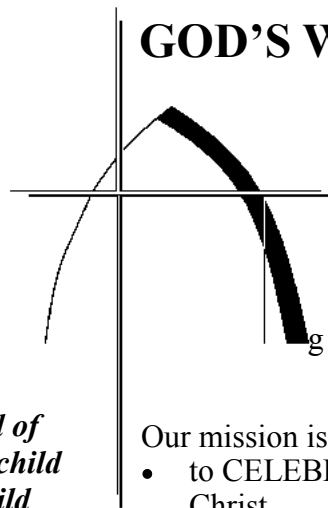


Glad Tidings Of Epiphany

“The star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary and they bowed down and worshipped him.” Matthew 2:9-10



GOD’S WORK—OUR HANDS

January 2009

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
1706 Slide
Lubbock TX 79413
gloriadei@nts-online.net
gloriadeielca.com

Our mission is

- to CELEBRATE the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- to BUILD a nurturing community of faith and service, and
- to WITNESS that faith in our daily life.

From the Pastor’s



Greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” – Luke 2:15

Let’s go! Now! When angels came to some shepherds with a brilliant message one night long ago, the shepherds had a brilliant idea. *Let’s go! Let’s see what God is doing!* And what a great thing for us, as the family of Gloria Dei, to do today – *let’s go! Let’s see what God is doing!*

That is not to say that we have not done that in the past. As you know, we spent great time in quality discussions during 2008 to Discover God’s call to us. We truly have tried to understand the opportunities that God is placing in our midst to celebrate, build and witness – the three key verbs in our mission statement. One major new project was added – the Texas Ramp Project, Lubbock. We truly believe this is one of God’s callings to us, and certainly it fits the celebrate, build and witness directive.

I pray that in 2009, we continue our connectedness to the process of listening for God’s direction, and remain open and willing to enacting any of the discoveries we make in that course.

Let’s go! Now! Let’s see what God is doing! Let’s grab hold of God’s brilliant leadership and God’s marvelous gifts of life, love, and peace!

May you be truly blessed throughout Christmas and the New Year!

My brothers and sisters, we have many ways to CELEBRATE the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, to BUILD a nurturing community of faith and service, and to WITNESS that faith in our daily life. May we be faithful disciples of our crucified and risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In His love,
✠ Pastor Craig

P.S. Thank you for your generosity in the Christmas gift that you gave to Pam and me.

Opportunities to Serve

Texas Ramp Project	Contact Travis Casler or Pastor
Maintenance of the property	Gerald Crenwelge
Flowers for worship	Sign-up in the fellowship hall
Singing in the choir	Contact Elayne Partridge
Lector or Assisting	Sign-up in the fellowship hall
Preparing the sanctuary for	Contact Carol Mitchell
Preparing food for fellowship	Sign-up in the fellowship hall
Teaching Sunday School	Contact Lynda Pierce
Serving as a greeter	Contact Bruce Callender
Any other ideas	Contact Pastor Craig

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
DECEMBER 16, 2008

Attending: Pastor Craig Sagebiel, Travis Casler, Christy Little, Susan Little, Judy Holmes, Linda Pierce, Bruce and Joan Callender, Pam Sagebiel, Brian Willcutt. The meeting was called to order by Travis Casler. Pastor Sagebiel led the devotions.

Officers' Reports Received:

Minutes for Nov. 18, 2008 Council meeting were accepted as corrected, (name spelling correction). The Treasurer's report was received for audit. Parochial Report: and

The Pastor's Report were received

Future Dates:

Council Related:

- Dec. 21 - "Greening" the church
- Dec. 22 - Deadline for Jan. newsletter
- Jan. 12 - Dec. and year end reports due
- Jan. 13 - Exec. Comm. Meets
- Jan. 18 - Packets for Council ready
- Jan. 30 - Council meeting

Other:

- Dec. 24 - Candlelight worship 6:30 P. M.
- Dec. 25-Jan. 3 - Pastor Craig and Pam vacation
- Jan. 4 - Congregational conversation of special emphasis
- Jan. 25 - Annual Congregational Meeting
- Jan 26-28 - Tri-Synodical Theological Conference, Arlington
- Jan 31 - Spread the Spirit Fire, St. Paul, Levelland

Committee Reports:

Education: Book of Faith study groups are meeting Mon. evening and Thursday afternoon. Advent wreaths were made on Nov. 23rd.

