



SPIRE

MARCH 2023

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

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.

The Journey to the Cross

Theme: *"From Death into Life"*

- ▶ **Wednesday Suppers: March 1– 29 | 6 pm**
- ▶ **Holden Evening Prayer Services:
Wednesdays | March 1-29 | 7 pm**
- ▶ **Maundy Thursday Worship, April 6 | 7 pm**
- ▶ **Good Friday Worship, April 7 | 7 pm**
- ▶ **Easter:
Sunrise Worship Service | 7 am | Retreat Center
Easter Worship Service | 9:30 am**

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 Red Willow Ministries.

The Oldest Continuously Operating Lutheran Bible Camp, Red Willow Ministries was founded and has operated Red Willow Bible Camp since 1926, making it one of the oldest continuously operated Lutheran Bible camps serving youth in the United States. Since the building of the Ofstedal Retreat Center in 1967, Red Willow Ministries has been able to offer a variety of retreats for different organizations, groups, and individuals of all ages to enjoy what is now 580 acres of the beautiful surroundings of Red Willow Lake.

RW Ministries' Values:

- Camp should be a place for rest, retreat, and renewal.
- Hospitality and program are important components of the camp business, but self-care and our relationship with God are even more important.
- To show that we, as a camp, are a theological venture, so that our visitors, guests, and clientele can experience hope.
- To give God credit in the 21st century - what is he up to today?

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.

January General Fund Expenses

Auto Exp (Mileage).....	160.00	Office Supplies	192.20
BCBS Exp.....	839.74	Pastor Housing Allowance.....	1,200.00
Church Supplies	169.58	Pastor SS Allowance	397.84
Custodian HIR Exp	250.00	Payroll Exp	651.96
Mission: Spec. Gifts—Out:		Pension/Ins	3,922.84
Dakotah Oyate Gift Bags	\$292.01	Postage Exp	247.87
Electricity Exp (Ottetail).....	986.00	Sewer & Water Exp (Dec./Jan/)	267.98
Envelope Giving Exp (EFT).....	36.28	Telephon/Internet/Surveillance.....	464.90
Gas (MDU) Exp	624.00	Vocal Director Exp	200.00
Maintenance Exp.	2,314.82	Wages.....	12,603.42
Snow removal: 2,134.75		Worship Supplies.....	72.92
Northstar (extenuiguishers) 154.00		Total Expenses	\$26,522.49
Mac's 26.07		Income	\$26,266.52
Office Equip.	628.13		

Retreat Center Fund Expenses

Greater Ramsey Water.....	30.00	MDU (Dec. & Jan.)	408.51
Guide One Insurance.....	150.00	Nodak.....	88.00

General Fund Envelope Giving & Memorials & Designated Funds

SUNDAY		General Fund:	General Fund:	Designated Funds:
<u>Date</u>	<u>9:30</u>	<u>Envelope Giving</u>	<u>Gifts & Memorials</u>	<u>Memorials/Donations</u>
January 29	108	\$2,605.00	\$50.00	\$10,430.00
February 5	85	\$2,790.00		\$2,487.00
February 12	82	\$2,820.00		\$1,480.00 & \$8,950
				from WELCA
February 19	91	\$2,989.36		\$551.00

Electronic Giving for JANUARY (28 Households): \$3,715.00

FAITH MATTERS;

~ Pastor Lori ~

Behold the Beauty of the Lord

Often the world tells us to wrap our arms around as many things as possible. But sometimes in trying to grab it all, we miss a lot. What if we could focus, and be satisfied with just one thing? There is only one thing that is enough. In Psalm 27: 1, 4-9 the Psalmist speaks of it as “dwelling in the house of the Lord all my days” -- that is, to be near God, even to be someone who worships God, not just in worship, but constantly, all day every day.

And, “To behold the beauty of the Lord.” Not merely to see the Lord, which would be incredible, and amazingly wonderful in and of itself. But it is “the beauty of the Lord.” When we see beauty, it’s hard to look away. It is only as we are surrounded by the beauty of God, the wonders of creation, the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit, our church family, faith, goodness, service to others and prayerfulness; that we see the way to beauty, which is the way to God.

