



# The Herald

## December 2023



### From the Rector ...

#### WE BEGIN AGAIN!

A new year is upon us. As we enter into this season of Advent we enter into a new season of hope, peace, joy and love. These themes will carry us through to Christmas when we celebrate the miracle of the Messiah, Emmanuel, God with us.

To help you on your journey this season the Worship Committee and Mother Tracy have coordinated our worship and our Advent devotional. Devotions are available in the office for pickup, and will be attached as a pdf for home printing. Additionally, you'll find a coloring page in our newsletter (see page 6).

As we journey through this season of Advent together, you are invited to remember the story of Advent is about God taking on a physical body like ours. As you wait with anticipation and prepare for baby Jesus to be born this Advent season, we invite you to discover the awesomeness of incarnation and what it means for God to move, act, and live with us. This Advent resource invites you to explore the ways in which we can claim: Body, have HOPE! Brain, practice PEACE! Self, feel JOY! Heart, feel LOVE! Everyone, CELEBRATE! We are alive! This Advent, we will explore how God came to be human and lived among us. We encourage you to explore how these ideas and themes influence how you view God, your faith, and the world.

In hope, peace, joy, and love,

  
Mother Tracy



#### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

##### December 17:

4:00 p.m. – Blue Christmas

*(A Service holding space for joy and grief in this holiday season)*

##### December 24:

10:00 a.m. – JOINT Fourth Sunday of Advent Service

5:00 p.m. – Family Christmas Service with Paper Bag Pageant

10:30 p.m. – Christmas Carols

11:00 p.m. – Midnight Mass

##### December 25:

10:00 a.m. – Christmas Day Service

##### December 31:

10:00 a.m. – Christmas Lessons and Carols with Communion

#### In This Issue

From the Rector .....	1
Announcements ....	2-3
Birthdays & Anniversaries .....	5
Vestry Minutes .....	5-6
Coloring Page .....	6
Our Mission & Vision .....	10
Staff & Vestry .....	10

#### Worship Schedule

##### Sunday Morning

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

##### Sunday Evening

Explore Faith

5:00 p.m.

##### Wednesday Healing

10:00 a.m.

#### Join us Online!

facebook.com/nativitypsl

or

youtube.com/nativitypsl

or

Instagram.com/Nativitypsl

#### Drive-thru Communion

First Sunday Each Month

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

# Announcements ...

## Christmas Flowers



*Make Christmas joyful!  
Honor a loved one!*

If you would like to make a donation for Christmas Flowers, forms are available in the Narthex or the Church Office. Thank you for your generosity!

*The deadline is Monday, December 18.*



## Ladies' Lunch - January 8, 2024

Join the ladies of Nativity for lunch and fellowship on January 8, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at Bonefish Mac's, 662 SE Becker Rd., Port St. Lucie. Questions? Please contact the church office at [office@nativitypsl.com](mailto:office@nativitypsl.com)



## Daughters of the King

At the November meeting, our Chapter voted to donate \$50 to Outreach to help buy a bike for a child on the Angel Tree. We were brought up to date on several people on our Prayer Listings and we heard about Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. We learned that she was raised as an Episcopalian and converted to Roman Catholic after her husband passed away. This was news to some of us at the meeting. Our next meeting will be held on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 at 10:00 a.m. in Wolfe Hall. All ladies are welcome to attend and see what we are all about. There will be coffee and cookies. Wishing each and every one of you a Very Merry Christmas.



Dotti Johnson

## Christmas Bags for Outreach Families



We are collecting the following for Christmas bags for our outreach basket recipients (38 families): full-size shampoo, conditioner, hand lotion, and liquid hand soap, boxes of candy canes, bags of Christmas candy, Crayons, and Christmas coloring books.

Questions? Please contact Deborah at 772-353-0232 or [office@nativitypsl.com](mailto:office@nativitypsl.com).



## Men's Breakfast - December 30, 2023



All men are invited to meet the last Saturday each month at 8:00 a.m. at Mission Kitchen, 6650 S. Federal Hwy 1, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952.



