

Nicholas ews

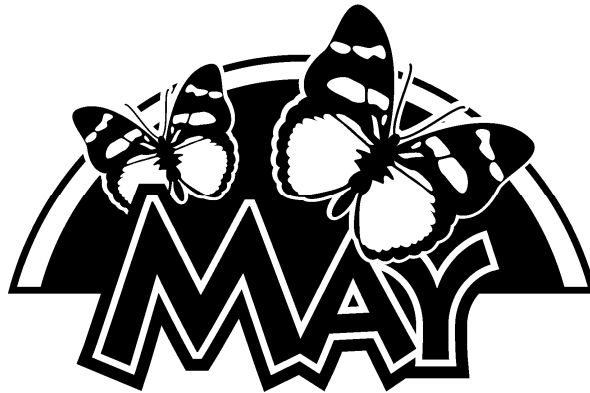


The happenings of Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church, an ELCA congregation

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410-257-5683

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May 2007



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

Ministers: People of Saint Nicholas

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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 *Kate Troutman, Phyllis Rasmussen, Christine Ogden, Kelly Gheen, Jean Sullivan, Walter Burke, Bobby Mitchell, Vivian Smetana, Margaret Clark-Smith, Hope Williams, Fran Hardesty, Guy Hanson, Bruce Richardson, Bill Orchard, Ron Olinger, Ed Johnson, Curtis Ivey family, Earl Westphal, Ed Lenz, Sr., Hazel Winters, Melanie Smith, Kip At Lee III, Shannon Wrightman, Tom Oves, Hank Banks, Ellen Cooper, Wesley Truslow, Samuel & Isabelle Mohr, Evelyn Sommer, Joseph Laure, Terri Laure, Ida Taylor, Joanne Pitcher, Ginny May, Sandy Hickin, Landon Morrill, Margaret Lenz, Betty Gorrell, Shannon Cunningham, family & friends of Matthew Gribbin, Ray Nieves' father.*

Prayer Chain: Contact Bill At Lee at billatlee@comcast.net.



Join us on Pentecost Sunday, May 27 at the 9:00 service as our confirmands celebrate their Affirmation of Baptism.

A reception will follow in the fellowship hall.

Ryan Baker
Zach Blankenship
Ben Cooper
Andrew Dangin
Nicholas Demme
Sarah Devere
Trevor Flynn
Joshua Fowler
Joshua Geckle

Kayla Hanson
Reid Hyland
Meghan McCuistion
Emily Nowak
Eddie Praley
Candace Ross
Miranda Stuart
Andrew Wood



Reverend Gregory Gaertner

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

Office: 410-257-5683 — pastor@saintnicholaslutheran.org

Able Speaking

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:1-4

This month, on the occasion of their confirmation, 17 of our eighth graders will step up in the pulpit and, exercising their rights of freedom of speech, religion and assembly, will speak to their church family at Saint Nicholas about their faith journey so far. I'm so proud of all of them. Of course, speaking from the pulpit is not their right – it is a privilege the community accords to them because it wants to hear what they have to say.

As I write this, controversy swirls around a disc jockey who took it upon himself to insult the Rutgers University women's basketball team, a group of women he had never met and knew nothing about except, evidently, their race. By the time you read this, of course, the controversy may have swirled away in some other direction. But it is entirely likely that the public's attention will

have moved to another public figure who has abused the privilege of celebrity by saying something disgraceful about some other racial or ethnic group. It is a modern plague with ancient roots, roots of fear and hatred of other groups and other people and, too frequently, other religions.

For reasons that I don't completely understand (but for which I am very grateful), our young people don't seem to share this disease of racism and all the other "isms" nearly to the extent that we older people do. Sometimes they don't even understand it – "what's up with that?" they ask, perfectly seriously. It could be that we've done a good job raising them. It could be that the "political correctness" we are so prone to ridicule has inoculated them and the culture from the free expression of our right to be stupid and offen-

Able Speaking (continued)

sive. It could be that in God's good time we are finally coming of age. As I say, I don't completely understand it, but I'm very glad of it.

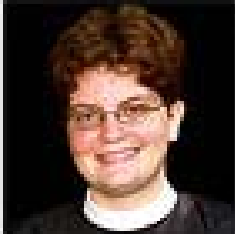
I surely don't want to distract your attention from the accomplishments of our confirmands, of whom we are justly proud. They have crafted worship services and timelines, skits and banners. They have interviewed bishops and council presidents. They have studied and memorized and recited the documents of our faith – the Bible, the creeds and the commandments. Their curriculum was as rigorous as any confirmation program I know of and I very much appreciate the teachers and guides and parents who have made all of this possible (and fun!). To the best of our abilities, we have prepared them to take their places as adult members of this congregation.

And it seems to me that this is the common thread. The privilege of public speech is best accorded to people who have prepared themselves to be heard, who have thought through what they have to say, who respect their listeners and who want to engage them in the work of building up a speech community. Any ignorant lout can spout insulting nonsense (and many do), but the privilege of adult, civil, public speech is one that is earned and accorded thoughtfully and in community.

