



# SPIRE

FEBRUARY 2025

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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DEVILS LAKE, NORTH DAKOTA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## St. Olaf Lutheran Church

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[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



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

**“Souper Bowl”**

**CALIFORNIA  
FIRE FUND**

**SUNDAY  
AFTER CHURCH 2/9/25 (10:30)**

**Don't miss the kick off!**

**Youth Soup Fundraiser for the California  
Fires (Lutheran Disaster Response) Free  
will offering.**

# December General Fund Expenses

Auto Exp .....	1,132.10
BCBS Exp .....	907.74
Church Supplies .....	356.09
Custodian HIR .....	250.00
Otter Tail Power .....	757.00
Envelope Giving Exp .....	34.14
Insurance Exp .....	1,371.00
Maintenance Exp .....	889.36
Snow removal:	728.15
Office Equip. Exp .....	413.44
Office Supplies .....	55.02
Misc. Exp .....	456.12
247.95—Line of credit interest	
8.13—Bank service charge	
180.00—DL Journal ad	
Pastor Housing .....	1,366.68
Pastor Soc. Sec. Allow ...	410.56
Payroll Exp .....	486.17
Pension/Ins. Exp .....	3,121.50
Postage Exp .....	209.23
Retreat Center Ins. ....	150.00
Sewer/Water Exp .....	138.13
Special Gifts—Out .....	1,029.38
232.13: Dacotah Oyate Bags	
47.25: Bazaar table covers	
250.00: to Foundation	
100.00: to Elevator Fund	
152.00: to Hope Ctr.	
249.00: to Dacotah O. (MOM)	
Vocal Director Exp .....	300.00
Wages .....	10,730.30
Worship Supplies .....	58.00
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$24,621.96</b>
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$47,655.87</b>

## Retreat Center Fund December Expenses

Guide One Insurance ..	150.00
MDU .....	55.23
Nodak .....	49.00
Greater Ramsey Water .	35.00

**Total Expenses.....\$289.23**



# February 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 February is California Wildfires—Lutheran Disaster Response.

LDR is there to support the families & communities that will be rebuilding their lives. LDR is coordinating with the SW California Synod & Pacifica Synod to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. They will work with them to provide immediate needs amid the destruction as well as to assist with the recovery efforts for months and years to come.

Gifts to LDR equip them to respond to the affected wildfires and other disasters. By giving to LDR., you give the gift of relief today and resilience tomorrow.

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

Quilting and coffee fellowship continues on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome to come and help. There are many tasks to be done.

Thank you to Pastor Lori, Kathy Lovseth and the confirmation students for delivering the goods to the Hope Center. Also, thank you to Kathy Lovseth for sorting the caps and mittens from the Mitten Tree and delivering them to the grade schools and the Amachi/Shelter.

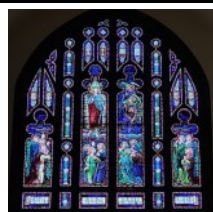
The next few months, we will concentrate on our circle mission projects. If you don't remember which circle you

are in, please check your WELCA booklet. If you have misplaced or did not receive one, please call the church office and Darci will see that you will get one. There will be a tote in the Centennial Room for your donations. A copy of the project lists will also be provided. Please donate as you are able.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 6th at 1:30 p.m. with Bible Study and business meeting. Anna Circle will be hosting lunch.

**Myrna Unger, WELCA President**

## Windows Restoration & Preservation Project Update:



Original loan: \$53,000.00  
 Payment: 37,919.57  
**Balance 15,080.43**

Stained Glass Fund balance as of 1/28/25: \$4,860.43

**Total Needed for Loan: \$10,220.00**



## General Fund Envelope Giving & Memorials & Designated Funds

Date	SUNDAY 9:30 am	General Fund:		Designated Funds: Memorials/Donations
		Envelope Giving	General Fund: Gifts & Memorials	
December 22	88	\$12,871.00		
December 24	310	\$8,496.00		
December 29	60	\$2,079.00		\$7,305.08
January 5	74	\$4,199.00	\$3,510.10	\$63.00
January 12	59	\$2,177.49		\$10,446.00
January 19	48	\$1,743.00		\$72.00
January 26	79	\$2,640.00		\$8,404.43

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

# FAITH MATTERS;

~ Pastor Lori ~

## The gift of Communion

In communion we hold out our hands like a bowl, as we receive the bread and we are fed and nourished, fed and forgiven through the words of Christ's promise "for you". The body of Christ is given for you. The Blood of Christ is shed for you. In this meal God gives a gift. A gift of forgiveness, life and salvation.

