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December Newsletter

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8:30AM ADULT
SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30AM WORSHIP



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Living in God's amazing grace

Office: 254-597-2738

Interim Pastor

Ryan Pederson

956-367-0334

Council President

Phyllis Rieser

254-652-0676

Office Secretary

Angela Roberson

254-597-2738

saintolaflutheran@gmail.com

www.saintolaflutheran.org



To all,

My life has been very scattered as of late. I have become unretired or maybe it is just tired. However, I can't manage to find anything that I am currently willing to give up.

As many of you may know, our daughter has opened a restaurant in downtown Clifton (Corner Drug Café). I spend much of my time there. Although it is hard work, I have met so many new and interesting people. Some are just traveling through and ask about things to see and do in Bosque County. I consider myself part tour guide and always send them to the Rock Church. We also have regular customers at the café from all the towns around Clifton. Talking with people is the fun part of the job! We try to make the café a place where people come to visit with each other over a good meal. I love my cell phone but good conversation with real people is much better.

From that desire to make the café a warm community café, Ed, the girls, and I started talking about a community Thanksgiving dinner that would actually occur on Thanksgiving Day. So many people have their family Thanksgiving dinners on a weekend when all the family members can actually carve out time to be together. Then on Thanksgiving Day, couples/singles may be alone. We also wanted the event to be a welcoming opportunity for families who just needed a good warm meal. Although we didn't have as much time to get the word out about our event, we had almost had 100 people attend. Employees and friends volunteered to help us. For this, I was very thankful. Their kindness and generosity on a holiday helped make the day come off without a single hitch.

After the first rush of people at 11am, things settled down. We had families, friends and strangers visiting and enjoying dinner together. They were engaged in animated conversation and there were no distractions from football or worrying if the dinner would come together on time. I was so warmed by the gathering as everyone lingered at the tables doing what we had hoped they would do. This is probably the most memorable Thanksgiving I have experienced. I hope that everyone was thankful for the time spent together and there were no dishes to clean. We hope more people will join us next year.

As we now move to the Christmas holidays, I hope to carry that energy and thankfulness from Thanksgiving with me. I want to more fully focus on the true purpose of our Christmas celebrations. As a family, we managed to set aside the usual production of Thanksgiving so now it's time to do the same at Christmas. I trust that you will find your own way for meaningful celebration.

Please join us at our Wednesday Advent services (Dec 6, 13, 20) as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. Supper will be at 6pm with service to follow.

Blessing to all,
Phyllis Rieser, Church Council President



Saint Olaf Lutheran

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Services

December 24

4:30, 6:00, and 7:30

at St. Olaf Kirke (Rock Church)



Christmas Eve worship at the Rock Church. Service times are 4:30pm, 6:00pm, and 7:30pm. The 4:30 service is especially for families with children and those needing assistance as it is dismissed before dark. All services will have Holy Communion. Bring a flash light and a blanket.

Mary Circle: Will meet December 13,
Heckmann Hall at 2:00pm

Martha Circle:

Ruth Circle: Will meet December 14,
Katherine's House at NOON

WELCA News

A potluck luncheon was enjoyed by eight members on November 1. It being All Saints Day, Pres. Betty Tindall named our members who have passed on this past year.

All participated in the Thankoffering program, which Betty led. The thankoffering and regular offering was taken.

It was voted to give Helping Hands \$100.00.

The yearbook planning meeting will be Monday, January 8 at 9:00 AM.

Our members will serve refreshments for the 5th Sunday Service in December.

The next meeting will be February 7, 2018, with Ruth Circle providing the program, and Mary Circle serving refreshments.

PRAYER LIST: Heather Christensen, Margret Turpin, Mary Ann Stokely, Brady Warrick, Kathy Johnston, Ronnie Ogle, Cooper Brown, Martha & Helena McCormick, Dacey Patrick, Josh Wilhelm, Raymond Bailes, Chris Lujan, Larry Barger, Charles Osborn, Daniel Smith, Makayla Pierce, Rev. C. A. Mangham, Rick Payne, Tom Pierce, Nikki Stone, Tracy Finstad, Henrietta Medina, Jamie Dittrich, Donna Boelter, Greg Kirk, Kenneth Reiersen, Ruth Tucker, and **The Lutheran Church Sierra Leone, Persecuted Christians**

SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN: Matthew Medina, Justin Barnes, Kevin Moore, Michael Crackhome, Alex Saborsky, Kirk Luedeke, Daniel Ramirez.

Mary Circle News

The Mary Circle met on November 8 at Heckmann Hall. Maranna, Elaine, Patricia, Charlene, Hannelore, and Elsie were in attendance. Maranna led the story which was on the Apostle's Creed - I believe in the Holy Spirit ---.

Our program chairman for next year will be Maranna, and our fellowship/service chairman will be Charlene.

