



OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 725 Gastonia Technology Parkway  
 Post Office Box 457  
 Dallas, North Carolina 28034  
 Phone: 705-922-4648  
 Email: oslcdallas@aol.com  
 Website: oslc-nc.org



# Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XII, Issue XIII

December 2018

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Our Saviour Lutheran Church welcomes all people to a safe place to grow in faith and serve the Lord Jesus Christ*

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## Read the Complete Christmas Story of the Birth of Jesus Relive the Story of Jesus Christ's Birth as Told in the Bible

by Mary Fairchild

Step inside the Bible's Christmas story and relive the events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ. This version is paraphrased from the books of Matthew and Luke.

### Where to Find the Christmas Story in Your Bible

Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-12; Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20.

### The Conception of Jesus

Mary, a young teenager living in the village of Nazareth, was engaged to be married to Joseph, a Jewish carpenter. One day God sent an angel to visit Mary. The angel told Mary that she would conceive a son by the power of the Holy Spirit. She would give birth to this child and name him Jesus.

At first, Mary was afraid and troubled by the angel's words. Being a virgin, Mary questioned the angel, "How can this happen?" The angel explained that the child would be God's own Son and that nothing is impossible with God. Humbled and in awe, Mary believed the angel of the Lord and rejoiced in God her Savior.

Surely Mary reflected with wonder on the words of Isaiah 7:14: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." (NIV)

### The Birth of Jesus

So, while Mary was still engaged to Joseph, she miraculously became pregnant just as the angel had said. When Mary told Joseph she was pregnant, he must have felt disgraced. He knew the child was not his own, and Mary's apparent unfaithfulness carried a grave social stigma. Joseph had the right to divorce Mary, and under Jewish law, she could be put to death by stoning.

Although Joseph's initial reaction was to break the engagement, the appropriate thing for a righteous man to do, he treated Mary with extreme kindness. He did not want to cause her further shame and decided to act quietly.

But God sent an angel to Joseph in a dream to verify Mary's story and reassure him that his marriage to her was God's will. The angel explained that the child was conceived by the Holy Spirit, that his name would be Jesus, and that he was the Messiah.

When Joseph woke from his dream, he willingly obeyed God and took Mary to be his wife in spite of the public humiliation he would face. Joseph's noble character was one reason God chose him to be Messiah's earthly father.

(Story cont'd on page 2)

(Story cont'd from page 1)

At that time, Caesar Augustus decreed that a census would be taken. Every person in the Roman world had to return to his or her hometown to register. Joseph, being of the line of David, was required to go to Bethlehem to register with Mary.

While in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to Jesus. Because of the census, the inn was overcrowded, and Mary gave birth in a crude stable. She wrapped the baby in cloths and placed him in a manger.

### Shepherds Worship the Savior

In a nearby field, an angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds who were tending flocks of sheep by night. The angel announced that the Savior of the world had been born in the town of David. Suddenly a great host of heavenly beings appeared with the angel and began singing praises to God. As the angelic beings departed, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see the Christ-child!"

They hurried to the village and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby. The shepherds shared with everyone what the angel had said about the newborn Messiah. Then they went on their way praising and glorifying God. But Mary kept quiet, treasuring their words in her heart.

### The Magi Bring Gifts

Jesus' birth took place when Herod was king of Judea. At this time, wise men (Magi) from the east saw a great star. They followed it, knowing the star signified the birth of the king of the Jews.

The wise men came to the Jewish rulers in Jerusalem and asked where the Christ was to be born. The rulers explained, "In Bethlehem in Judea," referring to Micah 5:2. Herod secretly met with the Magi and asked them to report back after they found the child. Herod told the Magi that he wanted to worship the babe. But secretly Herod was plotting to kill the child.

The wise men continued to follow the star in search of the newborn king. They found Jesus with his mother in Bethlehem.

The Magi bowed and worshiped him, offering treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. When they departed, they did not return to Herod. They had been warned in a dream of his plot to destroy the child.

### Points of Interest From the Story

- By the time the wise men visited Mary and Jesus, the child was likely two years old. Jesus was called Immanuel (which means "God with us"), as foretold by the prophet Isaiah. God in the flesh came to live with mankind. Just as the Holy Spirit made this possible in the Christmas story, the same Spirit makes Jesus Christ present today in the life of every believer. It's likely that not even Isaiah understood the full and far-reaching meaning of this name. The Christmas angel, Gabriel, appeared not only to Zachariah and Mary but also to Daniel the prophet more than 500 years before the Christmas story.
- Mary was an unlikely candidate to be honored with the role of mother to the Savior. She was a young, poor female. In her day, these traits disqualified her as someone God would use for any important purpose. Like Mary, you may feel less than qualified to serve God. But Mary trusted God and humbly obeyed him. Don't set limits on God and what he may want to do with your life. He will use you, too, if you trust in him.

