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Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XVII, Issue XII

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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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The Scandal and Good News of Christmas: God In The Flesh

“While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her first born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

Luke 2:6-7

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.” — John 1:14

The true story of John Reed who lived near Concord, NC on a large farm in the 1700's is an ironic, fascinating and insightful story that illustrates some of life's essential truths. As the drama goes, some of the Reed children were playing in a nearby creek when they spotted what appeared to be a large, shiny rock. Intrigued by the curious and strange looking rock, the children decided to dig it from the creek bed and take it home. Upon their arrival back home, they promptly showed the strange, shiny rock to their parents, who also found it intriguing, odd looking and unusually heavy for its size. Yet, no one seemed to have a clue as to what kind of rock it might be. The general consensus regarded it as an old creek rock that was too pretty to throw away be too useless for much of anything. For nearly a year or so, the odd, shiny, worthless rock served as a door stop in the Reed house. It wasn't until a passing salesman happened to be visiting the Reed family and caught a glimpse of the shiny creek rock. Suspecting that it might be something of value, the visitor encouraged Mr. Reed to take the rock into a nearby town and have it examined by either a stone cutter or jeweler. Upon examination by a jeweler, the shiny creek stone turned out to be **a seventeen pound gold nugget**. Several other similar gold nuggets were later found on the Reed farm which eventually resulted in the once famous “Reed Gold Mine.”

Sometimes, our attitude toward the Christmas Story and the birth of Jesus is similar to that of the Reed family's attitude toward the shiny, odd looking creek stone that initially seemed to be of little or now value. “Is it already Christmas again?” “Oh my goodness, we've seen and heard the Christmas story so many times over it seems as flat and routine as a broken record.” It is just an old story about the birth of a Jewish boy to an obscure set of peasant parent in a backward, mediocre, arid and marginal culture that had little wealth and even less prestige as the world measures things. Big deal! So what?”

However, the birth of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem where there was little room and even less respect underscores the very center of the scandal surrounding Christmas. How utterly unthinkable it must have seemed to many. The God and creator of all things, seen and unseen, would be the same God who would choose to enter into the messiness, the grubbiness, the brokenness, the vile and the filthy stench of a fallen humanity and dwell among people of sure low esteem in order to heal, save and redeem them. Yet the scandal and absurdity of God in the flesh takes on new meaning and significance as we hear an sense God's redeeming presence among us. Amidst the scandal of the incarnation (God in the flesh) we see the word make flesh, dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. God's commitment to heal and redeem a fallen world, not with hatred, violence and revenge but with suffering and vulnerable love, becomes the ultimate truth around which all other truths take their rightful place. This becomes the truth that brings forth hope out of despair, light out of darkness, peace out of violence and life out of **death**. This Christmas Season, we invite you to join us here at Our Saviour as we celebrate the Good News of God's Redeeming love made visible in the birth of the Christ Child.

Christmas Hardships

by: Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

"Do you really expect me to go to Bethlehem?" Joseph banged down his chisel on the scarred bench.

Ephraim, his cousin, had just entered the low workshop. "You don't have a choice, Joseph. If you don't go the Romans will confiscate your house and your precious tools. Just try to carve a yoke with your fingernails."

"What are we, cowards?" the carpenter retorted. "Mark my words, Ephraim, this 'Enroll-in-your-ancestral-city' business is nothing more than a way to squeeze more taxes out of us. If we give into those foreign tyrants now they'll just be back for more money." "What's more," Joseph continued, "you're crazy if you think I'd take Mary on a trip this month. She'd probably have the baby on the way!"

"Couldn't you just leave her with your mother for a couple of weeks? She'd be all right. Nobody says the women have to go. It's the heads of households who have to register."

"Register, hah! Be taxed, you mean."

"So why not leave her at home?"

Joseph brushed the woodchips aside and motioned for his cousin to sit down. The carpenter spoke in a low but earnest voice. "Mary's aunt has made life miserable for her ever since she found out Mary was pregnant. Some people were willing to let it go. Not Tabitha."

"She got my wife all stirred up about it," Ephraim volunteered.

"Not just your wife. Most of the women in this town go out of their way to avoid her. At the village well they whisper, 'Little slut!' just loud enough for her to hear. Many days she's come running home in tears." "People sure can be cruel," Ephraim said. "At least you and Mary went ahead and got married." Joseph bit his lip, but didn't say more.

