

Living Christ's Love, we invite all to worship, learn, disciple and serve



Gather & Serve Newsletter May 2021

Our Fathers Lutheran Church
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What if ?

By Pastor Aaron

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. ~Acts 2:44-47a

At the end of this month, we will celebrate the day of Pentecost. Pentecost marks the “birthday” of the church. By the effort of the Holy Spirit, an extraordinary act of building community happened. People who spoke different languages understood each other, saw the common humanity they shared with one another, and they became so selfless that they even sold their personal possessions so all could benefit from the proceeds, without exception! Perhaps that sounds farfetched, but when it comes to God, I think the question to ask is “what if?”

When I think of the Pentecost story today, my attention is immediately drawn to NourishingHOPE. As many of you know, NourishingHOPE is an organization within OFLC that provides food to those in need in the local community. Did you know that NourishingHOPE also serves cooperatively with 5 other communities of faith to provide food across Wright County? Did you also know that NourishingHOPE also provides leadership in working with various non-profits in Wright Country on behalf of those congregations? Over the last year, food insecurity has increased as people’s work and personal lives have decreased their resources to provide for a basic necessity: food. The people who come are our neighbors, quite literally. They live among us. They are like us. They are us.

Continued...

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For all the good NourishingHOPE does, I often think, “What if?” What if we could do more? What if we could foster deeper relationships with our neighbors who come to receive, and our neighbors who want to support our ministry? What if we came together as a congregation to develop NourishingHOPE with our many resources, so that food insecurity is never a problem without a solution for anyone in our community? Maybe this all sounds farfetched, but when I think of how amazing the Holy Spirit is, I dare to dream, “What if?”

Such dreams often take small steps of commitment. And as we consider what the Holy Spirit is doing among us at OFLC now, through NourishingHOPE, I ask you to dream with me, and to consider taking a small step now. NourishingHOPE is currently in the midst of a fundraising campaign to purchase a refrigeration trailer that will greatly increase their food storage capacity and ultimately, increase the amount of food that can be distributed at each monthly food drop. I encourage you to consider a special contribution to this campaign.....a small step of commitment, but one God will bless and grow beyond our wildest imaginations. One small step, followed by many others to come.....



Donate To NourishingHope

Last summer NourishingHOPE was unable to accept countless bushels of donated fresh produce as we had no cold storage to preserve it. A refrigerated trailer will allow us to accept this free produce and share it freely with those in need of supplemental food. Thank you in advance for supporting our efforts and in so doing helping to ease food insecurity in our community.

The \$25,000 goal is the maximum amount needed to purchase a trailer. In the event the raised amount exceeds the purchase price of the trailer, the excess proceeds will go towards purchasing additional produce that is distributed directly to those we serve!"

You can also donate at the NourishingHOPE tab on Our Father’s website.

<https://gofund.me/6089d4e2>



Picture for example only

“..a small step of commitment, but one God will bless and grow beyond our wildest imaginations”

Financial Report

By Amy Krcil

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

Contributions were higher than budget for the month. For the year, we are about \$8k ahead of budget.

Expenses were over budget because of the timing of payroll—there are three payrolls in March, but the budget only includes two. Charitable contributions are zero this month, but the March payment will be made with the quarterly payment in April.

Included in this analysis is a comparison to March 2020. Expenses are overall higher this year than last due to timing of payroll payments.

For the year, we continue to run in a deficit at \$2,579 but April/Easter is looking like it could push us to a positive net income.

The **cash balance** for March 31, 2021 is \$87,373 which is a higher cash position than in 2020. Designated cash did not change much year over year with the building fund making up most of the balance. We continue to have a kitchen fund, seminary scholarship, social concerns, and ministry as our other designated cash funds.

Questions: accounting@ourfatherschurch.org

TREASURER'S 2 CENTS

1 Peter 1:3: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Σ= Did you notice the new eternal candle in the Sanctuary? It is a bright LED light that won't need changing for a very long time. Also, please thank John Gilb for building the beautiful stand it sits on!

Σ= You can now donate to the Foundation through Simply Giving! Please check it out! Also, an easy way to donate to Nourishing Hope will be available soon through Simply Giving. Keep an eye out for that change!

