



SPIRE

DECEMBER 2023

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

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Devils Lake, ND 58301-2525

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Pastor Lori Pankratz
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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.

Advent Activities

- Dec. 2 WELCA Bazaar—8:00am—1:00pm
- Dec. 3 Baby Jesus & Me - 2:00pm
- Dec. 3 Myrna Unger Open House—2:30-4:30pm
- Dec. 3 Nerf Game—6:00pm
- Dec. 7 WELCA Potluck Lunch—Noon
- Dec. 10 Julfest (Sons of Norway)—4:00pm
- Dec. 10 Live Nativity @ Livestock Auction—6:30pm
- Dec. 14 Beer & Hymns @ Black Paws—6:00pm
- Dec. 17 Nativity Play (Sunday School) - 6:30pm
- Dec. 24 Worship at 9:30am
- Dec. 24 Candlelight Worship at 4:00pm
- Dec. 25 Closed



October General Fund

Auto Exp (Mileage)	123.84
BCBS Exp	839.74
Church Supplies	298.57
Confirmation Exp	30.00
Convention Exp.....	370.00
Custodian HIR Exp	250.00
Electricity Exp (Ottertail)	918.00
Envelope Giving Exp (EFT)	35.66
Gas (MDU) Exp	376.00
Insurance Exp.....	2,309.20
Maintenance Exp.	1,816.50
Otis Elev. Co.—1,503.94	
Durawax—257.87	
Misc. 54.79	
Office Equip.	397.73
Office Supplies.....	153.51
Miscellaneous Exp.....	6.33
Pastor Housing Allowance	1,200.00
Pastor SS Allowance	397.84
Payroll Exp.....	642.66
Pension/Ins	3,922.84
Postage Exp.....	194.83
Retreat Ctr. Ins.....	300.00
Sewer & Water Exp	122.41
Spec. Gifts-Out	651.74
Partners for Sacred Places: 477.72	
Cabinet (WELCA): 174.02	
NDTC.....	455.51
Vocal Director Exp	200.00
Wages.....	12,656.80
Worship Supplies	117.26

Total Expenses..... **\$28,786.97**

Total Income..... **30,692.50**

Retreat Center Fund October Expenses

Greater Ramsey Water..	37.75
Guide One Insurance ...	150.00
Nodak	94.00
MDU	44.76



December Mission of the Month ELCA Good Gifts

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 December is ELCA Good Gifts.

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God's love in Jesus is a gift. ELCA Good Gifts is just one way you can share that love with others.

ELCA Good Gifts provides more than 50 different gift-giving options that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. These gifts provide direct support for the churchwide ministries of the ELCA.

Every project in every community starts with listening. We believe that our congregations, companion churches and partners know their communities best. That's why they identify the needs and priorities in their communities, as well as the solutions they believe will make the biggest impact. The items in the catalog are real examples from projects currently supported through different churchwide ministries. The projects have been planned by our partners — meaning that each community receives exactly the kind of support it needs and none of what it doesn't. **Your donation will be used where needed most.**

A tree with gift-giving ornaments is set up in the Centennial Room. Take an ornament of your choice.

2024 Offering Envelopes Will Be Available For Members To Pick Up On Wednesday, Dec. 6th In the Centennial Room

Elevator Update
Donations & Memorials received as of
November 21, 2023: **\$37,727.00**
Total Project: \$78,000.00

Stained-glass Windows
Balance in Stained-glass Fund
November 21, 2023: **\$20,221.76**
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
October 29	135	\$5,875.00		\$620.00
November 5	90	\$4,886.00		\$410.36
November 12	93	\$10,086.00	\$2,997.66	\$834.00
November 19		\$6,465.00		\$389.00

Electronic Giving for OCTOBER (29 Households): **\$3,665.00**

FAITH MATTERS;

~ Pastor Lori ~

Mark 13:24-37 24 “But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he [a] is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert; [b] for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cock-crow, or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

As we prepare for Advent, let us reflect not only on the anticipation of the holiday season. Let us reflect on the coming of our Lord as a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger and as our Lord who has promised to come again to claim victory over death and evil. Both of these events, one history and one yet to come, usher in God’s promises: something big, a love that changes everything. Immanuel, God with us!! This story illustrates what I mean.

An old pioneer traveled westward across the Great Plains until he came to an abrupt halt at the edge of the Grand Can-

yon. He gawked in amazement. The chasm was a mile down, eighteen miles across and more than a hundred miles long. He gasped, “Wow, something big musta’ happened here!”