Evangelism: The narthex has been painted. Lanyards have been purchased for name tags for those people that wish to use them. A new pamphlet detailing outreach projects and fellowship activities at Gloria Dei will be distributed at the Christmas Eve service and will be available for visitors at later dates.

Social Ministry: The outreach activity this holiday season will be providing gifts for CPS children in care. 50 names were placed on a tree and members selected one to purchase a gift for them. These were wrapped on Dec. 14 and were delivered to CPS on Dec. 16th

Stewardship and Finance: The proposed budget for 2009 has been prepared and approved by the Council at the November meeting. It will be prepared in the customary format for the Congregational Meeting.

Copies of the budget will be made available in Jan. for members to look at before the annual meeting.

Worship and Music: The committee has been busy planning the Advent and Epiphany services. The policy of not allowing flash photography during services was discussed, but no change was made. Options for music and attracting more members for the choir were also discussed and will continue to be addressed in the future.

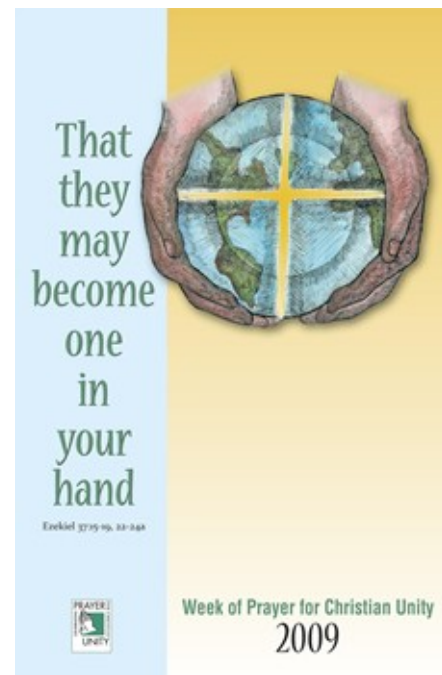
Old Business:

Background Information Check: The committee recommends that we use ScreenNow which is recommended by our insurance provider, Church Mutual. Application forms will be obtained soon. No new business was presented.

The meeting was adjourned with song.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Callender, Acting Secretary

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity




January 18-25

Offering Envelopes for 2009

Are available in the fellowship hall. Your contribution is needed for the ministry of our congregation



Bring 12 non-perishable food items on January 11th. We will present these as a gift to the Christ Child. Food will be donated to the Food Bank



Spread the Spirit's Fire

Stoking the Fire Workshops
January 31
Registration begins at 9 am
St. Paul in Levelland

Workshops offered in

- Youth Ministry
- Public Witness
- How Lutherans Read the Bible
- Stewardship and the Book of Faith
- The Blessings of Wellness
-

Registration forms in the church office.
Cost is \$20/person
Make reservations for child care

Chalking the Door

On the Epiphany of Our Lord, January 6, family and friends (C for "community") gather at the main entrances to homes or apartments, and ask God's blessing on their dwellings and on all who live or visit there.

L Peace be to this house and to all who enter here. A reading from Proverbs: "By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures." Let us pray: Gracious God, as a shining star once guided the magi to the birthplace of the infant Jesus, so enable those who dwell here to be your light in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray.

C Amen.

Using chalk (hence, "Chalking the Door"), people are invited to inscribe the lintel of the home (the horizontal frame above the door) with the inscription shown below. The letters C M B come from the traditional (9th century) names for the "three kings" - Caspar, Melchior & Balthazar. Some also suggest "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means "May Christ bless this dwelling!"

Each person is afforded a turn to make one or more of the marks: 20 + C + M + B + 02

L A reading from Isaiah: "The effect of righteousness is peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and quiet places."

People may join hands or extend their hands outward and upward for the prayers.

L Let us pray: Sovereign God, we pray that you will bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence, that your love may be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Jesus Christ we pray.

C Amen.

L Lord, remember your children and teach us to pray:

C Our Father...

People may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of their baptism.

L May the Lord watch + over our going out and our coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

C Amen.

