



# SPIRE

MARCH 2024

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](mailto:stolaf@gondtc.com)

[www.stolafchurchdevilslake.com](http://www.stolafchurchdevilslake.com)

Pastor Lori Pankratz  
Email: [lorip@gondtc.com](mailto:lorip@gondtc.com)

Darci Gilbertson  
Office & Financial Secretary

Kirk Sweeney, Custodian

Dan Nybo, Organist

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



- ➔ **Maundy Thursday, March 28:** Worship at 6:30pm  
*with 1st Communion for 5th Graders*
- ➔ **Good Friday, March 29:** Worship at 6:30pm
- ➔ **Easter Sunday, March 31:**  
Sunrise Worship at Retreat Center at 7:00am  
Worship at St. Olaf at 9:30am



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

# January General Fund

Auto Exp (Mileage) .....	318.72
BCBS Exp .....	907.74
Church Supplies.....	130.81
Confirmation Exp .....	257.49
Custodian HIR Exp .....	250.00
Electricity Exp (Ottetail) .....	906.00
Envelope Giving Exp (EFT) .....	36.08
Gas (MDU) Exp .....	424.00
Maintenance Exp. ....	231.34
Northstar (extinguishers) 108.00	
Ace Hardware 123.34	
Office Equip. ....	403.83
Office Supplies.....	151.62
Miscellaneous Exp .....	38.52
Pastor Housing Allowance ....	1,366.68
Pastor SS Allowance .....	410.56
Payroll Exp.....	475.10
Pension/Ins .....	3,121.50
Postage Exp.....	13.04
Spec. Gifts-Out .....	545.36
To Building Fund: 20.00	
For Dakota Oyate Bags: 545.36	
NDTC .....	454.25
Vocal Director Exp .....	200.00
Wages.....	10,085.60
Youth Activity Exp .....	50.42

**Total Expenses..... \$20,778.66**

**Total Income..... \$17,012.51**

## Retreat Center Fund January Expenses

Greater Ramsey Water ..	35.00
Guide One Insurance ...	150.00
Nodak.....	79.00



## March Mission of the Month

# Eastern North Dakota Synod, ELCA

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 to the Eastern North Dakota Synod.

The Eastern North Dakota Synod is vibrant with mission and ministry. Congregations and individuals are faithfully living out their faith. Good news is proclaimed. People are fed in body and spirit. Young people and old alike are nurtured in faith. Gifts to the synod enable:

- High quality ministry with synod staff supporting congregations and rostered and lay ministers
- Robust financial contributions to campus ministry at UND and NDSU
- Vital indigenous ministry support at Dacotah Oyate congregation on Spirit Lake Nation and The Way in Fargo
- Rural ministry vitality
- Support for congregations as they creatively adapt in the midst of a changing landscape
- And so much more!



## **WEDNESDAYS: MARCH 6, 13, 20**

**Supper at 5:30pm**  
*Served by the youth going to the National Youth Gathering (free will offering)*

**Worship at 6:30pm**  
*Holden Evening Prayer Service*

**Elevator Update**  
Donations & Memorials received as of  
February 28, 2024: **\$66,003.00**  
Total Project: \$78,000.00

**Stained-glass Windows**  
Donations & Memorials received as of  
February 28, 2024: **\$41,455.88**  
Total Project: \$127,528.00

## General Fund Envelope Giving & Memorials & Designated Funds

SUNDAY		General Fund:	General Fund:	Designated Funds:
Date	9:30	Envelope Giving	Gifts & Memorials	Memorials/Donations
January 28	71	\$3,022.00		
February 4	90	\$4,265.00		\$831.00
February 11	89	\$2,012.00	\$95.00	\$4,583.45
Ash Wed. Feb. 14	76	\$685.00		
February 18	86	\$2,264.98		\$1,864.00
Wed., February 21	NA	\$260.00		
February 25	NA	\$2,700.00		\$544.00

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

# FAITH MATTERS;

~ Pastor Lori ~

In our final Lenten drama called *Nine Changed Lives*, I will portray Mary Magdalene on Easter Sunday morning. This story of beauty from the ashes is one that we may have recognized in our own lives. When has something that you thought was bad at first glance, turned into something good? I know that's happened for me on many occasions.

John 20:14 - Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

It was a day Mary would never forget. She and the other women had come to Jesus' tomb early, to finish His burial arrangements. They were worried about the stone covering the entrance. Who would move it away? But when they got there, it was gone already—and Jesus' body was missing.

