

Return Service

Requested

March Newsletter 2020

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

402 Meridian Street

Cranfills Gap, TX 76637

«TITLE» «FIRST_NAME»

«LAST_NAME»

«ADDRESS»

«CITY», «ST» «ZIP»

8:30AM ADULT AND
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY
SCHOOL

9:30AM WORSHIP



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Living in God's amazing grace

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MARCH NEWSLETTER

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the St. Olaf Congregation for this term of office. My first contact with St Olaf was almost 81 years ago when I was presented before this church's beautiful white angel standing at the front of the sanctuary. I have attended this church as a visitor all of my life. I have memories of many family funerals, weddings, Christmas, and Easter programs over the years. Thinking back, I recall the Knudson Reunion held here in 1946 as well as the Knudson Reunion of 1996. I have memories of Helmer Anderson, over the years, when he would walk from the altar area after placing the collection plates on the altar and then walking upstairs where he would ring the bell. Helmer held that job for many years. My first memory of St. Olaf pastors was Ralph Maakestad, when on a Sunday morning he called down three youngsters sitting in the balcony who weren't behaving as they should. After that Sunday, I had to sit downstairs with my grandparents. As a long time visitor, I have known all the pastors from the time of Maakestad to present day. I remember when the Education Building was dedicated.....I remember walking up the ramp soon after it was built..... I remember when we used to walk up and around the altar to present our offerings.....I remember when the church decorated a fresh cut cedar tree at Christmas..... I remember the church services in August with no air conditioning..... I remember the Grimland sisters (Ada, Orelia and Lula) providing special music over many years..... I remember when it was sometimes difficult finding a parking place on Sunday Morning..... I remember the men's choir and how well they sang *Holy Holy Holy*.

My wife Jan and I became members of St. Olaf in 2018. Prior to joining St Olaf, Jan and I helped with the Sunday morning church services at the Lutheran Sunset Home for fifteen years. I served on the board of directors during the construction of the "new Sunset Home". I remember visiting relatives who lived at the Sunset Home when it first organized in 1954. St. Olaf has always been a strong supporter of the Sunset Home from the very beginning. These are just a few of my early memories of St. Olaf Lutheran Church. I look forward to getting to know every member of this congregation and I ask for your prayers. Even though my ties to St. Olaf go back many years, I am still a newcomer. I grew up in the Central Lutheran Church in Dallas. Jan and I were members of the Andrews Presbyterian Church for 16 years, and the FBC Andrews for 18 years. As you can see.....I have covered my bases rather well.

We have seen a lot of changes within the church over the years. We no longer have the large farm families that once swelled the church and Sunday school rolls. After World War II, those farm families saw their children move to the larger cities. The town of Cranfills Gap also saw a decline in population over the past fifty plus years. The church rolls declined, causing new problems not only for St. Olaf, but other denominations as well.

It is my prayer that we all work together to do the best we can as we continue to worship and praise the Lord who said.... *"Where two or more are gathered together, there shall I be also"* – *Matthew 18:20*.

J. Mark Wallace, Church Council President

2/20/2020

Hymn Fest (and Feast)

Be filled with the Holy Spirit, ¹⁹ singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. Ephesians 5:18-19 (NLT)

Who: St. Olaf Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, and Our Savior's Lutheran
– The ELCA congregations of Bosque County

What: Hymn Fest (and Feast)

Where: Trinity Lutheran in Clifton

When: March 29, 2020
- Hymn Fest begins at 4:00
- Feast (Pot Luck) begins at 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity



Why: The three ELCA congregations in Bosque County have a strong Faith built on the Holy Scriptures and a common history. On March 29th we will gather to share and celebrate both our Faith history and our common history. Plans are still being finalized however it is the hope of Pastor Ryan, Pastor Don, and Pastor Bill that we will continue to discover new ways to affirm and support each other. It is our believe that there is no better place to strengthen all three congregations for the opportunities we have before us as we move into the future than by gathering together around Word, Song and Fellowship. We need to know one another and be there for one another.

There will be two parts to the Hymn Fest Part of our time together.

When people arrive they will be given the opportunity to write their favorite hymn on a strip of paper that will then be placed in a “grab bag.”

Then Pastor Ryan, Pastor Don, and Pastor Bill will each lead the congregation in discovering some history about a Lenten Hymn that they have chosen and then share their thoughts about why that hymn remains an inspiration for our congregations.

