

Return Service

Requested

# July Newsletter 2020

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

402 Meridian Street

Cranfills Gap, TX 76637

«TITLE» «FIRST\_NAME»

«LAST\_NAME»

«ADDRESS»

«CITY», «ST» «ZIP»

9:30AM WORSHIP



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Living in God's amazing grace*

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## Message from the Council President

I am a fly on the wall and I am watching the Knudson family as they prepare for Sunday morning church service in 1917. Conrad's built-in alarm awakens him at 5:00 am each morning. The first thing he does is to light a coal oil lantern and then build a fire in the cook stove. He had previously placed sticks of wood in the stove along with dry kindling before going to bed. All he has to do is add a little bit of coal oil and strike a match. He lights two more lanterns and places them in the kitchen for Sadie who will cook breakfast for the family which will include eggs, smoke cured bacon, hot biscuits, preserves, juice and coffee. Before breakfast, Conrad finishes the milking, feeds the cows and mules, and starts harnessing Lightfoot and hooking her up to the buggy. After breakfast the family loads into the buggy and starts their trek to church. The young family consists of Conrad, Sadie, one-year-old daughter Tirah, along with Orelia, Pearl, Tomena and Hilda, Conrad's young sisters. Conrad's father George, whose wife died in 1909, follows along behind the buggy on his horse. It's about an hour drive from home to the Rock Church where service will begin at ten o'clock.

There are no roads, just well beaten paths through neighbor's pastures. They drive by the Terger-son place, the Jermstad place, and then the Huse place, where they cross Mustang Creek and follow the community path thru the Olson's pasture. From here it's only a short distance to the Rock Church. The family is blessed with good weather this Sunday morning, which is not always the case. Arriving at the church there are numerous buggies with horses tied up or hobbled around the church. The men, dressed in their Sunday finest, are gathered in front of the church visiting about the weather, the war in Europe, or farm prices.....while smoking their pipes. The women and small children go immediately into the church and sit on the left side. When the pastor is seen walking from the parsonage toward the church, the bell starts to ring signaling to the whole valley that church is about to begin. The men and older boys enter and sit on the right side in the church. The pastor enters the church thru the back door and he begins the morning service.

Now, we often take going to church for granted. Getting ready *for* and going *to* church is not as laborious as it was many years ago. Today, Indoor plumbing, electric power along with modern conveniences, makes getting ready for church a simple task. It takes minutes to drive to church. Members of the Knudson family never asked a certain question...."Are we going to church?" Everyone knew that if it was Sunday morning.....*we go to church*. It was understood! It required a lot of effort, desire, and dedication to get the family to church every Sunday morning

Before modern conveniences, paved roadways, and the automobiles, our ancestors ignored obstacles of distance, cold or rainy weather, and other inconveniences on their drive to church. They were dedicated and determined to find their seat in church on Sunday morning. Let us be thankful that we have a beautiful building where we can gather with our church family to worship our Lord and Savior. For the past several weeks we have had a taste of what it's like not being able to attend church. I know you are thankful that we are once again having church services here at St Olaf. Pray for our Pastor, for the church body, and for our Nation that is undergoing a tremendous amount of strife. Pray every day to change hearts of the people who are attacking the Christian church.

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24–25 NIV*

J .Mark Wallace

Council President

## REMEMBER...

July has brought to us the heat of the bright summer sun and the prayers for sporadic rain to quench the dry cracked soil.

I love summer and the coolness of the morning and evenings with the sweltering heat of the mid-day sun. July not only brings the sunny hot days of summer, but it brings reminders to me of the day my mom began her eternal life and how much I miss her smile, her guidance, her love, etc. I would walk in my mom's house and see cards and letters I wrote on her fridge and I would smile and think - my momma loves to be reminded how special and loved she is. Don't we all?!!

Writing cards is a gift God gave me to encourage and lift up people that are on my heart. I write my daughter often and always end the card or letter with the sentence: Remember who you belong to.

