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JANUARY NEWSLETTER

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
402 Meridian Street
Cranfills Gap, Texas 76637

Phone: 254-597-2738

saintolaflutheran@embarqmail.com

www.saintolaflutheran.org

8:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
COME WORSHIP WITH US!
9:45 AM EACH SUNDAY!

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Saint-Olaf-Lutheran/285747624853526>



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Living in God's amazing grace

Office: 254-597-2738
Secretary: Mindy Webb
Mondays & Thursdays
9 am -3 pm

Pastor Joan Iker
Mon., Wed., Thur.
9 am-5:30 pm
Cell: 580-230-8304

Council President
Virgil Tindall
254-597-2478

Council Vice President
Iris Hodges
254-597-2536

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The St. Olaf church council met Wednesday, December 12, 2012. The following items were discussed and reported.

The treasurer will pay the last installment of benevolence to the synod.

Blue Christmas will be held at the Rock Church as the final Wednesday Advent event. Christmas Eve services at the Rock Church will be at 5:30 and 7:00 p.m.

Biker's Services will be suspended during the winter to be resumed again in the spring. Reasons are that attendance is poor during these months and it is difficult to heat the building for such a short time.

Food baskets from Thrivent have been delivered to needy families; they were greatly appreciated.

Trustees have made our church look very festive with lights on the railings, thanks to Iris Hodges for the lights, and to Ed Rieser for help in putting them up. Adding the Gathering Place to our insurance is being discussed with our agent, who suggests we do nothing until it is completed. Heaters will be placed in several of the Sunday School rooms in lieu of heating the entire building.

Iris Hodges presented a drawing of the proposed front gates for the Rock Church.

The council approved the purchase of three new signs for the church to be placed on Hwy 22 and 219. A fourth sign may be purchased for 219 North, but must be priced first. A volunteer has agreed to pay for that one if the price is not too much different from the others.

Gerald Nelson proposed a budget for the coming year; it was approved to be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting, which will be the third Wednesday of January, 2013.

A nominating committee was selected to replace outgoing members of the council. It will be composed of two outgoing members of the council and one other member of the congregation. Those members whose terms are expiring are: Darla Kinney, Kenneth Wiese, Kathy Finstad, and Gina Kersey. Thanks to those who have so ably served for the past three years, and to those folks who will succeed them.

There will be no meeting of the council in January in lieu of the annual congregational meeting.

PRAYER LIST

Marc Johnson, Mary (Ray) Hastings, Georgia Johnson, Haley Rae Tarver, Heather Leahy, Margret Turpin, Clarence Plagens, Agnes Rogstad, Evonne Simonds, Tom Gary, Steve Acree, Gene Lee, Debbie Barree, Lexie Finstad, Larry Oliver, Lorin Meissner, Vernon Patrick, Ellen Shields, Rodney Barner, Mary Ann Stokely, Loene Nelson, Veronica Kinney, Monica Caban, Buster Mangham, B.A. Johnson, Dottie Hanson, Ruth Tucker, Laura Fehler, David Sorley, Will Powers, Brady Warrick, Bonnie Algren, Doland Olson, Lucy Gary, Evelyn Sorenson, **Lutheran Church Sierra Leone, Persecuted Christians**

Military Service: Matthew Medina, Justin Barnes, Hayley Barner, Barrett Prince, Jarrod Prince, Alex Saborsky, Kevin Moore, Lamar Hickman, Travis Elston, Bradley Rohne

WELCA CORNER

Thirteen ladies met December 5th for our Christmas luncheon. After the delicious meal, Pres. Billye Dunnahoe called us together. Pastor Joan led us in the devotion. She installed the new officers-Betty Tindall, Vice President and Charlene Terger-son, Treasurer. Christmas carols were sung.

The ladies decorated the sanctuary and the basement.

Pastor Joan will meet with the study leaders January 2 at 1:00 o'clock.

The next general meeting will be February 6.

Please contact the church office if you would like to receive and emailed or hard copy of the WELCA tapestry.

