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# March Newsletter

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

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«CITY», «ST» «ZIP»

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



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

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## Comments from Phyllis

Earlier in the week, a devotional from “Christ in Our Home” struck a cord with me. Perhaps this is because we are moving toward new ideas about who we want to be as a congregation.

The devotional spoke about fear of change and how people focus on themselves rather than those around them. Quoting from the devotional, Peter spoke to the early church urging a lifestyle that focuses on Christ. “Such a life allows individuals to move beyond personal fears and to contribute to community through their actions....it also transforms community for the better.”

As I write this today, I am preparing to attend a meeting at Our Saviors in Norse with executive committee members from the Bosque County ELCA churches and Pr. Totzke (Bishop’s Associate). This is to be a nuts and bolts conversation about how we might establish partnerships. I am excited about the possibilities but fully understand how independent we all are as congregations. I will keep you posted as this conversation progresses.

On the home front, we had a quiet February. Below are a few notes most recent council meeting:

- ◆ The trustees are working on a few broken windows and some wind damage to a storm window in basement. There is also a water leak in the Sunday school building that is being evaluated.
- ◆ Cindy Wiese participated with Rebound Program (like 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter Program), which provided activities for kids after basketball games.
- ◆ The Education Committee will begin planning for the community Vacation Bible School, as it is St. Olaf’s turn to provide leadership. The Education Committee would also like to develop a broader program for youth. More to come as ideas develop.
- ◆ Pr. Ryan is meeting with the Methodist and Baptist pastors regarding an ecumenical Palm Sunday service.
- ◆ We were reminded that the youth will provide a full breakfast following Easter sunrise services at the Rock Church. Flyers will be posted around town and available at the sunrise service in hopes that so that we might get additional folks participating.
- ◆ A donation was approved from the Pastor’s discretionary to help provide snacks for the high school track and field team when they travel.

Don’t forget the soup suppers and services during Lent. Supper begins at 6 pm with the service to follow. No supper on March 14 (service will begin at 6 pm) as the Chamber of Commerce will be meeting on that date



Thanks be to God for all the wonderful rain!

Phyllis Rieser, Church Council President

### Services during Lent and Easter

- ◆ **March 7** Light supper at 6pm with service to follow
- ◆ **March 14** Service at 6pm (Chamber of Commerce with dinner beginning at 6:30pm)
- ◆ **March 21** Light supper at 6pm with service to follow
- ◆ **March 29** Maundy Thursday service at 6pm at Brick Church in town
- ◆ **March 30** Good Friday service at 6pm at Rock Church
- ◆ **April 1** Easter Sunrise service at 7am at Rock Church
- ◆ **April 1** Youth breakfast following sunrise service at Brick Church
- ◆ **April 1** Easter Sunday service at 9:30am at Brick Church



**Community Breakfast (3rd Saturday of every month) 8-9:30am**  
**Volunteers needed...come join us in the fun with our team!**



P.S. If your group uses the kitchen, please make sure it is clean before you leave. We had a bit of a smoking oven problem at the last breakfast. Kenneth was accused of burning the bacon. :)

# Mary, Martha, & Ruth

**M**ary Circle: Will meet March 14,  
Heckmann Hall at 2:00pm

**R**uth Circle: Will meet March 8,  
Katherine's House at 2:00pm

## WELCA News

President Betty Tindall opened the February 7 WELCA meeting in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. She welcomed the visitors from Faith Lutheran in Meridian.

Betty and Shirley Thompson presented the program by reviewing the history of the Ladies Aid. Abby Birdwell led the devotion from Jesus Calling. The offering was taken and prayer by Mary McGowen.

Susan Williams, from Faith Lutheran, installed the officers: namely President - Betty Tindall, Vice Pres. - Shirley Thompson, Treasurer - Charlene Tergerson, Secretary - Elsie Phillips, and Fellowship/Service - Patricia Forsythe.

The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. Mary McGowen reported there was a balance of \$832.26 in the general fund and \$163.10 in the special fund. Barbara Lee made a motion to accept the report, Charlene seconded, motion carried.

Pres. Betty read thank you notes in response to donations made earlier. The Sunset Home quilt auction is being discontinued. Maranna Horn read a thank you card from Chris Lujan for the money sent to him in the Ukraine.

Charlene made a motion to give \$25.00 to the Cemetery Fund in memory of our deceased members, Barbara seconded, motion carried.

The circles will serve for Lenten services, and the ladies from Faith offered to serve March 21st.

We were reminded of the Lutheran World Relief Drive with items to be brought in by March 22. The next meeting will be the Mothers, Daugh-

**PRAYER LIST:** Heather Christensen, Margret Turpin, Brady Warrick, Kathy Johnston, Ronnie Ogle, Cooper Brown, Martha & Helena McCormick, Dacey Patrick, Josh Wilhelm, Raymond Bailes, Chris Lujan, Larry Barger, Charles Osborn, Daniel Smith, Makayla Pierce, Rev. C. A. Mangham, Tom Pierce, Nikki Stone, Tracy Finstad, Henrietta Medina, Jamie Dittrich, Donna Boelter, Bob Bowers, Don Hoffman, Anna Marie Simmons, the family of Kenneth Blackman, the family of Michael Tergerson, 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.

ters, and Friends Pot-Luck Dinner and program on Friday, May 4 at 6:30.

