

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

Nonprofit Org
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To:

The Visitor Newsletter

April 2025



**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
8:00 - 4:00 PM
Fridays - Closed

Note From The Pastor



A Firm Foundation

“These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don’t work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards.” (Matthew 7:24-27 The Message Bible)

I have purchased three houses in my lifetime. In each case, I looked more at the overall appearance of those houses. As I lived in them I became aware of some structural deficiency that required major and minor repairs. A house can appear beautiful but under closer inspection one might find basement walls bulging, or cracked, or signs of water damage or mold. You may find that the plumbing, electrical, heating and air conditioning are ageing and not up to code.

Similarly, we need to care for our physical bodies and yet we are not immune from having adverse health issues. It’s important to earn a living wage and to spend time with family and friends.

Most importantly we need to have a firm foundation in our faith life:

Invest time into reading the scriptures: studying the scriptures, praying the scriptures, seeking the presence of God in every decision we make.

Inspect our foundation: what have we based our lives on? Allow the Holy Spirit complete access of your heart and soul; ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any area that is in spiritual disrepair; acknowledge and begin the spiritual repairs without delay; focus on every area that needs attention.

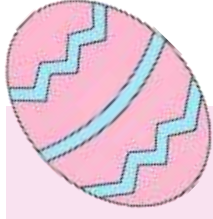
Ensure maintenance: we remain spiritually vigilant and seek to do the will of God in our lives; decide to remain faithful; determine to listen to the Holy Spirit’s prompting; disregard the temptation to spiritually coast through life.

Loving God build your firm foundation of love in us that we may withstand the trials of life and share your love with others. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jim



April 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Office Hours Mon-Thurs 8a-4p	1 OLES 9am Adult Bible Study 5:30-6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	2 Better Choices 8am Ignite 5:15pm-7pm Holden Evening Prayer 7pm service HS Youth 7:15-9pm @ First United	3 Lifeworks 1pm	4 Office Closed	5	
6 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 10 am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Worship	7 Adult Bible Study 9am 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	8 Committees 6pm Council 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6-8:30pm	9 Better Choices 8am Prayer Shawl 1pm Ignite 5:15pm-7pm Holden Evening Prayer 7pm HS Youth 7:15-9pm @ St Olaf	10 Lifeworks 1pm Blood Drive @ St Olaf 2-6pm	11 Office Closed	12
13 Palm Sunday 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11 am Contemporary Worship	14 Adult Bible Study 9am Book club 1:30pm 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	15 Beacon Meal - Music & Worship Adult Bible Study 5:30-6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	16 Better Choices 8am Ignite 5:15-7pm HS Youth 7:15-9pm No Holden Evening Prayer	17 Lifeworks 1pm Maundy Thursday (Communion) 7pm	18 Office Closed Good Friday - Tenebrae 7pm	19
20 Easter Sunday 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship	21 Office Closed No Adult Bible Study 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	22 OLES 9am Boy Scouts 6-8:30pm	23 Better Choices 8am Ignite 5:15pm-7pm HS Youth 7:15-9pm @ St Olaf	24 Lifeworks 1pm Peace Circle @ 1:30pm	25 Office Closed	26
27 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 10 am Adult Sunday School 11 am Contemporary Worship	28 Adult Bible Study 9am 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	29 Boy Scouts 6-8:30pm	30			

LOOKING AHEAD

May

4th - Kingdom Kids one year anniversary celebration

6th - Last bible study until Fall

11th - St Olaf Grad Recognition, Women's Blessing, Kids Singing

14th - Last Ignite

21st - Baccalaureate @ St Olaf

22nd - Peace Circle (Last meeting til Fall)



June

11th - Prayer Shawl

BEACON MEAL

April 15 - Music & Worship/ Janet Meyne

Upcoming

May 20 - OWLS/ Linda Junkman, Viv Nore

June 17 - St Olaf

July 15 - Life and Growth - Jenni Szalat





LifeServe
BLOOD CENTER

Spring

INTO THE

DONOR CHAIR

ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH

BLOOD DRIVE

Fellowship Hall
Thursday, April 10th
2:00pm - 6:00pm
239 N 11th Street



APPOINTMENTS ARE **ENCOURAGED**

Text: LIFESERVE to 999-777 | Call: 800.287.4903 | Visit: lifeservebloodcenter.org



LifeServe
BLOOD CENTER

YOUR BLOOD. YOUR HOSPITAL. YOUR NEIGHBORS.