RUTH CIRCLE

Seven members and Pastor Joan met at the gorgeously decorated home of hostess Betty Tindall for a salad luncheon on Wed, Dec. 12. Betty gave the lesson and all present participated in writing down answers to the question, "It wouldn't be Christmas, without....." Beginning January, Ruth Circle will combine with another circle and start meeting in the basement of the Church. Next meeting will be Jan. 9, 2 pm. Shirley Thompson, hostess.



MARY / LYDIA CIRCLE

Mary circle met December 12 at Heckman Hall. Those attending were Cleo, Yvonne, Patricia, Hannelore, Pastor Joan, Carolyn, Elsie, Lydia & Lee. Patricia, Hannelore & Elsie participated with Advent & Christmas readings; then remembering how Christmases were spent during our childhoods. All sang Christmas carols. Pastor Joan led us in prayer, after which time was spent eating & visiting.

Mary/Lydia (our new name) circle will meet at Norse Wing at Sunset Home on January 9. We welcome our new members.

REMINDERS & NOTICES

Report for Breakfast Club for 2012

We have had a very successful year serving breakfast to our friends and neighbors in the community.

I want to thank everyone that came and supported us and I think that they enjoyed our fun, food and fellowship. I know we had a great time preparing and serving breakfast. Lest we forget sharing our theme song, too. We had a total attendance for the year of 625-average 53 per breakfast. Total money donated for breakfast was \$5117.00 average 426.42 per breakfast. We had a garage sale in Jan. taking in \$1018.00. Baked Potato Lunch for 90 people with donations of \$553.00. We had a craft and Norwegian cookie sale making \$825.00 total \$2396.00. We honored the School teachers and staff with a baked potato luncheon in Aug. We helped our friends and neighbors with monetary support for \$1700.00. We bought 8 round tables, painted the basement, helped with updating electrical work in basement, cleaned chairs, windows and blinds in basement. We also paid for t-shirts that Pastor Joan took to shut ins. This total came to \$2220.00.

I want to thank the loyal workers that showed up every Saturday morning: Harold & Preshie, Phyllis & Ed, Kenneth, Dale and Anna Marie. I ask God to bless you all, for all your good work and with His help we will continue to do His work for the Church Community

~Iris Hodges

MACEDONIA PROJECT

This fall 30 congregations of the NT-NL Mission Area are embarking on a journey together – exploring each other's context for ministry, outreach efforts, and missional practices. The 30 congregations are clustered together in groups of three and given the opportunity to visit each other's ministry site for a weekend – to watch and learn how each approaches ministry and mission and to share together about the passions and practices in each location that

lead to strong outreach and stewardship. It's called the *Macedonia Project*, and it takes as its launching point the words of St. Paul (2 Cor. 8) in which Paul praised the church in Macedonia for the way it was selfless in caring for, and sharing with, the church in Jerusalem during the time when the church in Jerusalem was in desperate need. We will hear more about the *Macedonia Project* and the experience of these 30 NT-NL congregations when we next gather in assembly – April 26-28 in Temple, Texas.



The ladies are forming a Night Circle. If interested please contact Bonnie Algren at 254-978-2209.

Lumberjack Retreat: Briarwood Retreat Center invites men from NT-NL congregations to enjoy a winter weekend together at Briarwood Jan. 26-27 helping clean up the camp and clear the dead trees. It's chainsaw time!

Concordia Choir

Come to Waco, TX!!

February 27, 2013 ~7:00pm

Austin Avenue United Methodist Church
1300 Austin Avenue



Tickets; \$25 Adults; \$10 Students K-U; \$35 Premium Seats

Available at Austin Avenue United Methodist Church, online at AustinAvenueUMC.org, by calling 254-754-4685 or at the door



Welcome to the Family of Faith Hayes Edwards!!

THANK YOU

Members of St. Olaf,
I would just like to say thank you for your willingness to let me paint the office in the Sunday School building and the entryway for my Eagle Scout Project. I am proud to have been able to do something in service of the church, and hope that the Scouts did a satisfactory job with the painting. Thank you for your support in our project!
Zeb