We discussed who would bring food for the 5th Sunday Service in December. Our next meeting will be December 13 with Elsie leading the program. Refreshments were enjoyed by all.

~ Elsie



Saint Olaf Lutheran Soup Supper and Advent Services

6:00 PM

December 6

December 13

December 20



**Soup
Supper**

Ruth Circle News

Ruth Circle met in the Church Basement for the November Bible Study. Mary Ann brought the third session on The Apostle's Creed. Anna always serves a LOT of great refreshments! The group discussed Advent suppers and agreed to furnish soup and cornbread on December 6. We will meet back at Katherine's House for the annual Christmas Salad Luncheon at Noon.

Financial Report <i>Submitted by Gerald Nelson, Treasurer</i>	Receipts	Disbursements	Net
Budget through	\$72,088.33	\$66,550.00	\$5,458.33
Actual through	62,568.28	58,260.90	4,307.38

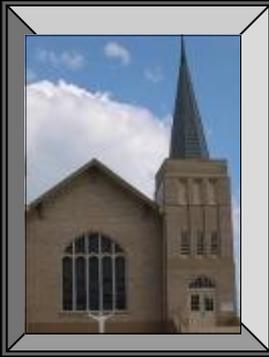


December 2017

Assisting Minister: Renee Barner
 Head Usher: Noble Chastain
 Ushers: Signi Knudson & Renee Barner
 Altar Guild: Rita Hanson & Karen Hanson

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1	2 <i>Music at Rock Church, Norwegian Country Christmas</i>
3 <i>Adult & Children's SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am</i>	4	5	6 <i>Advent Soup Supper, 6pm: service following</i>	7	8	9	
10 <i>Adult & Children's SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am Children's Program</i>	11	12	13 <i>Mary Circle, Heckmann Hall, 2pm; Advent Service, 6pm; then, Chamber Dinner</i>	14 <i>Ruth Circle, Katharine's House, NOON, for luncheon</i>	15	16 <i>Community Breakfast, 8:00-9:30am</i>	
17 <i>Adult & Children's SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am</i>	18	19	20 <i>Advent Soup Supper, 6pm: service following</i>	21	22	23	
24 <i>Worship, 9:30am Christmas Eve Candlelight @ RC (4:30, 6:00 & 7:30)</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27	28	29	30	
31 <i>Worship, 9:30am 5th Sunday Singing</i>	Birthdays: Karen Hanson (2), Lucy Gary (5), Mary Ann Stokely (8), Danny Rudd (9), Teresa Christensen (13), Signi Knudson (14), Charlene Tergerson (22), Jami Edwards (24), Iris Reiertson (25), James Bayless & Vernon Patrick (26), Marti Hanson & Cindy Wiese (31) Anniversaries: Harold & Preshie Wiese (17), Virgil & Betty Tindall (27)						





St. Olaf Lutheran Church

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



I'm writing to you the day after Thanksgiving. My family and I have spent much of the week leading up to Thanksgiving in the parsonage here at the Gap. We are thankful for such a comfortable, relaxing place to spend weekends and holidays. This retreat has been a real gift for all of us over the past sixteen months. I also appreciate the opportunity the people of St. Olaf have given me to serve as interim pastor while I am finishing my studies. I am grateful and so is my family.



The first Sunday in December marks the beginning of Advent, and with it a new year in the Christian calendar. Advent is a season of anticipation, longing, and hope, as we look for the coming of the Christ. We await Christ's return with hope because we recognize that our world is badly damaged, in need of repair, a kind of repair that only Christ can bring. Like the season of Lent, Advent is a season in which we are all called to reflect on our lives and the world in which we live. It is this reflection that gives rise to hope. I invite us all to reflect on these things as we await the coming of Christ. To aid in this reflection we will be having Advent services on Wednesday evenings.

Advent ends with the feast of Christmas, when we celebrate the first coming of Christ into our world. What we celebrate in Christmas is truly radical: God, the infinite creator of the universe, coming to us, taking on flesh and bone, the finite stuff of creation, and sharing our lives in our broken world. To celebrate the coming of Christ into our world, we will have three Christmas Eve services at the Rock Church. Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, we will also have our regularly scheduled Sunday morning service, as well.

Peace, Pr. Ryan

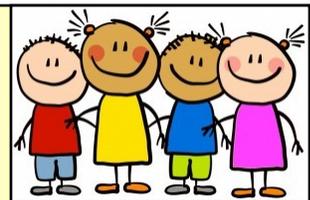


Happy 52 years, Harold & Presheie Wiese!



Happy 61 years, Virgil and Betty Tindall!

Children's News and Events



The Sunday School kids will have a Children's Program, titled "The Chrismon Tree" on December 10.

The following Sunday, the kids' Sunday School Class will be attending "Christmas in the Park" at Six Flags in Arlington.

Also, there is no Children's Sunday School on December 24 or 31.