

Return Service

Requested

# March Newsletter

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

«TITLE» «FIRST\_NAME»

«LAST\_NAME»

«ADDRESS»

«CITY», «ST» «ZIP»

8:30AM CHILDREN AND  
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30AM WORSHIP



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Living in God's amazing grace*

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To all,

So here I sit trying to write while my head knows that I would rather be watching “Finding Your Roots”. I don’t know why I find that program so interesting. It’s not about the famous people but more about the searches for information and how far back the researchers can go to discover a person’s history. For me, it highlights how small our world has become in the electronic age.

But here I am hung up on a TV program when what I really need do is reflect upon is my plan for Lent. I have probably written about how Ed and I are so different as we approach Lent. He is all about the sacrifice. That’s not in my childhood history so I think that’s why it is harder for me to do. My approach has been to try to do something positive and concrete. I think this is harder than giving up chocolate. But, I needed some new ideas. Yes, once again I goggled ways to observe Lent.

One of the first things I saw was to give up texting and social media. Well you know I can’t do that. I might not have any communication with my daughters if I didn’t text. But I did get some new ideas of things that I can do. These items may sound simple but in my busy world, they aren’t easy to accomplish.

Make 40 phone calls to friends and family that you haven’t talked to in a while

Write 40 notes or emails to people who have impacted your life

Do an act of kindness each day (small or large)

Turn off the TV and read each day (This is really hard for me)

Clean out the closet and donate the items you don’t really need

Fast from gossip

Add someone to your prayer list who needs your support

Perhaps my sacrifice is the giving of my time to accomplish these small goals.

However you choose to observe Lent, I do hope that you will join us for the Wednesday evening services and enjoy some good soup as well.

Also, don’t forget Fat Tuesday Youth Pancake Supper on March 5th.

Peace,

Phyllis Rieser  
Council President

Fat Tuesday Youth Pancake Supper  
March 5, 5:00-7:00pm

Ash Wednesday Service  
March 6, 6:00pm



## A Day at Faith....

Thanks to all of you who went in support to the final worship service at Faith Lutheran in Meridian on February 24th. It was a beautiful last service but sad for all who attended. The church pews were filled and the sound of voices singing some old hymns was very moving.

Following the service, the members of Faith served a wonderful meal of BBQ and desserts made by their members. We have shared many services and meals with them throughout the years. I know those who attended felt a bit down knowing that this was our last time to be with them in their special church.

Together the members of Faith will be visiting several churches in the area trying to find a new church home that fits. Please welcome them to St. Olaf and let them know how much we appreciate their good work in the past 50 years.

Phyllis



## **Lenten Services at Saint Olaf**

March 13—Lent service at 6:00pm, Chamber Dinner following

March 20—Soup supper and Lent service at 6:00pm

March 27—Soup supper and Lent service at 6:00pm (Mary Circle serving)

April 3—Soup supper and Lent service at 6:00pm (Ruth Circle serving)

## **St. Olaf Women of the ELCA**

### **Minutes: February 6, 2019**

St. Olaf WELCA met Wednesday, February 6, at 2:00 pm with President Betty Tindall calling the meeting to order in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Six members and one guest recited the purpose statement.

Ruth Circle provided the program, with Karen Bentsen speaking on their latest trips to El Salvador and changes in their program. Questions followed, giving much information on changes in the country, its education, economy, and increasing violence. Karen stressed the need for more affordable education in the country. Another need is jobs suitable and enumerative for those who graduate with high school or college degrees. She expressed their gratitude for our church's contributions toward tuition fees and the LWR items received there and elsewhere.

Shirley Thompson gave the devotion, collection was received, and prayer followed.

Karen Bentsen then installed the new officers, first recognizing retiring Elsie Phillips and thanking her for her many years as secretary. The following officers were then installed, each receiving a rose:

- \* President: Maranna Horn
- \* Vice-president: Shirley Thompson
- \* Secretary: Betty Tindall
- \* Treasurer: Charlene Tergerson
- \* Fellowship Chairman: Patricia Forsythe

The past president then turned the meeting over to Maranna.

Minutes were read and approved.

Charlene stated that the treasurer's report was being audited so she did not have an exact report. She stated that we have approximately \$300 in the Regular Fund, and \$800 in the Special Fund.

There was no old Business.

Under new business, President Horn introduced the following items: She suggested that we might be interested in Lilly's Project, which provides clothing for victims of rape.

