



SPIRE

NOVEMBER 2025

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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www.stolafchurchdevilslake.com

Pastor Lori Pankratz
Email: lorip@gondtc.com

Darci Gilbertson
Office & Financial Secretary

Kirk Sweeney, Custodian

Dan Nybo, Organist



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



COME YE THANKFUL
PEOPLE, COME,
for **FOOD, FUN AND
FELLOWSHIP**

At an untraditional
**THANKSGIVING
AT THE TABLE**

**Wednesday, Nov. 26
5:30pm at St. Olaf**

Homemade Pizza followed by
communion, fellowship & fun &
“build your own” ice cream sundae.

Sept. General Fund Expenses

Auto Exp	951.96
BCBS Exp	1,105.10
Custodian HIR	250.00
Otter Tail Power	699.00
Envelope Giving Exp	30.57
MDU Exp	568.00
Insurance Exp	1,626.80
Maintenance Exp	21.49
Office Supplies	111.09
Other Misc. Exp	9.41
Pastor Housing	1,533.34
Pastor Soc. Sec. Allow ...	461.56
Payroll Exp	489.53
Pension/Ins. Exp	3,298.96
Postage Exp	63.57
Pulpit Supply	175.00
Retreat Center	150.00
City of DL (2 mos)	274.12
Special Gifts—Out:	290.08
Red Bowls & Signs:	85.18
Dakota Prairie CAA:	204.90
NDTC	473.84
Vocal Director Exp	450.00
Worship Supplies	510.32
Wages	10,659.07

Total Expenses: \$23,374.81
Total Income: \$23,135.71

Retreat Center Fund September Expenses

Guide One Insurance...	150.00
Nodak	135.00
Greater Ramsey Water..	47.70
MDU	25.52

Total Expenses \$358.22



November 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 November is the Hope Center.

With the government shutdown going on, SNAP benefits will end on Saturday, November 1, affecting many of our local residents. Cash is always welcome to purchase perishable items needed. Let's try and do our part as fellow human beings in this world for our neighbors and friends.



Blessings to our Confirmands

Front row: Emersyn Remmick, Charly Black, Riley Remmick and Aubrie Kraft. Back row: Brody Hodous, Nash Riffin, Grady Quam and Pr. Lori Pankratz

St. Olaf WELCA Updates

- The Fall Rummage Sale went very well. Thanks to all who helped in any way.
- Tuesday Quilting has been very busy and the ladies are working in the Flower Shop on Wednesday mornings.
- Jean Aardahl hosted the Coloring, Coffee & Conversation in the library on October 16th. We had a full table and a great time. Thank you, Jean!
- Ladies, please take notice. Lefse making is coming up on November 3rd & 10th and we will be making donuts on November 13th & 14th. All these days will begin at 9:00 a.m. Please come and help as you are able.
- Also, the times has come to prepare for our annual Bazaar. Please consider providing something for our shops. We have the Stitchery, Bake Shop and Country Store. Many goodies are needed to make our sale successful. The Bazaar is Saturday, Dec. 6th from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Helpers are needed on this day, as well. Thank you to all who are so faithful on this special day.

God's blessings, Myrna Unger, WELCA president

General Fund Envelope Giving & Memorials & Designated Funds

SUNDAY		General Fund:	General Fund:	Designated Funds:
Date	9:30 am	Envelope Giving	Gifts & Memorials	Memorials/Donations
September 28	74	\$1,339.00	\$1,000.00	\$333.00
October 5	106	\$3,849.00		\$842.75
October 12	109	\$4,812.00		\$789.25
October 19	74	\$3,927.00		\$8,386.10
October 26	162	\$3,404.00	\$170.00	\$394.00

Electronic Giving for SEPTEMBER (26 Households): \$3,290.00

FAITH MATTERS;

~ Pastor Lori ~

Church Together-2025 Churchwide Assembly

Almost a thousand ELCA Lutherans made their way to toasty Phoenix, Ariz., to gather for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly from July 28 to Aug. 2. It was a joyous, thoughtful and busy week. Alongside the normal business of the assembly — considering resolutions, memorials and social statements — voting members were tasked with electing a new presiding bishop and secretary to lead our church for the next six years. The Rev. Yehiel Curry, who currently serves as the bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod, was elected to serve as our new presiding bishop.

