

THE NATIVITY

Carol



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

WORDS FROM

Pastor Steve

This spring a group of Nativity members pressed send on a Lily Endowment sponsored Clergy Renewal Grant application for myself, and by extension Nativity. In other words, a sabbatical. Before our committee hit send there was a couple dozen meetings in which we poured our hearts and minds into a very detailed narrative that would seek to justify a pause in pastoral leadership for myself. The meetings, compiling, writing, and editing of the grant process was a lot of work. The attention was humbling. And the thought of possibly receiving the grant is honestly overwhelming. And maybe for some of you as well. I am grateful for the congregation approving the committee's formation, and for those who spent their time on preparing the grant for me, and ultimately Nativity. We are blessed.

Research has shown that a pastor who experiences renewal lends itself to a pastor being more effective in leading and loving their ministry. This sentiment is echoed in the following excerpt from the grant application itself.

We recognize that clergy take on a variety of pastoral roles within their congregations: preacher, teacher, spiritual guide, counselor, friend, confidant. The demands of ministry can feel relentless. Keeping pace with these demands can be tiring. Drawing on practices of sabbath rest, we recognize that pastors occasionally need time to replenish their spiritual reservoirs and regain energy and strength for their calling. Sabbath rest includes time for pastors to renew themselves physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually. Clergy renewal periods are not vacations; rather, they provide opportunities for discovering what will make the pastor's heart sing through well-planned purposeful activities. Renewal leaves allow for times of intentional exploration, reflection, and regaining enthusiasm and creativity for ministry. Life-giving experiences—strengthening relationships, renewing a sense of call, meeting and serving the neighbor in a new way, finding joy and purpose in a simplified life, traveling to new lands and unfamiliar territories, creating opportunities where members of the congregation can exercise their gifts for ministry—are common themes of these renewal times. Profound discoveries that pastors and their congregations describe as "life-changing events" occur as they participate in this program.

Not long after we submitted the grant application I began thinking about sermon series for the summer months. First was a series on the Apostle's Creed, followed by The Lord's Prayer. We will end the summer with three weeks of contemplating Sabbath. Why did God command the Sabbath? What does "rest" look like for you? Why do we need to rest? Who and what renews us? What does it look like to just "be"? These are just a few of the questions we will approach. In a world that lifts up busyness, productivity, and constant availability, God's Third Commandment runs against the grain of our busy lives: **"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."** Some might hear the commandment as another obligation on an already crowded calendar,

right? *Go to church. Get your time in with God. It is so much more than attending worship one hour each week. It is rooted in God's own rhythm of creation, where God rests and delights (saw that it was good) in everything God made. God's command was never meant to be a burden to us. Quite the opposite. It is a gift. It is holy time set aside to remember who God is, who we are, and how we are called to live together.*

On August 28th we will hear if we were awarded the monetary grant for the renewal of our next season of ministry together. By August 28th, we will have had three Sundays of pondering Sabbath. It just so happens I will be driving my oldest daughter Mary to seminary in Iowa when we receive word on whether we received the grant, or not. Might make an already memorable road trip all the more memorable!

Whether we are awarded the Sabbath or not, I believe these three weeks will reveal how essential intentional rest in the love and presence of our Lord Jesus is to us. Either way, we will be spiritually prepped for the coming year's ministry. If awarded, the sabbatical would begin May of 2027. As always, hold Nativity, each other, and God's church in prayer.

In His Rest,
Pastor Steve



8TH YEAR WORK ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Pastor Steve as August 6 is his 8th year work anniversary with Nativity.

HELP WANTED: COUNCIL MEMBER

Wanted: One brave soul with a heart for God, a love of Nativity, and a willingness to attend monthly meetings that stir the soul. No hazing or great biblical knowledge required—just faith, ideas, and a penitent for patience. Benefits include meaningful service, friendships, and the joy of helping shape Nativity's future. Apply within today! (Get in touch w/Pastor Steve.)

BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY AUGUST 9TH

The school year is almost here! Kids, and learners of all ages, bring your backpack/workbag to church next Sunday for a blessing.

QUICKIE CHURCH/BACK TO SCHOOL SERVICE AUGUST 9TH

Following our regular 9AM service, there is an 11AM "Quickie" service as part of the morning's preschool meet and greet/orientation. During this abbreviated service we will install teachers, bless backpacks, and of course, praise God. All are welcome!

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Bible Bagels and Bites will **not** meet Tuesday, 8/4. We will gather again on Tuesday, 8/11 at 9:30AM. See you then!

MEN'S GROUP

We meet next on July August 13th at 6PM. We are currently studying the sometimes intimidating word "disciple". What does it mean to be a man after God's own heart and follow Jesus? Join us in building friendships, faith, and wherever else the Spirit moves us. For men of all ages and stages of life. Snacks/light dinner provided. Hope you can join us! Questions? Email pastor@pbnativity.com

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 August 13!

NATIVITY'S PRESCHOOL

Nativity preschool is enrolling now for the fall for all 2, 3 and 4 year olds. 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!

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!



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 6.

For 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, August at 6pm here at Nativity.

