

THE NATIVITY

Carol



Vol. 63 Issue 7 July, 2026

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

WORDS FROM

Pastor Steve

CHRIST IN THE MOMENTS BETWEEN AT CAMP LUTHEROCK

Some of the most beautiful reminders of God with us don't come not from a mountaintop view or big adventures, but from the simple gift of being together.

In Luke 24:13-35, we hear of how two disciples walk the road to Emmaus on Easter evening, discouraged and confused by Jesus' death. As they talk, the risen Jesus joins them, but they do not recognize him. Along the way, Jesus explains how the Scriptures point to the Messiah's suffering and resurrection. When they arrive at their destination, Jesus shares a meal with them. As he breaks the bread, their eyes are opened and they recognize him. Though Jesus then disappears from their sight, they hurry back to Jerusalem, rejoicing and proclaiming that the Lord has truly risen and is alive. In that post-resurrection story we hear how Christ was revealed through shared journey and companionship. This week at camp I have seen and heard people's spiritual and emotional journeys. Throughout the week, youth and adults from Nativity, Holy Spirit Lutheran Juno Beach, as well as from NC., SC., MN., and WI. have come alongside one another for moments of faith, friendship, and fun in the mountains of North Carolina.

The journey began with excited smiles and nerves as the Nativity and Holy Spirit group gathered to hit the road. Even before reaching camp, a community was already forming. During our overnight stay at Messiah Lutheran in Savannah, a quiet evening of coloring, conversation, laughter and a game of "sardines" (hide and seek in reverse) reminded us that often the most meaningful moments happen when nothing has been planned or really happening. Just being is ok.

At camp, faith is woven into the rhythm of each day. Youth lead mealtime prayers. In the evening we gather for campfire worship to sing, pray, laugh, and listen together. Side by side, arms around one another the kids pose for pics and sway to camp songs. Deep friendships develop fast and with little effort - The Holy Spirit knitting kids together across all possible "away from camp" divisions. Beautiful.

The kids' electronics having been set aside since we arrived at camp, hikes to Cross Rock, or any other locations on the nearly 800 acre mountainside campus prime the heart, mind and soul for meaningful conversations. Likewise, an hour of churning homemade ice cream, playing cards while waiting your turn to do high rope challenges lend themselves to moments of being who God created us to be for one another. And when there is fear of raging rafting waters and/or high ropes challenges we are there to cheer one another on.

What stands out most is not any single activity, but how Christ reveals himself, and becomes present in the relationships throughout the week. In every encouraging word, every shared meal, every laugh around a campfire, every helping hand on a trail, and every conversation while waiting in line, God in Jesus Christ was there.

Camp Lutherock always has a way of reminding us that being present with one another is the primary way we experience God's presence. When we make room for friendships, encouragement, play, worship, and shared experiences, we discover anew that Christ meets us in the moments between. And those moments often become the ones we remember the longest.

From 4500ft higher than Palm Beach Gardens, and 1500 miles away, but right there with you in Christ,

Pastor Steve

Nativity and Holy Spirit Camp Lutherock group getting ready to hit the road, Saturday, 6/20/2026.



Quiet evening of coloring at our overnight traveling stay, Messiah Lutheran in Savannah, GA.



Mara Winsor, Charlotte Johnsen and Holy Spirit kids leading camp in dinner prayer.

Enjoying campfire worship.



Sophia Vincent and Susie Johnsen laughing at their counselors evening campfire skit.

Susie Johnsen showing off her after dinner clean up cup stacking skills.





Sophia Vincent signing the mess hall wall.



Susie Johnsen signing the mess hall wall.

Below: "The Boys" of Nativity Lutheran (Max and West Roehl), Holy Spirit Juno Beach and The Community Church of Babcock Ranch.





Pastor Steve, Susie Johnsen and Sophia Vincent at Cross Rock at 4800ft. The view is usually heavenly. This day was windy, cloudy, and raining. Still a great hike. Good job girls!

Mara, Charlotte and Sophia playing blob tag!



Below: making homemade ice cream.



Charlotte climbing through the "matchsticks" at Lutherock's Skypark.





Charlotte navigates a Skypark obstacle 40 feet up in the air!

Kids playing cards, telling stories as they wait their turn to climb Skypark



Wait, is that Pastor Steve up there?!



Mara, Charlotte and others getting ready to go rafting on the French Broad River.

PIANO LESSONS AT NATIVITY

Saturday Mornings from 9-11AM

Lessons for children 4+ age, teens and adults.

Interested? Contact Nativity Music Director, Daniel Mattos at:

admattos88@gmail.com, by text 561-232-0960, or talk with him after
Worship on Sunday.



