

THE NATIVITY

Carol

**Happy
New Year!**

Vol. 63 Issue 1 January 2026

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

WORDS FROM

Pastor Steve

Gifts That Keep on Giving: Discovering the gifts God offers – and the challenge to accept them.

Due to the beautiful complexities of culture, ethnicity, family history, and social expectations, the giving and receiving of gifts is rarely simple. What is meant as generosity can be misunderstood, what is offered in love can feel uncomfortable, and what is received may come with expectations we did not ask for. Even accepting a gift with grace can be difficult, especially when it challenges our pride, assumptions, or sense of self-sufficiency.

With the commercialized “gift-giving season” now behind us and the decorations packed away, the church season of Epiphany invites us to linger with a different kind of gift exchange. This season turns our attention toward God’s unexpected gifts—gifts that are not wrapped neatly, cannot be returned or exchanged, and often reveal their meaning only over time. These are gifts that meet us in vulnerability, disrupt our certainties, and draw us into deeper relationship with God and one another.

In this seven week sermon series that leads us up to Lent, we explore the surprising ways God continues to give to the world: light that exposes and heals, grace that refuses to be earned, and love that crosses boundaries of culture, status, and expectation. Epiphany reminds us that God’s gifts are still unfolding. The invitation before us is not merely to notice them, but to receive them fully—boldly, humbly, and with hearts open enough to be transformed.

God’s peace be with you.

Pastor Steve

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY AT NATIVITY AND OTHER DECEMBER ACTIVITIES



SHONDA STAUDT CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE

In the hope made real to us by the resurrection of Jesus, we share that Nativity member Shonda Mayfield Staudt passed away on Sunday November 30, 2025. The service will be at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Juno Beach on Saturday January 10th at 10AM. Both Pastor Steve and Pastor Jim of Holy Spirit will preach and preside for the service. A carpool for those wishing to attend will be set up in advance of the service. Please remember her husband Steven as well as the Holy Spirit Lutheran Church family in your prayers in the days ahead.

CONDOLENCES

Doris Ganon, mother of Sharon Speckmann passed away on Friday, December 19th. She had been on home hospice care. Doris was 88.

WOMEN OF WORTH-JANUARY EVENT-2026 VISION BOARDS

All women are invited to create 2026 Vision Boards with us on Friday, January 9th, from 7:00–8:00 PM in our “family room” at Nativity. Abby Moore will lead us in this creative and reflective activity as we create personal vision boards for 2026—not as resolutions or to-do lists, but as a way to reflect on what we hope to carry forward, release, and grow into in 2026. No experience is needed. Magazine images and poster board will be provided, and scissors and glue sticks will be available to share. Moms, daughters, granddaughters, and other women (young and old) in your life are welcome.

Please bring a snack to share.

(Optional): If you have favorites, bring your own display board, magazines, scissors, or glue

sticks.



YOUTH GROUP AT NATIVITY

Join Pastor Steve on selected Sundays from 11-1PM for faith formation and fun! Youth is more or less every two weeks, but does move around to accommodate holidays. Youth group is primarily for middle and high school youth. Exceptions can be made for younger youth. Please consult with Pastor Steve first. Yes, your child can invite friends! Next youth event is January 11.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY: THE GIFT OF GOD’S GRACE

Grace is a core principle of Lutheran theology, and is a gift that seeks to free us from shame, guilt, and sin. All of which are alive and well in our world. Let’s gather together following worship for a time of biblical study, faith formation, prayer and fellowship around the life-giving grace of Jesus Christ. Meets in the last classroom before the breezeway following Sunday worship. Study materials will be made available. All are welcome!

MEN’S GROUP

Nativity’s men’s group will be on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 6PM. Our focus will be building friendships, faith, and wherever else the Spirit moves us. This is for men of all ages and stages of life. A light dinner will be provided. Hope you can join us! See you January 22.

GOOD GIFT CATALOG

Even though the Christmas season is over, you can still support any number of ministries for God’s people through the ELCA’s Good Gifts Catalog. From farm animals, to health care, or a motorbike for a pastor in a developing country, you can make a positive impact in someone’s life. One Nativity family recently bought a family farm (\$715), a goat and flock of chicks (\$60), and a vegetable garden with a honey bee colony! Gifts as small as \$10 for ten baby chicks! Use this QR code to check out the online catalog.



ACT LOVE WALK

Read more to learn how to support this ministry...

- Continue to bring in non-perishable foods for the food pantry. See shopping list page 13.

Act Love Walk is based on the biblical principles of Micah 6:8 ALW is the mission outreach of Nativity. From this truck we bring the love of God to the food insecure, support justice initiatives, and create community around ice cream! ! Interested in Act Love Walk? You are encouraged to join us at 5:45PM on Tuesdays to plan, strategize and to organize the pantry. Contact Mike Moore at mtmoore1313@gmail.com, or Pastor Steve at pastor@pbnativity.com for more information.

