



SPIRE

JUNE 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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Pastor Lori Pankratz

Email: lorip@gondtc.com

Darci Gilbertson

Office & Financial Secretary

Kirk Sweeney, Custodian

Dan Nybo, Organist

Jayne Mlynar

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Welcome Our New Youth Ministry Coordinator



Jayne Mlynar

Hi. I'm Jayne Mlynar and I am very excited to be the St. Olaf Youth Ministry Coordinator. About a year ago, my husband Bob and I moved here from Aitkin, MN and became a member of St. Olaf in April of last year.

I am hoping to make this year an enjoyable and learning experience for the youth here at St. Olaf. I am anxious and excited to meet the youth and parents. My door is always open to any helpful ideas or criticism. If it is closed, please feel free to call or text me! (218) 866-0330.

Right now I am trying to learn the ropes and get my ideas and thoughts together so I don't have much to report other than some of the St. Olaf youth will be at a youth gathering in New Orleans June 15-21st. Let us pray they all have a safe and fun trip. Please mark July 22-25th on your calendar as the dates for vacation Bible School at Ruger Park. I will have more information in the next Spire.

Have a great month.



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

April General Fund Expenses

Auto Exp (Mileage)	125.76
BCBS Exp	907.74
Church Supplies.....	222.45
Custodian HIR Exp	250.00
Electricity Exp (Ottetail)	754.00
Envelope Giving Exp (EFT)	36.26
Gas (MDU) Exp	515.00
Insurance Exp	1,371.00
Maintenance Exp.	548.036
Snow (Mar.): 394.50	
Mac's Hardware: 153.53	
Office Equip.	413.44
Office Supplies.....	245.96
Miscellaneous Exp	32.33
Pastor Housing Allowance	1,366.68
Pastor SS Allowance	410.56
Payroll Exp.....	446.79
Pension/Ins	3,121.50
Postage Exp.....	125.22
Retreat Ctr. Exp	150.00
City of DL	124.63
Spec. Gifts-Out	5,192.00
Transfer to Stained Glass—5,000.00	
EaND Synod (MOM March) - 192.00	
Sunday School Exp.....	55.73
NDTC.....	452.05
Vocal Director Exp	225.00
Workforce Safety Ins.....	510.19
Wages.....	9,840.40
Worship Supplies	21.92

Total Expenses..... \$24,464.64

Total Income..... \$34,771.33

Retreat Center Fund April Expenses

Guide One Insurance ...	150.00
Nodak	70.00

Total Expenses \$73.33



June Mission of the Month

Red Willow Ministries and Park River Bible Camp

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 June is Red Willow & Park River Bible Camps.



The Oldest continuously operating Lutheran Bible Camp:

Red Willow Ministries is an outdoor ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran church in America (ELCA) supported by the Eastern North Dakota Synod and it's 200 congregations. It 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 480 acres of the beautiful surroundings of Red Willow Lake.



Park River Bible Camp:

Beautifully nestled in 120 acres along the Park River, we're a year-round camp creating spaces and experiences for kids and families to encounter Christ, connect with others, and experience God's incredible grace.

Elevator Update:

The Elevator upgrade has been completed. It is now fully functional. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen!

Stained-glass Windows

Donations & Memorials received as of
April 25, 2024:

\$47,481.88

Total Project: \$127,528.00

General Fund Envelope Giving & Memorials & Designated Funds

SUNDAY		General Fund:	General Fund:	Designated Funds:
Date	9:30am	Envelope Giving	Gifts & Memorials	Memorials/Donations
April 28	118	\$2,870.00	\$20.00	\$119.00
May 5	78	\$3,606.00	\$30.00	\$900.00
May 12	92	\$3,461.00		\$549.00
May 19	84	\$1,673.00		\$19.00
May 26	81	\$2,108.00		

Electronic Giving for APRIL (29 Households): \$3,710.00

FAITH MATTERS;

~ Pastor Lori ~

Suicide is a leading cause of death in the U.S., and suicide rates have increased in almost every state since 1999 (some by more than 30 percent), according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Suicide occurs among all demographics, including all religious groups. And behind these statistics are individuals—people who live in our families, communities and congregations and whose stories and relationships are unique and important.

With the knowledge of the statistics regarding suicide and being mindful of the lives affected, the ELCA Church Council adopted "Suicide Prevention" in 1999, a social message that calls on members, congregations and leaders to learn more about suicide prevention and what they can do to help. The social message calls us to this work as people of faith saying, "We who lean on God's love to live are called to 'bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ' (Galatians 6:2). Our efforts to prevent suicide grow out of our obligation to protect and promote life, our hope in God amid suffering and adversity, and our love for our troubled neighbor."

