
The St. Olaf Visitor

239 North 11th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Telephone 515-576-2103

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Fort Dodge, IA

**A Monthly publication
of
St. Olaf Lutheran
Church**

TO:

L@@K

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

Church Office (515) 576-2103

Sheri Morud, Financial Manager

Jason Swedlund, Organist & Choir Director

Matt Drees, Contemporary Worship Coordinator

Emily Wikner, Christian Ed Dir.

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

St. Olaf Visitor Newsletter Volunteers:

Shannon Hartman

Melba Shelby

Colleen Lynch

Sandy Hess

Lucy Larson

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



*Birthdays
of the Month*



MARCH

Dean Getting	3/1	Ashlie Smith,L	3/18
LuAnne Pavel	3/1	Betty Bowman	3/19
Ryan Szalat	3/3	Janelle Carstensen	3/20
Foster Krug,	3/4	Jerome Burmeister	3/22
Carrie Jo Pearson	3/4	Amy DeLanoit	3/22
Laurel Puls	3/4	Allie Berg	3/24
Daniel Wiseman	3/7	Kermit Smith Jr	3/24
Pat Zeka	3/7	Shealler Springer	3/24
Carolyn Brandt	3/8	Jerry Harrison	3/25
Kirby Smith	3/8	Jason Lumsden	3/25
Douglas Egli	3/9	Brady Morud	3/25
Bonnie Miller	3/9	Brody Reimers	3/25
Tanner Kampen	3/10	Melvin Schroeder	3/25
Andrew Kendall	3/10	Bev Davis	3/26
Sharon Maschino	3/10	Ayden Johanson	3/26
Larry Bickford	3/11	Kristofor Kalvig	3/26
Jaxson Dencklau	3/11	Allison Zuspahn	3/26
Elizabeth Plautz	3/11	Kade Hovey	3/27
Brandie Christensen	3/12	Jo Schroeder	3/27
Pam Hollman	3/12	Erick Bygness	3/28
Anthony Larson	3/12	Dalton Urelus	3/28
Janette Miller	3/15	John Nanninga	3/29
Dennis Plautz	3/15	Khloe Smith	3/29
Christian Smith	3/16	Harold Wingerson	3/30
Darlene Hansen	3/17	Drew Callon	3/31
Brynlee O'Brion, Joseph Char	3/17	McKenna Kvale	3/31
Devin Ulstad	3/17	Loren Miller	3/31
Jennie Haden	3/18	Joan Portz	3/31
Hank O'Brion	3/18		

Happy
Birthday!



THE VISITOR



Newsletter

January 2022

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



“God wants us to pray and He wants to hear our prayers not because we are worthy, but because He is merciful.” ~Martin Luther

One of my best friend’s texted a few weeks ago and it went like this: *“If you weren’t a pastor and in another profession, do you think you would do well in carving out a time to hear from God?”* I told her probably not, I’m pretty bad at it now. *“When I try to listen to God I get so distracted and literally start thinking about everything else and then I lose focus. Do you start thinking about everything else when you’re trying to talk and listen to God?”* Often. Unless I’m in the sanctuary. Turns out she thinks of random “stupid” stuff as she calls it even if it’s nothing about what she feels should be thinking about or praying about My suggestion, **“Keep praying & ask God’s Spirit to direct your prayers.”** I’m no expert in prayer. I don’t know how to pray most of the time, but I don’t feel I’m alone. Barbara Brown Taylor — professor, author, theologian, Episcopal priest and a woman TIME magazine once designated one of the world’s most influential people — seems to be challenged by prayer too. *“I’m a failure at prayer,”* she once confessed in her book, *“An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith.”* *“To say I love God but I do not pray much is like saying I love life but I do not breathe much. I have shelves full of prayer books and books on prayer. I have file drawers full of notes from courses I have taught and taken on prayer. I have meditation benches I have used twice, prayer mantras I have intoned for as long as a week, notebooks with column after column of the names of people in need of prayer (is writing them down enough?) I have a bowed psaltery—a biblical string instrument mentioned in the book of Psalms—that dates from the year I thought I might be able to sing prayers easier than I could say them. I have invested a small fortune in icons, candles, monastic incense, coals, and incense burners.”*

