

# THE NATIVITY

Carol



Vol. 62 Issue 7 July 2025

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

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## WORDS FROM

Pastor Steve

### *Being Present In Christ Is Our Collective Calling*

On the Tuesday night of camp I was asked to lead worship for the camp counselors. While adult volunteers watched over the campers, I gathered with the nearly twenty camp counselors under a pavilion, under a starlit sky, with lighting bugs flitting about to hear the word, eat His meal, and sing. At the halfway point of summer camp, this was their first time to worship together as a community.

As a pastor, I don't always get the opportunity to address such a specific demographic as this. What do you say to twenty, sub twenty year old's at a faith based outdoor adventure camp? What do they need to hear? What will fill their cup for the next four weeks of camp before heading back to college, or the next step of adulting, and beginning a career? So, I reflected on what I'd seen the first two days of camp, and asked the Spirit to give me a text and message. This is what I saw...

Weaved in and out of the outdoor adventure activities at camp are times of camp counselor led prayer, song, worship, and bible study. Camp counselors are always "on". For five days in a row, they are the go to persons for the camp kids. Each counselor tends to every need of a camper over the course of their camp week. Food, water, shelter, safety, emotional, physical and spiritual support of their campers is their number one priority. It is exhausting work. Especially exhausting when there are campers who need extra attention because they are out of their element; kids who are not accustomed to outdoor adventure activities, or being away from home.

Under McKnight Pavilion on the south slope of Sugar Mountain in Newland North Carolina at Camp Lutherock, I began by asking them the question, "Why are you here?" It's not for money. They make less than \$2 an hour. It's not because it's easy. It is not because the food is great. It is not because the beds are comfy, and they get to bathe three times a day. Not at all. They are here because they have been called to be camp counselors. It is not a job, it is a call from God to serve God's people (campers) in the love of Jesus. That was the framework to the reminder of why they are here.

I went on to share how I had seen them serve the kids. The group encouragement, as well as their individual asides. I saw the side hugs and high fives. I saw the one on one with the child in tears. I

saw the efforts to help a child connect with their inner strength. I witnessed them reaching out to the kid on the sideline. And thus, I saw Jesus at work. And, that I knew the Spirit of the Risen Christ was working through them with the kids when there were no eyewitnesses. Being that present and attentive to the needs of others is tiresome. Even Jesus had to take breaks, and recenter himself. He was just as much human as he was divine. In order for Jesus to be fully present, he too had to take breaks.

Somewhere along the line of life, I heard someone say, "Wherever you are, be there." In other words, be present. The ministry of simply being present is powerful. So powerful, that the Spirit continues to work after we have been there and done whatever good we were led to do. Consider Jesus' encounter with the disciples on the walk to Emmaus.

The disciples are walking away from Jerusalem towards Emmaus. Jesus comes alongside them. They don't recognize him. They lament his death, and their future. Then "As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.<sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them.<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.<sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.<sup>32</sup> They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us<sup>\*</sup> while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' (Luke 24:28-32).

Jesus was moving on, but when asked to stay with them he did. Jesus remained present, even though it appears his walk with them had come to an end. It was at supper, that their faith was jogged, and who he was while on the road came to light. Sometimes, the presence of our Lord is experienced after the fact. And that is ok. In fact, it might just be all a part of God's plan.

Pastor Emily Harkens of The Dwelling in Winston Salem shared this in a recent message of hers I heard, "We are how we treat each other, nothing more." My hope and prayer message for the camp counselors and for you good person reading this, is that you do what you need to do so that the Lord may be made present for you. Ask him to stay with you, and know that he will. And because he stays with you, stay with one another. Through the joys and the pains stay with one another. Be present with one another. Be attentive to one another, for your God is attentive to you. May we treat each other with the gift of increased time and presence, because of the One who's time and presence is eternal. Amen.

God calls us to be truly present for one another. Begin being more present today by finishing the prompts below, and praying over them.

*So I can be more present with your people Lord, release me from...*

*So I can be more present with your people Lord, release me to...*

# NATIVITY *News*

## ***BIBLE, BITES AND BREW BIBLE STUDY***

Bible Study will meet on Tuesdays from 9:30-10:30. A time of faith, fellowship and the preaching text for the coming Sunday. Everyone is welcome. July 1 is cancelled.

