

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

Nonprofit Org
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To:

The Visitor Newsletter

October 2024



**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



Are You Listening?

Dad! Dad!! Dad!!! Jim!!! Amid a conversation with someone, my kids would be trying to get my attention. Finally when they said my name I would acknowledge them. These days many voices are vying for our attention. Social media is a big one. You might spend several hours on these platforms and later realize you've spent much more time than you expected. It may be gaming systems. It may be sources of information that may or may not be true. Think of the power of influencers such as Taylor Swift, Google, X, Tik Tok, Twitter and the monopolies that have pushed out the voices of others. What information presented as truth is misleading or one sided? Algorithms are designed to feed you information that jives with your already established beliefs. We want instant answers rather than taking the time to LISTEN to all sides and maybe do a little fact checking to verify information.

Better yet, go to the Bible, the living Word of God. The story of Martha and Mary in Luke 10:38 - 42 affirms the importance of listening to Jesus. Martha was distracted by many tasks and was upset that Mary wasn't helping. Mary was at Jesus' feet listening. Jesus answered, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Jesus highlights the importance of a relationship with him by taking time to hear his words of life that brings all people into a loving relationship with God and neighbor.

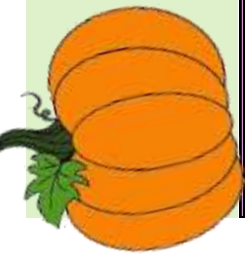
Our Ignite program has started up again and we are excited to see how God's children will be blessed in hearing and engaging the stories of the Bible.

Emma started an Adult Bible study September 16th, and all are welcome to jump in any time. When we read God's Word, study, pray and listen for God's voice we hear the voice of love that says you are forgiven. You are made righteous by the blood of Jesus on the cross and by his life given for you he has freed you to love others without regard for what you want.

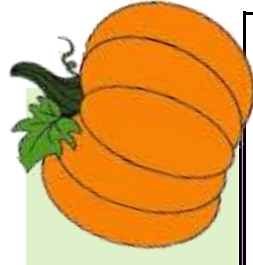
Amid all the distractions might you hear the voice of God, "Child! Child!! Child!!! (your name)!!! I love you! You are mine! Go and love others in Jesus name."

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jim



October 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2 Better Choices 8am	3 Lifeworks 1pm	4 Office Closed	5
6 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship Pet Blessing @ 12:30pm	7 Adult Bible Study 10am 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	8 OLES 9am Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	9 Better Choices 8am Ignite 5:30pm-7pm HS Youth 7:15-8pm	10 Lifeworks 1pm	11 Office Closed	12 Youth Group @ Community Orchard 10:30
13 9am Traditional Worship 10am ANNUAL MTG 11am Contemporary Worship	14 Adult Bible Study 10am 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	15 Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	16 Better Choices 8am Ignite 5:30pm-7pm HS Youth 7:15-8pm	17 Lifeworks 1pm	18 Office Closed	19
20 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship	21 Adult Bible Study 10am 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	22 OLES 9am Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	23 Better Choices 8am Ignite 5:30pm-7pm HS Youth 7:15-8pm	24 Lifeworks 1pm	25 Office Closed	26 Trunk or Treat 4-5:30p Kingdom Kids Fun Night 5-7p
27 9am Traditional Worship 9am Confirmation 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship	28 Adult Bible Study 10am 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	29 Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	30 Better Choices 8am Ignite Halloween Party 5:30-7pm HS Youth 7:15-8pm	31 Lifeworks 1pm	1	2

LOOKING AHEAD

November

Nov 16 - Christmas Sale and Bake Sale

Nov 27 - No Ignite/No HS Youth

Nov 27 - Office Closing as noon

Nov 28 - Thanksgiving

Nov 28-29 - Office Closed

Nov 30 - Directory Pictures



December

Dec 1-2 - Directory Pictures

Dec 18 - Christmas Pageant

Dec 24 - Office Closed at Noon

Dec 25-27 - Office Closed

Dec 29 - One service



Keep an eye on future newsletters and announcements for the times for events.



CHURCH DIRECTORY PORTRAITS BEGIN ON November 30th.

To sign up:

Scan the QR Code



Or go to:

[https://www.signupgenius.com
/go/805094CA9A623A4FB6-5094
9182-stolaf](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094CA9A623A4FB6-50949182-stolaf)

Deadline to sign up is November 10th!

ST OLAF CHURCH



jacci addison
STUDIO

CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are updating our church directory! We will be having Jacci Addison Portrait Studio at the church on November 30- December 2 to take pictures. It's free to be *in* the directory. You only need to pay if you want a directory or any pictures printed. It'll be a great time to get an updated family photo! Be sure to come 10-15min before your time to make sure you can get registered. We will have an additional (short) form for you to fill out just for St Olaf to ensure we have the names, phone number and address correct for the back of the directory.

If you're going to be gone during that time there ARE options for you and your family to still be in the directory. Please give the office a call.

*You are welcome to call the office and we can help you get registered for a time online!
Signup deadline is November 10th.*

It is *imperative* that you make sure we have your current info (phone number and address) for the directory.



