



# SPIRE

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DEVILS LAKE, NORTH DAKOTA

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**JANUARY 2024**

## St. Olaf Lutheran Church

601 6th Street NE  
Devils Lake, ND 58301-2525

Phone: 701-662-4911  
FAX: 701-662-4820  
Email: [stolaf@gondtc.com](mailto:stolaf@gondtc.com)

[www.stolafchurchdevilslake.com](http://www.stolafchurchdevilslake.com)

Pastor Lori Pankratz  
Email: [lorip@gondtc.com](mailto:lorip@gondtc.com)

Darci Gilbertson  
Office & Financial Secretary

Kirk Sweeney, Custodian

Dan Nybo, Organist



# November General Fund

Adult Ed .....	12.68
Auto Exp (Mileage) .....	664.88
BCBS Exp .....	839.74
Envelope Exp .....	1,511.36
Confirmation Exp .....	23.75
Cont. Ed (Youth Coord.) .....	50.00
Custodian HIR Exp .....	250.00
EaND Synod Mission Exp.....	1,081.52
Electricity Exp (Ottertail) .....	906.00
Envelope Giving Exp (EFT) .....	37.44
Gas (MDU) Exp .....	319.00
Maintenance Exp. ....	404.97
Dakota Wash Master: 300.00	
Mac's: 104.97	
Office Equip. ....	1,087.83
Office Supplies .....	134.92
Miscellaneous Exp .....	109.51
Pastor Housing Allowance ....	1,200.00
Pastor SS Allowance .....	397.84
Payroll Exp.....	638.20
Pension/Ins .....	3,922.84
Postage Exp.....	227.15
Sewer & Water Exp .....	146.55
Spec. Gifts-Out .....	21,850.70
To Elevator Fund: 7,700.00	
To Stained Glass: 7,500.00	
To RC: 2,500.00	
To Norway Cemetery: 2,500.00	
For 6 chairs: 1,246.94	
For Dakota Oyate Bags: 198.88	
For MOM Hope Center: 204.88	
Sunday School Exp.....	14.55
NDC .....	458.33
Vocal Director Exp .....	125.00
Wages.....	12,656.80

Total Expenses..... **\$48,888.38**

Total Income..... **\$51,911.94**

## Retreat Center Fund November Expenses

Greater Ramsey Water..	36.65
Guide One Insurance...	150.00
Nodak .....	73.00
MDU .....	35.86



## January Mission of the Month

# Lake Region Community Shelter



The clear box at the back of the sanctuary (entrance) is set up at each worship service to bring awareness to missions that we want to support with our donations. Each month we will highlight the mission of the month. The mission of the month for January is Lake Region Community Shelter.

## Stained Glass Project Update:

Our President Michael Kitch received a call at 3pm yesterday from the Associated Crafts Stained Glass Window Studio whom we have contracted with for repairs to our stained glass windows. And they were good enough to call us and share that the prices that we had quoted will be going up in the new year and so to lock in the price they would need a payment of \$29,610 before the new year. The Good news is that we have already raised \$20,411 toward the project, so that means we are \$9199 short. We have had some step forward who

are willing to donate toward locking in the price, however we need additional donations to get to this goal. On the one hand it is a very difficult ask, but at the same time we will save money in added costs in the long term. Work will not be able to begin until next fall at the earliest. Michael did say that if you have questions about this, please call him.

**Funerals**

Helen Weed

## 2024 Offering Envelopes Are Now Available For Members To Pick Up In the Centennial Room

### Elevator Update

Donations & Memorials received as of  
December 21, 2023: **\$50,783.00**  
Total Project: **\$78,000.00**

### Stained-glass Windows

Balance in Stained-glass Fund  
December 19, 2023: **\$20,411.76**  
Total Project: **\$127,528.00**

## General Fund Envelope Giving & Memorials & Designated Funds

SUNDAY		General Fund:	General Fund:	Designated Funds:
Date	9:30	Envelope Giving	Gifts & Memorials	Memorials/Donations
November 26	93	\$1,152.00		\$210.01
December 3	104	\$8,630.00	\$120.00	\$621.26
December 10	94	\$2,870.00		\$6,128.33
December 17	98	\$4,612.00	\$60.00	\$477.00

Electronic Giving for NOVEMBER (29 Households): **\$3,600.00**

# FAITH MATTERS;

~ Pastor Lori ~

**Psalm 96** <sup>1</sup> O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

<sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

<sup>4</sup> For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

<sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup> Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

<sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

<sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup> Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established, it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

<sup>12</sup> let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

<sup>13</sup> before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

This was the Psalm that we read responsively on Christmas Eve. This Psalm calls on the whole earth and all the nations to sing praises to God.

