



Gather & Serve Newsletter

November 2021

Our Collective Healing on this Veterans Day

By Pastor Aaron

(Pastor Aaron wrote this reflection for the ELCA worship blog. We're providing it here this month for folks at OFLC to read and reflect on this month)

Posted on October 7, 2021 by ELCA Worship

This post is written by Rev. Aaron Fuller. Pastor Fuller serves multi-vocationally as a chaplain in the Navy Reserve and Pastor at Our Father's Lutheran Church, Rockford, MN. His views expressed here are his own and do not represent the Department of Defense, Navy or Navy Chaplain Corps in an official capacity.

On November 11th the nation will observe Veterans Day. It is a day set aside to recognize veterans' service in the Armed Forces, past and present. In recent years the day has been marked by recognition in the news and social media, encouraging people to "thank a veteran" or "support the troops." It has also been marked by businesses offering benefits such as discounts and free meals to veterans, in recognition for their service.

Similarly, congregations across the ELCA have chosen to recognize veterans in worship. Others have chosen not to. Both choices are faithful expressions of people's deepest convictions. I want to offer why all congregations should consider acknowledging veterans in their worship services around Veterans Day this year.

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Our Collective Healing on this Veterans Day

This year, September 11th marked two important realities in our collective history. The first was the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attacks that led to the tragic loss of life here in the United States, and subsequent twenty years of war in the Middle East. The second reality was the shocking withdrawal and evacuation of the United States from Afghanistan. Also shocking was the sudden rise of the Taliban taking back the country, creating a massive refugee crisis and wiping out two decades' worth of progress made with the Afghan people on human rights.

For many veterans there has been a significant investment made in Afghanistan and the Middle East the past twenty years. That investment is shown in the toil it has taken on their bodies and minds. They also bear inner conflict between what they have experienced and their fundamental values, often rooted in their religious faith. That inner conflict leads to hard questions: "What was the point of what I experienced?" "Was it all worth it?" "Am I good?" Left unanswered, those questions can become a matter of life or death.

This response to traumatic events is known as moral injury. Moral injury is defined as "perpetrating, failing to prevent, bearing witness to, or learning about acts that transgress deeply held moral beliefs and expectations."¹ While moral injury shares some of the same signs of trauma as post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, it is not the same. Moral injury is distinct; it is a violation of what is right. It is feelings of betrayal towards justice. It is an injury of the soul, where human goodness is diminished to where we no longer see God's light in ourselves or others.

As I listen to God's people in both contexts I serve in as Pastor and Navy Chaplain, it is apparent to me we are all suffering from a collective moral injury, a result of the past twenty years and made manifest through the nation's withdrawal from Afghanistan this past summer. That injury has caused the division and disconnect we all are experiencing right now as we struggle to live in a world that feels less safe, less compassionate, and less just. We need healing – collectively reconnecting to what is right, what is true, and what is good.

That healing starts by acknowledging those who are struggling with that moral injury the most: veterans. I can think of no better way to begin that healing than in our regular worship. God heals through Word and Sacrament, confession and absolution, and gathering and sending. That is so necessary for veterans right now, and so necessary for us all.

Litz, B. T., Stein, N., Delaney, E., Lebowitz, L., Nash, W. P., Silva, C., & Maguen, S. (2009). Moral injury and moral repair in war Veterans: A preliminary model and intervention strategy. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 29(8), 695-706. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpr.2009.07.003>

Engage & Confirm

By Tiffany Distad

We have over 30 kids registered for E&C this season. We started Sept 29 with our kick off night. We are serving 1 meal per month on the 1st Wednesday of each month and offering a light snack and a drink on other nights. 5th-9th grades meet each Wednesday from 6-7p. 5&6th are using Spark lesson plans and 7th-9th are using the Confirmation Book written by our very own Pastor Aaron. https://www.ourfatherschurch.org/uploads/2/9/7/8/29784741/confirmation_book_2021.pdf



We are always looking for volunteers to help on Wednesday nights. No long term commitments just help out when it works for you!

Contact Tiffany or Pastor Aaron to be added to our volunteer list. It's been so great to have all the kids back at church. Their energy, laughter and jokes make each Wednesday something special

Upcoming important dates for E&C:

Sunday 10/31 Confirmation Sunday

Sunday 12/12 1st Communion Sunday



MUSIC

By Tammy Jarvi

Choir will resume on Wednesday, November 3rd at 6:30. We will be singing a variety of genres from contemporary to choral. If you love to sing, we would love to have you join us!

