



SPIRE

AUGUST 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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Devils Lake, ND 58301-2525

Phone: 701-662-4911

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Email: stolaf@gondtc.com

www.stolafchurchdevilslake.com

Pastor Lori Pankratz

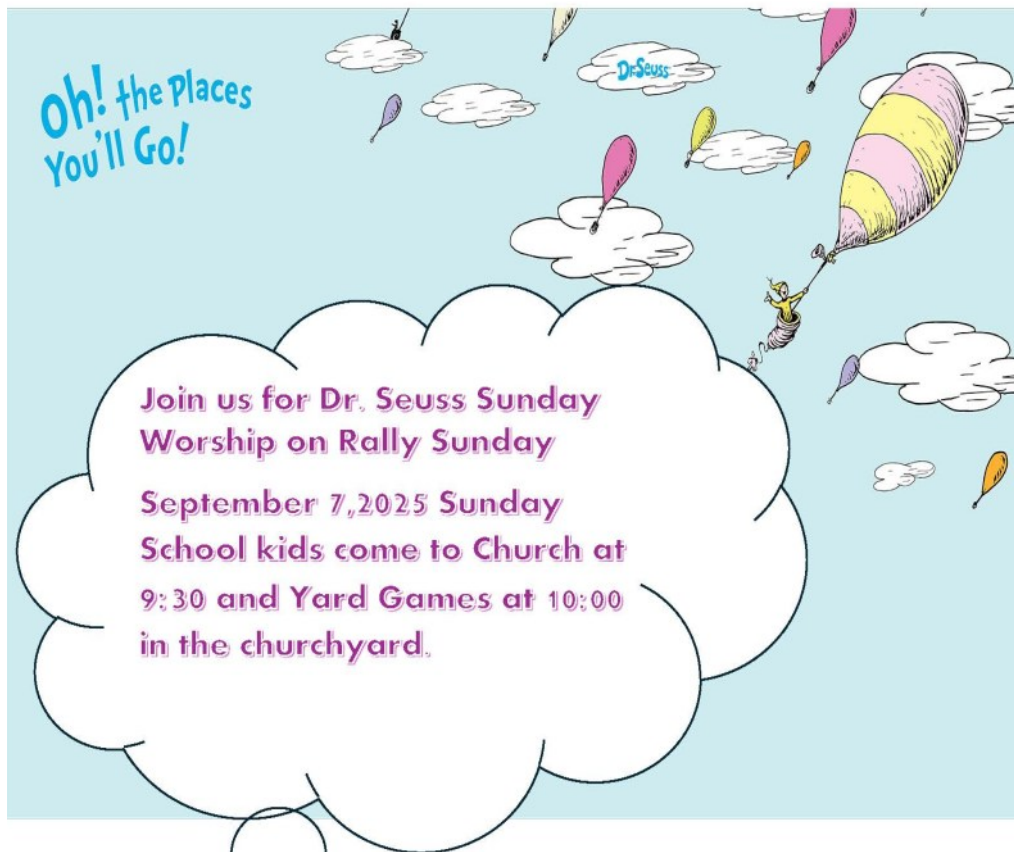
Email: lorip@gondtc.com

Darci Gilbertson

Office & Financial Secretary

Kirk Sweeney, Custodian

Dan Nybo, Organist



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

June General Fund Expenses

Auto Exp	974.50
BCBS Exp	1,105.10
Convention Offering.....	300.00
Custodian HIR	250.00
Otter Tail Power	699.00
Envelope Giving Exp	34.24
Insurance Exp	1,626.80
Maintenance Exp	760.32
Office Equip. Exp.....	418.29
Office Supplies	62.01
Other Misc. Exp	6.33
Pastor Housing	1,533.34
Pastor Soc. Sec. Allow ...	461.56
Payroll Exp.....	489.53
Pension/Ins. Exp.....	3,298.96
Postage Exp	133.94
Retreat Ctr. Exp.....	150.00
City of DL	141.74
Special Gifts—Out	320.00
Transfer to Elev.—	100.00
MOM Red Willow—	220.00
Vocal Director Exp.....	250.00
Wedding Exp.(cancel)	450.00
Wages	10,849.11

Total Expenses: \$24,953.77
Total Income: \$32,166.94

Retreat Center Fund June Expenses

Guide One Insurance ..	150.00
Nodak.....	49.00
Greater Ramsey Water .	40.55
TV Batteries.....	9.87

Total Expenses.....\$249.42



August 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 August is **Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency**. Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency (DPCAA) is one of seven Community Action Agencies operating in North Dakota. Community Action Agencies are non-profit agencies that develop programs and provide services designed to assist low income and disadvantaged households in addressing unmet needs and barriers of poverty. The areas served under this agency include **Rolette, Towner, Cavalier, Benson, Ramsey and Eddy** counties. **Mission:** Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency (DPCAA) exists to provide advocacy, programs and services to mitigate the issues of poverty and improve economic self-sufficiency for all households in our communities.

