

# Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

8:00 am & 10:45 am



**brother ken, OLF: Pastor**

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[www.saintnicholaslutheran.org](http://www.saintnicholaslutheran.org)

Welcome to Saint Nicholas! We're glad you're worshipping with us today. May our time together be a blessing to you. If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign the guest register in the Narthex on the podium.

Child care is available during worship for infants and toddlers in our staffed nursery room down the hall. All children ages 5 – 10 are invited to attend Time for Children in the North Wing where they will hear a bible lesson presented through story, song and prayer. Children are dismissed with the adult leaders following the Children's Sermon and return to worship for Holy Communion.

Our worship always includes the sacrament of Holy Communion and all people including children at the discretion of their parents are welcome to receive. Children are also welcome to come forward to receive a blessing from the pastor.

# GATHERING

## Prelude

## Welcome

*Stand*

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination....*

Most merciful God,

***we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen***

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ God gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

## Gathering Song: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (ELW 254)



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Public Domain

### Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you all. ***And also with you.***

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. ***Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

## Lighting Of The Second Advent Candle

8:00am – Jason/ Mary Kiessling & Family 10:45am – Daryl & Trish Urnosky

As the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> candles are lit, the congregation sings

### **Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (ELW 240) Verse 2**



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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Let us pray.

***Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.  
John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way  
for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles  
on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,  
that we may be a light shining in the darkness  
welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,  
for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.  
Amen.***

## WORD

*Sit*

### **Children's Sermon**

### **Time For Children**

*(All children in Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to hear a bible lesson presented through story, song and prayer in the North Wing.)*

## **First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4**

A reading from Malachi.

*The Lord announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) shall prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.*

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## **Psalm: Luke 1:68-79** *(Please read responsively)*

<sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.

<sup>69</sup>***You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.***

<sup>70</sup>Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our  
enemies, <sup>71</sup>from the hands of all who hate us,

<sup>72</sup>***to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.***

<sup>73</sup>This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
***free to worship you without fear,***

<sup>75</sup>***holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.***

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

<sup>77</sup>***to give God’s people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.***

<sup>78</sup>In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

<sup>79</sup>***to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.***

## **Psalm Prayer**

Let us pray.

***We thank you, our heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our lives and actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our body, soul and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. † Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and forever shall be, world without end. Amen.***

## **Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11**

A reading from Philippians.

*The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.*

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

<sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

Stand

## Gospel Acclamation



□ A le lu ia, Lord, to whom shall we  
go? A le lu ia, You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. A le - lu - ia,  
A le - lu - ia, A le - lu ia.

### Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

The holy gospel according to Luke.

#### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

#### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## **Sermon**

### **Sermon Questions:**

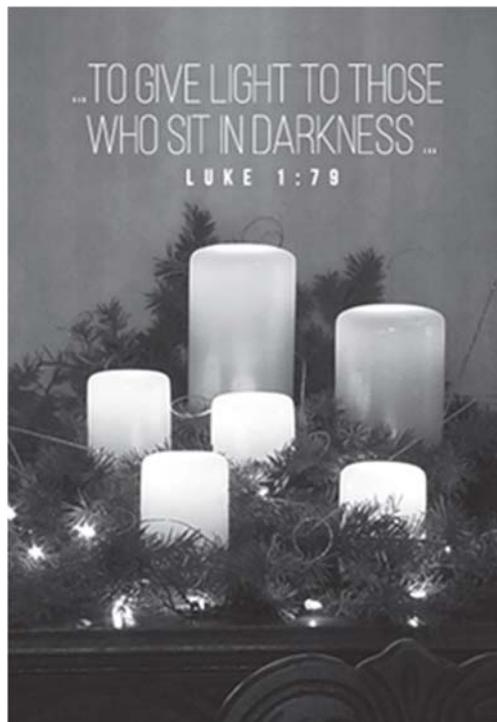
Today we will be looking at the Song of Zechariah, which is the canticle or psalm spoken when John the Baptist was born.

If you are a parent, did you have a sense or vision about your child?

Have you thought that God has a purpose for you or your child?