I'm proud that on Pentecost we will welcome 17 new adult members to our community here at Saint Nicholas. I'm proud, too, of the traditions of adult, civil, public expression of which they will become a part and that they will advance, in their own unique way.



If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 1 Corinthians 13:1



Reverend Wendy Deeben

Office 410-257-5683

associatepastor@saintnicholaslutheran.org

Explore Faith!

Dear friends, we rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world. Affirmation of Baptism, LBW, p. 198

My confirmation day seemed to be the end of many commitments. Two years and two months' worth of Wednesday night classes came to an end. Serving as an acolyte also had come to an end, as well as other "requirements" that I needed to fulfill because I was a confirmand. My classmates and I felt that we were finally going to be free from all of the obligations that came with confirmation. I now realize how wrong we were about "being done" with church activities.

Throughout confirmation I was told many times that I had to go through these classes, come to Sunday school, be an acolyte and come to worship to become an adult member of the congregation. Becoming a voting member of the congregation didn't really appeal to me. I had just begun 9th grade and my attention was focused on other things.

Confirmation day had come and gone and I now wondered what I would do with all of my extra free time. After a few weeks of "freedom," I realized that I had many questions that I thought I had learned the answers to in confirmation. Being an adult member of

the congregation finally hit. I had questions that I wanted to explore. I began to look differently at things that I had thought I understood. I got involved in different areas of ministry within the congregation and grew in my faith.

For our eighth-grade confirmands, "freedom" from confirmation classes and other obligations is just a few weeks away. Being a confirmed adult member of the congregation is not the end of one's journey of faith. In some respects, it's just the beginning. Confirmation provides tools for the journey. As we journey through life, we are stretched to view our faith in different ways depending on what life throws our way.

I would encourage our confirmands, and all of us, to continue to explore our faith as we journey through life. Confirmation may be the end of "classroom" obligations, but it's the beginning of a wonderful journey of getting involved in ministry and continuing to grow in faith. Explore different ministries! Continue to explore your faith as you walk life's journey! God is with you each step of the way!

Easter Message 2007

from Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson

"They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body...Then they remembered his words." (NRSV Luke 24:2, 8)

On the first Easter morning, the women entered an empty tomb expecting to find Jesus. They were looking for the body of Jesus, but were disappointed and perplexed.

Today, when we look for peace and there is no peace, we, too, may wonder where Jesus is. When violence and wars escalate, we may wonder where Jesus is. When hunger and poverty continue to have a stronghold in neighborhoods here and around the world, we may wonder where Jesus is. When we experience the emptiness of the divisions among races, religions, and classes, our fear and confusion can cause us to wonder where Jesus is. When we struggle with guilt or shame, we may wonder where Jesus is. Like the disciples of old, we miss the signs of God's presence in our world.

In the dark days of perplexity and despair for the troubles of this world, let us remember the hope of Easter morning. In the dawn of Christ's resurrection, we rejoice that death and evil did not have the last word: the tomb is empty! Christ is with us, living among us and through us, announcing "good news to the poor...release to the captives...recovery of sight to the blind," freedom to the oppressed, and "the year of the Lord's favor." (NRSV, Luke 4:18-19) Christ is with us as the word of forgiveness is declared and the sacraments are received. Christ is with us as we look for signs of Jesus in our churches and communities and remember his words: "And, remember I am with you always, to the end of the age." (NRSV, Matthew 28:20b)

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: Position description under review

Council Liaisons: Bob Finlayson—410-414-5061; fivefins@comcast.net

Walter Merz -410-257-5464; waltmerz@comcast.net

Part 2: Sorry, we don't accept Discover, MasterCard, Visa, or American Express...

No, we are not in a retail store or a restaurant. How our lives have changed with the evolution and acceptance of "plastic" into our daily routines! When don't we whip out a credit card?

This question really has at least one answer--we don't at church. Saint Nicholas operates on the generous giving of cash by those who worship here. Checks are commonplace now, as is the program Simply Giving (automatic bank drafts). Many of us carry very little currency on a regular basis, and whether we do or not, we may be making a concerted effort to have real money available for the Sunday morning offering.

I don't know if Saint Nicholas will ever go the credit card method as a routine mode of giving, which is a discussion for another time and place. At least for now it is cash or check or bank draft -- "**real**" money regularly. Though not the common way many of us operate Monday through Saturday, Saint Nicholas' financial health and stability depend on "real" money each and every Sunday.

If writing a check or carrying currency is not your way, Simply Giving might be the way to go for you. Whatever way, God has been generous to us. We, in turn, express our thanks to God by giving generously to Saint Nicholas so that we can be about God's work in this world.