Presiding Bishop-elect Curry has a fascinating vocational story. He started his ministry as a lay mission developer at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., while participating in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program in pursuit of ordination. Following his election, he told the assembly, “Perhaps I’m out there in one of you. I never saw myself as good enough. And so, for two years, I said no, and finally said yes to becoming a mission developer. When I said yes, your support, this church’s support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars [including Mission Support] look like, it looks like me. And I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment.”

The assembly also elected the Rev. Lucille “CeCee” Mills to be our next secretary. Secretary-elect Mills currently serves as assistant to the bishop and interim director for evangelical mission in the ELCA North Carolina Synod. Following her election, she remarked, “I have to echo our newly elected presiding bishop and say, I am the product of you. I am also a TEEM candidate.” Mills celebrated “a new season for our church. I do believe that the reason why I, an African American woman, [can stand] before you, with no degrees in a church that loves to have people who are educated, is because you saw the gifts in me and the possibility and potential in me. ... I celebrate with you that we listen to God’s call and that we will become God’s beloved community.”

Both Presiding Bishop-elect Curry and Secretary-elect Mills celebrated and gave thanks for the support of the whole church, including the impact that the sharing of Mission Support had on both of their ministries. Through Mission Support, synods and the churchwide organization provide vital funding for mission developers, new and emerging ministries, and candidates in the TEEM program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts such as ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city settings. Our next presiding bishop and secretary were both able to answer their new calls in part because of our Mission Support dollars and the investment made in them by the whole church. We all say, **Amen.**



Sunday, Nov. 23

Please stay after worship to help set-up the trees & garland in the sanctuary in preparation for the

First Sunday in Advent

Nov. 30

(Hanging of the Greens)



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.



Sigurd Olson
Mae Soper
Deloris Johanson

Thank You to Lutefisk Supper Church Volunteers

Greetings everyone, I would like to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to an extraordinary group of people, our volunteers.

Preparing and serving a lutefisk and meatballs supper is no small feat. It takes planning, patience, and a whole lot of elbow grease. From the early prep work in the kitchen to the final clean up, each of you brought not only your hands, but your hearts to the table and it showed.

Whether you were helping to make lefsa, make rummagout, peeling potatoes, setting tables, greeting guests, taking tickets, cleaning tables, boiling potatoes, making coleslaw, cooking lutefisk or washing dishes, your contribution made this event not just possible, but meaningful. You turned a meal into a ministry. You turned service into fellowship.

I would like to add a special thank you to the young ladies and the young boys whose enthusiasm and teamwork were among the key ingredients that made this event run smoothly, reminding us all that with a little energy and a lot of heart, anything is possible.

This supper is more than a 104-year-old tradition. It's a reflection of our church's spirit, one of hospitality, generosity and joy and you emboldened that spirit beautifully.

So, thank you for your time, your energy, your smiles, and your servant heart. You've nourished more than just bodies. You've nourished our community.

May God bless you all abundantly for the love you've shared.

**Thank you,
Harris Saele**

Thanksgiving Bags



- ▶ Grab a blue reusable bag and shopping list available in the Centennial Room
- ▶ Head to the store
- ▶ Follow shopping list
- ▶ Check mark what you purchase
- ▶ Place list back in bag
- ▶ Return to St. Olaf by Sunday, November 23rd. Bags will be completed & delivered to the Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency. DPCAA will distribute to those in need.

