



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 XIV

December 2019

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:

- **The Year of Our Lord** 2
- **The True Christmas Story** 3
- *Does God Exist?*
- **The Meaning of Christmas** 4
- *Christmas is fo Love*
- **Minutes** 5
- *Gaston Chorial Society*
- *That's Not My Job*
- **Church Calendar-Events** 6
- **Singing Christmas Tree** 7
- *Shut-Ins*
- *Need Worship Assistants*
- **Stewardship Minutes** 8
- *Pearl Harbor Day*
- *1890s Historic Christmas Village*
- **CWL/Rachael Meeting** 9
- *Carol's On The Square*
- *Annual Reports Due*
- *Prayer List*
- *Dallas Parade*
- *Wake-Up Church*
- **The Gifts of the Magi** 10
- *Candle Light Service*
- **Who is St. Nicholas** 11
- *Santa Claus vs St. Nicholas*
- **The Christmas Pageant** 12
- *Dec. Daily Bible Reading* 13



Preparing to Celebrate Christmas

Christmas Message

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".

By Pastor Martin (deceased)

THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

The Christian Church Year is living history. It is ancient events to life each year. It is history that is as alive as the Church itself.

The Church Year is a cycle of festivals and seasons. Christians around the World and throughout history have shaped their faith and marked their lives by these events.

The first half of the Church Year (Advent through Pentecost Day) recalls event in the life of our Lord, making them real for us in the present.

The rest of the Church Year (Pentecost Season) focuses on discipleship — the new life in Christ in which we are living and growing. The community of believers, the Church, keeps observing the Church Year because it celebrates God's redemption.

When Christians observe the Church Year's festivals and seasons, we

- learn the words and acts of God that have changed history;
- remember the birth, life, death and resurrection of our Lord for us;
- participate in these saving events through which our Lord creates his Church and transforms our lives.

The Church Year revolves around three great festival days — Christmas, Easter and Pentecost — and the seasons that connect them — **Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Pentecost or Ordinary Time.**

Advent Season

4 weeks of preparation for Christ's coming.

Epiphany Season

4 to 9 weeks of thanks for Christ's revelation to the world, including the Baptism of Our Lord.

Holy Week

Palm or Passion Sunday follow by The Easter Triduum (the three days beginning with the Lord's supper on Maundy Thursday and ending on Easter Sunday)

Pentecost Season or Ordinary Time

2 dozen weeks from Holy Trinity Sunday to Christ the King Sunday. The festival of All Saints is celebrated late in this season.

Christmas Season

12 days of celebration of Christ's birth, leading to Epiphany, the "*Christmas of the Gentiles*"

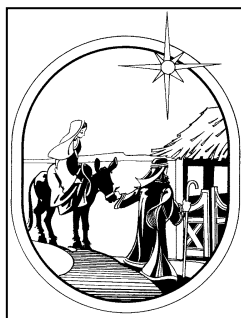
Lenten Season

Ash Wednesday followed by 40 days of preparation, concluding during Holy Week

Easter Season

Easter Day followed by 50 days of rejoicing, including Ascension Day leading to the season's climax Pentecost Day.

Now we have done a complete cycle of the year and start the Advent Season again



The True Christmas Story

Read: Luke 2:1-20

The events leading up to the birth of Christ weren't coincidental, but were put in place by God, so that the prophecies of old would be fulfilled, in Isaiah 7: 13-14; Isaiah 9: 6-7; Micah 5: 2-5.

Everything that happened, from the time the census was ordered, to everyone returning to their own city to be registered, and then the birth of Jesus while Joseph & Mary were in Bethlehem, was orchestrated by God. Out of Bethlehem, a small town in the City of David, came the Messiah.

This event was the beginning of something so incredible. Jesus Christ left His throne in glory and took on human form just to bring us reconciliation to our Father God. He came into the world, miraculously conceived, and then born as all humans are. He was first a baby, then became a toddler, then grew into a child and went through adolescence before becoming an adult. He experienced humanity at all levels. He truly can identify with all people at all stages of life.

This very first Christmas, God gave the greatest gift ever. His Son! And His Son gave the gift of His life - which was why He came. Because of this, we can have relationship with God as His children. Through Jesus Christ, we are Sons and Daughters of the Most High God.