It looks like Mary lost her head at this point and ran away—totally missing out on the angels' message that Jesus had risen! In fear and grief she ran to tell the disciples, and then returned to the empty tomb—where she met, first two angels, then the Lord Himself. But she didn't recognize any of them! She wasn't expecting angels—or Jesus—and no doubt the tears got in the way. What a joyful surprise when Jesus called her name!

Mary isn't the only one who expected grief and found joy. Every one of us is a sinner; we all do wrong, and we all naturally expect judgment from God. After all, wrongdoing and punishment go together. How wonderful—and still surprising!—it is to have God say instead, "Your sins are forgiven on account of Jesus."

But that isn't all. Unless Jesus re-

turns first, we will all face death—a time of loss, pain, grief, and fear. These feelings are natural. Death is the enemy. But for those of us who trust in Jesus, death is a conquered enemy, because Jesus has risen from the dead and promises to raise us also. We know now that we will live forever, for Jesus will raise us, body and soul, and we will be forever with the Lord. Our fear and grief will be turned into joy, just as Mary's was. Thanks be to God.

**Be Easter Blessed,  
Pr. Lori Pankratz**



## First Communion Class

5<sup>th</sup> Grade students will be meeting to learn about their first communion experience, what it means and will be making communion bread and a banner to celebrate their first communion on Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 11:30- 1pm (lunch will be served) The actual first communion will be on Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 6:30 pm. Sponsors are welcome to join them if they are able.



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.*



# **POOR MAN'S LOBSTER FEED**

# **ST. OLAF**

**YOUTH GATHERING TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS**

**SERVING TORSK, BOILED  
POTATOES, MELTED  
BUTTER, GREEN BEANS,  
COLESLAW, DINNER ROLL,  
& DESSERT**

**SUNDAY  
MARCH 10TH 2024  
10:30 am to 1 pm**

**ST. OLAF LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
601 6TH STREET NE  
DEVILS LAKE ND**

**All proceeds go toward trip  
expenses for the 2024 ELCA  
youth gathering trip**

**\$15 per person**

# Generosity Abounds

Thank you all for your generous support to our Elevator and Stained-Glass Window Projects! There have been many donations, fund-raising efforts, grants, and memorials that have been given to these projects and I want to say a **Big Thank you to all of you.**

An update on the Elevator process, all the parts are in but one that is on backorder, once OTIS gets that in they will begin the work to restoration of our Elevator to be in compliance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards. A Grant was received from the Devils Lake Area Foundation in the amount of \$5000 and we humbly thank our community for their generosity. Another Grant has been submitted through the AARP Community Challenge Grant Application, recipient grantees will be announced on June 28, 2024.

We are in the process of working with the Nordic Churches Heritage Project for a grant for the stained-glass window project. We have received a partial grant of \$15,000 which we have the funds to match and once the grant process is complete, we will receive this money and are also in the process of applying for additional grants for more funds toward this project. Thank you to all the members who have spent many hours working on the grant process for this project.



## Color, Coffee & Conversation

**Thursday, Nov. 9**

**@ 1:00 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

# Easter Flower Garden

The Altar Guild encourages sharing of plants for the Easter Sunday Celebration. Also, they would welcome any donations for purchasing Easter flowers.

## Deadlines

◆ Donations for purchase of plants need to be in the church office by **Wednesday, March 27**

◆ Drop off plants in the Library by **noon, Friday, March 29**

◆ If you wish your gift to be in honor or in memory of someone special, please use the form below and leave it in the church office or in the offering plate **before March 27**. They will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.



*Altar Guild asks that anyone who brings a plant and wishes to keep it, to please put their name on it (labels available in the library) and encourages them to pick up their plant by Sunday, April 7.*

*Plants not picked up will be delivered to nursing homes and shut ins.*



## Easter Flowers

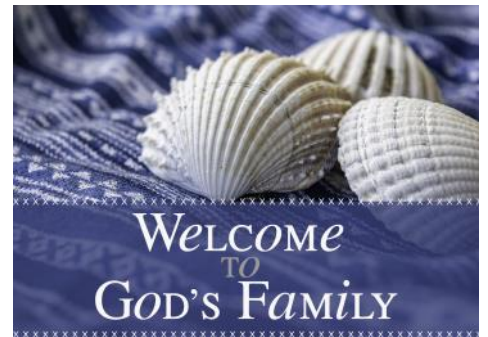
In Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_

Given By \_\_\_\_\_

Money

Plant



**Bridger Mac Schemionek**  
Son of Justin & Jessica  
Schemionek



**Irene Ruhl**  
**Albert Jallo, Jr.**  
**Julie Schmaltz**  
**Lois Isakson**  
**Deloise Haugen**  
**Esther Larson**  
**Becky Clow**  
**Robert Cruse**  
**Cleo Deplazes**  
**Elinor Homann**  
**Evon Thompson**



# February Church Council Meeting Minutes

The St. Olaf Lutheran church council met on February 6, 2024.