Coming events:

- \* March 1: World Day of Prayer
- \* March 10: National Quilting Day
- \* Lenten Services: Each Wednesday beginning March 13. Soup suppers will be held on March 20, 27, and April 3. (Mary circle will serve March 27 and Ruth April 3. It is hoped that council will serve March 20.)
- \* March 31: Fifth Sunday Singing at St. Olaf—circles will provide snacks
- \* Date for Spring Gathering in Crawford is not known, but will probably be late March. It is hoped that a number of our members will attend. We need to provide an item for silent auction.
- \* May 3, 6:30: Mother/daughter/friend dinner. Program needs to be planned and invitations sent to all Lutheran churches in Bosque County and local churches in Cranfills Gap.
- \* June 2: Potluck luncheon following church at St. Olaf

Maranna announced that Chris Lujan is not serving as a missionary presently, as he and his wife are expect-

ing their first baby. They want it to be born in the USA, and funds beyond what he can make serving in the Ukraine are needed. She asked that he not be listed in the bulletin as a missionary but added to the prayer list. He hopes to return to his work as a missionary after the birth of their child.

Other announcements:

- \* Lutheran Sunset Ministries was named “Best of the Best” by US News and World Report!
- \* Norse church’s 150 anniversary will be celebrated June 9<sup>th</sup>. Reservations for the meal may be made at their website [oursaviors150th.org](http://oursaviors150th.org).
- \* The Lutheran churches of Bosque County will hold a joint Reformation service October 27.
- \* More informal joint events are planned, such as ice cream social, watermelon get-together, etc.

The meeting closed with The Lord’s Prayer, followed by delicious refreshments served by Mary Circle.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Tindall, secretary

*As we have welcomed Jan and Mark Wallace into the St. Olaf family, I thought it might be fun for them to share something about their life and deep-rooted connection to St. Olaf. They are such a blessing to our congregation. Hope you enjoy their brief but engaging story. As for me, I would love to hear more about their planetarium experiences.*

*~Phyllis Rieser*

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After retiring to the farm in May 2000, we spent most Sunday services at the Lutheran Sunset Chapel with Mark’s mother Tirah. Although we had never lived here during our married life, Mark was born in the farm house (as were his Mother and four uncles), was baptized at St. Olaf, and spent every summer of his childhood with his grandpa and grandma, O.C. and Sadie Knudson.

Upon graduating from East Texas State University in January 1964, Mark took a job in Andrews, Texas, to teach junior high science. Over a period, Mark taught science, was the planetarium director, and served as administrator in the Andrews ISD. Jan taught American history, was a consultant at the Region 18 ESC, and was the planetarium director. The time lengthened to over 36 years in west Texas. So we’ve traveled many miles coming to Cranfills Gap. St. Olaf has always been a part of our married life. Our son Matt was baptized at St. Olaf in 1964 and we’ve attended many regular services, as well as, Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving services throughout the years. Our grandson Jake’s dedication service in 1992 was here and our granddaughter was married at the Rock Church in 2017. Our daughter-in-law Miriam and granddaughter Morgan have played the piano for a number of years at St. Olaf and the Rock Church.

We have been privileged to participate with other members of St. Olaf congregation in various projects since we’ve lived in Cranfills Gap. During sixteen years, while volunteering at the Sunset Home chapel, we also helped organize the Auxiliary and worked with friends and neighbors in the Quilt Auction, the Chow Down, and other fund-raising events. We’ve also enjoyed working with committees on the Gap history book and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. Olaf history book. We are glad to be the fourth, fifth, and sixth generations to call the Knudson farm in Mustang our home.

## Notes from January's Annual Meeting

In case you were unable to attend the annual meeting, below are the highlights from that meeting.

Pr. Ryan continued to lead the adult Sunday School studying Acts, Didache, the Epistle of Barnabas, as well as the book of Amos. He also reported the average Sunday attendance for 2018 was approximately the same as in 2017. He also presided over 9 funerals, 2 baptisms, and 1 wedding. Pr. Ryan continues to visit Elaine Enger and Geraldine Jenson. The pastor's discretionary fund was used to provide propane for a family in need and holiday baskets for families in need.

Gerald Nelson reported that the church budget for 2018 was in the black with excess of \$2000. The budget for 2019 was presented and approved. Gerald indicated that the balance of money from the Community Breakfast was disbursed to a variety of charities with \$1000 going to the St. Olaf general fund, \$500 to the scholarship fund and \$500 to the Rock Church.

