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March Newsletter

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8:30AM ADULT
SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30AM WORSHIP



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Living in God's amazing grace

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The Knud Salve Knudson Family

Family Spotlight

This family could be called a continuation of last month's family. Knud, the first son of Salve and Asborg Kittlesdatter Knudson was born 1830 in Amlie Parish Norway. He was 16 years old when the family immigrated to America and settled in Brownsboro.

In 1857 Knud married Gunhild Tergerson, the daughter of Tellef Tergerson and Asborg Tellefsdatter. She had emigrated from Amlie Parish with her parents in 1850. They moved with his father's family to Four Mile in 1858. Their family life was interrupted by the Civil War and Knud was drafted into the Confederate Army. While serving with the 2nd Texas Infantry, Knud was captured in the battle of Vicksburg; he was immediately paroled according to the terms of surrender. After an extended furlough, he served with Johnsons Battalion until the end of the war.

In 1867 Knud made his first trip to Bosque County. He and Rev. Styrk S. Reque, who had been sent from Wisconsin to survey the Norwegian settlements in Texas, made the 178 mile trip by horseback. Knud had made two wooden saddles covered with leather for the occasion. On January 10 Rev. Reque conducted the first Lutheran Church service in Bosque County assisted by Knud, who led the hymn singing. The historic marker on FM 219 in front of the Ringness house marks the location today.

Knud returned to his home with enthusiastic reports of the country he had seen and encouraged his family and neighbors to move there. Before any plans could be made, news came about his young nephew, Ole Nystel, being captured by Indians. The fear of Indians for a mother with eight children was greater than any desire to move. But a few months later, another epidemic swept through the community taking twelve lives, including Knud's half-sister, Asborg. Knud, his father and ten other families sold or traded their property and headed west.

When they arrived in Bosque County, the Knudsons camped under an oak tree in the Meridian Creek valley until they were able to pre-empt 160 acres of land each and build log cabins. The oak tree stood on the land that became Knud's property and is still standing near the rock house he built in the early 1970's on CR 4145. Limestone was plentiful and their homes were built by hand with raw materials available. They built a large lime kiln on the bank of a nearby stream and heated soft limestone at a high temperature for over a week to produce slack for white-washing. Paint and shingles were all made by hand.

In addition to the four children who came with them from Four Mile, three more children were born. In 1880, Gunhild's niece, Anne Jermstad joined the family when her mother died. While Knud plowed, planted and harvested, Gunhild tended to the never ending household chores. We can't imagine cooking all the food on an open hearth and making all the clothes from material she had spun and woven. Knud was able to buy additional land and gave each of his sons a farm. Their children were: Tomena (1858-1938) who married Ole Jermstad and they had eight children; Tellef, who died at the age of two (1860-1862); Oscar (1862-1943), who married Mary Olson and they



had 7 children; John (1864-1928) who married Pauline Hanson and they had nine children; Chael Tobies (Callie)(1867-1873); George (1869-1957) who married Olena Hanson and they had eight children; Albert (1871-1957) and they had eight children; Carl Tobias, (1874-1952) who married Mary Sorenson and they had six children. Now you know why there are so many monuments with the Knudson name in the Rock Church cemetery.

To Knud and Gunhild, food for the soul was as important as food for the body. Not only were they active in church, they brought teachers into their home to give their children religious instructions. Knud and his sons were involved in building the Rock church. Their faith and hard work made it possible for their descendants to have a firm religious heritage, the privilege to be born in America, and a better way of life as written by a descendant. In 1889 Knud wrote an article about his experiences in America for the Amerika, a Norwegian language newspaper. A translation of the account, which was entitled "The First Norwegian Settlers in Texas", is now in the University of Texas Library collection. Knud died in October of 1910 and Gunhild lived with their son Albert until her death in 1922. They, along with many descendants, are buried in the Rock Church Cemetery. Saint Olaf Lutheran Church is better because of this dedicated family and that is still true today. It would be impossible to list the many roles of leadership this family has given to our church.