A visitor to our world at Christmas, seeing all the lights, the trees, the decorations, the parades, the festivities, the charitable actions and gifts, and all the religious services, probably would say the same thing: “Wow, something big musta’ happened here!” And something big DID happen. God put on flesh and came into our world as one of us on the first Christmas. That event changed all of history.

Unfortunately, few were watching that night. People went about their business at home, in their shops, in the marketplace, while God was doing His greatest and most creative work right under their noses.

That’s one reasons why Jesus says, “Watch! Be prepared!” Advent is a time of personal preparation for Christmas and when Christ comes again. And we have to be prepared if we want to see God’s amazing work.

We have to stay awake and be alert so that Christmas can be meaningful. We have to prepare our hearts as well as our homes. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

Advent Blessings,
Pastor Lori Pankratz



Baby Jesus and Me



For Toddlers to
age 8

December 3,

2023

2:00 P.M.

Christmas Story by the
tree, snack, crafts & singing



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

662-4911.

*Your name and con-
cern will be held be-
fore God and prayed
for by everyone on
the Prayer Chain.*

*You will be asked if you
would like to be includ-
ed in the prayers at Sun-
day worship or you may
request it.*



Live Nativity

Livestock Auction on Hwy 2
Dec. 10 @ 6:30pm

Warm Drinks and Christmas Goodies to follow.

Sponsored by Our Saviors and St Olaf Lutheran Churches



HEIM LODGE PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS JULEFEST

FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT, CRAFT GNOMES, ORNAMENTS

DECEMBER 10, 2023

4:00 PM SUNDAY

St. Olaf Church Basement

Jerry Schlag & Friends



You are invited to

Beer and Hymns

Dec 14 | 6 pm

Black Paw Brewery

Gather with your church family to **Sing Christmas Carols** (St Olaf will supply the music) and you can order your own choice of food and beverage off the menu (Family event- Root Beer on tap too)

Myrna Unger's 80th Birthday Open House

Sunday, December 3

2:30—4:30pm in the basement

Check out the Christmas Tree in the entrance to the sanctuary for ornaments to participate in God's Global Barnyard:

God's Global Barnyard

An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.



Caps and Mittens Scarves And Coats

W.E.L.C.A. Stewardship will be putting up the mitten tree in the entry of the Welcome Center. Please consider bringing caps, mittens and scarves for those in need.

Let's "Overfill " our tree again this season. If you feel you can help in any way we would appreciated it. Thank you!

Potluck Luncheon

Each woman in St. Olaf is invited to stop in for your lunch hour on **Thursday, Dec. 7th** for the WELCA Christmas potluck luncheon. If you don't have time to prepare a dish—come anyway! There's always plenty! Come relax, laugh and enjoy a festive lunch in the church basement. **See you there!**

St. Olaf Altar Guild invites you to help decorate our church for Christmas with Poinsettias

Poinsettias may be given in memory or in honor of loved ones by filling out the coupon below and returning it to the church office. A list of all memorials and those in honor of loved ones will be published in an insert in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Donations of money to the Altar Guild will be used to purchase some poinsettias and will also go towards the purchase of other flowers for special occasions throughout the year.



Please mark your plant if you plan to pick it up after Christmas!

A Poinsettia is Given to St. Olaf

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

From _____

Money Plant

Youth News Nexus

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

Merry Christmas,

December is finally here and it's ok to have Christmas lights up now. The season of advent is usually a busy one around the church. With extra events going on and extra services.

The first event in December is our Nerf Contest. This is for any 6th grade and up youth plus friends on Sunday, December 3rd, from 6-8pm. There will be snacks and drinks available. This is one of my personal favorite events. If you are planning on participating then please bring any Nerf related items as we may not have enough for everybody from the church.

On Wednesday, December 13th, we are in need of any of our Confirmation students to help with packing the bags for Dacotah Oyate. This will start at 2pm and should only last an hour as many hands make light work. Some of the Confirmation students from Our Saviors will be joining us for this time. Please have any tags returned by Friday, December 1st, so I can start organizing them and figuring out what still needs to be purchased.

Sunday, December 17th, brings us our annual Sunday School Nativity Play. For those participating in the play, they need to be at church by 6pm to get them dressed and go through one last practice. 6:30pm will be the social hour with goodies, hot chocolate, coffee, and conversation. The play itself will start at 7pm in the Sanctuary. Please join us for fun and singing.

JLY (Jesus Loves You),

Kelly Longden

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



Sunday, Dec. 3rd at 6:00pm

This is for any 6th grade and up youth plus friends.

The event will go until about 8:00pm and will include snacks.

You will need to bring any Nerf guns from home, so we have enough for everyone.

