

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



Gather & Serve

Newsletter

October 2021

Our Fathers Lutheran Church

3903 Gilbert Ave SE Rockford, MN 55373

Ourfatherschurch.org

office@ourfatherschurch.org

763-477-6300

Why does God have OFLC?

By Pastor Aaron

During a recent Saturday Men's group, the topic of getting people involved in church came up. After talking about it, with no real answers coming to us, I asked somewhat casually, "What does God even have a church?" That led us to respond with ways to get people more involved in ministry, doing a better job at attracting families, and reaching out into the community. However, those responses answer a different question, which is how we get people involved in church. The question, "Why does God have a church?" is a much different one, and frankly, left us with few answers.

One of the suggestions in that group was, "That's a great question to ask the whole congregation, Pastor." I think that is a great idea, and so I ask all of you, "**Why does God have OFLC?**" This is a much different question than our usual questions about church, and an important one. I'd like to invite you to ponder this question with me. In doing so, let me provide a few key biblical texts we can reflect on together:

Matthew 22:1-14

Luke 15:11-32

John 15:12-17

Acts 2:1-15, 37-38, 41-47

Philippians 2:1-13

In the coming weeks and months, I'd love to grab breakfast, lunch, or a cup of coffee to get your thoughts – just shoot me a text, phone call, or email to set it up!

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COVID UPDATE

By Pam Hoekstra

Dear OFLC Congregation and Guests,

The OFLC Council has reviewed the recent CDC guidance recommending masking indoors regardless of vaccination status. Based on this guidance and the continued spread of the Delta variant, we are implementing the following expectations while at OFLC:

To be consistent with what youth experience in school, the decision to mask or not at church for children will be made by parents or guardians.

All OFLC staff and volunteers working directly with youth are required to wear masks. This includes worship, Sunday school, Engage & Confirm, and any similar group meeting with youth.

Masks are also recommended for all adults regardless of vaccination status while indoors.

These changes are intended to help keep the youngest of our congregation safe while vaccines are not yet available for them.

We expect recommendations to continue to evolve until the pandemic is fully resolved and will provide updates as changes occur. OFLC Council will also continue to assess as new information is available and during our regularly scheduled meetings.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any member of the OFLC Council.

In Christ's Love,

Our Fathers Council



By Pastor Aaron

Time of Transition

Early in September, Julie Vergin informed the Council of her decision to step away from volunteering her time with NourishingHOPE. The distribution on September 13th was Julie's last with the ministry. You can read her resignation letter to the Council below this message.

As Julie stated in her letter, NourishingHOPE has grown tremendously over the course of three years. Initially a vision of Pastor Cathy and Julie's, together their energy and passion for addressing food insecurity grew into a thriving ministry that has made a difference in the community. The impact is especially more profound considering how the pandemic affected people of all ages in our area. At the same time, this growth caused Julie to recognize the need to transition responsibilities from a volunteer-led to a staff-led model. As stated in her letter, Julie began that transition last winter, and has now decided it is time for her to step away completely. Please join me in offering thanksgiving to God for Julie, and that if she discerns it, she is welcome to participate with NourishingHOPE or any part of the OFLC family – the door is always open!

You all may have questions concerning what is next for NourishingHOPE with Julie's departure. In my time here as pastor, NourishingHOPE's growth has been such that there is a need to move away from a volunteer-based to a staff-led management model. I'm happy to report that Council has offered Brittnei Broyznck to be OFLC's Coordinator of Community Outreach. She has accepted this offer and will start in early October. Her responsibilities include regular management of NourishingHOPE events, increasing volunteer opportunities, and strengthening the relationship with the community. In addition, OFLC Council and NourishingHOPE leaders have come together to work on recommendations to clarify how this ministry is structured. These recommendations will allow for more voices to be heard and more collaborative decision-making that is necessary for NourishingHOPE to grow and be a more visible presence in the community. Please join me in thanking these people, as they have dedicated a substantial amount of their time to these efforts: Mike Dickman, Sandy Ziegler, Gail Swanson, Chandler Drummond, Diane Dorrel, and Amy Krcil.