Ephraim got up. "Well, you are going to Bethlehem, aren't you? You'd be a fool to get the Romans on your back. You know what they did to old Ben." Joseph stood up slowly. "Yes, I'll go. But Mary will have to come along. There's no way I'd leave her in Nazareth by herself!" However, when Joseph talked to Mary about it, she didn't seem nearly as sure as her husband. "How could I walk all that way?" she said, "I waddle now. I just can't make it." "Mary, we'll bring old Jake. You can ride him when you get tired." "Have you ever ridden on Jake?" "Well, no." "That animal is the most bony, jolting mule in Nazareth. I'd rather walk!" She did ride, though ... some of the way. Joseph would finally stop for the day when Mary just couldn't take any more. He'd help her down off Jake, then he'd fix a fire while she would unload their heavy blankets and try to find some shelter under a tree or large rock.

Mary would always be the center of attention among the few women traveling that time of year. "I remember when I was carrying Levi," one would start. "Made my feet swell. I

couldn't do anything for months." "That's nothing," replied another, "my sister got so big everyone thought she was carrying twins. But her time came there was only one baby. Died though."

Joseph glanced over at Mary in the flickering firelight. He could see fear flit across her face. Her hands moved to her swollen belly so she could feel the baby's reassuring kick. The women didn't notice. The first one went on, "Oh, the pain's so awful! I'm glad I'm too old to have any more babies." Joseph put his arm around Mary's shoulders and pulled her close. Only one more night on the road before Bethlehem.

They reached the sleepy village of Joseph's ancestors just about dusk the fifth day. Joseph went to the inn and nearby houses trying to find a place to sleep. "God," he whispered as he combed the town, "can't you find us a decent place to have this baby?" Nothing.

All at once he saw Mary's face tighten. She tried to suppress a groan as she fought with the pain. It was a long moment before she relaxed, but he could see worry written all over her. Joseph went back to the innkeeper again. "Are you sure there isn't any room? My wife's about to have a baby. We've got to find a place out of this wind tonight!" The innkeeper thought a while. "Did you try the house at the end of the street? They sometimes take people in." "I tried an hour ago." "Any relatives in town? Any second cousins?" "No."

Mary was shivering now, in obvious discomfort. "Joseph," she said weakly, "I've got to lie down somewhere." "Well, there's the stable in the back," offered the innkeeper at long last. "Of course, it's full of animals from all the visitors in town for that blasted Roman census. But if you can find a place in the corner, I guess that'd be okay." He paused. "Just don't keep the animals awake all night." It was the other way around. The dozen donkeys in the strange barn never stopped moving. And the smell was overpowering to Mary who had been fighting nausea as her pains got stronger.

In the wee hours of the morning Joseph knocked on the innkeeper's door again. "What do you want this time of night?" the innkeeper snarled when he finally came to the door. "Is there a midwife in town?" "Oh, it's you. A midwife? Yes, old Martha lives in a little house about three blocks from here. You go down the main road, turn left at the two-story house, and go to the alley. You can't miss it. You go down the alley and across the pasture. She lives in a shack just behind the third house after that."

"I ... I really don't think I should leave my wife. Her pains are coming awfully fast now.... Could you go?" "Jonathan!" the innkeeper yelled into his darkened house. "Get up and fetch old Martha. A lady's having a baby in the barn. Hurry!" He turned to Joseph as he closed the door. "Have some pity, man. My whole family's awake now."



(Hardship cont'd on page 3)

(Hardship cont'd from page 2)

Pretty soon the door opened again and a young lad ran off in the chilly air. After a while he returned, walking slowly so he wouldn't outdistance the old midwife whose arthritis certainly didn't to take to cold winter nights. The boy was shivering by the time he got to the stable.

"Here's Martha, sir," he muttered quickly, and darted back into the warmth of his house. The old lady put them at ease right away. She had Joseph fetch water and cloths from the innkeeper. It must have been nearly two in the morning by the time the baby came, and another hour before Joseph dug into his robe for a few coins to give the old woman as she hobbled away.

Then he returned to his wife and took her hand as they looked into the puffy face of their son. Alone at last. "I'm so tired, Joseph," Mary said, settling back into the blanket-covered straw. The baby finally stopped crying and drifted off to sleep.