PASTORAL CARE OR PRAYERS

If you or someone you know wants pastoral care or prayers, please call the office at 515-576-2103. You can choose 0 to reach the office directly during business hours. You are also welcome to send an email to office@stolaffd.com





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

Sydney Crimmins	4/14
Rebecca Gilbert	4/15
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 Sortedahl	4/22
Emily Sauer-Alvarez	4/22
Winter Cruz	4/22
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
Sydney Carver	4/29
Beth Beeghley	4/30



BOOK CLUB

The St. Olaf Book Club will meet on Monday, April 14th at 1:30 in the Gather Room. The book this month is *The Collected Regrets of Clover* by Mikki Brammer. The main character in this novel is a death doula who spends so much time with the dying that she has no life of her own. She is sent on a cross country trip and tries to navigate unexpected romance and friendship.

Books are available for check out at the church.

Everyone is welcome to attend!



OLES

In April, OLES will meet on the first and fourth Tuesday at 9am due to Easter. Join them April 1 and 22 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.

BUS DRIVER NEEDED

We need an occasional bus driver. Driving the bus is not a requirement! It's super easy and only 1-2 riders. You're welcome to drive a church van or your own car. If you'd like to do a ride along to see what it is like we have a current driver who'd love to show you the ropes. Please let the office know if this is something you would be able to help with!

Peace Circle

Peace circle will meet on April 24 at 1:30pm in Room 100. Judy will lead and Eileen is bringing treats.

Bible Study

Join Emma on Mondays at 10am or Tuesdays on April 1st and 15th from 6-7pm. The focus is on the book of Matthew.

IGNITE/YOUTH GROUPS

Ignite Schedule Wednesday Night

Dinner at 5:15pm

Worship at 6pm

Classes at 6:20pm

HS Youth Group - Wednesdays

7:15-9pm

Partnering with First United!

6-8th Grade Youth Group

Once a Month - April 27

Sunday 6:30-8pm



PRAYER SHAWL

Prayer shawl will meet on April 9 at 1pm in Room 100.

Now is a good time to try a new project if you enjoy knitting or would like to learn how to crochet Prayer Shawls. We have patterns and yarn available and someone will help you get started. The Prayer Shawls and Baptismal Shawls are a unique way to share Gods love. Anyone (whether a member of St Olaf or not) who is in need of prayer, hope, and encouragement may receive a beautiful Prayer Shawl.

If you know of someone who would be blessed by a soft, lovely shawl please call the church office or ask Vera Hartman or Jane Wallestad. We need your help to share a shawl. Thank you to all who contribute and help in any way with the St Olaf Prayer Shawl Ministry.

KINGDOM KIDS ARE "FEEDING OUR FUTURE"

Fort Dodge Senior High students in HOSA, Skills USA, FCCLA and Art Club are working on a new service project. They will be helping our Kingdom Kids build a garden to provide a farm to table experience. The goal is to teach the power of work, the importance of food and eating healthy, while providing months of outdoor unplugged fun! This amazing collaboration will be built in the open lot south of our playground. Stay tuned for more info!



RECOVERY AT WORK GROUP

We welcome you to join RAW Group's 6th Anniversary Speaker Jam.
Narcotics Anonymous Step Working Guides
Step Three
May 10, 2025

1217 4th Ave S (Door 6) Fort Dodge, Iowa
10am-4:30pm (Doors open at 9:30am)

GRAD INFO

We will be doing our St Olaf grad recognition on May 11.

Baccalaureate will be here at St Olaf on May 22.

Please keep an eye on announcements for more information on these events.

EASTER BACKDROP

There will be an Easter backdrop in the Fellowship Hall on Easter morning. Feel free to stop by and take a family photo!



EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday - April 17 at 7pm

Reader: 1 Needed

Communion assistants: 2 Needed

Good Friday - Tenebrae- April 18 at 7pm

Readers: 2-3 Needed

Ushers: 2 Needed

Easter Sunday - April 20 at 9am and 11am

9am

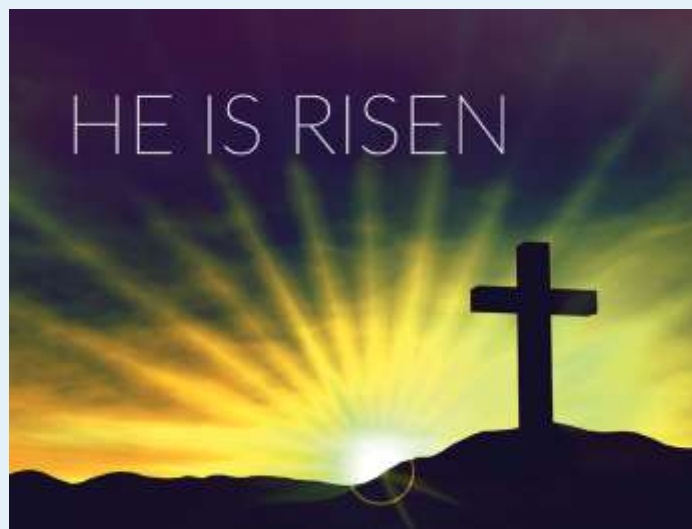
Everything Covered

11am

Ushers: 2 Needed

Communion assistants: 1 needed

*If you are able to help at any of these services,
please let the office know what service and what you can help with
at 515-576-2103 or office@stolaffd.com.*



EASTER EGG HUNT

Sign up for the Easter egg hunt will start March 26th and the deadline will be April 9th. Join us for the Easter Egg hunt on April 13 at 10am. Weather permitting the hunt will be outdoors.



EASTER FLOWERS

We have four extra tulips ordered for Easter Sunday. If you would like one in memory of a loved one please let the office know so we can write your name down and who it is in memory of. You can call the office at 515-576-2103 or office@stolaffd.com.



First Communion



LSI serves Iowans of all ages; from families with newborns navigating parenthood, to Refugee and Immigrant elders, and children of all ages. One of the most vital populations LSI supports is young parents, especially those navigating the challenges of early motherhood. Cheyenne F., a Family Support Specialist for LSI's Healthy Families America (HOPES) program, shares the impactful work she's doing with young mothers in need of support.

She shares that she had the privilege of working closely with NF, a young mom who has shown incredible growth and resilience.

The Healthy Families America (HOPES) program is an evidence-based child abuse prevention program that provides support to prenatal families and families with children ages 0-5. LSI's Family Support Specialists work with families like NF's to provide the guidance and resources needed to break cycles of abuse and neglect and build strong, healthy foundations for children and parents alike.

NF's journey began in June 2023 when she reached out for help. At 19 years old and pregnant, NF was living in Muscatine County and knew she needed extra parenting support. Through the HOPES program, Cheyenne began building rapport with NF right away and learned about NF's challenging upbringing, which included bouncing from foster home to foster home starting at age 6.

"NF had faced so much inconsistency and pain in her early years," shared Cheyenne. **"It was clear that she had a lot of unresolved trauma, but it was equally clear that she wanted to make a positive change in her life, especially for her baby."**

Throughout the course of their work together, Cheyenne and NF focused on building trust and creating a safe space for NF to share her experiences and challenges. NF revealed that after High School, she fell into a pattern of poor choices, including run-ins with the law. NF got pregnant, and although she knew the father, he didn't want to be involved in her pregnancy or her life. Despite this, she had two strong support networks: her foster parents and her current roommate.

Cheyenne shares that NF struggled with controlling her behavior, and she feared she might end up back in jail, which unfortunately happened. When she was incarcerated, Cheyenne made sure to stay in contact with her foster parents and provided them with regular updates and support.

When NF was released from jail, she confided in Cheyenne that she was considering running away with her baby, which prompted Cheyenne to share valuable resources with her to support her mental health, housing, and employment.

"I knew that if NF ran, it could jeopardize the progress we had made. But with the right guidance and resources, NF began to see a different path forward," Cheyenne shared.