Food items can be dropped off between 9 and 5PM M-F in the designated space by the church office.

HELP WANTED! SUNDAY SERVERS NEEDED!

On Sunday morning there are a number of ways in which you can serve your fellow Nativity family, and more importantly our guests. Some of the serving positions are, Greeter, Fellowship, Children's Church Teacher or Assistant, and Assisting Minister to the pastor. Use this Evite Qr code to sign up:



THRIVENT CAUSE KITS

If you have utilized your Thrivent Action Teams, there is another way to give back! You can have a "Thrivent Cause Kit" sent to your home, choosing a water filter or solar lamp kit to help others without access to clean water or electricity. The kits come with easy-to-follow assembly directions, tools needed and a return-address label/box. You can assemble these kits at home, or bring your kit to church so it can be assembled after service during fellowship time. You are able to order one Cause Kit each year. If you need help ordering your kit, please see Amy Winsor.



PRESCHOOL CONTINUES ENROLLMENT

Our preschool has expanded! This expansion and rejuvenation provides us with the opportunity to accept diapered two-year olds. Tell a friend! Call 561-622-4998 or contact pia@pbnativity.com for information.

JANUARY PRESCHOOL BIRTHDAYS

- 1/10 Kinzy Younes
- 1/11 Gabriel T. Ferguson
- 1/13 Vanessa Thomas
- 1/14 Pastor Steve Winsor
- 1/18 Eleonora Michaels

QUICKIE CHURCH PRESCHOOL CHAPEL

Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m. is our 20-25 minute long Quickie Chapel. At Quickie Chapel we take a story from the bible and interact with it in song, dance and video. Sing and dance as much or as little as you like. No judgement here! At chapel, we also learn the Five Respects (Respect God, Respect Yourself, Respect Others, Respect Things and Respect Creation). All are welcome to join us!

VPK CLASS PLAYING THE BELLS AT THEIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ON DEC. 18



THE STAFF OF NATIVITY WISH YOU ALL A HEALTHY & HAPPY NEW YEAR!



INTERPRETIVE DANCE AT 8PM CHRISTMAS EVE BY SUSANNAH JOHNSEN, HOLLOND ROMAIN AND CHARLOTTE JOHNSEN.



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.

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. If you would like to sign up to lead or assist a children's church, please use the code here.



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. Also remember to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars.

CHURCH BUILDING REPAIRS

The code corrections mandated by the city have all been done. Nativity's building and grounds are almost 63 years old and in constant state of needed fixes and updates. We are currently getting quotes on our roof and you can see numerous areas around the living room and sanctuary that leak when it rains.



DONATE THROUGH PAYPAL LINK TO THE RIGHT. 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. 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, use 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



NATIVITY BLANKET FUNDRAISER

Feel the warmth, and support the ministry of Nativity Church & School by purchasing a blanket that features the stained glass above the altar in the sanctuary. The image depicts the manger (yellow) set in the midst of a Celtic Cross of Christ (blue), surrounded by four semi-circles (red), one each for the four Gospels. Blanket is 60"x70". Makes a great gift! Purchase through QR code below and pick up from Nativity office M-F between 10AM and 3PM. Or, purchase and pick up on Sunday morning at church. Thank you! Minimum suggested donation is \$39.



FEED THE FOOD INSECURE IN OUR COMMUNITY

HOW?



- 1. GRAB A MONTHLY SHOPPING LIST**
- 2. SHOP AT YOUR FAVORITE STORE**
- 3. BRING FOOD ITEMS TO CHURCH**
- 4. PUT DONATIONS ON THE SHOPPING CART**

BY THE CHURCH OFFICE DESK



ACT LOVE WALK IS A MOBILE MINISTRY OUTREACH OF NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

Family Newsletter



THIS MONTH'S THEME

Travel Around the World

Your child will pack their passport and suitcase for an adventure around the world. The journey begins by exploring with traveling tools. Your child will design their own mask and drum to celebrate cultures. Curiosity will take over as your child explores many world wonders like the Great Pyramids and the Grand Canyon. Come with us on a journey around the world.

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

Today I made a camera.

I assembled a camera using a paper cup and a toilet paper roll. I chose different photo cards to place in the camera. Then I practiced to take the picture. I can pretend to take pictures of my favorite things!



ASK ME: What did you use to make a camera with that makes the picture?

Today I created a 3D pyramid.

I learned that pyramids were built by hard workers and treasures. I used my color-thinking skills to fold and assemble the pyramid shape.



ASK ME: What else do you know about pyramids? Did you use the help?

Make the most of your time together!

