

THE NATIVITY

Carol

Happy
New Year!

Vol. 62 Issue 1 January 2025

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

WORDS FROM

Pastor Steve

On Sunday December 29, 2024, Amy and our girls worshipped at First Baptist Church in New Bern, North Carolina while visiting family. It is not very often I get to sit in the pew with Amy, all four of our daughters, and my mother-in-law, let alone in a pew that dates back to 1809. First Baptist is a member of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. From the handful of times we've worshipped there, I've always left there spiritually fed, and reminded that we Christians have more to stand together with, than apart. This Sunday was no different. The pastor preached from the lectionary, and we sang hymns found in our cranberry hymnal. Sure, our doctrine of the true presence of Christ in bread and wine, and their insistence on immersion baptism differ, but on this Sunday neither of them were obstacles to experiencing the presence of God and the attributes of baptism.

On this last Sunday of 2024 the minister preached from Matthew 25:31-46. In short, the passage features Jesus having a discussion with his disciples on the eve of his betrayal and death. Jesus talks about when he will come again to judge the living and the dead (Apostles Creed). Using a sheep and goats metaphor, Jesus describes God the Father's favor for the obedient sheep. He says, *'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'*

At first this reading just didn't seem to fit within the context of the Christmas season in which we celebrate the incarnation of God, the birth of hope. But, as the message unfolded, it came into focus. Jesus shares that those who are blessed and will inherit the kingdom, are those who have unknowingly practiced what Jesus preached and lived (fed, water, shelter, etc.) They repeatedly ask Jesus, "When was it that we..?"

Continued next page...

This begs the question, How does one get to the point of not knowing/realizing that they are living what Jesus preached and lived? Perhaps it is in the question itself, “When was it that I..? When we recollect what we have, or have not done, in light of what God has done for us in Jesus, we spiritually position ourselves for better execution of God’s love through us.

Later today, I will be taking a day hike in Croatan National Forest on the North Carolina seashore with my family. I am sure that hike will feed me in many ways. Physically, mentally and spiritually it will be good for my soul. They say that in order for us to properly care for others, we must care properly for ourselves.

On this News Year’s Eve, the birth of a new year, might you create the time and space in this new year for recollecting the past. As a spiritual practice, might you filter the Word of God through walks or runs, times of silence, nurtured curiosities, art and literature. Or, listen or read up on a topic you disagree with, or troubles you.

In 2025, might you make it a spiritual practice to ask yourself this spiritually aware question, “When was it last that I did as Jesus did for the least of those around me?” In doing so, you and the kingdom will be spiritually fed for not just 2025, but well into eternity. Amen.

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



NATIVITY *News*

CONGRATULATIONS!

On Saturday 11/9 Mark Glazener was approved by the Florida Bahama's Synod for ordination into the ministry of Word and Sacrament, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Congratulations Mark, and congratulations Church! Mark will be a great pastor for God's people!



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Stewardship committee will meet in the sanctuary immediately after service and fellowship on Sunday, December 8th. The committee has spent the last couple of meetings getting grounded in the Biblical principles around stewardship. On the 8th, the committee plans to set out its 3-, 6- and 12-month priorities. Please prayerfully consider joining this committee in its critical work.

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.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Women, save the date for April 4-6, 2025 if you are interested in attending God Spa at Luther Springs. 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. 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 want to be added to the list to receive more information, please text Abby Moore (214) 354-4827 with your name and phone number!

WOMEN OF WORTH (WOW).

Nativity's new women's group has a name: Women of Worth (WOW for short)!

Hollond Schiller-Romaine and Denise Varlack-Joseph are organizing the January WOW outing - more to come soon! Additionally, WOW is planning to serve Nativity and our community through a prayer blanket project, funded by a grant from Thrivent. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

JANUARY SCHOOL BIRTHDAYS

- 1/4 Paislee Stevens
- 1/17 Audrey Guerrette
- 1/30 Tony Nguyen
- 1/14 Pastor Steve



No School January 20



Nativity's preschool children did a great job Wednesday, December 18 performing their annual Christmas program, "Joseph Dearest, Mary Mine".

