

St Olaf Lutheran Church
239 North 11th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Nonprofit Org
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Fort Dodge, IA

Address
Correction
Requested

To:

The Visitor Newsletter

October 2023



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

***Deadline for the articles for the visitor
newsletter is the 15th of every month.***

Worship Schedule

Sundays

9 am Traditional
10 am Fellowship
11 am Contemporary

Wednesdays

6pm

Sunday services live streamed
on our Facebook page:
St. Olaf Lutheran Church, ELCA
and
www.stolaffd.com

10:30 am 1400 KVFD AM

Office Hours

Mon - Thurs
8:30 - 4:30 PM

Note From The Pastor



It's Like Riding a Bike

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.” (Deut. 31:6)

Moses instructs the Israelites that God will fulfill his promise to make of them a great nation and God will lead his people into the Promised Land. They have been wandering in the wilderness for 40 years trying to avoid overwhelming nations. Stuck in their wandering, they have struggled with going forward with a new vision.

“It’s like riding a bike”. This is a phrase that speaks to the comfort level we have in doing things the way we always have done them. Trying something new or a different way of doing something is hard and not something we feel comfortable doing.

Destin Sandlin, an engineer, was challenged by his coworkers to try riding a bike that they built with an opposite steering mechanism. When you turn the handle bars to the right the wheel goes to the left and vice versa. He figured he could master the change rather easily. But it took him 8 months of practice in his driveway along with quite a few spills before he mastered riding this bike.

This is the challenge we are faced with in lower church attendance nationwide. Changing how we do church differently to attract people is a challenge. Just like with the backward bike, old habits are hard to change and so too are doing things differently.

First, we can practice doing faith in our “driveways”. We can share faith stories one on one with each other. Share a story of a time when you felt most spiritually alive, energized, and engaged.

Second, we can seek ways in which we can tell our faith stories and listen to others faith stories in our communities and in the activities in which we participate.

I found a good idea on line about how as a group we could ask to set up a table at a laundromat and offer to pay for cleaning their clothes and pray with or for them. Then return several times for a month or two.

Most of us are busy attending activities in which our children/grandchildren are participating. We can strike up conversations about how God has gotten us through some tough times.

Riding a backward bike and engaging people in faith stories is hard but can be done with practice. May you know the presence of Jesus as he rides beside you on your faith journey?

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jim



October is Clergy Appreciation Month!

ORGAN CONCERT

Organist: Richard J. Clark

- ◆ Organist and Director of Sacred Music Holy Cross Cathedral Boston, MA
- ◆ Director of Sacred Music for the Archdiocese of Boston, MA.

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

@ 7:00 pm

Concert is free & open to the public.

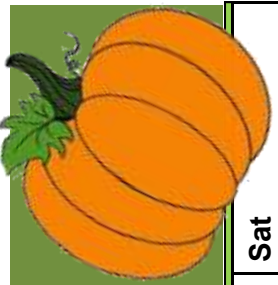
Sponsored by St Olaf Foundation

NEW MEMBERS

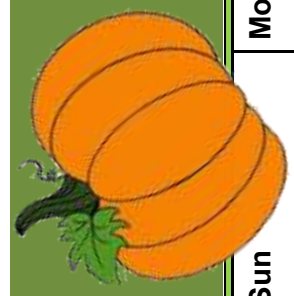
**New Members will be recognized on
Sunday, November 26 at 9:00 & 11:00
& Wednesday, November 29 at 6:00pm.**

**If you are interested in becoming a
Member of St Olaf Lutheran Church,
please call the office @ 515-576-2103.**





October 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship Pet Blessing 12:30pm	2 1pm Lifeworks 6-7pm AA Meeting	3 9am OLES 9a.m.	4 8am Better Choices Ignite 5:30 - 7pm HS Youth 7-8pm	5 4:30 Bells 5:30 Choir 5:30 Campaign Committee	6 Office Closed	7 Office Closed
8 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship	9 1pm Lifeworks 6-7pm AA Meeting	10 Daycare/Committee meetings 6pm Council Mtg 7pm	11 8am Better Choices Ignite 5:30 - 7pm HS Youth 7-8pm	12 4:30 Bells 5:30 Choir	13 Office Closed	14 Office Closed
15 9am Traditional Worship 10am Annual Meeting 11am Contemporary Worship	16 1pm Lifeworks	17 9am OLES 9a.m.	18 8am Better Choices Ignite 5:30 - 7pm HS Youth 7-8pm	19 4:30 Bells 5:30 Choir	20 Office Closed	21 Office Closed
22 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship	23 1pm Lifeworks 6-7pm AA Meeting	24 5pm Mutual Ministry	25 8am Better Choices Halloween Party for Ignite 5:30 - 7pm HS Youth 7-8pm	26 Peace Circle 1:30pm 4:30 Bells 5:30 Choir	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed
29 9am Confirmation Sunday 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship 3-5pm Trunk or Treat	30 1pm Lifeworks 6-7pm AA Meeting	31				