Brooklynn Bailey	10/1
Janet Singer	10/1
Ezio Durando	10/2
Chad Kuker	10/2
Zoey Schorzmann	10/2
Morgan Barber	10/3
Maricel Exposito	10/3
Michaela Newell	10/3
Autumn Johanson	10/4
Drew Bennett	10/5
Skylar Seehusen	10/6
Larissa Seltz	10/6
Jon Evans	10/7
Jozef Vonsak	10/7
Marsha Evans	10/8
Merlin Fallon	10/8
Linda Hartman	10/8
Jayne Smith	10/8
Gracie Taylor	10/8
Jeff Kalvig	10/9
Jill Haden	10/10
Marcia Hade	10/11
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
Nash Gailey	10/19
Mason Zuspenn	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
Shelly Sanford	10/24
Lehr Thorson	10/24
Aubriegha HabHab	10/25
Hayden Zuspenn	10/25
Mason Bowman	10/26
John Glesne	10/26
Rick Duneman	10/27
Denniss 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



RAFFLE DRAWING

Part of the Christmas Sale is a raffle for this beautiful Christmas sleigh decoration (18"x25"x11"). Raffle tickets are being sold on Sundays in between services around 10am starting on October 6th.

Tickets: 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5.





CHRISTMAS

Sale



November 16th
9am-3pm
St Olaf Lutheran Church

**Join us for
everything
Christmas and
check out our bake
sale!**





KINGDOM KIDS FUN NIGHT

Saturday, October 26
5 - 7 pm

St Olaf Lutheran Church
239 N 11th Street, FD

PUT ON YOUR COSTUMES
AND JOIN US!

\$10 ENTRY FEE
(\$50 MAX PER FAMILY)

FOOD AND SNACKS WILL BE
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

This is a fundraiser for the daycare





TRUNK

OR

TREAT

Come and Join Us!

Saturday, October 26

4–5:30pm

St Olaf Lutheran Church

Free Event



**Come inside for our
Kingdom Kids Fun Night
Fundraiser!**

(\$10 entry fee /\$50 max per family)

BOOK CLUB

The St. Olaf Book Club will meet on Monday, October 14th at 1:30pm in the Gather Room at the church. The selection for the month is *The Devil and the Dark Water* by Stuart Turton. This book is described as an Agatha Christie type mystery set on a ship in 1634. Books are available for check out at the church. Everyone is welcome to come to book club.



Anyone is welcome to join!

OLES

OLES Meetings are on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 9am. Join them October 1 and 15 for coffee and fellowship.



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

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

SEW SISTERS

We need your help and talents cutting and sewing.



They are in the basement sewing on most Wednesdays from 2:00pm to 4:00pm if you would like to join us.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be on October 13 at 10am between services. Please plan to be in attendance as you are needed to vote for the 2025 annual budget. We will have the 2025 budget ready for pickup on Sunday, February 2nd, for those who would like a copy of it.

MONEY REQUESTS

With the holidays quickly approaching - please remember Pastor Emily, Pastor Jim, any one on Council, etc, will **NEVER** ask you for gift cards or money via text or email. If you have any questions about an email or text you receive please call the church.

IGNITE HALLOWEEN PARTY

Our Ignite Halloween party is on October 30th! Costumes optional. There will be games, candy, and fun.

Meal: 5:30pm
Worship: 6pm
Halloween Party: 6:20-7pm



ALTAR GUILD

Our annual fall meeting will be Wednesday, October 16th at 4pm in the Gather Room. We will have a short business agenda and we will sign up for months of service for 2025.

Please plan to attend and bring a friend!

HS YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group meets every Wednesday night from 7:15-8:00pm. We'd love for you to join us and bring a friend along too!

Join Emma on October 12th out at the Community Orchard at 10:30am for some fall fun! This is a free get together!

YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Join youth at the "Be the Story" event. It is a transformative experience to connect you with the mission of Youth for Christ. Through personal stories from kids and impactful presentations, you'll discover how you can play a pivotal role in changing young lives.

Where: Cardiff Event Center

When: Sunday, October 6

Doors open at 6pm

This is a free event. RSVP's are required: YFCBETHESTORY.COM

KINGDOM KIDS FUN NIGHT

The Kingdom Kids fun night is a fundraiser for the daycare and we need your help!

Kingdom Kids will be having a fun night on October 26th from 5-7pm. Cost is \$10/child with a limit of \$50 per family.

Items are needed for our fun night! Bottles of soda or Gatorade, markers, stickers, small art supplies, candy, children's books, gourds, small pumpkins, any other prize ideas for games. Please bring them no later than October 15th.

We will also need cakes, cupcakes, baked goods for a cakewalk.
Please bring fresh baked items no earlier than Friday, October 25th.

We also need help with games and in the kitchen – please see signup sheet on bulletin table.

Thanks for your help! It's been a joy hearing children's laughter in the church and it couldn't have happened without you!



Ignite Kickoff!