### Question for Reflection

When the shepherds left Mary, she quietly reflected on their words, treasuring them and pondering them often in her heart. It must have been beyond her ability to grasp, that sleeping in her arms — her tender newborn baby — was the Savior of the world.

When God speaks to you and shows you his will, do you treasure his words quietly, like Mary, and think about them often in your heart?

## December Christmas

It was the month before Christmas\*

\*When all through our land,\*

\*Not a Christian was praying\*

\*Nor taking a stand.\*

\*See the PC Police had taken away,\*

\*The reason for Christmas - no one could say.\*

\*The children were told by their schools not to sing,\*

\*About Shepherds and Wise Men and Angels and things.\*

\*It might hurt people's feelings, the teachers would say\*

\*December 25th is just a 'Holiday'!\*

\*Yet the shoppers were ready with cash, checks and credit\*

\*Pushing folks down to the floor just to get it!\*

\*CDs from Madonna, an XBOX, an I-pod\*

\*Something was changing, something quite odd!\*

\*Retailers promoted Ramadan and Kwanzaa\*

\*In hopes to sell books by Franken & Fonda.\*

\*As Targets were hanging their trees upside down\*

\*At Lowe's the word Christmas - was no where to be found.\*

\*At K-Mart and Staples and Penny's and Sears\*

\*You won't hear the word Christmas; it won't touch your ears.\*

\*Inclusive, sensitive, Di-ver-si-ty\*

\*Are words that were used to intimidate me.\*

\*At the top of the Senate, there arose such a clatter\*

\*To eliminate Jesus, in all public matter.\*

\*And we spoke not a word, as they took away our faith\*

\*Forbidden to speak of salvation and grace\*

\*The true Gift of Christmas was exchanged and discarded\*

\*The reason for the season, stopped before it started.\*

\*So as you celebrate 'Winter Break' under your 'Dream Tree'\*

\*Sipping your Starbucks, listen to me.\*

\*Choose your words carefully, choose what you say\*

\*Shout MERRY CHRISTMAS,

not Happy Holiday!\*

Please, all Christians join together and

wish everyone you meet during the

holidays a

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christ is j The Reason€ for the Christ-mas Season!



## Preparing to Celebrate Christmas

Can we really celebrate Christmas without Advent? That question crossed my mind as I thought about the day after Thanksgiving known as “Black Friday” when all the merchants hope that they will end the year in the “black”. I think of all the people lined up at large stores before 6:00 a.m. waiting to rush through the doors to get in on the “sale of the season” and take advantage of all the Christmas specials and deals. The Christmas rush is on! A number of radio stations are pumping out all the popular Christmas tunes twenty-four hours a day. In the midst of all the holiday pressures people are experiencing, pastors really struggle to find ways to make Christmas the meaningful festival it is meant to be in the minds and hearts of the congregation.

There was great wisdom in the decision of the Church years ago to establish the season of Advent – the four Sundays before the Festival of the Nativity of Our Lord (the proper name for Christmas Day). Advent is designed to be a time of waiting and preparation for Christmas to help us prepare a way in our lives to receive anew the Good News of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

I suggest a simple Advent journey to Christmas:

**First, take time to consider Advent as a time for the renewal of your relationship with God.**

What does it mean to you to be the child of a loving, forgiving and saving God? Carve out time for daily devotion and prayer focusing on the gift of salvation. Attend worship services and join with your congregational family in hearing the Word and participating in the Lord's Supper.

**Second, consider Advent as a time of renewal of your relationships with others.**

Christmas is a time when families and friends get together. It can be a stressful time because of struggles with relationships. Many times bad feelings and unresolved issues are revisited during holiday gatherings. God brings his “shalom” (peace) into our lives. Take the time to reflect on God's peace with us and bring that peace and good will into your family relationships and friendships, healing old wounds and creating new beginnings.

**Third, make your gift-giving an expression of love and not obligation.**

We can make Christmas gift-giving an outpouring of love in opportunities to meet the needs of family members and others less fortunate. The most extravagant gifts we can give are our love, time, and thoughtful attention. That can be in the form of quiet conversations together, a thoughtful Christmas card, or a phone call.

**The order is important.**

If, first, we affirm the joy of our salvation through the gracious love of God in Christ Jesus, then all else flows freely from that love we experience from God. Then, when Christmas comes, how sweet it is to celebrate the great gift and treasure of “God with us”.

