

THE NATIVITY

Carol



Vol. 63 Issue 2 February 2026

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

WORDS FROM

Pastor Steve

Mid-January I drove to Tallahassee to join the Just Love Ministry for Advocacy Days. It is an annual event that brings faith communities to Tallahassee during the January legislative session to learn about current bills, and advocate for policies that address hunger relief, housing, and human dignity, focusing on systemic change through training, legislative meetings, and public witness, while emphasizing the gospel value of caring for the vulnerable. The event is hosted by the Florida Council of Churches at the Florida People's Advocacy Center in Tallahassee. The 2026 theme was *Sowing the Harvest!* which explores how the ministries we do in our communities translate into good public policy. Good public policy is rooted in decisions that ultimately promote the care, and provision of needs of God's people, and creation.

I attended Advocacy Days to satisfy continuing education requirements, but also to satisfy a curiosity about the political system and culture that we live in. It has been a long time since I sat in middle school social studies, or watched School House Rock's How a Bill Becomes a Law during Saturday morning cartoons!

Clergy and Laity, representing Lutherans, Methodists, and Episcopalians were among the attendees. On day one, we listened to experts and lobbyists speak on a number of bills. Each listening session was followed by a Q&A. The organizations represented were, The Southern Poverty Law Center, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Rethink Energy Florida, The American Civil Liberties Union, The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, *and others*. *That night we* were encouraged to take what we had learned that day, converse with one another, and run it through the Gospel of Jesus, and prayer. The next day we headed over to the capital to meet with our legislators and/or attend committee meetings.

On that very brisk Tallahassee morning, I attended the State Affairs Committee meeting that was debating [HJR-203](#). HJR-203 is a bill that aims at phasing out non-school property taxes on homesteaded properties over ten years. Over the course of an hour, politicians openly debated about the pros and cons of eliminating property taxes. That was followed by statements by the gallery of attendees. The last half hour citizens, comprised of lobbyists, groups with special interest (twenty fire chiefs), individuals and the faith communities shared their opinion on how the elimination of non-school property taxes will impact Floridians lives. It was good to see and hear people like you and I, being seen and heard by the representatives.

Afterwards I went to my state representative and senator's offices to introduce myself as being one of their constituents. Neither were in the office. Both were in session. However, I did get to thank each office front desk staffers for the bills they are engage in that address basic human needs such as food, water, and housing, as well as those bills that do not assure equitable access to those necessities. I shared the mission of Nativity's [Act Love Walk Ministry](#), and how we are doing what we can, but truly appreciate legislation that educates, equips, and empowers those who need a helping hand.

I approached Advocacy Days as a means of living into my baptism. The baptismal rite in our pew hymnal reads, "proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace." (ELW p.228). Advocacy Days offered a concrete way to engage the kingdom of God's spiritual promises in the earthly kingdom. It brought what is confessed on Sunday into something meant to be practiced in public, faithful engagement with the realities shaping our neighbors' lives. By listening to stories, learning about policies, and listening to elected officials, I experienced advocacy as an act of discipleship—one that holds love of neighbor and responsibility for the common good together. In this way, advocacy becomes prayerful action, rooted not in partisanship, but in baptismal identity and trust in God's ongoing work of renewal.

Remember your baptism Good People,
Pastor Steve



NATIVITY PREK (PRETEND)

TRAVELS

We took a trip around the world today. We visited the Grand Canyon, the Great Wall of China and by special request, Disney World. Did you know the students made their own passport? Then they got in their pretend plane and had a great time



PRESCHOOL CONTINUES

ENROLLMENT

Our preschool has expanded! This expansion and rejuvenation provides us with the opportunity to accept diapered two-year olds. Tell a friend! Call 561-622-4998 or contact pia@pbnativity.org for information.