Ann Wolfgang
Council President

Ministry of Administration

A Look at Our Stewardship

Attendance:	3/18	325	4/1	4/8
7:45 a.m.	14	24	31	57
9:00 a.m.	124	121	123	196
11:15 a.m.	92	68	104	98
Total	230	213	258	351
Sunday School	112	85	85	78

Finances	March	Year to Date
Operating Income	\$31,454	\$82,360
Operating Expenses	\$27,689	\$91,665
Difference	+\$3,765	-\$9,305
Designated Receipts	\$945	\$8,442
Building Fund Receipts	\$19,360	\$38,743

May Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, May 15, is the deadline for contributions to the JUNE 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

Ministry of Administration

April Council Meeting Highlights

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, Bill Poole, John Regner

The April council meeting was held on Wednesday, April 11, 2007. As spring tried to keep hold of the outgoing winter, Ann Wolfgang called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The bid package for the North Wing building project was distributed to five bidders. Proposals are expected back around May 15, 2007. As a next step John Hofmann will be contacting the Mission Investment Fund (MIF) to re-establish approval of a loan. After all approvals and voting are completed, ground breaking should be about September or October. Tom Blatt provided a report on the capital campaigns for Building on Faith and Reaching for the Top Together. With this information Ann Wolfgang, Tom Blatt, and John Hofmann will continue reviewing our five-year future building pledge funding stream.

Welcoming packets have been prepared for visitors with brochures introducing our ministries and guidance to families considering baptism. Seventeen youth attended the Shekinah event, earning a tie for the second largest group attending. Last month council asked each of our ministry sponsors to prepare an annual review of their year-end designated funds balance and advise the council which funds may be moved to cover regular expenses. Our ministry sponsors did a great job presenting their recommendations to the council in their monthly reports.

Other business included the formation of some new committees:

Constitution Revision Committee: Carolyn Lenz has been asked and has accepted the task of forming a committee to review our constitution to be sure it meets our changing needs. The committee will be preparing a draft for the fall.

Mutual Ministries Committee: The pastors are beginning to form Mutual Ministry committees. The purpose of these committees is to provide support and encouragement to the pastors, to hear their concerns, joys and sorrows, to provide feedback from committee members and the congregation and to support staff communications.

2007 Nominating Committee: Council members whose terms end December 31, 2007 were announced so that the 2007 Nominating Committee, whose first meeting is called by Council Vice President Eileen Rosetto, could begin its work. The Fall congregational meeting is tentatively set for October 14, and the slate of nominees is to be completed by then.

Blessings,
Jean Malo
Council Secretary



Ministry Of Christian Education

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

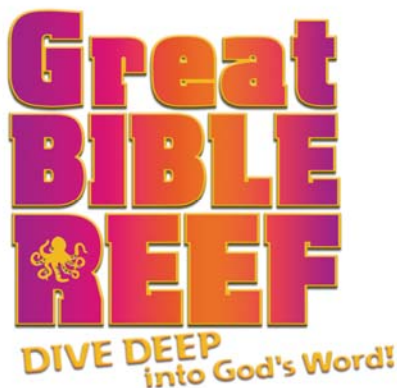
Director: Erika Demme - 410-495-8414; ed38@comcast.net

Council Liaisons: Bill Poole—410-257-7293

John Regner — 301-599-8491

VBS Registration Has Started!

Come join us as we explore The GREAT BIBLE REEF during a week of interactive faith-filled fun. The cost of this year's VBS is \$15.00 a child or \$30.00 per family. Registration forms are located in the Narthex. Adult, MSY and In Crowd guides and helpers are needed. Please contact Vicki Williams at 301-812 -0721 or email fredis2adog@comcast.net. Check the Weekly for our next planning meeting.



Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 15 – Friday, July 20

from 6:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

YES THAT'S RIGHT!! We are having VBS in the evening this year!

Got Good News?

We have some GREAT youth at Saint Nicholas and we would like to share their accomplishments with the congregation. When you have some good news about one of our youth, please share it with Pastor Wendy or Erika Demme.

Read this month's good news about our youth starting on page 12.

Ministry of Christian Education

Confirmation – Important Dates

May 6 - Confirmation Class

May 11 – Lock in following Fabulous Friday

May 19- 9:30 -10:30 8th grade exam

10:30 – 3:30 Mini-retreat, lunch will be provided

May 27 — 9:00 Confirmation Sunday—reception following service

Teachers
Needed!



Is God calling you?

The Saint Nicholas Sunday School team is looking to add a few new team members to our 2007/2008 Sunday School teaching staff for all grade levels.

Remember, God does **not** call those who are equipped, He equips those whom He calls.

Is God calling you to teach our children the Good News?

"If people only knew how rewarding it was, we'd have to stand in line to be able to teach." Signed: A Sunday School Teacher

Contact Erika Demme at 410-495-8414 or Anna Kitzmiller at 410-286-2939 with questions.



