

*We at St. Olaf Lutheran Church want to wish one and all a very Merry and Joyous Christmas!*

## **T H E   S E C R E T   C O D E**

Accordingly, each item in the 12 Days Of Christmas song was a metaphor for a bible story.

"On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me, a partridge in a pear tree," symbolising God (true love) and Jesus Christ (the partridge).

**Second day:** Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

**Third day:** Three French hens represented the three gifts of faith, hope and love.

**Fourth day:** Calling birds were the four gospels.

**Fifth day:** Five golden rings were the Books of Moses.

**Sixth day:** Geese a-laying stands for the six days of creation.

**Seventh day:** Swans a-swimming were the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Eighth day:** Maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

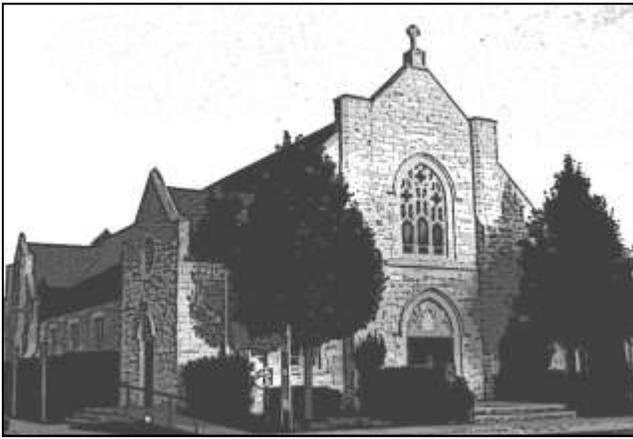
**Ninth day:** Ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit such as charity, peace and kindness.

**Tenth day:** Lords a-leaping represent the 10 Commandments.

**Eleventh day:** Pipers piping were the 11 apostles.

**Twelfth day:** Twelve drummers drumming represented the points of the Apostles Creed.





# THE VISITOR



## Newsletter

### December 2021

Mission Statement  
We at Saint Olaf Lutheran Church exist  
to Worship, Proclaim, Serve God and  
Teach His Word.



## December 2021

Are you familiar with The Elf on the Shelf? This Christmas tradition involves a storybook and accompanying pixie elf figure. According to the book, the elf is a “scout elf” who sits on a shelf or table or another part of a family’s home to observe the children’s behavior during the holiday season. Each night, the elf flies back to the North Pole and reports the kids’ actions to Santa Claus to inform his naughty and nice list picks. The elf then returns before the children wake up and settles in a new part of the house, creating a hide-and-seek game each morning. Four years ago my two kids received their first “elf on the shelf.” We were prepared. We read the Elf on the Shelf book and watched the DVD. We understood each night she would magically move around the house and leave cute notes and do funny pranks. The kids came up with the cute name Ginger and the adventure began. I started to take pictures every morning of all her crazy antics. She’d spill sugar all over our kitchen counter and take baths in the sink. She’d make cups of hot cocoa and leave droppings of skittles all along the tabletops. The whole thing was magic and **the best part?** Ginger promoted my children to “behave” in order for Santa to come. I loved this magical elf spy that paraded all over our home. Surely, the kids would be better that year. They were! It worked! That year was great and they couldn’t wait for next year—what was this crazy elf going to do next time? The next year Ginger brought a friend, Fred. Those two crazy elves kept us entertained and the kids can’t wait for this year! What will appear? What will we discover? Most importantly, how will my children behave? Can we get that excited for Christmas this year?

My kids are so excited for not only the elves, but also the Advent calendar and the Advent wreath. Each night we sit around the table. Read Scripture. Light the Advent wreath. Pray together. Open a small-wrapped present. It’s beautiful in the winter with snow and darkness. This

focuses our attention away from Santa and his elves to Jesus coming to live among us and to be born of a human mother. What a beautiful image to behold. Can we get excited for baby Jesus this year? God in Heaven is not this Santa type figure who checks us off the naughty and nice list each day. Surely we could each do and be better. God's grace doesn't work that way. God comes down to us in a tiny baby born in a manger. Each morning we given a new opportunity to live into God's grace. The Lord doesn't keep a list of our wrongs and rights—God loves us and forgives us. That is what is born on Christmas: love and forgiveness, peace and salvation. So let's get excited this Advent season and remember what will be born. What traditions will you do this Advent to prepare your hearts? Share those stories with our church family! They are important as we all have something to learn from one another.

