



Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XIX, Issue XII

December 2024

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Inside this issue:

- **Legend of Holly** 2
- Symbol of the Christmas Cross
- Legend of the Donkey's Cross
- Christmas Prayer
- Santa Prayer

- **O Holy Night** 3
- **Micah** 4
- The Deep Sigh-lent Night

- **Who is St. Nicholas** 5
- Santa Claus vs St. Nicholas

- **The Real Meaning of Xmas** 6
- **Church Calendar-Events** 7
- **Shut-Ins** 8
- 2025 Church Envelops
- Need Worship Assistants (That's Not My Job)

- **Stewardship Minutes** 9
- Pearl Harbor Day
- Jesus is Better than Santa

- **CWLI Women's Meeting** 10
- Carol on the Square
- Dallas Parade
- Annual Reports Due
- Prayer List

- **I Heard the Christmas Bells** 11
- **Stewardship** 12



Creed of the Knights of St. Nicholas

I believe in the miracle of the manger and the message of the child who was born as the Messiah as God's true gift to all mankind. I acknowledge the 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.



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



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God our Father, every year we rejoice
 As we look forward to this feast of our salvation.
 May we welcome Christ as our Redeemer,
 And meet Him with confidence when He comes to be
 Our judge, who lives and reigns with you and
 The Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever

LEGEND OF HOLLY

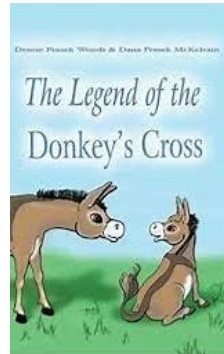


The bright red and green of holly make it a natural symbol of rebirth. Legends regarding this plant abound. According to one legend holly branches bearing white berries were woven into Christ's crown of thorns. Since the blood of Christ stained the berries, they grow red on the holly branch to this day. Holly has also come to stand for peace and joy.

SYMBOL OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE CROSS



The Christmas Tree celebrates the promise of Jesus. His Birth is symbolized by the Christ tree and yet upon another tree, the cross came His death with the promise of eternal life. The five stones are for the wounds He bore.

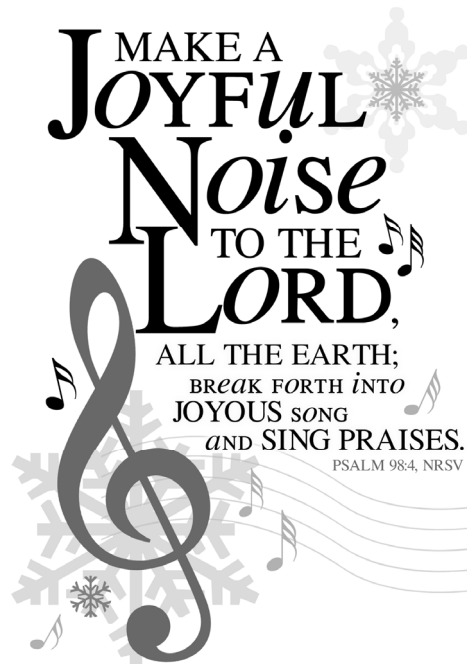


Legend tells us that the donkey that carried Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday followed Him to Calvary. Appalled by the sight of Jesus on the cross, the donkey turned away but could not leave. It is said that the shadow of the cross fell upon the shoulders and back of the donkey. A cross marking many donkeys today remains a testimony of the love and devotion of a humble, little donkey.

MAKE A
JOYFUL
Noise
 TO THE
LORD,

ALL THE EARTH;
 BREAK FORTH INTO
 JOYOUS SONG
 AND SING PRAISES.

PSALM 98:4, NRSV



O Holy Night

The Story Behind The Carol

In 1847, a French priest commissioned this beloved song for his parish. Lyricist Placide Cappeau finished his poem, and pleased with his work, he asked Adolphe Charles Adams to compose the music. The song was sung for Christmas Eve mass.

Initially, *Cantique de Noel* (the song's French name) was widely loved. Later, leaders learned Cappeau was a socialist and Adams Jew – and the song was banned from services. But the French people loved it so much, they continued to sing it.

Ten years later, John Sullivan Dwight introduced it in America. An abolitionist, he was moved by the third verse (Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother. Although banned in France, *Cantique de Noel* became popular in America.

