

**Return Service**

# September Newsletter

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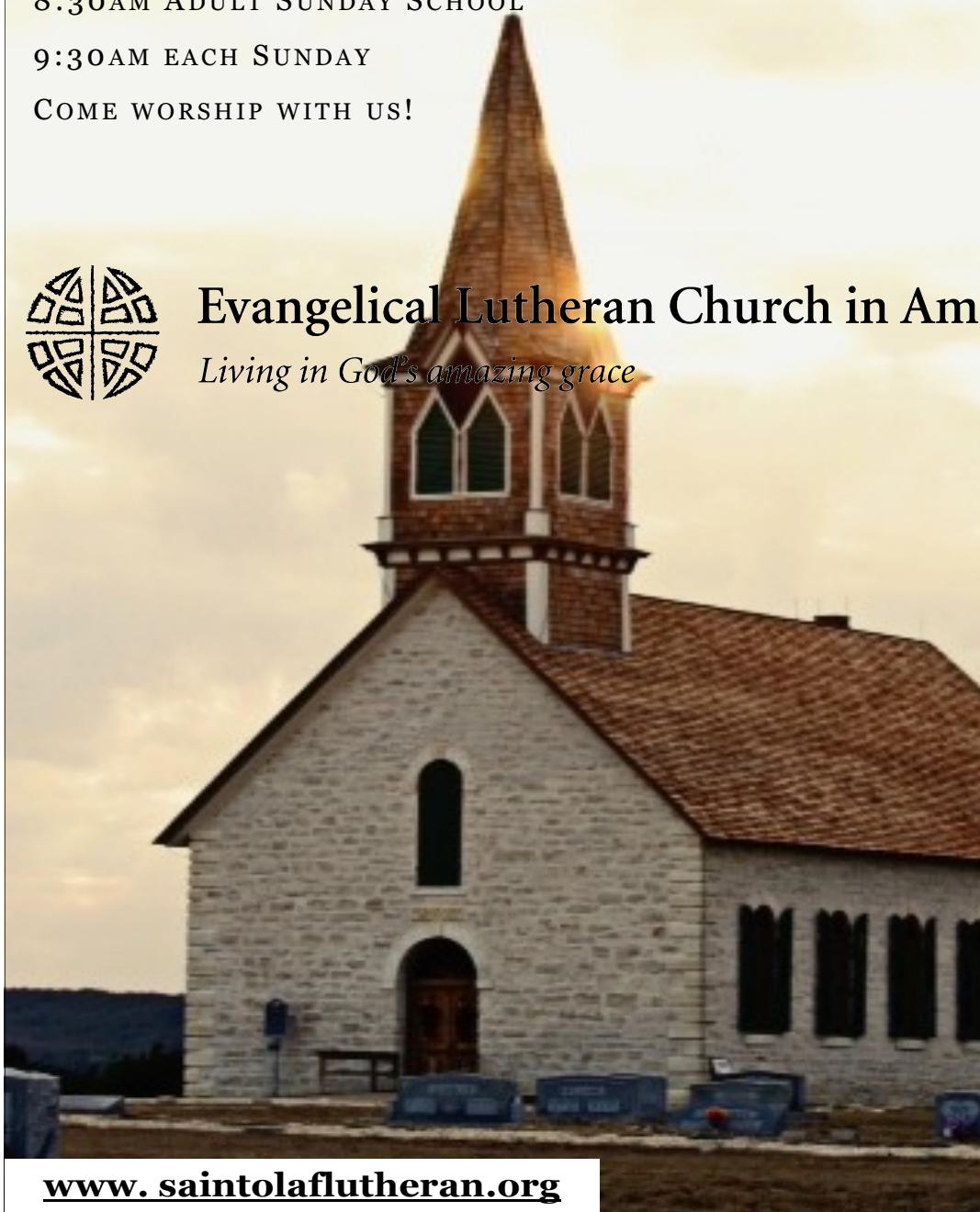
St. Olaf Lutheran Church  
402 Meridian Street  
Cranfills Gap, TX 76637

