

THE NATIVITY

Carol



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

WORDS FROM

Pastor Steve

I was recently asked by a member of Nativity if I could get her some information for the Women of the ELCA's (WELCA) monthly publication, *Gather*. She had some thoughts that she wanted to get down on paper, and possibly submit to the magazine to the benefit of its readers. I offered to proofread her article before its submission. That is when I just knew her thoughts needed to be shared with you all. For five years I have been visiting her at home, and for five years, her sharp mind, love of the Lord, and a keen mind for the purpose of Christ's church has inspired, and lifted me. This month, you get a peek into the mind and heart of longtime Nativity member, Nancy Morrissey. May her thoughts on miracles not only inspire, but challenge you to share yours. Enjoy.

"But Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.'" Matthew 19:26

My husband passed away six months ago. I miss him a lot. A lot. I am grieving, yes, but these thoughts are not about grief. They center on an issue that I've been thinking about through that grief, clarifying for myself during my nighttime ruminations.

And that topic is that semi-invisible and self-imposed line between saying we believe in miracles, and actually being able to share with others about those miracles, without a sense of embarrassment or fear that we're being too emotional or even perhaps a little "wacky."

I am an ELCA Lutheran and was raised as an Episcopalian because of an English mom. Both denominations tend to be composed of quiet, reserved, private -- choose your adjective -- congregants, something I share and respect, but wonder if that holds us back at times.

Yes, we at times use the term itself, perhaps saying "oh, it was a miracle it didn't rain us out on our wedding day," or "what a miracle my soufflé didn't fall," but those are slightly flippant, not imbued with great emotion. It is the sincere recognition of and telling of true miracles I speak of.

True miracles have happened in my life, of that I'm certain. Mine relate to meeting that

person I now grieve, events concerning our children, our shared health dilemmas. I would hope that others have experienced the like. But do we ever talk about them? Perhaps quietly, to our pastor, another understanding family member -- but more openly, in a truly emotional manner? Or does that reserve of ours tell us that we "don't talk that way"?

Many years ago, someone I was working on a project with, began to tell of an experience she had fighting the devil. I remember backing away from her, in my mind at least, if not physically, and the doors to that mind closing off, being uncomfortable with the oversharing.

Would our telling the tale of our own miracles be met with that same level of discomfort of others? Would we be afraid of being seen as too emotional, too over the top, someone to avoid? Would that fear of potential embarrassment stop us?

And should it?

Nancy has been a member since 2002, when she "discovered" Nativity and her twins were baptized. Those children were one of the miracles in her life. Nancy cried out to God for a certain kind of good man, someone with a deep yet humble faith, a strong desire to be a dad, and courage needed for life. And that was her first miracle, meeting that man on a street corner in downtown West Palm Beach on St. Patrick's day. Truly God's work.

At almost 53 years of age, Nancy gave birth to twins, and despite a warning about possible Downs Syndrome in one of them, Caitlyn and Dylan were born healthy. Many years later, both she and Brian were diagnosed with serious illnesses. These unfortunate circumstances resulted in deepened love, teamwork, and an increased awareness for empathy. Brian managed to be a loving father until they reached adulthood before succumbing to his ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) in 2023.

Nancy lives at home with her daughter Caitlyn, where she reads from sunrise to sunset, thanks the Lord for miracles great and small, and manages to manage her Multiple Sclerosis, through faith, hope, and love.

Thank you for your witness Nancy, that with God, all things are possible!

In Awe of God,

Nancy Morrissey, and Pastor Steve Winsor



SPECIAL VISITOR

Join us Sunday, May 5th at 9am as Pastor Brett Rizzo will be visiting with his Mom, Karen Joyce for her birthday. He will be assisting in service that day.

Brett was raised in Nativity and was ordained on June 16, 1991 as Nativity's first son of the congregation.

ACT, LOVE, WALK

Saturday, March 30, the Act, Love, Walk committee made some special deliveries for Easter. To the right Mike Moore and Hollond Romaine are loading up the truck (with cookies!)

Here's Pastor Steve wishing us a safe journey.



Shonda and our very own Easter Bunny (thank you Grace Ferguson) pose with the cookies and cards that were delivered to our shut ins.

And to the right we have our Easter Bunny getting a picture with one of our deliveries, Joan Stelicha.



Here is our delivery crew! Mike Moore, Shonda Staudt, Lakesa Ferguson and Grace pose with Nancy Morrissey.