References: Bosque Land and People, The Descendants of Salve Knudson Family History Book, ad St. Olaf Cemetery Records

Corrections or Questions contact: Geneva Finstad 254 597 2453

WELCA Lutheran World Relief Drive Donation Deadline is April 1st



Health Kits

- 1 nail file
- 2 bars soap—8 or 9 oz.
- 1 heavy duty comb
- 1 light weight towel (20" x 40" minimum or 52" x 27" max)
- 1 tooth brush (in original packaging)

School Kits

- 1 Bx. 24 crayons
- 1- 2 1/2" eraser
- 4-70 sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper (approximately 8" x 10" 1/2"--no loose leaf paper)
- 1-30 centimeter ruler of a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- 1- pencil sharpener
- 1- blunt scissors
- 5- unsharpened #2 pencils with eraser; secure together with rubber band
- 5- black or blue ballpoint pens (no ink gel); secure together with rubber band
- 1- sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag. Approximately, 14" x 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)

Fabric Kits

- 2 spools thread
 - 2 1/2 yds. of 60" material or 3 yds. of 44" material or 4 yds. of 36" material
- Send 2 pieces of cotton or cotton blend. These 2 should be same size.

Blankets: We will also be collecting blankets that can be ordered on-line at Walmart.com. The blanket item is Mainstays brand, Value Blanket #555394125 for \$5.88.



**WELCA ladies will package
and send off to LWR.**

To all,

Since our last council meeting, I have several updates that everyone should be aware of. Amazing how quickly things change and new information becomes available. It is truly a fast paced world that we live in with “change” being one of the key factors.

First, council members met last Thursday with the council members from Faith Lutheran in Meridian and Pr. Totzke, the Bishop’s associate, who will help us in the process of finding a pastor. The process for calling a pastor is quite different from previous years. This is due to the smaller pool of pastors and our needs for a part-time pastor. There are no quick fixes for either congregation. Pr. Totzke asked both congregations to clarify our expectations for a pastor, determine what we can afford to pay a pastor, and discuss partnership options in greater detail. Pastor Ryan has agreed to continue at St. Olaf through the summer so this will give us additional time for discussion and planning.

Secondly, we also discussed a new idea regarding the summer Day Camp program. Following our last council meeting, Darren Hanson put forward the idea that we might act as our own Day Camp provider with leaders and team support rather than paying for outside counselors. Darren has suggested that Wade and Marty Hanson as well as Kenneth Wiese serve as our counselors. Taking ownership of the program will not be without lots of planning and work but council members felt that with the help of these young adults that a good program could be provided for our community. The tentative dates for the camp are from July 24th to July 27th (a 4 day program).

We will also need funds for our Day Camp program as well as other youth activities. By the time you receive this newsletter, the Youth Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper will have already occurred. It is the first of a series of fundraising planned by the Education Committee. We hope that you will all support these youth efforts.

Lastly, also discussed our services during Lent. Due to Pr. Ryan’s schedule, the Ash Wednesday service will occur on Thursday, March 2nd at 6pm. Below I have listed all the services leading up to Easter and our Easter weekend schedule. During Lent services will be at 6pm.

- March 9th No meal planned so individual can attend the Chamber of Commerce Dinner and meeting.
- March 16th Light supper with service to follow
- March 23rd Light supper with service to follow
- March 30th Light supper with service to follow
- April 6th Light supper with service to follow
- April 13th Maundy Thursday at Brick Church in town
- April 14th Good Friday at Rock Church at 6pm
- April 16 Easter Sunrise service at 7am at Rock Church
- April 16 Youth breakfast following sunrise service at Brick Church
- April 16 Easter Sunday service at 9:30am at Brick Church in town

Peace be with you as we begin our journey from Lent to Easter and toward our future.

