

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

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Fort Dodge, IA

To:

# The Visitor Newsletter

## November 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](http://www.stolaffd.com)

10:30 am 1400 KVFD AM

#### Office Hours

Mon - Fri  
8:30 - 4:30 PM

# Note From The Pastor



*Think of us in this way: as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2*

God has laid a great responsibility on us to be the caretakers of creation and the church. Another word for this is stewardship and it's a topic we are going to devote the entire month of November. Author Randy Alcorn writes, "*Stewardship isn't a subcategory of the Christian life. **Stewardship is the Christian life.** After all, what is stewardship except that God has entrusted to us life, time, talents, money, possessions, family, and His grace? In each case, He evaluates how we regard what He has entrusted to us and what we do with it.*" We'll hear it often said, "Lord, help me to be more patient." When is the last time you heard the prayer request, "*Gracious God, make me a better steward...*"? Probably not all that often! One of the key requirements of being a good steward is to be faithful. We are to manage what God has given us and commit to using our resources wisely. We're asked to be reliable and trustworthy. Here's the real kicker—when we do that—we HONOR God! Two stewards who exemplify this commitment to God are the Martin Luther Award recipients. They received their awards on October 13, 2024.

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Mary Kuhlman is a long-time member and the leader of our monthly book club. She has been on altar guild for the past 14 years. This significant role is a quiet, but meaningful service for our church. Her duties include setting up for baptisms & communion services. She trains new altar guild members and helps to maintain the beautification of our large sanctuary. We're thankful for Mary and her service to Christ and His church. Craig Hamilton is a long-time member who is always up for major tasks. Throughout the years he has taught catechism & made baptism droplets. He has been a leader on council, personnel committee, the campaign, and the Foundation. In the most recent years he has worked side by side with Doug Seltz & the property committee on updating our church home. We're thankful for all the gifts God has given Craig & the many ways he's shared them at St. Olaf. Both have given of themselves freely and abundantly so that the goodness of the gospel can be shared!

As you reflect I want you to consider, *"what kind of steward am I?"* Next ask yourself, *"what kind of steward would I like to be?"* Be in prayer about those questions and your answers. *Gracious God make me a better steward.* During November we will focus on the missions our church supports in our community and in the world.

During our 9am and 11am worship services we will hear from the following organizations:

November 10<sup>th</sup>: Martina Nerhus from Youth for Christ

November 17<sup>th</sup>: Sheri Morud & Kathy Dencklau from Kingdom Kids Daycare

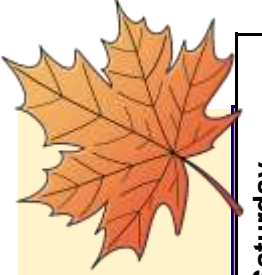
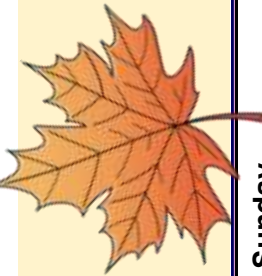
November 24<sup>th</sup>: Pastor Danielle Rogers from SALT (Shining a Light Together)

Each of those Sundays you will be invited to give an offering to their organization. Also, through November we will reach out further with offerings to Lutheran Disaster Response. Your gifts make it possible for the ELCA to provide fast and effective support to communities in need, whenever and wherever a disaster may strike. Our commitment will be to Hurricane relief in the aftermath of Helene & Milton. Your gifts will be used 100% for those Hurricane disasters. Your checks can be made out to St. Olaf with *"Hurricane Helene/Milton"* on the memo line. All offerings will be sent together at the end of November to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Blessings to you and yours as you consider how you might live and grow as a steward. Join us November 24<sup>th</sup> for our Commitment Sunday. You will be invited to place your commitment cards & Time/Talent sheets at the altar. Every blessing to you and yours!