**NOTE: If you feel you no longer need your envelopes, please contact Melissa at :

melissa@ourfatherschurch.org

	CURRENT YEAR MTD			PRIOR YEAR MTD		MAR YTD
	Actual 2021	Budget	Better/ (Worse)	Actual 2020	Better/ (Worse)	Actual 2021
March Contributions						
Giving	\$ 24,585	\$ 18,000	\$ 6,585	\$ 16,830	\$ 7,755	\$ 58,343
March Expenses						
Payroll/Stipends/Prof Fees	16,929	11,663	(5,266)	9,166	(7,763)	36,655
Charitable Contributions	-	1,130	1,130	-	-	3,251
Building Expenses	4,684	5,084	400	4,514	(170)	12,923
Utilities	1,801	1,705	(96)	1,542	(259)	4,591
Printing & Reproduction	236	236	-	-	(236)	708
Supplies & Other Expenses	1,225	1,269	43	669	(557)	2,780
Total Expenses	24,891	21,195	(3,696)	16,741	(8,149)	60,922
Net Income	\$ (306)	\$ (3,195)	\$ 2,889	\$ 88	\$ (394)	\$ (2,579)
Total Cash Balance	\$ 87,373			\$ 64,029		\$ 87,373
Designated Cash Balance	\$ 53,205			\$ 52,106		\$ 53,205



In February we celebrated the largest gift ever donated by OFLC FOUNDATION. With great excitement we announce the \$10,000 donation to Rockford Riverworks that will be matched by the Mason's Star Lodge #62!

Incorporated in 2002, the Foundation is a nonprofit corporation whose sole purpose is to receive and invest gifts, grants and bequests of money, securities and real or personal property for the benefit of Our Father's Church and its mission.

Charitable giving from the Foundation in 2020 included donations to Nourishing Hope, Love Inc., RFD Christmas toy give away, several Camp Onamia camper-ships, and a donation for a member going to Seminary.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we discover that we extend our love through what we give. What greater joy than to leave a gift that reflects our love, values, and Christian faith?

Our Father's Foundation offers the opportunity to that for the future of your faith community. May you be blessed as you give!

Peace and Blessings





Council Minutes

By Chandler Drummond

Our Father's Lutheran Church
 April 6, 2021
 Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Paul Bolstad, Diane Dorrel, Pam Hoekstra, Tiffany Distad, Dan Schiller, Madi Jacobson, Julie Vergin, Shannon Sand, Amy Krcil, Rick Fuglie, Brian Walton, Pastor Aaron

Devotion & Prayer – Dan

Internal Ministries:

1. Guest Speakers

A. Paul Bolstad – Combine Update

- i) Agreement/partnership in place for use and unit up and running with Richard Phillips – will make it available for local farmers
- ii) Richard would like written confirmation to transfer ownership – questions around where this should come from – Paul to send this in for signature

B. Julie Vergin – Nourishing Hope Update

- i) 3 years old in July – serving around 130 families per month pre covid. Now designated as an emergency drop site and are partnering with other churches – 6 total drop sites; serving around 2000 per month
- ii) Have grown to include dairy, meat, and produce – a need for refrigerated storage has grown – currently looking into purchasing or renting a 27 foot trailer – 220 volt outlet needed
- iii) Looking to form a task force to help guide the future vision of nourishing hope
- iv) Chandler to work with Julie to develop a business plan overview to present back to the council
- v) Julie to provide regular updates to the general council

Administrative/Personnel:

1. Pastoral update (attached)

A. Outdoor worship for spring/summer.

- i) Potential cover options – tabled until next meeting – Brian getting quotes on multiple options

Continued...