# EXPLORE FAITH



FAITH IS BEING SURE OF WHAT WE HOPE FOR  
AND CERTAIN OF WHAT WE DO NOT SEE

## SUNDAYS | 5PM



Would you like to make a donation using a credit card? Please scan the QR Code to donate online!

# Announcements ...

## Outreach Ministry

### Merry Christmas!

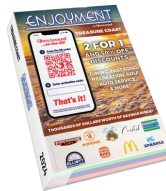
December is such a busy month for everyone!

Once again our Nativity Family came through to help make a Happy Thanksgiving for 37 Families in Port St. Lucie. Thank you so much for your generosity! Baskets were so appreciated by those families. Thank you to all volunteers who decorated, packed, delivered, and/or donated food, time, and/or money!



On November 8, the Angel Tree was put up in the Narthex. All gifts, including four bikes, have been picked up for distribution. Thank you for your generosity! You will make some child's Christmas very joyful!

Enjoyment Books are selling out! Just a few left! They make great gifts and provide an excellent return on your investment. Call Susan Montgomery if interested (973-476-5164).



Our Christmas Food Baskets will be enhanced again this year with an additional gift bag of treasures, such as toiletries (soaps, shampoos, lotion), socks, pens, notepads, toothpaste, toothbrushes, snacks, small puzzles, sugar free candy, cards, etc. Many donations have come in and all donations will be welcome at the church by Sunday, December 3. Christmas Food Bags will be filled and distributed along with Publix gift cards. The Christmas Bags will be packed on December 13 and 15 and delivered on Sunday, December 17 to help make Christmas fun and festive for our families. Once again, a financial donation is welcome and we will do the shopping for you.

Our Annual Rummage Sale will be February 24. Please keep a box for gently used items no longer needed by you, but useful to others. Sadly we have no storage at the church until February 18, when drop off begins. After Christmas is a great time to declutter and donate no longer needed items.

### OUTREACH ADVENT FOOD CALENDAR:

Please consider donating one item per day during Advent to our Outreach Food Pantry. Low sodium and low sugar items are helpful for many of our baskets. Donations can be left on the Outreach shelves in the Narthex. Thank you!

- Dec. 3 – Canned meat/tuna
- Dec. 4 – Cookies/Cake mix
- Dec. 5 – Boxed/dry milk
- Dec. 6 – Pasta/Sauce
- Dec. 7 – Christmas Napkins
- Dec. 8 – Fruit/Soup
- Dec. 9 – Peanut butter/jelly
- Dec. 10 – Mashed potatoes/Gravy
- Dec. 11 – Pasta/Sauce
- Dec. 12 – Cereal
- Dec. 13 – Rice/Beans
- Dec. 14 – Fruit/Soup
- Dec. 15 – Pasta /sauce
- Dec. 16 – Canned meat/tuna
- Dec. 17 – Corn/Green Beans
- Dec. 18 – Boxed/dry milk
- Dec. 19 – Rice/Beans
- Dec. 20 – Mashed potatoes
- Dec. 21 – Pasta /Sauce
- Dec. 22 – Peanut butter/jelly
- Dec. 23 – Cereal
- Dec. 24 – Your Choice

Outreach thanks you for all you are doing to help make the Christmas Holidays so special for our community.

Blessings to you and your families and Happy New Year!

---

# October 2023 Vestry Minutes ...

---

2023 October Vestry Agenda  
Tuesday \* October 17, \* 10:00am

Present: **Rector Tracy Dugger, Sr Warden Deborah Benway, Jr Warden Pete Szelwach, Viola Gittens, Darcy Miller, Rose Skeete , Bob Vila, Wendy Chadbourne**

Absent: Michelle Jarski

**Formation:** Prayer and Spiritual Check in

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

### **1. Rector's Report Respectfully Submitted by Mother Tracy Dugger:**

- a. Family Ministry: The new Children's Church format seems to be working well for our regular families, increasing frequency of attendance, we have also had new family visitors.
- b. Monday Funday with Mother Tracy had 12 youth participants, half from church and half from scout families.
- c. Hospital Visits and Home Visits: we had a number of hospitalizations and pastoral emergencies this past month.

