

# NATIVITY NEWS – NOVEMBER 2024



Dear Nativity Lutheran Church,

As we are all aware now, Pastor Taylor and I have had our child, Samuel Isaac Taylor. We have planned my paternity leave so that it does not overlap with Christine's maternity leave in the attempt to keep Samuel at home as long as possible.

I would have started what is left of my leave, four weeks, right after Christine's maternity leave ended, but there was just too much going on at Nativity for me to take off the month of October. I also have two weeks of vacation left that I need to take before the end of the year. So, with all that rolled together, I will be out starting October 28<sup>th</sup> and back on December 9<sup>th</sup> (first Sunday back will be December 15<sup>th</sup>).

At the pace my life has been going, I can admit that I do need this break from work. October 1, 2024 was the 1-year mark of my time at NLC. For most pastors, the first year of ministry is the hardest. This is hard to evaluate for me because of the other unique things on my plate (growing family, Army obligations). And while this year has been incredibly successful in all metrics, it has not come without monumental work and effort, not only from me and my family, but also from the Nativity family as a whole. I am so proud of all the ways we have celebrated God's kingdom in the past year.

So, for the only time that I can foresee, this "Pastor's Conversation" will not end with a "come talk to me," but rather a, "I need a break, I'd love to catch up when I'm back!" I hope that the Nativity family will pray restoration and peace for me in my absence.

+Shalom  
Pastor Taylor



## RUFFLE OUR FEATHERS.....

Each year Nativity has helped support the South Central Community Action Agency Thanksgiving food drive for senior citizens. Once again you are encouraged to bring a contribution to dinner boxes that will be taken to the South Central Community Action Agency (previously known as the Rankin County Human Resource Agency) for distribution. **Pluck some feathers off the turkey in the narthex and bring back the listed item to the church no later than Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.** Your Social Ministry committee will purchase frozen turkeys to complete the meals.



The angel tree to help families at the Center for Violence Protection will be up on November 17<sup>th</sup>. As always, there will be two angels (one for toys, one for clothes) for each child. Social Ministry will add treats for the mothers from funds raised at major events.



## **LIVE NATIVITY**

**December 7th and 8th - 6PM to 8PM**

Our 33rd annual Live Nativity is rapidly approaching. Now is the time to think about your contribution to this church-wide endeavor. We will need help with setting up the manger, sound, lighting, cast, luminary lighters, greeters, cookie bakers & set-up/clean-up crews to present this gift to our community.

Watch for Sign-up sheets on the table in the narthex.



**MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES STARTING DEC. 11TH**

are at 7:00 PM with a light meal at 6:15PM. We need volunteers to sign up for the meals which are usually soup, sandwiches, dessert and beverages. A sign-up sheet for the meals will be posted in the Narthex. The service will feature the Holden Evening Prayer with guests coming from Ascension.

Please make plans to attend.



# One Meal Feeds Many Hearts

Nativity Lutheran Church Ronald McDonald  
House Dinner Hosting Dates

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**Saturday, November 2, 2024 {Lunch}**  
**Wednesday, February 12, 2025 {Dinner}**  
**Saturday, April 26, 2025 {Lunch}**  
**Wednesday, June 25, 2025 {Dinner}**

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more information and ways to sign up will come from  
Angela Gifford two weeks prior to the meal dates

Questions and concerns can be directed to the Gifford family or Angela Gifford

P: 601-918-0168

E: [Livingonaprayer2@outlook.com](mailto:Livingonaprayer2@outlook.com)





**Nativity Lutheran Church Card Drive  
benefiting families and patients at  
the Ronald McDonald House in  
Jackson, MS.**

**Please join in effort with the Gifford family to have cards for the patients and families at the Ronald McDonald House by making homemade cards or using store-bought cards, with heartfelt and encouraging messages.**

**Once cards are finished please bring them to Nativity and put them in the PURPLE TREASURE CHEST.**



**Stocking Stuffers:** I'm sure you heard the buzz about the spectacular performance by Rita Sweatt in 2024. She will be back February 1, 2025 to perform the story of Ruth. You don't want to miss it!

Tickets for that performance will make great stocking stuffers. They are \$17 each and can be purchased from Ruth Burgess or check with other fellowship committee members.



## November & December

### Birthdays

### Anniversaries

Katie Kirby	11/01
Marlyn Hatten	11/03
Wendy Ketchum	11/08
Mitch Leavell	11/18
Keith Anderson	11/21
Ruth Burgess	12/06
Dorothy Leavell	12/11
Hack Walston	12/16
Cindy Braatz	12/19
Chuck Gallagher	12/27
Pat Anderson	12/31

Clyde & Marlyn Hatten	11/03
Tony & Sue Caldwell	12/12

If you wish to participate, please look for the sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex and provide your birthday and/or anniversary month & day only by your name so we can wish you a Happy Day!

Happy Birthday & Anniversary to All !!

## Nativity Prayer List



Please pray for: Hack & Sylvia Walston, Ned & Barb Balsley, Debi Poole, Britney Gifford, Linda Wheeler, Anita Hannah, Christina Nelson, Matt Soenkgen, Gene Burgess, the Ford Family & the Rials Family.

## NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- November 2 10:30 Serving Lunch @ Ronald McDonald House
- November 3 10:30 AM Services with Holy Communion  
(Daylight Saving Time Ends)
- November 6 Bible Study @ Ascension – 11:00 AM
- November 10 10:30 AM Services with Holy Communion  
9:30 Youth Sunday School
- November 13 Bible Study @ Ascension – 11:00 AM
- November 17 10:30 AM Services with Holy Communion  
9:30 Youth Sunday School  
Thanksgiving Turkey feathers food due  
Stewardship Drive begins – Packets available in Narthex
- November 20 Bible Study @ Ascension – 11:00 AM
- November 24 10:30 AM Services with Holy Communion  
9:30 Youth Sunday School
- November 27 Bible Study @ Ascension – 11:00 AM
- November 28 Happy Thanksgiving

## **NLC November, 2024 Volunteer List – 10:30 Service**

### **November 3**

Kitchen – Kathy Peters  
Greeters – Stephen Braatz  
Ushers – Halverson Family  
Lector – Bart Bettiga  
Comm. Asst. – Sandy Bettiga  
Nursery – Lynn Templeton  
Counters – Bart & Sandy Bettiga  
Altar Care – Cindy Braatz

### **November 10**

Kitchen – Ellie Halverson  
Greeter – Mitch Leavell  
Ushers – Bettiga Family  
Lector – Beau Bettiga  
Comm. Asst. – David Braband  
Nursery – Kerri Hampe/Brittney Gifford  
Counters – Mitch & Dorothy Leavell  
Altar Care – Cindy Braatz

### **November 17**

Kitchen – Ruth Burgess  
Greeters – Kathy Peters  
Ushers – Keith Anderson/Tommy Templeton  
Lector – Rick Kirby  
Comm. Asst. – Rick Kirby  
Nursery – Pamela Kirby  
Counters – Keith Anderson/Lynn Templeton  
Altar Care – Cindy Braatz

### **November 24**

Kitchen – Ruth Burgess  
Greeter – Jim & Pat Moulds  
Ushers – Kathy Peters/Mitch Leavell  
Lector – John Halverson  
Comm. Asst. – John Halverson  
Nursery – Lynn Templeton  
Counters – Cindy Braatz/Sue Caldwell  
Altar Care – Cindy Braatz

*If you cannot serve on the dates shown, please try to swap with someone and let the office know of the change. Thanks.*