



# SPIRE

JULY 2023

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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DEVILS LAKE, NORTH DAKOTA  
  
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## 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

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

**Pastor Lori Pankratz**  
Email: lorip@gondtc.com

**Darci Gilbertson**  
Office & Financial Secretary

**Kirk Sweeney**, Custodian

**Dan Nybo**, Organist

**Kelly Longden**  
Youth Ministry Coordinator  
Email: stolafymc@gmail.com



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

## RED WILLOW MINISTRIES

### PRESENTS:

VBS Day Camp coming to St. Olaf &  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
community!

"I AM THE ALPHA AND  
THE OMEGA, THE FIRST  
AND THE LAST, THE  
BEGINNING AND THE END"  
REVELATION 22:13

**Mark Your Calendars:**

9 am - 3 pm, July 10-13 at Ruger Park

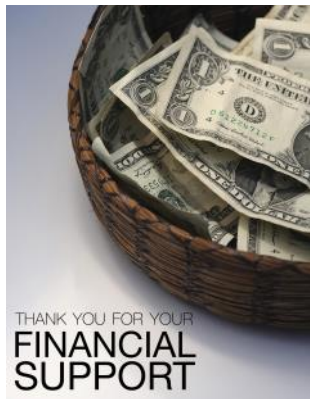
Registration forms are online. If you have any questions contact Kelly.

# May General Fund Expenses

Auto Exp (Mileage) .....	1,120.10
BCBS Exp .....	839.74
Church Supplies.....	182.79
Convention Exp.....	185.00
Custodian HIR Exp .....	250.00
EaND Synod (Jan.-May) .....	2,045.53
Electricity Exp (Ottetail) .....	918.00
Envelope Giving Exp (EFT) .....	35.00
Gas (MDU) Exp .....	647.00
Insurance Exp.....	2,309.29
Maintenance Exp. ....	35.94
Office Equip. ....	397.73
Office Supplies.....	713.26
Miscellaneous Exp .....	317.95
Pastor Housing Allowance ....	1,200.00
Pastor SS Allowance .....	397.84
Payroll Exp.....	665.29
Pension/Ins .....	3,922.84
Postage Exp.....	186.30
Retreat Center Exp (Ins.) .....	300.00
Sewer & Water Exp .....	149.95
Special Gifts—Out .....	288.51
Cardmember Serv: 22.26	
Hope Center: 181.25	
EaND Synod: 85.00	
Sunday School Exp.....	35.35
Telephone/Internet/Survaill. ....	463.68
Vocal Director Exp .....	150.00
Wages.....	12,702.78
Worship Supplies .....	11.99
Youth Activity Exp .....	62.34
<b>Total Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$30,534.11</b>
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>27,416.03</b>
Income .....	18,416.03
From Contingency.....	9,000.00

## Retreat Center Fund April Expenses

Greater Ramsey Water ..	35.00
Guide One Insurance ...	150.00
O.C. Wang .....	1,345.00
MDU.....	27.31



# July Mission of the Month SAAF House

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 July is **Safe Alternatives for Abused Families of Devils Lake**.

They are a local, non-profit organization offering advocacy for victims of domestic and sexual assault.

## Memorials

### GENERAL FUND

*Given in MEMORY of:*  
**Joann Paulson** from Kermit & Glenna Garske

### Norway Cemtery Fund

*Given in MEMORY of:*  
**Arnold Moen** from Vern Moen

### NORWAY CEMETERY FUND

*Given in MEMORY of:*  
**Harland & Marilyn Pederson** from Myrna Unger  
**Robert "Bob" Bryn** from Gary Bryn

### BUILDING FUND:

#### (Stained Glass)

*Given in MEMORY of:*  
**Duane Davidson** from Robert Dahl

#### (Elevator)

*Given in MEMORY of:*  
**LaRissa Unger** from Myrna Unger

### Elevator Update

Donations & Memorials received as of  
June 28, 2023: **\$580.00**

~ 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>



## General Fund Envelope Giving & Memorials & Designated Funds

SUNDAY		General Fund:	General Fund:	Designated Funds:
Date	9:30 a.m.	8:30	11:00	Memorials/Donations
May 28	90			\$390.00
June 4	50	49		\$630.00
June 11	56	46	\$25.00	\$993.00
June 18	58	NA		\$538.00

Electronic Giving for MAY (29 Households): **\$3,715.00**

# FAITH MATTERS;

~ Pastor Lori ~

I came across this article that spoke to my heart about what perhaps Christ intends for the church entitled "We were wrong" By Keith Stewart a pastor in Texas:

"Ward Brehm once wrote, 'They say that if God wants to get your attention, He will toss a little pebble into your life, if that doesn't work, He will throw a rock. As a last resort He will heave a brick!'"

