



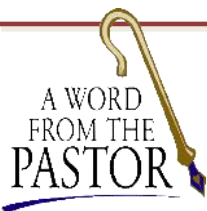
Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior Lutheran Church
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Monthly Newsletter

January 2012



2012—A Year of *Change*

2012 is barely a few hours old and here I am talking about CHANGE. It's true though, 2012

will be a year full of changes for OSLC. We will see change in our landscape as we break ground for our new building. We will see change as our administrative offices move to another hallway. We will see change as the sanctuary is "remodeled" to include a sprinkler system and expanding our seating capability. We will see change as we build a space for our youth to come and hang out and call their own. CHANGE CHANGE CHANGE.

Well as you begin 2012 I would like to suggest another change.

Don't put Jesus first this year! That's right—I said it!

NOW, before you ask me to resign my position let me explain this MAJOR CHANGE.

All of us are going through the process of setting and resetting our priorities for the new year. Call it what you want, resolutions, priorities, goals...it's all the same. And here's what it usually looks like. We start by putting Jesus at the top of our lists. Then family, then our job or something else important to us. Our priority list looks a lot like this:

1. Jesus
2. Family
3. Job

Looks good right? The problem? It's not really effective when you get right down to it. What does it mean to put Jesus before our family?

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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 15

Special Voter's Meeting

January 21

Basket of Hope Event

January 29

2nd Annual Chili Cook-off

February 25

Better Late Than Never
Valentine Dinner

(Continued on page 5)



Campaign Corner

by

Building Out to Reach Out
Fulfillment Team

Are you one who makes New Year's Resolutions? The common joke is that by the end of the day January 1 most of the resolutions are broken. But seriously, what is a resolution? It's a promise, a pledge, a vow usually to make a change in your life for the betterment of your future.

Slightly over a year ago many of you made a resolution. The "change in your life" enables you to be a better steward of what God has provided. The "betterment of your future" would be the building of new facilities at OSLC that would be used by you and your family in worshiping and serving God.

I pray that the resolutions you made to the Building Out to Reach Out Capital Campaign will not be put aside as being unreachable or meaningless. Instead, I pray for the tenacity and steadfastness of everyone to persevere in reaching our goal. As of 12/4/11 we were 32% of the way. Now is not the time to slow down, but to continue at a steady, unbroken pace the rest of the way.

In 2 Timothy Paul stated, "I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Paul's crown for finishing was one of righteousness. Our crown for finishing the Capital Campaign will be one of good stewardship; our sacrifice will be a "fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." Philippians 4:18b

Priscilla Ann Heake
Fulfillment Team Director (903-268-1284)
eandpheake@msn.com



SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 15th** during the **Sunday School** hour in the **Sanctuary**. The agenda will be an update on the progress of the new Building loan application and construction.



2012 OFFERING BOXES

Offering boxes for the 2012 calendar year are available for your use. If you have not yet done so, please obtain yours from the table in the hallway leading from the Narthex. The boxes are arranged alphabetically by last name. All envelope numbers have been changed so do not use any leftover 2011 envelopes.

Please note some of the features of the envelopes. In the very front of the box are 12 numbered “Building Out to Reach Out” envelopes, one for each month. Monies received from these envelopes go towards the Capital Campaign for the new facilities. At the beginning of each month in your box there is a “Debt-Reduction Fund” envelope. Monies received from these envelopes go towards the current mortgage.

Also in your box in addition to weekly giving envelopes are those available for Missions, Memorials, Designated gifts, Lenten services, Advent services, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Eves, and Christmas Day.

When using your envelopes, please remember that unless designated for a specific purpose all receipts will go into the General Fund for budgeted items. You can designate your giving to a specific fund by use of the special envelopes provided OR by noting on the memo line of a written check. If you forget your envelope when attending a service, “My Offering” envelopes are available in the pew racks. When using these envelopes, identify your offering at least by your name if not by your number.

May Our Savior Lutheran Church be blessed this new year by the abundant and cheerful giving of its members, “those who bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord, saying, ‘Give thanks to the Lord Almighty, for the Lord is good; His love endures forever.’” Jeremiah 33:11b

Sincerely,

Our Savior Lutheran Church Board of Stewardship



NEW LOOK Our website is undergoing a major overhaul. Be watching the bulletin for the reveal date of the new and improved OSLC website.

<http://www.oslcrockwall.org>



Dear Sharon, Many thanks to you and your wonderful group (Knit Knots) for all the beautiful hats, mittens and scarfs that you made for our kids and adults. They were so beautiful, colorful and warm! We added them to their Christmas Stockings, so they peeked out of the top of the stockings. I know they helped make the holiday a little merrier for some people who are less fortunate. Merry Christmas to you and yours!

