

January, 2012

Volume 41, Issue 1



TANZANIA 2012

This is not a typo. Our mission lives on. Unfortunately, our group will not be traveling to Tanzania this summer again. But, now that we have seen what we have seen we cannot erase it. Many have asked if we are going to do something else. The answer is **YES!** Our group continues to meet. We have pledged to give funds to the Agape Social Center so they can continue to build a center that provides a place for education and accommodations to others. We will also be providing a donation to the women in Singida that are part of the ELCT (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania). During our stay many of the women helped on the project, provided daily food, and touched our hearts with their stories and kindness. Finally, we are in the planning stages of providing ongoing support for the Kititimo Center. This is an orphanage we visited one afternoon. The memory has had a lasting impact. The children's ages range from 10 to 21. They are without electricity, running water and receive only one meal a day. We are excited to announce that we have been inspired by this cause. We hope you will pray for the children's well-being. Watch for more exciting information in newsletters to come. If you have ideas for a fundraiser do not hesitate to contact me, Lynelle or my daughter, Megan Brown. If you wish to partner with us and donate money you may do so by writing a check to St. Olaf Church. Please note "Tanzania mission fund" on the memo line. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Please join us in making a difference.

Lynelle Brown

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Church Council will present the proposed 2012 budget at an ACE presentations on January 22 at 9:15.

St. Olaf Annual Meeting will be held on January 29 1:30 p.m. A meal will be served prior to the meeting by the youth traveling to the ELCA Gathering in New Orleans in July 2012.

ST. OLAF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of St. Olaf Church will be January 29 at 1:30 p.m. Please join with other members of the congregation for this important meeting. This is an opportunity to be informed about the status of our ministry, to participate in the election of council members and other positions, and to discuss a budget for 2012. The proposed budget will be presented at the ACE sessions on January 22.

LET IT SNOW!!!

In recent months, the staff and church council have been discussing the problem of an old and un-repairable snow blower. Having sidewalks on four sides of the block means snow removal is no small matter. They are pleased to announce that the church has been able to procure (at a very good price) a used Craftsman garden tractor with a 46 inch snow blower attachment. Thanks to Eric Buntrock for his efforts to resolve this concern.

Carolyn Eilertson

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ST. OLAF

Greetings St. Olaf!

As my first semester at Wartburg Seminary draws to a close, I want to personally thank you for your continued prayers and support. Over the past several months, I have had the privilege of learning from wonderful professors and being in a caring community that fosters both personal and academic growth. It has been very affirming to hear the call stories of classmates as we get to know each other and from what backgrounds and experiences we have brought to this place. God is bringing up unique and enthusiastic leaders with a passion for God, the church, and all individuals that God has lovingly created.

Wartburg has a January term which typically involves an immersion experience. I will be heading to the Holy Land from January 5-21. During that time, fifteen of us will tour Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Galilee, Masada, Qumran, and the Dead Sea. Please pray for us during this time as we explore the places of Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and resurrection and the early church. It is going to be an exciting trip, putting visual images to the places we have read and studied about in the Bible.

Blessings to you during this Christmas season!

Allison Cobb

javaministry@hotmail.com

HOW CAN YOU SHOW YOUR LOVE?

Want to do something special for your spouse to show how much you care? Attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend and focus on just the two of you. Engaging presentations by both lay and clergy leaders give you tools and information while exercises and conversations with your spouse in the privacy of your hotel room revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage

The Spring Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in Minnesota are February 10-12 (think Valentines!) in Brooklyn Center, March 23-25 in Duluth and May 4-6 in Walker. Please register several weeks in advance. For more information, contact Dick & Judy Dehnel at [952-432-3105](tel:952-432-3105), Pete & Phyllis McMahon at [763-561-1575](tel:763-561-1575) or visit www.godlovesmarriage.org.

