



St. Olaf Lutheran Church

The CALLER May 2016



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MATT:

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

It is not easy saying good-bye. I was taught to be strong for our congregations, but there are times when you turn to God to get you through as well.

We have been together here at St. Olaf for 10 years, and that time has been significant. St. Olaf has done some incredible things for going forward in ministry. The church, as a whole, has been losing its place at the center of society since the 1970s, but by the 1990s the church began to lose its identity. That is, society began to wonder what is church all about? Why is it important? Congregations were encouraged to start rediscovering who they were. Find what they are good at. How do they function when they welcome, when they reach out, when they embrace those in need?

St. Olaf has been walking through that ebb and flow of renewed discovery, and much of what it has discovered, is the core of who it has always been. At our last new member class, two of St. Olaf's strengths that were mentioned by those coming in were the warm, friendly, family atmosphere, and the strong education that was provided. This family-style hospitality opens the friendliness, not just to those who have been here a while, but to all who walk through the door. The education is made known through our website. It is an attraction which makes known that we are not just a friendly group, but that we build one another up, make each other stronger through our teaching and learning which, in turn, allows us to live stronger and more abled lives week to week. This is a major part of St. Olaf's identity.

It is not easy to say good-bye. Not only has St. Olaf held to the core of who it is in Christ, but we have added many other positive accomplishments as well. George Monis mentioned at the New Member Class that we have almost an

uncountable number of ways we are reaching out into our community. He is close to being right. We do a lot. When I came ten years ago, I was told the church should be used as much as possible outside of Sunday and touch many lives along the way. We have come a long way toward that end. It has been interesting that most of these activities can be grouped into three basic categories. One is heritage such as the Lutefisk Dinner or Ice Cream Social. They celebrate and tell the story of where the congregation came from. These are important in holding to the church's identity. Another category is "Front Door Activities." Many people find it difficult to transition from no or low -church activity to becoming regular attendees in worship. These "Front Door Activities," such as Four Guyz in Dinner Jackets or Beer and Wine Tasting, bring people into our presence in a way they can feel comfortable. They help us build a positive relationship with others with no strings attached. They help break down many church barriers others may be carrying around inside. From there, we see where God takes it. The last category is "Good Samaritan Activities" like Family Promise, the Ashippun Bread Basket food pantry and Child's Smile. These healing ministries fulfill Christ's call as when he declared, "When you did it to one of the least of these you did it also to me (Matthew 25)." All these categories flesh out our mission statement: Sharing God's Love...Caring for Community. I have enjoyed watching all of them go from seed to tree. Many wonderful memories have been built. I will cherish them all. But it is also not easy to say good-bye.

It is also not easy to say good-bye because of the many relationships that have grown. They say it takes seven years to get to know someone. Well, we have gone beyond that point. Our family has worked with, walked alongside, learned and grown so much with all of you. There are so many stories, I cannot tell them all. I just want to

say, all of you have had a deep and wonderful impact on our family, and we thank you for it.

It is not easy to say good-bye. At its deepest is the spiritual connection. There are always bumps in the road, but when we walk together in the name of Christ, not only are the bumps surmountable, but we are drawn closer together in Christ's name. I think of the Good Friday Tenebrae. I don't know how many years we worked to find the perfect sound for the closing of the tomb. Finally, one of you stepped forward with a digital recording that worked great. Shrove Tuesday this past February jumped out at me as how far we have come as a congregation in starting new ministries. Many hands were involved and it seamlessly came together. It was really a layered event—food, simple worship, activities, song, and of course focusing on Christ (which is the only thing that could beat out the paczkis—or fancy donuts!), and fun throughout it all. It is marvelous how God stitches us together. Don't be afraid to try something new, but don't feel you have to do it all. Just enter in and enjoy the relationships along the way.

Just a couple of words as you all look ahead. Don't try to do too much. That can lead to burnout. Don't focus on the doing, but the being. It is not how many things we do, but the relationships we build along the way. Some activities last a long time and others not nearly as long. That is OK. Just try to stay balanced in the three categories you all have developed. These categories came from who you are. Finally, sometimes we have to say goodbye, but we are always connected in God's Spirit. That Holy Connection will never go away. God bless all at St. Olaf! The Lee family will miss you!

