

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

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To:

The Visitor Newsletter

JULY 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

Done until Fall

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



**Kingdom Kids Service Project
Partnering with St Olaf**

**PEANUT BUTTER
AND JELLY DRIVE**

Collecting 6/13 - 7/31

Can be any type of peanut butter and jelly!

Donations can be put in box in narthex



Note From The Pastor



Jesus replied, “You give them something to eat.” The disciples answered, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all this crowd.” ¹⁴ (About five thousand men were there.) But he said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.” ¹⁵ The disciples did so, and everyone sat down. ¹⁶ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. ¹⁷ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. (Luke 9:13-17)

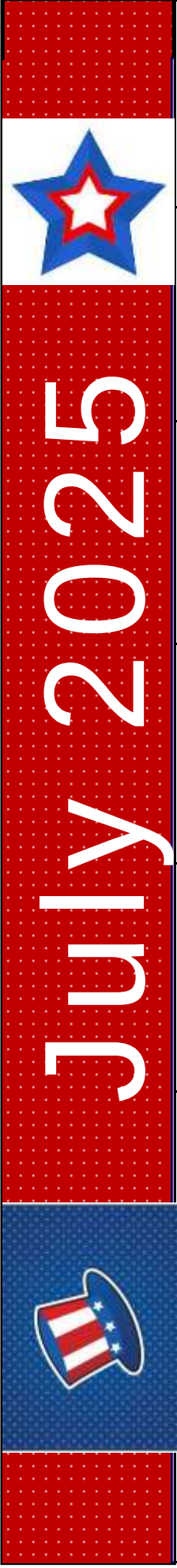
Jesus was always about feeding people, whether that was physically or spiritually. He was ready and able to tend to the people’s needs. The story of the feeding the 5000 was one of the many instances where Christ gave of himself. All ate. All were satisfied. There was so much food that there were 12 basketsful of leftovers. One part of this story that sticks out to me is the fact that Jesus fed the people first before his followers or even himself. He saw the need and He set out to feed them. Often, I believe we do it the other way around. We feed ourselves and with whatever is left over, we send it on. Sometimes we even send the last things we want left in our cabinets—the sardines and the lima beans. Jesus invites us to another way of living—giving out of our abundance, the first fruits. This applies to many areas of stewardship, but today I want us to focus on the real need that our community has hunger. People are hungry. Their need isn’t being met. Approximately 1200 people are utilizing the Lord’s Cupboard each month. You read that right—1200+! That is where the church can step in. We will do that this summer in a food drive to support the Lord’s Cupboard. We will be teaming up with our Kingdom Kids daycare center in a **“Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive!”**

Together we are going to ***try*** to feed 5,000. We’ll be collecting peanut butter & jelly over the month of July. This can be any flavor or brand or size of pb and/or jelly. You’re invited to purchase these items & place them in the box marked ***“Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive.”*** When the month is over our daycare kiddos will be taking the items to the food bank. We will make sure to take some pictures to share that adventure!

Consider how Jesus has fed you and may you respond accordingly.

Blessings,

Pastor Emily



July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 OLES 9am VBS 2-5pm Boy Scouts 6-8:30pm	2 Better Choices 8am VBS 2-5pm	3 Lifeworks 1pm VBS 2-5pm VBS Closing 5:30pm		5
6 10am One Service	7 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	8 NO Committee/Council Boy Scouts 6-8:30pm	9 Better Choices 8am	10 Lifeworks 1pm	11 Office Closed	12
13 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship	14 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	15 OLES 9am Beacon Meal - Life & Growth Boy Scouts 6-8:30pm	16 Better Choices 8am	17 Lifeworks 1pm	18 Office Closed	19
20 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship	21 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	22 Newsletter folding 1pm Boy Scouts 6-8:30pm	23 Better Choices 8am	24 Lifeworks 1pm	25 Office Closed	26
27 9am Traditional Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 11am Contemporary Worship	28 6-7pm AA Meeting Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	29 Boy Scouts 6-8:30pm	30 Better Choices 8am Blood Drive 3-7pm	31 Lifeworks 1pm		Office Hours Mon-Thurs 8a-4p Fri - Closed

Looking Ahead



August

13th - Prayer Shawl
31st - One Service Sunday



September

1st - Office Closed
Ignite Kickoff
Ignite Classes Start
23rd - OWLS
25th - Peace Circle



BEACON MEAL

July 15 - Life and Growth - Jenni Szalat

Upcoming

August 19 - Christian Ed & Youth - Chris D & Jessica M

September 16 - Stewardship - Vera Hartman

October 21 - Foundation - Aaron Peimann



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



SCAM ALERT

Please know that Pastor Emily, Pastor Jim, council members as well as anyone from St Olaf will NEVER text you asking for money, gift cards, donations.

