



# SPIRE

MARCH 2025

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 17  
DEVILS LAKE, NORTH DAKOTA  
  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## 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



## Join us during this season of Lent

**Ash Wednesday, March 5:** 5:30 Supper | 6:30 Worship

**Wednesdays, March 12—April 9:**

5:30 Supper | 6:30 Worship (*Holden Evening Prayer*)

**Palm Sunday, April 13:** 9:30 Worship

10:00 Sunday School | 10:30 Coffee | 1:00 Bonhoeffer Study

*5th Grade First Communion Class at 2:30*

**Maundy Thursday, April 17:** 6:30 Worship with Communion

*5th Graders have their first Communion*

**Good Friday, April 18:** 6:30 Worship

**Easter Sunday, April 20:**

7:00 Sunrise Service with Communion at Retreat Center

9:30 Worship with Communion

10:30 Coffee Fellowship



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

# January General Fund Expenses

Auto Exp .....	387.12
BCBS Exp .....	1,105.10
Bulletin Exp.....	126.46
Church Supplies .....	471.27
Custodian HIR .....	250.00
Otter Tail Power .....	757.00
Envelope Giving Exp .....	36.82
MDU (2 mos.) .....	937.00
Maintenance Exp.....	1,402.37
Hobarts (oven):	305.55
Hobarts (dishwasher):	920.20
Mac's:	176.62
Office Equip. Exp.....	413.44
Office Supplies .....	192.84
Pastor Housing .....	1,533.34
Pastor Soc. Sec. Allow ...	461.56
Payroll Exp. ....	494.09
Pension/Ins. Exp.....	3,298.95
Postage Exp .....	60.53
Sewer/Water Exp.....	134.18
Special Gifts—Out .....	646.47
Dacotah Oyate Bags	
Sunday School Exp .....	21.50
Telephone/Internet.....	472.79
Vocal Director Exp.....	200.00
Wages .....	10,408.65
Youth Act. ....	30.72
Youth Coord.(Pr. Lori)...	500.00

**Total Expenses:     \$24,342.20**  
**Total Income:       \$20,958.59**

## Retreat Center Fund January Expenses

Guide One Insurance ..	150.00
MDU (2 mos.).....	417.44
Nodak.....	56.00
Greater Ramsey Water .	35.00

**Total Expenses.....\$658.44**



# March Mission of the Month

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 March is **Spirit Lake Homeless Shelter**.

## W.E.L.C.A. Updates

Quilting has had smaller attendance due to the cold weather. We are looking forward to warmer weather and our great Tuesday fellowship.

WELCA meeting will be held March 6 at 1:30 p.m. Bible Study and business meeting with Anna Circle hosting.

The annual World Day of Prayer for 2025 is written by the women of Cook Island. This year it is hosted by St. Joseph's Catholic Church at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 7. Please attend if possible.

Installation of WELCA officers and Blessing of the Quilts will be on Sunday, March 9 at the church service.

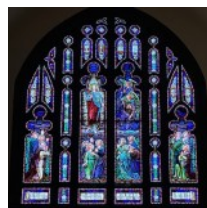
Circles please remember to check your lists for your mission project. Information in the Centennial Room.

**God's Blessings,**  
**Myrna Unger, WELCA President**



- ▶ Visit our elder members (in person or call)
- ▶ Donate or take the donations to the Hope Center (shelf in Centennial Room)
- ▶ Volunteer at the Hope Center or Homeless Shelter
- ▶ Share your Thrivent Action Team Dollars & Choice Dollars with St. Olaf.

## Windows Restoration & Preservation Project Update:



Loan is paid!  
 Project is complete!  
**Thank you!**



## General Fund Envelope Giving & Memorials & Designated Funds

SUNDAY		General Fund:	General Fund:	Designated Funds:
Date	9:30 am	<u>Envelope Giving</u>	<u>Gifts &amp; Memorials</u>	<u>Memorials/Donations</u>
February 2	102	\$4,556.00		\$5,345.00
February 9	68	\$2,507.00		\$1,364.00
February 16	61	\$1,968.00		\$1,653.00
February 23	NA	\$2,220.00	\$3,510.10	\$288.00

**Electronic Giving for JANUARY (29 Households):   \$3,795.00**

# FAITH MATTERS;

~ Pastor Lori ~

February 18 at 5:23 AM

On this day in 1546, Martin Luther—reformer, theologian, and preacher of grace—entered eternal life.

Luther's famous words— "Here I stand, I can do no other"—weren't just about theology. They were about speaking truth to power. About standing up for justice. About challenging systems that distort God's love.