Carol Miskin

The Rainbow Room, Rockwall County

THANKS! All of us would like to thank you for your thoughts, prayers, love, support and gifts that you gave us throughout this Christmas Season. -The OSLC Staff

Fishers of Men Lutheran Church Spanish Mission at Port Isabel, TX



This summer the OSLC VBS collected funds for the Fishers of Men Lutheran Church Spanish Mission. The funds were used by the mission to purchase Bibles to be given to the children. This chart shows the progress the children have made in memorizing Bible verses. When they have met their goals, the children are presented their own special Bibles. They are thrilled!



Niños and Gifts: The monies that members of OSLC donated during the Christmas stocking fund drive sponsored by the LWML was sent to Fishers of Men Lutheran Church Spanish Mission at Port Isabel, Texas. The funds were used to provide gifts and gift cards to the children and their families which were distributed after the Christmas program on December 17th. OSLC members Pastor Wally Schmidt and Ellie assisted in the program planning and presentation.

The Church Office will be closed on:
Monday, January 2, 2012

Bible Studies

Sunday Mornings:

Gary Koch is leading *This We Believe* (a study of some current issues from a Lutheran perspective) - in the classroom across from the Fellowship Hall.

Ray Diepenbrock leads an adult class in the Fellowship Hall on "The Lutheran Difference".

Pastor Paul leads an adult class in the classroom in the sanctuary.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study:

6:30 a.m. OSLC Kitchen Join us as we study the Psalms.

Women's Bible Study led by Dorothy Hunger
"Coffee With the Savior" 4th Mondays @
7:00 p.m. Meet in Pastor Matthias' office.

Adult Bible Study led by Rich & Kaye Hartfield
1 Corinthians (New Testament Church)
2nd & 4th Thursdays @ 7:30 p.m.
Meet at Bill & Geri Smith's home.

FAMILIES REACHING OUT



Every week hundreds of children are diagnosed with cancer. At the time of diagnosis, the children and their families feel overwhelmed with the news. It is important for them to be reminded that God loves them and is neither punishing nor abandoning them but will be there with them through this frightening time. It is also important for them to know that the community cares for them.

The mission of Basket of Hope is to give the hope that comes from Jesus to newly diagnosed children and their families affected by cancer or other serious illnesses, primarily by the delivery of a Basket of Hope filled with inspirational materials to nourish them mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Basket of Hope serves more than 1,000 families each year by providing a personal visit and delivery of a gift basket filled with toys, games, crafts, and gift certificates from area businesses along with a Hope Tote filled with Bibles, inspirational books, journals, pre-loaded MP3 players, and more! Each Basket and Hope Tote is valued at \$250+.

Basket of Hope has 18 branches in 15 states around the country, and we're still growing! This year the NFL Super Bowl is sponsoring the Baskets of Hope with Tony Dungy as the National Spokesperson. 7,000 Baskets will be assembled in Indianapolis and shipped to the 32 NFL cities. Hope Totes will be assembled in each region and combined with the baskets which will be delivered by local NFL players, coaches, and alumni to the children in the hospitals. This will be a wonderful opportunity to bless many children and their families with baskets and totes!

In addition to the NFL, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is on board as a Lead Sponsor and will be coordinating the assemblies and distributions of the baskets in the 32 NFL cities! Vera Bradley is donating 7,000 bags to be used for the Hope Totes!

If you are interested in being a part of the 2012 Basket of Hope team in Dallas, TX, we are looking for 10-12 volunteers to kick off the 2012 initiatives on January 21 from 9:00-1:00 at Dallas Lutheran School. This is a time for you to become familiar with the goals and responsibilities in the Dallas area and assemble totes to compliment the NFL basket event.

Please feel free to contact Michele Brandvold (972) 822-3799 or Pastor Paul Ferguson (972) 771-8118 if you have any questions. Sign up sheets will be available outside Pastor Paul's office on January 1st.

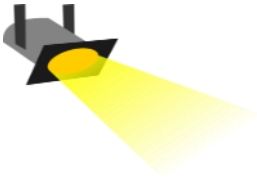
(Continued from Page 1) Do we ignore our family to spend more time with Jesus? Do we stop working to put Jesus first? I don't think this is the way it is supposed to work. Colossians 1:15-20 reminds us that Jesus is **FIRST** before and over everything. So Jesus **IS** first. He is first in order; He is first in importance. **BUT HE IS SO BECAUSE HE IS THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING.** That's what He should be in your life. The thing that is at the center of your life will ultimately be the first in your life.