How’s your prayer life going? When do you pray? Is it in worship? Is it at home before bed? Is in the morning during devotions? Is it during the day as you go about your day? Is it immediately when another asks you to pray for so-and-so? **Are you praying?** In these next weeks as we continue on our Lenten Journey I invite you to consider prayer again. Start somewhere. . None of us are experts. None of us are perfect. Jesus simply invites us, **“Come. Ask. Receive.”** I could use

more of that: come, ask, and receive. **How about you?** Be encouraged. We are in this together, body of Christ. Ephesians 6:18 says, *“with all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.”* As Martin Luther put it so well: We do not come before God because we are worthy, we come because He is merciful. God is merciful and slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

We are gearing up for the busiest time of the church year! Lent begins and we move into Easter. Our Wednesday evenings will continue with dinner at 5pm, Ignite/Confirmation class & 7pm worship in our sanctuary. Our contemporary worship director Matt Drees will lead us through a new evening prayer called **Joyous Light**. Our theme this year is **COLORS OF LENT**. If you don't normally join us on Wednesdays, our services are geared more towards our children because they travel from Ignite right into the sanctuary. We want to continue to encourage our kids and their families to participate in worship. To do that our messages are kid friendly and focused on an object lesson rather than a regular Sunday morning sermon. I pray you will consider joining us. I know there is always a little glimpse of God in these short messages.

March 2: Ash Wednesday at 11am (lunch following) & 7pm: **BLACK**

March 9: **PURPLE**

March 16: **NO MEAL OR IGNITE OR WORSHIP DUE TO SPRING BREAK**

March 23: **BLUE**

March 30: **GREEN**

April 6: **RAINBOW**

April 13: **YELLOW**

April 14: Maundy Thursday: **BROWN**

April 15: Good Friday: **RED**

April 17: Easter at 9am & 11am:

From the staff of St. Olaf Lutheran Church to your family we wish you a blessed Lenten Journey as we make our way to the table, to the Cross, and to the empty tomb on Easter morning!

Peace,

Pastor Emily

JOB OPENINGS AT ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH

Finding the right, qualified individual is always difficult. If you have any recommendations, it would be greatly appreciated. Presently we are seeking 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.

ST. OLAF SANCTUARY CHOIR

“MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD”

Psalm 66:1

1 Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth

Isaiah 51:11

¹¹ Those the LORD has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.



We are looking forward to Lent and Easter very soon. We are looking for additional voices to help celebrate. If you have ever sung with a choir in the past or not, whether you read music or not, we would encourage you to join us. It is a great time of fellowship and praise of our Lord. Please call the office and leave a message of your wanting to join for Jason Swedlund or email Jason directly at jcswedlund@gmail.com or come to rehearsal.

Come to praise the Lord in song by joining the St. Olaf Choir !
Rehearsals will be on Sundays at 7:30 am before the 9:00 am service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School meets in the choir room from 10:20-10:50am on Sunday morning. Our consistent attendees are typically in Preschool-1st grade, but students up to 6th grade are welcome to attend as helpers. Please contact Emily Wikner at christianedemily.stolaffd@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to register your children for Sunday School.





OWLS

ATTENTION OWLS

(Older Wiser Lutherans)
Mark your calendar for March 22nd. It is time for our quarterly coffee get together. It will be at St Olaf in the fellowship hall at 1:30 PM. Please come for lots of fun and chit chat with other members.

Older
Wiser
Lutherans



CAN YOU HELP WITH SNOW REMOVAL???

The Property Committee is in need of volunteers for snow removal this winter. If you have a snow blade and would be able to push snow in front of the church your help would be appreciated. This could be done on a rotating basis if several people volunteer. Please call the church at (515) 576-2103, and leave your phone number if you are able to help.