*Pastor Martin*

## Emancipate! Enfranchise! Educate!

The ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment on December 18, 1865 completed legislation to abolish slavery, which had begun with the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. At Lincoln's request, Presbyterian minister Henry Highland Garner was asked to deliver a sermon in the House of Representatives to commemorate the event on February 12, 1865,

For the first time in the history of the Republic, a black American spoke in the Capitol, and he delivered these powerful words:

*Augustine, Constantine, Ignatius, Polycarp, Maximus, and the most illustrious light of the ancient church denounced the sin of slaveholding. Thomas Jefferson said – at a period of his life when his judgment was matured and his experience was ripe – “There is preparing, I hope, under the auspices of heaven, a way for a total emancipation.: The sainted Washington said, near the close of his mortal career and when the light of eternity was beaming upon him, “It is among my first wishes to see some plan adopted by which slavery in this country shall be abolished by law. I know of but one way by which this can be done, and that is by legislative action; and so far as my vote can go, it shall not be wanting.” Patrick Henry said, “We should transmit to posterity our abhorrence of slavery,” So also thought [this] Congress.....*

*Let the verdict of death which has been brought in against slavery by Congress be affirmed and executed by the people. Let the gigantic monster perish. Yes, perish now, and perish forever!....Let slavery die. It has had a long and fair trial; God Himself has pleaded against it. Its death warrant is signed by God and man. Do not commute its sentence. Give it no respite, but let it be ignominiously executed.*

*Honorable Senators and Representatives! Illustrious rulers of this great nation! I cannot refrain this day from invoking upon you, in God's name, the blessings of millions who were ready to perish but to whom a new and better life has been opened by your humanity, justice, and patriotism. You have said, :et the Constitution of the county be so amended that slavery and involuntary servitude shall no longer exist in the United States, except in punishment for a crime.” Surely, an act so sublime could not escape Divine notice; and doubtless, the deed has been recorded in the archives of Heaven!...Favored men – and honored of God as His instruments – speedily finish the work which He has given you to do. Emancipate! Enfranchise! Educate and give the blessings of the Gospel to every American citizen!*

Source American Patriot's Bible



### Jesus is Better than Santa

- Santa lives at the North Pole. JESUS is everywhere.
- Santa rides in a sleigh JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water
- Santa comes but once a year JESUS is an ever present help.
- Santa fills your stockings with goodies JESUS supplies all your needs.
- Santa comes down your chimney uninvited JESUS stands at your door and knocks.. And then enters your heart.
- You have to stand in line to see Santa JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.
- Santa lets you sit on his lap JESUS lets you rest in His arms.
- Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, What's your name?" JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads. Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly JESUS has a heart full of love
- All Santa can offer is HO HO HO JESUS offers health, help and hope.
- Santa says "You better not cry" JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you
- Santa's little helpers make toys JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.
- Santa may make you chuckle but JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.
- While Santa puts gifts under your tree JESUS became our gift and died on the tree.

It's obvious there is really no comparison. We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about. We need to put Christ back in Christmas.

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church**  
**Bill Trudnak, President**  
**October 15, 2018 Council Minutes**



**Devotions:** Bill Trudnak

Meeting called to order by President Bill Trudnak

**Members present:** Bill Trudnak, Bud Penley, Melinda White, Jeff White, Alice Vlaservich, Betty Ratchford, Denise Traveria, Steve Digh

**Members Absent:** Teri Trudnak and Robbie Wooten

**Minutes** for September 23, 2018 were reviewed. Betty Ratchford gave a motion to approve the minutes and Bud Penley gave a second motion

**Reception of Petitions and Communications:** None

**Report of the Pastor:** No report available this month

**Report of the Treasurer:** Motion by Alice Vlaservich to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Jeff White

**Report of the Ministries:**

Property: To assess roof leaks and report back

Stewardship and Finance: No report this month

Worship & Music: No report this month

Youth Team: No report this month

Witness: Cards and prayers continue

Christian Education Team: No report this month

**Report of Auxiliaries:** Rachel Circle: No meeting this month. Marie Robinson and Betty Ratchford did attend the annual NALC Convocation Meeting

**Old and/or Unfinished Business:**

None

**New Business:**

The contract with A.E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Co. is up for renewal. The cost is \$510.00 per tuning (twice a year). Alice Vlaservich made a motion we continue with this contract and Melinda White seconded the motion

Our copier is approximately 10 years old and parts are hard to find when needing repair. We will get a formal quote for a new copier vs. lease and further discuss at the next council meeting

Nomination ballots for three new officers will be distributed to congregation on 12/2/2018; and annual budget approval will be on 12/9/2018

**General Information:**

Kids Alive Report

Attendance

Town of Dallas Water Bill adjusted from \$249.84 to \$89.62 (thanks Nick!) because of toilets leaking

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: November 19, 2018

Devotions for November: Teri Trudnak

**The Original King-Sized Bed!!**



**Thank God for that bed and The Baby who slept there**



***Gaston County Choral Society***

**will have a Christmas Performance**

**on December 15, 2019**

**at 7:30 pm**

**1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, Belmont, NC**

**Shoe Boxes**



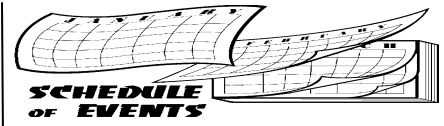
**Thank you for your  
generosity  
21 Boxes**



