OUR FATHER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHER & SERVE

3909 Gilbert Ave SE Rockford MN 55357 (763) 477-6300 www.ourfatherschurch.org

Over the Handlebars with Pastor Dana

Karen and I recently watched a mini-series documentary on the Titanic, which "sunk" us into a minor Titanic obsession, which will culminate with seeing the "Titanic Immersive Experience" later this month.

By watching the documentary, seeing the 3-hour movie, and the rest, I learned and relearned some of the many striking things about this huge ship and her passengers. The Titanic carried some of the world's richest people, but over half of the passengers were third class, about 710 of the roughly 1317 total passengers (plus the crew). They were locked on the lowest decks of the ship and only about 25% of them survived, a much lower percentage than first or second class. Likewise with the crew, the men who had the least desirable jobs, and worked in the bowels of the ship as engineers or firemen all died when the ship went down.

I was struck anew by the attitudes of many of the more privileged passengers, who believed that their lives were more valuable than others, simply because of their station in society. I was also struck by the bravery of many of the crew, especially the men in the engine room who kept the coal fires burning so that there could be heat and electricity onboard till almost the very end. The legendary band played throughout the sinking, seeing it as their responsibility to reduce the incredible stress (they played only "happy" tunes, in major keys). The crew who organized a group of lifeboats to go back into the flotsam to look for survivors, in contrast to others who prevented survivors to climb onto their boats from the water.

The ship itself was a testament to human design and engineering, while at the same time a galling display of overconfidence and hubris. In the end, their design was most certainly not unsinkable. No one person could be named the villain, but the entirety of the "system" meant that rich women would live but poor men would not.

What does this tragedy have to teach us? What about our "systems" at OFLC? Are all voices heard, or only a few? Whose needs are met or left unmet? The gospel reaches across all classes and social strata; do we? Does the gospel, which sat down with tax collectors and fishermen, shape the room, or does the room's pecking order shape the gospel? How are our eyes drawn to those who need mercy, grace, and love?

Unlike the famous ship, we know that our buoyancy comes not from human greatness but from God's design for us as his children. Our course is not a brazen "full speed ahead" with no thought to the obstacles in our path, but rather from faithfully following the Holy Spirit's direction. A direction which binds us all together as one unique and unified community, seeking together to hear only the voice of Jesus as our "captain."

Afloat with you,

PD

Pastor Dana

Thursday, October 1 - Sewing/Quilting Ministry at 9 am
Saturday, October 3 - Men's Group at 7:30 am
Sunday, October 4 - Worship Service at 9 am * (First Communion Instruction after service.)
Tuesday, October 6 - Coffee & Conversation at 1:30 pm (Fellowship Hall)
Tuesday, October 6 - PD@ThePub at Billy's in Rockford from 4:30-6:30 pm
Wednesday, October 7 - Bible Study in Fellowship Hall at 10 am
Wednesday, October 7 - Bell Choir at 5:30 pm and Choir at 6:30 pm
Wednesday, October 7 - PATHFINDERS YOUTH at 6:30 pm
Thursday, October 8 - Sewing/Quilting Ministry at 9 am
Thursday, October 8 - Let's Talk About It at 6:30 pm
Sunday, September 11 - Worship Service at 9 am with First Communion *
Monday, October 12 - NOURISHING HOPE. Packing at 10 am. Distribution at 4 pm.
Tuesday, October 13 - OFLC Council Meeting at 7 pm (Conference Room)
Wednesday, October 14 - Bible Study in Fellowship Hall at 10 am
Wednesday, October 14 - Bell Choir at 5:30 pm and Choir at 6:30 pm
Wednesday, October 14 - PATHFINDERS YOUTH at 6:30 pm
Thursday, October 15 - Sewing/Quilting Ministry at 9 am
Saturday, October 17 - Men's Group at 7:30 am
Sunday, September 18 - Worship Service at 9 am *
Tuesday, October 20 - PD@ThePub at Billy's in Rockford from 4:30-6:30 pm
Wednesday, October 21 - Bible Study in Fellowship Hall at 10 am
Wednesday, October 21 - Bell Choir at 5:30 pm and Choir at 6:30 pm
Wednesday, October 14 - PATHFINDERS YOUTH at 6:30 pm
Thursday, October 15 - Sewing/Quilting Ministry at 9 am
Sunday, October 25 - CONFIRMATION SUNDAY. Worship Service at 9 am *
Monday, October 26 - Fresh Start Meal
Wednesday, October 28 - Bible Study in Fellowship Hall at 10 am
Wednesday, October 28 - Bell Choir at 5:30 pm and Choir at 6:30 pm
Wednesday, October 28 - PATHFINDERS YOUTH at 6:30 pm
Thursday, October 29 - Sewing/Quilting Ministry at 9 am
Thursday, October 29 - Let's Talk About It at 6:30 pm

**Sunday School meets right after the Children's Sermon during the Worship Service*

For those who are unable to join us on Sunday mornings, please join us Tuesday, October 6 at 1:30 pm for an hour of coffee and conversation

What is Twin Hearts Meditation?