So this Christmas, bear in mind the 'True' Christmas story, which led to the 'True' Easter story. Let us give thanks and praise to our heavenly Father for these events, which have changed our lives forever.

No matter how 'secular' the world is becoming, disregarding the truth of Christmas, let us boldly proclaim the truth about the birth of Jesus as the reason for the season. Let us claim 'CHRISTmas' back!

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ~ John 3:16

Lord we thank you for the events
That led to our Saviour's birth
May we remember the true Christmas story
And declare it to the ends of the earth

© By M.S.Lowndes



Does God exist?

Think about a person you've talked to or emailed but never met. How do you know that person really exists? You know because you've seen enough evidence to convince you of it—perhaps a photograph or knowing an acquaintance or hearing that person's voice.

The same is true with God. We believe in Him because He has given us enough evidence to prove that He exists. In other words, He hasn't hidden Himself from us; instead, He has revealed Himself or made Himself known to us. God wants us to know Him—and has done everything He needs to do to make that possible.

How has He done this? One way is through His Word, the Bible, which He has given to us to better understand who He is. Another way is through the physical world He created, with all of its beauty and complexity and wonder. Isn't it more logical to believe God created it than to believe it happened by chance? The Bible says, "Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made" ([Romans 1:20](#)).

But God also revealed Himself to us in an even greater way: by coming to earth and becoming a man. That man was Jesus Christ—God revealed in human flesh, "the image of the invisible God" ([Colossians 1:15](#)). Jesus was fully man but also fully God.

Still, some will say science doesn't support God's existence because it can't be proven through a chemical formula or some other complex equation. But think about this: happiness, beauty and love can't be proven or measured by a laboratory experiment, either, yet that doesn't mean they aren't real. In fact, many well-known and accomplished scientists are convinced that science alone can't explain where we come from or why we're here. They realize that science itself points to an all-wise, all-powerful Creator. The Bible says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands" ([Psalm 19:1](#)).

Do you want to know not only if God exists, but if He loves you? Is He calling you, wanting a real relationship with you? Look at Christ, who came to demonstrate God's love for us by dying on a cross and rising again three days later to pay for our sins and provide a way to eternal life. Don't remain filled with doubt, but turn to Christ and open your heart and life to Him.



The Meaning of the Christmas Tree

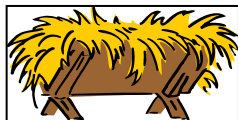
Each part of the Christmas tree celebrates Christ's birth and tells the story of how God sent His Son to earth. The wood reminds us of the manger where He lay and of the rugged cross where He gave His life one day. The evergreen shows the eternal life Christ gives – anyone who believes in Him forever live!

The decorations represent blessings from above and inspire us to thank the Lord for His tender love. The shining lights show us how we're to do the same, as we share His grace and seek to glorify His name. So may each beautiful tree bring honor to our King, and may we celebrate Christ's love in everything!

Holley Gerth



Take the mas off of Christmas
and
you have your answer



WHAT FAMILY TRADITION DO YOU HAVE THAT PUTS CHRIST AT THE CENTER OF CHRISTMAS?

In the Vlaservich's home baby Jesus in not place in the cradle until early Christmas morning. Before any present are exchange and open the family gathers in front of the nativity scene and sing happy birthday to baby Jesus.

Christmas Is for Love

by: Author Unknown, Source Unknown

Christmas is for love. It is for joy, for giving and sharing, for laughter, for reuniting with family and friends, for tinsel and brightly decorated packages. But mostly, Christmas is for love. I had not believed this until a small elf-like student with wide-eyed innocent eyes and soft rosy cheeks gave me a wondrous gift one Christmas.

Mark was an 11 year old orphan who lived with his aunt, a bitter middle aged woman greatly annoyed with the burden of caring for her dead sister's son. She never failed to remind young Mark, if it hadn't been for her generosity, he would be a vagrant, homeless waif. Still, with all the scolding and chilliness at home, he was a sweet and gentle child.

I had not noticed Mark particularly until he began staying after class each day (at the risk of arousing his aunt's anger, I later found) to help me straighten up the room. We did this quietly and comfortably, not speaking much, but enjoying the solitude of that hour of the day. When we did talk, Mark spoke mostly of his mother. Though he was quite small when she died, he remembered a kind, gentle, loving woman, who always spent much time with him.

