

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Parish Directory: A new parish directory was completed and sent out in November. We were notified of a few updates and corrections. Please review your information as we will be revising and resending an updated directory. Please send any corrections to the parish office email at stalbanssalisbury@gmail.com no later than December 16th. Corrections will be made and an updated draft will be sent out to the congregation.

The Herald deadline: Articles and photos for the January Herald are due Sunday, December 15. Please email your submissions to stalbanssalisbury@gmail.com. Content due date is the 3rd Sunday of each month.

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**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10****7:00 pm Choir rehearsal****WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11****12:00 pm Wednesday Midday Service****SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15****8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I Service**

LECTOR: Chuck and Toby Porter

TECH TEAM: Donna Parks

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

LECTORS: Carrie Connelly, Howard Doak

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Linda Torbert

VESTRY PERSON: Sandy Grim

ALTAR GUILD: Carrie Connelly

ACOLYTES: Maggie O'Grady

TECH TEAM: Katherine West

GREETERS/USHERS: Rod and Pat Layton

COFFEE HOUR: Cristina Machin


HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE**Tuesday, December 24th****4:00 pm Family Christmas Eve
Service at Faith Lutheran Church
10:00 pm Christmas Eve
Carol Sing Prelude****10:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II,
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service****Wednesday, December 25th****9:15 am Christmas Day
Carols with Rev. Margaret & Jim****9:30 am Christmas Day
Service Holy Eucharist, Rite II,****Sunday, December 29th****1st Sunday after Christmas
10:00 am Lessons & Carols
at St. Alban's with Faith**

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.)

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!

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.

Greening of the Church: Greening of the church will take place following the 10 am service on the 22nd. Please stay and help decorate the church for Christmas. Please bring work gloves, garden clippers, greens (holly, magnolia, boxwood...) and your creative talents. Wreaths and swags will need to be made and hung and other decorations will need to be put out.



MESSAGES
FROM

Rev. Margaret

Why do people write 'Xmas' and what does it really mean? Is it ok to use?

I always tell people that the 'X' stands for Christ and is a way to shorten the word Christmas. Here is a description regarding the etymology of the word and why we can use it as Christians and especially as Episcopalians. This is the clearest and most concise explanation that I have found. It is from the Online Etymology Dictionary:

Xmas (n.)
"Christmas," 1551, X'temmas, wherein the X is an abbreviation for Christ in Christmas, English letter X being identical in form (but not sound signification) to Greek chi, the first letter of Greek Christos "Christ" (see Christ). The earlier way to abbreviate the word in English was Xp- or Xr- (corresponding to the "Chr-" in Greek Χριστός), and the form Xres mæsse for "Christmas" appears in the "Anglo-Saxon Chronicle" (c. 1100).

So, next time you see Xmas used or if someone has questions regarding it, hopefully you will now be able to let them know - it's ok!

The second week of advent was another wonderful adventure for Mary and Joseph. First they visited Michele Ben at home to admire her Christmas decorations. After that, the Holy Family wanted to see even more beautiful decorations and so they backtracked to the WinterFest of Lights in Ocean City. There is such a bounty of beautiful things to see and people to visit this time of year on the Eastern Shore.