Here we experience that God's life is life poured out for us, given to us. He is present for us in that meal. The point is not just that Christ is truly present "in, with and under" the bread and wine: the point is that Christ is present there *for us*. This is the promise to be trusted the promise of God's self-giving, which brings us forgiveness and makes us whole. In this meal we experience God's saving love. And before we receive God's promises in the bread and the wine, we say grace for this meal in the word's that our Lord taught us "The Lord's Prayer".

And after we receive the bread and the wine of promise, it is appropriate, as I teach our first communion students to say—AMEN as this meal is given for you. Why Amen? These words mean – Let it be so! So in saying AMEN we are in other words responding to God's saving words "AMEN" (Let it be so)

Be Blessed,  
Pastor Lori



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.*

**There will be a meeting for those interested in the  
Lutheran Men in Mission Bible Study**

**Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**

**during coffee time**

**to determine how many Study Bibles to order  
and a consensus on the time to meet-**

**For more information contact Bob Mlynar  
at 218-839-4872. There is a sign up sheet at  
the church entrance.**

**THRIVENT  
MEMBERS**

IT'S THAT TIME OF  
YEAR TO DONATE  
YOUR

**CHOICE DOLLARS**

PLEASE REMEMBER  
YOUR CHURCH!



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# January Church Council Minutes

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The St. Olaf Lutheran Church council met on January 14, 2025.

Present: Michael Kitsch, Dave Oehlke, Colette Boehmer, Harris Saele, Rodger Haugen, Louise Oleson, Glenn Crowe, Crystal Eversvik, Pastor Lori Pankratz, Darci Gilbertson.

Absent: Kristi Trottier, Arne Berg, Jeri Steffan.

Visitor: Mike Boehmer

President Michael Kitsch called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Pastor Lori opened with a devotion about living our Baptisms and following the example of Jesus.

Mike Boehmer reviewed the 2025 Mission Plan with the council. Darci requested an adjustment be made to Pastor Lori's social security allowance. Louise moved to accept the 2025 Mission Plan to be presented at the annual meeting. Dave seconded. The motion was approved.

The minutes of the December 2024 council meeting were reviewed. Harris moved to accept the minutes. Dave seconded. The minutes were approved.

Mike Boehmer presented the Treasurer's report since Arne Berg was absent. Balances as of December 31, 2024, were as follows: Designated Funds: \$62,916.49; Building Fund: \$10,8223.07; General Fund: \$11,425.37.

Pastor Lori presented her report as the council reviewed it. She listed her many duties and activities. She reported that the \$15,000 Stained Glass Window grant has been received in full, and the church was awarded a DLAFF grant in the amount of \$3826.00 to purchase two Zoll AEDs.

Christian Education and Youth & Family Ministry: Crystal reported that Lenten suppers will be provided and served by different age groups of Sunday school and confirmation students and families. The Sunday School children will sing during church service on the first Sunday of each month. The last day of Sunday School will be May 4.

Church Properties: Harris reported that the rinse cycle on the dishwasher has been fixed by the Hobart repairman. Harris presented information and pricing on new AED units and pricing on refurbishing units. He also gave a brief demonstration on the use of an AED. The council discussed purchasing new AEDs with the grant money plus possible refurbishing of a couple units. Pending more information the council tabled a decision.

Life in Ministry & Mission: Louise continues to be active in outreach.

Worship & Music: Glenn told the council that he will be resigning from this board. The council thanked him for his service.

New Business: Darci reported that the church currently uses Bremer Bank and First United Bank for church accounts. She asked the council to consider closing the one and only account (Building Fund) at Bremer Bank and transferring this money to First United Bank. Harris moved to close the Bremer Bank account and transfer the funds to First United Bank. Glenn seconded. The motion was approved.

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

**Respectfully submitted,  
Colette Boehmer**



## Lenten Series starting 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
- Peter – Broken by Failure

## Faith & Care Group #5— February 2025

Jeff Alexander, Matthew  
 Jerry & Rhonda Allery, Jace, Olivia  
 Joey & Teresa Arme, Alexis, Ava, Kylie,  
 Katelyn  
 Roberta Beihoffer  
 Amy Bertsch, Jordan, Sage, Shelby, Mya  
 Richard & Nancy Blake  
 Mark & Mary Jane Blanchfield  
 Gabby & Tucker Cosley, Sutton  
 Glenn & Sarah Crowe  
 Jessica Evans, Ollivia  
 Lee Feickert  
 Lance & Saraye Forsberg, Calli & Brody  
 Daniel Haugen  
 Rodger Haugen  
 Danielle Hawn, Bailey & Megan  
 LeAnn Heisler, Denton, Nevon  
 Shawn & Michelle Hill, Arianna & Nathaniel  
 Harriet Horner  
 Carol Johnson  
 Kathy Kraft  
 Pamela Kraft  
 Jacob & Trista Larson, Peyton, Levi  
 Lyle & Pam Leibfried  
 Jay & Stacey Lilleberg, Amanda