So in 2012, instead of worrying about putting Jesus first in your life, let's **CHANGE** that thinking and concentrate on making Him the center of every area of your life? Not just the top priority in front of every other priority, but the top priority in every priority?

Not Jesus **then** my family. But Jesus **in** my family. Not Jesus **then** my career. But Jesus **in** my career.

We will probably be a lot more successful in keeping Jesus at the top of our list, and we'll probably do a much better job at accomplishing our other goals and maintaining our priorities.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Pastor Paul'.



Community Spotlight

Altar Guild

Did you ever wonder who is responsible for making sure the altar area is ready for worship... communion ware in place, correct liturgical color of paraments, acolytes robed and ready, flowers on altar, etc.

At this time a dedicated group of nine ladies volunteer to serve our church and our Lord in this manner. Guided by instructions in a manual produced by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and a guide book written just for our own congregational needs, the ladies also work closely with the pastors and elders to insure that everything is done correctly and to the glory of God.

We are always looking for more members. We rotate duties so that no one is required to serve every month. If you would like to serve on this committee, please let the church office know.

LADIES GAME NIGHT RESUMES

Make plans to attend on Thursday, January 5th at 6:30 p.m. The evening is being hosted by Elaine Ricklefs at Our Savior Lutheran Church. Please bring a snack to share and any game you wish to play. All ladies of the congregation are invited to come and have fun.



Council Meeting minutes are available by emailing the church office office@oslrockwall.org.

CONDOLENCES We pray God's comfort and peace for the following OSLC family members as they grieve the death of a loved one in their family:

- The family of Rhonda Rakow at the death of her Aunt.
- The family of Ernie Meyer at the death of her husband of 57 years Art.



*With
Sympathy*

Changes in the Our Savior Family of Faith

New Members received:

Brian & Jennifer Breitzman (Abby)
Tim & Lisa Brown (Sarah & Emily)
Kevin & Joan Douglas

Members transferred out:

Brad & Sherri Tomlinson
(Brooke & Brenden)

Members transferred in:

Teresa Tuggle

What's Up with OSLC Youth

K-5th Grades—Sunday, January 8th (4:00-6:00 PM)

Come learn about the Lutheran World Relief and how the quilters group here at Our Savior helps support mission outreach throughout the world especially in places that experience a natural disaster. You will get the chance to tie a quilt yourself to send to someone in need.

There will also be pizza, which is always good :-)

6th-8th Grades

Now that the Christmas holidays are over are you looking for something to do? Come hang out with your friends here at church and have some fun! Check it out:

Sunday, January 8th (4:00-6:00 PM) - Pizza and Games at Church

Sunday, January 22nd (4:00-6:00 PM) - Bowling

High School

It's a new year and we have a lot of new activities planned. Don't miss out on the fun:

Sunday, January 8th (6:00-8:00 PM) - "Make-your-own-pizza" Night

Sunday, January 15th (6:00-8:00 PM) - "Let's Soup it Up" with video bowling

Sunday, January 22nd (6:00-8:00 PM) - Cici's and games

Sunday, January 29th (6:00-8:00 PM) - Go-carts @ *Shenanigans* w/ dinner (\$35 cost)

Get Ready For...

Glorybound 2012

July 19-22

"A Community of Uncommon Unity"

Romans 15:5-6

High School Youth

First Deposit (\$100) due now to register (turn in to Lisa Renfroe).

See the Youth Bulletin Board for more info.



Life Groups

Women's Groups

Wednesday Evenings @ 7:00 PM

Facilitator: Rhonda Rakow

Where: The church kitchen (location may change)

Current Study: "Secrets of the Vine" (John 15)

Wednesday Mornings @ 9:00 AM

Facilitator: Michele Brandvold

Where: The church kitchen

Current Study: "Boundaries"

Starts back Jan. 11th

1st & 4th Saturdays @ 10:00 AM

Facilitator: Sharon Heake

Where: The church kitchen

Current Study: "Obadiah, Jonah, Micah"

Groups by Location

Greenville – 2nd Thursdays @ 6:45 PM

Facilitator: Margaret Berger

Where: Home of George & Margaret Berger
(1106 Whitehall Lane, Greenville)

Current Study: "Blessings in Disguise"

Men's Group

2nd & 4th Sundays @ 7:00 PM

Facilitator: Don Rakow, Jr.

