



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

*September 2023*

## *GOD's Work in action*

**By Council President Wendy Gustafson**

I hope you have been around this month to see God's work in action. In addition to our usual church activities we were active during River Days and our yearly VBS. Everything went so well due to the great numbers of volunteers that we had. It's always more fun when we have a project to work together on. The wheels of progress are working toward the interview process after receiving the first candidate names from the Synod this week. Keep up the prayers!

Wendy Gustafson  
Council President

## Inside This Issue

God's work & Love inc	1
Sewing & Building Updates	2
Sunday School Registration	3
Engage & Confirm	4
Updates/Looking forward to	5
Music	6
VBS Update	7
Council Minutes	8
Nourishing Hope	9
Office News	10

## **Love INC Heartland Bedding Ministry Update**

Watch for opportunities to help with Fresh Start class meals this fall. We'll be looking for food items or serving help on Sign Up Genius. Thank you!

The Golf for Love Fundraising Tournament is Monday, September 18, in Annandale. If you are interested in checking it out, see the Love INC Heartland website for details.

## Sewing & Quilting Ministry

Do you enjoy sewing or quilting? Or would you like to learn? If so, we've got a group for you. The Quilting/Sewing Ministry generally meets on the third Monday and Wednesday of each month. We get together from 9 to 11:30 AM, and using mostly donated fabric, we construct simple, usable quilts for the residents at Vinland Treatment Center. Vinland provides drug and alcohol addiction treatment to those with cognitive impairment and brain injury. Residents are encouraged to choose a bed quilt to use during their time there, then to take that quilt with them when their rehab has ended.

Our get-togethers will begin Wednesday, September 20 this fall. I'll send a reminder as we near that date. If you'd like to be on the list, please email Gail at [dgswan00@msn.com](mailto:dgswan00@msn.com), and I'll be sure to contact you closer to the 20th.

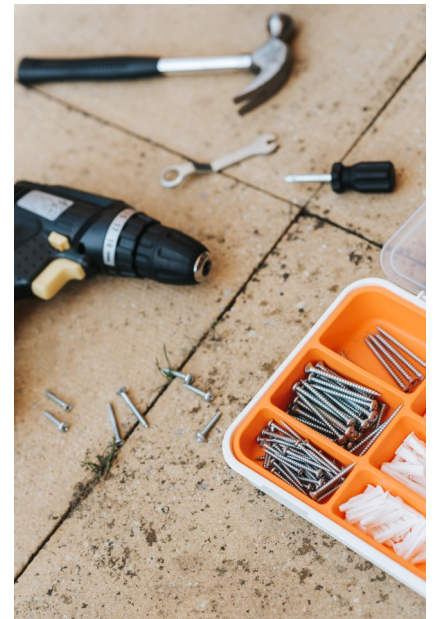
We have need for people to cut squares, sew, and tie. If you're not a quilter or sewer, but have your own handiwork project that needs some dedicated time, bring it along and just enjoy the conversation.

Hope to see you in September!

## Building coordination

Hi everyone. I have made a decision to leave the building and grounds coordinator position on October 1st. It's time! There are more capable hands to do this work than I. It has been enjoyable doing this work but I no longer have an appetite to get on any more ladders. I have been a volunteer most of my adult life and I'm ready to move on to the outdoor activities I truly love. I would like to thank everyone who I have worked with over the last 20 years in this position.

God Bless! John



# Sunday School Registration

## Now Open for 23-24 School Year!!

Sunday Mornings from 9:15-10am

Ages 3-5th Grade

Register here:

[Ourfatherschurch.org](https://Ourfatherschurch.org)



We have an exciting year planned, including:

- Annual Christmas Program
- Community Service Projects
- Prayer Pillows for Pre-K
- Bibles for 3rd Graders
- Student Led Church Service in Spring



## Engage & Confirm



Back to School season is here and that means a new year of Engage & Confirm!

We look forward to welcoming all students in **grades 6-10th** to our

**Rally Night on Sept 27.**

This will also be a great night for parents & any interested volunteers to meet up as well!

We strive to provide a safe and fun place to learn and grow in our faith. We are excited to discover more about our Creator and the great plans He has for us this year and beyond!

If your child plans to attend we ask that they are registered so as to not miss out on group information shared via email or text.

Register at:

[Ourfatherschurch.org](http://Ourfatherschurch.org)



## Wonderful Week

What a wonderful week hosting over 60 kids and many pet friends for VBS this week. I can honestly say that in all my years at OFLC (I grew up here) I have never seen dogs, goats, or horses! This VBS will go down as a highlight in OFLC history. The other big news this week was that the Synod has sent the first candidate names to the call committee so they may begin their interview process. Fall plans are underway for Sunday School and Engage & Confirm. If you are looking for a place to share your gifts, reach out- we have a place for you!

Wendy Gustafson  
Council Present

## COMING SOON



OFLC council is moving forward with using part of the funds from the Give To The Max fund drive to work on updates to the parking lot. We'll keep you posted on the timeline for this project.

