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JULY NEWSLETTER

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
402 Meridian Street
Cranfills Gap, Texas 76637

Phone: 254-597-2738
saintolaflutheran@embarqmail.com

www.saintolaflutheran.org

8:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
COME WORSHIP WITH US!
9:45 AM EACH SUNDAY!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Living in God's amazing grace

Office: 254-597-2738
Secretary: Mindy Webb
Mondays & Thursdays
9 am -3 pm

Pastor Joan Iker
Mon., Wed., Thur.
9 am-5:30 pm
Cell: 580-230-8304

Council President
Virgil Tindall
254-597-2478

Council Vice President
Iris Hodges
254-597-2536

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- The St. Olaf church council met on June 20th at 7:00 p.m. with fourteen members attending.
- For the first month of this year, our expenses exceeded our income by \$946.00. Our positive balance for the year thus far is \$6,748. Niki Covers the Cold took in donations of \$5,800 in May. We will be making our first installment of benevolence to the Synod in July.
- Church brochures will be ordered in color from Commercial Printing. An outdoor sign will also be purchased which has a glass door with lock and key. This will be placed near the curb between the church and the parsonage so that changes in services, special events, etc. may be easily read by the public. We are now on Facebook.com, and new postings are being added often.
- The Deacons have been active in visiting homebound and nursing home members. They have also assisted in distributing communion to these persons.
- The Trustees have been busy keeping our grounds and buildings in good order. Repairs as needed are also being done at the Rock Church.
- VBS was a great success, with the largest attendance in many years. An average of 72 attended each day during the week. Everyone had a great time, and the closing ceremony was held on Friday, June 22nd at 6:00 p.m.
- The Cemetery fund stands at \$8,909.61. There have been four burials since the last report. Doland is mowing and watering the recently planted trees. Guy Finstad is looking into telescoping flag poles that need no ropes for the Rock Church.
- The June Community Breakfast was attended by 55 persons and brought in donations of \$450.00
- It was approved that Iris use funds from the breakfasts to have the basement painted a light color to contrast with the white of the windows and the shelves, have the blinds cleaned, and have formica placed on the serving bar in the kitchen.
- White tables may not be taken from the church or borrowed by members.
- There will be a Baked Potato Luncheon on 5th Sunday, July 29th from 11:00 to 1:00. Singing will follow.
- The Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be held July 18th at 6:00 p.m., followed by an ice cream social. All reports are due to Mindy by Monday, July 8th.

PRAYER LIST

Marc Johnson, Darcy Cassidy, Mary (Ray) Hastings, Dan Orbeck, Beverly Evans, Georgia Johnson, Haley Rae Tarver, Heather Leahy, Margret Turpin, Bob Holbrook, Clarence Plagens, Margie Payne, Agnes Rogstad, Evonne Simonds, Fred Thompson, Tom Gary, Steve Acree, Gene Lee, Tony Mares, Debbie Barree, Lexie Finstad, Donald Caughron, Ann Ruth Roberson, George Whitney, Robbie Sepanski, Family of Mark Smallwood, Jack Cameron, Larry Oliver, **Lutheran Church Sierra Leone, Persecuted Christians**

Service men and women:

Matthew Medina, Justin Barnes, Hayley Barner, Barrett Prince, Jarrod Prince, Alex Saborsky, Kevin Moore, Lamar Hickman, Travis Elston, Bradley Rohne, Jason Williams

UPCOMING

SPECIAL SUMMER GETAWAY FOR MARRIED COUPLES! The greatest gift you can give each other this summer is the gift of your time and attention when you attend the next Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend on August 3-5, 2012 in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. You'll communicate on a deeper level, rekindle your romance, and renew your commitment to each other. For more information or to apply, visit GodLovesMarriage.org, or contact Roger & Christine Williams at Imedfw@gmail.com or 972---530---1218. Weekends fill fast – applications are due July 16! After that date, contact Roger & Christine for availability.

CONGRATS

- On June 2, 2012, Kelli Wiese became the bride of Tanner Vinson in a private family ceremony at the Rock Church performed by Pastor Joan Iker. The ceremony was followed by a reception dinner at her father, Russell Wiese, and wife, Jill Hanson's new home. Kelli is the granddaughter of Harold and Preschie Wiese, and Claetta Carpenter of Waco. The newlyweds reside in San Marcos and attend Texas State University.
- On Monday, June 4th, 2012 Nicole and Lamar Wickman, of Denver, Colorado, welcomed their first child, a son, Garner Reed. He weighed 6lbs., 12 ozs., and was 19 inches long. Nicole is the daughter of Russell Wiese and the late, Dorinda Wiese.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Wanda Knudson for giving us a cloth for the serving table.

And thank you to Jeanne Bayless for donating the round table cloths and the patriotic arrangements for the tables.

You ladies are most generous.

Tom and I would like to thank our church family for the care and support during my father's illness and death. Pastor Joan's visits, the calls and cards and food, all really helped during these past few weeks. We are grateful for the loving community at St. Olaf. Blessings to each one - Nancy Bratcher.

