



Our Father's Lutheran Church Gather & Serve Newsletter

January 2022

Present & Future

By Pastor Aaron

*"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." ~
Isaiah 43:18-19*

There is often a thought in today's culture that progress is the sign of health and success. Therefore, "old things" have little worth and only hold back progress and growth. In fact, churches are also not immune to this thought and it pits old and new, past and present against each other. Passages like the one above have been used to perpetuate this thought, to the detriment of many congregations. In Isaiah's context, the "former things" contained a narrative of pain, exile, and hopelessness. That past prevented them from seeing what God was doing in the present, and what God would do for them in the future.

So, how does this relate to OFLC as we enter into 2022?

We are heading into our 50th year as a congregation this year. Unlike Israel during Isaiah's time, OFLC's history is full of "former things" that have created a sense of community and connection with God. It is important for us to celebrate and give thanks for those moments and stories. This reflection helps us as we think about our congregation's present and future, thinking about how in the next 50 years OFLC will create a sense of community and connection to God for people in the Rockford-Greenfield area.

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In addition to hearing stories of former things, I am also looking forward to hearing about your dreams, ideas, and hopes for the next 50 years. God is making a way for all people, and through this congregation, we are making a way for people to experience the good news of God in Jesus Christ!

Peace,

Pastor Aaron

Engage & Confirm

By Tiffany Distad

Engage and Confirm meets on Wednesday from 6-7 pm. Are typical evening starts with food & socializing. We then separate into 2 groups. 5&6th meet in the large education room for a Spark Lesson and 7th-9th work on their confirmation book or a case study lesson. This month for our service project we made 2 different ornaments to hang on the OFLC Christmas tree. Also our 5th graders received 1st communion on Sunday Dec 12th. They are all excited to be old enough to receive communion with their families, friends, and congregation.

During the month of December E&C has extended our time to 7:30p to include Wednesday night Advent Service. Our last night to meet before Christmas break will be 12/22. We will be finishing out 2021 with a Gingerbread House building competition. We will be posting our completed Gingerbread Houses on OFLC Facebook page to be voted on. The group that wins will receive a mystery prize when we meet after Christmas break. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who have helped out this year. We appreciate all of you taking an interest in OFLC's youth ministries. We couldn't do it without helpers. If you're interested in being added to our volunteer email list or if you have questions about helping in 2022, please reach out to Pastor Aaron (plz add pastors email) or Tiffany Distad (Tiffanydistad@gmail.com)

Engage & Confirm

By Tiffany Distad

Engage & Confirm students helped get into the holiday spirit by making Ornaments!



Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting date is set for Sunday January 30th.

Ministries please write your report and get the the office by the 15th of the month to get into the Annual report. When writing your report please remember to answer:

1. What was done in 2021
2. Events/areas of focus for 2022
3. What you celebrate about the ministry and it's impact on the larger Rockford-Greenfield area

Thank you



BLOOD DRIVE
January 11th, 2022
12:30- 6:30pm

Financial Report

By Amy Krcil

	CURRENT YEAR MTD			NOVEMBER YTD		
	Actual 2021	Budget	Better/ (Worse)	Actual 2021	Budget	Better/ (Worse)
November Contributions						
Giving	\$ 23,027	\$ 25,000	\$ (1,973)	\$ 205,477	\$ 224,000	\$ (18,523)
November Expenses						
Payroll/Stipends/Prof Fees	12,287	10,581	(1,706)	127,330	117,143	(10,187)
Charitable Contributions	217	1,550	1,333	13,795	15,240	1,445
Building Expenses	4,851	3,992	(859)	49,749	52,274	2,525
Conferences & Meetings	-	108	108	15	1,188	1,173
Utilities	1,160	1,505	345	13,542	14,705	1,163
Printing & Reproduction	619	236	(383)	3,925	2,596	(1,329)
Supplies & Other Expenses	936	934	(2)	8,033	12,119	4,086
Total Expenses	20,069	18,906	(1,164)	216,388	215,264	(1,124)
Net Income	\$ 2,957	\$ 6,094	\$ (3,137)	\$ (10,911)	\$ 8,736	\$ (19,647)

Total Unrestricted Cash Balance	\$ 22,116
Total Restricted (Designated) Cash	
Nourishing Hope	22,100
Building Use/Mortgage	4,040
Imagination Grant/Kitchen	9,535
Ministry	19,176
Other	15,822

The above financials reflect cash basis activity where actual cash received is compared to cash paid out for expenses.