DPCAA Programs & Services

- Donations
- Emergency Assistance
- Holiday Projects
- Home Weatherization Service
- Housing Improvement and Development Services
- Income Management
- Information and Referral
- School Supplies
- Self-Sufficiency Services
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance



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

- Quilting has continued during the summer. Thank you to Jerry and Daria Miller for making all of the nice quilts and taking more squares to sew. Anyone is welcome to come and get squares on Tuesday mornings to sew at home.
- With all the federal cut backs, Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency has asked for our support with some of their projects. The first one we will be working on is school supplies for our local children. Containers will be in the Centennial Room. Please donate and help out with this project as you can. Thank you
- We are planning for the WELCA Fall Convention to be hosted here at St. Olaf on Saturday, Sept. 13. Many helpers are needed. Please call me if you able to help in any way.
- Next meeting will be held Thursday, Aug. 7th at 1:30 p.m. All women are welcome to attend. We will have Bible study, business meeting and a coffee fellowship hosted by Anna Circle.

God's Blessings, Myrna Unger

General Fund Envelope Giving & Memorials & Designated Funds

SUNDAY			General Fund:	General Fund:	Designated Funds:
Date	8:30	11:00	Envelope Giving	Gifts & Memorials	Memorials/Donations
June 29	NA	54	\$8,144.00		
July 6	NA	40	\$3,825.00		
July 13	NA	49	\$2,622.00	\$45.00	\$1,671.25
July 20	30	57	\$2,700.00	\$1,050.00	\$430.00
July 27					

Electronic Giving for JUNE (27 Households): \$3,375.00

FAITH MATTERS;

~ Pastor Lori ~

ἀγάπη (agapē) – “Love” (John 14: vv. 15, 21, 23–24) “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them.” This is not romantic love, nor is it mere affection. Agapē is covenantal, self-giving, and one-directional. Jesus does not say, “If you obey me, then you can prove your love.” He says, “If you love me, you will keep my word”—not as a condition, but as a natural outflow of being loved first. Love begets love. And what is “his word”? It is the Word that brings life, that raises the dead, that forgives sinners. This love is not *our* achievement—it is our participation in the eternal love of the Father and the Son, now shared with us by the Spirit. This trinity of Love that changes everything.

This is the language of communion, not transaction. To Love like this is not to perform but to remain—to rest in the relationship established by God. Jesus abides in the Father, and promises that the Spirit will abide in us. But not only that—we are told that the Father and the Son will come and make their home with those who love him. This is the radical reversal of religion: God doesn’t wait for us to find him. God moves in. The Trinity takes up residence in the heart of the believer—not through moral perfection, but through the Word received in faith.



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.



Wednesday
August 13
7:30pm

Join us to sing, worship
& eat s'mores around the
campfire at
St. Olaf Retreat Center



Sydney Becky Sotvik

Daughter of Chance Sotvik &
Meghan Thomas

July 6, 2025

What is WELCA?

WELCA stands for **Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**.

The WELCA mission statement is as follows:

"As a community of women, created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world."

St. Olaf WELCA is comprised of all the women of St. Olaf. It includes the 4 circles we have been discussing in past Spire issues- Anna, Deborah, Miriam, and Prisca.

St. Olaf WELCA meets nine times per year. Seven Thursdays @1:30p.m. and two Sundays after service. Times are announced in

the Spire calendar and Sunday bulletin.

The meeting consists of a Bible study lead by Pastor Lori. The Bible study is followed by a business meeting. This is where events such as the rummage sales, bazaar, donut and lefse making dates, benevolences or any other topic a member brings forth are decided. Following that there is a coffee fellowship served by the ladies of one of the circles.

In addition to the various mission kits gathered by the circles, WELCA donates money to SAAF, Salvation Army, Great Plains Food Bank, Bingo prizes at the care center, Red Willow Bible Camp, Lutheran Campus Ministries, Nexus Family Heal-

ing (was Luther Hall), Hope Center, LR Community Shelter, Central Africa Republic, St Olaf Contingency Fund, and other designated St. Olaf funds such as: windows, organ, library, radio, pastor's emergency, scholarship, 3rd & 7th grade bibles, baptismal items, and youth fund. WELCA also pays for Christ in our Home devotionals and various other needed items that may occur. WELCA has a decorating fund and quilting fund.

Being involved in the work WELCA does is a good way to get to know other St Olaf ladies and accomplish much needed objectives and missions. If there is something you would like to see addressed or another form of outreach WELCA may be a place to start.

