



St. Olaf Lutheran Church - THE CALLER - January 2026



From Pastor Tom:

Friends , I'm praying for you. It is my honor and my spiritual discipline to pray for you constantly in 2026. I have sent out a Constant Contact Blast and an email to those who gave me your email address, and you have responded! Wow! Thank you for sharing your heart with me, your joys and your challenges. Day in and day

out, 6am-7am on weekdays, I will be holing out in my knotty pine parsonage basement with hot coffee in my hands, fervently praying FOR YOU. All that you share is held in the

utmost strict confidentiality. It will not be shared with anyone. As your pastor, my greatest honor is to know my people, to know their pain and to know what they are celebrating. And you are allowing me to do just that, to be your pastor in the best possible way.



If you'd like me to pray for you, just send me an email at pietztom1@gmail.com and perhaps answer the following questions:

- What are the things in your life that are going well and are cause for celebration?
- What concerns or challenges are weighing on your heart and mind?
- In what specific ways can I pray for you throughout 2026?

I'm also available for Life, Grief and End of Life Coaching anytime this winter.

Call, text or email me at 262-490-4057 or pietztom1@gmail.com and let's set up a session, it's free for you. Or check out www.livinthedreamlifecoaching.org



I'll be in Scottsdale, Arizona, for a Continuing Education event called **Leading Well** on January 6-9, 2026.

Then our Belize Mission Trip will be on Saturday, January 17 to Sat. January 24th. Keep us in your prayers: Lisa Sutrick, John Christenson, PT, Brian Brady, Paul Christenson, Dave Sutrick, Paul Thusius, Ralph Singer and daughter, Kristi George. We will be painting, transforming a kitchen, grading land, taking down a fence, ministering to children and parents, feeding the hungry, and blessing the Children's Cup and volunteers.



JANUARY LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Date	Asst. Minister	Musician
Sat., Jan 3 5:00 p.m.	Mary Hershoff	Clara Birkel Garrett Monis
Sun., Jan 4 9:00 a.m.	Mary Hershoff	Clara Birkel Garrett Monis
Sat., Jan 10 5:00 p.m.	Scott Siegrist	Clara Birkel Steve Stretz
Sun., Jan 11 9:00 a.m.	Scott Siegrist	Clara Birkel Steve Stretz
Sat., Jan 17 5:00 p.m.	Assistant Needed	Clara Birkel Garrett Monis
Sun., Jan 18 9:00 a.m.	Assistant Needed	Clara Birkel Garrett Monis
Sat., Jan 24 5:00 p.m.	Mary Hershoff	Clara Birkel Steve Stretz
Sun., Jan 25 9:00 a.m.	Mary Hershoff	Clara Birkel Steve Stretz
Sat., Jan 31 5:00 p.m.	Scott Siegrist	Clara Birkel Garrett Monis

January Altar Guild: Jane Christenson
January Counters: Ron Egelseer
 Rob Howell

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Jack & Carol Benjamin (9)
- 23 Marilyn & Dave Carlson (56)

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jake Homulos
- 2 Melissa Meier, Debra Uhlman
- 7 Zachary Brewer
- 9 Amanda Christopherson, Mary Koepke
- 11 Vicky St. George
- 13 Debbie Siegrist
- 16 Laurie Rutkowski
- 19 Thomas Bennett, Penelope Sands
- 24 Steve Marx
- 26 Heather Gundrum
- 27 Gerald Bohen, Tony Mueller
- 28 Earl Christenson



ST. OLAF ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 10:15

BLOOD DRIVE AT ST OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH

1/12/2026 02:00 PM - 06:00 PM

Make an appointment:

https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11629965

THANK YOU



Many thanks to all who came and helped decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas season. Although the group was small, everyone worked together, enjoyed the snacks and the decorating was done.

We hope all are enjoying the beautiful decorations.

As a side note; help will be needed in taking down the decorations after church on Sunday, January 4, 2026.

Thank you to all who helped.
 MWA Committee





THANK YOU

Thank you to those that donated money
to purchase poinsettias
to decorate the church for Christmas!



ST. OLAF ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be held **Sunday, January 25th, 2026** after worship service, about 10:15. Please plan to attend and join in the conversation as we plan our ministry for 2026.

SOAR (St. Olaf Addicted Readers)

SOAR Book Club meets every second Thursday of the month at noon at St. Olaf's. All are welcome!

Here is the 2026 Schedule:



	2026 SOAR BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE	
Date	Book Title	Author
1/8/2026	Snow Flower and the Secret Fan	Lisa See
2/12/2026	Ordinary Grace	William Kent Krueger
3/12/2026	Theo of Golden	Allen Levi
4/9/2026	Lilac Girls	Martha Hall Kelly
5/14/2026	The God of the Woods	Liz Moore
6/11/2026	March	Geraldine Brooks
7/9/2026	My Friends	Fredrik Backman
8/13/2026	Loving Frank	Nancy Horan
9/10/2026	Salt to the Sea	Ruta Sepetys
10/8/2026	What Rose Forgot	Nevada Barr
11/12/2026	James	Percival Everett
12/10/2026	Christmas Party, No Book	

News from St. Olaf Women of Grace **January 2026**

Women of Grace Meeting

The next meeting of the Women of Grace (WOG) will be on **Monday, January 12, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Topics will include a review of the Lutfisk Dinner/Bake Sale/Scandi Butik, deciding which missions we will be making donations to from the proceeds of the bake sale and Scandi Butik, and any other topics that may be made known to us. We welcome all members to attend our meetings and offer suggestions. Please feel free to contact me if you have comments or suggestions but cannot attend the meeting. Light refreshments will be available.

