

# Nicholas ews



The happenings of Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church, an ELCA congregation

email: [office@saintnicholaslutheran.org](mailto:office@saintnicholaslutheran.org)  
410-257-5683

[www.saintnicholaslutheran.org](http://www.saintnicholaslutheran.org)  
Fax: 410-414-9283

January 2007



Growing and empowering disciples of Jesus Christ for the ministries of God's work in the world

Ministers: People of Saint Nicholas

Prayers.....	2
Congregational Meeting.....	2
From The Pastor.....	3-4
From The Associate Pastor.....	5-6
<b>MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATION.....</b>	<b>7-11</b>
Year-End Contribution Statements.....	7
Where In The World Are.....	7
February Newsletter Deadline.....	7
A Final Note.....	8
Take a vote—oops, do we have a quorum?.....	9
December Council Meeting Highlights.....	10
Stephen Ministry: What?.....	11
<b>MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION .....</b>	<b>12-15</b>
Second Annual Bible Bowl January 28!.....	12
Sixth Annual Cupid’s Café Underway!.....	13
Letter from Kay Aronhalt.....	14
Breaking News!.....	15
<b>MINISTRY OF EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Welcome to Worship.....	15
<b>MINISTRY OF SOCIAL CONCERNS .....</b>	<b>16-18</b>
Advocacy.....	16
Next Blood Drive Coming in February.....	16
Thank You.....	17
Project Echo.....	18
Gently Used Children’s Books.....	18
Food Pantry.....	18
<b>MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP .....</b>	<b>19</b>
Simply Giving.....	19
<b>VOLUNTEER MINISTRY.....</b>	<b>20-21</b>
Spotlight on the Ministry of Administration.....	20
Ministry Opportunities.....	21
<b>MINISTRY OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC .....</b>	<b>22-23</b>
New Year’s Resolutions.....	22-23
Communion Bread Providers.....	23
<b>MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND FAMILY LIFE.....</b>	<b>24-26</b>
Children’s Choir.....	24
Upcoming Youth Events.....	24
Birthdays.....	25

*We pray that our Lord will bless those listed, as well as those in your heart,  
with a sense of peace and  
assurance through the abiding presence of  
God's Spirit.*

✠ We offer our prayers for *Ron Olinger, Ed Johnson, Curtis Ivey Family, Andrea Garza-Robles, Earl Westphal, Ed Lenz, Sr., Hazel Winters, Melanie Smith, Kip At Lee III, Darryl Gray, The family of Scott Jordan, Christopher Pearson, Kate Troutman, Doris Haesloop, Lottie & Paul Gregory, Phyllis Rasmussen, Alene Stamp, Christine Ogden, Kelly Gheen, Elaine Bailey, Jean Sullivan, Walter Burke, Philbin Family, Whetstone family, Thomas Kent, Bobby Mitchell, Mike Pappan, Shantell Turner, Phyllis Holmgren, Robin Steinke, Family of James Mau, Susan Bullock, Jennifer West*

**Prayer Chain:** Contact Bill At Lee at [billatlee@comcast.net](mailto:billatlee@comcast.net) .



## Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, January 28**

**10:15 am**

**Mark your calendar today!**



## Reverend Gregory Gaertner

Pager: 410-495-0449 Cell: 202-669-9027 Home: 443-486-4675

Office: 410-257-5683 — [pastor@saintnicholaslutheran.org](mailto:pastor@saintnicholaslutheran.org)

---

---

### Best Wishes

*Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go."*

*John 21:18 (NRSV)*

This is a season for wishes, isn't it? We have wished for gifts for Christmas because we hoped they would make us feel good, make us happy, change our lives. By the time you receive this newsletter, it is likely that you'll have found that even if you received the gifts you'd wished for, your life hasn't changed very substantially. Oh, I don't want to sound like a Grinch – Christmas gift-giving, when it springs from real generosity of feeling and spirit, is a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven. But as I thought about the idea of "Best Wishes," I thought about the double-meanings of that phrase. If I want to wish you the "Best Wishes" for the coming year, what might those wishes be?

I'd love to wish that everything that you hope for comes true, but we all know about those Arabian Nights stories where the "Three Wishes" the genie grants turn out to be curses instead. Let's face it, we aren't very good at wishing for things for ourselves – often they

turn out to be addictive, fattening, immoral or worse.

I'd love to wish that only good things happen for you. But, we also know that some of the best things that happen to us don't look very good at the time. I had a really good job that I could do with no sweat. I just didn't want to do it anymore, the company was changing directions, there was new management coming in and my dad was starting to get pretty sick, and I knew that if I was ever going to do what God wanted me to, I'd better get about it. So I started seminary, traded work that was easy for work that is hard, and eventually quit that really good job and my dad died anyway, and here I am, as blessed as I can imagine being. I'm sure all of you can think of things for yourself that didn't seem so good at the time that turned out to be the best things that could have happened.