Peace be with you my brothers and sisters in Christ. God bless you this Advent and this Christmas Season. May our hearts be merry and bright!

Peace be with you,  
Pastor Emily



## DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

December 5th, & 12th	9:00 A.M Traditional Worship 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship
December 19th	9:00 A.M. Traditional Worship 11:00 A.M. Worship with Children's Christmas Program
December 24th	Two Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 4:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M.
December 25th	No services
December 26th	One 10:00 A.M. service
January 2nd	One 10:00 A.M. service

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTAS



Please let us know in the office if you wish to purchase a flower which will be used over the Christmas holidays at Church. The Poinsettas are in 8 inch pots with 2 plants in each pot. The price is \$20 per pot.



# JIVE FOR FIVE!

Organist Jason Swedlund and the Jive for Five Brass Quintet will be presenting a concert of Advent and Christmas Music on Saturday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m. at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge, Iowa. The Concert is free and open to the public and is a part of St. Olaf's celebration of the 25th anniversary of its rebuilt & designed Pipe Organ by Dobson Pipe Organ Builders, Lake City, Iowa. The Concert is sponsored by the St. Olaf Lutheran Church Foundation.

**Jive for Five!** has a repertoire of over 300 tunes which include everything from Bach, the Beatles, Dave Brubeck, Duke Ellington, Gershwin & Miller, Gabrieli, Mozart, Karl King, John Philip Sousa, Fats Waller and Broadway musical scores.

## JIVE FOR FIVE!

**Tim Miller, trumpet**

Retired Director of Bands  
at Humboldt Middle School

**Dave Swaroff, trumpet**

Retired Director of Bands  
at Southeast Valley Middle School

**Kathy Yoakam, French horn**

Retired Director of 5th & 6th Grade  
Bands at Humboldt Middle School

**Dan Cassady, trombone**

Retired Director of Bands  
at Iowa Central Community College

**Paul Bloomquist, tuba**

Director of Bands  
at Iowa Central Community College



In addition to teaching and performing in Jive for Five!, all five members are busy with other

organizations including the Fort Dodge Area Symphony, the nationally renowned Karl King Municipal Band of Fort Dodge, and other top performing groups. The members of Jive for Five! are also in demand as private instructors and clinicians.

May the Miracle of Christmas and  
this Advent Season fill your hearts  
and minds with Joy.

## CHILD CARE IS COMING TO ST. OLAF!!

Our congregation voted to pursue a child care center on site at St. Olaf. We are so excited to begin a new adventure in our building. A committee has been working on details and plans since August. The first step is to hire a talented Director to oversee the program and help get things started.

We are envisioning a May 2022 opening date. Prior to that, we will be having a sprinkler system installed and a few minor changes to the classrooms done. Once the Director is brought onboard, his/her job will be to work hand in hand with the committee to develop policies and forms for both parents and employees. Next the search begins for caring teachers and a wonderful group of kiddos to fill our classrooms with love and laughter.

If you or someone you know is interested in either employment or a child care spot, please seek out one of the committee members listed below.

Thank you so much for all of your support!

Sheri Morud	Doug & Sue Seltz
Beth Stickrod	Linda Fletcher
Karrine Feddersen	Kim Piemann
Craig Hamilton	Pastor Emily

## CALL COMMITTEE

We are in the process of forming our call committee. Stay tuned for next steps in the process of calling our 2<sup>nd</sup> pastor.

## THANK YOU'S

Thank you to Ray Fiedler, Jan Wallestad, & Emily Wikner for sharing their testimony for our Fall Stewardship Campaign "*Moving Forward.*"

Thank you to our secretary substitutes in the office during this time of transition.