As Christmas drew near however, Mark failed to stay after school each day. I looked forward to his coming, and when the days passed and he continued to scamper hurriedly from the room after class, I stopped him one afternoon and asked why he no longer helped me in the room. I told him how I had missed him, and his large gray eyes lit up eagerly as he replied, "Did you really miss me?"

I explained how he had been my best helper. "I was making you a surprise," he whispered confidentially. "It's for Christmas." With that, he became embarrassed and dashed from the room. He didn't stay after school any more after that.

Finally came the last school day before Christmas. Mark crept slowly into the room late that afternoon with his hands concealing something behind his back. "I have your present," he said timidly when I looked up. "I hope you like it." He held out his hands, and there lying in his small palms was a tiny wooden box.

"Its beautiful, Mark. Is there something in it?" I asked opening the top to look inside. "

"Oh you can't see what's in it," He replied, "and you can't touch it, or taste it or feel it, but mother always said it makes you feel good all the time, warm on cold nights, and safe when you're all alone."

I gazed into the empty box. "What is it Mark," I asked gently, "that will make me feel so good?" "It's love," he whispered softly, "and mother always said it's best when you give it away." And he turned and quietly left the room.

So now I keep a small box crudely made of scraps of wood on the piano in my living room and only smile as inquiring friends raise quizzical eyebrows when I explain to them that there is love in it.

Yes, Christmas is for gaiety, mirth and song, for good and wondrous gifts. But mostly, Christmas is for love.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Bill Trudnak, President
October 21, 2019 Council Minutes



Devotions: Melinda White

Meeting called to order by Alice Vlaservich

Members present: Melinda White, Joe Finger, Robbie Wooten, Steve Digh, Jeff White, and Alice Vlaservich.

Members Absent: Betty Ratchford, Teri Trudnak, Bill Trudnak and Denise Traveria

Minutes: September 16, 2019 minutes were reviewed. Alice Vlaservich made the motion to approve the minutes and Jeff White seconded the motion.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

- a. Lutheran Men in Mission information reviewed

Report of the Pastor: The Pastor's report was reviewed, and Melinda White made a motion we accept the report with a second from Robbie Wooten

Report of the Treasurer: Motion by Jeff White to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Steve Digh

Report of the Ministries:

- a. Property: New handicap parking signs placed; a new leak was noticed in the sanctuary near the organ.
- b. Stewardship and Finance: No report this month
- c. Worship & Music: No report this month
- d. Youth Team: No report this month
- e. Witness: Cards and prayers continue to be sent to shut ins
- f. Christian Education Team: Operation Christmas Child boxes are due back 11/24/2019

Report of Auxiliaries: Two representatives (Marie Robinson and Alice Vlaservich) from the group attended the Concordia LCW conference meeting held in China Grove. Bible Study to be moved to 11am.

Old and/or Unfinished Business:

None to report

New Business:

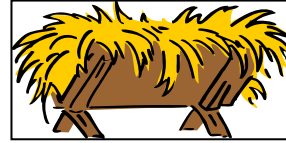
- a. 2020 budget proposal. Congregational meeting on December 1, 2019.
- b. Nomination ballot will be presented 11/24/2019. Four vacancies for Council to be filled and voted on 12/1/2019
- c. Church clean-up day is November 16, 2019 starting at 9 am. Come help!

General Information:

- a. Attendance
- b. Laszlo Mission (Kids International) Report

Adjourned with The Lord's Prayer
 Next Meeting: November 18, 2019
 Devotions: Robbie Wooten

The Original King-Sized Bed!!



**Thank God for
 Baby who slept**

**that bed and The
 there**



Gaston County Choral Society

Presents a Christmas Performance

"Gloria and Fantasia on Christmas Carols"

by

R. Vaughn Williams

on December 7, 2019

at 1st Baptist Church, Union Rd., 7:30 pm

and

"That's Not My JOB!"

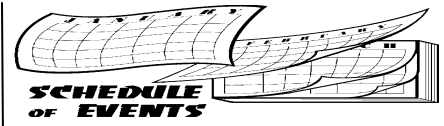
This is a story about four people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** 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.

