

Note From The Pastor



April 2024 Crisis: The Empty Tomb

A mother is shopping with her five year old son in a busy shopping mall. She is distracted when another shopper asks where the rest room is located. After giving directions she looks down and doesn't know where her son is and frantically begins yelling and searching for him; every parent's nightmare. After ten minutes of searching she is amazed to find him just a few feet away amidst some clothing racks.

One can imagine the grief the women felt at the death of Jesus. The narrative tells of the gruesome humiliating torture and death of Jesus on the cross. Then, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Jesus, and Salome go to the tomb of Jesus to anoint his body and as they enter the tomb they see a young man in a white robe who tells them that Jesus has gone ahead to Galilee and to go tell his disciples that he has been raised. But the story ends with the women terrified and they said nothing to anyone.

This is a crisis moment. In fact the whole Gospel is a crisis moment into which Jesus is born. Palestine and Jerusalem are under Roman occupation. Ninety percent of the population is living in poverty. Jesus confronts all of the crises of his time seeking justice, healing, and comfort for all. His confrontation with the status quo of injustice leads to a humiliating death on a cross. Mark's Gospel ends with his followers afraid and hiding out, not knowing what to do now that Jesus is dead.

This past year for us has been filled with crises of fear and frustration: Mass shootings, natural disasters, wars in Ukraine and Gaza and political gridlock continue with no end in sight. Even our soon to open Kingdom Kids Daycare has been fraught with setbacks. We cry out, "Where is God?" Jesus is not here (in the tomb). He has gone before you into Galilee, just as he told you.

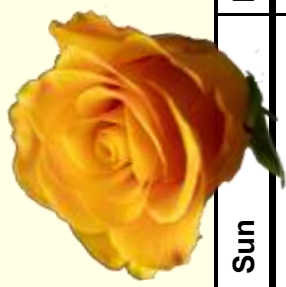
We know that God has been with us at St Olaf in our efforts to open a daycare to be a safe place of Christ's love for little children. We will soon fill an empty tomb in this St Olaf building with the sounds of little children.

We trust that Jesus goes before us and has already paved the way. God calls us to go out, in our freedom in Jesus Christ, to spread the Good News that Jesus is alive. He has been raised from the dead. God has sent the Holy Spirit, our advocate to empower us to boldly confront the injustices of this world and to care for the needs of others in the powerful name of Jesus. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jim

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	2 OLES 9am Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	3 Better Choices 8am IGNITE 5:15-7pm Worship 6pm HS Youth 7-8pm	4 Lifeworks 1pm	5 Office Closed	6
7 One Service - 10am Worship Daycare Blessing and Celebration after service	8 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	9 Committees 6pm Council 7pm Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	10 Better Choices 8am IGNITE 5:15-7pm Worship 6pm HS Youth 7-8pm	11 Lifeworks 1pm	12 Office Closed	13
14 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship	15 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	16 OLES 9am Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	17 Better Choices 8am IGNITE 5:15-7pm Worship 6pm HS Youth 7-8pm	18 Lifeworks 1pm	19 Office Closed	20
21 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship	22 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	23 Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	24 Better Choices 8am IGNITE 5:15-7pm Worship 6pm HS Youth 7-8pm	25 Lifeworks 1pm	26 Office Closed	27
28 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship	29 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	30 Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm				





Gregg Haden	4/1
Jeff Kampen	4/1
Jessica Hansen	4/2
Connor Mallinger	4/2
Joseph Warland	4/2
Kaden Pederson	4/3
Lucas Trost	4/3
Chad Carr	4/4
Nora Drees	4/5
Tina Swanson	4/6
Tyler Marsh	4/6
Kim Peimann	4/6
Brenda Angstrom	4/7
Shannon Hartman	4/7
Marshall Dencklau	4/8
Jonathan Best	4/9
Karissa Cruz	4/9
Terry Miller	4/9
Anders Warren	4/9
June Algoe	4/10
Mark Oester	4/12
Noah Bushman	4/12
Doug Berg	4/12
Mary Crimmins	4/12
Lori Cook	4/13
Colton Sortedahl	4/13

Ron Mortensen	4/15
Larry Rohrer	4/15
Lauren Kuker	4/16
Wendy Anderson	4/17
Paul Anderson	4/19
Park Fulton	4/19
Laurynn Anderson	4/19
Dan See	4/20
Alison O'Brion	4/20
Macy Vorrie	4/21
Sue Seltz	4/22
Ava Srtedahl	4/22
Emily Sauer-Alvarez	4/22
Winter Cruz	4/22
Stacy Christensen	4/23
James Fletcher	4/23
Austin Wesley	4/24
Tessa Berg	4/24
Denise Petersen	4/24
Andrew Horrell	4/24
Marcia Kuker	4/25
Alec Johanson	4/25
Charley Angstrom	4/25
Linda Gascho	4/26
Beth Beeghley	4/30



BOOK CLUB

The St. Olaf Book Club will meet on Monday, April 8th at 1:30 in the Gather Room. Our book for the month is **THE NEXT SHIP HOME** by Heather Webb. This is historical fiction about two young women immigrants and the challenges they face in the early twentieth century. The plot focuses on Ellis Island and reveals some dark secrets.