Fall Rummage Sale—Oct. 4

Please bring your clean—no longer wanted items to the church as soon as possible. **DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.** Please have your items to the church by Thursday, Oct. 2! You may use the north entrance and leave them in the basement. If you need help getting them down to the basement, please call 662-4911. It is not safe to leave items just inside the door. We do not accept old T-V's, monitors, computers or large exercise equipment.

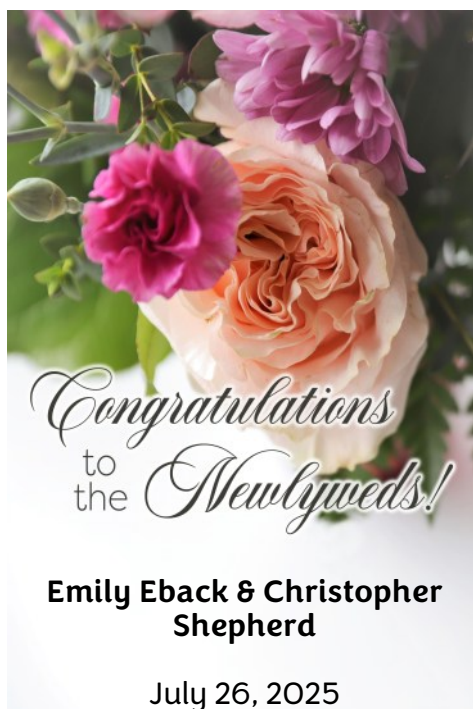
Christmas in July and August

(Due September 15)

Dakotah O'yate Gift Bag Project

**Back by popular demand—
Fill your own bag!**

Pick up a bag with a list of suggested donations in the Centennial Room



Faith & Care Group #4—August 2025

Carly & Jesse Braathen, Riley, Tommy, Bodey
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 Reiersen, 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—September 2025

Jeff Alexander, Matthew
Jerry & Rhonda Allery, Jace, Olivia
Joey & Teresa Armey, 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
Lee Feickert
Lance & Saraye Forsberg, Calli & Brody
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
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
Gerald & Linda Schmidt
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

GENERAL FUND

Given in MEMORY of:

Raymond & Genevieve Foss
 from Danny & Karla Foss
John Unger from Myrna Unger
Gary Ertmann from Mike & Sherry Boehmer

In HONOR of:

The 70th Wedding Anniversary of Pr. Reuben & Marilyn Schnaidt
 from Duainne & Paula Bourcy,
 Dennis & Jean Aardahl

CONTINGENCY FUND

Given in MEMORY of:

Gary Ertmann from Myrna Unger

NORWAY CEMETERY FUND

Given in MEMORY of:

Bruce Hagen from Gary Bryn
Leland & Millie Oleson from Myrna Unger



What is the reason we fill out the blue form for communion?

The Blue sheet provides information for the church office staff that is reviewed on Monday mornings. First, it gives us attendance and membership information that is needed by the ELCA. Since membership is in part determined by our records of those communing, your acknowledgement of receiving communion is important. Second, we also need our member's contact information so we can alert them of our church activities through up-to-date telephone numbers and email addresses. That information in turn allows us to keep our records accurate. Finally, the Blue Sheet tells us when members or visitors want a pastoral visit, are interested in church membership, have questions, and have prayer requests.



AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 7:00am Bible Study at Whitehouse Café
3 8:30 Worship at RC 9:30 Coffee at RC 10:00 Coffee at St. Olaf 11:00 Worship at St. Olaf	4	5 9:00 Quilting	6 10:30 Staff Mtg.	7 1:30 WELCA Bible Study & Meeting	8	9 7:00am Bible Study at Whitehouse Café
10 8:30 Worship at Retreat Center 9:30 Coffee at RC 10:00 Coffee 11:00 Worship 4:30 SON at RC	11	12 9:00 Quilting 10:30 Text Study 5:00 Church Council Meeting	13 10:30 Staff Mtg. 7:30 S'more Worship at RC with Backpack Blessing	14 8:00 Movie Night at St. Olaf (east side— outside)	15	16 7:00am “Fishers of Men” Bible Study at Whitehouse Cafe
17* 8:30 Worship at Retreat Center 9:30 Coffee at RC 10:00 Coffee at St. Olaf 11:00 Worship at St. Olaf	18	19 9:00 Quilting	20 10:30 Staff Mtg.	21	22 4:00 Spire newsletter dead-line	23 7:00am Bible Study at Whitehouse
24 8:30 Worship at Retreat Center 9:30 Coffee at RC 10:00 Coffee at St. Olaf 11:00 Worship at St. Olaf	25	26 9:00 Quilting 10:30 Text Study	27 10:30 Staff Mtg.	28	29	30 7:00am Bible Study at Whitehouse
31 8:30 Worship at Retreat Center 9:30 Coffee at RC 10:00 Coffee at St. Olaf w/FC #5 Meeting 11:00 Worship at	<div>  </div>					

* Communion Sunday—August 17