In 2012, the ELCA Church Council adopted the social message "The Body of Christ and Mental Illness," which seeks to raise awareness of the challenges of mental illness, offer reflection and direction, and inspire action. At the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, a social policy resolution advocating for suicide prevention research was adopted.

Below is a list of resources members, congregations and faith leaders can use to learn more about suicide and how to prevent it.

Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry: With an inclusive and interfaith mission, the Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry's goal is zero suicides for all people, regardless of beliefs. The website includes resources for congregations, clergy and leaders, including lists of trusted faith-based mental health organizations.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: The Lifeline provides free, 24/7, confidential support for people in distress and advice for professionals. (800-273-8255)

National Alliance on Mental Illness: The nation's largest grassroots mental health organization provides information on warning signs and risk factors for suicide and resources for helping people with mental illnesses.

ELCA video message on suicide prevention: Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton shares a message of hope, saying, "Suicide can be prevented. We are never beyond God's mercy and compassion."

(This article was used with permission from the ELCA website and publication Living Lutheran) Our congregation and community can help stop the stigma and silence about suicide and mental illness. Say something if you or someone you know is struggling with harmful thoughts, it's ok to ask them and Call 211. There is always HOPE and HELP!!!

God's Peace, 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.



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.



**St. Olaf & Our Saviors
Summer Day Camp
July 22-25
At Ruger Park**

*Our Quilting Group is still hard at it on Tuesday mornings. Many quilts were sent out for Lutheran World Relief to ship overseas. Thank you Connie and Armen Hanson for delivering them to Grand Forks for us. Special Quilts were made for our Graduating Seniors and were made available for them on Senior Recognition Sunday, May 19th. We hope they will enjoy them and that they will be a Blessing for them in the years to come. CONGRATULATIONS to All of you!

*We held a Memorial Service for our Ladies who passed away this past year. Fourteen Ladies were recognized at the Service on May 9th at 1:30 in the afternoon. Thank you Miriam Circle for helping with the Program and Deborah for serving the Lunch. I mailed out several programs to family members.

*Loretta Bloomquist is chairing the Blood Drive sponsored by St. Olaf on July 1st and 2nd. Volunteers are needed for calling a couple weeks in ad-

vance of the drive. If you are willing to help please call Loretta at 665-3170. Also, if you can donate please sign up to do so. THANK YOU!

*Our up-coming WELCA Meeting will be on June 6 at 1:30pm. We will have Brenda Bergrud as a special speaker to talk about the Amachi program and the Lake Region Shelter. Miriam Circle will be Hosting. Please come and learn more about these local programs.

- July is our summer recess month! NO MEETING!! Enjoy the Holiday!
- The next Meeting is Scheduled for August 1 at 1:30pm. I'm hoping to have another speaker lined up for the program.

**Take Care, God's Blessings,
Myrna Unger, President**

May Church Council Meeting Minutes

The St. Olaf Lutheran Church council met on May 14, 2024.

Present: Michael Kitsch, David Oehlke, Colette Boehmer, Harris Saele, Rodger Haugen, Jeri Steffan, Louise Oleson, Pastor Lori Pankratz, Darci Gilbertson.
Absent: Arne Berg, Kristi Trottier, Crystal Eversvik, Glenn Crowe.

President Michael Kitsch called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Pastor Lori opened with a devotion and a prayer.

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

Darci provided the Treasurer's report. Balances as of May 14, 2024 - Designated Funds: &78,793.74; General Fund: \$6894.24; Building Fund: \$79,876.13.

Pastor Lori's report was reviewed. Pastor Lori reported that St. Olaf member, Jayne Mlynar, applied and was interviewed for the Youth Ministry Coordinator position. The interview committee recommended hiring Jayne for this position. Louise moved that Jayne Mlynar be hired as a part time (10-15 hours/week) Youth Ministry Coordinator. Harris seconded. The motion was approved. Rodger moved to pay Jayne \$19.00/hour to be reviewed in 6 months. Louise seconded. Following discussion, the motion was approved.

Church Properties: The council reviewed the minutes from the last Church Properties meeting. Harris reported that the

new water softener has been installed in the church basement. Less rinse spots were noticed on utensils and dishes since the water softener installation. The small garage on church property will be renovated in June. Cleaning, inside and outside, and deck staining is being done at the Retreat Center.