Joseph stirred a few minutes later as some men peered from the darkness into the lamp-lit stable. He nudged Mary awake and reached for his staff. "What do you want?" Joseph said to the men in a forced whisper. "Don't wake the baby." "We're shepherds," one called out. The baby started crying.

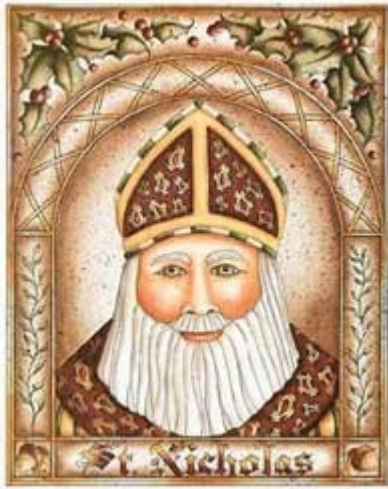
"We saw angels out on the hills an hour ago." The entire story tumbled out as the shepherds edged into the stable to see the baby. Joseph relaxed his grip on the staff. The shepherd continued, "And the angel told us, 'To you is born this day in the City of David a Savior which is Messiah the Lord.' The angel even told us about the swaddling cloths and the manger here." "The angel told you about the manger, too?" Joseph interrupted. "Oh, yes. That's how we knew where to look."

Joseph glanced over at Mary. Her eyes met his. He squeezed her hand. "This baby is the Messiah, isn't he?" Joseph said quietly. "After all these hassles I had started to question. But..." He paused. "It's almost like God planned the whole thing: the trip neither of us wanted to take." He chuckled. "He must have seen you on bony old Jake." Joseph laughed out loud. "Even this smelly old barn and it's manger."

He stood up, still chuckling. "What do you know? In spite of the problems--no, in the midst of the problems--God's been at work all along."

WHAT'S IN A CANDY CANE?





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 to much on the outward wrappings and not enough on what's inside?"

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 Garnier 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.

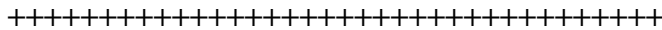


Candlelight Service



December 24 at 7:00 pm

NO CHURCH SERVICE ON DECEMBER 25



The Christ of Christmas

- C** Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord.
- H** Holy Child of virgin born, Him we greet this Christmas morn.
- R** Redeemer of the world art thou; Rescue us from Satan's power
- I** Immanuel, Incarnate Son, In our hearts, now make your home
- S** Seed of David, Son of Man, Son of God, the great I Am.
- T** Teacher both by word and deed, Truth and life by Him revealed.
- M** Man of Sorrows, Lamb of God, Master, Lord, accept our laud.
- A** Alpha and Omega, Friend. Always with us to the end.
- S** Savior of the world is He, Seek Him now on bended knee.

The Original King-Sized Bed!!



Thank God for that bed and The Baby who slept there

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE.

The best and sweetest things in life are things you cannot buy:

The music of the bird at dawn, the rainbow in the sky.

The dazzling magic of the stars, the miracle of light.

The precious gifts of health and strength, of hearing, speech and sight.

The peace of mind that crowns a busy life of work well done.

A faith in God tha deepens as you face the setting sun.

The boon of love, , the joy of friendship. As the years go by, you find the greatest blessings are the things you cannot but.

—Patience Strong



Bible Quiz

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.



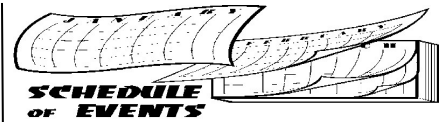
Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)



December 2022



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Food Collection				1	Let's Go to Candle	3
4 Second Sunday of Advent	5 Team Mtg.	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8	9	10
11 Third Sunday of Advent	12	13 Rachel Group	14	15	16	17
18 Fourth Sunday of Advent	19	20 Prayer Group	21 Winter is here!	22	23	24 Candlelight Service
25 NO SERVICE	26	27	28	29	30	31 Looking Toward New Year

- Dec. 2—Carols n the Square (see below)
- Dec. 4— 2nd Sunday of Advent
Congregational Meeting (Approving 2120 Budget)
- Dec. 5—Team Meeting 7:00 pm
- Dec. 7—Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (see p 7)
- Dec 11—Dallas Parade 3:00 pm
- Dec. 11—3rd Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 13— Rachel Group will meet at the home of Betty Clemmer at 12:30 pm—Christmas Luncheon & Program
- Dec. 18—4th Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 20—Prayer Group will meet at Home of Shirlee Marazza at 1:30 pm
- Dec. 21—Winter begins
- Dec. 24— *Christmas Eve Candle Light Service* Communion
- Dec. 25—The Birth of Jesus Christ
NO SERVICE
- Dec. 31—New Year's Eve.