Books can be checked out at the church.
All are welcome to attend.



OLES

OLES meetings are on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m. Join them April 2 and 16 for coffee and fellowship. Men of all ages 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.

IGNITE

We are looking for sponsors to donate meals on Wednesday nights. The meals cost \$250-500/week to feed around 100 people or \$3.50-5.00/person. If you would be willing to help offset the cost, please call the Church Office.

We will need desserts starting again on April 3. Doesn't need to be homemade.

Last night of Ignite is May 15.

Ignite schedule:

Dinner at 5:30 pm
Worship at 6 pm
Classes at 6:20 pm



DAYCARE BLESSING & TOUR

On Sunday, April 7, we will be having one service at 10am.

Without your help we wouldn't have been able to open a daycare center so we invite you to join us afterwards. We will be having a luncheon, doing a blessing of the daycare and a tour.

There's a sign up on the bulletin table or you can let the office know by April 1 if you plan to attend the luncheon so we can have a headcount.



PEACE CIRCLE

The next meeting will be March 28 at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone is welcome to join.

Bible Study: Eileen Carroll
Refreshments: Jane Zenor



FLOWERS

There are several spots open on the flower signup poster throughout the rest of the year if you're interested in donating flowers/bus/radio for that Sunday.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN/DAYCARE RENOVATIONS UPDATE

I wanted to give an update on our Capital Campaign and daycare renovations to date.

*2023 Gifts totaled \$1,430,797, while our building improvements came to a total of \$1,857,367.

*2024 Gifts (to date) totaled \$548,039, with expenses of \$93,849.

*We received a \$250,000 line of credit from the Foundation, which we are paying back in monthly installments.

*Our balance with Wiseman Contracting is approx. \$316,838 plus we will owe Dencklau Construction for the kitchen remodel.

*We were approved for a mortgage loan in the amount of \$1.8 million from Mission Investment Fund. We have borrowed only \$650,000 and will be able to cover the last of the Wiseman and Dencklau bills with these funds. We pay on the interest monthly until construction is complete. The plan is for the new daycare to take over these payments after their first 6 months in operation.

*As the remainder of the campaign gifts come in over the next 2 years, we will continue to make the monthly payments to the Foundation and MIF, as well as, Complete the new handicapped entrance on our West side.

I know I speak for both the daycare committee and the campaign committee as I say "Thank You!!" for all of your dedication to our church and your commitment to build a child care center within it's walls. We started this journey over 3 years ago, and are just about ready to open it's doors. I am so excited to share what God has provided for us. See you in April!

Sheri Morud
Financial Manager

First Communion

Congratulations to Landry McKinney, Nahla Tharp, Isla Larson, Willie Williams Jr, and Jacob Stickrod on their First Communion that was celebrated on March 3.





Isla Larson



Willie Williams Jr



Landry McKinney



Jacob Stickrod



Nahla Tharp



LOOKING AHEAD - SUNDAYS

April 7

Reader: Emmaly Durschmidt
Ushers: Randy Puls, Eileen Carroll,
Doug Kinseth
Communion: Vera Hartman, Stacy
Hendrickson, Lynda Mumm
Bus: Fran Long
Sound: Bob Younie

April 14

Reader: Stacy Hendrickson
Ushers: Mitch Craigmile, Doug Seltz
Bus: Fran Long
Sound: Mark Oester

April 21

Reader: Viv Nore
Ushers: Rick Kuhlman, David Osterberg,
Fran Long
Communion: Pam Bygness, Viv Nore
Bus: Dennis Gross
Sound: Marc Matthes

April 28

Reader: Nancy Hamilton
Ushers: Craig Hamilton, Viv Nore,
Karla Berg
Bus: Dan O'Brion
Sound: Bob Younie

***If you are unable to attend your Sunday,
please let the office know asap so we
can find a replacement.***

LOOKING AHEAD

May

May 15 - Last night of Ignite
May 27 - Memorial Day - Office Closed

June

June 25 - OWLS @ 1:30pm

ST. OLAF PRAYER SHAWL MINIS- TRY

***We have at least one baptism every week-
end from March 31 – May 5!
We need your help!***

We invite both members and people outside of St Olaf to join us in replenishing our prayer shawls and baptism shawls. What does Prayer Shawl ministry do? We create beautiful shawls to bless others who are going through a difficult

Reach out to Jane Wallestad if interested!