## MOVING FORWARD

Our Commitment Sunday will be December 5<sup>th</sup> at 9am or 11am. Please mail in or bring your pledge cards along with your Time & Talent sheet to worship that day. We will bless our commitments before God.

**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:10**  
**MOVING**  
→ *forward*

**For those of you who may have missed Emily Wikner's sermon on Sunday, November 14th on the Parable of the Talents, please find a copy below. Take a read and see how God is our partner.**

### **Investing in the Kingdom**

At the beginning of the year, I decided that 2021 would be the year I started investing. I didn't know how exactly, but I knew that it's good to start investing young, so I jumped in. In January I opened up a Roth IRA account and automated a deposit from my checking account into my Roth every month. I was so proud of myself for setting up an investing account early so that I could reap the fruits of compound interest upon my retirement. There was just one little problem. All the money I had put into my Roth was just sitting in a holding account, earning me absolutely no interest whatsoever. All of you experienced investors can laugh at my rookie mistake, but I didn't know that when you put money into a Roth IRA account, you also have to buy stocks with that money. After I realized my mistake, I chose some solid index funds and created an aggressive investing portfolio. Since then, I have seen the initial capital that I invested generate \$400 more dollars for me, which I think is so cool. Like, I earned money just by letting other people use my money? Sweet.

Today's gospel also demonstrates the concept of investing, with some of the servants choosing to invest their money and one choosing to keep his money in the ground, similar to the mistake I made at the beginning of this year. But the point of this parable isn't to give good financial advice. Rather, it communicates a very fundamental part of God's character and asks us how we are going to respond to God's character with our actions..

In the surrounding context of this parable, Jesus has taught his disciples about what the end of the age will be like, and is telling them a collection of parables about what the kingdom of heaven is like so they will be prepared for when he comes again. Within the context, this parable shows that the kingdom of heaven is like a man who entrusts his servants with his property. Let's unpack that a bit.

The parable begins with a man who is about to go on a journey. The parable later refers to him as "the master" so we can infer that he is the head of a large household. The parable also states that he has servants whom he entrusts with various amounts of money upon leaving for his journey. This would have made sense within the biblical narrative. Abraham has a man named Eleazar as his head servant and Potiphar named Joseph as the head servant in his household. These servants worked closely with the master of the household to organize and manage their wealth and property, not unlike how in today's world employees will work under a boss so that a company may flourish and grow.

So instead of managing all of his wealth by himself, the master chooses to entrust it to his servants, just as God chooses to partner with humans to accomplish his purposes in the world. The first story in the Bible shows God creating order and goodness and life just by speaking, yet in the very next story God partners with the first humans to cultivate the garden he created. God didn't NEED to partner with humans in the beginning. The first story in the Bible shows that God can accomplish his will just by speaking, but out of God's goodness, he chooses to partner with humans. Later he partners with Abraham to create a family that will be a blessing to all the nations. When the Israelites are enslaved in Egypt, God partners with Moses to deliver them out of slavery, even though God could have done it alone. The whole biblical narrative is full of stories about God partnering with people to bring about justice, flourishing, and peace in the world, and thousands of years after Jesus shared this parable with his disciples, God is still in the business of entrusting humans with his property in the world.

So if you get nothing else out of this sermon, please remember this: **God is a God who wants to partner with humans, including you, to bring about his kingdom in the world.** I'm going to say it again so you remember: **God wants to partner with you to bring about his kingdom in the world.**

## Investing in the Kingdom

(continued)

Now the next part of the parable says that “to one [servant] he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.”

Before we go any farther, you need to know what the original audience of this story would have thought of when they heard the word “talent.” To us, we think of a “talent” as a special ability or skill like juggling, hitting a high C while singing, or kicking a 60 yard field goal, but Jesus’ audience would have thought of a talent as a quantity of money, more than 15 years of wages. So in this story, a talent is not something you perform at a talent show, it is a large quantity of money. Got it?