## Best Wishes ( continued)

---

There is a problem with wishes. Mostly we wish for something to be different without us becoming different. Or we wish for ourselves to be different without our actually having to change. We want to be thinner without dieting, smarter without studying, better looking without cultivating the character and grace that defines true beauty. It may be part of the American character. We want to go from where we are now to where we want to be without actually traversing the distance, because the trip is likely to be dull and painful and wrenching, and thank you very much, are we there yet?

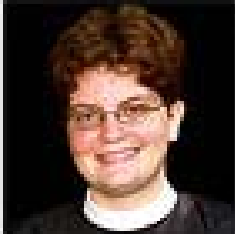
I was visiting with someone in the hospital who'd gotten sick quickly. She said, "Why does everything have to change so fast? I was able to take care of myself and now I can't. Everyone's telling me the things I can't do anymore and I'm starting to believe them. Why does everything have to change?" I couldn't answer her except that I was sure that God was with her, that somehow God would

work for good in this, but at the moment I couldn't really see how.

The opposite of faith, you know, is not doubt – the opposite of faith is **certainty**. Think about that a second. Faith implies doubt. But when you are certain, you need no faith. Paul tells us, "Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." (Romans 8:24-25) So, if I want to wish you the best wishes, and you know I do, those aren't the same as the wishes you might have right now (though I hope for the best for all of you) or even for only good things (though I do hope for good things for all of you in the New Year). No, my hope is that you can see and enjoy how God is at work in your life in the coming year even though we don't know exactly how that will be. My hope is that you can follow God's path for you wherever it goes, that you can become all that God has in mind for you. In short, I wish for you a life of faith and that would be the Best Wish for the coming year!

*May the road rise up to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

Traditional Gaelic Blessing



## Reverend Wendy Deeben

Office 410-257-5683

[associatepastor@saintnicholaslutheran.org](mailto:associatepastor@saintnicholaslutheran.org)

---

---

### Let's Help Someone

*“Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will be my servant also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.”  
~ John 12:26*

Of the four keys of nurturing faith—caring conversation, family devotions, family service, and rituals and traditions—family service has to be one of my favorites. For me, family service was a way of life where I grew up. In our neighborhood if anyone needed help, my family would always give support. I can't begin to tell you how many times we helped put new roofs on people's homes, cut down dying or dead trees, provided meals for others, amidst many other things.

Service for others is motivated by the love that we have received from God. In performing acts of service, we in turn show God's love and our faith and values to others. Family services pass on the faith from generation to generation. Service opportunities allow children and youth to see their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other family members put their faith in action. This faith in action greatly influences children and adults.

Service projects are great experiences for our youth. They receive an emotional, relational, and spiritual high from helping others. It's a wonderful opportunity. It's a great op-

portunity for families to share in service together. Research suggests that children and youth who had opportunities for family service have a desire as adults to serve the needs of others. Service together as a family has a strong impact on faith development. In many cases, the service opportunity is discussed in many years to come. It's passed down from generation to generation. “Do you remember when we...?” The discussion passes on the faith and values of the family with many generations throughout the years.

Thinking back to my childhood, I never really knew how much helping others impacted my faith. I remember serving others in my neighborhood and at church...sometimes people whom I didn't know or whom my parents didn't know. We all pitched in together. One of the things that I remember doing each year as a family was getting mittens or gloves for the mitten tree at church. Each year my parents would take my brothers and me to purchase mittens and each year they would explain to us how blessed we were to be able to have gloves to keep our hands warm. They shared with us that there were many children

who didn't have the same resources that we had. In such a simple way, my parents shared their faith with me by teaching me to help others in need.

Family service can be as simple as buying mittens or it could be helping build a house somewhere or serving others who have been displaced by a natural disaster. There are a variety of service opportunities for families. We can volunteer our time at a soup kitchen, shelter, or nursing home. We, as families, and as a congregation, can provide resources to others by sharing what God has given to us by supporting ministries like Operation Christmas Child or Tree of Angels.

In the next few months the In Crowd will be developing a service project idea that came

from our weekend at Chrysalis. In our discussion, I asked the youth if this project was something that they wanted to do as a group or whether they wanted to include their families and the congregation. They decided that they wanted the congregation and their families involved with this service project. An opportunity for family service will be happening in the near future. More details will be coming from the In Crowd.

