

Osakis Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 427

Osakis, MN 56360

«First Name» «Last Name»

«Address Line 1»

«Address Line 2»

«City», «State» «ZIP Code»

***Osakis Lutheran Church
2023 Church Council***

President— Kristen Will

President Elect -

Past President— Richard Hansen

Secretary— Jacki Harth

Treasurer— Nancy Exley

Financial Secretary— Cindy Christensen

Worship— Mary Redetzke

Education— Stephanie Finnegan

Trustees— Lil Ortendahl

Youth— Lacey Sadlemyer

Stewardship— Mike Curtis

Church Office Hours:

Office Hours:

Tuesday – Thursday
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Church phone number #859-2350

The deadline for the bulletin is
Wednesday at 10 a.m.

To contact Pastor Rich:

Pastor Rich will typically be
working Monday—Thursday
with Friday as his day off.

His phone number is:
#859-3816.

d. Committees:

i. Church in Society: NNN

ii. Education and Youth: Senior Recognition Sunday is being planned for 5/7. The last day of Sunday school is 5/14. The education committee will meet 5/3. Reminder of the fundraiser for Axel V. and what to donate.

iii. Stewardship: NNN

iv. Worship: Thank you for flower donations for Easter, have communion cups available for those who want to take communion in their seat. Funeral meals- thank you to Mary Redetzke and those who help her. A possible idea to have a Hospitality Fellowship group organized for special events.

v. Trustees: The sump pump was replaced to prevent water damage in the basement.

Offer Our Prayers with the Lord's Prayer.

I. Meeting was adjourned by a motion from Mike and 2nd by Mary. Next meeting is on Tuesday, May 2nd at 6:00pm.

Submitted by Jacki Harth, Council Secretary

Other News:

Office Hours:
Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Worship: *Video Worship: Service will be recorded & posted on YouTube by Noon on Sunday.

**Call the church office 859-2350
or Pastor Rich 859-3816 if
needing pastoral care.**

**Communion by appointment -
contact Pastor Rich.**

Osakis Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes, Tuesday April 4th , 2023

Present: Pastor Rich, Kristen Will, Jacki Harth , Nancy Exley, Mike Curtis, Mary Redetzke

- I. The meeting was called to order by President Rick Hansen
 - a. Pastor Rich led devotions.
 - b. Shared joys and concerns
- II. Approval of agenda.
 - a. Nancy made a motion to approve the agenda with additions, Mary 2nd. Motion carried.
- III. Old/Unfinished Business
 - a. Minutes were reviewed. Mike made a motion to approve, Nancy 2nd, motion carried
 - b. The church secretary position is still open with some applicants that Pastor Rich is following up on.
- IV. New Business
 - a. An ad will be placed in the Echo Press Vacationer magazine for the next 2 issues coming out. As a side note, OLC is included in the "Churches of Douglas County" booklet as well.
 - b. Treasurer: Income for March: \$10,954.25 that includes a \$2500 memorial and \$1000 transfer from the Jung fund to pay for VBS expenses. Bills paid in March \$11,085.46. \$50,000 remains in the Mission Investment fund and Luthercrest VBS went up \$1000.
 - c. Pastor's Report: The council had positive feedback about the videos recently being used during the service. First communion was held on Maundy Thursday, The community Good Friday service held at OLC had about 35 people attend. Holy Humor Sunday is scheduled for 4/16. Pastor will be going to the Jerimiah Project retreat April 17-19 in Detroit Lakes. Pastor will be gone the end of April for a few days with Pastor John Martinson preaching on the 30th. The Osakis Ministerial group is planning a Baccalaureate Service in May.

Join Us For Worship

Sunday May 7 Worship Service - 10 a.m.

Sunday May 14 Worship Service - 10 a.m.

Senior Graduation Sunday & Last Sunday School

Sunday May 21 Worship Service - 10 a.m.

Sunday May 28 Worship Service - 10 a.m.

Take them to church

They might be loud, they might be silly they might get restless

But take them to church

You may get nervous they're being disruptive or distracting

You may think everyone's watching as they pace the floor, as they talk much louder than the rest, as they crawl from chair to chair

But take them to church

They might be listening, they might be seeing the praises, they might be seeing just what it means to give God the glory

Take them to church

They may be learning how to be quiet, they may be learning how to sit still, they may be learning how to react to the sermon

Take them to church

The way they light up when they learn their name is in the Bible, when they hear familiar stories, the way they laugh when everyone else does (even though they have no idea why)

Take them to church

You might end up having to walk around, or end up in the nursery

But take them to church

They'll get the hang of it, they'll start to understand.