If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Pastor Aaron

Financial Report

By Amy Krcil

	Actual 2021	Budget	Better/ (Worse)	Actual 2021	Budget	Better/ (Worse)
August Contributions						
Giving	\$ 44,213	\$ 25,000	\$ 19,213	\$ 170,949	\$ 166,000	\$ 4,949
August Expenses						
Payroll/Stipends/Prof Fees	14,028	10,341	(3,687)	93,491	84,880	(8,611)
Charitable Contributions	-	1,550	1,550	10,362	11,610	1,248
Building Expenses	27,332	3,632	(23,701)	58,546	40,186	(18,360)
Utilities	1,119	1,055	(64)	9,899	10,740	841
Printing & Reproduction	521	236	(285)	2,410	1,888	(522)
Supplies & Other Expenses	274	1,069	794	5,515	9,448	3,933
Total Expenses	43,275	17,990	(25,285)	180,238	158,752	(21,486)
Net Income	\$ 937	\$ 7,010	\$ (6,072)	\$ (9,289)	\$ 7,248	\$(16,537)
Total Unrestricted Cash Balance	\$ 32,534					
Total Restricted (Designated) Cash						
Nourishing Hope	22,107					
Building Use/Mortgage	4,345					
Imagination Grant/Kitchen	9,535					
Ministry	18,749					

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

There is some “noise” this month in the financials that should be highlighted:

1. We received \$20k from insurance to cover the cost of replacing the roof and skylights over the sanctuary. This expense is also reflected in the Building Expenses line. This has a zero impact to the bottom line, but favorably inflates the actual giving and unfavorably increases expenses.
2. Nourishing Hope’s 2021 have been fully integrated into OFLC’s financial picture. NH received approximately \$7k of net contributions this year. Expenses are approximately \$3k.

Contributions were lower than budget for the month. Without the activity notated for insurance and NH, contributions were approximately \$17k which is much lower than budget. For the year, we continue to grow behind on our budget. Last month, we were behind by \$14k and this month we are behind by \$22k.

Expenses were over budget for the month by approximately \$5k (taking out the \$20k for the roof repair covered by insurance.) This is mostly driven by the timing of payroll expenses.

For the year, we continue to run in a deficit at \$17k. Expenses are relatively on track with budget; therefore, the deficit is due to being behind on our giving.

Any questions can be directed to accounting@ourfatherschurch.org

Grateful for 1 term done – only 7 more to go!



Hello to my OFLC faith family,

Term 1 of the MDivX program at Luther Seminary is done and I was able to take a short break to breathe. It was a very “intense” semester, as it should be as it is an intensive program. I completed classes in Systematic Theology, Leadership, Old Testament and New Testament. I began a part time internship at Trinity Lutheran Congregation in the Cedar-Riverside community in Minneapolis. In a few more days, class begins again and I’m excited to learn at the feet of accomplished scholars and people of deep faith.

It has been a really hard term, truth be told. One can anticipate there will be change and it is still hard to go through it. I miss being mom full-time. I miss my family and friends. I miss quiet afternoons. All of the areas of life that have been under stress have broken open to reveal new truths, and much of it requires great perseverance and reliance on the strength of the Lord. My faith has been deconstructed and it has forced me to dive deep into scripture and prayer to be able to rest in Jesus. This process is called “formation” for a reason.

It’s also been totally amazing. My professors are amazing. They are brilliant and faithful. I enjoy how they trust in the triune God such that they can push us to wonder about truth, grace, mercy, justice, and Jesus Christ and know that we’ll come out stronger in our own faith. I have made some new friends with my fellow seminary students even if most of our work is still online. I can’t wait to be in person with many of them very soon!

I’m overwhelmed by the support from our faith community and beyond. My whole family has enjoyed surprise meals, baskets o’ fun, notes of encouragement, and assurance of prayer. Thank you for being a part of this journey!

This fall we will continue to see new changes as this transformational process pushes us into new growth. Please continue to surround our family with prayer and feel free to reach out any time with questions or words of encouragement. Mary and Grace particularly like getting mail (Hint, hint!!)

