



DID YOU KNOW...

*St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Prayer Shawl*

*May your heart always
know the Lord...*

*May your feet always
follow His path...*

*May your life always be
blessed by Him!*

*We give thanks for our St.
Olaf family during this
time of being apart.*

*The Prayer Shawl Team
has had extra time to make
beautiful prayer shawls.*

*If you know someone
having a difficult time we
will provide a prayer
shawl of comfort to bless
and encourage those in
need. Contact Chris in the
church office 515-576-2103.*

*May God's love and
faithfulness bring peace at
this time of uncertainty.*

*"The Lord is my light and
my salvation whom shall I
fear? The Lord is the strong
hold of my life of whom
shall I be afraid?"*

PSALM 27:1

During these quarantine times caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Sawyer Springer and Connor Carver along with the other members of the St. Olaf Youth Group and leaders, participated in a grocery delivery to the elder members of our congregation in an effort to help them stay safe at home as well as minimize the feelings of isolation we are all faced with during this time. Please take a look at page 10 to see more of God's work through our volunteers! A huge **'Thank You'** to all who participated!



PSALM

126:3

The
Lord
has
done
great
things
for us,
and
we
are
filled



From the pastor

Greetings St. Olaf sisters & brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. I hope that this reaches you and your family well. I pray you have been keeping safe and healthy during this pandemic. I have missed these opportunities to get to know you all face to face. Please know that you are missed by not only me, but our entire staff! This has been incredibly difficult, but it has also been a blessing to see the ways our church family has lived out Jesus' commandment to *"love one another; as I have loved you."* (John 15:12) We have left the building, but have also lived out the Great Commission, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..., and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."* The Lord's presence has been felt all around us in online worship Wednesdays and Sundays, in Zoom coffee fellowship, in emails and devotions, in care packages, in online celebrations & farewells, and in our committee/council work on Zoom. The Lord is with us and He is with us *to the very end of the age*. What is next? We've prayed for the Holy Spirit's guidance and trust that we are following God's wisdom in this discernment process.

The response to our phone and Facebook surveys showed a 50/50 split on people's willingness to return to in-person worship. Council was also split on what to do, but we have voted to resume in-person on Sunday June 14th. This worship will not happen inside our building, but will happen outside at 10a.m. This outdoor worship format will continue for the remaining month of June. This precautionary measure gives St. Olaf time to hire a new custodian that can work towards the readiness efforts inside our building. Here is what we hope for in the month of June:

1. Bring your chairs, sunscreen, hats, and hearts at 10am Sundays. We will meet on the grass in the back or in the front. Look for the people when you arrive. Lots will depend on wetness and mud on the lawn. If it is raining we will have a drive-in style worship. Worship will be from your vehicle.
2. Please bring and wear a mask. If you do not have one our *Sew Sisters* will have homemade ones available for adults and kids. Please consider a free will offering to support their ministry.
3. We will have a song leader(s) sing the hymns. Singing is one way this virus spreads quickly so it is pertinent that you wear your mask during worship. There will be no paper bulletins. Our hymns will be familiar ones that many will know by heart.
4. Social distance by maintaining 6 feet during interactions or in seating on the grounds.
5. We will not celebrate communion or baptism as it is not safe to do so at this time.

8. The building will remain closed for the month of June.

9. June 7th worship will be recorded and uploaded to Facebook. We will have an Installation for our summer pastoral intern Grace Braun during that service. We plan to upload the outdoor services onto Facebook by noon Sundays. Wednesday night in-person worship will refrain for June, but we will continue to record and upload that unto Facebook each Wednesday. Our Wednesday evening Sermon Series is called, *“When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!”*

I want to thank our church council for their leadership. Plenty of time, energy, and prayers went into these decisions. I want to thank you for the ways you continue to support St. Olaf with your prayers, your generous offerings, and in reaching out to your neighbors. I truly appreciate your patience and understanding. You may or may not agree with these decisions, but we are trying our best to lead this church in keeping in mind the safety of all. July will likely look different so please stay tuned. God be with you all!

Peace be with you,
Pastor Emily

STAFFING

Our staff has had significant turn over in the last 6 months. We say goodbye to our Interim Christian Education Director Laura Stover. We pray God’s blessings for her and Curtis during this time of transition. Please see her letter to council (included in this newsletter) for more details on her resignation. This means that we will be seeking a new candidate to fill her position. The Youth & Education committees have given the recommendation and council voted to hire a **Christian Education Director at full-time** capacity. Preference will be given to those with a Bachelor’s degree in Education & a background in Christian education.