## ***CHILDREN'S CHURCH***

Children 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## ***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.***

Trees have been trimmed, parking lot is finished and now we need to plant new trees as per the city code corrections. So far \$15,250 in donations has been received. 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.***



## ***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. Next event is August 7 & 8. 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.

## ***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**



### ***JUNE'S THIRD MONDAY SANDWICH MAKING CREW***

June 16, we gathered to make sandwiches for the hungry. The crew consisted of Nancy and John Steffen, Tom Kuhn, Graham and Adalynn Miller with Grandma Barbara Shelley, Stan and Mary-Ann Spech, Breanne and Suzi Johnsen, Kari Donnelly and Audra Bryson (not pictured). Thank you to Thrivent for financing this event for us. We love to help feed those in need.

Join us Monday, July 21st at 9:30am for our next event.





# WOW!

Nativity Lutheran's Women of Worth Ministry

MOVIE NIGHT with the Ladies!

Invite a friend and join us for dinner and a show.

Cineopolis Luxury Cinema in Jupiter

Thursday July 10th

**\*6:30 pm**

*The movie and time will be decided closer to the date.*

Please RSVP to Amy Winsor

text 727-542-0367

## ***PENTECOST SUNDAY WITH BAPTISM AND AFFIRMATIONS***

On Sunday, June 8th, 2025, Desiree Romaine was baptized by Pastor Steve and Ceil Thomas and Louise Browning reaffirmed their baptismal vows.





## ***PARKING LOT REDO***

Work has been done on our parking lot. Trees removed that were jutting into the parking lot and pavers removed between lots to even out tripping hazard. Thank you to Joel Roehl for managing this work.





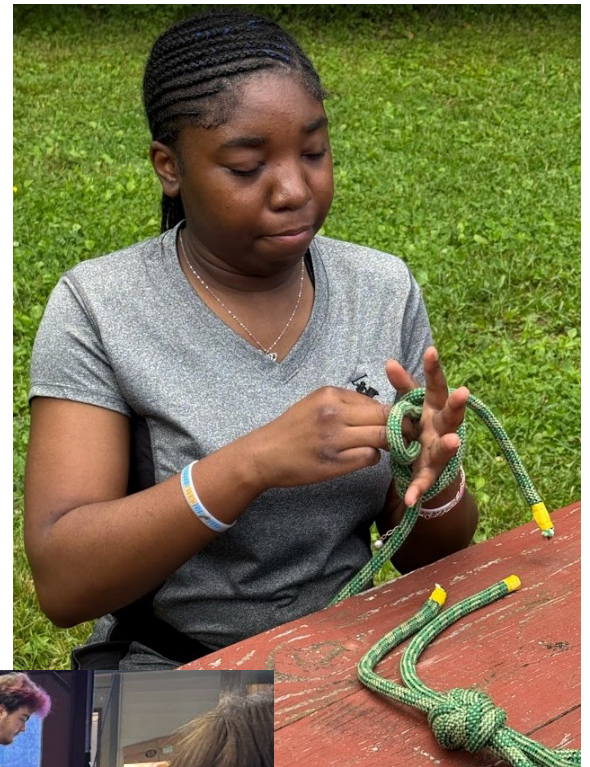
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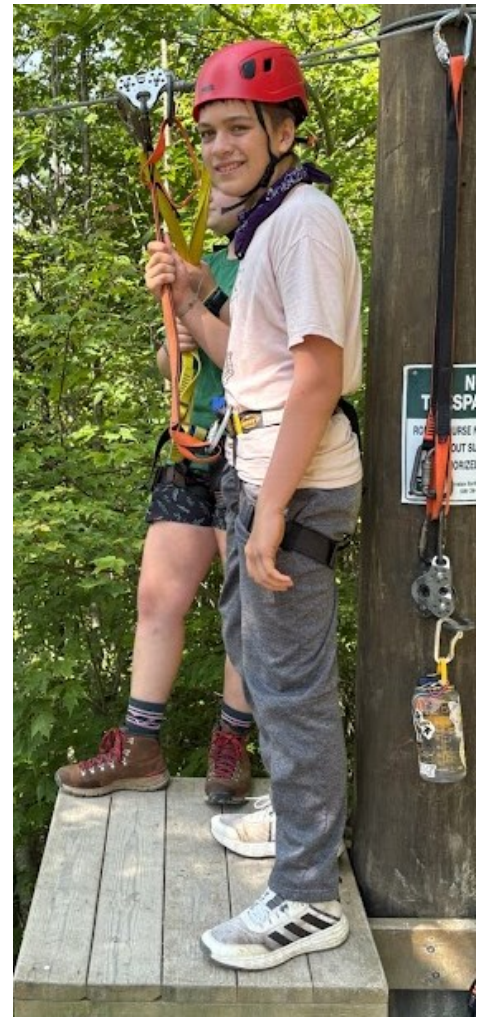














