribe to the idea that God bestows riches, material wealth and the like, then aren't we claiming that God has chosen to exclude those who do not receive material wealth as well?

Blessed language used in conjunction with what we receive and perceive as being from God is troublesome. Contrary to a trendy line of faith called *Prosperity Gospel*, God does not reward faith with material wealth. That line of thinking is a fast and slippery slope away from the inclusiveness of the cross of Christ. How so? Because it undermines everything the cross stands for...equality, all forgiven, all made new. Anything less, calls the poor, the homeless, the hungry, and the lost, as not being blessed. Which then begs the question, *What's the knock on them? Have they not prayed or repented enough?* Dannemiller would say that nowhere in scripture does it say that God gives prosperity for those with faith. Scripture says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are the hungry, blessed are those who mourn," *Matthew 5*. Scripture says "If you have the faith of a mustard seed," *Luke 17*. Scripture says "God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us," *Romans 5:8*.

Ms. Brenda would say, "blessed" about anything and everything. And she is right, all is blessed, for God created all. I believe where we run into trouble, is when we presuppose God's goodwill over us as being based on our faith behaviors or not. Once we start naming who God decides to bless or not, we begin to play God ourselves, and that is perhaps the most slippery slope of all.

The bottom line is, we all are broken children of God made whole, equal and blessed by one thing, and one thing only, the cross of Christ, nothing more, and nothing less.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Steve

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





LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- All Sundays in Lent 9:00AM Worship
- Maundy Thursday 4/17, 6:30PM Worship
- Good Friday 4/18, 12:30 & 6PM Worship
- Good Friday from 10-12PM and 3-5PM Pastor Steve will be receiving individuals who would like a time of individual prayer and/or confession.
- 4/20 Easter/Resurrection Sunday 9AM and 11AM Worship

EASTER SUNDAY

We will have a brunch between services on Easter. Along with an egg hunt, we will have games for the kids and time for fellowship.

NEEDED...candy, small games, erasers, etc. to fill eggs. No chocolate. Egg stuffers and egg hiders also needed.

NEEDED...folks to bake egg casseroles, bring fruit, coffee cake, etc. for brunch. Sign up in family room.

NEEDED...set up, clean up, and help with children's activities. YOUTH...we need your help! Please talk to Shonda, 561-358-2442 or cpateach13@gmail.com or sign up on the big poster in the living room.

Easter Lilies

\$15.00

*Celebrate the joy of the Resurrection by donating an Easter Lily in honor or in memory of a loved one. These flowers will surround the altar as we proclaim the Good News: **Christ is Risen, Indeed!***

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

In Memory/In Honor of: _____
(circle one)

In Memory/In Honor of: _____
(circle one)

In Memory/In Honor of: _____

The deadline for ordering Lilies is April 16th. Forms, along with complete payment can be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the office.

NATIVITY

CONGRATULATIONS

Audra (Hopewell) and Rodney Bryson welcomed their second daughter, Emera Helene to the family on January 10th, 2025. 3 year old sister Carys was happy to get her home.



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.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children 4th grade and under are invited to children's church for biblical instruction and fun Sunday mornings. Drop your child off in the last classroom on the right before the breezeway as early as 8:50. Join us for worship at 9am and then please pick your child up following worship.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

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 April 4-6, 2025. 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 are interested, please text Abby Moore (214) 354-4827 with your name and phone number!

THRIVENT MEMBERS

If you are a Thrivent member and have not used your Action Team cards, please contact Kari in the church office. You have two a year that can be used for both sandwich making ministries or for a fundraiser of your choosing.

CHURCH BUILDING REPAIRS AND GROUNDS UPDATE.

Tree work around the property is completed, and looks great! Fascia board and gutter repairs are in progress, and the repaving of the parking lot is pending. So far \$9,100 in donations has been received. That almost pays for all of the tree work. The estimated cost for all repairs as required by the city is \$100,000.

IF YOU CAN HELP OFFSET THESE EXPENSES, PLEASE GIVE IN YOUR PREFERRED WAY, AND NOTE "2025 CODE CORRECTIONS". OR DONATE THROUGH PAYPAL LINK TO THE LEFT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT OF NATIVITY.



FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

Sunday 3/30 and 4/6 following worship. First Communion will be celebrated at Maundy Thursday service on 4/17 at 6:30PM. For more information, contact Pastor Steve at pastor@pbnativity.com or call church office at 561-622-4998.

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.



CAMP AND DISASTER RELIEF IN NORTH CAROLINA

Camp Lutherock: For youth and adults! Join Pastor Steve and your friends for a week of fun and faith formation in the mountains of North Carolina. Camp is for youth who have completed 3rd grade through 12th grade. We travel up on 6/21 and return on 6/28. Camp is from 6/22-27.

Hurricane Helene Disaster Response. Western North Carolina was hammered last year by Hurricane Helene. You can be of service! We travel up on 6/21 and return on 6/28. Relief work is from 6/22-27.