Just take them to church

I promise their laughter, those loud words, those tiny feet stomps aren't distracting or disruptive.

They are the sounds of a generation continuing the church, the generation that will one day lead our church, the generation we need.

Just take them to church.

**(from Kingswood United Methodist, Bracey VA,
via Vicki Hinrichs)**



Giving to God
Tithes and Offerings

March Income: \$ 7,454.25
Expenses For March \$11,085.46

April 2, 2023

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Attendance | 42 | |
| Envelopes | \$ 703.00 | |
| Loose | 20.00 | |
| Initial | 25.00 | |
| Lent | 150.00 | |
| Janice Frank Memorial | 1,000.00 | |
| Tech Fund | 75.00 | |
| Stoeckel Campership | 75.00 | |
| National Youth Gathering | 75.00 | |
| Online | 220.00 | |
| Total: | \$2,343.00 | |

April 9 & 16, 2023

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--|
| Attendance | 106 | Easter | |
| Envelopes | \$ 818.00 | | |
| Loose | 322.00 | | |
| Easter | 936.00 | | |
| Maundy Thursday | 32.00 | | |
| Good Friday | 385.00 | | |
| World Hunger | 24.00 | | |
| Memorial-T. Yamasaki | 10.00 | | |
| Church Rent-Just for Kix | 100.00 | | |
| Local Bills | 300.00 | | |
| Online 4-9-23 | 770.00 | | |
| Online 4-17-23 | 500.00 | | |
| Total: | \$4,197.00 | | |

April 23, 2023

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| Attendance | 40 | |
| Envelopes | \$ 1,123.00 | |
| Loose | 30.00 | |
| Lent | 214.00 | |
| Dish Cloth Sales | 44.00 | |
| World Hunger | 7.00 | |
| Anchor Ad | 120.00 | |
| Online | 345.00 | |
| Total: | \$2,033.00 | |

Prayer Concerns

Shelly Engfer-Triebebach, LaRayne Johnson, Lil Ortendahl, Delores Johnson, Axel Vik and Cody Hansen



Please call 320-859-2350 for your special prayer requests!

Those who are Shut-in and with Health Concerns

Those Residing in Care Centers and Rehab

Community Memorial Home: Elaine Mattson, Don Jensen, LaRayne Johnson

Terrace Heights: Alice Sanders, Delores Stephens

Westview Assisted Living: Faye Maus, Madlyn Manders

Out of Town

Harding, MN: David Jorgensen

Please remember to include those who are our friends, neighbors, and members of Osakis Lutheran with a prayer, greeting, or a card!

SAVE THE DATE !!!

There will be a fundraiser for Axel Vik at Knights's Pub & Grub, Osakis. The fundraiser is May 20, 2023 from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. There will be raffles and a taco bar.

All proceeds will go to Axel and his family. Please come and support the family.

Axel is 3 years old and was diagnosed with B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia back in March. Axel is a brave little boy. **#AxelStrong**

'April Birthdays'



04/01 Gregory Johnson
04/02 Larry Frisch,
Darren Redetzke
04/03 Choloe Bjorstrom
04/04 Logan Grove
04/06 Annabelle Redetzke
04/09 Kali Schoeck
04/10 Jon Hinnenkamp,
Joy Larson
04/12 Laurie Garcia
04/15 Carol Nack,
Amanda Steinbeisser
04/18 Myron Barber,
Jason Mounsdon,
Abby Will and Morgan Will
04/20 Trenton VanNyhuis
04/21 Katie Malvin
04/22 Linda Blake
04/24 Michael Curtis,
Lawrence Lewin



04/25 Darcy Larson
04/27 Andi Johnson,
Beverly Schultz

04/28 Vicky Grove,
Morgan Staloch,
Seth Strelow

04/29 Dinara Dekema,
Leah Maddock,
Madlyn Manders
04/30 Joe Johnson,
Jordan Judd,
Charles Miller,
Mary Redetzke,
Ethan Wiggins

Rich Reflections

I'm listening to the book "Surrender" by the lead singer of the band U2, Bono (Paul David Hewson). Who is also a humanitarian, activist, philanthropist and Christian. It's compelling these musicians wrestle; living with fame, fortune & faith.

I'm going to share an extended excerpt of one of the most moving chapters. One that has been both inspiring my faith as well as challenging it.

