

St. Olaf News

Volume 36, Issue 5 May 1, 2007

AN OPEN INVITATION

First, I write to you this month with an open invitation. The invitation is for you to sit down with me and discuss anything that is on your mind, or simply to have a good old fashioned conversation over a cup of coffee. So the invitation is to give me a call or send me an email and we can set up a time to visit. The invitation is also for you to set up a morning or afternoon coffee party with others in your neighborhood or in your apartment building or condo association and invite me to join you. Some of you I know very well and others I do not know at all. In a congregation of this size it is impossible for me to know everyone, but I still enjoy those opportunities to get to know anyone in a more personal way. So feel free to invite me to join you for coffee, lunch, dinner, or simply set up an appointment to visit with me in my office. There is always a cup of coffee waiting for you.

Second, in June it will have been five years since I came to serve St. Olaf Lutheran Church as your senior pastor. From my perspective there are many things that have gone well and some things that I had hoped would have gone a little better. But that again is from my perspective and I am interested in hearing what your perspective might be as well. This can either be through a personal conversation, a signed letter, or a signed email. It is my hope that during the summer months I will have a chance to reflect upon these past five years and to plan for the next five years. Long pastorates are sometimes very difficult but they are also very important to the life of a congregation. When I moved back to Austin it was with the intention of being here until I retired. If this is the case, I should be around for at least another ten years. That would allow us to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St. Olaf together in the year 2017. This is not a promise but a hope that I have. I pray for God's continued blessing upon our ministry together, as I believe God has some great things in store for St. Olaf over the next few years. Thank you for your continued support.

Ron Barnett
Senior Pastor



Special points of interest:

- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.

SHARED MINISTRY

It is about motivation.

According to the dictionary, motivation is a desire or will to cause us to do something or to act on something. It has also been described as something that provides us with personal energy.

There have been at least two people who have come up with theories of motivation. The basis for Abraham Maslow's theory is that we have to meet

certain basic needs before we are capable of using our gifts.

David McClelland and John Atkinson describe the motivations of people in three basic categories or needs, the need for achievement, the need for affiliation and the need for power or influence.

There are many things that motivate people to become involved in a particular ministry or ministry team. It might be to develop new friendship, seeking a sense of

belonging, having some fun, feeling needed, experience personal growth, learn or practice skills, try something new, express gratitude for life's gifts, keeping busy, feel important and valued, enjoy a sense of achievement, or one of many others.

Not matter what your motivation, your ministry is valued and important. Thank you.

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May Circle Schedule

<u>Circle Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Hostess</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>
1	May 21	7:00 pm	Carol Cottingham	Room 202
2	May 15	7:00 pm	Carol Bulson	Room 101
3	May 16	1:00 pm	Ila Akkerman	Room 202
4	May 17	9:30 am	Delores Engen	50768 250 th ST
5	May 16	9:00 am	Enid Thompson	312 40 th ST NW
6	May 17	9:30 am	Darlean Magee	50754 140 th ST
7	May 17	1:30 pm	Helen Hyland	1200 19 th ST NE
8	May 17	1:30 pm		Room 202
9	May 17	1:30 pm		Rasmussen Refectory
10	May 17	1:00 pm	Frances Larson	308 12 th AVE SW
11	May 17	12:30 pm	Johnny's Restaurant	

May Helping Hands

Pat Johnson 433-2858

Darlene Aakre 433-7134

Calling

Schulstad-Thorpe

Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA will meet on Thursday, May 3rd, in the Rasmussen Refectory at 12:00 p.m. for a potluck salad luncheon. The program will be "Homeland Security" presented by Margene Gunderson, Mower County Health nurse.

Devotions will be given by Sylvia Walker. Holly Dalager will be the pianist. Come and join us for a wonderful luncheon and program.

Time & Talent Forms

Many of you were given a Time & Talent Forms when you received your new pictorial directory. Others of you received yours in the mail. Either way, it is important that you return your form to the church office as soon as possible.

The ministry of this congregation is truly a shared ministry-one in which each of us willing shares the gifts and talents we have been given by God. We want to know which area of ministry you would like to serve in so that we can share that with our staff and ministry teams. Thank You.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Some of the new Pictorial Directories are missing pages. The Directory Committee is asking that you check your directory to be sure that it is complete. If not, please return it to the church by May 15. We will give you a new book and will receive replacements for the ones that have missing pages. Thank you.

End of the Year Programs

The Wee Learning Center will be having the 4-yr old end of the year graduation program on Wednesday, May 23, and the 3-yr old class will be celebrating the end of the year on Thursday, May 24. Please come celebrate their accomplishments at 6:30 both nights in the sanctuary, followed by refreshments in the Rasmussen Refectory.



