



Our Father's Lutheran Church

August 2023

Areas God is calling you !

By Council President Wendy Gustafson

Summer Blessings to you all!

Here we are in August already! I hope you are all having a wonderful summer. In July we welcomed Pastor Bob Linstrand as our interim pastor. We are looking forward to getting to know Pastor Bob in the coming months as we continue to do God's work in and around our community. This month we are expecting a list of possible candidates from the synod which will initiate the interview process. I encourage you to join me in seeing the areas that God is calling you to a deeper life at OFLC. Our boys are so excited for VBS. Did you or your children attend VBS as kids? I still remember the excitement of that week. When I was a child we had joint VBS with the presbyterian church and it was such a joy filled part of summer. I encourage you to look for opportunities to find that overflowing joy in your summer, and then will you do me a favor? Tell us at OFLC about it. We can't wait to hear from you!

Wendy Gustafson

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Interim Pastor Ponderings

"But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning; great is God's faithfulness. The Lord is my portion; therefore I will hope in Him." Lamentation 3:21-24

This word from Lamentations affirms our belief in a loving, forgiving God who gives us a new day, a fresh start. That's what the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are all about. These days of transition are perfectly in line with God's gift of renewal in baptism and the hope that greets us with each new morning.

The work of the Kingdom goes on during interim times. One of God's great gifts is Jesus' Church. That's right, it was Jesus who founded the Church. For two-thousand years people have been nurtured and challenged in their faith through worship, Christian education, and service. Millions of people have benefited from the church's ministries to the hungry, the homeless, the sick and elderly. Our Fathers has played a big part in this locally through Nourishing Hope, VBS, and other forms of outreach. Who would do this important work if not for people like us through God's Church?

As people of hope we respond to God in gratitude. Our gifts of thanks turn the wheels of the Kingdom on earth. Yes, it's summer time and an interim time at Our Fathers. 'But the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end.' Your giving is still important. It's important for you to give. The old saying holds a lot of wisdom: "Tis more pleasant to give than to receive." A faithful life is a thankful life and a generous life. Please consider that as you make offerings of thanks to such a great God as ours and the continuing ministry of Our Fathers Lutheran Church.

In faith, hope, and love,

Interim Pastor Bob Linstrand

Email - [linstrand13@gmail](mailto:linstrand13@gmail.com) Phone 651-308-8145

Interim Pastor Bob will offer a bible study following worship on July 30 and August 20. We will discuss the life of the early Church as revealed in Thessalonians and its implications for us today.

Join us!

2023 River Days Pancake Breakfast

OFLC will be hosting the pancake breakfast for Rockford River Days on Saturday **8/12/23**, serving from 7:30am to 10am at the Riverside Park building. We are looking for food donations (which can be dropped off at the church) and volunteers to cook or serve that morning.

Please consider helping where you can.

Food Donations (please deliver to the church by 5pm on Friday 8/11/23)



NOTICE:

The OFLC Foundation will be having our quarterly meeting on Monday, August 7 at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.



Love your neighbor as yourself.

Who is my neighbor?

Rockford Neighborhood Night Out

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

**Let's use the power of our members to support our
neighbors by building relationships and
community.**

United Presbyterian Church is celebrating our 160th year of ministry. Our hope is to serve our neighbors and strengthen our neighborhoods and community.

Please join us by encouraging your members to become block party hosts. There will be more information coming including a social media "how to" and "registration" page.

This is a block party format where people would share a potluck meal, play corn hole, and kid games, hang out and learn about your neighbors in your neighborhood.

VBS 2023



PETS UNLEASHED VBS IS COMING TO OFLC!

When:

August 15 – 17 from 9-11:30 AM

Where:

Our Father's Lutheran Church
Rockford, MN

Who:

All children ages 3 through 5th Grade
(Children must be potty trained. Grade corresponds to Fall 2023.)

Cost:

\$15 per child (Increases to \$20 after 7/15)

<https://oflc.breezechms.com/form/d48dd840>



Get ready for fun, laughter, excitement, and a bit of noise as you venture into friendship with Jesus. We hope you can join us!

Calling all volunteers!

Do you have a bit of free time you could spare this summer?

We are looking for teen and adult volunteers! Don't forget our little kids really love to have their OFLC "Grandpa's" and "Grandma's" around for their fun week.

Contact Lindsey Bervig or Shannon Sand to get a spot on this fun team!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b4eaca928abf49-20231#/>



Council Minutes

By Chandler Drummond

Our Father's Lutheran Church
Agenda for Leadership Team Meeting
July, 19, 2023

Attendance: Wendy, Shannon, Jody, Chandler, Jill, Lauren – Online Pastor Bob, Dan

Devotion and Prayer – Wendy

Administrative/Personnel:

Welcome Interim Pastor Bob Linstrand

Administrative Updates

Melissa to explore new options for sending out the Friday Faith Feed. Current platform is going to start changing for metrics and open rates which we do not need. Creating a mailing list would be the preferred method

Finance:

Treasurer Update

June counting was skipped so number are off a little - \$17212 total collections with \$14360 in the general fund. \$35985 in the account total

Discussion about possible conflict of interest in the Treasurer counting the offering. Determined so long as this is done in pairs and someone besides the pair makes the deposit we can move forward. This will allow for a greater diversity in people able to do the counting

Treasurer/bookkeeping update – Clergy Financial

Brittini looking for a non-profit CPA to assist with finances – any recommendations welcomed

Internal Ministries:

Building and Grounds

Parking Lot

Aaron procured a quote for the parking lot from Crow River Sealcoat. North end crack seal and sealcoat came in at 12K. John Gild received a similar quote for 14.5K but has some extra products including striping. Dan knows of a company and is going to reach out.