On Christmas Eve in 1871, in the midst of fierce fighting between France and Germany during the Franco-Prussian War, an unarmed French soldier jumped out of the trenches, walked onto the battlefield, and started singing the song's first line in French. After singing all three verses, a German soldier emerged and started singing a sacred German hymn. Fighting stopped for the next 24 hours in honor of Christmas Day. Temporary peace was initiated by *O Holy Night*.

Fast forward to 1906, Reginald Fessenden figured out that by combining two frequencies, radio could do more than transmit Morse Code. It would be possible to speak! For the first time in history, a human voice was heard on the airwaves; Fessenden read the Christmas story from the book of Luke, then picked up his violin and performed *O Holy Night*.

Have you sung or read all three verses of *O Holy Night*?

Powerful!

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
 It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining
 'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth
 A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
 For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
 Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
 O night divine, O night when Christ was born
 O night, O Holy night, O night divine!



[Verse 2]

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming
 With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
 So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
 Here come the Wise Men from Orient land
 The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
 In all our trials born to be our friend
 He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger
 Behold your King; before Him lowly bend
 Behold your King; before Him lowly bend

[Verse 3]

Truly He taught us to love one another;
 His law is love and His Gospel is Peace
 Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother
 And in His name, all oppression shall cease
 Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
 Let all within us Praise His Holy name
 Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!
 His power and glory evermore proclaim
 His power and glory evermore proclaim!



Micah



For Micah keeping awake in the fields at night wasn't a problem. His mother sent him out each night with freshly pressed olive oil just-baked bread, his favorite cucumbers and some sweet dried figs. She filed a flask with water from a large urn that served the family and packed everything in her youngest son's goatskin bag.

And each night she reminded Micah that he was very dear to her as the two hundred cakes of figs Abigail had given David.

The nights were times for dreaming. As his family's flock rested in the cool air, Micah studied the stars and wondered about the life that lay ahead. His father was one of the enlightened. Micah could choose to go to school (not an option offered to his sisters) because his older brother would be expected to take charge of the family's sheep herd in years to come. It would all be very simple. He would learn a trade perhaps a baker, Then he could bring bread to his mother so she would not have to work hard.

Micah heard a sound coming from the right of the herd and caught a glimpse of a young lamb bolting from the group. The boy was a fast runner and had developed the habit of lacing his sandal strings all the way to his knees just in case that evening's duty included recapturing a woolly runaway.

How crisp the night air felt as Micah sprinted to the very edge of the meadow so as not to disturb the other lambs. Swiftly he scooped up the soft-fleeced animal in his right hand while the creature struggled to get free.

"You mustn't do that again," Micah said gently to the animal. "You'll scare" Without warning a powerful light appeared in the cobalt sky. Shielding his eyes from the golden shafts. Micah tucked the lamb onto his hip. Eve the animal quieted. "What is that star?" he asked aloud. But there came no answer. The boy continued to hold the soft animal and to stare into the heavens unable to move. Light poured from the celestial display, making the night even more beautiful than it had been just moments earlier.

And the star shone brightly throughout the night. Micah returned home the following morning still spellbound by the miraculous sight. From his brothers, he learned that heavenly display had signaled a great miracle that had taken place in the nearby town of Bethlehem a Baby Boy had been born to travelers visiting an inn.



The Deep Sigh-lent Night

by
Carrin Mahmood

This is it. The long waited for moment. For Mary, nine months of pondering and anticipation. For the Israelites, centuries of Messianic preparation. For the world, the moment the fallen creation would be re-created. Together we release our collective breath and liberate a sigh. The holy night is upon us. Nothing will ever be the same again. The hope of all time rests with a tiny infant, lying in a manger. We rise up to worship, filled with a hushed awe. The Prince of Peace has entered the scene, the stage is set, the prophesy fulfilled. Now we have the opportunity, the privilege and obligation to worship anew, to be drawn to the light, and encounter the living God. Alleluia, let praises ring. ***All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' Matthew 1:22-23.***