Phyllis Rieser, Church Council President



*Kid's Sunday School:
studying the story of Lazarus*



Church Council Notes - February 15, 2017

The monthly church council meeting was held Wednesday, February 15th at 6pm. Thirteen members were present. Phyllis Rieser called the meeting to order and gave a devotional from Christ in the Home. Sandi Carlson read minutes of the last meeting.

Due to Pastor Ryan's illness, there was no Pastor's report.

The **Financial Report** was given by Gerald Nelson. He made a motion to transfer \$4,125.13 from the Rock Church fund to General Operating to reimburse for Rock Church costs that had been paid by the General Operating fund.

The **Care and Concern** list was discussed. Christmas Cards were sent to those on the Care and Concern list and it was suggested we consider doing the same Easter. Items for an Easter basket for Elaine and Arlen Enger will be collected.

The **Trustee Report** was given by Virgil Tindall. He indicated the trustees had repaired stove and replaced both heating elements in the hot water heater. Cindy Wiese asked that the light switch in the 4H storage room needed to be checked. Darren Hanson will follow up on this issue. Virgil is securing a bid from a painter regarding painting jobs needed at the church. Virgil and Phyllis met with Mike from Leon Floors about new carpet for the sanctuary. Plans for new carpet will be discussed at the March meeting.

The **Board of Education Report** was given by Jami Edwards. The Youth will have their Fat Tuesday pancake supper on February 28th from 5-7pm with free will donation. Pederson's Natural Farms will donate bacon and sausage. The Youth will serve the Chamber of Commerce April 13th, 2017. Other fundraisers were discussed. Day Camp 2017 is scheduled for July 31 – August 4th. Gerald was asked to follow up on an outstanding bill from Briarwood from last year's day camp. Ideas to defray the cost of Day Camp were discussed. Jami Edwards and Kathy Finstad will co-chair the efforts to review different ideas to improve the day camp program.

The **Cemetery Report** was given by Kenneth Wiese. Kenneth reported the balance in accounts of \$2,530. In January there were two burials, three weddings at the Rock Church and one reception in the Gathering Place. Geneva provided a copy of the wedding policy for council members to review and discuss at the next meeting.

Phyllis and Kenneth reported that attendance at the **Community Breakfast** was down in February but felt this was due to very cold temperatures.

Phyllis Rieser gave the **Centennial Celebration** report. The 100th Anniversary celebration of the Church will be October 22, 2017. The committee will meet the first Wednesday of each month at 10am. Anyone interested in attending is invited to attend. The next meeting is March 1st. Jeanne Bayless is chairing a committee to prepare a commemorative book

Under Old Business:

- The council was asked to attend a meeting on Thursday, February 23rd, with Pastor Totzke (Bishop's assistant) and Faith Lutheran Church council members to discuss the possibility of sharing a pastor.
- Jami Edwards agreed to represent St. Olaf at the April 28-30 Synod Meeting in Plano.
- Phyllis will review the funeral policy before the next meeting.
- The council discussed an electronic version as well as a paper version for the church directory to include updated names, address, and phone numbers but no pictures. Phyllis coordinate with Angela. Jami offered to help set up an address spread sheet if needed.

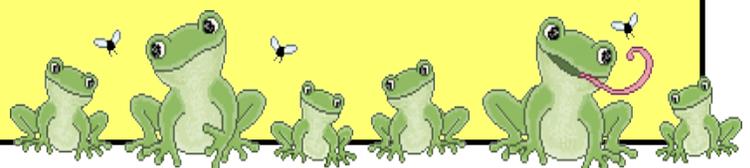
Under New Business:

- Phyllis will talk with Pastor Ryan about moving Church Council meetings to Thursday to save him time and travel. Also discussed having Lent Services on Thursday.
- The Council will set a time for a congregational meeting to select a call committee but this should occur after the meeting with Pastor Totzke and further discussion.
- Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 17-21 at the Methodist Church.
- Pastor Dustin has asked if we would be interested in joining the Baptist and Methodist Church in a community Palm Sunday Worship at the school. Phyllis will ask Pastor Ryan to discuss this with the Pastor Dustin.

