

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— Jacki Harth

Treasurer— Nancy Exley

Financial Secretary— Cindy Christensen

Worship— Mary Redetzke

Education— Kristen Will

Trustees— Lil Ortendahl

Youth— Lacey Sadlemyer

Stewardship— Mike Curtis

Church Office Hours:

‘Fall/Winter’ 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.

To contact Pastor Rich:

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

His phone number is:
#859-3816.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rich thanks the council for the week of vacation at the end of the year. Bible study at Galeon continues, the funeral for Neil Ranum is this Friday, he is excited about the Jerimiah Project, and planning a book/movie discussion soon. The Backpack attack will be packing on January 18th and the Osakis Ministerial Group is meeting again. Pathfinders are exploring world religions as this was a topic both parents and kids requested.

Debbie Bulfer, Church Administrative Secretary, has resigned as the family is moving away. She will be done at the end of January. Nancy E. previously held the position, and offered to help out in the interim. Thank you Nancy and Thank you to Debbie for all that you have done for us!

Committees:

Church in Society: NNN

Education and Youth: Thank you to the children who participated in the Christmas Program, they did a great job!

Stewardship: Envelopes have been delivered and are in the Narthex.

Worship: Pastor Rich would like ideas on services that will bring attendance up. He has some thoughts about Lenten meals.

Trustees: Thank you to Robbie Schultz for clearing snow from the parking lots!

Annual meeting: will be held JANUARY 29th during the service. A quorum is needed and at this time is 40. Please attend- there are constitution changes being proposed as well as other items of interest to member.

Offer Our Prayers with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting was adjourned by a motion from Mike and 2nd Rick. Next meeting is on TUESDAY February 7th at 6:00pm.

Submitted by Jacki Harth, Council Secretary

Other News:

'Fall/Winter' Office Hours:
Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

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

**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 January 9th, 2023

Present: Pastor Rich, Rick Hansen, Jacki Harth , Nancy Exley,
Mike Curtis, Kristen Will, Lil Ortendahl

I: The meeting was called to order by President Rick Hansen
Pastor Rich led devotions

Shared joys and concerns

II: Approval of agenda.

Lil made a motion to approve the agenda with additions, Mike 2nd. Motion carried.

III. Old/Unfinished Business

Minutes were reviewed. Mike made a motion to approve, Nancy 2nd, motion carried.

2023 Budget: Nancy presented the budget for 2023. A motion to approve was made by Mike and 2nd by Jacki with the motion approved. Year end numbers that will be available for the annual meeting were presented. \$54,692.00 was transferred from the Mission Investment Fund this year to cover expenses. The amount left in the Mission Investment fund is \$297,584.07. The endowment committee will be meeting this week. More information will be available at the annual meeting on January 29th.

IV: New Business

Jeremiah 29 Project- Pastor Rich has signed up for this project to increase congregational vitality. A motion was made by Mike and 2nd by Nancy to pay half the cost which is \$200. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Income for December: \$27,964.25 that includes another transfer from the MIF for \$15,000 (actual income \$12,964) Bills paid in December \$23,706.21 with all bills paid up for 2022. Nancy proposed some restrictions to keep bills in check- all purchases need to go through her. Mike made a motion to approve the report and restrictions with Lil 2nd, motion carried.

Join Us For Worship

Sunday February 5 Worship Service - 10 a.m.

Sunday February 12 Worship Service - 10 a.m.

Sunday February 19 Worship Service - 10 a.m.

Sunday February 26 Worship Service - 10 a.m.

Wednesday suppers begin on Ash Wednesday,
February 22nd, at 6:00 p.m.

Church service on Ash Wednesday,
and every Wednesday during Lent,
will begin at 6:30 p.m.





January Income w/online: \$6,414.58.00
 Expenses thru January \$0.00

January 1, 2023

Envelopes \$743.00
 Loose \$16.00
 Dedicated Funds:
 Workers' Comp refund \$22.58
Total: \$781.58

January 8, 2023

Envelopes \$208.00
 Loose \$6.00
 Dedicated Funds:
 Tech Fund \$75.00
 Stoeckel Campership \$75.00
 Anchor Ad \$100.00
 Custodian Pay \$100.00
Total: \$564.00

January 15, 2023

Envelopes \$1,277.00
 Loose \$23.00
 Initial \$50.00
 Dedicated Funds:
 Memorial-Neil Ranum \$50.00
 Church Rent \$50.00
 Church Repair \$300.00
 World Hunger \$9.00
Total: \$1,759.00

January 22, 2023

Envelopes \$1,038.00
 Loose \$25.00
 Initial \$12.00
 Dedicated Funds:
 World Hunger \$5.00
 Anchor Ad \$120.00
Total: \$1,200.00

Total online giving January 2,110.00

Online Giving

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-Triebebach, Peter Moberg,
 LaRayne Johnson, Delores Stephens, and the
 Family & Friends of: Neil Ranum, and Doug
 Sherman



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

Those who are Shut-in and with Health Concerns

Those Residing in Care Centers and Rehab

Community Memorial Home: Elaine Mattson,
 Jeanne Jensen, Don Jensen, LaRayne Johnson

