

# Note From The Pastor



*A reading from Romans: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 6:3-5)*



Daniel and Emmitt



Khalani, Nico, Pipar,  
Wilder and Willie



Baby Amelia



Isabelle

Greetings! Happy New Year to you and your family! One of the blessings from our 2023 year of ministry is that we had 28 baptisms. Isn't that amazing? God is good! We are already beginning to fill our church calendar with baptisms in 2024 and we will celebrate the first one on January 7<sup>th</sup>. That Sunday will be the Baptism of our Lord festival day, which means you will have an opportunity to remember your own baptism. Our baptism sets us out on a lifelong journey in our relationship with God and our faith community and in the world. The liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism describes the faith practices that grow out of our baptism (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, page 236). We are to "...**live** among God's faithful people; **hear** the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper; **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; **serve** all people following the example of Jesus; and **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth."

This is a time to recall your own baptism story. How old were you? Who was present? What church did it happen in? What was the name of the pastor who baptized you? Who are your godparents? We each have a baptismal story. Jesus has called each of us to be a part of the body of Christ. We are all God's children and what a special gift that is for us! Together we will meet at the font and dip our finger into our font. We will then mark ourselves "in the name of the Father, and of the Son+, and of the Holy Spirit." How has our Triune God been with you? Where have you experienced God as a loving parent? Where have you felt Jesus walking with you? Where has the Spirit stirred in you to move forward in faith? All of you have a story that needs to be told.

Let us pray...

*Almighty God,  
who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit  
and forgives us all our sins,  
strengthen us in all goodness  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit  
keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

Peace be with you,

Pastor Emily Sauer

# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 Office Closed  6-7pm AA Meeting	2 OLES 9am	3 Better Choices  No Ignite No HS Youth	4	5 Office Closed	6
7	8 Lifeworks 1pm Book club 1:30pm 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	9 Education Mtg 6-7 Council Mtg 7-8 Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	10 Better Choices  IGNITE 5:15-7pm Worship 6pm HS Youth 7-8pm	11	12 Office Closed	13
14	15 Lifeworks 1pm  6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-	16 OLES 9am  Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	17 Better Choices  IGNITE 5:15-7pm Worship 6pm HS Youth 7-8pm	18	19 Office Closed	20
21	22 Lifeworks 1pm  6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	23  Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	24 Better Choices  IGNITE 5:15-7pm Worship 6pm HS Youth 7-8pm	25 Peace Circle @ 1:30p	26 Office Closed	27
28	29 Lifeworks 1pm  6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	30  Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	31 Better Choices  IGNITE 5:15-7pm Worship 6pm HS Youth 7-8pm	1	2	3



Ronald Allbee	1/1
Sam Hartman	1/1
Kim Leadley	1/1
Mary Thompson	1/1
Sonia Kvale	1/2
Amy Crouse	1/3
Diane Bickford	1/4
Brennen Stickrod	1/4
Austin Read	1/5
Hannah Beshey	1/8
David Dutcher	1/8
Steven Poldevaart	1/9
Jennifer Durschmidt	1/10
Becky Ostheimer	1/10
Rebecca Read	1/10
TayLeigh Smith	1/10
Linda Fletcher	1/11
Monica McCullough	1/12
Zoey Possehn	1/12
Chase Anderson	1/13
Robert Secor	1/13
Doug Seltz	1/14
Jacob Stickrod	1/14
Bailey Ulstad	1/14
Karine Feddersen	1/15

Nicole Cook	1/16
Kelly Foster	1/16
Haydyn Harman	1/16
Ashton Kuker	1/16
Madison Bowman	1/18
Avery Bryhne	1/19
Miles Krog	1/19
Dawn Larson	1/19
Shane Liska	1/21
John Josephson	1/22
Alisha Marsh	1/23
Randall Puls	1/23
Marie Feddersen	1/25
Carole Peters	1/25
Bradley Bushman	1/26
Justin Faiferlick	1/26
Stacy Hendrickson	1/26
Nicole Henricks	1/27
Dorothy Mason	1/28
Zachary Larson	1/30
Gabrielle Flores	1/31
William Secor Jr	1/31
Jessica Vonsak	1/31
Baylie Wingerson	1/31



## BOOK CLUB



The St. Olaf Book Club will meet on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in the Gather Room. Our book for this month is about the first woman veterinarian, The Invincible Miss Cust by Penny Haw. Set in Britain from 1874-1922, it is the story of the ambition and determination of a young woman who wants to realize her career goal. Books can be checked out at the church. All are welcome to come to book club.

