

Nicholas ews



The happenings of Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church, an ELCA congregation

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October 2008



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 *Ron & Jean Olinger, Gloria Grapevine, the At Lee family, Art Pelenberg, Eileen Westphal, Patricia Gaddy, Peyton Azar, Nick DeHart, Susan Allor, Jimmie Wolf, Angie Bishop, Jack Kerstetter, Pop Brow, Terri Ihnacik, Ken Smith, Richard Sperling, Lisa Hanson, Jean Bailey, Hazel Toole, the Knepp family, Audrey Harris, the Agnew family.*

Prayer Chain: Contact Kay Aronhalt at karonhalt@comcast.net.



For Joys and Concerns list spoken at services, contact:
office@saintnicholaslutheran.org





Reverend Gregory Gaertner

Cell: 202-669-9027 Home: 443-486-4675

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

Simple as 1-2-3

... [M]any wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Acts 2:43-47

There is a movement growing at Saint Nicholas, and you may not even be aware of it. Groups of people are meeting in each others' homes and telling stories, sharing food and experiences, and they seem to be enjoying it! Our leadership met on the first Saturday in September to talk about this and what it means. As it turns out, many of the leaders are, in fact, among the people already affected.

This may sound like the beginning of *The Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, but don't be concerned. It's a movement as old as the church itself, as the quote from the Acts of the Apostles (above) seems to suggest.

We've had three groups of three people in each group – they are called discipleship triads. They've been meeting for between 3 and 6 months, and a fourth group has just formed. The groups have been working through a book called *Discipleship Essentials*. The material includes bible studies (including some memory verses which have eluded some of our more “experienced” members), essays and questions to help us apply the material to our own lives.

And here's the thing – in spite of having three (now, four) different groups of very different people, everyone seems to be enjoying themselves. There are young moms, parents of teenagers and some empty-nesters. But all of them are saying things like, “this is **my** time,” “this is time I save for myself.” Compared with other committees and classes,

Simple as 1-2-3 (continued)

people simply refuse to miss the sessions of their discipleship triads. Of course, the group doesn't meet unless all three members can be present, so there's some direct accountability. But there's more – these groups provide a safe space where we can admit there are things we aren't sure of or don't know, things we wonder about, things we wish we knew more about. And there are people who have become close friends, people who can rely on each other. We know that sometime down the road we should form new groups with each current member leading a new group, but so far, no one wants to leave our current groups to do that.

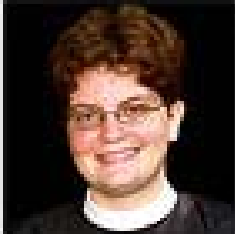
I asked the leadership group, how can we introduce this idea to the congregation without people feeling like it is just another obligation? The leaders who hadn't been involved in the groups suggested that the best way would be to have a forum for the congregation just like the workshop they were attending, where parishioners could ask questions and hear about the groups. So that is what we're going to do. In the next few weeks, we'll have a temple-talk introducing the idea of these discipleship triads and a week later, we'll have an adult forum where you can ask questions and talk with participants in the existing groups.

I don't usually recommend selfishness as a Christian attitude, but there are times when we believers need to be fed, need to share the mutual conversation and consolation of the believing community. Think for a moment about a couple other people at Saint Nicholas whom you would like to get to know better, people you might want to share your faith journey with. They may or may not be people you know well already. The commitment is for a little bit of reading and bible study and meetings that you'll actually want to go to.

This is not the only way to grow in discipleship. We're going to be talking about other ideas in coming weeks. But it does seem to be an effective way, a person-to-person, relational way of growing in discipleship, very much like the way the original disciples were formed.



PASTOR GREG



Reverend Wendy Deeben

Cell: 443-624-6005 Office: 410-257-5683

associatepastor@saintnicholaslutheran.org

Living a Life of Giving and Serving

“He (Jesus) said, Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.” Luke 21:3-4

I recently read the book titled *Growing Up Generous: Engaging Youth in Giving and Serving*. This publication by Alban Institute redefined stewardship.

