



Our Father's Lutheran Church *Gather & Serve Newsletter*

July 2023

Big things in our horizon

By Wendy Gustafson

Wow! What a month. It brings me joy to be the president during this season. The call committee has received approval on the formal paperwork for the call process. We hosted Bishop Ann Svennungsen and discussed OFLC and the candidate we are hoping for. Once again, so many of you are stepping into your gifting and helping in so many ways and working together during this time of transition. In a few weeks we will install our part time interim pastor, Bob Linstrand. For anyone keeping track, we just finished step 4 of the 7 step checklist toward a new pastor. Please join me in praying for the pastor we will be calling as it will be a transition time in their life. May you enjoy these warm days of summer just as much as I do!

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Spend the 4th of July with the Reed's

You are all invited to celebrate 4th of July at our house (Dan & Rachel Reed) in Delano. We live on the Delano parade route, so we have great seats to enjoy the parade. After the parade, stay for a potluck lunch and swimming in our pool.

It is helpful to let us know that you are coming just so we can get an idea of how many people to expect.

Our Address: 522 Elm Ave. E., Delano, MN 55328

For parade details, see: <https://www.delano4th.com/parade>

Parade starts at 10:30. We are near the end of the route, so it will be closer to 11:30 before the parade gets to us. Feel free to email or call with any questions. Dan: 612-237-4821 Rachel: 612-554-1393



Greetings from Pastor Bob Linstrand

Greetings to Our Father's Lutheran Church,

I'm pastor Bob Linstrand, and I'll be serving as part-time interim pastor over the next months. After forty years in Word and Sacrament ministry I retired at the end of 2022, but still want to serve the Lord and the Lord's Church. I've served small and medium sized churches, rural and suburban. I was interim pastor in two churches, and enjoyed serving in that unique calling. In my role as interim I'll be working with Our Father's leaders as they go through the call process, as well as providing pastoral services on some Sundays.

Times of change can be challenging and anxiety producing. We all learned that through the Covid 19 pandemic, when our world was turned upside down. However, an interim time in a congregation gives you an opportunity to reflect on your mission and identity and to grow as a community of believers. Your leaders have certainly stepped up to the plate, and you owe them sincere thanks for their efforts. This can be an exciting time as you anticipate welcoming a new pastor. Life is full of constant change. Embrace it and grow, trusting in God's guiding hand.

I live in New Brighton, MN with my wife Laurie. We have two toddler grandkids, who are growing up much too fast. A gift in retirement has been the ability to spend more time with them. Hopefully I'll also find time for golf and fishing.

I look forward to meeting you and serving God together. My work among you will begin in mid-July.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob Linstrand

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

2023 Call Committee July Update

The Call Committee has completed the first of our requirements in submitting the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) to the Synod. On June 21, the Call Committee, Council and members of the Congregation met with Bishop Ann Svennungson to review the MSP and discuss information to help the Synod team select candidates for our consideration. We now await for those candidate names to be supplied to us.

We will interview each of the candidates and then select an individual that in careful deliberation will best serve our congregation. We will present the Final Candidate to the Council for their consideration and approval. After the Council approves the candidate, a call will be offered to the Final Candidate.

I have listed some of the dates and completed Milestones below. Below that are Milestones yet to be completed. After the Candidate accepts the call, the candidate will be installed as our new Pastor. However, please take a look at the last Milestone. This is where our Congregation work begins! It will be up to us to welcome and grow our new Pastor into the position here at Our Father's and also into our wonderful community.

Call Committee Update Continued....

Please stay tuned for further updates. We encourage you to ask any questions that you may have of any of the Call Committee members.

Amy Voss; Erica Stark ; Harold Greseth; JD Gustafson; Kevin Reed; Wayne Olfert

Completed Milestones and Meetings

March 19 Congregation elects the Call Committee

March 28 First Call Committee meeting

April 11 Discuss and edit the MSP

April 12 Pastor Fuller exit interview

May 18, 24 31 Discuss, edit and finalize MSP

June 6 Council Approves MSP

June 21 Meet with Bishop Svennengson to review the MSP with Call Committee, Council and Congregation members in attendance.

June 22 MSP activated and reference contacted

Milestones to be Completed

Synod provides candidate names.

Call Committee interviews candidates.

Call Committee attends candidate service.

Possible second interviews of candidate(s).

Selection and notification of a Final Candidate.

Council consideration and approval of candidate.

Council offers call to the Final candidate.

Council and candidate finalize package.

Candidate accepts the call.

New pastor is installed.

Congregation welcomes the new pastor and provides help and guidance in growing her or him into the position and into the community!