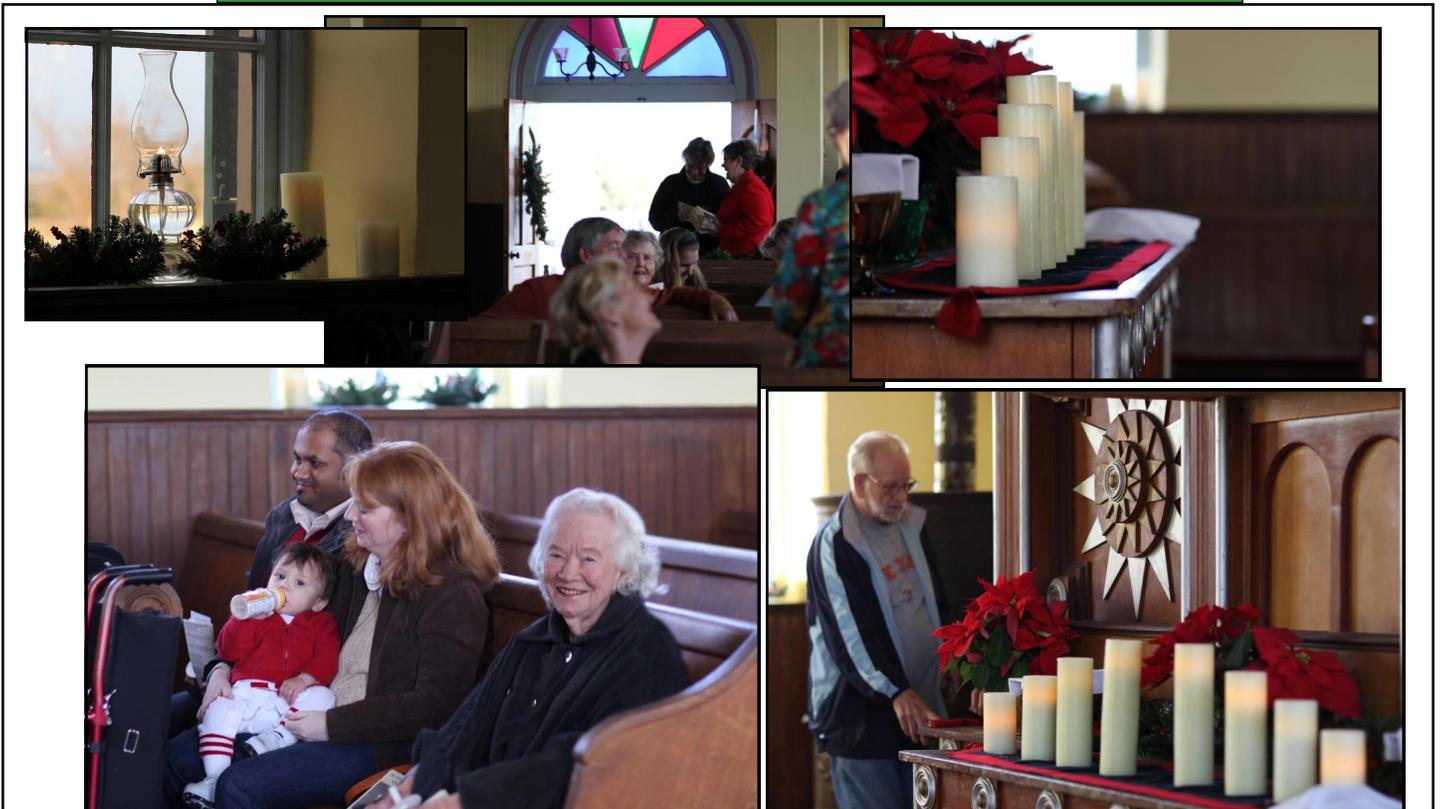
FINANCIAL REPORT

	Receipts	Disbursements	Net
Budget through	\$90,218.33	\$89,472.13	\$746.20
Actual through	92,827.98	82,263.87	10,564.11
		<i>Submitted by Gerald Nelson, Treasurer</i>	