Honor Roll Students

College

Jennie Wolfgang	Dean's List	Vanderbilt University, School of Engineering
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High School

Sarah DeVere	Honors	Huntingtown High
Hannah Finlayson	High Honors	Huntingtown High
Joe Finlayson	Honors	Huntingtown High
Tierney Guido	Honors	Northern High
David Kent	Honors	Northern High
Kelly Kitzmiller	Honors	Northern High
Rachel Landale	Honors	Patuxent High
Ashley Lenz	Honors	Huntingtown High
Camille Ross	Honors	Calvert High
Elizabeth Scopel	High Honors	Huntingtown High
Corey Smetana	Honors	Huntingtown High
Jennifer Smetana	High Honors	Huntingtown High

Ministry of Christian Education

Honor Roll Students

Middle School

Ryan Baker	Honors	Calvert Middle
Samantha Baker	High Honors	Calvert Middle
Zachary Blankenship	Honors	Plum Point Middle
Nicole Brown	Honors	Windy Hill Middle
Ben Camilletti	Honors	Plum Point Middle
Ben Cooper	Honors	Southern Middle
Andrew Dangin	Honors	Northern Middle
Nicole Demme	High Honors	Southern Middle
Nicholas Demme	Honors	Southern Middle
Becca DeVere	Honors	Plum Point Middle
Hannah Fowler	Honors	Plum Point Middle
Joshua Fowler	Honors	Plum Point Middle
Sophia Franzak	Honors	Southern Middle
Taylor Frick	Honors	Calvert Middle
Alyson Griese	Honors	Plum Point Middle
Joshua Geckle	Honors	Southern Middle
Kayla Hanson	Honors	Mill Creek Middle
Vance Hanson	Honors	Mill Creek Middle
Erik Hyland	Honors	Northern Middle
Reid Hyland	Honors	Northern Middle
Karen Klepacz	High Honors	Plum Point Middle
Kyle Neri	Honors	Plum Point Middle
Ross Niosi	Honors	Plum Point Middle
Emily Nowak	Honors	Windy Hill Middle

Ministry of Christian Education

Middle School (continued)

Rachel Nowak	Honors	Windy Hill Middle
Laura Owens	High Honors	Plum Point Middle
Edward Praley	Honors	Northern Middle
Lara Roseto	High Honors	Plum Point Middle
Candace Ross	Honors	Southern Middle
Tori Savage	Honors	Plum Point Middle
Evie Schwartz	High Honors	Plum Point Middle
Maggie Scopel	Honors	Northern Middle
Amber Stuart	Honors	Mill Creek Middle
Miranda Stuart	Honors	Mill Creek Middle
Elizabeth Williams	Honors	Northern Middle
Andrew Wood	Honors	Northern Middle



More Good News!

Ryan Baker participated in the Future City Engineering Competition in Baltimore. His group of three from Calvert Middle School won an award for Best Essay.

Ben Cooper participated in the Regional Band Competition and received perfect scores. He will be going on to the State Competition.

Hannah Finlayson's History Fair project will be advancing to the state competition.

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@cheriseross.com

Council Liaison: Christy Lewis -410-326-9306; lewis@calvertnet.k12.md.us

Focus on Our Church Family

As the Evangelism and Outreach ministry sponsor, I feel that I must admit my focus has been on obtaining visitors, acquiring new members, and reaching the new Christians. I have personally neglected the evangelism and outreach that is needed here within our church home. Most of us probably know at least one member who is notably absent from worship. All that may be needed to reconnect with them is a little contact to remind them that they are still remembered and wanted here at Saint Nicholas. A quick email, friendly and short telephone call, postcard, or a simple note could be a big step in building an even stronger church family.

Hospitality

It is important to talk to new people following our church service. Sometimes it is hard to know how to start the conversation. An easy way to introduce yourself is by saying “Hi, my name is...” This is a simple introduction to break the ice. Then tell them you are glad to meet them and you look forward to seeing them again, but be conscious not to overwhelm them.

“Evangelism is not a professional job for a few trained men, but is instead the unremitting responsibility of every person who belongs, even in the most modest way, to the company of Jesus.” Elton Trueblood

Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter egg hunt on March 31 was a huge success! There were around 50 children and lots of eggs, candy, and games. I would like to extend a special thanks to Christian Education leaders, Erika Demme and Anna Kitzmiller, for all the hard work they put into assisting E & O in making the egg hunt so great.



Mother's Day

With May comes spring and warm weather. It is also the month that we celebrate Mother's Day. Here is a personal favorite recipe of mine that is great for a Mother's Day brunch or any occasion.

BRUNCH FOR A BUNCH

- 1 pound ground sausage
- 3 cups frozen hash browns potatoes, thawed
- 3 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
- ½ cup chopped green pepper
- 2 cups milk
- ½ teaspoon salt
- Garnishes: celery leaves, tomato wedges

Brown sausage in a medium skillet, stirring until it crumbles; drain. Place hash brown in a lightly greased shallow 3-quart baking dish. Layer cooked sausage, cheese, and chopped green pepper evenly over hash browns.

Combine eggs, milk, and salt in a large bowl, stirring with a wire whisk or fork until blended; pour egg mixture over chopped green pepper layer. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes or until golden. Garnish, if desired. Serve with fresh melon and coffee.

This recipe is from the Southern Living Cookbook



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

Council Liaison: Eileen Roseto- 410-414-3024; nrosetojr@mac.com

The 9th Annual Thorn Memorial Golf Tournament

On June 15, at Twin Shields Golf Club, the 9th Annual Thorn Memorial Golf Tournament will be held. Registration starts at 7 a.m. followed by a putting competition. There will be a light buffet of refreshments. The shotgun start is at 8 a.m. The \$90 registration fee (\$80 for students) includes green fee, golf cart, prizes and lunch (catered by Adam's Ribs). It also includes a day of fun and fellowship in honor of two very special people.