God's Peace,

Pastor Matt



St. Olaf Annual Meeting
May 1st 10:15 a.m.

MAY LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Date	Asst. Minister	Acolyte
Sun., May 1 9:00 a.m.	Pam Eggert	Braeden Christenson
Sat., May 7 5:00 p.m.	Mary Hershoff	-----
Sun., May 8 9:00 a.m.	Dave Kraemer	Sam Solheim
Sat., May 14 5:00 p.m.	Dave Johnston	-----
Sun., May 15 9:00 a.m.	Scott Siegrist	Matthew Siegrist
Sat., May 21 5:00 p.m.	Jane Christenson	-----
Sun., May 22 9:00 a.m.	Jenni Guenther	Benjamin Guenther
Sat., May 28 5:00 p.m.	Dawn Freiburger	-----
Sun., May 29 9:00 a.m.	Rick Dowling	Payton DeBack

May Altar Guild: Kathy Larson
Paula Lumsden

May Counters: Ron Egelseer
Rob Howell
Jim Lumsden

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Tito & Justine Cadena (35)
- 3 Thomas & Chris Ziebell (19)
- 5 Roger & Lyn Johnson (43)
- 7 Robert & Kathleen Howell (28)
- 8 Aldon & Phylliss Schlieve (62)
- 12 Richard & Diane Dowling (43)
- 13 Todd & Cindy Birkel (21)
- 14 Mark & Laura Savatski (28)
- 15 Karl & Kathy Monis (12)
- 22 John & Sara Smeaton (23)
- 27 Brian & Dorothy Solveson (27)
- 30 Oscar & Shirley Kraft (46)



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Clayton Klink, Sara Smeaton, Mabel Solveson
- 7 Terry Borden, Tiffany Brewer, Gregory Homulos
- 8 Marcia Bender, Kris Bender, Paul Slade
- 9 Heidi Sikkema
- 13 Joseph Buth
- 14 Janet Jahnke, Randy Solveson



(May birthdays continued)

- 17 Douglas Morrissey
- 19 Keith Solveson
- 20 Gavin Monis
- 22 Destiny Krueger
- 23 Jamie Christenson, Scott Eifler
- 24 Anne Feutz
- 25 Mitchell Kraemer
- 26 Hertha Ziebell
- 27 Cheryl Monnahan
- 29 Leah Schlieve
- 31 Don Bender, Samantha Cameron

AUTHOR TO SPEAK

Spanish teacher and native of Rwanda, Francois Musonera will speak at St. Olaf Church on Sunday, May 15th at 10:15. With current controversy about refugees escaping terrorism, Francois will present the story of his personal ordeal in Rwanda in the 1990's. Francois was homeless for a year as he fled from rebels to avoid being killed. This presentation is informative and inspiring. Francois will also take questions and will have his book available for sale. Hartford's Jack Russell Memorial Library also has a copy of his book available. Francois lives and teaches in Beaver Dam. He is married and has two young daughters, which were the inspiration to write his book. He wanted them to know his story of faith, struggle to survive, and how he carved out a new life in the USA.

ST. OLAF?

Who was St. Olaf after whom St. Olaf's Lutheran Church was named?

by Roger Johnson

Olaf Haraldson (995 to July 29, 1030) was often called "Olaf The Fat". He was a son of Harold Grenske, a lord in Norway. Legend has it that Olaf was also the great great great grandchild of Harald Fairhair, the first King of Norway. This cannot be confirmed.

Olaf spent his youth as a Viking pirate until 1010 when he was baptized in Rauen, Normandy, France. In 1013, he went to England to aid King Ethelred against the invading Danes. He returned to Norway in 1015 and set about to free Norway from the domination of the Danes and Swedes. In 1016, he defeated a Norwegian earl called Sweyn at the Battle of Nesjar near Larvik and became king of Norway.