## OLES

OLES meetings are on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 9 a.m. Join them January 2nd and 16th for coffee and fellowship.

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

## ALTAR GUILD

**WHO:** Willing servants of the Lord. Some of you may be receiving a phone call!

**WHAT:** Set up/clean up communion, set up for baptisms, and change altar cloths as a member of Altar Guild.

**WHEN:** Serve on a team with one or two other workers one or two months a year. Prepare for all Sunday communion services during your service month, set up for baptisms as needed during your month, and change altar cloths if the church season changes during your month.

**TRAINING PROVIDED**

**BENEFITS:** Serving God and St. Olaf.

For more information contact Claudia Harms or Mary Kuhlman

**HELP  
WANTED**

## PEACE CIRCLE

The next meeting will be  
**Thursday, January 25 @ 1:30 p.m.**  
Eileen Carroll will be leading Bible Study.  
Linda Junkman will be bringing treats.

**BIBLE  
STUDY**

## IGNITE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

A special thank you Heather Oppedahl and Jill Grindberg for their work with our St Olaf kiddos on the Christmas Program. We appreciate all of the love you share with our church family.

We would also like to give a big thank you to Marc Matthes, Marcia Kuker, Ron Anderson, Pastor Emily, Pastor Jim, Jade Bedel and all Ignite volunteers for your help with our Christmas program this year. We couldn't do this without you!

Ignite and HS Youth will start back up on January 10th. There are sign up sheets for kitchen help/clean up and to bring desserts on the table with the bulletins.

**Reminder that meals will start at 5:30pm in January.**

Jan 10 - subs

Jan 17 - pasta

Jan 24 - pizza

Jan 31 - maidrites

**See you in the New Year!**

## DECEMBER GIVING



DSOAC - Monica McCullough and Janet Meyne



Backpack Buddies - Juli Springer, Erica Conley, and Mason Liska



Salvation Army - Bev Davis and Pam Bygness



YWCA - Carrie Jo Pearson

# IGNITE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



## SOCIAL CONCERNS

The St Olaf Social Concerns committee was very busy this holiday season! We cooked and served dinner at the Beacon in both November and December. The Manna meal was held on November 18, we served over 60 people and provided prizes for the BINGO game. Our group together 20 gift bags for our Lifeworks helpers, purchased and wrapped up 50 gift bags (hats, gloves, stocking caps & a treat) for the guys at the beacon. We also Delivered a huge amount of items to DSAOC as well as gas cards and Menards cards for upkeep of the shelter. Thank you to all of the Social Concerns helpers and to the Congregation for making this years Christmas gift drive a huge success!

Happy New Year!  
Kim Peimann



Committee members: Linda Cartee, Nancy Hamilton, Vera Hartman, Linda Junkman, Dawn Larson, Lynda Mumm, Viv Nore, Sue Seltz, and Faith Williams.





# OWLS CHRISTMAS PARTY





We want to thank everyone who made it possible for OWLS Christmas Party - volunteers, our donor, and the "Generations of Love" group. A big thank you to all who came to enjoy the day! Our next OWLS program will be in March - keep an eye out for the update!

