

Return Service  
Requested

# April 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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From Council President, Mark Wallace:

**A Prayer from Condoleezza Rice**

Dear Heavenly Father,

We come to you in trying times.

We are anxious. Our minds race with “what ifs” and fear of the unknown, and our hearts are heavy for those already lost and those who are in danger. Yet, we are so grateful for the privilege of bringing these concerns to you in prayer. We ask that you enter into the depths of our worries, and bring comfort, relief, and resilience to all in our country and across the world.

Father, we pray especially for those who are most vulnerable to this virus. Please ease any feelings of isolation and loneliness that they might have.

We pray for our health care workers and first responders who are on the front-lines, sacrificing to serve the sick. We ask blessings on our men and women in uniform, who are defending us, far from home and family. Bring to all of them encouragement and strength. We are grateful for those who night and day, work to advance science that can protect us and treat us.

We pray for our leaders at home and abroad. Help them to act wisely and humanely and to put aside their differences, as they take crucial decisions to guide us through this crisis.

And we pray that out of this time of trial we may find new ways to serve one another and to be closer to you. In Romans V, the Apostle Paul encouraged us to “glory also in tribulation” because from it comes patience and experience and hope, which will not be disappointed, because of God’s love for us.

Help us to use this time when we have been forced to slow the pace of our lives to reflect; to learn how to listen to each other; and to deepen our bonds of community even in this time of separation. And, most especially help us to take these quieter moments to hear your voice, and your call, with greater clarity.

O Lord, we know that we are called to be faithful to you, for you are relentlessly faithful to us. And so, we ask for your comfort in our lives but also for the grace to behave toward one another as Jesus Christ called us to do:

To treat each other with kindness and respect; to be patient and calm; and to be generous in caring for and praying for those who are most in need.

These things we ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

*Condoleezza Rice*

*March 2020*

## Making Something from CHAOS

The current situation is new to all of us. Though shocking to see empty grocery shelves, businesses closing, and our control (what we thought we controlled) being stripped away, we must fix our minds on the things above. Of course, prepare and be responsible, but let the worry and panic be subsided by prayers and caring for each other.

I read an email from “Aim for Success, Inc.” called *Pulling Together When We’re Falling Apart*, by Lori Kuykendall, Executive Director, which focused on some important points. The following are the 5 points in the article:

1. Offer the assurance of your presence. Life’s hard roads are hardest when you walk them alone. But walked with a person who loves you and promises to stay with you, they become much more easily traversed. Even if you’re walking very slowly and unsure of the next step, having someone there to hold your hand keeps you moving forward. As we say in our parent programs “Be there for your children.” Research shows the power of parent presence to ease stress and give strength.
2. Acknowledge the difficulty of the situation. While assuring your children of your presence, you can at the same time be honest with your own worries and fears and open the door for them to talk about theirs. They are watching how you respond to each day’s difficulties, and it will pull you closer together if you can acknowledge the challenge and let them follow your lead through it.
3. Cherish the gift of time together. Most families are finding themselves with more “together time” than usual weeks give. While this can certainly present a whole host of challenges, work together to find creative solutions. Plan together a schedule for each day, and set time for shared activities, alone time, and rest time. Pull out old games, take on a house project you never have time for, take a walk or bike ride, or try some new recipes.
4. Take a break from “busy.” Families often complain about how busy they are. Now with cleared calendars comes an opportunity to spend quality “down time” with each other. Take time to rest and practice peace and quiet. Unplug by turning off devices. Read a book you’ve been meaning to read and haven’t had time for. Sit together (try sitting in a room or chair you never use) and get some good in-person conversation going.
5. Learn about and work on resilience. We say in our programs that resilience means “not giving up or giving in, growing strong through life’s challenges.” Look up a dictionary definition of resilience and grit. Talk about some past challenges that you have each faced individually and as a family, and how you were able to come through them even stronger. Help everyone see today’s challenges as another of life’s challenges that you will come through together.

Stay strong and positive. Keep in prayer and your eyes up.

GOD watch over us.

Dana

The past three weeks have been so strange. I'm a full time teacher at Cranfills Gap ISD who is now teaching my 6th-12th grade students online and through email and Facebook. My classroom sits quiet and empty. At home, I have two of my own children that I am helping with their lessons, too.

Church services and events have been cancelled for the health and safety of Saint Olaf members and friends so even my church office job is very different right now.

While I don't have weekly church service bulletins to type, I find myself doing other jobs to help keep things running smoothly while everything is shut down, including mailing out Pastor Ryan's weekly sermons to those who don't have email, sending out important announcements, keeping in touch with your council president, Mark Wallace, and working on the newsletter and new directory.

On the way to check the church mailbox today, I noticed flowers blooming in the parsonage flower bed even while the rain was coming down so I walked over and took a few pictures.

These spring flowers are reminders that there are still many beautiful things in this world and that there is always hope. Something valuable that I am learning to do during this time is to just slow down. To slow down and spend more time with my kids, to slow down and enjoy spring weather and sights, and to slow down and spend more time with God. I am reminded to just trust in Him during these uncertain times.

If you need anything during April, don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Ryan, Mark, or myself. You

can leave a phone message, send a note in the mail, or send an email.