We would also like to start a Guitar/Ukulele group. All levels of players are welcome (beginners to advanced).

Please contact Tammy Jarvi at 763-732-8920 if interested in any these music opportunities

Financial Report

By Amy Krcil

	CURRENT YEAR MTD			SEPTEMBER YTD		
	Actual 2021	Budget	Better/ (Worse)	Actual 2021	Budget	Better/ (Worse)
September Contributions						
Giving	\$ 13,159	\$ 12,000	\$ 1,159	\$ 184,108	\$ 178,000	\$ 6,108
September Expenses						
Payroll/Stipends/Prof Fees	10,954	11,341	387	104,445	96,221	(8,224)
Charitable Contributions	-	770	770	10,362	12,380	2,018
Building Expenses	3,503	4,665	1,163	62,048	44,851	(17,197)
Conferences & Meetings	-	108	108	15	972	957
Utilities	1,312	1,055	(257)	11,212	11,795	583
Printing & Reproduction	659	236	(423)	3,070	2,124	(946)
Supplies & Other Expenses	326	869	542	5,841	10,317	4,475
Total Expenses	16,755	19,044	2,288	196,993	178,660	(18,333)
Net Income	\$ (3,596)	\$ (7,044)	\$ 3,447	\$ (12,886)	\$ (660)	\$ (12,226)

Total Unrestricted Cash Balance	\$ 24,737
Total Restricted (Designated) Cash	
Nourishing Hope	22,267
Building Use/Mortgage	3,522
Imagination Grant/Kitchen	9,535
Ministry	18,410
Other	16,439

The above 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 continue to grow behind on our budget by approximately \$13k. Keep in mind that the **year to date** contributions include \$20k received from the insurance company for the replacement of the sanctuary roof.

Expenses were under budget for the month by approximately \$2k. For the year, expenses are very close to the budget. Keep in mind that **year to date** Building Expenses include \$20k of roof replacement costs covered by the insurance proceeds as noted above.

For the year, we continue to run a deficit of approximately \$12k.

The **cash balance** for September 30, 2021 is \$94,910 with \$70k 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

Meet Brittni
OFLC's new Coordinator of Community Outreach



Happy Fall Y'all! This is my favorite time of year, the colors, the smells, the tastes, the clothes... all of it. My family loves to enjoy the outdoors year round. Yes, even in the winter! We love hunting, fishing, exploring the woods, and all the fun outside activities Minnesota has to offer.

My husband, Corey, is a construction attorney. He is the muscle behind all my crazy ideas, he is extremely talented, and his creations always turn out way better than I could imagine. He actually built our house in Greenfield himself, in between working his full time job. Our children attend Rockford Elementary School. Our son, Connor, is in second grade. He is definitely my critical thinker, and is constantly keeping me on my toes. Our daughter, McKenzie, is in first grade. She has this contagious energy about her and has the special gift of making friends everywhere she goes. We have two large dogs, two cats, and more chickens than I will ever admit.

I grew up in Western North Dakota, where my family raised bison. I went to high school in Montana. I attended North Dakota State University for Child Development and Valley City State University for Elementary Education. The last ten years I worked from home as an office manager for a company based out of Montana. I am excited to use the skills I learned in this new position as Community Outreach Coordinator. I also run a small side business called Brittni's Creations, where I create custom goods, such as t-shirts, wood signs, cups, and more. In my spare time, I enjoy gardening, cooking, baking, and canning. I am honored to be here and most excited about engaging with community members, offering support and resources, and serving others alongside my neighbors.

Please reach out if I can be of service in any way!

Office: (763) 477-6300 Email: brittni@ourfatherschurch.org

Building update

By: John Gilb

Hi everyone, we are moving into the middle of fall now. Our group needs to look at all weather stripping on all doors and windows.

The new shingles and skylights have been installed on the sanctuary. Thanks to Close to Home construction for getting this done. They absorbed some costs that the insurance did not cover. Thank You to Jessie Smith who's family are members at OFLC. We will start getting quotes for air conditioning in the next few weeks for our education wing and large room on the south end. We will also get quotes for painting the sanctuary.

