

# THE NATIVITY

# Carol



**Vol. 61 Issue 12 December 2024**

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

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## WORDS FROM

*Pastor Steve*

### *Living "In Between"*

Through the course of our lives we find ourselves in in-between spaces quite often. In-between jobs. In-between homes. In-between church homes. We find ourselves in-between relationships, and at times we get in-between one another. But might these times, also be times of joy? Might these in-between times be opportunities for renewal and regrowth?

Yes, in-between can be uncomfortable. For instance, no one particularly cares for sitting in the middle of a car's backseat. If you grew up in a sizable family, you probably know what I'm talking about. There were tactics to avoid sitting in the middle seat. Remember? Whether it was a short journey to the store, or family vacation, as soon as you walked outside to get in the car, the first person that yelled "shotgun", got the front passenger seat. Granted, that's if an adult did not assume it by way of sheer seniority. Yep, sitting in the middle meant you didn't have the option of leaning into or holding onto the car door for support like your backseat mates did. When turning corners us middle of the back seat riders were at the mercy of momentum and our siblings.

But sitting in the middle did have its advantages. You could see the road ahead more clearly. If the car had bucket seats, and the front seaters allowed it, you could stretch your legs out onto the center console. Oh yeah. And, if there were road snacks to be passed to the back, you were more likely to be the distributor of said snacks. At the time, we may not have thought the middle seat was so great, but in retrospect it might not have been all that bad. They say hindsight is 20/20.

In Advent we look back so as to look forward with hope. We profess that Christ came and went, and will come again. Advent is the season of acknowledging our living in-between those time-bending events. Advent is all about what was and what is to be, about what has

already happened, and what has yet to occur. It's a time of anticipation, of expectancy. To live the Christian journey with expectancy at a most basic level is to be a resident of two worlds. We live fully in the here and now, with all the joys and sorrows, victories and setbacks of a renewed life in Christ. We live, laugh, and love. We get tired, irritable, make mistakes, name call, hurt each other, while at the same time rejoice, celebrate, heal and forgive. Being human is complicated, right? Grief and grace, journey side by side through this wonderful creation and re-creation given to us by God.

We are truly living in-between. In-between us, and God, is Jesus. In our baptism we were gifted the vision to see ahead, to anticipate what lay ahead in this life, and the eternal journey. Through our lived out faith we grow ever more comfortable with our state of in-between. With all its twists and turns, might we lean into life and know how to extract joy from pain and hope from despair. We are people of the birth, the death, the resurrection, and “He will come again”. You possess the hindsight to have the foresight. Because of Jesus, you have the best seat to see the hope-filled journey ahead of you. The Messiah is your momentum. Think about it, in-between is not so bad now after all, is it?

In His Service,

Pastor Steve

### **Christmas at Nativity**

**Preschool Christmas Program** is Wednesday 12/18 at 6pm. Come see our preschoolers portray the Christmas story. All are welcome!

**Saturday 12/21 6PM Blue Christmas** (also called the Longest Night) in the Western Christian tradition, is a day in the Advent season marking the longest night of the year. This service will focus on comforting those of us who are grieving and struggling to find joy and hope during the Christmas season.

**Monday 12/23 6PM Christmas Eve, Eve.** This is a new worship for Nativity. Different day, but same story of the birth of Christ. Ideal for families that gather, or are traveling on Christmas Eve.

**Tuesday 12/24 4PM and 8PM Christmas Eve Services.**



# Nativity *News*

## **WOMEN OF WORTH (WOW).**

Nativity's new women's group has a name: Women of Worth (WOW for short)! We had such a fun time at Avocado Cantina in November!

Coming up next for WOW, the **Nativity Women's Christmas party** will be on **Sunday, December 8th at 1:00PM** in Nativity's living room/entry room. Please bring light snacks to share and a wrapped \$20 gift for a White Elephant Exchange.

On **Sunday, December 15th**, immediately following service will be a

### **Christmas Cookie**

**Exchange and Sale.** Women (or men), please sign up to bring 3+ dozen homemade cookies, or you or your families/friends may bring cash to buy cookies on the 15th. (We only will have cookies to sell if people have signed up and baked cookies!) Proceeds will benefit Nativity's youth.