Yours in Christ,

Wayne

**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
Council Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2023 7:00 PM

Opened in prayer- in attendance Wendy Gustafson, Shannon Sand, Jill Madsen, Lauren Johnson, Dan Schiller, Jody Bryant

Internal Ministries:

Building & Grounds update from John Gilb (present)

Discussion of need for update to siding/roof/windows

Encouraged council & John to work with NH board to begin discussion regarding updating exterior along with addressing potential space needs for NourishingHOPE.

Discussion to work with NourishingHOPE committee to look into a fence to conceal distribution supplies. John to work with Brittini to discuss options.

Looking for volunteers to help John with building upkeep including pest prevention. Reminder that there is a tab on the website to submit building concerns

John to collect quotes for parking lot resurfacing/stripping and report back to council.

Discussion of church doors/office keys and people with access and ways to balance security and access. Wendy and Shannon to work with Melissa.

Feedback on interim period

Generally, things are running smoothly. Discussion re: ongoing challenges with livestream. Will look into Youtube vs Zoom with paid coverage and accessibility. Continue to work on audio for ongoing audio issues. Wendy is actively seeking volunteers to help with this.

Nourishing Hope-

Encourages volunteers to sign up ahead of time when possible. Continues to have high needs for boxes.

Submitted grant proposal to ELCA

Education

VBS- planning in progress. Looking for more volunteers

Sunday School-planning in progress

Council approved change of Sunday School ages to preschool through 5th grade

Continued..

Council Minutes continued

Engage & Confirm-planning in progress
Council approved change of E&C to start at 6th grade

Interim Period

Ministry Site Profile (Wayne Olfert present)

Council approved Ministry Site Profile with one change to a reference pending candidates agreement.

Council approved submitting MSP to the Synod and scheduling meeting with the Bishop.

Interim Pastor- Wendy is in contact with 2 interim candidates and will schedule interviews to fill this role.

Council approved seeking a part time pastor.

Discussion on hourly pay approved. Estimate of weekly needs at 10 hours/ week.

Funerals- Peggy Kennedy- service held 6/3 Sarah Zender presided.

Curt Enger – service to be held 6/17 Sarah Zender will preside.

Baptisms – on hold pending return calls from families that had previously requested them.

Finance:

Treasurer update to be posted in weekly bulletin. Encourage increases in giving as we move into the summer months. Promote the YETI campaign for increases in automated online giving

Treasurer/bookkeeper transition- continuing to transition away from Clergy Financial to Brittini for bookkeeping needs.

Give to the Max Funds – Funds were raised with plan of 50% to be used for building and grounds. Looking at parking lot resurfacing as a short term goal for using funds.

Other:

BSA council Representative – Wendy will fill this role while she is on council- BSA to be notified.

Rockford River Days- Congregational Workshop Tuesday June 20th 7pm
- Pam Hoekstra coordinating

Upcoming meeting schedule- will adjust July meeting to July 18th due to 4th of July.

Other items from council – Concern raised from Thousand Hearts Day conflicting with OFLC spring clean up. Wendy has already spoken with Annette Tryon, John Gilb, and Brittini to prevent this in the future.

Closed in devotion & prayer – Dan Schiller

Upcoming council meeting schedule:

July 18, 2023

August 8, 2023 7:00 PM

September 12, 2023

Building & Grounds Update

Hi everyone. Hope your summer is going great! We are starting to lay some groundwork down for a better partnership with nourishing hope. This is a partnership that will be more fluid on our part as a church. This can be a great opportunity for all of us all to benefit. Hope to start dialogue soon with Brittini on their vision and where they hope to be in the coming years. Talked to council at the June meeting and with the search for a new pastor some items may be on hold. No fault on anyone's part but we start gaining momentum and we in counter things that set us back. I really believe we have a great leadership team that can adapt to all these changes! Hang in there. We will get our mojo back. Blessings John

May Giving Numbers

May Total Contributions - \$16,525.87

May General Fund Contributions - \$13,591.23

May Designated Fund Contributions - \$2,934.64

Last year giving for May

May 2022 Total Contributions - \$19,919.59

May 2022 General Fund Contributions - \$17,226.59

May 2022 Designated Fund Contributions - \$2,693

Avg household giving per month to "Keep the Lights on" \$211

Avg household giving per month to "Carry out our Mission" \$267

Actual Giving per Household \$245

Give to the Max \$22,399

Thanks,

Jill Madsen

Nourishing Hope



NourishingHOPE

Free Fresh Produce and Dairy

Monday, July 10th
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)