Did you know that OFLC has a prayer room?

It was the inspiration and contribution of Norie Siers, with a little help from her friends, more than 10 years ago. For many years we have practiced Twin Hearts, a guided mediation technique for spiritual development and healing. When doing Meditation on Twin Hearts, the heart and crown chakras activate divine energy and bless the earth with Peace, Love, Light, and Joy. Please consider joining us. Meditation is typically Friday nights at 6:00 pm. However, we are a very small group and if one of us has a conflict, we do move meditation to Thursdays at 6:30 pm. For further information, please contact Vickie Boyer 612-751-0433. Please RSVP if you plan to attend so we can coordinate the date and time!

WANTED

Choir Members

(Ages High School to Golden Years)

Especially need singers in soprano, tenor and bass ranges, but welcome altos too! We will sing a variety of music.

Bell Choir and Choir practices on Wednesday,
Bell Choir 5:30 - 6:30 pm
Choir 6:30 - 7:30 pm

If interested in joining us, please contact Tammy Jarvi at 763-732-8920 or tammy.jarvi14@gmail.com

We are excited to have some new music added to our Children's Bell Choir library and will be sharing it soon during worship!

Grab a seat with Pastor Dana at Billy's from 4:30 to 6:00 pm for stories, laughs, and good company.

10/6/2026

10/20/2026

OFLC's **Quilting and Sewing Ministry** meets on Thursdays in the south end of the building from 9 - 11:30 AM. Our main objective is to make quilts for Vinland National Center. Vinland treats clients who are dealing with addiction issues as well as mental health challenges. Each client receives a hand made quilt, which they are invited to take with them as they continue recovery outside the center. If you would like to help with this ministry, please join us in September. *Have questions? Contact Gail at dgswan00@msn.com.*

Love INC Heartland Update

Greetings from Love In the Name of Christ Heartland.
Our bedding ministry has been helping families with bedding and linen requests about once monthly. We've provided twin bedding for 15 twin beds this year, most of those for children and teens.
These are the main items we can use right now:

- *Twin comforters or quilts (helpful if some are neutral gender)*
- *Twin sheet sets*
- *Queen sheet sets*

These can be new, or used and washed.
Thank you! God is good!

FRESH START PROGRAM

On Monday, October 26, a meal will be provided for participants of the Love INC Fresh Start Program. There will be opportunities for food donation and serving help. A sign-up genius will be posted available by the announcement table or go https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4EACA928ABF49-66184378-monday#/ to sign up online.

thank♡you

Looking for a way to help our community?
Sign up for Meals on Wheels.
One day or Several. Whatever fits your schedule.
For more information, contact John Gilb (612) 719-1783

Just a few spots left in to volunteer in October.

Meets Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room at Our Father's Lutheran Church

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

October 8
October 29
November 12
November 19
December 3
December 17

"Let's Talk About It" — a space created just for you, our teens and young adults, to connect, reflect, and grow together through open, honest conversation. This program is more than just a series of discussions. It's a safe and respectful space where your thoughts, your questions, and your experiences truly matter. Life comes at us fast — with challenges, doubts, big dreams, and even bigger questions — and here, we're saying: Let's talk about it.

That's why we're here — together. The chaplains aren't here to talk at you, but to talk with you. To listen. To reflect. To journey with you through the tough stuff and the good stuff. No judgment. No pressure. Just honest conversations that help us all grow. Let's talk about it.

Free Fresh Produce and Dairy

Monday, October 12 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Boxes of fresh produce and dairy products will be available for drive through pickupon afirstcome, first serve basis at the following locations:

Corcoran
St. Thomas Catholic Church
20000County Road10
Corcoran, MN 55340

Rockford
Our Father's Lutheran
3903Gilbert AveSE
Rockford, MN 55373

Delano
Light of Christ Lutheran Church
3976CountyLineRoad SE
Delano, MN55328

Hanover
Influence Church @ City Hall
112505thStreetNE
Hanover, MN 55341

Buffalo
Buffalo Covenant Church
1601 Highway 25 North
Bu ffa lo, MN 55 31 3

Maple Grove
Rice Lake Bible Chapel
8801 RiceLake Road Maple Grove, MN 55 369

For assistance locating a specific site or for questions, please contact us at Brittni@ourfatherschurch.org

