



# SPIRE

FEBRUARY 2024

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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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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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



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

# December General Fund

Auto Exp (Mileage) .....	375.36
BCBS Exp .....	839.74
Envelope Exp .....	279.77
Church Supplies .....	420.27
Confirmation Exp .....	124.57
Custodian HIR Exp .....	250.00
EaND Synod Mission Exp .....	627.34
Electricity Exp (Ottertail) .....	906.00
Envelope Giving Exp (EFT) .....	36.40
Gas (MDU) Exp .....	407.00
Insurance Exp .....	1,154.60
Maintenance Exp. ....	220.12
Dakota Wash Master: 180.00	
Mac's: 26.74	
Other 13.38	
Office Equip. ....	403.83
Office Supplies .....	306.96
Miscellaneous Exp .....	39.29
Pastor Housing Allowance ....	1,200.00
Pastor SS Allowance .....	397.84
Payroll Exp .....	683.02
Pension/Ins .....	3,922.84
Postage Exp .....	128.66
RC Insurance .....	150.00
Sewer & Water Exp .....	142.41
Spec. Gifts-Out .....	5,967.28
To Elevator Fund: 200.00	
To Altar Guild: 70.00	
To loan: 5,384.48 (WELCA & other)	
Misc.: 14.99	
For Dakota Oyate Bags: 57.35	
For MOM FMSC: 121.00	
For MOM Dec. 119.46	
Sunday School Exp.....	52.83
NDTC .....	462.85
Vocal Director Exp .....	125.00
Wages .....	13,034.40
Worship Supplies .....	92.99

**Total Expenses..... \$32,751.37**

**Total Income..... \$41,297.16**

## Retreat Center Fund December Expenses

Greater Ramsey Water ..	40.50
Guide One Insurance ...	150.00
Nodak.....	61.00
MDU.....	71.96

## February Mission of the Month

# Campus Ministries: UND and NDSU



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 Campus Ministries.

ELCA campus ministry is a Lutheran ministry for students, faculty, staff and others on campus. We are a church this is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life and the mission of campus ministry is to invite people in academic setting to engage more deeply with the teaching of Jesus Christ and fulfill their vocation as disciples.

Eastern ND Synod has 2 campus ministries: Crossroads Campus Ministry at NDSU and Christus Rex at UND.



**WEDNESDAYS:  
FEBRUARY 14, 21, 28, MARCH 6, 13, 20**

**Supper at 5:30pm**

*Served by the youth going to the National Youth Gathering (free will offering)*

**Worship at 6:30pm**

**Maundy Thursday, March 28:** Worship at 6:30pm  
*with 1st Communion for 5th Graders*

**Good Friday, March 29:** Worship at 6:30pm

**Easter Sunday, March 31st:**  
Sunrise Worship at Retreat Center at 7:00am  
Worship at St. Olaf at 9:30am



### Elevator Update

Donations & Memorials received as of  
January 26, 2024: **\$52,463.00**  
Total Project: \$78,000.00

### Stained-glass Windows

Donations & Memorials received as of  
January 26, 2024: **\$39,900.76**  
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
December 24	NA	\$4,979.00		
December 31	61	\$8,418.00	\$30.00	\$2,324.15
January 7	64	\$4,274.00		\$113.00
January 14	30	\$2,160.00	\$20.00	\$42.00
January 21	105	\$3,413.00		\$513.00

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

# FAITH MATTERS;

~ Pastor Lori ~

In recent weeks, we, as a community of faith have had many friends and relatives enter the hospital, and, as is with most things, modern healthcare has become a tangled web of rules and regulations, red tape and information blocks, even for those who work outside the hospitals themselves, like pastors. I know that many of us have heard a great deal about the "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act", known to many of us as HIPAA. This is a law that prevents outside persons from coming to a health insurance company or healthcare facility and requesting information on another person's health history. It is meant to prevent information that could be used in a discriminatory fashion from getting out without a person's consent. And, due to the fairly comprehensive nature of this law, it can sometimes make things difficult when a member of our church goes into the hospital. Hence, I would like to offer a general reminder on how HIPAA affects pastoral care here at St. Olaf, and what that means for you or your family member if and when they are admitted to the hospital or nursing care facility.