Even with full schedules, there are countless ways to share meaningful time together. Small moments often grow into big memories. Here are some ideas for inspiration:

- **Create a variety of "kits" for your child.** For example, fill a painting kit with brushes, cups, paint and paper. A building kit could be filled with blocks, toy animals and cars. Grab one when you need a quick activity.
- **Set clear expectations.** If you are visiting a museum, review expectations before you leave so your child is prepared for what they'll experience when you get there.
- **Plan for interruptions.** Provide puzzles and activities your child can work on by themselves, building independence while you take care of daily tasks.
- **Include your child in to-do lists when possible.** Invite your child to help with simple chores, like setting the table or washing dishes. These responsibilities can build confidence and pride.
- **Establish and follow a daily routine as consistently as you can.** Encourage daily expectations (like naps) and notice cooperation with positive feedback.
- **Have a few ideas ready, but let your child's interests guide the way.** Count together. Read together. Build together. Share meals together. Talk together. Walk together. Simply be together.



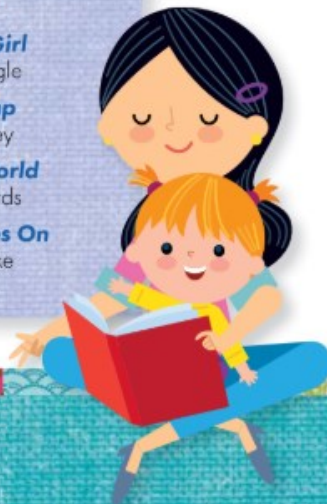
ExperienceEarlyLearning.com



RECOMMENDED READS

Cuddle Up WITH A GOOD BOOK

- On This Airplane**
by Lourdes Heuer
- Kite Flying**
by Grace Lin
- Drum Dream Girl**
by Margarita Engle
- Me on the Map**
by Joan Sweeney
- Good Night, World**
by Nicola Edwards
- The Sequoia Lives On**
by Joanna Cooke



Let's Travel

(Sing to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

Travel, travel, around the globe,
How I wonder where we'll go.
The world is full of wonders to see.
Would you like to travel with me?
Travel, travel, around the globe,
Pack your suitcase, then let's go!

Family Tree

Explore the roots of your family's culture. Take a trip to the library and find out where your relatives came from, what traditions were relevant to them and when they relocated to where you live now.



Family Activities



Travel Around the World

FEATURED CONCEPTS

Letters & Sounds:



Shape & Color:



Character Trait:

Bravery

Yoga Pose:

Boat Pose



Number:



Sign Language:



This month we will embark on an exciting trip around the world! We'll start by exploring travel tools like suitcases, maps and globes, then pretend to visit a world market to see items from around the globe. Along the way children will practice early math and language skills as they count objects, name new items and share ideas with friends. Together we'll discover natural wonders, like mountains and oceans, and marvel at human-made wonders, like bridges and towers, sparking curiosity, problem-solving and a love for adventure!

Let's Go! Pretend to take trips and explore new places through books and play at home. Join in by sharing your own travel experiences and encouraging your child's imagination as you explore together.

Shop the World: Toddlers love discovering new places. Read, look at pictures and pretend to travel together to ignite curiosity and build language.

Amazing Nature: Your child is amazed by mountains, waterfalls and giant trees, even in pictures. Share stories, look at photos and pretend to travel together to inspire a love for nature.

Built by People: Buildings around the world are amazing. Read, build and pretend together to show how people work together and dream big.

With traveling tools and sights to see, your child will journey joyfully, exploring wonders near and far on an adventure that sparks who they are!



TOGETHER TIME

DIY Flag Stripes



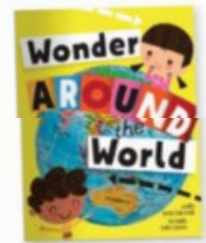
WHAT?	HOW?	WHY?
In the story of the week, your child learned about many different places and their flags.	Cut strips of colored paper and glue them onto another paper to create a family flag. Ask your child to help you choose colors that represent your family and add shapes or symbols that feel meaningful.	This activity builds family unity and pride as you work together to create something special that celebrates who you are.

Cookie Club



WHAT?	HOW?	WHY?
This week's story is about a little mouse who makes a clubhouse where everyone is welcome, just like your family can create welcoming spaces together at home.	Turn it into a family tradition by creating a special cookie club at home. Bake cookies together and invite neighbors, grandparents or friends to join in for a sweet family gathering.	Sharing cookies as a family helps nurture kindness and teaches children the joy of thinking about others and showing they care.