Contact Pastor Steve at pastor@pbnativity.com, or 561-622-4998 with questions about attending camp as a youth, an adult chaperone, or an adult/youth for disaster relief.

SOUTH FLORIDA SOUP KITCHEN SPRING NEWS

The amazing & dedicated volunteers of South Florida Soup Kitchen served 746 guests in January and February - 3343 meals were distributed in West Palm Beach, Riviera Beach and Lake Park which included over 750 cans of pop-top canned food (chef boyardee, chili, soups, stews, meats, tuna, etc.) and 3427 sandwiches. Thank you so much for the many donations! This is all possible because of you - our amazing and generous partners, donors and volunteers!

A special thank you to our many January and February Partners, Donors & Volunteers - Most of these organizations, individuals and families are consistent with their donations every month!:

Feed the Hungry Palm Beach County - Dan & Jaqui Shorter, Christ Fellowship Church & Missions, St. Vincent de Paul - Kate Devine, Quantum Foundation, Publix Charities, Integrated Health Systems - Dr. Moe, [Nativity Lutheran Church](#), Kids Who Care & Alton Families, Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce, Divine Culture Ministries, Linda Robb, Seasiders of Palm Beach Shores - Chris Mielke, Junior League of the Palm Beaches, Temple Beth David, PBSO - Officer Candy, Christian Outdoor Life Group, Palm Beach Autism Club, Illustrated Properties - Jupiter Office, Huebscher Family Foundation, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Bikes Palm Beach, CORE Construction, Care Crew, Glow Salon - Donna & Larry Mondorff, Blessed Touch - Nicole Thomas, Fab & Fun Friends, Palm Beach Hot Yoga - Michelle Manrique, Landmark Palm Beach Gardens, Juniorettes of Jupiter-Tequesta, Lori P, [Roehl Family](#), Boeck Family, Nancy M, Sue, Barb T, Betty F, Nehrenz Family, Linnea H, Jody & Chuck J, Ashlee J, Jodi H, Michele & Scott T, Nan & Tom G, George D, Michael K, Hillary O, Karen O, Jen K, Hannah M, Dinah & John W, Kearney Family, Nathan C, Sampson Family, Rebimbas Family, Scirrotto & Ray Family, Eric D, Cussen Family, Cobham Family, Pilalas Family, Amy A, Barbara T, Cakki W, Swift Family, Barber Family, Kline Family, Derow/Williams Family, Lori D, Fewkes Family, Lisa D, Jake M, Bensel Family, Gary Family, Pam S, Malamala Family, Elaine T, other partners, individuals, families and anonymous donors.



Family Newsletter



THIS MONTH'S THEME

Bees & Butterflies

Your child will start by investigating the bee's body parts, life and work. They will explore the shape of a honeycomb, then build their own beehive. From pretending to be a bee to making honey, your child will learn how bees help and hurt us. As the topic changes to butterflies, your child will learn about the life cycle of a butterfly. They will decorate their own flying butterfly and learn how butterflies migrate to Mexico. In the process, they will get a closer look at butterfly parts. This month will awaken the scientific wonder and awe of the busy and beautiful world of bees and butterflies.

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

Today I counted bees.

There are thousands of bees living in a hive! I colored a beehive and cut out my own bee to play with in a match game. When I practice counting, I...



Today I made a beehive.

There are cells inside all bee hives where bees store food or lay eggs. I experimented with stamping cells onto my beehive. Now I can look and see what is inside!



What materials did you use to stamp? What else do you know about beehives?

preschool

The Outdoor Classroom

Outdoor play is a necessity in the daily routine of young children. The outdoor environment is filled with unexpected investigations and learning opportunities, and plenty of general knowledge happens naturally. Outdoors, children can learn many developmental skills, such as risk-taking, physical development, logic and science. Try these 6 ideas to take your child's learning outside:

- **Visit a local lumberyard or construction site** and ask for leftover wood. Invite your child to help you sand the blocks. Keep them outside for building and playing.
- **Find plastic crates, pieces of lumber**, heavy-duty cardboard boxes, old shower curtains and sheets or material to create play houses, tents and other structures. Your child can make weather-durable forts outside.
- **Create a small garden area** that can be completely tended with your child, from planting to weeding and harvesting. Use large totes, old children's pools or an unused sandbox.
- **Have a box of clipboards, pencils, magnifying glasses** and other tools ready to bring outside that encourage observation, exploration and discovery.
- **Explore naturally created challenges together** that might seem unsafe for the child to explore alone, e.g., a clump of bushes, stumps, fallen logs and trees with low branches.
- **Don't let weather keep you from playing outside.** Put on rain gear, cold-weather gear or other items that allow you to experience nature together, no matter the weather.



