



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

December, 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

There is a man from history whom you have definitely heard of before. See if you can guess who it is.

He was a pastor and bishop long ago in a Greek city in Asia Minor called Myra.

He was known as the Wonderworker because there are many miracles attributed to him.

He forever will be remembered for his generosity to the poor and the lowly.

He is also known for his pugilistic intervention in one of the biggest church meetings in history.

Last clue: Though he was from an area that is now modern Turkey, he is often depicted as being from somewhere much colder.

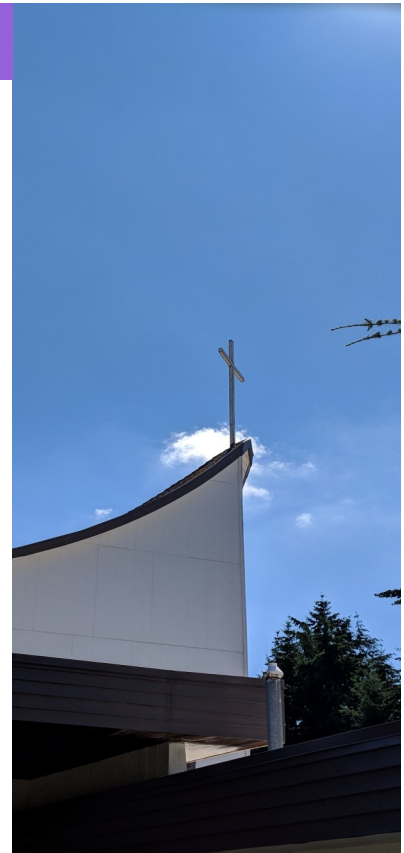
Give up?

It is Saint Nicholas!

Unlike the modern secularized myth of Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas of Myra is a real historical figure. His generosity to the poor, widow, and the fatherless is legendary. He is, in fact, the inspiration behind the myth.

Saint Nicholas Day is on December 6th. In order that we would be spurred on in good works toward our neighbor in faith toward God, I want to share two stories with you about this venerated pastor.

Continued on pg. 5



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 12/1 —Dinner, 6 PM;
Vespers, 6:45 PM
- 12/8—Vespers @
6:45 PM
- 12/11—Men's Break-
fast, 7-8:30 AM
- 12/12—Children's
Program and Food
Drive
- 12/15—Vespers @
6:45 PM
- 12/24—Christmas
Eve Service @ 4:30
PM

OFFICE HOURS

9 AM—12 PM
Tuesday & Thursday

FREE BREAD FRIDAYS

Be sure to let your neighbors know that we have free bread available every Friday from 10 AM - 3 PM. The bread is provided by Community Resource Network.

ADVENT VESPERS SERIES

This December, you are invited to come to a special time of reflecting on God's promises and Word as we examine the scriptural foundation for baptism. We'll look at both Old Testament and New Testament texts that will fill our understanding of this foundational teaching of the Christian faith and how it is intimately connected to Jesus Christ and your identity in him.

Children's Program and Christmas Eve Service

Join us for worship on 12/12 as the children of ORLC sing during worship. The children are directed by Miriam Schultz and they are excited to share their memory work and the songs they have been practicing!

Christmas is a great time to invite friends and neighbors to

church. Christmas Eve is one of those services that people love coming to. And when they come, they get to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

So, invite your family, neighbors, and friends to join you at ORLC's Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 4:30 PM.



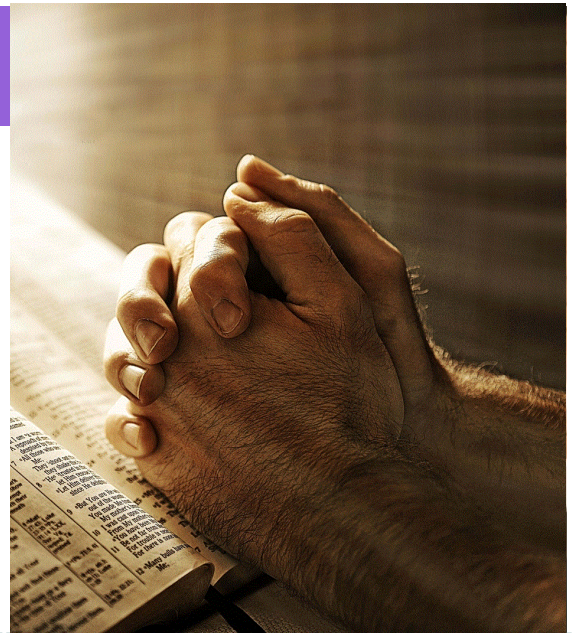
VERSE OF THE MONTH—PSALM 111:1

*Praise the Lord! I will give
thanks to the Lord with my whole
heart, in the company of the
upright, in the congregation.*

ADVENT MID-WEEK SERVICES

During the month of December, join us for Advent mid-week services. This year's mid-week services will focus on Baptism and baptismal life. We'll be looking at Old and New Testament texts to better understand how God saves his people from sin. Services begin at 6:45 PM on 12/1, 12/8, and 12/15.

We'll be sharing a meal together before the service on 12/1 at 6 PM. Please RSVP with Pastor Schultz. pastor@orlckirkland.org



*"From heav'n above to earth I come, To bear good news to ev'ry home,
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will gladly sing."
~From Heaven Above to Earth I Come #27*

HopeLink Food Drive!