Midwife Kit Project
Honoring the birth of our Lord
To be assembled during fellowship time on January 11th
Sign-up to provide items or a monetary gift

Aren't babies wonderful? Preparing for the birth of a baby should be a happy experience. In some countries, however, the day to day burden of providing for a growing family can be overwhelming. What if the baby is ill? How do we keep the baby warm? How do we feed another mouth? When the newborn arrives it may be with the assistance of the local midwife -- if there is one in the area, and if the family will accept her assistance.

The midwife has the training and knowledge to handle the delivery but often does not have the very basic equipment, such as a clean cloth for the mother to lie on, a suitable instrument to cut the umbilical cord or a towel to dry and wrap the baby.

Then imagine a baby born at a hospital in your hometown....

A baby born in Africa, India or New Guinea has the same need to arrive in a well-prepared environment -- and the same need for a chance to survive as a baby born at a well-equipped suburban hospital in the United States.

Then how do we bridge the gap between abundance and nothing?

ONE MIDWIFE KIT contains:

(Please use new or clean used items in good condition)

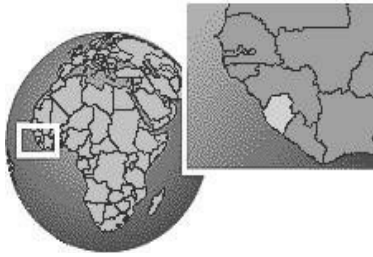
- 2 cord ties: 8" narrow lengths of selvage, 1/4" twill tape or heavy white knit/crochet cotton
- 1 razor blade (single-edge, safety-wrapped), may be purchased at a home improvement store
- 1 regular size bath towel
- 1 36" square muslin or sheeting
- 1 wash cloth (thin)
- 1 bath size bar Ivory soap
- 1 newborn stocking cap (keep hand-knit ones very small)
- 1 small cotton-blend or flannel shirt (to waist only as the babies do not wear diapers)
- 1 receiving blanket
- 1 pair plastic or latex gloves (clean, not sterile), NO kitchen gloves

Helpful Hints and Money-Saving Ideas

- Cord ties: You can cut an abundance from a skein of heavy white cotton knit/crochet yarn.
- Bath towel: Look for bargains in discount stores.
- Muslin or sheeting: Used sheets in good condition can be cut to size.
- Wash cloth: Some stores have bundles of 12 or 18 for around \$5.
- Stocking cap: Cut a strip of knit fabric lengthwise about 8" wide, fold in half, sew or serge. Cut the sewn strip into pieces about 8" long. Gather the top and fold the other end up.
- Shirt: Sew from flannel. Or buy nice-looking light terry or knit sleepers at garage sales or second-hand stores. They are often in good shape since the babies grow out of them so fast, but they must be cut just above the crotch and hemmed.
- Receiving blanket: The cheapest are probably the 5- or 6-pack available at some discount stores. But even better, you may find some almost new flannel sheets at a second-hand store. Cut them to size and serge or finish with a close zigzag around the edge.

Synod Emphasis for January

In Thanksgiving for
The Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Sierra Leone
Our *DiscipleLife* together



Last year 14 young adults from the NT-NL Synod traveled with Bishop Kanouse to see the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone.

The NT-NL Synod is sponsoring a trip of medical personnel to Sierra Leone in February to help organize a medical clinic that the ELCSL will staff and operate. A shipping container full of medical supplies gathered by NT-NL members is already on its way there to help stock the shelves.

Bishop Kevin Kanouse has been to Sierra Leone five times himself – to learn, to develop relationships, to break ground on the construction of the Jubilee Centre, to install the Rev. Tom Barnett as the ELCSL's first bishop, and to connect people here with people there. Bishop Barnett has been here time after time, building bridges across the Atlantic. Soon Pastor Kate Warn will be there for two years as NT-NL's missionary to Sierra Leone.

This "Companion Synod" program is about relationships, shared ministry, common mission and the engagement of hearts and hands for the work of the global church. Clarie Streng Broste remembers that her trip there was about relationship. As time came to depart "Madlene Kpayagula from the St. Paul congregation walked a long distance in order to be with me. She wore her beautiful and colorful dress and head gear. She sat with me till the very last moment when the ship's horn was warning us of departure time. With one last hug we said goodbye."