- Linda Junkman and Volunteers

**OLDER WISER LUTHERANS**



# NEW MEMBER WELCOME



Clayton, Katie, Rennick, Wynnie,  
Roscoe and Saylor Bills



Butch and Jane Forbes



Zach Felch



Greg and Kathy Dencklau



Marcus, Nico, and Khalani Ruiz



Brandon, Marshall, and Avaliegh Dencklau,  
Keely Draper and Ember Fair

## Polar Express Movie Night



## LOOKING AHEAD

### March

March 1 - Foundation Scholarship Deadline

March 26 - OWLS Get together @ 1:30pm

March 31 - Easter Sunday

### April

April 1 - Office Closed

## ST. OLAF FOUNDATION

The purpose of the St. Olaf Foundation is to promote, encourage and aid religious, charitable, literary, educational and benevolent projects. One way the Foundation does this is by providing scholarships to members preparing to further their education. In 2023 the Foundation awarded over \$40,000 in educational support to sixteen students and two Lutheran seminaries. The students are attending eight different colleges and universities which include ICCC, ISU, University of Iowa, UNI, Bemidji State University, Kirkwood Community College, St. Luke's College and Wartburg Seminary. The Foundation sends seminary support to Luther Seminary and Wartburg Theological Seminary annually. This scholarship is available to any member of St. Olaf who will be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student during the 2024-2025 school year. The scholarship application deadline is March 1, 2024. Applicants must apply each year in order to be considered for a scholarship. Another scholarship opportunity is the Mark Olson Memorial Scholarship. This is available to applicants pursuing an education in a healthcare related field. Applications will be available on the church website, [www.stolaffd.com](http://www.stolaffd.com), or in the church office. The St. Olaf Foundation exists through the generosity of the St. Olaf congregation and others. Please consider a contribution to the St. Olaf Foundation when planning your giving.

Blessings  
Megan Ruzicka



## ST. OLAF PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Who are the shawls for? Anyone who is in need of prayer, hope, comfort, and love may have a shawl. For members of St. Olaf and beyond. The ladies have been working hard, so there is a lovely variety of beautiful shawls available.

If you know of anyone who would be blessed by a prayer shawl or could use one your self, please contact Carole Peters. She will assist you to find just the right prayer shawl to be a blessing in any situation. Thank you for your important part in this St. Olaf ministry.



## Amplifying the Voices of Iowa Children and Families

Individuals struggle without access to critical healthcare and family support services. Human service providers are overworked and underpaid. Former refugees and immigrants strive to build new lives in the U.S.

These are all issues faced by Iowans from all different walks of life. Join Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) to advocate for our community members at Lutheran Day on the Hill (LDH) on **Monday, February 19, 2024.**

In partnership with the three Iowa synods of the ELCA, LDH is LSI's biggest day of advocacy. Over 150 participants gather at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church in Des Moines to learn about critical issues Iowa children, adults, and families are facing. You'll learn more about the legislative process, the issues impacting your neighbors, and your role as a citizen in helping to amplify their voices.

After learning how to advocate for our neighbors, the group heads to the Iowa State Capitol to talk directly with legislators.

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](http://LSIowa.org) and [Facebook.com/LSI.Iowa](https://Facebook.com/LSI.Iowa).



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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS CUPBOARD



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 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.



## HEARTLAND HOPE AND HOMES

To the members and attendees of the congregation, we at Heartland Hope and Homes are searching for reliable volunteers that are feeling called to make a commitment to helping folks in our local area.

We are seeking store volunteers that can lift furniture, clean various items, and arrange products. Our HomeStore accepts donated items, and then recycles and resells them. With those proceeds, we do projects such as ramps, repairs, and renovations, in our Fort Dodge community, for those in need.

We are also seeking individuals who can go out and pick up furniture to bring back to the HomeStore.

Plus, we would ask for highly skilled volunteers who possess the ability to help with repairs, renovations, and building projects.

Lastly, monetary donations, or donations of home goods, and home building materials would be greatly appreciated at this time.

We believe our mission is a Christlike, hands-on experience for those looking for that type of servanthood. The sense of satisfaction derived from giving back is also a plus, thus creating a win/win for the individual, and the surrounding community.

Please consider donating your skills to this important Christian endeavor. You can make a difference in the lives of others!

You can contact us at: (515)576-4316, or stop by the HomeStore at 118 N. 12<sup>th</sup> St.

Sincerely,  
Shari Lehman – Development Officer – Heartland Hope and Homes and staff

# PASTORAL ACTS & STATISTICS

## MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Balance 10/31/2023 ..... 204,611.96

### Receipts:

Offerings ..... \$502,135.66  
Misc. Receipts..... 31,557.58  
Total Receipts for November.....533,693.24

### Disbursements:

Benevolence..... 200.00  
Pastoral Ministry..... 28,756.01  
Administration ..... 10,297.79  
Worship & Music..... 1,312.80  
Christian Education..... 1,458.69  
Our Church Home..... 3,628.04  
Congregational Life ..... 1,109.77  
Youth Ministry- ..... 0.00  
Social Ministry..... 0.00  
Stewardship..... 45.34  
Previous Year Adjustments ..... 0.00  
Daycare..... 0.00  
Building Improvements ..... 568,839.45  
Architect..... 1,149.12  
Walsh & Assoc ..... 0.00  
Misc Campaign Expenses..... 272.00.  
Loan Repay – Foundation..... 1,000.00  
  
Total disbursements for November ..... 618,069.01

**Operating Balance 11/30/2023 ..... 120,236.19**