

Pilot Knob Lutheran Church Communique



280 AD

December 3, 2025

The Year was 280 A.D. when in the town of Patara located in present day Turkey, a wealthy elderly couple who were unable to have children finally gave birth to who would be an only son; they named him Nicholas.

According to Greek orthodox history Nicolas' parents, Theophanes and Nonna, prayed for many years to have a child similar that of Abraham and Sarah.

Even as an infant it appeared he had a special call on his life. As he grew older he had a virtuous reputation, spent many hours studying scripture and abstained from worldly pleasures, fasting every Wednesday and Friday throughout his life. His uncle, Bishop Patara advised his parents to have him enter the monastery and train for the ministry.

As time passed, his uncle went on a pilgrimage to the holy land. In his absence he had his nephew Nicholas oversee the church. It was at this time that Nicholas' parents passed away during a plague, leaving him a very large inheritance. With a heart of compassion for the poor who were often taken advantage of by money lenders, Nicholas generously distributed his wealth to the destitute.

One notable memory was helping a once nobleman gone broke. Creditors took his property and threatened to take his three daughters as well. The father had hoped to marry off his daughters before they would become white slaves and prostitutes. However, he didn't have money for dowries which was required.

Upon hearing of this man's plight Nicholas went to his house one night unannounced and threw a bag of gold in the family's window to save the daughter. As the news spread she was married in short order. Not long after he did the same for the second daughter.

The father is said to have exclaimed:

O merciful God, Author of our salvation, who hast redeemed me by thine own blood and now redeemest by gold my home and my daughters from the nets of the enemy, do Thou Thyself show me the minister of Thy mercy and thy philanthropic goodness....O Lord, by thy mercy secretly done for me by the generous hand of thy servant unknown to me, I can give my second daughter lawfully in marriage and with this escape the snares of the devil, who desired by a tainted gain, or even without it, to increase my great ruin.

(There Really Is A Santa Claus, by: William J. Federer)

~ More about the third daughter next week. ~

P.r. Bob Snitzer

By the way:

Today, 4:30-5:30. Confirmation class.

December 7, 9:00 Morning worship. Sermon & Holy Communion:

10:15 Sunday school for all.

Saturday, December 13, 9:30 New member/inquirer's class.

Past communiques and sermons can be read and heard on our website: www.pilotknob.org and
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PilotKnobLutheran>

Our service also airs on: KGLO 1300 AM at 10:00 AM, and KLOW 107.3 FM at 7:00 AM. Spread the word.

If you have an article or God sighting you would like to share with the congregation please submit it for publication in the **Briefings**. pastorbob@pilotknob.org