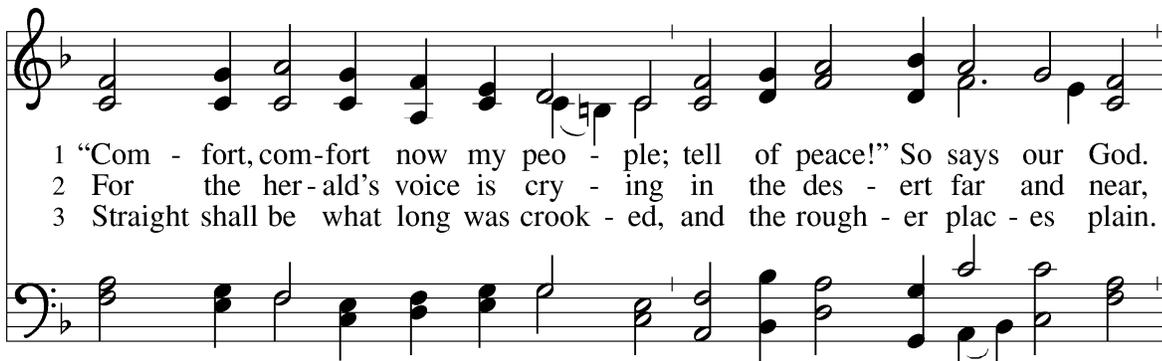
What are God's purposes?

How does God use us to accomplish God's ways?



Stand

## Hymn of the Day: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* (ELW 256)



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.  
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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## **Apostles' Creed**

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.***

## **Prayers Of Intercession**

*Each prayer petition concludes with the following words:*

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Into your loving hands O Lord we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love and mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior. ***Amen.***

## **Sharing Of The Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

***And also with you.***

## **MEAL**

*Sit*

### **Gathering Of Gifts/Setting The Table**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church. If you would like to give electronically here is our QR code and Wi-Fi password:*

*SaintNicholas.*



*"In everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

*1 Thessalonians 5:18*

**Anthem: Amen**

*Stand*

### **Offering Prayer**

Merciful Father, *we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

### **Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty.

When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child;

When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom.

Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.

He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: *Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: *This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Remembering Christ's death, we cry out Amen. ***Amen!***

Celebrating the resurrection, we shout Amen. ***Amen!***

Trusting Christ's presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. ***Amen!***

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit upon this meal. O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

O God, you are wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly,

O God our strength and our song,

you show us a vision of life for all, where none are hungry and everyone is free.

Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever. ***Amen.***

### **Lord's Prayer**

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.***

### **Invitation to Communion**

*All are welcome to receive the sacrament including children. Children not yet prepared for Holy Communion are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing from the pastor. Today we commune by intinction. With intinction, the communion participant comes forward, receives a wafer and then dips it into the chalice of wine or grape juice before eating it. We also offer gluten free wafers at communion.*

Sit

# Communion Songs



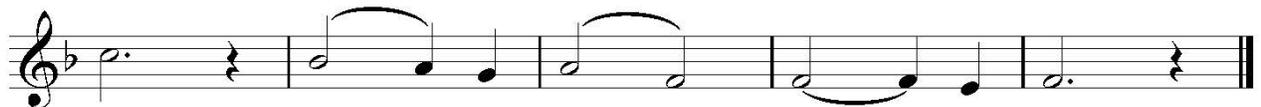
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us peace grant us peace.

# Christ, Be Our Light (ELW 715)



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

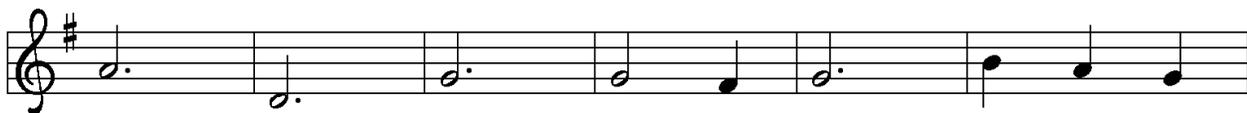


your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

## Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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*Remain seated*

## **Post Communion Blessing**

### **Prayer After Communion**

Let us pray. *Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **SENDING**

### **Community Life Announcements**

*Stand*

### **Blessing**



## Sending Song: *Prepare the Royal Highway* (ELW 264)

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: BEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
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## Dismissal

Go forth..... *loving God and loving your neighbors. Thanks be to God.*

## Preparing for Next Sunday

As we approach the celebration of Gods Incarnation aka Christmas Eve, the birth of the Christ, the message or good news has been hijacked by things that have no enduring value... or do they?

