

# Nicholas ews

The happenings of Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church,  
an ELCA congregation



LOVE GOD,

LOVE OTHERS,

TEACH AND LEARN,

SERVE THE WORLD

Office: 410-257-5683  
email:

*October 2011*

Fax: 410-414-9283



## OCTOBER

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

Ministers: People of Saint Nicholas

# 2010 MINISTRY ORGANIZATION

## LOVE GOD

Contact: Open

Council Liaison:

Ministries: Altar Care, Choirs, Nursery, Stewardship, Worship Planning



## LOVE OTHERS

Contact: Open

Council Liaison:

Ministries: Congregation Care, Evangelism, Fellowship, Prayer, Special Events, Stephen Ministry, Youth



## TEACH AND LEARN

Contact: Vicki Williams

Council Liaison: Kay Aronhalt

Ministries: Confirmation, Discipleship, Education, VBS



## SERVE THE WORLD

Contact: Kathy Dangin

Council Liaison: Sherie Cooper

Ministries: Benevolence, Community Service, Work Camp



## ADMINISTRATION

Contact: David Hickin

Financial Secretary: Tom Blatt

Ministries: Audit, Church Archives, Communication, Facilities, Finance, Newsletter, Nominating, North Wing Task Force, North Wing Décor, Policy, Web

## COUNCIL

### Executive:

- President : David Hickin
- Vice President : Sean Demme
- Secretary : Kay Aronhalt
- Treasurer : Amare Merz

### At Large:

- Alyson Griese
- Edith Crane
- Christine Hogan
- Colleen Hyland
- Sid Kolbe
- Karen Phelps



## Reverend Ray Michener

Office: 410-257-5683

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

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You may have missed it: September 29<sup>th</sup> is the festival of Saint Michael and All Angels. Now, I don't know about you, but I'm rather fascinated by these creatures, and all their activities throughout the scriptures. Angels seem to fly quite often, they walk down roads and stop to visit (Genesis 18: 1-8). They even show up in dreams (Matthew 2:18-21), and one rather athletic angel gets into a wrestling match with poor Jacob (Genesis 32: 24-29), One drops by to announce to Mary that she will be the mother of the Messiah (Luke 1:26-33). Oh, and yes, they apparently like to sing a bit now and then with other heavenly hosts (Luke 2:13-14).

Now to be clear, often these beings are referred to as "men", while at other times the scriptures refer to their appearance as that of The Lord. However, most traditionally they are thought of as angels. The point of this is simply to point out that these "beings" are understood as the messengers of God. In fact the word "angel" is the Greek word for "messenger," and that is the real focus of this article. If you'd like to learn more about angels in their many Biblical roles, there are many good books out there on the subject and you can always look them up on the internet.

We often think of a messenger of God as something or someone different or "other" than ourselves. An angelic messenger is a heavenly being which watches over us, protects us, or otherwise does things beyond the ordinary. Yet, you and I are called by Jesus himself to be his messengers to the world. As those who have inherited the witness of the Apostles, we are sent to continue telling others of the grace and peace of God that has come to us in Jesus Christ. We are called and challenged to be God's messengers in this place!

As Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church prepares to call a regular full time pastor, it might be good to remember that the pastor is not the only messenger in this place. The people of God, gathered here, are also messengers: angels sent out with the good news of the gospel. So, as the title of day says, September 29<sup>th</sup> is the day of Saint Michael and All Angels have some fun thinking about all those biblical angels flying, singing, wrestling, announcing, and visiting, doing God's work among his people, but remember you are part of the ALL in the angels' part of that day and every day.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Ray

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# THE SPIRIT OF MINISTERING

By Barbara Harris

"I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Why do we volunteer to serve others? We have heard that counter-cultural message and our minds have been transformed. We are presenting our bodies, our time, and our talents to God as a living sacrifice. In our baptism we are called to do and called to be different from this world. Thanks to all our volunteers who are blessings to this world.