Africa was definitely my brick; it rocked my world in ways I never anticipated. Seeing with my own eyes the devastation caused by extreme poverty, lack of access to clean water, the HIV and AIDs pandemic, and preventable diseases like malaria truly made me wonder how anyone could be as willfully blind as I was. I used to say, I went to Africa to save Africa. Now I know God had the opposite in mind. He brought Africa into my life to save me. Not long after that fateful trip, while running at White Rock Lake in Dallas, I sensed God say to me, 'I want you to apologize to the community for the kind of church you have been' I instantly knew exactly what I meant. I don't know how I knew it. I just did. The church took out a full-page ad in the Dallas Morning News. In large bold letters in the center of the page it read, "WE WERE WRONG."

At the bottom of the page was our apology: *We followed trends when we should have followed Jesus. We told others how to live but did not listen ourselves. We live in a land of plenty, denying ourselves nothing, while ignoring our neighbors who actually have nothing. We sat on the sidelines while AIDS ravaged Africa. We were wrong; we're sorry. Please forgive us.*

The only other thing printed on the page was our church name, phone number and website. We offered no explanations at the point of the apology always sound like excuses. We only wanted to speak the truth about our behavior and offer a sincere apology to those whom we had hurt.

Sadly, the church today is better known for its political stance than helping the poor, feeding the hungry or helping to heal the hurting. Do we dare believe the church could be known for its love and compassion more than its rhetoric and judgments? That's one risk I am willing to take.

In the years since our apology our church has become an entirely different church. Hundreds of hundreds of children now have sponsors. The Nyakach Valley of Kenya has networks of wells, pipes, and water kiosks to serve thousands who used to fetch water from polluted lakes and streams. Children no longer regularly fall ill to easily preventable diseases like they once did. Everything for them has changed, as has everything for us. I sincerely believe God's work done in God's way will always be mutually transformational. We are as changed by the work we are doing as the people we intend to serve. Our investment in our friends overseas has profoundly enriched our church family. They have taught us so much about true wealth—to be rich in faith, hope and love.

In addition, we are assured in Scripture that God always hears the widow and the orphan's prayer. I sometimes wonder about my own prayers, but I am supremely confident about theirs. So every day, on the other side of the world, there are widows and orphans who fall on their knees in the dirt and bless our name to God. This is the highest blessing anyone can receive in life—to be blessed by the least of these.

I never could have imagined how much three little words would totally transform my world—we were wrong."

## Baptisms

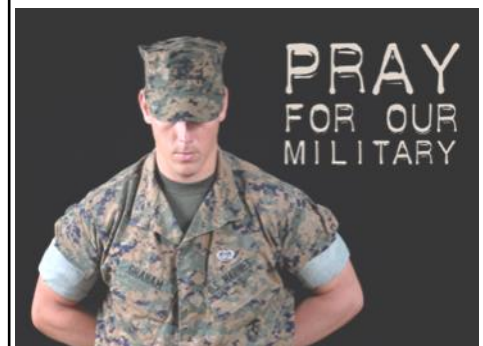
Mason Todd Erickstad  
Son of Ben & Erin Erickstad

## Weddings

John Heisler & Kaylee Flaagan  
June 10, 2023

## Funerals

Joann Paulson  
Wayne Skramstad  
Ilene Schemionek



Alyssa Schall  
Chad & Amanda Engen  
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  
1st Lt. 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.*



Greetings Ladies here is our July Update for WELCA:

\*Our Quilting group continues for the summer, sometimes with smaller groups because of gardening, flowers and vacations.

We would like to Thank Dale Giedd and Brian Miller for delivering quilts for the Odd Fellow Home residents.

Thanks also to Loretta Bloomquist for getting the quilt ready for the Red Willow Quilt Auction.

\* Summer Recess will be in July and August, with meetings beginning again in September.

\* St. Olaf will sponsor a Blood Drive on July 6th and 7th at the Armory. Thanks to all who are volunteering their time to make this happen and those bringing Juice and goodies. Once again THANK YOU Loretta for Chairing this event.

\*Praying for a Great Summer for you all. Stay Well and Stay COOL!

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



## Faithful Generosity:

With worship at the center, our mission, service, and discipleship is growing because of the grace of God and the faithfulness of your lives.

The life and witness of St. Olaf Lutheran Church is healthy and strong. I invite you to join me both in giving thanks to God for that reality and in choosing not to take it for granted. With that being said, as a church family we have been falling behind in our generosity and faithful giving and have had to cut into our contingency funds the last 2 months to cover payroll and budget (mission plan).