Family service is a way to pass on the faith. It's our faith in action. Faith is caught more than it is taught. Faith commitments and values are formed through our life experience. Let's try to serve others together as families!

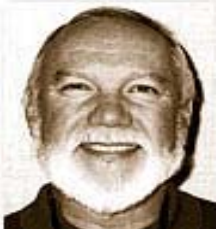


LAMENTATIONS 3:22, NRSV

## A Lasting Empire

One day as Napoleon came toward the end of his career, he looked back across the years—the great Napoleon that at a very early age had all but conquered the world. He was not stopped until he moved out to the battle of Leipzig and then to Waterloo. But that same Napoleon one day stood back and looked across the years, and said: Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and I have built great empires. But upon what did they depend? They depended upon force. But long ago Jesus started an empire that depended on love, and even to this day millions will die for him.

*Martin Luther King Jr.*



## Ministry Of Administration

**Mission:** To ensure the business and administrative activities of the church are conducted in an efficient and effective manner and to ensure the physical plant and grounds are properly developed and maintained.

**Sponsor - Jim Jordan - 410-535-5474 - jimjordanan01@Comcast.net**

---

---

## Year-End Contribution Statements

Your 2006 year-end contributions statement will be available for you to pick up starting Sunday January 7. Please pick up your statement as soon as you can and review it closely. If you find any discrepancies or have any questions, please contact Tom Blatt as soon as possible.

## Where In The World Are . . .

### The Roscoes and The Banholzers?

We've heard from two of our families who are currently stationed in other parts of the USA, and they send their greetings to their many friends here at Saint Nicholas:

**June and Scott Roscoe** are in snowy Utah enjoying the winter weather. Skiing is a big pastime there, and June reports that their church attendance declines by about one third during ski season! She is active in the Sunday School, as she was here, and Jared and John are enjoying their wintry adventures (especially roasting marshmallows in outdoor fire pits) and their new Yorkie puppy.

**Ali and Dave Banholzer** spent 10 months in Newport, Rhode Island, and were then moved, courtesy of the US Air Force, to Spokane Washington. Ali is enjoying being near her family in Seattle. Daughters Kate and Carrie are growing quickly and enjoying school. The family hopes to be returning to their home in Huntingtown at some point in the foreseeable future and sends their love to all.

## February Newsletter Deadline

Monday, January 15, is the deadline for contributions to the FEBRUARY edition of *Nicholas News*. Please send articles, announcements, photos, dates for the calendar, anything that should be shared to me at the email address below. There is also a mailbox slot in the church office.

Editor,

*Linda Gaertner*

[linda.gaertner@comcast.net](mailto:linda.gaertner@comcast.net)

## A Final Note

*I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.*

*Philemon 1: 6-7*

As Paul wrote to Philemon so long ago, so I take my leave of the presidency with these same words. Working with council, the pastors and sponsors through the growing pains of the last two years has been my privilege and honor. I thank them and you for your kind words and support throughout a very rigorous presidency.

The mix of newly elected leaders with those remaining along with our sponsors and pastors will guide us in 2007 and beyond. We can be that joy and encouragement to this new team that Paul speaks of by remaining faithful stewards, actively participating in our wide ranging ministry programs and sharing our time in any variety of ways. In fact, it is essential; you are essential. Faithfully pray for them and for God's people here at Saint Nicholas; show your support through your involvement. Share your thoughts and ideas with them. The body is only whole when all the parts are active.

God's blessings to you all as this new year unfolds.

*Bonnie Stump </><*



## **Take a vote--oops, do we have a quorum?**

Depending on the occasion, different phrases sound good to our ears at different times. I think one of the best phrases for a church council member to hear at the **beginning** of a congregational meeting is "We have a quorum."

We are a church, not a business. Yet there is administrative business we are called to address at congregational meetings at least twice, and sometimes more, throughout the calendar year. The structure we follow is in our church's constitution and by-laws. It is in this document that the number of voting members for a quorum is set.

Each of us, as a voting member of Saint Nicholas, is called to be physically present at the duly called meetings of the church body. These are the occasions when we are asked not for money but for our time. But we reply, "Time is money." Well, yes, so if we can establish a quorum at the beginning of our meetings, then no one is being asked to waste anyone's time or money.

Receiving a phone call to come quickly so that we can establish a quorum is the type of phone call most of us wish to avoid. Being present initially sends us on our way quickly so that we can do the administrative business of the church effectively and efficiently and then get on with the rest of God's purpose for us.

A quorum is needed at the January 28th congregational meeting. Notices are coming out. Please mark your calendars. Everyone will be thankful for your presence when we all hear the phrase "We have a quorum."