A school building is currently under construction in Sierra Leone as a part of the ministry of the ELCSL. There the students sing, "*We are children of Lutheran School. We are part of the same family.*" Funds for construction have come from members of the NT-NL Synod. That means a lot to Kenn Mingus (Living Word, Grapevine), "Without the support of the NT-NL Synod there would be no Lutheran School and probably no school at all." It is a matter of enormous pride in Sierra Leone to be a student and to wear the uniform of your school.

Debbie Lemon (St. Luke's, Richardson) chairs our synod's Companion Synod Committee. She loves the gift of relationships that comes from this. "Our support is essential in the efforts of the ELCSL as they strive to heal and reconcile a nation torn by unspeakable pain and suffering."

What a "good" this relationship continues to be. For more information go to www.ntnl.org/companionsynod.htm.

Thank you all those who helped with worship, including:

- Bruce Callender, Donna Perry, Kirsten Polyanski, Bob Doty, Joey Pierce, Morgen Doty, Dick Weddige, Elayne Patridge, Jerry Skoog
- Carolyn Storin
- George Wirz and Mark Gillen
- Brian Willcutt
- Bob Doty
- Members of the Worship and Music committee, Dennis Storch, and all who brought food for fellowship
- Donna Perry, Hedi Wise, Leslie Perry, Sandy and Stan Lehman, Barbara Doty
- All those who helped to hang "The Greens"
- Carol Mitchell and the other members of Altar Guild
- Those who reached out to those served by foster care and the Salvation Army

I am so thankful that I work in a place with people of such sweet spirit. Thank you for your Christmas gift and for your Christmas spirit that lasts throughout the whole year.



Elayne Patridge

Our Christmas Offering

52 gifts to foster children
 \$70 to the work of the Salvation Army

Sharing Fellowship

Sign up to bring food for fellowship time to honor someone's birthday, or anniversary or just to share the love of Christ. See the new sign-up in the fellowship hall.

The Season of Epiphany

The Epiphany of our Lord is the wonderful liturgical festival observed on January 6. It is the oldest of the Christmas festivals and originally the most important. The word epiphany comes from the Greek noun *epiphaneia*, which means "shining forth," "manifestation," or "revelation." The Epiphany of our Lord is the Christian festival that celebrates the many ways through signs, miracles, and preaching that Jesus revealed Himself to the world as Christ, God Incarnate, and King of kings.

The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord originally commemorated three incidents that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi

(Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11).

The Magi were members of the religious hierarchy of ancient Persia and Media (the region corresponding to modern Iran). They were scholars and practitioners of astrology, divination, and the interpretation of dreams. Their expertise in these arcane subjects is the reason they were often referred to as "wise men." In the western Christian churches, traditionally that there were three Magi who visited Jesus, that their names were Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, and that they were kings.

Epiphany is one of the most important festivals of the liturgical year because it shows

the church how God comes to His people. We are so full of sin and deserving of divine punishment that we cannot hope to approach God. Knowing that we cannot come to Him, God took the initiative and came to us by becoming one of us. The most holy and almighty God condescended to take on human flesh in order to reveal His salvation to the world. This is the mystery of the Epiphany of our Lord.

During this season, Christians meditate on many of our Lord's epiphanies. Epiphany Day itself commemorates the arrival of

the Magi in Bethlehem to worship the Messiah and bring Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:1-12). Since the earliest days of the church, these wise men have been considered to be representatives of all the peoples of the earth.

By means of a miraculous star, God showed them that Jesus was born to be not only the King of the Jews, but the Lord and Savior of all nations.

The Baptism of our Lord is the first Sunday after the Epiphany. This important festival is the observance of Jesus' baptism at the hands of John the Baptist (Mark 1:9-11). The words of the Father and the appearance of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove as Jesus came out of the waters revealed Him to be God's true Son.

The Transfiguration of our Lord, the last Sunday after the Epiphany, is a celebration of the moment that Christ, in the company of Moses and Elijah, literally shined His glorious divine nature on Peter, James, and John, leaving them dazed and awestruck (Luke 9:28-

36). This event, the greatest of Christ's epiphanies until His triumphant resurrection from the grave on Easter, serves as the dramatic conclusion of the season.