The VPK class performed two Christmas songs with handbells.

Thank you to Luke Lowen's grandpa for providing us with live Christmas music after the show.



CHRISTMAS EVE, EVE

December 23 Pastor Steve told the Christmas story to 65 members, neighbors, school families and friends. Thank you to John Steffen and Yinyu Li for flute and piano music. It was a beautiful evening worshipping under the Christmas lights while hearing the joy of kid's laughter!



Family Newsletter



THIS MONTH'S THEME

Going on Safari

Pack your bags, put on a hat and get ready for a big adventure to the African grasslands. In the Game Reserve you will see elephants, zebras and maybe even get kissed by a giraffe! You will learn about people who live in the great savannah. You will celebrate their art, make necklaces, learn to drum and sleep under a mosquito net! If Africa seems far away, find a safari in your backyard. Hunt for beetles in the grass, make your own shelter and relax in the shade.

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



Inexpensive Ideas for Learning at Home

Learning happens everywhere, all the time. Enhance your child's learning without spending a lot of money. Here are five quick ideas for activities at home, without added expenses.

- **Go for a walk together with a paper bag.** Collect items, then invite your child to create a nature book. Glue or tape an item on a page and write a story about it. Use descriptive words to describe how it looks and feels.
- **Look through store ads or "junk mail" together.** Invite your child to tear or cut them to make a collage.
- **Sort and fold laundry together.** Get a chore done while having fun! Match up socks and talk about colors, textures, patterns and sizes.
- **Create upcycled treasures.** Save items that can be recycled and use them to make three-dimensional sculptures. Set up an area protected with a plastic tablecloth, old sheet or newspapers and give your child free rein with tape, glue and rubber bands. Experiment with ways to build and create using those materials.
- **Count and compare using ice cube trays or egg cartons.** Use items from nature, snack items, buttons, colored rocks, small blocks or any other small items that will fit in the trays. Sort, count and compare the items by color, size or shape. Think of new ways to sort them.



THIS MONTH'S FEATURED CONCEPTS

Letters Cc, Ss & Rr

Shape Oval

Numbers 9 & 10

Color Orange

Character Trait Resourceful

Letter Cc cat, corn & carrot

Letter Ss sock, sun & snake

Letter Rr rhino, rock & raccoon

Topics your child
will explore this month:

Getting Ready for Safari

- 1 Passport
- 2 Packing Up
- 3 Game Reserve
- 4 Safari Vehicles
- 5 Safari Safety

Wild Safari Animals

- 6 Lion
- 7 Elephant
- 8 Rhino
- 9 Zebra
- 10 Giraffe

Going on Safari

Backyard Safari

- 16 Grass
- 17 Birds
- 18 Water
- 19 Beetles
- 20 Trees

Life in the Grasslands

- 11 Beads
- 12 Hut
- 13 Food
- 14 Music
- 15 Migration



RECOMMENDED READS

Cuddle Up WITH A GOOD BOOK

Safari, So Good!
by Bonnie Worth

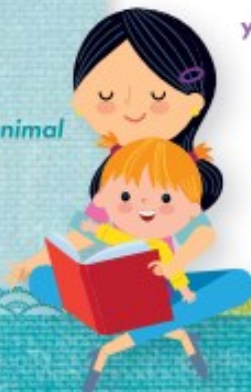
We All Went on Safari
by Laurie Krebs

Way Far Away on a Wild Safari
by Jan Peck

Starry Safari
by Linda Ashman

Simms Taback's Safari Animal
by Simms Taback

Flip Flap Safari
by Axel Scheffler



Look Around

(To the tune of "Row Your Boat")
Switch the last verse to name the things you find. For example:
"Look! I found a little bird on safari!"

Look, look, look around,
What is it you see?
Look around
your own backyard,
It's a safari!



Family Activities

World Explorers

Display a World Map and discuss the different types of ecosystems, terrains and weather around the world. Talk about other adventures you would like to take, then make a family passport. Go on a virtual trip to anywhere in the world by exploring the culture, lifestyle and land online, at the library or through documentaries.