We will then join together in singing the hymn.

After exploring the three Lenten Hymns, we will then turn our attention to the hymns that have been placed in the “grab bag” and pull out hymns and sing them.

At 5:00 p.m. will close the Hymn Fest with prayer and the singing of our table prayer.

We will then proceed to the Fellowship Hall for our Pot-Luck meal and celebrate our opportunity to strengthen our bonds to each other.

We hope you will join us on March 29th for our Hymn Festival (and Feast).

WELCA MEETING, February 5, 2020

President Maranna Horn opened the meeting at 2:00 pm in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Betty Tindall of Ruth Circle introduced Cindy Wiese who gave a very informational discussion of the Friends of Cranfills Gap ISD. She first explained that this organization has been organized separately from the Booster Club, which organizes the Lutefisk Super. Their efforts are in support of the athletics of the school. The Friends raise funds and plan events and programs directed toward the academic aspects of the school. Their two major events are the All School Reunion in September and a raffle on T shirt quilt made by Donna Kersey. Tickets for this quilt may be purchased at the Gap Feed Store. Teresa Christensen and Patricia Forsythe added input to Cindy's presentation. We very much appreciate her speaking to us, and will add this venue to consideration of future donations. Their goal is to create a group of parents, ex-students, and friends of the school to work for the benefit of students.

Needs: volunteers to read to children and to aid struggling students after school

Old Business:

Betty Tindall read the minutes of the last meet in November. It was approved by Teresa and seconded by Barbara—all accepted as read.

Charlene Tergerson gave the treasurer's report:

December 31st, 2019 balances were:

General Fund: \$929.67

Special Fund: \$419.98

An offering was collected.

Since the officers are the same as last year, it was decided that no formal installation was needed. President Maranna read the list of officers and asked them to pledge to uphold their duties, God helping them.

New Business:

President Maranna gave upcoming dates:

March 27: deadline for registration for Spring Gathering at St. Matthews in Waco.

March 28: Retreat

April 4: Spring Gathering at St. Matthews in Waco

April 25: NTNL synod convention

Handbooks were distributed.

We will again purchase blankets for LWR through Sandi Carlson.

Soup Suppers will be held on the following dates: March 4 (Ruth), March 18 (Council), March 25 (Mary), and April 1st (Adult Sunday School class)

Patricia announced that Septemberfest will be held Sept. 11.

- * No parade
- * Car show
- * Barbecue Cook-off
- * Booths

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY: If you, or someone you know, would like to be included in the St. Olaf directory, please contact Angela at the church office so we can get you the form to fill out. Thanks!

Phone: 254-597-2738

Email: saintolaflutheran@gmail.com

Jeanne Bayless brought sample pages with information for our new directory. She passed out copies and asked our help in getting people to fill them out and get them to Angela by March 15th. She stressed that if people can't send pictures by computer, they can give Angela photos and she can scan them. May include family members. She is anxious to get this completed as our old directory is totally out of date. Pages will be placed in notebooks so that it can easily be updated.

The meeting closed with recitation of the Lord's Prayer and singing of the table prayer.

A delicious and colorful array of foods was arranged by Mary Circle.

Next meeting will be the Mother/Daughter/Friends Banquet to be held May 1.

Veterans Memorial at Cranfills Gap City Park

We are in the process of getting names of all veterans from Cranfills Gap, from the Civil War to the present. If you know of anyone in your family or friends who went to school here, lived here, or has moved into the community, and served in the military, we would appreciate your help gathering those names. We need name, branch of service, time frame they served, and where they served.

We have a list of approximately 600 veterans, but do not want to leave anyone out!

Please let us know!

Thank you, Darla Kinney

To send information about a veteran, you can message the Saint Olaf Facebook page, mail, or email:

Address: 402 Meridian St., Cranfills Gap, TX 76637

Email: saintolaflutheran@gmail.com



RAINBOW

What comes to your mind when you see a rainbow?

Maybe God's promise to us: Genesis 9:13-16 I have set my **rainbow** in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

What about the cause of the rainbow: This rainbow is caused by light being refracted when entering a droplet of water, then reflected inside on the back of the droplet and refracted again when leaving it.

Or the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow!

Rainbows are amazingly beautiful as the colors shoot across the sky showing off the blue background of the sky and the brilliance of the sun glowing. It is amazing, and when it's visible we can easily see there is something special about a rainbow.