A friend of mine sent me this poem that she described as a peaceful invitation to take in the presence of God and the beauty that is all around us and all that we shoulder:

When despair for the world grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be, I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in the beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds. I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought or

grief. I come into the presence of still water. And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light. For a time, I rest in the grace of the world, and am free. (Wendall Berry- excerpted from the Selected poems of Wendall Berry)

You see faith is not merely about the pledge of eternal life in another world, but it is also in this world, not merely some spiritual realm, but the real, physical world, in our body, in our neighborhood, here and now.

We walk by faith, not by sight. Especially in the darkest places of our life, when we meet despair, deep struggle, overwhelming odds, accident, or disaster, we must look at Christ Jesus, our light, to see God’s will and good in our lives. Christ is our resurrection and life and will remain the last word in life and in death.

Let us remember that God’s love is given to us freely but at great cost—Christ’s own holy and precious life’s blood and innocent suffering and death. May God’s sustaining love empower us to live with hope and grace as we love and care for God’s creation and serve our neighbors. May God help us walk by faith, trusting in Christ’s light to guide our steps.

**Pastor Lori Pankratz,
St. Olaf Lutheran Church**



Video Series Bible Study:

The Chosen

Sundays

1:00 p.m.

February 26 through
April 23

*(No Bible Study on Easter
Sunday, April 9)*

This Bible study allows you to delve more deeply into each episode as you explore the life of Jesus.

You'll come to realize that you are called, cherished, and carried; have been made new and established; are now his witness; and more.

Everyone welcome!

St. Olaf WELCA Highlights



**Arnold Moen
Jean Ivesdal
Duane Davidson**

Greetings Ladies of St. Olaf

*Our regular WELCA Meetings will resume again on Thursday, March 2 at 1:30. Pastor Lori will lead us in Bible Study. The Business meeting will be held after the study. There are a few new things to discuss plus the beginning talks about the Spring Rummage Sale. Fellowship will follow with Anna Circle Hosting. PLEASE join us if you can.

*Quilting is an on-going event for all who choose to help out. We have had a couple of new helpers and are very grateful for them. We can always use more hands if you are willing to come in for a while! Also, we will soon have more Quilts ready to

be delivered to a couple local entities in need.

*Thanks to Jean Aardahl for hosting the Coffee, Color and Conversation on Thursday, Feb. 16. There was a very nice turn out for the event and Jean served some great treats and coffees. Such a nice relaxing time!

*The Methodist Church will be Hosting the World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 3, with several of the local churches helping to present the Program. Watch for further information.

**Stay Safe. God's Blessings.
Myrna Unger President**



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.

Everyone has a Birthday!

Come and Celebrate

Sunday, March 5

10:30am in the Fellowship Hall



Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 30

10:30am

In the sanctuary

A special congregational meeting for approval of the updated St. Olaf Constitution and for consolidation of church boards is set for Sunday, April 30, 2023, following the service. A quorum is necessary.

Torsk Feed

COME AND JOIN US AT ST. OLAF FOR A TORSK FEED THAT WILL BENEFIT OUR YOUTH GOING TO THE 2024 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING. WE WILL BE SERVING **TORSK, BOILED POTATOES, MELTED BUTTER, GREEN BEANS, COLESLAW, DINNER ROLL, COFFEE, WATER, JUICE, AND A DESSERT.** WE ARE ALSO DOING A **BAKE SALE** WITH ALL KINDS OF GOODIES AND TREATS. A **SILENT AUCTION** WILL BE HAPPENING AS WELL WITH MULTIPLE DIFFERENT ITEMS TO BID ON.

WE WILL BE CHARGING
\$15 PER TICKET/PERSON.

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT OUR YOUTH TO GO ON A ONCE IN A LIFETIME TRIP.

Sunday, March 26th, 11am-2pm
St. Olaf Lutheran Church, 601 6th St NE, Devils Lake, ND

Blessings Party

When: Sunday,
March 5th

Time: 6:00-8:00pm

Who: anyone interested in helping

Where: downstairs

Come and be a blessing to others

We will be working on different service projects:

- Bird Houses
- Tie blankets
- Posters



Snacks & drinks will be provided.