Second, this verse tells us that the master divided up the talents among his servants **according to their abilities**. As 21st century westerners who value fairness, it’s easy for us to question why the master gave each servant a different amount of money instead of splitting the talents equally among them. However, we already learned that it was very common for the head of a household to work closely with his chief servants to manage his wealth, so it’s reasonable to believe that the master in this parable knew his servants well and understood their strengths and weaknesses well enough to know that one servant would thrive managing five talents while the other two might find that responsibility overwhelming and crumble under the pressure. So instead, the master divvies out the talents based on what he thinks his servants can handle and be successful with.

This is good news because not only does God want to partner with humans to accomplish the purposes of his kingdom in the world, but **God also knows each human and their respective resources and abilities and limitations as well**. God knows you and the talents, passions, and resources you have and how you can use those for the kingdom. God knows that you don’t have the same giftings and resources as your neighbor and that is okay. God doesn’t expect you to be like your neighbor. I personally believe that God is cheering you on like an excited coach so you can do something incredible for the kingdom of heaven with those talents, passions, and resources, even if how you do that looks different from your neighbor.

So what have we learned so far from this parable? God wants to partner with humans and that God knows your gifts and your limitations and God doesn’t expect you to be like your neighbor. Good news so far? Good news so far.

The servants with five and two talents begin working right away with the money the master gave them, and they eventually double their initial resources. But the servant with one talent made a DIY banking system and hid the money in the ground until the master returned.

Upon the master’s return, he comes to “settle” accounts with his servants and see what they have done with his money. When he sees that the first and second servant have doubled the money he gave them in the beginning, he gives them the exact same response: “Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” What’s interesting about this response is that the master seems to be most interested in **HOW** his servants managed his money, not in the amount of money they earned for him. He doesn’t chastise the servant entrusted with two talents for not earning as much as the servant entrusted with five talents. Instead, he rewards each of the servants for their faithfulness by giving them even more management responsibilities and inviting them to share in his joy. This master celebrates the growth of his servants, no matter how much they earned for him.

When the third servant comes to settle his account with the master, he confesses that he did not invest the original talent to gain more resources, but instead buried it in the ground where it would be safe. He gives the excuse that he believes the master is a “harsh man,” perhaps to make it seem like he was afraid of failing by losing his master’s money in the investing process.

However, the master counters that if the servant really believed that the master was a harsh man who insisted on gaining a profit no matter what, the servant would have at least put the money in a bank so it could accrue some safe, low risk interest.

The third servant’s actions betray his words. If he was scared of failure, he could have put the money in a High Yield Savings Account. Instead he buried it in the ground where it accrued no growth whatsoever, just like my Roth IRA funds sat dormant for the first six months of their existence. Unlike the other

servants who used the master's wealth to further benefit the master's household, he was lazy and did nothing. And because he wasn't invested (pun intended) in the growth and flourishing of his master's household, he was thrown outside where there is crying and grinding of teeth.

Yikes. It seems harsh to us as Western readers, but the actions of the third servant revealed that he didn't want to participate in the mission of the master's household, even in the most basic, lowest effort of ways. He didn't want to be a part of promoting the household, and at the end of the story, he gets what he wants. He's no longer a part of the household and the master's joy.

In the end, this parable offers us a choice. Are we going to accept God's invitation to use our gifts to partner with him to advance the kingdom of God so that the world may experience justice, flourishing, and peace? Or are we going to refuse God's invitation and bury it in the ground?

I hope that each of us chooses the first, not because we want to avoid a fate of being separate from God, but because we want to participate in the beauty of God's kingdom. Like, getting to witness God's kingdom happening right here on earth is such a beautiful thing and you don't have to look far to see where it is happening.

So many incredible projects to advance the kingdom of God are happening right here at St. Olaf. Our Wednesday night meals are back, our Ignite program is booming to the point where we definitely need more kids ministry volunteers. We are on the cusp of starting a daycare that would help meet child care needs in the Fort Dodge community. Soon we will begin the process of calling an associate pastor and I am personally envisioning new Bible studies and community groups happening here at St. Olaf.

And stewarding your resources for the sake of the kingdom of God is not limited to donating a portion of your income to St. Olaf and making a volunteer commitment here (though I hope you prayerfully consider doing both of those things.)