One of the topics discussed in this book was that “giving” and “serving” are generally two separate ministries in congregations. The book suggests that giving and serving should be linked together.

Stewardship is a way of life. Living a generous life of giving and serving is important for us. We can look at giving as sharing our resources and serving as sharing our time and our talent.

Throughout my life I’ve always heard of stewardship as a way of life and I often wondered what that meant. I just couldn’t get my head wrapped around the idea of giving money to the church as a way of life. I think some of my trouble, until I began seminary, was the congregations that I had been a part of emphasized stewardship as giving to the church so that it can meet its financial obligations. And yes, that is part of it, but not all of it. The critical piece that was missing was what happened with the money that was given to the church. The money given was in turn put into ministries that touched many people’s lives.

Living a Life of Giving and Serving (continued)

Serving is also another important aspect of stewardship. God gives us our gifts. When we share our gifts with others through serving needs in the community and in the congregation, that is part of our stewardship.

One of the ways that we can work as a congregation to demonstrate living a generous life of giving and serving is to do it. As we grow as disciples by giving our lives to God, time, talent, and money, we make an impact on those around us. The best way for our youth to learn how to live a generous life is to see their parents, grandparents, and other trusted adults doing just that. It is those moments where we teach and learn from others.

There are many biblical passages that also show us how to live a generous life. One of those texts is found in the twenty-first chapter of the Gospel of Luke. Luke reminds us in this short passage that giving and serving are a matter of the heart. In this text, rich people are putting their gifts into the temple treasury, and a widow approaches and gives the only money she had to live on. Even though it could have been money towards her next meal, she gave to God what he had first given her.

For this woman, her giving was a way of life. She surrendered herself to God.

As we journey through life, I pray that we all can stop and reflect that living a generous life of giving and serving is living a God-filled life.

Pastor Wendy



**Giving and
Serving**

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.

Council Liaisons: Bob Finlayson—410-414-5061; fivefins@comcast.net
Walter Merz –410-257-5464; waltmerz@comcast.net



Sometimes easy, sometimes not...

Keeping perspective while pursuing the North Wing permit process through the county and state offices has been a challenge, especially since this is an experience I never thought I would need to endure. And, I do believe "endure" is the correct word. Consequently I keep Romans 5: 3 - 5 at the forefront: "*...but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*"(NRSV)

We are all in this process together. In our own ways we are all suffering and enduring, building character, and holding on to hope. If ever there was a reminder for me that things happen in God's time, it is this process. Yet, what is more important to me is knowing that God's love has been poured into our hearts.

I came away from Sunday worship on September 14 with a definite sense of congregational energy. I truly believe God is present with us in bringing the North Wing dream to fruition. God never told us it would be easy, that there would be no challenges, that all would turn out the way we think it should. Life goes on around all of this process and God is with us every step of the way. For that I am ever so grateful. There is a bonus to pass along: I resubmit our plans for fire marshal approval tomorrow morning – September 17, 2008.

Ann Wolfgang

Council President

Ministry of Administration

A Look at Our Stewardship

Attendance	08/17	08/24	08/31	09/07	09/14
7:45 a.m.	15	14	12	15	19
9:00 a.m.	83	85	74	114	101
11:15 a.m.	54	74	53	86	88
TOTAL	152	173	139	215	208

Finances	August	Year to Date
Operating Income	\$28,150	\$228,181
Operating Expenses	\$26,312	\$230,776
Difference	+ \$ 1,838	- \$ 2,595
Temp Restricted Receipts	\$820	\$11,229
Building Fund Receipts	\$8,476	\$92,966



The deadline for November contributions is Wednesday, October 15. Early submissions are always welcome. 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.

Linda Gaertner
Editor

Council Meeting Highlights

2008 Council Members: Rev. Gregory Gaertner, Pastor; Rev. Wendy Deeben, Associate Pastor.
Ann Wolfgang, President; Ron Ross, Vice President;
Kay Aronhalt, Secretary; Paul Butz, Treasurer.
At Large Members: Sherie Cooper, Bob Finlayson, Dave Hickin,
Christy Lewis, Walter Merz, John Regner.