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



**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**

Angela Roberson

254-597-2738

**[www.saintolafchristian.org](http://www.saintolafchristian.org)**



## Family Spotlight

### The Hans Hansen Family

Hans Hansen was born in 1862 in Stange, Norway and came with his parents, Ole and Martha Hansen to America when he was four years old. They settled on land five miles East of Cranfills Gap. The land remained in the family for four generations. The rock fences which Hans almost single handedly built are still standing on this property today. Part of this land is currently owned by the family of Oliver and Regina Hansen, who are not related to the Hans Hansen family.

On October 1, 1892 Hans married Christine Lee. She was born in 1863 in Hedemark, Norway and came to America at the age of 19. This couple was blessed with seven children, four sons and three daughters. Martin died at the age of two; Otto died in 1918, Louis died at the age of 36. Axel married Clara Josephine Anderson in 1920 and they had one daughter, Hazel. Marie married Orus Solberg and they had one daughter, Emma Jewel. The other two daughters, Helga and Martha lived with their parents all their lives.

Hans and Christine were hard working pioneers. They attended church at Norse, and then became charter members at the Rock Church when it was built. Louis was confirmed there in 1909 and Axel was confirmed in 1911. Helga was confirmed in 1914 and Martha in 1918, both at the Rock Church. The family was devoted church members and ever ready to give of their time, effort and money to anything which contributed to the up building of their church and community. This included school and Clifton Lutheran College.

Ephesians 6: 2, 3 - Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise, that it may be well with you and that you may enjoy great length of life on the earth. Hans died at the age of 93 in 1956. For the last 15 years of his life, he was blind, but always a kind and patient man. Christine died at the age of 89 in 1952. One of her hobbies was making pretty quilts.

There are no remaining members of this family who are currently members of this congregation. I remember going to visit the Hans Hansen family as a young child with my grandparents. I was amazed how Mr. Hansen could get around when he couldn't see. A string was attached to furniture to guide him. I remember the special refreshment Helga and Martha served. They had a fancier pump organ than my grandma had. This family was highly respected members of this church and community and contributed much to the early churches.

~ By Geneva Finstad

If you would like to submit something for the newsletter, the deadline is the 20th of the preceding month. Also, if you have any questions or comments, or you would like to be added/removed from the newsletter mailing (or emailing) list, please contact Angela at the church email: [saintolaflutheran@gmail.com](mailto:saintolaflutheran@gmail.com). Thanks!

# News from Here and There

## From Abroad:

Things are coming along quite well with the language, and including this week, I have 4 more weeks of instruction. It is definitely difficult, for me it is the most difficult thing I have ever studied, but there has been a lot of progress. A few weeks ago we had a team from Minnesota come for a couple weeks. One weekend while they were here, I went down to Krivoy Rog to join them in some ministry and go to a baptism ceremony we were having. It was very encouraging because I was able to see just how far I had come by being with people who knew no Russian whatsoever.

Other than that, after my last week of school I will be going to Poland for my visa, and then moving to Krivoy Rog for good. So if anyone asks, a good thing to pray for is continued progress with the language, and that my visa and residency paperwork go through smoothly.

Thanks for checking in on me. Once I get to Krivoy Rog, I will be sending out monthly newsletters, and if you guys want, I would love for you to publish them. I know that the more people know about what's going on, the more they will be praying for it. I just haven't been doing them right now because I'm not doing a whole lot that's worthy of a newsletter, mostly a lot of studying.

God Bless,  
Chris Lujan

The Faith Lutheran Annual Fish Fry is  
October 10, 5-7pm. Everyone is invited!

Thank you  
St. Olaf we had  
So much fun!

from: Signe Senn

Thank  
you!



**Announcement:** If you would like to discuss the Bishop's letter, please feel free to call the Pastor and schedule a time to talk. Also, we can print a copy, if needed.