9024 Marsh Run St., Rockford, MN 55373 or zend0001@hotmail.com

Blessings, Sarah Dahl



Council Minutes

By Chandler Drummond

Our Father's Lutheran Church

Attendees: Pam, Brian, Shannon, Diane, Rick, Tiffany, Amy K, Amy J, Dan

Devotion & Prayer – Chandler

Internal Ministries:

Guest Speakers Part 2 – “OFLC Comeback”

Amy Blake Field & Sherry Meola – Moved to next meeting

Administrative/Personnel:

Pastoral update (attached)

Kevin Reed to handle services next week

NH Sept 13th

Melissa has been asked to be onsite for the food drop

Scale has been moved out of the office so it will be ready to go

Diane to reach out to Julie to make sure we have this covered/Dan will also be in attendance

Possible issue with Breeze – Some people were notified and some were not – Ask that Aaron look at this for possible resolution

Finance:

Treasurer update

Building mortgage and congregational meeting date/finalization

PROPOSAL reviewed outlining options between BankWest Vs Mission Investment Fund – Vote to proceed with BankWest

Letter to congregation must be sent and it must be posted in the next two bulletins

Pam to make announcement at church next week and will draft a letter to be sent to Melissa for mailing – Needs to be out next week

Air conditioning donation

Congregational vote will be needed as well; distribution is over \$20K per the bylaws

Congregational vote scheduled for Sept 26; online voting is going to be an option

Revisit ideas for support for Sarah Dahl

Discovered an inability to pay out funds from the seminary scholarship; in the bylaws an application must be completed. Payment of \$700 has been distributed

Continued..

Council Minutes Finished

Other:

Coordinator for Community Outreach position – Tiffany Update

Candidates have been narrowed down to two candidates from a pool of 6 total
Candidate “A” is very qualified and has experience in this type of role but is asking for more than
had originally been posted

Candidate “B” is less qualified but will be in the range. This candidate is local and is known by
several people on the board. Has kids in the Rockford schools and is hoping
to work this job around drop off and pickup of kids

Much discussion reviewing the two; vote taken to extend an offer to candi-
date “B”; Amy to see where we could possibly go for hourly wage and
Tiffany to extend the offer

COVID protocol updates

Current CDC guidelines is to wear masks indoors

Recommendation is for “parents” choice during worship for children to wear a mask

Teachers and church staff will be required to be masked

Masks are recommended for all adults regardless of vaccination status

RiverWorks Golden Neighbor’s Lunch Club

Decision to advertise this within our church but we have limited capacity to provide vol-
unteers

Long-term back-up needed for streaming our services

Brief discussion on the technology quote Brian presented at prior meetings – low esti-
mate is \$46,517 for everything including ZOOM

Possible fund raising and grant writing is going to be needed

Opportunity for new volunteers to run the soundboard to help with
consistency – short term solution – issues with sound for online viewers

Slated for discussion at January meeting

Fee and usage update

Addendum to waive the fees if a donation is given for equal value

Disposable vs dishware (church groups)

Recommendation is if disposable products are used they should be recyclable and envi-
ronmentally friendly

Hold for October:

Updates for proposed OFLC Employee Handbook

Devotion Schedule: October – Brian November – Shannon December – Pam	Upcoming council meeting schedule: Oct 5, 2021 07:00 PM Nov 2, 2021 07:00 PM Dec 7, 2021 07:00 PM	Upcoming working session meeting schedule: Oct 19, 2021 07:00 PM Nov 16, 2021 07:00 PM Dec 21, 2021 07:00 PM
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Bedding Ministry

By: Laurie Hanson

Greetings from our Love INC Heartland Bedding Ministry!
 Thank you for your loving donations. We are ready to serve our neighbors. We will mask and be safe.
 Our only current need:
 New pillows (place in community resource room).

We'd love to know if you can lend a helping hand, even if it works for you only once in a while.
 Let Laurie Hanson know at
laurie.hanson90@gmail.com

The fall Fresh Start class has started up, located weekly at West Point Church in Delano.
 See the Love INC Heartland website or call 763-972-6547 for information. It's a fantastic class!

The Love INC store in Delano now has these store hours:
 Wednesdays 9-2
 Thursdays 2-6
 Fridays 9-12
 Check it out for clothing, gifts and other treasures.

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. Matthew



God Sighting

My God sighting was today 9/13 when I looked around at all my brothers and sisters in Christ working so hard to package food for their friends and neighbors!!

What a beautiful gift they shared!

Kathy Lunderby

Have you thought about volunteering with Nourishing-HOPE or helping to deliver Senior Meals but don't know where to begin?

Visit our website



Free Fresh Produce and Dairy Monday, October 11th 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 partnering with NourishingHOPE, please visit our website at www.ourfatherschurch.org/nourishing-hope.html

Open to anyone 60+

Confidential

Home Delivery

Made from scratch

NO-COST MEALS FOR SENIORS

WCCA and Catholic Charities have partnered with Nourishing Hope to provide seniors ten made-from-scratch, frozen meals per delivery, which can be microwaved or oven-cooked to heat.