Olaf requested that missionaries be sent from England and set about unifying and, to a degree not fully agreed upon, Christianizing Norway. However, the harshness of his rule precipitated a revolt of the nobles of Norway in 1029. Aided by Canute of Denmark, the Norwegian nobles defeated Olaf and forced him to flee to Russia. He returned in 1030 and attempted to recover his kingdom but was slain at the Battle of Stiklestad in Trondelag, Norway on July 29, 1030.

Although Olaf employed violence and brutality and was neither popular nor especially holy during his lifetime, he was greatly respected as a champion of Norwegian independence and pride. Respect was elevated to reverence after his death when miracles were reported at his tomb. Olaf became one of the great heroes of Norway because of the stories of his efforts to unify and Christianize Norway. Many of these stories may be called myths.

He was canonized in 1164 by Pope Alexander as a saint of the Catholic Church. It is argued by historians whether Olaf was canonized because he actually strived to Christianize Norway or because his canonization would aid the efforts of the Catholic Church to shift the power of the Norwegian Church from the kings of Norway to the Pope. Regardless, Olaf became the Patron of Norway. His feast day is July 29th.

A chapel was built at his shrine that became the Cathedral of Trondheim. It became a pilgrimage center for all Scandinavia during the Middle Ages. The exact location of Olaf's grave at the Cathedral of Trondheim is unknown because, during the Lutheran Reformation in 1536-37, religious images, statutes, sculptures, relics, etc., which included Olaf's shrine, were destroyed.

The question might be asked, Since Olaf was Catholic; Catholicism was the state church of Norway when Olaf became a saint; and even St. Olaf's Church in Oslo is a Catholic church, why would a Lutheran congregation name its church after St. Olaf? The answer lies in Olaf's tremendous popularity through the ages in all of Scandinavia and even in England. The Reformation changed many things and attempted to change many others, but it did not reduce the high Christian standing of St. Olaf. The Reformation eliminated many rituals of

Catholicism and destroyed many of its images and relics, but centuries of myths regarding St. Olaf and the affect he did have in establishing national independence and pride survived the Reformation. A number of Catholic and Lutheran churches, as well as some Episcopalian churches, were named after St. Olaf. Immigrants of all three religions brought the name of St. Olaf to America when they established their congregations in the New World.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Our Financial Secretary, Nicole, will be taking on added duties at her other job and so will be leaving us soon. If you know of someone who might be interested in a part-time bookkeeper position here at St. Olaf as financial secretary, please contact John Christenson or Roger Johnson for more information.



OUTREACH FOR HOPE

Family Bike Ride

Sept. 10, 2016

Pedal to Push Down Poverty

There is something for everyone at the Family Bike Ride supporting the churches of the Greater Milwaukee Synod doing ministry in low income communities.

- Casual rider – includes families and children – a ride on the paved Glacial Drumlin Trail, 14 miles or less if you prefer
- Avid bicyclist – either a 20, 30 or 50 mile mapped, cued and supported ride on country roads around Dousman
- Everyone – catered picnic lunch
- Volunteers – over 100 positions available
- Non-bikers – you don't have to ride to impact lives - simply donate. The results are amazing!

Please consider joining forces with hundreds of other bikers riding with a purpose. Visit the website for updates and registration information:

<http://outreachforhope.org>

FAVORITE HYMN?

Do you have a favorite hymn? Send us your suggestions and we will fit them into our worship services this summer. Drop a note in the office or

email to Dave Johnston at dave@hhinsuranceonline.com.

OUTDOOR CLEAN UP

Please come and join us for our Outdoor Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 7th, starting at 8am. Bring your tools and wheelbarrows to trim plants and bushes, clean up debris in beds and spread some new mulch. It's a great way to be outside and maybe meet some new members! Lunch and beverages will be available. For more information please contact Peggy Morrissey @ [262-443-0306](tel:262-443-0306).

FAMILY PROMISE GUESTS HERE IN MAY

St. Olaf will host families May 8-15. Help is needed unloading the van and setting up the cots on Sunday, May 8th after worship service and setting up the rooms after Sunday School. Please sign up on the sheets in the Gathering area to help clean the classrooms, set up, make a meal, serve the meal, provide fellowship for an evening, or be an overnight volunteer. **We need more volunteers to help in some way.** We are blessed to be a blessing to others in need!