# December 2018



Sunday School: 9:45 am Sunday  
Church Service: 11:00 am Sunday



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Food Collection						1
2	3 Team Mtg.	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 CLW/Rachel Group	11 Prayer Group	12	13	14	15 Gaston Choral Society Christmas
16	17 Bd. Mtg.	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Candlelight Service	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- Dec. 1-2—**Singing Christmas Tree** (see p 6)
- Dec. 2—1st Sunday of Advent—Communion  
\*Hanging of the Greens\*  
(Nomination Ballot for officers to Council)
- Dec. 3—Team Meetings:  
Youth: 6:30 pm  
Others: 7:00 pm
- Dec. 7—"Carols on the Square" (see below & p 8)  
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (see p 7)
- Dec. 5—Gaston Together (see p 6)
- Dec. 8—1890's Heritage Village Christmas (see p 7)  
Christmas Celebration "behold a star" (see p 9)
- Dec. 9—2nd Sunday of Advent  
Congregational Meeting (Approving 2109 Budget and electing two officers to the Council)
- Dec. 10—CLW/Rachel Group will meet at the home of Betty Clemmer at 12:30 pm—Christmas Luncheon
- Dec. 11—Prayer Group will meet at Home of Shirlee Marazza at 1:00 pm
- Dec. 14—Dallas Christmas Parade 4:00 pm
- Dec. 15—Gaston Choral Society (p 5)
- Dec. 16—3rd Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 17—Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- Dec. 21—Winter begins
- Dec. 23—4th Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 24—\*Christmas Eve Candle Light Service\*  
Communion
- Dec. 25—The Birth of Jesus Christ
- Dec. 30—1st Sunday after Christmas
- Dec. 31—First Sunday after Christmas  
New Year's Eve.



"Carols on the Square" Dec. 7, 6:30 pm  
Reading of the Christmas Story  
Christmas Choir

Singing of Carols  
Visit The Gaston Co. Museum & enjoy refreshments after program

FOOD FOR THE MONTH: **Green Peas, Crackers, Peanut Butter**



Choir practice each Wednesday at 5:00 pm unless otherwise announced in the bulletin

## FLOWERS

### Flower Schedule:

- Dec. 2 Nick Vlaservich
- Dec. 9 Melinda White
- Dec. 16 Poinsettias\*
- Dec. 23 Poinsettias\*
- Dec. 30 Brady & Betty Ratchford

\*Wayne Ann Penley

Please sign up to place flowers on the altar in the glory of God and in honor or memory of your love ones for 2019



### Birthdays

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| 2 Pastor Pete    | Bryan Petzold |
| 3 Mary Feige     | Jerry Mullen  |
| 6 Kaitlyn Feige  | Katie White   |
| 6 Tiffany Cobb   | Robbie Wooten |
| 7 Jeff White     |               |
| 10 Bryan Petzold |               |
| 12 Doyle Clemmer |               |
| 25 Kathy Trudnak |               |
| 26 Julie Digh    |               |



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

### Holy Communion Schedule:

- Dec. 2: 1st Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

### Worship Service Assistance:

- Acolyte:** Nick Vlaservich
- Communion Asst:** Nick Vlaservich
- Lay Reader:** Shirlee Marazza
- Worship Asst:** Shirlee Marazza
- Greeters:** OSLC Members
- Ushers:** OSLC Members

**Collection:** Melinda White

**Board Devotions:** Dec. 17. Melinda White





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**OUTREACH MISSION**

**SHUT-INS**

**NURSING HOME RESIDENTS**

Please remember our church members who are shut-ins or reside in a nursing home\* and visit them.

**Marilyn Finger**

1150 Meadow Way Dr., Dallas

**Jerri Presley**

2604 Ole Home Trail, Dallas

(If others, please let the church office know)

<>



The Stanley Community Choir presents:

***“Singing Christmas Tree”***

Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> @ 3:00 pm  
Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 3:00 pm  
Receptions and refreshments following each performances

First Baptist Church  
409 Old Mt. Holly Rd., Stanley, NC

IT IS ALL FREE

**EVENTS for:**

**Agrape/Kure Beach**

Contact Camp Agapé:  
Telephone: 919-552-9421  
e-mail: [agape@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:agape@agapekurebeach.org)

Contact Kure Beach Lutheran:  
Telephone 910-458-0783  
e-mail: [kurebreach@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:kurebreach@agapekurebeach.org)

Web site: [www.agapekurebeach.org](http://www.agapekurebeach.org)

Directions to Camp Agapé are on the web site.