The deacons organized and delivered holiday baskets for families in need. Christmas gifts were provided to our shut ins.

The trustees reported that they had been busy with minor repairs. They are waiting for help from Chadco to provide a forklift for the repair of flashing on the west side of the church.

Jami Edwards provided the Board of Education report. It was a successful year with VBS and Day Camp. Mary Hastings took the Sunday Schools students to dinner and a movie during the holidays. Discussions are continuing regarding shared youth events for Bosque County churches.

The Cemetery Board reported they are continuing with normal maintenance. At this time they are doing dirt work on the road. The cemetery has had quite a few night photographers and Geneva reported that they are very good about leaving donations in our donation box. Darla Kinney has agreed to help with activities at the Rock Church.

Phyllis Rieser reported that with the end of the Community Breakfast another group was picking up the charge to continue this ministry. Jamie Edward, Kathy Finstad, Paula Perschke, and other volunteers will continue to provide the opportunity for good food and fellowship.

Betty Tindall reported that the WELCA bake sale at the "All School Reunion" was a great success. WELCA is also discussing Pot Luck dinners at least twice a year.

Geneva Finstad presented the Endowment Fund Report. While the interest earned continues to provide for the church's maintenance, the unstable market at the end of the year resulted in a significant loss in the value of our investments.

Sandi Carlson reported on activities for Niki Warms the Cold. With funds from Niki de Mayo and Bacon Bash; new items have been added for distributions. The first "summer" distribution was a success.

There was no Old Business.

Under New Business, Phyllis Rieser reported that vacant positions for Church Council would not be filled. The Council has discussed the need to reduce the size of the Church Council. This would require a review of the constitution. A committee consisting of Maranna Horn, Virgil Tindal with legal advice from Wayne Rohne was appointed to report back to the council. In the interim with one less trustee, someone is needed to provide access to the church when outside individuals are providing repair services. Owen Carlson was suggested as "Latch Key Trustee".

Phyllis Rieser also reported her desire to revisit our goal to have a safety and security plan. Dana and Mike Wickland who have a background in law enforcement may be of help. It was discussed that we have a potluck dinner and our first safety training in the coming months.

# Mary, Martha, & Ruth

**M**ary Circle: Will meet March 13,  
Heckmann Hall at 2:00pm

**M**artha Circle: TBA

**R**uth Circle: Will meet March 14,  
Katherine's House at 2:00pm

## Mary Circle News

The Mary Circle met at Heckman Hall on February 13th. Elsie led the Bible Study. Present were Charlene Tergerson, Maranna Horn, Elsie Phillips, Barbara Lee, Elaine Enger, and Patricia Forsythe. We were also joined by Sarah Gohlke as she came to visit Elaine. It was nice to have her input on the Bible Study as her Church had done the same study the day before. Refreshments and fellowship were then enjoyed by all.

~Patricia Forsythe

**PRAYER LIST:** Heather Christensen, Margret Turpin, Brady Warrick, Kathy Johnston, Ronnie Ogle, Cooper Brown, Martha & Helena McCormick, Dacey Patrick, Josh Wilhelm, Raymond Bailes, Larry Barger, Charles Osborn, Daniel Smith, Makayla Pierce, Rev. C. A. Mangham, Tom Pierce, Tracy Finstad, Henrietta Medina, Donna Boelter, Linda Thiele, Virginia Allen, Jerry Shiver, Ricky Petty, Elaine Enger, Rosemary Trujillo, Geraldine Jenson, Barbara Lee, Sandra Russell, Jane Holt, Linda Sorenson Olson, Kelsey Shaban, Joniece Montgomery, Chris & Alyona Lujan, and **The Lutheran Church Sierra Leone, Persecuted Christians**

**SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN:** Matthew Medina and Kevin Moore

## Ruth Circle News

Ruth Circle will meet as usual on Thursday, March 14-Katherine's House at 2 pm. March meeting will have Mary giving the lesson, and Shirley furnishing goodies. We all expressed concern and prayers for our member, Donna Kersey, and her families. We discussed the Lenten suppers and Ruth Circle will hostess on April 3. The Lutheran World Relief items were discussed as well. Shirley gave out the new WELCA yearbooks. Abby's lesson was short but filled with lots of lively discussion on understanding some of the meanings offered in the Bible, whether literal or symbolic. Wanda brought such yummy Valentine's Day themed refreshments. Everyone left with spirits lifted and full tummies. We are so Blessed.