God Bless



Council Minutes

By Chandler Drummond

Our Father's Lutheran Church
October 5, 2021

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

Devotion & Prayer – Brian

Internal Ministries:

Guest Speakers Part 2 – “OFLC Comeback”

Amy Blake Field

Engagement Plan shared for Q4

Connections Campaign – Oct 17-30 – Invite a friend of family

Fall Festival – Oct 30th 1-4 PM with Trunk or Treat/Scouts

Possible donations from AppleJacks or LuceLine Orchard

Fellowship Breakfast 2x/month – Amy to reach out to Kathy Lunderby

Faith matters testimonials – encourage people to share feelings

Give to the Max Day fundraiser – Nov 18th – 24 Hour marathon - \$4000
in matching funds have already been secured

Movie Night – Nov 12th – Brian to assist – Date may change

Winter Pen Pals-Nov 28-April 10-Maybe start after the holidays

Cookie Walk replacement – more discussion needed

Administrative/Personnel:

Pastoral update (attached)

Items for decision:

Initiative for each Council Member to meet with Brittini Bronczyk in October as part of onboarding

Participation in Rockford Business Expo October 30th

Delayed to the Spring 2022

Approval of vacation October 22-24th to attend my 20th college reunion

Vote taken and vacation approved

Pastor Aaron to find pastoral care

Proposal: Motion to approve the following

Authorization to cover 100% of produce costs for the remainder of 2021

Authorization for NH leadership make purchases under the following guidelines:

Asset costs (produce, materials, supplies): Up to \$500/month

Purchase of assets, \$500 per asset

Anything above these guidelines would require Council approval

This assumes all funds would be spent out of the NourishingHOPE designated fund/account

Continued..



Council Minutes Finished

.....continued.....

Vote taken and all suggestions above were approved
Second vote passed to formalize NH as a standing committee – Amend-
ment to the constitution will be needed and congregational vote will be
needed

Finance:

Treasurer update
Mortgage paperwork is ready to be signed – Rick, Pam, Amy, Chandler will need to sign
off by Oct 15th @ WestBank
NH financials have been integrated into OFLC
Brittney onboarded into our payroll system

Other:

COVID protocol updates for the congregation
Any changes recommended or maintain current expectations until November?

Maintain current status

Finalize OFLC Employee Handbook
Propose removal of Personnel Committee and replace with OFLC Council. Further
steps, if needed, would reference to the OFLC Constitution.

Cub Scout request – Trunk or Treat 10/30 from 1pm-4pm
Would like to arrange for an inflatable archery station
Possibility of a medallion hunt or pumpkin contest

Sponsoring a Montrose Community Meal – additional information
We have been averaging around 100 people served each month, and the meals are being
served in Montrose to Montrose community members as well as our surrounding
towns. I know for certain we’ve had some individuals from Rockford and Greenfield
attend. Our hope is to build relationships with one another while eating a good meal
and enjoying crafts (both for kids and adults)!

We so appreciate you praying for our meals and are grateful for ANY financial donation
you can contribute.

On average, we have been running around \$200 for the food for a community meal and
\$100 for crafts. That being said for food alone \$200 would be considered a full meal
sponsorship, \$100 for a half sponsorship, or \$50 for a quarter sponsorship. Each
month we have a sign dedicated to show our gratitude for our sponsor of that meal.

That being said if you are interested in making any type of monetary donation checks
can be made out to Grace Place and sent in that direction. If you have further ques-
tions on this, I’d be happy to assist you. Also, your council and anyone else who
would like to attend one of our community meals are welcome to visit anytime. We
serve meals the 3rd sun of each month from 5-7pm at the Montrose Community
Center with our next one being served Thurs Oct 21.

Council consensus is that we would prefer to donate from the dedicated funds; Pam to send the
check out this week

Devotion Schedule: November – Shannon December – Pam	Upcoming council meeting schedule: Nov 2, 2021 07:00 PM Dec 7, 2021 07:00 PM	Upcoming working session meeting schedule: Nov 16, 2021 07:00 PM Dec 21, 2021 07:00 PM
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What's Coming Up



Thanksgiving Eve Service at OFLC – November 24th, 7pm

We are joining with our neighbors at United Presbyterian Church to hold a Thanksgiving Eve service at OFLC. If you are in town, take a break from Thanksgiving day preps to worship and give thanks for what God has blessed us with! There is also a rumor going around that Pastor Aaron hopes there will be pie and ice cream after – so folks are encouraged to bring a pie from home to share and we'll all enjoy together – and safely!