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



Choir practice each Wednesday at 4:00 pm unless otherwise announced in the bulletin



"Carols on the Square" Dec. 2, 6:30 pm
Reading of the Christmas Story
Christmas Choir
Singing of Carol
Visit The Gaston Co. Museum & enjoy refreshments after program

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- Dec. 4 Melinda White
- Dec. 11 Poinsettias*
- Dec. 18 Poinsettias*
- Dec. 25 NO SERVICE

*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 2023



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 | |



Holy Communion Schedule:

All Sundays and
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

Worship Service Assistance:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| <u>Acolyte:</u> | Nora Cole |
| <u>Communion</u> | |
| <u>Asst:</u> | Nora Cole |
| <u>Lay Reader:</u> | Yvonne Finger |
| <u>Worship Asst:</u> | Yvonne Finger |
| <u>Greeters:</u> | OSLC Members |
| <u>Ushers:</u> | OSLC Members |
|
 | |
| <u>Collection:</u> | Melinda White |

Board Devotions:





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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
2701 Jackson Square, Andersin, SC 29625

Jill Petzold
Brookdale Senior Living, Rm 44,
1680 S. New Hope Rd., Gastonia, NC 28054

(If others, please let the church office know)



EVENTS for:

Agape/Kure Beach

Contact Camp Agapé:
Telephone: 919-552-9421
e-mail: agape@agapekurebeach.org
Contact Kure Beach Lutheran:
Telephone 910-458-0783
e-mail: kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org

Web site: 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

“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



That’s Not My JOB!”

This is a story about four people named **Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that, because it was **Everybody’s** job. Everyone thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn’t do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have.

Author Unknown.



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 2023 calendar year are on the wall in the Education wing.



**2023 Church Envelops are
On table in hallway.**



A Stewardship Minute

In the December issue of *Stewardship* there is a moving story about a child who wanted to give a Christmas gift to Christ. The young boy had waited until the Christmas Eve service was over and then handed the gift to an usher explaining that it was a gift for Jesus. When the usher saw the pastor passing by, he handed the bulging envelope to him explaining that it was a gift for the Lord offered by a little boy.

Opening the envelope, the clergyman found a small toy car. Instantly, he surmised that the child had given a gift that was very important to him; a

present from his mind, his heart, and his hand. This is what true giving is all about; offering to God what matters to us most: our hearts, our minds, our talents, our time, and our talents.

Christmas is a joyous time. But it should also be a challenging time when we consider how we should respond to God's precious gift of Christ to us. The hymn "In the Bleak Midwinter," written in the 19th century by a woman named Christina Rossetti, sums up what we should give Christ at Christmas in the fourth stanza:

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring*

a lamb; If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet What I can I give him: give my heart.

Prayer: God, you are the greatest giver we can imagine. You gave us your dear Son, our Lord and Savior. Help us, loving God, to willingly give you our hearts in totality. **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."

The Season of Christmas

The Lord is come!

Christmas shouts, one of the happiest times of the year. The message of Christmas is that when the Lord who was promised to come did come, the way he did it was as a baby, a human being just like us. Angels were sent to announce his coming to the shepherds near Bethlehem, the ancient "city of David," named after Israel's greatest king (and most famous shepherd).

Others learned about his coming, too—Simeon and Anna in the temple, the temple Jesus visited with Mary and Joseph when he was an infant, and again when he was twelve years old, the temple he called "my Father's house."

The celebration of the of the Christmas season moves naturally from the coming of the shepherds to the coming of the wise men.

The Little Season of Christmas

The twelve days of Christmas from December 25 through January 5 are our opportunity to celebrate God's greatest gift to us and the hope that he brings into a world troubled by unrest, hunger and darkness. December 26 is the festival of St. Stephen, deacon and first martyr (Act 7). December 27 is the festival of St. John, the apostle and Gospel writer. December 28 is the day of the Holy Innocents, who were the boy children of Bethlehem killed by Harold's soldiers as they searched for the baby Jesus. On January 1st we celebrate the Name of Jesus. The days of Christmas end on January 5, Twelfth night, the Eve of the Epiphany of our Lord.