Possible Nourishing Hope donation to offset the cost of the repairs

Chandler to follow up with the quotes and determine a move forward plan and schedule for work completion

Council Minutes continued

Wendy to check to see if we need to have a congregational vote for the capitol expenditure

Building Security

Need to look into a system where access is limited to only a few people but transferable if/when needed

Idea brought forward to work with the lock company we have used in the past for proposals

Nourishing Hope

Brittini in the process of getting another grant but is still in need of board support to get these processed

St Thomas in Corcoran is done participating due to their lack of volunteers

Education VBS/Sunday School/Engage & Confirm

VBS – two volunteers needed for Tuesday

Hospitality – Funeral and Wedding updates

Updated building usage fees but need to review availability and access to calendar

Scouts – Eagle Scout Project Request

Gavin Krcil has request to build a pergola on the back patio

Council gave full support of a project but discussed maybe alternate ideas to include patio beautification or privacy fence around dumpsters – Wendy to reach out

Other:

Building Use Requests

Cub scout request for and art co-op – Wendy to follow up

Homeschool band usage request – Wendy to coordinate

Rockford River Days Pancake Breakfast

August 12th – Saturday – Sign up in entry for volunteers

Joint church service on the 13th in the park

Upcoming meeting schedule

Please see below

Devotion Schedule:

August – Lauren

September – Chandler

October – Jody

November – Shannon

December – Dan

January – Wendy

Upcoming Council Meeting Schedule:

August 17, 2023 7:00 PM

September 12, 2023 7:00 PM

October 10, 2023 7:00 PM

November 14, 2023 7:00 PM

December 12, 2023 7:00 PM

Nourishing Hope



NourishingHOPE

Free Fresh Produce and Dairy

Monday, August 14th
4:00pm – 5:00pm

Boxes of fresh produce and dairy products will be available for drive through pickup on a first come, first serve basis at the following locations:

Corcoran

St. Thomas Catholic Church

20000 County Road 10
Corcoran, MN 55340

Rockford

Our Father's Lutheran

3903 Gilbert Ave SE
Rockford, MN 55373

Delano

Light of Christ Lutheran Church

3976 County Line Road SE
Delano, MN 55328

Buffalo

Buffalo Covenant Church

1601 Highway 25 North
Buffalo, MN 55313

Hanover

Influence Church @ City Hall

11250 5th Street NE
Hanover, MN 55341

For assistance locating a specific site or for questions, please contact us at nourishinghope.oflc@gmail.com or Facebook Messenger.

NourishingHOPE is a ministry of Our Father's Lutheran Church, in cooperation with four area churches. Our vision is to relieve area food insecurity and promote wellness in mind, body, and spirit for people East-Central Wright County. For information on you or your organization partnering with NourishingHOPE, please visit our website at www.ourfatherschurch.org/nourishing-hope.html

Are you able to help with packing or distributing boxes? Please see the link here to sign up to help.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b4eaca928abf49-2023#/>

Instead of waiting in line for hours, guarantee yourself or another family a box of produce.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4ba9ad2faafdc25-2023#/>



Prayer Requests:

Do you have a prayer concern? **Contact:** Shirley Bolstad, pbolstad@aol.com

Would a palm cross or prayer shawl comfort you or a family member?

Contact: melissa@Ourfatherschurch.org

Newsletter Deadline:

Deadline for articles, photos or announcements is the 15th of each month.

Send to:

Melissa@ourfatherschurch.org

Please call:

Phone: 763-477-6300

Website: www.ourfatherschurch.org

Staff Contacts:

Pastor

Office Admin: Melissa Ungaro melissa@ourfatherschurch.org

Community Outreach: Brittni Bronczyk Brittni@ourfatherschurch.org

Music/Bell Choir Director: Tammy Jarvi tjarvi@charter.net



Council Members:

Chandler Drummond, Wendy Gustafson, Shannon Sand, Dan Schiller,
Erin Smith, Lauren Johnson, Jody Bryant

Executive Team Members:

Chandler Drummond, Wendy Gustafson, Shannon Sand

WORSHIP
Sunday's 9:00am

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

[https://
www.ourfatherschurch.org/](https://www.ourfatherschurch.org/)

We're on YouTube!

Watch from the comfort of home. Visit us at:

[https://www.youtube.com/
channel/
UCePt4KWmjvq1M7vPbl-
iUfeA?view_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCePt4KWmjvq1M7vPbl-iUfeA?view_as=subscriber)