We are all uniquely made and beautiful to behold just like a rainbow. However, some people aren't consistently showing their brightest colors to the world.

In a world where things are ever-changing, technology, politics, opinions, etc. There are cornerstones we can rest assured will remain the same. Remembering the purpose and strength of these cornerstones in our lives helps to give us reassurance of things to come and the plans and purpose the Lord has for us here on this earth.

It is important we continue to look up at the higher purpose and the higher beauty we have inherited. The rainbow is a visual reminder of an amazing creation. It's a gift for you and me, a reminder of a promise and a richness God blesses us with.

Keep me safe, my GOD, for in you I take refuge.

~Dana

Mary Circle: Will meet March 11th at 2:00pm, location TBD

Martha Circle: TBA

Ruth Circle: Will meet March 12th at Katherine's House at 2:00pm

Mary Circle News

The Mary's Bible study was held in the basement on February 12 . Attending were Elsie, Pat, Charlene, Barbara, and Maranna.

The lesson, "We are Called" was led by Maranna; session two Disciples of Christ. We discussed the difference - disciples are followers of Christ and Apostles were appointed by Christ.

Registration forms will be arriving shortly for the Spring Gathering. It is always a delightful event, and we encourage attendance from St. Olaf. It will be at St. Matthews on April 4.

We decided to check with Sandi for the price of blankets and furnish them for LWR.

The offering was \$80.00.

We will serve at the Lenten service on March 25.

Our next meeting will be on March 11 , with the location to be determined.

Breakfast in the Basement



Join us Saturday, March 21 from 8:00-9:30am for Breakfast in the Basement at Saint Olaf.

Enjoy a visit with old friends and make new friends. Join us in the kitchen or at a table!

Prayer List:

Heather Christensen (daughter to Teresa Christensen), **Rev. C.A.**

Mangham, Henrietta Medina (wife of church janitor), **Donna Boelter** (niece of Charlene Tergerson), **Geraldine Jensen, Rick**

Payne (brother to Sandi Carlson), **Lark Rayburn** (granddaughter to Charlene Tergerson), **Wilma Meissner, Iris Reier-**

son, Roger Strand (John Hastings brother-on-law), **Nathan Olson** (son of Jeanene Ol-

son), Elaine Enger (added by Betty T), **Jeffrey Michaels** (added by Sandi Carl-

son), Jordan Freiss (added by Sandi Carlson), and **Debbie Connor** (added by Darla Kinney).

Lenten and Easter Services

Light Supper and Lent Services at 6:00pm

March 4 (Ruth Circle)

March 11 (Chamber Dinner at 6:30pm)

March 18 (Church Council)

March 25 (Mary Circle)

April 1 (Adult Sunday School Class)

Maundy Thursday, April 9, joint service , Our Saviors, 7:00pm

Good Friday, April 10, Rock Church, 6:00pm

April 12 - Easter Day

Easter Sunrise Service, Rock Church, 7:00am

Youth Breakfast following at Brick Church

Regular Service, Brick Church, 9:30am

Easter Egg Hunt to follow

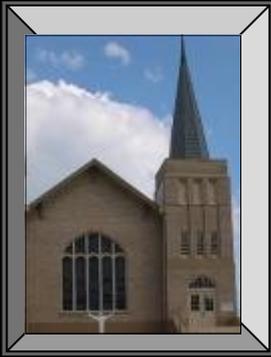
Financial Report <i>Submitted by Gerald Nelson, Treasurer</i>	Receipts	Disbursements	Net
Budget through Jan 31, 2020	\$ 6,677.92	\$ 6,675.00	\$ 2.92
Actual through Jan 31, 2020	8,348.93	6,522.29	1,826.64

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

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Adult & Children's SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am</i>	2	3	4 <i>Lent Light Supper and Service, 6pm</i>	5	6	7
8 <i>Adult & Children's SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am</i>	9	10	11 <i>Mary Circle, 2:00pm, TBD; Lent Service, 6pm (followed by Chamber Dinner at 6:30pm)</i>	12 <i>Ruth Circle, 2:00pm, Katharine's House</i>	13	14
15 <i>Adult & Children's SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am</i>	16	17	18 <i>Lent Light Supper and Service, 6pm; Council Meeting to follow</i>	19	20	21 <i>Breakfast in the Basement, 8:00-9:30am</i>
22 <i>Adult & Children's SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am</i>	23	24	25 <i>Lent Light Supper and Service, 6pm</i>	26	27	28
29 <i>Adult & Children's SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am Hymn Fest and Feast, Trinity, 4pm</i>	30	31	Birthdays: Abby Birdwell (3), Chris Lujan (5), Preshe Wiese (10), Trina Reitson and Avery Barner (13), and Brandt Barnes (18)			