*Ann Wolfgang*

## **Annual Council Retreat**

**February 2-3**

2007 Council Members:

Rev. Gregory Gaertner, Pastor; Rev Wendy Deeben, Associate Pastor; Ann Wolfgang, President; Eileen Roseto, Vice President; Jean Malo, Secretary; Paul Butz, Treasurer; Kathy Clark, Bob Finlayson, Christy Lewis, Walter Merz, John Regner

## Ministry of Administration

---

---

### December Council Meeting Highlights

2006 Council Members: Rev. Gregory Gaertner, Pastor; Rev Wendy Deeben, Assoc. Pastor; Bonnie Stump, President; Eileen Roseto, Vice President; Jean Malo, Secretary; Dick West, Treasurer; Kim Berche, Kathy Clark, Carolyn Lenz, Christy Lewis, Ray Nieves

The Saint Nicholas council meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, December 13, 2006.

Our December council meeting was bursting with excitement as we welcomed the new council elect members to join us. We welcomed Ann Wolfgang, incoming president, Paul Butz, incoming Treasurer, and council members Bob Finlayson, Walter Merz, and John Regner. Installation of council and sponsors will be during services on January 7, 2007.

The Treasurer and Financial Secretary reports indicate that we will not be closing out the year with a surplus. The past four months our expenses have exceeded our income. As the next year approaches, let's all remember "You are Essential" to all Saint Nicholas ministries.

Our ministry reports were reviewed showing all the great activities our ministry leaders had planned for the end of the year. It is only through their great efforts that these activities are possible. All of our ministry leaders work very hard to keep the costs down and find the volunteers necessary to accomplish each event. Thank you all for your good works.

The North Wing bid package has gone out and we hope to have some response from bidders in early January. Our building facelift is still progressing with plans to spruce up the narthex. Preliminary plans for the annual council retreat have the dates set for February 2-3, 2007, at the Northeast Community Center. Details will be worked out with our new council during our January Council Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jean Malo*

Council Secretary

# Stephen Ministry: What?

[ *Fifth in a series of articles intended to bust myths about Stephen Ministry -- this month, from the view of the care-giver: ]*

**Myth:** "But I didn't really do anything."

Each of our active care-givers has said it and meant it, "It just doesn't feel like I did anything!" . . . They all know better -- on several counts.

First of all, the care-receivers have told them otherwise: "This has been so helpful" or "You've been so good for me" or a simple heart-felt "Thank you." The messages came unsolicited and with sincerity.

Second, they know how hard they have worked at it, beginning with 50 hours of training and then regular group meetings to reinforce and support each other in how to go about Stephen Ministry -- not to mention actually being there for the care-receiver. Besides, being an authentic listener IS real work.

Third, our training told us it would be like this. We know our job is not to create a solution to fix some problem. The role has been described as a ministry of presence . . . to walk alongside someone suffering pain or loss. How hard should that be?

And finally, we all have accepted that God is the cure-giver. Stephen Ministers are simply care-givers. Maybe it is when we don't try to beat God to the punch that we are most effective. So, in that sense, maybe this is not a myth. It is about what God does, not what Stephen Ministers do.

*Glenn Wolfgang*

Stephen Leader

P.S. We are starting a Stephen Ministry training series this month. We now have three new trainees ready to begin. Let Glenn Wolfgang know if the time might be right for you to join us.



## Ministry Of Christian Education

**Mission:** To provide Bible study and spiritual growth opportunities to encourage fully committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Director - Kay Aronhalt - 301-855-1656**  
[dce@saintnicholaslutheran.org](mailto:dce@saintnicholaslutheran.org)

### Second Annual Bible Bowl January 28!

Remember how much fun

we had last year? Get your team together and start reading the book of Luke in the NRSV. All questions are factual from the text—you won't be asked to explain anything!

Five to six members are suggested for each team. Names of winning team members will be engraved on our prestigious walnut and brass plaque in the church office!

Refreshments served. Cheerleaders and spectators welcome!

**Register today with the pastors or DCE!! Sunday evening, Jan. 28, 6-8 p.m.**



## SIXTH ANNUAL CUPID'S CAFÉ UNDERWAY!

Our youth are pulling out the red bow ties and aprons, dusting off romantic candles, and polishing great acts and skits — all for three great charities and one special guest (YOU!)

It's all happening on Friday, February 23, when our nave is magically transformed into Cupid's Café, with music, beautifully decorated tables, candlelight, impeccable waiters and magnificent food. This year the youth—led by our own Ashley Lenz—have opted for a Night in Venice, complete with a (near-) authentic Italian spaghetti dinner and a complimentary photo of you and your dinner guest(s). Please plan to set aside this date for a very special evening and cause.