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*How do I volunteer to minister?* You can contact Barbara Harris, either by phone at 410-286-3257, or by email at [bramharris@chesapeake.net](mailto:bramharris@chesapeake.net). You can also go online at [www.saintnicholaslutheran.org](http://www.saintnicholaslutheran.org). Look at the section labeled "Volunteer Opportunities" and click on "Worship Services Volunteer Calendar." Click on the date, and which of the three worship services for which you want information. The screen that comes up will give you the entire list of those who are serving on that date. If there are openings where volunteers are still needed, you can follow the instructions on that page, which sends an email to Barbara Harris. You can also sign up for a reminder notice.

*How do I know what I signed up for?* You can also use the same website and locations to see what you volunteered for by clicking on the date and service, and seeing if you are listed. In addition, the newsletter has the calendar for the entire month – you can pull it out, highlight your assignment, and put it on your fridge or bulletin board. The *Weekly* insert in the church bulletin has a listing of who is helping at worship the following week. And finally, check the church bulletin when you get to church to see if your name is listed for that day's service!

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## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

### ST. NICHOLAS SEEKING SACRISTANS!

And what are sacristans? At St. Nicholas our sacristans care for, maintain, and clean altar items, especially those needing weekly laundering. They ensure that elements for communion are in good shape and ready for weekly communion. Sacristans check on communion supplies – wafers, wine, etc. Robes for the assisting ministers, crucifers, and acolytes are also checked and cleaned.

This behind-the-scenes job is ideal for those who like to work on their own schedules.

This position can be shared by one or more people. Please contact Barbara Harris ( [bramharris@chesapeake.net](mailto:bramharris@chesapeake.net) ) or 410-286-3257 for more information.

### ADULT CRUCIFERS AND ACOLYTES NEEDED

Please join Paul Butz, Alyson Griese, Barbara Harper, Barbara Harris, Lara Roseto, and Gus Wolf in acting as crucifers for the 9am worship service. It's surprisingly fun, and the major requirement is not to yawn during the sermon. Contact any of the team for more information.

### NEW ALTAR CARE TEAM ADDING MEMBERS

The 7:45am worship service is adding an altar care team, which will set up the altar for communion before the service. Please join Dennis Brown, Laura Forseth, Barbara Puzey, Kelley Williams, Wayne Williams, and Ann Wolfgang in taking turns with set-up. Many hands make light work. Contact Barbara Harris if you are able to help out.

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## AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

October 8th American Red Cross blood drive at SNLC on Saturday, 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

Please schedule a time to minimize your wait time.

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## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

September 11, 2011.

- + The president reviewed the progress of the call process and the recommendation of the Call Committee. The candidate has some 23 years of experience as a pastor, and is excited about the prospects of ministry at Saint Nicholas.
- + A pledge campaign was recently conducted with the goal of raising sufficient funds to meet budget needs for 2012, which will include the new pastor's salary. Pledge cards were collected and tallied during the meeting .
- + Other measures suggested to help meet our budget needs include holding some fundraisers; renegotiating our loan with MIF to more favorable terms; and the possible movement of some paid staff members to volunteer status.
- + A vote was taken and passed to authorize council to negotiate terms for the mortgage that will lower the payment to an amount that we can better afford as a congregation. The vote was taken by a show of hands with a clear majority voting "yes."
- + A discussion was held on the option to move a number of paid staff positions to volunteer positions. A suggestion was made to delay this action until the budget is prepared for 2012 and voted upon by the congregation in November. Those affected by this transition requested to be able to meet with the Finance Committee to discuss and potentially recommend a solution agreeable to all. Congregation members indicated their affirmation by a show of hands.
- + Ballots were distributed on the issue of empowering the church council to extend an offer to the candidate identified by the call committee at the minimum synod salary guidelines for a pastor of 20+ years of experience. The vote results were: 90 in favor of extending the offer; 6 opposed. The announcement was greeted by the congregation with applause.