## Building & Grounds

Do you have skills in maintenance and repair? We often talk about our offerings being in all the different ways that we use our gifts and talents. After 20 years of caring for our building, John Gilb is ready for a break. He has big shoes to fill and we are hoping that we can get a small team to take on this service to our building. We would love to hear from you if you would be willing to help!

Please reach out to the church office, Chandler Drummond, or Wendy Gustafson if you would be willing to help!



## Sweet Treats

Speaking of sharing our gifts.... do you like to bake? We are looking to update our baking list volunteers. We look for occasional help for funerals or events. Would you be willing to bake a pan of bars or some cookies once in a while? We would love to add you to our baking roster.

Please reach out to the office, Renee Knapp, or Wendy Gustafson if you would be willing to help out.

Council Present

## Changes within OFLC

Those who have been within OFLC this summer might notice some changes that have occurred. One of those changes is the moving of the Office and Pastoral Office. As we prepare for the new Pastor, it was decided to have the Pastoral Office right when people walk into the building. So what was the office is now and will become the Pastoral Office. Melissa and Brittnei have moved to what was the "finance office" in the fellowship hall area.

## Music Ministry

**Bell Choir** is meeting Wednesdays from 5:30 – 6:30 pm beginning September 6th. No prior experience needed.

**Choir** is meeting Wednesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 pm beginning September 6th.

**Worship** – Do you sing or play an instrument? Please share your music with us during worship. There are always openings during every worship service to share your offering of music. You are always welcomed and encouraged to share your gifts!

If you have interest or have questions this or any other music activity, please call Tammy @ 763-732-8920 or email [tammy.jarvi14@gmail.com](mailto:tammy.jarvi14@gmail.com).

## Pets Unleashed VBS

Pets Unleashed VBS was a HUGE success! We had 67 kids join us for three days of singing, science, crafts, outdoor games, Bible Stories, pets, and FUN! We ended our time together with a celebration complete with a Food Truck, Horse rides, ponies, and goats. THANK YOU to the 36 volunteers who made the experience possible! A VERY SPECIAL thank you to Shannon Sand for all her help coordinating our volunteers and Brittni Bronczyk for making over 100 t-shirts for our kids and volunteers!







## Council Minutes

By Wendy Gustafson

**Our Father's Lutheran Church**  
**Council Minutes**  
**August 17, 2023**

Attendance: Wendy Gustafson, Shannon Sand, Jody Bryant, Lauren Johnson, Erin Smith, Jill Madsen

### **Devotion & Prayer – Lauren**

#### **Administrative/Personnel:**

Pastoral Call update: Call committee has received 2 candidate names and will begin the interview process.

Pastoral Report – Pastor Bob has been preaching (with Bible study after service,) completing pastoral care calls/visits, and preparing the funeral of Linda Devens.

#### **Finance:**

Treasurer update- Funds are stable. Monthly offering for July was \$19,916.

Transition from to new bookkeeping-no further changes this month.

Yeti program- will extend into September to accommodate increase anticipated payroll increase for a new pastor.

Counting Schedule- Increase to twice a month. Counters are signing up for shifts via SignUp Genius.

Vanco update in progress. This is a program that operates Simply Giving and will be required in coming months to continue this service.

#### **Internal Ministries:**

##### **Building & Grounds**

Building & Grounds Committee recruitment- John Gilb is resigning effective 10/1.(Thanks John!)

Looking to recruit a committee to cover building needs.

Parking lot renovations-Resurfacing bids reviewed. Will plan to resurface/stripe the north parking lot.

Goal for completion before Fall Festival. This will be funded from the Give to the Max campaign last fall and a contribution from Nourishing Hope.

Building Security – discussion regarding options for access and improving the system of balancing building security and needs of individual/group access.

**Nourishing Hope**-will contribute partial funds for parking lot upkeep. They will be adding a line item to their budget to consider building upkeep regarding their services.

**VBS**-Wonderful week. Many adult volunteers helped things run smoothly. Need to review safety practices re: adult volunteers. Will review/update as needed for next year.**Sunday School/ Engage and Confirm**- Fall enrollment is in progress.

**Funeral Process**– Discussion of things to update post-Covid costs. Kitchen role will receive a small stipend for each service. While in the call process consider the pastoral funeral pay with increased time spent with families.

Continued.....



## Council Minutes continued

### Upcoming Events

Fall Festival- October 14<sup>th</sup> - Brittini has planning underway.

Crow River- December 2<sup>nd</sup> - Christmas- recruit volunteers to organize.

### Other:

Eagle Scout Project request- no update

Upcoming meeting schedule- Council meetings will be moving to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month to accommodate end of month bookkeeping needs.

Other items from council- Adams pest control hasn't been coming – will contact them to assess our service.

September 12, 2023 - 7:00 PM

October 10, 2023 – 7:00 PM

November 14, 2023 7:00 PM

December 12, 2023 7:00 PM

January 9, 2023 7:00 PM

# SAVE THE DATE

## Fall Festival

# Saturday October 14th

## Nourishing Hope



NourishingHOPE

## Free Fresh Produce and Dairy

**Monday, September 11th**  
**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](mailto: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](http://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 Interim** Robert Linstrand

**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)