The following are highlights of the August 20 council meeting:

- Grading permits are complete, and the road permit is in process. Building permit is still pending approval of the State Fire Marshal.
- Several final changes were made to the draft Youth Protection Policy, and the policy was approved with these changes. Copies are available upon request to the pastors or council president.
- The inquiry from Tidewater School was placed on hold until the first quarter of 2009.
- The new Facilities and Property Committee will meet in September and choose a chairperson.
- The Eagle Scout project by Sean Holden is complete. Appreciation will be expressed to Sean for his work in the Outdoor Center.

The following are highlights of the September 10 Council meeting:

- The treasurer noted that the Finance Committee recommended that we continue to apply the excess funds from our previous mortgage payment to the General Operating Fund for the present time.
- The Building Committee report indicated that the road permit is still pending, and the architect has not, as of today's date, finalized plans for re-submission to the State Fire Marshal.

Ministry of Administration

- The propane gas tank will be relocated underground, with the Dennis Anderson Construction Company assisting with the work project.
- The new Facilities and Property Committee will be meeting soon to address our HVAC contract needs and repair needs related to the fire alarm.
- The proposed budget for 2009 was discussed. Council action will occur at the October meeting.

Note: The full minutes of the most recent council meetings are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex after approval by the council. Stop by and read them in entirety if you are interested, and please do not hesitate to ask any council member for more information if you have questions or wish to give input.



Quarterly Contribution Statements

Your statement detailing your contributions to Saint Nicholas through the end of September will be available for you to pick up in the church narthex starting Sunday, October 5. Please look it over closely. Talk to Tom Blatt if you have any questions. Thanks!!



Ministry Of Christian Education

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

Director: Vicki Williams - 301-812-0721; fredis2adog@comcast.net

Council Liaisons: Dave Hickin— 410-326-4583



“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” Galatians 5:22

Fruit of the Spirit

After reading the above, close your eyes and imagine yourself filled with these fruits. I cannot imagine anything better than always being filled with these gifts and sharing them with everyone I live or work with, everyone I see or meet. Unfortunately, it is a struggle not to let our personal problems, whether a petty annoyance or a major crisis, keep us from producing these fruits.

One way to grow these fruits is to worship. Another is to pray. Another is to read the Bible. Another is to study God’s Word. When you attend a Sunday school class, you usually accomplish all of these things. As you read and ponder and discuss and pray, you bring God’s love to the forefront of your life. Through God, you nurture yourself.

Think about dropping in on one or more of the classes we offer. Think of it as a treat, one that will not be gone after you digest it, one that you will probably pass on to someone else in one way or another. Sit down. Enjoy yourself. Nurture yourself.

“Happy are those whose delight is in the law of the Lord and on His law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.”

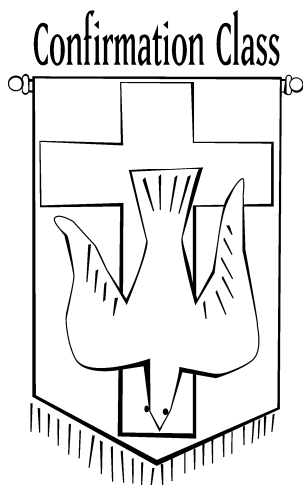
Psalm 1:1a, 2-3

Vicki Williams

Sunday School

Sunday school classes are from 10:15 until 11:00 each Sunday.

Sunday School Coordinator: We are still looking for someone to help coordinate Sunday school teachers, activities and curriculum. If you feel that God is calling you to be a part of this important mission, please talk to Vicki Williams or one of the pastors.



Confirmation

Sunday, October 5:

Family Day – Tacos, yum! 12:30 – 2:30

Sunday, October 19:

Metro DC Synod Confirmation Event 12:30



Adult Education

Matthew, His Kingdom Forever: Please join us for a Bible study of the Gospel of Matthew. This study offers a basic look at the Gospel and emphasizes how Matthew points to Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament. This class meets in Pastor Greg's office. Drop-ins welcome. Contact Kay Aronhalt or Debbie Bang with any questions.