WELCA LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS

Again this year the St. Olaf Church WELCA Board is asking for your help in putting together kits for Lutheran World Relief, January through April. In January we will collect Personal Care Kits; February is School Kits; March is Fabric Kits; and April is Baby Care Kits. Please note the name change for some of the kits. Each kit-of-the-month will be featured in the St. Olaf News.

Bring in items for the kit-of-the-month and put them in the plastic bins in the narthex. Whatever is received will be assembled into completed kits. All completed kits, January through April, will be sent to LWR in May.

January: Personal Care Kits

Each kit includes:

- One light-or-medium weight bath-size towel (approximately 52" x 27"), dark color recommended.
- Two bath-size bar (4-5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in its original wrapping
- One adult-size tooth brush, in its original packaging*
- One comb, wide tooth preferred, remove packaging
- One metal nail file or nail clippers, with file attached, remove packaging

*Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.

All items should be new or in good condition.

WELCA circles will continue to make kits. Individuals may, if you wish, still bring in completed kits for the month.

If you choose to complete the kit:

- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- Wrap smaller items in the towel and tie securely with ribbon or yarn.
- Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

In addition to the kits, we will also be collecting four to five ounce bars of bath soap of any brand. The need is so great due to the many disasters in our world.

Watch the newsletter next month for information on School Kits.

St. Olaf women thank you for your help with this project.

God Bless. If you have questions call Marilyn Reuter at 437-7260 or Bernice Konken at 433-1556.

WELCA Board

JANUARY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

(Serving from 5:00—6:00 p.m.)

January 4 - Potato Bar, toppings of chili or broccoli cheese, orange slices and brownies

January 11 - Roll-ups, tossed salad, bread sticks and fruit cups

January 18 - Scalloped potatoes and ham, green beans, cranberries and cookies

January 25 - Pulled pork sandwiches, french fries, baked beans and ice cream.

Children, Youth, & Families

Ashley Corbett, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry.

E-mail: acorbett@solc.org; or 433-8857



Nursery

We will plan to have the nursery staffed with volunteers every Sunday at the 9:15 and 10:45 services! You and your family are all invited to worship, however if your little ones (birth-PK) need a break they are welcome to join us in the nursery!

Volunteers are still needed to fill some gaps in the nursery schedule! The sign-up is in the nursery, and volunteers are asked to stay for the whole service (even if there are no children), and are invited to sign up with a friend or to bring a book in case no one shows.

Can Do Kids!

(Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45)

Can Do Kids had a great fall! We took a break for Christmastime, but are back in full swing as of January 4th. All kids age 3 through grade 5 are welcome to join in the fun. (Just fill out a registration form before worship or talk to Ashley Corbett on Sunday.) Kids start in worship at 6:15 with their families, and are dismissed from there.

Volunteers are still needed! If you're willing to help with **snack**, **shepherding**, or **storytelling** (every week, every other week, or just as needed) contact Ashley Corbett.



Sunday School

(Sundays, during 10:45 service)

With the Christmas Pageant behind us (great work everyone!), Sunday School will resume as usual as of January 8th. If you have anyone age 3 up to grade 5 that would like to join Sunday School, just head downstairs to the Sunday School Office and speak with John or Karla Carroll before the 10:45 service on Sunday, or contact Ashley Corbett.

Amp'd Confirmation

(Grades 6-8) Confirmation will resume January 4th!



One of our small groups is in need of a leader or team of leaders on Wednesday nights. The curriculum and supplies are provided for you, and you would need to be present (or find a fill-in if you can't be present) each Wednesday evening from 6:15-7:45. Contact Pastor Koppel or Ashley if you have questions, or are able to help!

The Lenten season is on its way! 6, 7, and 8th Graders it's time to get connected with your Mentor. If you do not have one, please work with your parents, small group leader, Ashley Corbett and Pastor Koppel!

Mark your calendars! Especially February, we've got some big stuff coming up!

