



2023 Annual Meeting
St. Olaf Free Lutheran Church
Pastor Nicholas Schultz
Sunday, January 14, 2024

St. Olaf Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 14, 2024

Call to Order – Rev. Nicholas Schultz

Scripture and Prayer

Approval of Minutes – Secretary Donna Dominiack

Reports

- Pastor's Report
- President's Report
- Trustee's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Sunday School Report
- Ladies' Aid Report

Unfinished Business

- No unfinished business

Elections

- Initial Election Business
 - Usher to be assigned by month with custodial duties
- Secretary/Treasurer
 - Nominee
 - Donna Dominiack
- Sunday School Superintendent
 - Nominee
 - Desiree Surat
- Assistant Sunday School Superintendent
 - Nominee
 - Kristy Nelson

- Deacon (Ballot – 3-year term)
 - Current
 - Steve Nelson (2024)
 - Mark Grussing (2025)
 - Nominees (2026)
 - Craig Swanson
 - Dennis Gunderson
- Trustee (Ballot – 3-year term)
 - Current
 - Kirk Surat (2024)
 - Zack Nelson (2025)
 - Nominees (2026)
 - Gary Dozark
 - Rick Powell
- Nominating Committee (3)
 - Nominees are taken from the floor.

New Business

- Church in the Park
- VBS Team
- Service Times
- Draw lots to assign Janitor/Usher for each month
- Other New Business?

Adjourn and Close with Prayer

Pastor Nicholas Schultz called the meeting to order at 1:30. There were 19 voting members present.

Pastor Schultz read from Jeremiah and followed the scriptures with prayer.

Peggy Swanson made a motion to adopt the amended agenda as presented. Zack Nelson seconded the motion, motion carried.

Minutes of the 2022 annual meeting were read by Donna Dominiack. Gary Dozark made a motion to accept the report as read. Jeanine Keiner seconded the motion, motion carried.

Pastor Schultz's explained it is not necessary to have a motion on reports.

Pastor's Schultz touched on a few important points in his report. The life of the church comes from the Holy Spirit. We as a congregation need to seek out ways to help our neighbors, to care for them.

Dennis Gunderson read the council action for 2022.

Treasurer's report was reviewed by Donna Dominiack. Steve Nelson questioned the total on the Thrivent amount.

Donna explained that is the total amount that we have in the Thrivent account at this time. Rick Powell made a motion to accept the report as reviewed. Craig Swanson seconded the motion, motion carried.

Kristy Nelson read the Sunday School Report which also included the Sunday School Treasurer's report.

Jeanine Keiner read the Ladies Aid Treasurer's report. Jeanine explained there was an error of \$600.00 on last year's report that was corrected this year.

Old Business:

Dori will contact the AFLC to see if there is a 2023 VBS Team available.

This year will be the 11th annual St. Olaf Cowboy Church held the 3rd Saturday in September. The Board will discuss the entertainment and plan the rest of the event at the monthly meetings. Pastor Schultz will contact Jarrod Hylden to see if he would want to be the speaker for the event.

Election of Officers

The nominations for deacon are Dennis Gunderson and Mark Grussing. Peggy Swanson made a motion for nomination to cease. Rick Powell seconded the motion, motion carried. Mark Grussing is the deacon.

The nominations for trustee are Zack Nelson and Rick Powell. Mark Grussing made a motion for nomination to cease. Steve Nelson seconded the motion, motion carried. Zack Nelson is the trustee.

Steve Nelson made a motion for Head Usher to be whomever is custodian for the month. Bill Nelson seconded the motion, motion carried. Head Usher will continue to be the custodian of the month.

The nomination for secretary is Donna Dominiack. Mark Grussing made a motion for nomination to cease and to cast a unanimous ballot for Donna. Gary Dozark seconded the motion, motion carried.

The nomination for treasurer is Donna Dominiack. Dori Krenke made a motion for nomination to cease and to cast a unanimous ballot for Donna. Craig Swanson seconded the motion, motion carried.

The nominations for Sunday School Superintendent are Dori Krenke and Desirae Surat. Dori Krenke removed her name from consideration. Ivy Howe nominated Kristy Nelson. Craig Swanson made a motion for nomination to cease. Dennis Gunderson seconded the motion, motion carried. Kristy Nelson is the Sunday School Superintendent.

The nomination for Assistant Sunday School Superintendent is Kristy Nelson. Kristy Nelson removed her name from consideration. Peggy Swanson nominated Desirae Surat. Kristy Nelson made a motion for nomination to cease and to cast a unanimous ballot for Desirae. Dori Krenke seconded the motion, motion carried. Desirae Surat is the Assistant Sunday School Superintendent.

The nomination for Pianist is Kristy Nelson. Mark Grussing made a motion for nomination to cease and to cast a unanimous ballot for Kristy. Marsha Dozark seconded the motion, motion carried.

