

Nicholas ews



The happenings of Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church, an ELCA congregation

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November 2006



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 :

Joseph Laure, Ron Olinger, Helen Fasciana, Delan Lambert, Shannon Wrightman, Ed Johnson, Curtis Ivey & Family, Andrea Garga-Robles, Earl Westphal, Ed Lenz, Sr., Hazel Winters, Jim Deiso, Shannon O'Brien, Fran Hardesty, Ichiko Lee, Walter Burke, Jo & Bill At Lee, Kip At Lee, III, Terry O'Prey, Elaine Bailey, Betsy Williams, Richard Shumaker, Darryl Gray, Joe Redden, Bart Bartholomew

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

Congregational Meeting

November 12

10:15 a.m. (between the second and third services)

Plan to attend the upcoming congregational meeting and let your voice be heard. This is an exciting time as we look forward to all that 2007 will mean for our ministry together. Elections for council members, synod delegates, and the nominating team along with a vote on our budget for 2007 are scheduled. (A second budget forum will be held on 5 November for those of you who were unable to attend the October 29 forum.) Nursery care will be available for young children, and we will have a children's movie in the fellowship hall for grades 5 and under.

Thank you,

Bonnie



Reverend Gregory Gaertner

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

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

Thy Will Be Done

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ... But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.” Matthew 6:25-26,33-34

This text is either the wisest or the silliest speech we can imagine. Jesus tells us, “Don’t worry.” Don’t worry! Worrying is what we do better than anything else. We worry about our health and our jobs (or classes) and our families, our retirement and our community and our country and this list could be extended almost indefinitely.

And these anxieties are real. Sparrows do starve and it seems to me that robins are hard at work most of the time and the lilies would worry if they had any sense at all.

So, how can we understand this text? Let me offer a few thoughts. One is that worrying doesn’t solve anything by itself. Worrying sometimes represents an attempt to control the uncontrollable in a superstitious way. If we worry, then we aren’t doing *nothing*, we aren’t

just moving blindly ahead. No, we’re worrying. That’s worth something, isn’t it?

No, not really. Worry may motivate hard work or problem-solving or prayer and all of these can be helpful, but the text tells us that worry by itself is not only not helpful but may actually be harmful if it paralyzes or sickens or discourages us. When we place our worries above our trust in God, we idolize our fears.

Speaking for myself, I know that I frequently worry about things that never come to pass, but fail to attend to things that are right in front of my nose. Let me give you an example. Back in an earlier life, the company I worked for did tests to see whether people had the talents to be good teachers. One test was as follows: Johnny comes to you and tells you that Nancy fell down in the schoolyard and scraped her knee. What do you do first? The

Thy Will Be Done (continued)

answer? *Thank Johnny for telling you!* An obvious thing, I suppose, but whether or not you are present in the moment, thinking about the little boy in front of you and not only the little girl you're imagining, that says a lot about your priorities.

Second, the text tells us what our priorities are – seek ye first the Kingdom of God. For a congregation of the people of God, this is job #1. We are not called first to protect buildings or positions or programs, but rather to help God bring the Kingdom. Now, we believe that all of these things will help support the Kingdom – that's the only reason we do them – but the Kingdom and equipping the saints to help bring it into being are the main business of the church on earth.

A postscript: Kay Aronhalt has announced that she will be stepping down as Director of Christian Education at Saint Nicholas in January 2007. Kay has been a wonderful leader of our strong education ministries at Saint Nicholas for nearly 5 years and has been an enormous help and support to me in my work here. Kay has assured me that she will remain active and involved at Saint Nicholas in many ways, and I fully intend to take her up on this offer. A better Christian, a better person and a better friend would be very hard to find. When you see her next, please thank her for all she has done to make Saint Nicholas a warm and caring place.

This text comes to us as a part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, right after Jesus tells us that we cannot serve two masters. And we cannot. We can either worship our fears and our need to control or we can worship the God who can make good things out of anything. Put that way, we all know what our choice is.

And one last thought, courtesy of Father Tim in the Mitford series of books by Jan Karon. We know that there is one prayer that is always answered -- "Thy will be done."