Chap. 37 - "Love is bigger than anything in its way"

"Why am I always talking about the scriptures? Because they sustained me in the most difficult years, and they remain a plum line to gauge how crooked the wall of my ego has become. I return to a spiritual master like the Apostle Paul way back in the 1st century of the modern era. I go to someone who overcame himself.

"How does someone who first shows up as a monumental, pain in the butt, fundamentalist become someone who can write the greatest ode to love in 2000 years? Somewhere on his spiritual path, he discovers love is bigger than anything in its way.

"So no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love. Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut. Doesn't have a swelled head. Doesn't force itself on others. It isn't always "me first". Doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth. Puts up with anything. Trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end." — 1 Corinthians 13; [The Message](#)

"This is out of a man who faced jail and death for his beliefs and learned that love is not sentimental, but tough. That it's about speaking hard truths to power or hard truths to yourself. The man who first appeared a contemptible human being is now transformed into a teacher. It's while incarcerated for his beliefs that he writes some of literature's greatest explorations of love.

"This is a spiritual maturity that feels so far out of reach for me. What the human spirit longs for, may not be corralled by any sect or denomination, contained by a building. It's more likely a daily discipline. Daily surrender and rebirth.

"It's more likely that church is not a place but a practice, that the practice becomes the place. There is no promised land only the promised journey, the pilgrimage. We search through the noise for God. We learn to ask better questions of ourselves and each other. I search my life for clues that betray the location of the God's Presence. For starters, we look to who is standing beside us or down the road. The ones whose roof we share or the ones around the corner who have no roof. Mystics tell us God is present in the present. What Doctor King described as 'the fierce urgency of now.'

"God is present in the love between us, in the crowd, in a marriage, in the way we meet the world. God is present in love, expressed as action. Whatever the differences of the great faith traditions, they find common ground in one place, among the poor and vulnerable is where the Signal is the strongest.

"So where is God? Well, I hope God is with those of us who live such comfortable lives. I know God is with the poorest and most vulnerable. In the slums and cardboard boxes where the poor have to play house. In the doorways as we step over the divine on our way to work. God is in the cries, heard under the rubble of war, in the bare hands digging for air. God is with the refugee, I hear His only Son was one. God is with the poor and the vulnerable. And God is with us if we are with them."

Having read that, my mind turns to Jesus and his words to us, "*Whoever wants to be my disciple must take up their cross. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it to gain the whole world, yet forfeit your soul?*"

I'm curious how we can wrestle and grow spiritually if quit focusing on ourselves, and look around us to see who God calls us to love? To open and involve ourselves in "the fierce urgency of now."

Pr. Rich Fitzer



*"Where there is love,
there is life."*

- Mahatma Gandhi



Jeremiah 29 Project... What is that!?

Osakis Lutheran is part of the Jeremiah 29 Project. It connects congregations with their communities in ways to promote community and congregational sustainability. Leaders participate with other leaders from across our NW Minn Synod, each engaged in their own community projects. We're part of the first 10 congregations to do this.

When we think about Jeremiah 29, we often think about Jeremiah 29:11 *"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm; to give you a future and a hope."* These words were for a community captured and taken from their birthplace. People were anxious to get back to their homeland.

Jeremiah was speaking the truth they needed to hear; they would have to say until generations had passed, and the people had changed their ways. Yet, Jeremiah's message was not despair, but one of hope. Not just hope for the future, but hope for right now.

In a less familiar verse, Jeremiah writes, *"Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray. For in its welfare you will find your welfare."* Invest in where you are now. Have children. Plant crops. Build a home. Jeremiah says, "pray for their land." This is a radical message, because who would want to pray for their captors? This is a way of saying, "Love your enemies."

Jeremiah reminds us that church is not private, it is not apart from the world, but in the world. We are called to journey from the center of power to the fringes of society to experience God in new ways. Where you support community vitality, you create space for congregational vitality.

Education Committee

We say "Congratulations" to: Scott Ellefson, Larissa Hoffarth, Isaac Maddock, Noah Nessman, Morrigan Reinke, Chrisob Sadlemyer and Marcus Wolf, our 2023 Osakis High School Graduates!!!

"SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS" Osakis Lutheran Church will again host Luther Crest Vacation Bible School. Dates are July 10th through the 13th.

A reminder to all students completing their first year of college. You are eligible for a scholarship of \$300 going into your second year. Contact the Nancy at the church office for an application. The deadline is August, 2023.

Luther Crest Bible Camp campers - there is a \$100 scholarship available for anyone attending. Again, contact Nancy at the church office for an application.

Respectfully submitted, Kristen Will, Education Committee Chair