Where: The church kitchen

Current Study: "Godly Man: Men in the Church"

Groups by "Life-Stage"

Working Empty-nesters – Nancy Whitlock

When: 2nd & 4th Thursdays @ 6:30 PM

Where: Home of Herb & Nancy Whitlock
(308 Westway Circle, Rockwall)

Current Study: "Connections: God-Esteem"

Parents of High School and/or College Students – Ken & Donna Busarow

When: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 7:00 PM

Where: The church kitchen

Current Study: "Live By Faith"

Don't see a Life Group that fits you?

New groups will be forming soon, so let Pastor Matthias know you are interested!

Get Connected!



2nd Annual Chili Cook-off



If you participated last year, you know what a great time this is!
If you did not participate last year, take our word for it...it is great fun!!

JANUARY 29TH, 2012

NEEDED:

Competition Chili Cooks

Judges

HUNGRY PEOPLE who want to eat Chili

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Tim & Lisa Brown
(Sarah & Emily)
Not Pictured



Brian & Jennifer Breitzman, Abby



Kevin & Joan Douglas

Sunday Morning Worship Volunteers

	9:00	Sunday School	11:15
Sunday, January 1 10:00 a.m. (one service only)			
ELDER DUTY:	James Scott/Steve Blanke		
BIBLE READERS:	Linda Blanke		
NURSERY:	Carol Pearce		
GREETERS:	Musser/Rakow/Birnbaum		
ACOLYTE:	Tyler Saathoff		
CRUCIFER:	Madison Jennings		
USHER TEAM:	McCallum/Oesch/Martinson/Naegele/Brandvold		
Sunday, January 8			
ELDER DUTY:	Bob Appelwick		Herb Whitlock
BIBLE READERS:	Carl Rakow		Drew Blanke
NURSERY:	Rhonda Rakow		Melinda Van
GREETERS:	Brandvold/Mehne		Brandt/Swanson
ACOLYTE:	Andrew Sorenson		Catherine Mackey
CRUCIFER:	Bridget Griesbach		Noah Omalza
Sunday, January 15			
ELDER DUTY:			
BIBLE READERS:	Rudy Hunger		Jennifer Ferguson
NURSERY:	Karen Birnbaum		Jennifer Wheat
GREETERS:	Martinson/Arldt		Scott
ACOLYTE:	Sarah Brown		Seth Omalza
CRUCIFER:	Caedon Jervis		David Bamsch
Sunday, January 22			
ELDER DUTY:			
BIBLE READERS:	Max Klein Jr.		Janis Mason
NURSERY:	Elicia Brown		Elaine Dickson
GREETERS:	Lemons/Farley		Adams/Alexander
ACOLYTE:	Jessica Hagan		April Pihlstrom
CRUCIFER:	Tyler Saathoff		Kurtis Geske
Sunday, January 29 11:15 a.m. (one service only)			
ELDER DUTY:			
BIBLE READERS:			Dan Nelson
NURSERY:			Lisa Brown
GREETERS:			Dickson/Ricklefs/Filbin
ACOLYTE:			Noah Omalza
CRUCIFER:			Brett Hintz

January Birthdays and Anniversaries



(A) - Anniversary	(B) - Birthday
1-Jonah & Rebecca Allen	Josh Kirby
2-	
3-	Michele Brandvold/Carol Musser
4-	Scott Mason
5-	LaurieAnne Ferguson
6-	Edward Hartfield/Jennifer Wheat
7-	Teresa Tuggle
8-Jake & Wilda Oesch	
9-	Keith Bamsch
10-Phil & Diane Gingerich	
12-	Trey Millender
13-Orlando & Delia Salinas	Kelly Britton
14-Ivan & Kathy Brandt	Jenni Bamsch/Ada Von Braun
15-	Brandi Brandt/Jim Eatman/Carolyn Webb/Ellis Webb
17-Bruce & Missie Favinger	George Berger/Dan Nelson
18-	Esther Hurt
19-	Deborah Kirby
20-Bill & Geri Smith	Jennifer Breitzman/Bryan Greisbach/Tammy Hintz
21-	Roger Kieschnick Jr./Norma Sample
22-	
23-	Melissa Johnson/April Pihlstrom
24-	Dorsey Bell/Amber Busarow
25-	John Hanusa/Patrick Kern/Cadence Nielsen
27-	Tyler Alexander/Billy Cobb/Catherine Mackey
28-	Erica Milliren
30-	Dave Pearce
31-Chuck & Ann Titus	

* If your anniversary/birthday is not included please let the church office know.