Thought another way, what is the good news?

The Gospel reading for Advent 3 December 16 deals with John the Baptist who is saying things about baptisms of fire and threshing floors and separating wheat and chaff. These don't align with our warm cuddly images of Christmas. So why do we read these texts now? In the immortal words of Jerry Seinfeld 'what's the deal with that?'

How can these hard words from John the Baptist be preparing our hearts for Christmas ?

## SAINT NICHOLAS ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

*December 9, 2018*



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Deanna Kekesi in memory of Helena Kekesi's birthday.

### Prayer Concerns

**Health:** Theresa Dubois, Joe Prowinski, Dawn Jaeger, Kara Bowen, Sue Richards, Dominic Brady, Caroline Urnosky, Connie Gonzales, Jay Lotz

**Long term concerns:** Heidi Gault, Avay Jaynes, The Smith/Biello Families, Susan Vilcheck, Garrett Krohnert, Karen Smith, Jill Richardson, Robin LaPorte, Sean MacDonnell, Ray Nieves, Linda Dorr

*Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church has a special Prayer Team committed to intercessory prayer. Your request will always be treated with immediacy, care, and confidentiality.*

*Contact Carol Blatt at [tlblatt@comcast.net](mailto:tlblatt@comcast.net) with prayer requests.*

*If you want your name or someone else's name added to the Prayer Concerns List, please contact the church office. Prayer concerns will be carried for 1 month unless notified otherwise.*

## **This Week's Birthdays**

**Tuesday** — Maggie Holmes

*Forgive us if we missed anyone, please contact the office if you would like to include your birthday in the weekly announcements.*

## **Worship Attendance ~ December 2**

8:00 am — 44 10:45 am — 62

## **Staff & Leadership**

The Rev. Kenneth D. Taylor ~ [pastor@saintnicholaslutheran.org](mailto:pastor@saintnicholaslutheran.org)

Franklyn Johnson-Williams, Music Director ~ [bonniejazzmusic@yahoo.com](mailto:bonniejazzmusic@yahoo.com)

Erika Demme, Office Adm. /Bookkeeper ~ [office@saintnicholaslutheran.org](mailto:office@saintnicholaslutheran.org)

Jamie Flanders, Council President ~ [Jaflanders65@gmail.com](mailto:Jaflanders65@gmail.com)

## **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, Dec. 9**

8:00 am Worship

9:30 am Sunday School

10:45 am Worship

12:00 pm Hanging of the Greens/Youth Group

7:30 pm Another Chance

**Monday - Thursday** ~ 9:00 am - 3:30 pm Office Hours

**Monday - Friday** ~ 6:00 pm Rampage Wrestling (NW)

**Monday, Dec. 10** ~ 6:15 pm Finance Mtg.; 7:00 pm Council

**Tuesday, Dec. 11** ~ 7:00 pm Scouts

**Wednesday, Dec. 12** ~ 11:00 am Bible Study

**Thursday, Dec. 13** ~ 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch; 7:00 pm Steps to Serenity

**Friday, Dec. 14** ~ 6:00 pm Girl Scouts

### **Sunday, Dec. 16**

8:00 am Worship

9:30 am Sunday School

10:45 am Worship

12:00 pm Youth Group

4:00 pm Christmas Program (Sanctuary)

4:00 pm Scout Program (North Wing Hall)

7:30 pm Another Chance

# Volunteer Opportunities

## Tree of Angels

Thanks to your generosity, Saint Nicholas we will be helping 20 Calvert County children in need this Christmas. Please return your unwrapped gifts to the church by **this SUNDAY, Dec 9**. If you have questions concerning Calvert County Tree of Angels, please contact Carol Blatt.