BOOK CLUB AT ST. OLAFS

Calling all Book Lovers! Join us on Monday, May 2 at 7pm at church to help us plan our new monthly book club at St. Olaf. Come with ideas for time, location, book titles to read, and a name for the group. Questions? Call Mary Hershoff 630-441-8995 or Diane Dowling 920-349-9161

WOMEN OF GRACE INVITE YOU TO TEA

The Women of St Olaf and friends are invited to a Celebration of Spring Tea on Saturday May 14th from 10am to 1pm sponsored by the Women of Grace. There will be a speaker and we will serve tea, scones & cucumber sandwiches. Invite your friends to join us. Hope to see you there!

FORMED BY FAITH

Yvette Flunder on Preaching Stewardship

By Adam Copeland

Stuff. When I think of stuff, my mind quickly goes to my grandmother's house. It's a large house full of stuff. You may know the kind. Boxes and boxes of yarn. Piles of books. Stacks of old wrapping

paper. Lengths of used string too short to use again. But my grandmother, like many in her generation, grew up in a time when one could not order things at the click of a button on a magical device and have them arrive at your doorstep in 24 hours or less. Her values reflect her experience as a child growing up between the wars in a crowded, small house in a working class neighborhood.

In a recent *Christian Century* article, "The Joy of Stuff: Incarnation and the KonMari Method," MaryAnn McKibben Dana reflects on rise of the KonMari method of dealing with stuff today. The method of decluttering asks one question of stuff: "Does this item spark joy?" After some fine reflections, Dana wraps up suggesting that, likely, the KonMari method may be part of a responsible approach to our consumerist culture. But, she ultimately concludes, the trick is getting back, further, to the root of stuff. The challenge for consumers is not asking, "does this item spark joy?" after we have already spent money on it, but before when we're browsing the store, the catalog, or the Internet.

In a short video, "Preaching Moment: Yvette Flunder on Preaching about Money," Flunder, too, addresses the pull of consumerism and the rise of stuff. For her community, the appeal of stuff speaks into lives of transience -- "you want to get it while you can get it," she says. Flunder gets to the root of her community's relationship with stuff, seeking to replace a narrative of poverty with new mantras: I am not poor and I'll never be poor; I believe that I'm going to be a lender and not a borrower; I believe that I will live to see my debts paid. Like all good preachers, Flunder speaks into the real, lived experiences of her congregation and shares the gospel in a way that completely reframes the consumerist narrative so prevalent around us.

What is your congregation's relationship with stuff? How might it be reframed in light of God's promises? I know some congregations that have "Free Tables" in their churches, places where members are invited to place items they no longer want, but may still spark joy for others. Some experiment with the 30 Day Crazes around us and work on establishing some sort of new anti-consumerist habit for 30 days. (Have you noticed everyone is pitching 30-day plans these

days? Bike to work for 30 days. Try this new diet for 30 days. How about read the Bible more faithfully for 30 days?)

No matter what practice would work best in your context, I'm certain that there's room to explore new ways to counter the consumerism all around us. Jesus put it this way a long time ago in Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." For modern readers, surely that NRSV translation of "wealth" includes our obsession with stuff. We must serve God, not stuff.

NEWS regarding Opportunities for YOUTH & Families for May, 2016

Check out the St. Olaf Youth Facebook page from our website for pictures of our events

Thanks to everyone who helped with Roadside clean-up. We had beautiful weather and are blessed to be living in this area and to be able to take care of GOD'S creation.

Important Meeting on Sunday, May 15 at 10:15 a.m. for our
Youth Mission Trip to Pine Ridge, South Dakota July 9-16, 2016. Questions? See Justine

Remember our commitment to sponsor "Elia" from Bolivia with Food for the Hungry and bring your donations to Sunday worship and put them in the basket by the poster with Elia's information. Take a moment to **write Elia a note** and tell her we are thinking of her. Note pad paper is by her poster. Put notes in the basket also and we will send them to her.