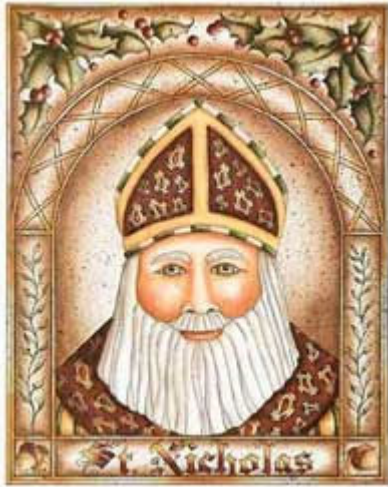
Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born
Christ, the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth "

The origin of the well known Christmas carol Silent Night was a poem written in 1816 by the Austrian priest called Joseph Mohr. On Christmas Eve in 1818 in the small alpine village called Oberndorf it is reputed that the organ at St. Nicholas Church had broken. Joseph Mohr gave the poem of Silent Night (Stille Nacht) to his friend Franz Xavier Gruber and the melody was composed with this in mind. The music was therefore intended for a guitar and the simple score





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?"

The Real Meaning Of Christmas

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really Christmas?

For many people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. They don't have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Many are saddened at Christmastime when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for various reasons. Turkey dinners may be only a wish and not a reality for some.

Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

Luke 2:4-19 says:

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." (NIV)

Why did He come? Why did God send His son to this sometimes cruel and hard world? He sent Jesus to us so that one day, He would grow up to become a very important part of history. His story (history) is one of truth, love, and hope. It brought salvation to all of us. Without Jesus, we would all die in our sins.

Jesus was born so one day the price could be paid for the things we have done that are wrong. The Bible says that all have sinned. We are all born with a sin nature. We do things that do not please God. Through the sins of Adam and Eve, we have all inherited that sin nature. We need to have that removed. The only way is through Jesus. Jesus came so He could die on the cross for ALL of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can ask Him to come into our hearts and forgive us. Then, we are clean and made whole. We can know that heaven is a place where we can go to when this life is over.

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness." 1 John 1:9 (NLT)

We can truly be happy at Christmas! No matter what may be happening, we can know that we are His children. We then become sons and daughters of God. Heaven will be our home one day.

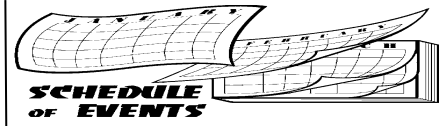
Look at Christmas in a new way this year. This is the year to invite Jesus into your heart. You will then have a "Merry Christmas." The joy and peace you will receive will last all year as you look to God for all your needs to be met.



December 2024



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Food Collection						
1	2	3	4	5	6 Pearl Harbor Day	7
8	9	10 Women's Group	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Prayer Group	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 NO SERVICE	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- Dec. 1— 1st Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 6—Carols n the Square (see below)
- Dec. 7—Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (see p 9)
- Dec 8—2nd Sunday of Advent
Dallas Parade 3:00 pm
- Dec. 10— Women's Group will meet at the home of Betty Clemmer at 12:30 pm— Christmas Luncheon & Program
- Dec. 15—**Congregational Meeting to approve 2025 Proposed Budget**
- Dec. 15—3rd Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 17—Prayer Group will meet at Home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00 pm
- Dec. 21—Winter begins
- Dec. 22—4th Sunday of Advent - 11 am
- Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Candle Light Service 7 pm
- Dec. 25—The Birth of Jesus Christ
NO SERVICE
- Dec. 31—New Year's Eve.

FOOD FOR THE MONTH:

Green Peas, Crackers, Peanut Butter



"Carols on the Square"
~ Dec. 6 6:30 pm ~
Reading of the Christmas Story
Christmas Choir ♪ Singing of Carols



DALLAS CHRISTMAS PARADE:
DECEMBER 8 AT 3:00



Birthdays

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



- Bryan Petzold
- Katie W. Sanderson
- Robbie Wooten

Holy Communion Schedule:

All Sundays and
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

Worship Service Assistance:

- Lay Reader: Anna Lowery
- Worship Asst: Anna Lowery
- Greeters: OSLC Members
- Ushers: OSLC Members
- Collection: Anna Lowery
- Board Devotions: Teri Trudnak (Jan)



Life Is a Gift

November 19, 2024
Sephira Rose Patton
6 lbs. 9 oz, 19 inches long
to the proud parents of
and Marsha Patton
Both Sephira and Marsha are doing fine



FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- Dec. 1 Open
- Dec. 8 Poinsettias*
- Dec. 15 Poinsettias*
- Dec. 22 Poinsettias*
- Dec. 25 NO SERVICE
- Dec. 29 Open

*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 2025





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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.