You can partner with God to bring about the kingdom by making sure your workplace is an equitable environment that values the wellbeing of its employees. You can partner with God to bring about the kingdom by offering a cup of coffee and hospitality to a neighbor. You can partner with God to bring about the kingdom by intentionally discipling your children at home.

I mean, I learned this week that one way to partner with God for the sake of the kingdom is by knitting prayer shawls. How crazy specific is that?

Now, I don't know your gifts and resources, but God does and I hope that you do too. And I hope even more that you choose to accept God's invitation to partner with him and use those gifts to bring about God's kingdom right here on earth and that one day, you will get to hear Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your master."

### PASTORAL ACTS & STATISTICS

#### **MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT**

Operating Balance 9/30/2021 ..... (\$30,304.05)

Receipts:

Offerings ..... \$30,535.00

Misc. Receipts ..... 1086.68

Total receipts for October ..... +31571.68

Disbursements:

Total disbursements for September..... -52,921.36

**Operating Balance 10/31/2021 ..... (\$51,626.95)**

As St. Olaf heads into the cooler months of the year and the busiest times of the year, with programs held throughout the week such as Ignite, Confirmation, CBS and Choir & Bell Choir, please consider an extra donation to help off set the growing deficit and ease us out of the red as the 2021 calendar dwindles down. **THANK YOU!**

#### **CHURCH STATISTICS**

Weddings: None  
Baptisms: Khloe Smith  
Nash Gailey  
Sonny Nokleby

#### **IGNITE MENU**

**Menu to be announced**

## ALTAR GUILD

The St. Olaf Altar Guild is being restructured. Thanks to all who have committed to months of service. You will receive a mailing in December with more information. If you have not yet made your commitment to Altar Guild, please contact Mary Kuhlman at 515-570-3108 or Claudia Harms at 515-571-7015. Workers are needed for both Wednesdays and Sundays. New members are always welcome!

## DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

December 5th, & 12th	9:00 A.M Traditional Worship 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship
December 19th	9:00 A.M. Traditional Worship 11:00 A.M. Worship with Children's Christmas program
December 24th	Two Christmas Eve candlelight services 4:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M.
December 25th	No services
December 26th	One 10:00 A.M. service
January 2nd	One 10:00 A.M. service



## OUR NEW DAY CARE NEEDS A NAME

If you have any ideas for a name for our New Day Care please drop them in the suggestion box in the Narthex just outside of the Business Office. Any and all ideas and names will be considered. Please don't be shy!



## JOB OPENINGS AT ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH

Presently we are seek an individual for the position of Office Manager. If you are interested or know of a qualified individual please contact Pastor Emily at 515-576-2103.

Also we are seeking an Associate Pastor. The filling of this position will undoubtedly take more time to fill than that of the Office Manager, however, if you know of a potential candidate please let Pastor Emily at 515-576-2103 know the individual's name so that it can be forwarded to the Call Committee which is being formed.



## OLES UPDATES

The OLES will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am on December 7th and December 21st, the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

## **BOOK CLUB**

The St. Olaf Book Club will meet on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in the Gather Room. Our book this month is **Midnight at the Blackbird Café** by Heather Webber. This a novel set in a small southern town. A young woman intends to make a quick trip to settle her grandmother's estate, but finds herself drawn to the town, solving secrets, and finding romance. Books are available for check out at the church office. Everyone is welcome to attend. Contact Mary Kuhlman at 515/570-3108 for more information.

## SOS - ST. OLAF SENIORS – NEW NAME - OWLS

SOS – St. Olaf Seniors have changed the name of the group to OWLS, Older Wiser Lutherans. Just a reminder that the group is for both men and women and couples. Currently it is planned that the group will meet quarterly on Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



*The next meeting is a Christmas Luncheon on  
Tuesday,,  
December 14 at 12 Noon in the Fellowship Hall.  
More details later.*



## **ST. OLAF FOUNDATION 2021**

As we look back on this year many obstacles have arisen, however the members of the St. Olaf Foundation have adjusted and adapted as needed. Zoom meetings were utilized as the community addressed the Covid pandemic. All members were pleased when we were able to return to in person meetings. Over the year several grant requests have been approved. The Foundation is proud to provide scholarships to St. Olaf students seeking further education following High School graduation. Support was provided for a group of St. Olaf members to go to Panama on a scouting mission trip. A new projector and technical equipment was provided for church services. Funding for a sprinkler system in the education wing as day care plans progress was approved, as well as several other items throughout the year.