St. Olaf Lutheran Church

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

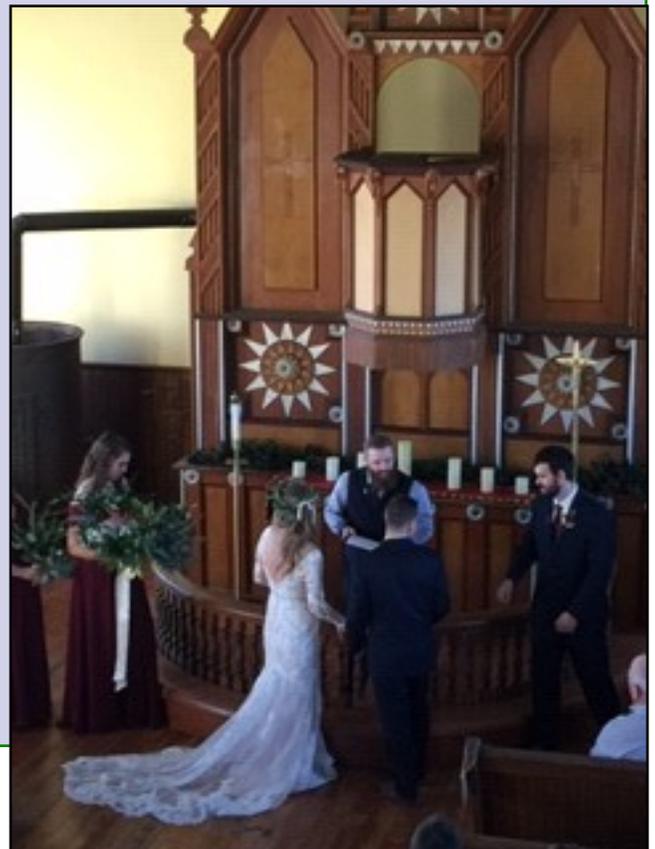


We've just celebrated Ash Wednesday, a day that reminds us of our condition as humans: we are sinful and we are mortal. This is not a pleasant reminder, but we are also assured that God is ready and willing to forgive our sins and to welcome us into his loving care when our lives end. Though God forgives our sin, we are called to turn from our sin, from things that point our aim away from God. Because of this call to repentance, it has become customary for Christians to identify something in their lives to give up during the season of Lent. This giving up of something can be an act of discipline, where people abstain from something harmless that they enjoy so that they can more fully focus on God. Other times, people identify something that is not harmless, some sin that they recognize they need to eliminate from their lives.

Personally, I'm not a big fan of this practice because it tends to be little more than a religiously flavored attempt at self-improvement; however, this year I have decided to give something up for Lent, and maybe after Lent has ended. The thing that I'm trying to give up is the overconsumption of the news. There is nothing wrong with watching the news, reading the newspaper, listening to news programs on the radio, reading news articles on the internet, etc. In fact, I think it is irresponsible to avoid the news, particularly in a democracy, but over the past couple of years I've taken it to an extreme. My boys have even noticed that I spend a lot of time checking the headlines on my phone. They'll ask, "what are you doing? Oh, you're reading the news, aren't you?" They notice because my focus is on my phone and not on them, the people I'm with at the moment.

My constant checking is rooted in curiosity and genuine care and concern for the world. However, from moment to moment, there is nothing that I can do about whatever it is that I read. Reading about the plight of refugees in Syria as my family and I are sitting down for a meal...well, there's nothing I can do to help at that moment, and it's just depressing. Or, reading about the spread of the coronavirus just before class starts doesn't improve my, or anyone else's well being. What I've decided to try is to read the newspaper in the morning and to not dwell on the state of the world all day. I can still keep up with the news without dedicating so much time and attention to it throughout the day and be more present with my family and friends. While it's important to pay attention to the world around us, it is an appropriate exercise of faith to turn our worries about the world over to God. Next time you see me, ask me how I'm doing with my news diet.

~ Pastor Ryan



Another beautiful wedding at the Rock Church