The Sunday Exchange: Join us for a stimulating discussion of the day's lessons and sermon as we gather for The Sunday Exchange, where we welcome you to drop in during the Sunday school hour. The group meets at the conference table in the fellowship hall.

Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible: Liz Curtis Higgs uses a modern day fictional tale to help us understand these Flawed Women Loved by a Flawless God. The class meets in Pastor Wendy's office. You'll want to be a part of this insightful discussion. Contact Amare Merz with any questions.

Wednesday Mornings

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Starting again on October 22 at 9:30. Join us for prayer, study and fellowship! This fall, we'll be exploring the Beatitudes from the book of Matthew.

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@cheriseros.com

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

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:18-20



I am sure you have all read and heard these words before. These verses from Matthew are often referred to as the Great Commission. We know that this is the charge that Jesus gave to his first disciples before he ascended to his Father. I sense that the task before the leaders of Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church today is really no different than it was for those who formed that initial core unit of believers. We are called to restore to our church a passion for obeying the Great Commission.

This Great Commission, contrary to many people's thinking, is not just focus on evangelism. It is the mandate of making disciples – a balance of introducing people to Jesus, building them in their faith, and then equipping them to share in the further work of the Great Commission.

One of the things the first disciples realized, following this commission, was that they needed to get a few things straight in their own minds and hearts. The discipleship process needed to begin not with their neighbors but with themselves.

Discipleship can be defined this way: Doing everything possible to help every person pursue Christ more completely and consistently.

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

Council Liaison: Sherie Cooper- 410-586-1584

Safe Nights at Saint Nicholas

We have guests to prepare for!

During the week of November 16 through November 23, we will be providing a warm bed and food for our neighbors in need. This program, called Safe Nights, is made possible only by the willingness and cooperation of the county's churches. Each week, a different church assumes the responsibility of hosting. These guests would otherwise be spending the nights in cars, in tents, or on the couch of some friend or relative. We have more homeless in our county than Project ECHO can house. Safe Nights is a program to help out the homeless during the colder parts of the year.

Please help us make this week special for them. We will need volunteers to:



Safe
Nights

provide meals
donate food to be prepared in bag lunches
launder bedding
monitor our guests overnight
conduct social activities
clean our facilities
transport cots and bedding to the next church at the
end of the week

Breakfast will be served from 6:00 -7:00 a.m. each day. Dinner will be served from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Look for a sign up sheet in the narthex in early October. An organizational meeting will be held in early November to allow volunteers to become informed about how the week will operate. We are blessed to be a blessing! May all who come and stay with us feel God's love through the actions and words of Saint Nicholas members!

Calvert Churches Community Food Pantry



**Pantry
Needs**

During the month of October we are collecting apple sauce, Jello, pudding, canned fruit, or canned vegetables. Fall is here! Isn't a wonderful time of year to be thankful! Place your donations in the basket in the narthex. Thanks!

Coats for Kids

During the month of October, we will be collecting gently used coats. These will be distributed to the Latino Ministry Project. Please make sure they are clean and put them in the box labeled "Coats for Kids" in the narthex. Thank you.

Blood Drive

Saint Nicholas will host a blood drive on October 11. Over 1,200 donors are needed daily to supply the needs of our area's patients. Please think about giving!



Blood Drive

Project Echo

Thanks to all who helped provide the September meal for Project Echo! The next date Saint Nicholas is scheduled to prepare dinner is Sunday, October 26. See the bulletin board to sign up or call Sherrie Thompson (410-586-1593 or thompson1593@verizon.net) or Jennifer or Jean Smetana (410) 535-2485 to sign up.