THIS MONTH'S FEATURED CONCEPTS

Letters Mm, Xx & Kk

Shape Hexagon

Numbers 15 & 16

Color White

Character Trait Respectful

Letter Mm mushroom, mouse & moon

Letter Xx x-ray fish, xylophone & X marks the spot

Letter Kk kite, kangaroo & kiwi



RECOMMENDED READS

Cuddle Up WITH A GOOD BOOK

Are You a Bee?
by Judy Allen

Busy Buzzy Bee
by Karen Wallace

Buzzy the Bumblebee
by Denise Brennan-Nelson

The Beautiful Bee Book
by Sue Unstead

The Life Cycle of a Bee
by Lisa Trumbauer

Five Little Honey Bees
by James Croft



Helping Insects

(To the tune of "The Muffin Man")

Find out other facts about bees and butterflies together to sing more verses.

**Do you know the honeybee,
The honeybee, the honeybee?
Do you know the honeybee?
It makes a lot of honey.**

**Do you know the butterfly,
The butterfly, the butterfly?
Do you know the butterfly?
It helps the flowers grow.**

Family Activities

Butterfly & Bee Walk

Find a local nature trail and go for a walk together. Count the butterflies and bees you see along the trail. Which flowers and plants do you think the bees and butterflies like the best? Search for beehives, nests, caterpillars or other items in nature your children have learned about this month.



APRIL PRESCHOOL SPECIAL DAYS

4/18 No School/Good Friday

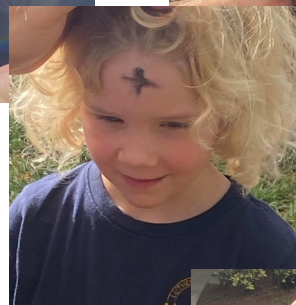
APRIL PRESCHOOL BIRTHDAYS

4/7 Liam Vo Nguyen

4/14 Onyx Braun

4/19 Randell Camero

ASH WEDNESDAY WITH THE PRESCHOOL CHILDREN



MORE ASH WEDNESDAY PHOTOS



SPRING BREAK CAMP

Spring Campers cultivated strawberries, squash, lettuce, and green onions. We gained valuable insights through collaborative efforts. All the children at camp are experiencing a highly enjoyable time.



Ms. Caitlyn and Frank Saccone (Ms. Theresa's dad and Nativity church member) helped the little hands with the planting. After all that was done, we needed to water our new plantings.

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!

April 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
BOGO Sales	



SANDWICH MAKING

Our April Take Home Sandwich Making has all five kits accounted for. Please sign up if you would like to reserve a kit containing supplies to make 50 sandwiches to help in May. Go online to the link below to sign up for one or more of the kits.

If you signed up for April, ***the kits may be picked up on the Thursday, April 10th between 11am and 3:30pm here at the church. You take them home to assemble and then bring the completed sandwiches back on the following day, Friday between 9:15am and 3:30pm.*** 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 March sandwich makers: Gloria Jackson, Kelly Hoekstra & family, Linda, West and Max Roehl, Mia and Michael Burnham and Josfran De La Torre. 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, April 21st 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 March sandwich makers: John and Nancy Steffen, Kari Donnelly, Mary Ann Spech, Charles and Nancy Beiser. 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:



4/11	Linda Roehl
4/12	Derek Bloor
4/16	Anna Bloor
4/17	Carol Duvall
4/17	Djinnee Gunning
4/19	Mara Jo Winsor
4/22	Amy Winsor
4/24	Toni Howenstine
4/28	Doris Ganon

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH TO:

4/17 Dan & Debbie Neipling

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!

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 12-12:45p Tippy Toes 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	2 8:45a Children's Chapel	3 5:30p Choir	4	5
6 5th Sunday in Lent 9a Worship 10:20a 1st Comm. Class 5:30p Act Love Walk	7 5:45p 12-step-FH	8 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 12-12:45p Tippy Toes 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	9 8:45a Children's Chapel	10 11a-4p Sandwich Kit pick up 5:30p Choir	11 9a-3:30p Sandwich Kit drop off	12
13 Palm Sunday 9a Worship 5:30p Act Love Walk	14 5:45p 12-step-FH	15 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 12-12:45p Tippy Toes 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	16 8:45a Children's Chapel	17 Maundy Thurs. 5:30p Choir 6:30p Worship with 1st Communion	18 Good Friday No School 10a-12p Prayers 12:30p Worship 3-5p Prayers 6p Worship	19
20 Easter 9a Worship 10:15a Egg Hunt & Brunch 11a Worship 5:30p Act Love Walk	21 9:30a Sandwich Making 5:45p 12-step-FH	22 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 12-12:45p Tippy Toes 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	23 8:45a Children's Chapel	24 5:30p Choir	25	26
27 9a Worship 5:30p Act Love Walk	28 5:45p 12-step-FH	29 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 12-12:45p Tippy Toes 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	30 8:45a Children's Chapel			

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Theresa Saccone 3's Teacher
Sandra Calle, VPK Teacher
Caitlin Morrissey, VPK Co-Teacher

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OTHER CHURCH

Leaders

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Act, Love, Walk (Mobile Ministry):
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Take Home Sandwich Making:
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3rd Monday Sandwich Making:
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God's work...

...Our hands



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