Return Service

June Newsletter

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76637
Permit No. 2

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

402 Meridian Street

Cranfills Gap, TX 76637

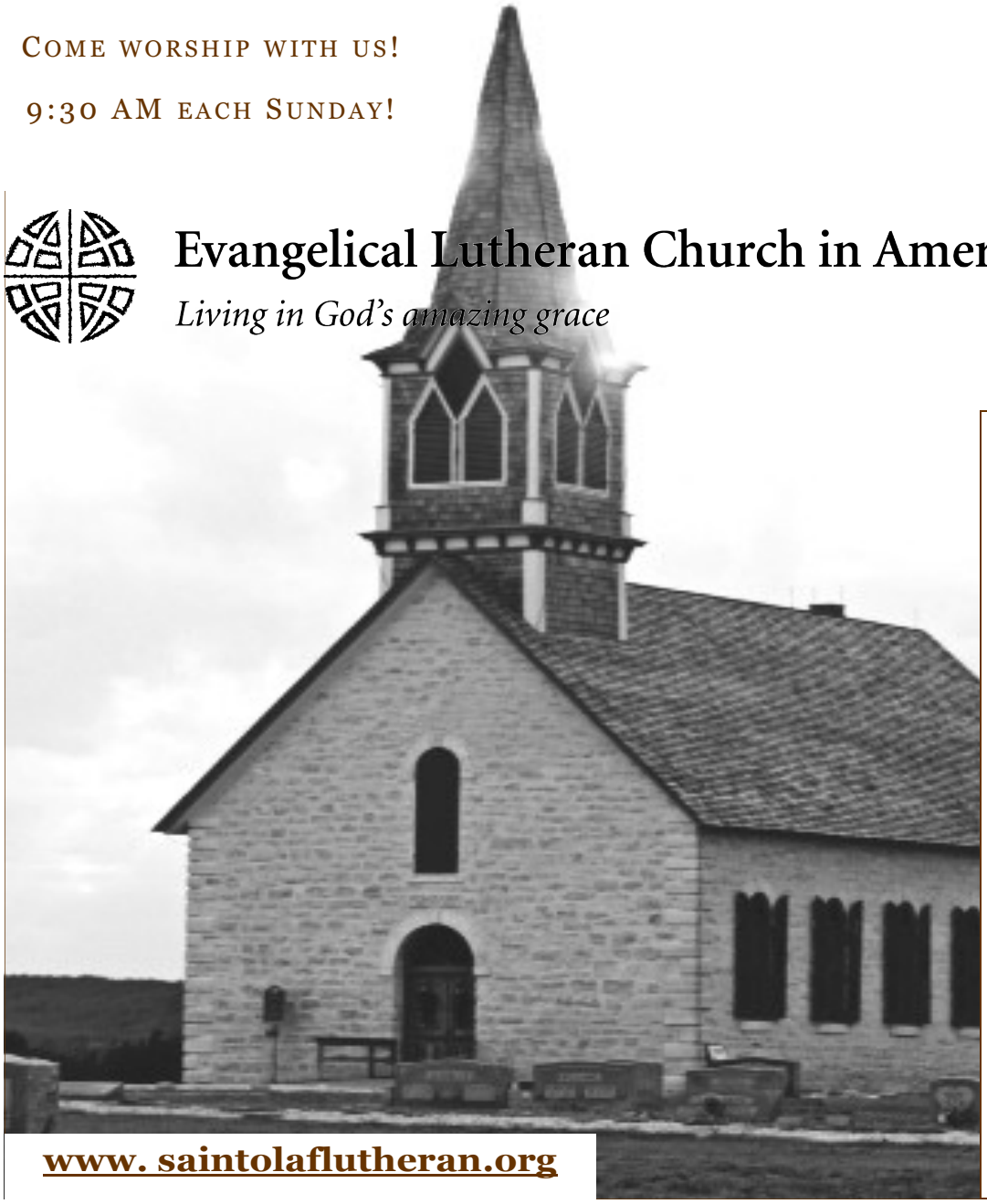
8:30A.M. Adult Sunday School

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

www. saintolaflutheran.org

Family Spotlight

Jens Jenson Family Spotlight for June

Jens Jenson was born in Norway in 1808. He married Thonje Knudsdatter, who was also born in Norway in 1812. They immigrated to America in 1853 with 7 children and first settled in Brownsboro for a short time before coming to Bosque County in 1854. They were among the first Norwegian settlers in Bosque County, purchasing land near Gary Creek in the Norse area where they built a log cabin with a stone fireplace. Two more daughters were born in Texas. Jens and Thonje are buried in Our Saviors Lutheran Cemetery.