"Remember who you belong to" does not refer to my daughter belonging to me or her dad but rather her belonging to someone bigger. Someone who expects more from us, loves us more than anything, and forgives us quicker and mightier than any human being can - GOD.

We all need reminding who we belong to, regardless of how good or bad things are in or around our lives. With the hectic scene surrounding us in the world, when we watch news, listen to talk radio, or use or view social media, things sometimes seem unbearable. But we must remember:

GOD is who we belong to and He is in control. To be stable we seek the rock, we seek His peace, and we seek His guidance. We stay strong when we rely on GOD. GOD sees our hearts and minds.

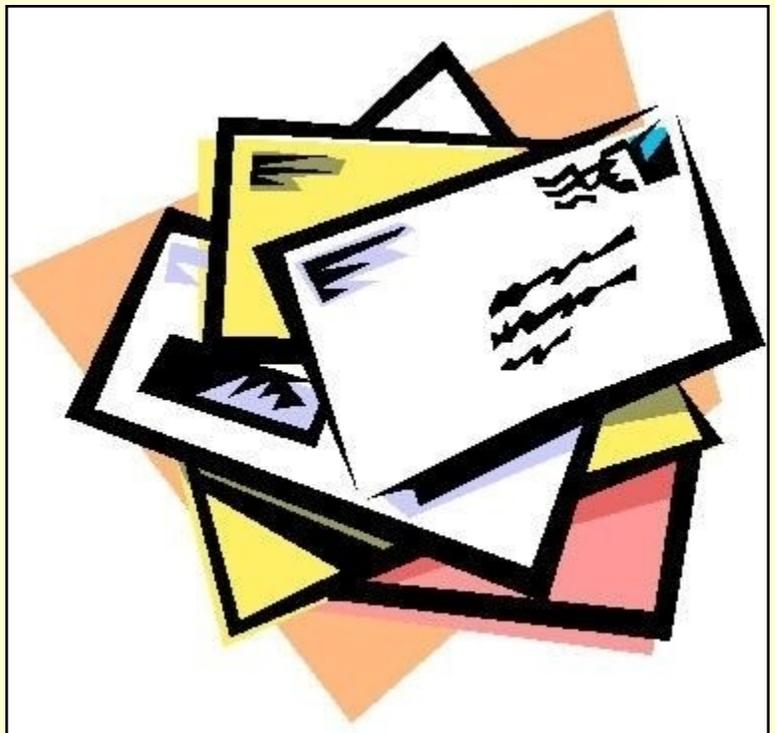
Matthew 10:24-39 (Jesus warns the disciples their ministry will be met with opposition. However, Jesus then assures them they should not fear for the truth will come to light.)

\*sermon 6/21/20 - Doing the right thing does not mean it will be an easy thing.

So, regardless if you send letters or preach sermons, we all should be reminders of who we belong to. Remind yourself, and each other, just how special we are and who our biggest fan is. Thanks be to GOD.

Remember who you belong to!!

Dana Wickland



**Excerpt from Living Lutheran Magazine - “Perspective” by Michelle DeRusha.** Here are five simple tips for reducing anxiety when it shows up uninvited on your doorstep:

**Be still.**

Elijah heard the voice of God not in the chaotic wind, fire and earthquake but in silence, stillness and solitude (1 Kings 19:11-13). Try integrating five or 10 minutes of quiet into each day. Resist the urge to scroll through social media or fill the emptiness with music, a podcast or television. Instead, simply be present to your surroundings.

**Practice *friluftsliv*.**

Despite its long, dark winters, Norway was named the happiest nation in the world in 2017. Many Norwegians attribute their satisfaction, at least in part, to what they call *friluftsliv*, which literally translates as “free air life.” In other words, Norwegians make a point of spending time outside, no matter what the weather is.

**Serve others.**

One of the more insidious aspects of anxiety is that it drives us inward, fixing our attention on our own seemingly unresolvable problems. The more we persevere on our anxiety, the less we focus on God and others. Simply turning our energy and attention to someone else in need can help quell our anxiety.