Any adults are welcome!

Join Kelly for one of his favorite events.



**St. Olaf
Nativity
Play**

17 December 2023

**St. Olaf Lutheran
Church**

6pm Participants arrive

6:30pm Social Hour

7pm Play begins

Come and enjoy our Sunday School's Nativity Play. Those participating in the play need to be at the church by 6pm to help get dressed and do one more run through. The social hour begins at 6:30pm with hot chocolate, goodies, coffee, and visiting. The play begins at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

November Church Council Meeting Minutes

The St. Olaf Lutheran Church council met on November 14, 2023.

Present: Michael Kitsch, Mike Boehmer, Colette Boehmer, Louise Oleson, Daria Miller, Crystal Eversvik, Pastor Lori Pankratz, Kelly Longden, Darci Gilbertson. Absent: Kristi Trottier, Evonne Geigle, Jeri Steffan. Guest: Kathy Gewont

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

Pastor Lori introduced Kathy Gewont representing the local Sons of Norway Heim Lodge. Kathy presented a brief history and showed some historical items from the Heim lodge. She explained that the Heim Lodge is currently looking for a new place to hold meetings, store their various sized cabinets, and display historical artifacts.

Council discussion and decision was added to New Business.

The minutes of the October council meeting were reviewed. Crystal moved to accept the minutes. Louise seconded. The minutes were approved.

Mike presented the treasurer's report. Balances as of October 31, 2023 - Designated Funds: \$74,769.61; Building Fund: \$21,256.32; General Fund: \$2,078.62; Elevator Fund: \$15,406.00; Stained Glass Window Fund: \$20,221.76. St. Olaf church continues to carry a line of credit of \$10,000 + interest at First United Bank. Darci reported that St. Olaf received a check for \$2997.66 from the ELCA Foundation. This money was from a charitable gift annuity. Mike moved that the \$2997.66 be used as payment on the line of credit. Crystal seconded. The motion was approved.

Activity reports from Pastor Lori and Kelly were reviewed.

Life in Ministry & Mission: Louise reported that she traveled with Pastor Lori and Darci to Hampden to sample a Klub meal. This is in preparation for a possible fundraising Klub meal to be held in the spring of 2024. Louise will be sending Christmas cards as mission outreach. Louise and Jayne Mlynar continue to visit nursing home residents.

Youth & Family Ministry: Crystal reported that some members of this committee are no longer active. The Christian Ed board is seeing a similar trend. These two boards have decided to meet and work together on activities for the foreseeable future.

Worship & Music: Daria reported that Dianne Saele has resigned from this board. Since Pastor Lori meets with the worship team, is this board needed? The council did not take any action at this time.

No reports from Christian Education, Church Properties, and Stewardship.

Unfinished Business: Michael reported that Todd (Otis Elevator rep) informed him that additional electrical work will be needed for the updated fire alarm system. This electrical work is not included in the Otis Elevator contract. Michael will ask for bids for this additional electrical work. There is no update on the stained glass windows project.

New Business: Pastor Lori reported that the Devils Lake Area Foundation has grants available for local projects. Mike moved that St. Olaf apply for a \$5000.00 DLAF grant for the elevator project. Daria seconded. The motion was approved. Pastor Lori, Louise, and other members will work on the grant application. Louise moved to allow the Sons of Norway Heim Lodge to use the church's lower level for meetings and to allow storage of cabinets in Sunday school room #5 beginning in January 2024. Daria seconded the motion. The council discussed the unique opportunity this arrangement could mean to our Norwegian church community and the Devils Lake com-

munity. The council discussed possible rooms for the storage needs of the Sons of Norway. Sunday school room #5 is located on the lower level and is not being used at this time. Following discussion, the council voted to approve this motion. Kelly Longden presented his letter of resignation to the council. Mike moved to accept Kelly's resignation. Crystal seconded. Following expressions of thanks, sadness, and well wishes, the council approved the motion to accept Kelly's resignation.

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

Respectfully submitted, Colette Boehmer

December WELCA News



Greetings WELCA Ladies.

*Our Quilting group continues on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome to help, come at your leisure and stay as long..."or as Short" as you wish! Thanks to Loretta Bloomquist for delivering quilts to the Veterans Health Services.

*Thank you to ALL who helped make donuts and lefse for the Bazaar, these items are BIG sellers and generally sell out early.

*Coloring, Coffee and Conversation was held on November 9. This is always a quiet relaxing time. Thanks to Jean Aardahl for the planning and the Treats.