God has blessed all of us who consider St. Olaf Lutheran Church home. That blessing from God has a past in the ministry that has been entrusted to us. It has a future as we commit to and continue to live out God's mission among us and before us.

Please know how thankful I am to all who give to support our ministry. Each and every gift builds our culture of generosity and helps to further our collective proclamation of God's love in word and deed. My thanks and gratitude come on behalf of the leadership, staff, and God's mission in the church.

As your pastor, I humbly ask for your financial support in this time, I know that times are challenging, but I am hopeful that we don't get caught up in the mindset of scarcity, because God's abundance is overflowing. I invite you into a season of prayer and discernment. Your gifts and service are important to the church and should be offered in a spirit of prayerful reflection, commitment, and response to all that God is doing among us.

Be Blessed, Pastor Lori

## CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Please visit with Kelly before registering. He has some registration codes and instructions that you will need.

Visit [www.redwillowministries.com](http://www.redwillowministries.com) to register today!



# We want your picture in the directory!



If you were not able to make an appointment for your photograph for our new directory, you may submit a photo that you took with your phone or had another photographer take within the last couple of years.

Please email it to [stolaf@gondtc.com](mailto:stolaf@gondtc.com)  
Or mail a photo that is printed on photo paper to:  
St. Olaf Lutheran Church, 601 6th St. NE,  
Devils Lake, ND 58301

**Deadline: July 15th, 2023**



Because of you,  
life doesn't stop

**BLOOD  
DONORS  
NEEDED!**

## DEVILS LAKE COMMUNITY 2-DAY BLOOD DRIVE

THU JULY 6, 12:45 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

FRI JULY 7, 8:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

SPONSORED BY ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH

Devils Lake Armory  
524 Fourth Ave NE  
Devils Lake, ND, 58301

Please contact Vitalant @ 877-258-4825 or go to [donors.vitalant.org](http://donors.vitalant.org) and search Sponsor Code: devilslakend to schedule an appointment.

For more information or to schedule a donation, call 877-25-VITAL or visit us at [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org)  
Find us @vitalant:   



# Youth News Nexus

The Scoop on Events and Happenings at St. Olaf for Children, Youth, Parents, and the Youth Ministry Minded

Happy Summer everyone,

July brings us about half-way through summer. Things have been quiet at St. Olaf, but July has a couple items to kick things up.

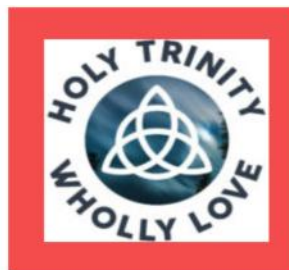
Summer camps have begun at all of our ELCA outdoor camps, Red Willow, Park River, and Metigoshe. As a church, we support these camps in different ways, because as a church in the Easter North Dakota Synod of the ELCA they are ours. We are a part of these camps as they are a part of us. My hope is that we have a bunch of our youth and kids going to camp this summer; I just haven't heard a lot. Please see me if you or your youth(s) are interested in going.

July brings us our time at Vacation Bible School (VBS). This is going to be held in July from Monday the 10th to Thursday the 13th, from 9am-3pm. VBS is for all entering 1st through 6th grade students. The registration form is only online this year and a link can be found in our Facebook Group. Please let me know if you have any questions or are interested in sending your kids.

JLY (Jesus Loves You),

**Kelly Longden**

St. Olaf Youth Ministry Coordinator  
701-662-4911  
stolafymc@gmail.co



# June Church Council Meeting Minutes

The St. Olaf Lutheran Church council met June 14, 2023.

Present: Michael Kitsch, Mike Boehmer, Colette Boehmer, Jeri Steffan, Crystal Eversvik, Daria Miller, Pastor Lori Pankratz, Kelly Longden, Darci Gilbertson. Absent: Kristi Trotter,

Evonne Geigle, Louise Oleson.

President Michael Kitsch called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Pastor Lori opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

The minutes of the May church council

meeting were reviewed. Crystal moved to accept the minutes. Daria seconded. May minutes were approved.

Mike presented the Treasurer's report. Balances as of May 31, 2023: Designated Funds: \$97,717.78; Building Fund: \$24,110.96; General Fund: negative balance (-1,811.92). Mike reported that the Contingency fund is dwindling. He asked the council to consider the need for a bank loan to meet payroll. The Executive council will meet if a line of credit is needed before the next council meeting.

Individual monthly reports from Pastor Lori and Kelly Longden were reviewed by the council. Thank you to all members who had their pictures taken for the directory. Pictures can still be submitted to Darci.

No committee reports from Christian Education, Church Properties, Life in Ministry & Mission, Stewardship.