Caring Communion Service Please mark your calendars for the Caring Communion and Reception which has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 27th from 2-4 pm. We will begin with a worship and communion service in the sanctuary followed immediately by dessert and coffee in the Alma Murray fellowship room. This is a great opportunity for those who may find regular attendance physically challenging. It's open to all members and friends of the congregation. Please RSVP to the church office at 433-8857-- please also

indicate if you need transportation or if you are able to assist with driving.

Gallery Wall – Many thanks to everyone who brought in pictures of Christ during the March and April display. It was absolutely incredible! The journey through Lent and Holy Week seemed much more poignant as I often paused by the display, and wondered what Jesus was thinking. The variety of expression and posture spoke to me deeply. Thanks again to all who shared their pictures.

People of wisdom offer an imagination of faith and hope that is so desperately needed in our culture. Every one of you are called by God and are doing God's work in the world. Please share your presence with your families and neighbors. Your gift is an important ministry and it makes a huge difference in our world.

The Lord be with you,
Todd – Senior Adult Ministry

BLUE CREW

The "Blue Crew" will be serving up delicious meals once again in the month of May. Everyone is welcome to join us for supper on Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m. in the Refectory. Please remember to sign up at the church office by Tuesday noon if you plan to come.

- May 2** - Baked chicken, French fries, corn, cranberries, poke cake.
- May 9** - Baked potato and fixins with bars for dessert.
- May 16** – Meatloaf, cheesy potatoes, green beans and rice Krispy bars for dessert.

See you there.

Making a Difference

Wee Learning Center earned \$97.20 by recycling our first boxes of 57 ink jet cartridges and 14 cell phones .

Thank you and remember to recycle and not throw away your cartridges and cell phones, but place them in the container outside the Wee Learning Center room.

Scholarship applications available now! LEAF (Lutheran Education Aid Fund) Scholarships are available to St. Olaf Lutheran Church members who will be freshmen and sophomores at a post-secondary institution during the 2007 - 2008 school year. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is Sunday, May 13, 2007. In addition, special scholarship funds have been provided by the Distad Family for students attending a Lutheran College. Applications are available at the church office. If you have questions or need additional information, call Elise Chesley, 433-8857.

Global Warming

Global warming, or as some people refer to it, climate change, is the phenomenon of too much CO2 being trapped in the atmosphere so that excess sunlight can't bounce back into space. 90% of the science community has agreed that global warming has begun and a goodly portion of the emitted CO2 is from human made machines such as cars, trucks, coal burning power plants (like ours) or anything organic that is burned.

This is an overwhelming problem and a gargantuan challenge to fix, but scientists say that if we act quickly in many ways and by many people, companies and governments, we can lessen the effect and get back to 1960 or 1970 levels.

Pastor Koppel and four others went to Luther for a one-day seminar on "Making Our Church Green." After that, we plan to form a group to discuss and act on ways that will honor our God through caring for our earthly home.

Act now and stay tuned. There will be more information later.

Keith Barnes

SCRIP SALES CONTINUE

St. Olaf has been selling SCRIP as an on-going fundraiser since October 2006. The program was originally intended to raise enough money for the church that we could eventually eliminate many of the small, individual fundraisers needed each year. Of course, we will not replace things like Wednesday night suppers, Lenten meals, and special breakfasts, but we would like to eliminate the "marketplace" feel that St. Olaf (and most other churches) occasionally has. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the only fundraisers needed for things like mission trips, special music performers, guest speakers and special events were those that required no additional money than you would already spend?

That's really what buying SCRIP is all about. In short, you write St. Olaf a check for \$25 before you head to Cashwise or HyVee to buy groceries, and we give you a gift card for \$25 to spend there. IF you don't spend \$25 that day, the balance carries over and you can spend it the next time. When you buy the card from us, St. Olaf makes 3% on the sales, i.e. on a \$25 HyVee card, the church receives \$.75. If 100 family units were to purchase \$100 in HyVee SCRIP each week for the next year, St. Olaf would make \$15,600!

The % of cash to the church varies from vendor to vendor; St. Olaf makes 2 to 13% on every sale. A complete listing of participating vendors and their percentages is included in this issue of the St. Olaf News.

For the SCRIP program to become a successful fundraiser, St. Olaf is trying to become more deliberate about its availability on Sunday morning. If you would be willing to sell SCRIP for 1 hour (10:00 to 11:00 a.m.) on a Sunday morning, please sign the sign-up sheet located at the SCRIP sales table each week.