Council Minutes Continued

- B. Support for Sarah Dahl & Family while she attends seminary
 - i) Discussion around how to best provide; Aaron suggested someone from council to be a conduit for this – tabled until next months
- C. Sarah Dahl will be leading worship April 11th while I'm at training
 - i) Pastor Aaron to prerecord a message to avoid technology issues this Sunday
- D. Request for a few garden plots next to the existing plot materials to be donated - approved



Finance:

1. Treasurer update
 - A. Amy working on setting up another account to allow people to donate directly to the foundation
 2. Congregation member gifts
 - A. Audio and video system upgrades needed
 - i.) Quotes in process; meeting scheduled for the 14th; money has been allocated
 1. To include a screen, camera for broadcasting services, general upgrades
- Spring cleaning – Saturday 4/24 – Sign up sheet near North

B. Potential OFLC internship site for seminarians

- i.) Pam proposed Pastor Aaron to bring more information to the next meeting in May; council in agreement this would potentially be of interest

Other:

1. Building information
 - i.) Results of fire code room occupancy information

Sanctuary = 235

Big education room = 175

Fellowship, including kitchen area = 160

Conference room = 23

Room #100, old bell choir room = 20

Room #101, prayer room = 11

Room #105 across from conference room = 23

Room #107, Community resource room = 12

Room 108,109 = 22

B.) Propose updates to building usage number of participants per space

- i) 50% occupancy with expectation of masks, social distancing, taking attendance, and sanitizing after use for group events

C.) Request from Pam to hold Eagle Scout Ceremony - Approved

- i.) Quote for WH security key entry system - \$5,200

A. Approval for locks on the south entrance - sanctuary doors

Council Minutes Finished

- E. Spring cleaning – Saturday 4/24 – Sign up sheet near North entry
- 2. Appreciation/recognition for Jim Lupino and John Blodgett
 - A. Pastor Aaron recommended recognition and a bless at the end of a service; May 2nd

Devotion Schedule:

- May – Tiffany
- June – Amy J
- July – Rick
- August – Amy K
- September – Chandler
- October – Brian
- November – Shannon
- December – Pam

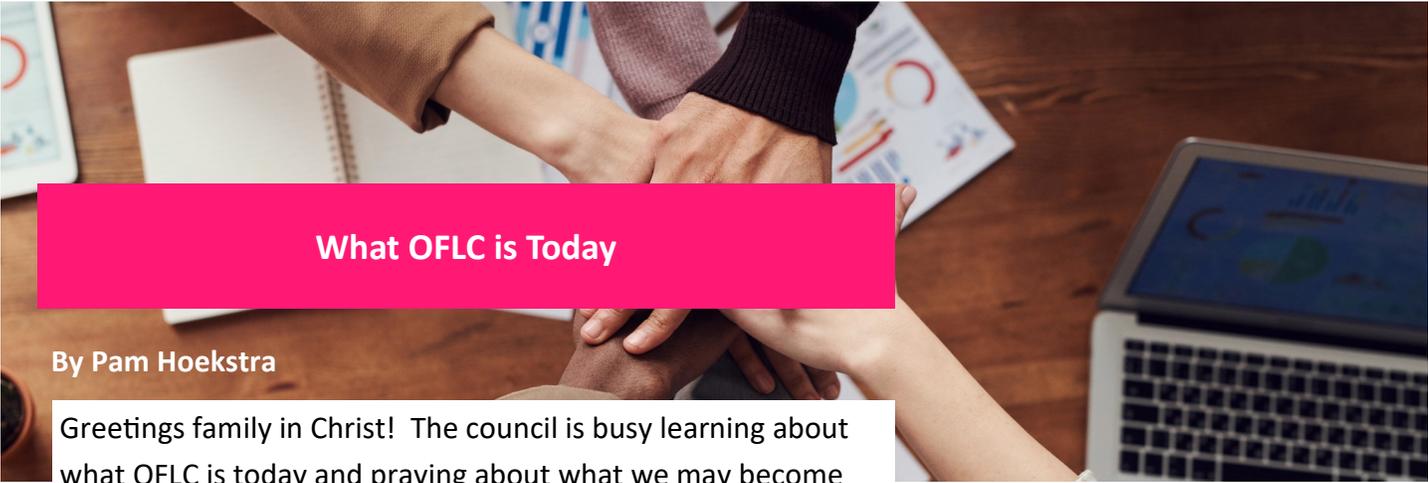
ELCA Youth Gathering Meeting for Youth and Parents – May 5th, 6pm

By Pastor Aaron



Calling all youth entering 8th-12th grade this Fall, and their parents! The ELCA is planning to hold the Youth Gathering July 22-28, 2022 in Minneapolis. This affords us a unique opportunity to attend the Youth Gathering right in our own “backyard!” Commitment and planning for the Youth Gathering, because of its popularity, needs to happen as soon as this summer. This first meeting is simply to get an idea if there is interest, and give you a snapshot of what the Gathering is like! No commitment necessary at this time!