**Connect with community.**

A growing body of research reveals that small talk with acquaintances and strangers can contribute to day-to-day contentment by increasing our empathy, helping us find common ground and creating a sense of belonging.

**Seek counseling.**

When our anxiety begins to get the better of us, we would be wise to pursue help from a counselor. Seeking help is not an admission of spiritual immaturity, weakness or lack of faith—just the opposite, in fact. One way we can move closer to the health and wholeness God desires for us is by asking for help when we need it.

**PRAYER LIST: Heather Christensen** (daughter to Teresa Christensen), **Rev. C.A. Mangham, Henrietta Medina** (wife of church janitor), **Geraldine Jenson, Rick Payne** (brother to Sandi Carlson), **Lark Rayburn** (granddaughter to Charlene Tergerson), **Wilma Meissner, Iris Reiersen, Nathan Olson** (son of Jeanene Olson), **Elaine Enger** (added by Betty T), **Jeffrey Michaels** (added by Sandi Carlson), **Jordan Freiss** (added by Sandi Carlson), **Terry Flory** (added by Elsie), **Sherry Dyson** (added by Betty Tindall), **Willie Mae Bronstad** (sister-in-law to Charlene Tergerson), **Tony Rohne** (added by Pat Forsythe), **Karen Phillips** (Elsie Phillips), and **Dallas Krauss** (Jeanene Olson’s grandson).

**Note - Vacation Bible School and Day Camp have been cancelled due to health concerns.**



<b>Financial Report</b> <i>Submitted by Gerald Nelson, Treasurer</i>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>Net</b>
Budget through May 31, 2020	\$33,389.58	\$33,375.00	\$14.58
Actual through May 31, 2020	30,791.71	27,154.98	3,636.93

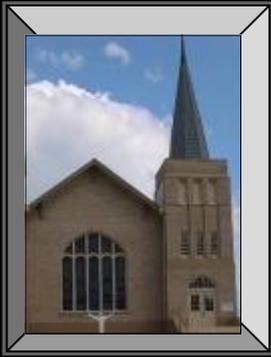
**Assisting Minister:** Charlene Tergerson  
**Head Usher:** Virgil Tindall  
**Altar Guild:** Sandi Carlson & Kathy Finstad

# July 2020

**Birthdays:** Kim Camp (4), Virgil Tindall (5), Carolyn Melde (9), Misti Glass (14), Iris Hodges and Leslie Sims (22), Andra Wiese (25), Alana Lucas (30), and Charla Rudd (31)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 <i>Worship, 9:30am</i>	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 <i>Worship, 9:30am</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18 <i>No Breakfast in the Basement this month</i>
19 <i>Worship, 9:30am</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 <i>Worship, 9:30am</i>	27	28	29	30	31	





## *St. Olaf Lutheran Church*

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



Dear friends,

It's been right at four years since I started as your interim pastor, with my first official day being July 1, 2016. These have been good years for me and my family. My boys have done much of their growing up here, so that when they look back on their childhood experience of church, I imagine that they will mostly think of St. Olaf. Thank you all for welcoming us and making us feel at home. I remember the first night we stayed in the parsonage and how you all had gotten it ready, even providing some art supplies for our boys.

I look forward to the coming years as I now serve as your called pastor. Though it will be difficult to begin right now, when the situation with the Coronavirus settles down, I would like to have a couple of rounds of conversations with folks to talk about what you all would like to see for St. Olaf's future. I conducted similar conversations that first summer I was here, but I would like to revisit the topic.

In the meantime, please take care of yourselves and your loved ones. Though things are not bad in our immediate area, you don't have to go too far from Cranfills Gap to find increased infections. Though I hope that it doesn't come to it, it is possible that we will have to suspend services again. Please keep me and the council in your prayers as we keep our eye on the situation.

Again, thank you for the honor of calling me as your pastor.

Peace,

Pr. Ryan