Jens, the oldest son was 18 when he came to America and a few years later he was drafted into the Confederate Army. His disdain for war was so great that he dug a hole and buried his guns after the war. Upon returning from the war he married Siri Swenson from Tyldal, Norway. They built a stone house which is still part of the Arden and Geraldine Jenson home today. Jens and Siri had eleven children, the eldest son being named Jens Thomas, born in 1872. Jens Thomas seriously considered becoming a minister, however being the oldest son it was not financially feasible. However, his younger brother, Canute and three sons, Tilden, Martin and Lawrence and a grandson all became ministers in the Lutheran Church.

Lawrence, the 6th son, received his Bachelor of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul Minn. His first assignment in 1933 sent him to British Colombia, Canada where he ministered to immigrant fisherman from Norway. He said that most of them did not want to involve themselves in activities of the church, only wanted him to following the custom in Norway, baptize and confirm their children, marry the young and bury the dead. Later in life he came back to Texas and served the church in Four Mile. He also served as Interim Pastor here at St. Olaf during 1985 and 86.

The eighth child of Jens and Siri, named Palmer Samuel, was born in 1885 on the homestead in Gary Creek where he spent his entire life. He married Frieda Schulze and they had 7 children. One son died of a snake bite at age 10, a daughter died at birth and another at age 20. Four sons grew up and the youngest, Arden continued the family tradition of maintaining the original home and farm. His wife, Geraldine continues to live in this amazing, traditional Norwegian home today.

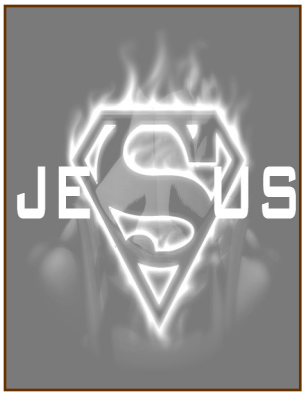
It is impossible to tell the story of this family in a short space. When you think of the struggles and difficulties they faced, one wonders how they found funds to send their sons to study and become ministers. They found a way by designating one field and all it produced to help pay for their sons education. They helped establish the settlement of Norse and played a large part in the organization of Our Saviors church in Norse and building of the Rock Church. Many members of this family have been an important part in Our Saviors and St. Olaf churches and are still carrying on the family traditions today. If you visit the cemeteries of both churches you will find many monuments bearing the name Jenson. All descendants of Jens and Tonya Jenson have reason to have great pride in their heritage.

Gap VBS June 22-26 at Gap Baptist Church

Gap Day Camp is July 13-17th at St. Olaf. Camp Briarwood leaders will be here.

Concert at Rock Church June 19, 7pm, from Plano Choir. Please join us!!

Confirmed!!! Congratulations Zane, Lani, Kameron and Teryn



World Malaria Day 2015

The people of NT-NL have now raised **$152,046.33** out of our commitment of $160,000. We have less than $8,000 to go!

We are so close to meeting our goal! Let's help make malaria history! Find more information and resources to use in your congregation at ntnl.org/malariaday2015.

Martha & Ruth

Martha Circle:

Will meet June 25 at 7 p.m.

Ruth Circle:

Ruth circle met May 14th with seven members present. Business discussed: Baccalaureate and 5th Sunday singing at St. Olaf. A decision was made to meet at 2pm instead of 1pm. Our Bible study was led by Shirley and refreshments were served by Betty Tindall Bible study. Our next meeting will be Sept. 10th at 2pm with Anna serving as hostess and Mary leading our new Bible study. We welcome you to join us.

Come by the church library located in the Sunday school building this summer. We have a great selection of books for all ages!!

Doland Olson, Joe McGowen, Henry Cortez, Martha Holland, Bonnie Algren, Mary (Ray) Hastings, Haley Rae Tarver, Heather Leahy, Margret Turpin, Tom Gary, Gene Lee, Rodney Barner, Mary Ann Stokely, Brady Warrick, Betty Johnson, Darcy Cassidy, Kathy Johnston, Ronnie Ogle, Tracie & Barbara Auten, Cooper Brown, Elaine Moore, Wayne Mixon, Martha & Helena McCormick, Josh Wilhelm, Pearl Lewis, Larry Mickelson, Raymond Bailes, Donna Ashmore, Ron Brooks, Dusty Wells, Guy Finstad, Ruby Edd Kuykendall 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

Prayer List:

Newsflash: St. Olaf Lutheran Church is hosting the Bell Choir from First Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs on June 15 at 7:00! We have had this choir perform in our service a few years ago and now they are back! Please join us for this joyful concert of praise to our Lord God!