Shonda Staudt and Grace make our last delivery. Thank you all so much for your time and help in getting this ministry rolling!

Mike Moore and Grace are ready to return to the church after a successful outing!



Abby Moore was our intrepid field photographer and as such she's behind the lens on all the photos. Thank you for your time and service!



THANK YOU

Thank you to Yasa Poletaeva and Darren Matias of Contrast Duo for performing for us on April 21. It was a beautiful concert of violin, piano and vocal with music from Carmen, old favorites like Climb Every Mountain, Tea for Two, Leonard Cohen's Alleluia along with some of Yasa and Darren's favorites.

You can watch the concert on YouTube by entering Contrast Duo.

Thank you to Yinyu Li for bringing us beautiful musicians.

NATIVITY News

MOM'S GROUP

All moms are invited to meet other moms on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month after worship. This is a time to pray, talk and share about what it's like to parent in today's world. Grab a cup of coffee from the living room after worship and join us in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend!

ACT, LOVE, WALK

Act-Love-Walk is the new mission outreach of Nativity. In December, Nativity was granted \$35,000 to begin the implementation of a mobile outreach ministry. With your help, we will worship, feed, educate and create community from our mobile unit. Please be in prayer about how you can be of service to this service to our community. For more information on how to connect with this ministry contact Act Love Walk's ministry manager Michael Moore at mtmoore1313@gmail.com

BIBLE, BAGELS 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.

SANDWICH MAKING

2nd Saturday Take Home Sandwich Making is May 11th. Pick up kits to assemble 50 sandwiches for the homeless on Friday the 10th between 1 & 4pm. Return sandwiches on Saturday, the 11th at 9:00am in front of Nativity for delivery. Please sign up for one of the six kits available at Signup genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040549A4A72BA7F94-46859274-2ndsaturday>

This is a new link. Please be sure to use this sign up and not any previous link you may have.

You may sign up early for upcoming months.

Thank you April's 2nd Saturday sandwich makers: Kelly, Sara and Christopher Hoekstra, Linda, Max and West Roehl, Gloria and Dennis Jackson, Dylan Atkins and Theresa and Frank Saccone. Thank you to Linda for shopping and delivering.



South Florida Soup Kitchen & Assistance Foundation, Inc.

March 13 at 4:13 PM · 🌐

Thank you to Nativity Lutheran Church for making 320 sandwiches and donating 120 PB crackers for our meals last Saturday. We are so grateful for their continued partnership and support! We also want to thank our students who made sandwiches last week too. Every week, multiple students are working hard to make our community a better place. Thank you to everyone who continues to partner with us to feed our hungry neighbors!

WOMEN'S LOVE CIRCLE

The next meeting for Love Circle will be on May 13th at 9:30 in the family room. Mark your calendars and plan to join us. The Bible study will discuss how food is important in the Bible.



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Laurel Winsor will be graduating May 17th from Palm Beach Gardens High School. She will be attending University of South Florida studying health sciences on a pre med track to become a Physician Assistant.

Pastor Steve and Amy went to the Breakers for a Scholastic Achievement Awards Dinner where Laurel received an award for having a class rank of #3.

Sara Hoekstra will also be graduating from Palm Beach Gardens High School on the 17th. Her future plans are yet to be decided.

Dylan Morrissey will be walking at graduation May 4 with a computer science degree from University of Florida. He will be moving back to Palm Beach Gardens and working remotely.

THIRD MONDAY SANDWICH MAKING

Our onsite sandwich making ministry will be Monday, May 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 March sandwich makers: John & Nancy Steffen, Tom Kuhn, Hedy Rossmeissl, Charlie & Nancy Biesers, Nativity neighbors: Natale & son Blake, David Hoecker, Randy Rich and Natalie MacDonald. Also thank you to John & Nancy Steffen for shopping and Pastor Steve for delivering the finished sandwiches to St. George's. The event was funded by Thrivent.

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

If you would like to help keep our feeding ministries alive, please write check to Nativity and write in memo line sandwich making or bring in pantry food items like rice, beans, vegetables, cereal, etc. for our Act, Love, Walk Ministry.

If you are a Thrivent member, please apply for an Action Team to help fund one of the sandwich making events. You may talk to Nancy Steffen, Linda Roehl or Kari in the church office to find out what month needs financing. Thank you in advance.

