



SPIRE

JANUARY 2025

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.stolafchurchdevilslake.com

Pastor Lori Pankratz
Email: lorip@gondtc.com

Darci Gilbertson
Office & Financial Secretary

Kirk Sweeney, Custodian

Dan Nybo, Organist



THE ANNUAL CHURCH *Meeting*



JANUARY | 26th | 2025

All members of St. Olaf Lutheran Church are encouraged to attend to help plan the new year.

A quorum of 75 members is needed.



November General Fund Expenses

Auto Exp	188.74
BCBS Exp	907.74
Bulletin Exp.....	169.70
Confirmation Exp	50.13
Custodian HIR Exp	250.00
EaND Synod Mission..	2,531.74
Electricity Exp.....	757.00
Envelope Giving Exp	36.58
Gas (MDU)	398.00
Maintenance Exp.....	48.34
Office Equip. Exp.....	413.44
Office Supplies	94.97
Other Misc. Exp	6.00
Pr. Housing Allow.	1,366.68
Pr. Soc. Sec. Allow.....	410.56
Payroll Taxes Exp	436.23
Penion/Ins. Exp (2mo).	6,243.00
Postage Exp	138.08
Sewer/Water Exp.....	261.66
Special Gifts—Out:	
Freedom Center	43.00
Tele/Internet (2 mos)	961.24
Vocal Director Exp.....	200.00
Wages	9,577.20
Worship Supplies	146.57

Total Expenses: \$25,636.60

Total Income: \$25,739.79

Retreat Center Fund November Expenses

Guide One Insurance ..	150.00
Nodak.....	45.00
Greater Ramsey Water.	35.00

Total Expenses.....\$230.00



January 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 January is Lake Region Shelter.

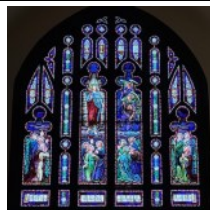
St. Olaf W.E.L.C.A. Updates

- WELCA will have winter recess in January and February but quilting will continue as usual.
- Thanks to all who worked in any way for the Bazaar and thank you to the shoppers as well. It was a big success.
- Thank you to all the participants in the Advent Calendar for the Hope Center.
- Christmas Potluck was very nice. Thank you to Anna Circle for the program on the nativity. Thanks to Prisca for hosting.

Wishing you all a very blessed new year!

Myrna Unger, WELCA President

Windows Restoration & Preservation Project Update:



Balance needed to pay loan:

\$31,699.43

(12-30-31)



General Fund Envelope Giving & Memorials & Designated Funds

SUNDAY		General Fund:	General Fund:	Designated Funds:
Date	9:30 am	Envelope Giving	Gifts & Memorials	Memorials/Donations
December 1	97	\$5,783.00		\$410.91
December 8	89	\$3,852.00		\$198.00
December 15	81	\$7,168.00		\$394.00

Electronic Giving for NOVEMBER (29 Households): \$3,590.00

FAITH MATTERS;

~ Pastor Lori ~

The holiday season has passed and now we face the reality of snow and sub-zero temperatures in January. Let's just say this is not my favorite time of year. Dressing in coat and gloves and stocking cap and trudging through snow and ice are not what I look forward to.

I have thought about what we call the new year. As you well know, a new year is an arbitrary trick of the human calendar. A new year could be any day and any time. Time is seamless and constant. We make calendars to get our heads around the progression of time.

Time takes its toll on us. I will be another year older this spring as will you on your next birthday. Too many years will be both a blessing, but also a reminder of our mortality. Lately, I've been thinking of the names of people I know who passed away recently. Unfortunately, the list is long. The grief is real.

Every year brings both the fortunate and unfortunate to us. I suppose none of this makes much sense to young folks. For them every year is a new opportunity and a time for growth. A new year means more. But when you reach a certain age your perspective on time changes. We learn to treasure all time, whether good or bad. Some time is better than no time at all.

The purpose of my message is to remind our members not to take anything for granted. No one can predict what will happen in the next few minutes let alone the next year. Value your time and do not waste any of it or wish it away. Invest your time wisely in activities that produce beneficial results for yourself and your loved ones. Take some advice from my 2-year-old Granddaughter Harper, "Sharing is Caring". I was watching her the other day and thinking, 'Oh the love of a child', she runs to those she loves and yells their name and gives them a big hug even if she just saw them a minute ago as they returned from another room. If we could all love like a small child the world would be such a wonderful place.

Finally, let us resolve as a congregation to use our time together to reflect God's greater purpose for us. Care for one another, even the birds at your feeder. Treat all time as precious. Resolve to bring about good and ask God to help you let the bad and sorrowful go, but with reflection on the meaning of what occurred, and the memories of love that linger. We move into the new year with a faith that will produce blessings and keep us attuned to the changes time will bring. Take care and may God bless you, your loved ones, and our congregation.

Be Blessed, Pr. 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.

2025 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2025 are available in the Centennial Room in alphabetical order for you to pick up.

Please let Darci know if you wish not to have envelopes or can't find yours.



December Church Council Minutes

The St. Olaf Lutheran Church council met on December 10, 2024.

Present: Michael Kitsch, Dave Oehke, Colette Boehmer, Kristi Trottier, Harris Saele, Rodger Haugen, Louise Oleson, Glenn Crowe, Crystal Eversvik, Pastor Lori Pankratz, Darci Gilbertson, Arne Berg by phone.

Absent: Jeri Steffan

Visitor: Mike Boehmer

President Michael Kitsch called the meeting to order at 6pm. Pastor Lori opened with a reading on mission work in the church and led the council in prayer.