# LOVE GOD

Ministry Teams  
 Altar Care, Choirs  
 Nursery, Stewardship, Worship Planning



Contact: Open

## A LOOK AT OUR STEWARDSHIP

Attendance				
	Aug 7	Aug 14	Aug 21	Aug 28
7:45 AM	16	21	23	No
9:00 AM	82	38	57	Services
11:15 AM	44	33	44	
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>124</b>	

Finance		
	July/August	Year to Date
Operating Income	\$37,620	\$159,887
Building Fund Receipt	\$14,175	\$65,395
Building Fund Transfer	\$8,325	\$35,855
Mortgage	\$22,500	\$101,250
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$60,120</b>	<b>\$261,137</b>
Less Operating Expenses	\$58,801	\$267,631
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$1,318</b>	<b>-\$6,494</b>
Total Restricted Receipts	\$785	\$5,808
Additional Bldg Fund Recpts	\$0	\$0

# LOVE OTHERS



## Ministry Teams

Congregation Care, Fellowship, Prayer,  
Special Events, Stephen Ministry, Youth, Evangelism

Contact: Open

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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.



## IN NEED OF PRAYER

Ron and Jeanne Olinger  
Vivian Smetana  
Tommy Oves  
The Thompson Family  
Norman Whittington  
Austin Smith  
Chip Poole  
Jacob Phelps  
Larry Hyland  
The Kolbe, McDonald, & Stearling families  
The Tyson family  
Peyton Azar  
The Sweeten family

Ruth Cagle  
Jim Rupert  
Jacob Brand  
Meredith Dalzell  
Olive Woods  
Pat Skinner  
Greg Phillips  
Becky Martin  
All those recovering from Irene  
The Anderson family  
John Dwyer

Sally Brown  
Susan Cagle  
Mark Knepp  
Abigail Leach & family  
Doris Ivey  
Joann Singleton  
Louis Baptista  
Kyle & Amber Sparling  
Helen Hudson  
Sheila Poole  
Cassie Hickin  
Jacob Brand

Contact Kay Aronhalt at 301-855-1656 or [karonhalt@comcast.net](mailto:karonhalt@comcast.net) for *prayer team* requests.

Contact Anna Kitzmiller, office administrator, for additions to the *spoken prayers at services*.

## LOVE OTHERS

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# October Birthdays

John Ciccone	10/01	Kathy Clark	10/21
Rebecca Crane	10/02	Cara Trickle	10/23
Lori Walsh	10/03	Kris Wood	10/24
Clarissa Callis	10/04	Andres Dangin	10/25
Chuck Fowler	10/04	Sherie Cooper	10/26
Barbara Puzey	10/05	Shannon Walsh	10/26
Elizabeth Scopel	10/05	Brett White	10/27
Isabel Card	10/06	Donna Neri	10/28
Timothy Card	10/06	Derek Rush	10/28
Millie Sullivan	10/06	Natalie Devine	10/29
John Hofmann	10/07	Tom Blatt	10/30
Jennie Wolfgang	10/07	Kim Regner	10/31
Amelia Piper	10/08		
Sean Demme	10/09		
Denise Schlickbernd	10/13		
Nathan Kistler	10/15		
Clara Phelps	10/17		
Tanner Currie	10/18		
Peter Flynn	10/18		
Delilah Rush	10/19		

## LOVE OTHERS

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### YADA-YADA BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

By Barbara Harris

On Tuesday, October 18, we will be discussing Three Bags Full: A Sheep Detective Story, by Leonie Swann. "A witty philosophical murder mystery with a charming twist: the crack detectives are sheep determined to discover who killed their beloved shepherd. On a hillside near the cozy Irish village of Glennkill, the members of the flock gather around their shepherd, George, whose body lies pinned to the ground...." We will meet at Kathy Clark's home at 7pm.

### SECOND THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH

By Kay Aronhalt

Seven hardy lunch bunchers traveled to White Sands to enjoy lunch at Vera's Beach Club restaurant. The food was excellent, and we even tried their special appetizer, fried pickles! Please join us on Thursday, Oct. 13, when we'll return to the Green Turtle in Prince Frederick. Let me know that you can come and our tables will be waiting!



# TEACH AND LEARN



Ministry Teams  
Confirmation, Discipleship  
Education, VBS

Contact - Vicki Williams - fredis2adog@comcast.net  
Council Liaison - Kay Aronhalt - karonhalt@comcast.net

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## STOP FOR A MINUTE!

Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations He has brought on the earth.  
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
He breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;  
He burns the shields with fire.  
"Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,  
am exalted in the earth."  
Psalm 46:8-10

Life gets crazy sometimes, especially this time of year. With three kids, I know. School has started. Sports, scouts, band practice, karate lessons and other activities have many of us running ragged sometimes. We want so much for our families that we often do more than we have time for.

God asks us to be still, to take the time to pray, to worship and to study. He asks this, not for his benefit, but for ours. He doesn't need us. He will be exalted in all the earth, with or without us. We need him. We need to spend time with him, to put our cares and concerns in his hands, and to remember all that he has given us.

So, be still. Feel his presence. Put your needs in his almighty hands. Pray for the faith to trust in him, and then watch as he provides.

## TEACH AND LEARN

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### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School classes: Meet from 10:15 to 11:00. All children's classes meet on the bottom floor of the North Wing.

Adult Offerings: Grab some coffee and join one of these classes. There's no commitment, experience or study required. Just enjoy the time that you have.

The Sunday Exchange: Whether you have been to church yet or not, the lessons of the day provide a stimulating discussion for everyone. This very informal group, led by Glenn and Ann Wolfgang, meets in the small fellowship hall.

Martin Luther's View on Romans: Luther described Paul's Epistle to Romans as "truly the most important piece in the New Testament. It is purest Gospel." Luther's "Preface to Romans" was once considered so central that it was printed in Scandinavian Lutheran bibles. We will look at the Epistle with Luther's commentary as our guide. Howard and Christine Hogan will lead this study group, which meets in the classroom at the end of the hall.

### CONFIRMATION

October 9th: Family Day 12:30 – 2:30. Tacos. Muy Bueno!

October 23th: Confirmation 12:30 – 2:30. Pizza will be provided.

November 13th: Family Day 12:30 – 2:30. Build Your Own Sub. Yum!



## SERVE THE WORLD



### Ministry Teams

Benevolence, Community Service,  
Work Camp

Contact - Kathy Dangin - kdangin@live.com

Council Liaison - Sherie Cooper - smdcooper@comcast.net

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## COATS AND CLOTHING FOR KIDS

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

## HOLIDAY BASKETS

During October, we will be collecting donations for Thanksgiving food baskets. For \$50 the Calvert Churches Community Food Pantry can provide a meal with all the trimmings. If you would like to contribute, please place a check payable to Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church in the offering plate or in the church office. You may make a donation for all or part of a basket. Thanks!

## 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 23rd. See the bulletin board to sign up or contact Karen Phelps (240-299-8566 or Karen.s.phelps@comcast.net) or Jean Smetana (jrshistory@yahoo.com or 410-535-2485).

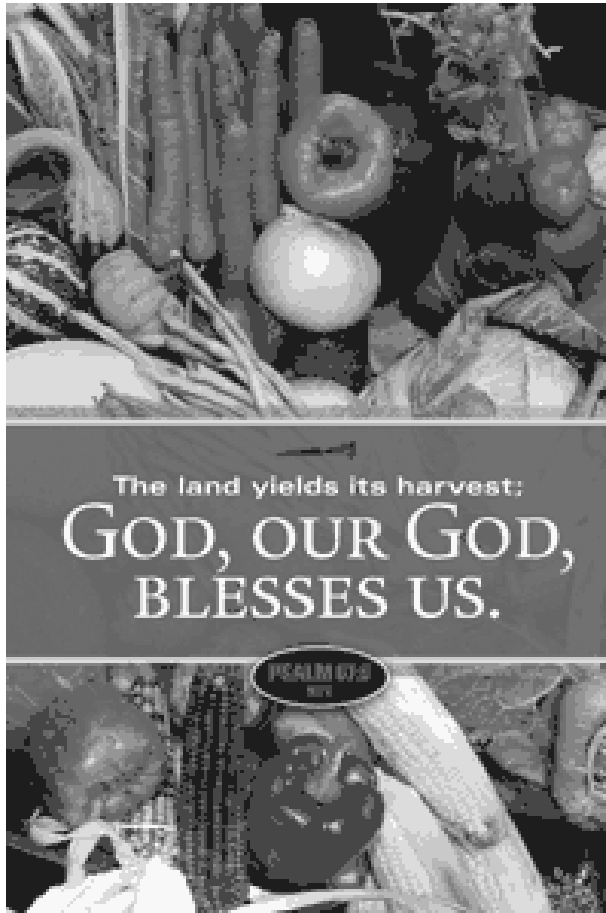
## SERVE THE WORLD

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### CALVERT CHURCHES COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

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!





