



FOUNDERS DAY

BOE MEMORIAL CHAPEL
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025
11 A.M.

THE PROGRAM

Invocation Matthew Marohl, College Pastor

Anthem *Light Everlasting*
Olaf C. Christiansen 1925
The St. Olaf Choir
Anton Armstrong '78, Conductor
Harry R. and Thora H. Tosdal Professor of Music

Reading Matthew 25: 14–30

Hymn ELW#428 *Give Thanks for Saints* (stanzas 1 and 4)
Catherine Rodland '87, Organist
Artist in Residence

Welcome and Introduction Susan Rundell Singer, St. Olaf College President

Presentation of Founders Medal Susan Rundell Singer, St. Olaf College President
Susan Gunderson, St. Olaf College Board of Regents Chair
Honoree: Dean Buntrock '55, Senior Regent

Anthem *Beautiful Savior*
arr. F. Melius Christiansen
The St. Olaf Choir
Anton Armstrong '78, Conductor
Harry R. and Thora H. Tosdal Professor of Music

Benediction Matthew Marohl, College Pastor

Postlude *Marche Triomphale*
F. Melius Christiansen
Catherine Rodland '87, Organist
Artist in Residence

DEAN BUNTROCK '55

FOUNDERS MEDAL RECIPIENT



Senior Regent Dean L. Buntrock '55 is a business leader, a dedicated philanthropist committed to education, and a longtime, generous benefactor of St. Olaf College. Notably, Buntrock has given more than \$66.7 million to St. Olaf, starting with a \$100 gift in 1958. The \$26 million gift he provided in 1995 to build Buntrock Commons was, at the time, the largest single gift ever made to any Lutheran college in the United States. Buntrock has been

an ardent supporter of many St. Olaf initiatives, including the Institute for Freedom and Community; Regents Hall of Natural and Mathematical Sciences; and academic programs, financial aid, and operations. In 2007 Buntrock and his wife, Rosemarie, received a prestigious Regents Award, bestowed by the St. Olaf Board of Regents to people who have made significant contributions to the college.

Growing up in a small South Dakota farm town, Buntrock learned about business and community working in his father's implement dealership. He attended St. Olaf with his two siblings, taking a break to serve in the Korean War and to manage the family business when his father was ill. Upon graduation, he married and took over his in-laws' small garbage disposal business. He developed it in the decades that followed to what became North America's largest waste disposal company, Waste Management, Inc., including international contracts around the world. Buntrock led the company as chair and CEO until 1997, when at that point, Waste Management sold their international ownerships. He has served as a St. Olaf Regent since 1972, including as board chair from 1986–95. Buntrock generously supports other Lutheran colleges, organizations, and communities nationally.

THE FOUNDERS MEDAL

In 1874 Norwegian immigrant families — including pastors, farmers, and business leaders — founded St. Olaf College to provide their young adults with the skills, community, and opportunities required to thrive in their new country and advance the common good. The Founders Medal, one of the highest honors the college can bestow, recognizes individuals whose extraordinary contributions have significantly advanced St. Olaf's mission and improved the lives and outcomes of its students, both today and for generations to come.

The medal is awarded periodically at Founders Day. The president of St. Olaf College selects recipients based on their exceptional engagement and generosity, which may include:

- Outstanding skills and leadership given in service to the St. Olaf community.
- Long-term, meritorious volunteer service as a St. Olaf Regent or through other meaningful engagement with the college.
- Major financial gifts that have transformed access, belonging, campus life, financial aid, learning, or other core elements of a St. Olaf education.

The Founders Medal recognizes recipients as modern founders of the college. It serves as a public declaration of deep gratitude from the entire St. Olaf community and highlights the transformative power of philanthropy in supporting higher education.

Today, the inaugural Founders Medal is awarded to Dean Buntrock '55.