We are called to stand firm, too. To proclaim radical grace. To advocate for justice. To build a Church where all are truly welcome.

Where is God calling you to take a stand today?

Taken from a post from [The Deaconess Community](#)

## WANTED: Youth Ministry Coordinator

The Youth Ministry Coordinator at St. Olaf Lutheran Church will shepherd youth and their families from birth through high school by empowering, supporting, and encouraging youth, their families and adult volunteers in learning, faith formation and spiritual growth. The coordinator will plan, develop, coordinate, and oversee activities for children and families that foster Christian community through relationship-building while promoting fun, spiritual development, ministry, and outreach involvement opportunities.

**Part time at 25 hours per week or full time 40 hour work week**

**Health Benefits: (Negotiable)**

**Vacation Time:** 2 weeks a year after successful performance evaluation.

### Minimum Qualification Requirements:

- High School Diploma or equivalent, College experience preferred.
- Driver's license in good standing
- Successful background check
- Able to guide and support youth in faith formation in the Lutheran context of Christian Faith as understood by Lutherans (Small Catechism and Holy Scripture)



Alyssa Schall  
SSgt. Sherri Read &  
SSgt. Barry Read  
Cpl. Jeffrey J. Olson  
Sgt. Jesse S. Olson  
Grant Thompson  
Justin & Jill Johnson  
Derrick Owens  
Jonathan Pearson  
Matthew Martin  
Sgt. Major Brian Soper  
Nevon Heisler  
Brian Pederson  
Cory Schall  
Brent Schall  
Amy & Cory Everson  
Austin Dammen  
Ryan Mertens  
Gregory Fritz  
Spc. Jade Baker  
Major Miranda Iverson  
SSgt. Billyjo Sandberg  
Captain Cassidy Wilkins  
Kaitlyn Thompson  
Matthew Alexander  
Trentin Ystaas

*If you know of someone serving in the military, please let the church office (662-4911) know.*

Email resume to:

**stolaf@gondtc.com**

**Or stop in and fill out an application**

Full job description at  
[stolafchurchdevilslake.com](http://stolafchurchdevilslake.com)

## Wednesdays Lenten Series starts March 5



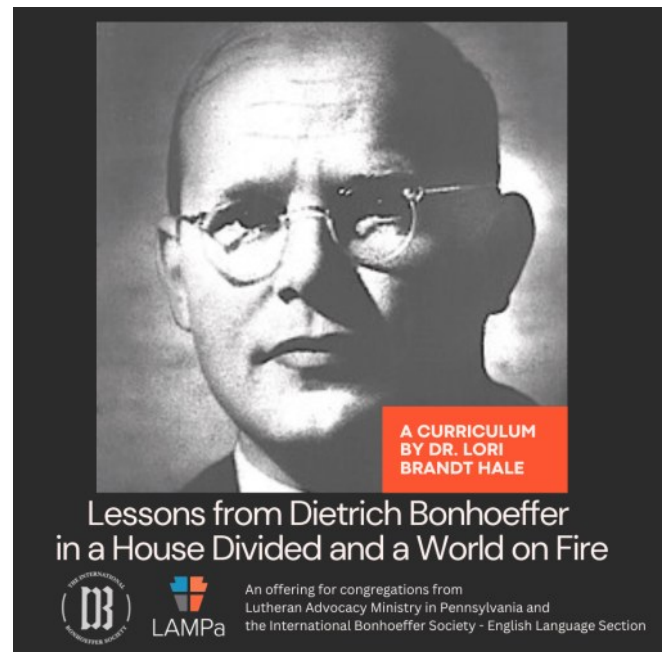
**“The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”**

**-Psalm 34:18**

### Weekly Themes:

- Ash Wednesday – David – Broken by Sin
- Naomi – Broken by Grief
- Elijah – Broken by Fear
- The Syrophenician Woman – Broken by Desperation
- Mary Magdalene – Broken by Demons

During Lent and Holy week please participate in a congregational Faith Art Expression Project with our *Broken and Beloved* theme. We will complete paint by number projects in the Centennial Room (Follow the instructions on the table at each faith art station) come in anytime when the church is open 9-5 weekdays and before worship and lent services, perhaps as a faith practice during lent. Along with the Theme *Broken and Beloved* please come to the Lenten services to be drawn into the Stories of God's Steadfast Love through the eyes of children sharing the perspective of God's stories, through Dramatic Readings portrayed by our Sunday School and Confirmation Students. Meals will be served at 5:30 by our youth, at which time our confirmation students will meet with their Mentor groups. In holding with tradition, The Holden Evening Prayer service will be sung during worship.