City Landmarks



WHAT?	HOW?	WHY?
In the story of the week, we read a book about many different places with amazing landmarks.	Take a trip and visit a special landmark in your town, such as a statue, fountain, building or bridge and take a photo of your child next to it. Talk about what makes it special and share a fun fact about its history or purpose.	This activity helps your child learn about their community, build pride and understand the concept of special cultural places. Looking at the photo later can spark conversation and help your child remember the experience.

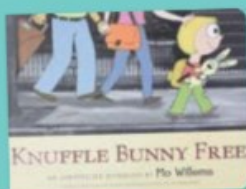
Choo Choo



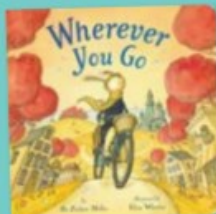
WHAT?	HOW?	WHY?
In the story of the week at school, we read the popular rhyme <i>Down by the Station</i> .	Make curvy and long chalk lines on the ground outside and pretend they are train tracks. Walk, march or chug along them together, making train sounds and stopping at pretend "stations."	This activity builds motor and geography skills by coordinating movements to follow the path and encourages imagination as your child pretends to be the train conductor.

READ WITH ME

Knuffle Bunny Free
by Mo Willems



Wherever You Go
by Pat Zietlow Millers



Busy Airport
by Campbell Books



Good Night, World
by Nicola Edwards



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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? Join us on Tuesdays at 5:45pm or contact Mike Moore at mtmoore1313@gmail.com, or talk to him at church! God is good!

January needs for Act Love Walk:

Canned Vegetables	Fruit Cups/Canned Fruit (pop top)
Canned Beans (pop top)	Canned Soups (pop top)
Ramen/Pasta/Mac & Cheese	Canned tuna/chicken/meat
Applesauce/Yogurt Pouches	Peanut Butter/Jelly/Honey
Instant Rice/Stuffing/Potatoes	Crackers
Cereal	Oatmeal Variety Packs
Shelf-Stable/Dry Milk	Ensure/Pediasure
Shampoo/Conditioner (travel size)	Body Wash/Soap (travel size)
Toothbrush/Flossers	Toothpaste (travel size)
Deodorant (travel size)	Socks/Comb/Small Brush

SANDWICH MAKING

We need take home sandwich makers for January. You pick up a kit to make 50 sandwiches, take home and assemble and return the next day. Go online to the link below to sign up for one or more of the kits. Pick up for January is the 8th between 11a and 4p. Then return to Nativity Friday, the 9th between 10a and 3p.

Please sign up today to help feed the homeless and hungry at Signup genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040549A4A72BA7F94-46859274-2ndsaturday> or the QR code here.



Thank you to our December sandwich makers: Gloria Jackson, Barbara Shelley, Andrew Moss, West and Max Roehl and Theresa Saccone. Thank you to Linda Roehl for shopping. Thank you to Thrivent for funding our event.

THIRD MONDAY SANDWICH MAKING

Our onsite sandwich making ministry will be Monday, January 19th at 9:30am in the church reception area where we will prepare approximately 400 sandwiches to be delivered for the homeless and hungry. There is no school that day so bring your kids to help. Please join us if you have an hour to spare. Plastic gloves will be provided.

Thank you to December sandwich makers: John and Nancy Steffen, Mary-Ann Spech, Chere Jacobs, Tom Kuhn, Louise Browning, Kari Donnelly, Charlie Beiser and Randy Rich. 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:



1/1 BOB SCHMIDT
1/10 EMERA BRYSON
1/10 CHERE JACOBS
1/14 PAT GURETZKY
1/14 PASTOR STEVE WINSOR
1/23 NIKKI CIRULLO

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/>



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!

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Years Day Office Closed No School	2 No School	3
4 9a Worship	5 No School	6 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 5:45p Act Love Walk 7:30p 12-step	7 8:45a Children's Chapel	8 11a-3p Pick up sandwich kits 6p Men's Group	9 10a-3p Return sandwich kits	10 10a Shonda Staudt Service @Holy Spirit
11 9a Worship 10:30a Act Love Walk Event 11a-1p Youth	12	13 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 5:45p Act Love Walk 6p Council 7:30p 12-step	14 8:45a Children's Chapel	15	16	17 Youth Retreat Lock-in
18 9a Worship	19 No School 9:30a Sandwich Making	20 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 5:45p Act Love Walk 7:30p 12-step	21	22 6p Men's Group	23	24
25 9a Worship 11 Youth	26	27 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 5:45p Act Love Walk 7:30p 12-step	28	29	30	31

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:
Daniel Mattos
admattos88@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:

Treasurer: Lakesa Ferguson
941-623-7127
lakesa36@gmail.com

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

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

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



God's work...
...Our hands



OTHER CHURCH

Leaders

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

Women's Ministry: Amy Winsor
winsor97@gmail.com
Lakesa Ferguson
lakeksa36@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

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