All women are welcome to both December events! Sign-up sheets are in Nativity's living room/entry room by the desk, and any questions for the December events should be directed to Shonda Staudt, (561) 358-2442 or [cpateach13@gmail.com](mailto:cpateach13@gmail.com).



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.

Finally, 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!

## **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 LOVE CIRCLE**

Love Circle will take a break for a few months. Hope to meet at the beginning of the year.

## ***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**



## ***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.

## ***DO YOU LOVE TO SING?***

Choir rehearsal is every Thursday at 6pm in Nativity's sanctuary. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a friend. Anyone can be a part of our choir.



## ***DECORATE NATIVITY 12/1***

Please stay after worship on Sunday, 12/1 to put up the sanctuary Christmas tree and decorate. Also could use some able bodies to take the outdoor nativity set out of shed and set up in front lawn. Thank you in advance.



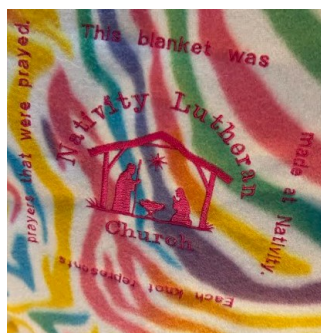
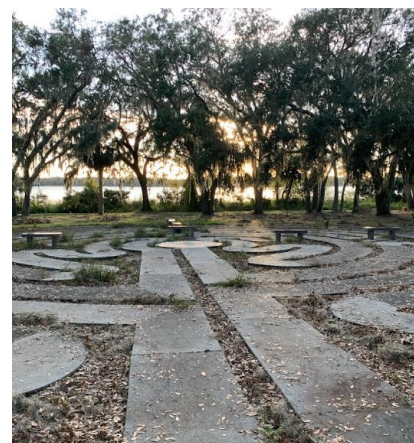


## ***FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SWO OF WELCA FALL GATHERING***

Shonda Staudt, Lakes Ferguson and Abby Moore attended and were refreshed at the Fall Gathering for the Florida Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) of the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) ([www.flwelca.com](http://www.flwelca.com)) in central Florida, themed "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands". They were the first attendees from the Tradewinds Conference) of which all of Palm Beach County is a part) in over 10 years! While there, they: participated in beautiful worship services, prayer services and devotions; attended various workshops; helped raise \$8,000+ for this year's love offering recipient, Graceway Village in Fort Pierce (<http://www.gracewayvillage.com>); had s'mores and participated in a sing-a-long; made new friends; and overall, had a very good time.

They all came away inspired by the connections they made with other women of the ELCA in Florida and from the national WELCA organization. WOW plans to form into a local WELCA chapter so that the women of our church can more easily participate in other events with other Lutheran women's groups across the state and country.

If anyone is interested, please save the date for the national WELCA Triennial Gathering in 2026 in Des Moines, Iowa from July 16th through the 19th, with registration opening in 2025 (<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>).



## ***WOW PRAYER BLANKETS***

Using funds available through a Thrivent action team, Shonda Staudt, part of Council, Nativity's WOW group and a regular children's church volunteer, was able to purchase blankets for the new prayer blanket project, two of which have already been prayed over by members of our congregation and delivered by Pastor Steve to members with significant health concerns.

## THANK YOU

A big thank you to these 13 persons for lending their voice to the Contemplative Prayer Service for Grace-filled Civic Engagement in October. Our ages were 10 to 96 years young! We recorded this prayer for Pastor Steve's Good News From the Gardens Podcast. We are a people of different political views, cultures, and ethnicities. We are a part of the many voices that make up the body of Christ, just as many voices make for the great country we live in. This prayer service served to remind ourselves and others about the importance of civility and grace in the midst of a tense political season.



## Christmas Flower Order Form

*If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to help decorate our sanctuary, please fill out this form. Order deadline: Sunday, December 15. Return form & cash or check made out to Nativity, to the church office or place in the offering plate.*

**Number desired:    Total Cost:**

Red poinsettia            \$ 15.00            \_\_\_\_\_            \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Or ... In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

You may pick up your poinsettias after the last Christmas Eve service. Thank You!