FEBRUARY PRESCHOOL BIRTHDAYS

2/12 Michael Lian

2/23 Margot Borrows

2/26 Lydia Vung Kim

QUICKIE CHURCH PRESCHOOL CHAPEL

Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m. is our 20-25 minute long Quickie Chapel. At Quickie Chapel we take a story from the bible and interact with it in song, dance and video. Sing and dance as much or as little as you like. No judgement here! At chapel, we also learn the Five Respects (Respect God, Respect Yourself, Respect Others, Respect Things and Respect Creation). All are welcome to join us!



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:

ad mattos88@gmail.com, by text 561-232-0960, or talk with him after Worship on Sunday.

YOUTH GROUP AT NATIVITY

Join Pastor Steve on selected Sundays from 11-1PM for faith formation and fun! Youth is more or less every two weeks, but does move around to accommodate holidays. Youth group is primarily for middle and high school youth. Exceptions can be made for younger youth. Please consult with Pastor Steve first. Yes, your child can invite friends!

This month meeting dates are February 8th and the 22nd.

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!

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 13.

Let us know if you can help for our next deliveries Saturday, February 7th and Sunday, the 8th. Meet at Nativity at 10:30. Please sign up at the ALW table next to Pia's office.

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.

*Act Love Walk needs additional drivers for our truck. Please see Mike Moore if you would like to drive and be added to our insurance.

HELP WANTED! SUNDAY SERVERS NEEDED FOR FEBRUARY!

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 February. 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

Even though the Christmas season is over, you can still 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.



Ms. Caitlyn reading to Mason and Layla.



DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE ITEMS TO DONATE TO THE PRESCHOOL? WE WOULD LOVE IT!!

Gathering List

Baby Animals

Each day, you will do many exciting hands-on activities with your children. Most of the supplies you will need are included in your Experience Preschool Curriculum Kit.

The items that are not included are listed here for easy gathering. Many of these supplies can be adjusted to use items in your room that you have on hand. Feel free to be creative and resourceful. You might even choose to brainstorm alternatives with children.

LESSON 2

- Paper bag

LESSON 6

- Tongs, tweezers or toy pliers

LESSON 11

- Dropper or baster (optional)

LESSON 13

- Musical instruments

LESSON 17

- Tongs

Keep on hand:

- Balls or beanbags
- Cups
- Playdough
- Bins/buckets/baskets
- Dishes & utensils
- Scissors
- Blankets/sheets
- Glue
- Scrap paper
- Blocks
- Hole punch
- Spoons
- Books
- Laptop or mobile device
- Stapler
- Bowls
- Magazines & newspapers
- Sticky notes
- Boxes
- Markers
- Stuffed animals & toys
- Camera
- Masking Tape
- Tote bags
- Chalk
- Mirrors
- Towels
- Clear Tape
- Nature items
- Trays
- Collage materials
- Paint and paintbrushes
- Water
- Colored Pencils
- Paper
- Crayons



BIBLE, BITES AND BREW BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will meet on Tuesdays from 9:30-10:30. A time of faith, fellowship and the preaching text for the coming Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

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 last classroom on the right before the breezeway 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.

CHURCH BUILDING REPAIRS

The code corrections mandated by the city have all been done. Nativity's building and grounds are almost 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 PAYPAL 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.



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



Baby Animals

FEATURED CONCEPTS

Letters & Sounds:



Shape & Color:



Character Trait:

Fairness

Yoga Pose:

Tree Pose



Number:



Sign Language:



This month, toddlers will discover the wonderful world of Baby Animals! Together we'll explore how animal families care for, protect and nurture their little ones, just like human families do. Through stories, songs and playful discoveries, children will learn that every baby grows best with love, cuddles and care. At home, you can extend this learning by observing animals in books or nature, talking about family routines and celebrating the special ways you care for each other every day.

Waiting for Babies: Look at pictures of animal eggs or nests together and talk about how animals (and people!) care for their babies.

Carrying Babies: Play pretend by wrapping a stuffed animal in a blanket or scarf, showing how parents carry babies close to keep them safe and loved.

