

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—

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.

Action News deadline is the
20th of the month.

Committees and the congrega-
tion are welcome to contribute
news!!!

iv. Worship: No news.

v. Trustees: No news.

With no further business we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

I. Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is on Tuesday, August 2, 2023 at 6:00pm.

Submitted by Nancy Exley, Interim Church Secretary

Jacki Harth has resigned her position of Church Council Secretary. We thank Jacki for her time and great talent as secretary.

Council is looking for a person to take over this position of council secretary. The position is taking the minutes at council meeting, which meets the first Tuesday of each month here at church at 6:00 p.m. You are asked to type and submit to the church secretary. If you are not a typist, the church secretary will type them. Talk to a council member if interested. We welcome your being part of council. Thank you.

Council is also looking for a President Elect. All positions are open to any Osakis Lutheran Church member.

Other News:

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

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

**Call the church office 859-2350
For pastoral care.**

Communion by appointment

Osakis Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes, Tuesday June 6, 2023

Osakis Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes, July 11th, 2023

Present: Stephanie Finnegan, Rick Hansen, Mike Curtis, Kristin Will, Pastor Rich, Lil Ortendahl,
Nancy Exley and Pastor Genelle Netland with the NW MN Synod

- I. The meeting was called to order by President Kristen Will
 - a. Pastor Rich led devotions
 - b. Sharing of joys and concerns
 - II. Approval of agenda.
 - a. Pastor Rich made a motion to approve the agenda. Mike C 2nd. Approved with no additions.
 - III. Old/Unfinished Business
 - a. Minutes were reviewed. Lil made a motion to approve. Stephanie 2nd. Approved.
 - IV. New Business
 - a. Pastor Genelle Netland with the NW MN Synod spoke with us in regards to our steps in securing a new pastor for Osakis Lutheran Church. We were given a copy of the "Call Process Handbook". We will be meeting to put together a call committee and our options for service. Council will continue to meet for this process.
2. Treasurers Report: Offerings for June \$6,072.00. Bills paid for June \$9,896.70. Income to date: \$47,346.33 with bills paid \$61,083.58. Benevolences have not been paid and we are paying bills as best we can. But is a struggle.
3. Council Talk: We brainstormed ideas to get our people involved and increase productivity.
- a. Committees:
 - i. Church in Society: No news.
 - ii. Education and Youth: Education will meet July 26, 2023 at O'Town. Movie Night is July 12th with Flavor Shack selling food.
 - iii. Stewardship: No news.

Join Us For Worship

Sunday August 6 with Pastor Johnson Martinson @ 10 a.m.

Sunday August 13 with Pastor Rollen Halvorson @ 10 a.m.

Sunday August 20 with Pastor Rollen Halvorson @ 10 a.m.

Sunday August 27 with Pastor Rollen Halvorson @ 10 a.m.

News from our Church Council President

As I am writing this, I am enjoying the last couple of days of beautiful weather before the heat and humidity return. It makes me think of the season our church is entering. We are heading into a possibly uncomfortable time in our church relationship, where change is inevitable. With Pastor Rich now gone, we need to decide as a church community whether we will be able to support a full-time pastor, if we should “share” a pastor with a neighboring congregation, or if we should discuss other options? One thing I do know is that this is a congregation that endures. We lift each other up, we support each other, and we love our church and community. I am looking for any and all thoughts, opinions, concerns, and ideas regarding our next move as a congregation. Feel free to call or text me at 507-696-8830, or email me at kristenlynnwill@yahoo.com.

If we choose to form a call committee for a full-time pastor, we would also be looking for volunteers to be a part of that committee. Please prayerfully consider donating your time toward this very meaningful and important work. I want to thank all of you who continue to support our church through your time, talents, and monetary contributions!

I also want to be open about where we are at for the next few months of worship. Nancy and I spent some time contacting “fill-in” pastors for the months of August and September. We have August covered, as Pr. John Martinson will be assisting us with the service on August 6th, and Pr. Rollen Halvorson will assist us with the following three weeks of services (August 13th, 20th, and 27th). Help us to give them warm welcomes as they assist us through this transition. I have a call out to a pastor for September 3rd, Pr. Ruth Blom has committed to September 10th and 17th, and Pr. Donald Reisig may be able to help us on September 24th. I have also been in contact with a Deacon (Marilyn Grandstrand) who is willing to provide us with long-term, full-time interim services for the next year. We will discuss this possibility at each of the next two church council meetings, a special meeting on June 25th and we will have a zoom meeting with her at our regularly scheduled August meeting. I would also like to thank both Nancy Exley and Shelly Triebenbach for their help with keeping services going smoothly. Please thank them both when you get a chance!