## **Items to Discuss and/or Decide**

### **Review 2024 Budget Process and Preliminary Budget with Pete**

**Fire Ant Issues in Field and Parking Lot: Vestry discussed the option of pulling 3 quotes to mitigate issues.**

**Approval of September Minutes: Motioned to Approve Deborah, Second Pete, motion carried unanimously.**

**Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report moved to be accepted by Viola and seconded by Deborah, motion carried unanimously.**

### **October 2023 Treasurer's Report Respectfully Submitted by Wendy Chadbourne**

As of the end of September we are showing a net loss of \$20,466 on our P&L. In reality we are at net loss of \$29,933. Our advanced pledge amount balance as of the end of September is \$9,466.

Our Balance sheet showed a decrease over August of \$10,300.

In September we received an \$1,000 donation for use in the Memorial Garden, there were no advance pledges for the month.

---

## October 2023 Vestry Minutes cont'd ...

---

We are showing a balance of \$18,052 in our operating fund, this is the lowest it's been this year.

At this time there isn't more to report that's new. Since we will be going over the proposed preliminary 2024 budget and 2023 run rate for the remainder of the year, which Pete has done a fantastic job on, we will look at his spreadsheets.

wc

### CALENDAR INFORMATION:

October 22 Ministry Fair

October 23-25 Mother Tracy at Diocesan Clergy Conference

October 25: No Wednesday Service or Bible Study

October 28: 3-5pm Halloweenfest

October 29 Review of Narrative Budget in Worship

November 8-November 13 Mother Tracy Final 2023 Vacation Sunday ( I have some weekdays remaining)



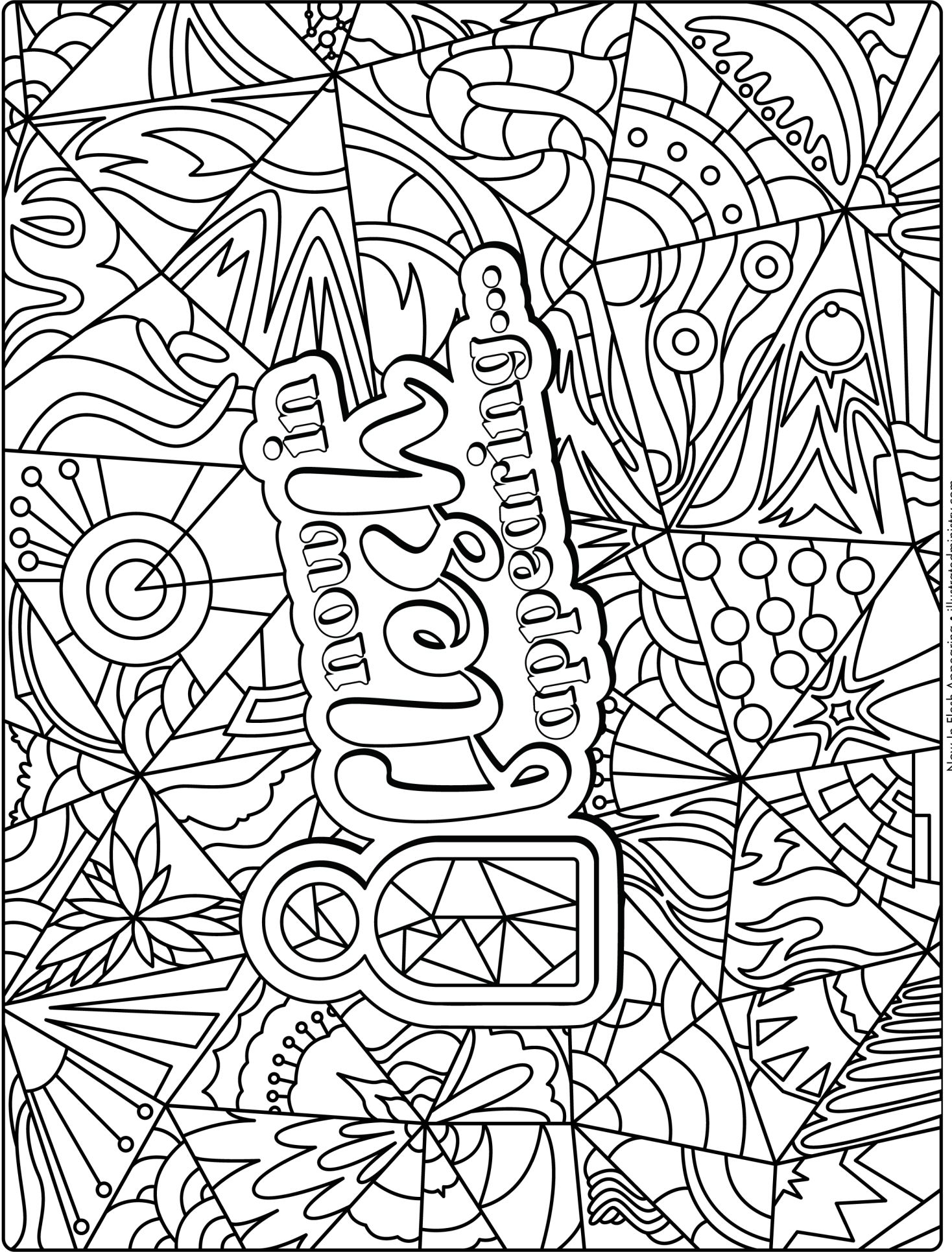
December 2: Wilfred Craig  
December 3: Carol Cyrus, Mary Mosley  
December 7: Charles Gaspard, Vivienne Salkey  
December 8: Karen Pender, Fritz Wiecking  
December 9: Eleise Brimm  
December 19: Carol Young  
December 20: Lauren Dalessandro,  
William Shaver  
December 22: Kristine Wallace  
December 23: Pete Szelwach, Thelma Taffee  
December 24: Jonathan Clem, Maureen Nickel  
December 27: Sadie Chin, Viola Gittens,  
Annette Jennings  
December 31: Steven Siss, William Biebusch