Keeping Babies Safe: Build a cozy "home" with pillows or blankets and talk about how families keep each other protected and cared for.

Growing Babies: Look at baby and grown-up animal pictures or your child's baby photos to notice how everyone grows and learns new things over time.

With wiggles and giggles and stories anew, we'll grow and explore like baby animals do!



TOGETHER TIME



Tea Party Book

WHAT?	HOW?	WHY?
In the story of the week, your child learned that taking turns helps everyone enjoy time together.	Have a family tea party where your child pours "tea" and shares a book with each stuffed animal, practicing kindness and turn-taking together.	Family playtime is a fun way to help children learn how sharing and fairness make everyone feel included and loved.



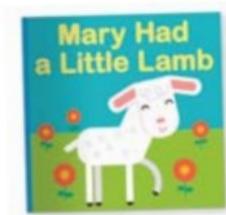
Oval Walk

WHAT?	HOW?	WHY?
In the story of the week, your child learned that being kind and making room for everyone helps friends and families play happily together.	Make a pretend "mud puddle" with masking tape. Lie or sit in it together and invite stuffed animals to join so everyone has space to play.	Family play like this helps children understand how kindness and inclusion make friendships happy and strong.



Baby Animals

WHAT?	HOW?	WHY?
This week, your child learned how baby animals grow and change, just like children do as they get older.	Look at your child's baby pictures together, share memories from those times and invite them to talk about what they notice.	Reflecting on family memories helps children feel loved and connected, building confidence to grow and learn.



Time to Rhyme

WHAT?	HOW?	WHY?
In this week's story, your child learned about rhyming words and discovered how fun it is to play with sounds in language.	While driving or walking together, choose a word you see, like "tree," and take turns making up silly rhymes with it.	Playing with rhyming words helps children hear and recognize sound patterns, building early language and reading skills.

READ WITH ME

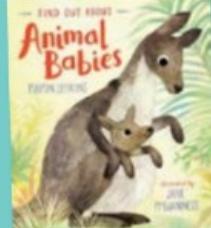
Home
by Britta Teckentrup



Time for Bed
by Mem Fox



Animal Babies
by Harry McNaught



Animals! Here We Grow
by Shelley Rotner



Family Newsletter



THIS MONTH'S THEME
Baby Animals

This month, your child will learn all about baby animals. They will be introduced to many different kinds of babies and learn how their parents care for them. They will explore how babies are carried, protected and learn as they grow up. This month is a great opportunity to look back at baby pictures and share memories.

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



Build language and literacy around the home!

Literacy is a part of everyday life. We are surrounded by written words when we drive, cook, eat and shop. Point out the print you see in your everyday experiences to your child. This interaction is the foundation of literacy. Here are a few ideas to build your child's literacy in playful and easy ways:

- Point out examples of print in and out of the home. Some examples include street signs, the calendar, food packages, mail, recipes or directions.
- Play the "I Spy" game with letters or sight words. Encourage your child to find a specific letter or word in the environment.
- Let your child choose between options as you point to the printed names. For example, ask your child which cereal they want to eat as you point to the printed name on each box.
- Encourage your child to retell their favorite stories.
- When your child "writes," ask them to "read" what it says. There is no wrong way to write.
- Involve your child in tasks, such as grocery lists, recipes or looking up information.
- Mimic life skills with your child. Set up a pretend play area that follows the interests of your child (e.g. dentist, doctor, car repair, office) and think about the books, reading, writing and tools involved in this job.
- Create a language-rich world for your child! Talk together throughout the day, read books and encourage drawing or writing anywhere: in the dirt, on paper or even in the air with a finger.





RECOMMENDED READS

Cuddle Up WITH A GOOD BOOK

What Will Hatch
by Jennifer Ward

Babies on the Go
by Linda Ashman

Chameleon's Colors
by Chisato Tashiro

What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?
by Steve Jenkins

The Littlest Yak
by Lu Fraser



Hop Like a Bunny

(Sing to the tune of "Row Your Boat.")

