

Osakis Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 427

Osakis, MN 56360

***Osakis Lutheran Church
2021 Church Council***

President—Melanie Stier

President Elect—Rick Hansen

Past President— Jessie Thornbloom

Secretary—Jacki Harth

Treasurer—Nancy Exley

Financial Secretary—Cindy Christensen

Worship— Mary Redetzke

Education—Kristen Will

Trustees— Lil Ortendahl

Youth— Lacei Sadlemyer

Stewardship—Mike Curtis

Ex Officio—Pastor Richard Fitzer

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
9 a.m.—2 p.m.

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

Church phone number 859-2350

To contact Pastor Rich:

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

His phone number is 859-3816.

Reports

- Treasurer: no report available. The budget was reviewed with some discussion on changing some line items to different categories but no changes were made at this time.
- Pastor's Report: Christmas Eve Worship will be at 4:00 and 9:00pm with the theme of "A Weary World Rejoices". Dinner Church is planned for January or February with gathering at tables for a meal bookended with Holy Communion. The first may be a brunch meal and this may occur quarterly. Pathfinders: 6th and 7th graders have been trained as acolytes, the children's questions about God, Bible, and Faith is part of their lessons. Pastor Ritch will take a well-deserved vacation from December 26th-Jan 1.

- Committees:

Trustees: no report

Stewardship: information in the bulletin to remind people of end of the year Giving

Church in Society: not active

Education and Youth: The youth party was VERY well attended with 77 kids and 20 volunteers. Pathfinders helped with the party and the cleanup. Big Thank you to Melanie, Jessie, and Kristen for recruiting so many children from all faiths for this gathering. The Sunday school children will have a Live Nativity on 12/19 at 10:00 outdoors. Thank you to Erickson's Farm for helping with this event.

Worship: The decorations for Christmas are up and look very festive.

Offer Our Prayers with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting was adjourned with the next meeting on Monday January 3rd^t at 6:30.

Submitted by Jacki Harth, Council Secretary

2022 Worship

We plan to continue to offer 'In-Person' services while following the CDC Guidelines, as well as continue them 'Online'. Watch for further announcement for any changes.

**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, Monday December 6th, 2021

Present: Pastor Rich Fitzer, Melanie Stier, Jessie Thornbloom, Jacki Harth, Mike Curtis, Mary Redetzke, Kristen Will, Lil Ortendahl

President Melanie Stier called the meeting to order.

- Devotions- Pastor Rich
- Sharing joys/concerns, highs/lows

Approval of agenda.

- Kristen W.. made a motion to approve the agenda with additions, Jessie T. 2nd.
Approved.

Old/Unfinished Business

- Minutes: Mike C.. made a motion to approve the minutes, Kristen W. 2nd the motion.
Approved.
- Bud Manders gift to OLC in 2021 was undesignated and Pastor Ritch confirmed that with Madeline Manders. Those funds will be moved to the general fund to help with bills but should be considered a temporary solution.
- Endowment Committee: 5 people that includes 1 council member have volunteered to serve on this committee. The annual meeting in January will include a vote to finalize the committee and consider the council's recommendations on designation of funds. Thank you to Shelly Triebenbach, Paul Christiansen, Matthew Stier, Dave Dykema, and Lil Ortendahl for volunteering for this committee.

New Business (OLC vision & new mission & ministry work)

- Positions in Church: a motion was made to offer the church secretary extra hours to complete regular janitorial duties on an interim basis. Jacki and Mary will get together some people to do some cleaning for the Holiday Season.

Join Us For Worship

Sunday January 2 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday January 9 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday January 16 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday January 23 Worship Service 10 a.m. - Annual Meeting during service

Sunday January 30 Worship Service 10 a.m.

As of now, we will continue to offer both 'In-Person' and 'Online' services. If you join us 'In-Person' we ask that you continue to follow the Safe Practice Guidelines. If you wish to join us Online you can find us live on Facebook, or the service can later be viewed on You Tube.

COVID-19 Health Emergency Preparedness: Dedication of the High Dependency Unit (HDU) in India

In response to the critical COVID-19 second wave, the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response companions in building capacities, resilience and infrastructure. Through this medical preparedness, communities would have access and even afford intensive care. The dedication was held 3rd December at Padhar Hospital with the participation of doctors, staff and communities. The Padhar hospital has been the first responders to the COVID-19 crisis in the region. The Hospital and communities are grateful to God for this huge gift from the ELCA and the Mark Chapman Foundation.

The equipments of the HDU is a dream that the ELCA and the Mark Chapman Foundation have helped Padhar Hospital.