Interested players may register by mail by sending your name, address, and phone number to Tim Taylor, 902 S. Ellwood Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21224. Or you can contact him at 443-618-1216. If you would like to have others specifically included in your foursome, please list their names, addresses, and phone numbers. All checks should be made out to the **Baltimore Community Foundation**.

11th Annual BEE for Literacy

Calvert County Literacy Council's annual fundraiser will take place on Friday, May 11, at King's Landing Park. Come to a silent auction beginning at 6:00 and cheer on the "BEE-Attitudes" from Saint Nicholas at 7:00. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the Mercantile Southern Maryland Bank, Educate & Celebrate, and all Calvert County libraries. All proceeds support literacy tutoring programs for adults and literacy advocacy for all in Calvert County. Give the gift of literacy!

Project Echo



Special thanks to those who prepared the meal for Project Echo residents on April 22. It is through the actions of these generous people that we as a church exhibit our love for our neighbors. Please consider signing up for one of the upcoming months.

The May meal will be served by Saint Nicholas saints on Sunday, May 27. Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or contact Sherie Cooper (410-586-1584 or hbsa@chesapeake.net) or Jean or Jennifer Smetana (410-535-2485 or jrshistory@yahoo.com)

Food Pantry

Next time you're at the grocery store, and you see a really good sale, think about our collection basket in the narthex for the food pantry. During the month of May, we will be collecting boxes of instant potatoes, instant rice, or other boxed rice and potato dishes. Any other contributions are welcome as well. Thanks!!!





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

Council Liaison: Jean Malo—410-535-3283; jmmalo@hotmail.com

A Faith Story - My Continuing Journey

By Ann Wolfgang

I don't often ponder how I have gotten to this point in my faith journey. I know that my process is ongoing, that many of my questions have been answered, yet many, many more remain. The older I get the more I wonder if the questions I have are really all that important -- are they simply questions of my very limited understanding and of this world only? Could it be that "across the Jordan" they will be moot?

My beginnings in faith are rooted in my Nebraska farm family upbringing. St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Millard, Nebraska, was where both my mother's and my father's families worshiped, where my father was baptized and confirmed, where my parents were married, where my four siblings and I were baptized and confirmed, where the funeral services were for my grandparents, my father, and eventually will be for my mother. This is where I witnessed faith in God as a way of life for my family, my school friends, my farm neighbors and for me.

Since moving away in the early 70's, I have worshiped in the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church, the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ in addition to our faith community here at Saint Nicholas.

In all places, I have stood on the solid faith foundation established in my youth. Being an active member of other denominations has challenged my assumptions and personal beliefs in positive ways, resulting in my deep conviction that I am a Christian, regardless of any additional denomination label.

Comprehending God's gift of grace remains elusive in an intellectual way, but I can accept God's gift on faith. I fervently and regularly pray for wisdom and courage, patience and strength --exponentially now that I am your Council President. I know that God holds me tenderly in His hands, that I trust God to be my stalwart beacon and support **forever**. Psalm 138 is my personal favorite, especially verse 8: "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands."

And my journey continues...

Ann Wolfgang

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 the regular offering as well as the building campaign may be made through "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.

Is Your
Meadge?
Up to Date?



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; cvm@saintnicholaslutheran.org



SPOTLIGHT ON THE MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP

The mission of the Ministry of Stewardship is to promote a way of life that views all that we are and all that we have as gifts from God, to be used for His glory and the service of others.

The teams that help fulfill this mission are:

- **Adopt-A-Highway Team:** This team expresses stewardship of the land locally by meeting four times a year to clean up a one-mile stretch of Route 4 north of Plum Point Road. The next clean up will be in mid-summer. Contact Glenn Wolfgang for more information and to volunteer.
- **Blood Drive Team:** Six times a year Saint Nicholas sponsors a blood drive. Members of the team donate blood, and help with paperwork and refreshments. Contact Jeanne Olinger for more information and to sign up for blood drives.
- **Care Call Team:** This team contacts members on behalf of the congregation to maintain contact and determine if they are facing issues for which the church or pastor may be of service, and to offer prayers. Contact Debbie Bang, the sponsor for the Ministry of Stewardship, for more information and to volunteer.
- **Membership Team:** This team organizes and provides hospitality for the New Members Classes. Contact Debbie Bang for information and to volunteer.

The Spiritual Gifts often found in members of this ministry are servanthood, seeking the faith, generosity, nurturing leadership, mercy, knowing, helping, and visionary and managing leadership.

If you have gifts or talents you would like to use in this area of ministry, contact Debbie Bang, Ministry Sponsor, or Barbara Harris, Coordinator of Volunteer Ministry.