Think of different animals, then change the words and move like that animal.

*Hop, hop, hop like a bunny,
Make a bunny face.*

*Hop to the left, and hop to the right.
Then hop and march in place.*

*Jump, jump, jump like a kangaroo...
Swim, swim, swim little seahorse...*



Baby Care

Take a walk around the neighborhood and pay special attention to any babies or pets you see. Ask what kind of care the baby or pet needs. Invite your child to think of a way they might be able to help the neighborhood pets and animals.



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 in the Family Room. 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!

February needs for Act Love Walk:

Cereal (we always need a lot)	Shelf-Stable/Powdered Milk
Canned Fruits/Applesauce	Canned Meats (SPAM, chicken, tuna)
Canned Soups/Canned meals (ravioli, stew)	Canned Vegetables
Instant Mashed Potatoes/Stuffing	Microwaveable rice/pasta dishes
Ramen/Mac & Cheese	Peanut Butter
Jelly/Honey	Baby Food/Formula (big need)
Feminine Sanitary Pads/Tampons	Toothpaste (travel size)
Shampoo/Conditioner (travel size)	Body Wash/Soap (travel size)
Deodorant (men's & women's)	Socks (These are a BIG hit!)

SANDWICH MAKING

We need take home sandwich makers for February. 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. Pick up for February is the 12th between 11a and 4p. Then return to Nativity Friday, the 13th between 10a and 3p.

Please sign up today to help feed the homeless and hungry at Signup genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040549A4A7BA7F94-46859274-2ndSaturday> or the QR code here.

Thank you to our December sandwich makers: Barbara Shelley, Andrew Moss, West and Max Roehl, Theresa and Frank Saccone and Lakesa Ferguson. Thank you to Linda Roehl for shopping. Thank you to Thrivent for funding our event.



THIRD MONDAY SANDWICH MAKING

Our onsite sandwich making ministry will be Monday, February 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 January sandwich makers: Mary-Ann & Spech, Bea Greenall, Abby Moore, Pastor Steve, Yvetta & Phillip and Carolyn Schwartz, Tom Kuhn, John & Nancy Steffen, and Charlie Beiser. 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:



2/1	ASHTON FLYNN	2/1	EVAN FLYNN
2/2	DAVID HOECKER	2/2	DANIEL LYNCH
2/2	LAUREL WINSOR	2/7	PAUL HEISER
2/8	RONAN PAZ	2/13	LEIGH CLARK
2/16	KARI DONNELLY	2/17	STEVE STAUDT
2/20	KAREN GLAS	2/29	LILY ROBERTS

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH TO:

2/1	MARK & NIKKI CIRULLO
2/1	BRIAN & KARI DONNELLY
2/14	CARL & LOIS ERICKSON
2/14	BRENT & ROBYN ROBERTS

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!

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9a Worship	2 Registration begins for Pre-K & VPK	3 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 5:45p Act Love Walk 7:30p 12-step	4 8:45a Children's Chapel	5	6	7 10:30a Act Love Walk Event
8 9a Worship 10:30a Act Love Walk Event 11a-1p Youth	9	10 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 5:45p Act Love Walk 6p Council 7:30p 12-step	11 8:45a Children's Chapel	12 11a-3p Pick up sandwich kits 6p Men's Group	13 10a-3p Return sandwich kits	14
15 9a Worship	16 9:30a Sandwich Making	17 Pancake Breakfast 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 5:45p Act Love Walk 7:30p 12-step	18 No School Ash Wednesday	19 8:45a Chapel	20	21
22 9a Worship 11 Youth	23	24 9:30-10:30a Bibles, Bites & Brew 5:45p Act Love Walk 7:30p 12-step	25	26 6p Men's Group	27	28

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Theresa Saccone 3's Teacher
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***God's work...
...Our hands***

OTHER CHURCH *Leaders*

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Lakesa Ferguson
lakesa36@gmail.com

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nancysteffen7@gmail.com



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