Come join us for some fun!

FUN TIMES @ ST. OLAF

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

2:00-3:30PM

ANY PRE-K TO 4TH GRADE KIDS PLUS FRIENDS

We will be playing games, having snacks and being goofy!



HOPE YOU CAN COME!



Bible and Basketball



Friday, March 17

CMS Gym

6PM-8PM

6th Grade & Up

We will be learning something about the Bible and playing some games of basketball.

Any adult participation is always welcome

Youth News Nexus

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

Hello Everyone,

March is here and with it brings all kinds of new events, lenten services/suppers, and the occasional mishap. One mishap that I have noticed is our overall attendance whether it is for Sunday School, our youth events, or even church is down. I am hoping with the approaching spring and upcoming fun that everyone will join us.

Sunday School will be a little more back to normal with some slight flair. March 5th is our Everyone has a Birthday event which is a combination with coffee hour and Sunday School. There will be cake and balloon animals. We have a craft and just general fun. March 12th and 26th are back to our regular Sunday School schedule. Then, March 19th is our next Family Sunday School time. This will be on the 3rd floor again as it really worked well this last time. My hope is that more of our Sunday School students will return and we can have even more fun.

Besides our Birthday Party on March 5th, there is another kind of party later in the evening, the Blessings Party. This is an all ages event where everyone is welcome. We will be working on service projects that we hope can be a blessing to others. I have some tie blankets, a few bird houses, a couple posters, and more that we can do. We will be having pizza and drinks with it downstairs in the Fellowship Hall from 6-8pm. Please come and be a blessing to others.

March 15th, brings our early out event, Fun Times @ St. Olaf. This is for our PreK-4th grade kids and any friends they want to bring. We will be playing games, having snacks, and just being goofy. This



will be from 2-3:30pm, upstairs on the 3rd floor. Hide-n-seek may be on the list of games; you will have to come and find out.

Friday, March 17th, brings back one of our more well attended and fun events, Bible and Basketball. This is for any 6th grade and up youth plus friends. We start with a brief devotion on the Bible and then play some different games of basketball. This will be from 6-8pm at the Middle School. We will have snacks and juice/water available. I know we have a bunch of different youth in basketball and those who like to play, so I hope everyone can make it.

We are continuing to do fundraising for the 2024 Youth Gathering. The envelope fundraiser will be around until all the envelopes are used. We have multiple different restaurant ones currently in the works and there are whispers of a Torsk Feed late in March. Please keep your eyes and ears open for any upcoming

fundraisers and thank you for your continued support of our group.

Join us for all the fun at and around our church as we see what March has to offer.

JLY (Jesus Loves You),

Kelly Longden

St. Olaf Youth Ministry
try

Coordinator

701-662-4911

stolafymc@gmail.com

AUDIO/ VIDEO PROJECT

Estimated Cost
\$90,000.00 +

90,000.00

Donations & Memorials
Received as of
February 23, 2023:

\$84,610.33

Donations are
still needed!

Council Meeting Minutes

The St. Olaf Lutheran Church council met on Thursday, February 16, at noon.

Present: Michael Kitsch, Kristi Trottier, Mike Boehmer, Colette Boehmer, Evonne Geigle, Louise Oleson, Jean Aardahl, Pastor Lori Pankratz, Kelly Longden, Darci Gilbertson. Visitors: Jeremy Eisenzimmer, Glenn Crowe, Ray Strong. Absent: Crystal Eversvik, Jeri Steffan

President Michael Kitsch called the meeting to order. Pastor Lori opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

Mike presented the treasurer's report. Balances as of Jan. 31, 2023 - Designated Funds: \$130,653.26; Building Fund: \$23,401.30; General Fund: \$9,970.42. Less than \$5000.00 is needed to complete the Audio/Visual project.

Pastor Lori's report was reviewed. Pastor Lori noted that she will be starting a Bible study featuring "The Chosen" video series season 1. This study group will meet February 26 - April 23 at 1:00 pm. No class on Easter Sunday. Ten people are interested in singing in a church choir, however, there is no leader at this time.