*Our time with our contracted cleaning person expires on May 31, 2020. Council has voted to make this a **part-time custodial position**. Preference will be given to someone with prior custodian experience and background in general maintenance skills.

*The **part-time financial secretary position** is also available. Preference will be given to someone with a background in finance and accounting. If you know any candidate that would be a good candidate please check out the Indeed postings or our FB page. Resumes can be emailed to personnel-stolaffd@gmail.com All candidates will have a background check.

Thank you to Matt Drees, Jason Swedlund, Marc Matthes, Bob Younie, Lynda Mumm, Scott Otto, and Laura Stover for all of their hard work on our weekly recordings for St. Olaf. Please take a moment or two to thank these individuals one on one for the ways they have given generously of their time and talents.

Hello! My name is Grace Braun and I am from First Lutheran Church in Algona. I am currently a sophomore at Northwestern College in Orange City, IA with a major in Biblical and Theological Studies. Some of my interests include photography, reading, and spending time with my family and friends. A fun fact about me is that I have 13 different Bibles and each one has a specific purpose (Study Bible, Doodle Bible, Teaching Bible, etc.). For the last couple years, I have been praying and thinking about a calling to pastoral ministry. I like to write my own “mini sermons” whenever inspiration strikes.

For as long as I can remember, the church and my faith have been very important to me. I have always been fascinated with theology and the meaning of Bible passages. I like to dig into the Word and dissect all the different parts to find the hidden meanings. I also enjoy trying to answer people’s questions about the Bible. I don’t always have the answer, but I really enjoy the conversations.

I am very excited to be joining you for the summer as a Pastoral Intern! I pray that this summer will be filled with growth and new experiences for me and your congregation. I want you all to know that I am praying for you and your church, and I can’t wait to meet you all!



June 3: When life gives you CRITICISM, God gives you STRENGTH.

June 10: When life gives you SORROW, God gives you COMFORT.

June 17: When life gives you REJECTION, God gives you FORGIVENESS.

June 24: When life gives you PAIN, God gives you HOPE.

TUESDAY ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Join us for Zoom Bible Study on Tuesdays at 10am. June's Bible study will be on the book of Philippians. Our first gathering will be June 9th. As the summer moves on we will reevaluate if this happens on Zoom or in person. ALL are welcome. All ages of adults and genders are encouraged to participate. Grab your Bible and a beverage. See you soon! Here is the ZOOM invite. It will be emailed also.

Topic: Tuesday Morning Bible Study

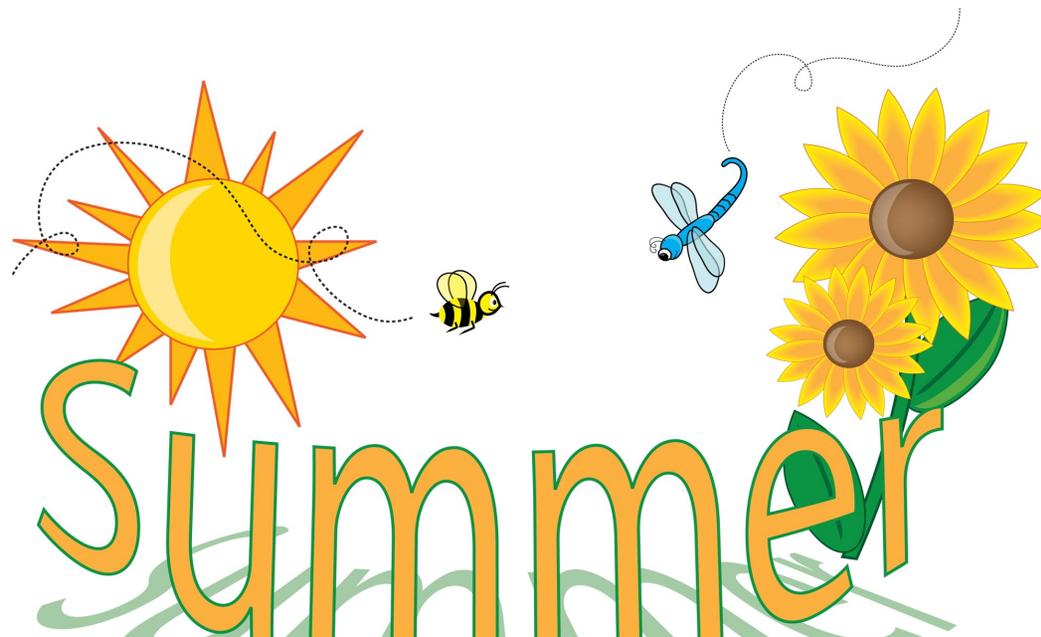
Time: Jun 9, 2020 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada), Every week on Tuesday

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87985323039?pwd=S2VrVzBDakhrMX11WmRkcTNwNUJYQT09>

Meeting ID: 879 8532 3039

Password: Bible



LORD'S CUPBOARD-JUNE NEEDS

Pork & Beans

Pasta Sauce

**Liquid
Laundry Soap**

Instant Potatoes

Dish Soap

Shampoo

During this time of quarantine, items can be dropped off at the Lord's Cupboard or call the St. Olaf office (515-576-2103) to arrange a pick up. Thank you for your generosity!

