

Osakis Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 427

Osakis, MN 56360

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

President—Melanie Stier

Past President— Jessie Thornbloom

Secretary—Jacki Harth

Treasurer—Nancy Exley

Financial Secretary—Cindy Christensen

Deacons— Wilma Triebenbach

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.

B. Pastor's Report:

- Funeral for Altrude Daniels.
- Pastor Rich will check into resuming Worship options at Galeon.
- Rich arranged a tech consult with First Lutheran. Many things have been tried (practice run throughs, troubleshooting) but there are still some issues on Sundays.
- Lenten Wednesday theme is "Final Words" with a mid-week simple Worship.
- All Pathfinder kids have mentors.
- There will be Council Installation on Feb 7 at 10:00 a.m.

C. Committees:

- Trustees: touchless faucets and lights will be installed. Bell tower repair estimate is being reviewed and the job will be done this summer.
- Stewardship: nothing to report
- Church in Society: still need volunteers to serve on this committee
- Education: meeting on 2/7/2021
- Worship: nothing to report

VI. We go out in God's name

VII. Meeting was adjourned with the next meeting on March 1, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by: Jacki Harth
Council Secretary



**Welcome to these new members of
Osakis Lutheran Church!**

Sara & Brendan Reilly—Marissa, Ben,
Jenna, Owen

Lacei & Jason Sadlemyer—Chrisob, Zach

Lisa & Jason Stienert—Mikkel, Preston,
Riley

Kristen & Craig Will—Gabe, Abby,
Morgan

Osakis Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday February 3, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Pastor Rich, Melanie Stier, Kristen Will, Jessie Thornbloom, Jacki Harth, Nancy Exley, Rick Hanson

I. President Melanie Stier called the meeting to order.

Pastor Rich: devotions and meditation

Sharing joys/concerns, highs/lows

II. Approval of Agenda

Goals for 2021 were added to the agenda

Nancy E. made a motion to approve the agenda, Jessie T. 2nd. Approved.

III. Old Business

Review of January minutes- Nancy E. make a motion to accept the minutes, Kristen 2nd. Approved.

Previous agenda items

Appoint Rick Hanson as President Elect. Jessie T. made a motion approve with Pastor Rich 2nd. Approved.

Annual goals: the goals for 2021 in the council packet were reviewed with some discussion on #4 Review and renew member registration.

An additional "new member Sunday" will be added (1st Sunday in November and last Sunday in April) as discussed previously.

Kristen W. is working on new member packets with community information and time and talent info.

Jessie T. brought up needing a Youth Group to fill the gap after Pathfinders.

IV. New Business

Lent Soup Suppers: There will be Wednesday worship in person and on-line. Discussion regarding soup packets and/or an Interactive Zoom soup making on Monday or Tuesday of each week.

Serving Pathfinder group on Wednesdays: Options for food were considered: Pastor Rich will check on the funds.

V. Reports

A. Treasurer: Income for January \$6,571.00, Bills paid in January \$10,213.83. Income to date: \$6,571.00, Bills paid to date \$10,213.83 All bills and benevolences are paid for 2020. Nancy added Melanie S. to the list of people to sign checks this year. Nancy checked with the bank regarding the another round of PPP and the church does not qualify.

A memorial for Bud Manders was received.

There are several investment accounts and Melanie, Nancy, and Jessie will meet to discuss consolidating those accounts. A motion to approve the January treasurer's report was made by Jessie T., 2nd by Kristen W. Approved.

Join Us For Worship

Sunday March 7 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday March 14 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday March 21 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday March 28 Worship Service 10 a.m.

As of now, we will be offering both 'In-Person' and 'Online' services. If you join us 'In-Person' we ask you to again 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 YouTube.

Church in Society

This is a committee that serves God in guiding the Church's participation into society by bringing awareness to social issues each month, for example:

Lutheran Social Services (LSS), Global Missions with Missionary Support, World Hunger, Domestic Violence, Operation Bootstrap Africa (OBA), MN Food Share/Local Food Shelves, Habitat for Humanity (HFH), God's Work Our Hands projects etc.

Duties include: collecting updated information for display and educational purposes and support. Arranging mission moments on monthly topics and/or collecting items and monetary gifts for certain organizations.

** Does this sound like a committee you, or someone you know, would enjoy serving in? The position is OPEN! So if you would be interested please let Diane, or Debbie in the office, know!

Osakis Lutheran is Faithful & Generous

Thank you! First and most importantly, thank you to all who have continued to give your offerings! Your generosity is inspiring. Keep up the good work! With help from all of us, we will continue to be the church, supporting bible camps, global missions, hunger and more—even if we aren't in the same physical location. Consider which of the following ways are best for you.

Mail a Check: You can mail your offering envelope to: P.O. Box 427, Osakis, 56360

Online Giving: You can make a one-time gift or set up recurring gifts. Go to www.osakislutheranelca.com, click on the "Donate" button, and then provide the information needed.

Prayer: no matter what your situation, please give prayer support to our staff, members, and the mission & ministry of Osakis Lutheran.

