

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Advent lunch will be held Sunday, December 8 after the 10:00 a.m. Service. This will be a great time for good food and fellowship. The lunches will take the place of coffee hour.

Christmas Flower Donations: This year instead of individual forms for flower donations, there is a form for your dedications located on the table in the breezeway. You may make a contribution in memory of, in thanksgiving for, or in honor of your loved ones. Your dedication will appear in the Christmas bulletin. Please make your check payable to St. Alban's and write Christmas flowers in the memo line. They may be put in the offering plate on Sunday morning or be mailed to the parish office's post office box: St. Alban's Church, PO Box 1511, Salisbury, MD 21802. **Flower information and offerings must be received by December 15!**

Covenant Council Munch and Wrap: Our joint Covenant Council will hold a cookie exchange. It will be held at Faith Lutheran this year at 4pm on Sunday, December 15. For every cookie you take, you can eat one or bring the equivalent number of cookies home. While there, we will enjoy cocoa, fellowship and wrap the gifts we collected for MAC's Adopt a Grandparent program.

Gift Collection for MAC's Adopt a Grandparent Program: Now through December 15, we are collecting gifts for MAC's (Medicaid Alternative Care) Adopt a Grandparent program. Please put your donations in the marked bin located under the breezeway table. Suggested gift ideas include: household items such as towels, kitchen towels, etc / non-perishable food / snack items / personal care items – chapstick, shampoo, conditioner, hand lotion, toothpaste, and toothbrush / gift cards – grocery store, restaurant, pharmacy, treats like McDonald's, Dunkin Donuts, Dairy Queen / hobbies – puzzles, wordsearch, music CD's, adult coloring, magazines/Christmas decorations – table top trees, poinsettias, etc / 2025 calendar / gloves, scarves and toboggans / stationery and stamps.

Need a gift card for the holidays? Ask Cristina about "Check & Carry!": Gift cards are available immediately. Spread cheer while supporting women's educational dreams through P.E.O. P.E.O. is a Philanthropic Educational Organization which promotes the education of women.

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Weekly Schedule**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4****12:00 pm Wednesday Midday Service****THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5****7:00 pm Choir rehearsal****SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8****8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I Service**

LECTOR: Geoff Smoot

TECH TEAM: Donna Parks

9:10 am Adult Christian Ed., Faith Rm.**10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Service**

LECTORS: Mike Mathers, Maarten Pereboom

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Sandy Grim

VESTRY PERSON: Nancy Linck

ALTAR GUILD: Mae Esh

ACOLYTES: Kim O'Grady

TECH TEAM: Katherine West

GREETERS/USHERS: Walt & Katherine West

COFFEE HOUR: Advent Lunch

Happy Birthday**Charles DiMola 12/07****Elinor Wallace 12/08****MESSAGES
FROM***Rev. Margaret*

People will ask me how I separate the sacred from the secular during this time of shopping and decorations and here is one answer I have to give to them:

What does a Christmas tree mean to us as Christians?

The Christmas tree symbolizes eternal life and the peace that Jesus brought. The modern Christmas tree tradition originated in Germany, where families would set up a paradise tree on December 24.

**Link to Vestry Minutes and Financials:**

Please click [HERE](#) for the approved Vestry Meeting Minutes and approved Financial Statement.
(Minutes and Financial are posted once they are approved.)

Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness, (the men's cold weather shelter) is opened through April. The men arrive after 4pm, enjoy snacks, a hot meal and desserts. They then watch tv, read, play cards/games/puzzles or just turn in to a warm bed. The next morning they get breakfast, a bagged lunch and are taken to downtown Salisbury by 7 am. This is rain or shine. On the 2nd Wednesday of the month, St. Alban's will provide chicken soup, salad, rolls and dessert. We will be asking for the congregation to donate parts of the meal. If you would like to donate a meal or snacks, you can contact me or go on their Facebook page for the link. Some other items the shelter can always use are articles of clothing, mainly sweat shirts/pants, underwear, socks, and toiletries. They usually need sizes lg-xxlg. If they have any other request, I will pass it along. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me. Kim O'Grady: pkograde3@yahoo.com or 410-251-2786.

Vox Concordia, presents Winter Reflections on Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 pm in the Great Hall on the Salisbury University campus. This program of international seasonal music includes settings of European and South American carols, Renaissance and Baroque music, the poetry of Robert Frost, and features guitarist Danielle Cumming. Tickets are available at www.salisbury.edu/performingarts through the Salisbury University Performing Arts Box Office.

Salisbury Middle's Annual Holiday Shop for students will be December 19 and 20. Students have the opportunity to use their Eagle Bucks (good behavior bucks) to purchase new or gently used gift items for their family or friends. Students can also use Eagle Bucks to have items gift wrapped. Every year we rely on the generosity of the community to help stock the holiday shop. When you have a free moment at home, take a look around for new or gently used items that you no longer want and could be re-gifted by our students. Suggested items include: holiday decorations, purses, costume jewelry, candles, toys, gifts for dad, new with tags still attached clothing (no used clothing), sporting equipment, dvds (no R-rated), coffee mugs, anything that would make a nice gift, or you can spend \$5 at any dollar store to purchase gift type items for the event. ***Gift bags and tissue paper are also very needed (used bags and tissue paper are great)*** If you bring items to church, please leave them on the table in the "Joy" room at the end of the back hallway. Or, contact Katherine West (kwest@mywcps.org) and she can pick up items. If you are interested in gift wrapping on Dec. 19 or 20, there will be a sign-up sheet in the breezeway. Thank you for supporting Salisbury Middle!



Advent 2024 has begun and Mary and Joseph have arrived in Salisbury! Their first stop was downtown and they were surprised to see how the skyline has changed since their last visit, with The Ross now the tallest building in Wicomico County. The Holy Family are looking forward to seeing what else has changed, but more importantly they're looking forward to visiting members of St. Alban's in the weeks leading up to Christmas. If you would like a visit from the Holy Family, please email mikemathers@gmail.com