Please see calendars and other information on the bulletin board or go on-line

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*“Want to keep Christ in Christmas? Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you.”*

*Steve Maraboli*



**Events for:**

**Lutheridge -Lutherock-  
Lutherspring- Lutheranch**

Web site: [www.NovusWay.com](http://www.NovusWay.com)



**GO OUT ON A LIMB  
GET INVOLVED**

**BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT**

A positions are still open. Participate in the service of the Lord and sign up.

Sign up sheets for the 2019 calendar year are on the wall in the Education wing.  
**THANK YOU!**

+++++

2019 Church Envelops are

## A Stewardship Minute

An article in this month's Stewardship describes birds in Australia called Bowerbirds. They are called that because the male birds build "bowers" that are large shelters made of almost anything handy: straws, flowers, moss, etc. Some nests are three feet high and fascinating to see. They create these nests because they want a protected chamber where a female can lay eggs, and where babies can be born and live safely.

The article draws an analogy to John the Baptist, who prepared the way for someone special about to ap-

pear. John believed that Jesus was about to begin his great ministry, so John kept telling everyone to "Prepare the way of the Lord..." (Mk 1:3) Advent is a time to prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus. The meaning of Christmas is about God loving the people of the world so much that he gave his Son as Savior. There has never been, nor will there ever be, a greater gift than God's gift of Christ to every person on earth.

The question is this: How should we respond to such magnanimous grace? Should not our response be giving of ourselves unstintingly back to God? Surely God's love should be-

get our love back to God and to all of God's creation, including other people on Earth? Shouldn't we give a healthy portion of our time, talent, energy, and financial resources to the many arms of God's Church that help the sick, the poor, the orphans, the hungry, the unemployed and others in need?

**Prayer:** O Lord, prompt us to respond lovingly to you and to please you in all things. Amen.



## National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Proclamation

On a serene Sunday morning 76 years ago, the skies above Pearl Harbor were darkened by the bombs of Japanese forces in a surprise attack that tested the resilience of our Armed Forces and the will of our Nation. As explosions sounded and battleships burned, brave service members fought back fiercely with everything they could find. Unbeknownst to these selfless individuals, the sacrifices endured on that infamous day would galvanize America and come to symbolize the mettle of a generation.

In the wake of the bombing of our harbor and the crippling of our Pacific Fleet, there were those who declared the United States had been reduced to a third-class power. But rather than break the spirit of our Nation, the attack brought Americans together and fortified our resolve. Patriots across our country answered the call to defend our way of life at home and abroad. They crossed oceans and stormed beaches, freeing millions from the grip of tyranny and proving that our military is the greatest force for liberty and security the world has ever known. On the home front, dedicated civilians supported the war effort by repairing wrecked battleships, working in factories, and joining civilian defense organizations to help with salvage programs and plant Victory gardens. At this time of great strife, we reminded the world there is no challenge we cannot meet; there is no challenge we cannot overcome.

On National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, we honor the more than 3,500 Americans killed or wounded during that deadly attack and pay tribute to the heroes whose courage ensured our Nation would recover from this vicious blow. Their tenacity helped define the Greatest Generation and their valor fortified all who served during World War II. As a Nation, we look to December 7, 1941, to draw strength from the example set by these patriots and to honor all who have sacrificed for our freedoms. The Congress, by Public Law 103-308, as amended, has designated December 7 of each year as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day."

## 1890s Historic Christmas Village December 8, 2018 10:00 am-4:00pm

Gaston County Historical Preservation Commission and Gaston County Parks and Recreation present the 8th Annual 1890's Heritage Village Christmas, a celebration of what Christmas was like for the majority of Gaston County residents at the turn of the 20th Century. This free Christmas celebration will be held in the 1890's Heritage Village at Dallas Park (1303 Dallas - Cherryville 15, Dallas, NC 28034). On Saturday, December 8, 2018 from 2:10:00 am- 4:00 p.m., visitors can enjoy Christmas as it may have been during the 1890's and early 1900's here in Gaston County. At this event, visitors will discover what the blacksmith did during the winter, what kinds of mill songs were popular then, what a typical farm/mill house looked like during Christmas, and sing Christmas carols in the Chapel. Hot cider, hot chocolate and cookies will be served from the house kitchen. There will be a holiday craft for the kids, and carriage rides through the park (rides will be available for a fee). It just might be a white Christmas at the Heritage Village. Although simple, the holidays were meaningful. We hope to convey that to our visitors. For more information on the th Annual 1890's Heritage Village Christmas Celebration, please contact Josh Henderson at Gaston County Parks & Recreation at 704-922-2163





