

# Church of OUR LADY OF VICTORY

June/July 2019

*A look at our First Communicants!*



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## Jennifer's Journey: Profile of OLV Staff Member Jennifer Dummer

By Deb Forstner

Jennifer Dummer has been Our Lady of Victory's Middle School and High School Faith Formation Coordinator since 2016. In August 2019, she will be transitioning to the role of OLV's Pastoral Assistant. The purpose of this article is to provide information regarding Jennifer's background, her spirituality, and her hopes and plans for her new area of ministry.

While Jennifer's parents grew up in the Breckenridge area, Jennifer was born in Marysville, Kansas, and lived with her family in Waterville, Kansas until the 8th grade. At that time, they moved to Warroad, MN, and Jennifer graduated from Warroad High School in 1992. She went on to attend the University of Minnesota – Morris, and graduated with a BA in Biology.

Jennifer was raised in the Lutheran Church. Before they were married, Jennifer started attending OLV with her now husband John Dummer. They married at OLV on December 21, 1996. Jennifer and John have three children: Evan (21), Paul (19), and Naomi (13).

Jennifer did convert to the Catholic faith, but only after two rounds in RCIA classes. One time through was shortly after she was married (1997-98). Jennifer shared that she did not feel ready to join the Catholic Church at that time. However, she continued to attend Mass with her husband, and both of their boys were baptized Catholic. In God's timing, Jennifer felt drawn and ready to enter the church after going through RCIA again in 2001-2002. Jennifer notes that becoming an "official" Catholic is one of the best decisions of her life.

In January 2012, Jennifer started praying the Rosary as part of a New Year's Resolution to dedicate more time to personal prayer. Jennifer sees that decision and continued practice as opening the door to a major conversion in her spiritual life. Jennifer notes that it is Mary's role to lead us to her son Jesus. With this insight and the fact that rosary is still a prayer Jennifer tries her best to pray daily, it is perhaps no coincidence that Jennifer was born in a town named Marysville.

As mentioned earlier, Jennifer has been in the Middle School/High School Faith Formation Coordinator position since 2016. She actually has been involved with our parish's faith formation programming for 9 years, starting as a volunteer. Within those years, she also was coordinator at various times of the programming for PreK



to grade 5. Additionally, Jennifer has led the summer Vacation Bible School or Totus Tuus programs for the past 7 years. With Totus Tuus coming up, Summer of 2019 will be her 8th religious education summer.

Jennifer notes that she has enjoyed leading, planning and organizing the faith formation programs. However, in this past year, she has experienced a desire to be in a parish ministry that more directly helps people. She feels excited for her new opportunity to be more on the front lines of service to others, which is a sign that by beginning as Pastoral Assistant in August, she will have an opportunity to live out her charisms, or gifts of the Holy Spirit. Jennifer has experienced her own losses, pain, and suffering (4 miscarriages, including her daughter Rosemary who died in a late miscarriage at 16 weeks, and living with rheumatoid arthritis for the last 19 years). She has learned to be thankful in that these hardships have shown her a different level of compassion to others. She finds that she is now less afraid of others' pain and suffering, and knows that it is okay to talk about loss and to journey together, because the road of suffering and loss is unpredictable and long.

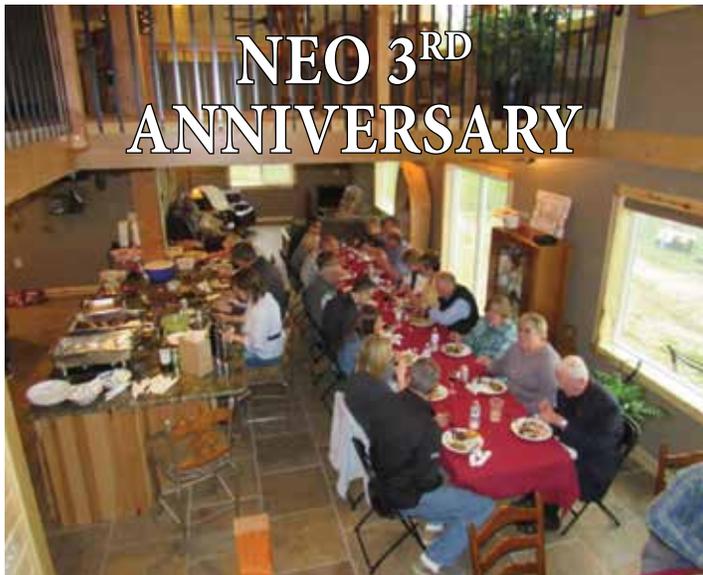
Jennifer will work as Pastoral Assistant for approximately 15 hours per week. This work will include homebound ministry, visits to nursing homes, hospital rounds, and following up with people after as they grieve the loss of loved ones. She will also be receiving Stephen Ministry training and eventually moving into the Stephen Ministry leadership role. Because of Jennifer's personal experiences with pregnancy loss, she has a special heart for that ministry. This past November, Jennifer had helped plan/coordinate a Mass at OLV to honor infants lost through miscarriage or stillbirth.