Kelly's report was reviewed. In addition to items in his report he noted that there will be a Torsk feed with a bake sale and silent auction on March 26, 11:00 - 2:00. The McDonald family will be donating their time and talents to prepare the meal. Proceeds will go to the St. Olaf 2024 Youth Gathering group.

Christian Education: No chairperson at this time. Kelly reported that there are plans for a Blessings party and a Birthday celebration.

Congregational Life: No chairperson at this time. Mike reported that he will continue to check in with Faith & Care groups.

Outreach & Evangelism: Louise reported that Pastor Lori has been visiting with nursing home residents and shut in members. They continue to offer communion at various places in Devils Lake.

Stewardship: Kelly stated that he has been presenting ministry fuel accounts before offering time during Sunday services.

Youth & Family Ministry: The youth members going to the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans will be providing evening meals on Wednesday nights during Lent. They will also be helping with and taking part at Lenten services.

Worship & Music: Jean reported that this committee met on February 12. They discussed a couple items of concern related to the Facebook livestream. She reported that Diane Togstad and Amanda Cory have joined the Worship & Music board.

No reports from Church Properties or Lay Ministry.

Unfinished Business: HB Sound & Light will be finishing the A/V project soon. Final payment will be held until all projects are completed. Michael reported that he will contact a service company for elevator maintenance.

New Business:

Jeremy Eisenzimmer and Glenn Crowe spoke with the council about their relationship with St. Olaf. The council discussed whether they should be church employees or if St. Olaf should have a contract with them. Louise moved to enter into a contract with Jeremy and Glenn for their technical services for Sunday morning services. Any additional IT services will be paid as needed per Jeremy's price list. Jean seconded. Jeremy will present a contract for approval at the next council meeting. The motion was approved.

A special congregational meeting for approval of the updated St. Olaf Constitution and for consolidation of church boards is set for Sunday, April 30, 2023, following the service.

Michael reported that his brother-in-law, Jace Peterson, is working on updating the St. Olaf website.

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

**Respectfully submitted,
Colette Boehmer**

Faith & Care Group #3—March 2023

Duaine Ash
Lisa Bachmeier
Robert Banet, Bailee, Caleb
Roxanne & Mike Barendt, Morgan, Hannah
Rodney Bennes
Terry & Beth Black, Molly, Elle, Charly
Janice Breakey
Jared & Deann Brown, Ellen, Emma
Jon & Cindy Brown, Drew, Casey, Reagan, Bailey
Gene & Melissa Burkhard, Brady, Toby
Paulette Clemenson
Kermit & Glenna Garske
Judy Hager
Leonard Jemtrud
Dona Kraher, Jady & Zachary
Richard Mahoney
Brandon & Kelsey Mertens, Holden, Leightyn, Gannon
Don Mertens, Ryan
Duane Moen
Kent & Hayley Ness, Ty

Chuck & Barb Olson, Alex, Kelley, Mallo-ry
Linda Olson
Derrick & Holly Owens, Alexander
Stella Papachek
Jacqueline Peterson, Jesse
Myrna Peterson
Harry & Darlene Pflaum
Mabel Rabadeaux
Bonnie Rader, James
Sharon Rance
Anne Rasmusson, David, Blake
Marlene & Dana Salisbury
Cory & Tobey Schall, Austin, Alyssa
Shannon & Don Senger, Preston
Valerie Sensiba
Valerie Skadsem
Amber Lara
Gaylene Tollefson
Nicole Tollefson, Austin
Kristi Trottier & Travis Pflaum
Orville & Audrey Wang, Autumn, George
Nancy Watt, Brandon
Kristi Ystaas