Family Promise guests staying at St. Olaf's May 8-15

Family Promise thanks us for touring the "Promise Center" and for learning more about what they do to help homeless families. It's great to partner with them and reach out to those in need. **Help is needed unloading the van and setting up the cots on Sunday, May 8th after worship service and setting up the rooms after Sunday School.**

Shorehaven Nursing Home – Sunday May 22

3 service points for upcoming Confirmation Class Youth

As usual, we NEED A FEW HIGH SCHOOL OR CONFIRMATION CLASS YOUTH & A PARENT TO GO AND BE THE DRIVER. DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP on the youth board calendar and meet here at 9:00 a.m. You will return about 12:00. Start getting your service hour points now!

"Bread Basket" Food Pantry

1 service point for upcoming Confirmation Class Youth

Wed. May 25 at 6:00 p.m. to stock the shelves. Meet here or meet us there. Sign up on Youth board or let Justine know if you will be able to go.

Summer Camp for youth of all ages

Camperships (scholarships) available

Have you decided to attend summer camp? Let Justine know if you are already planning on attending a camp since the Women of Grace & Youth Ministry have scholarship money available for those that would like to experience camp.

Graduate Recognition

All those graduating from High School or college this year will be recognized and given a gift from St. Olaf's on **Sunday, June 5 at our 9:00 a.m. Worship service** with a reception in our Gathering area following the service. **Please turn in a picture of yourself to Justine for the Picture Board of our graduates by May 15.**

Please RSVP to Justine that you will be there on June 5 and put the picture (**4x6 if possible**) in her mailbox in the office or in the hallway. It will be returned to you. May God bless you all as you prepare to finish another milestone in your life and begin a new chapter on your journey of life and faith.

St. Olaf Brat Fry at Piggly wiggly on Hwy P on June 25th 9-3:00.

Please save the date & sign up to work for a shift, either 9-12:00 or 12:00-3:00. Need youth & parents to help that day.

**YOU'RE INVITED
TO ATTEND A
THANK YOU LUNCH
IN HONOR OF PASTOR MATT & FAMILY
at St. Olaf Lutheran Church**

**MAY 1ST, 2016 AT NOON
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING**

**St. Olaf's Women of Grace will provide
the main dish and beverages.
Please bring a dish to pass for the meal.**

**Please contact Cindy Schlieve, 920-474-7134,
if you have any questions about the lunch.**

***"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under
heaven:"*** **Ecclesiastes 3:1**



KIDS FROM WISCONSIN

Tuesday – July 26, 2016 – 7 pm • Schauer Arts and Activity Center

The Kids from Wisconsin is part of an entertainment tradition that goes back nearly 50 years to its beginnings as a musical production created for Wisconsin's talented youth back in 1969. Today, the pride and passion that enlightened that early music, lives on through a Kids from Wisconsin Revue. The Kids from Wisconsin performs a diverse repertoire of morale-boosting musical entertainment for audiences of all ages.

The Kids from Wisconsin presents top of the line entertainment with some of Wisconsin's most talented performers ages 15-20. The revue is produced in collaboration with some of this country's best writers, arrangers, and choreographers. Costumes are designed and created in Broadway style, adding to the already exciting performance.

- Tuesday, July 26, 2016 at 7:00 pm
- Schauer Arts and Activities Center – Hartford, WI
- Thrivent members can purchase tickets for **\$10.00 ea.** (regular price of tickets is \$18.00 ea.)
- **Order your tickets by June 11, 2016.** Only a limited number of tickets will be available. *Tickets are non-refundable.*
- Contact Gail Damrow at 920-925-3451 if you have any questions on this event.
- Completed registration forms along with payment (checks payable to East Dodge County Chapter # 30060) **must be received by June 11, 2016**

Hosted by: East Dodge County Chapter of Thrivent Financial

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Kids from Wisconsin Ticket Order Form

Deadline for ordering – 6/11/2016

Thrivent Member Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone # _____

(Will be used for sending an order confirmation and information on future events)

Payment: **\$10.00 ea.** x _____ (number of attendees) = \$ _____ **Enclosed**

Make checks payable to: EAST DODGE COUNTY CHAPTER # 30060

Mail form and payment to: Gail Damrow, N1269 Braasch Road, Watertown, WI 53098