A Prayer for All of Us Overachievers

Help me to release my need to control,

Help me to let go and to accept your will.

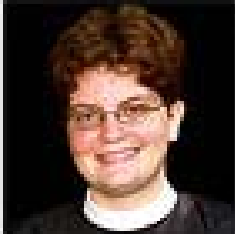
I place myself lovingly into your hands.

I pray for the highest and the best for all the children of God.

Thy will be done.

Amen.

(Adapted from *All Will Be Well: A Gathering of Prayer*)



Reverend Wendy Deeben

Office 410-257-5683

associatepastor@saintnicholaslutheran.org

Let's Talk About It!

“When in the future your child asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall answer, ‘By strength of hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.’”

Let's talk about what we believe! One of the four keys of nurturing faith that is stressed by Youth and Family Institute is caring conversations. Caring conversations are conversations that connect individuals and families together by sharing what they believe and value. Christian values and faith are passed on to the next generation through supportive conversation. Listening and responding to the daily concerns of our children make it easier to have meaningful conversations regarding the love of God.

Where do these conversations happen for us? Where is that holy ground, that holy space and time to have caring conversations – to have meaningful conversations? In our busy culture, it's easy to get caught up in activities that surround us: sports, school, work, social engagements, and

many others. When do we have time to talk with those we love about our concerns in life, our hopes and dreams, and about God?

John, Benjamin, and I usually have our conversations at the dinner table. It's our time that we take each day to find out what was happening for the other. The time is valued, even if it's only twenty minutes before I need to leave for a meeting. The other holy time for us is traveling in the car. We talk about every topic imaginable when we travel. It's our time for caring conversations.

Sometimes, talking about faith can be intimidating. It's difficult. We may be afraid to say something because we aren't sure if that's what we are “supposed” to believe. A frightening statistic for me is

Let's Talk About It! (continued)

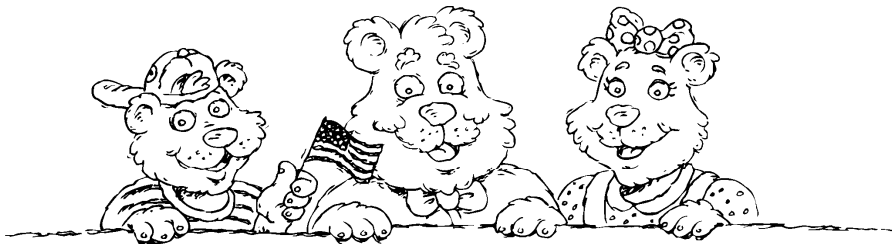
that 90% of youth do not know what their parents/families believe about God. It is difficult to talk about faith and how it is part of everyday life.

Please share your faith with others. Let's talk about what we believe...it's important for our children—for our families—to know.

If we are unsure of how to begin conversations of faith with our families, there are many resources to help us. Two of my favorite resources are the Comfy Chair Game (ask the 6th and 7th grade confirmands about it!) and Faith Talk Cards. Each of these resources gives a question or a statement for an individual to respond to. They are wonderful! One comes in a bag, the other in a case, both of which are easy to take anywhere, including the glove box of your car for a long ride!

Peace,

Pastor Wendy



National Family Week

November 19—25



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

Stephen Ministry: When?

[Third in a series of articles intended to bust myths about Stephen Ministry so that everyone at Saint Nicholas may be aware of what Stephen Ministry is like. This article is written from the point of view of a potential care receiver.]

Myth: *"The crisis is over. I am O.K. now. I don't need to deal with anything now. So I don't need a Stephen Minister."*

Yes, the crisis might be over. Yes, you might be O.K. in the sense that you can go on functioning in daily life. That is not proof enough that there is nothing worth "dealing with" anymore. Healing comes from dealing. A Stephen Minister might just be the way to most effectively and efficiently get that healing -- especially when there is no one nearby who can be there for your view.