Kristen Will

Council President



<u>July 2, 2023</u>	Attendance	33
Envelopes		\$1,206.00
Loose		30.00
Dishcloths		86.00
Online		<u>480.00</u>
<u>Total:</u>		\$1,802.00

<u>July 9, 2023</u>	Attendance	26
Envelopes		\$ 358.00
Loose		10.00
Dishcloths		40.00
VBS registrations		425.00
Anchor Ad		120.00
Building Repairs		300.00
Thrivent		29.00
Online		<u>720.00</u>
<u>Total:</u>		\$2,002.00

<u>July 16, 2023</u>	Attendance	32
Envelopes		\$ 1,418.00
Loose		20.00
Dishcloths		30.00
Sale of Quilt		65.00
Stoeckel Campership		80.00
Online		330.00
<u>Total:</u>		\$1,943.00

<u>July 23, 2023</u>	Attendance	30
Envelopes		460.00
Loose		27.00
Parade donations		220.00
World Hunger		2.00
Online		<u>720.00</u>
Total		\$1,254.00

<u>July 30, 2023</u>	Attendance	41
Envelopes		\$748.00
Loose		20.00
Online		<u>955.00</u>
<u>Total:</u>		\$1,723.00

Prayer Concerns



Shelly Engfer-Triebebach, LaRayne Johnson,
Lil Ortendahl, Delores Johnson, Axel Vik,
Cody Hansen, Barbara Berg and Tiffany Malz

Community Memorial Home: Elaine Mattson,
Don Jensen, Delores Stephens

Terrace Heights: Alice Sanders

Westview Assisted Living: Faye Maus,
Madlyn Manders

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

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

Financial Update for the Congregation

June offering income	\$6,072.00
June transfer to operating	200.00

For LCBC Scholarships paid

Bills paid June	9,896.70
------------------------	-----------------

Offering to date:	\$47,346.33
Transfers to Operating:	8,700.00
Bills paid to date:	61,083.58

Nancy Exley – Treasurer

You can now give your offering online!
Go to: www.osakislutheranelca.com and
click on the "Donate" button to enroll.
The website is safe and secure.

'August Birthdays'



08/02 Matthew Ramey
08/03 Tyler Stier
08/08 Michael Kugel
08/10 Ty Werven
08/16 Mandy Kapaun
08/17 Scott Ellefson
08/17 Melanie Stier
08/19 Brenda Tvrdik
08/22 Ruslan Dykema
08/22 Faye Maus
08/22 Eleanor Otremba
08/23 Joshua Kapaun
08/23 Marvin Mensen
08/23 Donald Peterson
08/23 DeAnna Vik
08/24 Roman Kelly
08/28 Angela Wells

Happy Birthday to you!!! We wish you a great day!!!



Just for Kix Dance will again use our facilities for their weekly dance classes. They will have a “meet and greet” on August 21 and a two day dance camp on August 22 and 23. Classes will begin in September and be on Mondays.

Heartfelt condolences to the family of Michael Redetzke and LaRayne Johnson.

Michael passed away July 7, 2023. He will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him. We thank Mike for being a part of the Osakis Lutheran Church.

LaRayne Johnson passed away July 10, 2023. LaRayne passed just 21 days shy of her 100th birthday.

She will be missed by her family and all of us here at OLC.

Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

There are so many ways to say goodbye. And yet few if any are truly adequate. Many times our words can't fully convey the fullness of our thoughts and feelings. And occasionally we try to find something "nice" to say but rings hollow from our mouths to others' ears. But we've found lots of songs to try:

"So long farewell, auf Wiedersehen, goodnight."

"Happy trails to you"

"Goodnight sleep tight, and pleasant dreams to you"

"I'm so glad we had this time together."

"God be with you till we meet again."

"I Will Remember You"

...mostly these efforts tend to minimize the difficulty of heading in new and different directions.

Even Dr. Seuss's wonderful efforts to acknowledge the gratitude and the grief fall short, if only because it oversimplifies our feelings. *"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."*

The most helpful model I've come across is from the Hospice Community of caregivers. They say there are Four Gifts to express when we know a departure is imminent.

