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## ***FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER***

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

Phone: 254-597-2738

[saintolaflutheran@embarqmail.com](mailto:saintolaflutheran@embarqmail.com)

[www.saintolaflutheran.org](http://www.saintolaflutheran.org)

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

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Saint-Olaf-Lutheran/285747624853526>



**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**



## SHROVE TUESDAY

### Pancake Supper Fundraiser

Proceeds help send kids to  
summer camp!!

Free will donations

Date: 2/12/2013

Time: 5-7:30

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

402 Meridian St.

Cranfills Gap, Texas 76637

254-597-2738

Contact person: Jami Edwards or Paula Katzer



## CARE PACKAGES

Trinity, OSLC and St. Olaf will be packing care packages during Joy Explosion on Feb 6 from 4-6pm. These Care packages are for our college and military members and its our way to show our church family love even when they are away.. Please bring items to the church and place them outside the church office in the box provided. Items can include: Bottled water, Beef Jerky, Gum, Candy Bars, Cereal and oatmeal, Granola bar, Chips, Brownie mix, Rice crispy, Homemade cookies, Ramen noodles, Popcorn, Pretzels or party mix, Protein bars, Tea or lemonade mix, Antibacterial spray, Cleaning products, Hygiene products, New bedding items, New towels and wash cloth, socks, Shampoo, Colorful or whimsical loofa, Shower slippers, Soap, Fun lotions, Toothbrush and toothpaste, Mini first aid kit with bandages, anti-biotic ointment, etc., Air freshener, Pens, Pencils, Highlighters, Notebook paper, Brightly colored folders, Organizational binders, Construction paper, Scotch tape, Printer ink and paper, Bookmarks, Computer accessories, Stamps, Envelopes, Fun-shaped paper clips, Post-its, Gift card to their campus' college supply store, music CDs, Colorful sticky labels, sketch books, video games, web cam, iTunes gift card. Thank you for nurturing and sharing Christ's love with those who a far away at this time!

## CONGRATS!

Congratulations to Avery Katzer who made all district band and performed at Grosebeck High School on January 19th. Over 65 students made it from Clifton Bands. Please say well done to her on her accomplishments!



## WELCA

Please have your LWR kits or quilts in the basement of St. Olaf before March 29th. If you need instructions or other info call Anna @ 597-0533. Thanks.

## RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle met in January in the Church Basement. Weather and illness kept all but six members away. Shirley Thompson brought the lesson and she and Abby Birdwell furnished refreshments. Ruth Circle will continue to meet at the church from now on since several members from Lydia Circle will now join. See you at 2 pm, [February 13](#).

## PRAYER LIST

Marc Johnson, Mary (Ray) Hastings, Georgia Johnson, Haley Rae Tarver, Heather Leahy, Margret Turpin, Clarence Plagens, Agnes Rogstad, Evonne Simonds, Tom Gary, Steve Acree, Gene Lee, Debbie Barree, Lexie Finstad, Larry Oliver, Lorin Meissner, Vernon Patrick, Ellen Shields, Rodney Barner, Mary Ann Stokely, Loene Nelson, Monica Caban, Buster Mangham, B.A. Johnson, Dottie Hanson, David Sorley, Will Powers, Brady Warrick, Bonnie Algren, Doland Olson, Dalton Hamby, Wayne Rohne, Ray Sorrells, Jo Olson, Kim Camp, Allen & Willie Mae Bronstad, Families of Cleo Ellingson and Annelie Sorley, **Lutheran Church Sierra Leone, Persecuted Christians**

**Military Service:** Matthew Medina, Justin Barnes, Hayley Barner, Barrett Prince, Jarrod Prince, Alex Saborsky, Kevin Moore, Lamar Hickman, Travis Elston, Bradley Rohne, Micheal Crackhome, Brandon Iker

## MARY/LYDIA CIRCLE

The Mary/Lydia circle met January 9 at the Sunset Home. We were happy to have Barbara, Nancy and Charlene, our new members, with us and Jo Olson. Elsie led the study from Mark 6 "Getting Away." Charlene volunteered to be our Program leader.

The February meeting will be Tuesday morning, February 12, at 9:00 o'clock in the church basement as we will clean the kitchen and Barbara will lead the study.

## REMINDERS & NOTICES



This is the newest member of God's family at St. Olaf, Madison Marie Rowe, with her grandmother Jeanne Fehler, parents Heather and Shannon Rowe and her sister Megan. Welcome, Madison!