Contributions were lower than budget for the month. GIVE TO THE MAX was a tremendous help with total contribution of almost \$12k! For the month of November, we only received a portion of those proceeds (\$6k) and the rest was deposited in December. **For the year**, we continue to be behind on our budget by approximately \$18k.

For this analysis, I determined it was best to remove the impact of the sanctuary roof insurance claim in both the giving and expense lines in order to more accurately reflect our financial position.

Expenses were over budget for the month by approximately \$1k. For the year, expenses are approximately \$1k over budget.

For the year, we continue to run a deficit of approximately \$20k.

The **cash balance** for November 30, 2021 is \$92,788 with \$71k belonging to dedicated funds. Designated cash did not change much year over year with Nourishing Hope and Ministry making up most of the balance. We continue to have a kitchen fund, seminary scholarship, social concerns, and technology as our other designated cash funds.

Any questions can be directed to accounting@ourfatherschurch.org



Council Minutes

By Chandler Drummond

Our Father's Lutheran Church
 Agenda for Leadership Team Meeting
 December 7, 2021

Attendees: Aaron, Pam, Shannon, Amy, Amy, Tiffany, Chandler, Dan, Rick, Brian –
 Virtual Diane

Devotion & Prayer – Pam

Internal Ministries:

Crow River Christmas

Debrief for lessons learned

Music was appreciated

Maybe more kid centric gifts to bid on

Possible outside activities weather dependent

Prepackaged cookies were a good idea

Lefsa was discussed to be provided

Timewise was good and energy was high

Live Reindeer would be fun

Decision for allocation of funds raised

EST \$3000 raised - Suggestion on where to put the money

Ideas to be brought to the annual meeting; finalized at our next meeting

NourishingHope Budget Proposal

Vote taken to approve 2022 budget for NH and for OFLC to fold Brittney's
 salary into the church budget

Administrative/Personnel:

Pastoral update (attached)

Items for decision:

Wage raise for Melissa included in the CY22 budget

Annual Meeting preparations – for 3rd Tuesday in Dec meeting

December 21st work session topic: 2022 budget and annual meeting planning

Surgery on Dec 28th for right hip. Will need coverage for worship on Jan
 2nd (Tami) and 9th (Kevin Reed)

Formal formation of a Building planning committee, 50th anniversary committee,
 and capital campaign committee – Meetings to begin in January

Continued..

Council Minutes continued

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Finance:

Treasurer update

Give to the Max donations will come through starting next month

Complaint raised that a fee was charged to use the site – possible to find a different site or method?

Financially we are looking to break-even for 2021

Audit underway to determine where we are at with the dedicated funds

Other:

COVID protocol updates for the congregation

No changes at this time

Cleaning services – Katelyn

\$26/hour for 4 hours per week (current fee is \$29/hour)

Possibility of varying tasks each week

Vote passed to move forward

Thriving Congregations Opportunity

Sessions in Jan and Feb – Director of Evangelical Missions – Each congregation will have one – For congregations who are in transition

7:30-9:00 – Online sessions – 4 total sessions

Looking for 3-5 people to volunteer to join (Tiffany/Pam/Brian) interested

Suggestion to add information to the Friday Faith feed

Rockford/Greenfield Community Expo – 4/9/2022 from 9am-12pm

(Chandler to send to NH for their information)

Vendor booths are \$60 from now until Jan. 20th, \$80 Jan. 21st-Feb. 20th, \$100 Feb. 21st-March 11th.

Any registrations after March 11th will not be able to get the curtains for a booth, just a table (due to the booth vendor needing final numbers by March 11th.)

We are also offering a \$30 fee for non-profit groups that want a skirted table but no booth.

Redeemer Lutheran Christmas Store

Located in the Harrison neighborhood of North Minneapolis

Last year's Christmas Store shifted from being an in-person experience to a gift basket sharing that was a blessing to ~40 families in North Minneapolis during a stressful season of the pandemic.