## Gifts of Hope—Shop, Receive and Give



Would you like to give a unique gift to your loved one this Christmas season? Would you also like your purchase to benefit those in need? You can do both with a purchase of a **Gift of Hope**. The Gifts of Hope Catalog has 42 different gifts, with prices ranging from \$10 to \$300. These gifts support the mission and programs of area Lutheran social ministry

organizations, camps, college or seminary, and our Synod's companion synods abroad. Your Gifts of Hope purchases will bring hope to others while you honor those on your gift list. There are a wide variety of gifts such as a week at camp, transportation for women going to job interviews, nutritious meals, backpacks with healthy snacks for foster children. For each gift you select from the catalog you will receive a beautiful Christmas card and a description of the gift you purchased and of the beneficiary organization. Your Gift of Hope is guaranteed to benefit those in need and to please those on your shopping list.

**Visit the Gifts of Hope table between worship services to make your purchases** and look at the catalog of 42 gift ideas, or get more information about all 19 organizations. [www.GiftsofHopeDC.org](http://www.GiftsofHopeDC.org).

## Project ECHO

Many thanks to Ann Wolfgang, Christine Yott, Sue Brockman, Mary Jo Gebhardt, Donna Neri, Susan Vilcheck, Tracey Lotz, and Sara Bowen for preparing the November meal for Project Echo. An extra thank you to Mary Jo for getting the bulk of the meal delivered. If you would like to help prepare a portion of the December meal, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, or contact Kathy Dangin ([kdangin@live.com](mailto:kdangin@live.com)). **The meal will be served on Sunday, December 23rd.**

## Let's Top 2017

In 2017, Saint Nicholas donated 1,243 rolls of toilet paper to Project ECHO. So far in 2018, we have donated 961 rolls, so help us exceed our 2017 total by bringing a toilet paper contribution to church. We will be making our final 2018 delivery following the **December 30th** worship services. Keep the generosity rolling!

## Announcements

### Hanging of the Greens

We are planning our annual Hanging of the Greens for **this Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> after the second service**. Come help dress our church up for the Christmas season. Many hands make light work and we especially need people who are crafty and comfortable on ladders. If you would like to help after the first service, we will start making wreaths then. We will have pizza and hot chocolate and cookies for our helpers after the second service.

Please let Lauren Wawroski know if you can help so that we may plan accordingly. [Lwawroski@comcast.net](mailto:Lwawroski@comcast.net)

### Lunch Bunch

Please join us, the LUNCH BUNCH, the second Thursday of every month. We will meet on **Thursday, December 13 at noon** at Dream Weavers in Prince Frederick. On January 10, we will meet at Mod Pizza in Dunkirk. I hope you can join us for good food and conversation. Please email Susan Vilcheck at [michaelvilcheck@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelvilcheck@hotmail.com) if you would like to attend. Please also let Susan know if you would like your name to be added to the LUNCH BUNCH email.

### Christmas Program

Save the Date: On **Sunday December 16 @ 4:00pm**, Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church proudly presents "A Christmas Mash Up" featuring the Christmas alphabet, the Christmas Story, mash up Christmas songs from the Sunday School, diverse choral selections from the choir, lively Christmas tunes from the band, congregational sing-along, vocal and instrumental solos. It's a wonderful time of the year to celebrate our Lord and Savior with families, friends and the community.

## **Holiday Food Baskets**

Thank you for supporting Calvert Churches Community Food Pantry. Thanks to your generosity, we received \$1840.00 towards Holiday Food Baskets and this will help provide 36 baskets for families in need in Calvert County.

## **Recognition for Bonnie**

Saint Nicholas has been very blessed to have Franklyn "Bonnie" Johnson-Williams as our Director of Music since the beginning of October 2017. Bonnie has indeed brought joyful worship to Saint Nicholas with his wonderful instrument accompaniment and choral and instrumental direction. Bonnie's last worship service with us will be Monday, December 24 at the Christmas Eve services. To show our deep appreciation for Bonnie's service and dedication to Saint Nicholas, we would like to honor him with a monetary gift. If you are able to contribute for this gift, please place your donation in the offering plate by Sunday, December 16 indicating "for Bonnie." **We are planning a reception in Bonnie's honor on Sunday, December 23.** You won't want to miss it!

## **Staff Christmas Gifts**

The church council invites the congregation to recognize the dedication and efforts of Pastor Ken, Office Administrator Erika Demme, and custodial service provider Mary Kiessling with a monetary gift on Christmas Eve. Contributions to these gifts may be made by placing a check in the offering plate with the words Staff Christmas Gift on the memo line. Thank you!