Church News



“Carols on the Square”

Dec. 2, 6:30 pm

Reading the Christmas Story

Gentlemen Songster

Christmas Choir

Singing of Carols

Santa

Refreshments



DALLAS CHRISTMAS PARADE

DECEMBER 11

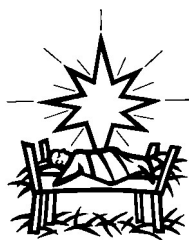
3:00 PM



**Holiday Open House
at the Gaston Museum**

form 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm

**after the Dallas Parade. Sugar Cookie and hot
cider will be served.**



REMEMBER
THE CHILD

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, 2022.

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 or email us at oslcdallas@aol.com.



CLWRACHEL GROUP

will meet at the home of Betty Clemmer Dec. 13 at 12:30 pm

“Christmas Luncheon”



PRAYER GROUP

Will meet in the home of Shirlee Marazza at 1:30 pm



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, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley’s), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease’s), KATHY Bohanan (cancer) , RONDA Bradley (Marsha Patton’s mom, surgery for neck fusion), KAREN Brady, MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten’s uncle), STEVE Cloninger (friend of Brady Ratchford-cancer), ROB Curley (cancer), STEVE Digh (cancer), HARDY Feige (Pete’s dad – chronic back pain), GLEEN Fraizer (friend of Steve & Julie Digh - cancer), NANCY Friday, DON Gardner (John Patton’s uncle -cancer in lung, liver, stomach, & pancreas), BECKY Goodwin (friend of Brady’s – cancer), JASON Hames (friend of the White’s), GRACE Harbin (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), ANDERSON Jones (friend of Penny Wilson-paralyzed by fall), JEFF Lineberger (stroke), DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), JACK Lonon (Kasey Digh’s step-father-cancer), MARINA Marazza (Shirlee Marazza’s granddaughter-Long Haul Covid19), BO Messick (foot), FRANCIS McAllister (broken hip), CHRIS Messick (recovering back surgery), JASON, ALLISON & LEX Murray, ELIZABETH Mustin (rare breast cancer), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), TERI Trudnak, RONNIE Shiles (friend of Brady Ratchford-declining health), MARTHA Surratt (friend of Alice Vlaservich-cancer). TONY Trudnak (cancer reoccurring), STEVE Trudnak (lung cancer), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), ALICE Vlaservich (fluid), TIM Vaughan (friend of Robbie Wooten-declining health). JOE White (stroke), MELINDA White (blood cancer.), NANCY Wilson, REESE Wilson (blood cancer). MARY BETH Wright (cousin of Nick Vlaservich -cancer).

FACTS ABOUT DECEMBER

December is the twelfth and last month of the year according to the Gregorian calendar. This is used in almost all the world today. It was the tenth month in the early Roman calendar. It became the twelfth month in a later Roman calendar. Until 46 B.C., December only had 29 days. But the Roman statesman Julius Caesar added two days to December, which made it 31 days.

In the northern half of the world, Winter begins in December. Winter does not begin until December 21 or 22, and most of December is usually warmer than other winter months. .

New England observe December 21 as **Forefathers' Day** in honor of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth on Dec. 21, 1620.

People in several European countries celebrate December 6 as the **Feast of Saint Nicholas**. **Christmas Day** is celebrated on December 25 in many places, including the United States.

Some Christian churches observe the **Feast of Saint Stephen** on December 26, the **Feast of Saint John the Evangelist** on December 27, and **Holy Innocents' Day** on December 28.

- The turquoise and zircon are the birthstones for December.
- Holly, narcissus, and poinsettia are the flowers for the month of December.