To close, Jennifer expressed that she loves being Catholic and loves her OLV parish family. Jennifer, the feeling is mutual!

# PARISH HAPPENINGS

June 1 & 15 St. Joseph Men and WinGs  
 June 4 Social Concerns 5:30 p.m.  
 Stephen Ministry 5:30 p.m.  
 June 6, 13, 20, 27 Quilters  
 June 7, 14, 21, 28 Parish Office Closed  
 June 11 Knights of Columbus 6:00 p.m.  
 St. Theresa's 1:30 p.m.  
 June 13 Catholic Daughters 5:30 p.m.  
 June 18 Stephen Ministry 5:30 p.m.  
 June 19 Women's Group 11:30 a.m.  
 June 25 Stewardship 6:30 p.m.  
 July 2 Social Concerns 5:30 p.m.  
 Stephen Ministry 5:30 p.m.

July 4, 5, 12, 19, 26 Office Closed  
 July 6, 20 St. Joseph Men and WinGs  
 July 7-12 Totus Tuus  
 July 9 St. Theresa's 1:30 p.m.  
 Knights of Columbus 6:00 p.m.  
 July 11 Catholic Daughters 5:30 p.m.  
 July 14 SunDay FunDay  
 July 16 Stephen Ministry 5:30 p.m.  
 July 17 Women's Group 11:30 a.m.  
 July 23 Stewardship 6:30 p.m.



## New Members

### Brandon and Dana Van Santen

Brandon and Dana grew up in Battle Lake. They began attending Mass at Our Lady of Victory after getting married and moving to Fergus Falls in 2017. Brandon is an elementary teacher in Fergus Falls.



Dana is a nurse in Alexandria. They have a 5-month old daughter named Evelyn. Welcome to OLV!

### Aloma Martin

Aloma was a member years ago until she moved away. Now that she is living in Fergus Falls again, she has resumed her membership at Our Lady of Victory. Welcome, Aloma!



### Janice Weniger

Janice is a former member of Our Lady of the Lake Church in Battle Lake. After her husband, Reuben Froemming, died in 2017, she moved to Fergus Falls. She has 2 stepsons, 2 daughters-in-law, and one grandson.



## Tornado struck OLV Church back in 1919

A century ago, during late Sunday afternoon on June 22, 1919, a cyclone descended on the Fergus Falls area. Included were four tornadoes, with one of them striking Our Lady of Victory Church.

The church, previously named St. Otto's, stood near the northwest intersection of Vine Street and Cavour Avenue.

The twister, with its smothering updraft, lifted out the entire center section of the church. Left standing were the west end which included the sanctuary and the east end which included the main entrance to the church.

The top of the steeple on the east end of the church became airborne, exposing the large brass bell.

Fr. George Rauch and his house keeper huddled in the basement of the rectory, just north of the church. Amazingly, he later found his Sunday sermon notes still at the lectern near the altar on the west side of the church.

It took several months to repair the church and rebuild the middle section of the structure.

The tornado tore the roof off the rectory, exploded windows and ripped off the front porch and bannister on the outside steps.

Across the street from the church, on north Vine, the Paulson family heard trees being broken like twigs and saw windows being smashed.

They headed to the basement, and seconds later the entire house collapsed. The Paulsons felt fortunate to escape death.

At the Grand Hotel, a block south of the church where Walgreens now stands, close to 30 guests and hotel employees lost their lives when the tornado struck.

In all, 57 people lost their lives and more than 150



*Photos provided by the Otter Tail County Historical Society show destruction of the Catholic Church and rectory in Fergus Falls following the 1919 tornado. This church was first known as St. Otto's, prior to becoming Our Lady of Victory near the northwest corner of Cavour and Vine. (This photo cannot be reused without permission from the historical society.)*

people were injured a century ago.

Fergus Falls native Lance Johnson, in 1982, authored a book about the 1919 Fergus Falls cyclone.

Johnson wrote in detail about the cyclone a century ago that included the four tornadoes. Two funnels struck the city of Fergus Falls and two struck in rural Fergus Falls. A passenger train was struck by a cyclone funnel near Carlisle, but nobody was seriously injured.