January

4 – Epiphany

11 – King David & Solomon

18 – Split Kingdom & prophets of Israel & Judah

25 – Ruth & Esther

February

1 – Exile & Return

8 – 6th grade – Sex & Faith (PARENTS TOO)

7th grade – Relay Review

**8th grade – Summer Planning*

*15 – Snow Tubing or Plan B
(early release)*

19 – Mentor Kick-Off

22 – Ash Wednesday

29 – Lenten services/mentoring

Senior High

(Grades 9-12)

We will continue to meet in the youth room every Wednesday from 7:45-9:00 PM. Anyone in grades 9-12 is welcome to join us for fun and games, message, and prayer.

Fundraiser: We will again be serving coffee and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall on January 1st! If you'll be around, sign up on the bulletin board outside the gym, and plan to bring a batch of sweets to share! We'll meet in the kitchen at 8:00 a.m.



Keep checking the bulletin board outside the gym for announcements, and sign ups!

Adults

We are in need of 3rd floor shepherds to hang out on the 3rd floor on Wednesdays from 3:30-9:00. You may come all or any part of this time frame. And feel free to join in the fun too! Please contact Ashley to find out more.



Find us on Facebook!

Follow the St. Olaf Youth page on Facebook! Just search "St. Olaf Youth" or click on it through the "St. Olaf Lutheran Church" Facebook page.

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

What does this really mean? We hear this term, often synonymously with crying “FOUL” in a sporting event, when religion is a part of our schools, courtrooms, and various other public places.

Perhaps a little history might enrich our **understanding**. **History is full of examples where church and state are muddled together. Some examples: the execution of Socrates by the Athenian state for "his disrespect for the gods", the claim of ancient Judean kings who ruled with a “directive” from Heaven, or the Edict of Thessalonica, which made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire.¹**

In Medieval times, some kings continued ruling by “divine right,” using this notion to support their rule over their territory and the church within its boundaries. While Catholic doctrine gave the Pope ultimate authority. This created just a wee bit of controversy as the king’s rule over secular things infringed on the Church's rule of spiritual things, and visa-versa.

In the 16th Century, Martin Luther’s doctrine on the Two Kingdoms became the beginning of today’s understanding of separation of church and state. This doctrine teaches that God is the ruler of the world. This rule is carried out in two ways. One, God rules the left-hand kingdom (or earthly kingdom) through secular government by use of the law. And, two, God rules in the right-hand kingdom (or heavenly kingdom) through the Church, the body of Christ, by use of the gospel and grace.²

Thomas Jefferson penned these words, “...legislature should make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” This phrase was quoted by the United States Supreme Court in 1878, and again in many cases starting in 1947. The phrase "separation of church and state" does not appear in the United States Constitution. However, the First Amendment states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."³

So, separation of church and state thus means that the government is not to mandate or ban any particular religion. Additionally, separation of church and state understood in this way means that religion can, and according to Luther, should be a part of public discourse. In fact, “as a prophetic presence, this church has the obligation to name and denounce the idols before which people bow, to identify the power of sin present in social structures, and to advocate in hope with poor and powerless people. When religious or secular structures, ideologies, or authorities claim to be absolute, this church says, ‘We must obey God rather than any human authority’ (Acts 5:29). With Martin Luther, this church understands that “to rebuke” those in authority “through God’s Word spoken publicly, boldly and honestly” is “not seditious” but “a praiseworthy, noble, and ... particularly great service to God.”⁴

Please join me in being a public Christian at the state capitol building, 20 March 2012. This “Day on the Hill” is sponsored by the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC). Check out their website for more information on the day at www.jrlc.org.

Pastor Koppel

^{1,2} & ³ The Story of Christianity, Volume 1 & 2, 1985.