In between the two Sundays that mark the Lord's baptism and transfiguration, the church concentrates on several of the other incidents from Scripture that show how Jesus manifested God's love to the world through His ministry of preaching, miracles, and healings. What is common to each of these epiphanies is that in one way or another they make known the identity and mission of Jesus Christ: True Man and True God, born into this sinful world to be the Lord and Savior of all humanity.

We begin to understand the joy and wonder of Epiphany when we read the story of Simeon (Luke 2:22-35). Simeon was a devout old man who lived in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the promised Messiah with his own eyes. When Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple to be consecrated according to Jewish law regarding firstborn males (Exodus 13:2), Simeon realized that this infant was the Christ. In joyful response to this personal epiphany, the old man took the baby Jesus in his arms and chanted a magnificent song of thanksgiving best known by its Latin title, *Nunc Dimittis*, which we sing as *Now Lord, Let Your Servant Go In Peace.*

<http://www.stpaulskingsville.org/epiphany.htm>

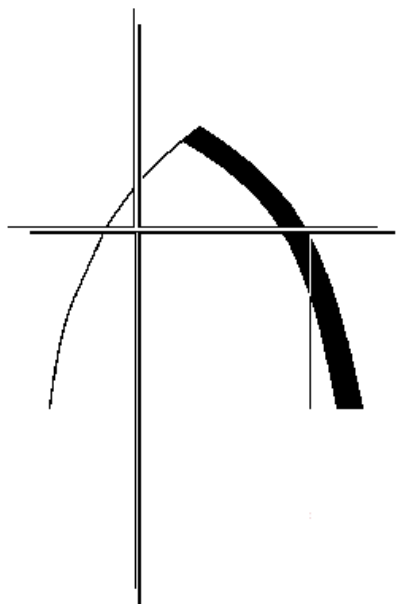
This is the
mystery of
the Epiphany
of our Lord.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11:15 Fellowship</p>				<p>1 The Name of Jesus The Circumcision of Our Lord New Year's Day</p>	<p>2 Stand and Julie Simonik anniversary</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 2nd Sunday after Christmas</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Epiphany</p>	<p>7 7 pm Choir</p>	<p>8 Shane Brannan Travis Casler birthday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Inez Gillen Joey Pierce Baptism anniversary</p>
<p>11 Baptism of Our Lord 1st Sunday after Epiphany 12 Days of Christmas Offering Midwife Kits during fellowship Carolyn Storin birthday</p>	<p>12 1 pm Worship/Music Com</p>	<p>13 7 pm Executive Com Shane Brannan Baptism anniversary</p>	<p>14 6 pm Confirmation 7 pm Choir</p>	<p>15 Marge Hastedt Birthday Justin and Jen Casler anniversary</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Week of Christian Unity begins</p>	<p>19 The Confession of St. Peter Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p>	<p>20 7 pm Council</p>	<p>21 7 pm Choir</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Week of Christian Unity ends Annual Congregational Meeting Hedi Wise birthday</p>	<p>26 The Conversion of St. Paul Pastor Craig at Theological Conference Arlington Brett Morris birthday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 6 pm Confirmation 7 pm Choir</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Spread the Spirit's Fire Workshops at St. Paul in Levelland Larry Hostick birthday</p>

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 25

- **ANNUAL REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**
- **ELECTION OF 2009 COUNCIL**
- **ADOPTION OF 2009 BUDGET**

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
1706 Slide Road
Lubbock, TX 79416



SEPTEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Worship Schedule 9am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11:30 Fellowship	1 Labor Day	2 7 pm Property	3	4 1 pm Lectionary Bible Study	5	6 8:30 am Ramp Project
7 17 th Sunday after Pentecost\ "Casual dress" Matthew 18:15-20	8 1 pm Hymn Selection 2 pm Worship/Music Com	9 7 pm Executive Council	10 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	11 1 pm Lectionary Bible Study	12	13 2-5 Tailgate Party
14 18 th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Cross Day Rally Day Matthew 18:21-35	15	16 11:30 Senior Luncheon 7 pm Council	17 7 pm Choir	18 1 pm Lectionary Bible Study	19	20 Rain date for tailgate party
21 19 th Sunday after Pentecost St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist Matthew 20:1-16	22	23	24 7 pm Choir	25 1 pm Lectionary Bible Study	26	27
28 20 th Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 21:23-32	29 St. Michael and All Angels	30				