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:40

HOURS:

LOCATION: First United Methodist Church

First Avenue

North and 10th Street

Join their Facebook page!

Tuesday 9:30-11:30am

GREAT NEWS

The St. Olaf website is getting a long overdue redesign. Check it out !!!!!

www.stolaffd.org

Sunday Services

Bulletins

Newsletters

can be found on the site!



QUARANTINE

At the recommendation of the St. Olaf Executive Council, St. Olaf church will remain closed through June 30, 2020. Outdoor services are being planned for Sundays in June, beginning June 14 at 10:00 am.

FUNERALS

Funerals are currently able to be held at the funeral homes or at the graveside. The individual funeral homes are managing the gathering size to maintain appropriate social distance.

COMMUNION & BAPTISM

Through the month of June these sacraments are currently available only in the event of a dire emergency. Please contact the church office 515-576-2103 or Pastor Emily 515-230-2078 should the need arise.

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Unity Point in Fort Dodge is not allowing pastors or visitors in at this time. If you or a loved one are hospitalized please contact the church to be added to our prayer list. We lift up those names each week in worship. Pastor is also willing to pray and visit over the phone.

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FOOD ASSISTANCE

Drive by Meals—are available Monday-Friday at noon at Citizens Central

Meals on Wheels—is not looking at income, but is providing meals to anyone at this time due to Covid-19. It does take 2 weeks to get that program set up per household

Contact **Elderbridge** at 800-243-0678 anyone that answers can help connect you with grocery pickup and delivery. Our church is also willing to offer assistance with groceries or various other needs that may arise. Please call the church office 515-576-2103.



CHURCH CELEBRATES

THE CLASS OF 2020

*"For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm
you, plans to give you hope and a future."*
Jeremiah 29:11

HEATHER ALMOND MNW
1855 160th St., FD

HOPE ANDERSON FDSH
712 Crest Ave., FD
PARENTS: Tami & Shawn Grossnickle
John & Lori Anderson
PLANS: ISU

BROOKLYN BAILEY FDSH
120 E Center Ave. Badger, IA
PARENTS: Nick & Jess Bailey
PLANS: UNI

MASON BOWMAN FDSH
627 Main St., Otho, IA
PARENTS: Randy & Lisa Bowman
PLANS: ICC

CONLEY DANIEL FDSH
2915 15th Ave. NE, FD
PARENTS: Lexi & Buck Lara, Ty Maschino
PLANS: Kirkwood Community College

KATHERINE FLORES FDSH
1331 Ave. C., FD
PARENTS: Beth & Melchor Flores
PLANS: ICC

KENZIE KOFOOT FDSH
1408 N 29th St., FD

JORDAN MORUD FDSH
2621 18th Ave. N., FD
PARENTS: Travis & Sheri Morud
PLANS: ICC

1502 National Ave., FD
PARENTS: Dean Peterson & Stacey Mericle
PLANS: Work

MADIGAN PIEMANN ST. EDMOND
1175 Fox Ridge Rd., FD
PARENTS: Aaron & Kim Piemann
PLANS: Iowa

ADAM PLAUTZ FDSH
820 12th Ave. N., FD
PARENTS: Dennis & Beth Plautz
PLANS: Adult Day Program

TRINITY POSSEHN FDSH
226 Ave. G., FD
PARENT: Heidi Meier
PLANS: Drake University

MICHAEL SCHRODER FDSH
725 N 21st St., FD
PARENTS: Troy & Lisa Schroder
PLANS: Nursing

ASLE THORSON FDSH
925 N 4th St., FD
PARENTS: Tjeran & Julie Thorson
PLANS: ISU

KATELYN WERNING FDSH
3149 14th Ave. N., FD
PARENTS: Vaughn & Lisa Werning
PLANS: ICC

JACE YODER FDSH
1711 3rd Ave. N. FD
PARENTS: James & Jen Yoder
PLANS: ICC

JARED YODER FDSH
1711 3rd Ave. N., FD
PARENTS: James & Jen Yoder
PLANS: ICC

May 12, 2020

Dear St. Olaf Council,

I am so grateful for the last 14 months serving this church as interim education director. It is hard to put into words what it has meant to me to have been in ministry with you teaching God's children about Jesus. I've made wonderful forever friends in this congregation who have prayed for, and generously loved, me and my family. Since Covid-19 shut down all my part time jobs, I have had plenty of time to ponder and pray about the what next for me.