As I am sure many of you remember, back in the day, and really not that long ago because even I remember when this was true, when a person was admitted to the hospital, the hospital would ask what religion or denomination a person belonged to and if they were a member of a local congregation. If a congregation was named, the hospital would then call that church and let the pastor know that a parishioner was in the hospital so they could visit. This is not so anymore. The only way that our church or myself can learn if someone is in the hospital and needs a visit, is if the patient or the family calls either the church, myself or another member of the congregation and lets them know; the hospital can no longer offer the information as they once did.

When it comes to information about

surgeries and illness, information is often shared within the congregation, but discretion and privacy are always a good idea and I will always do my best to check with the family as to what information they are comfortable having shared. I will never assume something is public information, so, please rest assured that the information shared with me will remain confidential unless I am told otherwise.

Simply, what this all comes down to is that information, in healthcare settings, must now come from the patient and the patient's family first, rather than the institution itself. It can make things more complicated but it does not mean you cannot have the support and comfort you need, especially during tough times. All it takes is a phone call, a text, an email, or any other form of communication either directly with myself or the church office (but please note that if you want to reach me on the weekend please use my cell phone number).

I truly feel privileged to spend time with each and every one of you, particularly when there is a health scare, crisis, or a change in family dynamics. If you are ever in need of pastoral care, simply let me know. If you have any questions, feel free to ask. Also please do not assume I know that you or your loved one is in need of pastoral care or a visit or simply a call.

**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  
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.*



*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.*

# January Church Council Meeting Minutes

The St. Olaf Lutheran Church council met on January 9, 2024.

Present: Michael Kitsch, Mike Boehmer, Colette Boehmer, Louise Oleson, Jeri Steffan, Crystal Eversvik, Pastor Lori Pankratz, Darci Gilbertson. Absent: Kristi Trottier.

President Michael Kitsch called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm. Pastor Lori opened with a devotion from Mark 6:1-13 - evangelism.

The minutes of the December 2023 council meeting were reviewed. Crystal moved to approve the minutes. Jeri seconded. The minutes were approved.

Mike presented the Treasurer's report. Balances as of December 31, 2023 - Designated Funds: \$80,334.98; Building Fund: \$37,006.34; General Fund: \$11,125.44.

Pastor's report: Pastor Lori reported that she had a busy December. Attendance for Christmas services was good. She presided at two funerals. She is reviewing and amending the Youth Ministry Coordinator job description.

No reports from Christian Education, Church Properties, Stewardship, and Worship & Music.

Life in Ministry & Mission: Louise reported that they sent Christmas cards to shut ins and non-active members. They continue with outreach visits.

Youth & Family Ministry: Crystal reported that this board will have joint meetings with the Christian Education board. They will be discussing the youth trip to New Orleans. She stated that the first day of Sunday school without Kelly went okay.

Unfinished Business:

- Elevator: Michael reported that the Otis elevator representative told him that they are waiting on one remaining component to be manufactured. Once they receive this part, repairs and updates to the elevator should begin.

- Stained Glass Windows: A downpayment was made at the end of December 2023 to lock in current pricing for the repair of the windows. Work on this project is scheduled to be done in 2025. Fundraising will continue in 2024. Pastor Lori is looking at two more grants to help pay for the window repairs.

- Church building use policy: Michael is working on a

guidance policy for groups that are not affiliated with St. Olaf but use our facilities for meetings, etc. He will work with Louise on this policy.

New Business:

- Pastor Lori, Crystal Eversvik, and Anne Rasmussen are reviewing and revising the job description for the Youth Ministry Coordinator. Pastor Lori will email this draft to the council members for review.

- Nominations for 2024 church council: President - Michael Kitsch, VP - vacant, Treasurer - Mike Boehmer and Arne Berg, Secretary - Colette Boehmer. Board chairs will remain the same - Louise Oleson, Jeri Steffan, Crystal Eversvik, and Kristi Trottier. Vacancies - Worship & Music, Church Properties.