Searchers

The Searchers Bible study group meets every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Jane Christenson, most usually. We are currently using the first book of "The Chosen Devotional" series for our study. As always, our discussions will be interesting, enlightening, and a great experience to share with other women.

The *Gather* Magazine study that we will be using on January 13, 2026 is the first of a two-part study entitled "Embodied Prayer" by the Rev. Liv Larson Andrews. The description of the study is "Prayer is an important part of our relationship with God, and one of the ways we respond to God speaking in our lives. At the same time, we may carry all kinds of baggage or heavy questions about prayer: Am I doing it 'right'? Do I pray enough? Is prayer always done with words? This two-part Bible study looks to Scripture as a guide to explore some different ways we can pray with our bodies – and with the body of the earth." This first study is described as follows: "Looking to the Apostle Paul, Mary, the Psalms and more, we'll learn about and try three embodied practices of prayer based on breathing techniques, the use of beads (such as the rosary) and praying in different postures (sitting, standing and kneeling)." Copies of the study will be available for anyone who does not subscribe to the magazine. Please feel free to join us for what promises to once again be an interesting and helpful study.

Lutfisk Dinner/Bake Sale/Scandi Butik

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

To everyone who helped with our event in any way. While I don't yet have final numbers, I am calling it a very successful day. Once again, this congregation and some friends of the congregation stepped up and made this a wonderful event!

Wishing you Peace, Love, Joy, and Good Health,

Cindy J. Schlieve, President

262-490-7134; jschlieve@wi.rr.com

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord."

Romans 8:38 (NIV)



A CHILD'S SMILE

This year's **A Child's Smile** effort provided a Christmas for 1,237 public school and home school children from 671 local families facing tough times this Christmas. 100% of the \$61,850 received from our generous communities was converted to Walmart gift cards.

We would not be able to have this program without the partnership of the teachers and counselors in 25 of our local

schools as well as contributions from local businesses, service organizations, and individual donors. The schools select the families in need and ensure that a responsible parent or caregiver in each family receives a \$50 Walmart gift card for each child in their family so they can afford to buy Christmas presents for their children.

In addition, about \$1,000 worth of both hand knitted caps and mittens were also donated. They were dispensed by the schools as needed to the kids who lose them or come to school without warm clothes. We also received three train sets, a number of matchbox cards, and other toys that were gifted to kids in need through the schools.

The reason we continue with **A Child's Smile** mission was evident again by a comment from one of the school principals during a card delivery this past December. Their comment was: *The need they (schoolteachers and administrators) see in the community is great. Some families have to choose between heat and food for their families this winter.* These tough times are experienced by more and more of our friends, neighbors, and family members.

With the growing need in our community, our fundraising effort needs to continue almost year-round so that the increasing demand during the Christmas season is met. That said, if you know of a service organization or business that may be interested in donating, please let us know so we can provide them with information on the **A Child's Smile** program and where and how to donate. Information on the **A Child's Smile** program can be found at www.st-olaf.org.

I would also like to personally thank the team of volunteers that worked to bring all of the elements of **A Child's Smile** together including school contacts/families list, accounting, card purchases, fund raising, community outreach, and card delivery.

Lastly, thanks to all of you again for your contributions as well as words of encouragement and support for **A Child's Smile**. For those that have contributed, you should be receiving a year-end report with your 2025 contribution and donor list. If you do not receive your end of year contribution statement or if there are errors, please contact me and I will make sure that you receive a correct end of year contribution statement.

Regards,

Mark Rutkowski
(414) 477-0279
tworubes@outlook.com



Youth Ministry News

January 2025



LUTEFISK DINNER

A special thank you to all of the "helping hands" at our Lutfisk dinner. You helped St. Olaf reach out and serve 500+ of our neighbors from near and far.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

[REGISTER HERE](#) or at ST-OLAF.ORG

LOOKING FOR:

Volunteers to help teach or assist with Sunday School. Please contact Kris Pietz if you are available once a month, or sign up here:

[SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS](#)