Advent Kickoff – December 5th, after worship

Save the date! On Sunday, December 5th, join young and old from OFLC to decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary after worship. There will be a station available to make your own ornament to hang on the tree, or bring something made from home! There will also be coffee, cider, and light breakfast food available so it's a great chance to stay and get to know others and begin our celebration of Advent as we wait expectantly for Jesus' birth!



BECOME SUICIDE-ALERT



safeTALK

suicide alertness for everyone

Pastor Aaron is offering another safeTALK workshop on Saturday, December 11th, from 9am-12pm. Participants in the workshop will gain skills necessary to identify signs of suicide and be able to get that person connected to the help they need. As we enter into the winter and Christmas holiday season, you might save the life of someone who's struggling! This workshop is also open to the public. To register, contact the church office or visit the church website. Deadline is December 7th.

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



Free Fresh Produce and Dairy Monday, November 8th 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



Do you have an interest in helping? Some of our biggest helpers come in little packages! No matter your age or size, we have ways for you help and volunteer!! Sign up below or find the link on Our Fathers Website under NourishingHope

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094facao2da6fe3-november>

November

Items subject to change: Please see latest updates on OFLC website

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 ● 9am Sunday Schoo ● 9am Confirmation S ● 9am Worship	1 ● 7pm AA Mtg ● 7pm Boy Scouts BS	2 ● 7am BNI ● 10am Bible Study-o ● 6:30pm G.S. #18271 ● 7pm Council Mtg	3 ● 5:15pm G.S. #1866 ● 5:30pm Bell Choir ● 6pm Engage & Conf ● 6:30pm Choir	4 ● 10am Thrift Store H	5 ● 6pm G.S. #18592 ● 7:30pm AA Mtg	6 ● 7:30am Men's Group
7 ● All Saints Sunday ● 9am Sunday Schoo ● 9am Worship	8 ● 9am N.H. Food Drog ● 7pm AA Mtg ● 7pm Boy Scouts BS ● 7pm G.S. Leaders Iv	9 ● 7am BNI ● 10am Bible Study-o ● 5pm G.S. (K)Troop f	10 ● 5:30pm Bell Choir ● 6pm Engage & Conf ● 6:30pm Choir	11 ● 5pm TOPS via Zoor	12 ● 5pm G.S. #17936 ● 7:30pm AA Mtg	13 ● 12pm Bridal Showel
14 ● 9am Sunday Schoo ● 9am Worship	15 ● 9am Sewing/Quiltin ● 7pm AA Mtg ● 7pm Boy Scouts BS	16 ● 7am BNI ● 10am Bible Study-o ● 7pm Executive Com	17 ● 9am Sewing/Quiltin ● 5:15pm G.S. #1866 ● 5:30pm Bell Choir ● 6pm Engage & Conf ● 6:30pm Choir	18 ● Give to the Max Day! ● Thrift Store Helpers	19 ● 7:30pm AA Mtg	20 ● 7:30am Men's Group
21 ● 9am Sunday Schoo ● 9am Worship	22 ● 7pm AA Mtg ● 7pm Boy Scouts BS	23 ● 7am BNI ● 10am Bible Study-o ● 5pm G.S. (K)Troop f	24 ● 5:30pm Bell Choir ● 6pm Engage & Conf ● 6:30pm Choir ● 6:30pm Worship De ● 7pm Thanksgiving V	25 ● 5pm TOPS via Zoor	26 ● 7:30pm AA Mtg	27
28 ● 9am Sunday Schoo ● 9am Worship	29 ● 7pm AA Mtg ● 7pm Boy Scouts BS	30 ● 7am BNI ● 10am Bible Study-o	1 ● 5:15pm G.S. #1866 ● 5:30pm Bell Choir ● 6pm Engage & Conf ● 6:30pm Choir	2 ● 10am Thrift Store H	3 ● 6pm G.S. #18592 ● 7:30pm AA Mtg	4 ● 7:30am Men's Group ?



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: 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 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)