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# February Newsletter

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

402 Meridian Street

Cranfills Gap, TX 76637

Phone: 254-597-2738

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

8:30 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

9:30 AM EACH SUNDAY!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Living in God's amazing grace*

**Office: 254-597-2738**

**Pastor Joan Iker**

Mon., Wed., Thur.

9 am-5:30 pm

Cell: 580-230-8304

**Council President**

Iris Hodges

254-597-2536

**Council Vice President**

Phyllis Rieser

254-652-0676

**Secretary**

Tammy Senn

254-597-2738

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Saint-Olaf-Lutheran/2485747624853526>

## Strawberry Chocolate Chip Cookies

A strawberry twist on a classic!!



### Ingredients:

- 1 box (18.25 oz) strawberry cake mix, like [Duncan Hines](#)
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 large eggs
- 1/3 cup vegetable/canola oil
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 and 1/4 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips



**Directions:** Preheat oven to 350F. Line large baking sheet with parchment paper or silicone baking mat. Set aside.

In a large bowl, mix together the cake mix and baking powder. Set aside. In a smaller bowl, whisk together the eggs, oil, and vanilla by hand. Add the egg mixture to the cake mixture and stir to form a dough- stir vigorously until all of the pockets of dry cake mix are gone. Gently mix in the chocolate chips.

Drop rounded balls of dough, about 2 Tablespoons each, onto prepared baking sheet. Stick a few more chocolate chips on top of the cookie dough balls if you want them for looks, if desired. Make sure the balls of dough are taller than they are wide.

Bake for 10 minutes – do not let the cookies get brown. Allow to cool on baking sheet for 3 minutes; they will be very soft at first. As they cool, the tops may settle down; press them down gently with your fingers if they are not sinking much. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Store in an airtight container for up to one week. Yields 2 dozen

**If you would like to submit a recipe, email me at [saintolaf Lutheran@gmail.com](mailto:saintolaf Lutheran@gmail.com)**

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO DOLAND OLSON, OUTGOING CEMETERY BOARD MEMBER

We would like to thank Doland for this many years of dedicated service to the Rock Church and Cemetery. He is a lifelong member of Saint Olaf congregation and has served on the Cemetery Board for 12 years. Doland graduated from Cranfills Gap School, is a Korean War Veteran, worked until his retirement as an Administrator of the Seed Division of the Texas Department of Agriculture.

His mother, Clarise Olson, played the organ for our church for over 40 years. She took classes in Waco to learn how to play the new, grand organ as a teenager in 1917. She took off a few years to raise their family of six children. This family has given much to the community and church. Doland enjoyed faithfully checking on the church and cemetery almost daily. Doland now resides in the Veterans Hospital in Waco. Thank you Doland. Also thank you to all the other outgoing members of the church council for your involvement and time spent. Welcome to the new members of the council, we appreciate your willingness to serve the church.

Dear colleagues in ministry,

Save the date and celebrate! On **Sunday, Sept. 13, 2015**, congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will again have the opportunity to gather together for **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday** and celebrate who we are as the ELCA – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Following their participation in 2014, members of Lakeside Lutheran Church in Littleton, N.C., received a letter from town officials, thanking volunteers with the "bright yellow shirts" for their help in relocating the town's historic library.

The letter reads in part, "The ('God's work. Our hands.' Sunday) group has touched people they will never know or meet, people who will use the library to find a job, take a class, introduce a child to books, borrow a special book or come to email that son far away in Iraq."

**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday** celebrates the work you do every day, serving communities in ways that share the love of God with all of God's people.

We look forward to doing this work together **Sept. 13, 2015**. If your congregation cannot participate on that day, please consider another time. Visit [www.ELCA.org/dayofservice](http://www.ELCA.org/dayofservice) for more information.

God's peace



## **“Learning to be Lutheran”**

### **Confirmation Schedule:**

**Feb 8**

**Feb. 22**

**Mar. 1**

**Mar. 15**

I would like to share my gratitude for all those who visited and prayed for me while in the hospital.