During the last meeting this year our president, Larry Rohrer turned in his resignation from the board effective December 31, 2021. He has served for many years on the foundation. While on the Foundation board Larry has helped to secure the real estate on the block surrounding the church building. He also assisted in the development and continued support of the building for the Icky's youth program. We will miss his dedication, knowledge and support of the foundation. We thank God for Larry's service to St. Olaf and ask God to guide him in future plans to be closer to family.

Laurel Puls





Name	Month/Day
<b>Sandvig, Charles</b>	12/1
<b>Springer, Julianne</b>	12/1
<b>Lumsden, Nolan</b>	12/2
<b>Henricks, Nathaniel</b>	12/3
<b>Kalvig, Marlene</b>	12/4
<b>Cook, Collin</b>	12/5
<b>Larson, Eric</b>	12/5
<b>Dutcher, Andrew</b>	12/6
<b>Dutcher, Madelyn</b>	12/6
<b>Wooster, Connie</b>	12/6
<b>Pederson, Cricket</b>	12/7
<b>Altman-Miller, Di-</b>	12/8
<b>Newsom, Joan</b>	12/8
<b>Zwink, Anne</b>	12/10
<b>Pederson, Jackie</b>	12/11
<b>Clausen, Olivia</b>	12/12
<b>Felch, Grace</b>	12/12
<b>Linn, Susan</b>	12/12
<b>Matthes, Molly</b>	12/12
<b>Mumm, Lynda</b>	12/12
<b>Oppedahl, Heather</b>	12/14
<b>Sunken, JoLynn</b>	12/14
<b>Kalvig, Timothy</b>	12/15
<b>Pederson, Shirley</b>	12/16

Name	Month/Day
<b>Zenor, Jane</b>	12/16
<b>McCullough, Bill</b>	12/18
<b>Haden, Jamie</b>	12/19
<b>Morud, Max</b>	12/21
<b>Rial, Erin</b>	12/21
<b>Fortune, Peggi</b>	12/22
<b>Williams, Olivia</b>	12/22
<b>Lockner, Jonathan</b>	12/24
<b>Friesth, Johnna</b>	12/25
<b>Pattison, Brian</b>	12/25
<b>Selby, Olyvia</b>	12/25
<b>Trent, Shirlee</b>	12/26
<b>Carson, Renee</b>	12/27
<b>Gordon, M, Boston</b>	12/27
<b>Mason, Merrill</b>	12/28
<b>Tjaden, Jack</b>	12/28
<b>Williams, Doris</b>	12/28
<b>Josephson, Sherri</b>	12/29
<b>Strutzenberg, Mallo- ry</b>	12/29
<b>Bailey, Kennedy</b>	12/30
<b>Bowman, Morgan</b>	12/30
<b>Urelius, Dillon</b>	12/31

