

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:

Monday – Thursday
9:00 A.M. - 1:00 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!!!

Osakis Lutheran exists to: “Honor Christ, Strengthen believers and Serve others.”

MINISTERS GREETING:

OLC FRIENDS

Here we are in December already as we wait patiently for the coming of Christmas. Lent a time of waiting. I found some interesting facts not fun fact mind you. How can the church today grow today if an average Lutheran Christians only invite 2 people to church in their lifetime? how can we make an impact on our society when only 2 percent of active Christians are inviting people to join them for church.? This is the time of year that many people are open to the invitation to come and see.

We have easy invites happening here at OLC. I hope that you will take the opportunity to be an inviter this month! For someone your invitation might be the best gift that they receive.

Pastor Rich Birch shares this insight on an “invite culture.”

The factor separating churches that are growing from those that aren't is that the growing churches have a robust 'invite culture'. They are inevitability churches. Their people are more likely to be active in asking their friends and family to attend .

A sustained strategy for church growth needs to be built around inevitability.

Rather than looking at the latest shiny marketing tool. Church leaders who are working for continual growth focus their efforts on increasing the invite culture of their churches.

The local church is the only organization in the world that exists for people beyond its walls... Our mandate is to be constantly looking to consider the needs of other people and inviting them into a relationship with Jesus. Unless our churches have a strong approach to increasing inevitability, we will fail to live out the mandate that Jesus called us to in the great Commission.

Inviting someone to church is just the first step towards discipleship and evangelism. Invitation shouldn't be reserved for “super; Christians” who see it as their duty, but it needs to be come a normal practice for all Christians!

During this season of Advent and Christmas we are invited into the amazing story that leads to the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a story that is filled with invitations. Mary and Joeeph are inviting to take this incredible journey though visits with an angel. The shepherds are invited to go and see by yet another angel. Wisemen are invited to bring their offerings to this newborn king. Invite and INVITE! That is the calling of the Christmas story. that is the purpose for Christs church today. This is what We need to be as OLC.

We will not be a church that accepts the trends that are going on. We will be a church that breaks those trends and becomes the best that we can be together! For all. Invite them, dear friends. Invite them!

Minister George

Other News:

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

Minister George Heideman is available
24/7 by phone 763-843-6720.

His email address is:
gheid121212@gmail.com

Osakis Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes, November 7, 2023

Present: Stephanie Finnegan, Lil Ortendahl, Mary Redetzke, Travis Redetzke, Mike Curtis, Nancy Exley, Minister George Heideman, Karen Quistorff, Kristen will

The meeting was called to order by Stephanie Finnegan

Shared our Highs and Lows

Minister George gave devotions

Approval of agenda.

Parsonage update and date of Annual Meeting added to agenda. Motion to add by Mary Redetzke, second by Lil Ortendahl, motion to add approved.

Old/Unfinished Business

Minutes were reviewed. Mike Curtis made a motion to approve minutes from October meeting, Stephanie Finnegan 2nd and motion approved

Austin Aries of Church of the Pines will not renting any portion of the church or parsonage.

New Business

Treasurer's report: Income for October was \$10,097.50 with a gift from LaRayne Johnson of \$18,087.39, she has requested the money go to Endowment Fund. Bills paid for October \$12,677.85. Income to date \$80,501.83 with savings transfers and gift to Endowment \$29,687.39. Bills paid to date as of October 31, 2023 \$98,318.80.

Minister's report: Minister George has been visiting church members who are in need. Christmas Eve services will be Sunday, December 24 at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Will do an Advent Bible Study. Will have the same readings for Pathfinders as his Bible Study. Will create a new Facebook page for us. To purchase a new wireless microphone for service.

Committees:

Church in Society: No news.

Education and Youth: Youth will lead service on Sunday, November 19. Will have a meeting with the kids on Wednesday, November 8 to plan the service.

Stewardship: no news. (After the meeting, Mike has asked to put a note in the bulletin in regards to our financial state)

Worship: Decorate for Fall. Shelly has done very well in music preparation. Plan to have a bake sale before Christmas to raise money to repair our Carrillon, plan for December 17, 2023. Mary has volunteered her home for our next Council meeting, December 5, we will have a Christmas gathering with food and fellowship.