LIST:

\$25.00 GIFT CARD FOR TURKEY

STUFFING

GRAVY MIX

POTATOES

BREAD OR BUNS

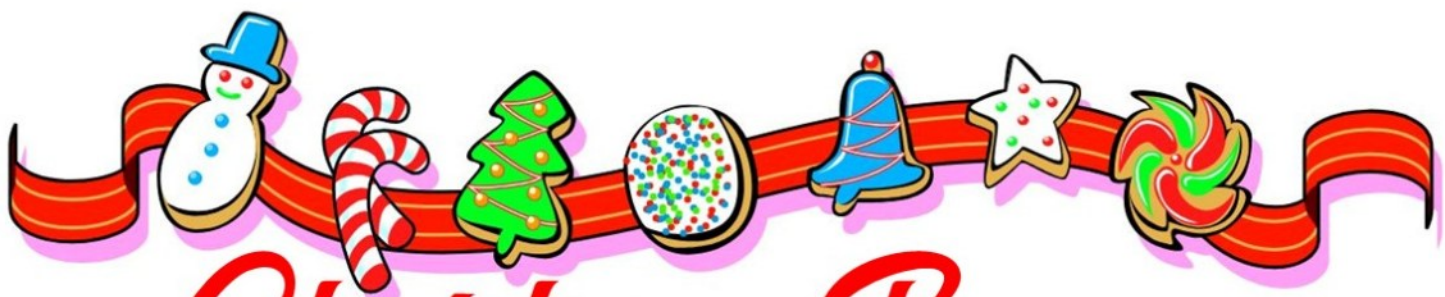
CANNED CORN

\$10.00 GIFT CARD FOR PIE

PLATES & NAPKINS

TABLECLOTH





Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, December 6

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

All women are encouraged to make things for the Bazaar, whether you are active in a circle or not.

*Those who won't want to make things are asked to make a monetary contribution made payable to: WELCA and sent to: St. Olaf Lutheran Church
601 6th St. NE • Devils Lake, ND 58301*

The Bazaar is our largest fundraiser and we need each woman in St. Olaf to contribute in the way of her choice.

The shops along with suggested items they need, are listed below. Contact the chairperson if you would like to help in any of the shops or have any questions.

Bake & Candy Shop

- ♦ Baked Goods, cakes, buns, rolls, breads, donuts & cookies
 - ♦ Scandinavian goodies
 - ♦ Fudge, caramel corn, divinity, peanut brittle, peanut clusters, caramels, peanut butter cups
- Remember large amounts are needed to keep shoppers happy!*

Stitchery Shop

- ♦ Dishtowels
 - ♦ Pillowcases
 - ♦ Doilies and crochet towels
 - ♦ Aprons
 - ♦ Cross-stitch
 - ♦ Pillows
- Anything you make!*

Flower Shop

- ♦ Wired Christmas ribbon
- ♦ Christmas garland and greenery
- ♦ Small strings of lights, either electric or battery
- ♦ Baskets of all sizes for arrangements.

Flower Shop workdays will be

Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

Workers are needed for various tasks.

Please join us!

Lefse Shop

Many helpers are needed and new lefse makers are welcome!

Mondays, Nov. 4 & 18



Country Store

- ♦ Variety of home canned goods, jams, jellies, garden vegetables, dairy products, dry goods
- ♦ Dishes, knick knacks, pictures
- ♦ Anything that is sold in a country store.

Items are needed as soon as possible. You can drop off your items during the week or on Sunday.

Restuarant

- ♦ Caramel Rolls, Coffee cakes, donuts, coffee and juice will be served starting at 8:00am
- ♦ Swiss Steak Meal will be served starting at 11:00am

October Council Meeting Minutes

The St. Olaf Lutheran Church council met on October 14, 2025.

Present: Dave Oehlke, Arne Berg, Kristi Trottier, Evan Markestad, Louise Oleson, Anne Rasmusson, Colette Boehmer, Pastor Lori Pankratz, Darci Gilbertson. Absent: Michael Kitsch. Visitor: Bob Mylnar

President Dave Oehlke called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm. Pastor Lori presented a devotion from Luke 18:1-8 about the persistent widow and the unjust judge. She led us with an opening prayer.

The minutes of the September 2025 council meeting were reviewed. Kristi moved to accept the minutes. Louise seconded. The minutes were approved.