Brooklynn Bailey	10/1
Janet Singer	10/1
Chad Kuker	10/2
Zoey Miller	10/2
Morgan Lundberg	10/3
Michaela Newell	10/3
Autumn Johanson	10/4
Drew Bennett	10/5
Larissa Seltz	10/6
Jon Evans	10/7
Joey Vonsak	10/7
Marsha Evans	10/8
Merlin Fallon	10/8
Linda Hartman	10/8
Gracie Taylor	10/8
Jeffrey Kalvig	10/9
Jill Haden	10/10
Marcia Hade	10/11
Jordan Angstrom	10/12
Shirley Hardcastle	10/12
Karsten Bryhne	10/13
Marsha Foster	10/14
Debra Griggs	10/14
Jeremy Johnson	10/14
Nicholas Swanson	10/14
Betty Diersen	10/15

Jessica Bailey	10/16
Rhonda Strutzenberg	10/16
Brayden Reimers	10/17
Drew Szalat	10/18
Mason Zuspann	10/19
Neal Anderson	10/20
Jaxson Lindstrom	10/20
Kylie Portz	10/21
Scott Thorson	10/22
Michael Faiferlick	10/23
Rory Pearson	10/23
Brooke Bickford	10/24
Lehr Thorson	10/24
Aubriegha HabHab	10/25
Hayden Zuspann	10/26
Mason Bowman	10/26
John Glesne	10/26
Rick Duneman	10/27
Dennis Gross	10/27
Steven Beeghley	10/29
Karla Berg	10/29
Michael Clausen	10/29
Trevin Conley	10/29
Cassidy Vermeer	10/29
Kole Kampen	10/31
Maeve Mason	10/31



BOOK CLUB

The St. Olaf Book Club will meet on Monday, October 9th at 1:30 in the Gather Room. Our book this month is *THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY* by Amor Towles. Set in 1954, this book is the story of our men on cross country road trip chasing dreams and trying to put the past behind. Books are available for check out at the church. Everyone who loves to read is invited to join book club.

Call Mary Kuhlman at (515)570-3108



OLES

OLES Meetings are on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 9am. Join them October 3 and 17 for coffee and fellowship. Men of all ages are welcome!

Please feel free to join them, they only meet twice a month.



LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

ALTAR GUILD

Save the date! The annual fall meeting of Altar Guild will be Wednesday, November 1st at 4:00 at the church. New members are needed! Please join us! A short training session for new volunteers will be held after the meeting. Watch your email for more information.

CONTACT CLAUDIA HARMS OR MARY KUHLMAN FOR MORE INFORMATION.

SEW SISTERS

Our Sew Sisters are working on a new project - making quilts for the daycare. We would like to include more volunteers to cut and/or sew, and we'd really appreciate fabric scraps to use for the quilts. Volunteers may choose to work in our church basement sewing room or at home.

If you are interested, please call Nancy Hamilton at (515) 570-1731.



PEACE CIRCLE

Jane Wallestad will share the Bible Study and Carole Peters will serve refreshments. The Bible Study is *Holy Places: Sanctuary on the move, Refuge in time of trouble and Living Stones*. Sanctuary is something we are called to share, and to be, for the sake of the world. As God's people we are built together as God's sanctuary.



*Peace Circle
Bible Study*

IGNITE

What a party! Ignite kickoff was a huge success.

Approximately 100 people participated in food, fun and games. More than 40 children are registered for Ignite classes and it looks like a large confirmation class as well, with 20 of our youth already registered. Heather Oppedahl and I are very excited about our new curriculum for the year. Pre-K through 3rd grade will be working through the "Simply Loved" program. This will be a way for our kids to learn to love and develop a friendship with God and each other. The 4th through 6th graders will be working through a program called, "Be Bold" Heather will have discussions around circumstances that our youth are dealing with every day. She will share with them how a relationship with God can help them respond in a loving Christ filled way.

God is so good!