**There is always someone to help you
get started to knit or crochet.
All supplies are provided.**



ST. OLAF FOUNDATION

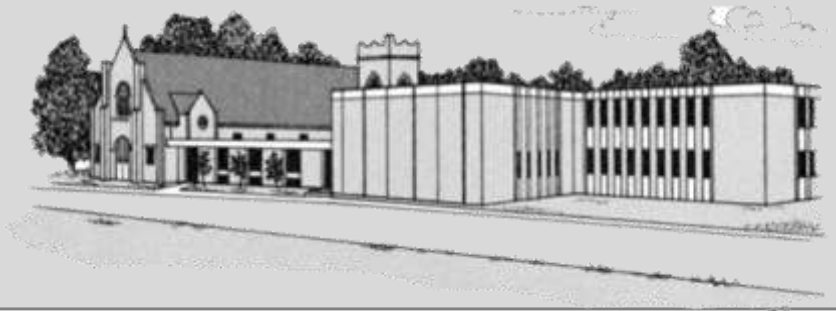
Since its establishment in 1974, the Foundation has provided important financial support to St. Olaf for nonrecurring expenses and new endeavors. Last year, the Directors approved a pledge of \$400,000 over a three-year period to the "Investing in Our Future" capital campaign. In addition, the Foundation annually awards undergraduate and graduate scholarships to members of St. Olaf.

The Foundation meets quarterly at 6:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of January, April, July and October. To request funds from the Foundation, a Grant Request must be completed and submitted to the church office at least one week prior to each meeting. The Grant Request form is available in the church office.

The Foundation exists through the generosity of the St. Olaf congregation. Therefore, it is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** for members to prayerfully consider making ongoing financial contributions to the Foundation. Also, please remember the Foundation when doing your estate planning!

The Foundation has twelve directors. If anyone has a question and/or concern regarding the Foundation, you are encouraged to contact on the following directors: Carey Bligard, Karine Feddersen, Darlene Hansen, Doug Kinseth, Jill Matthes, Anna Miller, Mark Oester, Aaron Peimann, Laurel Puls, Megan Ruzicke, Mel Schroeder and Bob Younie.

Mel Schroeder



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

From Sheep to Shepherd: An LSI Early Childhood Services Story

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, a mother, recently released from treatment, found herself in her new empty apartment with her son. She felt lost and needed a shepherd to guide her. So, Hali contacted LSI's Early Childhood Services, and Gretchen O'Brien, a Family Support Worker, answered the call. Gretchen began virtual home visits using the Healthy Family America home-visiting model.

For the next three years, Gretchen connected Hali and her son to community resources, served as a support system and a shoulder to cry on, and celebrated Hali's sobriety milestones with her. Even when Hali doubted herself, Gretchen guided and believed in her.

"I just remember sitting in that empty apartment crying, but I had Gretchen on the phone. You guys believed in me when nobody else did," shared Hali.

Today, Hali serves on the Healthy Family America (HFA) National Parent Advisory Committee, the first of its kind. The group is composed of 10-12 parents from around the country who have graduated from their local HFA program, each participant with their own story to share.

Hali needed a shepherd in her time of trouble and self-doubt, and Gretchen answered that call. Now, Hali serves as a shepherd to thousands of parents through the National Parent Advisory Committee. The LSI Early Childhood team couldn't be more proud of Hali and Gretchen.

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 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).



MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Balance 1/31/2024.....182,100.03

Receipts:

Offerings.....21,288.99

Capital Campaign.....453,183.79

Misc. Receipts.....130.17

Total Receipts for February.....474,602.95

Disbursements:

Benevolence.....90.00

Pastoral Ministry.....31,450.13

Administration.....2,922.04

Worship & Music.....252.21

Christian Education.....493.16

Our Church Home.....4,449.17

Congregational Life.....2,834.33

Youth Ministry.....0.00

Social Ministry.....0.00

Stewardship.....43.99

Previous Year Adjustments.....0.00

Building Improvements.....88,085.46

Architect.....3,305.22

Misc Campaign Expenses.....363.89

Loan Repay – Foundation.....2000.00

Total Disbursements for February.....136,290.14

Operating Balance 2/29/2024.....520,412.84

ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH— COUNCIL MEMBERS

Carey Bligard - President

Brady Pearson - Vice President

Pamela Bygness - Treasurer

Amanda Warren - Secretary

Doug Seltz - Property

Chris Dutcher – Youth

Zac Felch - Stewardship

Juli Springer – Long Range Planning

Kim Peimann – Social Concerns

Mason Liska – Youth Rep

Janet Meyne – Music & Worship

Jenni Szalat – Life & Growth

Jessica Mericle - Education

Bev Davis

Monica McCullough

Jim McColley

Emily Sauer-Alvarez

**Because of scammers contacting our council members this
information will remain private.**

**Please contact the office if you need contacted by a council member
and they will connect you with them.**

PASTORAL ACTS & STATISTICS

WORSHIP

ATTENDENCE

Service Times

Day	Date	9:00	11:00	6:00	WEATHER	Totals
Wednesday	2/28	-	-	73	-	73
Sunday	3/3	62	54	-	-	116
Wednesday	3/6	-	-	103	-	103
Sunday	3/10	77	23	-	Sunny	100
Wednesday	3/13	-	-	73	-	73
Sunday	3/17	73	38	-	-	111
Wednesday	3/20	-	-	76	-	76
Sunday	3/24	88	76	-	Icy/Rainy	164
Wednesday	3/27	-	-	No	Ignite	-



CHURCH STATISTICS

Weddings: 0
Baptisms: 0
Funerals: 0