Arne presented the Treasurer's report. Balances as of September 30, 2025 - Designated Funds: \$71,105.41; General Fund (-\$2000.00) approximate. The Contingency Fund has been depleted to meet recent payrolls. Arne and Evan informed the council that a line of credit from First United Bank

will be opened to meet upcoming payroll since weekly offerings are not meeting weekly budget needs.

Pastor Lori's report was reviewed. She presided over two burials and one funeral. Pastor Lori attended the synod theological conference in Minnesota Sept. 7-10, 2025. 10th grade confirmation will be on October 26, 2025.

Christian Education and Youth & Family Ministry: Kristi reported that the 2 committees met on October 8. Many upcoming activities are scheduled. Nov. 15 - Feed the Starving Children bag filling in Maddock; Nov. 11 - Sunday School choir will sing during the Sunday service; Nov. 23 - Thanksgiving Turkey bags food collection items due; Dec. 14 - Sunday School Christmas Play. Anne added that they will be scheduling sleigh rides, Baby Jesus and me with Pastor Lori, and Carols and Beer at Black Paws.

Church Properties: Evan reported that during recent rains the roof above the balcony in the church leaked. He reached out to Jeff Dosch and Rich Lybeck to find out where the leak is coming from. Some cracked caulking was noted. They will use a lift on October 16 to get a closer look and hopefully fix the problem. There was also a window leak in one of the third floor

classrooms. Evan will talk with Kirk about taking up the tarps in the balcony.

Life in Ministry & Mission: Louise reported that she attended the Mental Health Summit at LRSC. She gathered much valuable information. Louise notified the council that she has applied to become a Synod Lay Minister. Retreat Center cleaning was done to accommodate Mark Robinson, the new DL Journal editor, for his temporary stay until he finds permanent housing. Pastor Lori reported that St. Olaf member, Diane Togstad, helps with visitations to nursing homes and shut ins. Worship & Music: Kristi reported that Courtney Klein and Rachel Kitsch would be happy to have an additional lead singer to help with Sunday services in case they are unavailable.

Unfinished Business: (a) Evan reported that he has spoken with Craig from Lakeside Surveillance Lock & Key to update door locks on the main entry doors at the church building and at the Retreat Center. (b) Dave Oehlke will speak with a handyman that he knows that might be able to work on the updating and painting in the women's bathroom. WELCA will pay for this project.

New Business: (a) Pastor Lori asked if St. Olaf could host Thanksgiving at the Table on November 26. Our Savior's is unable to host this year. The council agreed that we should continue this tradition and invite members from Our Savior's and Dakota Oyate. A simple supper of pizza and ice cream will be served with a short service and communion at the table led by Pastor Lori. (b) Darci handed out Mission Plan 2026 for committees to review. (c) A new Portico Insurance plan selection was chosen for Pastor Lori similar to her last plan.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 11 @ 5:00 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Colette Boehmer



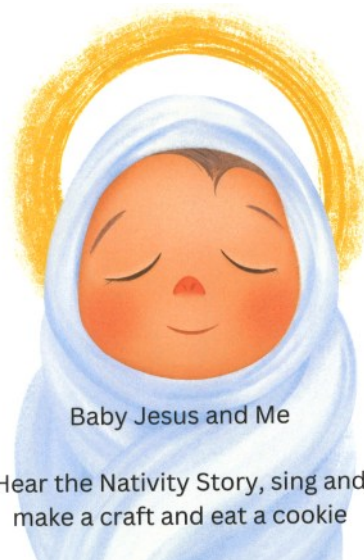
Color, Coffee & Conversation

**Thursday,
Nov. 20**

@ 1:30 p.m.

This event is for all adults, men and women, who enjoy coloring in adult coloring books or would like to try it. Colored pencils and coloring books will be provided, but you may also bring whatever you have. If you wish you can come just for the coffee and treats and social interaction.