Preschool through 6th grade students are invited to come to Ignite on Wednesday evenings from 5:50-7:30 pm. Class time will happen in the downstairs Youth Room unless stated otherwise. We'll begin a new unit called *Picture This!* where kids get to use their artistic skills to draw the parables of Jesus! Remember to sign your stu-



dents in and out of Ignite at the table outside the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary. Please contact Emily Wikner at christianedemily.stolaffd@gmail.com or 515-576-2103 if you have any questions.

Adult Bible Study Opportunity: Reading Romans Backwards

The adult Bible study will meet on Monday mornings at 10am in Conference Room 100. We are continuing a new study focused on reading Romans backwards in an attempt to gain new perspectives on Paul's most influential letter. If you are interested in joining, please contact Emily Wikner at christianedemily.stolaffd@gmail.com so she can send you weekly questions and provisional materials.

Here is a list of our weekly study topics:

- March 7** – Romans 10
- March 14** – Romans 11
- March 21** – Romans 1
- March 28** – Romans 2



ST. OLAF PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

“You will show me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” Psalm 16:11

Would you like to knit or crochet? Join us for the unveiling of new creations in Prayer Shawls and yarn to go. The time is the 2nd Wednesday of the month, this month- on March 9. at 1:00 p.m. in Room 100 in the Church. All are welcome. Perhaps it's time to try your hand at a creative way to bless and encourage others. We will help you get started. All supplies are provided.

Please, if you know of someone who is going through a difficult time or celebrating a milestone and would be blessed and encouraged by a beautiful, warm Prayer Shawl, call the Church Office. Let's share the shawl with one and all.

See you in March! There will be refreshments, good fellowship, and prayers of joy to share for YOUR encouragement.



DINNERS

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

3/2 Pasta & Meatballs
Garlic Cheese Bread
Dessert



3/9 Soup (Chicken Noodle & Tomato)
Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
Dessert

3/16 NO Wednesday IGNITE or Meal

3/23 Burgers
Corn
Dessert



3/30 Breakfast for Dinner

Things that are on our Wish List:

- 2—7 quart crockpots with lids
- 4—Baking sheets with sides

We also need Volunteers to make desserts for the following dates (60 servings are needed):

3/2 — Cakes

3/9 — Cookies—Variety of types and flavors

3/23 — Rice Crispy Treats

If you can help with any of the needed items, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for all of your help, ahead of time.



SINGERS PERFORMANCE

The Ignite Singers will present “Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock” on April 10 during the 11am Worship service. Please come to support their hard work in learning this song and to laugh at the silly actions.

A Message from the Lord's Cupboard

We just wanted to reach out to our church community and share with you some of the happenings and needs at the Lord's Cupboard Community Pantry.

Did you know that you cannot use Food Stamps to purchase cleaning supplies or personal hygiene items?

Could you imagine being at the store and deciding between laundry soap or a gallon of milk for your family?

We see a large demand for these items when clients visit the food pantry. Currently, we give out travel size soap, toothpaste, dish soap and laundry detergent. This may be enough for some people or not enough for others. Beginning in March we will start offering larger sizes and more variety of personal hygiene and household cleaning supplies for clients to choose from. This choice shelf will be available to clients visiting the pantry and they will get to choose one or more depending on their household size. They will still get a bag with toilet paper and the other travel size items, but will now be able to take home items they desperately need. We are excited about the expansion of the variety of items being distributed.

I have attached a list of items always needed, special needs and items we can purchase for pennies from the Food Bank of Iowa.

Thanks again for all the support you provide the Lord's Cupboard Community Pantry.