⁴ ELCA Social Statement, Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective

JANUARY CIRCLE SCHEDULE

Circle #	Date	Time	Hostess	Location
1	January 19	7:00 p.m.	Jan Lees	1407 7th Street NW
2	January 17	7:00 p.m.		Meeting Room
4	January 19	9:30 a.m.	Betty Jorgenson	Meeting Room
5	January 19	1:30 p.m.	Annabell Benson	Courtyard Apartments
6	January 19	1:30 p.m.	Alice Qual	Fellowship Hall
7	January 19	1:30 p.m.	Eleanor Johnson	Meeting Room
8	January 19	1:00 p.m.	Dorothy Gullickson	102 18th Street NW

If you would like your circle listed in the February newsletter, please submit your circle notice to Jann Schroeder by Thursday, January 12. Thank you.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA MEETING

Date: Thursday, January 5th
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Fellowship Hall
Program: Installation of Officers
Devotions: Dorothy Nieman

JANUARY HELPING HANDS

Rosie Jech 433-2279
 Carol Cottingham 437-1338
Calling
 Thorpe - Wobschall



MINISTERIALS

Mid-November through Mid-December

Funerals

Evelyn Braaten	Kimberly Jordahl
Iva Carter	Marcella Block

Baptisms

Viola Fowler	Summer Cano
Vivianna Cano	Caden Joseph
Hailey Wigham	

WEE LEARNING CENTER

From Jann Schroeder, Director of the Wee Learning Center

Please join us for
**St. Olaf Lutheran Church's
2nd Annual Spaghetti Dinner**



Sunday, February 12, 2011

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Be sure to bring your family, friends and sweethearts to this wonderful meal and time of fellowship.

Ticket sales begin on January 15, 2011 in the church office or from any Wee Learning Center family.

Ticket prices are as follows -

\$7.00/adults

\$4.00/children, 4 - 12

3 and under eat free

Family tickets

(for immediate families, parents and children only)

can be purchased for \$16.

***Proceeds will help support the
Wee Learning Center Preschool.***

Minutes Regular Council Meeting Dec. 13, 2011

Present: John Carroll, Carolyn Eilertson, Connie Simonson, Fred Halvin, DeeDee Marx, Lois Peters, Dave Sylte, Scott Weber, and Neal Hull.
Staff Present: Ashley Corbett, Eric Buntrock, Todd Portinga, Pastor Koppel, Pastor Barnett

The meeting was called to order by President John Carroll. Connie Simonson lead the group in devotions.

Action items

The staff was excused while the council discussed the proposed salaries for 2012. A motion was made by Dave, seconded by Connie to approve the salary proposal for the 2012 church budget. Motion carried.

The staff was called back to the meeting and further discussion continued on the proposed 2012 budget. A motion was made by Connie, seconded by DeeDee to approve the proposal with one change, that of adding \$250 to the Caring budget for the prayer shawl expenses. The motion carried.

At this point, President Carroll departed and Vice President Neal Hull conducted the remainder of the meeting.

An audit committee must be convened before the church annual meeting. Names were suggested for possible auditors. Fred will check with the suggested people.

A resolution was presented to the council to designate a portion of the pastor's compensation as a housing allowance for tax purposes. The amount for Pastor Barnett is \$20,000 and for Pastor Koppel \$14,800. A motion was made by Dave, seconded by Connie to approve the resolution. Motion carried.

The subject of further training for Ashley Corbett was presented. The proposed training involves one week of training in Orlando in January followed by 90 days of online training and concluding with another trip to Orlando in April. The cost is \$2,500 plus air fare. A motion was made by Dave, seconded by Connie to approve the schooling with the executive committee to determine the source for funding including continuing education funds and perhaps grant requests. Motion carried.

Pastor Barnett reported on 15 Sudanese members participating in a Lay Leaders School. The cost is \$100 per person. The participants have paid one half of the costs already. A motion was made by Connie, seconded by DeeDee to pay the remaining costs (\$750) from the church's evangelism fund. Motion carried.

The loose offering received at the Thanksgiving Eve service was \$198.50. As this event was publicized as having the offering go to the Salvation Army food shelf, a motion was made by Dave, seconded by DeeDee, to add \$400 from St. Olaf Thanksgiving offering envelopes to the food shelf donation. The motion carried.

