



# Fairfield Good News

KNOWING HIM AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

December 2018

## Upcoming Events

Sat., Dec. 1  
Clean Up Day  
Decorate Church

Sunday, Dec. 2  
1st week Advent  
Adult Cl/Coffee Hr.  
Communion Service

Monday, Dec. 3  
Consistory Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 9  
Adult Class  
Worship Service  
Carol Sing

Sunday, Dec. 16  
Adult Cl/Coffee Hr.  
Worship Service

Sunday, Dec. 23  
Adult Cl/Coffee Hr.  
Worship Service

Monday, Dec. 24  
Christmas Eve Serv.

Tuesday, Dec. 25  
Christmas Day

From the desk of Pastor Scott:

**Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.**

**(1 Corinthians 16:13)**

The real Santa/Saint Nicholas was a bishop in Myra (Turkey) during the waning years of the Roman Empire. He was revered for his generosity and courage. The former exhibited in his supplying of gold in the stockings of young maidens looking to get married; the latter arising from his endurance under Roman torture for holding fast to the faith.

There is another story, more of a legend, that has fascinated me for a number of years. I was first drawn to this historical anecdote from an article from a writer for World Magazine, Gene Veith a number of years ago. He writes:

***"He was also a delegate to the Council of Nicaea in a.d. 325, which battled the heretics who denied the deity of Christ. He was thus one of the authors of the Nicene Creed, which affirms that Jesus Christ is both true God and true man. And unlike his later manifestation, Nicholas was particularly zealous in standing up for Christ. During the Council of Nicaea, jolly old St. Nicholas got so fed up with Arius, who taught that Jesus was just a man, that he walked up and slapped him! That unbishoplike behavior got him in trouble. The council almost stripped him of his office, but Nicholas said he was sorry, so he was forgiven."***



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That scene certainly doesn't show up in any Christmas specials that I have even seen! The modern-day St. Nicholas/Santa Claus is far too humble and kind for such outbursts. Now as I said this is more legend than history, but the Greek Orthodox Church celebrates his life, ministry and slap on December 6<sup>th</sup> of each year.

Cont'd from pg. 1:

Later in that same article, Veith goes on to write this:

***"The point is, the original Santa Claus was someone who flew off the handle when he heard someone minimizing Christ. Perhaps we can battle our culture's increasingly Christ-less Christmas by enlisting Santa in his original cause. The poor girls' stockings have become part of our Christmas imagery. So should the St. Nicholas slap. Not a violent hit of the kind that got the good bishop in trouble, just a gentle, admonitory tap on the cheek. This should be reserved not for out-and-out nonbelievers, but for heretics (that is, people in the church who deny its teachings), Christians who forget about Jesus, and people who try to take Christ out of Christmas."***

Now we should never condone violence, especially at this most wonderful time of the year, but the story of the Santa Slap can encourage us to be willing to stand up for the Gospel. To be willing to defend the truth of the baby born in Bethlehem. Born both true God and true man.



December

- 11 Gene Favatella
- 19 Jeremy Boling
- 22 Sarah Basile

**Monday, December 3**

**Consistory Meeting**

6:30 Elders and Deacons' meetings

7:00 Full Consistory Meeting

Tuesday Evening  
Prayer Meeting  
will NOT meet at  
the church this  
month. Please be  
sure to pray at  
home this month.



*Unlike the secular calendar year, the church year does not begin on January. It begins four Sundays before Christmas Day with the season of Advent. The word "advent" means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire time of Advent is on the three comings of Christ: remembrance of the birth of Jesus the Christ in the first advent, celebration of the second advent of God's Spirit given to believers, and anticipation of the third advent of the return of Christ as king.*

*Advent is a time of expectation, preparation, and longing. We wait, watch, and prepare for the coming of Christ Jesus into our lives. While the secular calendar places Christmas at the end of the year, it is fitting that as followers of Christ we begin our church year in anticipation of the nativity of our Savior, whose birth reminds us that "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).*