A sign-up sheet for taking Bonnie Algren food is in the Church office. If you would like to provide a meal for her family, please contact the office by phone or email.

### Local Work

Local citizens of the Cranfills Gap area are looking for work. They often come to the church for news on any local work. If you have an odd job someone can do or if local businesses are hiring, please let us know. [saintolaf\\_lutheran@embarqmail.com](mailto:saintolaf_lutheran@embarqmail.com) or 254-597-2738.

### Concordia Choir

**Come to Waco, TX!!**

February 27, 2013 ~7:00pm

Austin Avenue United Methodist Church  
1300 Austin Avenue



Tickets; \$25 Adults; \$10 Students K-U; \$35 Premium Seats  
Available at Austin Avenue United Methodist Church, online at [AustinAvenueUMC.org](http://AustinAvenueUMC.org), by calling 254-754-4685 or at the door

### MACEDONIA PROJECT

This fall 30 congregations of the NT-NL Mission Area are embarking on a journey together – exploring each other's context for ministry, outreach efforts, and missional practices. The 30 congregations are clustered together in groups of three and given the opportunity to visit each other's ministry site for a weekend – to watch and learn how each approaches ministry and mission and to share together about the passions and practices in each location that lead to strong outreach and stewardship. It's called the *Macedonia Project*, and it takes as its launching point the words of St. Paul (2 Cor. 8) in which Paul praised the church in Macedonia for the way it was selfless in caring for, and sharing with, the church in Jerusalem during the time when the church in Jerusalem was in desperate need. We will hear more about the *Macedonia Project* and the experience of these 30 NT-NL congregations when we next gather in assembly – April 26-28 in Temple, Texas.



Welcome!! We would like to extend a welcome to our newest member John Bingaman to the church family at St. Olaf. The invitation is extended to worship, teach, nurture and share Christ's love.



## MEMORIALS

**Cleo Jeannette (Parks) Ellingson** went home to the Lord January 17, 2013. Please keep the family in daily prayers. The funeral service was held on January 21st at St. Olaf and burial followed at Rock Church Cemetery. Memorials can be made to the Rock Church or St. Olaf 402 Meridian Street, Cranfills Gap, Texas 76637

**Anna Loreta "Annelle" Sorley** went home to the Lord January 22, 2013. Please keep the family in daily prayers. The funeral service was held on January 26 at St. Olaf and burial followed at Boggy Cemetery. Memorials can be given to Cranfills Gap VFD P.O. Box 72 Cranfills Gap, Texas 76637 or St. Olaf Lutheran 402 Meridian St Cranfills Gap, Texas 76637

## FINANCIAL REPORT

	Receipts	Disbursements	Net
Budget through	\$98,420.00	\$97,606.00	\$814.00
Actual through	106,217.31	89,559.45	16,657.86
<i>Submitted by Gerald Nelson, Treasurer</i>			

# NIKI COVERS THE COLD

Between holidays, work, and this crazy Texas weather we're trying to work out a good time to set up our next distribution. We have been to Austin, Waco, and Ft. Worth. Our Austin at Thanksgiving but with short sleeve/flip flop weather we did not distribute many heavy jackets (thanks to Austin we had lots of other needed items to donate!!). Owen & I attended an event in Round Rock a couple of weeks ago in hopes to distribute but there was no space to park or set up the trailer so we will try again later. At this time I'm waiting to hear about our next distribution.

**THANK YOU** to the women of our church who have been putting together the Niki Covers the Cold "Blankets in a Bag". Niki's idea was to keep the blankets in her car to give to those in need so this is perfect. The bags include: a pair of socks, gloves, toboggan and some toiletries rolled in a blanket and put in a bag (recycled bread bags from the Toad!!!) If you would like one or two to keep in your car please let us know.

We would also like to thank Meridian Elementary for collecting stuffed animals for [Niki Covers the Cold](#) .... Some of these we shared at our Ft. Worth distribution. We keep some in the trailer to share with the children!!

## Salvation Army Mabee Social Center in Ft. Worth



Lining up as we set up for distribution



And the distribution has begun!!!



NCC "Blankets in a Bag"



Helping in Ft. Worth were:  
 Jaron Thomas, Trevor &  
 Tracy Payne, Jami Edwards  
 Heath Stanford, Jalon &  
 Laurie Hall, Lani, Cade,  
 Gage, (Hayes snug in the  
 trailer!)