A note from the Bell Choir: "It was a great weekend in Cranfills Gap. Thank you to your council and church members who made us feel so welcome and were so generous in their hospitality. The kids thoroughly enjoyed The Horny Toad, worship, picnic and hosts families. It is always good to be together with our other Lutheran brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you. I do hope we can return at some time in the future." Joan Kuehn – First Lutheran

REMINDERS & NOTICES

Tuesdays at Trinity

**Story time, Snacks, Activities and
Awesome Guests!!!!
Tuesdays!! 9-11am!!**

- ◆ **July 3rd**— Summer & Sherri-Hott Spot Salon
 - ◆ **July 10th**— Clifton Police & Clifton VFD
 - ◆ **July 17th**— Jamie Zander-Cowboy
 - ◆ **July 24th**—Texas New Mexico Power Co
- Summer Educational Activities for Children who just completed k-5th grade.

Registration Forms in SS Building or at Trinity Lutheran.
Please return to Trinity Lutheran Church. Place in Mail-
box if Church is closed.

Trinity Lutheran Church 803 W 3rd St Clifton, Texas
Questions: 254-675-8815 mindybenfer@gmail.com

CALLING ALL VOICES!

July 29th is a fifth Sunday, and St. Olaf is hosting **Fifth Sunday Singing**. We'd like to have a **BIG GROUP** to entertain the Methodists and Baptists with some new songs! You don't need to have a great voice, any training, or performance experience—just willing to make a joyful noise! We plan to practice IMMEDIATELY after church, beginning with the third Sunday in July, which is the **15th**. That gives us three Sundays to prepare at least two songs for performance. Come and join us and let our fellow Christians know we Lutherans can sing! Help us select hymns for the congregational singing as well—your input will be greatly appreciated.

FAIR TRADE

Help a small scale farmer in a developing country with the purchase of their product. There are various blends of coffee, different teas and a new GEO-bar (snack bar) offered. Take a few minutes to browse the shelf in the front of the basement. Thanks for your outreach into our world.

Baked Potato Luncheon

There will be a community baked potato luncheon on **July 29th** following worship. Baked Potatoes will be served from **11-1**. Free will donations are accepted. Come and enjoy fun, food and fellowship!!

There are now 4 tables that are designated for loaning to members for personal activities. Please contact the trustees for table use. White tables are not included with these four designated tables. Thank you.

North Bosque Helping Hands

July is a month with five Sundays--so again I am asking for food for North Bosque Helping Hands. We can use almost everything, but here are a few items that are really in short supply. All canned goods----except green beans. Peas, carrots, black eyed peas, pinto beans, mixed vegetables, ranch style beans, baked beans, to name a few. Toilet tissue, hand soap, laundry soap (we can break down large containers). Cornmeal, flour, cornbread mixes, macaroni and cheese, packages of pasta, rice, beans. Tomato sauce, tomato paste, canned tomatoes. Soup--both canned and packaged. Canned meats --tuna, chicken, and fish. St. Olaf has been very generous is supporting this food bank. Many thanks for your caring spirit. -Charlene

Community Breakfast

Remember every third Saturday is Community Breakfast from 8-9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy some good food, fellowship and fun. Free will donations are accepted.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Receipts	Disbursements	Net
Budget through May 31	\$40,699.17	\$40,669.17	\$339.16
Actual through May 31	44,236.97	37,488.99	6,747.99
<i>Submitted by Gerald Nelson, Treasurer</i>			

"The word "sunshine" is always the way I thought of Niki. She brightened the day of everyone she was around. She was a true blessing to everyone."

NIKI COVERS THE COLD



www.nikicoversthecold.com
Sandi & Owen Carlson
 254-597-2574
sandicarlson@nikicoversthecold.com

Niki Covers the Cold	
Activities Collecting coats, shoes, blankets to donate to the Manna House	
Members 11	
Sponsor Sarah Hardin	Front Row: Kelli Markwardt, Tatiana Martinez, Colette Allred, Elyse Schrader, Becca Kahl, sponsor Sarah Hardin Second Row: Matt Kleinlauth, Sarah Waddill, President Jaron Thomas, Marissa Bailey, Dawson Frazer and Loomis Ramsey

Niki Covers the Cold made the Midlothian High School Year book! They have been collecting coats, shoes, and blankets to donate to the Manna House. They have also sponsored a poverty simulation where high school students participated in a camp out and educational program at the High School during April.

Youth's Austin Mission Trip & NCC—What an awesome time!!! We went to the Capitol Area Food Bank, Gethsemane Lutheran, St. Martin's Lutheran, Riverside, Austin BMX & Skate Park, Trinity Center, Barton Springs Pool, Zilker Botanical Gardens, and more!



Cynthia Sharing with the Youth



Thankfulness for the NCC Bags



Inspirational Messages



Late night packing NCC Bags!!



Trinity Center



Teresa telling the kids to stay in school!



