

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 September \$7,466.20.. Bills paid in September \$11,063.19. Income to date: Offering \$86,390.88 , Special memorial \$39,691.68, Endowment \$350,217.14. Bills paid to date \$112,379.56. Income/giving has continued to remain low. Mike made motion to approve the treasurer's report with Mary 2nd. Approved.

Pastor's Report:

-The number of kids in Pathfinders has increased. The 3rd graders will receive their bibles this month and the 9th graders will meet to develop their faith statements. Pastor attended a retreat at Luther Crest with some topics on a hybrid church post covid. The Galeon is fundraising for a bus for the seniors which will be put in the bulletin. Pastor is reaching out to reconnect with members.

Committees:

Trustees: Thank you to Robbie Schultz who did snowplowing last year and to those that helped with the lawn this summer. Lil reviewed the current repairs and maintenance needed that includes bathroom and kitchen plumbing, electric timer for outdoor sign, powerwashing , sump pump issues and various leaks.

Stewardship: Notes were included in the Action News and bulletin.

Church in Society: this committee is inactive and could be recruited through "Time and Talent" surveys or handouts. There are opportunities now for public presence within our community to promote OLC. Discussion regarding looking at the by-laws to include the purpose and function of each committee.

Education and Youth: Met last Wednesday and had Bingo 2 weeks ago with a lower than expected turnout. Bowling had 5 kids and youth events will continue to be posted on FaceBook page. Sunday school is going well and they will be adopting a family through United Way this Christmas.

Worship: Will be decorating for fall.

Offer Our Prayers with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting was adjourned with the next meeting on Monday November 1st 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 October 4, 2021

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

President Melanie Stier called the meeting to order.

Devotions- Pastor Rich

Sharing joys/concerns, highs/lows

Approval of agenda.

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

Old Business

Minutes were not available to be reviewed so will be next month.

Unfinished/ongoing agenda items from previous meetings:

Covid- No new news. Continue to have options for social distancing in the church.

Larson Estate/Endowment Fund next steps- The Meal and Conversation was attended by around 20 people. There was discussion regarding a survey to get input from all members regarding immediate needs to fund from the endowment. A survey will be developed and have available for members to fill out via paper or digitally. The survey will also recruit those willing to serve on an endowment committee.

Updating committees/activities that have fallen inactive due to Covid:

This time of year is when we typically have "Time and talent" recruitment. A survey could be developed with options for sharing talents and time.

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

Brainstorming on how to recruit more youth: some ideas were to look into the help of a youth pastor, use or modify the church basement for more activities. In Sunday school, Jessie has started an incentive program for kids who can come more often.

Annual review of job descriptions for employees: The executive committee will conduct this annual review.

Join Us For Worship

Sunday November 7 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday November 14 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday November 21 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday November 28 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.

ELCA Alternative Gifts for Christmas!

As members of the (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference.

ELCA Good Gifts are a creative, meaningful way to support the ministries of the ELCA that mean the most to you and your loved ones. These gifts are real examples from projects currently supported through ELCA church-wide ministries.

Many other organizations are doing wonderful work around the world, and some do work in similar ways. A main difference between the ELCA and other programs is that this church receives almost all of the money to fund its work directly through its congregations and members, and almost all of the money that we distribute goes to support the work being carried out by our congregations, global companion churches and ecumenical partners. It is successful because the church is present in far corners of the world and already connected and trusted in communities. And finally, it is sustainable. Our churches and partners are the ones who identify local needs and solutions; we just help make those dreams a reality.

We encourage you to check out the following link for more info. regarding this program for the holidays.

www.ELCA.org/goodgifts



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!



- For October we did not tie any quilts, however we worked on some clean-up projects.

- We shipped on the 27th.

**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 8th and the 22nd.



Offering

October Income to date \$5,165.50
 General Fund Income to date \$126,719.56
 Bills paid to date \$112,379.56

October 3, 2021

Envelopes \$2,124.00
 Loose \$15.50
 Sunday School Offering \$8.00
 Dedicated Funds:
 Natl. Youth Gathering \$75.00

Total: \$2,222.50

October 10, 2021

Envelopes \$812.00
 Loose \$20.00
 Sunday School Offering \$6.00
 Dedicated Funds:
 Tech Fund \$75.00
 Building Repairs \$250.00

Total: \$1,243.00

October 17, 2021

Envelopes \$890.00
 Loose \$46.00
 Sunday School Offering \$2.00
 Dedicated Funds:
 College Scholarship \$100.00
 Church Rental \$25.00

Total: \$1,063.00

October 24, 2021

Envelopes \$627.00
 Loose \$10.00

Total: \$637.00

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!***



'November Birthdays'

- 11/01 Ariel Chalmers
11/02 Jeremy Floer, Gina Hoffarth
11/04 Dylan Hansen,
Thomas Williamson
11/05 Kaden Gadbow
11/06 Laurie Dykema, Nathan Kulzer,
Stephanie Person
11/08 Karen Gilsrud, Scott Nosbush,
Christy Werder
11/09 Richard Fitzer, Paul Sorum
11/11 Cody Helm, Brent Werven
11/12 Yvonne Christensen,
Suzzette Sibell
11/13 Kathy Steinbeisser,
Christine Werven
Nancy Woidyla
11/14 Brittany Johnson
11/15 Melissa Engfer,
Thomas Finnegan
11/16 Daniel Finnegan
11/17 Stacy Betsinger, Jennifer Gilbert
11/19 Jenna Nosbush, Guy Swenson
11/22 Nancy Exley
11/24 Zelene Kimball, Matthew Stier
11/26 Marjorie Swor
11/27 Brian Ramey
11/30 Curtis Woidyla



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.

2-DOSE VACCINE



1-DOSE VACCINE



mi MINNESOTA

mn.gov/vaccine



Rich Reflections

November means the end of daylight saving time and Thanksgiving, along with many other things. The first can bring the reminder of heading into the darker time of year, the other helps us to pause and remember the good things in life.

One of our ELCA bishops, Rev. Michael Rinehart, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod wrote about this paradoxical time of year.

“A word of encouragement. As the days get shorter, and the darkness gathers (for those of us in the northern hemisphere), light some candles and give thanks to God for your life and work.

This time of year, we can slip imperceptibly into depression or anxiety. You wake up one day feeling unsettled, and it seems like everything is going to hell in a handbasket, and the world is closing in on you. Take a deep breath; and recall God’s unconditional love for you.

Make time for daily prayer, and daily exercise. Go for walks. Do yourself, your family and your community a favor: Make weekly sabbath a priority. Spend time with friends. Waste time. Frolic. Tend to your soul.”

Jesus said, “love your neighbor as yourself.” Apparently Jesus knew the wisdom of putting on your own oxygen mask first. If we take care of ourselves, we’ll be much more able to follow our Christian calling and care for our neighbors.

Here’s the connection between keeping your spirits up and giving thanks. Several well-documented studies have shown that showing gratitude helps us feel more joyful, or happier.¹

However, our society is not structured to help us be truly grateful in a spontaneous way without guilt. Diana Butler Bass in her book “*Grateful: the Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*” writes about the different ways of gratitude in our society versus the Bible.

Many people find gratitude difficult because we largely think of it in terms of some benefactor giving us a gift. We are the beneficiaries of that gift, and we’re in debt. We say this all the time -- “I owe you a debt of gratitude.” And that debt gets discharged by all kinds of things -- giving a return gift, sending

a thank-you note, doing a favor in return. That cycle has often been structured in Western society hierarchically.

But that’s not the structure that the Bible puts on gratitude. In the Bible, it’s about abundance and table fellowship and the sharing of gifts for free without any expectation of return.

One of my favorite verses comes from Luke, where Jesus says that when you give a dinner, don’t just invite your relatives and your rich friends in expectation that you’re creating a quid pro quo system -- he actually says that, that they’ll pay you back -- but instead, when you give a banquet, you invite the poor, the crippled, all those people who can never afford to repay you.

Jesus disconnects gifts and the giving of a meal from the possibility of payback by putting the blessing that you receive so far in the future that it becomes irrelevant to the act of giving the gift.

So, Butler Bass makes it clear that the way of the world is a pyramid structure of power, privilege and possessing wealth. But in the life of faith, in God’s reign, the model is a table of abundance where all are welcome and hold an equal place.

There’s another interesting connection to note. “Grace” and “gratitude” come from the same root word. Evidently, being aware of God’s grace and giving thanks go hand in hand.

Joy is a fruit of the Spirit, and it’s not about pretending to be jolly when life is a challenge. God’s desire to give us joy is like an underlying current in our lives to satisfy and quench our thirst for receiving, responding, celebrating and thanking—even in the midst of darker days.

May grace, gratitude, joy and thankfulness be yours in the days and months to come,

Pr. Rich

¹ <http://www.health.harvard.edu/healthbeat/giving-thanks-can-make-you-happier>

Osakis Lutheran Church Action News November 2021

Edition #551
Debbie Bulfer, Editor



Council's Corner: by Melanie Stier

Blessed Thanksgiving to you all! As we head into the Thanksgiving season, I am so thankful for a loving and supportive church community. We have all come together to make this the best place to worship and praise God and I pray for this sense of community to grow as we progress.

Last month, an email and letters with survey links were sent out. We would like everyone's feedback on how to best meet the needs of the church, while also planning for the future. If you were able to attend the meeting last month, you were able to hear a little more from Keith about investing some of our money as well. Please feel free to ask questions and offer feedback. We are currently working to form an Endowment Committee to work on this.

As we prepare to go into the next calendar year, please consider ways you are able to support the church, whether it be financially, by leading a committee, joining in a Bible study, or any number of other ways to be involved in the church community. If you have any suggestions for events to involve more members, please feel free to share.

Congratulations to our Confirmands! Many blessings on your faith journey going forward! Our Sunday School children will be collecting money to buy Christmas gifts for local families who are unable, through United Way's Adopt-A-Family program. Our children's Christmas program will be Sunday, December 19th. Look for more events coming up to engage our congregation!

God's Blessings,
Melanie Stier

Congratulations to:

- * Carter Grove
- * Luke Imdieke
and
- * Luke Staloch

These fine young men have each been awarded the Ella Nomeland Scholarship. A check for \$300.00 has been sent to their respective college to assist in their tuition.



**Affirmation of Baptism was held on
Sunday October 31st during the
10:00 a.m. Worship Service.**

**Seth Staloch
Mikkel Steinert**