In order to keep everyone safe, we’ll be meeting in the Sanctuary so we can maintain distancing. Hope you can join us!



What OFLC is Today

By Pam Hoekstra

Greetings family in Christ! The council is busy learning about what OFLC is today and praying about what we may become tomorrow.

In April, Paul Bolstad and Julie Vergin shared information about ministries close to their hearts. We plan to continue to invite staff and members to share their stories over the coming months. If you are interested and willing to share about a ministry close to your heart, please let me know!

We are also making plans for the future. Topics we'll be discussing in the coming months will include a review of our constitution for needed updates, along with both planning for our 50th anniversary in 2022 and discerning God's plan is for the next 50 years.

Please support us in prayer that we may learn, obey, and serve faithfully.



Teach me, Lord, what you want me to do, and I will obey you faithfully; teach me to serve you with complete devotion.

Psalm 86:11

You are invited!



Saturday May 15th
9AM - 3 PM (or pick an alternate!)

Come help us get your camp spiffed up for the summer season ahead! SUMMER CAMP is BACK, and we want to get this place looking the best that it can.

Tasks for every skill, bring your tools and cleaning supplies if possible. Stay over Friday night if you wish!

Lunch will be provided. Bring a crew!

Please RSVP to onomiaexec@gmail.com

This weekend doesn't work for you? Give us a call and we will find a day and a project that gets you here.

TASKS:

Raking
 Wood cutting
 Cleaning
 Painting
 Electrical
 Plumbing
 Carpentry





A Great way to Serve God and Our Neighbors

By Kim Haggan

NourishingHOPE is a great way to serve God and our neighbors.

We are partnered with five area churches, serve over 700 families each month, and we are continuing to grow! We are working to purchase a cooler trailer to better serve in our community. Last summer we had to turn down many bushels of produce that could have helped to feed people, because we had nowhere to store it.

We meet the first Tuesday of each month to hand out boxes of produce, dairy, and meat, drive-through-style, to everyone who comes to us. We have fantastic volunteers and would love to have you join us.



Have you thought about volunteering with Nourishing-HOPE or helping to deliver Senior Meals but don't know where to begin? Visit the website at www.ourfatherschurch.org for descriptions of activities and links to sign up. You can also email kim@ourfatherschurch.org or call the office at 763-477-6300



Free Fresh Produce and Dairy

Sponsored by NourishingHOPE Food Drop and Second Harvest Heartland

Boxes of fresh produce and dairy products will be available for drive through pick up on a first come, first served basis
All are welcome