# December 2018

Sun

Mon






Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						<p>1</p> <p>Clean Up Day</p> <p>Decorate Church</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Noon Coffee Hr.</p> <p><u>Adult Class</u></p> <p>1st Sunday Advent</p> <p>1:00</p> <p>Communion Worship</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Consistory Meeting</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>Prayer at home</p> 	5	6	7	<p>8</p> <p>Concert</p>
<p>9</p> <p>1:00</p> <p><u>Worship</u></p> <p>2:00</p> <p><u>Carol Sing</u></p> <p>Concert</p>	10	<p>11</p> <p>Prayer at home</p> 	12	13	14	15
<p>16</p> <p>Noon Coffee Hr.</p> <p><u>Adult Class</u></p> <p>1:00</p> <p>Worship</p>	17	<p>18</p> <p>Prayer at home</p> 	19	20	21	22
<p>23</p> <p>Noon Coffee Hr.</p> <p><u>Adult Class</u></p> <p>1:00</p> <p>Worship</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas</p>	26	27	28	29
<p>30</p> <p>Noon Coffee Hr.</p> <p><u>Adult Class</u></p> <p>1:00</p> <p>Worship</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p>	<p><i>Merry Christmas</i></p>  <p><i>Jesus is The Reason for The Season</i></p>				

Sunday, December 2 is the First Sunday of Advent: HOPE

We celebrate with a communion service

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

Sunday, December 9 is the Second Sunday of Advent: PEACE

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Sunday, December 16 is the Third Sunday of Advent: JOY

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Sunday, December 23 is the Fourth Sunday of Advent: LOVE

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Tuesday, December 25 = Christmas Day

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5).

*"Celebrate The Miracle" Concert*

*8:00 PM Friday, December 7th*

*7:00 PM Saturday, December 8th*

*3:00 PM Sunday, December 9th*

*Jacksonville Chapel*

*264 Jacksonville Rd., Lincoln Park*

Sunday, December 9

1:00 Worship Service

2:00 Hymn/Carol Sing

Hot chocolate and Christmas  
cookies served

Fill out "favorite hymn or carol" slip  
and we will sing your favorite

(Coffee Hour is canceled this Sunday)

Just before Christmas, two brothers were spending the night at their Grandma's house. At bed time, they knelt down to say their prayers.

As they closed their eyes, one boy said in a loud voice, "Dear Lord, please ask Santa Claus to bring me a Wii, a telescope and a new bike."

His older brother said, "Why are you shouting? God isn't deaf."

"I know," said his brother, "but Grandma is."

Purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of a family member, loved one or anyone you wish. These flowers will decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. You may place your order by filling out the form on the bulletin insert and giving it to one of the deacons. Orders will be taken until Sunday, Dec. 9th. Each poinsettia costs \$6.00



The Eveready Ladies are planning a special luncheon to celebrate Christmas, date/location TBD. Watch for more details soon!

In winter weather, we again think of the homeless in our area and the agencies that serve them. We will be accepting offerings of warm gently used or new: men's clothing for Good Shepherd Mission, women's and children's clothing for Eva's Village, blankets.



Good Shepherd Mission could also use food items such as: coffee, sugar, oatmeal, rice, pasta and sauce, paper products such as paper plates, paper towels, toilet tissue, trash bags. If you see any of these on sale, pick them up and bring them in.

There are large containers in the Fellowship Hall pantry to place these items to be delivered to the agencies. Anything you bring will help someone in need.

We also will need assistance in delivering the items to GSM and Eva's Village.

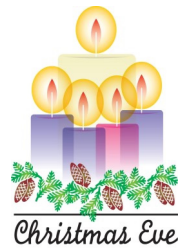
Never catch snowflakes on your tongue until all the birds have gone south for the winter!

*Monday, Dec. 24 7:00*

*CHRISTMAS EVE*

*Candlelight Worship Service*

*Rev. Joe Cusack Leading the worship*



Dear Santa,  
 I've been good this year.  
 Ok, most of the time.  
 Once in awhile.  
 Nevermind, I'll buy my own presents.

The Santa Claus at the shopping mall was very surprised when a young lady aged about 20 years old walked up and sat on his lap. Now, we all know that Santa doesn't usually take requests from adults, but she smiled very nicely at him and asked 'What do you want for Christmas?' 'Something for my mother, please,' replied young lady sweetly. 'Something for your mother? Well, that's very loving and thoughtful of you,' smiled Santa. 'What do you like me to bring her?' Without pausing, the lady answered quickly, 'A millionaire son-in-law.'



*Tuesday, December 25*  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**



*For unto us a Child shall be born, to us a Son shall be given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:6*

**NAME THE CHRISTMAS CAROL**

<b>Excerpt</b>	<b>Answer</b>
down where He lay	
silent stars to by	
in heavenly peace	
field and fountain	
and sweet the words	
a cold winter's night	
made of snow	
how are thy leaves	
gather near to us	
snow is glistening	
no place to go	
king of angels	
triumph of the skies	
the mountains in reply	
deep and crisp	
our finest gifts	
to you and your kin	
dressed up like eskimos	
only in my dreams	
my true love	
the weary world rejoices	
smile after smile	