

*Address
Correction
Requested*

To:

The Visitor Newsletter

November 2023



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

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in Him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 1:4-7)

Dear St. Olaf Lutheran Church,

I would like to take this time out to say a heartfelt thank you to all of you, for coming together and participating in our ministries in 2023. It's hard to believe that we're wrapping up another year of ministry and preparing for the holidays. I've been filled with such joy at the success of our *Investing in our Future Campaign!* Thank you to everyone who prayed, contributed, and led these efforts. I am happy to let you know that our building project continues to move forward with the assistance of Wisemen Construction, Dencklau Construction, Bemrich, NCIS, Allers Architect, and several others. Everything is moving forward as we hoped on our education wing! A special thank you to Doug Seltz & Craig Hamilton for volunteering their time to this project. Also, to Marc Matthes who is volunteering his times as he works with Bemrich to do some necessary updates on our technology. Our fireside room in the basement has been remodeled after it flooded this spring as well as our kitchen in the basement is operational. We've utilized these spaces heavily on our Wednesday night Ignite—we've been full to the brim with families! Thank you to Jared Federsen for all the updates! Be sure to check out the new playground on the northeast side of our property.

Our daycare director Kathy Dencklau is continuing to make plans to open *Kingdom Kids of St. Olaf* sometime in early 2024



once the renovations are completed. We have a daycare board that continues to serve as we make important decisions about pay, uniforms, and the

these efforts with a great group of volunteers from St. Olaf. Please say some prayers as we reach out to fundraise even more! Our prayer is that we can reach our \$3 million challenge goal!

These are the things we “see” at St. Olaf. There are countless other individuals sharing their gifts and talents in important ways such as playing bells in worship, counting offerings, & preparing the table for communion. We have managed to see the hand of God at work. I will be forever grateful for your support, kindness, and love. Indeed, you have revealed the true foundation of this church is kindness and love that is firmly planted in our Savior Jesus Christ. We are SO blessed! On this month of November we will prepare for Thanksgiving I invite you to take a moment to tell the Lord thank you for our church family—for the people, for our space, for our ability to worship every week.

I am thankful for YOU!

May the grace of the Lord be with you all!

Peace,

Pastor Emily

ORGAN CONCERT

Organist: Richard J. Clark

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





November 2023



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8am Better Choices Altar Guild 4-5pm All Saints Day Ignite 5:30 - 7pm HS Youth 7-8pm	2 Organ Spot Tuning Bells 4:30 Choir 5:20	3 Office Closed	4 Pastor Joseph 3pm
6 1pm Lifeworks 6-7pm AA Meeting	7 OLES 9 am Organ Concert 7pm	8 8am Better Choices Ignite 5:30 - 7pm HS Youth 7-8pm	9 Bells 4:30 Choir 5:20	10 Office Closed	11 Office Closed
13 1pm Lifeworks 6-7pm AA Meeting	14 Daycare/Committee meetings 6pm Council Mtg 7pm	15 8am Better Choices <i>First Bible Handout</i> Ignite 5:30 - 7pm HS Youth 7-8pm	16 Bells 4:30 Choir 5:20	17 Office Closed	18 Office Closed
20 1pm Lifeworks 6-7pm AA Meeting	21 OLES 9 am	22 8am Better Choices No Ignite No HS Youth	23 Office Closed Happy Thanksgiving!	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed
27 1pm Lifeworks 6-7pm AA Meeting	28 Mutual Ministry 5pm	29 8am Better Choices New Members Ignite 5:30 - 7pm HS Youth 7-8pm	30 Bells 4:30 Choir 5:20		

November Birthdays

Logan Fiedler	11/1
Randy Beckley	11/2
Kerstan Mason	11/3
Virginia Gudmonson	11/4
Jacob Szalat	11/4
Sydney Warren	11/4
Marilyn Harder Henshaw	11/5
Terry Carson	11/7
Jason Hollman	11/7
Orlin Olson	11/7
Aria Felch	11/8
Jim McColley	11/8
Shawn Bennett	11/9
Mary Bruhl	11/9
Tyler Leadley	11/9
Jonathan Berg	11/10
Jeff Crouse	11/10
Margo Harman	11/10
Nixson Dencklau	11/11
Chelsie Jaeschke	11/11
Ronald Albee Jr	11/12
Claudia Harms	11/12
Morgan Strutzenberg	11/12