# Nativity Lutheran Church & School

## 2025

### Summer Camp Guide



Fun in the Sun ...All Summer Long!

## June 2 – August 1

### 8 weekly sessions

### LET US HELP TO PLAN YOUR SUMMER

Nativity offers a fun filled and educational Summer  
Camp for children Ages 2-5  
(Older siblings welcome)

Our focus at Nativity is on early literacy and reading  
readiness. This is a great time to bridge the transition  
from Preschool to Kindergarten.



# Registration Form

(Please print and check all applicable boxes and return with payment)

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_



**Current physical and immunization forms must be on file**

We open at 8 AM and close at 4 PM ... \$220 per week

**Week 1:** June 02 - June 06 ☐ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Week 2:** June 09 - June 13 ☐ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Week 3:** June 16 - June 20 ☐ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Week 4:** June 23 - June 27 ☐ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**No Camp during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July week**

**Week 5:** July 07 - July 11 ☐ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Week 6:** July 14 - July 18 ☐ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Week 7:** July 21 - July 25 ☐ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Week 8:** July 28- August 1 ☐ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee \$ 100.00

After MAY 1st, 2025: additional Fee \$ 50.00

**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please bill me through Brightwheel ☐**

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

# 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](mailto:mtmoore1313@gmail.com), or talk to him at church! God is good!

July 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 add water")	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***

There will be no take home sandwich making in July. Please sign up if you would like to reserve a kit containing supplies to make 50 sandwiches to help in August. Go online to the link below to sign up for one or more of the kits.

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 June sandwich makers: Gloria Jackson, Linda, West and Max Roehl, Kelly and Christopher Hoekstra, Theresa Saccone and Barbara Shelley. 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, June 16th 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 May sandwich makers: John and Nancy Steffen, Stan and Mary Ann Spech, Charlie Beiser, Randy Rich and Kari Donnelly. 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:



7/4 Kelly Hoekstra  
7/4 Steven Karlik  
7/9 Michael Esselstrom  
7/13 Jeremy Bloor  
7/14 Rodney Bryson  
7/20 West Roehl  
7/27 Lorraine Ballard (98)  
7/28 Joan Stelicha (95)  
7/31 Caitlyn Morrissey  
7/31 Dylan Morrissey

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH TO:

7/20 Stan & Mary-Ann Spech

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](mailto: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](mailto:pastor@pbnativity.com) before he contacts you!

# July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>  6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  Office Closed	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>  9a Worship  5:30p Act Love Walk	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew  6p Council 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
Summer Camp						
<b>13</b>  9a Worship  5:30p Act Love Walk	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew  6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
Summer Camp						
<b>20</b>  9a Worship  5:30p Act Love Walk	<b>21</b>  9:30a Sandwich Making	<b>22</b> 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew  6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
Summer Camp						
<b>27</b>  9a Worship  5:30p Act Love Walk	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew  6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		
Summer Camp						



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: Shonda Staudt  
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cpateach13@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Secretary: Hollond Romaine  
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Council Members at Large: Micah Miller  
407-415-7367  
millermicah15@gmail.com

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

Lakesa Ferguson  
941-623-7127  
lakesa36@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



***God's work...***

***...Our hands***



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