God is leading me to resign from this position to be more available for my family. There are three important signs that have been revealed. Curtis resumed biweekly chemo treatments last Wed. after 3 hotspots were found on his C.T. scan. Chemo is on Wednesdays, and I want to be present with him as much as possible. Martha's second baby will arrive in early June, and she has some other exciting opportunities coming her way. I want to be able to help her now and after school in the fall. Thirdly, I have been offered the TIPP (Teenage Information for Pregnancy Prevention) Coordinator position along with my current position as a sexual health educator. This additional responsibility is something that will challenge me in new ways yet allow my evenings and weekends to be free.

Finally, with the arrival of Pastor Emily Sauer, I believe you are in a good place to secure another full time staff person who could lead/pastor the children, youth and families of St. Olaf. This is a large congregation that has been on pause for a couple years waiting for a new pastor. It is challenging at best for your pastor to only have part time staff to work with. I believe God wants this church to flourish and grow and impact this community by bringing people of all ages to profession in Jesus Christ. So, in order to get moving in the right direction, it will be helpful for me to step aside. That frees up some finances, an office space and an opportunity to find someone more in tune to do ministry in new ways to reach the unchurched. Just so it is clear, this is my God inspired idea and mine alone. Pastor Emily has been fully supportive of me and this decision. It has been a JOY to work with her.

I have plenty of projects to complete in the month of May, so I am resigning effective May 31, 2020. If you need me to give you 30 days' notice, then I can extend it to June 11, 2020. With my remaining time I plan to complete my work with the confirmation students, secure the necessary information to honor our St. Olaf graduating seniors and outline a plan for a 1 day VBS experience to be held in late July or August with Grace Lutheran Church, if possible. I would be available by "contract" if needed to complete the VBS commitment. I have spoken with the education committee members about VBS and my resignation earlier today.

If you have any questions or concerns please let me know. It has been a blessing to serve with you. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." A promise for all of us. Thanks be to God.



Laura Stover

**You know what else
is contagious?**



**Gratitude
Calm
Joy
Courage
Helping Others
Love
Compassion**



Let's choose wisely.



MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Balance 3/31/2020 \$-(23,384.02)

Receipts:

Offerings\$30,354.00

Misc. Receipts.....144.99

Total receipts for April +30,498.99

Disbursements:

Benevolence.....\$200.00

Our Staff17,556.28

Administration2,394.84

Worship & Music.....1,014.07

Christian Education.....10.70

Our Church Home.....12,634.77

Congregational Life1,203.89

Youth Ministry.....188.32

Social Ministry.....0.00

Stewardship.....353.23

Total disbursements for April -35,556.10

Operating Balance 4/30/2020 \$-(28,441.13)

CHURCH STATISTICS

Weddings: None

Baptisms: None

Funerals/Deaths: Frances Wubben, Jon Ulstad, Kelli Henricks,
Orville Slotten, Steve Springer

Congratulations

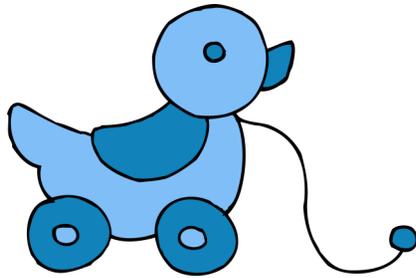
to

Robert and Megan Secor
on the arrival of their son

Ira Atticus Secor

Born: 5/9/20 Weighed: 7 lb. 9.75oz.

Cards may be sent to:
1584 Paragon Ave.
Fort Dodge, IA 50501



Congratulations

to

Colby and Elise Seehusen
on the arrival of their son

Boden Lee Seehusen

Born: 5/10/20 Weighed: 3 lb. 3 oz.



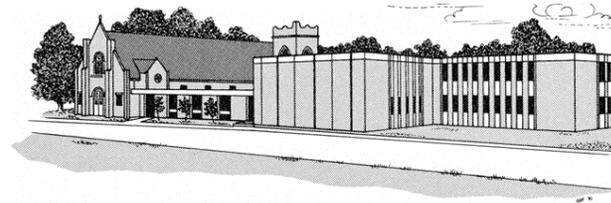
Cards may be sent to:
107 Avenue B
Fort Dodge, IA 50501



CORRECTION

In the Foundation article which appeared in the May issue of THE VISITOR, I inadvertently left Jill Matthes' name off of the board membership list. She became a member of the board on January 1, 2020, replacing Janet Singer.

