

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

Nonprofit Org
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Permit #434
Fort Dodge, IA

*Address
Correction
Requested*

To:

The Visitor Newsletter

September 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

6 pm

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 am

Note From The Pastor



September Newsletter 2023

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

God is always working to bring about new life. This is true at our church. I'm so encouraged by all the newness happening here. Our building is buzzing with contractors and construction. Our leadership is busy making decisions and finding new ways to reach out to Fort Dodge. Our continuing capital campaign committee will soon begin reaching out to local businesses and foundations. Our hope is to gain financial support as we work towards renovating our church building and opening our daycare center. I believe that we are serving our community in a way that is making it better for generations to come. We're a faith community that cares. This brings me such joy. I know it also brings God joy—to see us moving forward in faith and accomplishing such amazing goals to further God's kingdom. Before we know there will be babies taking naps, teachers praying with their classrooms, and laughter of children filling every nook and corner. What a gift that God has given us! God has a plan for us. It's one of HOPE and a future.



God is always working to bring about new life. This is also true for our personal lives. On October 15, 2021 my fiancé Joseph proposed to me. I said yes. I asked him to be patient with me because at that point I had been divorced 7 years. Any of you who have been divorced know how difficult it can be to navigate a new life especially with two children. Together we laugh, we cry, and we have made a commitment to talk it out even when it's hard. We have a lot to learn and I'd ask those of you with a lifetime with your partner—to share your wisdom! Pray for us too. We need God's support and your prayers mean so much! Our family is becoming something new in the gift of marriage. We will be a family of 6. Joseph has two children living at home—a 11-year-old son named Joseph in 6th grade and an 8-year-old daughter Jianna in 3rd grade. They will be moving here into our Fort Dodge home after our wedding. Joseph also has an older daughter named Kiarra who married her wife Adrianna in 2021. My son Andrew is 14 years old and a freshman and Rachel is 11 years old and in the 6th grade. We have two cats: a black cat named Olive and a Manx cat named Precious Pumpkin Pie. Some pets are extra special



with long names. Joseph owns and operates two restaurants: Burrito Mexpress in Humboldt and Burrito Mexpress in Charles City. He also has two food trucks that you'll see around Fort Dodge and surrounding communities. I highly recommend the nachos or the B-mex burrito if you're extra hungry.

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 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

PASTOR ARTICLE

Sept, 2023 A Firm Foundation

“These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don’t work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards.” (Matthew 7:24-27 The Message Bible)

I have purchased three houses in my lifetime. In each case, I looked more at the overall appearance of those houses. As I lived in them I became aware of some structural deficiency that required major and minor repairs. A house can appear beautiful but under closer inspection one might find basement walls bulging, or cracked, or signs of water damage or mold. You may find that the plumbing, electrical, heating and air conditioning are ageing and not up to code.

Similarly, we need to care for our physical bodies and yet we are not immune from having adverse health issues. It’s important to earn a living wage and to spend time with family and friends. Most importantly we need to have a firm foundation in our faith life:

Invest time into reading the scriptures: studying the scriptures, praying the scriptures, seeking the presence of God in every decision we make.

Inspect our foundation: what have we based our lives on? Allow the Holy Spirit complete access of your heart and soul; ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any area that is in spiritual disrepair; acknowledge and begin the spiritual repairs without delay; focus on every area that needs attention.

Ensure maintenance: we remain spiritually vigilant and seek to do the will of God in our lives; decide to remain faithful; determine to listen to the Holy Spirit’s prompting; disregard the temptation to spiritually coast through life.

Loving God build your firm foundation of love in us that we may withstand the trials of life and share your love with others. Amen.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Jim

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed	2
3 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship	4 Office Closed 6-7pm AA Meeting	5 9am OLES	6 8am Better Choices	7	8 Office Closed	9
10 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship	11 1pm Lifeworks 6-7pm AA Meeting	12 Daycare/Committee meetings 6pm Council Mtg 7pm	13 8am Better Choices Ignite 5:30-7pm Confirmation meetings - 6:45p & 7p HS Youth 7-8pm	14	15 Office Closed	16
17 One Service Sunday - 10am - Pastor Jim's Installation - Celebration to follow after	18 1pm Lifeworks 6-7pm AA Meeting	19 9am OLES	20 8am Better Choices Ignite 5:30 - 7pm HS Youth 7-8pm	21	22 Office Closed	23
24 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship	25 1pm Lifeworks 6-7pm AA Meeting	26 OWLS Get together 1:30pm	27 8am Better Choices Ignite 5:30 - 7pm HS Youth 7-8pm	28 Peace Circle 1:30pm	29 Office Closed	30