Jalon & Cade wanted to help  
 so they passed the blankets  
 from inside the trailer to  
 those outside the trailer.



Meridian ISD kids and their  
 stuffed animals

One of NCC's goals is to give others hope for brighter tomorrows. We were honored to team up with Pederson's Natural Farms and Wenzel's Meat in Hamilton for the first annual Bacon Bash!! We are proud to say the proceeds of the event will help a child attend Camp Sweeney 2013. Thanks Lexie for sharing what Camp Sweeney meant to you.

I'm Lexie and I was diagnosed with Type I diabetes on December 7, 1998, when I was seven years old. Diabetes was not something I nor did my mom really know anything about. All I knew was that the Dr. told me I could no longer eat the sugar cookie he had just taken from me. I didn't know then but my life was about to change drastically forever. While I was in the hospital for a week after being diagnosed the nurses taught my mom and I what we needed to know to take care of me- how to count carbs to control my diet, how to prick my finger to check my glucose levels multiple times a day, and my least favorite, how to get insulin in my body by giving myself a shot. For the first month my brother, Quade, would have to hold me while my mom gave me my insulin shots. At seven years of age, I didn't understand why I had this disease or what had I done to get this? Why did it happen to me? I didn't know anyone else who had diabetes, some classmates would say "oh yeah, my grandma has that." I felt like no one understood me when I would talk about my diabetes, when I was having a bad blood sugar day or I just felt bad because of the diabetes. My mom knew this bothered me so one year while we were at the doctor he recommended that I go to camp Sweeney- I had never been away from my mom for longer than two days so three weeks at a camp seemed like an eternity! So I was taken against my will that summer to spend three weeks at camp Sweeney. As mad as I was at my mom for making me go little did I know that summer was going to change my life forever.

Camp Sweeney is a camp for children with diabetes from ages 5-18. I can't say it's like most camps because I have never been to any other camp, but from stories I've heard from other kids who attend other camps Camp Sweeney is the coolest camp on earth! They have so many activities such as; dances, a carnival night, a lake with a huge water slide and 2 blobs, paintball, bowling nights, adventure nights where we go and camp out. I could go on forever about all the fun activities they have there but those aren't what make Camp Sweeney the best place on earth- it's the people there. We are all diabetic therefore we don't feel different there, it's like a get away from the disease. I met my best friends at camp Sweeney, it's such a special bond you share with each other at camp because for once we have people surrounding us who understand what we are going through, they know what it feels like when I say " my blood sugar is high, I feel awful" and they know how to help me feel better. My friends that I made there are people I have known longer than any of my other friends, somehow even though we would only see each other for 3 weeks out of a summer we were closer to each other than I was with people I saw everyday. I still keep in touch with them and we see each other as often as we can, even though one lives in Arkansas and one in Wisconsin we make it a point to see each other at least once a year. It is a friendship that will last forever and I have camp Sweeney to thank for that.

Camp Sweeney also teaches children how to deal with diabetes on a daily basis for when we are not at camp. They teach us about the complications that can happen if we do not take care of ourselves and how to prevent those. One of the biggest things camp Sweeney taught me was not to be ashamed of my diabetes, but to embrace it and help others understand the disease. I went to camp Sweeney for 8 years up until I was 18 and couldn't go any longer. It holds a very special place in my heart because it has made me the strong person I am today. It has allowed me to use my knowledge I learned there and help other newly diagnosed kids see that diabetes does not control your life, you can control it and live a completely Normal life. There are so many children out there who are diagnosed with type one diabetes but do not know how to take care of themselves. I believe sending a child to camp Sweeney can and will save their life. I believe that is what camp Sweeney has done for me.

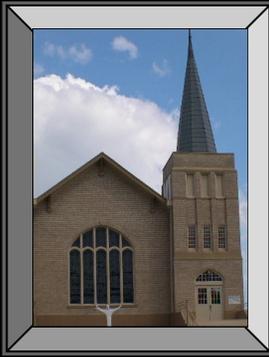
# FEBRUARY ~ ST. OLAF LUTHERAN

...But I say unto you, **Love your enemies**, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father ..... Matthew 5:42-48