August Breakfast 2015

Another St. Olaf breakfast has rolled around again. We had a good crowd - 60 people. It is always good to see all of our regulars, and to meet all the new people in and around our community. Many thanks for making our breakfast a big success. We are well into our fourth year, and the people still keep coming to enjoy our good food, good fun, and good fellowship.

Many thanks to Cheryl and Dawley for the good, fresh farm eggs. We really appreciate them! As always, many thanks to my crew, and to Terry and Karen, our new crew members. Everyone has a job, and they keep the food coming so all the people can fill their plates and enjoy breakfast and a visit with friends.

God Bless,  
~ Iris

The Maude Shockley Art Club will be sponsoring a photography contest during Hamilton's annual Dove Festival in October.  
For more info, visit [www.artofhamiltontx.org](http://www.artofhamiltontx.org)

Dear St. Olaf,

Thank you so much for letting me go to Briarwood. I had so much fun. My favorite thing to do was swimming. I liked making new friends.

Cooper Katzer



## Briarwood Camp



# Mary, Martha, & Ruth

## Mary Circle:

Will meet September 9, at Heckmann Hall, 2pm

## Martha Circle:

Will meet Sept. 20, @ Signi's house, right after church.  
Potluck lunch

## Ruth Circle:

Our next meeting will be Sept. 10th at 2pm with Anna serving as hostess, and Mary leading our new Bible study.

### 2015 CRANFILLS GAP LIONS

#### FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

##### Varsity Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	PLACE	GAME TYPE
AUG 21ST	BYNUM	6:00PM	BYNUM	SCRIMMAGE
AUG 28TH	EVANT	7:30PM	CRANFILLS GAP	PRE-DISTRICT
SEPT 4TH	OPEN			
SEPT 11TH	SIDNEY	7:30PM	CRANFILLS GAP	HOMECOMING
SEPT 18TH	OPEN			
SEPT 25TH	STEPHENVILLE FAITH	7:30PM	AWAY	PRE-DISTRICT
OCT 2ND	GHOLSON	7:30PM	GHOLSON	PRE-DISTRICT
OCT 9TH	WALNUT SPRINGS	7:30PM	CRANFILLS GAP	DISTRICT
OCT 16TH	MORGAN	7:30PM	MORGAN	DISTRICT
OCT 23RD	JONESBORO	7:30PM	CRANFILLS GAP	DISTRICT
OCT 30TH	IREDELL	7:30PM	IREDELL	DISTRICT
NOV 6TH	OGLESBY	7:30PM	CRANFILLS GAP	DISTRICT

##### JH FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SEPT 10TH	SIDNEY	6:00PM	SIDNEY	Scrimmage
OCT 1ST	GHOLSON	6:00PM	CRANFILLS GAP	PRE-DISTRICT
OCT 8TH	WALNUT SPRINGS	6:00PM	WALNUT SPRINGS	DISTRICT
OCT 15TH	MORGAN	6:00PM	CRANFILLS GAP	DISTRICT
OCT 22ND	JONESBORO	6:00PM	JONESBORO	DISTRICT
OCT 29TH	IREDELL	6:00PM	CRANFILLS GAP	DISTRICT
NOV 5TH	OGLESBY	6:00PM	OGLESBY	DISTRICT

Doland Olson, Joe McGowen, 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, Cooper Brown, Elaine Moore, Wayne Mixon, Martha & Helena McCormick, Dacey Patrick, Josh Wilhelm, Pearl Lewis, Larry Mickelson, Raymond Bailes, Ron Brooks, Dusty Wells, Rita Hoggett, Chris Lujan, Eileen Hicks, Gary Tyson, Mykayla Pierce, Larry Barger, M.A. Midgett, Kinsley Norris, and **The Lutheran Church Sierra Leone, Persecuted Christians.**

**SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN:** Matthew Medina, Justin Barnes, Kevin Moore, Michael Crackhome, Alex Saborsky, Kirk Luedke, Daniel Ramirez.