St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Contacts

Dec 2021 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9am - Traditional 10am - Fellowship 11am - Contemporary	29 10am - Adult Bible 1pm - Lifeworks	30	1 8am - Better Choices 8am - CBS 5pm - Ignite Supper 6pm - Ignite Class / 7pm - Wednesday	2 8am - CBS 5pm - Bell Choir	3 Office Closed	4
5 Stewardship 9am - Traditional 10am - Fellowship 11am - Contemporary 1:30pm - A Time for	6 10am - Adult Bible 1pm - Lifeworks	7 9am - Oles	8 8am - Better Choices 8am - CBS 5pm - Ignite Supper 6pm - Ignite Class / 7pm - Wednesday	9 8am - CBS 5pm - Bell Choir	10 Office Closed	11 6pm - Jive for Five
12 9am - Traditional 10am - Fellowship 11am - Contemporary	13 10am - Adult Bible 1pm - Decorate for 1pm - Lifeworks	14 12pm - OWLS Luncheon 6pm - Committee 7pm - Church Council	15 8am - Better Choices 8am - CBS 5pm - Ignite Supper 6pm - Ignite Class / 6:30pm - Live Nativity 7pm - Wednesday	16 8am - CBS 5pm - Bell Choir	17 Office Closed	18
19 9am - Traditional 10am - Fellowship 11am - Contemporary	20 10am - Adult Bible 1pm - Lifeworks	21 9am - Oles	22 8am - Better Choices 8am - CBS 5pm - Ignite Supper 6pm - Ignite Class / 7pm - Wednesday	23 8am - CBS	24 Office Closed 4pm - Candlelight 7pm - Candlelight	25
26 10am - One Service	27 10am - Adult Bible 1pm - Lifeworks	28 10am - Better Choices 8am - CBS	29 8am - Better Choices 8am - CBS	30 8am - CBS	31 Office Closed	1

## ST. OLAF BOOK CLUB

The St. Olaf Book Club will meet on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in the Gather Room. Our book this month is **Midnight at the Blackbird Café** by Heather Webber. This a novel set in a small southern town. A young woman intends to make a quick trip to settle her grandmother's estate, but finds herself drawn to the town, solving secrets, and finding romance. Books are available for check out at the church office. Everyone is welcome to attend. Contact Mary Kuhlman for more information.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School classes are available for Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Students will meet in our upstairs classrooms from 10:00-10:45am during coffee hour. In December, students will learn about the stories about Jesus' birth. Please remember to sign your students in and out of their classrooms before and after Sunday School. Please contact Emily Wikner at [christianedemily.stolaffd@gmail.com](mailto:christianedemily.stolaffd@gmail.com) or pick up a registration form in the Narthex to register your student for Sunday School.



### Winter Break

There will be no Sunday School classes on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and January 2<sup>nd</sup> and there will be no Wednesday night suppers, Ignite classes, Confirmation classes, and Bible study on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> for winter break. Wednesday Night Programming will resume on January 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday School will resume on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy the Advent and Christmas season!

## LIVE NATIVITY –DECEMBER 15

Come see the St. Olaf high school students present a live nativity on December 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:00pm and from 7:30-7:45pm by the church entrances. Please come to Wednesday night worship that evening to support them and to prepare your heart for Christmas.

If you would like to donate hand warmers, hay bales, or costumes for this event, please contact Lindey Krug, Juli Springer, or Emily Wikner.

## ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

<b>Name/Position</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Email / Phone</b>	<b>Term Expiry</b>
Carey Bligard President b. 7/25	1744 Williams Dr. Fort Dodge, IA 50501	515-570-4768 c bligard@frontiernet.net	2022
Brady Pearson Vice President b. 11/30	3043 Soldier Ridge Dr. Fort Dodge, IA 50501	515-408-0327 c 515-576-2183 h bpearsondc@gmail.com	2022
Beth Stickrod Treasurer b.5/6	924 5th Ave. N. Fort Dodge, IA 50501	515-351-7560 c 515-302-2267 w elizabethstickrod@gmail.com	2022
Erica Conley Secretary b. 8/10	22414 Theater Road Fort Dodge, IA 50501	515-408-4113 c econley@fdschools.org	2022
Doug Seltz Building & Grounds b. 1/14	1553 Indiana Ave. Clare, IA 50524	515-571-6712 c 515-546-6227 h dseltz@wccta.net	2023
Linda Ulstad Education b.5/30	1040 N 24 <sup>th</sup> Place Fort Dodge, IA 50501	515-955-4038 lulstad55@gmail.com	2023
Tammy Oester Life & Growth b.9/15	1375 N 14 <sup>th</sup> ST Fort Dodge, IA 50501	515-571-8472 c toester1@icloud.com	2022
Howard Hartman Long Range Plan- ning b.2/28	2416 Elmhurst Ave Fort Dodge, IA 50501	515-269-0311 c fizzy1113@msn.com	2021
Kim Peimann Social Concerns b. none listed	1175 Fox Ridge Rd. Fort Dodge, IA 50501	515-570-8241 c kpiemann@yahoo.com	2022
Roger Williams Stewardship b.11/27	2612 North 27 <sup>th</sup> Street Fort Dodge, IA 50501	515-408-2656 c roger@iowafarmsinc.com	2022
Marcia Kuker Worship & Music b. 4/25	3029 14th Ave N Fort Dodge, IA 50501	515-408-3888 c Kukmom55@gmail.com	2022
Heather Liska Youth b. 2/23	2185 Sunset Lane Fort Dodge, IA 50501	515-571-3429 c jaxnkar@yahoo.com	2023
Maddy Dutcher Youth Representa- tive b.12/6	20040 Sherri Ln. Fort Dodge, IA 50501	515-570-0229 c made- lyn_dutcher@yahoo.com	2022