Under Other Business:

- Sandi asked the council if Niki Warms the Cold could put the church logo on their distribution trailer. The council was very enthusiastic about doing this.
- A list of council members phone numbers and email address was updated and shared.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

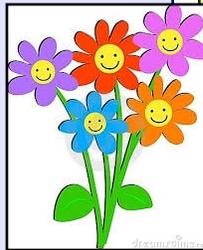


Mary, Martha, & Ruth

Mary Circle: Will meet March 8,
Heckmann Hall at 2:00pm

Martha Circle: TBD

Ruth Circle: Will meet
March 9, Saint Olaf at 2:00pm



PRAYER LIST: Haley Rae Tarver, Heather Christensen, Margaret Turpin, Rodney Barner, Mary Ann Stokely, Brady Warrick, Betty Johnson, Darcy Cassidy, Kathy Johnston, Ronnie Ogle, Cooper Brown, Martha & Helena McCormick, Dacey Patrick, Josh Wilhelm, Raymond Bailes, Chris Lujan, Larry Barger, Charles Osborn, Daniel Smith, Al Carlson, Makayla Pierce, Riley Hardcastle, Gwyn Christensen, Bettye Knudson, Ivan and Junelle Johnson, Rev. C. A. & Gloria Mangham, Donna Mangham, Delbert Patrick, Rick Payne, Elaine Bakke Bell, Tom Pierce, Jimmy Carpenter, Lee Johnson, Nikki Stone, Baby Lombard, Tracy Finstad, the Family of Ivan Johnson, 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.

WELCA News

Pres. Betty Tindall called the Feb. 1st meeting to order. We recited our purpose statement.

She introduced Andrea Hikel of Marketing and Community Relations for Lutheran Sunset Ministries, explaining all the services available. Then, Candice Thompson and Desiree informed us of Sunset companion services.

Phyllis Rieser installed the officers.

Shirley Thompson led the offering devotion.

Pres. Betty read several thank you notes.

The SWO suggested using gift cards from Walmart or Target to the Conference of Presidents held in Chicago on Feb. 17-19. Mary made a motion, Anna Fortier seconded, the motion carried to give a \$50.00 dollar gift card to the Katy fund in honor of the 500 Reformation Anniversary and 2 \$25.00 gift cards to Sarah Gohlke.

The Spring Gathering will be March 25, 8:30-1:30 at Our Savior's, Norse. The cost is \$10.00, deadline March 18 to let them know if you are coming. Shirley volunteered to fix an item for the silent auction.

Reminder - LWR items are to be at the church by April 1.

May 5 at 6:30pm, there will be a "Mother, Daughter, and Friends" potluck dinner and program. A motion was made by Shirley, seconded by Mary, and motion carried to give the offering to Helping Hands.

In closing, we prayed the Lord's Prayer and sang the table prayer.

Twelve members enjoyed tea and goodies served from a beautifully decorated table by Karen Sharp and Phyllis Reiser.



Mary's Circle was held at 2:00 pm on February 8, at Heckman Hall. Study was led by Billye, to seven members. Study was Galatians regarding the new Christians and the older Jews who had the old laws. It was very hard to leave their old habits for this new concept of freedom from old laws. We were served delicious refreshments and had an offering of \$65. Next meeting will be on March 8, same time and place. Study will be led by Charlene.

Ruth Circle met as usual on Feb 9, led by Naomi Nabors. Mary McGowen brought the lesson which was a continuation of Paul's writings of the Galatians. Wanda Knudson was hostess with an abundance of sweets and goodies for Valentine's Day. The group discussed upcoming events, including Lenten Services, as well as the Lutheran World Relief projects to be completed by April 1. The March lesson will be brought by Abby, and Betty T will be hostess, March 9, 2 pm in the church basement.