While we do occasionally ask for donations, those requests will come via printed announcements and newsletter articles.

If you are unsure whether or not it may be a scam, please reach out to a pastor or the church directly if you have any questions before you give any money or buy any gift cards.



BLOODDONOR

BE A SUPERHERO - YOUR BLOOD, YOUR POWER!

ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH
BLOOD DRIVE

Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, July 30th
3:00pm - 7:00pm
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.

QR code with text **SCAN ME**



July Birthdays

Allan Petersen	7/1
Taylor Smith	7/1
Kaylee Schmitt	7/2
Jennifer Johnson	7/3
Michael Newell	7/3
Annabelle Krog	7/5
Tesla Bradfield	7/5
Max Bradfield	7/5
Butch Forbes	7/5
Wesley Vonsak	7/6
Vincent Larson	7/6
Barb Landmesser	7/7
Nathan Sunken	7/7
Tyler Williams	7/7
Larry Bushman	7/11
Marian Peterson	7/11
Cayd Lara	7/11
Chloe Harrison	7/11
Donita Getting	7/13
Tyler Poldervaart	7/13
Kim Gordon	7/14
Rose Jochims	7/14
Tena Maschino	7/14
Anthony Berg	7/14
Doris Friesth	7/15
McKenzie Conley	7/15
Cael Jaeschke	7/15
Matthew Gordon	7/16
Scott Otto	7/17
Maria Sande	7/18

Ellie Schiek	7/19
Carol Tiller	7/19
Mitch Craigmile	7/20
Mary Larson	7/20
Brogan Miller	7/20
Linda Beck	7/22
Hayden O'Brion	7/22
Lynnsay Alt	7/22
Deb Davis	7/23
Megan Ruzicka	7/23
Mae Roseke	7/23
Josh Hansen	7/23
Annilea Smith	7/23
Linda Cartee	7/24
Rosann Anderson	7/24
Carey Bligard	7/25
Ronald Phillips	7/26
Mary Kuhlman	7/27
Daniel Conley	7/27
Mark Miller	7/28
Rachelle Berg	7/28
Jill Vandagriff	7/29
Stacy Johnson	7/29
Anna Miller	7/29
Aaliyah Warland	7/29
Bev Doerzman	7/30
Alexandra Krog	7/30
Tammi Secor	7/30
Bob Singer	7/31
Coda Kalvig	7/31





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.

This is an easy task and a great way to serve the church!



ONE SERVICE SUNDAYS
10AM

JULY 6
AUGUST 31

Please mark your calendars!

OLEs

Join the Oles on July 1 and July 15
at 9 am.

Please feel free to join them, they only
meet twice a month.
Men of all ages are welcome!

**LOOKING FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU THERE!**



SEW SISTERS

**We need your help and talents
cutting and sewing.**

The Sew Sisters have been busy sewing dresses, shorts and dolls for missions; fidget quilts for hospital patients; and baby and children's quilts for Kingdom Kids Daycare. Some of us sew at the church on Wednesday afternoons and others sew at home. We have lots of fabric and supplies but could use more help.



Please call Nancy Hamilton if you'd like to be a part of our Sew Sisters family. We enjoy it, and it's always good to help others.

Peace Circle

Peace circle will start up
again in the fall on Sept 25.





Braxtyn Dencklau
2025 Grad



Beautiful quilt made by Laurel Puls
A member of the Sew Sisters



Synod
Assembly



We had a great time being in the
Frontier Days Parade!
Thanks to everyone who joined!





As we celebrate 160 years of ministry through Lutheran Services in Iowa, we are filled with gratitude, for the lives changed, the communities strengthened, and the faithful support that has sustained this work for generations.

What began as a small orphanage has grown into a statewide mission of compassion and care. The story of **Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI)** is one of transformation, deeply rooted in the Lutheran commitment to serve our neighbors in need.

1864: A Humble Beginning

LSI's story starts with the opening of the Lutheran Children's Home in 1864. In 1900, the home relocated to Waverly and was renamed the Bremwood Children's Home, becoming a place of refuge for countless children over the years.

1939–1945: Expanding the Mission

The mission widened in 1939 with the founding of the Lutheran Welfare Society of Iowa. By 1945, this ministry reached across the state, with offices in Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Iowa City, and Sioux City—bringing help and hope to more Iowans.