December 7: Robert & Carol Young  
December 22: Arthur & Paulette Alexander  
December 26: Melvin & Alvie Flournoy  
December 27: Keith & Sonia Cummins  
December 28: Mark & Rhonda Blakey

*Did we miss your birthday or anniversary?  
Help us update our records!  
Please contact the church office at 772.343.0401 or  
[office@nativitypsl.com](mailto:office@nativitypsl.com)*





---

OUR MISSION:

UNITED BY GOD'S GRACE

Loving and Serving ALL People in Christ's Name

OUR VISION:

As a Christ-centered oasis, the Church of the Nativity will be a place to experience acceptance and love. We will invite ALL people to come, be spiritually replenished, and leave eager to do the work God has called each of us to do. We will reflect God's love and limitless possibilities through our commitment to meaningful worship, spiritual formation, sweeping outreach, and robust growth.

---

Church Leadership

Jesus Christ, *Head of the Church*  
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb,  
*Bishop of Central Florida*  
The People of the Church of the Nativity,  
*Ministers*  
The Rev. Tracy M. Dugger, *Rector*  
Mr. William Dugger, *Facilities*  
Mrs. Hazel Graham, *Minister of Music*  
Mrs. Melissa Lewis,  
*Bookkeeper & Communications*  
Assisting Clergy:  
The Rev. Robert G. Brandt,  
*Retired Assistant Priest*

Vestry Members

Deborah Benway, *Sr. Warden*  
Pete Szelwach, *Jr. Warden*  
Wendy Chadbourne and Terry Garman,  
*Co-Treasurers*  
Viola Gittens  
Michelle Jarski  
Judy Klimczak  
Darcy Miller  
Rose Skeete  
Bob Vila



1151 SW DEL RIO BLVD | PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL 34953  
(772) 343-0401 | OFFICE@NATIVITYPSL.COM |  
WWW.NATIVITYPSL.COM  
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - THURSDAY 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM