

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

Deacons— Wilma Triebenbach

Worship— Mary Redetzke

Education—Kristen Will

Trustees— Lil Ortendahl

Youth— Lacei Sadlemyer

Stewardship—Mike Curtis

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: Income for July \$9,219.94 (does not include 7/22 and 7/29). Bills paid in August which includes bills, payroll and bills paid from the Mission Investment Fund. All benevolences are paid through August. Income to date: Offering \$78,924.68, Special memorial \$39,691.68, Endowment \$350,217.14. Bills paid to date \$101,316.37. A memorial of \$3000 was sent from the Glenn Sorenson estate. Mike made motion to approve the treasurer's report with Mary 2nd. Approved.

Pastor's Report:

-Galeon Bible Study continues. A Fall Theological Conference is this month with Pastor attending. Pathfinders starts this week with ditch cleaning.

c. Committees:

Trustees: Water main repair done by the city- Ferguson's gave us a discount for the excavation. The city cannot change the water bill and any breakage is the responsible of the landowner as per city ordinance. The BR stool and lights out in the church will be fixed. The sign outside of church is still not lit at night due to wiring that needs to be repaired. The sewage sump pump is also not working well. Lil will call a trustee meeting this month.

Stewardship: No new news (NNN)

Church in Society: NNN

Education and Youth: The movie night was a big success with about 30 people attending. Sunday school will begin this next Sunday. The youth group will meet after service on the 26th, 3rd grade Bible Service on 10/3 and Confirmation on 10/31.

Offer Our Prayers with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting was adjourned with the next meeting on Monday October 4th at 6:30.

Submitted by Jacki Harth, Council Secretary

2021 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 September 13, 2021

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

Past President Jessie Thornbloom called the meeting to order with Melanie Stier joining the meeting to continue the meeting.

Devotions- Pastor Rich

Sharing joys/concerns, highs/lows

Approval of agenda.

Nancy E. made a motion to approve the agenda with additions, Mary R. 2nd.
Approved.

Old Business

Minutes were reviewed from last meeting. Pastor Rich made a motion to approve, Melanie S. 2nd. Approved.

Unfinished items from previous meetings:

Covid- the SAFE team met to review Bishop Tesch's letter and other data to consider. Current protocols at OLC will not change but masks and social distancing will be encouraged. Current Covid rates in our areas seem to be plateauing.

Larson Estate/Endowment Fund next steps- A Meal and Conversation is scheduled for September 26 after service. Notices will be sent out individually via email/postcards, in the bulletin, with intentional personal invitations sent as well. Council members will help with the meal, serve, and clean up.

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

Lil O. brought up that some committees/activities that have functioned in previous years have fallen inactive (parish relations committee and the prayer chain) and may need refreshing. She also expressed concern about lower attendance and financial giving and the impact it may have. The prayer chain list can be updated by Debbie the church secretary. Currently the youth and education committees have been very active and have events scheduled to the end of the year. The Covid 19 pandemic has had a significant impact on attendance and giving which may continue. Melanie reviewed that the Goals for 2021, Goal #2 is to "Explore new approaches to get more new and existing members to be involved in the Ministry of our church". A brainstorming session was suggested.

Join Us For Worship

Sunday October 3 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday October 10 Worship Service 10 a.m. - 3rd Grade Bible Service, "Opening the Bible"

Sunday October 17 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday October 24 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday October 31 Worship Service 10 a.m. - Confirmation

As of now, we will continue to offer both 'In-Person' and 'Online' services. If you join us 'In-Person' we have opened a few more pews, but 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.



Pastor, Council, Congregation:
Thank you so much for celebrating my retirement as organist. I enjoyed playing and the years went by way to fast. The gift card was extremely nice and not expected. God gave me the gift of music and I was able to use it.

Thank You!
-Pat Converse



The Osakis Lutheran Quilters have made thousands of quilts over the decades. Fabric has been generously supplied through donations large and small. At this time the quilting room is filled to the brim with fabric, so we ask that you please do not bring in any more donations at this time. Thank you for the generous donations that you have supplied us with thus far, as we are able to use it to create more quilts!

Thank-You!



Mission Action

It is good for the Monday Quilters to be back again & we are rolling along!



- On August 30th, we had 1 quilt brought in & 4 quilts tied.

- On September 13th, we had 2 quilts tied.

**Thank-you to all who volunteer their time & talents, and please join us if you have a free day!

We meet every other Monday from 8:00 am - Noon in the church Fellowship Hall.

This month we will meet on the 11th and the 25th.



Offering

September Income to date \$4,754.00
 General Fund Income to date \$78,924.68
 Bills paid to date \$101,316.37

September 5, 2021

Envelopes \$550.00
 Loose \$20.00
 Dedicated Funds:
 Stoeckel Campership \$100.00
 Total: \$670.00

September 12, 2021

Envelopes \$1,129.00
 Loose \$5.00
 Dedicated Funds:
 Natl Youth Gathering \$75.00
 Building Repairs \$200.00
 Total: \$1,409.00

September 19, 2021

Envelopes \$1,632.00
 Loose \$5.00
 Dedicated Funds:
 Tech Fund \$75.00
 Total: \$1,712.00

September 26, 2021

Envelopes \$855.00
 Loose \$8.00
 Dedicated Funds:
 Stoeckel Campership \$100.00
 Total: \$963.00

Prayer Concerns

Shelly Engfer-Triebebach, Grace Johnson,
 Janice Frank, Marie Larson, Brenda Majerus,
 and LaRayne Johnson

**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, Lorraine (Ivy) Nomeland

Terrace Heights: Alice Sanders

Westview Assisted Living: LaRayne Johnson,
 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!***



Let us not become weary in doing good,
 for at the proper time we will reap a harvest
 if we do not give up. GALATIANS 6:9

'October Birthdays'

- 10/01 Stephanie Finnegan
10/02 Tracy Abraham
10/05 Jessica Thornbloom
10/07 Leah Chalmers
10/10 Scott Abraham
10/11 Riley Mounsdon, Richard Nelson
10/12 Paul Christensen, Linda Manders
10/13 Jase Nevala
10/15 Jeffrey Ellefson
10/16 Tia Dykema
10/17 Jane Amdahl, Vicki Hinrichs
10/19 Dawn Juntunen
10/20 Alan Larson, Rosemary Lynch
10/21 Altrude Daniels, Sarah Miller,
David Pease, Jill Ramey
10/23 Phoeniz Neal, Stanley Paulson,
Brandon Spanswick
10/24 Larry Werder
10/26 Guy Steinbeisser
10/29 Carter Grove, Zoey Thornbloom
10/31 Remi Chapman, Marie Larson,
Linda Paulson, Riley Werven



Church Council Encourages Vaccination

Osakis Lutheran Church Council has unanimously agreed to encourage everyone to seek out and receive the COVID-19 vaccine. It has proven to be more than 90% effective preventing serious infections and is also proving effective in reducing the transmission. This encouragement comes in the spirit of Jesus who tells us to care for the least (most vulnerable) among us. Vaccines are available at all clinics and most pharmacies.

STAY SAFEMN



COVID-19 VACCINE FACTS

The COVID-19 vaccine is free.

You can get the vaccine no matter if you have insurance or what your immigration status is.

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe.

It has gone through all the same safety steps of any other vaccine.

The COVID-19 vaccine works.

The vaccine is very good at protecting people from COVID-19 disease. It takes some time after your final shot to build up protection against COVID-19. The person giving you the vaccine will let you know if you need one or two doses. If you need two doses, it is important to get both doses for the best protection.

2-DOSE VACCINE



1-DOSE VACCINE



mn MINNESOTA

mn.gov/vaccine

Minnesota Department of Health | health.mn.gov | 651-201-5000 | 425 Robert Street North PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
Contact health.communications@state.mn.us to request an alternate format. | 02/24/2021

Rich Reflections

October is the heart of season of fall. It's also at the heart of our life as Christians of the Lutheran persuasion. It's the month we commemorate the Reformation: the Holy Spirit working through Martin Luther to reclaim the biblical teaching we that are saved by grace. We don't worship Luther and we don't bash our Roman Catholic sisters & brothers. We thank God that we DON'T get what we deserve. That's grace.

The ancient eastern notion of karma says: "what happens to a person, happens because they caused it with their actions," and determines their fate. Christians would say we don't believe in karma. However, we do say things like, "you reap what you sow" and "what goes around comes around." Hmm, doesn't sound like much of a difference. But when we talk about ultimate consequences or reward, our Christian faith isn't cause and effect.

The following is from an interview with a modern-day philosopher poet. It's a person who was raised in the church and is a follower of Jesus. Even though he does not have a formal education in faith or theology, he has been led to some deep insights and significant action.

"It's a mind-blowing concept that the God who created the Universe might be looking for company, a real relationship with people, but the thing that keeps me on my knees is the difference between Grace and Karma..."

You see, at the center of all religions is the idea of Karma. You know, what you put out comes back to you; an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, or in physics – in physical laws – every action is met by an equal or opposite one. It's clear to me that Karma is at the very heart of the universe. I'm absolutely sure of it.

And yet, along comes this idea called Grace to upend all that "As you sow, so will you reap" stuff. Grace defies reason and logic. Love interrupts, if you like, the consequences of your actions, which in my case is very good news indeed, because I've done a lot of stupid stuff.

That's between me and God. But I'd be in big trouble if Karma was going to finally be my judge. I'd be in deep [trouble]. It doesn't excuse my mistakes, but I'm holding out for Grace. I'm holding out that Jesus took my sins onto the Cross because I know who I am, and I hope I don't have to depend on my own religiosity.

The point of the death of Christ is that Christ took on the sins of the world so that what we put out did not come back to us, and that our sinful nature does not reap the obvious death. That's the point. It should keep us humbled....its not our own good works that get through the gates of heaven...

If only we could be a bit more like him, the world would be transformed. All I do is get up on the Cross of the Ego; the bad hangover, the bad review. When I look at the Cross of Christ, what I see up there is all my [garbage] and everybody else's. So I ask myself a question a lot of people have asked: Who is this man? And was he who he said He was, or was he just a religious nut? And there it is, and that's the question. And no one can talk you into it or out of it."

That is an expanded description of what woke Luther's soul to true nature of God: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephes.2:8-9)

When we remember the Reformation this is what we celebrate! We are freed in Christ from the ultimate consequences of our sin. We are free to live for the sake of others. We do believe in good works, but NOT to earn God's favor, but to share God's unconditional love & grace. "For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." (Ephes. 2:10)

The philosopher poet is Paul David Hewson, also known as Bono of the band U2, who is co-founder of the ONE campaign, Product Red, and EDUN which work to build up developing countries.

Celebrating our life in grace,
Pr. Rich

Osakis Lutheran Church Action News October 2021

Edition #550
Debbie Bulfer, Editor



Council's Corner: by Melanie Stier

Happy Fall to all! It's so great to see activity pick up at church! If you have ideas for events the church could host or Bible study themes, please don't hesitate to let us know. We love having all of our members involved in our church community!

Thank you also to those who attended the informational picnic last month to meet and discuss thoughts on the Endowment Fund. We've had some great conversations over the past months, and we hope to continue those and assure the usage of these funds is honoring those who have given. Please consider attending future meetings as well, as we value all the ideas and contributions.

Thank you also to the families of those who have chosen to give a financial contribution to Osakis Lutheran to leave a legacy of love and giving. We will be able to invest those contributions back into our church community and see a return in the ways we will be able to minister to our members and beyond into the community.

This past month, we've picked up with our youth events, from Family Bingo to Pathfinders starting back up to Sunday School to a Youth Group Bowling event! These are great ways to invest in the future of our church and congregation! Please encourage any youth you know to attend these events! And to bring a friend or two!

We are continuing to be safe at church, with the option to wear a mask and the option to distance yourself as you're seated. We also have the option to worship online. Please make the choice you feel is best for your safety and well-being.

God's Blessings, Melanie Stier

Sunday School News:

It was great to see a handful of the Sunday School students on Rally Sunday! Sunday School is available during worship for all students PreK-5th grade. We do a variety of activities including listening to the weekly Bible story, watch videos, sing songs, and play games. This year we are working on a "Holy Rollers" challenge. If students attend 12 Sunday School times throughout the year, they earn a bowling certificate for a free game at the Bowling Barn. What a great deal! You get to enrich your faith and bowl. I'm excited for this year!! If you have not turned in your Sunday School registration forms, please send those to the church office or bring them to Sunday School.*

-Jessie Thornbloom

3rd Grade Bible Service "Opening the Bible"

This month we will be helping parents keep their baptismal promises by giving these 3rd graders their own Bibles during a special service on October 10th.

Students receiving their Bibles:

- *Avery Dickinson
- *Kylar Gadbow
- *Owen Reilly
- *Riley Steinert