(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: kurebreach@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 2025 calendar year are on the wall in the Education wing.

=====
**2025 Church Envelops are
On table in hallway.**
=====

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

A Stewardship Minute

There is a touching story in the December issue Stewardship about a very ill old man named Joe, who loved God and his church passionately.

Joe's pastor, Rev. Goodrich, visited Joe and was impressed with what might be called Joe's saintliness. Joe loved God so much that he wanted to do his best to see that God's work on earth was carried out. That is why he tithed his income to the church. The pastor saw how poor Joe was and decided that the church ought to do something to show the church's appre-

ciation of him. So one day, Rev. Goodrich took \$100 out of a fund designated for people who truly needed financial help, put it in an envelope and delivered it to ailing old Joe.

When Joe opened the envelope and found the money, with a broad smile tugging at his lips, he said eagerly, "Now I will be able to do something I've never been able to do before. I'd like to give \$50.00 to the orphanage and \$50.00 for mission work."

Such is the attitude of saints. They have loving hearts for God and loving spirits to give as best they can

to the hurting and needy people and other work of the church.

Prayer: Dear God, help us each to understand that we need to be good stewards for the health of our own souls. In Christ's name we pray. **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."

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.



Church News



"Carols on the Square"

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



DALLAS CHRISTMAS PARADE

**DECEMBER 8
 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



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.



CLW/Women's GROUP

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



PRAYER GROUP

Will meet in the home of Shirlee Marazza
 Dec 17 at 2:00 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), NORMAN Bever (Brother-in-law of Brady Ratchford-stroke), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), LEAH Bradley (to have neck surgery-Marsha Patton's sister), RHONDA Bradley (Marsha Patton's mother-praising for successful surgery), KAREN Brady, MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten's uncle), BARRY Clemmer (Alice Vlaservich's brother), SHIRLEY CONNER (friend of Digh's - recovering from car wreck), STEVE Cloninger (friend of Brady Ratchford-cancer), ROB Curley (cancer), STEVE Digh (cancer), JULIE Digh (Thyroid), BAILEY Drummond (Becky and Chris Messick's daughter), JOHN Finger (friend of Brady Ratchford), GLEEN Fraizer (friend of Steve & Julie Digh - cancer), JASON Hames (friend of the White's), GRACE Harbin (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), NIC Harkey (friend of Marazza's family -16 yrs. old had tumor removed, awaiting treatment options), LESA Huges (friend of Robbie Wooten-throat cancer), JEFF Lineberger; DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), JACK Lonon (Kasey Digh's step-father-cancer), MARINA Marazza (Shirlee Marazza's granddaughter-Long Haul Covid19), CARL Martin (friend of Pattons-multiple myeloma plus chemo), FRANCIS McAllister (broken hip), JASON, ALLISON & LEX Murray, ELIZABETH Mustin (rare breast cancer), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), VICKIE Park (sister-in-law of Brady Ratchford-stroke) MARSHA and BABY Patton - healthy single pregnancy pray for full term, ANDY Peeden (cancer), SONDR A Phillips (friend of Melinda White), BRADY Ratchford, LEON Rawlinson (growth in brain), JAN Splawn (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), TERI Trudnak, TONY Trudnak (cancer reoccurring), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), JEFF White, KENT Wilborn (friend of Robbie Wooten-heart surgery) NANCY Wilson.

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

is a Christmas carol based on the 1863 poem "Christmas Bells" by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The song tells of the narrator's despair, upon hearing Christmas bells during the American Civil War, that "hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men". The carol concludes with the bells carrying renewed hope for peace among men.

In 1861, two years before writing this poem, Longfellow's personal peace was shaken when his second wife of 18 years, to whom he was very devoted, was fatally burned in an accidental fire. Then in 1863, during the American Civil War, Longfellow's oldest son, Charles Appleton Longfellow, joined the Union Army without his father's blessing. Longfellow was informed by a letter dated March 14, 1863, after Charles had left. "I have tried hard to resist the temptation of going without your leave but I cannot any longer", he wrote. "I feel it to be my first duty to do what I can for my country and I would willingly lay down my life for it if it would be of any good. "Charles was soon appointed as a lieutenant but, in November, he was severely wounded in the Battle of Mine Run. Charles eventually recovered, but his time as a soldier was finished.