**Prayer List**

## Altar Guild List

### January & July

Sandi Carlson & Kathy Finstad

### February & August

Anna Fortier & Ann Parkin

### March & September

Linda Samples & Alice Lucas

### April & October

Phyllis Rieser & Paula Perschke

### May & November

Shirley Thompson & Patricia Forsythe

### June & December

Rita Hanson & Karen Hanson

**WELCA - We would appreciate any baked goods, etc. for our Septemberfest Booth. The church basement will be open Friday afternoon, Sept. 11, and about 8am, Saturday, Sept. 12, for drop-offs.**

Thank you,  
Anna

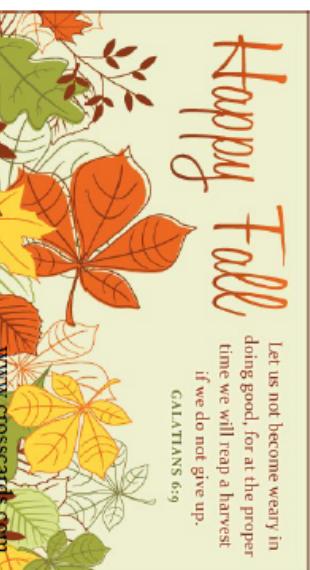


Sept 20, Acolyte Class for kids (8-11), 2:00pm

Children's Sunday School starts  
September 20th @ 8:30am.

Financial Report	Receipts	Disbursements	Net
<i>Submitted by Gerald Nelson, Treasurer</i>			
Budget through July 31, 2015	\$66,587.50	\$66,470.83	\$116.67
Actual through July 31, 2015	58,868.86	61,694.57	(2,825.71)

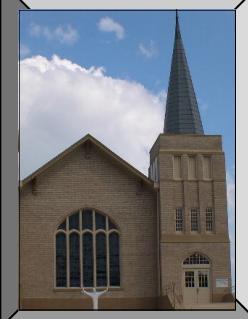
# September 2015



Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

1	2	3	4	5
Assisting Minister: Charlene Tergerson Head Usher: Virgil Tindall Ushers: Bob Miller & Larry Simmons Altar Guild: Linda Samples & Alice Lucas				
6 Adult SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am	7	8 Council @ Faith, 6pm	9 St. Olaf Mary Circle meets @ Heckmann Hall, 2pm	10 Pr. leads service at LSM @ 10am St. Olaf Ruth Circle meets in church base- ment, 2pm
13 Adult SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am Faith's Stewardship Potluck w/ Speaker, 6pm	14	15 Council @ St. Olaf, 6pm	16 Deanery, McGregor 12:30pm Faith's Out to Eat, 6pm	17 Community Breakfast St. Olaf, 8am
20 Adult & Children's SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am Martha Circle @ Signe's after church, potluck lunch	21	22	23	24
27 Adult & Children's SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am	28	29	30 <b>September Birthdays:</b> Tobby Tischler, Russell Wiese, & Signe Senn (Gene Lee (5), Anna Marie Simmons (7), Jim Kersey & Wayne Rohne (Don Tergerson (11), Guy Finstad & Ed Rieser (12), Harold Wiese, John Bingaman (13), Darla Kinney, & Brooks Reiterson (14), Mary (John) Haings (15), Oscar Rohne (16), Barbara Lee (20), Rodney Barnier (21), Alice Lucas (22), Chandler Meissner (23), Emily Neal, Tom Gary, & Nancy	25
				26

