



OGALLALA BAPTIST CHURCH

December, 2023

December was a fantastic month. It is always a special time of reflecting on the work God has accomplished; not only because it is the end of the year, but this month also marks the time we closed on our home in Ogallala 3 years ago, solidifying our presence here. God's continued faithfulness and provision are overwhelmingly abundant. The growth we have witnessed has been wonderful. God continues to bring people to Ogallala Baptist Church and continues to notably work in the lives of members. Regularly, people share with us what God has shown them or how God is leading them. Hardly a week goes by when there isn't someone at the altar at the time of invitation. We praise God that we are here to take part in and witness His life-changing work in people.

We held our annual business meeting this month. The meeting itself was nothing of note, but it was encouraging. Thinking back three years ago, when the only members of Ogallala Baptist Church were my wife and I; I am thankful to see what God has accomplished. He has brought people that are investing in His work in Ogallala. While there is still, and will always be, a great deal to accomplish in the future, we fully expect God to continue to grow Ogallala Baptist Church spiritually and numerically.

We had our Christmas program on December 17. It included a violin special and a skit from the children. It has been wonderful to see the progression of our Christmas programs over the past three years. Our first program involved the children singing a couple of Christmas hymns. It was simple and the children enjoyed it. This year, the children were able to do a skit and two songs. It is wonderful to see them grow and become more involved. The day of the Christmas program saw some returning guests.

On Christmas Eve we were able to hold our cookie fellowship and candlelight service in the evening. We have a time of cookies and fellowship 30 minutes before the candlelight service, and it is incredible how quickly the time passes as we all enjoy fellowshiping. While it was not our first service the night before Christmas, it was our first time incorporating candles. Thankfully, the service went smoothly and the flames stayed on the candles (we did have a fire extinguisher nearby).

Over the next couple of months, the weather and sickness can challenge service attendance. Lord willing the weather won't be as prohibitive as last year. But with that in mind, we will continue to labor, ministering to those who attend as well as witness to and invite those we meet in our daily business. During this "slow" time, preparations will be made for activities in the spring, summer, and fall. Ogallala is an active community - parades, family block parties, and other community-wide events are regularly on the city's calendar. Now that we have more laborers at Ogallala Baptist Church, we plan to participate in many of those activities with the goal of presenting the Gospel and having a more visible presence in the community. We also plan to host events to reach families in Ogallala and the nearby town of Brule.

Prayer Requests

- Preparation for the events of 2024

Regards,