Peace,  
Pastor Emily Sauer-Alvarez

# November 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office Closed	2
3 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship	4 Adult Bible Study 10am  6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	5 OLES 9am  Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	6 Better Choices 8am <b>POINSETTIA SIGNUP DEADLINE</b>  Ignite 5:15pm-7pm HS Youth 7:15-8pm	7 Lifeworks 1pm	8 Office Closed	9
10 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship <b>CHURCH DIRECTORY SIGN UP DEADLINE</b>	11 Adult Bible Study 10am  6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	12  Committees 6pm Council 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	13 Better Choices 8am  Ignite 5:15pm-7pm HS Youth 7:15-8pm	14 Lifeworks 1pm	15 Office Closed	16 Christmas and Bake Sale 9am-3pm
17 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship	18 Adult Bible Study 10am  6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	19 OLES 9am  Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	20 Better Choices 8am  Ignite 5:15pm-7pm HS Youth 7:15-8pm	21 Lifeworks 1pm	22 Office Closed	23
24 <i>Commitment Sunday</i> 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship	25 Adult Bible Study 10am  6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	26  Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	27 Better Choices 8am <b>Office Closed at noon</b>  No Ignite /HS Youth	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 Directory Photos 9am - 5:50pm

## LOOKING AHEAD

### December



- Dec 1-2** - Directory Pictures
- Dec 10** - OWLS Christmas Party
- Dec 18** - Christmas Pageant
- Dec 24** - Office Closed at Noon
- Dec 24** - 4pm and 7pm Service
- Dec 25** - NO services
- Dec 25-27** - Office Closed
- Dec 29** - One service 10am



### January

- Jan 1-3** - Office Closed
- Jan 1** - No Ignite/No HS Youth
- Jan 8** - Ignite and HS Youth start back up

Keep an eye on future newsletters and

## WINTER WEATHER REMINDER

Just a reminder that the office follows the school for winter weather. If the schools start late/dismiss early/close due to inclement weather the office will too. We will send out an email and text alert letting you know.



If the office is closed, *we ask that there are no gatherings* such as Ignite, Oles, bookclub, etc.

***We want you to stay safe!***

## 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.**

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

Proceeds from the raffle, bake sale, and Christmas sale will go towards St Olaf's Ignite program and Community Caring Bridge.  
(Backpack Buddies replacement program)



## BAKE SALE

We need donations of baked goods for the bake sale. If you can help, please sign up on the bulletin table. If you have any questions you can contact Vera Hartman.

**Proceeds will go to our youth.**



# CHRISTMAS

*Sale*



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

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



## 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 10<sup>th</sup>***



# November Birthdays

Logan Fiedler	11/1
Weston Drees	11/1
Randy Beckley	11/2
McKayla Smith	11/2
Avaliegh Denchlau	11/2
Kerstan Mason	11/3
Virginia Gudmonson	11/4
Jacob Szalat	11/4
Sidney Warren	11/4
Thomas Johnson	11/6
Jason Hollman	11/7
Aria Felch	11/8
Jim McColley	11/8
Mary Bruhl	11/9
Tyler Leadley	11/9
Shawn Bennett	11/9
Jeff Crouse	11/10
Jonathan Berg	11/10
Margo Harman	11/10
Chelsie Jaeschke	11/11
Nixson Dencklau	11/11
Ronald Allbee Jr	11/12
Claudia Harms	11/12

Morgan Strutzenberg	11/12
Susan Lockner	11/13
Vera Hartman	11/13
Sawyer Springer	11/14
Julia Sande	11/14
Livia Kalvig	11/15
Mike Mericle	11/17
Rylie Ferrell	11/17
Alan Thorson	11/18
Elena Hart	11/20
Doris Underberg	11/24
Katherine Flores	11/24
Babbette Bowman	11/25
Larry Linn	11/25
Ray Fiedler	11/26
Deoshea Foster-Peggs	11/26
Roger Williams	11/27
Jane Berg	11/27
Michael Sunken	11/28
Darlene Dencklau	11/28
Jill Matthes	11/30
Buck Yoder	11/30
Brady Pearson	11/30



## BOOK CLUB

The St. Olaf Book Club will meet on Monday, November 11th at 1:30 in the Gather Room. Our book for this month is **THE COUPLE NEXT DOOR** by Shari Lapena.