Mike Boehmer presented the 2025 Mission Plan that was worked on by Mike and several volunteers. He highlighted a few changes, including pay raises for Darci Gilbertson and Kirk Sweeney, and a housing increase for Pastor Lori. The council will act on final approval of the 2025 Mission Plan at the January 14 church council meeting. Dave proposed increasing Pastor Lori's salary for the extra tasks she has been doing due to the absence of a Youth Ministry Coordinator. Arne moved to pay Pastor Lori an extra \$500.00 a month until a Youth Ministry Coordinator is hired. Louise seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion was approved.

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

Mike Boehmer presented the Treasurer's report for Arne Berg. Balances as of November 30, 2024, were as follows: Designated Funds: \$55,822.15; Building Fund: \$22,056.56, General Fund: (\$3,128.13).

Darci reported that following offering collections during the first two Sundays in December the General Fund has a positive balance with

enough money to meet payroll. A \$13,000 line of credit at 1st United Bank remains.

Pastor Lori reported on funerals she presided over and Advent activities that she has led. Pastor Lori and Michael worked on and submitted a DLAF grant to replace the AEDs.

Christian Education and Youth & Family Ministry: Kristi reported that the Sunday School children will present their Christmas play on December 14 at 7pm preceded by hot chocolate and cookies at 6:30. Christmas treat bags will be put together and given out to children for Christmas.

Church Properties: Harris reported that Hobart is sending a maintenance person to look at the dishwasher. There will be cleaning and decorating at the Retreat Center prior to the December 18 candlelight and carols service. The Men's Club will be serving breakfast on December 22 at the church as a fundraiser to help defray expenses for the AEDs. Harris and Rodger announced that they will be resigning from the church council.

Life in Ministry & Mission: Louise continues to send greeting cards and has assisted Pastor Lori at confirmation classes.

Stewardship: Dave encouraged any member with Thrivent Choice dollars to consider giving their available dollars to St. Olaf or any non-profit of their choice.

Worship & Music: Glenn reported that Beer and Hymns at Black Paws is scheduled for December 13 at 5:30pm. He has asked Louise to help with the Sunday, December 29th service which consists of readings and hymns. Pastor Lori will be on vacation that day.

Unfinished Business: Waiting on grant funds and Men's club fund-

raiser to pay for new AEDs. Glenn reported that the dimmer switches for the lights in the sanctuary are aging and may need to be replaced.

New Business: All annual reports from church boards need to be given to Darci by January 10, 2025, to be included in the Annual Meeting booklet.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Colette Boehmer



Service Opportunities:

- ▶ Visit our elder members (in person or call)
- ▶ Donate or take the donations to the Hope Center (shelf in Centennial Room)
- ▶ Volunteer at the Hope Center or Homeless Shelter
- ▶ Share your Thrivent Action Team Dollars & Choice Dollars with St. Olaf.

Faith & Care Group #4—January 2025

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, Delaine, 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
 Richard Lybeck
 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—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
 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, Cashlynn
 Myrna Unger
 Paula Windjue
 Joe Yager

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:

Larry Nygren from Gary Bryn, Betty Nygren, Wendy & Wendell Olson, Lonny Nygren & Families, Ron Faleide, Richard Lunde, Dale & Loretta Giedd, Rosalie Roy, Robert Dahl, Newton & Karen Lindseth, Vonda Markestad, Roger Knutson, Joe Yager, Perry & Denise Garske, Karen Krueger, Judy Ovre
Ron Stubbe from Betty Nygren, Roger Knutson, Paulette Clemenson
Rudy Severinson from Betty Nygren
Gordy Braathen from Betty Nygren
Dennis Clemenson from Paulette Clemenson
Evon Thompson from Allan Thompson
Carole Hintz from Lloyd Hintz

Given in HONOR of :
Jim & Kelly Wang for hosting the Sleigh Ride

From Kathy Lovseth, Rodger Haugen

Altar Guild Fund: *Given in MEMORY of:*

Bev Lee from Myrna Unger
Sandi Lunde from Myrna Unger
Nan Yager from Myrna Unger

Radio Fund: *Given in MEMORY of:*

Judy Gage from Marlys Sollin

Norway Cemetery Fund: *Given in MEMORY of:*

Zachary Moen from his Family



JANUARY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Closed	2	3	4
5 9:30 Worship with Communion 10:00 Sun. School 10:30 Coffee 10:30 Undecorating 11:15 Bible Study	6	7 9:00 Quilting 10:30 Text Study	8 10:30 Staff Mtg. 5:00 Christian Ed & Youth & Family Brd. Mtg. at Black Paws 6:00 Confirmation	9	10 4:00 Annual Report Deadline	11
12 9:30 Worship 10:00 Sun. School 10:30 Coffee 11:15 Bible Study	13	14 9:00 Quilting 10:30 Text Study 5:30 Council Meeting	15 10:30 Staff Mtg. 6:00 Confirmation	16	17	18
19 9:30 Worship with Communion No Sun. School 10:30 Coffee & F&C #5 Mtg. 11:15 Bible Study	20	21 9:00 Quilting 10:30 Text Study	22 10:30 Staff Mtg. 6:00 Confirmation	23	24 4:00 Spire Newsletter Deadline	25
26 9:30 Worship No Sun. School 10:30 POTLUCK BRUNCH & ANNUAL MEETING	27	28 9:00 Quilting 10:30 Text Study	29 10:30 Staff Mtg. 6:00 Confirmation	30	31	