If you have any questions about the SCRIP program or sales, please contact Jann Schroeder or Samantha Vaith.

Merchant	Denomination	% to SOLC	Merchant	Denomination	% to SOLC
Amazon. Com	\$25	4%	Macy's	\$25	9%
American Eagle	\$25	8%	Marriot Hotels	\$50	12%
Arby's	\$5	10%	Maurices	\$20	7%
Applebee's	\$25	8%	Menard's	\$25	3%
Barnes and Noble	\$10/\$25	9%	Office Max	\$25	5%
Bath and Body Works	\$10	13%	Omaha Steak	\$25	9%
Best Buy	\$25/\$100	2%	Outback	\$25	4%
Borders/Waldenbook	\$10	8%	Panera Bread	\$10	9%
Burger King	\$10	4%	Papa John's	\$10	6%
Cabela's	\$25/\$100	11%	Pier 1	\$25	9%
Cashwise	\$25/\$50/\$100	2%	Pizza Hut	\$10	9%
Chili's	\$20	11%	Quizno's	\$5	8%
Culver's	\$5	10%	Red Lobster/Olive Garden	\$25	9%
Eddie Bauer	\$25	9%	Sears	\$25/\$100	4%
Fazoli's	\$25	7%	Shopko	\$25/\$50	4%
Footlocker	\$25	9%	Sports Authority	\$25	8%
Golden Corral	\$25	3%	Staples	\$25	5%
Gymboree	\$25	13%	Starbuck's	\$10	7%
Harry and David	\$25	12%	Talbot's	\$25	8%
Home Depot	\$25/\$100	3%	TGI Fridays	\$20	8%
HyVee	\$25/\$50	3%	The Children's Place	\$25	12%
JC Penney	\$25	5%	Walgren's	\$20	2%
KFC	\$10	9%	Wendy's	\$10	9%
Kmart	\$25/\$50	2%	Williams Sonoma/		
Kohl's	\$25	4%	Pottery Barn	\$25	8%
Kwik Trip	\$20/\$100	4%	Younkers	\$25	8%

**SCRIP
PROGRAM TO
CONTINUE**

Sunday morning SCRIP sales continue. Buy your cards each Sunday morning between 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. as well as during the week at the church office. We try to maintain an inventory of the most requested cards, but from time to time, you may need to wait a week for cards to be ordered for you.

WANTED:

people who are interested in international mission.

We have a connection to Tanzania, Colombia, and Japan. Are you someone who can help in building these connections through personal contacts (i.e. letter writing or email), informing the congregation about what is happening in these missions, and staying informed yourself about foreign mission? If so, Pastor Barnett wants to speak with you.

EXPANDING THE WELCOME PROJECT CONTINUES

On April 24th, several members of the congregation met in small groups to gather input into the design development of the our proposed building expansion and remodeling. Also, on April 30th, the building task force met with the architect to go over the design

and more specific recommendations. This means that we are getting ever closer to arriving at a final recommendation to bring before the congregation in a few weeks.

In the meantime the financial team is continuing to examine

several funding sources and to analyze St. Olaf's ability to carry a long term mortgage of \$4,000,000 to 6,000,000 over a 25 year amortization.

Please continue to pray for this exciting time as we move forward to *expand the welcome* here at St. Olaf.

WANTED:

People To Help Out On Sunday Mornings

Readers-

Sign up on the sheet in the library area

Communion Assistants-

Contact David Sylte

Nursery-

Sign up on the sheet in the library area

Acolytes-

Sign up by Pastor Koppel's office

Ushers-

Contact Steve Kime

Sound Booth-

Contact Diane Dammen

Radio Broadcast-

Contact Art Goemle

Sunday School-

Contact Jann Schroeder

Searching on the web?

Use goodsearch.com!

www.goodsearch.com is a search engine powered by Yahoo that raises funds for non-profits. One cent is donated to your designated charity for each search. We are registered under St. Olaf Lutheran Church Wee Learning Center, please give it a try and pass the word around. Pennies from heaven, find a penny pick it up all that day you'll have good luck, and of course Ben Franklin's "A penny saved is penny earned."

Twins Fans Get Ready

Lutheran Night at the Dome is Tuesday, August 21, against the Seattle Mariners.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP

Worship on Wednesday nights will continue at least through the month of May. Worship is at 6:15. Worship during the summer months will be determined by the level of participation and support during the month of May.

GRACIAS!

GRACIAS!

GRACIAS!

Each of us who traveled AND the three families that we helped in Agua Prieta, Mexico wish to express our gratitude. Your prayerful, financial support and all of your words of encouragement carried us through each



day. Stay tuned for another intergenerational service opportunity! If you have ideas, please let me know.