## **Fellowship**

There are now two fellowship opportunities on every Sunday. If you are interested in providing fellowship food, please sign up on the bulletin board. Feel free to team up with someone. Food options could be pastries, desserts, fruits, veggies, cheese and crackers, little sandwiches, deviled eggs, casseroles, pretzels, etc. The possibilities are endless.

## **Operation Christmas Child**

Thanks to everyone's generous donations, the confirmation students were able to fill and ship 44 boxes to children who need to hear the Good News. As the boxes make their way into the world to spread the love of Christ, please keep these children and the volunteers at Samaritan's Purse in your prayers.

## Christmas Books for Sale

There are children's Christmas books for sale in the fellowship hall. If you are interested in purchasing a book, please place your money in the offering plate marked "Christmas Book". All money will benefit Vacation Bible School. If you have any questions please contact Erika at [office@saintnicholaslutheran.org](mailto:office@saintnicholaslutheran.org).

### Serving Next Sunday, December 16

#### 8:00 am

Assisting Minister	Andre Dangin
Altar Care	Carol Blatt, Anna Kitzmiller
Altar Flowers	Hogan Family
Acolyte	Liam Roger
Lector	Carolyn Lenz
Ushers/Communion Asst.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Offering Counters	Tom Blatt, Ann Wolfgang
Coffee Set-up	Vicki Soto
Nursery	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Time for Children	Vicki Soto
Fellowship	Mozzetta

#### 10:45 am

Assisting Minister	Isabelle Dubois
Altar Care	Heidi Bishop
Acolytes	Ashlynn Vilcheck
Lector	Barbara Harris
Ushers/Communion Asst.	Bryan Mullins, Jackie Stein
Offering Counters	Dave Hickin, Walt Merz
Coffee Clean-up	Susan Vilcheck
Nursery	Vicki Soto
Time for Children	Heidi & Eden Bishop
Fellowship	Sara Bowen



# Progress and Challenges in Our Schools

## A Community Conversation on Dismantling Racism

**Sunday, January 13, 2-5 pm**  
(registration starts at 1:30)

At Patuxent High School in Lusby

Featuring a panel presentation including:

- Calvert Schools Superintendent Daniel Curry
- Representatives of the Southern Maryland community

Followed by small group facilitated sessions to share our stories and make recommendations



More information at: [bigconmsp@gmail.com](mailto:bigconmsp@gmail.com) / 410-326-4948



Brought to you by Middleham and St. Peter's Parish with **The Big Conversation Partnership for Dismantling Racism in Southern Maryland including:** All Saints Episcopal Church – Sunderland, Calvert County Public Schools, Calvert Library, Calvert NAACP, Community Mediation Centers of Calvert and St. Mary's Counties, Concerned Black Women of Calvert Co, Emmanuel SDA Church – St. Leonard, Harriet Elizabeth Brown Scholars, Patuxent Quaker Friends, St. Mary's NAACP

## Serving Today, December 9

### 8:00 am

Assisting Minister

Altar Care

Altar Flowers

Acolyte

Lector

Ushers/Communion Asst.

Offering Counters

Coffee Set-up

Nursery

Time for Children

Fellowship

Bryan Mullins

Tracey Lotz

Kekesi Family

Amelia Roger

Christine Hogan

Dawn & John Hogenson

Sharon LeBrun, Pam Werner

Joe Sharar

***Volunteer Needed***

Kathy Dangin

Dawn Hogenson

### 10:45 am

Assisting Minister

Altar Care

Acolytes

Lector

Ushers/Communion Asst.

Offering Counters

Coffee Clean-up

Nursery

Time for Children

Fellowship

Dominic Soto

Sara Bowen, Christy Mullins

Maddi Taylor

Dominic Soto

Lauren & Kevin Wawroski

Ed Aronhalt, Kris Wood

***Volunteer Needed***

Mary Jo Gebhardt

Dorothy & McKenna Taylor

Susan Vilcheck



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

*Begin Anew! Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church  
Enjoying God by worshipping joyfully, engaging youth,  
experiencing community.*