Submitted by Mel Schroeder



Stewardship

God has given each of us many talents and resources to use in support of his work. Yes, stewardship includes supporting the church financially, which is important. There are, however, many additional ways for us to use our talents to contribute. Think how you might use those talents. Move outside your comfort zone. You might be pleasantly surprised to find out how rewarding it is to serve on a committee, to fill the candles with oil, to serve coffee, to distribute mailings, to mow the grass or any of the hundreds of other ways to contribute. Prayerfully consider how you might participate in accomplishing God's work. 1 Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

Blessings in Christ Mitch Craigmile



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Born in June!

Jaxtyn Conley	6/1	Troy Anderson	6/10	Tate Balkenende	6/21
Georgia Freed	6/1	David Trushcheff	6/10	Karlee Grove	6/21
Pat Gustafson	6/1	Hailey Carstensen	6/11	Alexia Kvale	6/21
Ryan Kuker	6/1	Kelsey Felch	6/11	Kieler Smith	6/21
Ellison Yoder	6/1	Robert Cook	6/12	Gale Nore	6/23
Dawn Fulton	6/2	Beth Flores	6/12	Megan Smith	6/23
Jeffry Strutzenberg	6/2	Renee Rude	6/13	Julie Williams	6/24
Marilyn Meier	6/3	William Bowman	6/14	Joshua Swanson	6/25
Meadow Balkenende	6/4	Alex Bushman, B	6/14	Dawn Glesne	6/26
Gary Crosby	6/4	Landon Getting	6/14	Dennis Lynch	6/26
Keith Friesth	6/4	Bernice Hovey	6/14	Bonita Miller	6/26
Jennifer Szalat	6/4	Lindey Krug,	6/14	Carolyn Sandvig	6/26
Jenna Williams,R	6/4	Jerry Landmesser	6/14	Elise Seehusen	6/26
Scott Fishel	6/5	Brilee Nelson	6/14	Erika Bryhne	6/27
Robert Younie	6/5	Asle Thorson	6/14	Tess Feddersen	6/27
Nicholas Bailey	6/6	Tjeran Thorson	6/15	Troy Bennett	6/28
Beverly Warland	6/6	Korann Kendall	6/16	Vicki Fiedler	6/28
Karen Carr	6/7	Triston Lara	6/16	Reigan Grossnickle	6/28
Cory Krug	6/7	Drake Callon	6/18	Patricia Grove	6/29
Shawna Allbee	6/8	Jamie Lara	6/18	Max Hollman	6/29
Lucille Larson	6/8	Tucker Pederson	6/18	Heidi Meier	6/29
Katelynn Anderson	6/9	Rachel Horrell	6/18	Douglas Thompson	6/29
Barbara O'Brion	6/9	Faith Williams	6/20	Amanda Warren	6/30

200 North 14th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Telephone 515-576-2103
cglennon3008@gmail.com

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A Monthly publication of
St. Olaf Lutheran Church

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
TO:

L@a@K

To the Visitor readers:

**Please let us know if your
address or phone number
has changed.**

Worship Schedule

The church is currently
closed through Jun 30, 2020.

Please see current e-mail
addresses to the immediate
right of this posting.

Mail and voice mail will be
checked periodically.

Thank you.

Mission Statement

We at Saint Olaf Lutheran Church
exist to Worship, Proclaim, Serve God

The St. Olaf Staff

Pastor Emily Sauer

pastoremily.stolaffd@gmail.com

Sue Seltz, Financial Manager

sseltz@stolaffd.org

Chris Lennon, Office Manager

cglennon3008@gmail.com

Jason Swedlund, Organist

jcswedlund@gmail.com

Denise Naeve, Sanctuary Choir Director

deninaeve@gmail.com

Matt Drees, Contemporary Worship Coordinator

mdrees@fdschools.org

Julie Springer, Youth Group Leader

jspringer@fdschools.org

Lindey Krug, Youth Group Leader

lindeykrug@yahoo.com

Beth Stickrod, Council President (515)351-7560

elizabethstickrod@gmail.com

St. Olaf Visitor Newsletter Volunteers:

Shannon Hartman

Melba Shelby

Colleen Lynch

Sandy Hess

Lucy Larson

Lorraine Schrader

Rae Nanninga

Bill McCullough

Deadline for articles for the VISITOR is the