Blessings!

Pastor Koppel

Birth to 3-year Olds Home Visits Begin

The Birth to 3-year Old Ministry Team began making home visits to those children who will be 3 years old on, or before September 1, 2007. In May, they will begin visits to those turning 2 on or before September 1st.

Before the team members make a home visit, they will call and schedule a time convenient for

everyone. During the home visit, a fleece blanket and their first copy of a Splash! newsletter and CD will be presented to the child. For our youngest children, those under a year, a Baby Bible Storybook will be included as well.

The goal of this program is to have team members connect with every child under the age of 3 and their

families several times each year, inviting them to participate in the many programs and activities St. Olaf has to offer. In August, there will be Splash! parties where the children and their parents will come together for a social event.

At the Splash! party for 3-year olds, the children will receive their own copy of the Beginners Bible.

Sunday School Teacher Recruitment

Begins May 1

Beginning on May 1, Sunday School teachers for 2007 – 2008 will be recruited. Teachers will be needed for all age levels, 3 year olds through 5th graders. Each class room will again utilize team teachers. The rotation teaching method will not be used in 2007 – 2008, although there will be assistance with crafts and special days for movies and gym will be included in the program.

The theme of the recruitment is “Growing in Christ: Planting the Seeds of Faith in our Children.” Those confirmed members of the congregation who are interested in teaching should pick the appropriate flower from the flower box in the Lommen Library, write their name on the flower and return it in the gardening basket.

A flowering plant will be planted in the “Children’s Ministry Flower Garden” on the south side of the church for every teacher who commits to planting seeds for our youth. When our staffing is complete, we will have nearly 75 plants; it will be an awesome sight. Be sure to commit early, so a flower can be planted in your name!!!

Easter Egg Thank You

The Children’s Ministry Team would like to thank everyone who donated plastic Easter eggs and candy for St. Olaf’s 10th Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Your generosity made it possible for 50+ children to fill paper bags to the top with treat-filled Easter eggs. As in previous years, the children were told about the symbolism of the egg and encouraged to talk about it further with their families during Easter dinner.

Avalanche Ranch “Crew Leaders” Needed

If you love the Lord, and you love kids, you’ll make a great Avalanche Ranch “Crew Leader”. Crew leaders will visit different stations with a group of five kids each day. You won’t be in charge of preparing or teaching activities; you just get to be there and help kids enjoy them as you shepherd the members of your Ranch Crew.

As a crew leader, you will be a friend and a helper to your crew members; you will be someone who knows and calls kids by their names; you will be someone who offers kids choices; you will be someone who asks questions of your crew; and you will be someone who encourages kids!

As a crew leader, you will attend a training session several weeks before VBS begins. You will need to be at the church from about 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 25 through 29. You will also be needed on Thursday, June 28 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

If you are interested in being a crew leader, please contact Karla Carroll, Lia Guttormson or Jann Schroeder as soon as possible.

Hoe Down Announced

Using the theme of this year’s Vacation Bible School program, the Intergenerational Ministry Team will be hosting a traditional “Hoe Down” in May. Mark your calendar, dust off that pair of cowboy boots and get those blue jeans ready. There will be line dancing, fiddle playing, a western barbecue and lots more fun at St. Olaf’s Hoe Down on Sunday, May 20. “This event is rated ‘E’ for everyone!”

More details will be included in the May Sunday bulletins.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday, May 20, will be the last day of Sunday School for the school year. Classes will resume on Rally Sunday, Sunday, September 9, 2007. Beginners through 5th graders will be singing in worship at 10:45 a.m. on Mother’s Day, May 13.

MINISTERIALS

Mid-March

Through

Mid-April

FUNERALS

Duane Madson

Alyce Brimacombe

Lois Ingersoll

Jeanette Bahl

Ivan Ingersoll

BAPTISMS

Ryan Estelle Capp

Boden Mitchell Yoney

Marnie Elizabeth Nagele



Vacation Bible School Registration Continues

Early Vacation Bible School registration continues through May 6. Beginning on Monday, May 7, late registrations will be accepted with the registration fees increasing to \$25/child. Registration forms are available in the church office. Online registration can also be done at the church’s website, www.stolafchurch.org.

MEMORIALSCAPITAL APPEAL

IN MEMORY OF ORLIE HAUG given by Deborah & Michael Laub, Michael & Rhonda Montgomery, Kenneth & Joanne Kostka, Elizabeth & George Passantino, Roland & Eleanor Finley, Harry & Dorothy Nieman, Gerald & Gladys Chopski, Paul & Joanne Worlein, Glenn & Deanna Bakke, L.M. & Jeanette Ramseth, Friends & Family, Donald & Sylvia Walker.