# Family Newsletter

## THIS MONTH'S THEME

### Cozy Winter Senses

This month will ignite your child's sense of sight and sound as they hear and see the beauty of the winter months. They will make a drum, a ribbon wand for dancing and a pretend piano. The journey continues outside by hunting for sights and sounds in nature. Listen to the hoot of an owl, the crack of ice and ringing bells. Head inside to warm up and investigate familiar indoor sights and sounds. Hear a whistling teapot and the crunch of cookies. End the month by exploring light and dark during the short winter days. What lights up the night sky and what makes shadows? A full, fun month of sensory exploration fills this theme.



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

Today I made dripping icicles.

When ice starts to drip, I can see it. I can feel it. I can hear it. I can smell it. I can taste it. I can touch it. I can think it. I can feel it. I can hear it. I can smell it. I can taste it. I can touch it. I can think it.



Today I made a snow owl puppet.

Some words are hard to see in the snow. I can see them. I can feel them. I can hear them. I can smell them. I can taste them. I can touch them. I can think them.



Some words are hard to see in the snow. I can see them. I can feel them. I can hear them. I can smell them. I can taste them. I can touch them. I can think them.

## Improving Transitions

A transition refers to any occurring change. Transitions can be stressful and frustrating for children who are either not ready to end their current activity or who struggle with change. Here are some ideas to help make transitions smoother for your child:

**Give your child a preview.** Prepare your child for transitions by alerting them of the upcoming change before it happens. The more your child can predict their routine, the smoother the day will flow.

**Use music to ease transitions.** Sing a favorite tune, changing the words to include your child's name and what needs to be done. Here's an example (sung to the tune of 'Row Your Boat'):

*Clean, clean, clean the room  
Let's pick up the toys  
Maggie is going to have some lunch  
So let's clean up the room.*

### Introduce Movement Sticks.

Write movement words on craft sticks, such as "Jump like a frog," or "Hop on one foot." After your child has completed the desired task (e.g., putting away the blocks), encourage them to choose a craft stick and move in that way to the next activity (e.g. washing up for lunch).



## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED CONCEPTS

Letters Bb, Oo & Pp

Shape Rectangle

Numbers 7 & 8

Color Green

Character Trait Brave

Letter Bb bear, bell & bird

Letter Oo owl, orange & octopus

Letter Pp pig, penguin & piano



Topics your child  
will explore this month.

## Orchestra

- Drum 1
- Woodwinds 2
- Horns 3
- Stringed Instruments 4
- Piano 5

## Outdoor Sights & Sounds

- 6 Animal Tracks
- 7 Ice
- 8 Owl
- 9 Bells
- 10 Winter Birds

# Cozy Winter Senses

## Light & Dark

- Candle 16
- Star 17
- Shadow 18
- Winter Days 19
- Winter Nights 20

## Indoor Sights & Sounds

- 11 Mouse
- 12 Pots & Pans
- 13 Cookies
- 14 House Guests
- 15 Fireplace



## RECOMMENDED READS

# Cuddle Up

WITH A  
GOOD BOOK

*Downhill Fun*  
by Michael Dahl

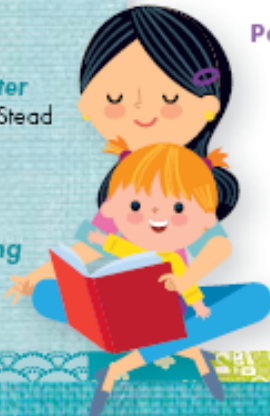
*Freezy Breezy Fun*  
by Allan Poulsen

*Jingle-Jingle*  
by Nicola Smee

*Snowy, Blowy Winter*  
by Bob Raczka and Judy Stead

*Snow Sounds*  
by David A. Johnson

*Snowsong Whistling*  
by Karen Elisa Lotz



## Pound the Drum

*(To the tune of "Row Your Boat")*

Take turns deciding what else you can use to make noise with and how to move around. (For example, clap your hands as you twirl around.)

**Pound, pound, pound the drum,  
Pound it soft or loud,  
Pound, pound, pound the drum,  
As you march around.**



## Family Activities

## Take a Listening Walk

Go for a walk around your neighborhood. Close your eyes now and then and listen to the sounds. What do you hear? Pack a notebook and pencil and write down what you heard. Which of the things you heard could you also see? Discuss how your listening walk might be different in another part of town or another part of the world.