# ADMINISTRATION

## Ministry Teams

Audit, Church Archives, Communication, Facilities, Finance,  
Newsletter, Nominating, North Wing Task Force,  
North Wing Décor, Policy, Staff, Web

Contact - David Hickin - [David.Hickin@wyle.com](mailto:David.Hickin@wyle.com)

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## MOVING FORWARD

First, I would like to thank everyone for coming to the congregational meeting. It is really nice that we have not recently had to make any additional phone calls to make quorum. I am excited to announce that we will have a joint service on October 16th, 2011 at 9:00am led by our pastoral candidate! At the end of this service, Synod will run a congregational meeting where we will vote on whether to officially extend an offer for the pastor to join our congregation. The candidate would then have up to 30 days to decide, or he can make an immediate decision. His start date would then be determined with Synod and Saint Nicholas, and we would likely have our permanent pastor in place by Christmas season! And what a wonderful Christmas present it will be!

David

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## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Your statement documenting all your 2011 contributions to Saint Nicholas through September 30 is available for you to pick up on the table in the narthex. Please look it over carefully, especially the page containing your Bricks and Beyond pledge status and contributions. If you have any questions about your statement, please contact Tom Blatt. Thanks!!

## ADMINISTRATION

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# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

BY Kay Aronhalt

**Executive committee:** David Hickin, President; Sean Demme, Vice President; Kay Aronhalt, Secretary; Amare Merz, Treasurer.

**At large:** Alyson Griese, Sherie Cooper, Edith Crane, Christine Hogan, Colleen Hyland, Sid Kolbe, Karen Phelps.

### September Council Highlights

The Church Council of Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church met September 14, 2011. The following are highlights of the session.

- The council president has discussed with our pastoral call candidate the positive congregational vote on September 11, which authorized the council to extend an offer to the candidate at the minimum synod guidelines for a pastor of 20+ years of experience. The candidate was receptive, and we will be hearing more from the synod office about setting up a call sermon, hopefully in October.
- Our recent pledge campaign brought forth pledges amounting to \$352,808 to support ministry at Saint Nicholas.
- We lost a plum tree in the Memorial Garden area during Hurricane Irene. The Facilities and Property Committee will be looking into obtaining a replacement.

**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.

## ADMINISTRATION

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### 2011 COMMITTEES

#### CALL

Kathy Dangin, Chair (9:00 service)  
Ben Cooper (Youth Rep.)  
Angela Knepp (7:45 service)  
Sarah Kolbe (11:15 service)  
Keith Williams (11:15 service)  
Glenn Wolfgang (7:45/9:00 service)

#### FINANCE

Amare Merz, Chair (9:00 service)  
Tom Blatt, Financial Secretary  
Ed Aronhalt (9:00 service)  
Colleen Hyland (11:15 service)  
Deneane Proctor (9:00 service)

#### NORTH WING TASK FORCE

Sherie Cooper, Chair  
Diane Graham (7:45 service)  
Open (7:45 service)  
Donna Calautti (9:00 service)  
Norm Griese (9:00 service)  
Colleen Hyland (11:15 service)  
Steve Walsh (11:15 service)  
Amare Merz (SN Treasurer)

#### FACILITIES / PROPERTY

Harris Cooper, Chair  
Jim Felbinger, Custodian  
Tim Schwartz, NW Construction Manager  
Sean Demme (11:15 service)  
Stephen Groff (11:15 service)  
Susan Groff (11:15 service)  
Dennis Leary (9:00 service)  
Kurt Nielson (11:15 service)  
Bruce Schmale (7:45 service)  
Keith Williams (11:15 service)

#### NOMINATING

Ann Wolfgang (7:45 service)  
Paul Butz (9:00 service)  
Sherry Owens (11:15 service)

#### AUDIT

To be decided by Council



Non Profit Organization  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
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Permit # 13

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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