Vera Hartman	11/13
Susan Lockner	11/13
David Ostheimer	11/14
Julia Sande	11/14
Sawyer Springer	11/14
Livia Kalvig	11/15
Alan Thorson	11/18
Beverly Carlson	11/19
Elena Hart	11/20
Katherine Flores	11/24
Doris Underberg	11/24
Babette Bowman	11/25
Larry Linn	11/25
Ray Fiedler	11/26
Jane Berg	11/27
Roger Williams	11/27
Darlene Dencklau	11/28
Michael Sunken	11/28
Jill Matthes	11/30
Brady Pearson	11/30
James Yoder	11/30





as "A Novel of Little Women" and is from the perspective of Margaret Marsh. It is set in 1861 and her husband has gone off to war leaving the care of her four daughters all up to her. Books are available for check out at the church. Everyone is welcome to attend.

OWLES

OWLES Meetings are on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 9am. Join them November 7 and 21 for coffee and fellowship. Men of all ages are welcome!



Please feel free to join them, they only meet twice

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.

OWLS

We would like to thank everyone who attended our Owls get together. Also a big thank you to Kathy Dencklau and Pastor Jim for being our speakers. It was very interesting and informative. Next gathering will be December. More details later.

Pat & Linda

SOCIAL CONCERNS NEEDS PIES

We need Pies! The Social Concerns Committee needs pies for the annual Manna Meal. The Manna Meal is a community outreach to provide a meal to individuals when funds and resources are low. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to sign up. Pies should be delivered to the church on Saturday, Nov. 18.



Peace Circle

PEACE CIRCLE

Our next meeting will be November 16 at 1:30. Note that we are meeting the third week because of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Refreshments will be served.

It's hard to believe that we are going into our busy time of the year. School activities, traveling sports, school concerts, holiday shopping, and so much more. Getaway on Wednesday nights for a few quick hours and join us. Parents, I encourage you to come and eat with your child and then sit with them for a quick worship before class time. It's so much fun hearing our youth singing loud and praying together. Let's continue to fill up our Sanctuary for IGNITE!

4th-6th grade IGNITE class is so much fun! I am really having a great time with this group. We continue to meet in the fireside room and continue to have 16 youth come every week. This group loves to give real life examples during class during discussions and I am very thankful for teaching them this year.

Here is our November Schedule:

Nov 1st "Being Truthful"

Nov 8th "How did the world come to be"

Nov 15th Thanksgiving Activity

Nov 22nd No Ignite

Nov 29th "Does God care about how I use my time"



Our High School Youth continues to meet every Wednesday at 7pm. We continue to grow with our high school youth group every week. A lot of our talks have been on everyday life of a high school student. Being responsible, dealing with drama, and balancing days with family, school, activities, and work. I enjoy my time ending the night with these kids.

Here is our High School November Schedule:

Nov 1st Topic "Family Time"

Nov 8th Topic "True Friends"

Nov 15th Thanksgiving Activity (will start at 530pm and end at 7pm

Nov 22nd No Youth

Nov 29th Topic "What are you Thankful for?"



Happy Thanksgiving!

appreciated.

A few more volunteers to help prep, cook and clean up after the dinner are needed. Having more volunteers would help provide coverage when someone is unable to make it or a rotating schedule could be set up.

Many hands make light work.

Thank you!!
Chris

	Grilled Cheese Dessert	2. 3.
8 th	Pancakes Scrambled Eggs Sausage Patties	1. Vera Hartman 2. Dave Dutcher 3.
15 th	Dinner arranged by Jill Grindberg & Heather Oppedahl	
29 th	Walking Tacos Mexican Fried Ice Cream	1. Vera Hartman 2. 3.