# Church News



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**GASTON TOGETHER'S CLERGY & CITIZENS COALITION**

December 4, 2016  
 8:30 to Noon  
 Clinton Room, Gaston Memorial Hospital  
 Breakfast before meeting, if you wish  
 ~~~~~

**"Carols on the Square"**

Dec. 8, 6:30 pm  
 Reading the Christmas Story  
 Gentlemen Songster  
 Christmas Choir  
 Singing of Carols  
 Santa  
 Refreshments

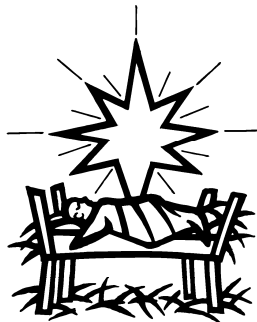


~~~~~  
**DALLAS  
 CHRISTMAS  
 PARADE**

**DECEMBER 14  
 4:00 PM**



**Holiday Open House at the Gaston Museum  
 form 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm after the Dallas  
 Parade. Sugar Cookie and hot cider will be  
 served.**



REMEMBER  
**THE CHILD**

If you need a Pastor, please contact Pastor Pete Feige at 704-516-2805 or our office at 704-922-4648. Check out our website at [oslc-nc.org](http://oslc-nc.org) or email us at [oslcdallas@aol.com](mailto:oslcdallas@aol.com).



**CLWRACHEL GROUP**

will meet at the home of Betty Clemmer Dec. 10 at 12:30 pm

*"Christmas Luncheon"*

**LET US PRAY...** "Are any among you suffering? They should pray...The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up." (James 5:13-15)



MARGARET Addington (Brady Ratchford's sister and friends of the community), SUSAN Aderholt, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), BRAXTON Bearden (friend of the Locketts), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), KAREN Brady, HARDY Feige (Pete's dad - chronic back pain, JOE Glenn (Melinda White's father), JASON Hames (friend of the White's) DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), ROBERT L. McCanless, Jr. (failing health - Charles McCanless' father), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), MARY O'Shea (co-worker of Melinda White's). EDITH Paysour, LAW-RANCE Paysour (friend of Ratchford's), RIVER Peedin (Ursela Peedin's great-grandson- leukemia), JANICE and JOHNNY Pendleton (grandparents of Raygan Carpenter - Janice has strokes), KEENAN Pfeifer (hip replacement), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), JERRIE Presley, GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), KELLY Walters (mother of Brie Murray), LISA Walters (Brie and Emma Murray's aunt -cancer), MELINDA White, ANNE White (niece of Betty Ratchford-breast cancer), NANCY Wilson (neck and foot).



**Annual Report**

With the year end close in sight it will be here before we can say Happy New Year.



Please start working on your Annual Reports, Scheduled for Team Meeting dates, and Looking Ahead activities, such as: Group Meeting, VBS, Conventions, etc. Please submit by Jan. 15, 2019.

# Christ Bell

## THE BELL

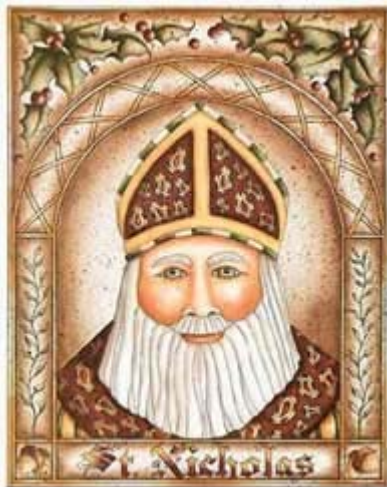
### I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)  
 I am Christ's friend (John 15:15 )  
 I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)  
 I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)  
 I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)  
 I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)  
 I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)  
 I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)  
 I am free forever from condemnation ( Rom. 8: 1-2)  
 I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3:20)  
 I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)  
 I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)  
 I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)  
 I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)  
 I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)  
 I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22 )  
 I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28 )  
 I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16 )  
 I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12 )  
 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)  
 I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)  
 I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)  
 I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).. I have been justified (Romans 5:1)  
 I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)  
 I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)  
 I have been redeemed and forgiven ( Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)  
 I belong to God  
 Do you know  
 Who you are?

*Candlelight  
Service*



*Sunday, December 24*  
*at*  
*7:00 pm*



## Who is St. Nicholas

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his

whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made of while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to the those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Under the Roman Emperor , who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests, and deacons, there was no room for the real criminals—murderers, thieves and robbers. After his release, Nicholas attended the in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church, where a unique , called , formed in his grave. This liquid substance, said to have healing powers, fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration.

Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need.