If you live in Wright County (320) 963-6500 ext. 274 or ext. 241	If you live in Hennepin County (763) 477-6300 or email nourishinghope.oflc@gmail.com
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WCCA
WRIGHT COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION

NourishingHOPE
at OFLC

Senior Meals

Senior Meals: Do you know of someone over the age of 60 who could benefit from this FREE meal delivery?

Please share! We are also looking for Delivery Drivers!

If interested in helping please contact melissa@ourfatherschurch.org or call 763-477-6300



Nourishing Hope Transition

September 8, 2021

Dear OFLC Council,

There comes a time in all organizations, faith based and otherwise, when those who have initiated a program must step away in order for the program or ministry to fledge. That time has come for me with NourishingHOPE.

NourishingHOPE is now a thriving three year old. It is well known in the community, well-funded, well organized and, above all, it has become a ministry that exemplifies God's work in our community. I began transitioning program management to Kim Haggen last year at this time. She further grew and solidified the inner workings of the program. I had planned to pass my remaining duties to Kim over the course of this summer, supporting her sound direction of the program on the ground.

At this point I have created the best 'user manual' I can to pass on the workings of this ministry to whomever takes the reins. You have in place a strong leadership group committed to the direction of NourishingHOPE.

I know that God will continue to use this ministry to care for our neighbors in the community.

Peace,

Julie



October

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 ● 9am Sunday School ● 9am Worship ● 10am Special Congrega	27 ● 7pm AA Mtg ● 7pm Boy Scouts BSA	28 ● 7am BNI ● 10am Bible Study-onlin ● 5pm G.S. (K)Troop #18:	29 ● 5:30pm Bell Choir ● 6pm 1st Engage & Conf ● 6:30pm Worship Design	30 ● 5pm TOPS via Zoom	1 ● 6pm G.S. #18592 ● 7:30pm AA Mtg	2 ● 7:30am Men's Group
3 ● 9am Sunday School ● 9am Worship	4 ● 7pm AA Mtg ● 7pm Boy Scouts BSA	5 ● 7am BNI ● 10am Bible Study-onlin ● 5pm G.S. (K)Troop #18: ● 6:30pm G.S. #18270 ● 7pm Council Mtg	6 ● 5:30pm Bell Choir ● 6pm Engage & Confirm	7 ● 10am Thrift Store Helpe	8 ● 5pm G.S. #17936 ● 7:30pm AA Mtg	9
10 ● 9am Sunday School ● 9am Worship	11 ● 9am N.H. Food Drop ● 7pm AA Mtg ● 7pm Boy Scouts BSA ● 7pm G.S. Leaders Mtg	12 ● 7am BNI ● 10am Bible Study-onlin ● 5pm G.S. (K)Troop #18:	13 ● 5:30pm Bell Choir ● 6pm Engage & Confirm	14 ● 5pm TOPS via Zoom	15 ● 7:30pm AA Mtg	16 ● 7:30am Men's Group
17 ● 9am Sunday School ● 9am Worship	18 ● 9am Sewing/Quilting Gr ● 7pm AA Mtg ● 7pm Boy Scouts BSA	19 ● 7am BNI ● 10am Bible Study-onlin ● 5pm G.S. (K)Troop #18: ● 7pm Executive Commiti	20 ● 9am Sewing/Quilting Gr ● 5:30pm Bell Choir ● 6pm Engage & Confirm	21 ● Thrift Store Helpers	22 ● 7:30pm AA Mtg	23
24 ● 9am Sunday School ● 9am Worship	25 ● 7pm AA Mtg ● 7pm Boy Scouts BSA	26 ● 7am BNI ● 10am Bible Study-onlin ● 5pm G.S. (K)Troop #18:	27 ● 5:30pm Bell Choir ● 6pm Engage & Confirm ● 6:30pm Worship Design	28 ● 5pm TOPS via Zoom	29 ● 7:30pm AA Mtg	30
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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:

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/>

We're on YouTube!

Watch from the comfort of home.
Visit us at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCePt4KWmjvq1M7vPbljUfeA?view_as=subscriber

Don't forget to subscribe and like!

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