Want to help? The youth are planning a silent auction of a few spectacular gift baskets! If you can make a basket and donate it, and/or come and support the event through attendance and bidding participation, they will reach their goal of \$4,000. Call Ashley Lenz to offer help, or Sarah Kolbe to donate. Charities supported this year are: Safe Harbor, Calvert Animal Welfare League, and Hurricane Katrina Victim Relief.

### Cupid's Cafe's Silent Auction Needs your Help

The Cupid's Cafe Silent Auction Committee is looking for donations:

- † gift cards to local businesses, especially restaurants, theatres, spas, hotels, B&B's, wine tasting events, etc.
- † babysitting hours, a cruise on a boat, a limo ride, a round of golf, skiing, canoeing, or white water rafting, use of a time-share or rental property for a long weekend or week, bushel of crabs or crab feast, house cleaning, catering of an event, or any other item you can think of!!!
- † wine and cheese gift baskets or the items to go in them

The auction is fast approaching, so please contact local business owners you know to see if they can make a donation, or donate something yourself. Call Sarah Kolbe for information/donation letters at 410-586-3165.

## Ministry of Christian Education

January 1, 2007

Dear Saint Nicholas family,

There is much news to fill the Ministry of Christian Education pages, but I have asked our wonderful editor to give me a few lines to thank you for the truly wonderful experience of having served as your Director of Christian Education.



When I was asked to take this position and define our education program, I was excited to be actively involved again in Christian Education. These past five years have been an amazing time to serve in ministry here, for God has been moving in mighty ways; His Spirit is present and active, without question. It has been a joy to be a witness to God's grace and to be used as His servant in this place.

I cannot leave without thanking each of you for your support. To each Sunday School teacher and the outstanding Confirmation Team who willingly share their love and faith with our children, youth, and adults, it has been a joy to witness your faith in action. To Anna, our coordinator without equal in this Synod, I am humbled by your capability and your commitment to our Lord. To our pastors, council, and ministry sponsors, thank you for allowing me to serve with you. Each of you has touched my life in unexpected and God-directed ways.

Finally, to the congregation, thank you for welcoming my service, for your patience with my announcements and pleas, and for partaking of the Christian education program as God gave you the inclination and ability to participate. Your support and affirmation that faith formation is indeed a life-long journey has kept me going and renewed my spirit.

As I step back in order to spend a little more time on family, I assure you that I am not leaving active ministry among you. I intend to fully support our new DCE in every way that I can. I hope you will allow me to continue as part of your communications team, your prayer and care team, and publications team. And I look forward to seeing you in worship! God bless you, one and all!

With love and gratitude,

*Kay Aronhalt*

## Ministry of Christian Education

---

---

### Breaking News!

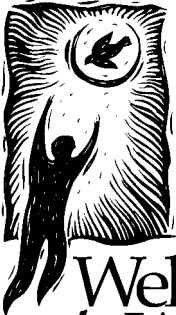
Erika Demme will be our new Director of Christian Education.

Watch for more information in the February newsletter.

### Ministry Of Evangelism And Outreach

**Mission :** To commit ourselves to sharing the Good News, to nurturing others to do the same, to showing that God's house at Saint Nicholas is a warm, safe, and secure place where all may grow in their faith life with Christ.

**Sponsor - Cherise Ross - 410-586-3819- [cherise@cherisseross.com](mailto:cherise@cherisseross.com)**



Welcome  
to Worship

As listed in the Webster's Dictionary, the definitions of evangelism and outreach are:

**Evangelism:** a religious movement to spread actively the tenets of the Gospel.

**Outreach:** to extend from within.

Please take a few minutes to think about the definitions and reflect on what you can do to spread the Gospel beyond the current members of Saint Nicholas.

Listed below are the teams that comprise our ministry of Evangelism & Outreach:

- Bring-a-Friend to Breakfast
- Greeting Team
- Nursery Team
- Infant Day Care Initiative Team
- Welcome Bag Team
- Welcome Notes Team

Blessings,

*Cherise Ross*



## Ministry Of Social Concerns

**Mission:** To identify and more fully understand issues of social concern both locally and beyond, to educate and equip our community to respond, to act and to positively affect the daily lives of our neighbors.

**Sponsor - Kathy Dangin - 301-855-3983 - kdangin@yahoo.com**

---

---

## Advocacy

*“To plead the cause for another together with them and on their behalf.”*

We hear about the plight of people in Darfur, the AIDS crisis in Africa, the conflict in the Middle East, world hunger. . .the list goes on and on. Many times we feel little power to make a difference, so we do little. But there are opportunities for us to stand up for justice and to fight against oppression. We can write letters and e-mails, making our concerns known to our legislators. We can urge them to acknowledge the problems that we see, and to work toward resolutions.