HELP WANTED! SUNDAY SERVERS NEEDED FOR AUGUST!

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 August and in the future months. Please sign up! Use this Evite Qr code to sign up:



THRIVENT MEMBERS

All Thrivent members, even those with insurance policies only, are able to direct Choice Dollars to Nativity or your charity of choice. Since the start of Thrivent Choice Dollars in 2010, over \$660 million in grant funding has been sent to enrolled organizations. You as a Thrivent member chooses who gets this money. If you don't, it goes back to Thrivent. Members can direct their Choice Dollars anytime through December 31.

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. Pickup this month is August 6 and drop off is August 7.

August is full, sign up for September!



THIRD MONDAY ONSITE SANDWICH MAKING

Join us Monday, August 17th at 9:30am as we gather in Nativity's living room to assemble sandwiches for the hungry and homeless. Plastic gloves and all supplies are provided. We just need an hour of your time!

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



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!

August needs for Act Love Walk:	Goldfish/Cheezits
Cereal (we always need a lot)	Shelf-Stable Milk
Flavored Oatmeal Packets	Pouched Applesauce/Yogurt
Meats (ham, manwich, chicken, tuna etc.)	Canned meals (ravioli, stew, soups, chili)
Pasta Sauce (16oz.)	Canned Vegetables and Fruit
Instant Mashed Potatoes/Stuffing	Microwaveable rice/pasta dishes
Ramen (bags and microwavable cups)	Mac & Cheese (w/ premade cheese sauce and/or microwavable cups)
Peanut Butter, Jelly, Honey	Pancake Mix (just add water) & Syrup
Fruit Snacks, Cereal 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 August, pick up day is Thursday, the 6th. Then return to Nativity Friday, the 7th 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.

August is full. Sign up for September now!



THIRD MONDAY SANDWICH MAKING

Our onsite sandwich making ministry will be Monday, August 17th 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 July sandwich makers: Pastor Steve, Mary and Mara Winsor, Kari Donnelly and Charlie Beiser. Thank you to John and Nancy Steffen for shopping and Pastor Steve and Mary for 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!

**Registration is Now Open for the Women of
the ELCA Fall Gathering**
November 13-15, 2026

Join your sisters from across Florida as we welcome the Holy Spirit to refresh and renew our souls with worship, Bible study, workshops, fellowship and fun! Pastor Jen Moore, Gateway Trinity Lutheran Church, Ft. Myers, and Vicar Dori Dunham, recent seminary graduate and WELCA Scholarship recipient, will lead us in worship and Bible study. Many workshops—including crafts—will be available and new this year—interactive devotional rooms to connect you with the Holy Spirit. As we gather on a Friday the 13th, we will enjoy a fun event on Saturday night with other “spirits” and WELCA spirit everywhere—costumes optional!



For more info and to register, visit <https://www.flwelca.com/2026-fall-gathering>.



Back to School Prayer

Dear God,

As we send our children back to school, we pray for Your protection and guidance. Keep them safe from harm, both physically and emotionally. Help them to find friends who will support and encourage them. Give them wisdom as they face challenging situations. And help them to always remember that You are with them, no matter what.

We also pray for our teachers and school staff. Give them strength, patience, and knowledge as they work with our kids each day. Help them to be role models of Your love and grace. And bless them with all the resources they need to provide a top-quality education for our children.

Finally, we pray for all the parents out there who are sending their kids back to school. May we find comfort in knowing that You are holding them all in the palm of Your hand. And may we trust that, despite any challenges that come our way, You will always be with us and see us through.



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH TO:

8/4 *SANDY MCCLELLAN*

8/14 *LOIS ERICKSON*

8/7 *BRIAN DONNELLY*

8/25 *CAROLYN SCHWARTZ*

8/8 *EVELYN BLOOR*

8/30 *DIANE LYNCH*

8/10 *JIM GURETZKY*

8/10 *MARY WINSOR*

8/11 *CHUCK MILLER*

8/12 *CHARLOTTE JOHNSEN*

8/13 *MAX ROEHL*



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH TO:

8/6 *MIKE & ABBY MOORE*

8/11 *CHUCK & SUE MILLER*

8/28 *ANTHONY & BEA GREENALL*

8/30 *JIM & LEIGH CLARK*

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!

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9a Worship & Baptism	3	4 5:45p Act Love Walk 7:30p 12-step	5	6 11a-4p Pick up sandwich kits	7 9a-3p Drop off kits 6p Pack food for Act Love Walk	8
9 9a Worship 11a Teacher Installation, Blessing of the Backpacks & Meet & Greet	10 School Begins	11 9:30-10:30a Bible Study 5:45p Act Love Walk 6p Council 7:30p 12-step	12	13 6p Men's Group	14	15
16 9a Worship	17 9:30a Sandwich Making	18 9:30-10:30a Bible Study 5:45p Act Love Walk 7:30p 12-step	19	20	21	22
23 9a Worship	24	25 9:30-10:30a Bible Study 5:45p Act Love Walk 7:30p 12-step	26	27	28	29
30 9a Worship	31					

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:
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

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OTHER CHURCH

Leaders



God's work...

...Our hands

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



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