September Birthdays

Ilah Sandgren	9/1
Hannah Vinsand	9/1
Ashley Denclau	9/3
Kristin Swanson	9/3
Dave Stickrod	9/4
Thomas Anderson	9/5
Rickey Bowman	9/5
Vicki Kampen	9/5
Keith Bryhne	9/6
Jane Bell	9/7
Sandra Bushman	9/7
Tamara Grossnickle	9/7
Daniel O'Brion	9/7
Shannon Bushman	9/8
Karla Krog	9/9
Barbara Long	9/9
Brant Ulstad	9/9
Carol Pingel	9/10
Donald Portz	9/10
Allyson Thompson	9/10
Lane Van Every	9/10
Nahla Tharp	9/11
Ron Newsum	9/12
Howard Jensen	9/13
Colleen Lynch	9/13
Tracy Wingerson	9/13
Kurt Glesne	9/14
Suzanne Fallon	9/15
Janelle Hotz	9/15
Tammy Oester	9/15
Dianne See	9/15

Courtney Gordon	9/17
Makayla Johnson	9/18
Holden Fiedler	9/19
Deann Faiferlick	9/20
Marc Matthes	9/20
John Rockow	9/20
Jeremy Conley	9/21
James Egemo	9/21
Makayla Liska	9/21
Adam Plautz	9/21
Lydia Schiek	9/21
Willie Williams	9/21
Alec Crimmins	9/22
Andrew Josephson	9/22
Madison Bennett	9/23
Tiffany Bradfield	9/23
Millie Olson	9/24
Rachel Evans	9/25
Darrell Grove	9/25
Bonnie Pecka	9/25
Jace Yoder	9/25
Jared Yoder	9/25
Carter Wingerson	9/26
Rachel Holm	9/27
Peggy Larson	9/27
Adyn Ulstad	9/27
Cade Kofoot	9/28
Lesley Smith	9/28
Paxtyn Dencklau	9/29
Brenda Eckard	9/29
Douglas Krog	9/30



BOOK CLUB

The St. Olaf Book Club will meet on Monday, September 18th at 1:30 in the Gather Room. *Please note the date change.*

The book for the month is "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. This creative bestselling novel is about science, relationships, and cooking.

Everyone is welcome to join Book Club.
Call Mary Kuhlman for more information.



OLES

OLES Meetings are on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m. Join them September 5 and 19 for coffee and fellowship. Men of all ages are welcome!

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



Sew Sisters:



We need your help and talents cutting and sewing.

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

PASTOR JIM'S INSTALLATION

We will be having ONE 10 a.m. service on September 17. This will be Pastor Jim McColley's installation service. After, please join us for a celebration!

Please RSVP to let us know if you'll be joining us for the luncheon after the service at 515-576-2103 or office@stolaffd.com. We need to know by Tuesday, September 5.



*Peace Circle
Bible Study*

PEACE CIRCLE

Peace circle will be starting up again in September! Join them on Thursday, September 28, at 1:30pm.

Jane Zenor will be bringing refreshments and Jane Wallestad will lead bible study.

St Olaf Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl team needs you. Come join us we enjoy the new Prayer Shawl and make plans for our next creative project.

All Are Welcome!!!

If you would like a new way to bless others and be an encouragement to someone in need, sharing a prayer shawl is a blessing to all. The yarn is provided and someone will be delighted to get you started. Knit or crochet.

We will meet at the church Wednesday, September 6, at 1pm. It will be a time of fellowship, sharing, new yarn, and new shawls. A blessing of the Prayer Shawls with refreshments to be provided. For each Prayer Shawl receiver - we pray the shawl to keep you warm in God's Love. Close to his heart and at peace with yourself and others. May God's love bring healing and wholeness. Amen.