Nominating Committee nominees: Dennis Gunderson, Rick Powel, Peggy Swanson. Craig Swanson made a nomination to close nominations and unanimously elect Dennis Gunderson, Rick Powell, and Peggy Swanson to be the 2024

Nominating Committee. Bill Nelson seconded the motion, motion carried. Dennis Gunderson, Rick Powell, and Peggy Swanson will be the 2024 Nominating Committee.

Gary and Marsha Dozark volunteered to be in charge of 2024 communion.

New Business:

Families drew for cleaning months.

The Bart Krenke family and the Craig Swanson family will serve Easter Breakfast.

Donna Dominiack gave a brief update on the Thrivent cards. She stressed that is important to apply for the cards each year. You can use the cards for buying food for the needy, Angel Christmas tree gifts, VBS supplies, food for pet shelters. Just to mention a few. You do not have to hold an event to use the cards.

Dennis Gunderson asked people to sign up to read scriptures during worship. Craig Swanson made a motion to let women read scripture during public worship. Motion was withdrawn after not receiving a second. Some conversation happened out of order. Steve Nelson said he is against us having a vote on this issue because it would make a rule where there is no rule now if it is voted against. He feels this could limit women, for example, reading the advent readings if the vote does not pass. He suggested further discussion amongst the board and congregation.

Mark Grussing made a motion for St. Olaf to maintain their Sunday service at 9:00 a.m. going forward if Pukwana is willing to stay with the 11:00 a.m. service. Ivy Howe seconded the motion, motion carried

Craig Swanson mentioned holding a combined Christmas Eve service with Pukwana. It was agreed to continue on as we currently do it.

Peggy Swanson thanked Dennis Gunderson for the beautiful closet doors that he made.

No further business.

Pastor Schultz adjourned the meeting at 2:23

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Donna Dominiack, Secretary

St. Olaf Lutheran Church – Pastor’s Report

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

(Acts 1:8, ESV)

When God’s New Testament Church number only 120 people, it was hard to see how such a small group, led by such young men of which so few had much in the way of formal education could carry out our Lord’s command to make disciples of all nations. And yet, here we are, nearly two thousand years later and halfway around the world... the literal ends of the earth, disciples of Christ Jesus.

How is such a miraculous growth of the church possible? First, the Holy Spirit’s power. God grows the church. God does this through the preaching of His Word, through which the Holy Spirit goes forth in power to create faith in the hearts of all nations. But the second element is one we do not like to talk about as much. I want to call it hustle, but it is more than that. The 120 in the upper room the day of Pentecost went out of that room empowered by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke to the people about Jesus. They went out and they found the lost. They went out and they spoke the truth in love to those who did not know. A biblical way to say this second element is compassion. Compassion is being moved to action because of the situation your neighbor is in. Put plainly, the second element is believing Christ’s death on the cross and His resurrection are real and because they are real, He has change everything for you and for everyone else.

When I consider the spiritual welfare of St. Olaf Lutheran, I see strengths and opportunities. SOLC has a very devout core group of people who love Jesus and love the congregation. Thank you for all that you do around the church and in the community. We also have a strong commitment to teaching God’s Word and not bending to pressures of the culture to sway our convictions that God has so clearly spoken to the world in the scriptures.

One of my favorite things about St. Olaf is the powerful sense of Christian community that has been fostered over the years. This congregation is filled with people who love one another and care for one another and it is a beautiful thing.

We have opportunities as well. One of our opportunities is to rediscover our identity as a Free Lutheran Congregation. After four years of a rotating pulpit, some of the distinctives of our Free Lutheran theology have certainly faded in places. In order to help us recover these distinctives, on Wednesday nights, we are studying the Fundamental Principles of the Lutheran Free Church. The Fundamental Principles are more than our heritage as Free Lutherans, they provide the lens through which we understand who we are according to God’s Word. Looking ahead to Lent, our services will similarly highlight what it means to be Lutheran. Part of understanding who we are as a congregation is to understand the basics of what it means to be

Lutheran as opposed to our brothers and sisters in Christ who worship from a different Christian theology.

Another opportunity for St. Olaf is to increase our activity in Youth Ministry. Youth Ministry is an important work of the church to provide foundational teaching for our young people to take with them to school and after graduation. In order for this ministry to happen and for it to be done well, parents must be involved in leading this ministry. That involvement might look like organizing a team of parents to take on the work, leading a Bible Study, leading a devotion, or hosting youth in your home. Would you pray and consider if this is something you would be able to help lead?