How do you know when there is healing to be done? Maybe the pit of your stomach tells you. Maybe your preoccupation with a concern is the clue. Other persistent emotions or intrusive feelings you don't want to harbor may be your sign. Just pay attention and don't ignore the urging from within to do something about it.

Doing something may be as simple as talking to a Stephen Leader (Pastor Greg, Bonnie Stump, or me) or to a Stephen Minister (Carol Blatt, Linda Gaertner, or Gus Wolf) to find out more about what a Stephen Minister can do. You may also speak confidentially about how it could be a fit for you.

Glenn Wolfgang

Stephen Leader

2006 Contributions Need To Be In By December 29

The end of 2006 is rapidly approaching. Please do everything possible to have your end-of-year contributions into the church office by Friday, December 29, 2006. That will allow me to deposit them in the bank and to add them to your contributions statement for the 2006 tax year.

Thank you very much for your help in this effort.

Financial Secretary,

Tom Blatt

Little Changes

Moms and Dads: A fold-down baby changing table has been installed in the center restroom. Thanks to Jim Jordan for the installation.

Ladies: Thanks go out to Sheila Poole for the lovely angel now hanging on the ladies' room wall. Thanks also to Dick and Louise West for replacing those old, inoperable TP holders.

Progress on the Pavilion

Chris Holder has started building a picnic pavilion in our Outdoor Center. This is Chris's Eagle Scout project. He already has six support posts cemented in the ground and expects to finish the project by the end of November. Chris needs about \$350 to finish this project. Anyone willing to contribute, please make your check payable to Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church, note "Eagle Scout Project" on the memo line, and place it in the offering plate..

Ministry of Administration

Members only . . .

Growing and empowering disciples for Jesus Christ for the ministries of God's work in the world. What a powerful statement! And it is ours!! Our mission statement.

We see this statement every Sunday on the bulletin. It is on the front cover of our monthly newsletter. It is the foundation of every printed council agenda. So, how are we doing?

Have you ever thought about it? We claim to be *growing and empowering disciples*. Growing in discipleship means building a stronger relationship with God through Christ Jesus. We do that by praying regularly, worshipping weekly, reading the Bible daily, and more. So, how are we doing?

Empowering disciples means feeding them, preparing them for the ministry that is to follow. We do that by learning more about God's Word. We hear, study, and contemplate God's Word through our pastors' sermons, Sunday School classes, confirmation, Soup & Study, adult forums, and more. So, how are we doing?

For the ministries of God's work in the world is the second half of our mission statement. If we are deepening our relationship with God and empowering ourselves through studying God's Word, we cannot help but be active in ministry. According to the Rev. Charles R. Lane of the ELCA, Chicago, that includes, but is not limited to, growth in giving toward a tithe, serving others in Jesus' name, and sharing the Good News with the unchurched. So, how are we doing?

Are we only members of Saint Nicholas who come dutifully to worship on Sunday, then leave our faith at the door on our way out? Or are we members of God's family at Saint Nicholas, His disciples in fellowship and worship, building and strengthening our relationship with Him through study of the Word, reaching out in ministry to each other and the larger community? So, HOW ARE YOU DOING?

It's just a thought....

Bannie

Newsletter Deadline

December is a busy time for all of us. The deadline for DECEMBER contributions to *Nicholas News* is Wednesday, November 15th. 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. Thanks!

Editor,

Linda Gaertner

linda.gaertner@comcast.net

October 11 Council Meeting Highlights

The congregational council meeting was called to order at 7:00pm on Wednesday, October 11, 2006.

As we move toward the end of the year, your ministry sponsors, treasurer and council have been busy preparing and reviewing the budget for 2007. A good portion of the October council meeting was centered on discussion of that budget. The council has approved a budget to be brought to the congregation at the November 12th congregational meeting to be held following the 9:00am service. A letter notifying the congregation of the congregational meeting was sent out the week of October 22, 2006.

Budget forums will be presented on October 29 and November 5 to respond to any questions regarding budget items.

Another year-end activity is that of the Nominating Team (last year's outgoing council members). They have all been busy selecting candidates to replace our outgoing president, treasurer, and three at-large council members. The Lord has blessed their effort in finding individuals for the congregation to vote on in November. Bless those that have come forward and said yes to this ministry.