IMPORTANT DECEMBER EVENTS

- **Dec. 2, 1823**, President James Monroe proclaimed the Monroe Doctrine in his message to Congress
- **1942** Scientists achieved the first controlled atomic chain reaction in Chicago
- **Dec. 3, 1818**, Illinois admitted to the Union
- **1923**, Maria Callas, American-born opera singer, born
- **1967**, First human heart transplant performed by Christian Barnard, South African surgeon
- **Dec. 5, 1776**, Phi Beta Kappa, honorary scholastic society, founded at the College of William and Mary
- **1782**, Martin Van Buren, eighth President of the United States, born at Kinderhook, N.Y
- **1901**, Motion-picture producer Walt Disney born
- **1933**, Amendment 21 to the United States Constitution, repealing prohibition, proclaimed
- **Dec. 6**, Celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas
- **1864**, Columbus discovered Hispaniola.
- **Dec. 7, 1787**, Delaware ratified the Constitution
- **1941**, Japanese forces attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii in World War II,
- **Dec. 8, 1765**, Eli Whitney, inventor of toothed cotton gin, born
- **1886**, The American Federation of Labor organized
- **Dec. 10, 1830**, Emily Dickinson, American poet, born
- **1817**, Mississippi admitted to the Union
- **1869**, The Territory of Wyoming authorized women to vote and hold office
- **1898**, Spain ceded Philippines to the United States
- **Dec. 11, 1816**, Indiana admitted to the Union
- **1936**, Edward VIII of Great Britain abdicated .

- **Dec. 12, 1745**, John Jay, American diplomat, born
- **1787**, Pennsylvania ratified the Constitution
- **1901**, Guglielmo Marconi received the first radio signal sent across the Atlantic Ocean,
- **Dec. 13, 1545**, The Council of Trent opened
- **Dec. 14, 1799**, George Washington died at Mt. Vernon
- **1819**, Alabama admitted to the Union
- **1896**, James Doolittle, American air pioneer and air force general, born
- **Dec. 15, 1791**, The first 10 amendments to the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, ratified
- **Dec. 16, 1773**, Boston Tea Party
- **1775**, Novelist Jane Austen born
- **Dec. 17, 1903**, Orville Wright made first heavier-than-air flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C .
- **1908**, Willard Libby, American chemist, born
- **Dec. 18, 1707**, Charles Wesley, English clergyman and author of many hymns
- **1787**, New Jersey ratified the Constitution
- **1865**, Amendment 13 to the U.S. Constitution, ending slavery, proclaimed
- **Dec. 19, 1777**, Continental Army camped for the winter at Valley Forge, Pa., in the Revolutionary War
- **1803**, The United States took over Louisiana
- **Dec. 20, 1620**, The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Mass.,
- **1943**, United States forces landed on Tarawa,
- **Dec. 22, 1789**, James Oglethorpe, founder of Georgia born
- **Dec. 23, 1809**, "Kit" Carson, American frontier scout, born
- **Dec. 24, 1814**, United States and Great Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent to end the War of 1812 born
- **Dec. 25**, Christmas, celebrated by Christians as the birth day of Jesus Christ
- **1642**, Isaac Newton, English scientist who discovered the law of gravitation, born
- **1776**, George Washington and his men started across the Delaware River to Trenton, N.J.,
- **1821**, Clara Barton, "Angel of the Battlefield" and founder of the American Red Cross, born
- **Dec. 26, 1776**, Battle of Trenton in the Revolutionary War
- **Dec. 27, 1837**, George Dewey, American admiral
- **1822**, Louis Pasteur, French chemist, born
- **Dec. 28, 1846**, Iowa admitted to the Union
- **Dec. 29, 1856**, Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the United States, born at Staunton, Va
- **1808**, Andrew Johnson, 17th President of the United States, born at Raleigh, N.C
- **1845**, Texas admitted to the Union
- **Dec. 30, 1853**, The United States acquired territory from Mexico in the Gadsden Purchase
- **1865**, Rudyard Kipling, British writer, born
- **1874**, British statesman Sir Winston Churchill born

DECEMBER QUOTE

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
 Their old, familiar carols play,
 And wild and sweet
 The words repeat
 Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Santa's Prayer

The sleigh was all packed, the reindeer were fed,
 But Santa still knelt by the side of the bed.
 "Dear Father," he prayed "Be with me tonight.
 There's much work to do and my schedule is tight.
 I must jump in my sleigh and streak through the sky,
 Knowing full well that a reindeer can't fly.
 I will visit each household before the first light,
 I'll cover the world and all in one night.
 With sleigh bells a-ringing, I'll land on each roof,
 Amid the soft clatter of each little hoof.
 To get in the house is the difficult part,
 So I'll slide down the chimney of each child's heart.
 My sack will hold toys to grant all their wishes.
 The supply will be endless like the loaves and the fishes.
 I will fill all the stockings and not leave a track.
 I'll eat every cookie that is left for my snack.
 I can do all these things Lord, only through You,
 I just need your blessing, then it's easy to do.
 All this is to honor the birth of the One,
 That was sent to redeem us, Your most Holy Son.
 So to all of my friends, least Your glory I rob,
 Please Lord, remind them who gave me this job."