The ELCA has made it possible for you to become an advocate by creating a toolkit for you to use. Visit [www.elca.org/advocacy/how/](http://www.elca.org/advocacy/how/) and read about what is in this toolkit. Over the next several months, there will be an article about a social issue for which you can advocate. There will be suggestions and resources for you to use. Please consider using the power you have to help the powerless.

## Next Blood Drive Coming in February

The next scheduled blood drive at Saint Nicholas will be Saturday, February 10. To get you thinking ahead, please consider the following countdown of the top 10 reasons to give blood.

10. 95% of us will need blood during our lifetime
9. Most people over 17 years old and 110 pounds can donate
8. Every 2 seconds someone needs blood
7. One blood donation can actually save 3 or 4 lives
6. Neo-natal patients need to be transfused with blood at less than 8 hours old
5. Over 1,200 donors are needed daily to supply the needs of our area's patients
4. A single shock trauma victim can use 100 units of blood in a few hours
3. The actual donation time is between 6 and 8 minutes
2. 26% of all blood products are used for cancer patients

And the number one reason to donate blood:

1. Less than 5% of our area's population donates blood!!

## Ministry of Social Concerns

---

---

### Thank You

Many thanks to those of you who participated in the Tree of Angels and Gifts of Hope campaigns. Many, many needy families were given a more joyful Christmas through both of these programs.

Thanks also to Carol Blatt for organizing the Tree of Angels here at Saint Nicholas, to Gus Wolf for his leadership in the program at the county level, and to all who helped inventory, process, and distribute the gifts.

Thanks to Carolyn Nieves, Kris Wood, Sandy Griese, and Eileen Roseto for their willingness to assist at the Gifts of Hope/ Fair Trade Gifts table.

It is also through the generosity of many of you that we were able to send over \$1,000 for holiday food baskets to the Calvert Churches Community Food Pantry!

What an outpouring of God's love was shown!

Dear Saint Nicholas,

Thank you for your generous donation of gift cards as part of your Tree of Angels. The boys at TRIAD House were so glad to receive them and to be able to go on some outings over their holiday break. Your generosity and kindness to them is so much appreciated by everyone at our agency.

Sincerely,  
TRIAD House Resi-  
dents and  
Alternatives for Youth  
and Families

## **Project Echo**

This month Saint Nicholas will serve dinner to the residents of Project Echo on Sunday, January 28. The sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the narthex. You may also contact Sherie Cooper (410-586-1584) or Jennifer or Jean Smetana (410) 535-2485 for more information.

## **Gently Used Children's Books**

During the month of January, we will be collecting gently used children's books for the Latino Ministry in Langley Park. These books are used to help Latino children develop their English skills in an enjoyable setting. There will be a collection box placed in the narthex. Thank you for your help.

## **Food Pantry**

During the month of January, think snow! We will be collecting hot chocolate, marshmallows, canned soup, oyster crackers, and tea bags for the CCCFP. Place your donations in the basket in the narthex. All other donations are welcome as well! Thank you.





## Ministry Of Stewardship

**Mission:** Stewardship is a way of life, of viewing all we are and all we have as gifts from God, to be used for his glory and the service of others.

**Sponsor - Debbie Bang - 301-855-7195 - dbang@deloitte.com**

---

---

## Simply Giving

*Simply Giving*, electronic transfer of funds, is a reliable, safe way to put part of your personal stewardship plan into action. It allows you to share your gifts through planned giving and activates your generosity into ongoing stewardship. Because your gift is given consistently, you won't need to play "catch-up" at year end, worry about forgotten checkbooks, or missed Sunday offerings. Our congregation benefits from steady, more predictable revenues throughout the year, more efficient bookkeeping, and greater confidence in meeting its financial commitments.

Both your contributions to your regular offering as well as the building campaign may be made through the "Simply Giving." This easy method is available to everyone, at any time, by filling out the form found in the narthex and giving it to Tom Blatt or putting it in the offering plate.





## Volunteer Ministry

**Mission:** To integrate new and existing members into the life of the congregation in order that the mission of congregation may be carried out.

**Coordinator of Volunteer Minister - Barbara Harris**

**410-286-3257 or [cvm@saintnicholaslutheran.org](mailto:cvm@saintnicholaslutheran.org)**

---

---

## Spotlight on the Ministry of Administration

The ministry of administration serves the congregation by making sure the business and administrative work of the church is done effectively and efficiently and that the building and grounds of the church property are well maintained and developed properly.