Faith & Care Group #4—April 2023

Carly & Jesse Braathen, Riley, Tommy
Wade & Rebecca Christianson, Cayden, Ethan
Lisa Craddock, Charles
Robert Dahl
John & Kim Dahlen, Cassandra & Christopher
Yvonne Erickstad
Eric & Crystal Eversvik, Gannon, Bryer, Delaine, Amelia
Tammy Fischer, Garrett, John, Michael
Steven & Evonne Geigle, Kade, Micah
Dale Giedd & Loretta Bloomquist
Becky Hawkins, Maria, Isabelle
Rob Hendrickson
Ken Hunt
Jason & Amber Hunter, Gabriella, Ryder, Hudson
Kristen Johnson, Chase
Jan Johnson, Brittany & Kayla
Jerry & Kara Johnson, Jeremiah
Josh & Nicole Kuntz, Hayden, Halle
Mike & Kristina Kuntz, Jack & Mallory
Kathy Lovseth

Richard Lybeck
Doris Michaels
Vernon Moen
Charles & Helen Nelson
Robert Nelson & Marte Stensli, Mathea & Liam
Louise Oleson
Judy Ovre
Mark & Kristel Peterson, Craig, Kelsey
Betty Jane Rushfeldt
Tyler & Emily Schiele, Kynlee, Tucker, Bo
Sheldon Severtson
Helen Simon
Kyle Sletteland
Don & Barb Sowatzki
Ray & Judy Strong
Janice Thompson
Kris Thompson, Kayla, Kaitlyn, Austin
Shirley Webster

Memorials

Building Fund

In MEMORY Of

Barbara Walden from Ray & Judy Strong
Arnold Moen from Dennis & Karen Riggan

General Fund

In MEMORY Of

Beth Berg from Mike & Sherry Boehmer, Janice Thompson, Armen & Connie Hanson, Kermit & Glenna Garske
Barbara Walden from Mike & Sherry Boehmer, Janice Thompson

Audio/Visual Fund

In MEMORY Of

Barbara Walden from Kathy Lovseth, Myrna Unger, Larry & Betty Nygren, Wendell H. Anderson, Brenda Jacobsen, Gary Bryn, Florene Rogne,
Beth Berg from Lisa Gibbens, Larry & Betty Nygren, Judy Ovre, Paulette Clemenson, Gary Bryn, Florene Rogne
Heidi Ivesdal Nantt from Olga Pulst, Dennis & Jean Aardahl, Maren & Peter Halbach, Greg & Darcy Meide, Dan & Doreen Webster, Her Family
Perry Horner from Myrna Unger
Jean Ivesdal from Florene Rogne
Arnold Moen from Florene Rogne

Norway Cemetery Fund

In MEMORY Of

Arnold Moen from Duane Moen, Harlan Adahl, Moen Family, Gary Bryn
Lloyd Foss from Idelle Foss
Lawton Miller, Jr. from Duane Moen

Radio/Facebook Fund

In MEMORY Of

Doris Borstad from her Family

St. Olaf Foundation

In MEMORY Of

Beth Berg from Rodger Haugen

W.E.L.C.A.

In MEMORY Of

Beth Berg from Myrna Unger, Ray & Judy Strong

March 2023

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Mar 1 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Lenten Supper 7:00pm Lenten Worship Service	2 1:00pm Brain Injury Support Group 1:30pm WELCA Bible Study/Mtg.	3 2:00pm World Day of Prayer (Methodist Church)	4
5 9:30am Worship 10:30am Everyone has a Birthday! 1:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm Blessings Party	6	7 9:00am Quilting 10:00am Text Study	8 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Lenten Supper 7:00pm Lenten Worship Service	9	10	11
12 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:40am Sunday School 1:00pm Bible Study	13	14 9:00am Quilting 10:00am Text Study 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	15 10:30am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Fun @ St. Olaf 6:00pm Lenten Supper 7:00pm Lenten Worship	16	17 6:00pm Bible & BB (CMS)	18
19 9:30am Worship with Comm. 10:30am Coffee 10:40am Family Sunday School 1:00pm Bible Study	20	21 9:00am Quilting 10:00am Conf. Pastors Mtg.	22 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Lenten Supper 7:00pm Lenten Worship Service	23 5:00pm Spire Deadline	24	25
26 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee w/FC #4 10:40am SS 11:00am Torsk Feed 1:00pm Bible Study	27	28 9:00am Quilting 10:00am Text Study	29 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Lenten Supper 7:00pm Lenten Worship Service			