November 11 is the date that's been set for the *CalvertCountyCares* truck to leave for Camp Victor in Mississippi. Kathy Dangin is leading our ecumenical effort to take a truck-load of supplies to Camp Victor for Hurricane Katrina disaster victims' relief. Let's all try to

fill that truck to the top before it leaves. Our youth will be putting out flyers asking our neighbors to fill bags that will be collected on November 4.

Christopher Holder, an Eagle Scout from the area, presented his plans for building our church a picnic pavilion in the Outdoor Center. He plans to have another car wash and a bake sale to help fund this project. Estimated completion is the end of November.

On a sad note, our Director of Christian Education, Kay Aronhalt has decided to relinquish the DCE title and responsibilities at the end of this year. We will all miss the wonderful and dedicated service Kay has provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Mala

Church Elections





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

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

As we near the holiday season, we think of God's abundant love and the many opportunities to share his gifts with others less fortunate. Our Sunday School will be participating in several programs that bring both necessities and smiles to others in Christ's name. Opportunities this year include:

CalvertCountyCares: We will be collecting items for this ecumenical effort organized by Saint Nicholas to provide for the continuing needs of victims of Hurricane Katrina in the Biloxi, Mississippi region. Your child has likely brought home a list of items needed to fill our truck, which departs on November 11. Visit our website for more information and to see the complete list, www.saintnicholaslutheran.org.

Operation Christmas Child: Our middle school youth will be packing shoe boxes with goodies for children in more than 90 countries as we participate in this global project sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. Shoe boxes will be collected on Oct. 29 and Nov. 5; small toys, personal care items, candy, etc., will be collected on November 5 and 12, and our youth will pack the boxes on Nov. 12. They will be sent off with a prayer and notes from our children to their peers in war-torn or weather-ravaged areas of the world.

Thank you for helping us help others!

OUR SECOND ANNUAL SAINT NICHOLAS BIBLE BOWL!

It's time to form your team, register with Kay, and start reading the Book of Luke! The Bible Bowl is set for Sunday, January 28, 6 to 8 p.m. Circle your calendar now! Your team's name may be on our handsome walnut and brass plaque as next year's winner!

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL OFFERINGS

Our children in grades Toddler through 5 will be preparing a Christmas musical program to be offered on December 17. On this evening, the children share billing with the adult choir's Christmas Choristers for a wonderful evening guaranteed to put Christmas in your heart. Join us for the Christmas Choristers *Round Yon Mother and Child* at 6:30 p.m. in the nave, followed by the children's program at 7 p.m.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year, the children's Christmas Pageant will be "A Stranger in the Manger". It will include speaking parts that involve the animals in the stable. There are also about five really fun songs. The Children's Choir will help lead the other singers in the songs.

We need actors, speakers, children who want to dress as animals, and singers ages pre-K through 5th grade to come take part in this celebration of Christmas.

There is a change to how the children's Christmas Pageant will be done this year. The pageant is not going to be rehearsed during the Sunday school time (which is why the name has been changed to the children's Christmas Pageant instead of the Sunday School Christmas Pageant. We will be rehearsing every Sunday afternoon, starting November 12 from 12:30 – 1:15pm.

So, all children between pre-K through 5th grade who want to be part of this fun story of Jesus' birth, please join us!

If your child would like to participate with a reading part or as a member of the children's chorus (or both), please contact Lisa Churchill, Churchill@radar.nrl.navy.mil or cederhill@verizon.net or 410-257-7647; or Anna Kitzmiller, anna@kitznet.com.

CHRISTIAN BOOK FAIR

October 28 through November 6

Here's your opportunity to stock up on Christian reading materials for yourself or for holiday gifts! The books will be on display in the fellowship hall for ten days, from Oct. 28 through Nov. 6. This book fair is made possible through a special offer from our ELCA publishing house, Augsburg Fortress. Forty percent of the purchase price remains at Saint Nicholas! What a wonderful start for our new library in the North Wing! Come and shop!