December 2018



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Food Collection						
1 Living Christmas Tree	2 Team Mtg.	3	4	5	6 Let's Go Caroling	7 Living Christmas Tree
8 Living Christmas Tree	9	10 Prayer Group	11	12	13 Dallas Parade	14
15 Third Sunday of Advent	16 Bd Mtg. CLW/Rachel Group	17	18	19	20	21 Winter in Jersey
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent	23	24 Candlelight Service	25 Nativity scene	26	27	28
29 1st Sun after Christmas	30	31 Looking Toward the New Year				

- Dec. 1—1st Sunday of Advent—Communion
Hanging of the Greens
Congregational Meeting (Approving 2120 Budget and electing four officers to the Council)
- Dec. 2—Team Meetings:
Youth: 6:30 pm
Others: 7:00 pm
- Dec. 6—"Carols on the Square" (see below & p 8)
- Dec 7— Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (see p 7)
- Dec. 7-8—Singing Christmas Tree (see p 6)
- Dec. 7—Gaston Choral Society—Christmas Program (p 5)
- Dec. 8—1890's Heritage Village Christmas (see p 7)
Christmas Celebration "behold a star" (see p 9)
- Dec. 8—2nd Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 8—Gaston Choral Society—Christmas Program (p 5)
- Dec. 9—CLW/Rachel Group will meet at the home of Betty Clemmer at 12:30 pm—Christmas Luncheon
- Dec. 10— Prayer Group will meet at Home of Shirlee Marazza at 1:00 pm
Gaston Together (see p 6)
- Dec. 13—Dallas Christmas Parade 4:00 pm
- Dec. 15—3rd Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 16— Board Meeting 7:00 pm
CLW/Rachel Group will meet at the home of Betty Clemmer at 11:00 pm—Christmas Luncheon & Program
- 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. 29—1st Sunday after Christmas
- Dec. 31—First Sunday after Christmas
New Year's Eve.

"Carols on the Square" Dec. 6, 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. 1 Brady & Betty Ratchford
- Dec. 8 Melinda White
- Dec. 15 Poinsettias*
- Dec. 22 Poinsettias*
- 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 2020



Holy Communion Schedule:

All Sundays and
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

Worship Service Assistance:

Acolyte: Nick Vlaservich
Communion
Asst: Nick Vlaservich
Lay Reader: Becky Messick
Worship Asst: Becky Messick
Greeters: OSLC Members
Ushers: OSLC Members

Collection: Melinda White

Board Devotions: Dec. 16. Alice Vlaservich

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 | |





OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH
725 Gastonia Technology Parkway
Post Office Box 475
Dallas, North Carolina 28034
Phone: 705-922-4648
Email: oslcdallas@aol.com
Website: oslc-nc.org

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 7th @ 3:00 pm

Sunday, December 8th @ 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

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



Events for:

**Lutheridge -Lutherock-
Lutherspring- Lutheranch**

Web site: 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 2020 calendar year are on the wall in the Education wing.
THANK YOU!

+++++

2020 Church Envelops are

A Stewardship Minute

There once lived a lovely widow named Mrs. Hope; an appropriate name because she seemed always bursting with hope! She paid close attention to the needs and concerns of others, was nearly always cheerful and laughed easily. People loved to be in her presence. After her husband died she moved from their farmhouse into a home fairly close to her church, where she always helped where she could. She helped the secretary do her work, did some cleaning and kept the kitchen in good order. She did it all without fanfare, boasting or complain-

ing. Whatever she did, she did to glorify God!

One day, the pastor walked through the sanctuary and saw Mrs. Hope waxing the pews. She sang as she worked: "Silver and gold have I none," she sang, "but such as I have I give to thee." (Acts 3:6) Those were the words that St. Peter said to a crippled beggar just before he lifted the man up to the Lord. The man was healed. This month's issue of *Stewardship* points out that Mrs. Hope was singing that she wanted to be an instrument of God just as Peter had been. Mrs. Hope was indeed a good

steward of all that she had. She gave her time, her talent, her resources, her energy, her love...all for the glory of God. May God help us all to do the same! It would be the best Christmas gift we could give to the world!

Prayer: Gracious and loving God, help us to glorify you in all that we do and serve you with diligence and dedication. Through Christ our Lord, 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."