**Sunday's in Lent- March 9,16,  
23, 30 and April 6 and 13, 2025,  
at 1:00pm**

**St Olaf Lutheran Fellowship Hall  
(Facilitated by Pr. JoHanna Bucholz, Our Sav-  
iors and Pr. Lori Pankratz, St. Olaf)**

Join us for 6 weeks as we explore the life and theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and the lessons we can use as we live at the intersection of faith and civic life today. Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran pastor and theologian living in Nazi Germany, who eventually joined the resistance and was arrested and killed before the end of WWII. This curriculum was compiled by Dr. Lori Brandt Hale, an internationally renowned Bonhoeffer scholar and president of the International Bonhoeffer Society – English Language Section.

*Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania is a partner in distributing to congregations to inspire deeper conversation and discernment about how we live as disciples.*

# Youth Activity at the Hope Center



The Youth and Family Board is seeking donations for Easter baskets for the children of the church to receive on Easter Sunday.

Greatly appreciated donated basket items could include:

chocolates, jelly beans, other candy, or a monetary donation to defer the cost of the baskets.

**Donations can be dropped off by April 7th in the church office.**



# February Council Minutes

The St. Olaf Lutheran Church council met on February 11, 2025.

Present: Dave Oehlke, Michael Kitsch, Colette Boehmer, Evan Markestad, Louise Oleson, Anne Rasmusson, Kristi Trottier, Pastor Lori Pankratz, Darci Gilbertson  
Absent: Arne Berg, VP position vacant

President Dave Oehlke called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Pastor Lori read a prayer "Before Reading the News".

The minutes of the January 2025 council meeting were reviewed. Michael moved to accept the minutes. Louise seconded. The minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's report was prepared by Mike Boehmer. Copies were reviewed by the council. Balances as of January 31, 2025, were as follows: Designated Funds: \$95,702.80; Building Fund: \$2,257.22; General Fund: \$8,041.76; Contingency: Fund: \$17,508.80; Window Fund: \$4,585.43. Anne moved to accept the report. Kristi seconded. The treasurer's report was approved.

Pastor Lori presented her report. Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5. The Lenten theme will be Broken and Beloved. St. Olaf youth will participate in skits, there will be paint by number canvases for members to color, and the Holden Evening prayer will be used as the liturgy. Pastor Lori is looking for mentors for Confirmation students. They will meet in groups on Wednesdays during Lenten suppers.

Christian Education / Youth & Family Ministry: Kristi reported that Lenten supper schedules have been made. Curriculum for Sunday school is being put together. Donations for Easter baskets would be appreciated.

Church Properties: Evan reported that he is looking to work closely with Kirk Sweeney on church maintenance. Evan will follow up on dishwasher and water softener issues.

Life in Ministry & Mission: Lousie explained her role as reaching out to members with visits, greeting cards, and phone

calls. She will be a Confirmation mentor and supports Pastor Lori and Darci when needed.

Stewardship: Michael reported that Jeri Steffan has agreed to work on Stewardship with him for 2025. They will be looking at membership lists for active and inactive members. This will be a starting point for a possible change to the church constitution regarding quorum.

Worship & Music: No committee members at this time.

Unfinished Business: Following a tabled decision on the AED purchases, with more information available, the council voted via email on January 21 and 22 to purchase two new AEDs with the DLAF grant of \$3826.00. Batteries and new pads will be purchased to upgrade one of the old AED machines. An additional \$1099.39 is needed to complete the purchase and upgrade.

New Business: Dave reported that he has been reviewing the insurance policy on the church building. He suggested that some changes may be needed. Dave and Evan will schedule a meeting with Dan Ness, the insurance representative.

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

**Respectfully submitted,  
Colette Boehmer**



**Color,  
Coffee &  
Conversation**

**Thursday,  
March 20**

**@ 1:30 p.m.  
In the Library**

This event is for all adults, men and women, who enjoy coloring in adult coloring books or would like to try it.

Colored pencils and coloring books will be provided, but you may also bring whatever you have. If you wish you can come just for the coffee and treats and social interaction.