LOOKING AHEAD

November

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

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

November 15 - First bible handout at Ignite

November 19 - Intergenerational Event

November 22 - No Ignite or HS Youth

November 26 & 29—New Member Recognition

December

December 24 - One morning service at 10am
One Christmas Eve services at night: 7:00 pm

December 26 - Office is closed

December 27 - No Ignite or HS Youth

have been taking part. Our new curriculum has brought much enthusiasm to the classes.

Our special event in November will be a Thanksgiving blessing. The details are yet to be finalized, but watch for updates as we get closer.

The date for this is November 22nd.

Jill

Intergenerational Event

St Olaf Fellowship Hall

November 19th 10:15 AM

Ten Commandments Games

(Presented by our Confirmation kids)

DAYCARE

Daycare renovations are moving forward day by day! We are seeing a lot of progress in getting the building ready. I have learned not to walk through often so that when I do wander through, I can see the progress happening! Day by day new HVAC is installed, and heat and electrical components are being installed.

The new hood vent for the upstairs kitchen has finally arrived and the electric crew will be working on getting that installed. Once the big hood and a heater are installed in the kitchen, we can get to work getting the kitchen renovation started. We have put a lot of thought into the kitchen area to make it more user-friendly. A new handwashing sink will be going in, a three-compartment sink as well as a deeper farmhouse-style sink that will allow for roaster pans and bigger pots to be washed more easily. There will be two island areas to allow for better functionality within the kitchen. We plan to utilize the dishwasher that was previously in the kitchen as well as add an under-counter dishwasher for smaller loads.

The back door area near the kitchen is getting prepped for a new handicap-accessible ramp and sidewalk extending out to where the fence will be for the playground.

The playground equipment has arrived, and the company did a great job of putting the structures together. I was so impressed to watch the progress of the equipment installation. The pour-in-place surfacing is installed and looks great!! Our shade structures will be getting installed over the next few weeks as well as the fencing.

Construction is anticipated to be completed at the end of December. Please pray construction continues to remain on track and that we continue to have forward motion! We are planning on taking January to set up rooms, hire employees, and prepare for opening.

I am anticipating opening our official waitlist sometime in November. We will send out an announcement as well as post on our daycare Facebook page Kingdom Kids of St. Olaf. I am excited to think in just a few

Fall has officially arrived with this cold weather. With that we start to look forward to our holiday seasons. The Lord's Cupboard has been very busy again in 2023. We give food to around 1,000 people every month. We couldn't do it without the generosity of our community. We are so grateful for all your support: dry good donations, garden donations, plastic bags, toiletries, personal hygiene items, volunteering your time and talents and monetary donations.

We try to have available items that are a holiday treat because sometimes people can't afford to purchase these extras. We won't be purchasing turkeys but will have hams and pork loins available for meat choices. If people want to donate meat, we will gladly accept it as long as it is still in its original packaging.

For Thanksgiving:

Everyone loves stuffing, canned gravy, or gravy packets. We also like to give out bags with all the fixings for a holiday pie. I have a local girl scout troop making 50 pumpkin pie bags. We would love more options if your church wants to make up bags or even just donate some of the fixings for pie. Please have the Thanksgiving items delivered by November 13 so we can give them out before the holiday.

For Christmas:

It has now become a tradition here at the Lord's Cupboard during the Christmas season to let clients pick between cake or cookie mix and then choose their favorite canned frosting. Please have the Christmas items delivered by December 11.

If you are still receiving items after the date, please bring them in whenever you can. Clients will still be happy to take the holiday items.

Thank you again for all your support. We truly couldn't do it without you!

Melanie Fierke
Executive Director



“If you can't feed a hundred people, feed just one.” Mother Teresa

SOCIAL CONCERNS
COLLECTION

Personal Care products, housekeeping items and paper products (shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, plastic trash bags, laundry soap, dish soap, paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, for example) donations are needed. These items will be used for BINGO prizes at the annual Manna Meal sponsored by St Olaf's Social Concerns Committee. Please drop your

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

and homes to children and teens. This month at LSI, we celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption and raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children needing a safe, healthy home.

Iowa foster families, like the Smiths*, raise the bar by opening their loving households to children and teens in need of a place to call home.