Warren D. Jennings



Creed of the Knights of

I believe in the miracle of the
 was born as the Messiah as God's true
 Passion and the sacrifice made as a paradigm that it is truly better to give than to receive. I understand the devotion of Nicholas
 of Myra and his conviction to God's love for all mankind as an example to follow. I am a mere mortal who has no magical powers
 except the belief of loyalty to the tradition of the Advent Season that has been handed down from generation to generation to me
 by my family and friends. I acknowledge that the true basis for the celebration is the child of the manger and I promise to make
 all children happy to the best of my abilities in his name. I confirm these beliefs to myself and to the Spirit of Christmas as a
 Knight of St. Nicholas, a servant of people everywhere.

St. Nicholas

manger and the message of the child who
 gift to all mankind. I acknowledge the

What is an Advent wreath?

As Christians, we use symbols to express visually the basic tenets of our faith and as reminders of the pilgrimage of our life in Christ. Symbols can have heightened meaning for us when associated with particular seasons of that journey. One such symbol is the Advent wreath.

The Advent wreath has its roots in the pre-Christian practices of northern Europe. People sought the return of the sun in the dark time of the year (at the winter solstice) by lighting candles and fires. As early as the Middle Ages, Christians used fire and light to represent Christ's coming into the world. Using this same symbolism, the Advent wreath developed a few centuries ago in Germany as a sign of the waiting and hopeful expectation of the return in glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. The wreath, a circle, came to represent the eternal victory over death through Jesus Christ. The evergreens were a sign of the faithfulness of God to God's people, even in death, and the lighted candles were a reminder of the light of Christ brought into the world.

This symbolism can be just as strong for us today. As is the case with all symbols, they speak most loudly to remind us of God's promises of life when they are drawn directly out of our daily experience and environment. One should consider using only natural materials from God's creation when making an Advent wreath. Evergreens come in many varieties and may be treated with a flame retardant substance. Branches of holly, laurel, and other green shrubs, which retain their freshness longer than pine, may also be used. The circular shape, a symbol of eternal life, is most important. Using an alternative shape, such as a log, would diminish the meaning of the symbol, which is no longer a circle.

There is no one prescribed color for the candles, although several traditions are current. Four natural colored candles are always appropriate and symbolize the Light for which we wait. Four deep purple candles, a sign of the penitential nature sometimes attributed to the season, may be appropriate. Congregations that use blue as the liturgical color during Advent would be consistent to use blue candles. The older practice using a pink candle on the third Sunday in Advent is no longer consistent with the current lectionary.

Liturgical renewal in the last decades of this century has shifted the focus of these four weeks to one of hope and expectation of the coming of the Christ. This hope looks forward not only to celebrating the child in the manger, but even more to Christ's coming in glory at the end of time—a continuation of the eschatological emphasis of the last Sundays after Pentecost. Candles in rich royal blue are symbolic of this hope. Coincidentally, these two colors, purple and blue, have long been associated with the same ideas: the symbolic colors of royal blood and of longing; the natural colors of the dawn before the sun rises and the deep shades of midnight.

The size of the Advent wreath should be appropriate to the size of the worship space. Although the wreath should not draw attention away from the font, the table, and the ambo, it should be of sufficient size to make a strong statement about the meaning of the season. It may be hung or placed on a table or stand but it is never put on the altar.

Because the Advent wreath does not carry with it liturgical action or significance, its should be lit simply and unobtrusively, perhaps before the service when the other candles are lighted. It is also appropriate to light the candle after the Old Testament reading during the singing of the psalm or as a part of the entrance rite immediately following the entrance hymn. Blessings for the Advent wreath may be found in *Sundays and Seasons*. Some congregations like to accompany the lighting of the Advent wreath with an appropriate song. Consider using a different stanza of the same hymn, such as "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (*ELW 240*), each week.

The Advent wreath is also appropriate for daily use in home devotions. The making of the wreath can be a family activity, using materials gathered from the yard or garden.





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



December 2022



Christmas Worship Schedule

Dec. 4..... 2nd Sunday of Advent... .11:00 am

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

Dec. 18..... 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*