

As We Gather

As the 500th anniversary of the Reformation approaches, through the course of the year we will be singing the hymns of Martin Luther. For the Sundays in Advent this year we will sing a portion of his hymn, "Savior of the Nations, Come" as our opening hymn each week.

Our focus during this season will be on the divine gifts that come down to us through the birth of Jesus. Service 1 (The Gift of Hope), based on Matthew 12:15-21, looks at how the people of Israel waited in hope for the promised Messiah, and how we now wait in hope for his return on the Last Day. We join with the people of God in waiting in hope for the promised Messiah to arrive. Let the words, Scripture verses, hymns, litanies and prayers of this worship experience point you to the divine Gift of Hope we get to "unwrap" this Advent season because of Jesus' birth.

PRELUDE**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING****OPENING HYMN:**

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

**Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your; home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.**

**Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of God,
Was the Word of God made flesh-
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.**

**Glory to the Father Sing,
Glory to the Son, our King,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.**

THE INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE ORDER OF HOLY BAPTISM (10:45 am service)

Isabella Christina Virginia
Alexandra Sofia Virginia

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

O almighty God, merciful Father,

Out of the depths we cry to You.

O Lord, hear our prayer. Let Your ears be attentive to our cry for mercy.

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

(please kneel)

Merciful Father,

We have placed our hope in people who cannot save, in promises that cannot deliver and in pleasures that will never satisfy. Let Your ears be attentive to our cry for mercy. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

In the name of Jesus you have this sure and certain hope—your sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed. All that well deserved His anger, He no more will see or heed. God will change your pining sadness into ever springing gladness.

We put our hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption. In His name we put our hope!

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: THE HOPE CANDLE

Every good and perfect gift is from heaven above,

Coming down from the Father of lights.

We gather to celebrate the good and perfect gift of hope

As we wait eagerly for our adoption as children, the redemption of our bodies.

For in this hope we are saved

And in His name we put our hope.

His name is—

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace—

Immanuel, Sun of Righteousness, the Desire of Nations, the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

Yet the name that is above every name is—

Jesus.

In His name we put our hope! Amen.

THE HYMN:

"What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"

**What hope! An Eden prophesied
Where tame live with the wild;
The lamb and lion side by side,
Led by a little child!**

**A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem,
A branch from David's line,
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem:
The fruit of God's design.**

(As the hymn stanzas are sung, Diane Doyle will light the candle on the Advent wreath at the 8:00 am service. Tim and Hannah Klopfenstein will light the candle at the 10:45 am service.)

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 130:5-8 *(My soul waits for the Lord.)*

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; ⁶ my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. ⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. ⁸ And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: Romans 8:18-25 *(Paul speaks of the future glory that awaits us!)*

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA VERSE:

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL IS ANNOUNCED:

The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew the twelfth chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 12:15-21 (*God's chosen servant*)

¹⁵ Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all ¹⁶ and ordered them not to make him known. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁸ "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; ²⁰ a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; ²¹ and in his name the Gentiles will hope."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Vicar Aaron Sterling

THE HYMN OF THE DAY:

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Hymn #347

THE MESSAGE:

Vicar Aaron Sterling

THE APOSTLES' CREED (8:00 am service)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE GATHERING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

++ The Stewardship Thought ++

Advent brings the start of a brand new church year – a time of expectation and hope as we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior! Think about the ways you will prepare your heart this year to celebrate Jesus' birth!

"Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight." (Matthew 3:3)

OFFERTORY HYMN: *"O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"*

**O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
Come down, come down, with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down;
Unbar the way to heaven's crown.**

**O Fount of hope, how long, how long?
When will You come with comfort strong?
O come, O come, Your throne forego;
Console us in our vale of woe.**

**There shall we all our praises bring
And sing to You, our Savior King;
There we shall laud You and adore
Forever and forevermore.**

THE PRAYERS: After each petition, the Worship Leader will say, *"Lord in Your mercy,"* and the congregation will respond, *"Hear our prayer."*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (8:00 am service)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN: *"The Advent of Our King"* Hymn #331

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Altar Flowers were provided this week by Doug & Cindy Branham in honor of the birthdays of their sons (Doug & James).