Present: Michael Kitsch, Mike Boehmer, Arne Berg (Facetime), Kristi Trottier, Louise Oleson, Glenn Crowe, Crystal Eversvik, David Oehlke, Colette Boehmer, Rodger Haugen, Pastor Lori Pankratz. Absent: Jeri Steffan.

President Michael Kitsch called the meeting to order at 5 pm. Pastor Lori opened with a devotion. We welcomed new council members, Dave Oehlke, Rodger Haugen, Glenn Crowe, and Arne Berg.

The minutes of the January 2024 council meeting were reviewed. Dave moved to approve the minutes. Rodger seconded. The minutes were approved.

Mike presented the Treasurer's report. Balances as of January 31, 2024 - Designated Funds: \$80,166.68; Building Fund: \$44,260.34; General Fund: \$7,359.29. Donations continue to come in for the Elevator repair fund and the Stained Glass window fund.

Pastor Lori's report was reviewed. She listed several pastoral acts, events, and visitations as some of her activities. Lenten services will be upcoming.

Christian Education: Kristi reported that they put together the Sunday School curriculum for the remaining Sunday school days until summer break and placed the curriculum in the Sunday school rooms. They will be meeting with the Youth and Family board on Feb. 7. They are planning an activity day at the church for the last day of Sunday school instead of an off-premises carnival.

Church Properties: Rodger Haugen and Harris Saele will co-chair this board.

Life in Ministry & Mission: Louise reported that her members continue to make visitations at Lake Country Manor and Eventide Heartland Care Center.

Stewardship: No report.

Youth & Family Ministry: Crystal reported that the board's next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 7.

Worship & Music: Glenn reported that they are working on a bid for new wireless microphones for the church basement. A DVD player was purchased for the church basement.

Unfinished Business:

- Elevator: Michael reported that the Otis company is still waiting on a backordered part before starting the repair and upgrade project.
- Stained Glass windows: Louise and Pastor Lori will be meeting to work on grant applications to help fund this project.
- Policy for outside groups: Michael and Louise plan to meet to create a church use police for outside groups that use St. Olaf facilities.
- Youth Coordinator job description: Pastor Lori and Michael updated the salary range to reflect part time hours versus full time hours. Benefits will be stated as negotiable.

New Business: The council agreed to change the meeting time from 5:00 to 5:30.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Colette Boehmer

## Memorials

### GENERAL FUND

*Given in MEMORY of:*

**Esther Larson** from Mike & Sherry Boehmer, Dale & Loretta Giedd  
**Lois Isakson** from Mike & Sherry Boehmer  
**Cleo Deplazes** from Judy Cox

### YOUTH FUND

*Given in MEMORY of:*

**LaRissa Unger** from Myrna Unger

### ST. OLAF FOUNDATION

*Given in MEMORY of:*

**Lois Isakson** from Rodger Haugen

### W.E.L.C.A.

*Given in MEMORY of:*

**Esther Larson** from Myrna Unger  
**Cleo Deplazes** from Myrna Unger



## Faith & Care Group #1—March 2024

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

Kenneth Paulson  
 Brian Pederson  
 ReAnne Pederson, Keegan, Emmalynn, Seth  
 Janet Peterson  
 Brent & Toni Pflaum, Travis  
 Kim Rau & Kevin Birkeland, Cody  
 Dennis & Karen Riggin  
 Lance & Tammy Riggin, Hunter, Nash, Harper  
 Roxanne Rose  
 R. Glenn & Ardys Salisbury  
 Anna Schemionek  
 Randy & Julie Schemionek, Alexis, Ryan  
 Justin & Jessica Schemionek, Bridger  
 Ray Sletteland  
 Michael & Cheryl Steffan  
 Arlo & Darlene Svedberg, Erika  
 Gary & Kerry 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

## Faith & Care Group #2—April 2024

Dennis & Jean Aardahl  
 Eric & Corrine Aasmundstad, Britt, Jenna, Taylor  
 Harlan Adahl  
 Duane A. & Susan Armstrong, Molly & Ben  
 Judy Aronson  
 Arne & Kristi Berg  
 Dean & Allison Blazer  
 Kory & Colette Boehmer, William  
 Marvin & Patricia Bye, Bryan, Justin  
 Jared & Elisa Christensen, Cassandra, Kaylee, Carter  
 Judy Cox, Michael & Patrick  
 Wendy Cox Olson, Jacob, Austin  
 Cleo Deplazes  
 Jeremy & Jennifer Devier, Blair, Coby, Justin, Zoe, Braxton, Eliza, Piper  
 Cynthia Geller, Dana, Kirsten, Stephanie  
 Lynn Goodwill, Natalie  
 Sharon Henke