Doland Olson

# **THIS DAY IN HISTORY**

This day in History.... January 27, 1944

Remembering the liberation of Auschwitz. Auschwitz-Birkenau was the largest extermination center created by the Nazis. It has become the symbol of the Holocaust and of willful radical evil in our time..

For more, visit the exhibits on <https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/project/the-holocaust>

Share your love of God Pause



LUTHER SEMINARY

**GOD PAUSE**

We hope you have been enjoying God Pause, a daily devotional from Luther Seminary. As a God Pause subscriber, you are one of more than 15,000 people around the world receiving spiritual refreshment with this devotional.

Do you know someone who could also benefit from God Pause? Share it with them today and they will start enjoying:

- short, meaningful reflections on the upcoming lessons and gospels...right in your email
- a resource designed to help you receive spiritual focus and enhance your faith
- heart to heart reflections from Luther Seminary alumni and much more

Share your love of God Pause!

Be sure to sign up at [http://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/daily\\_view.aspx](http://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/daily_view.aspx)

## Circle time!

### Martha Circle:

**will meet February 26 at 6:30p.m.**

### Ruth circle

Ruth circle met January 8th with four members and one guest present. Our Bible study on Repentance and Forgiveness given by Shirley evoked some lively discussions on forgiveness. Anna provided delicious refreshments and will provide cookies in February for Sunset Home Valentine Party. Betty Tindall will be hostess for our February 12th meeting and Abby will lead our Bible study. Come join us in the basement at 2pm-all are welcome.

*Submitted by Gerald Nelson, Treasurer*

**ACT JUSTLY.  
LOVE MERCY.  
WALK HUMBLY.**

### Prayer List:

Maranna Horn, Doland Olson, Joseph Rawls, Don Tergerson, Lucy Gary, Bonnie Algren, Mary (Ray) Hastings, Haley Rae Tarver, Heather Leahy, Margret Turpin, Tom Gary, Gene Lee, Barbara Lee, Rodney Barner, Mary Ann Stokely, Brady Warrick, Maurice Sewell, Betty Johnson, Darcy Cassidy, Kathy Johnston, Ronnie Ogle, Leslie Sims, Tracie & Barbara Auten, Cooper Brown, Elaine Moore, Wayne Mixon, Debi Payne Brewer, Pearl Lewis, Larry Mickelson, Raymond Bailes, Joe Birdwell, Donna Ashmore, Nettie Clough, Ron Brooks, Ronda Portman, Logan Clark, Dusty Wells, Maxine Maxwell, Charlene Tergerson, Blane Mehrens, Elsie Sommerfeld, Virgil Tindall and **The Lutheran Church Sierra Leone, Persecuted Christians.**

**SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN:** Matthew Medina, Justin Barnes, Kevin Moore, Michael Crackhome, Alex Saborsky Kirk Luedeke, Daniel Ramirez, and Lane Carlson

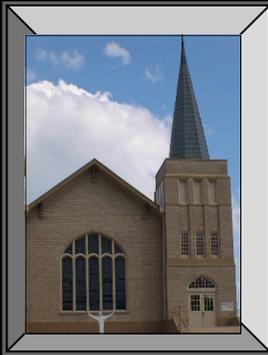
Financial Report	Receipts	Disbursements	Net
Budget through Dec 31, 2014	\$111,130.00	\$110,394.00	\$736.00
Actual through Dec 31, 2014	114,104.61	104,174.15	9,930.46

# FEBRUARY 2015 ~ ST. OLAUF LUTHERAN

Assisting Minister: Betty Tindall  
 H. Usher: Gwyn Christensen  
 Altar Guild: Anna Fortier & Ann Parkin  
 Ushers: Bob Miller

