

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



Volume XXVI, Issue 12

December 2011

Inside this issue:

Classes!	2
Reading/Kid's Club	2
Runyeon's Coming	2
Christmas Program	2
Much Going On	2
Jottings from Janet	3
Council Clips	3
Poinsettias	3
Sharing & Caring	4
Dinner/Theater	4



Our Savior Lutheran Church *Living Faith Center*

WORSHIP WITH US

Traditional Worship 8:00 & 9:30 AM

Sunday School Classes 9:30 AM

Adult Class 9:30 AM

Praise Worship 11:00 AM

Note: 8 & 9:30 Worship only on Dec. 11, & Dec. 25.
Communion is served the 1st & 3rd Sunday at Traditional and every Sunday at Contemporary.



**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP**
Saturday, Dec. 24
5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN STAFF

MINISTERS	ALL PEOPLE OF OSLC
PASTOR	STEVEN HERZBERG
ASSOCIATE IN MINISTRY	JANET WEST
OFFICE MANAGER	SUE WADGYMAR
CHOIR DIRECTOR/PIANIST	LINDA TODD
YOUTH DIRECTOR	DAWN EVERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESIDENT	RUDY LOSOYA
VICE PRESIDENT	BASE HUSTON
TREASURER	TOM RIESTERER
BORDER MISSIONS	WENDY FOWLER
FELLOWSHIP	PHYLLIS YARDLEY
OUTREACH	VI GREENWALD
PUBLICITY	BASE HUSTON
LEARNING & YOUTH	TERRI JENSEN
	KATHY SALINAS
PROPERTY	RALLAND HARRISON
STEWARDSHIP	JANET WEST
WORSHIP & MUSIC	BETTY COOKSLEY
	CAROL TODD

(Pictures of council members are posted in the Narthex, as are copies of minutes & financial reports.)

Pastor's Notes

Advent has arrived!

We begin our preparations for the celebration of Christ's Coming once again.

Yes, Christmas is just around the corner as the stores and businesses will continue to remind us. However, their reminder is for sales and profit. The church's reminder is for repentance and turning back to God – for giving away and prophets. Jesus is the means and model for doing that turning back.

A King is coming. His rule is so different from the earthly messages around us. He turns the world's values upside down. For that reason, it is called an Upside Down King-

dom. . . .

Thanks to so many for your participation in so many ministries at this time of year. That includes fundraisers as well as programs and outreach. It is a good time to be the church. . . .

Note the startup of 8am worship again, the youth fundraiser on the 4th, the combined Christmas Cantata and Children's Program on the 11th, the Bishop's visit on the 18th, Candlelight Services on the 24th, and one service on the 25th – Christmas Day. . . .

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – God with us.

Pastor Steve
Home phone 956-631-0273



**6th Annual
Lutefisk Dinner!!**

**Saturday,
Feb. 4, 2012**

**Tickets will go on
sale mid December.**

HOMBRES Christmas Dinner

HOMBRES & their spouses are invited for their traditional Christmas dinner together on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 6:00 pm at the Red Lobster on Expressway 83 by Kmart. There is a choice of anything on the lunch menu. Please sign up in the Narthex.





REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Healing: Bob & Carol Bitner, Donald Drozdowski, Nelda Eason, Zachary Hoffmann, Brent Jackson, Robert Jackson, Morris & Mildred Johnson, Doug & Mace Magnusson, Kellie Meyers, Jan Offerdahl, Carney & Burnie Olson, Bob & Pat Phillips, Kelli Travers. Dorothy Wittcamp.

Family Members: Bob & Lorna Rainey.

Friends of Congregation: LaRue Beasley, Paul Cortez, Jerry Groom, Wyatt Anthony Kamp, Todd Krantz, Jim Laing, Elva Michal, Farrah Mumma, Audrey Rickman, Bob Shaffer, Michael Travers, King Turner, Matthew VanRoekel, cisco Villa, Mary Whitney, Jarred Yeager.

In military service: Johnny Cannon (Tom Riesterer's grandson), Cody Crumpler (relative of the Todd's), Justin Garcia, Harry Hanson, Brian Hovland, Bryan Phillips (Esther Olsen's grandson), Ramiro Sandoval (Burnhams' son); Brian Ruiz (cousin of Ruiz family), Michael Sanchez (Carol Todd's son), Matthew Sandford.

For the Family and Friends of Gerri Craig, who passed from life through death to life eternal on Oct. 23.

OSLC Dime Ministry: The dimes from the 4th quarter will benefit the Piecemakers ministry, reaching out to people in our community with hand made quilts and prayers. Save your dimes and bring them to church on the last Sunday of every month.

SERVICE OF HEALING



Thursday, Dec. 15 at 6:30pm for all those in need of healing and comfort.

OSLC Food Ministry

Our ministry is continuing to give \$25 food cards to families in need. If you would like to donate, please mark your check "Food ministry". Food cards are usually given on the 4th Sundays of each month. We are currently helping 5 families in our congregation. Thank you for your generosity.

Bible Classes for Everyone

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES: 9:30 am in the LFC!