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: Charlie Bauerdorf —410-586-2172

Council Liaison: Kay Aronhalt—301-855-1656

Habitat for Humanity

Late last year our church, along other area Lutheran churches, was a sponsor of a Habitat house. A large part of the money for this house came from a grant from Thrivent Financial. I was wondering how many of our members were aware of what this sponsorship accomplished. Down in Saint Mary's County, Patuxent Habitat and its volunteers built a three-bedroom house. In simplest terms, that is what happened. However, a house is more than two-by-fours, plywood, sheet rock, and all the other things that go into a building; it is the home for a family. This young family with two children could never afford to buy a home in our area and they were living in a house trailer. What made living in the tight confines of a trailer so hard was their young son is handicapped and confined to a wheelchair. Their new home was built completely handicap accessible with a ramp, wide doorways, and special accommodations in the bathroom. The home has made life so much better for this young man and his family. There is one more element to this story: the addition of this home to the area has inspired the community to clean up and spruce up their neighborhood. During National Night Out in early August, they had a neighborhood cleanup and block party. That is what our sponsorship accomplished for a family and a community.

I feel I must add a post script to this story. I just received an e-mail from Habitat International that construction was started on its 300,000th house, since its founding in 1976.

Charlie Bauerdorf



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

Where can I use my gifts? Where can I be a minister? Where can I fulfill my need for caring, spirituality, community, and ministering? Where can I fulfill my purposes of worship, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and evangelism? Rick Warren, in his book *The Purpose Driven Life*, points out “there are no insignificant ministries in the church. Some are visible and some are behind the scenes, but all are valuable.”

Take a look at the 7 Ministries of Saint Nicholas – Administration, Christian Education, Evangelism & Outreach, Social Concerns, Stewardship, Worship & Music, and Youth & Family Life – and read the mission statement for each ministry, printed at the top of each ministry’s section of this newsletter.

Then think about the gifts you have and can put to use for the mission of Saint Nicholas, which is “Growing and empowering disciples of Jesus Christ for the ministries of God’s work in the world.”

Not only do you have valuable gifts, but also you are a gift to this congregation. Thank you for all that you do.

Barbara Harris





This Month's Opportunities

ALTAR CARE: A team member is needed to assist with altar care at the 9:00 a.m. service on the 1st Sunday of each month. Altar care involves working with another team member to set up the altar before the 9:00 a.m. service, clean up after the service, and set up the altar for the 11:15 a.m. service. If you like hands-on, behind-the-scenes work that helps our worship service run smoothly, this is the job for you!

SUNDAY MORNING HOSPITALITY TEAM COORDINATOR: Since last fall, over 40 congregation members have signed on to provide refreshments for Sunday morning hospitality. The coordinator for this team will contact team members to schedule them for a specific Sunday in the upcoming month. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Barbara Harris or Mary Jo Gebhardt at 410-414-5168 or mjgebhardt@yahoo.net

AV OPERATOR: Learn to use the computer, sound, and light systems in the nave for worship services and other meetings. AV operators are especially wanted for the 11:15 a.m. worship service and the training will emphasize that. Contact Lisa Churchill or Barbara Harris.

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: Open

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

Pastor Thalacker Remembers Saint Nicholas

By Jonathan Wolf

You know, it's always interesting the people you meet when you go somewhere new. Someone you come across that shrinks the brave, new world you've walked into down to a manageable size. Last week, I had that experience. For those of you that were around during the interim between Pastor Nicki and Pastor Randy, you may remember we had two interim pastors, Pastor Brent Thalacker and Pastor Dick Berry. This past Wednesday, the Fairfax Conference met as they do every month to discuss new opportunities for ministry and to support each church's clergy.

Lo and behold, I ran across Pastor Thalacker. He has recently been placed as the executive director of Metro 200, a funding program at the DC Synod level that asks members of congregations to donate \$200 a year to help support new mission starts (like what we were a scant 20 years ago). While I know Saint Nicholas will learn more about Metro 200 as Pastor Thalacker begins to seek support, he wanted to talk to me about leadership and the livelihood of the church on local, regional and global levels. It's been a fair number of years, so I didn't know if he remembered who I was or what church I was a part of. As he brought me in close to explain a very specific role of a pastor, I too leaned right back in to say to him and my supervisor, "I don't know if you realize this, but I know what you are talking about from a church member standpoint. You were our interim pastor at a very difficult turning point at Saint Nicholas."