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday morning:

Unveiling Mary Magdalene continues during the education hour in the associate pastor's office.

The Sunday Exchange meets at the conference table in the fellowship hall to look deeper into the lessons and sermon of the day. Bring your coffee and join the conversation.

Wednesdays:

Wednesday morning Bible Study meets at 9:30 a.m. weekly; now studying the book of Acts

Pastor's Soup & Study meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 6 p.m. for soup, 6:30 to 7:30 for study. We are currently studying Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Speaking of Sin: The Lost Language of Salvation*. Join us in the fellowship hall.

Upcoming adult forums:

Nov. 5. Leave a Legacy for Ministry: A workshop on wills, estates, and charitable gift planning, presented by Alice Benson, MBA, CFRE, with the ELCA Foundation and the Lutheran Planned Giving Consortium. Join us in the nave at 10:15 a.m. If you already have a will, that's great news! But it might be out of date if you have moved, your children's circumstances have changed, you've had a death in the family, you have acquired more property, your executor (personal representative) has moved, or your interest in the church or other ministry is not in your present will. Perhaps there are other changes in your life that require revising your will. Perhaps you've just never gotten around to it in the first place. Put off your procrastination and give a great gift to your family: get your affairs in order.

Nov. 19 and 26. Liz Swan, with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, will lead two adult forums on "My Life, My Plan" during the Sunday School hour at 10:15 a.m. in the Nave. Come and see how your financial decisions and time commitments reflect your personal values.



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

New Sponsor: Cherise Ross

I would like to introduce myself as the new Evangelism & Outreach sponsor. I am married to Ron and have three children, Camille, Candace, and Ronald Jr. Hopefully my experience as a real estate agent will help with all aspects of Evangelism & Outreach. As most can imagine, I am filled with lots of nerves, but even more excitement.

After meeting with Pastor Greg and Pastor Wendy to exchange ideas for Evangelism and Outreach I am more certain this is right for me. In the upcoming weeks and months the familiar events such as bring a friend to worship, Thanksgiving caroling and door hanging are on the calendar. There are also some new ideas, for example, sending a letter to new homeowners inviting them to visit and worship at Saint Nicholas. Any and all suggestions, concerns, and PRAYERS are welcome!

Thanksgiving Caroling

Once again Worship & Music is partnering with Evangelism & Outreach for "Thanksgiving caroling" and door hanging. Ask any participant from the past two years and you will know how much fun we have!! This year we will carol and leave door hangers on Monday, November 20, meeting at 6:30 p.m. and ending by 8:00 p.m. Put on your scarf and mittens and join us!!! Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Bonnie

P.S. If you would like us to carol in your neighborhood, please contact Jean or me.



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

Holiday Food Baskets

Once again, CCCFP (the Calvert Churches Community Food Pantry) is able to purchase food wholesale to make Thanksgiving baskets for only \$40 a family. If you are interested in donating all or part of a Thanksgiving basket, please make your check payable to Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church, with "Holiday Baskets" on the memo line and place it in the offering plate.

As always, you are welcome to bring in donations for the food pantry and place them in the basket in the narthex. This month we are collecting stuffing, boxed mashed potatoes, canned yams, canned cranberry sauce, and green beans.

Tree of Angels

The Tree of Angels is an opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts for the less fortunate. You can choose from actual gifts ideas that were requested from local families. The gifts, after being purchased, are to be brought back to church unwrapped so that they may be distributed to the family that requested them. For more information, contact Carol Blatt (301-855-4589 or tlblatt@comcast.net)

Project Echo

Once again, we will be providing a meal for residents of Project Echo on the fourth Sunday in November. The date for that meal is November 26. Show your thankfulness by signing up to help. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. You may also contact Sherie Cooper (410-586-1584) or Jennifer or Jean Smetana (410) 535-2485.