“This was the most impactful event in the history of Fergus Falls,” Johnson said. “As an example of the destruction, one could walk across Lake Alice atop strewn lumber from the cyclone in June 1919.”

Seven people died along Maple Avenue, just west of Lake Alice which was strewn with wood following the cyclone.

Farmers brought in wagons to haul out debris.

It’s speculation that dump grounds were likely located not far from Fergus Falls after the cyclone struck on June 22 a century ago.

St. James Episcopal Church near Lake Alice was hit by one of four tornado funnels. The church bell reportedly ended up in the lake.

Over the past 100 years people have hypothesized about what might have been blown into the lake, from pianos to jewelry.

Dredging the lake is unlikely, so we’ll probably never know.

The more than 150 people who were injured were cared for at Wright Hospital, located at what’s now a parking lot near Otter Tail Power Company, at St. Luke’s Hospital which is now Lake Region Healthcare, and at the state hospital which later became the Regional Treatment Center.

Many homes, businesses, churches and government buildings were destroyed or damaged by the cyclone. The Minnesota governor dispatched members of the National Guard to Fergus Falls to help restore order and prevent looting.

Household items were stored in places such as school basements and in buildings located at the county fairgrounds where Kennedy Secondary School now is located.

Fergus Falls Mayor Frankberg provided outstanding leadership following the tragedy.

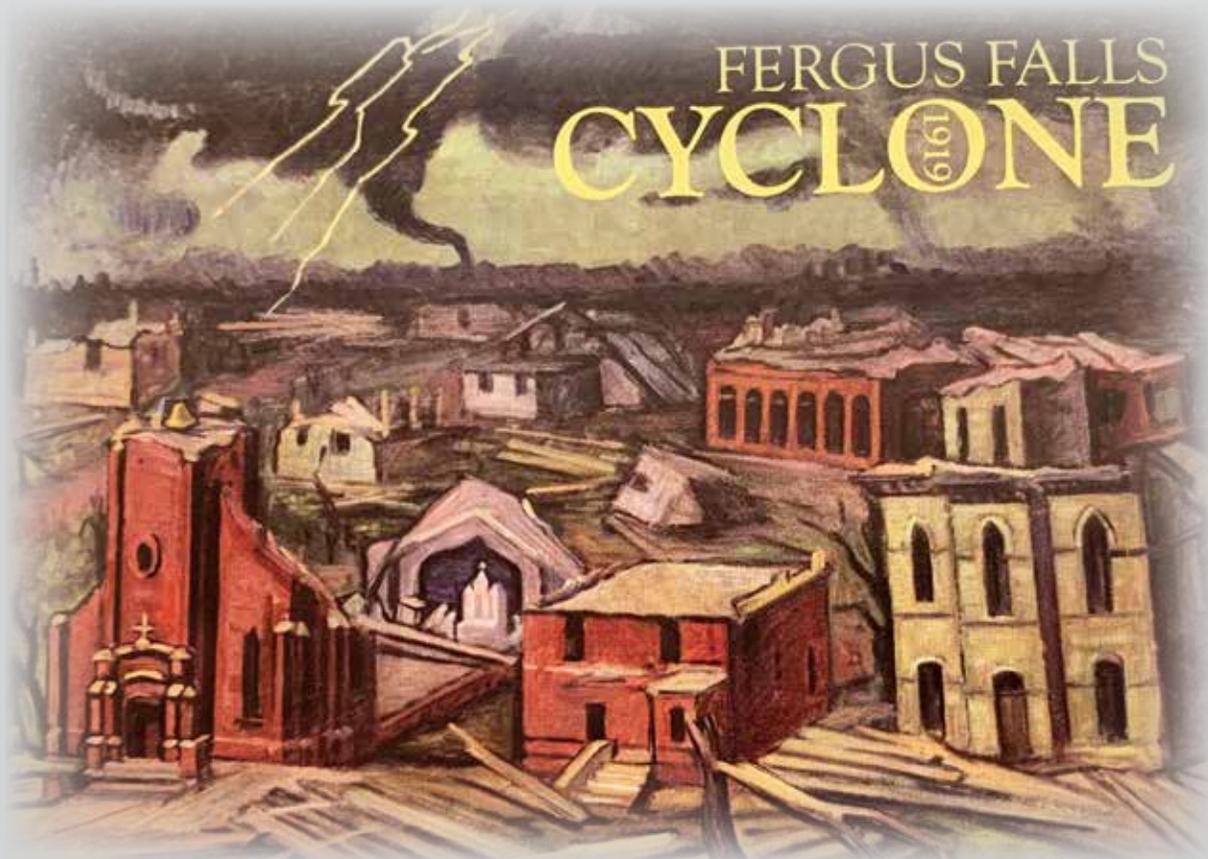
The mayor pledged that Fergus Falls, with the help of many civic leaders, would rebuild and become a better community.