This book is described as a domestic suspense novel of lies, betrayal, and secrets.

Books are available at the church for check out.

*Everyone is welcome to attend book club.*



## OLES

OLES Meetings are on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 9am. Join them November 5 and 19 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.



You may want to call the office to make sure we are there before you come.

## PRAYER SHAWL

At this time the Prayer Shawl Ministry is blessed with many shawls. We are looking to share these with anyone in need of comfort. This could be due to an illness, loss of a loved one, someone dealing with trauma, hard times, or difficult life challenges. The shawls are available to everyone, St Olaf members or not. We can also mail the shawl to your loved one. Please contact Jane Wallestad or Vera Hartman



Celebrating Pastor Appreciation Day!

## POINSETTIA ORDER

If you'd like a poinsettia for the altar at Christmas time, there is a signup sheet on the bulletin table. You can choose red or white. They are \$14

**Deadline is November 6 so that Becker Florist can make sure to order enough.**

## OWLS



Our Owls annual Christmas Party will be Tuesday, December 10, at 11:30am In the Fellowship Hall and all are welcome to attend! At approximately 11:50am the St Olaf Kingdom Kids will give a musical program. Lunch will be around noon. During lunch, "Generations of Love" (Lavonne Pringle & Vickie Reeck) will have a musical program-(Christmas Songs)-with our new intercom system! (If weather is bad, it will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup>)

On November 4, there will be a sign up in the Narthex. The deadline for sign up is December 4 so we can call our Christmas lunch in!

**Come one ~Come all! Let's be festive!!!**

### NOISY OFFERING

Thank you to those who donated to the noisy offering we had on September 29th. We were able to raise \$929.46 to go towards the Community Caring Bridge which is the replacement program for backpack buddies. The funds they receive are used to fill the food pantries and hygiene cabinets at all community schools.

### CHRISTMAS DECOR SETUP

We will setting up the Christmas decorations on Nov 24th between services. All hands on deck are needed!

Anna Miller will be the contact person so please direct questions her way.

*Manger scene will not go up until after a December 14th wedding.*



### SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE COLLECTION

#### **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.16.***

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 donations off at St. Olaf by November 16.

Social Concerns Committee is also collecting, pie filling, cake & cookie mixes and canned frosting for the Lord's Cupboard. Put in the box in front of the office. This is a special holiday treat for their clients.

# October 6 - Pet Blessing



## Example of text message scam



Pastor Mike

Hi Amy, how are you?

I need you to help me with something very important. Kindly text me back as soon as possible. Hope to hear from you soon.

Hello, how are you? What can I do to help?

Good to hear from you. I need to get some amazon gift cards for some cancer patients that I promised as a birthday gift, but I can't do this at the moment. Can you get it from any store? I'll have it refunded. Thanks.

Are you there?

Yes, been in a meeting. Who are the gift cards for? I can have the cards delivered directly to them.

Please purchase the cards and send over pictures of the front and back of the cards.

## 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 or Pastor Emily/ Pastor Jim directly.

## Signs of a



Scams can take many forms, but there are common signs you can watch out for.

Protect yourself from imposters by remembering the **four Ps**:

### Pretend

Imposters try to gain your trust and **pretend** to be from an agency or organization you're familiar with.



### Problem or Prize



Imposters say there is a **problem** or **prize** ...

### Pressure

... and they **pressure** you to act immediately.



### Pay or Provide

To "fix" the problem or claim the prize, the imposters want you to **pay** them or **provide** them with confidential personal information.



## National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month! Lutheran Services in Iowa has served adoptive and foster families for decades, helping to ensure every child has a safe and loving home. For over a year, we joined with Four Oaks Foster and Adoption Services to better serve the families of Iowa. As a subcontractor, we continue to train and support foster, adoptive, and kin families in the western side of the state. Our team has served over 700 families through assistance during the licensing process and by providing on-going support and development in the past fiscal year.