What follows in this next paragraph is what he asked me to tell you, Saint Nicholas, the next time I had the opportunity:

"I remember vividly the time I spent with you. The three months that I was your pastor was time spent in the most memorable parish I've served in. While I was at Saint Nicholas, I saw the church, **the real church**, a church that had been through conflict, sure, but *a church that was ripe with the energy and the faithfulness of God*. The church

Ministry of Worship and Music

is in a good place; Calvert County is an area that has plenty of opportunities for ministry and Saint Nicholas is equipped with the faithfulness, the people, and the vision to carry out the message of Christ to the community.”

Then I told him about the new building.

I can't really describe the look that came over his face, but it was a sort of joyous gleam in his eye, with a hint of feverishness. If you know Pastor Thalacker, that feverishness is the energy of anticipation, of opportunities for growth and living. I have learned, in seminary, in the short time I've been on internship and with the talks I've had with Pastor Thalacker, that Saint Nicholas was and is ahead of the curve. Saint Nicholas was founded in '89, with a new building in '01: most churches take 20 years. Saint Nicholas rejoices in a rich Christian Education program: most churches struggle with keeping even children's Sunday school attended. Saint Nicholas has a face in the community in the members who work on boards and committees, in the groups that participate in Literacy Council's Spelling Bee, in the ways that we help facilitate the Christmas Tree of Angels and so many other ways: most churches are out of touch with the communities they live in.

I invite this branch of the Body of Christ, Saint Nicholas, to remember the faithfulness that is truly living in our congregation. Pastor Thalacker remembers it vividly almost a decade later, and I know I feel it when we are active in our community. Rejoice with the Holy Spirit that is so truly present in this congregation, and continue to work to show the Spirit in our daily living. God bless the work that has been done, is being done, and that you will continue to do in the future!

Jonathan Wolf

Seminarian



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

Another Eventful Month Is Planned for October

The youth are busy raising funds for the National Youth Gathering next summer. On October 11, they'll be holding a car wash in conjunction with the blood drive being held at the church. Other efforts include yard clean-ups, pasta sales and those pink flamingos that everyone loves.

Hershey Park in the Dark is scheduled for Saturday, October 25. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex before the October 12 if you are interested.

We have a new activity, co-ed fall softball. Games are Sunday evenings at Halloween Point Park, so come and join in the fun. If you're interested in playing, there's still room for ladies on the team. Many thanks go to Lisa Hanson for leading this activity.

Our Fall Festival is scheduled for Friday, October 17. As always, there will be many fun activities to take part in. All of the favorites: a pie eating contest, bobbing for apples, sack races and football, among others. Bring a dish to share and join in a fun evening of fellowship.

Blessings,

Mary Jo Gebhardt

Ministry of Youth and Family Life

Fall Schedule of Events – Middle School Youth

October 5 – Confirmation 12:30-2:30

October 17 – Fabulous Friday/Fall Festival

October 19 – Synod Youth Confirmation Event 1:00-8:00

October 25 – Hershey Park in the Dark

November 2 – Confirmation

November 9 – Congregational Meeting (please be available to watch younger kids from 10:15-11:30)

November 16 – Commitment Sunday

November 16-23 – one night MSY Youth will serve a meal at Safe Nights

November 22 – Homeless Walk in DC 7:00 a.m. – noon

November 23 – Confirmation

December 5 – Fabulous Friday/Hanging of the Greens 6:30-8:30

December 7 – Confirmation

December 14 – Christmas Caroling

Fall Schedule of Events – In Crowd

October 1 – In Crowd Meeting 7-8 p.m.

October 3 – Lock-in

October 17 – Fabulous Friday/ Fall Festival

October 11 – Car Wash Fundraiser during the blood drive

October 15 – In Crowd Meeting 7-8 p.m.

October 25 – Hershey Park in the Dark

November 5 – In Crowd Meeting 7-8 p.m.