Longfellow wrote the poem on Christmas Day in 1863. "Christmas Bells" was first published in February 1865, in *Our Young Folks*, a juvenile magazine published by Ticknor and Fields. References to the Civil War are prevalent in some of the verses that are not commonly sung. The refrain "peace on Earth, goodwill to men" is a reference to the King James Version of Luke 2:14.

Lyrics (edit)

The following are the original words of Longfellow's poem:

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!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!



Stewardship


Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

December 2024

As we prepare for the coming of Christ during Advent, the church points us both backward to his coming in humility as Messiah and forward to his coming in glory as judge. When he came as Messiah, he inaugurated the Kingdom of God among us. As judge, he will ask us to account for the life he gave us, how freely we shared this life with those around us.

He will also ask us how we treated the ones he calls “the least of these my brethren” (Matthew 25:40), those people around the world whose suffering and needs are greater than ours. Did we afford them the same dignity and respect we would give our friends or family? Did we look upon their hurts with compassion and try to alleviate their suffering? Did we recognize

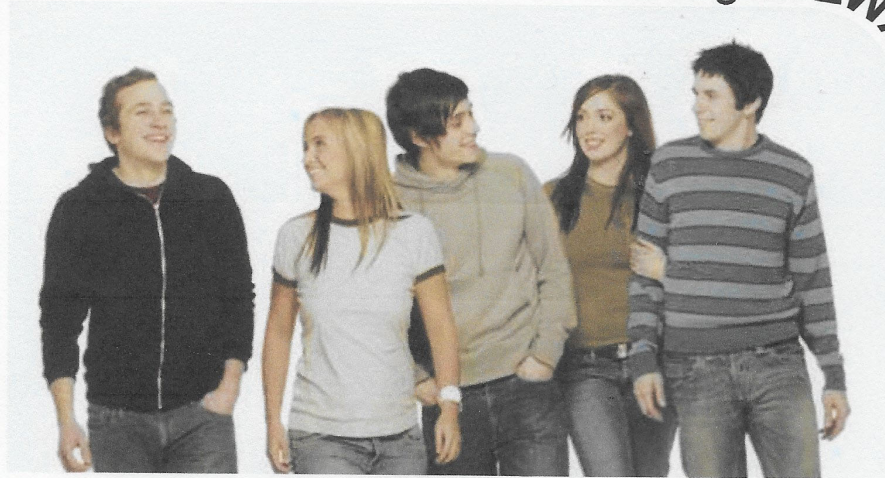
them as our brothers and sisters, equal heirs with us of the kingdom of heaven?

Throughout the world, organizations are committed to helping the victims of economic, natural, or political disasters. As we ponder Jesus’ concern for the least of his brethren, we may consider whether we wish to help people in emergency conditions like these. 

*G*iving is a time for each one of us to be joyful and thankful to God for all he has given and daily gives to us. We receive from God in order to give. Jesus said, “Give and it shall be given to you.”



Young STEWARDS' Corner



Daily Gift Search...

Here's a stewardship-awareness activity you can easily conduct with you entire family. Write each of the following scriptures on a separate piece of paper:

1 Samuel 1: 24-28

Mark 12:41-44

Ruth 1:16-17


2 Kings 4: 8-10

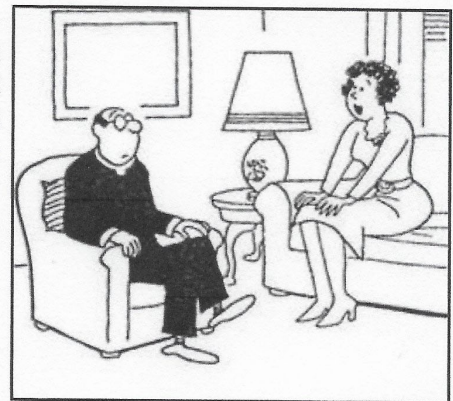
1 Samuel 18: 3-4

Acts 16:15

Luke 10: 30-36

Take the seven pieces of paper, put each one in a separate envelope, and seal it. Write a different day of the week on each envelope. Each day, have your child open the appropriate envelope and locate the Scripture in the Bible. After reading the verses aloud, ask him or her to identify what gift each Bible character gave to others or to God.