To learn more about our Foster Care and Adoption services, please visit [www.lsiowa.org/foster-care-adoption](http://www.lsiowa.org/foster-care-adoption).

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065. 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).



## The Lord's Cupboard

Just wanted to send everyone an update on the Lord's Cupboard. We are currently serving around 1200 people a month, that is up from an average of 930 a month last year. We are truly blessed and have no major needs at this time. We can always use personal hygiene, household cleaning and paper products (toilet paper, paper towels). I do want to let everyone who drops off donations know that our office manager Lindsay has taken a new job. FUMC is currently looking for a replacement so someone is not always here.

Best time to drop off would be Monday 8-12pm

Tuesday 8-2:00pm

Thursday 8-12:00pm

Someone from the Lord's Cupboard will be here and can help.

You can always call and arrange a time with us if those times don't work Shari and I would be glad to help 515-227-3337.



# ST. OLAF FOUNDATION

I am blessed to be on the Foundation board trying to follow my father's footsteps. I am grateful working with the other board members we strive to keep St Olaf stable and viable. The future is ours to share if we all help out.

Please consider giving a tax deductible gift to the Foundation. If you have any goals you want us to achieve please let me know I will be happy to help.

God Bless us all,

Mark Oester



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



## Hurricanes Helene and Milton Response

Hurricanes Helene and Milton hit the coast of Florida within weeks of each other as powerful and devastating storms impacting states across the Southeast. With your help, Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to be there to support people affected by Milton, Helene and any other storms that may strike this season.

**Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to these disasters and others, whenever and wherever they strike.**



**Scan the QR code to give today.**

By giving to Lutheran Disaster Response, you make it possible for the ELCA to act quickly after disasters such as Hurricane Helene and remain for as long as the recovery takes.



# PASTORAL ACTS & STATISTICS

## WORSHIP

### ATTENDANCE

### Service Times

Day	Date	9am	11am	6pm	WEATHER	Totals
Wednesday	9/25	-	-	100	-	100
Sunday	9/29	62	40	-	Sunny, Beautiful	102
Sunday	10/6	78	30	-	Sunny and Cool	108
Wednesday	10/9	-	-	71	-	71
Sunday	10/13	76	46	-	Windy	120
Wednesday	10/16	-	-	100	-	100
Sunday	10/20	54	21	-	Nice	75

*Welcome to the Lord's Family*

*Deoshea Foster-Peggs  
September 29*

*Lord Welcome into  
Your Kingdom*

*Vonn Vanderpool  
March 12, 1938 - October 14, 2024*



### CHURCH STATISTICS

Weddings: 0  
Baptisms: 1  
Funerals: 1

# Monthly Treasurer's Report September

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

## Receipts:

Offerings.....24,729.21  
Campaign Gifts.....10,398.00  
Misc. Receipts.....-6,527.93  
Total Receipts for August.....28,599.28  
Voided Check.....331.70

## Disbursements:

Benevolence.....0.00  
Pastoral Ministry.....33,128.99  
Administration.....3,873.56  
Worship & Music.....3,288.85  
Christian Education.....289.19  
Our Church Home.....6,506.75  
Congregational Life.....752.28  
Youth Ministry.....0.00  
Social Ministry..... 0.00  
Stewardship.....41.54  
Daycare.....0.00  
Building Improvements.....33,377.40  
Misc. Campaign Expense.....244.78  
Loan Repay – Foundation.....1,000.00  
Total Disbursements for August.....-82,503.34

**Operating Balance 9/30/2024.....141,336.87**

# **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**

**Vera Hartman - 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**

**Richard “Butch” Forbes**

**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 Mgr/Asst Daycare Director*  
Jason Swedlund, *Organist & Choir Director*  
Matt Drees, *Contemp. Worship Coordinator*  
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  
Monica McCullough*

*Linda Cartee  
Colleen Lynch*

*Eileen Carroll  
Rae Nanninga  
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](mailto:office@stolaffd.com)***