Trustees: Travis asked if there was someone to keep the parsonage driveway clear in winter, Lil will ask Robbie Schultz. We will keep the temperature at the parsonage at 50-55 during the winter and will check periodically. Travis will do radon testing. Motion was made to get rid of the piano left behind. We will ask for person/persons to help clean the parsonage. (Travis and Mary have been working on doing that).

With no further business George lead us in a closing prayer.

We have set the annual meeting date for Sunday, January 28, 2023 during service.

Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6:00pm at Mary Redetzke home. We will all bring food to share.

Submitted by Nancy Exley, Interim Church Secretary

Join Us For Worship at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday

Sunday December 3 Praise Team will sing Communion Sunday

Sunday December 10 Traditional service

Sunday December 17 Praise Team will sing - Church Bake Sale

Sunday December 24 Christmas Eve services at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Sunday December 31 Service for Healing

All services start at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome!!!



December 24 Christmas Eve services at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Both with Communion

OSAKIS LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for the Osakis Lutheran Church is set for Sunday, January 28, 2024. Many items will be discussed and voted on.

- The future of the parsonage will be on the agenda.
- The Endowment Committee has updated the bylaws for the committee. The current bylaws and the requested updated bylaws will be available to members prior to the meeting for review.
- Budget approval for 2024 will be voted in.
- We are looking for a Council Secretary, Council President Elect going forward. We have committee that can always use new members.
- Other agenda items are welcome.
- All committee chairs are required to submit a report for our annual report and that it be into the office on or by January 10, 2024. This will allow the secretary to complete and print the annual booklet for members prior to the meeting.

Council looks forward to this meeting!! Participation by is members is key!!!



Giving to God
Tithes and Offerings

<u>November 5, 2023</u>	Attendance	45
Envelopes	\$	1,193.00
Loose		23.00
Dedicated		300.00
Online		<u>505.00</u>
<u>Total:</u>		\$2,021.00

<u>November 12, 2023</u>	Attendance	32
Envelopes	\$	1,153.00
Loose		50.00
Dedicated		31.00
Church rent		125.00
Online		<u>345.00</u>
<u>Total:</u>		\$1,704.00

<u>November 19, 2023</u>	Attendance	86
Envelopes	\$	853.00
Loose		69.00
Thanksgiving		50.00
Refund		11.68
World Hunger		12.00
Online		<u>240.00</u>
<u>Total:</u>		\$1,235.68

<u>November 26, 2023</u>	Attendance	31
Envelopes		653.00
Loose		40.00
Dedicated		120.00
Thanksgiving		17.00
World Hunger		12.00
Online		
Total		\$1,567.00

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.

Thank You!

Prayer Concerns



Shelly Engfer-Triebenbach, Lil Ortendahl,
Grace Johnson and Axel Vik

Community Memorial Home: Elaine Mattson,
Don Jensen, Mike (Myron) Barber

Terrace Heights: Alice Sanders

Westview Assisted Living: Faye Maus,
Madlyn Manders

**Mike (Myron) Barber recently moved
from Westview Assisted Living to Com-
munity Memorial Home. Visitors are wel-
come.**

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

***Please remember to include those who are our
friends, neighbors, and members of Osakis***

Financial Update for the Congregation

Offering Income November	\$6,527.68
Bills paid November	12,766.69

Year to date:

Offering thru November	\$87,029.51
Endowment Gift	18,087.39
Campership Gift	2,560.41
Transfers to operating	11,600.00
Bills pd thru November:	95,654.35
Bills pd by Mission Investment	19,868.71

'December Birthday'



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

- 12/02 Curtis Kalpin
12/04 LaVonne Peterson
12/05 Alexa Hoffarth
12/05 Chase Triebenbach
12/08 Hadley Kugel
Ann Lillemoen
Karol Schlosser
12/09 Dorene Mielke
12/12 Lillian Ortendahl
12/14 Mila Nosbush
12/16 Gabe Will
12/17 Sheila Watschke
12/21 Ethan Abbott
12/22 Tyler Vik
12/23 Joanne Ranum
12/27 Cody Hansen
12/28 Carol Nelson
12/29 Luke Staloch



We are having a Church Bake Sale .