IGNITE & HS YOUTH

Ignite will be kicking off on September 13, at 5:30 p.m!
Join us for dinner, fun and games!

At 6:45pm we will have a parent/student meeting for new and returning confirmation students.
At 7pm we will have a parent/student meeting for those getting confirmed this October.

We will have the same Ignite schedule going forward after kickoff night.
Dinner will be at 5:30pm, Worship at 6pm and classes will start at 6:20pm.

HS YOUTH

Join Heather for HS Youth starting on September 13!
Join them from 7-8pm!



FOUNDATION ARTICLE

Pastor Jim in his first sermon at St Olaf told how the church is going through a transformation miracle changing our Fellowship hall wing into a daycare to welcome up to 200 children welcoming many families into St Olaf.

Thanks to all of you who donated and to the foundation, we helped make that miracle happen. I am proud to be one of the newest members of the foundation that my father and others started up many years ago.

The foundation has helped with many projects for the church and its long range planning. Please be prayerful and thoughtful in donating to the foundation to keep this grand church moving forward.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to talk to me.

Thanks again,
Mark Oester

LOOKING AHEAD

October

October 1 - Pet blessing at 12:30 p.m.

October 15 - Annual Meeting 10am

October 29 - Confirmation Sunday

November

November 5 - All Saints candle lighting at both services

November 8 - First Bible handout at Ignite

November 10 through 12 - Youth Recharge

November 22 - No Ignite or HS Youth

November 23 - Office is closed

December

December 24 - One morning service at 10 a.m.
One Christmas Eve service at night: 7 pm

December 25 & 26 - Office is closed

December 27 - No Ignite or HS Youth

December 31 - One service Sunday at 10 am



January

January 1 - Office is Closed

Leave a Legacy Gift

LSI has responded to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service for over 150 years. During this time, we've created a legacy of lifting up and empowering thousands of our Iowa neighbors, thanks to the generosity of donors like you.

You can celebrate your lifetime through a legacy gift, to ensure LSI can continue to provide lifesaving services for those in need. Many of our faithful donors want their gifts to continue after their lifetime, and have elected to leave a legacy through LSI's foundation or the ELCA foundation.

Planned gifts to LSI help to create a firm foundation for our ministry and contribute more than \$400,000 each year.

Thanks to the generous compassion of individual donors, congregations such as yours, and our ministry partners at the three synods of the ELCA, we can be confident LSI will be here to meet the changing needs of Iowans for years to come.

You Can Make a Lasting Impact

A longtime supporter of LSI turned an appreciated real estate asset into a charitable remainder unitrust agreement with the ELCA foundation. Because of this agreement, they will receive income from the trust for the remainder of their two lives, and subsequently to their two adult children for a twenty-year term. According to the actuarial tables, this gift will finally terminate in about forty years, leaving a very strong and greatly appreciated impact on LSI's future.

Another LSI donor elected to share their investment by directing a required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRA directly to LSI. The donor used this contribution to match new or increased gifts during the annual matching gift campaign.

We ask you to consider how you can make a lasting impact and leave a legacy. To learn more about planned giving opportunities, go to LSIowa.org/leave-a-legacy/ or contact Deb Whitford, LSI 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. 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](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.Iowa).



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!

We need people to bring bars or cookies to share on September 17 for Pastor Jim's Installation. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

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



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/spaghettiOs 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

Donations can brought to church and put in the shopping cart.



Fort Dodge Women's Connection

Invites all area women to a delightful brunch at TEA Thyme on September 12, 2023, 9:30 AM. The cost is \$15.

Speaker: Cynthia Sheppard from Egan, South Dakota. This farm wife, former teacher and newspaper editor delights in words and all the emotions that they convey. Laugh with her as she examines unique examples from our English language. Her weekly column is entitled "My Side of the Fence."

Title of her talk: "An Exchanged Life"

Special Feature: Lynette Stockdale from Humboldt, Iowa. She will share about the Stockdale Lavender Farm, crafts and products connected with the farm.

BRING A FRIEND!

RESERVATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL!!!