1890s Historic Christmas Village December 7, 2019 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 7, 2019 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





GASTON TOGETHER'S CLERGY & CITIZENS COALITION

December 10, 2016

8:30 to Noon

Clinton Room, Gaston Memorial Hospital
Breakfast before meeting, if you wish

"Carols on the Square"

Dec. 7, 6:30 pm

Reading the Christmas Story

Gentlemen Songster

Christmas Choir

Singing of Carols

Santa

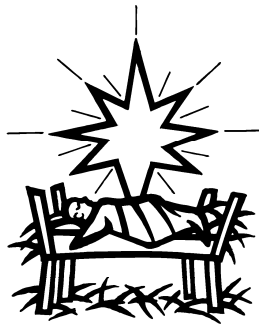
Refreshments



**DALLAS
CHRISTMAS
PARADE**

**DECEMBER 13
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 or email us at oslcdallas@aol.com.



CLWRACHEL GROUP

will meet at the home of Betty Clemmer Dec. 16 at 11:00 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)



SUSAN Aderholt, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), BRAXTON Bearden (friend of the Locketts), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), RHONA and ADIAN Carpenter (parents of Raygen Messick), KAREN Brady, MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten's uncle), EASTON Finger (Aboard Abraham Lincoln Aircraft Carrier in Persian Gulf) DON Greene (cancer-friend of Teri & Melinda), HARDY Feige (Pete's dad - chronic back pain), JASON Hames (friend of the White's) DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), CHRIS Messick (intestinal blockage), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), MARY O'Shea (co-worker of Melinda White's), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), JERRIE Presley, BETTY Ratchford, RONNIE Shiles (shingles w/complications), TONY Trudnak (cancer), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), KELLY Walters (mother of Brie Murray), ANNE White (niece of Betty Ratchford-breast cancer), JOE White (stroke), MARY Wooten (Sara's great-grandmother and Rosalee's great-great grandmother). NANCY Wilson (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, 2020.

THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI

by
Marilyn Sharpe



Several years ago in my parenting group, one woman offered the way she and her family keep Christmas gift giving sane. They focus on giving three gifts: a gift for the Christ child, a gift for the family, and a gift for the soul.

This month's column is filled with family activities that may change forever how you celebrate Advent and Christmas. Worth a try? Read on.

A GIFT FOR THE CHRIST CHILD

When the Magi, the three wise men, came to visit the Christ child, they came bearing three gifts – gold, frankincense, and myrrh, gifts that celebrated both the royalty and divinity of Jesus and his suffering and death on our behalf. What are the gifts we could give the Christ child this Christmas season?

Favorite Christmas stories offer some ideas. In *The Littlest Angel*, the youngest of the angels goes back to earth to retrieve his favorite toys and offer them to baby Jesus. In *The Clown of God*, the aged clown, returned home to die, has nothing to offer Jesus but his gift for juggling. Both gift givers have given the Christ child exactly what he wants – a gift of themselves. In O'Henry's short story, *The Gift of the Magi*, a poor young couple sells their most prized possessions to purchase a gift for the other, only to discover that the greatest gift they gave was their selfless love. In Matthew 25, Jesus speaks to this kind of gift:

...I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

What might you and your family do this season for "one of the least of these who are members of my family"? Might you serve a meal at a soup kitchen, visit a nursing home, buy a toy for a child in need, bring a meal to someone who is ill or shut in, invite a neighbor over for dinner, sit with a single person in worship, sing Christmas carols in your neighborhood, write a letter to someone with whom you've lost touch, sit with a person who has lost a loved one this year? Look around at the need ... and fill one need with the love and light of Christ. Talk to your children about why you do this – because God first gave us the greatest gift of all, the gift of Jesus Christ.

A GIFT FOR YOUR FAMILY

Most of us long for more time. This season, plan a gift of time for your family. It can be as simple as family devotions by the light of an Advent wreath, a picnic dinner on the family room floor, a favorite holiday movie with popcorn, a game night, or a walk under a starlit sky, with cocoa to warm hands afterward. Whatever warms the hearts of your family, whatever gives you the gift of time to share, whatever reminds you how much you love one another is this gift.