THANK YOU

A super thank you to Mike Moore for making a delicious breakfast that he served here on Easter Sunday. Thank you Lakesa Ferguson and Shonda Staudt for organizing and running the breakfast and Easter egg hunt. Thank you also to all the helpers that worked on the breakfast, hunt, gift bags and cookie boxes that were delivered to our homebound members.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars for July 1-5 for an awesome week of Bible stories, songs, crafts, snacks and games. 8am to 12 noon, \$50 per child for the week.

Registration forms will follow soon. Please talk to Shonda if you would like to help in any way or sign up on poster in family room.

THRIVENT

Thrivent.com is an excellent way to invest your money with a religious based organization. Once you become a Thrivent member, you are able to host two action teams a year. An action team can be formed to raise money for someone in need, help in the community and especially helps to fund our two sandwich making events each month. If you are a Thrivent member and are able to host an event, go online to Thrivent.com to apply or contact kari@pbnativity or 561-622-4998 Monday through Friday, 10am to 3pm. Thrivent will sponsor up to \$250 for each team. There is no cost to you.

Thrivent members also remember to direct your Choice Dollars to your favorite non profit or charity yearly.

Family Newsletter

THIS MONTH'S THEME

Garden Treasures

Plant a seed and watch it grow. Your child will wiggle like a worm with excitement as they greet garden visitors like rabbits and moles. They will sing along with buzzing bees and pull out a carrot to make their own tasty garden soup. Watch your child's curiosity grow throughout this springtime study!

BASICS TO REINFORCE AT HOME

LETTERS Ff and Yy

NUMBERS 17 and 18

COLOR Pink

SHAPE Diamond



Learn with your child!

The greatest learning comes from the natural interests and passions of your child. When you see your child's eyes light up, stop and dig deeper into their interests. Here are some tips to connect with the interests of your child and learn together:

- **Take time just to watch** your child play.
- **Observe how your child engages physically with play objects.** Whether they sit quietly and work on a puzzle or run around with a scarf making loud noises, match the activity level of your child.
- **Say what you see.** Help build your child's vocabulary by narrating your observations about what and how your child is playing.
- **Ask open-ended questions** to get more information about what your child likes about what they are currently doing. Begin your questions with words such as "what," "how," "why" and "where."
- **Sneak in basic concepts,** such as counting, letter sounds, sorting and shapes by the way you talk during play: "Wow! You have so many toy cars in a line. How many do you have?"
- **Encourage your child** to use all of their senses to experience and explore new topics and interests.

The more involved you are with your child's education, the more they will value learning.

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

Today I built a pet toad.

A toad ate a meal of bugs. I made a toad by adding glue to a cap that I printed and I had. Now I can make one for my pet out of home or school.



Today I planted a little garden.

Outside my gate of different kinds of plants and vegetables I used an egg carton, white and paper to "plant" my own garden. I thought about what I would like to plant in my garden and I had a lot of fun. It is so exciting and I can't wait to see it grow!



ASK ME: What is your favorite kind of vegetable? How do you like to eat it?

FFChild





Family Activities

RECOMMENDED READS

Cuddle Up WITH A GOOD BOOK

Hello Ocean
by Pam Muñoz Ryan

From Seed to Plant
by Gail Gibbons

A Fruit Is a Suitcase for Seeds
by Jean Richards

The Vegetables We Eat
by Gail Gibbons

Growing Vegetable Soup
by Lois Ehler

Tops & Bottoms
by Janet Stevens

What Do Roots Do?
by Kathleen V. Kudlinski



Plants All Around Us

Plant something, then take care of it and watch it grow with your family. If your child is young and patience is limited, choose something fast-growing, like grass seeds or herbs. At the market, point out and name different fruits and vegetables. Invite your child to pick out any vegetable or fruit to take home and try.



In the Garden

(Sing to the tune of "Old McDonald")

Let's plant some veggies in the garden,
They are good to eat.
We'll plant some carrots and some corn,
They are good to eat.
With some beans over here and some peas over there,
Here a bean, there a pea,
Everywhere a veggie!
Let's plant some veggies in the garden,
They are good to eat.



PRESCHOOL

Scoop



MAY PRESCHOOL BIRTHDAYS

Eleonora Panasenko May 6
Lucas Lacerda May 12
Cayden Rodriguez May 21

SCHOOL GARDEN

Here are some pictures of the children picking tomatoes and sweet peppers from the garden. We counted them and we talked about their physical characteristics such as color, size, and shape. Also, here are some of the students' statements.