Call Kathy Meinders: 515-408-7981
 Or Marcia Johnson: 515-571-5443
 By Friday, September 8, 2023

Next Brunch October 10, 2023



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

WORSHIP

ATTENDANCE

Service Times

Day	Date	9:00	11:00	6:00	WEATHER	Totals
Sunday	7/30	81	36	-	Nice	117
Sunday	8/6	81	35	-	Rain	116
Sunday	8/13	57	31	-	Nice, Rainy	88
Sunday	8/20	75	42	-	Nice, Warm	117
Sunday	8/27	80	34	-	Beautiful	114

PASTORAL ACTS & STATISTICS

MONTHLY TREASURER’S REPORT

Operating Balance 6/30/2023 136,756.63

Receipts:

Offerings\$788,470.38
Misc. Receipts10,089.12
Total Receipts for July.....798,559.50

Disbursements:

Benevolence0.00
Pastoral Ministry22,037.48
Administration -5,562.06
Worship & Music547.60
Christian Education.....42.08
Our Church Home -196,697.74
Congregational Life2,168.77
Youth Ministry-.....2,845.63
Social Ministry0.00
Stewardship4,122.27
Previous Year Adjustments.....0.00
Daycare..... 623,213.39
Building Improvements.....103,098.92
Architect.....108,842.81
Walsh & Assoc.....69,425.30
Misc Campaign Expenses14,194.04

Total disbursements for July748,278.49

Operating Balance 7/31/2023 187,037.64

Congratulations

Lord Welcome into Your Kingdom

*Noelle Slotten and Mason Bowman
August 5, 2023*

*Linda Hansel
August 19, 1950 - August 8, 2023*

*Felix Baedke
August 6, 2023 - August 6, 2023*



CHURCH STATISTICS	
Weddings:	1
Baptisms:	0
Funerals:	2



ATTENTION OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans)

Join us for pie, coffee, or lemonade and lots of fellowship on September 26 at 1:30 p.m.!

We will be getting together here at St Olaf in the Narthex! See you there!

Linda and Pat



FINANCIAL UPDATE FROM SHERI MORUD

I wanted to share with you all, the newly updated Treasurer's Report. Upon meeting with Pastor Emily and Sue Seltz, we have added a few line items to our budget to reflect all of the changes happening in our church building. We needed to show all of the campaign gifts to date, along with the kids' fundraisers. We also needed to take into account the grant for the daycare and all of the current renovations happening. We have received money from the Foundation and have had architect and consulting fees to be paid. All in all, things are moving along and I couldn't be more thrilled with all of our forward progress!! Sheri

Please see the July report below with a few of the breakdowns. For the more detailed report, please feel free to email me at sherimorud@gmail.com and I will gladly send you a copy. The one we post in the monthly newsletter is a snippet of the complete report.

Operating Balance 6/30/23.....136,756.63

Receipts:

Offerings.....	27,370.78
Capital Campaign Gifts.....	748,232.81
Kids' Fundraisers.....	12,866.79
Misc Receipts.....	10,089.12
Total.....	798,559.50

Disbursements:

Benevolence.....	0.00
Pastoral Ministry.....	22,037.48
Administration.....	-5,562.06
Worship & Music.....	547.60
Christian Education.....	42.80
Our Church Home.....	-196,697.74
Congregational Life.....	2,168.77
Youth Ministry.....	2,845.63
Social Ministry.....	0.00
Stewardship.....	4,122.27
Prev Year Adjustments.....	0.00
Daycare.....	623,213.39
Building Improvements.....	103,098.92
Architect.....	108,842.81
Walsh & Assoc.....	69,425.30
Misc Campaign Expenses.....	14,194.04
Total.....	748,278.49

Operating Balance 7/31/23.....187,037.64

Please note that any negative number under disbursements is due to new line items being added and numbers being moved to the appropriate category

Slow Faith

Focal Verse

“This is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment just as you have heard it from the beginning—you must walk in it” (2 John 6).

Reflection

For four Saturdays this winter, I sat along a gymnasium wall watching 5- and 6-year-olds practice soccer skills. To begin, the teachers gathered the children in a circle to warm up. I watched the kids play freeze dance, run in place, stretch their arms and legs and do jumping jacks.