**September Birthdays:** Tobby Tischler, Russell Wiese, & Signe Senn (2), Gene Lee (5), Anna Marie Simmons (7), Jim Kersey & Wayne Rohne (8), Don Tergerson (11), Guy Finstad & Ed Rieser (12), Harold Wiese, John Bingaman (13), Darla Kinney, & Brooks Peterson (14), Mary (John) Hastings (15), Oscar Rohne (16), Barbara Lee (20), Rodney Barner (21), Alice Lucas (22), Chandler Meissner (23), Emily Neal, Tom Gary, & Nancy Bratcher (26), Bob Miller (28), Patricia Forsythe and Linda Samples (29)



# St. Olaf Lutheran Church

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



Dear Friends in Christ, here is an article I am sharing as food for thought on Christianity nationwide:

## American Christianity Has Been Hijacked

Visualize 30,000 young people singing worship songs, dancing in the aisles, and praising Jesus. Might sound like something from an Evangelical or Pentecostal church. Yet these youth filling Detroit's Ford Field were not from a charismatic tradition, but from a denomination more known for pipe organs, vestments, and hot dish casseroles filled with tater tots: the Lutherans.



Wearing bright neon shirts representing every color of the rainbow, these youth came together this past week for the triennial ELCA National Youth Gathering. With them they brought a wave of hopefulness too strong to avoid. As a volunteer at the event, I couldn't seem to go anywhere without encountering this zeal. Every walk through downtown or along Detroit's riverfront greeted me with a multitude of teenagers raising their hands for a high-five or cheering in elation. Even beyond the event's participants, local residents expressed a similar jubilee:

"Thank you for coming to Detroit!" passersby would smile and shout on the streets outside the General Motors Renaissance Center. "We are so happy you're here sharing Jesus!" waiters would smile as we entered Greektown's popular restaurants. And from downtown's convention center to suburban hotels, employees, cops and panhandlers would raise their hand in the air, catching the infectious high-five trend, and say, "You are bringing so much joy to this city!"

For a faith rooted in sharing the Gospel (meaning "good news"), I can think of no better manifestation than the week of constant optimism that radiated through this city. Whether it was mobs of teenagers singing "Make A Difference" through the streets, or one high-schooler cleaning up a blighted neighborhood, I saw it infect every person that encountered a Gathering participant.

As I witnessed this enthusiasm, I was overcome with a pride for the universal church that I, unfortunately, haven't recently felt. In fact, the last time my eyes welled up with this bliss was while working at a church camp. As I examined the differences between normal life and what I experienced at both the camp and this Gathering, I found one key difference: **Positivity**.

Outside these exceptions, American Christianity seems to have been hijacked by negativity. A quick search of recent news proves this, as a faith meant to be characterized by its "good news" has become known not by what it's *for*, but by what it's *against*. Christians in America are now best recognized by their feigned religious persecution, anti-Muslim sentiments, or their unwillingness to bake a cake for a same-sex wedding. [Which we have a right to, if we want, but are these things Christians should be best known for?]

Such actions bring to mind the words of one of my mentors, a resident of America's Bible Belt, who often says, "I'm for any religion that doesn't hurt people."

Why has American Christianity become known for the pain it causes?

To paraphrase a delegate at a recent church convention... "Why aren't we investing our resources in activities that cause people to say, "You are bringing so much joy!"?

Let American Christianity stop being known as a religion that hurts, as a faith focused on what we're against, and instead let them know we are Christians by our **love**. By the same love that radiated from 30,000 youth in Detroit.

"I believe the children are our future, teach them well and let them lead the way," Whitney Houston sings in "The Greatest Love of All."

Instead of us teaching the children animus, maybe we need to let them lead the way. Let them guide America away from a church hijacked by negativity to a place where we are known by our Gospel.

By our good news. *Writer Mikah Meyer is also author of the memoir [Life's More Fun When You Talk to Strangers](#).*

Blessings,  
Pastor Joan



SEPTEMBER 2015

## Fall Festival & Cooking for Christ Saturday, October 3, 2015

This year the Briarwood Fall Festival is joining Thrivent Financial's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cooking For Christ Cook-off on Saturday October 3 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

The festival will be a fun-filled family day at Briarwood beginning at 10:00 am! There will games available for children of all ages, wonderful treats, face painting, raffles, tours of the camp and the Annual Meeting of the Advisory Board. We will also have the usual treats, cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn and sodas available throughout the day – the highlight will be barbecue served from the cook-off with all the trimmings provided by Briarwood's Chef Carlos!