Volunteer Ministry

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

EVANGELISM & OUTREACH:

Nursery Team Coordinator: Recruit and train volunteers for the Nursery for the 9am and 11:15am services. Check on the nursery facility and supplies such as sign in/out sheets, name tags, diapers, wipes, etc. Contact Barbara Harris or Cherise Ross, Evangelism and Outreach Ministry Sponsor at cherise@cherisecross.com

ADMINISTRATION:

Newsletter Helpers: Spend about 2 hours, toward the end of each month, working with a group to assemble the newsletter for mailing. Contact Melissa Stuart in the church office at 410-257-5683.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Vacation Bible School: If you are interested in helping with Vacation Bible School this summer, put July 16-20 on your calendar and get ready for a lot of fun!

Sunday School Teachers: Have you considered teaching Sunday School? Before the school year ends is a great time to observe a class and prayerfully consider whether God is calling you into this ministry.

STEWARDSHIP:

Adopt-a-Highway Team members: Express stewardship for the land locally, by joining crews to pick up trash mid-summer. Contact Glenn Wolfgang for details

WORSHIP & MUSIC:

Assisting Ministers: Members of the congregation are sought to assist the pastors at worship services with prayer and communion. If the Spirit is calling you to serve, contact Pastor Wendy or Pastor Greg.

Communion Bread Provider: During the summer months we give the bread bakers a break (say that 5 times fast!) from the heat and allow other members the opportunity to minister to the congregation by providing King's Hawaiian bread for communion. Look for the sign-up sheet for June/July/Aug on the bulletin board in the narthex.

YOUTH AND FAMILY LIFE:

Cheerleader: Participate in a bit of Americana by coming out to cheer on the Saint Nicholas Church softball team. Check the newsletter and Weekly, or with Tom Blatt, for times and dates of the games.



Ministry Of Worship And Music

Mission: Our mission is supporting the congregation in celebrating the Good News of God in Jesus Christ through music and liturgy.

Sponsor: Jean Wolf - 410-257-7998; gwolfpack@comcast.net

Council Liaison: Kathy Clark—410-535-7545; Kathy_e_c@yahoo.com

A Rose by any Other Name...



During the reading of the resurrection story on Easter, I was reminded of a passage in the Bible we studied in our class on Mary Magdalene, where the women were identified as Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Mary, the mother of Joses, and the other Mary. The author of the study commented on how sad it would be to go through life eternal with a name tag that read, “The Other Mary.” We learned that Mary was one of the most common names of the time, and I suppose with no last names to differentiate them, someone had to come up with something unique. At least Mary was an easy name to read and say. There are places in the Bible where genealogy is given, but it must have been awkward to introduce yourself as Jean, daughter of Richard and Eleanor, of the family of Walker from Punxsutawney, at least until I married and took on my husband’s family name. I guess then I would have to give all that as well, just to differentiate me from some other Jean (there are six of us at Saint Nicholas!).

Then there was Peter, Simon Peter, Cephas, and the other names by which he was known. I guess if you did something out-

standing, you got some sort of qualifier put on your name so that you wouldn’t be mixed up with just a run-of-the-mill Peter.

If you have ever been a lector, you understand the nervousness that presents itself as you take your first look at the readings you are to do. Will there be any of those long, horrible names to stumble over? For the Easter Vigil, I was a last minute substitute lector. There I was scanning the story of the three young men in the fiery furnace, the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, at the mercy of King Nebuchadnezzar. I anticipated no trouble with Shadrach and Meshach; those were easy enough. Jonathan was home from seminary and he said that there is a current tendency to pronounce Abednego with the emphasis on the third syllable. Hey, it wasn’t that long ago I stopped calling him Abend-i-go! The Bible I use has every name marked with accents and long and short vowel marks, so usually I can make a good stab at a weirdly spelled name. I guess I did okay, although one person said she thought the king’s name was Nebu-ca-nezzar. Jonathan said that on Maundy Thursday at his teaching parish, one

Ministry of Worship and Music

of the pastors asked if he knew how to pronounce a place called Bashan, and Jonathan said he had always heard it said a certain way, so that's what they went with. It is how I pronounce it every time I chant Psalm 22 for that service, so I hope I was right!

Two names that amuse me are Nazareth and Lazarus. They aren't all that close in sound to each other, but have you ever been around anyone who can't keep them straight? I have, a pastor even, and it does become a bit of a tongue twister - Lazareth from Nazarus. Two other names annoy me: Elijah and Elisha. They are so melodic, aren't they? I wonder why we now seem to pronounce the "j" in Elijah as if it is soft. My name starts with a "j" so to me it seems natural to make that "j" crisp, especially when reading stories where

both men are mentioned. Perhaps I should start calling myself Sheen.

In this current society, where we seem eager to dumb everything down so that nothing is too challenging, I guess it is a blessing that we have left the Bible alone, at least officially. In our Sunday School class, we might joke and pick out one from a mess of syllables in our modern mouths, but for the most part, we use the names that were left to us in scripture. Some of us carry pronunciation guides (yes, I have one of those as well) and some of us just power through any unfamiliar name with confidence. And we sigh with relief when we see that the text for the next Sunday's lessons have nothing more challenging than Chad or Rome in it!



A NEW DIRECTORY is in the works. Please take a look at the directory in the narthex and make any changes to it, like updating a telephone number or your e-mail address. Thank you.