The Celebration Ringers is one of six handbell choirs at First Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs. The ringers are in grades 9-12. Many have been involved in the handbell program since third grade. At First Lutheran they play for worship services throughout the year and concerts in the community, particularly during the Christmas season. The annual handbell tour has taken them to California, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, Nebraska, Kansas and Texas. This year they will be traveling through New Mexico and Texas with a return visit to Clifton, Texas where they will play a concert at Bosque Arts Center on June 16.

Their program consists of a wide variety of music including a new arrangement of *Crown Him with Many Crowns* by Matthew Compton, one of their former ringers. Matthew will be traveling with the group this year and directing his arrangement of this hymn tune. Matthew is a music major at Concordia University in Meqon, Wisconsin. Several of his handbell arrangements have been published. Joan Kuehn directs the Celebration Ringers. She has served as the Music Di-

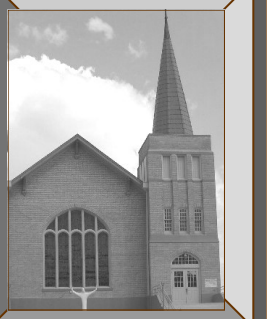
Financial Report	Receipts	Disbursements	Net
Budget through March 31, 2015 *Submitted by Gerald Nelson, Treasurer*	$28,537.50	$28,487.50	$50.00
Actual through March 31, 2015	21,181.14	28,237.05	(7,055.91)

June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Adult SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am	8 worship & music, St. Olaf, 2pm	9 worship & music, Faith, 2pm	10	11 Pr. Leads service @ LSM, 10am	12	13
14 Adult SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am	15 Bell Choir at St. Olaf, 7pm	16 Council @ Faith, 6pm	17 Council Meeting 6pm	18 12:30, Deanery Faith's eat out, 6pm	19	20 ~Comm. Breakfast~ 8am
21 Adult SS, 8:30amWorship, 9:30am~~~Blessing for Father's & men	22	23	24	25 Martha circle, 6:30pm	26	27
28 Adult SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am	29	30				

Gap Community VBS at Baptist Church

BIRTHDAYS: Amny Rose & Stacy Warren (5), Terry Finstad (10), Cindy Olson (13), Rita Hanson & Charles Johnson (15), Jeanna Goains (17), Hayes Edwards (17), Case Koehler (18), Kevin Johnson (22)



St. Olaf Lutheran Church

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

Summer is here and I know that it might become harder to attend church on a regular basis while you are traveling or out of your normal routine. If you can't come to worship, bring worship to your family wherever you are. Your family can be its own small congregation anytime. At the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Mission Area Assembly in late April we were very blessed to have Dr. Rich Melheim speak to us about his program called Faith5™ (Faith Acts in the home). It "is a simple, easy-to-implement faith practice perfect for incorporating into your bedtime routine for five to fifteen minutes a night. When done over time, the Faith5™ carries the power to enrich communication, deepen understanding, aid sleep, and promote mental, physical and spiritual health. The five steps are:

SHARE your highs and lows
READ a Bible verse or story
TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to you highs and lows
PRAY for one another's highs and lows
BLESS one another (faith5.org)

Though Faith5™ was originally developed for families with children, I don't see why you shouldn't use it with families of adults. It is a proven fact that the last thing on your mind at night before sleeping is what your brain contemplates all night. What could be better than practicing this as your nightly devotion? Rather than having your brain mulling over the news from TV or Facebook, give your brain a scripture, a prayer and a blessing. Wouldn't it be wonderful if every family were a small, practicing congregation in their own homes?

Now, the main reason that I know you are going to be busy this summer is that I have looked carefully at the church calendars. June and July give us little time to breathe. But some of these events actually will be quite relaxing. We begin the summer with the **Celebration Ringers Bell Choir from Colorado Springs is coming to St. Olaf on Monday, June 15 at 7:00.** This free concert is open to everyone. Come and enjoy an evening of musical praise to God!

Then the Cranfills Gap Community **VBS is June 22-26 at the Gap Baptist Church**. This year a youth group is coming to lead our local youth in a week of Bible fun and study. Adults will be on hand to supervise. If you have a child or grandchild, send them on over 9:00-12:00.

The second annual Day Camp has become a **Community Day Camp July 13-17** with all the Cranfills Gap churches participating. This is a full day of games, songs, crafts, Bible stories, lunch and snacks lead by real camp counselors from our own Briarwood Retreat Center. Children kindergarten through 5th grade are invited, but everyone must register as space is limited. The cost is $10 for the whole week. Call us at the church to register 254-597-2738.

That is enough to fill our heart and minds for now. Go in peace this summer. Serve the Lord!

Pastor Joan