Please RSVP to  
Jean Aardahl at  
662-9227

Leave a message  
if no answer

**“Fishers of Men”  
Bible Study  
Saturdays  
7:00am  
At White House Café**

## Faith & Care Group #6— March 2025

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  
 Al Herda  
 Francis & Delores Johanson  
 Jeff & Shelley Kenner  
 Jessica & Mike Kraft  
 David & Angie Larson, Paige & Benjamin  
 Jeri Larson  
 Evan 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 Riggan  
 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  
 393-4311 Lynn & Deb Toso, Kaylee  
 Jane Vang  
 Marlys Wang  
 Albert Wood  
 Steve & Erin Wood, Madison, Zachary,  
 Christopher & Andrew

## Faith & Care Group #7—April 2025

Duane A. & Pam Armstrong  
 Adam & Sara Bachmeier, Lane, Brooke, Brit-  
 tany  
 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  
 Collin Evenson  
 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  
 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>



## Memorials

### SUNDAY SCHOOL FUND

*Given in MEMORY of:*

**Daniel Haugen** from Friends and Family

### WINDOWS FUND

*Given in MEMORY of:*

**Sue Feickert** from Mike & Sherry Boehmer, Rory & Charlotte Riggan, Tim Wever, Harlan Adahl, Rodger Haugen, Kathy Lovseth, Duane Moen

**Larry Nygren** from Rene & Sherri Ouellette

**Daniel Haugen** from Rene & Sherri Ouellette, Judy MacDonald, Myrna Unger, Rotary Club of Devils Lake, Everett & Peggy Dobrinski, Kelly Longden, Roger Knutson, Dave, Eva & Joanna Baldwin, Robert & Mary Hitesman, Guy & Chryl Desautel, Carole Fenner, Kay Haugen, Kitty Overbo, Dwight Paulson, Jeffrey Drawz, Dan & Bonnie Ness, Craig & Gale Dix, Katina Walford, Ronald Faleide, Judy Hatten, Sheldon Severtson, Les & Karin Windjue, Jerry & Daria Miller, Gary & Claire Garske, Chuck & Jonielle Soderstrom, Kim Zinke, Betty Nygren, Tom & Stacie Wade, Wanda Bjordahl, Ken Severinson, Rose Windjue, Judy Ovre, Ray & Judy Strong, Gary & Maxine Van Hunnik

**Gordon & Eileen Fugle** from Judy MacDonald

**Sam & Lena & Eida Hatten** from Judy MacDonald

**Irma & Duane Carter** from Judy MacDonald

**Lois Moen Scharf (Duane's sister)** from Myrna Unger



# MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> 7:00am “Fishers of Men” Bible Study at Whitehouse
<b>2</b> 9:30 Worship with Communion & SS Choir  10:00 Sunday School  10:30 Coffee	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00 Quilting  10:30 Text Study  5:00 Meeting of Christian Ed & Youth & Family	<b>5</b> 10:30 Staff Mtg.  5:30 Supper (3-4 Graders)  6:30 Worship with Communion & Imposition of Ashes	<b>6</b> 1:00 Brain Injury Support Group  1:30 WELCA Bible Study & Meeting	<b>7</b>  2:00 World Day of Prayer Service at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church	<b>8</b> 7:00am Bible Study at Whitehouse Café  1:00 Town Hall Mtg. at LRSC
<b>9</b> 9:30 Worship**  No Sun. School  10:30 Coffee  1:00 Bonhoeffer Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00 Quilting  10:30 Text Study  5:30 Council Meeting	<b>12</b> 10:30 Staff Mtg.  5:30 Supper (5-6 Graders)  6:30 Worship (Holden Evening Prayer)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:00am “Fishers of Men” Bible Study at Whitehouse Cafe
<b>16</b> 9:30 Worship with Comm.  10:00 Sun. Sch.  10:30 Coffee  1:00 Bonhoeffer Study  2:00 SON Mtg.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00 Quilting  10:00 Conference Pastors Meeting at St. Olaf	<b>19</b> 10:30 Staff Mtg.  5:30 Supper (7-8 Graders)  6:30 Worship	<b>20</b>  <b>1:30 Coffee, Coloring &amp; Conversation</b>	<b>21</b>  4:00 Spire Newsletter Deadline	<b>22</b> 7:00am “Fishers of Men” Bible Study at Whitehouse Cafe
<b>23</b> 9:30 Worship  No Sun. School  10:30 Coffee  1:00 Bonhoeffer Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00 Quilting  10:30 Text Study	<b>26</b> 10:30 Staff Mtg.  5:30 Supper (9-10 Graders)  6:30 Worship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:00am “Fishers of Men” Bible Study at Whitehouse Cafe
<b>30</b> 9:30 Worship  10:00 SS  10:30 Coffee & FC # 7 Mtg.  1:00 Bonhoeffer Study	<b>31</b>		** Installation of WELCA Officers and Blessing of the Quilts—March 9th			