Ministry Of Youth And Family Life

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

Sponsor:

Mary Jo Gebhardt -410-414-5168 mjogebhardt@netzero.net

Council Liaison:

Pastor Wendy—associatepastor@saintnicholaslutheran.org

Geraniums for Pentecost

Anyone interested in purchasing a red geranium in honor of Pentecost Sunday and the confirmation of our 8th graders on May 27, please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board. They are 10 inch hanging baskets for a cost of \$12.00 each and can be taken home after the third service on Pentecost.

Youth and Family Life

May is an especially busy month for us here at Saint Nicholas. We have scheduled a Potluck for Families of young children, the Lunch Bunch meeting at the Captain's Table, our first "Fabulous Friday" with a middle school lock-in following the same evening, men's softball games starting, and the month ends with the Confirmation of our 8th graders on May 27. So many great things happening!

Our first "Fabulous Friday" will be May 11, starting at 6:30 p.m. The theme will be "Ladies Night Off" in honor of the Mother's Day weekend. The men and children will be responsible for the set-up, cooking, and clean up. The church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks, and everyone should bring a dish to share. We'll also have a birthday cake to celebrate all the May birthdays! There will be volleyball, crafts and lots of activities for everyone to enjoy. Please come and enjoy a relaxing evening of fellowship.

Blessings,

Mary Jo Gebhardt

Ministry of Youth and Family Life

Upcoming Youth Events

Middle School

- Friday, May 11 – Saturday, May 12 – Lock-in
- Saturday, May 19 – Confirmation Retreat at SNLC
- Sunday, May 27—Affirmation of Baptism for 17 eighth-grade Confirmands (9:00a.m. service)

The In Crowd

- May 4 – May 5 – Rock-A-Thon
- June 17 – 22 – Work Camp, Marion, VA
- June 30 – Pool Party at Pastor Greg’s house

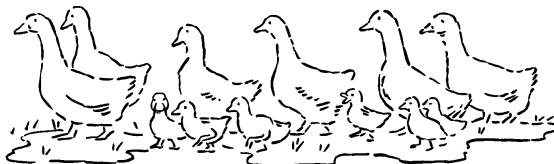


Potluck for Families with Young Children

Is your life a blur of diapers, toys, bottles, and finger foods? You’re not alone! Let’s get together so that the kids can play, parents can talk, and everybody can eat. Please come to a potluck on **Saturday, May 12, at 11:30 at the church.** The church will provide the main course. **Please bring a side dish.** Hopefully, the weather will be nice enough that the kids can play outside. There will be toys for the kids. If you have any questions call Nancy Campbell at (410) 586-2023 or email camp1974@yahoo.com

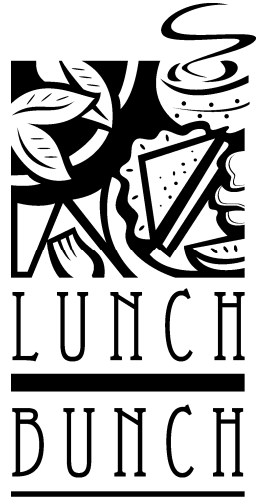


Bring the Family!

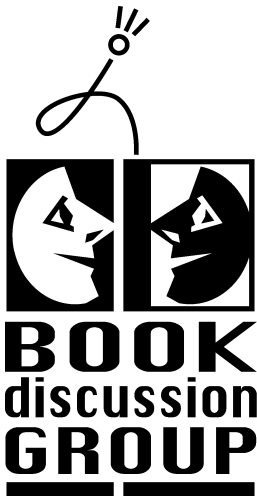


Lunch Bunch

Saint Nicholas is offering a new midweek adult fellowship opportunity! On the 2nd Thursday of every month beginning in May, everyone who would enjoy joining church friends for lunch is invited to meet at the church and carpool or meet at the designated restaurant (whichever is easier for you!). The first Lunch Bunch gathering will be Thursday, May 10, 2007 at Captain's Table in Solomon's Island. Our reservation time is 12:30 p.m. If you are interested in attending please RSVP to Kay Aronhalt (301) 855-1656 or karonhalt@comcast.net by Wednesday, May 9.



If you plan to carpool from the church, please be here at 11:30 a.m. Also, if you are interested in going and need a ride from home, please let Kay or Pastor Wendy know. Come for fun, food, and fellowship; see you there!



Book Club Meeting

Come and join the Saint Nicholas "YADA YADA BOOK CLUB" for our May meeting. All book lovers are welcome! Our book choice for May will be "The Memory Keeper's Daughter" by Kim Edwards (five stars)---a stunning family drama that evokes every mother's silent fear: what would happen if you lost your child at birth and she grew up without you? The book is available in most book stores and online. Copies will be available from Sherie Cooper. The date, time and place will be announced after our introductory meeting in April. Look for up-to-date information in the Weekly and on the bulletin board. Hope to see you there!

For more information contact Sherie Cooper at 410-586-1584, smdcoopers@comcast.net, or Linda Dorr at 410-414-5815, ldorr@comcast.net.