*Wishing one and all a very Merry and Joyous Christmas 2021!*

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Adult Bible Study will meet on Monday mornings at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. We are continuing an 8 week Advent-based study. We will be studying the Year C Advent Lectionary passages in December. If you are interested in joining, please contact Emily Wikner at [christianedemily.stolaffd@gmail.com](mailto:christianedemily.stolaffd@gmail.com) so she can send you the questions and provisional materials each week.

Here is a list of our weekly study topics:

**November 29**—Jeremiah 22:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36

**December 6**—Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, Philippians 1:13-11, Luke 3:1-6

**December 13**—Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

**December 20**—Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45

**December 27**—Winter break. No Bible study.



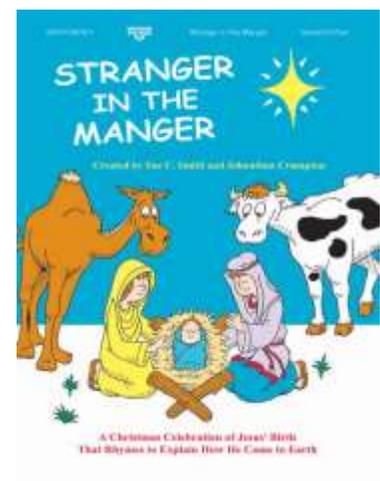
Wednesday evenings from 6-7:30 pm. We will begin a new unit called *Shake it Up* where kids out of Ignite at the table outside the Fellowship

Preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to come to Ignite on Hall and the Sanctuary. Please contact Emily Wikner at [christianedemily.stolaffd@gmail.com](mailto:christianedemily.stolaffd@gmail.com) or 515-576-2103 if you have any questions.



## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The St. Olaf Ignite Students will perform *Stranger in the Manger* on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> during the 11am service. Please come to support them and their hard work and to enjoy this retelling of the Christmas story.



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# The St. Olaf Visitor

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**To the Visitor readers:**  
**Please let us know if your  
address or phone  
number has changed.**

## Worship Schedule

### Sunday's

9 am Traditional  
10 am Fellowship  
11 am Contemporary

### Wednesday's

7 pm

Sunday services are now live  
streamed on

Facebook as well, page:

**St. Olaf Lutheran Church,**

**ELCA**

and

10:30 am 1400 KVFD AM  
and

**www.stolaffd.com**

Temporary Office Hours

Until Further Notice

Monday –Thursday

9:30 to 1:30

Closed on Fridays

**The St. Olaf Staff**

Pastor Emily Sauer (515) 230-2078

Office

Sheri Morud, Financial Manager

Jason Swedlund, Organist & Choir Director

Matt Drees, Contemporary Worship Coordinator

Emily Wikner, Religious Ed Director

Heather Liska, Youth Council

Juli Springer, Youth Group Leader

Lindey Krug, Youth Group Leader

Ron Anderson, Custodian

Linda Junkman, Head Nursery Attendant

Pat Zeka, Nursery Attendant

Carey Bligard, Council President

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Deadline for the articles for the VISITOR is the  
15th of every month.