At LSI, we understand the importance of keeping youth in their communities to help maintain connections and stability during times of transition. So, when our staff received a referral for a teenage girl needing foster care placement, they looked inward toward the community.

At the time, homes in the area were either full or not open to accepting teenage placements. Coincidentally, the Smiths were present at a meeting the same night the referral came in. When they heard about Rebecca's* situation, they immediately knew who the child was and wanted to help in any way they could.

The Smiths were already over their licensing capacity, having been granted a variance to accept a sibling group. To be able to bring Rebecca into their home, they would need to be given another variance, which was almost unheard of.

"It was by chance, or the grace of God, that the Smiths were able to accept another child, and give Rebecca a stable placement with a family in her community," said Dawn Luetje, LSI Director of Resource Family Licensing and Support, working in conjunction with Four Oaks Family Connections.

Thanks to the combined support of the Smiths, LSI staff, and the community, Rebecca was placed in the foster home, where she could maintain her daily activities with the teachers, coaches, and friends she was comfortable with. Rebecca continues to thrive in a stable, loving foster home environment and a caring community.

Stories like these are possible through our many community partners and generous donors. To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit LSIowa.org/Foster, or contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

*Names have been changed to protect client privacy.

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](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.Iowa).



Did you know Every month, on the 3rd Tuesday, different groups and committees here at St Olaf offer to make meals for the men at the Beacon of Hope?

This month the St Olaf Youth will be making and serving dinner at 5pm. If you'd like to donate your time or money to help offset the costs, that would be greatly appreciated.

Beacon of Hope provides a safe and secure emergency shelter to homeless adult men: offering shelter, clothing and food, for temporary assistance to create opportunities and programs in working towards self-sufficiency .

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
Wednesday	9/27	-	-	85	Warm	85
Sunday	10/1	72	62	-	Sunny 73	134
Wednesday	10/4	-	-	105	-	105
Sunday	10/8	77	55	-	Sunny/cool	132
Wednesday	10/11	-	-	82	-	82
Sunday	10/15	84	33	-	Cloudy/cool	117
Wednesday	10/18	-	-	85	-	85

Receipts:	
Offerings	\$32,226.85
Misc. Receipts	299,546.43
Total Receipts for September	<u>331,773.28</u>

Disbursements:	
Benevolence.....	10,000.00
Pastoral Ministry.....	30,796.37
Administration	523.65
Worship & Music	1,687.64
Christian Education	2,915.74
Our Church Home	3,844.96
Congregational Life	416.73
Youth Ministry-	100.00
Social Ministry	165.99
Stewardship	387.13
Previous Year Adjustments	0.00
Daycare.....	4,962.40
Building Improvements	392,465.09
Architect	1,149.12
Walsh & Assoc	0.00
Misc Campaign Expenses.....	3,714.75.
Loan Repay – Foundation.....	5,000.00
Misc. Fees.....	103.30
Total disbursements for September	<u>458,232.87</u>

Operating Balance 9/30/2023 -99,942.25

Welcome to the Lord's Family

Lord Welcome into Your Kingdom

Emery Hanrahan 10/1/23

Evelyn Bygness 10/22/23



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	1156 N 19th Street	jspringer@fdschools.org	

*Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,
The one eternal God whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was is now and shall be evermore.*

This most beautiful song reminds us of the source of our many blessings. Take time to give thanks for all that you have, and if you find you have more than you need, be sure to share.

Happy Thanksgiving from the St. Olaf Foundation!

Submitted by Anna Miller



SOCIAL CONCERNS CHRISTMAS PROJECT



This year we will be collecting items for DSOC.



Stay tuned for more information!



JOIN "BY THE BOOK"

CAKE.COOKIE MIX.FROSTING

Please bring your donations of Cake mixes, cookie mixes and Frosting to St Olaf.

It has become a tradition at the Lord's Cupboard during the Christmas season to let clients pick between cake or cookie mix and then choose their favorite canned frosting. Please have the Christmas items at church by December 10, place them in the box outside of the office, and Social Concerns will deliver them to

St. Olaf Stain

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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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