Life in Ministry & Mission: Louise reported that she will be making an outreach visit to Lakota Good Samaritan Home on June 5. She will be helping with Sunday worship services at St. Olaf on June 2 and June 9.

No reports from Christian Education, Stewardship, Youth & Family Ministry, Worship & Music.

Unfinished Business: Darci reported that the update and repair work on the elevator was completed on May 14, and it is fully functional. Pastor Lori and Darci attended a Nordic Churches Project conference in Minnesota regarding the stained-glass window restoration. They received more information on grants and fundraising ideas. They also reported that the architect visited St. Olaf to review the structure and integrity of the church building inside and out. This is required before actual work on the stained-glass windows can get started. The architect will send a report on her findings.

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

**Respectfully submitted,
Colette Boehmer**

Faith & Care Group #4—June 2024

Carly & Jesse Braathen, Riley, Tommy, Bodey, Radley
 Wade & Rebecca Christianson, Cayden, Ethan
 Lisa Craddock, Charles
 Robert Dahl
 John & Kim Dahlen, Cassandra & Christopher
 Eric & Crystal Eversvik, Gannon, Bryer, Delainey, Amelia
 Tammy Fischer, Garrett, John, Michael
 Steven & Evonne Geigle, Kade, Micah
 Dale Giedd & Loretta Bloomquist
 Rob Hendrickson
 Ken Hunt
 Jason & Amber Hunter, Gabriella, Ryder, Hudson
 Kristen Johnson, Chase
 Jan Johnson, Brittany & Kayla

Jerry & Kara Johnson, Jeremiah
 Mike & Kristina Kuntz, Jack & Mallory
 Kathy Lovseth
 Doris Michaels
 Vernon Moen
 Charles & Helen Nelson
 Robert Nelson & Marte Stensli, Mathea & Liam
 Louise Oleson
 Judy Ovre
 Mark & Kristel Peterson, Craig, Kelsey
 Becky Reierson, Maria, Isabelle
 Betty Jane Rushfeldt
 Tyler & Emily Schiele, Kynlee, Tucker, Bo
 Sheldon Severtson
 Helen Simon
 Kyle Sletteland
 Ray & Judy Strong
 Janice Thompson

Faith & Care Group #5—July 2024

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
 Gary Bryn
 Gabby & Tucker Cosley, Sutton
 Glenn & Sarah Crowe
 Richard Dahlen
 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
 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 Schmaltz
 Gerald & Linda Schmidt
 Alvin & Debra Schroeder
 Ronald & Mary Jane Stubbe
 Lindsey & Jeremy Swanson, Cahlen, Cashlynn
 Myrna Unger
 Paula Windjue
 Joe Yager

Memorials

BUILDING FUND:

Stained Glass Windows

Given in MEMORY of:

Perry Horner from Myrna Unger
Ed Mlynar from Larry & Betty Nygren
Carol Gilbert from Larry & Betty Nygren
Steven Peterson from Duane Moen
Ardy Salisbury from Dan & Bonnie Ness

GENERAL FUND:

Given in MEMORY of:

Ardy Salisbury from Mike & Sherry Boehmer



Steve Peterson



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>





JUNE

2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Synod Assembly
2 8:30 Worship at Retreat Center 9:30 Coffee at Retreat Center 10:00 Coffee at St. Olaf 11:00 Worship at St. Olaf	3	4 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Text Study	5 10:30 Staff Mtg.	6 1:00 Brain Injury Support Group 1:30 WELCA Meeting & Memorial	7	8
9 8:30 Worship at Retreat Center 9:30 Coffee at Retreat Center 10:00 Coffee at St. Olaf 11:00 Worship at St. Olaf	10	11 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Text Study 5:30 Council	12 10:30 Staff Mtg.	13	14	15
16 8:30 Worship* at RC 9:30 Coffee at Retreat Center 10:00 Coffee at St. Olaf 11:00 Worship* at St. Olaf	17	18 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Text Study	19 10:30 Staff Mtg.	20 1:30 Color, Coffee & Conversation in the Library	21 4:00 Spire Newsletter Deadline	22
23 8:30 Worship at RC 9:30 Coffee at Retreat Center 10:00 Coffee at St. Olaf 11:00 Worship at St. Olaf	24	25 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Text Study	26 10:30 Staff Mtg.	27	28	29
30 8:30 Worship at RC 9:30 Coffee at Retreat Center 10:00 Coffee & FC #5 Mtg. @ SO 11:00 Worship at St. Olaf						

* Communion June 16th at both services