Discussion Items

Eric Buntrock reported that the church has been able to acquire a two year old Craftsman garden tractor with a 46 inch snowblower attachment for \$2,200.

Eric also presented two proposals for replacing the air conditioning system in the sanctuary. Bids ranged from \$28,450 to \$39,606. The lower bid does not include replacing copper piping but the pipes would be tested and replaced if needed at additional cost. A motion was made by Fred, seconded by Dave, to authorize Eric to enter into a contract with Arens Heating and Cooling. Motion carried.

Council members were informed that at least one person, possibly more, will need to be appointed to serve on the Mutual Ministry team.

Pastor Barnett reported that the nominating committee has filled most positions on the slate for next year, including Mike Guanella as vice-president, Greg Thoen as treasurer, Carolyn Eilertson for a one year term as secretary, DeeDee Marx for a second term on Welcoming, Linda Howden on Caring, Bob Pepper on Growing, and Karen Carlson on Reaching. The president position is still open as well as a one year position on the Growing Board. (Note—the one year positions are to help balance the terms so half the members will be new each year instead of eight one year and four the next.)

Scott brought to the council's attention the concern of one church member regarding the matter of bird droppings soiling the sidewalks and areas around the church. Recent removal of trees may help improve the situation.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Connie, seconded by Scott to approve the minutes of the November meeting. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Eric reported that general fund income for November was \$52,582, under budget by \$12,390. Expenses of \$59,950 were under budget by \$5,024. There was a net operating loss of \$7,367. For the year to date, General Fund income is under budget by \$30,637 and expenses are under budget by \$27,162. YTD expenses exceed revenue by \$3,496.

The Capital Appeal income for November was \$17,656 with the expense being \$31,296 for a net cash flow deficit of \$13,640. A motion was made by Connie, seconded by Scott to approve the report. Motion carried.

Fred reported that he has contacted past members of the Capital Appeal team and they will be meeting in January to begin plans for further appeals.

Board Reports

Reaching--Pastor Barnett reported that Simon Bol Top attended some mission training in Chicago, and further training is scheduled for Feb. 17-19 in Houston, TX. For this event two Sudanese members will attend as well as one pastor and one other lay member of the congregation. The synod pays costs for three people. Pastor Barnett also mentioned that there will be on-going emphasis on the ELCA's malaria initiative.

Welcoming—DeeDee and Lois reported that a core nursery group has been formed and that more people will be involved in staffing the church nursery. They also reported that progress is being made on re-activating the building and property team.

Caring---Dave reported that the Caring Ministry Appreciation Dinner was held on Dec. 12. Planning is continuing for the St. Olaf Continuing Ed 102 Day on May 17. The featured speaker will be Al Batt and costs will be \$5 per person. The possibility of offering tutoring services is still being explored. Fred reported that the contacts with inactive members are underway.

Staff Reports

Eric still does not have an update on the status of his potential deployment.

Ashley mentioned that tomorrow is an early release date from school so activities are planned for confirmation kids to include cookie decorating and caroling. The Sunday School pageant is set for Sunday with rehearsal on Wednesday.

Todd reported on a recent funeral with only three in attendance.

Pastor Koppel acknowledged the helpfulness of the church's Good Samaritan fund as it has been used recently to help two families. She states that she will be gone much of the time between Christmas and New Years and has vacation set for Jan. 5 to Jan. 14. *The Greatest Story* study begins in January and runs for 14 weeks. She also mentioned that there is a meeting planned for this Thursday evening at 6:30 at the mall regarding fighting hunger.

Pastor Barnett says the St. Olaf Foundation is working on a proposal for matching donations to the Capital Appeal.

The next council meeting will be Jan. 10, 2012 at 6:30.

The meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Carolyn Eilertson, Council Secretary

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Evangelical Lutheran Church
of America

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*Be sure to check out our website
at www.stolafchurch.org!*

Regular Wednesday Schedule

4:00 p.m. Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Celebration Ringers
5:00 p.m. Children's Choir
5:00 p.m. Congregation Meal
5:30 p.m. Saints Choir
6:15 p.m. Worship Service
6:15 p.m. Can-Do Kids Club
6:30 p.m. Jubilation Choir
7:00 p.m. Revelation Ringers
7:00 p.m. Confirmation Small
Groups
7:00 p.m. Revelation Ringers
7:00 p.m. Bible Study
7:40 p.m. St Olaf Choir
7:45 p.m. Sr. High LYO

JANUARY ACE SCHEDULE

January 8 - Craig Byram

January 15 - Health and Wellness

January 22 - Church Council to present 2012 SOLC Budget

January 30- Kathy Byram to present the Ortberg Series, 1 of 6 sessions

THURSDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP 7:00 a.m.

Reading: Patchett, *Patron Saint of Liars*
Meditation: Taylor, *The Seeds of Heaven*
Next Book: Brennert, *Molokai*

FIRST MONDAY BOOK GROUP 10:00 a.m.

Discussing: DesJariais, *Dorie LaValle*
Next Book: Obreh, *The Tiger's Wife*



For questions or to order books call 433-3553

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 7:45 Worship 9:15 Worship 10:45 Worship 1:00 Sudanese Worship	2 Church office closed	3 8:15 Prayer Ministry 9:00 & 12:30 WLC Classes 10:45 Comfortcare Comm. 1:00 Cedars Communion 2:00 Primrose Comm 3:00 Sacred Heart Comm 4:00 Our House Comm 4:30 Growing Board 7:00 Foundation Board	4 See Regular Wednesday Schedule	5 7:00 Book Study 9:00 & 12:30 WLC Classes 10:30 Bible Study @ Oaks 1:00 WELCA	6 9:00 WLC Classes	7
8 7:45 Worship 9:15 Worship/ACE 10:45 Worship/SS 1:00 Sudanese Worship	9 9:00 & 12:30 WLC Classes 10:00 1st Monday Book Group 10:00 Bible Study @ Co-op 1:00 Bible Study @ Chauncey 5:00 Salvation Army Meal	3 8:15 Prayer Min. Team 9:00 & 12:30 WLC Classes 2:30 Parkinson's Group @ Cedars 6:00 WLC Board 6:30 Church Council	11 See Regular Wednesday Schedule	12 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Book Study 9:00 & 12:30 WLC 9:00 Quilting 5:50 Grace Notes	13 9:00 WLC Classes	14
15 7:45 Worship 9:15 Worship/ACE 10:45 Worship/SS	16 9:00 & 12:30 WLC 10:00 Bible Study @ Coop 2:00 Prayer Shawl Knit-ers	17 8:15 Prayer Min. Team 9:00 & 12:30 WLC 7:00 Compassionate Friends	18 See Regular Wednesday Schedule	19 7:00 Book Study 9:00 & 12:30 WLC 5:50 Grace Notes 6:30 Greatest Story	20 9:00 WLC Classes	21
22 7:45 Worship 9:15 Worship/ACE 10:45 Worship/SS 1:00 Sudanese Worship	23 9:00 & 12:30 WLC 10:00 Bible Study @ Co-op	24 8:15 Prayer Min. Team 9:00 & 12:30 WLC 5:00 Salvation Army Meal	25 See Regular Wednesday Schedule	26 7:00 Book Study 8:00 Newsletter Assembly 9:00 & 12:30 WLC 9:00 Quilting 5:50 Grace Notes 6:30 Greatest Story	27 9:00 WLC Classes	28
29 7:45 Worship 9:15 Worship/ACE 10:45 Worship/SS 1:00 Annual Meeting 1:00 Sudanese Worship	30 No WLC classes 10:00 Bible Study @ Co-op	31 8:15 Prayer Min. Team 9:00 & 12:30 WLC				AM—Regular Type PM—Bold Type WLC = Wee Learning Center WELCA = Women of the ELCA