- Dr. Rajiv Choudrie, Medical Director

We would like to take this time to thank everyone for their contributions to the church over the past year. Whether you've given a financial donation or shared your time and talents with the church, we are thankful for your gifts. As we move in to the new year, we are in continued need of your support. We are behind by \$20,000 to meet our needs and your support will be what makes it possible for the church to continue operating in good financial standing. As you plan your end of year/new year giving, we hope that you consider giving to Osakis Lutheran to help make sure that we meet that need. We are continually thankful for all of our congregation and the time and talents that everyone shares with the community and hope that some of you may be inspired to share in the future.

Thank You!
Mike Curtis - Stewardship



Mission Action - Monday Quilters Group

The New Year is upon us!



- We did take some time off in the month of December for the holidays, but we will meet again on January 3rd & January 17th, 2022

(Please watch the calendar in the Sunday Bulletins for updates.)

**Thank-you to all who volunteer their time & talents, and we welcome you all to join us for a good time of Fellowship, Coffee & Quilting! Many blessings to you and yours in the New Year!



Offering

December Income to date	\$7,628.87
General Fund Income to date	\$106,625.42
Bills paid to date	\$122,177.53

December 5, 2021

Envelopes	\$972.00
Loose	\$8.00
United Way Tree	\$20.00
Dedicated Funds:	
Stoeckel Campership	\$75.00
Total:	<u>\$1,075.00</u>

December 12, 2021

Envelopes	\$1,682.00
Loose	\$16.00
Dedicated Funds:	
Local Expenses	\$250.00
National Youth Gathering	\$75.00
Total:	<u>\$2,023.00</u>

December 19, 2021

Envelopes	\$1,972.00
Loose	\$15.00
Christmas	\$100.00
Youth Fun Night	\$75.00
Total:	<u>\$2,162.00</u>

December 26, 2021

Envelopes	\$627.00
Loose	\$331.87
Christmas	\$1,335.00
Tech Fund	\$75.00
Total:	<u>\$2,368.87</u>

Prayer Concerns

Shelly Engfer-Triebebach, Grace Johnson, Janice Frank, Marie Larson, LaRayne Johnson, Lil Ortendahl, LeAnn Horton, Don & Jeanne Jensen, and the family & friends of Wilma Triebebach and Ivy Nomeland

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

Shut-in and Health Concerns: Doug Sherman

Those Residing in Care Centers and Rehab

Community Memorial Home: Elaine Mattson, Marie Larson, Jeanne Jensen, Stella Bender, Audrey Collins, LaRayne Johnson

Terrace Heights: Alice Sanders

Westview Assisted Living: Ruby Maus, Faye Maus, Madlyn Manders, Don Jensen

Out of Town

Alexandria—Windmill Ponds: Delores Stephens

Harding, MN: David Jorgensen

Long Prairie: Ruth Sherman

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

Our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Wilma Triebebach who passed away
on December 9th

Lorraine 'Ivy' Nomeland who passed away
on December 27th



'January Birthdays'

01/01 Brian Sorensen
01/02 Debra Mensen, Diane Zimmel
01/03 David Carlson, Brent Juntunen
01/04 Debbie Bulfer
01/06 Stella Bender, Nichol Nessman,
Michael Redetzke, Darcy Staloch
01/07 Dawn McNeal
01/09 Chrisob Sadlemyer,
Kellie VanNyhuis
01/10 Mark Nessman,
Richard Thornbloom
01/12 Delores Stephens
01/14 James Heuer, Douglas Lillemoen,
Timothy Thornbloom
01/15 Robin Curtis
01/16 Gage Larson, Brandon Malvin
01/17 Joseph Garcia
01/18 David Dykema
01/19 Deborah Dowell, Hunter Johnson,
Drew VanNyhuis
01/21 Ethan Abbott, Karen Williamson
01/22 Jesse Sorensen
01/23 Richard Hansen
01/24 Loren Ortendahl
01/25 Breanna Larson
01/26 Barbara Berg
01/27 Hannah Redetzke
01/29 Marissa Hinrichs
01/31 Noah Johnson



Christmas Flowers

Thank You to all who brought in
and shared Christmas Flowers in
honor or memory of:

Friends and Family – from:
Charlotte Myhre &
Marlys Benson

Loved Ones – from:
Richard & Kathy Steinbeisser

Harlan & Helen Christensen,
Norman & Cleo Anderson and
Nancy Norling – from:
Paul Christensen's family

Arise
and
Shine for
your Light
has come.

Isaiah 60:1

Rich Reflections

Our 12-day Christmas celebration continues through January 5, which means Christmas and the new year are even more connected than we think. And both are intertwined with joy and fear.