November 9 – Congregational Meeting

November 16 – Commitment Sunday

November 19 – Serve a meal at Safe Nights

November 22 – Homeless Walk in D.C. 7 a.m. – noon

December 3 – In Crowd Meeting

December 5-7 – Chrysalis – 4-H Center in Front Royal

December 5 – Fabulous Friday/Hanging of the Greens

December 14 – Christmas Caroling

December 17 – In Crowd Christmas Party



Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster

Saint Nicholas is planning a bus trip to the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA, June 13, 2009, to see "In the Beginning." The show promises to be spectacular with special effects and real animals. Come and join us as we witness the reenactment of the creation of the world. Hear God's words and see the heavens and earth. Experience the heartbreak of Adam and Eve. At this time, I would like to just get an idea of how many people might be interested in this trip. The cost of the trip will include the show, meal, and bus ride.

If you are interested, please contact Sheila Poole on (410)257-7293 or e-mail me at sheilapoole13@yahoo.com.

Second Thursday Lunch Bunch

The Second Thursday Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, October 9, at 12:30 p.m. at Trader's Restaurant, 8132 Bayside Road, the main street in Chesapeake Beach. As you may know, Trader's was hit by a tornado which touched down in Calvert County in early June. Much of the original building was destroyed. The restaurant recently had a grand re-opening, and we're excited to check it out this month for our October get-together. Call or email Kay Aronhalt by October 8 to let her know you can come. Everyone is welcome!

karonhalt@comcast.net, or 301-855-1656.



Ministry of Youth and Family Life

Yada Yada Book Club



The next meeting of the Yada Yada Book Group will be on Tuesday, October 21, at the home of Linda Gaertner. We'll meet beginning at 7:00 p.m. to discuss Healing Stones by Nancy Rue and Stephen Arterburn. The book is the first in a candid yet tender series about pain, healing, and God's invitation for second chances. Those familiar with the Women of Faith conferences will recognize Arterburn as the founder of that organization which has been inspirational to so many.

In uncharacteristic forethought, we have also decided on books for November through February. Can we tempt you to join us for any of the following discussions?

In November, we will discuss Odd Thomas by Dean Koontz. The hero sees the dead and converses with ghosts who ask for his help in handling unfinished business. Amazon reviewers say "Once in a very great while, an author does everything right-as Koontz has in this marvelous novel."

December's selection is Skipping Christmas by John Grisham. In this darkly humorous novel, Grisham turns a satirical eye on the overblown ritual of the festive holiday season, and the result is "a modest but funny novel about the tyranny of December 25."

On a more serious note, January's selection will be An Angel's Story. In this classic Christmas novella, best-selling author Max Lucado imagines the spiritual conflict that surrounded the coming of Christ. Surely there was much. If Satan could preempt Christ in the cradle, there'd be no Christ on the cross.

For February's meeting, we will read A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League by Ron Suskind. Those of you tuned in to the local scene may recognize this fall's Maryland One Book Project selection. Although our group won't be discussing the book until early next year, the Maryland community is reading it this fall and have numerous events planned around this effort. Events include an Evening with the Author at North Point High in Waldorf on October 22 at 7:00 p.m., and a Stage Adaptation at Huntingtown High School at 7:00 p.m. October 25.

For more information or directions, contact Linda Gaertner at (443) 486-4675 or linda.gaertner@comcast.net.

Ministry of Youth and Family Life



Happy Birthday, October Babies

1	John Ciccone	9	Elizabeth Guido
2	Rebecca Crane	13	Denise Schlickbernd
4	Clarissa Callis	15	Nathan Kistler
4	Chuck Fowler	17	Clara Phelps
4	William Poole	18	Currie Tanner
5	Barbara Puzey	18	Peter Flynn
5	Elizabeth Scopel	21	Kathy Clark
6	Isabel Card	23	Cara Trickle
6	Timothy Card	24	Kris Wood
6	Millie Sullivan	25	Andreas Dangin
6	Jonathan Wolf	26	Sherie Cooper
7	John Hofmann	27	Brett White
7	Jennie Wolfgang	28	Donna Neri
8	Jason Woltz	30	Tom Blatt
9	Sean Demme	31	Kim Regner

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



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

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

Address Label

Dated Material