Gifts of Hope

“Christmas is coming, The goose is getting fat. . .” As you begin to make your list of presents for those special people in your life, remember to consider *Gifts of Hope*. *Gifts of Hope* is an alternative gift-giving program sponsored by the Metro DC Synod. It is an opportunity to buy

- ✝ Medical supplies for residents of N Street Village
- ✝ Winter boots, a hat and gloves for a homeless person
- ✝ A tractor for Namibia . . .

or anything else from the *Gifts of Hope* catalog to benefit the needy or help spread the Good News. Through the purchase of these gifts, you can help support several Metro DC Synod social ministry organizations and three international church organizations, the Lutheran Church in El Salvador, Lutheran Churches in Namibia, and Lutheran Churches in Slovakia.

There will be a table in the narthex after each service in Advent from which you can obtain the catalog as well as place your order. With each gift purchased, you will receive a slip describing how your Gift of Hope will be spent, a gift card, and an envelope. Additional program information can be found at www.giftsofhopemetrodc.org .

More Gift Ideas

Equal Exchange coffee, tea, cocoa or chocolate bars will be available to purchase as gifts for Christmas. These will be available in pre-packaged gift bags with holiday mugs to complete the packages. These are great for teachers, co-workers, day care providers, and many others. They will be available all four Sundays in Advent at the *Gifts of Hope* table in the narthex. Look for more in the *Weekly*.

October Projects

Thanks to all who brought in coats for our coat drive. They have been taken to the Latino Ministry Project in Langley Park.

Thanks also to those who have brought in goods for *CalvertCountyCares*. The last Sunday to bring in donations is November 5. There will also be opportunities on Friday, November 10, from 7-9pm and on Saturday, November 11, from 9-11am. Then the truck will be on its way! Please pray for a safe journey for Harris Cooper and Sean Demme.

Thank You Notes

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your donation to Hurricane Katrina disaster relief. If you could only be here to see how your support helps the people of the coast, you would be overwhelmed. We pledge to get these funds to the victims of the hurricane as quickly as possible.

God's Peace,

Christus Victor Lutheran Church

Ministry of Social Concerns

Dear Fellow Christians:

Last week we had the privilege of having Mike Stump from your congregation, along with four other men, come to our house and replace windows that were damaged in Hurricane Katrina. The five men who came were the best workmen we've ever had to do anything for us. They were the most careful, meticulous, workmen we have ever seen and we very much appreciate what they did for us.

We tried to give the men money, but they would not take it. We gave a generous donation to Katrina relief at our Church, Christus Victor Lutheran, on their behalf.

There is no way we can repay those men for what they did, all we can do is thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

Very sincerely,

Rod and Eunice Van Loon

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your recent gift to the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal. Your gift was designated for ELCA Domestic Disaster Response and our relief and long-term building efforts following the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes. The overwhelming generosity from throughout the church to this disaster has made possible an extensive, multi-year response of relief, rebuilding, and preparedness for future storms.

Thank you for your commitment to bring help and hope to people and communities in great need.

In Christ's Service,

Kathryn Sime

Director



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

Walk With Jesus

Every day is a walk with Jesus. We Christians believe life is spent in the presence of our Lord. Therefore, we can talk about every day as a day during which we walk with Jesus. Some days we feel Jesus' presence. Some days we feel quite a distance from Jesus. We boldly proclaim that, regardless of how we feel, Jesus is there. Jesus walks with us every day.

As we who are Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church consider our financial stewardship over the next few weeks, you will be asked to think about your use of money and possessions as a part of your walk with Jesus. This is most appropriate, because when Jesus walked this earth with his disciples, he often talked about money and possessions. If money was a part of Jesus' first walk on this earth, it should be a part of our walk with Jesus today.

We believe that everything we have is a trust from God, given to us to care for and manage. What we do with our money is very much a

part of our relationship with our Lord. This will be our focus in the coming weeks.

Each week, during the month of November, you will receive messages through bulletin inserts and emails that will focus on our walk with Jesus, and how money plays an important part in this walk.

Then, on Commitment Sunday, December 3, you will have the opportunity to complete an estimate-of-giving card. On this card, each of us will indicate our plan for giving for the coming year. This will not only be a plan for giving to our Church, it will also be a plan for how we will walk with Jesus in the coming year.