One of the oldest stories showing St. Nicholas as a protector of children takes place long after his death. The townspeople of Myra were celebrating the good on the eve of his feast day when a band of Arab pirates from Crete came into the district. They stole treasures from the Church of Saint Nicholas to take away as booty. As they were leaving town, they snatched a young boy, Basilios, to make into a slave. The emir, or ruler, selected Basilios to be his personal cupbearer, as not knowing the language, Basilios would not understand what the king said to those around him. So, for the next year Basilios waited on the king, bringing his wine in a beautiful golden cup. For Basilios' parents, devastated at the loss of their only child, the year passed slowly, filled with grief. As the next St. Nicholas' feast day approached, Basilios' mother would not join in the festivity, as it was now a day of tragedy. However, she was persuaded to have a simple observance at home—with quiet prayers for Basilios' safekeeping. Meanwhile, as Basilios was fulfilling his tasks serving the emir, he was suddenly whisked up and away. St. Nicholas appeared to the terrified boy, blessed him, and set him down at his home back in Myra. Imagine the joy and wonderment when Basilios amazingly appeared before his parents, still holding the king's golden cup. This is the first story told of St. Nicholas protecting children—which became his primary role in the West.

## Santa Claus vs Saint Nicholas.

Everybody loves Santa Claus. He embodies holiday cheer, happiness, fun, and gifts—warm happy aspects of the Christmas season. How do Santa Claus and St. Nicholas differ?

- Santa Claus belongs to childhood; St. Nicholas models for all of life.
- Santa Claus, as we know him, developed to boost Christmas sales—the commercial Christmas message; St. Nicholas told the story of Christ and peace, goodwill toward all—the hope-filled Christmas message.
- Santa Claus encourages consumption; St. Nicholas encourages compassion.
- Santa Claus appears each year to be seen and heard for a short time; St. Nicholas is part of the communion of , surrounding us always with prayer and example.
- Santa Claus flies through the air—from the North Pole; St. Nicholas walked the earth—caring for those in need.
- Santa Claus, for some, replaces the Babe of Bethlehem; St. Nicholas, for all, points to the Babe of Bethlehem.
- Santa Claus isn't bad; St. Nicholas is just better.

—J. Rosenthal & C. Myers



With our hands we give gifts that money can buy,  
Diamonds that sparkle like stars in the sky,  
But only the heart can give away  
The gift of peace and a perfect day.  
**Helen Steiner Rice.**

May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless his people with peace!  
Psalms 29:11

Today, ask yourself, "If I were gift wrapped as a package for Jesus, would He be pleased to receive me? Do I concentrate too much on the outward wrappings and not enough on what's inside?"

## God & "The 3 Mistakes"

What God did at Pearl Harbor that day is interesting and I never knew this little bit of history.

Tour boats ferry people out to the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii every thirty minutes. We just missed a ferry and had to wait thirty minutes. I went into a small gift shop to kill time.

In the gift shop, I purchased a small book entitled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor" by Admiral Chester Nimitz. Sunday, December 7th, 1941--Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington, DC. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the phone. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet. Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941.

There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat--you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war. On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked. As the Admiral's tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?"

Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice. Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?"

Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?"

Nimitz explained:

"Mistake number one: The Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

Mistake number two: When the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

Mistake number three: Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply

That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or, God was taking care of America .

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it. In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredericksburg, Texas -- he was a born optimist. But any way you look at it--Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism."

President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat

There is a reason that our national motto is, "IN GOD WE TRUST".

Why have we forgotten?

**PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY! "In God We Trust"!**

## Daily Bible reading guide from NALC, LCMS and LCC

*Reading the Word of God*, a daily Bible reading guide, has been prepared for Lutherans to use over the next three years.

The North American Lutheran Church has joined with the Lutheran Church-Canada and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to compile a three-year plan of *daily* Bible readings and a year-long series of *weekly* readings on Martin Luther's approach to the Scriptures.

### Daily readings

The daily readings are listed on calendars for **2018**, **2019** and **2020**. The plan provides a guide that will take the reader through the entire Old Testament one time in three years, with the exception of Psalms, which are read twice each year. The New Testament will be read twice in the three years.

A reading from the Old Testament, a psalm (or portion of a psalm) and a reading from the New Testament are assigned for each day. Certain church festivals - Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and so forth - have readings appointed for the specific occasion.