Melanie Fierke

Executive Director

"If you can't feed a hundred people, feed just one." — Mother Teresa

We always need:

pork and beans

chili beans

Soup

Cereal

instant potatoes

pancake mix

We also like to provide:

toothpaste

toothbrushes

deodorant

toilet paper

razors

disinfecting wipes

disinfecting spray

paper towels

Dish Soap

small boxes or

bottles laundry detergent

Things we purchase for pennies

from Iowa Food Bank:

peanut butter

canned fruit

canned vegetables

canned tuna

canned Chicken

ST. OLAF CALL COMMITTEE

Below you will find your new call committee as we seek our 2nd pastor. Council members were asked to nominate 3-5 people. Those nominations were compiled & individuals with the most nominations were asked to serve. Thank you for everyone's willingness. These members are as follows:

William Secor, Chairman (515)570-1121

Kim Peimann

Ashley Kuker

Austin Read

Nancy Hamilton

Alison O'Brion

Mel Schroeder

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 mid to late Summer 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 Peimann

Craig Hamilton

Pastor Emily

MARCH 2022



St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Contacts		Mar 2022 (Central Time - Chicago)				
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
9am - Traditional 10am - Fellowship 11am - Contemporary	9am - Oles 1pm - Homebound	8am - Better Choices 8am - CBS 11am - Ash Wednesday 5pm - Ignite Supper 6pm - Ignite Class / 7pm - Ash Wednesday	8am - CBS 5pm - Bell Choir	8am - CBS 5pm - Bell Choir		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9am - Traditional 10am - Fellowship 11am - Contemporary	10am - Adult Bible 1pm - Lifeworks	6pm - Committee 7pm - Church Council	8am - Better Choices 8am - CBS 1pm - Shawl Ministry 5pm - Ignite Supper 6pm - Ignite Class / 7pm - Wednesday	8am - CBS 5pm - Bell Choir		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9am - Traditional 10am - Fellowship 11am - Contemporary	10am - Adult Bible 1pm - Lifeworks	9am - Oles	8am - Better Choices 8am - CBS 5pm - NO Ignite Supper 6pm - NO Ignite Class / 7pm - NO Wednesday	8am - CBS 5pm - Bell Choir		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9am - Traditional 10am - Fellowship 11am - Contemporary	10am - Adult Bible 1pm - Lifeworks	1:30pm - OWLS	8am - Better Choices 8am - CBS 5pm - Ignite Supper 6pm - Ignite Class / 7pm - Wednesday	8am - CBS 5pm - Bell Choir		
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
9am - Traditional 10am - Fellowship 11am - Contemporary	10am - Adult Bible 1pm - Lifeworks		8am - Better Choices 8am - CBS 5pm - Ignite Supper 6pm - Ignite Class / 7pm - Wednesday	8am - CBS 5pm - Bell Choir		



OLES UPDATES

OLES

Oles will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1, and March 15, 2022. All gentlemen of all ages are welcome! Please come, we meet only twice a month on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

BOOK CLUB

The St. Olaf Book Club will meet on Monday, March 14th at 1:30 in the Gather Room. Our book for this month is Jefferson's Daughters by Catherine Kerrison. This is the biography of Thomas Jefferson's two white daughters and the other a black slave. This book explores the issues of race, gender, and legacy. Books are available for check out at the church office. Everyone is welcome. Contact Mary Kuhlman for more information.

ST. OLAF FOUNDATION

St. Olaf Foundation March 2022

Greetings from the St. Olaf Foundation~

I have enjoyed being a part of the St. Olaf Foundation, it is exciting to help maintain and disperse funds that have been given from donors and to do so according to their wishes.



The Foundation recently helped the church purchase video equipment that has allowed St. Olaf to stream our church services so individuals unable to attend the service in person can watch the service live online. Individuals as far as Texas and Virginia have viewed the church services. The Foundation has also approved the purchase of new and improved microphones for groups and individuals when they sing at St. Olaf.

Marc Matthes, Bob Younie and Mark Oester are responsible for streaming the church services each Sunday. These three individuals work tirelessly each week to get the service ready to go each Sunday so the service is ready for in person service as well as the online-streamed service. How thankful we are to have the three of them share their expertise, time and talents with us!

Below are pictures of the sound technicians at work with the new equipment. Feel free to stop by, look at the new equipment, and give a BIG thank you to them for all their work!