- Louise moved that the St. Olaf church building/office be closed on days when the pastor and the office staff are absent from the facility. Mike seconded the motion. The council approved the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted, Colette Boehmer



## 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

## Faith & Care Group #1—March 2024

Ray & Deb Bertsch  
Doug & Darlene Carlson  
Rhea Crane & Doug Longie  
Brad & Deb Eback, Marissa, Emily, Landen  
Chad & Alisha Ehnert, Morgan, Breydin  
James & Bernadine Ehnert  
Diane Engebretson  
Cory & Amy Everson, Faith, Blake  
Jim & Debra Frank, Darren, Mallorene  
Mark & Darci Gilbertson, Taylor, Wyatt  
Nikki Elspenger, August  
Kimberly Hatten  
Robert & Sheri Hatten, Kendall, Stephanie  
Steve & Sharon Johanson  
Roger Knutson  
Steve & Becky Lang, Amanda, Kaylee  
Darin & Stacy MacDonald, Beth  
Danielle Malek, Parker, Beckett, Annistyn  
Vonda Markestad  
Ronald & Barbara Miller  
Jamie Minnerup, Shayla, Shelby, Brynlee  
Dan & Bonnie Ness, 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, Ryan  
Justin & Jessica Schemionek, Bridger  
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

**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:*

**Karen Tollefson** from Ken Tollefson & family

**Helen Weed** from Robert Dahl, Myrna Peterson

**Curtis & Linda Ehnert** from James & Bernie Ehnert

**Delouise Haugen** from Dennis & Jean Aardahl, Roger & Paula Windjue, Myrna Unger

**Esther Larson** from Dennis & Jean Aardahl

### Stained Glass Windows

*Given in MEMORY of:*

**Curtis & Linda Ehnert** from James & Bernie Ehnert

**Our Parents** from Frank & Deloris Johanson

**Helen Weed** from Frank & Deloris Johanson

**Maynard & Minnie Goplin** (married at St. Olaf 12-28-38) from Judy Ovre

**Janet Nybo** from Kathy Lovseth

### GENERAL FUND

*Given in MEMORY of:*

**Helen Weed** from Jerry & Daria Miller, Judy Ovre

### ST. OLAF FOUNDATION

*Given in MEMORY of:*

**Merle & Cora Horner** from Myrna Unger





# FEBRUARY

2024

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY					
<p align="center"><u><b>Worship Service Schedule</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 a.m. .... Sunday Worship Service</li> <li>10:00 a.m. .... Sunday School</li> <li>10:30 a.m. .... Coffee Fellowship</li> </ul> <p align="center"><i>Holy Communion: February 4 &amp; 18</i></p> <p align="center"><b>WEDNESDAYS (starting February 14):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 p.m. .... Wednesday Lenten Supper</li> <li>6:30 p.m. .... Wednesday Worship</li> </ul> <p align="center"><i>Holy Communion: February 14</i></p>						1	2	3									
						1:00 Brain Injury Support Group	3:30 Music Festival	8:00 Music Festival									
4	5	6	7	8	9	10											
9:30 Worship with Communion		9:00 Quilting	10:30 Staff Meeting				10:30 Staff Meeting										
10:00 Sunday School		10:00 Text Study	5:00 Youth & Fam/Christ. Ed Mtg.				5:00 Youth & Fam/Christ. Ed Mtg.										
10:30 Coffee		5:00 Church Council Mtg.	6:15 Confirmation				6:15 Confirmation										
11	12	13	14	15	16	17											
9:30 Worship with Sunday School Choir		9:00 Quilting	10:30 Staff Meeting				10:30 Staff Meeting										
10:00 Sunday School		10:00 Text Study	5:30 Supper				5:30 Supper										
10:30 Coffee			6:30 Ash Wed. Worship with Communion & Ashes				6:30 Ash Wed. Worship with Communion & Ashes										
18	19	20	21	22	23	24											
9:30 Worship with Communion		9:00 Quilting	10:30 Staff Meeting				10:30 Staff Meeting										
No Sun. School		10:00 Text Study	5:30 Supper				5:30 Supper										
10:30 Coffee			6:30 Lenten Worship Service				6:30 Lenten Worship Service										
			<i>Holden Evening Prayer</i>				<i>Holden Evening Prayer</i>										
25	26	27	28	29													
9:30 Worship		9:00 Quilting	10:30 Staff Meeting														
10:00 Sunday School		10:00 Text Study	5:30 Supper														
10:30 Coffee & FC #1			6:30 Lenten Worship Service														
			<i>Holden Evening Prayer</i>														