The teams that deal with the business and administrative side of the ministry are:

- ✝ Audit Team, which audits the church's financial records yearly;
- ✝ Communications Team, which sends out news releases and advertising;
- ✝ Finance/Budget Team, which manages the congregation's finances and puts together our budget;
- ✝ Historian Team, which keeps records and photos about the church;
- ✝ Newsletter Team, which publishes, edits, and assembles the church newsletter;
- ✝ Nominating Team, which presents Council member nominees to the congregation;
- ✝ Parochial Report Team which creates the report on the congregation used by the Synod;
- ✝ Safety Officer, who monitors church policies on safety;
- ✝ Technology Team, which maintains our website and computer system.

The teams that deal with the building and grounds are

- ✝ Building Team, which maintains the building, and advises on new construction;
- ✝ Lawn and Garden Team, which maintains the lawn, flower beds, and Memorial Garden.

The spiritual gifts that are often found in members of this ministry are servanthood, wisdom, discernment, helping, and visionary & managing leadership.

The sponsor for this ministry is Jim Jordan. If you have gifts and talents in these areas that you would like to use in God's service you may contact Jim or Barbara Harris, the Coordinator of Volunteer Ministry.

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES



**REMOVAL OF THE GREENS:** Celebrate the end of Christmas and the beginning of Epiphany by helping to remove the Christmas decorations here at Saint Nicholas on January 6. This is a great opportunity to learn about hidden nooks and crannies in the building and discover what is stashed in the attic. Look for an announcement on the time of day, or contact Donna Neri, Youth and Family Life Ministry Sponsor, or Barbara Harris.

**NURSERY TEAM MEMBERS:** Do you have the gift of ministering to small children and their parents by spending time playing with and nurturing the children in the nursery during worship services? Current members of this ministry serve about once every other month. If you join us, it could be even less often. If you would like to give the gift of time for meaningful worship to harried parents, please contact Cherise Ross, Evangelism and Outreach Ministry Sponsor, at

[cherise@cherisseross.com](mailto:cherise@cherisseross.com) or Barbara Harris.



**NURSERY TEAM COORDINATOR:** Recruit and train volunteers for the nursery for the 9am and 11:15 am services. Contact Barbara Harris or Cherise Ross.

**NEWSLETTER HELPERS:** Spend about 2 hours, toward the end of each month, working with a group to assemble the newsletter for mailing. This is a real hands-on ministry that also is a fun time for fellowship during daylight hours. Contact Melissa Stuart in the church office at 410-257-5683.

**ALTAR CARE TEAM MEMBER** needed for the 9am service, first Sunday of each month. Help set and clear the table for the Lord's Supper. Contact Barbara Harris if you are interested, at 410-286-3257 or [cvm@saintnicholaslutheran.org](mailto:cvm@saintnicholaslutheran.org)



## Ministry Of Worship And Music

**Mission:**To provide for various and expressive settings of worship that are consistent in quality, reverent in nature, and supportive of the central roles that worship and music play in the life of the congregation as it gathers to gratefully celebrate the Good News of God in Jesus Christ.



When I was growing up, New Year's Day had to be one of my least favorite days of the year. My mother was a teacher, and she (along with us) always had to go back to school on January 2, so the Christmas tree had to come down on the 1<sup>st</sup>. She didn't want to get back into the swing of things and have that pesky tree staring at her every day. In the early years, the tree was real, so the possibility of needles dropping everywhere made her firm in her decision. By the time we began using an artificial tree, the tradition was just so engrained in us that we dared not ask if we could leave the tree up until, say, the following Saturday. Those of you in your 50s and beyond might remember those silver icicles we used on the tree, the ones made of real metal (at least, I guess that's what they were made of). My older sister and Mother were the only ones talented enough to place them on the tree in the perfect position and density. My younger sister and I could only stand and watch and wonder if we would ever be able to participate in that event. But, with some logic that we also never questioned, we were good enough to take all those icicles OFF the tree. They had to be reused, so that meant taking each one off separately, placing it carefully on the back of a dining room chair pulled up to the tree, and then allowing an adult to place them back in their packaging. It took forever to do it, and then we still had all the ornaments to remove.

It wasn't bad enough that we had to take the tree down. My parents were of German descent, so that meant that we had to have sauerkraut for our New Year's Day dinner. There weren't many foods I didn't like, but sauerkraut was one of them. In those golden olden days, children ate what was put in front of them, so there were no pizzas from the freezer for us. We ate that sauerkraut and didn't complain.