# PRESCHOOL *News*

## ***DECEMBER SCHOOL BIRTHDAYS***

12/7 Jameson Terzier

12/8 Alison Lopez

12/30 Mason Adkin



## ***PRESCHOOL THANKSGIVING FEAST***

Thank you to the families that donated and helped at the preschool's Thanksgiving event. Everyone enjoyed a special program, yummy food and time together!



# FEEDING *Ministries*

## **ACT, LOVE, WALK (MOBILE FEEDING MINISTRY)**

Act Love Walk mobile ministry

you can email or text Mike Moore ([mtmoore1313@gmail.com](mailto:mtmoore1313@gmail.com) or 214-354-0173). All are welcome!

The food pantry shelves of ALW are in need of restocking. You can help families that are food insecure by being the hands of God when you purchase non-perishable food items. The pantry's needs can be found below. 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!

Volunteer opportunities in ALW suit all ages, interests and talents! Join us on Saturday mornings at 9AM at Nativity, or contact ALW director Mike Moore, [mtmoore1313@gmail.com](mailto:mtmoore1313@gmail.com) students needing volunteer hours should bring their paperwork.

December 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	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
Christmas Cookie tins	Christmas Cakes (individually wrapped)



## ***SANDWICH MAKING***

Our December 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 November sandwich makers: Gloria and Dennis Jackson, and Kelly Hoekstra. 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, December 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 November sandwich makers: Tom Kuhn, Charles Beiser, John and Nancy Steffen, Steffen's friend Barbara, Hedy Rossmeissl and grandson Paul, MaryAnn and Stan Spech, and Linda Roehl. 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:



12/8 Beatrice Greenall  
12/22 Joseph Moore  
12/22 Neveah Rogers  
12/23 Carys Bryson  
12/23 Logan Butler  
12/26 Elsie Canzoneri  
12/27 Audra Bryson  
12/27 Carl Erickson

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH TO:

12/20 Pastor Steve and Amy Winsor  
12/28 John and Nancy Steffen  
12/19 Alan and Natalie MacDonald

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!



# COPING WITH THE STRESS OF POLITICS & THE HOLIDAYS

*Gather with us virtually to discuss strategies to navigate this time of uncertainty and division, ways to better communicate with loved ones we disagree with, and coping skills to identify and alleviate feelings of stress and fear.*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>


ZOOM  
6:30-8PM

HOSTED BY HEATHER TATE-BOLDT  
——— *LCSW, Clinical Therapist & Director* ———

RSVP | By Emailing [hetateboldt@gmail.com](mailto:hetateboldt@gmail.com) or Texting 561-676-8459



# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> First Sunday of Advent 9a Worship 10:45a Decorate Sanctuary	<b>2</b> 5:45p 12-step-FH	<b>3</b> 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bitels & Brew 12-12:45p Tippy Toes 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	<b>4</b> 8:45a Children's Chapel	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Second Sunday of Advent 9a Worship 1p Women's Christmas Party 4pm Recital	<b>9</b> 5:45p 12-step-FH	<b>10</b> 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 12-12:45p Tippy Toes 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	<b>11</b> 8:45a Children's Chapel	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 11a-4pm Sandwich Kit pick up	<b>14</b> 9a Sandwich Kit drop off
<b>15</b> Third Sunday of Advent 9a Worship 10:45a Cookie Exchange & Sale	<b>16</b> 9:30a Sandwich Making 5:45p 12-step-FH	<b>17</b> 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 12-12:45p Tippy Toes 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	<b>18</b> 8:45a Children's Chapel 6p Preschool Christmas Program	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6p Blue Christmas Service
<b>22</b> Fourth Sunday of Advent 9a Worship	<b>23</b> 6p Christmas Eve, Eve Service 5:45p 12-step-FH	<b>24</b> 4p & 8p Christmas Worship 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>No School / Christmas Break</b>						
<b>29</b> 9a Worship	<b>30</b> 5:45p 12-step-FH	<b>31</b> Office Closed 6p 12-step FH 7:30p 12-step-FH				
<b>No School / Christmas Break</b>						

Pastor:  
Pastor Steve Winsor  
swinsor73@gmail.com  
(727)542-0287

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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

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Denise Varlack Joseph  
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## 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

Development Committee: Michael Segal  
msegal524@gmail.com



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

***...Our hands***



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