*Also, a BIG Thank you to Jayne Mlyner for starting the Special Cookie Sales for the Elevator Fund. Thanks to all who are helping with this fundraiser. The PICK UP time for these is at the Bazaar on December 2.

*The Annual Christmas Pot Luck will be held at Noon on December 7. Please come bring a dish to share and BRING a Guest too, We will have Fun and Games and Special Music. The Food and Fellowship is also Great! I hope many of you will make an effort to come and share this special time with us.

*The WELCA Booklets are being redone/updated. Betty Nygren, Darci and I will get them finished by the first of the year and get them in the mail to all the Ladies. Please, SAVE these Booklets and notice which Circle you are in, and try to participate as you are able. I would call attention to the Mission Projects assigned each group. These are filled each year and need all members to donate something to this project. Prayerfully consider being involved in these Mission Projects.

*I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Myrna Unger, WELCA President



ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH
601 SIXTH ST NE | DEVILS LAKE

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

All your favourite shops in one place where you can shop
till you drop.

DECEMBER

2

8AM-1PM

COFFEE & ROLLS, COFFEE CAKE & DOUGHNUTS AT 8AM

**SWISS STEAK MEAL
AT 11AM FOR \$13**

**LEFSE | DOUGHNUTS | BAKE SHOP | FLOWER SHOP
STITCHERY | CRAFTS | COLLECTIBLES**

Faith & Care Group #5—December 2023

Jeff Alexander, Matthew
Jerry & Rhonda Allery, Jace, Olivia
Joey & Teresa Army, Alexis, Ava, Kylie,
Katelyn
Roberta Beihoffer
Amy Bertsch, Jordan, Sage, Shelby, Mya
Richard & Nancy Blake
Mark & Mary Jane Blanchfield
Gary Bryn
Gabby & Tucker Cosley, Sutton
Glenn & Sarah Crowe
Donna & Richard Dahlen
Lee & Sue Feickert
Lance & Saraye Forsberg, Calli & Brody
Judy Hatten
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, Jessica, 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
Larry & 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 & Julie Schmaltz
Gerald & Linda Schmidt (summer)
Alvin & Debra Schroeder
Ronald & Mary Jane Stubbe
Myrna Unger
Paula Windjue
Joe Yager

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
Al Herda
Francis & Delores Johanson
Jeff & Shelley Kenner
Jessica & Mike Kraft
David & Angie Larson, Paige & Benjamin
Jeri Larson
Danae & Catlan Lysne, Landan
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 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
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: Elevator

Given in MEMORY of:
John Unger from Myrna Unger
Merle & Cora Horner from Myrna Unger
Perry & Andy Horner from Myrna Unger
Duane & Sharlene (Kenner) Tollefson from Jerry & Daria Miller
LaRissa Unger from Myrna Unger
Dean Petska from Betty Petska

Given in HONOR of:
Dan Haugen's 50th Birthday from Gary Bryn

RADIO/FB FUND

Given in MEMORY of:
Bill Frison from Art & Carol Rohr

YOUTH FUND

Given in MEMORY of:
John Unger from Myrna Unger

GENERAL FUND

Given in MEMORY of:
Arthur H. & Claire Kenner from the estate of Sharlene (Kenner) & Duane M. Tollefson



December 2023



December 2023

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

January 2024

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h2 style="color: red; text-decoration: underline;">Worship Service Schedule</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 a.m..... Worship Service • 10:00 a.m. Sunday School • 10:30 a.m..... Coffee Fellowship <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Holy Communion: December 3, 17, & 24</i></p>					Dec 1	2
					9:00am Flower Shop (Live greens) 9:00am Bazaar Set-up	8:00am WELCA Christmas Bazaar
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30am Worship 10:00am Sunday 10:30am Coffee 12:30pm Bible 2:00pm Jesus & 2:30pm Open		9:00am Quilting 10:00am Text Study	10:30am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Youth & Family 6:15pm Confirmation	12:00pm WELCA Potluck Luncheon 1:00pm Brain Injury Support Group		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30am Worship 10:00am SS 10:30am Coffee 4:00pm Julfest 6:30pm Live Nativity at		9:00am Quilting 10:00am Text Study 5:00pm Council Meeting	10:30am Staff Meeting 6:15pm Confirmation	6:00pm Beer & Hymns (at Black Paws Brewery)	4:00pm Spire Deadline	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Coffee 6:30pm Nativity Play		9:00am Quilting	10:30am Staff Meeting 6:15pm Confirmation			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30am Worship 4:00pm Candlelight Worship		9:00am Quilting 10:00am Text Study	10:30am Staff Meeting			
31						
9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee w/F&C #6						