Alyson Lopez, " I like to eat tomatoes with mommy, and daddy loves to eat Jalapeño peppers." In Spanish, " A mi me gusta comer tomates con mi mamá y a mi papá le gusta comer los jalapeños."

Allison Rose, " I like to eat mint in my salad with mommy."

Lucas' mom shared that Lucas began to eat tomatoes since we started to pick them from the garden.



MORE PRESCHOOL GARDEN FUN!



PRESCHOOL SPECIAL DAYS

MONDAY, MAY 27, NO SCHOOL, MEMORIAL DAY.

***WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 9:30AM VPK GRADUATION AND END OF YEAR CEREMONY
EVERYONE WELCOME!***

THURSDAY, MAY 30, LAST DAY OF SCHOOL.

JUNE 3, FIRST DAY OF SUMMER CAMP. SEE PAGE 10 AND ENROLL YOUR CHILD NOW!

Nativity Lutheran Church & School

2024 Summer Camp Guide June 3 – August 2

9 weekly sessions, 561-622-4998, pia@pbnativity.com

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. Each week we integrate the most exciting activities:

- Activities for the whole group, small group and individual practice
- Interactive learning centers
- Phonemic awareness, alphabet and sound recognition
- Memorization skills
- Music, rhythm and rhyme
- Outdoor activities
- Weekly movies, Bible lessons, Arts & Crafts
- Weekly Water Splish-Splash Day!!

Register by May 1, 2024! The Registration fee is \$100.
An additional fee of \$50 will be charged after May 1st.
 You may pick and choose any or all weeks as needed.

Please complete one form per child. (10% Sibling discount will be applied)

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 3 PM ... \$210 per week

Week 1:	June 03 - June 07	\$ _____
Week 2:	June 10 - June 14	\$ _____
Week 3:	June 17 - June 21	\$ _____
Week 4:	June 24 - June 28	\$ _____
Week 5:	July 01 - July 05	\$ _____
Week 6:	July 08 - July 12	\$ _____
Week 7:	July 15 - July 19	\$ _____
Week 8:	July 22 - July 26	\$ _____
Week 9:	July 28- August 2	\$ _____

Subtotal	\$ _____
Registration Fee	\$ 100.00
<i>After MAY 1st, 2024:</i> Late Registration Fee	\$ 150.00
TOTAL:	\$ _____

Please bill me through Brightwheel

Parent Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH TO:



5/1 Ron Bloor
5/3 Helmut Jagels
5/4 Karen Joyce
5/23 Steven Karlik
5/24 Breanne Johnsen

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH TO:

5/5 Frank & Diane Lynch
5/31 Rodney & Audra Bryson

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*.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Would you like to support those persons who have been affected by wildfires, hurricanes, flooding from torrential rains, and more? Go to ELCA website and click on Lutheran Disaster Response to give.

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/>



May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10a Children's Chapel	2 12p Ignite Sports	3	4
5 9a Worship	6 5:45p 12-step-FH	7 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bagels & Brew 6-8p Council 7:30p 12-step-FH	8 10a Children's Chapel	9 12p Ignite Sports	10 11a-4p Pick up sandwich kits	11 9:00a sandwich drop off
12 9a Worship 10:15 Mom's Group	13 9:30a Women's Love Circle 5:45p 12-step-FH	14 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bagels & Brew 2p Staff Mtg. 6-8p 7:30p 12-step-FH	15 10a Children's Chapel	16 12p Ignite Sports	17	18
19 9a Worship 10:15a Confirmation	20 9:30a Sandwich Making 5:45p 12-step-FH	21 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bagels & Brew 6-8p Development Meeting 7:30p 12-step-FH	22 10a Children's Chapel	23 12p Ignite Sports	24	25
26 9a Worship 10:15a Mom's	27 Memorial Day Closed/ No School 5:45p 12-step-FH	28 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bagels & Brew 7:30p 12-step-FH	29 9:30a VPK Graduation	30 Last Day of School	31 Synod Assembly	

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& Extended Care
Theresa Saccone, 3yr. Teacher
Sandra Calle, 2yr. Teacher
Caitlin Morrissey, Co-Teacher
Judith Novoa, Co-teacher

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God's work...

...Our hands

OTHER CHURCH

Leaders

Prayer Chain: Sandy McClellan
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