Tuesday, May 11

3pm -until gone

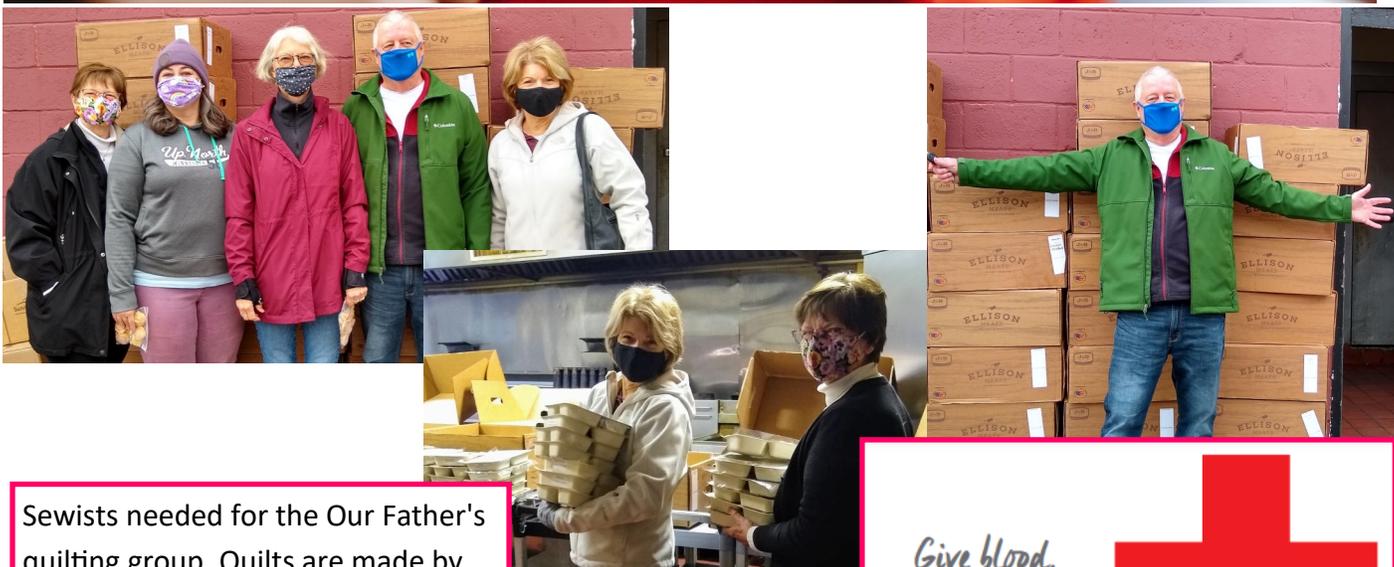
Locations for pick up

Corcoran St. Thomas Catholic Church parking lot	Montrose Montrose United Methodist Church parking lot
Delano Light of Christ Lutheran Church parking lot	Rockford Our Father's Lutheran Church parking lot
St. Michael Colonial Mall	Buffalo Buffalo Covenant Church parking lot

Appropriate distancing and COVID mitigation practices will be employed



Shoutout to our excellent volunteers that packed senior meals today! Thank you, Gail, Dave, Kathy and Lynne! Thanks also to WCCA for letting us be a part of this great program.



Sewists needed for the Our Father's quilting group. Quilts are made by volunteers and donated to guests at The Vineland Recovery Center





Give blood.
Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.
American Red Cross

Blood Drive
Rockford Community

Our Father's Lutheran Church
Education Room
3903 Gilbert Ave SE - Rockford

Tuesday, May 18, 2021
12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org
enter Sponsor Code: Rockford MN

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

THOUSAND HEARTS
Serve Day
May 22, 2021

Sharing love and faith by gathering and serving in our communities to address Health, Habitation and Hunger.

SAVE THE DATE!

On Saturday, May 22, Thousand Hearts will celebrate nine years of serving our communities, thanks to many helping hands and hearts! Please watch for updates coming soon by liking Thousand Hearts Serve Day on Facebook.
<https://www.facebook.com/Thousand-Hearts-Serve-Day-549120131765895>
And....make sure we have your email registered on Sign Up Genius by emailing annettetryon@gmail.com

If you would like to volunteer to help at the May 18th blood drive, please contact Diane Dorrel or kim@ourfatherschurch.org



By John Gilb

Hi Everyone, our spring cleaning was a huge success. There were between 20-25 helpers buzzing in and around the church cleaning and racking ,dusting etc.

A huge shoutout to the Boy Scouts that helped. Great young men! Thank you to Dave Swanson for bringing up his tractor and moving debris by the dumpsters.

Chandler Drummond for power washing the playground equipment. It was a real inspiration to see the fellowship. We topped it off with help from Jan Janos and Jackie Anderson serving up hamburgers and hotdogs.





Information

Office Hours: By appointment 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 Connector: Kim Haggen Kim@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're on the Web!

Visit us at:

<https://www.ourfatherschurch.org/>

We're on YouTube!

Watch from the comfort of home.

Visit us at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCePt4KWmjvq1M7vPbljUfeA?>

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: Norie Siers, ncsiers@gmail.com

Newsletter Deadline:

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

Melissa@ourfatherschurch.org