Even with good news, the angels told Mary, Joseph, shepherds, “Do not be afraid.” It seems odd on the happiest night of year, but “Fear not” is the most often repeated command in the Bible.

When Mary finds out that she is going to give birth to the Word Made Flesh, and is reassured, she sings,

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”

Joseph is fearful of humiliation, but is reassured, and realizes that mercy is greater than self-righteousness. He goes ahead and is wed to Mary and names the baby Jesus.

The Shepherds were afraid of the angels but were reassured. Then they go see the Good News, make known what heard and saw. "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Herod is the only who chooses to live in fear! He seeks to have to have the new born king killed. Herod is the only one who is afraid, but not comforted. A powerful political leader who was used to getting his way with intimidation & bullying only to hide his own fear.

You see we often mask our fear with anger. And we have seen an awful lot of anger in our country the last two years, six years, or twenty years—take your pick. And it's been said, “Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering.” And I would suggest that a big part of that suffering are growing divisions. This is a serious threat!

Christmas is God's gift of the Prince of Peace, abundant life, and perfect love that leaves no room for fear, the opportunity to be born anew!

So as we enter this new year I'm reminded of a poem from one of our faithful, insightful current day Christian leaders:

“There is a time to be born, and it is now”

There is a time to be born and a time to die.
And this is a time to be born.
So we turn to you, God of our life,

God of all our years,
God of our beginning.

Our times are in your hand.

Hear us as we pray:

For those of us too much into obedience,
birth us to the freedom of the gospel.

For those of us too much into self-indulgence,
birth us to discipleship in your ministry.

For those of us too much into cynicism,
birth us to the innocence of the Christ child.

For those of us too much into cowardice,
birth us to the courage to stand
before principalities and powers

For those of us too much into guilt,
birth us into forgiveness

worked in your generosity

For those of us too much into despair,
birth us into the promises

you make to your people.

For those of us too much into control,
birth us into the vulnerability of the cross.

For those of us too much into victimization,
birth us into the power of Easter.

For those of us too much into fatigue,
birth us into the energy of Pentecost.

We dare pray that you will do for us
and among us and though us
what is needful for newness.

Give us the power to be receptive,
to take the newness you give,
to move from womb warmth to real life.

We make this prayer not only for ourselves, but
for our schools at the brink of birth,
for the church at the edge of life,
for our city waiting for newness,
for your whole creation,
with which we yearn in eager longing.

There is a time to be born, and it is now.

We sense the pangs & groans of your newness.

Come here now in the name of Jesus. Amen.

—Walter Bruggeman

May we once again be known as
Jesus' disciples by our love for
another in this new year.
Pr. Rich



Osakis Lutheran Church
Action News
January 2022



Edition #553
Debbie Bulfer, Editor



Council's Corner: by Melanie Stier

Happy New Year! As we look back on the past year and look forward to the upcoming year, I'm reminded how thankful I am for our church community and all it provides for us. Thank you for the continued support of our church community, both actively and financially. We are hoping to increase involvement and support by encouraging members to join committees and become more involved in activities. We would also like to encourage your family to look at your financial giving to the church and decide what your family is able to give to the church to help support our ministry. If you have ideas for ways to involve more members of our community, please share these with us as well! We would love to find more ways to involve not only members of our church, but also extended families and members of our community. Add Sunday, January 23rd to your calendar as the date for our Annual Meeting! We will be discussing the Endowment Committee and sharing guidance on ways to best honor those who have generously donated to us. Please plan to attend in person or online, as we also need to make sure we have enough members participating so we can hold the meeting.

THANK YOU to Jessie Thornbloom and our Sunday School students for a wonderful Christmas program! How beautiful to have everyone come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus and gather together through song and story! Thank you also for beautiful Christmas Eve services! A blessed New Year to you all! I look forward to worshipping and gathering with you throughout the year! Please don't hesitate to reach out to the church if there is a way we can better help to meet your needs!

***Annual Meeting:**

Sunday, January 23rd: during our worship service which begins at 10:00 am

God's Blessings,
Melanie Stier

Sunday School News:

- No Sunday School on January 2nd, but we will resume on January 9th -

December was filled with excitement!

Thank you to everyone who donated towards the United Way Christmas Project. We sent a car load of gifts for one family.

The Sunday School program was a success. It was fun to hear the story of Jesus' birth, enjoy some fellowship, and see some animals.

Thank you to Erickson's Petting Zoo!

January will be spent listening to our weekly Bible stories!

-Jessie Thornbloom