God's Blessings~ Jill Matthes



PLEASE CONSIDER

As St. Olaf heads into the cooler months of the year with programs held throughout the week such as Ignite, Confirmation, CBS, Sanctuary Choir and 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 came to a close. **THANK YOU!**

PASTORAL ACTS & STATISTICS

MONTHLY TREASURER’S REPORT

Operating Balance 12/31/2021..... **(\$2462.77)**

Receipts:

Offerings \$21,751.00
 Misc. Receipts 105.49
 Total Receipts for January..... 21,856.49

Disbursements:

Benevolence 700.00
 Pastoral Ministry 24,091.35
 Administration 3,130.35
 Worship & Music..... 1,661.18
 Christian Education..... 1,265.64
 Our Church Home 4,341.61
 Congregational Life 1,991.34
 Youth Ministry-..... 0.00
 Social Ministry..... 178.84
 Stewardship..... -115.67
 Total disbursements for January -37,244.64

Operating Balance 1/31/2022 (\$17,850.92)

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Day	Date	Service Time			WEATHER	Totals
		9:00	11:00	7:00		
Sunday	1/30	53	28		Light Snow/Cold	81
Wednesday	2/2			36		36
Sunday	2/6	70	35		24-Sunny	105
Wednesday	2/9			32		32
Sunday	2/13	46	39		Sunny-Cold	85
Wednesday	2/16			80		80
Sunday	2/20	70	70			140
Wednesday	2/23			52		52

CHURCH STATISTICS

Weddings: 0
 Baptisms: 7
 Funerals: 0
 Deaths: 0

ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH— COUNCIL MEMBERS

Name/Position	Address	Email / Phone	Term Expiry
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 th Place Fort Dodge, IA 50501	515-955-4038 lulstad55@gmail.com	2023
Tammy Oester Life & Growth b.9/15	1375 N 14 th ST Fort Dodge, IA 50501	515-571-8472 c toester1@icloud.com	2022
Howard Hartman Long Range Planning 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 th 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 Representative b.12/6	20040 Sherri Ln. Fort Dodge, IA 50501	515-570-0229 c madelyn_dutcher@yahoo.com	2022

LORD'S CUPBOARD NEEDS YOUR HELP

If you could please save them, the Lord's Cupboard gets eggs in flats every Friday. Egg cartons are needed to give out to clients. Please put them in the Lord's Cupboard shopping cart in the narthex along with your other donated items.

WORSHIP MATTERS

WORSHIP MATTERS



March can bring a variety of changes in our weather pattern. One day it may feel like spring and the next we are in the throes of winter again. The seasons **are also experiencing this change and can't decide if we are still to have winter** with snow, ice and wind or are we moving toward spring with warmer temperatures, melting and the air has a nice odor to enjoy.

The month of March in the church also brings a change in our seasons. We are concluding the long (this year) season of Epiphany and entering Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday March 2. Just a reminder that in 2022 we are in Year C reading basically from the Gospel of Luke.

March 2: Ash Wednesday [Worship at Noon and 7:00 pm]

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51:1-17

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 6: *First Sunday in Lent*

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Second Reading: Romans 10:8b-13

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

March 13: *Second Sunday in Lent*

(Daylight savings time begins early this morning.)

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(*March 13 cont.*)

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17—4:1

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

March 20: *Third Sunday in Lent*

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

March 27: *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Lent begins March 2 with Ash Wednesday Worship



Since at least the seventh century, Ash Wednesday has been observed as the first day of Lent. The name is taken from the ancient tradition of placing ashes on the foreheads of penitents. In the biblical tradition, ashes represent humiliation and repentance, human dependence on God for life. We begin the Lenten forty days acknowledging we are mortal and will die, that we lament our sins, and that we need to be washed with baptismal waters.



† 40 DAYS

Why does Ash Wednesday occur in February some years but other years can come in March?

Sunday in Lent tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter.

LENT lasts forty days,

- As did the flood of Noah,
- Moses' visit with God on Sinai,
- Elijah's walk to the mountain of God
- and Jesus' temptation in the desert

The time from Ash Wednesday until Holy Saturday results in forty days only by eliminating the Sundays, for Sunday is always a celebration of the resurrection. Sundays are "IN" rather than "OF" Lent. There are six Sundays in Lent, with the sixth being Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday.