In John's Gospel we hear the placing of the coming of the Word in the context of Creation, in the beginning. And John instead of painting the picture of Jesus at his birth in Bethlehem; places this same Word made flesh in the beginning with God in creation. This same baby born in a manger who was given the name Jesus, Lord just like God, the same Lord referred to in this Psalm.

Christ was born of Mary and Joseph in a makeshift shelter outside the village of Bethlehem, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. This Lord is both local and cos-

mic in His being. You see the good news of the Christmas Gospel is for the whole world, but it also demands especially the attention of what is going on around us, in our homes, in our congregation, in our community in our daily lives.

In this Christmas season and into the new year let us make this story our story, not only the story of Christ in the beginning as the Word, but also the story of the Nativity and his life, death and resurrection and this Hymn of Praise from Psalm 96, the enthronement of our Lord.

Our Lord in Creation, in His Life and Death and especially the New beginning of the Resurrection and his coming to forgive, judge and save. The Alpha and Omega (Beginning and the End) God with us!

**May God Bless you in 2024!  
Pastor Lori**



*If you or someone you know are in need of prayers, please contact the church office:*

**662-4911.**

*Your name and concern will be held before God and prayed for by everyone on the Prayer Chain.*

***You will be asked if you would like to be included in the prayers at Sunday worship or you may request it.***



## Greetings Ladies of St. Olaf

\*We have a New Year to look forward to.

\*The Quilters will still be meeting on Tuesday mornings. All are welcome to join in on the fun and coffee fellowship. Thanks to all who so faithfully attend each week to help fulfill this mission.

\*The 2023 Annual Bazaar was well attended and a HUGE success. Thanks again to everyone who worked, donated or participated in anyway. It is a lot of work hours, but very rewarding.

\*Also want to mention again, a Big Thanks to all who helped Jayne with the "Elevate Your Spirits" cookie fundraiser for the elevator fund. It also was a big success.

\*The Annual WELCA Christmas Potluck was well attended. Thanks to all who were able to come. Thanks to Daria Miller for leading the music and to Darci and Kelly for helping me with the Christmas Songs and Bingo games. Thanks to all who brought food and to our Hostess Miriam Circle for helping with the set up and clean up process. Also, during the Potluck we presented Phyllis Nelson with a gift for her service to WELCA as the treasurer for 29 years. She will be retiring at the end of the year. THANK YOU PHYLLIS!

Let's make the New Year a Great One! God's Blessings  
**Myrna Unger President**

# December Church Council Meeting Minutes

The St. Olaf Lutheran Church council met on December 12, 2023.

Present: Michael Kitsch, Mike Boehmer, Kristi Trotter, Colette Boehmer, Louise Oleson, Jeri Steffan, Daria Miller, Crystal Eversvik, Pastor Lori Pankratz, Kelly Longden, Darci Gilbertson. Not Present: Evonne Geigle. Visitors: Pastor JoHanna Buchholz, members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church council - Char Burthold, Susan Britsch, Amber Lambrecht, Kari Kempel

President Michael Kitsch called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Pastor Lori opened with a prayer.

Pastor Lori and Pastor JoHanna led a conversation with council members about the possibility of sharing a youth ministry coordinator in the future. No decision was made at this time. Dialog concerning this will continue between the two churches. St. Olaf will move forward to seek a full time youth ministry coordinator to fill the position vacated by Kelly Longden.

The minutes of the November council meeting were reviewed. Mike moved to approve the minutes. Crystal seconded. The minutes were approved.

Mike presented the Treasurer's report. Balances as of November 30, 2023 - Designated Funds: \$78,394.45; Building Fund: \$39,865.80; General Fund: \$2058.52. The line of credit is nearing pay off.

Activity reports from Pastor Lori and Kelly Longden were reviewed.