Similarly, this year's Christmas Store will have safety protocols in place to avoid a large in-person gathering and will be held on December 11. We again want to provide Christmas baskets for families. Baskets will include items such as:

Council Minutes Finished

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Prepaid gift cards to go shop for gifts as a family (Visa, Target, and/or Walmart) --
donated by Partners

Family Activity kits to do at home (created by RCFL high school interns, supplies
purchased through Thrivent Action teams)

REQUESTED DONATION DETAILS:

gift cards (especially VISA, TARGET, WALMART) increments of \$25 for easy distri-
bution based on family size

estimated 40-50 families will register based on past years attendances and outreach
to neighbors

We are asking partners to gather and hold on to the prepaid gift cards until Decem-
ber 8th or 9th, where someone from the planning team can
meet at the church for drop-off/pick-up

Devotion Schedule:

December – Pam
2022

January – Dan

February – Aaron

March – Rick

April – Chandler

May – Tiffany

June – Amy J

July – Amy K

August – Shannon

September – Brian

October – Diane

November – Pam

December – Aaron

Upcoming council meeting schedule:

Dec 7, 2021 07:00 PM

Jan 4, 2022 07:00 PM

Feb 1, 2022 07:00 PM

Mar 1, 2022 07:00 PM

Apr 5, 2022 07:00 PM

May 3, 2022 07:00 PM

Jun 7, 2022 07:00 PM

Jul 5, 2022 07:00 PM

Aug 2, 2022 07:00 PM

Sep 6, 2022 07:00 PM

Oct 4, 2022 07:00 PM

Nov 1, 2022 07:00 PM

Dec 6, 2022 07:00 PM

Upcoming working session meeting schedule:

Dec 21, 2021 07:00 PM

Jan 18, 2022 07:00 PM

Feb 15, 2022 07:00 PM

Mar 15, 2022 07:00 PM

Apr 19, 2022 07:00 PM

May 17, 2022 07:00 PM

Jun 21, 2022 07:00 PM

Jul 19, 2022 07:00 PM

Aug 16, 2022 07:00 PM

Sep 20, 2022 07:00 PM

Oct 18, 2022 07:00 PM

Nov 15, 2022 07:00 PM



In December, our blessings were abundant! We had a team of volunteers ready to serve. We welcomed many volunteers from Clinton Larson Allen, LLP. They generously gave their day to help our mission. We are extremely thankful for the extra hands to accomplish this month's packing of boxes. Pastor Aaron, Shannon Sand of ReMax Results, and Cub Foods (Buffalo) provided lunch and snacks to the volunteers to help them power through the mountains of food! We packed 500 boxes that were sent to five different communities. We had bananas, pineapple, carrots, lettuce, beets, onions, sweet potatoes, potatoes and shallots! These boxes served 1,080 people across 58 zip codes. If you are interested in helping our mission, please visit our website to see the different ways you can support NourishingHOPE. We are welcoming companies to serve alongside us, as a way to make a powerful impact in the communities we live in. www.ourfatherschurch.org/nourishing-hope.html



Free Fresh Produce and Dairy Monday, January 10th 4pm—5pm

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

Rockford

Our Father's Lutheran

Delano

Light of Christ Lutheran Church

Buffalo

Buffalo Covenant Church

St. Michael

Alleluia Lutheran Church

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



Nourishing Hope Volunteers and Packing



CLA Volunteers





Each month we are blessed with food boxes from Nourishing Hope. There are always wonderful vegetables inside this box....however maybe you don't know what to do with some of those vegetables. Perhaps they are new to you and your pallet? Our very own Community Coordinator of Outreach and NourishingHope - Brittni Bronczyk Loves to cook! She is going to bless us with recipes for many of these vegetables, so watch for them eat month! Hold on to them for the next time you come across that vegetable and add it to your meal!~

Breakfast Hash

INGREDIENTS:

Mix of Chopped Potatoes (sweet, russet, red, etc)
Diced Onion
Eggs
Meat of Choice (Optional)
Bacon Grease or Butter
Salt, Pepper, & Seasoned Salt



DIRECTIONS:

Sauté onions and potatoes in bacon grease and/or butter
When close to being done, add cooked breakfast meat of your choice
In separate pan, scramble eggs and add to mixture when done.
Top with cheese

NOTES:

***I like to add avocado and siracha.**

***A favorite is to add ham and peppers in our house.**

***You can par-cook large batches of the potatoes and onions coated in oil and then freeze in portions to make a delicious breakfast super quick and easy.**



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

Office Hours: Tues—Thurs 10-1pm

Please call:

Phone: 763-477-6300

Website: www.ourfatherschurch.org

Staff Contacts:

Pastor Aaron Fuller: pastoraaron@ourfatherschurch.org

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:

Tiffany Distad, Diane Dorrel, Chandler Drummond, Pam Hoekstra, Amy Jacobson, Amy Krcil, Shannon Hunter, Dan Schiller, Brian Walton

Executive Team Members:

Rick Fuglie, Chandler Drummond, Aaron Fuller, Pam Hoekstra, Amy Krcil

WORSHIP
Sunday's 9:00am

We are in Person

In the sanctuary @ 9am

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