# December

| Sun                                                                                                                         | Mon                                                                                                                          | Tue                                                                                                                   | Wed                                                                        | Thu                                                                             | Fri                                                                                | Sat                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                       |                                                                            |                                                                                 |                                                                                    | <b>1</b><br><i>Joshua 16:1-17:2</i><br><i>Ps. 124</i><br><i>Acts 4:23-31</i> |
| <b>2</b> <i>Advent Begins</i><br><i>Jeremiah 33:14-16</i><br><i>Ps. 25</i><br><i>1 Thess 3:9-13</i><br><i>Luke 21:25-36</i> | <b>3</b><br><i>Joshua 17:3-18</i><br><i>Ps. 125</i><br><i>Acts 4:32-37</i>                                                   | <b>4</b><br><i>Joshua 18</i><br><i>Ps. 126</i><br><i>Acts 5:1-16</i>                                                  | <b>5</b><br><i>Joshua 19:1-31</i><br><i>Ps. 127</i><br><i>Acts 5:17-42</i> | <b>6</b><br><i>Joshua 19:32-51</i><br><i>Ps. 128</i><br><i>Acts 6:1-7</i>       | <b>7</b><br><i>Joshua 20</i><br><i>Ps. 129</i><br><i>Acts 6:8-15</i>               | <b>8</b><br><i>Joshua 21:1-19</i><br><i>Ps. 130</i><br><i>Acts 7:1-34</i>    |
| <b>9</b><br><i>Joshua 21:1-19</i><br><i>Ps. 130</i><br><i>Acts 7:1-34</i>                                                   | <b>10</b><br><i>Joshua 22:1-20</i><br><i>Ps. 132</i><br><i>Acts 7:54-8:8</i>                                                 | <b>11</b><br><i>Joshua 22:21-34</i><br><i>Ps. 133</i><br><i>Acts 8:9-25</i>                                           | <b>12</b><br><i>Joshua 23</i><br><i>Ps. 134</i><br><i>Acts 8:26-40</i>     | <b>13</b><br><i>Joshua 24:1-18</i><br><i>Ps. 135:1-12</i><br><i>Acts 9:1-19</i> | <b>14</b><br><i>Joshua 24:19-33</i><br><i>Ps. 135:13-21</i><br><i>Acts 9:19-31</i> | <b>15</b><br><i>Judges 1:1-21</i><br><i>Ps. 136</i><br><i>Acts 9:32-10:8</i> |
| <b>16</b><br><i>Judges 1:22-2:5</i><br><i>Ps. 137</i><br><i>Acts 10:9-23</i>                                                | <b>17</b><br><i>Judges 2:6-30</i><br><i>Ps. 138</i><br><i>Acts 10:24-33</i>                                                  | <b>18</b><br><i>Judges 3:7-31</i><br><i>Ps. 139</i><br><i>Acts 10:34-48</i>                                           | <b>19</b><br><i>Judges 4</i><br><i>Ps. 140</i><br><i>Acts 11:1-18</i>      | <b>20</b><br><i>Judges 5:1-15</i><br><i>Ps. 141</i><br><i>Acts 11:19-30</i>     | <b>21</b><br><i>Judges 5:16-31</i><br><i>Ps. 142</i><br><i>Acts 12:1-17</i>        | <b>22</b><br><i>Judges 6:1-18</i><br><i>Ps. 143</i><br><i>Acts 12:18-25</i>  |
| <b>23</b><br><i>Judges 6:10-40</i><br><i>Ps. 144</i><br><i>Acts 13:1-12</i>                                                 | <b>24</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i><br><i>Isaiah 7:10-14</i><br><i>Ps. 110:1-4</i><br><i>1 John 4:7-16</i><br><i>Matt 1:18-25</i> | <b>25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i><br><i>Isaiah 52:7-10</i><br><i>Ps. 2</i><br><i>Hebrew 1:1-16</i><br><i>John 1:1-14</i> | <b>26</b><br><i>Judges 7</i><br><i>Ps. 145</i><br><i>Acts 13:13-41</i>     | <b>27</b><br><i>Judges 8:1-21</i><br><i>Ps. 146</i><br><i>Acts 13:42-47</i>     | <b>28</b><br><i>Judges 8:22-35</i><br><i>Ps. 147</i><br><i>Acts 13:48-14:7</i>     | <b>29</b><br><i>Judges 9:1-21</i><br><i>Ps. 148</i><br><i>Acts 14:8-18</i>   |
| <b>30</b><br><i>Judges 9:22-33</i><br><i>Ps. 149</i><br><i>Acts 14:19-24</i>                                                | <b>31</b><br><i>Judges 9:33-57</i><br><i>Ps. 150</i><br><i>Acts 15:1-21</i>                                                  | <b>NEW<br/>YEAR'S<br/>EVE</b>                                                                                         |                                                                            |                                                                                 |                                                                                    |                                                                              |





Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
 P.O. Box 457  
 725 Gastonia Technology Parkway  
 Dallas, NC 28034



# Christmas Worship Schedule

Dec. 2.....1st Sunday of Advent.....11:00 am  
 Holy Communion  
*"Hanging of the Greens"*

Dec. 9..... 2nd Sunday of Advent... .11:00 am

Dec. 16..... 3rd Sunday of Advent.....11:00 am

Dec. 23..... 4th Sunday of Advent.....11:00 am

Dec. 24.....Christmas Eve  
 Candle Light Service.... 7:00 pm  
 Holy Communion

Dec. 25.....Christmas Day .....*Merry Christmas*

De-  
 cember  
 2018