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 July 9th and 23rd!

NATIVITY'S PRESCHOOL

Nativity preschool is enrolling now for the fall for all 2, 3 and 4 year olds. Once they are enrolled for the fall, they are welcome to come to our summer camp. Please tell your friends and neighbors. We have the best teachers and the best playground.

Our preschool playground is a place where little ones laugh, learn, explore and grow together each day. We are excited to begin updating the playground to create an even safer, more engaging environment for our children.

We are asking our church and preschool community for donations to fund new equipment, safety improvements and exciting outdoor learning spaces. Every gift, large or small, will make a meaningful difference and help us continue providing a joyful place for our preschool children to play and thrive.



If you would like to contribute, please mark your donation "Preschool Playground Fund" or contact the preschool at 561-622-4998. Thank you for supporting the children and families of our church preschool with your generosity and prayers!

SUMMER CAMP FUN



2026 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Several Nativity members went to the Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly held in Orlando June 4-6.

Photo 1: Mara Winsor, Charlotte Johnsen and Esther Ferguson attending worship.

Photo 2: Mary Winsor and others being blessed by Bishop Suarez as they prepare for seminary.

Photo 3: Mara Winsor serving communion at closing worship.



Pastor Steve, Charlotte Johnsen, Grace Ferguson, Esther Ferguson, Lakesa Ferguson and Mara Winsor.

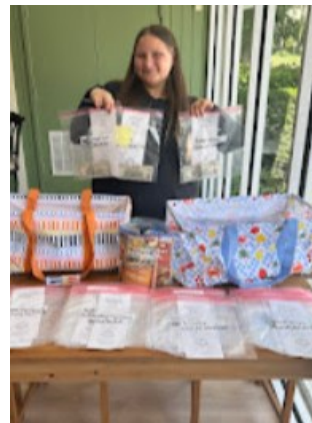


Nativity Youth in Synod Assembly group photo.



DINNER KITS FOR ACT LOVE WALK MOBILE MINISTRY

Hi, I am Mara Jo Winsor. Please help me achieve my Girl Scout Silver Award by picking up a dinner kit (or two) from the display in the Family Room. Each dinner kit includes a meal specific shopping list for you to complete. Load your items in the Ziploc provided and return to the display in the Family Room. Completed dinner kits will be delivered to the communities we serve on a date to be determined. Donations via the QR code to Act Love Walk are appreciated as well. Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need, and my project!

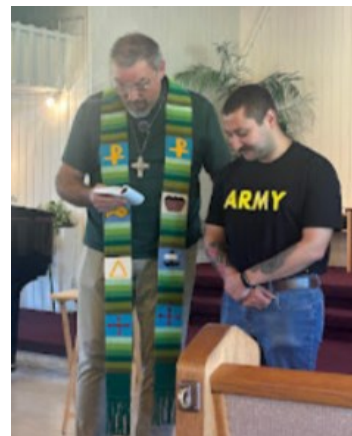


PASTA SUNDAY FOR ACT LOVE WALK

Sunday, June 14, Nativity members and friends bagged up pasta for our Act Love Walk Ministry.



Pastor Steve gave Michael Saccone special blessings as he is going into the army. Michael is the son of Frank And brother to Theresa. He will be reporting for Basic training soon.



WITH SYMPATHY AND LOVE FOR THE SACCONI FAMILY

With both sadness and hope, we share with you the news that Nativity member and brother in Christ, Frank Saccone died of a massive heart attack early morning Thursday, June 18th. Frank will be missed among us, and yet we celebrate the new life he now knows because of Christ's death and resurrection.

Please hold his wife Theresa, daughters Theresa and Michelle, and son Michael, in your prayers. Frank was committed to eternal rest in New York. There will be a celebration of Frank's life at Nativity Lutheran on a date to be determined in July. Notes of condolence may be mailed to his family at 505 Ivy Ave. Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410.

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. -Romans 6:4



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 ... \$225 per week

Week 5:	June 29 - July 02	<input type="checkbox"/> = \$ _____
Week 6:	July 06 - July 10	<input type="checkbox"/> = \$ _____
Week 7:	July 13 - July 17	<input type="checkbox"/> = \$ _____
Week 8:	July 20- August 24	<input type="checkbox"/> = \$ _____

Subtotal	\$ _____
Registration Fee	\$ 100.00
<u>After MAY 1st, 2026:</u> additional Fee	\$ 50.00
TOTAL:	\$ _____

Please bill me through Brightwheel

Parent Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

**Thank you for trusting us with
your Child!**

561-622-4998

pia@pbnativity.com

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 15.