In addition to the new date and time this year, will be the Cooking for Christ Cook-off sponsored by Thrivent Financial. Team will compete in three categories: brisket, ribs and chicken.

Tickets for the Fall Festival will be available at the event. Space for the Cook-off is limited to the first 20 teams to turn in registration form and \$100 Registration fee, payable to Briarwood. For more information or registration forms please contact the Briarwood office at [bw@briarwoodretreat.org](mailto:bw@briarwoodretreat.org) or call 940.241.2099.

Tickets will go on sale online at the beginning of September. Check the weekly Camp Fire news for more information.

### Thank you Lauren and Savanna

As summer camp comes to an end the internships of Program Interns Lauren Roller and Savanna Sullivan comes to a conclusion. Lauren is leaving the Briarwood Team to take a position with Southwest Airlines and Savanna will leave Briarwood to serve as a Missionary in Rwanda, Africa by participating in the ELCA's Youth Adults in Global Mission ministry. We thank both Lauren and Savanna for their service and wish them God's richest blessings in their new work!

### Sign up for Summer Camp 2016 and Receive Super Early Bird Discount

Plans for Summer Camp 2016 are now in the formative stages and you are encouraged to sign up now for 2016! Build your summer plans for 2016 around camp and receive a \$50 discount and a guarantee of 2015 pricing for 2016 by registering by December 31, 2015. Register at [www.briarwoodretreat.org](http://www.briarwoodretreat.org) today!

### Mark your Calendars!

- \* Confirmation Retreat - Sept 25-26
- \* Table Talk - September 29
- \* Fall Festival/Thrivent Cook-Off - Oct 3

- \* Golf Outing - October 9
- \* Angel's Workday - November 18
- \* Advent Retreat - December 5-6

### Confirmation Retreat 2015 - September 25-26

#### *Living Stones- 1 Peter 2:1-12*

This summer at Briarwood, we explored how we can be living rock stars for Jesus, and the Confirmation Retreat is a continuation of that message! Come join us as we explore how the actions we take and the words that we say impact how we live our day to day lives! The Confirmation Retreat is a great way for you to kick off your Confirmation class with your group. There are 4 hours of time set aside for Pastors or Sponsors to begin lessons with the group, and plenty of activities and resources from Briarwood to help as well! Cost: \$50/youth, Adults are FREE. Register today at <https://briarwoodretreat.cambrainregistration.com/>.



### Briarwood Invitational Golf Outing, October 9, 2015

The annual Briarwood Invitational Golf Outing will be held on Friday, October 9 again at the beautiful Bridlewood Golf Club in Flower Mound. Visit [bidpal.net/briarwoodgolf](http://bidpal.net/briarwoodgolf) for more information and to register or sponsor the event! Contact Phil Geleske at [phil@briarwoodretreat.org](mailto:phil@briarwoodretreat.org) with questions.

### Summer Camp 2015 Comes to a Successful Conclusion

Last Friday, with our closing worship, we brought the 2015 "Rock On!" Summer Camp to a close. Worship was especially exciting in that we had the largest group of campers; participate in the final closing of what has proven to be most attended summer camp in more than ten years at Briarwood.

We want to thank the Briarwood Summer staff under the direction of Program Director Aaron Colwick, Grace, Carrollton and Program Interns, Lauren Roller, St. Matthew, Waco and Savanna Sullivan, Faith, Flower Mound. Members of the staff are listed on our website at <http://www.briarwoodretreat.org/#camp-counselors/c1pvm>

Most importantly we extend a thank you to all the campers and their parents for joining us this summer at Briarwood – "Rock On!"