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Assisting Ministers: Betty Tindall 3, 10 Renee Barner 17, Charlene Tergerson 24</b> <b>H. Usher: Gwyn Christensen</b> <b>Ushers: Gwyn &amp; Teresa Christensen</b> <b>Altar Guild: Anna Fortier &amp; Anne Parkin</b> <b>Fellowship Cookies: Ruth Circle</b>						
<b>3 SS 8:30</b> <b>Worship 9:45</b> <b>Confirmation 1:00</b> <b>@ Faith</b> Zayden Sanders	4	5	<b>6 WELCA 2:00</b> Packing Care Packages at Trinity 4-6	7	8	<b>9</b> Tracy Firstad
<b>10 SS 8:30</b> <b>Worship 9:45</b> Elaine Moore	<b>11 WELCA study</b> leaders 12:30 Worship & Music 2:30 Paul Taylor	<b>12</b> Deannery 10:00am Youth Pancake Supper 5:00	<b>13 Ruth Circle 2:00</b> Mary/Lydia 2:00 Kids Kiosket 3:30-5 Ash Wednesday Lent Worship @ St. Olaf 6:00	<b>14</b> Yvonne Chastain	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Breakfast 8-9:30 Macedonia Team goes to Holy Trinity Irving Joe & Abby Birdwell
<b>17 SS 8:30</b> <b>Worship 9:45</b> Macedonia Team goes to Holy Trinity Irving Prs. Gordon & Marie	<b>18</b> Assisting Ministers Meet 6pm Parsonage	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Supper/Lent Worship @ St. Olaf 6:00 Council to follow	<b>21</b> Night Circle 7:00 Bonnie Algren	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 SS 8:30</b> <b>Worship 9:45</b> <b>Confirmation 2:00</b>	<b>25</b> Ushers meet 6:00 Parsonage Gerald Nelson Arlen Enger Maranna Horn Danny & Charla Rudd	<b>26</b> Roberta Tomlinson	<b>27</b> Supper/Lent Worship @ Faith 6:00 Kenny Wiase	<b>28</b>		

**Wade Hanson & Cade Edwards**  
share a birthday on Feb. 17th.

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.



## Lent Is Early This Year

And you know what that means, right? **Easter** is early and **Ash Wednesday** is early and so we are making our plans for keeping Lent. Well, let's start at the beginning, the day before Lent begins! Our youth are going to host a fun **Mardi Gras Pancake Supper** on Feb. 12, at 5:00-7:30, so come on out and support them as they raise funds for camp!

The next day **Lent opens with Ash Wednesday**. It is St. Olaf's turn to host this service at 6:00 Feb. 13. In it, we are called to fasting, repentance and giving to the poor, as we remember our human mortality. We receive the sign of the cross in ashes on our foreheads—a reminder that we are but frail humans. And each day is an invitation to a new beginning in Christ.

So **how are you going to keep the 40 days of Lent?** Instead of fasting, which usually means giving up something you like—yes, instead of giving up something good, let's consider giving up something bad! For example: Give up ignoring people. Give up being negative. Or give up any bad habit you might have.

Or perhaps **you could think of it as taking on a new habit**. Lent is known as a time of preparing for baptism. For those of us already baptized, we could take on the habit of praying for our newly baptized, or pray for those who will be in our next session of inquirers'/adult confirmation classes. Or pray for the Holy Spirit to work within us. Take on the habit of **Lenten worship with soup suppers each Wednesday**. Some surprises will be in store at these weekly worship services! Here's the schedule—we have had to juggle a bit to accommodate the congregations and their council times.

**Feb. 13—Ash Wednesday at St. Olaf at 6:00**

**Feb. 20—Soup and Lenten worship at St. Olaf at 6:00**

**Feb. 27—Soup and Lenten worship at Faith at 6:00**

**Mar. 6—Soup and Lenten worship at Faith at 6:00**

**Mar 13—Soup and Lenten worship at St. Olaf at 6:00**

**Mar. 20—Soup and Lenten worship at Faith at 6:00**

**Mar. 28—Maundy Thursday at Faith at 6:00**

**Mar. 29—Good Friday at Rock Church, time to be announced**

**Mar. 31—Sunrise service at Rock Church, time to be announced**

**Easter worship at St. Olaf at 9:45**

**Easter worship at Faith at 11:15**

**A new session of adult confirmation classes** for those wishing to inquire and learn about the Lutheran faith begins on March 4 at 7:00 at St. Olaf's Sunday School Building. They will continue each Monday through March 25. Those desiring to be received into church membership, will be on Easter Sunday—a glorious day! Contact me for info.

Blessings as you walk the Lenten road,

*Pastor Joan*