I would like to thank Pastor and Marcia Brighton and all our friends for all the prayers, cards and flowers that were sent to me during my time of illness. - Bev Ellgass

Hanging of the Greens! Next Sunday, December 4th, immediately following the 10:45 service, we will need help decorating the tree, putting up nativities, and hanging wreathes. Pizza will be there for those who would like a bite to eat before we get started.

Mt. Calvary has received a gift in memory of Letha Russ, Riley Hood's sister, from Betty Cummings.

Rough Wood and Rusty Nails rehearsal schedule

Sunday November 27 6:00 Pizza Dinner for entire cast and stage crew.
 7:00 Run through of entire program.

Attention PrimeTimers: We have had a change of plans for our Christmas party. Because of obstacles in the new management of the Landings we had to cancel there. We are very sorry this did not work out. Our new party will be at El Bronco, on Watson Blvd on Sunday, December 18th 5:30 PM. If you plan to come, you need to sign up on the sign-up Sheet as El Bronco wants a good count right away. It will be in their Party Room. Each couple is asked to bring one wrapped (or bagged) "White Elephant Gift" for our Gift Exchange. Hope to see you there.

Annual Progressive Christmas Dinner – Start your Christmas season festivities by enjoying this annual Mt. Calvary event this coming Friday, December 2nd. The evening begins at 5:30 PM with appetizers in the church Narthex, followed by dinner at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The dinner menu includes your choice of Chicken Marsala or baked ham with various side dishes. The dessert course will be held at your choice of Tony & Becky McVay's home or Darron & Valerie Counselman's home. Directions/maps will be provided. Tickets will be \$5.00 per person and will be sold at all services starting November 12/13. Please mark your attendance on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex beginning that weekend. ALSO, indicate if you are bringing appetizers and/or dessert. Child care will be provided. If you need transportation to and from this event, please contact Deb Fingles with the Board of Fellowship. We hope to see you there!

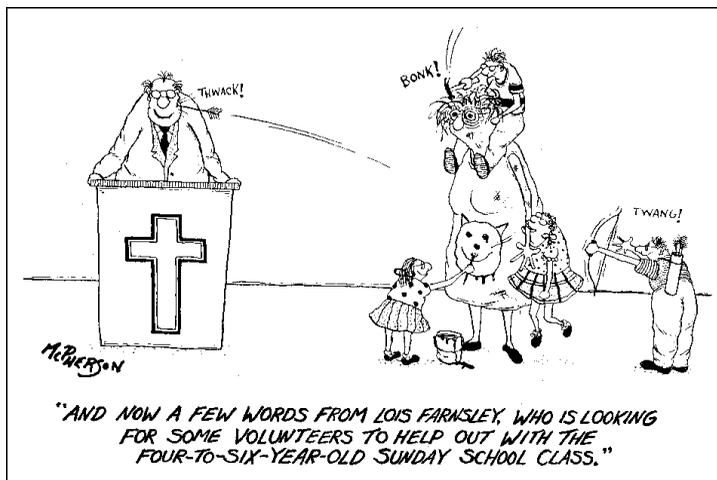
Only 1 Week Away! Saturday, December 3rd at 9:00 a.m., we are asking any available men at the church to come and have a wonderful breakfast served by the Altar Guild ladies, and then help us put up the Christmas tree (as well as the stand), help us get the poinsettias up above the altar, as well as a couple other things that are more difficult for the ladies. Please watch for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Ushers Urgently Needed: Due to relocation and job commitments, we have two vacancies on one of the 8 am Usher Teams. If you can help fill one of the vacancies, please call Don Parrott at 922-6106 or email him at parrottd1@cox.net.