Stay well and stay safe. Please let me know if you need anything! I will be mailing the weekly sermon to those who don't have email. If you think of someone who would like to have the sermon mailed to them, please contact me.

~ Angela, office secretary  
[saintolaflutheran@gmail.com](mailto:saintolaflutheran@gmail.com)

### Psalm 33: 20-22

**<sup>20</sup>Our soul waits for the LORD;  
He is our help and shield.  
<sup>21</sup>Our heart is glad in Him,  
because we trust in His holy name.  
<sup>22</sup>Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you.**



## **IMPORTANT**

There will be NO SERVICES, ACTIVITIES, or MEETINGS at Saint Olaf until further notice. We will support the guidelines set forth by the president and his medical staff.

We will reevaluate this after April 30th.

All Sunday services have been cancelled for April.

All Lent and Easter services have been cancelled.

Breakfast in the Basement is cancelled for April.

If you have any questions, you may contact Pastor Ryan or Council President Mark Wallace.

Thank you for your understanding during this time.

Please stay safe and well.

Church members and friends who want to give their gifts/tithes/offerings to Saint Olaf during this time may send their offerings to FSSB in Cranfills Gap with ATTENTION: Rita Hanson, and she will deposit them into the Saint Olaf account. An offering can be mailed, dropped by the bank, or left in the night depository.

First Security State Bank

307 3rd St.

Cranfills Gap, TX 76637

### **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](mailto:saintolaflutheran@gmail.com)



**M**ary Circle: No April meeting, will resume May

**M**artha Circle: TBA

**R**uth Circle: No April meeting, will resume in May

### Mary Circle News

The March meeting of Mary Bible Study was held March 12 in the church basement. Attending were Charlene, Renee', Jeanie, Elsie, Marnanna, and Barbara.

Barbara led the Bible study "We are Called to Serve." The main theme is to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and to love your neighbor as yourself. This included the Good Samaritan, which is one on one. The story of Joseph serving neighbors, the whole country was in famine for seven years. The story of Esther, how she saved the Jewish nation from extinction by her courage.

Blankets for LWR will be about \$5. We took offering to purchase blankets.

### Ruth Circle News

Ruth Circle met at Katherine's House with four people attending. Shirley gave an inspiring lesson which led to interesting discussion. We collected funds for LWR blankets and took a collection of \$45. Afterward, all enjoyed tasty refreshments furnished by Wanda Knudson. We made a decision not to meet in April, but will resume in May.

### **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 Jenson, Rick Payne** (brother to Sandi Carlson), **Lark Rayburn** (granddaughter to Charlene Terger-son), **Wilma Meissner, Iris Reier-son, Roger Strand** (John Hastings brother-on-law), **Nathan Olson** (son of Jeanene Olson), **Elaine Enger** (added by Betty T), **Jeffrey Michaels** (added by Sandi Carlson), **Jordan Freiss** (added by Sandi Carlson), **Debbie Connor** (added by Darla Kinney), **Terry Flory** (added by Elsie), and **Sherry Dyson** (added by Betty Tindall).



<b>Financial Report</b> <i>Submitted by Gerald Nelson, Treasurer</i>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>Net</b>
Budget through Feb 29, 2020	\$13,355.83	\$13,350.00	\$5.83
Actual through Feb 29 2020	13,440.38	11,509.38	1,931.00

# April 2020

**Birthdays:** Natalie Koehler (1), Guy Taylor (6), Dale Patrick (11), Linda Thiele (13), Dalton Moore and Lexi Barner (14), Shirley Thompson (16), Jill Wiese (21), Karen Sharp (23), Geraldine Jenson (25), and Mary McGowen (30)

**Anniversaries:** Rudy & Jami Edwards (3) and Kenneth & Iris Reiersen (24)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		





# St. Olaf Lutheran Church

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



April 2020

Dear friends,

I regret that it is necessary, but the council has decided to postpone all church activities until further notice. We don't make this decision lightly. It is an especially difficult decision as we are approaching the high holy days of Holy Week and Easter. However, this decision is in keeping with the guidance of a variety of sources. Our bishop, relying on the recommendations of medical experts, has advocated for suspending church activities until circumstances improve. The president, in consultation with the world's leading experts in epidemiology, has also recommended that people practice social distancing, which prohibits gathering together for worship. Other experts and relevant organizations have made similar recommendations.

Once these same sources advise returning to our regular activities, we will follow their recommendations. In the meantime, I will continue to send out the service of morning prayer, along with a sermon. I will be talking with Pr. Bill Metting, from Our Savior's Lutheran Church, and Pr. Don Wright, from Trinity Lutheran Church, to think together about ways for us to celebrate Holy Week and Easter that take into account our circumstances.

As I said in my last letter to you, I don't know what your experience of our current situation is like. Since I don't know what your experience is like, I don't know what you need to hear from me. Some of you are probably anxious and need to hear words of encouragement. To you, I say, take heart. Remember that God is present with you, as are your friends and neighbors. Some of you probably feel like the threat of the coronavirus is being blown way out of proportion. To you, I say, take the threat seriously and act accordingly. If you are feeling isolated, please reach out to your friends and family. Also, please feel free to call, text, or email me. I'm happy to talk with you.

May God bless you and give you peace,

Pr. Ryan