I love you.

Thank you.

I'm sorry and/or I forgive.

Goodbye (for now).

Normally we have a ritual of farewell during a final worship service, but we weren't able to have the necessary leaders present. Here's what part of that would have looked like:

Pastor: Thank you to all of you, the members of Osakis Lutheran Church; for the love, kindness and support shown to me during this journey. I ask your understanding and forgiveness for mistakes I have made and for expectations unmet. I am grateful for your acceptance of my leadership. I will continue to remember with joy the many things we have shared together. As I leave, I carry with me many memories of our life together.

People: We receive your thanks, and offer you forgiveness for any mistakes. We give thanks for your presence and your work among us. We ask your forgiveness for our shortcomings in faith and life. Your influence on our lives will not leave us even though you now depart from us.

Pastor: I forgive you for any shortcomings. I also welcome and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our new ventures are pleasing to God.

Jesus calls us to reach out and care for the lost, the last and the least; in the hungry, the poor, the unemployed, the imprisoned, the wide variety of emotional, physical and developmental disabilities. People who are easy to overlook. I noticed that several of the people who have made special efforts to say farewell to us are those who are often overlooked by others. So I was humbled that they made efforts to make sure our mutual parting was not overlooked.

We've shared so many things during nearly 9 years. Food shelf drives, alternative giving Christmas presents, getting Backpack Attack program going in Osakis, Holy Humor Sundays, Habitat for Humanity projects, God's Work Our Hands Sundays, Lenten Prayer around the Cross, National Youth Gatherings, baptisms, first Communion, affirmations of baptisms, blessings of graduating seniors, weddings, funerals (of *many* long-time members), and of course the COVID pandemic.

The pandemic uncertainties, creative adaptations, frustrations, and long-term stresses made big impacts on homes, schools, workplaces and churches alike. It was a difficult time, but also a learning time.

MY BIGGEST HOPE as I depart is that Osakis Lutheran will find ways to gather around social events and meals, and get to know people across ages and interests. This seems to be a challenge going back prior to my arrival. May you all rediscover the joy of getting to know one another more personally and more deeply.

I'll leave you with this favorite prayer of mine:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

And finally a word of wisdom for you and for me, from a beloved Lutheran pastor and theologian. *"Remember the best, forgive the rest."* – Gerhard Frost

Pr. Rich Fitzer



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

- Mahatma Gandhi



Update from Education Committee from Meeting July 26, 2023

Sunday School Rally Sunday 9/17 **Letter/registration forms to be mailed by mid August**

Pathfinders 9/13 - ditch clean up **Letter/registration forms to be mailed by mid August.**

Confirmation Sunday

- 10/15 banquet
- 10/29 confirmation

Bible Sunday 10/8 - 3rd graders

- Christmas Program 12/17
- Last day of Pathfinders 5/8
- Last day of Sunday School 5/12

Weekly Online FB postings

Vacation Bible School Council Report

Vacation Bible School took place July 10th-13th, 2023 from 8:45-3:00 each day, Monday-Thursday. 28 students attended, with 13 of them being members and 15 being nonmembers. Families were charged \$25 per child, which included 2 snacks each day, a lunch each day, and a t-shirt. There were 3 counselors from Luther Crest who came to implement all the programming and bring all the supplies necessary. Next year's potential date is July 8-11, 2024.

The week went great! The students were enthused to come each day and often chose to skip their other activities! Lots of food and supplies were donated by members of the congregation— Thank you!!! We had great compliments from the parents and community members. The counselors really enjoyed the week as well.

We had an Outdoor Movie Night during VBS week on Wednesday, July 12th on the empty lot at 300 West Queen Street (across from the softball fields). Information was sent home with VBS students and Latch-key students at the school. It was also posted on Facebook and in the bulletin. Flavor Shack food truck set up around 5:00 and the movie started around 8:30 pm (The Mario Brothers Movie). At the time of the start of the movie, around 110 people were present, not counting some visiting the food truck and then leaving. The Youth sold pop, water, candy, and glow necklaces and made around \$200 (\$248 total between 2 movie nights.. first one was June 28th)! Supplies were purchased with a Thrivent Action Plan grant. We don't have plans to do any more movie nights this summer, but are hoping to have one per month next year. We're looking at maybe some indoor movie times during the colder months.