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Child/ Adult SS- 8:30 Worship- 9:30  Annual Meeting at Faith after service	2	3  Zayden Sanders	4  Paul Taylor	5  Ruth Circle meets at 2pm	6	7  Owen Carlson LARRY SIMMONS
8 Child/ Adult SS -8:30 Worship - 9:30 Confirmation- 2pm- (S/O)	9  Tracy Finstad	10  Blaine Moore  Faith's Council meet- ing at 6pm	11  WELCA Mary circle ~2pm Heckmann Hall	12	13	14  Yvonne Chastain
15 Child/Adult SS- 8:30 Worship 9:30	16  Worship & Music meet at St. O, 9:30	17 Mardi Gras Pancake Supper fundraiser 5:30-7	18 Ash Wednesday service @ Parh, 6pm	19 Faith Fellowship eat out ~6pm	20	21 Community Break- Fast at St. Olaf 8:00am
22 Child/ Adult SS - 8:30 Worship - 9:30 Confirmation 2pm (St. O)	23	24 Table Talk w/ Pr. Michael Poss @ Briarwood.	25 Gerald Nelson Arlene Enger Maranna Horn  Lenten soup & ser- vice at St. O ~ 6pm followed by St. Olaf council meeting.	26 Roberta Tomlinson  Martha Circle meet- ing at St. Olaf- 6:30pm	27  Anniversaries: Tony & Dawley Hills-Hares (14) Joe & Abby Birkwell (66) Denny & Charla Knoll (25)	28  Pr. attends MEF Board Meeting  Dorrie Aker (21)

Pastor Joan's Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-5:30pm Pastor's Cell 580-230-8304  
 Tammy Senn's Hours- flex: Office 254-597-2738



**St. Olaf Lutheran Church**  
*Worship, teach, nurture and share*  
*Christ's love.*



Friends in Christ,

The Word became flesh and pitched a tent among us! And now that God has come in the flesh what is happening? In our readings recently we have heard "come and see" and "follow me." The Word in the flesh, Jesus Christ, is in these words calling us to an Epiphany -- a sudden awakening! And this awakening is beyond our control. It is immediate and meaningful, surprising and sudden but profound. What God awakens us to is in God's hands. We will not always be called to the same action individually, but there are times as a community that we will be focused together on specific actions, and we certainly are called to constantly focus on the good news that the kingdom of God has come near in the person of Jesus.

This past Sunday I attended a service in the church where Martin Luther often preached. I heard one of the regional bishops preach there in Wittenberg, Germany. Though everything in the service was in German, I could tell when it was time to say the creed or pray the Lord's Prayer. I did notice a word the bishop used repeatedly in her sermon. It was "gemeinschaft" which means community. She was speaking of the things a church does as a community -- the call of the believers to heed Jesus' message like Peter and Andrew, James and John were called to do in Mark's gospel. They had a sudden awakening and responded immediately.

I have seen this in both St. Olaf and Faith as a community who responded when called to action. I have seen you participate in the NT-NL Macedonia Project. I have seen you respond to the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone. I have seen you give generously to Pastor Marie Barnett. I have seen you help local children in need. You do these things in response to God's call. You do these as God awakens you to the need. God opens your eyes and you respond. Now that we are having our annual meetings in this new year, what special call do you hear? What is our Epiphany for 2015? Do you have a vision of our future? We won't know it until it comes, but we are called to expose ourselves to new ideas as a community listening for God's call.

I am asking anyone interested in hearing new things to attend with me an NT-NL Table Talk session on "Reviving the Congregation" at Briarwood on February 24, 9:30 to 3:30. This is a day of conversation, community and learning lead by Rev. Michael Foss on how congregations thrive and grow. Rev. Foss has written this book based on his 40+years of ministry. The highlights will be leadership, partnerships as a community, and building a future of energy, focus and momentum. The only charge is \$12 for lunch, but registration is required. Please contact me if your are interested in the possible epiphanies of what God might do in us as we are renewed for future ministry.

May God bless you as you come and see and follow Christ!

Feb.1, Teryn Senn

**Alcolytes for February**

*Pastor Joan*

Feb.8 Kameron Wiese

Feb. 15, Lani Edwards

Feb. 22, Teryn Senn