SUNDAY ADULT CLASS: Total Holidays! Total Health! Survive the holidays well. Join Mary Lovig at 9:30am in Classroom C.

CONFIRMATION CLASS for 6th to 8th graders meets Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30pm in the Friendship Room.

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADULT BIBLE STUDY at 6:30pm in the Library. We'll begin "Gifts of Christmas" on Dec. 7th.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: "The Greatest Story: Jesus". Join Pastor Steve in the Parish Hall.

THE LEARNING COMMITTEE will meet Thursday, Dec. 1 at 6:30pm in the Friendship Room.



Frank Runyeon,

Saturday, Jan 14, 2012

3:00 PM Get your tickets!

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

And "Hollywood vs Faith"

\$10 Adult, \$5 School age youth

READING CLUB: We'll meet Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in the Living Faith Center (except the 14th which is Kid's Club). Helpers are always welcome and the more we have, the more children we can help. Please talk to Tonia (631-0273).

KID'S CLUB! Come and join Kid's Club on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 - 8:00 PM! Games, art, and Bible time for preK—5th grade. Contact Tonia or Kathy (631-6707) with questions. 'Tis the season!

WINTER CONCERT

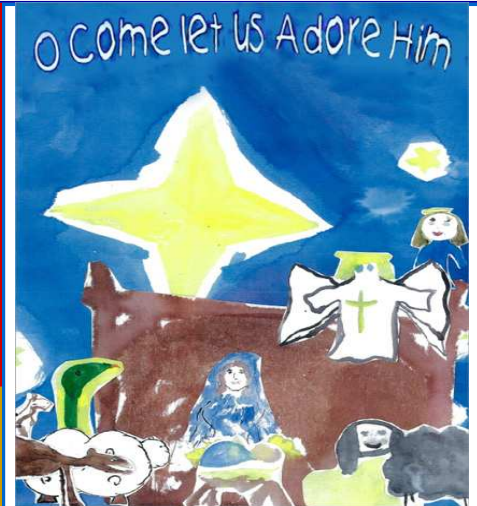
The Rio Grande Valley

Concert Band invites you to a special concert.

Sunday, December 11

3:00 p.m.

Living Faith Center



Wondering what to get friends & family for the holidays?

Scrip Gift cards!

Bring that check book and order on Dec. 4th & 11th, so we'll have them in time for Christmas. Thanks. Vi

Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 11 at 9:30 service. Rehearsals: Saturdays, Dec. 3 & 10 at 10:00 am, & Weds, Dec. 7 at 7:00pm.



Jottings from Janet:

Welcome to the new church year, a time of love, peace, and joy. This is a time of preparation and anticipation as we await the birth of Jesus. December is probably my favorite month of the year. Attitudes change; people are kinder, more giving, more caring as we remember the great gift of the birth of Jesus given to us in love. The month of December is filled with many activities as we prepare for Christmas. The youth spaghetti dinner with entertainment by Razzmatazz on the 5th, followed by the annual cantata and children's program on the 13th. Then on the 18th our Bishop will be joining us for worship and fellowship. Christmas Eve services on the 24th will be at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM. On Christmas day we will have one worship service at 9:30 AM. In addition to the above activities we will have a Healing Service on Thursday, December 15th at 6:30 PM. This service as always is open to all who are in need of healing of any kind. All are welcome. My Listening Hands group will have a breakfast meeting on Saturday the 17th. We will give out food bags and presents for the children along with quilts donated by our Piecemakers. Our Wednesday night Bible study group will be doing an Advent Study titled "The True Gifts of Christmas". We meet in the library at 6:30 PM every Wednesday. Come and join us for this 4 week study. Don't forget that in January on the 14th Frank Runyeon will return to Our Savior and present his version of the Sermon on the Mount, along with a discussion of Hollywood vs. Faith. Tickets are available now. You won't want to miss this exciting performance. May God bless us all as we prepare for the arrival of the baby Jesus. May your days be filled with love, peace, and joy. In His name, Janet

COUNCIL CLIPS FROM NOVEMBER MEETING

These notes are a highlight of items discussed at the most recent council meeting. They are not official minutes. The complete record will be available after approval at the next council meeting. Council and committee meetings are open to anyone interested in attending. Committee/Board reports are available for review in the church office during the week. Approved minutes and financials are available in the Narthex. October income was below plan by \$304; expenses were above plan by \$1784 primarily due to energy and maintenance/repair. Year-to-date, income is \$1769 above projection and expenses are over by \$1042. Nominating Committee has met and identified potential candidates for Council. They will contact them to see if they are interested in serving. An extra offering on December 4 was approved to benefit the Austin Seminary program. Janet West has requested a reduction in her hours to 15 per week due to her vision problems. Council agreed to her request. Rudy gave Council a brief re-cap of the meeting with Bishop Ray that he and Base attended. The Evangelical Mission Plan, 2012 and information on the SWT Synod resources were the main topics. Congregations are encouraged to go to www.stwsynod.org to check out all the resources available. Copies of the Mission Plan are available – just ask Rudy for a copy. Other actions taken: Work on the new handicap spaces continues; the screen for the sanctuary stained glass window will be in next week; roof has been patched at a cost of \$480; updates were given on worship activities thru December; painting of the kitchen has been delayed until after the holidays; Stewardship program is up and running with Stewardship Sunday on November 13th; a Ministry Bazaar is scheduled for 11/20 in conjunction with Hanging of the Greens and a turkey potluck dinner; preliminary bids were received on a new roof and Council has requested an informational meeting with the contractors.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

I/We _____ would like to order _____(how many) poinsettias to decorate the church. Please make checks to Our Savior Lutheran Church and mark them Poinsettias. Each plant is \$6.00. Send your order slip to the office or place it in the box in the Narthex marked Poinsettias.