Terrace Heights: Alice Sanders, Delores
 Stephens

Westview Assisted Living: Faye Maus, Madlyn
 Manders

Out of Town

Harding, MN: David Jorgensen

Long Prairie: Ruth Sherman

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

**Our sympathy to the family
 and friends of:**

- Doug Sherman, who passed away on
 January 12th



***Our Thoughts
 and Prayers
 are With you***

'February Birthdays'

- 02/01 Grace Wells,
Jesse Wells,
Jerome Wiggins
- 02/03 Alan Hjulberg
- 02/05 Pat Converse
- 02/06 Casey Nevala
- 02/07 Tucker Kreemer
- 02/10 Linda Kalpin
- 02/13 Shirley Laven
- 02/16 Ricky Spanswick
- 02/17 Johnathan Betsinger,
Justin Mickle,
Lola Schueler,
Emilia Sorensen
- 02/19 Pam Ellefson
- 02/20 Gordon Lynch
- 02/22 Zoey Bjorstrom,
Elizabeth Floer
- 02/25 Rylee Mickle,
Luke Nessman
- 02/26 Isaiah Neal
- 02/27 Peyton Garcia,
Heather Neal
- 02/28 Michael Wagner



'Farewell from your Church Administrative Secretary'

I would like to take this opportunity to say 'Farewell' to you all and Thank You! My family is making a move down to Southern Missouri, and we believe that this is a path that the Lord has chosen for us at this time. I will surely miss working here at this wonderful house of God, and with many of you! He always has perfect timing for our lives, and bringing me here for the last 3 years has been such a blessing in mine. I now have another testimony of his great love to add into my life, and I will always be grateful to him, and to you. Thank You & have many blessed days! -Debbie Bulfer



Rich Reflections

“Let there be light,” is God’s first command in the story of creation. Epiphany is the season of the light coming into the darkness, and the messiah being made know to the nations. In Matthew’s gospel Jesus is the interpreter of the Law of Moses and the fulfillment of messianic promises given through the prophets. And we are called to be the light of the world!

During these midwinter Sundays we are hearing portions of Jesus’ first public message in Matthew 5-7, the **Sermon on the Mount**. Of course, the first week, which we read on January 29, begins with The Beatitudes.” These familiar verses have given comfort to millions and tell us what will be most important in the life and ministry of Jesus: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ...⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Then in the following weeks we’ll hear Jesus reinterpret the Law of Moses, in some incredibly revealing and challenging ways.

¹³ *"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. ...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

²¹ *"You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not murder"; and "whoever murders shall be liable to judgment." ²² But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to*

judgment; ...²³ So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister"

³⁸ *"You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ...⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous."*

When you read these verses, you may be confronted by your own shortcomings and be aware of our own dis-ease with these words of our Lord. Insofar as they remind us we have nowhere to turn and run, but to Jesus, and there is no better place to run. Because, God doesn’t want us to be reduced to a whimpering heap of fear and shame, but humble lights in a dark world.

The letter of the Law produced easy excuses to get around caring for others, and the kind of guilt that only leads to despair. Jesus interprets of the spirit of the Law, which promotes wholeness and healing across and among whole communities. The spirit of the Law, as Jesus explains it, reveals how God responds to us, and how can be God’s light of the world.

See you in church as God’s light shines among and through us, J

Pr. Rich Fitzer



Stewardship Committee

2022 held many challenges. Although, we worked on them by sharing our many talents, time and precious treasures, we did fall short with monetary giving. We had to resort to using reserves from past gifts to meet the shortfall. This is not a sustainable option for 2023.

For 2023 we really need to have more involvement from the congregation. Our committees need refreshing. We must stop relying on the same people year after year. Fresh ideas and involvement will help us to grow and nourish the congregation. Many thanks to everyone who has stepped forward to serve. We need 100% involvement to keep our congregation alive. I look forward to seeing people serving and building our congregation back up.

Mike Curtis

Education Committee

The Education Committee has enjoyed activities such as a successful outdoor movie night in August at Matt and Melanie Stier's shed property. There was an interest meeting for a possible mission trip for the summer of 2023, but it was decided that it was too short of a time frame for adequate planning. We will continue to look into this possibility for future planning for a trip in 2025!

We are continuing to look for a youth leader with energy and excitement for our Lord, who would be willing to light a fire of excitement for Jesus in our youth and their families! We, as a committee, feel strongly that if we are able to excite our youth, they will invite other friends to join our church activities which will, in turn, bring in more young families. This is one way that we are hoping to help turn our declining membership around. We are asking the congregation to help us to support this new position with a little extra giving, so that eventually, the new membership will be able to help support this new role. We've been trying to keep our Sunday School and youth activities going strong until we find a new and amazing leader! Please pray that we will find an appropriate new staff member that will lead us in the direction our Father wants us to go! If you have any leads or ideas, we are always glad to listen...it takes a village to raise our children.

Respectfully submitted, Kristen Will, Education Committee Chair