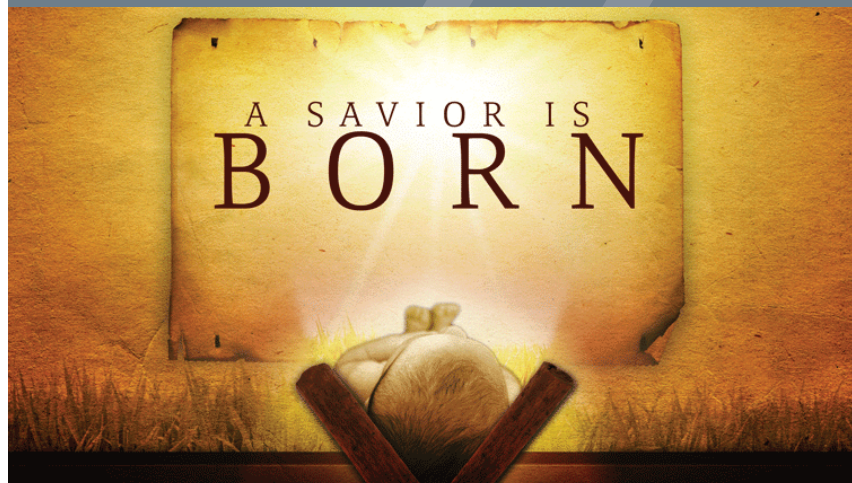


CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Great performance of story, singing and bells, telling of Jesus' birth. Thank you to the students, teachers, parents and volunteers on all that goes into our Christmas program. Your Christmas message is an inspiration to friends and family that joined us for worship.



View on
YouTube



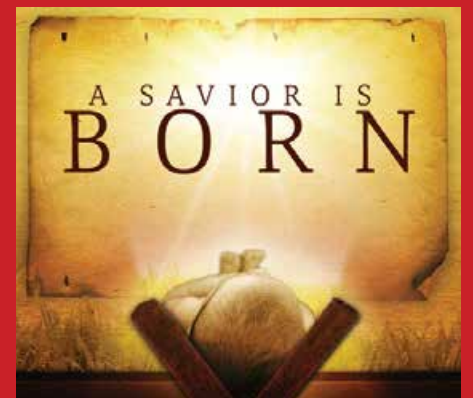
ST OLAF YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sunday School - Kris Pietz stolafchildren@gmail.com

Confirmation Youth - Pastor Tom Pietz pietztom1@gmail.com

Teen Discipleship - Scott Siegrist stolafyouthleader@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



YOUR BLOOD IS A *Lifeline*



NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

St. Olaf Lutheran Church Blood Drive

**Monday
January 12
2:00 - 6:00 PM**



LOCATION:

St. Olaf - W653 Roosevelt Rd, Rubicon

GIFT CARDS FOR DONORS:

Enter code "SPARK" in your appointment notes to receive a \$25 e-gift card (valid email required.)

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT:

Appointments are highly encouraged. Secure your spot by visiting the link below, scan the QR code, or call 877.232.4376.

tinyurl.com/StOlafJan12



 **versiti™**
Blood Center of Wisconsin



To view the entire (larger print) calendar, go to our website www.st-olaf.org

Public Calendar

Jan 2026 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9am - Worship	29 Secretary off - vacation	30 6:30am - Men's Life Group - 9am - Searchers @ Jane 5pm - Weekly Prayer Group -	31 Secretary off - vacation 8:30am - Wednesday Morning 4pm - Ashippun Food Pantry 6pm - Fish Fry (Maple Inn) -	1	2	3 9am - Properties mtg - Small 5pm - Worship
4 9am - Worship	5 Pr. Tom - off	6 Pr. Tom - off 6:30am - Men's Life Group - 9am - Searchers @ Jane 5pm - Weekly Prayer Group -	7 Pr. Tom - off 8:30am - Wednesday Morning 5pm - Mission Team Meeting 6pm - Fish Fry (Maple Inn) -	8 Pr. Tom - off 12pm - Book Club - Small 4pm - Music, Worship, Arts 5pm - Council Meeting	9 Pr. Tom - off	10 Pr. Tom - back today from 5pm - Baptism - Jensen St. 5pm - Worship - Healing
11 9am - Worship - Healing	12 Annual Reports Due to Church 2pm - Blood Drive at St. Olaf 3pm - Women of Grace	13 6:30am - Men's Life Group - 9am - Searchers @ Jane 5pm - Weekly Prayer Group -	14 8:30am - Wednesday Morning 6pm - Fish Fry (Maple Inn) -	15 9am - Soup Ministry	16 Pr. Tom off - Belize Trip	17 Pr. Tom off - Belize Trip 5pm - Worship - NO Classic
18 Pr. Tom off - Belize Trip 9am - Worship - Praise	19 Pr. Tom off - Belize Trip	20 Pr. Tom off - Belize Trip 6:30am - Men's Life Group - 9am - Searchers @ Jane 5pm - Weekly Prayer Group -	21 Pr. Tom off - Belize Trip 8:30am - Wednesday Morning 6pm - Fish Fry (Maple Inn) -	22 Pr. Tom off - Belize Trip	23 Pr. Tom off - Belize Trip	24 Pr. Tom off - Belize Trip 5pm - Worship
25 9am - Worship 10am - Annual Meeting	26 8:00am-CALLER ARTICLES	27 6:30am - Men's Life Group - 9am - Searchers @ Jane 5pm - Weekly Prayer Group -	28 8:30am - Wednesday Morning 4pm - Ashippun Food Pantry 6pm - Fish Fry (Maple Inn) -	29	30	31 5pm - Worship - blended