Jill

IGNITE DESSERTS NEEDED

Ignite kicked off on Wednesday, September 13th. We will be providing dinner for the families every week at 5:30pm. If you would like to donate cookies, brownies, or rice crispies for dessert, please contact

Chris Dutcher at 515-570-0229.

October Ignite Dinners

4 th	Pizza
11 th	Pasta & Meatballs Garlic Cheese Bread
18 th	Soup (Tomato & Chicken Noodle) Grilled Cheese
27 th	Special Dinner

HS YOUTH

Welcome back all youth! It feels so good to get back into IGNITE. I will be teaching the 4th-6th graders and High School youth this year in the fireside room. High School youth will be from 7pm-8pm.

Schedule for HS Youth

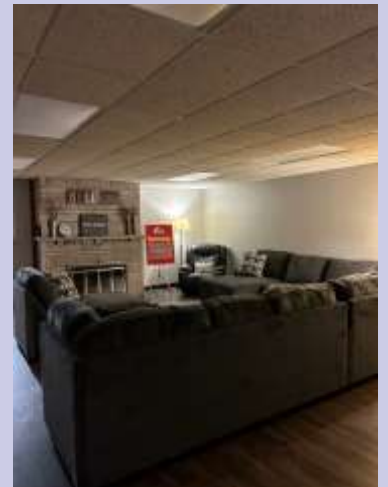
Oct 4th: Topic "People"

Oct 11th: Topic "Life Changes"

Oct: 18th: Topic "Labels"

Oct 25th: Pumpkin Painting

"What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God."
—Loren Eiseley



On behalf of the Youth and Myself here at St Olaf, we would like to give a big Thank you to our St Olaf Foundation for the new couches in the fireside room. We will enjoy our talks around the couches every week and be comfortable at the same time. Now, let's continue to fill the couches and have fun this year! Youth Rocks, Heather

LOOKING AHEAD

November

November 1 & 5—**All Saint's Day Services**

November 4 - **Pastor Emily & Joseph's Wedding 3pm**

November 8 - First bible handout at Ignite

November 22 - No Ignite or HS Youth

November 26 & 29—New Member Recognition

December

December 24 - One morning service at 10am
Two Christmas Eve services at night: 4pm and 7pm

December 26 - Office is closed

December 27 - No Ignite or HS Youth

December 31 - One service Sunday at 10am

January

January 1 - Office is closed



A decorative border of stylized witch hats with green bands and orange buckles, arranged in a repeating pattern around the edges of the purple background.

Join us for some family fun!

TRUNK OR TREAT COME AND GO

OCTOBER 29, 2023 3-5 PM

St Olaf Lutheran Church, 239 N 11th
St

Enjoy fun and fellowship! Feel free to dress in costume to match your trunk.

TRUNKS NEEDED: If interested in participating by decorating a trunk and handing out treats, please text Jenni Szalat at 515-571-7872 by October 15th

Daycare Update

Hello everyone, 😊

Renovation continues to make progress in the education wing to make rooms ready for daycare. The playground excavation and installation are well underway! Once the playground equipment installation is complete, we will have the fencing installed. The kitchen installation should be beginning soon, the sprinkler system installation is planned for the end of September and then work can begin. Bathrooms are being built, walls are going up, and every day we move a little closer. The delivery of tables, chairs, and supplies have all arrived and have been unloaded and are stored in shipping containers out back. My husband thankfully humored me and bought one for us to use at no cost and he, as well as my boys, have helped me immensely unload semis and unload trucks. We have been blessed with being able to purchase many supplies for a great price from the St. Paul kindergarten classroom as their teacher has changed positions and as well as have received a large donation of pre-school toys and supplies from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

I am anticipating opening a waitlist sometime in November. On a personal note, in my spare time, I have completed a childcare director certification course through Hawkeye Community College and am working on renewing my certification to instruct CPR/First Aid so I can teach our staff. I am enjoying getting to know more members of St. Olaf and am so thankful for the continued kindness everyone has shown me. Pray we continue to make progress in renovations to meet our December 20 construction deadline. Progress is happening and we are so excited to continue to move forward!!

~ Kathy

A Invitation from Pastor Emily & Joseph



We would like to invite you to our wedding. We will have a ceremony in our sanctuary on November 4th at 3pm. Afterwards we will have a dessert reception in our fellowship hall. We ask that you RSVP to the office or sign up at the table in the Narthex by October 20th so we can order enough refreshments. I hope you will attend! God is always working to bring about new life! Thank you, Lord, for that gift!