Ministry of Youth and Family Life



WISC

(Women in Service to Christ)

All women of Saint Nicholas, your family and friends are invited and encouraged to join in any of our activities—we'd love to have you!

PRAYER SISTERS - Ever feel the need to have someone listen to you, someone who cares and will pray for whatever is on your heart in confidence? WISC is starting a program called Prayer Sisters. You and your prayer sister can talk on the phone, email each other, go out to lunch, recognize each other's special occasions, or just pray for one another—this program is what you and your sister want to make of it. If you are interested in becoming a Prayer Sister, a questionnaire is available in the narthex for you to complete. Put completed forms into Barbara Harris's box in the office. Beginning every September, she will review the questionnaires and suggest matches for sisters for the year.

FLOWER MINISTRY - Have you thought about what happens to those lovely flowers on the altar each Sunday? If the donor does not want to keep them, they are thrown away. WISC would like to use those flowers once each month to create small arrangements to be given to Meals on Wheels to be delivered to shut-ins along with their meals. We already have some volunteers who would be willing to help make the arrangements but we need someone to coordinate the effort. If you feel led to direct this new ministry, please contact me.

CINCO DE MAYO - On Tuesday, May 1, we will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo. If you would like to help plan this activity, please contact me. We had so much fun doing this several years ago, so be sure to join us that night for food, fun and fellowship.

On Tuesday, June 5, we will have our annual dinner out for our last meeting before the summer break. Please watch the Weekly for more details.

Love and Blessings,

Linda Dorr

410-414-5815 or ldorr@comcast.net

Ministry of Youth and Family Life



The 2007 edition of the Saint Nicholas softball team was scheduled to debut the weekend of April 28/29. That doubleheader was the first of ten regular season doubleheaders scheduled this spring and summer. The schedule for May and June is listed below. You can find the complete schedule on the bulletin board in the narthex and on the church's website. If you want your own copy for your refrigerator at home, please see Tom Blatt.

This year's team is a mix of returning veterans and a number of first-time team members. Bob Callis, Jim Felbinger, Jason Gelatka, Dave Hickin, Cliff Price, Chris Wentzel, and Keith Williams return to patrol the outfield this year. They will be joined by newcomer Eric Trickle. Jack Carroll, Brian Harbel, Daniel Jones, Devin Page, Jonathan Wolf, and Jerry Wood return to man the infield. Rookies Justin Brittain and Dylan Savage will be welcome additions to the infield. First timer Craig White joins Harris Cooper and Tom Blatt to make up the pitching staff. In addition, Ron Ross will be joining the team when he returns from his six-week submarine tour. It's never too late to add more players. If you are interested, please contact Tom Blatt.

The majority of the games will be played at Hallowing Point Park and Dunkirk Park. After a several year hiatus, Cove Point Park will return to the schedule this year with the addition to the league of a new team from Solomons. All the fields we play at have lots of bleacher space for fans to come and watch. I know the team would love to see the bleachers packed with enthusiastic fans each and every week. Come out to the ball park this spring and summer to cheer for your Saint Nicholas softball team!!

Saturday April 28	6:00 p.m.	Hallowing Point #4	Calvert County Baptist
Saturday May 5	7:00 p.m.	Hallowing Point #4	Emmanuel Baptist
Sunday May 20	4:30 p.m.	Dunkirk #3	Jesus the Divine Word
Sunday June 3	7:00 p.m.	Dunkirk #3	Friendship UMC
Saturday June 9	4:30 p.m.	Cove Point #1	Our Lady Star of the Sea
Saturday June 16	4:30 p.m.	Dunkirk #2	Dunkirk Baptist
Saturday June 23	7:00 p.m.	Dunkirk #3	Trinity UMC



Ministry of Youth and Family Life

Happy Birthday May Babies

1	Joe Finlayson	8	John Krell	21	Kathy Dangin
1	Darin Sharar	8	Walter Merz, Jr.	21	Maggie Scopel
1	Larissa Stump	9	Reid Austin	22	Angie Wolfgang
2	Alison Banholzer	9	Ann Wolfgang	23	Jason Lyle
2	Preston Fleig	10	Betty Alexander	24	Billy Bang
2	Barry Graham	11	Jared Roscoe	24	Mark Geckle
2	Meghan McCuistion	12	Ken Puzey	26	Gunnar Arnesen
4	Susan Groff	13	Sarah DeVere	28	Amy Brown
4	Margaret Smith	13	Vance Hanson	28	Helen Hudson
5	Kyle Nielsen	14	Pam Kreppel	28	David Praley
5	Amber Sullivan	15	Joshua Bush	28	Mark Schlickbernd
5	Andrew Walthen	15	Camryn Frick	29	Pastor Wendy Deeben
6	Ken Clark	15	Abbey Wentzel	29	Miranda Reed
6	Marsha Gray	16	Sharon LeBrun	30	Adam Hogenson
6	Kevin Sullivan	16	Theresa Praley	31	Jordan Frick
7	Tom Kreppel	17	Erin Brown	31	James Landale

If you were omitted or the date is incorrect, please contact the church office
at 410-257-5683 or 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

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