FEEDING *Ministries*

ACT, LOVE, WALK (MOBILE FEEDING MINISTRY)

On Saturday 11/30, eighteen people helped distribute 50 bags of food totaling 375 lbs! Stay tuned for our next delivery outing. In the meantime, 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!

January 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/M meal Replacement bars water")	Muffin/Quick Bread mixes ("just add
Sugar	Vegetable Oil
Baby Food/Formula	100% Juice boxes
Individually Wrapped snacks	Microwaveable popcorn
Nuts/Tail Mix/Dried Fruit	Adult/Infant Hygiene products
Hot Cocoa Packets	Mini Marshmallows



SANDWICH MAKING

Our January 10th Saturday Take Home Sandwich Making has a few kits remaining. Please sign up if you would like to reserve a kit containing supplies to make 50 sandwiches. Go online to the link below to sign up for one or more of the kits. The kits may be picked up on the second Friday of each month between 11am and 4pm. You take them home to assemble and then bring the completed sandwiches back on the following day, Saturday at 9:00am in front of Nativity for delivery. 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 December sandwich makers: Gloria and Dennis Jackson, Kelly Hoekstra, Carol Duvall and Michael Segal, Linda, West and Max Roehl and Theresa Saccone. 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, January 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 December sandwich makers: John and Nancy Steffen, Hedy Rossmeissl, Pastor Steve Winsor, Corrina Camero, Kari Donnelly and MaryAnn and Stan Spech. 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 Chere Jacobs
1/14 Pat Guretzky
1/14 Pastor Steve Winsor



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH TO:

1/25 Michael and Lois Esselstrom

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!

Dear readers:

There are few instances where we can recall people publicly admitting they were wrong, though as humans we should be saying that more often. However, this is one of those moments.

Last year *Living Lutheran* ceased as a print publication and continued as a digital-only service because of financial constraints. Running a monthly publication grew too expensive during a time of consolidated resources and shrinking readership. Since then, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and staff have heard from many of you who have shared concerns about members who don't have access to computers or don't read content online for various reasons. As a result, people have felt disconnected from the ELCA.

We heard you and listened. At the request of Bishop Eaton, we have found a way to bring back the magazine's print publication. Beginning in 2025, *Living Lutheran* will again appear in your mailboxes with four issues a year (spring, summer, winter and fall). The cost for one year will be \$19.95 for an individual subscription and \$17 per year for a congregation group subscription.

To start receiving your print magazine, you can:

Call 800-328-4648 (use this method for congregation group subscriptions).

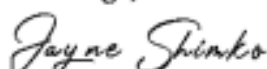
Sign up at www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe.

Fill out the form below and mail it to Augsburg Fortress, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730.

Please note: You will be invoiced in spring 2025 for your subscription. If your subscription didn't lapse at the end of 2023, you will receive a renewal notice when it expires. Rostered ministers don't need to sign up—we already have your addresses.

Thank you for your support in the past—and in the future. We look forward to again sharing in print our church's stories of God's people living their faith.

Blessings,



Director, Content Strategy



Manager, Editorial Services/*Living Lutheran*

Living Lutheran

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January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed <div>No School—Christmas Break</div>	2	3	4
5 9a Worship	6 No School 5:45p 12-step-FH	7 School Resumes 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 12-12:45p Tippy Toes 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	8 8:45a Children's Chapel	9	10 11a-4pm Sandwich Kit pick up	11 9a Sandwich Kit drop off
12 9a Worship	13 5:45p 12-step-FH	14 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 12-12:45p Tippy Toes 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	15 8:45a Children's Chapel	16	17	18
19 9a Worship	20 No School 9:30a Sandwich Making 5:45p 12-step-FH	21 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 12-12:45p Tippy Toes 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	22 8:45a Children's Chapel	23	24	25
26 9a Worship	27 5:45p 12-step-FH	28 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	29 8:45a Children's Chapel	30	31	

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3rd Monday Sandwich Making:
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God's work...

...Our hands



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