

Another Word December 2, 2025

To our family and friends of King Road Christian Church

December 6th is the day called “The Feast of Saint Nicholas” by the Eastern Orthodox Church. Saint Nicholas was a fourth century Bishop who spread the Good News of Jesus throughout eastern Europe. He especially loved children, and when he came to a town or village he often used common items to teach about God and the Bible. More of this story a little later. But first...

As a reminder, our annual congregational meeting is this Sunday, immediately following our service. We will be explaining and voting on our 2026 budget, our slate of officers, and voting on the changes we recommend in our By-Laws. If you didn't receive a copy of the By-Laws and would like to read them, call or email the church and we will get a copy to you before Sunday.

We would also like to have a group photo of the congregation taken this Sunday. So, bring a beautiful smile.

There will be an Elder's meeting on December 9th at 6:30 here at the church. Anyone interested in learning more about the role of an Elder and possibly becoming one is cordially invited to attend.

Scriptures for December:

Dec. 7- Micah 5:2-5a. Matthew 1:1-6, 16. Luke 1:26-38.

Dec. 14- Isaiah 40:1-5. Malachi 3:1-4. Luke 1: 39-63.

Dec. 21- Isaiah 9:1-3a, 6-7. Luke 1: 56-80. Matthew 1: 18-25.

Dec. 24- Christmas Eve Service 7pm. A festival of Carols and Readings.

May we pray.

O most Holy God, we lift our voices in praise to Your name and celebrate Your great works. Accept our thanks for the plans You have made for us. We cherish the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love that You have blessed us with, and are humbled that You care and love us so. We now give to You what is on our hearts and pray for those who need Your care and mercy..... May we always reach out to our neighbors and spread Your good will to the world. In Jesus' most Holy Name we pray, Amen.

Well, I guess it's later! I know I wrote about this a few years ago, but it's such a great story I decided to tell it again. In fact, I will also be telling this story to all 3 classes during LifeWise next Tuesday.

On Christmas Eve, my brother, sister, and I would hang the largest socks we could find on the mantle in hopes that Santa would fill them to overflowing. On Christmas morning, while digging through my sock I began noticing that there were, regardless of the toys, toothbrushes, and yes, more socks, always 4 specific gifts. Every Christmas morning we would find an orange, an apple, some candy, and some nuts. I just figured Santa wanted us to try to eat a little healthier but still threw in a few pieces of candy, because he knew I had a sweet tooth!

Fast forward a whole bunch of years. Donita and I were leading a youth group when I heard of a Greek Orthodox Church outside of Hayesville. We thought it would be a great experience to take our group to a different type of Christian Service. It happened to be December 6th, The Feast of Saint Nicholas. It was a marvelous and beautiful

service. Candles, incense, Priests chanting, hymns sung, Icons explained. What a wonderful evening!

But then the Priest began his Homily, which is a **short** message. (I know, I know. I can hear someone out there saying, “Rich, take a lesson!”) He first gave a short background of Nicholas and how he walked from town to town in eastern Europe. Helping the poor was his first priority, and many children were amongst the poorest. Often, he carried a large sack over his shoulder filled with gifts. And because of the extreme cold, his garments were fur lined. (Now you know where St. Nick. aka Santa Claus got his start.) So, how do you help the needy and tell of God’s greatness at the same time?

The Priest told us what St. Nicholas would do. He would reach into his bag and pull out an orange and hold it up high and ask, “What does this remind you of?” Of course, it looked like the sun. Then Nicholas would tell them how God placed light in the sky; light that gives life to the world.

He then would pull out an apple and ask, “What color is on the outside and then ask, what color on the inside?” The children would answer red and white. Nicholas would then explain that the Son of God, Jesus was the only one on earth that was pure, as white as snow, with no sin, and yet, He shed His own blood to save the souls of us sinners.

Sugar was the next gift. In the fourth century, honey was the common sweetener. Sugar on the other hand was very rare, expensive, even a treasure. To receive it in any amount was almost unimaginable. The lesson was that knowing God through Jesus was worth more than all the treasures of the world.

The last gift given was a handful of nuts. He would explain that squirrels would collect nuts during the fall season and store them in safe places, knowing that when the weather turned harsh, they could always find a meal. His words were very simple, "The squirrels used God's wisdom." As for us, the knowledge of God is the beginning of His gift of wisdom.

I can still remember the shock and amazement in realizing that the four seemingly insignificant items I received each year in my stocking were lessons and reminders as to who our Great God truly is!

So, maybe this Christmas, it would be a good time to pick up a few extra items at the grocery in order to give the gift of light and life, the gift of a perfect Son who died for us, the great treasure of knowing our Savior, and the depth of God's love through His wisdom.

What a great way to spread the Gospel. A way that has stood the test of time. And a way that is clear, understandable, enjoyable to tell, and of course, delicious!

In His Peace,

Rich