Hopelink is reopening its store style food pantry in January and they need help stocking the shelves. We will be taking donations at ORLC to be taken to Hope Link through December 12th. There is a flyer at the church from Hopelink that mentions some of the most needed items.

This is an effective and easy way to love our community. I hope you will join us in supporting Hopelink as they provide food for those who do not have enough!

LOOKING TO SERVE?

We are currently in need of help in the following areas.

- MS and HS Youth Sunday School Teacher
- Sound System Help
- Photographer

Please talk to Pr. Schultz if you are interested.



“O Come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.”

LUTHER FOR THE BUSY MAN

Unfortunately, in the print outs that I made, I mistakenly left out Friday of the Fourth Week of Advent. I have included it here to fill in the gap for Christmas Eve.

I pray this devotional is beneficial to you this Advent season!

~Pr. Schultz

LUTHER FOR THE BUSY MAN DEVOTIONALS

THE FOURTH WEEK IN ADVENT – FRIDAY

LESSON: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-22

Among you stands one whom you do not know. John 1:26

When John says here, “Among you stands one whom you do not know,” he means to say, “Do not direct your eyes too far into the future! He of whom the prophets have spoken has already been among the Jewish people for thirty years. Take heed and do not let Him go! You do not know Him, and I have come to you to show Him to you.”

When John says, “Among you stands one,” he is following the manner of Scripture which says, “A prophet will arise” or “appear” (Deuteronomy 13:1). Similarly, we are told in Matthew that false prophets “will arise” or “appear” or “come forth” (Matthew 24:24). God also says to Israel, “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet from among you, from your brethren.” Deuteronomy 18:15.

It is John’s office to demonstrate that such establishment, appearance, arising, and awaking has been fulfilled in Christ; He has already come forth in the midst of their brethren as God has promised, and they know it not.

It is also part of John’s office as an evangelical preacher to comfort men by showing them how to get rid of their sins.

PASTOR'S COLUM (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The first story is concerning Saint Nicholas's generosity. The story goes that Saint Nicholas learned of a man who had three daughters.

The man had once been wealthy but had lost his wealth. He now did not have enough money to afford a dowry for his daughters. This meant that the girls would not be able to be properly married and would likely be reduced to a life of destitution.

Saint Nicholas, upon hearing about the tremendous need of this poor family and not desiring any recognition for what he was going to do, came to their house at night. He snuck up to the house and tossed a small purse containing gold coins into the house and snuck away.

The first daughter had a dowry! Then he did the same with the second and with the third. All three girls were able to get married and avoided a life of abject poverty.

The story goes that Saint Nicholas was caught in the act by the father when he was delivering the dowry for the third girl. His cover was blown! While Nicholas charged the man to tell no one about what he had done, here I am telling you the story today!

The second story about Saint Nicholas that I want to share with you was about when he went to the First Council of Nicaea.

The church had been split by a teaching that came from a man named Arius. Basically, Arius taught that Jesus was begotten of the Father, but that he was not co-eternal with the Father and was therefore subordinate under him.

And, just incase you think this sort of thing is ancient history only, there are very popular theologians in America today who functionally hold this same teaching which was rejected at Nicaea because it is not consistent with scripture. We, as Bible believing Christians likewise reject this teaching. We confess that the son is coequal with the Fa-

ther and the Holy Spirit. If you want to read more about what we believe, page 105-106 in the Ambassador Hymnal has a great summary.

Anyway, the story goes that during discussions and debates about the meaning of scripture concerning the divinity of Jesus, Saint Nicholas got upset. The teaching of the Arians made Jesus to be less than he really is and dishonored him. Saint Nicholas lost his temper and slapped "a certain Arian" across the face! Later retellings of this purported event made the certain Arian to be Arius himself.

Saint Nicholas believed in God's Word and took its teachings so seriously that an attack against the teaching of Scripture were not a laughing matter to him. Whether he should have struck this man or not is a debate for another day. The very least we can learn from this story is that Saint Nicholas had a passion for Scripture and fervently defended its teachings.

Some of the stories of Saint Nicholas do have a mythical element to them and there are historians who have called the veracity of the stories in doubt. Just how accurate are these stories? We can't really know.

That said, the stories live on and there is often a kernel of truth in these sorts of stories.

Why talk about Saint Nicholas? Why talk about the saints at all?

By remembering our brothers and sisters who have gone before us, we are reminded of a few things. 1) We aren't the first ones to read the Bible or face difficulties because we are Christians. 2) In the midst of hardships, the saint's faith in Jesus can encourage us in our faith in Jesus as we face similar hardships. 3) To encourage us be generous in our good works toward our neighbor.

OLD THEOLOGY BOOK QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is a Confessional, Christ-Centered, and Congregational church and a member of the Association of Free Lutheran Churches. Founded in 1967, ORLC has been serving the Kingsgate community for 54 years

For it is of the greatest importance that we value Baptism as excellent, glorious, and exalted. We contend and fight for Baptism chiefly because the world is now so full of sects arguing that Baptism is an outward thing and that outward things are of no benefit. But let Baptism be a thoroughly outward thing. Here stand God's Word and command, which institute, establish, and confirm Baptism. What God institutes and commands cannot be an empty thing. It must be a most precious thing, even though it looked like it had less value than a straw.

The Large Catechism: Of Baptism, art. 0, par. 7—The Large Catechism: Of Baptism, art. 0, par. 8

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PLEASE
PLACE
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