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

To the Glory of God () Total amount enclosed _____

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Adilyn Pehrson
- 2 Margaret Mueske
- 4 Joan Ortenstone
- 6 Marguerite Baumann
- 6 Josh Burnham
- 7 Bob Bauer
- 7 Bruce Taylor
- 7 Karen Hovland
- 7 Yolanda Riesterer
- 8 Samantha Drewry
- 8 Ian Eason
- 9 Sally Askins
- 9 Tim Smith
- 11 Marlene Fasse
- 11 Barb Lundgren
- 11 Hal Schultz
- 12 Gene Goede
- 12 Burnie Olson
- 17 Roy Jackson
- 18 Luke Beasley
- 18 Madalynn Schlaefer
- 18 Jean Sondrol
- 19 Joe Ertman
- 21 Travis Fowler
- 23 Jeanne Fuentes
- 26 Helen Ellefson
- 26 Pam Von Rosenberg
- 29 Evelyn Lawrence
- 30 Irene Robinson



ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Gary & Judy Colbenson
- 9 Vern & Joan Einhorn
- 9 Stan & Veretta Johannsen
- 10 Michael & Tammy Day
- 11 Carlos & Sue Wadgyamar
- 22 Carney & Burnie Olson

Blood Pressure Screenings on Sun Dec. 11. Mary Lovig will be in the library between services to check your blood pressure. You can also stop in to browse the library and check out any book(s) you'd like to read. Blood pressures will be monitored for those who desire on the 2nd Sun of each month during the Winter Texan season.

SHARING AND CARING

We as a group wish to welcome anyone interested in joining us. We meet once a month on the first Monday at 6:30. Please come and find out what we are about. Our joy & love is helping those in need. You can contact our President Norm Frey (701-471-9568) if you have questions. We do not receive any money from the church budget so all our funds are donated or achieved from the sale of the Fiesta Savings Books. These books have coupons for this area. We are able to keep \$5 of the \$10 cost of each book. Please consider purchasing a book. You will enjoy the discounts. Every communion Sunday our congregation here at Our Savior brings food for Las Milpas (a colonia with a sister Lutheran Church.) Members of our group take turns delivering the food to the church there and they distribute the food to their needy. December 4th and 18th the items to bring are **cooking oil, flour and sugar**. The month of December we will be asking for **underwear for children (Undie Sunday!)**. These necessary items will go to the Women's Shelter, Cristo Rey Lutheran in Las Milpas, and Estrella's House for abused children. Last collection date will be December 18th. We are also going to be helping to build a bathroom in Las Milpas for a woman whose child needs a handicap facility. January we will be washing windows for an elderly lady in our congregation. Please open your heart and join us. Thank you for all the very generous help.



PIECEMAKERS The annual blessing of the quilts was Sunday, Nov. 13, after which they were distributed to needy families. We're continuing to make more and will give them away in December, so a final report on our activities will be made later. Of course, anyone is welcome to purchase a quilt at any time for \$75. These funds are used to buy supplies for more quilts. We meet on Tuesdays from 9:00am to 2:30pm. Bring your lunch and join us!



L.O.S.T. DINNER/THEATER

Featuring
**NIKKI ROWE HIGH SCHOOL
 RAZZMATAZZ
 AND SPAGHETTI DINNER**
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 at 4:00 PM
LIVING FAITH CENTER
 Tickets \$12.00/person!

Funds raised help our youth attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering.

**OUR NEIGHBOR'S FAITH:
 Understanding World Religions**

Dr. Ken Grant will present a series of lectures on world religions at 3:30 pm in the Sanctuary at First Lutheran Church, 302 S. Sugar Road in Edinburg. They are: Dec. 11—Judaism; Jan. 15, 2012—Islam; and Feb. 15, 2012—New American Religious Movements: Latter Day Saints, Christian Science, Jehovah's Witnesses.

Super Savings Fiesta Books

Lots of valuable coupons for you! Funds raised benefit the Sharing & Caring Ministry. Get yours now!

If you received this newsletter in error, please contact the church office.

This newsletter was taken to the Post Office on November 17, 2011.

DATED MATERIAL

Phone: 956-631-6121
 Email: oursaviorcallen@sbcglobal.net
www.oursaviorcallen.org

U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 PERMIT #65

DECEMBER 2011

**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN
 CHURCH
 1105 WEST FERN AVE
 MCALLEN, TX 78501**