Thanks to everyone who came for our Ignite kickoff! We're excited for another year of fun and learning! We're also excited to have Emma Askildson here to lead the way. A big thank you to our volunteers who helped and continue to help throughout the year as well!

Now through December 31, Double your Donation!

Consider giving a gift to Lutheran Services in Iowa to support Iowans from all walks of life. Until the end of December, all donations will be doubled! A handful of generous donors agreed to match donations up to \$80,000. Increase your impact by donating today at LSIowa.org/donate.

You may be able to increase your gift even more! See if your employer has a matching gift program.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org. 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.



The Lord's Cupboard

As we head into fall I wanted to send an update to everyone who supports us with donations dry goods and monetary. We couldn't help our community without your continued support. We have been seeing a steady increase in people who need emergency food assistance. With the prices of rent, gas and groceries increasing every month it is stretching families thin. In 2022 we saw our largest jump going from 450 people a month to 850 people a month needing assistance. This year we have been helping an average of 1,200 people every month with food.

We are always in need of household and personal hygiene products. As we get close to the holidays we will again be collecting items for pies for Thanksgiving and cookies/cake mixes for Christmas. So if your church wants to collect items please deliver pie items by November 11 and cookies, icing and cake mixes by Dec 2 we can start giving them out before the holiday. Families love this holiday treat so thank you in advance! We will also purchase larger, more expensive cuts of meat to give out before the holidays with the dessert items.

Don't forget to bring us your extra plastic sacks, we are always in need of those.

You can drop off your donations at the church office Monday-Thursday 8am-noon or you can call the Lord's Cupboard to arrange a delivery time outside those hours. Shari or myself will be happy to help.

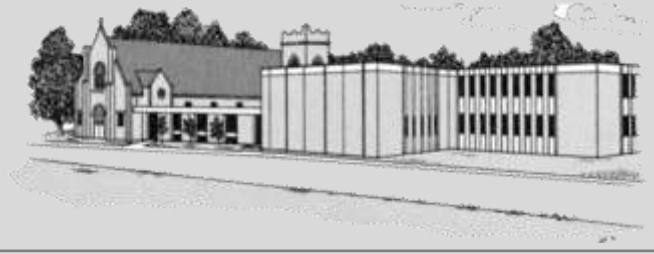
Thanks
Melanie Fierke



ST. OLAF FOUNDATION

St Olaf Foundation exists in our church and community. WE contribute to nonrecurring church expenses, student scholarships, etc. Please consider a contribution to the foundation so we can continue to help with these causes.

Douglas Kinseth



AA

MEETINGS

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

Monthly Treasurer's Report

Operating Balance 7/31/2024.....153,115.96

Receipts:

Offerings.....39,992.63
Campaign Gifts.....53,176.00
Misc. Receipts.....9,966.56
Total Receipts for August.....103,135.19
Voided Check.....214.00

Disbursements:

Benevolence.....0.00
Pastoral Ministry.....28,916.06
Administration.....1,833.37
Worship & Music.....497.57
Christian Education.....1,749.64
Our Church Home.....7,097.34
Congregational Life.....664.50
Youth Ministry.....0.00
Social Ministry..... 0.00
Stewardship.....43.19
Daycare.....5.87
Building Improvements.....19,317.32
Misc. Campaign Expense.....431.06
Loan Repay – Foundation.....1,000.00
Total Disbursements for August.....-61,555.92

Operating Balance 8/31/2024.....194,909.23

PASTORAL ACTS & STATISTICS

WORSHIP

ATTENDENCE

Service Times

Day	Date	9:00	11:00	6:00	WEATHER	Totals
Sunday	8/25	61	63	-	Warm	124
Sunday	9/1	69	34	-	Beautiful	103
Sunday	9/8	60	28	-	Sunny	88
Wednesday	9/11	-	-	120	-	120
Sunday	9/15	78	33	-	Sunny	111
Wednesday	9/18	-	-	100	-	100
Sunday	9/22	64	50	-	Cool	114

Welcome to the Lord's Family

Aries Raelynn Foster-Peggs

Emmett Ray Ely



CHURCH STATISTICS

Weddings: 0
Baptisms: 2
Funerals: 0

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.



KINGDOM KIDS - BOARD MEMBERS

Kathy Dencklau

Sheri Morud

Doug Seltz

Sue Seltz

Carey Bligard

Keely Draper

Dawn Farr



St. Olaf Staff

Pastor Emily Sauer-Alvarez
Pastor Jim McColley
Jade Bedel, *Office Manager*
Sheri Morud, *Financial Manager*
Jason Swedlund, *Organist & Choir Director*
Matt Drees, *Contemp. Worship Coordinator*
Ron Anderson, *Custodian*
Carey Bligard, *Council President*
Emma Askildson, *Youth & Family Director*
Anna Miller, *Bell Choir/Wedding*
Kathy Dencklau, *Daycare Director*

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

*Melba Shelby
Lucy Larson
Colleen Lynch*

*Linda Cartee
Rae Nanninga*

*Eileen Carroll
Monica McCullough
Vera Hartman*

To the Visitor readers:

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