David Magnuson  
 Brett & Taylor Mlynar, Ryan & Jason  
 Bob & Jayne Mlynar  
 Richard & Dorothy Moen, Isaac & Jessica  
 Adam & Jennifer Nash, Kynlie  
 David & Phyllis Nelson  
 Eric & Wanda Nygaard, Jada & Beatrice  
 Betty Nygren  
 Wendell & Wendy Olson, Larissa & Alayna  
 Marilynn Peters  
 Richard & Charlotte Rardon, Kasey, Kodey  
 Kary Rardon, Karlyn  
 Michael & Linda Remmick  
 Robert & Christy Remmick, Hunter,  
 Emersyn & Riley  
 Charlie Schmaltz (summer)  
 Gerald & Linda Schmidt (summer)  
 Alvin & Debra Schroeder  
 Mary Jane Stubbe  
 Lindsey & Jeremy Swanson, Cahlen, Cash-  
 lynn  
 Myrna Unger  
 Paula Windjue  
 Joe Yager

## 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 Rigginn  
 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  
 Dianne 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

**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

### **BUILDING FUND:** **Stained Glass Windows**

*Given in MEMORY of:*  
**Family & Friends** from Rich & Carol Lybeck  
**John Unger** from Myrna Unger  
**Becky Clow** from Wyatt Gilbertson  
**Loretta Bloomquist's brother in law** from Kathy Lovseth  
**Ronald Anderson** from Rodger Haugen  
**Daniel Haugen** from Florene Rogne, Kathy Lovseth, Joe Yager, Gerald & Linda Schmidt, Doris Michaels, Duane, Moen, Roger & Paula Windjue, Doug & Darlene Carlson, Todd & Lynn Thompson, Ray & Connie Sletteland, Lloyd Hintz, Kermit "Buzz" & Glenna Garske, Myrna Peterson, Mike & Sherry Boehmer, Harris & Dianne Saele, Duainne & Paula Bourcy, Karen Krueger, Gail Klein, Lynne Webster, Dave Oehlke, Kory & Collette Boehmer, James & Rosie Winszewski, Nancy Lundon, Brian & Natalie Miller, Rory & Charlotte Rigginn, Betty Petska, Robert Dahl, Violet Helmer, Kale Stromme, Helen Anderson, Armen & Connie Hanson, Isabel McBane, Louise Oleson, Jim & Kelly Wang, Kara & Jerry Johnson, Janice Thompson, James & Kathleen Dahlen, Vonda Markestad, Larry & Mary Lovseth, Roger & Michelle Fritz, Art & Carol Rohr, Allan Mosbaek, Arne & Kristi Berg, Claire & F. William Johnson, Allan Thompson, Dale & Karen Haugen  
**Mary Ellen Borstad Peterson** from Dale & Nadine Peterson, Jerry & Alvern Wentzel  
**Jay Tabor** from Allen & Peggy Tabor

### **RADIO FUND:**

*Given in MEMORY of:*  
**Judy Gage** from Marlys Sollin  
**Daniel Haugen** from Dennis & Jean Aardahl

### **NORWAY CEMETERY FUND:**

*Given in MEMORY of:*  
**Zachary Moen** from his Family

### **GENERAL FUND:**

*Given in MEMORY of:*  
**Joann Paulson** from Kenneth Paulson

# FEBRUARY

SUNDAY      MONDAY      TUESDAY      WEDNESDAY      THURSDAY      FRIDAY      SATURDAY

						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9:30 Worship with Communion & SS Choir  10:30 Rescheduled Annual Meeting  11:15 Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00 Quilting  10:30 Text Study	<b>5</b> 10:30 Staff Mtg.  5:00 Christian Ed & Youth & Family Brd. Mtg.  6:00 Confirmation	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 3:30 Music Festival	<b>8</b> 8:00 Music Festival
<b>9</b> 9:30 Worship  10:00 Sun. School  10:30 "Souper" Bowl Fundraiser  10:30 Men's Bible Study Info Mtg.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00 Quilting  10:30 Text Study  5:30 Council Meeting	<b>12</b> 10:30 Staff Mtg.  6:00 Confirmation	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:30 Worship with Communion  No Sun. School 10:30 Coffee  2:30 Sons of Norway Mtg.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00 Quilting	<b>19</b> 10:00 Staff Mtg.  6:00 Confirmation	<b>20</b> 1:30 Coffee, Coloring & Conversation	<b>21</b> 4:00 Spire Newsletter Deadline	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:30 Worship  10:00 Sunday School  10:30 Coffee & FC # 6 Mtg.	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00 Quilting  10:30 Text Study	<b>26</b> 10:30 Staff Mtg.  6:00 Confirmation	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	