Debbie



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.

Coord. - Barbara Harris - 410-286-3257 cvm@saintnicholaslutheran.org

GIVING THANKS

I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him with all speech and all knowledge - even as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ...

These are not my words – Paul wrote them to the Corinthians – but it is appropriate at this time of the year to give thanks to all of you who minister in our congregation, using your spiritual gifts in service.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy write to the Thessalonians: *We give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

May I add my thanks to theirs.

Barbara



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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? If you would like to give the gift of time for meaningful worship to harried parents, please contact Barbara Harris at 410-286-3257 or cvm@saintnicholaslutheran.org

NURSERY TEAM COORDINATOR: Recruit and train volunteers for the Nursery for the 9am and 11:15am services. Contact Barbara Harris or Cherise Ross, Evangelism and Outreach Ministry Sponsor at cherise@cheriseross.com

WELCOME TEAM: Welcome all entering the church and introduce yourself to people you don't know. Direct visitors toward the ushers, mention the nursery if they have small children. After the service, give visitors a welcome sack, introduce them to other members, and mention the between-services opportunities of fellowship and education. If this ministry opportunity is for you, contact Barbara Harris or Cherise Ross.

NEW MEMBER MENTORS: Greet and meet visitors and help our new members learn about our congregation. For questions and to participate in this ministry, contact Debbie Bang at 301-855-7195 or at dbang@deloitte.com.

*How can I repay the Lord for
all his goodness to me?*

Psalm 116:12



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.

Occasional Services

Recently, my sons, Jonathan and Richard, participated in the wedding of Lauren Gray and David Edwards (formerly of this congregation). For his thank you gift, Jonathan received a small book called *Occasional Services*, put out by the ELCA (I assume) to help pastors devise services held only occasionally (hence its title). I haven't had a chance to look through the book yet, but I imagine there are formats for services not covered in the LBW, such as weddings and funerals. That started me to thinking about occasional services.

There was the wedding. That's a joyous and celebratory sort of service. I would guess there is also a service for a funeral. While we were on vacation, our hair stylist passed away after a very brief battle with cancer. It was this brave woman who lopped off (rather gleefully) Gus's long locks to make him the short-haired man he is today. Had we been here, we would have attended her funeral, and I think I would have felt better because I would have had a chance to say goodbye and tell her family how much we thought of her.

Then there was the blessing of the animals in October. I can bet that there was no layout for

such a service in *Occasional Services*! Logistics prevented me from attending with one of my cats, but my sister attended the service at her church and had my cats blessed in absentia, just as I had for hers last year when she couldn't make it to her occasional service.

Later this month we will have a Thanksgiving service at All Saints, along with Saint Paul's. It's a wonderful service with a joint choir and the church decorated with the bounty of the season. Perhaps the Episcopalians have a similar book to consult to set up that service.

But then I thought about the kind of service you would not find in a book anywhere. One of our brothers-in-law was recently caught in an FBI sting. As he was picking up from a prison an authorized load of materials to be sold, he unwittingly left with four used (and probably not even working) laptop computers. The FBI followed him all the way home and put him in hand cuffs and took him in. The sting had produced no results, probably because there was nothing illegal going on, and the agents were no doubt duped by the three convicts that claimed this man was their fence. Our relative was horrified at what had happened, and mortified when the local paper car-

Ministry of Worship and Music

Occasional Services (continued)

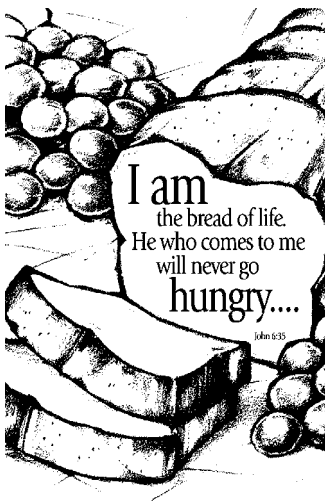
ried the story. It was some consolation that letters and emails and telephone calls poured in, letting everyone know that he is the most honest man they know. If he was such a king pin, why is his family not living in the lap of luxury? They are instead, like the rest of us, living in the lap of getting by and never getting ahead. But, we conclude, the FBI could not let a sting operation turn up empty so they are going ahead with the prosecution. His only practical choice is to plead guilty and pay a fine and have a record as a felon now. To fight the FBI would mean losing everything he has, even if he won.