A GIFT FOR YOUR SOUL

Consider an Advent retreat, daily devotions with a fragrant candle lit, simplifying your gift giving, spending time with a nutritious friend, listening to Christmas carols, attending a Christmas pageant, choosing to leave your fresh tree untrimmed, just soaking in the woodland fragrance. Do something this season that feeds your soul, helps you rest in God's presence, and come away refreshed. This may be choosing NOT to do something that is stressful and that distracts you from the joy of this season.

May the Prince of Peace bring that gift to your life this Advent seasons. I wish you and yours all the blessings of this holy time.

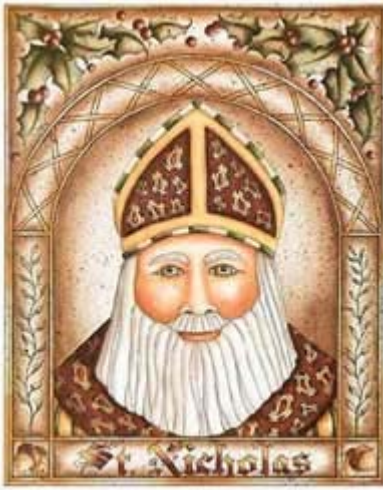
*Candlelight
Service*



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



SEND EASTON FINGER A CHRISTMAS CARD OR NOTE:

Easton is aboard the Abraham Lincoln Aircraft Carrier.

**Easton Finger AS2
USS Abraham Lincoln
CVN 72, Unit 100349
Box 426, Dept. AIMD:IM4
FPO AE 09520**

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

My husband and I had been happily married (most of the time) for five years but hadn't been blessed with a baby.

I decided to do some serious praying and promised God that if he would give us a child, I would be a perfect mother, love it with all my heart and raise it with His word as my guide.

God answered my prayers and blessed us with a son. The next year God blessed us with another son. The following year, He blessed us with yet another son. The year after that we were blessed with a daughter.

My husband thought we'd been blessed right into poverty. We now had four children, and the oldest was only four years old.

I learned never to ask God for anything unless I meant it. As a minister once told me, "If you pray for rain, make sure you carry an umbrella."

I began reading a few verses of the Bible to the children each day as they lay in their cribs..

I was off to a good start. God had entrusted me with four children and I didn't want to disappoint Him.

I tried to be patient the day the children smashed two dozen eggs on the kitchen floor searching for baby chicks. I tried to be understanding... when they started a hotel for homeless frogs in the spare bedroom, although it took me nearly two hours to catch all twenty-three frogs. When my daughter poured ketchup all over herself and rolled up in a blanket to see how it felt to be a hot dog, I tried to see the humor rather than the mess..

In spite of changing over twenty-five thousand diapers, never eating a hot meal and never sleeping for more than thirty minutes at a time, I still thank God daily for my children.

While I couldn't keep my promise to be a perfect mother - I didn't even come close... I did keep my promise to raise them in the Word of God. I knew I was missing the mark just a little when I told my daughter we were going to church to worship God, and she wanted to bring a bar of soap along to "wash up" Jesus, too.

Something was lost in the translation when I explained that God gave us everlasting life, and my son thought it was generous of God to give us his "last wife."

My proudest moment came during the children's **Christmas pageant**.

My daughter was playing Mary, two of my sons were shepherds and my youngest son was a wise man. This was their moment to shine. My five-year-old shepherd had practiced his line, "We found the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes." But he was nervous and said, "The baby was wrapped in wrinkled clothes." My four-year-old "Mary" said, "That's not 'wrinkled clothes,' silly. That's dirty, rotten clothes."

A wrestling match broke out between Mary and the shepherd and was stopped by an angel, who bent her halo and lost her left wing.

I slouched a little lower in my seat when Mary dropped the doll representing Baby Jesus, and it bounced down the aisle crying, "Mama-mama." Mary grabbed the doll, wrapped it back up and held it tightly as the wise men arrived.

My other son stepped forward wearing a bathrobe and a paper crown, knelt at the manger and announced, "We are the three wise men, and we are bringing gifts of gold, common sense and fur."

The congregation dissolved into laughter, and the pageant got a standing ovation.

"I've never enjoyed a Christmas program as much as this one," laughed the pastor, wiping tears from his eyes. "For the rest of my life, I'll never hear the Christmas story without thinking of gold, common sense and fur."

"My children are my pride and my joy and my greatest blessing," I said as I dug through my purse for an aspirin.

Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him Master. Had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher. Had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer. Had no army, yet kings feared Him. He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world. He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him. He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

Feel honored to serve such a Leader who loves us.

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 **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.

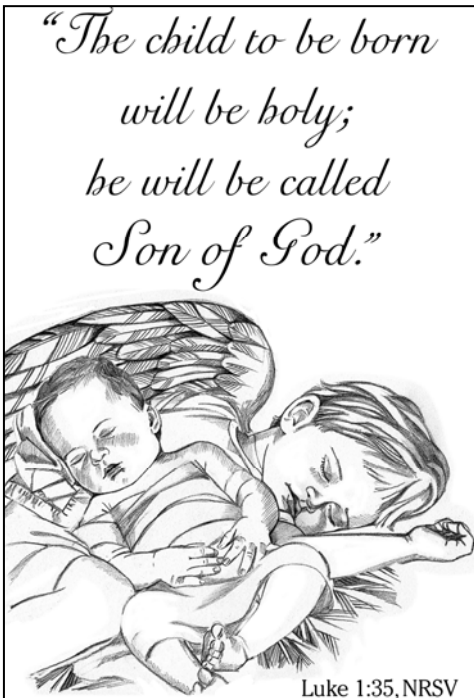
A reading from the Old Testament, a psalm (or portion of a psalm) and a reading from the New Testament are assigned for each day. Certain church festivals - Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and so forth - have readings appointed for the specific occasion.

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Advent Begins</i> Is. 2:1-5 Ps. 122 Rom 13:11-14 Matt 21:1-11	2 Is. 2:6-22 Ps. 124 1 Cor 13:1-13	3 Is. 3:1-17 Ps. 125 1 Cor 14:1-25	4 Is. 3:18-4:6 Ps. 126 1 Cor 14:26-40	5 Is. 5:1-12 Ps. 127 1 Cor 15:1-34	6 Is. 5:13-30 Ps. 128 1 Cor 15:35-49	7 Is. 6:1-13 Ps. 129 1 Cor 15:50-16:4
8 Is. 7:1-25 Ps. 130 1 Cor 16:5-24	9 Is. 8:1-22 Ps. 131 2 Cor 1:1-11	10 Is. 9:1-7 Ps. 132 2 Cor 1:12-22	11 Is. 9:8-10:4 Ps. 133 2 Cor 1:23-2:11	12 Is. 10:6-19 Ps. 135:1-12 2 Cor 2:12-17	13 Is. 10:20+11:9 Ps. 135:1-12 2 Cor 3:1-18	14 Is. 11:10-12:6 Ps. 135:13-21 2 Cor 4:1-18
15 Is. 13:1-22 Ps. 136 2 Cor 5:1-15	16 Is. 14:1-11 Ps. 137 2 Cor 5:16-6:13	17 Is. 14:12-23 Ps. 138 2 Cor 6:14-7:1	18 Is. 14:24-15:9 Ps. 139 2 Cor 7:2-16	19 Is. 51:6-14 Ps. 140 2 Cor 8:1-15	20 Is. 17:1-14 Ps. 141 2 Cor 8:16-9:5	21 Is. 18:1-7 Ps. 142 2 Cor 9:6-15
22 Is. 19:1-15 Ps. 143 2 Cor 10:1-6	23 Isaiah 1:16-20 Ps. 144 2 Cor 10:7-18	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> Isaiah 7:10-14 Ps. 110:1-4 1 John 4:7-16 Matt 1:18-25	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> Isaiah 52:7-10 Ps. 2 Hebrew 1:1-6 John 1:1-18	26 Is. 21:1-17 Ps. 145 2 Cor 11:1-15	27 Is. 22:1-14 Ps. 146 2 Cor 11:16-33	28 Is. 22:15-25 Ps. 147 2 Cor 12:1-10
29 Is. 23:1-18 Ps. 148 2 Cor 12:1-23	30 Is. 24:1-23 Ps. 149 2 Cor 13:1-14	31 Is. 25:1-12 Ps. 150 John 1:1-28	NEW YEAR'S EVE			



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



Christmas Worship Schedule

Dec. 1.....1st Sunday of Advent.....11:00 am
 Holy Communion
“Hanging of the Greens”

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*

De-
 cember
 2019