Within two years the post office was busy with close to 600 address changes.

Forty-two years later, in 1961, Our Lady of Victory Church was heavily damaged by a fire. The church reopened in early 1962 after renovation.

OLV Church near Cavour and Vine stood until the mid-1990s. A new church, adjacent to Our Lady of Victory School, was completed in 1996.

*Story by Tom Hintgen*





*Catholic Daughters  
Court Delegation at  
State Convention  
with St. Cabrini*



**SAVE THE DATE**



*Sunday Funday / Outdoor Mass  
July 14th, 2019*



Again this summer, the Social Concerns Committee of OLV will be making home deliveries to families in need of extra food during the summer months. There are free and reduced cost breakfast and lunch programs through the school system, but when children are out of school in the summer, grocery costs increase and can strain limited budgets.

Recently members of the Social Concerns Committee approached shoppers at Service Foods to ask if they would be willing to purchase and donate some suggested non perishable items for this program. Due to the generosity of many, we were able to collect 10 shopping carts filled with food and \$220 in cash donations. Special thanks to Steve Steinbach (OLV parishioner, Social Concerns Committee member, and Service Foods employee) for helping make these arrangements for us.

Opportunities to help with this project include being a delivery driver, making a monetary donation, or later this summer, donating garden produce. Please contact Deacon Dean Pawlowski for more information.

## Reflections of an Old Man

### *Sorry, Spitters*

It happened more than 75 years ago, but it will never be forgotten!

As I recall, the day itself was as perfect as a summer's day can be. The big tree in our backyard, just off the alley and made for climbing, was in full leaf. Three or four of us ragamuffins (I don't know what else you can call the kids of the early 40's whose parents sometimes bought clothes from the rag man who came down the alley a couple of times a month) were talking and laughing in its branches.

Some of you may remember the early forties. None of us had much back then, and many others had even less. Somewhere in the middle of those groups was the Krogh family. We lived in the Polish section of Winona, Minnesota, one of the less desirable neighborhoods in the city. Like our neighbors, we didn't realize how poor we were because most of the people in that area were in the same boat.

As the little gang of us talked and laughed, enjoying the day, our lives and our friendship, we could see a boy about our age trudging down the alley towards us. If we were ragamuffins, he was two notches below that. It's questionable whether even a mother could have loved his face. His clothes were tattered and filthy, and his hair was a mess. I had never seen him before, but I disliked him immediately. *He was a stranger, obviously not one of us!* And you know how important that can be! Compounding our dislike was this comment from one of my friends: "His name's Spitters. We don't want anything to do with him."

Finally, Spitters reached the tree. Looking up at us, he said in a whiney voice I can almost hear today. "Hey, can I come up there and play with you guys?" Almost immediately, and for no other reason but that he didn't look like us, came our answer: "Get out of here," "Get lost," "Go home, Spitters." At that the stranger burst into tears, while our jeers (yes, mine too) almost drowned out his wrenching sobs as he turned and walked down the alley to the street. We kept joking and talking, congratulating ourselves on having proven our superiority.

As I said at the beginning, after 75 years, the memory is still with me.

I wish I could say that the experience had taught me a lesson I never forgot—but that would be a lie. *Even though I remember the incident, I know that I have not always lived its real-life messages of welcoming the stranger and loving my neighbor as myself.*

Fortunately, I also know that having repented of these actions, I have been forgiven. I'm incredibly grateful for that! My gratitude would be even deeper if I could believe that Spitters, and the many others who may have been hurt by my words or actions, could somehow have found it in their hearts to forgive me.

Sorry, Spitters. I hope you found better kids than us to play with.

Lee Krogh



# Church of OUR LADY OF VICTORY

207 North Vine Street  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

## MASSES

Saturday 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday 8:30 a.m.  
Friday 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday 3:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Victory School (K-6th grade)  
Learning Ladder Preschool (3-5 year olds, full and half day)  
218/736-6661  
[www.ffolvschool.org](http://www.ffolvschool.org)

*Holy Thursday...*



[www.ffolvchurch.org](http://www.ffolvchurch.org)

**Weekend Mass:** *Saturday*, 4:30 p.m. Vigil | *Sunday*, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

**Daily Mass:** *Tuesday*, 12:05 p.m. | *Thursday & Friday*, 9:00 a.m.

**Confession:** *Thursday*, 8:30 a.m. | *Friday*, 8:30 a.m. | *Saturday*, 3:30 p.m.