Christian Education: Kristi reported that they had a joint meeting with Youth & Family Ministry. They discussed the possibility of a youth ministry coordinator with Our Savior's. They are preparing for the Christmas Nativity play. Rachel Kitsch has been added as a member of this board.

Church Properties: No report at this time. Pastor Lori will reach out to Evonne for information from this board.

Life in Ministry & Mission: Louise reported that the Confirmation youth made cookies to give to nursing home residents. Pastor Lori, Louise, and Jayne contin-

ue their visits to the nursing care facilities.

Stewardship: Jeri inquired how much money is still needed to pay for the elevator upgrade/repair. Approximately \$34,000 is needed to complete the elevator fund.

Youth & Family Ministry: Crystal reported that Ashley Samuelson has joined this board. Crystal reported that they will be working on projects with the Christian Ed board. Both boards will do what they can to fill in after Kelly leaves his position.

Worship & Music: Daria reported that Jean Aardahl is resigning from this board. Daria questioned if there is a need for the Worship & Music board. No action at this time.

Unfinished Business: No update on the elevator at this time. Michael reported that the price for repairing the stained glass windows remains the same, but we are encouraged to sign a contract soon to lock in the current price. St. Olaf member, Brian Miller, made beautiful wooden magnets for purchase with all money raised going to the stained glass window fund. A building use policy is needed for the Sons of Norway and any other group that may use our church facilities. Louise and Michael will work on writing a policy.

New Business: Darci requested a change in names be made to the ND Secretary of State Annual Report. Mike moved to place the name of Pastor Lori Pankratz on the ND Secretary of State Annual Report and to remove the name of Evan Markestad. Kristi seconded. The motion was approved. Mike presented the 2024 Mission Plan to the council. He reported that several church members helped with the plan. Mike reviewed and highlighted a few of the changes on the Mission Plan. Louise moved to accept the 2024 St. Olaf Mission Plan. Colette seconded the motion. Following discussion, the council voted and the 2024 Mission Plan was approved as presented.

The meeting was adjourned. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Respectfully submitted, Colette Boehmer**

## Faith & Care Group #6—January 2024

Heath & Annie Alexander, Brandon, Rachel  
Gary & Cynthia Axtman, Danica  
Duainne & Paula Bourcy  
Janice Carlson  
Ben & Erin Erickstad, Payton  
Kenneth & Sandy Forsberg, Lisa & Lucas  
Michael & Lisa Grafsgaard, Jaydon,  
Nathaniel, Jennica  
Rhonda Greicar  
Jeff & Diane Halverson  
Jason & Monica Halverson, Collyns  
Armen & Connie Hanson  
Deloise Haugen  
Francis & Delores Johanson  
Jeff & Shelley Kenner  
Jessica & Mike Kraft  
David & Angie Larson, Paige & Benjamin  
Jeri Larson  
Evan & Joy Markestad, Jace, Evelyne  
Brian & Natalie Miller, Anthony  
Jerry & Daria Miller  
Betty Ness  
Chad & Amanda Peterson, Emmitt, Blakely,  
Collyns, Rhettlyn

Betty Petska  
Brian & Rachel Quam, Grace, Grant, Grady  
Rory & Charlotte Riggin  
Michael & Lisa Rodriguez, Caleb, Mya,  
Aunica  
Mike & Laurie Rodriguez, Sr.  
Jon Saastad, Colton, Nathan  
Dustin & Ashley Samuelson, Gregor, Raya  
Brent & Natasha Schall, Evan, Natalie,  
Bella, Mercadeez, Sandra  
Deanne Sogge, Michael  
Tanner & Alexis Sotvik, Benson, Hattie  
Cheryl Stack, Shawn  
Jeri Steffan  
Richard & Jan Thompson  
Diane Togstad  
Lynn & Deb Toso, Kaylee  
Jane Vang  
Marlys Wang  
Albert Wood  
Steve & Erin Wood, Madison, Zachary,  
Christopher & Andrew

## Memorials

### BUILDING FUND: Elevator

*Given in MEMORY of:*  
**Kenneth Unger** from Myrna Unger  
**Alvin & Ethel Herda, Sr.** from Al Herda  
**Barb Ash** from Duaine Ash  
**Helen Weed** from Ray & Judy Strong, Gary Bryn, Janice Thompson, Rory & Charlotte Riggin, Vonda Markestad, Myrna Unger  
**Janice Sowatzki** from Frank & Deloris Johanson, Gary Bryn  
**Joanne Summers Gustafson** from Janice Thompson