The first Sunday after the story hit the papers, he wasn't sure he could face going to church. But family members showed up in droves, even those who do not attend that church, and even one family who has not (as far as I know) ever attended church, even for another occasional service, a baptism of a new niece or nephew. I saw that loving support and quiet statement to be a special kind of occasional service. I am proud that the family stood by him.

May we all find our own kind of occasional service to attend.

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.”



November 5—Brad Smith

November 12—Melissa Stuart

November 19—Abbey Wentzel

November 26—John Hofmann



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

WISC (Women in Service to Christ)

The holidays are quickly approaching and I for one over-do, over-stress and over-eat! So I am really looking forward to our November 28 meeting where Barbara Harris will teach us about contemplative prayer. Which of us couldn't use a lesson in how to relax and receive the "peace that surpasses all understanding," especially facing the hectic schedule of the upcoming holidays! Come out and join us at 7:00pm for coffee/tea and dessert and an evening of fellowship.

Looking ahead to December, we will once again be celebrating together with a Progressive Dinner. Last year we had so much fun that we decided to do it again! If you are interested in hosting part of the meal, please contact me at ldorr@comcast.net or 410-414-5815.

WISC has been such a blessing to me that I am hoping more of you will join us for one of our monthly meetings. Your thoughts, your ideas, and your friendship will be sincerely welcomed and appreciated. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Love and Blessings,

Linda Dorr



Ministry of Youth and Family Life

Happy Birthday November Babies

1	Dennis Brown Alexander Merz	18	Samuel Camiletti Will DeLamater
2	Ed Praley		Linda Stout
3	Ryan Baker	20	Susan Landale
8	Jean Smetana	21	Stephen Groff
9	Noah Gyorgy Andrew Dangin Michael Williams		Kelly Hance Anne Sharar
10	Hannah Fowler	22	Cynthia Fleig
12	Caroline Banholzer	23	John Deeben
14	Greg Blatt Shelley Harbel	25	Michael Brown
15	Michael Brown	26	David Hickin Andrea Jordan Amare Merz
16	Seth Gyorgy Lauren Groff Gloria O'Brien		Kathy Shjarbach Brian Sullivan
17	Sean Garrett Joshua Geckle Lindsey Marquardt David Roth Jennifer Kreppel Carly Proctor	27	Virginia Brown Lisa Fleig Anna Kitzmiller
		28	Cindy Marquardt
		30	Stephen Custer Laura Forseth Douglas Moser

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

Thrivent, Applebee's, and Hospice of St. Mary's Working Together

Hospice of St. Mary's (HOSM) is currently conducting a major fund-raising campaign to build a Hospice House in St. Mary's County. (see more about Hospice of St. Mary's at www.hospiceofstmarys.org)

In support of this fundraising campaign Applebee's, and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans are conducting a pancake breakfast at Applebee's in California, MD (near Walmart) on Saturday, November 18, 2006 from 7:00-10:00 a.m. The tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children five and under. The family

maximum is \$40. All proceeds will go to Hospice House. Applebee's is providing all of the food (pancakes, sausages, orange juice and coffee) and the chef. Thrivent will provide volunteers to serve the food and will match the proceeds, up to \$1,000.

For tickets contact: Gloria Ranta, President, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Calvert-St. Mary's Chapter at 301-862-9624.

Your generosity will help us bring a compassionate home for hospice care to St. Mary's County.

Bible Quiz

Psalm 103 (NRSV) begins:

“Bless the Lord, O my
soul, and all that is
within me, bless his
holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my
soul, and do not forget
all his _____”

• • • •
BLESS
THE LORD,
O MY
SOUL
• • • •
P S A L M 1 0 3



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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