IN MEMORY OF ARTANCY HYLAND given by Patricia & Loren Hyland, Ruth Stevens, Betty Jorgenson, Erliss Peterson.

IN MEMORY OF DONALD & LOIS LAVALLEY given by Gerald & Gladys Chopski, Glenn & Deanna Bakke, Laura & Marty Helle, Paul & Joanne Worlein, Larry & Sherry Andersen, Chuck & Audrey Larson.

IN MEMORY OF FLORENCE JOHNSON given by Benjamin & Arlene Bednar.

IN MEMORY OF FLORENCE HOLMQUIST given by Louis & Karen Anthonisen.

IN MEMORY OF MARIE PETERS given by Hilma Johnson, Larry & Sherry Andersen, Paul & Joanne Worlein, Dr. & Ms. Duane Wallaker, Dwayne & Sharon Olson, Edward & Delores Engen, Eleanor Johnson, David & Kathy Bjorge, Donald & Darlene Austin, Fern Giffin,, Friends & Family.

IN MEMORY OF MELDA PETERSON given by Paul & Joanne Worlein.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM OLESON given by Edward & Delores Engen, Ronald & Lois Peters

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS GROFF given by Frances Knutsen.

IN MEMORY OF DONALD GUNDERSON given by Eden Lake Elementary 4th Grade Team, Paul & Janet Krmpotich.

IN MEMORY OF ALYCE BRIMACOMB given by Paul & Joanne Worlein, Verna Braaten.

IN MEMORY OF LLOYD CARTER given by Rodney & Sandra Friedrich, Verna Braaten, Evelyn Braaten, Joyce Braaten, Mark & Cathy Rieber, Vance Knutson, Donald & Arliss Cesny, RE/JB Buecher.

GENERAL

IN MEMORY OF DOUGLAS FLADLAND given by James & Mary Hanson.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM OLESON given by Arnold & Judith Bungum.

IN MEMORY OF VINCE LEWIS, BROTHER OF PATTY JOHNSON, DALE LEWIS, & JUDY NOLAN given by Rodney & Sandra Friedrich.

IN MEMORY OF DONALD & LOIS LAVALLEY given by Larry & Connie Priebe.

IN MEMORY OF ARTANCY HYLAND given by Pamela & Duncan Hogg, Jim & Delores Potter, T Harriet Hoffman & Jean Marie Olson, James & Emily Reitter, Maynard & Diane Wolfe, Kenneth & Kathleen Welken, Edward Vilt, Gary Sutter, James & Janet Larson, Sharon Max.

IN MEMORY OF FLORENCE MORREIM given by Paul & Janet Morreim.

IN MEMORY OF MARIE PETERS given by Laura Tjomsland.

PRAYER SHAWLS

IN MEMORY OF LILLIAN GROFF given by David & Diane Dammen.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM OLESON given by Chuck & Audrey Larson, Larry & Deanna Ashley, Family & Friends.

MUSIC

IN MEMORY OF DONALD GUNDERSON given by Dori Schow.

IN MEMORY OF EVA HENDRICKSON given by Kenneth Hollerud

IN MEMORY OF ORLIE HAUNG given by Donald & Sylvia Walker.

CAN DO KIDS

IN MEMORY OF DON & LOUIS LAVALLEY given by Linda Reinartz.

2 HYMNALS

IN MEMORY OF DICK CHILDS given by Arla Childs & Family.

CEMETERY FUND

IN MEMORY OF ORLIE HAUG given by William Orn & Lisa Holt.

WLC

IN MEMORY OF LLOYD CARTER given by Friends & Family.

FOUNDATION MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF DONALD GUNDERSON given by Elaine Brustad

IN MEMORY OF LORI MAXEY given by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Spinler.

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS JAMES GROFF given by Margaret Bjork & Mary Hall, Larry & Sherry Andersen.

IN MEMORY OF ORLIE HAUG given by Mildred Ehlers, Margaret Bjork, Mildred Plantikow, JA Stelzig, Dr. John & Joan Hagen.

IN MEMORY OF MARIE PETERS given by Mr. & Mrs. David Tollefson.

IN MEMORY OF RALPH B. WRIGHT given by Donald & Darlene Austin.

IN MEMORY OF ARTANCY HYLAND given by Ramsey & Jeanine Johnson.

IN MEMORY OF DEWEY MADSON given by Mr. & Mrs. David Tollefson.