*Given in HONOR of*  
**Myrna Unger's 80th Birthday** from Family & Friends, Karen Krueger, Ray & Judy Strong, Mike & Sherry Boehmer  
**St. Olaf Staff: Pr. Lori, Darci, Kelly & Kirk** from Roger Knutson  
**Harper Rowan Larson** from Richard & Carol Lybeck  
**Kade Lybeck** from Richard & Carol Lybeck

### GENERAL FUND: *Given in MEMORY of:*

**Family & Friends** from Judy MacDonald  
*Given in HONOR of:*

**Myrna Unger's 80th Birthday** from Judy Ovre

### NORWAY CEMETERY *Given in MEMORY of:*

**Robert "Bob" LaMotte** from Harlan Adahl  
**Helen Weed** from Harlan Adahl

### RETREAT CENTER FUND *Given in MEMORY of:*

**Yvonne Herda** from Al Herda

### ST. OLAF FOUNDATION *Given in MEMORY of:*

**Helen Weed** from Rodger Haugen

## Faith & Care Group #7—February 2024

Duane A. & Pam Armstrong  
Adam & Sara Bachmeier, Lane, Brooke, Britany  
Pam Bartlett  
Sarah Bergeron  
Karin & Kyle Blanchfield, Warren, Landen  
Rudi & Dianne Bloomquist  
Michael & Sherry Boehmer  
Paul & Karen Clementich, Sean, Blair & Erin  
Bill & Angie DeWall, Jacquelyn, Janessa & Jady  
Frans & Brittany Du Plessis, Ian, Jenner  
Aaron & Bethany Elshaug, Sophie  
Norris & Renae Elshaug, Marti & Hannah  
Richard & Rita Foss  
Roger & Michelle Fritz, Gregory, Rachel  
Perry & Denise Garske  
Scott Gerrells, Kody, Robyn, Stevie  
Monice Goodman  
Bryan & Janet Hannesson, Benjamin, Logan

Gary Johnson  
Connie Jorgenson  
Steven & Becky Juntunen, Tenneil  
Karen Krueger  
Kristy Laber, Mason, Reiley, Tyler  
Amy Lee, Austin & Brady  
Brady & Jeani Legacie, Finleigh  
Dustin & Ashley Legacie, Braxton, Declan  
Joanne Legacie  
Newton & Karen Lindseth  
Heather MacDonald, Aubrey, Burkley  
Judy MacDonald  
Karen Meier  
Keith & Cynthia Myhre  
Cathy Odendaal  
Mark & Eva Olson  
Sharon Peterson  
Angie Ralston, Lexi  
Florene Rogne  
Harris & Dianne Saele  
Marlys Sollin  
Allen & Peggy Tabor

**SIMPLY GIVING:** As a part of our desire to make giving simple and convenient; we have created an online giving page through Vanco. Each part focuses on one of the causes here at St. Olaf and a couple outside as well. Our hope is that this site will allow you to see more of what you can give to and make an impact through the ministries of St. Olaf. The QR code below can be scanned via smartphone and will take you straight to the site or find it at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZA6T/home>





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Happy New Year! Closed	2 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Text Study	3 10:30 Staff Meeting No Confirmation	4 1:00 Brain Injury Support Group	5 4:00 Annual Report Deadline	6
7 9:30 Worship with Communion 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Coffee & Foundation Mtg.	8	9 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Text Study 5:00 Church Council Mtg.	10 10:30 Staff Meeting 6:15 Confirmation	11	12	13
14 9:30 Worship No Sunday School 10:30 Coffee	15	16 9:00 Quilting	17 10:30 Staff Meeting 6:15 Confirmation	18	19	20
21 9:30 Worship with Communion No Sun. School <b>10:30 Annual Meeting &amp; Meal</b> 4:30 Piano Recital	22	23 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Text Study	24 10:30 Staff Meeting 6:15 Confirmation	25	26	27
28 9:30 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Coffee & FC #7	29	30 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Text Study	31 10:30 Staff Meeting 6:15 Confirmation			