NourishingHOPE is a ministry of Our Father's Lutheran Church,in cooperationwith 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://tinyurl.com/4hjpu7k7
Questions? **Email Brittni at *Brittni@ourfatherschurch.org***

NOURISHINGHOPE EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION
Our Father's Lutheran Church & Outlaying Areas
September 14, 2026

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

TOTAL POUNDS RECEIVED - 27,386
TOTAL POUNDS RECEIVED PER PERSON - 17.8

Visits: 504 **75 - first time visitors** **429 - repeat visitors**

		Vehicles	Zip Codes
Churches Serving:	Buffalo Covenant	82	12
	Corcoran St Thomas	60	14
	Delano Light Of Christ	100	10
	Hanover Influence	127	20
	Maple Grove Rice Lake Baptist	18	9
	Rockford Our Father's Lutheran	117	13
		504	78
Household Size:	0-17 years	455	
	18-64 years	687	
	65+	394	
	TOTAL	1,536	

SCAN ME

Sunday School registration is still open. 3 years old by September 1 to 5th grade welcome. Register today!

https://oflc.breezechms.com/form/127ccc648292555415

The Sunday School program is always in need of more help with:

- Teaching a class (Substitute or co-teaching)
- Planning for the Christmas program
- Planning and helping with service projects
- Prayers for our children

Please contact Dan Reed or email office@ourfatherschurch.org to let us know how you can help. Thank you!

For youths in 5th Grade:

FIRST COMMUNION

during 9 am service on Sunday, October 11

Please note - First Communion Instruction to be held after worship service on Sunday, October 4

Mark your calendars ...

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

during 9 am service on Sunday, October 25

Don't forget to bring your spare change and put into the red twirly thing. **Proceeds go to the Sunday School Program.**

Pathfinders Youth Off to a Great Start!!

Pathfinders recently had their KICKOFF BBQ on September 23rd. We had great weather and grilled up some hot dogs and burgers while the kids played games and the parents got to visit with each other. We also were able to have a quick parent meeting to go over the year and what to expect. Our group has grown this year and we are very excited to have 27 registered Pathfinders in Grades 5-9th Grade and we encourage all to invite other kids this age to join us on Wednesday evenings from 6-7:30. Throughout the year, our Pathfinders will engage in lessons with Pastor Dana, have group discussions, meals, service projects, games, and music. The purpose of our Wednesday Night Pathfinders Youth is for the kids to look forward to their Wednesday evenings and grow and connect in their faith with their friends alongside them. It's not too late to join us. Please reach out to Shannon Sand or Angie Drummond with questions and more information. See you on Wednesday nights!

Shannon Sand and Angie Drummond
Pathfinders Youth Directors

Our Father's Lutheran Church
PATHFINDERS
YOUTH
FAITH + FRIENDSHIP + SERVICE

There's still time to sign up for **PATHFINDERS YOUTH**
(formerly known as Engage & Confirm)
All **5th-9th Graders** are welcome to join us on Wednesday Nights 6:00-7:30 pm at OFLC.
Register today! **https://tinyurl.com/zhmp8u5w**

OUR FATHER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

STAFF

Dana Peterson, Interim Pastor
pastordana@ourfatherschurch.org

Nikki Nute
Office Administrator
office@ourfatherschurch.org

Tammy Jarvi, Director of Music
tammy.jarvi14@gmail.com

Brittni Bronczyk, Nourishing Hope Coordinator
Brittni@ourfatherschurch.org

Dan Reed, Sunday School Coordinator

Shannon Sand and Angie Drummond, Pathfinders Youth Coordinators

WORSHIP
SUNDAYS
AT 9:00 AM

2026 OFLC COUNCIL

Denise Wold - President
Lindsey Bervig- Vice President
Larissa Kurth - Secretary
Nate Johnson - Treasurer
Ken Lunderby - Member at Large
Nina Walker - Member at Large
Mark Nelson - Member at Large
Vickie Boyer - Member at Large

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday 11 am - 2 pm
Wednesday 1 - 4 pm
Friday 11 am - 2 pm

Are you getting your emails from the Prayer Chain? If not, go to https://oflc.breezechms.com/form/44ac0d and sign up.

Are you you following OFLC on Facebook? If not, go to https://www.facebook.com/OFLCMN/ and sign up.

WEBSITE
https://www.ourfatherschurch.org/
Livestream
https://shorturl.at/Zlz37
Phone 763-477-6300