Please RSVP to Jean Aardahl at 662-9227



Hear the Nativity Story, sing and make a craft and eat a cookie

Sunday, Dec. 7 @ 10:30 am
Pre-K to 2nd Grade and Parent

Faith & Care Group #7—November 2025

Duane A. & Pam Armstrong
 Adam & Sara Bachmeier, Lane, Brooke, Brit-
 tany
 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
 Collin Evenson
 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
 Florene Rogne
 Harris & Dianne Saele
 Marlys Sollin
 Allen & Peggy Tabor

Faith & Care Group #1—December 2025

Ray & Deb Bertsch
 Doug & Darlene Carlson
 Rhea Crane
 Brad & Deb Eback, Marissa, Emily, Landen
 Chad & Alisha Ehnert, Morgan, Breydin
 James & Bernadine Ehnert
 Nikki Elsperger, August
 Diane Engebretson
 Nathan & Sara Erickstad, Gage
 Cory & Amy Everson, Faith, Blake
 Jim & Debra Frank, Darren, Malloree
 Mark & Darci Gilbertson, Taylor, Wyatt
 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
 Dave Oehlke
 Kitty Overbo
 Darren & Nikki Paulson, Lyla, Tucker

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
 Anna Schemioneck
 Randy & Julie Schemioneck, Alexis, Ryan
 Justin & Jessica Schemioneck, Bridger
 Ray Sletteland
 Michael & Cheryl Steffan
 Arlo & Darlene Svedberg, Erika
 Gary & Kerry Thompson
 Nancy 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

GENERAL FUND

Given in MEMORY of:

LaDonna Dahlen from Kitty Overbo
Sigurd Olson from his family, Jerry, Vicky, Steve & Rebecca
Deloris Johnson from Newton & Karen Lindseth, The Lee Family
Gordon & Eileen Fugle from Judy MacDonald

BIBLE FUND

Given in MEMORY of:

Darren Blazer from Myrna Unger

CONTINGENCY FUND

Given in MEMORY of:

LaRissa Unger from Myrna Unger

NORWAY CEMETERY FUND

Given in MEMORY of:

Lloyd Foss from Idelle Foss

RADIO FUND

Given in MEMORY of:

Deloris Johanson from Diane Engebretson, Art & Carol Rohr, Becky McMillan

ST. OLAF FOUNDATION

Given in MEMORY of:

Merle & Cora Horner from Myrna Unger



- Visit our elder members (in person or call)
- Donate or take the donations to the Hope Center (shelf in Centennial Room)



N·O·V·E·M·B·E·R

SUNDAY
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY

*Communion Sundays: November 2 & 16						1 7:00am Bible Study at Whitehouse Café
2* 9:30 Worship with Communion 10:00 Sun. School 10:30 Coffee Fellowship	3 9:00 Lefse Making	4 9:00 Quilting 10:30 Staff Mtg.	5 9:00 Flower Shop 6:00 Confirmation	6 1:30 WELCA Bible Study & Meeting	7	8 7:00am Bible Study at Whitehouse Café
9 9:30 Worship with Baptism & SS Choir 10:00 Sun. School 10:30 Coffee Fellowship	10 9:00 Lefse Making	11 9:00 Quilting 5:00 Church Council Meeting	12 9:00 Flower Shop 10:30 Staff Mtg. 6:00 Confirmation	13 9:00 Donut making	14 9:00 Donut making	15 7:00am Bible Study at Café 9:00 Leaving St. Olaf for Mad-dock (Feed My Starving Children)
16* 9:30 Worship with Communion 10:00 Sun. School 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 4:00 RWBC Annual Mtg.	17	18 9:00 Quilting	19 9:00 Flower Shop 10:30 Staff Mtg. 6:00 Confirmation	20 1:30 Color, Coffee, Conversation	21 4:00 Spire newsletter deadline	22 7:00am Bible Study at Whitehouse Cafe
23 9:30 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Fellowship with Tree & Garland Set-up 10:30 Thanksgiving Bag assembly	24	25 9:00 Quilting	26 10:30 Staff Mtg. No Confirmation 5:30 Thanksgiving at the Table at St. Olaf	27 	28 Closed	29 7:00am Bible Study at Whitehouse Cafe
30 9:30 Hanging of the Greens Worship No Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Fellowship with F&C #1 meeting						