Bagging for June delivery will take place on For the summer months of July and August we are simplifying our ministry by bagging and dropping off to our motel communities.

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.



Please help pack grocery bags, Friday, July 10th at 6pm here at Nativity.

HELP WANTED! SUNDAY SERVERS NEEDED FOR JULY!

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. We are in need of help in all areas for July and in the future months. Please sign up! 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.



GOOD GIFT CATALOG

Throughout the year, you can 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.



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 classroom off the kitchen 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.

In 2025, Nativity Lutheran Church received \$1,039 through Thrivent Choice Dollars.

LOAN REPAYMENT FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Nativity’s building and grounds are 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 THE 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.

There will be NO take home sandwich making in July, 2026. We do need people to sign up for August!



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



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

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 inside the office doors. 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!

July needs for Act Love Walk:

Cereal (we always need a lot)

Shelf-Stable/Powdered Milk

Flavored Oatmeal Packets

Canned Fruits

Applesauce

Canned Meats (SPAM, chicken, tuna)

Canned meals (ravioli, stew)

Soups

Pasta Sauce (16oz.)

Canned Vegetables

Instant Mashed Potatoes/Stuffing

Microwaveable rice/pasta dishes

Ramen

Mac & Cheese

Peanut Butter (16oz.)

Jelly/Jams (16oz.)

Snack Crackers/Bars

Baby Food/Formula (big need)

Feminine Sanitary Pads/Tampons

Socks (These are a BIG hit!)

SANDWICH MAKING

Once you sign up for a kit, 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. If you have signed up for May, pick up is the 7th between 11a and 4p. Then return to Nativity Friday, the 8th between 10a and 3p.

There will be NO take home sandwich making in July.

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.

We do need sandwich makers to sign up for August!



THIRD MONDAY SANDWICH MAKING

Our onsite sandwich making ministry will be Monday, July 20th 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 June sandwich makers: John and Nancy Steffen, Kari Donnelly, Pastor Steve and Mara Winsor, Breanne and Charlotte Johnsen, Charlie Beiser and Mary-Ann Spech. Thank you to John and Nancy Steffen for shopping and delivering the finished sandwiches to St. George's. Thank you to Thrivent for funding our ministry and thank you to Publix for donating the bread.

We need more helpers as we have lost some regulars due to traveling, moving, etc. If you are able to give us an hour, we can continue to make 400 sandwiches for the homeless. Thank you!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH TO:

7/4	<i>KELLY HOEKSTRA</i>	7/27	<i>LORRAINE BALLARD (99)</i>
7/4	<i>STEVEN KARLIK</i>	7/28	<i>JOAN STELICHA (96)</i>
7/7	<i>KIM LYNCH</i>	7/31	<i>CAITLIN MORRISSEY</i>
7/9	<i>MIKE ESSELSTROM</i>	7/31	<i>DYLAN MORRISSEY</i>
7/13	<i>JEREMY BLOOR</i>		
7/14	<i>RODNEY BRYSON</i>		
7/14	<i>ADAM MAWHINNEY</i>		
7/20	<i>WEST ROEHL</i>		
7/25	<i>ANA KARLIK</i>		



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH TO:

7/2 *MATT & DEBRA FLYNN*

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.

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!

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Holiday/Office & Camp Closed	4
			Summer Camp 8am-4pm			
5 9a Worship	6	7 9:30-10:30a Bible Study	8	9	10	11
	Summer Camp 8am-4pm					
		5:45p Act Love Walk 7:30p 12-step		6p Men's Group	6p Pack food for Act Love Walk	
12 9a Worship	13	14 9:30-10:30a Bible Study	15	16	17	18
	Summer Camp 8am-4pm					
		5:45p Act Love Walk 6p Council 7:30p 12-step				
19 9a Worship	20 9:30a Sandwich Making	21 9:30-10:30a Bible Study	22	23	24	25
	Summer Camp 8am-4pm					
		5:45p Act Love Walk 7:30p 12-step				
26 9a Worship	27	28 9:30-10:30a Bible Study	29	30	31	
		5:45p Act Love Walk 7:30p 12-step				

Pastor:
Pastor Steve Winsor
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School Director:
Pia Heiser
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Office Manager:
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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
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Vice-President: Hollond Romaine
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Treasurer: Lakesa Ferguson
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Secretary: Joel Roehl
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Council Members at Large:
John Johnsen
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God's work...

...Our hands



NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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OTHER CHURCH

Leaders

Women's Ministry: Amy Winsor
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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