~Abby Birdwell



Left to right: Betty Tindall, Charlene Tergerson, Patricia Forsythe, Shirley Thompson, Maranna Horn, and Karen Bentsen

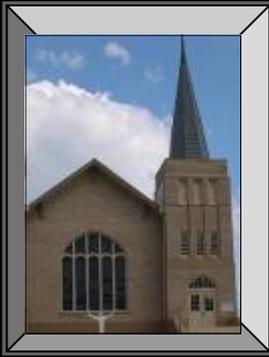
<b>Financial Report</b> <i>Submitted by Gerald Nelson, Treasurer</i>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>Net</b>
Budget through Jan 31, 2019	\$ 6,310.42	\$ 6,283.33	\$ 27.09
Actual through Jan 31, 2019	4,584.79	6,459.11	(1,874.32)

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



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>Adult &amp; Children's</i> SS, 8:30am <i>Worship, 9:30am</i>	4	5 <i>Fat Tuesday Youth</i> <i>Pancake Supper,</i> <i>5-7pm</i>	6 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Service, 6pm</i>	7	8	9
10 <i>Adult &amp; Children's</i> SS, 8:30am <i>Worship, 9:30am</i>	11	12	13 <i>Lent service, 6pm;</i> <i>Chamber of Comm.</i> <i>Dinner, 6:30pm</i>	14	15	16 <i>Breakfast in the</i> <i>Basement,</i> <i>8:00-9:30am</i>
17 <i>Adult &amp; Children's</i> SS, 8:30am <i>Worship, 9:30am</i>	18	19	20 <i>Light supper &amp;</i> <i>Lent service, 6pm;</i> <i>Council Meeting to</i> <i>follow</i>	21	22	23
24 <i>Adult &amp; Children's</i> SS, 8:30am <i>Worship, 9:30am</i>	25	26	27 <i>Light supper and</i> <i>Lent service, 6pm</i>	28	29	30
31 <i>Adult &amp; Children's</i> SS, 8:30am <i>Worship, 9:30am</i>						



# St. Olaf Lutheran Church

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



I've just recently been reminded that the time change is coming up on March 10. This news almost startled me because it means spring is here and how can spring possibly be here, already? Just the month of February has blown by. If I think about it for a moment, I recognize that it's not just February flying by or spring sneaking up on me, but I'm really beginning to experience the speeding up of time that folks perceive as they enter middle age.

If spring is quickly approaching, then so is the season of Lent. There is an appropriate dovetailing of the perceived speeding-up of time and Lent, which begins with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday, we receive the mark of the cross on our foreheads in the form of ashes and oil and we are reminded that from dust we have come and to dust we shall return. My surprise at how quickly tomorrow comes meets up uncomfortably well with the Ash Wednesday's reminder of our mortality...my mother once told me that life is like a roll of toilet paper: the closer you get to the end the faster it goes. Our mortality has been on my mind lately, as it's been almost a year since my grandfather died, and I've been thinking about him and missing him, and the father of one of my friends is approaching his own death.

During the season of Lent we are encouraged to reflect upon our lives before God and to recalibrate our aim toward him. As we reflect in this way, may we also reflect on how we can better love those around us, be more intentional in offering kindness, and showing more patience for one another's weaknesses. We are given to one another as gifts from God and we all eventually return to God--ashes to ashes, dust to dust--so may we do what we can to brighten the time we have.

~Pastor Ryan

1. There is a new Flower sign-up sheet posted in the back of the church. Please sign up for any Sunday you wish to bring flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special occasion, birthday, anniversary, baptism, etc.
2. Congratulations !! The Sunset Home in Clifton recently made the "Best of the Best" list on *U.S. News and World Reports'* annual rating of Nursing Homes.
3. March 1 is World Day of Prayer. The Theme for 2019 is a focus on the Parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14: 15-24) At the core is the invitation - Come. "Everything is ready. Come to praise, thank, and proclaim the kingdom of love"
4. As many of you may know, Chris Lujan and his wife, Alyona are expecting a new baby in early September. Due to many factors, including healthcare services in Ukraine, and the financial resources of a young missionary couple, Chris Lujan has come to the United States and is working a "regular job" to earn money to bring Alyona to the U.S. to deliver the baby. Alyona is still working with their church in Ukraine until school is out, when Chris will bring the family to the States while she is still able to make the long flight. The family plans to return to Ukraine to continue their ministry after the baby is born. They ask for your prayers for the pregnancy and for the family while Chris is in the states.

~Maranna Horn