Discuss the fact that gifts were not always things that could be purchased with money. Talk about ways you and your child can begin sharing gifts such as these ... and special gifts or talents each of you might have ... with God and others. 



"I know God loves a cheerful giver, Pastor, but my Bob is living proof that God will also receive from a grouch."

Tithing one's income to the Lord is commendable. Even more commendable is tithing, not only financial resources, but the tithing of one's time and talent; indeed, it is the tithing of all of the gifts God has allowed us to have.





Some sixty years ago, a pastor named Robert Goodrich was assigned to a church in El Paso, Texas. He had not been there long when he noticed a letter that had arrived with several offering envelopes in it. On each envelope the words "My Tithe" were written in red. Pastor Goodrich noticed a short note which read simply: "I can't attend church any longer; I am bedfast now, but here is my tithe."

The pastor's interest was stirred. He asked someone about the sick man and learned that he lived in a small lean-to shack behind someone's house. His name was Joe Prime and he had severe tuberculosis. Fortunately for Joe, a Christian nurse volunteered to stop and see him each morning, on her way to work. She prepared his food for the day and gave him whatever medical help she could provide.

Soon, Rev. Goodrich went to pay a visit to the suffering man. Upon entering the one room house, he saw only Joe, a bed, a refrigerator, a table and a couple of chairs. Obviously, Joe had very few material goods. The pastor learned that he had a small pension of only thirty dollars a month.

What impressed the pastor most, however, was the spiritual depth of Joe Prime. Immediately, he could tell by Joe's upbeat demeanor and his expressed love for God and the church

that Joe Prime was a person who knew God intimately. Joe was a man of gentle love, a man of prayer, and one who gave a tithe even of his meager income. Spiritually, he was a very healthy man.

The Christmas gift

The pastor was so impressed by the ailing man that he thought he deserved a Christmas gift from the church's fund for the needy.

A few days before Christmas, Rev. Goodrich went to see Joe with \$100 in an envelope. When he entered the little shack, he handed the envelope to Joe telling him that the church wanted him to have \$100 for Christmas. He could spend it anyway he wished, he was told.

Joe's eyes lit up, the tears began streaming down his cheeks.

"This is so wonderful," he said, "Now I'll be able to do something I've never been able to do before. I'd like to give \$50.00 to the orphanage and \$50.00 to missions." And that is what was done.

One day, not long afterward, the nurse came to prepare his food and give him his medicine. Upon entering the little room, she found Joe Prime had gone to be with the Lord. Near his body, on the table, she found three or four church envelopes and on each of them the words "My Tithe" were written. ☩



Of course, the church needs our money if it is to do God's holy work of ministering his love to his people. But as great as this need is, we have a prior and greater need, and that is to use rightly all that God has entrusted to us. We have a great need to give lovingly, with thanksgiving to God.

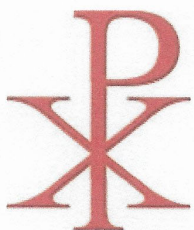


Steward of the Month

A Friend To All

Submitted by: Yvonne, Aurora, CO

A long time member of our parish here in Aurora, Colorado, Melba Taylor gives much more than she ever receives. She is an active member and lay leader at the church. Melba prepares and serves breakfast to the youth of our church on Sunday mornings, and works with the youth. She is also in charge of our kitchen and helps prepare the monthly luncheon meal following our Communion mass. She is well known in our church and is an active member of the Women's Group. When Melba hears of a member who is ill, she visits and helps when possible. Melba is a senior citizen, but one that never stops helping others. We at the parish dearly love her and look forward to seeing her smile on Sunday mornings. She is a true Christian. ☩





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



*“The child to be born
 will be holy;
 he will be called
 Son of God.”*



Luke 1:35, NRSV

December 2024



Christmas Worship Schedule

- Dec. 1.....1st Sunday of Advent..... 11:00 am
- Dec. 8..... 2nd Sunday of Advent.....11:00 am
- Dec. 15..... 3rd Sunday of Advent.....11:00 am
- Dec. 22.....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*