With his hands in his pockets, my son stood still, watching everyone else. By the time the other kids were warmed up, he may have managed one jumping jack whereas they had already worked up a sweat. When the time came to join the coaches with the soccer ball, *then* he took part. I thought maybe he'd participate in the warm-ups by the end of our four weeks—but every week he watched first before jumping into the activities.

Looking at my son, I thought about what it means to be ready on our own time and how sometimes the best faith-formation practices are those that move slowly.

I want to know that my children understand the Bible stories we read. I want to hear them recite the Lord's Prayer or teach them why we give an offering each week. We rarely see the fruits of our work as parents, especially in relation to our children's faith. Yet God calls us to the tasks of parenting, and we should trust that these small moments with our children make a difference. Words matter. Prayers matter. Showing up at church matters. The blessings we offer our kids and the ways we care for our neighbors matter.

These faith formation practices don't bring results overnight. They take time and attention and small steps. Years may pass before we see any fruit. Yet nothing is wasted, and God's grace meets us with every prayer offered, story read and song sung.

Practices

If you're wondering where to start with the children in your life, start small. Pick a children's Bible and read one story. Find a short prayer to recite together before dinner. Mark the sign of the cross on your children's heads before school. Trust that they are watching and that God's love is seeping into their hearts and minds.

Service Opportunity

Perform small acts of kindness (e.g., use chalk to write words of encouragement on sidewalks, leave a tip for a service worker, write a letter of thanks to teachers, or drop off doughnuts and coffee to first responders). Brainstorm together how you can share love with your neighbors, and sprinkle these moments of kindness throughout the month.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2023/04/slow-faith/>

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

Stewardship

“Stewardship is everything we do after we say, ‘I believe,’” said Clarence Stoughton (1895-1975), who served as executive secretary of the Lutheran Laymen’s Movement for Stewardship and as secretary of stewardship for the United Lutheran Church in America, an ELCA predecessor. An internationally known educator, Stoughton served as president of both Wagner College, New York City, and Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio.

His definition of stewardship, which has become something of a mantra for Christian stewardship leaders in North America (just Google it), becomes clear when two key elements are understood.

- First, a “steward” is a person of authority who is entrusted with the duty of managing and caring for another person’s property. More than a mere employee, a steward is endowed with a great degree of autonomy, trust and responsibility.
- Second, Stoughton’s definition relies on the biblical understanding that everything in creation, even our lives, belongs to God. No exceptions.

Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:15 describe how God created human beings in the divine image and put us in charge of what God has made. Thus, we are stewards—caretakers, managers, supervisors—given a high degree of authority and autonomy, but also commensurate responsibility. Our task as stewards represents a sacred trust and solemn duty. We carry it out in everything we think, say and do after we say, “I believe.”

Whether we cut a \$100,000 check for the building fund or place a box of macaroni and cheese in the bin for the food pantry, we give out of the material abundance with which God has entrusted us, knowing that generosity blesses not only the recipient but also the giver.

“It is more blessed to give than to receive,” Jesus is quoted as saying in Acts 20:35. We receive many blessings when we give financially—including the satisfaction of helping others or contributing to a worthy cause—but the greatest benefit may be how it changes us.

In giving financially, we break money’s powerful connection to our self-interest. In giving, we learn to be generous-hearted people who can more easily love their neighbor as themselves. This is an especially important lesson for those who are well-off.

For those who don’t have material possessions to spare, the church follows Jesus’ teaching, made clear in the story of the widow’s mite (Mark 12:41-44)—that all offerings, no matter how small, are treasured and valued. For those whose financial situation prevents them from giving monetarily, the church values and welcomes offerings of time and talent.



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*

pastoremily@stolaffd.com
pastorjim@stolaffd.com
office@stolaffd.com
sherimorud@gmail.com
jcswedlund@gmail.com
mdrees@fdschools.org
ronaldanderson@live.com
ljunkman@frontiernet.net
pzeka@frontiernet.net
bligard@me.com
youth@stolaffd.com
ignite@stolaffd.com
office@stolaffd.com
daycare@stolaffd.com

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

*Melba Shelby
Sandy Hess
Vera Hartman*

*Colleen Lynch
Lucy Larson*

*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***