She hugged everyone in thanks

LADIES RETREAT

Ladies,
 You are invited to a women's retreat On **July 28th** from 9:00 to 12:00 at St, John's Lutheran Church at Coryell City. Brunch will be served about 10:30. Come for good fellowship, good music, good Bible Study and good food. Bible study will be from GATHER July/August edition. Hope to see you there.
 Blessings, Connie Westerfeld

JULY ~ ST. OLAF LUTHERAN

"Turn, LORD, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love."
~Psalm 6:4

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Morgan Wallace	3 Tuesdays at Trinity 9-11	 Cook Out at Faith 7:30 4th of July	5 Virgil Tindall	6	7 Jeanene Olson Tom & Lucy Gary
8 Adult SS 8:30 Worship 9:45 Semi-Annual Reports Due	9 Mutual Ministry Committee 8:00 Tom Brachter Carolyn Meide	10 Tuesdays at Trinity 9-11	11	12	13	14 Men's prayer breakfast Faith 7am Missi Glass
15 Adult SS 8:30 Worship 9:45	16	17 Tuesdays at Trinity 9-11	18 Sunset Home Party 2:30 Semi-Annual Congrega- tion Meeting 6:00pm	19	20	21 Community Breakfast 8am Biker Service 3:30
Adult SS 8:30 Worship 9:45 Iris Hodges Chris Rose	23	24 Tuesdays at Trinity 9-11	25 Council 7:00 Audra Wiese Lexie Finstad	26	27 George Whitney	28 Ladle's Retreat 9:00-12:00 St. John's
Church		Camp	at		Chrysalis	
29 Adult SS 8:30 Worship 9:45 Baked Potato Luncheon 11-1	30 Worship & Music 2:30 Velma Whitney Alana Lucas	31 Charla Rudd Steve & Joan Iker	Assisting Ministers: Anna Fortier 1, Charla Rudd 8, 15, 22 H. Usher: Noble Chastain Ushers: Altar Guild: Eisie Phillips & Geraldine Jenson Fellowship Cookies: Mary Circle			
5th-Sunday Singing 1:30						

Pastor Joan's Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-5:30pm Pastor's Cell 580-230-8304
Mindy Webb's Secretary Hours: Monday & Thursday 9am-3pm Office 254-597-2738



ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worship, teach, nurture and share Christ's love.



Celebrate Doing Things Better Together

This summer is full of **doing faithful things together**. Some events include Faith and St. Olaf Lutheran Churches only, but others are with various groups or churches. The first was our Bell Choir Worship Service and Picnic at St. Olaf. We hosted the bell choir from First Lutheran in Colorado Springs in our homes for the evening and fed them a real Texas meal! They were all impressed, and so were we as they glorified God musically in the joint worship with Faith. We also welcomed the Rohne Family Reunion that day. Together our attendance for worship was 150! When was the last time that happened?

It has been several years since I was actively involved with VBS, but this summer the Community VBS in Cranfills Gap beat anything that I have seen! The three churches (Baptist, Methodist and Lutheran) in the Gap participated, and it was *wonderful!* The average attendance was 70+ each day, which set a record from what I hear! The station leaders worked together so well to build the theme of **"The Amazing Desert Journey with Jesus."** Even the food was coordinated to the theme. The kids learned a portion of the Lord's Prayer, scripture, songs, and games and made crafts every day. Special thanks go out to Teresa Christensen for being our director. I can't name all the leaders and helpers, but we are sincerely grateful to all. We even had an oasis in the sanctuary near the font. (What a more appropriate place could there be as we prepare for the journey of life?) The kids donated over 400 staple food items for the Helping Hands Food Pantry as their offering. Thank you, parents, for sharing with us and coming to the closing event!

And I can't leave out the **Youth Mission Trip**, where we cooperated with Trinity Lutheran in Clifton and Gethsemane Lutheran in Austin to work at a shelter, food pantry and clothes closet. Look at Facebook to see photos of the amazing things the kids did there in the name of Jesus Christ.

Now that VBS is over what does that leave for the rest of the long, hot summer? By no means do we expect it to be boring around the church. Faith is hosting a **Free Fourth of July Community Hotdog Cookout!** We invite everyone in the area to attend and that includes our friends at St. Olaf as well. Again this is another T-shirt opportunity, so wear your church tees! Remember everything is provided for you! Just bring a lawn chair!

We still have summer camp for the youth July 22-27. Please pray for the young people that will continue to be formed spiritually as they learn more about what it means to affirm their faith in Christ at **Confirmation Camp** week. They will be going to camp along with the kids from Trinity Lutheran, working together once more.

I guess what I am learning this summer is how we all benefit when we do things together in Christ's name. In every instance of Faith and St. Olaf working together or with others, it is a win-win! The same is true when we work with our conferences and the NTNL Mission Area. I ask you to prayerfully ask yourselves and one another what else we can do better together to be faithful followers of our Lord.

~ God's Peace, Pr. JOAN

SYMPATHY & MEMORIALS

Condolences go out to the family of Mark Smallwood, who passed away Monday, June 18th. Memorials can be made to Sunset Hospice or Church Under the Bridge.