Peace be with you, Pastor Emily

October 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

At LSI, we celebrate all the ways professional caregivers help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful connections in their communities. LSI's Host Homes program is an innovative way Direct Support Professionals serve adults with disabilities.

Through this program, an individual moves from Supported Community Living into a private family home with a carefully selected Host Homes Provider who provides 24/7 support for the client.

“Working directly with my clients to help them complete goals and work around obstacles is my favorite part of my job,” said Erica Hill Murray, a Host Homes Provider at LSI. “I enjoy showing them that there are people in their lives who care about them, are proud of them, and proud to help them.”

Erica has helped many clients in the five years she has provided care at LSI, but one client, in particular, has made great strides under her care.

“I worked with a client who wanted to find a job or volunteer position, but she had two obstacles in her way: she had trouble using a computer, and she wasn't confident in her ability to speak in an interview,” said Erica. “I offered to look for positions on the computer with her and to call potential employers to explain what she was looking for. After working with her, we found her a volunteer position for a couple of days a week, and she was delighted.”

“She thanked me for helping her and said that she was happy that, for once, someone understood her drive to want to work,” said Erica. “I like to make a difference – even if it is small. Helping others, no matter at what level, is impactful. I love working at LSI, and I believe my position as a Host Homes Provider has been my favorite position in life.”

Stories like these are possible through our many community partners and generous donors. If you would like to learn more about how you can support crucial programming like LSI Host Homes, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and Facebook.com/LSI.Iowa.



A Message from the Lord's Cupboard

Since the beginning of 2023 we have been helping about 995 individuals in need of emergency food assistance a month. The numbers don't seem to be going down and has been increasing steadily since April of 2022. We hear more and more people are losing their SNAP assistance or having it greatly reduced. These are the working class who just don't have enough after bills to put food on the table. All expenses have gone up rent, gas, utilities and groceries. More and more people are needing a little extra help at the end of the month.

We are always in need of personal hygiene items, laundry detergent/pods and cleaning supplies. We also are in need of jelly, soups and ravioli/spaghetti's for our families.

Since starting this email Trinity United Methodist has donated a pallet of peanut butter!!! So that's why we are only asking for jelly, they have the peanut butter covered!!

Thanks for all your help!
Melanie Fierke
 Executive Director



CHURCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of a bus driver for the second Sunday of each month.

We are looking for people to join our prayer chain!

If you are able to help out, please give the office a call at 515-576-2103 or email us at office@stolaffd.com.



WORSHIP

ATTENDANCE

Service Times

Day	Date	9:00	11:00	6:00	WEATHER	Totals
Sunday	9/3	64	35	-	Sunny, 75	99
Sunday	9/10	57	40	-	Beautiful	97
Wednesday	9/13	-	-	100	Nice, 80's	100
Sunday	9/17	126	-	-	Warm	126
Wednesday	9/20	-	-	85	Nice	85
Sunday	9/24					

ALL SAINTS DAY

Join us on November 1st or November 5th for All-Saints Day worship. This is an opportunity to remember those who have been baptized or have died in the faith since last All-Saints Day. We will be lighting candles in remembrance of our loved ones. Please join us.



PASTORAL ACTS & STATISTICS

MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Balance 7/31/2023187,037.64

Receipts:

Offerings\$58,258.20
Misc. Receipts.....309.99
Total Receipts for August.....58,568.19

Disbursements:

Benevolence.....0.00
Pastoral Ministry.....23,925.21
Administration1785.17
Worship & Music..... -19,745.24
Christian Education.....415.43
Our Church Home.....9,039.28
Congregational Life607.04
Youth Ministry-0.00
Social Ministry.....0.00
Stewardship.....60.51
Previous Year Adjustments0.00
Daycare.....0.00
Building Improvements199,838.98
Architect.....0.00
Walsh & Assoc0.00
Misc Campaign Expenses3,162.11