1963: A New Name, Broader Services

In 1963, the organization became Lutheran Social Services (LSS). Its ministries grew to include child welfare, foster care, and chaplaincy services—touching more lives and deepening its commitment to families.

2003: Uniting in Purpose

A major milestone came in 2003, when LSS merged with the Bremwood Children's Home, creating the organization we know today: Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). While Bremwood ceased functioning as a children's home, it became a residential treatment facility for youth serving faithfully until 2024.

2024: A Shift in Focus

Due to rising operational costs, LSI discontinued residential services in Waverly in 2024. However, the spirit of care lives on, LSI continues to provide a variety of services in the Waverly area and throughout Iowa.

A Mission That Grows with Grace

"We have evolved significantly from an orphanage that believed in being there for children who were in need to, now, a multi service Lutheran mission organization," says our President & CEO Renee Hardman. Today, LSI serves Iowans through Early Childhood, Foster Care & Adoption, Global Greens, Mental Health, Services for People with Disabilities, Immigrant & Refugee Services.

We are proud to share the incredible impact we made **in 2024 alone**:

10,000 Early Childhood Home Visits

Providing in-home support and care to thousands of families across our region.

726 New Arrivals Resettled

Helping individuals and families build new lives with safety, dignity, and hope.

366,400 Hours of Disability Services

Empowering people with disabilities through hundreds of thousands of hours of dedicated care and support.

19,000 Therapy Sessions

Delivering essential mental health care to individuals and families when they needed it most.

620 Families Served in Foster & Adoptive Care

Supporting loving homes and brighter futures for children through foster and adoptive care services.

Over 1 Million Pounds of Produce Grown

Global Greens farmers grew more than a million pounds of fresh produce—consumed at home, sold at local markets, or donated to LSI's Elder Pantry and community fridges to nourish neighbors in need.

None of this would be possible without you. Your prayers, generosity, and unwavering belief in our mission fuel every visit, every session, every seed planted. Together, we are building stronger families, welcoming new neighbors, and creating communities where everyone has the chance to thrive.



ST. OLAF FOUNDATION

The St Olaf Foundation is a valuable resource for our congregation, our community, and even others around the world. The Foundation continues to provide scholarships to St Olaf youth. Sixteen scholarships of \$1500 each were awarded for the 2025-2026 academic year along with \$7,000 to Luther Seminary and \$7,000 to Warburg Seminary. Four Mark Olson Scholarships of \$400 each were also awarded. Grant requests continue to be accepted from individuals and organizations. Grant applications are available in the church office. St Olaf is blessed to have the Foundation that was established in 1974. The Foundation exists through the generosity of the St Olaf congregation and others.

Please consider making a tax deductible gift to the Foundation.

God's Blessings,
Darlene Hansen



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

ONLINE GIVING



@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.



Monthly Treasurer's Report

May

Operating Balance 4/30/2025.....871,569.68

Receipts:

Offerings.....22,366.02

Campaign Gifts.....28,939.25

Misc. Receipts.....861.13

Total Receipts for May.....52,166.40

Disbursements:

Benevolence.....7,520.00

Pastoral Ministry.....30,623.10

Administration.....5,805.56

Worship & Music.....1,079.57

Christian Education.....469.95

Our Church Home.....663,319.51

Congregational Life.....1,314.23

Youth Ministry.....0.00

Social Ministry.....0.00

Stewardship.....43.10

Daycare.....0.00

Building Improvements.....5,053.57

Misc. Campaign Expense.....667.78

Total Disbursements for May.....715,896.37

Operating Balance 5/31/2025.....207,839.71

PASTORAL ACTS & STATISTICS

WORSHIP

ATTENDENCE

Service Times

Day	Date	9am	11am	6pm	10am	WEATHER	Totals
Sunday	5/25	-	-	-	63	Sunny/64	63
Sunday	6/1	80	37	-	-	Sunny/69	117
Sunday	6/8	87	30	-	-	Sunny	117
Sunday	6/15	67	25	-	-	Cloudy	92
Sunday	6/22	60	16	-	-	Sunny/Hot	76



CHURCH STATISTICS

Weddings: 0
Baptisms: 0
Funerals: 0

ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH— COUNCIL MEMBERS

Carey Bligard - President

Richard “Butch” Forbes - VP

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

Claudia Harms– Music & Worship

Jenni Szalat – Life & Growth

Jessica Mericle - Education

Monica McCullough

Linda Ulstad

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

Emma Askildson

Carey Bligard

Keely Draper

Dawn Farr

Kim Peimann