CHILDRENS PROGRAM



ROCK CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVE



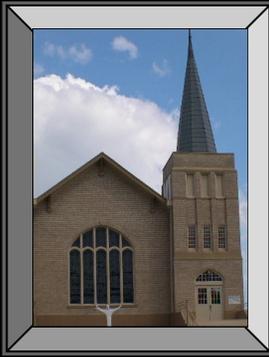
JANUARY ~ ST. OLAF LUTHERAN

⁴⁰On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Cleo Ellingson Marvin Patrick	2	3	4	5 Braxton Reierson
6 SS 8:30 Worship 9:45 Confirmation 2:00 Ashley Porter	7 Christmas Eve Assistants meet 6:00 Lisa Rose Jim & Gina Kersey	8 Terry & Linda Samples	9 Ruth Circle 2:00 Mary/Lydia 2:00 Terry Samples	10	11	12
13 SS 8:30 Worship 9:45	14 Mutual Ministry at Faith 6:00	15 Joe McGowen	16 Kids Klost 3:30-5 Annual Meeting & Soup Supper 7:00	17	18 Synagogue Trip Jan 18th	19 Breakfast 8-9:30 Biker Service 3:30 John Hastings Dalton & Elaine Moore
20 SS 8:30 Worship 9:45 Confirmation 2:00	21 Altar Guild 6:00 Darren Keith Hanson	22	23 Cheryl Niemeier	24	25 Noble Chastain	26 Irma Willcox
27 SS 8:30 Worship 9:45 Madlynn Reierson	28 Greyson Rose	29	30	31	Assisting Ministers: Charla R 6, 13 Betty T 20, 27 H. Usher: Noble Chastain Ushers: Altar Guild: Elsie Phillips & Geraldine Jenson Fellowship Cookies: Ruth Circle	
Pastor Attending Tri-Synodical Theological Conference						

Pastor Joan's Office Hours: **Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-5:30pm** Pastor's Cell 580-230-8304

Mindy Webb's Secretary Hours: **Monday & Thursday 9am-3pm** Office 254-597-2738



ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worship, teach, nurture and
share Christ's love.



Two Big Days

January contains two holy days for the church that we don't often hear much about. The first is *Epiphany* and the second is the *Baptism of Our Lord*. They are both perfect times for the church to set as baptismal days. Epiphany is like the cap on the steeple of the Christmas cycle--the topper on the seasons of Advent and the 12 days of Christmas. Celebrated on Jan. 6, it honors the appearance of the Christ Child to the Magi, also known as the wise men. In our children's programs and nativity scenes we tend to blend Epiphany with our Christmas celebrations. But they are not blended in the Bible. Luke gives the story of the birth with angel and shepherds. Matthew tells it with the Magi.

In Latin America Epiphany is named "El Dia de los Tres Reyes," Three Kings' Day, and holds a higher place than Christmas in the hearts of most there. It is the day that the children receive their gifts. (They can only get three since Jesus received three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.) All Christmas décor remains in place through this day.

"Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as the Christ to those who live outside the boundaries of his own territory" (Schlafer 1998, 109). Epiphany is about the whole world being included in the grace of salvation. Gentiles (that's us) were brought into the family of God at this event! The Magi are certainly the most prominent image that comes to mind when we speak of Epiphany. And they came from the east—foreigners! They were definitely not part of the Jewish world.

The baptismal element of the celebration of Epiphany is most likely the oldest. By the third century early followers "celebrated a feast of the baptism of Jesus, which event they regarded as being the real moment of the Son of God's birth into the world" (Adam 1990, 144). Perhaps the reason the baptism of Jesus was emphasized is because Mark, unlike Matthew and Luke, begins not with a birth story but with Jesus' baptism.

Now we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord after Epiphany. It moves us away from emphasis of the Baby, as we hear the adult Jesus is baptized. But there is a common thread intertwining Christmas, Epiphany and The Baptism of Our Lord—it is identity (Stookey 1996, 112)! And baptism is where we gain our identity as a child of God. That is why I especially want to invite any who have not received God's gift of baptism to come to the font Jan. 6 or 13. Please contact me if you or someone you know desires this gift of God. For those who have been baptized, it will be a day to remember our baptism.

Baptismal blessings~ *Pastor Joan*

Resources used:

Adam, Adolf. *The Liturgical Year Its History and Its Meaning after the Reform of the Liturgy*. New York: Liturgical, 1992. Print.

Schlafer, David J. *What Makes This Day Different? Preaching Grace on Special Occasions*. Cambridge, Mass: Cowley Publications, 1998. Print.

Stookey, Laurence Hull. *Calendar Christ's Time for the Church*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1996. Print.