I did have one great New Year's Eve and Day, however. I went into labor mid-afternoon on December 31, 1978, and gave birth at 12:26 am. The medical staff at the Navy hospital in

## Ministry of Worship and Music

---

---

Groton, Connecticut, wished us a Happy New Year as they rolled me into delivery. I was so worn out and had pulled so many muscles that I couldn't lift my head that day, but Gus was there to bond with baby Richard and allow me some time to sleep.

So, with a child whose birthday fell on New Year's Day, I risked Fate by choosing to abandon the traditional sauerkraut meal (it was supposed to bring us good luck and good health). As Richard reached an age where he could request his birthday meal, we moved to other nationalities, having Italian or Mexican food, with Boston cream pie for dessert, his favorite. I have never regretted that decision. And our tree stays up until I am good and ready to take it down, never before Epiphany, at least.

This has nothing to do with worship and music, but it's what was on my mind. I was thinking about how I never make New Year's resolutions, and realized that I had made a couple in my life: no icicles on the Christmas tree and no sauerkraut for dinner on January 1. I hope that no matter what your traditions are, you will resolve to have a wonderful new year!

### Communion Bread Providers

*"We place upon your table, Lord, the food of life, the bread and wine,  
as symbols of our daily work, according to your grand design."*

January 7     Ann Wolfgang

January 14    Jean Smetana

January 21    Barbara Harris

January 28    Michelle Sacks



## Ministry Of Youth And Family Life

**Mission:** To nurture the youth, equip families, and strengthen fellowship for service to our Lord.

**Sponsor - Donna Neri - 410-535-3869 — DhnNeri@netscape.net**

---

## Children's Choir

Ask anybody in the Children's Choir how much fun we have!! We invite anyone in grades 1-5 to come join us. We will resume rehearsals for the spring on Sunday, January 14. Our regular rehearsal time is every Sunday from 12:30-1:15. Rehearsals are not mandatory, but it helps if you can learn the music. If you are interested or for further information, contact Lisa Churchill, [chur-chill@radar.nrl.navy.mil](mailto:chur-chill@radar.nrl.navy.mil), 410-257-7647.

## Upcoming Youth Events

### 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders

✝ Sunday, April 29 - SHEMA (Metro DC youth event)

### Middle School

✝ Friday, February 16 - Ski Trip; Ski Round Top; Lewisberry, PA

✝ Friday, February 23 – Cupid's Café

✝ March 9-11 – Shekinah; 4-H Center, Front Royal, VA

### The In Crowd (formerly known as Senior High Youth)

✝ Wednesday, January 3 – Soup and discussion 6-7:30

✝ Wednesday, January 17 – Soup and discussion concerning service project 6-7:30

✝ Wednesday, February 7 – Soup and Discussion 6-7:30

✝ Friday, February 16 – Ski Trip; Ski Round Top; Lewisberry, PA

✝ Wednesday, February 21 – Soup and Discussion 6-7:30

✝ Friday, February 23 – Cupid's Café

## Ministry of Youth and Family Life

---

---

### Happy Birthday January Babies

1 Kurt Nielsen	12 Sidney Kolbe	27 Glenn Wolfgang
Tom Phelps	13 Rachel Dangin	30 Jack Churchill
Richard Wolf	Michelle Sacks	Chuck Eddleman
3 Matthew Roseto	15 Joyce Davis	Jason Gelatka
4 Nicole Brown	Lyndsie Hofmann	Rebecca Smith
Lucas Burke	Suzanne Kistler	31 Janet Fields
Brian Fields	16 James Felbinger	
Olivia Fowler	Nicholas Schlickbernd	
Matthew Hickin	Mark Smetana	
Sheila Poole	Joshua Smith	
Camille Ross	17 John Williams	
Max Sacks	18 Jennifer Garr	
7 Paul Campbell	Janet Hooper	
Cecilia Coley-Callis	Amelia Nerich	
8 Claude Dickinson III	Sara Nerich	
Eddie Praley	20 Claude Dickinson IV (Bing)	
10 Andrew Wood	Sarah Kolbe	
12 Sharon Baker	21 Sarah Geckle	
Jim Jordan	24 Carol Bush	
Karen Klepacz	Lauren Smith	

If you were omitted or the date is incorrect, please contact the church office  
at 410-257-5683 or [office@saintnicholaslutheran.org](mailto:office@saintnicholaslutheran.org)





Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church (ELCA)  
1450 Plum Point Road  
Huntingtown, MD 20639

Sunday Worship - 7:45am, 9:00am, 11:15am  
Sunday School - 10:15am

Non Profit Organization  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
Huntingtown, MD 20639  
Permit # 13

Address Label

**Dated Material**