Lloyd Hintz  
 Melissa Hodous, Brody, Mason, Bennett  
 Michael & Rachel Kitsch, Sophie, Grace, Eve  
 Kristian & Danielle Lindseth, Isabel, Abigail  
 Nicole McIvor, Julia, Blaine  
 Necito Montaniel  
 Allan Mosbaek  
 James H. Murray  
 Keith & Joan Ness  
 Robert Ness  
 Rene & Sherri Ouellette  
 Art & Carol Rohr  
 Byron & Jessica Rohr, Julia, Clara, Wyatt  
 David & Ranae Schnaidt, Emily  
 Terry & Connie Straabe, Caitlin, Michelle & Tara  
 Jarrod & Lori Stubbe, Quenten & Malcolm  
 Shirley Tostenson

## Memorials

### BUILDING FUND: Elevator

*Given in MEMORY of:*

**Esther Larson** from Doris Michaels, Duainne & Paula Bourcy  
**Lois Isakson** from Doris Michaels, Duainne & Paula Bourcy  
**Cleo Deplazes** from Kathy Lovseth, Doris Michaels, Frank & Delores Johanson, Dennis & Jean Aardahl  
**Becky Clow** from Dennis & Jean Aardahl, Gary Bryn, Kathy Lovseth, Florene Rogne  
**Dennis “Butch” Leas** from Newton & Karen Lindseth, Karen Krueger  
**Drucilla Baker** from Karen Krueger  
**Evon Thompson** from Karen Krueger, Kathy Lovseth, Stan & Sharon Orness, Jeff Klemetsrud, Tom Reule, Steve Britsch, Kirk Baeth, Al Freidig, & John Dahlen—”Double Dippers Coffee Group”, Rodger Haugen, Gary & Cindy Axtman, Larry Hatten, Kim Hatten, Janice Thompson, Duainne & Paula Bourcy

### Stained Glass Windows

*Given in MEMORY of:*

**Lois Isakson** from Scott & Laurel Pickard  
**Janet Nybo** from Vonda Markestad  
**DuWayne Miller** from Vonda Markestad  
**Perry Horner** from Myrna Unger  
**Becky Clow** from Doris Michaels, Janice Thompson, Kirk Sweeney, Ray & Connie Sletteland, Mike & Sherry Boehmer, Kerwin & Lori Pankratz, Myrna Unger, Kip & Tricia Viau, Kate Sobolik, Dale & Loretta Giedd, Jim & Kelly Wang, Kathy Lovseth, Rodger Haugen, Glenn Crowe, Jeremy Eisenzimmer, Judy Ovre, Newton & Karen Lindseth, Kitty Overbo  
**Andy Horner** from Myrna Unger  
**Kenny Unger** from Myrna Unger  
**Evon Thompson** from Duane Moen, John & Kim Dahlen-  
**Cleo Deplazes** from her Family, Janice Thompson

**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>



# MARCH

2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> 2:00 World Day of Prayer	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:30 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Everyone Has A Birthday Party	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Text Study	<b>6</b> 10:30 Staff Mtg. 5:30 Meal 6:30 Lenten Worship Service	<b>7</b> 1:00 Brain Injury Support Group 1:30 WELCA Bible Study & Mtg.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:30 Worship with Baptism 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Torsk Feed	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Text Study 5:30 Council Meeting	<b>13</b> 10:30 Staff Mtg. 5:30 Meal 6:30 Lenten Worship Service	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30 Worship with Baptism 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Fellowship	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Text Study	<b>20</b> 10:30 Staff Mtg. 5:30 Meal 6:30 Lenten Worship Service	<b>21</b> 1:00 Color, Coffee & Conversation	<b>22</b> 4:00 Spire Newsletter Deadline	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30 Worship with Baptism No SS 10:30 Coffee 11:30 5th Gr. First Communion Class	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Text Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:30 Maundy Thursday Worship With 5th Gr. 1st Communion	<b>29</b> 6:30 Good Friday Worship	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 7:00 Sunrise Service at Retreat Ctr. 9:30 Worship at St. Olaf No SS 10:30 Coffee with F&C #2 meeting						