Total disbursements for August.....219,088.49

Operating Balance 8/31/202326,517.34



CHURCH STATISTICS

Weddings: 0
Baptisms: 0
Funerals: 0

ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH— COUNCIL MEMBERS

Name/Position	Address	Email / Phone	Term Expiry
Carey Bligard	1744 Williams Dr.	515-570-4768 c	
President	Fort Dodge, IA 50501	bligard@me.com	2024
b. 7/25			
Brady Pearson	3043 Soldier Ridge Dr.	515-408-0327 c	
Vice President	Fort Dodge, IA 50501	515-576-2183 h	2024
b. 11/30		bpearsondc@gmail.com	
Pam Bygness	2410 235th Street	515-574-9395	
Treasurer	Ft. Dodge, Ia 50501	Pamela.bygness@gmail.com	2025
Erica Conley	22414 Theater Road	515-408-4113 c	
Secretary	Fort Dodge, IA 50501	econley@fdschools.org	2024
Doug Seltz	1553 Indiana Ave.	515-571-6712 c	
Property	Clare, IA 50524	515-546-6227 h	2024
b. 1/14		dseltz@wccta.net	
Linda Ulstad	1040 N 24 th Place	515-955-4038	
Christian Education	Fort Dodge, IA 50501	lulstad55@gmail.com	2024
Janet Meyne	1244 N 23rd Street	515-571-2678	
Worship and Music	Fort Dodge, IA 50501	jmeyne@gmail.com	2025
Kim Peimann	1175 Fox Ridge Rd.	515-570-8241 c	
Social Concerns	Fort Dodge, IA 50501	kpeimann@yahoo.com	2022
Jenni Szalat	1522 13th Ave N	5155717872	
Life and Growth	Fort Dodge, IA 50501	Jennifer.Szalat@unitypoint.org	2025
Chris Dutcher	20040 Sherri Lane	515-570-1514	
Youth	Fort Dodge, IA 50501		2025
Hailey Carstensen	1405 4th Ave N		
Youth Representative	Fort Dodge, IA 50501		2025
Juli Springer	1156 N 19th Street	jspringer@fdschools.org	
Long Range Planning	Fort Dodge, IA 50501		

Faith Practices

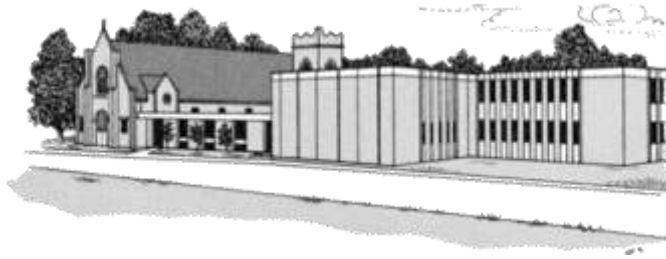
Today we are sharing five prompts to help inspire your personal spiritual time and set your intentions for the upcoming weekend. Take a moment to reflect on the following and journal your thoughts.

1. **Scripture:** “Then [Jesus] opened [the disciples’] minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:44-49).
2. **Prayer from *Bread for the Day*:** “Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.”
3. **Journal prompt:** In your own words, define “repentance” and “forgiveness.”
4. **Hymn:** “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!” (*ELW*, 393).
5. **Contemplative question:** *Spend 5-10 minutes in silence, contemplating the Scripture for today. Meditate on these questions: How might you need to forgive someone in your life? How might you need to forgive yourself?*

FOUNDATION

Exciting things are happening at St Olaf! Next year our daycare should be up and running and most construction over with. Please consider a contribution to The St Olaf Foundation so we can continue our support of our church and community.

Thanks,
Douglas Kinseth



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Due to the increased postage costs we will no longer be mailing your offering envelopes. You will need to pick these up in the narthex when they become available. If you currently give electronically or directly from your bank account and wish to refrain from receiving envelopes altogether please call the office or let a council member know so we can take your name off the list.



JOIN "BY THE BOOK"
EVERY MONDAY FROM 6-7PM
AT ST OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Olaf Staff

Pastor Emily Sauer (515) 230-2078
Pastor Jim McColley (515) 571-4473
Jade Bedel, *Office Manager* (515) 576-2103
Sheri Morud, *Financial Manager*
Jason Swedlund, *Organist & Choir Director*
Matt Drees, *Contemp. Worship Coordinator*
Ron Anderson, *Custodian*
Linda Junkman, *Head Nursery Attendant*
Pat Zeka, *Nursery Attendant*
Carey Bligard, *Council President*
Heather Oppedahl, *Youth Director*
Jill Grindberg, *Ignite Director*
Anna Miller, *Bell Choir/Wedding*
Kathy Dencklau, *Daycare Director*

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daycare@stolaffd.com

A special thanks to our St. Olaf Visitor Newsletter Volunteers:

*Melba Shelby
Sandy Hess*

*Colleen Lynch
Lucy Larson
Vera Hartman*

*Eileen Carroll
Rae Nanninga*

To the Visitor readers:

***Please let us know if your address or phone number has changed
at 515-576-2103 or office@stolaffd.com***