Cheyenne expressed her excitement about NF's progress stating, **"NF has made such huge strides. She started attending therapy twice a week and has also found a job at a local consignment store. She's enrolled in anger management classes and is committed to creating a better future for herself and her baby."**

Today, NF's baby is thriving, meeting all developmental milestones. NF continues to meet regularly with Cheyenne and enjoys engaging in evidence-based activities that are tailored to her needs as a young mother. **"I'm so thankful for the HOPES program. I don't know where I'd be without the support of Cheyenne,"** NF shared.

It's stories like NF's that remind us why the work we do is so important.

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



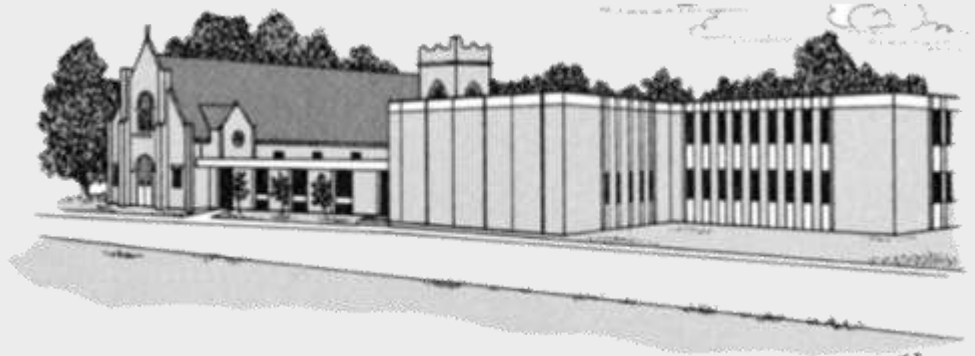
ST. OLAF FOUNDATION

The St Olaf Foundation met on January 28 to open 2025! As always, we had several grant requests to consider and approved the below:

- 1) Kingdom Kids requested \$5,000 to build raised garden beds with fences to allow the children to learn about where our food comes from and them to eat what they have grown. Children who have foods offered multiple times are more likely to try them and growing their own gives them a stake in their lunches and snacks and Kingdom Kids will save on healthy food for our daycare children.
- 2) The sound techs who allow us to see and hear our services whether in person or at home have requested \$11,000 to replace and/or update our technology to allow us to use it to its full capacity.
- 3) \$750 was approved to purchase Christmas trees for the Sanctuary
- 4) To Urban Plunge Ministry for a mission trip for 10 of our children and 2 adults, \$6080. The participants will be doing fund raising to support the trip but this will allow them to sign up and plan the trip.
- 5) Lutheran World Relief asked for \$15,000 for California wildfire relief. \$7,500 was approved.

The Foundation meets again on the 4th Tuesday of April.

Carey Bligard



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

ONLINE GIVING



venmo

@STOLAFFD



STOLAFFD

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.



Monthly Treasurer's Report

February

Operating Balance 1/31/2024.....130,003.61

Receipts:

Offerings.....38,697.11
Campaign Gifts.....9,067.00
Misc. Receipts.....-13,352.88
Total Receipts for February.....34,221.23

Disbursements:

Benevolence.....0.00
Pastoral Ministry.....29,477.44
Administration.....1,392.87
Worship & Music.....-10,161.06
Christian Education.....-1,756.61
Our Church Home.....2,863.11
Congregational Life.....2,378.93
Youth Ministry.....0.00
Social Ministry.....0.00
Stewardship.....43.98
Daycare.....0.00
Building Improvements.....4,000.24
Misc. Campaign Expense.....714.78
Total Disbursements for February.....28,953.68

Operating Balance 2/28/2024.....135,271.16

PASTORAL ACTS & STATISTICS

WORSHIP

ATTENDANCE

Service Times

Day	Date	9am	11am	6pm	WEATHER	Totals
Sunday	3/2	106	35	-	Sunny	141
Sunday	3/9	76	39	-	Sunny	115
Sunday	3/16	70	23	-	Cold/Windy	96
Sunday	3/23	62	58	-	Rainy	120

Wednesdays are not reflected as they were cancelled due to winter storms.



CHURCH STATISTICS

Weddings: 0

Baptisms: 0

Funerals: 0