We closed by praying the Lord's Prayer and singing the table prayer.

The refreshments were served from a beautifully Valentine decorated table.

Secretary,  
Elsie Phillips



## Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle met at Katherine's House on February 8 with only 4 members present. Betty opened the meeting with a discussion on the Lenten soup supper that we will serve on Wednesday, February 21. Shirley brought a variety of goodies to munch on while we sat and visited and laughed and generally enjoyed each other. Abby brought the lesson on the second session of "Prepare the Way of the Lord," specifically learning of other interpretations. As usual, our session was centered on group participation. It's amazing to learn how others usually have different interpretations (meanings) of the same question. Mary McGowen will present March lesson; Wanda Knudson, refreshments. We miss our other members and hope to see them in March.

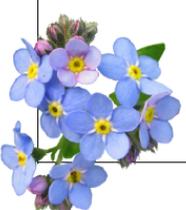
<b>Financial Report</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>Net</b>
<i>Submitted by Gerald Nelson, Treasurer</i>			
Budget through Jan 31, 2018	\$ 6,750.83	\$ 6,750.00	\$0.83
Actual through Jan 31, 2018	6,362.21	5,772.62	589.59

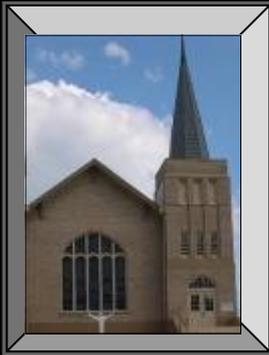
Assisting Minister: Jeanne Bayless  
 Head Usher:  
 Altar Guild: Linda Samples & Alice  
 Lucas

# March 2018

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 4 <i>Adult &amp; Children's            SS, 8:30am            Worship, 9:30am</i>	5	6	7 <i>Light supper and            Lent service, 6pm</i>	8 <i>Ruth Circle,            Katherine's House,            2pm</i>	9	10 Community Breakfast 8:00-9:30am
11 <i>Adult &amp; Children's            SS, 8:30am            Worship, 9:30am</i>	12	13	14 <i>Mary Circle,            Heckmann Hall, 2pm;            Lent service, 6pm;            Chamber of Comm.            Dinner, 6:30pm</i>	15	16	17
18 <i>Adult &amp; Children's            SS, 8:30am            Worship, 9:30am</i>	19	20	21 <i>Light supper and            Lent service, 6pm;            Council Meeting to            follow</i>	22	23	24
25 <i>Adult &amp; Children's            SS, 8:30am            Worship, 9:30am</i>	26	27	28	29 <i>Mammy Thursday            Service, Brick            Church, 6pm</i>	30 <i>Good Friday Ser-            vice, Rock Church,            6pm</i>	31





## *St. Olaf Lutheran Church*

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



We are now into the heart of Lent. Though we are in the year of the Gospel of Mark, our Gospel readings during March come from the Gospel of John. Some of these readings are very familiar to us.

The first reading comes from John 2, the story of Jesus turning over the tables of the money changers in the Temple. Early in John's Gospel, Jesus and his disciples have just come to Jerusalem to prepare for the Passover feast. When they arrive in the city they visit the Temple and Jesus is angered by what he finds, saying, "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace." The problem is that people are selling sacrificial animals, like doves, at a profit to visiting pilgrims, along with exchanging foreign currencies at high rates so that visitors can make their monetary contribution in the local currency. This reading is assigned during Lent because it includes an early reference to Jesus's death and resurrection, when he says, "destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Soon after the first reading, the second reading comes from John 3. The reading comes from a conversation between Jesus and a Pharisee named Nicodemus. This important man comes to Jesus in the night. Interestingly, Nicodemus wants to talk with Jesus and expresses some level of faith in Jesus, but he does not want to be seen doing so. This conversation is both comical, in that it features Nicodemus's repeated failure to understand a humorous wordplay that Jesus uses, and sad, in that Nicodemus is so close to becoming an open follower of Jesus, but can't quite make the jump. The reading comes from a part of this scene where Nicodemus fades into the background and Jesus offers a monologue. Part of this monologue is the well know John 3.16, where Jesus says that, because God loves the world so much, he has come to save those who believe in him.

The third reading comes from later in the Gospel, John 12. Again, Jesus and his disciples have traveled to Jerusalem in anticipation of the Passover celebration. As Jesus enters the outskirts of the city, he is welcomed by a crowd of people waving palm branches, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord--the King of Israel!" After this royal welcome, Jesus tells his disciple more directly than ever that "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be Glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

In each of our readings Jesus and his disciples have come to Jerusalem and are in the vicinity of the great Temple. Also in each of our readings, however directly or indirectly, Jesus tells his disciples that he will die, but that he will also be raised from the dead. As we turn toward God in repentance during this Lenten season, may we remember that we are turning toward a God who has made a way for us because of his great love.

~ Pastor Ryan