One last thought to leave you with. The Christian life primarily consists of two things: assurance of salvation and vocation. Assurance comes from the Holy Spirit who works through the Gospel found in the Word and Sacraments. This assurance tells you that Jesus is for you. His death. His resurrection. His forgiveness. His eternal life. All of Jesus is for you. Vocation is the callings that God has given to you in your life in order for you to love your neighbor. God has made some of you husbands, mothers, children, congregation members, workers, employers, and so forth. Your relationships at home, in the church, and at work are a gift from God and he has prepared each of those relationships to a place for you to do good works because your neighbor needs them.

As we go through the year, listening to sermons, singing psalms, praying together, and studying God's Word, I want you to consider this basic idea: The Christian life consists primarily of two things: assurance of salvation and vocation.

2023 Pastoral Ministry Review

Baptisms: Crue Krenke (6/11/2023); Everett Nelson (8/13/2023)

Communion: 14 Services

Weddings: none

Funeral/Memorial: Ralph Gray (9/29/2023)

Students in Confirmation: 4 – Evangelyn Schultz, Vera Nelson, Tatlin Sinkie, Chelsi Surat

Other Highlights:

3/13 – Attended Nancey Percy Lectures at FLBCS

Mid-Week Lent Services: The Ten Commandments

4/25 – Attended SD Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources seminar on suicide awareness for clergy in rural areas

5/28-6/3 – Hosted FLBC students leading VBS at St. Olaf

6/14-17 – Attended AFLC Annual Conference and Home Missions Corp Meeting in Sioux Falls

7/16-21 – Led morning Bible Study at Pickerel Lake Lutheran Bible Camp

8/20 – Participated in Chamberlain Ministerial Association Community Worship Service

9/6 – Began Jr. Confirmation Class with 5 total students
9/16 – Hosted Rev. Ryan Patenaude and family for Cowboy Church and guest preaching
10/2-3 – Attended Home Missions Board Meeting and All Boards Meeting
10/19 – Participated in Chamberlain Ministerial Association Community Thanksgiving Service
Mid-Week Advent Services: Isaiah 40:1-11
12/3 – Started using the Historic One Year Lectionary for our Sunday morning worship
12/10 – Christmas Caroling with St. Olaf
12/24 – Christmas Eve Services cancelled due to weather

Submitted,

Rev. Nicholas Schultz

1/7/2024

Soli Deo Gloria

CHURCH BOARD ACTION FOR 2023

- Board decides on the monthly mission projects
- Organized the 11th annual cowboy church service
- Organized the Pancake Supper and donated the free-will donations to Missouri Valley Christian School
- Donated \$250.00 to Champions Forever, a Christian Event held at the Armory
- Organized caroling and lunch afterwards at the church. Which was a great time!

**ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023 TREASURER'S REPORT**

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance on 1-1-2023 | \$25,123.17 |
| <u>INCOME</u> | |
| Tithes | \$39,681.17 |
| Cash | \$5,377.83 |
| Missions | \$5,936.00 |
| Thrivent Choice Dollars | \$1,034.00 |
| Donation | \$250.00 |
| Don Janik Memorial | \$100.00 |
| Ralph Gray Memorial | \$275.00 |
| Youth Account | \$430.00 |
| Platte Elevator Dividend | \$32.81 |
| Church Directory | \$20.00 |
| Pancake Supper | \$381.00 |
| Pukwana 1/2 Misc Bills | \$2,397.96 |
| Harvest Festival | \$7,230.00 |
| Pat Surat Donation | \$50.00 |
| Ola Hall, Water | \$150.00 |
| TOTAL 2023 INCOME: | \$63,345.77 |

Thrivent Mutual Funds

Thrivent Mutual Funds

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| 6/3/2019 | \$30,000.00 |
| 10/9/2019 | \$15,000.00 |
| 12/31/2019 | 347.95 |
| 3/31/2020 | 130.97 |
| 5/7/2020 | \$15,000.00 |
| 6/30/2020 | \$14.06 |
| 9/30/2020 | \$0.00 |
| 12/14/2020 | \$20,000.00 |
| 6/30/2021 | \$40,000.00 |
| 9/30/2021 | \$0.00 |
| 12/31/2021 | \$0.00 |
| 1/7/2022 | \$20,000.00 |
| 9/30/2022 | \$609.94 |
| 11/30/2022 | \$328.68 |
| 11/30/2022 | -\$50,000.00 |
| 1/1/2023 | \$562.03 |
| 3/31/2023 | \$962.26 |
| 6/30/2023 | \$1,089.23 |
| 9/30/2023 | \$15,000.00 |
| 9/30/2023 | \$1,205.40 |
| 12/31/2023 | \$1,397.76 |
| Total Invested as of 12-31-2023 | \$111,648.28 |