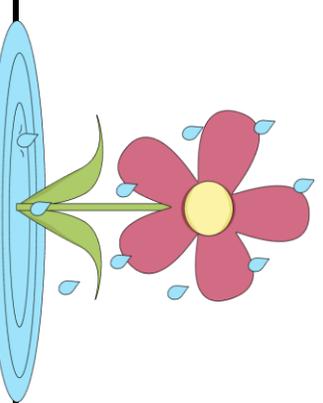
Carolyn Melde would like for you to know that we will be collecting old greeting card covers for Mosaic in Waco. While you are spring cleaning, if you find some old greeting cards that you are getting rid of, please bring them to Saint Olaf. Thanks!

Thanks, Geneva, for the wonderful histories and stories of the ancestors of Saint Olaf and the Cranfills Gap area. After working for several years on the cemetery records for Saint Olaf, and surrounding churches and areas, the names and history have made my work much more meaningful. ~ Abby Birdwell.

Financial Report	Receipts	Disbursements	Net
<i>Submitted by Gerald Nelson, Treasurer</i>			
Budget through Jan 31, 2017	\$7,200.83	\$6,655.00	\$545.83
Actual through Jan 31, 2017	6,650.54	7,116.46	(465.92)



March 2017

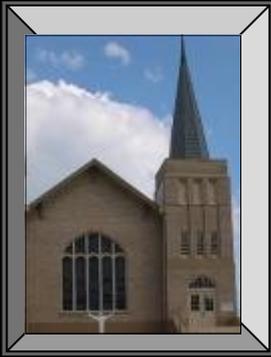


Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Assisting Minister: Patricia Forsythe Head Usher: Virgil Tindall Altar Guild: Linda Samples & Alice Lucas						
5 Adults & Children's SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am	6	7	8 Mary Circle, 2pm, Heckmann Hall	9 Ruth Circle, 2pm, St. Olaf Lenten Service, 6pm; Chamber Dinner, 6:30pm	10	11
12 Adults & Children's SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am	13	14	15	16 Light supper, Lenten Service Council Mtg, 6pm	17	18 Community Breakfast, 8:00- 9:30am
19 Adults & Children's SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am	20	21	22	23 Light supper, Lenten Service following, 6pm	24	25 WELCA Spring Gathering, 8:30- 1:30, Our Savior's, Norse
26 Adults & Children's SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am	27	28	29	30 Light supper, Lenten Service following, 6pm	31 LWR items due tomorrow, April 1!! -->	

Birthdays: Abby Birdwell (3) Chris Lujan (5), Preshie Wiese (10), Trina Reierson & Avery Barner (13), and Brandi Barnes (18)





St. Olaf Lutheran Church

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



From the Pastor

March 2017

The season of Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday, a day in which we are reminded that we have come from dust and that we will return to dust. This reminder of our mortality can make us uncomfortable, which is of course part of the point. However, for some, such a reminder is unnecessary or redundant because health challenges are reminder enough of our frailty. Either way, our lives are contingent, and our contingency turns us inward for reflection on who we are before God.

Our readings for the first four weeks of Lent encourage such reflection. First we have the story from St. Matthew's Gospel of Jesus's temptation by the Satan. In this story we see that even Jesus must search himself and scripture to respond to Satan's offers of power and glory. We then read the story of Nicodemus, who comes to Jesus at night, seeking clarity about Jesus's identity. Nicodemus goes away reflecting on both a riddle and Jesus's claim that God loved the world enough to send his son to save it. Next we have the Samaritan woman at the well, another familiar story, where Jesus again encourages reflection from the person he is speaking with by communicating in ambiguous terms. Finally, we have a moving, yet humorous, scene where Jesus heals a blind man on the Sabbath and those who knew the man are confused when they encounter him as a seeing man, causing them to reflect on who Jesus is.

While the season of Lent and our readings encourage us to turn inward, we do not turn inward for inwardness sake. Instead, we reflect on our lives and who God is for us, so that we may repent, so that what we find in ourselves may be opened to God's light and repair.

Let us pray for one another during this Lenten season as we through reflection toward repentance.

~Pr. Ryan Pederson