Youth & Family Ministry: Crystal reported that the spring carnival was a success.

Worship & Music: Daria reported that the board guidelines for this committee were updated at a past meeting. Darci will email the updates to the council to review. No action was taken.

Unfinished Business: Michael stated that he had no news on the elevator updating project or the stained glass windows repair project. Pastor Lori, Louise, and Colette will meet soon to review the changes and updates to the St. Olaf constitution. Pastor Lori gave the council a sneak peek at the new St. Olaf website on one of the new TVs in the lower level. It will be ready for everyone to access in the near future. Darci reported that Jeremy and Glenn have not completed a contract for IT services for the council to review and act on.

New Business: Darci told the council about an interesting phone call she received from a representative of Partners for Sacred Places. This organization partners with Nordic churches to help preserve and restore churches with grant monies. Darci, Jeri, and Pastor Lori will work on and submit the application for a grant to help pay for stained glass window repairs.

The council agreed to not meet in July. The next meeting is scheduled for August 8, 2023.

## Faith & Care Group #7—July 2023

Duane A. & Pam Armstrong

Adam & Sara Bachmeier, Lane, Brooke, Brittany

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 Idelle Foss

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

## Faith & Care Group #1—August 2023

Ray & Deb Bertsch

Gordon Braathen

Doug & Darlene Carlson

Rhea Crane & Doug Longie

Brad & Deb Eback, Marissa, Emily, Landen

Chad & Alisha Ehnert, Morgan, Breydin

Diane Engebretson

Cory & Amy Everson, Faith, Blake

Jim & Debra Frank, Darren, Mallore

Mark & Darci Gilbertson

Larry Hatten

Kimberly Hatten

Robert & Sheri Hatten, Kendall, Stephanie

Steve & Sharon Johanson

Roger Knutson

Steve & Becky Lang, Amanda, Kaylee

Darin & Stacy MacDonald, Beth

Vonda Markestad

Ronald & Barbara Miller

Jamie Minnerup, Shayla, Shelby, Brynlee

Dan & Bonnie Ness, Nikki, Wyatt

Kitty Overbo

Darren & Nikki Paulson, Lyla, Tucker

Kenneth Paulson

Brian Pederson

ReAnne Pederson, Keegan, Emmalynn, Seth

Janet Peterson

Brent & Toni Pflaum, Travis

Kim Rau & Kevin Birkeland, Cody

Dennis & Karen Riggan

Lance & Tammy Riggan, Hunter, Nash, Harper

Roxanne Rose

R. Glenn & Ardys Salisbury

Anna Schemionek

Randy & Julie Schemionek, Alexis, Justin,

Ryan

Ray Sletteland

Michael & Cheryl Steffan

Arlo & Darlene Svedberg, Erika

Gary & Kerry Thompson

Kristie Tollefson

Clarence Jr. & Linda Toso, Justin

Jason & Niki Toso, Kyleigh, Kole

Janet Tweeten


James & Kelly Wang, Marit, Peter

Deb Weber Brady, Griffin

Steve Weber

# July 2023

July 2023							August 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31		
30	31												

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Communion 1st &amp; 3rd Sundays</li> <li>• Worship at 8:30am at Retreat Center</li> <li>• Coffee Fellowship at 9:30am at Retreat Center</li> <li>• Coffee Fellowship at 10:00am at St. Olaf</li> <li>• Worship at 11:00am at St. Olaf</li> </ul> 						1
2 8:30am Worship @RC 9:30am Coffee @RC 10:00am Coffee 11:00am	3 Office Closed	4 Office Closed	5 10:30am Staff meeting	6 12:45pm Blood Drive @ Armory 1:00pm Brain Injury Support Group	7 8:00am Blood Drive @ Armory	8
9 8:30am Worship @RC 9:30am Coffee @RC 10:00am Coffee 11:00am	10 9:00am VBS Day Camp (Ryger Park)	11 9:00am VBS Day Camp (Ryger Park) 9:00am Quilting 10:00am Text Study	12 9:00am VBS Day Camp (Ryger Park) 10:30am Staff meeting	13 9:00am VBS Day Camp (Ryger Park)	14	15
16 8:30am Worship @RC 9:30am Coffee @RC 10:00am Coffee 11:00am	17	18 9:00am Quilting	19 10:30am Staff meeting	20 11:00am Gary Ferestad Funeral	21	22
23 8:30am Worship @RC 9:30am Coffee @RC 10:00am Coffee 11:00am	24	25 9:00am Quilting 10:00am Text Study	26 10:30am Staff meeting	27	28	29
30 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee 10:00am Coffee & FC#1 @ StO 11:00am Worship	31					