interest rate 5.19 %

2023 Expenses

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| AFLC, 10% Tithes and Cash | \$4,505.90 |
| Thrivent Mutual Funds Investment | \$15,000.00 |
| Missions | \$5,936.00 |
| Central Electric, Monthly Utility | \$1,069.00 |
| Pastor Nicholas Schultz, Payroll | \$29,844.96 |
| Pastor Nicholas Schultz, Conference Expenses | \$742.10 |
| Pastor Nicholas Schultz, Facebook/Website Expenses | \$242.00 |
| Pastor Nicholas Schultz, Pastor Appreciation | \$500.00 |
| Pastor Nicholas Schultz, Confirmation/Baptism Supplies | \$291.98 |
| Cash Deposit Error | \$5.00 |
| AFLC, Pastor Nicholas Schultz 401K | \$3,846.00 |
| Pastor Ryan Patenaude, Cowboy Church Speaker | \$550.00 |
| Brian Balster, Fill-in | \$117.00 |
| Gene VanZee, Fill-in | \$117.00 |
| Jason Weber, Fill-in | \$135.00 |
| Brian Fite, Fill-in | \$117.00 |
| Church Mutual Insurance | \$2,601.00 |
| Burke Oil, Church Propane | \$1,978.93 |
| Missouri Valley Christian School Donation | \$381.00 |
| Harland Checks | \$25.90 |
| Central Dakota Times, Ads | \$154.00 |
| Platte Enterprise, Ads | \$104.00 |
| Platte Colony, Cowboy Church Food | \$150.00 |
| Chris Husman, Cooked meat for Cowboy Church | \$500.00 |
| Aurora/Brule Water | \$431.25 |
| AFLC, VBS Team | \$1,500.00 |
| AFLC Conference Registration | \$60.00 |
| AFLC Parish Education, Baptismal Supplies & Bible Study Books | \$341.40 |
| Champions Forever, Christian Event | \$250.00 |
| Miriam Schultz, Cowboy Church Entertainment | \$400.00 |
| Postmaster, Roll of Stamps | \$66.00 |
| TOTAL 2023 EXPENSES: | \$71,962.42 |
| Ending Balance on 12-31-2023 | \$16,506.52 |

2023 Missions:

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| January | Paul & Becky Abel | \$307.00 |
| February | InterVarsity(Wade Gunderson) | \$420.00 |
| March | Brian Balster Ministries | \$710.00 |
| April | Pickerel Lake Bible Camp | \$371.00 |
| May | AFLC Bible School & Seminary | \$424.00 |
| June | Gene VanZee Ministries | \$265.00 |
| July | John & Hannah Lee | \$545.00 |
| August | David Leheska Family | \$500.00 |
| September | Dennis Gunderson | \$670.00 |
| October | Jaime Belcher | \$685.00 |
| November | Brian Keiner | \$492.00 |
| December | Brian Balster APT Ministries | \$547.00 |
| | Missions 2023 Total | \$5,936.00 |

2023 St. Olaf Sunday School Report

We had a great year of Sunday School. We have 16 students and 3 teachers. We started a middle/high school class this year, with Valerie Nelson teaching 7 students. Desirae Surat taught the pre-k-2nd grade class with 5 students, and I taught the 5th grade class with 4 students. We are very blessed to have Miriam Schultz to fill in for us whenever needed. We started new Concordia material this fall, Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum.

Sunday School gave gifts to the mothers and fathers in the congregation for Mother's and Father's Day. VBS "Twists and Turns: Following Jesus Changes the Game. It was held June 26-30, 2023 with the Zion Team from AFLBS leading the children in Bible lessons, singing, crafts, and games. We had an average of 25-30 kids with several helpers. Our Christmas program was held December 17 during the church service.

Opening Balance 2023: \$2760.07

Expenses-

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| VBS Mission | 240.00 |
| Dori Krenke-grad/gifts | 87.04 |
| VBS Material- | 223.28 |
| VBS Team- | 100.00 |
| S.S. Material- | 323.98 |
| Christmas Gifts- | <u>75.00</u> |
| | \$1049.30 |

Income-

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Donation- | 100.00 |
| VBS Offerings | <u>270.67</u> |
| | \$370.67 |

Closing Balance 2023: \$2081.44

Kristy Nelson St. Olaf Sunday School Superintendent

"Train up a child, in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

ST. OLAF LADIE'S AID

TREASUER REPORT 2023

BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD: \$4403.17

INCOME:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| RUTH HLOUCHA : | \$200.00 |
| PIE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL: | 526.00 |
| OLA PLAY 2023 (FRIDAY) : | 265.00 |

\$991.00

EXPENSES:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| WALMART (KITCHEN): | \$80.28 |
| SAM'S CLUB (KITCHEN): | 56.10 |
| CROSSROADS (CANDLES): | 291.39 |

\$427.77

MISSIONS:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| FISHING FOR A CURE: | \$400.00 |
| FISHING FOR A CURE: | 250.00 |

\$650.00

**BALANCE ON HAND AS OF JANUARY 1, 2024:
\$4316.40.**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

Jeannine Kinnor