On the Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 27, the Gospel reading is the familiar parable of the prodigal son. The word prodigal means "recklessly extravagant." Who do you identify with? the lost younger son who is prodigal in his spending; or maybe the waiting father with his extravagant love for his son on his return; or what about the faithful elder brother. This is a picture of Rembrandt's painting "The Return of the Prodigal Son." If you wish a more detailed description of the painting here is a computer link, www.rembrandtpainting.net. You may find it interesting reading to aid in your answer.

—The gospel on the First

To begin at the beginning.....you may recall that the church year begins with Advent. In review, the church year consists of two seasonal cycles—the Christmas and Easter cycles—and the periods of time after Epiphany and after Pentecost. Some dates in our church year are fixed. Governed by the fixed date of Christmas (Dec. 25), the Christmas cycle begins with the first Sunday of Advent and concludes with the Epiphany of Our Lord on January 6.

But Easter is a variable date. Easter is computed cosmologically by the movements of the sun and moon. The formula is always the first Sunday after the full moon that falls on or after March 21. For 2022 we find that the full moon after March 21 is April 16 and the first Sunday after that is April 17, Easter. And thus, going back 40 days, not including Sundays, we determine Ash Wednesday.

INVITATION TO LENT

During the service on Ash Wednesday the following invitation to Lent is addressed to the congregation:

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Disciplines of Lent
I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent — self-examination and
repentance,
prayer and fasting,
sacrificial giving and works of love.



The **DISCIPLINES OF LENT** referred to above are from the gospel reading, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. The church—that is, God’s gathered people—traditionally disciplines itself to a more deliberate approach to behavior during Lent.

Praying more intentionally.

Fasting—from food, from wasting, from many sorts of things—in order to remember our need for God’s loving kindness.

And **giving alms**: the practice of charity, the sharing of money and time and energy and self.

**HAVE MERCY ON ME, O GOD,
ACCORDING TO YOUR STEADFAST LOVE.**

(PSALM 51: 1)

*Submitted by Linda Gascho, a pew partner at St. Olaf
--from Sundays and Seasons, Year C 2021-22,
published by Augsburg Fortress*



Moving Forward with Stewardship

The Stewardship committee would like to thank everyone for returning the pledge cards in a timely fashion. While St. Olaf ended the 2021 year on a positive note we know there are challenges ahead as we **Move Forward** calling an additional Pastor. We ask that you prayerfully consider your donations and keep Your St. Olaf family in your thoughts as we **Move Forward** through 2022. This is a time for us to rise up and be good stewards of our gifts and serve one another as we **Move Forward** leaving a positive legacy for future generations.

BENEVOLENCE SUGGESTIONS

The Stewardship Committee and Church Council is requesting the congregations input regarding where the Benevolence giving should be sent.

We are suggesting for the remainder of this first quarter we give to the Lord's Cupboard in February and then The Lotus Community project in March.

This sheet can be removed from the Visitor and used as the voting card on which you may make your suggestions known. A similar card/sheet will appear in the Visitor during the latter part of the Second Quarter for you to make your suggestions to be made known for Benevolence during the Third Quarter of this year, and then, again, in the 4th quarter the same.

Please Choose One from each category for Second Quarter Benevolence.

For Local/Regional Benevolence:

- [] 1. DSAOC (Domestic Sexual Assault Outreach Center)
- [] 2. Lutheran Disaster Relief

For International Benevolence:

- [] 1. Lutheran World Relief
- [] 2. Western Iowa Synod Seminary Fund

At the bottom of this voting card/sheet is provided an area that you may make recommendations for future consideration for local, regional and international for our Benevolence giving.

After we have received the suggestions from the congregation, we, your Stewardship Committee, will choose two from each category and then those choices will be presented to the congregation on a voting card again in the Visitor for the 3rd quarter and then, again, in the 4th quarter the same.