It will be on Sunday, December 17 after service. All proceeds will go to "Carillon, bring back our bells" fund.

We are asking members to bake cookies, breads, pies, cake or candy for the sale.

You can bring your baked goods on Saturday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or first thing Sunday morning. We will price the items for you. If you have any questions, please talk with Mary Redetzke. Thank you so much!!!

The holidays can be a lonely time for many. Lonely for those who have no family or friends to call upon them, do a small task, just a phone call or a stop by to say hello. Let's all find that one person we could do this for.

Merry Christmas!

Council President Report

What a beautiful fall we have had so far! It has been so nice outside that Thanksgiving has crept up on me like a big surprise! I hope that you all have had time to get outside and enjoy God's beauty with this amazing weather.

It has been such a joy to see so many of you in the pews, lately! It makes me so happy to see our numbers increasing and everyone greeting each other each Sunday. As I write this, it is just before the temperatures are about to start dipping, which usually puts me in the mood for the Christmas season! It is hard to believe that we are already nearing the end of the calendar year. There are so many things to join, share, give to, and enjoy this year. George has sign-up sheets out for Advent Bible studies (in the Narthex). We just enjoyed the November youth-led service, and the Sunday School Christmas program will be on December 17th. Please prayerfully consider donating to Operation Bootstrap, ELCA's Good Gifts, and United Way Giving Trees. All of these programs are worthy ways to share our blessings with others. As always, enjoy as much time as you can with family and friends-not just during the holidays, but as often as possible. A wise man (my father-in-law) once told me, "You can never spend enough time with your parents and your children."

We will also be voting on whether to keep the parsonage or to sell it at the annual meeting in January. Please prayerfully consider what would be best for the church and congregation, and be prepared to vote on this matter in a closed-ballot in January.

We are also looking for people to step up and help on the church council and committees. We have some positions that are open, and some positions that current members would be willing to hand over to someone new. It is al

ways good to have new, fresh ideas and opinions, and our current board would be willing to train those who are interested! We currently need people to step up for the secretary position, president-elect, nomination committee, and call committee (see Shelley Triebenbach for the call committee). Meetings are once a month, and generally the positions are fairly easy! As I have a habit of saying, "many hands make light work." When everyone takes a turn, there is less "burnout" and more joyful joining in and giving of our time and talents. Thank you for considering joining in and helping out!

May God bless you during this holiday season, hold you up as many of you navigate holidays without loved ones, and may you share your talents and blessings with others. Merry Christmas, Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

Yours in Christ, Kristen Will



If you have noticed our church no longer sounds the Westminster Chimes or the bell toll at the top of the hour. They are missed!!

Our existing Carillon needs to be upgraded/repared. We need to replace the existing Control Clock, Carillon Music Player and Mechanical Chimes. This equipment is located in our choir loft area. Pat Ryan did research and received an estimate back in 2020 from MAAS-ROWE Carillons, Inc. and at that time the estimated cost for the repair was \$6,800.00.

A big **“THANK YOU”** to our Youth for their wonderful service on Sunday, November 19th. We look forward to having them lead us again.!!! The focus, the hymns and the readings were inspiring and wonderfully done.

STEWARDSHIP

As we near the end of the year, I wanted to give an update on our financial situation.

Income is not where it has been in past years. Membership is down as well. We've had struggles in paying bills in 2023 but the bills have been paid and we've done no unnecessary spending. With Pastor Rich leaving we've been able to save on payroll and Portico Health insurance, which has helped.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to pay our annual Benevolences to the Synod, Lutheran Social Services or Luther Crest for 2023. In 2022 we took from savings to pay these; not wanting to do that again this year.

Good news is October gave us an increase in attendance and offering. We are hopeful for this to continue as we go forward.

We are grateful and thankful for each of you in our congregation. Your continued and added support is key to our going forward.

Thank you, Mike Curtis, Stewardship