Please join the Members and Friends of The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, 1899 Tucker Road, Macon as we celebrate 65 years of God's Grace on Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 3:00 P.M. during a Special Service featuring the speaker, Rev. David C. Brighton. Reception following the service.

Attention all bakers!! *Rough Wood and Rusty Nails* needs your help again. We need to people to bake cookies for after the play. If you are interested please sign-up at the back counter or contact Molly Townsend at 478-988-9991.

The Angel Tree has been placed in the entrance of the church to give us a chance to help those that are less fortunate. Please take an angel or two and buy the gift requested on the Angel, have back to the church by the Return No Later Date on the bottom of each Angel. Those who will be donating gift cards may place the card in a Christmas Wrapped box in Vicar's office (the gift cards will be picked up each day). **IMPORTANT:** Please place the gift (if it is a gift) requested in a Christmas bag UNWRAPPED along with the Angel, this will insure that we get the right gift to the child or nursing home patient. Thank you so much for your generosity, the community appreciates your kindness.



PRAYER CONCERNS

The family of Josie Kong, Evy Keyes' mother, who died on November 16th.
Cameron Mastenbrook, who is recovering from knee surgery.
Rosie Schulz, who is hospitalized.
Laura Haas, who will be entering rehab to continue her recovery.

Keep In Your Prayers

Erika Swaim (Marcia Brighton's mother), John White, Barb Mabee, Pastor Brighton, Bev Ellgass, Tracie Frey, Alyce Quillin, Doris Snow, Margaret Jennings, Mike Longbine, Deloris Denzine and Karen Johnson.

(NOTE: Those listed under "Keep in your prayers" are removed from the list after eight weeks. If there is someone you would like to keep on the list for another eight weeks, please contact the church office.)

Those Battling Cancer

Those battling cancer: Barry Rice (Becky McVay's brother), Norma Young (Melinda Hopf's aunt), Kathy Grube, Mary Schwope (Michele Durbin's aunt), Jeannette Poniske (Fred Tamer's mom) and Bruce Oswalt (Krystal Ferguson's father).

Those Serving our Country in Dangerous Areas

Aaron Gittner, Benjamin Brighton, Darrin Landis, Denver Yarbrough, Jonathan Fetchik and Christian Corbitt, for safety and good health as they serve our country in dangerous areas.

SERVING US TODAY

PREACHER: Vicar Aaron Sterling. **LITURGIST:** Pastor David Brighton. **ELDERS:** Darron Counselman (8 am) and D. J. Nelson (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Taitum Gossman (8 am) and Carlee Toler (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – Laird Van Gorder, Brent Durbin, & Dick Kesler. Late – DJ Nelson, Don Netzinger, Adam Beecher, Dave Miller, Bob Day & Larry Ellgass. **ALTAR GUILD:** Debbie Fingles, Kathy Grube, Susan Julson & Linna Nielsen. **LAY READERS:** Dick Kesler (8 am) and John Hunter (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Debi Cole. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Early – Louis Foss. Late – Josh Johnson.

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Tony McVay (Sat 6 pm), Darron Counselman (Sun 8 am) and Bill Gragg. **ACOLYTES:** Tucker Gossman (Wed 7 pm), Christopher Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Abigail Halsell (Sun 8 am) and Colton Wurdeman (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Marcia Brighton, Valerie Counselman, Denise Forehand & Nancy Hoar. **LAY READERS:** Jim Morey (Wed 7 pm), John Trichinotis (Sat 6 pm), Brian Harper (8 am) and Cindy Schafer (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Deb Fingles (Sun 8 am) and Champ & Pat Aldredge (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 54:7-10 and 1 John 4:7-11

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday – 47 Early – 95 Late – 152 Total – 294

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	6:00 pm	Rough Wood & Rusty Nails Run-Through
Monday	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
Tuesday	4:00 pm	RG@MC Tutoring
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Worship
	8:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Friday	6 – 8 pm	Middle School Christmas Party
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
	5:00 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
Next Sunday	5:30 pm	TAG Night