Your Stewardship Committee

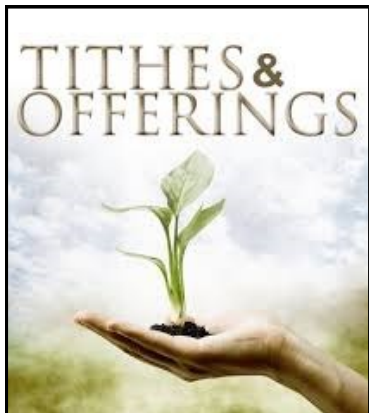
Other News:

2021 Worship

We were able to go back to 'In-Person' Worship beginning on January 24th. We plan to continue to offer 'In-Person' services 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 need-
ing pastoral care.**

**Communion by appointment—
contact Pastor Rich.**



Offering

January Income	\$6,571.00
January Expenses	\$10,213.83
Income to date	\$6,571.00
Expenses to date	\$10,213.83

*Stripe Dollars for February \$1,745.00

February 7, 2021

Envelopes	\$1,307.00
Loose	\$20.00
Sunday School Offering	\$3.00
Stoeckel Campership	\$70.00
Families in Need	\$200.00
Total:	<u>\$1,600.00</u>

February 14, 2021

Envelopes	\$1,197.00
Loose	\$20.00
Ash Wednesday	\$50.00
Natl. Youth Gathering	\$75.00
Total:	<u>\$1,342.00</u>

February 21, 2021

Envelopes	\$1,047.00
Loose	\$1.00
Ash Wednesday	\$50.00
Lent	\$70.00
Sunday School Offering	\$2.00
Tech Fund	\$75.00
Total:	<u>\$1,245.00</u>

Total Offering: \$4,187.00

Prayer Concerns

Shelly Engfer-Triebenbach, Grace Johnson, Janet Werven, Janice Frank, Sue Hoffarth, Marie Larson, Dave Amdahl, Samantha Reeves, and the family and friends of John VanNyhuis (Lee's dad) & Thelma Yamasaki

(Call 320-859-2350 for your prayer requests.)

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

Terrace Heights: LaRayne Johnson, Ruby Maus, Lorraine (Ivy) Nomeland, Alice Sanders

Westview Assisted Living: Stella Bender, Audrey Collins, 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!

An Irish Prayer

May God give you...
 For every storm, a rainbow,
 For every tear, a smile,
 For every care, a promise,
 And a blessing in each trial.
 For every problem life sends,
 A faithful friend to share,
 For every sigh, a sweet song,
 And an answer for each prayer.

March Birthdays

03/01 Remington Nevala
03/03 Nash Vik
03/08 Larissa Hoffarth
03/11 Trey Morisch
03/13 Katie Helm,
Hunter Infanger,
Jacqueline Ramey
03/15 Anna Wolf
03/16 Donald Watschke
03/18 Morrigan Reinke
03/21 Hailey-Rose Sherman,
Denise Waldvogel
03/22 Coraline Floer,
Blake Johnson
03/23 Sarah Maddock
03/25 Carter Betsinger
03/27 Kimberly Floer
03/28 Bria Hoffarth, Matthew Staloch,
Judy Traulich, Jason Wiggins
03/29 William Garvin,
Kristine Nevala
03/31 Jacob Finnegan,
Mason Grove

A green alarm clock with a yellow face and black numbers, next to a bouquet of pink roses. The background is teal with white clouds.

SUNDAY MARCH 14, 2021
DAYLIGHT
Saving Time is Here!
Don't forget to change
Your clocks, and enjoy an extra
hour of sunshine.

Release and Renew

A Spiritual Practice for Lent 2021



Rich Reflections

“*Final Words from the Cross*” is our midweek Lenten theme. Sometimes when we read or hear these last statements from Jesus we can get fixated only on his suffering, or go on a self-guided guilt trip. Suffering and guilt are part of the story. BUT if we get stuck there, we’ll be of no use to others and little benefit to ourselves.

So how do Jesus’ “Final Words” help us live a healthy and productive life? Good question! I bet you have some good answers if you reflect on it for a little while.

The traditional hymn “*Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?*” asks a spiritual question more than a physical one. The presumed answer is, “Yes, I was there.” We were there. You were there. All of us, past, present and future, are part of the story.

“*Forgive Them for don’t know that they are doing.*” What goes through mind and heart when you hear those words addressed to you? When are the moments you don’t know what you are doing? When do you need forgiveness before you know it? How does it feel hear Jesus forgive you even before you ask? How is this a model for you to live your life?

“*You will be with me in Paradise.*” Paradise, in this case, means “the king’s garden.” Jesus from the cross is breaking the curse, the banishment from the Garden of Eden. Even while Jesus is suffering and being taunted, he’s wanting the best for the criminals beside him, and all humanity. How will you both receive this promise, and share this promise? What are the little things we can experience and provide as a little heaven on earth?

“*This is your Mother, this is your Son.*” Jesus before he dies is taking care of his mother and his good friend John. How do you experience “family” with relatives and friends? Who do you know that could use a surrogate sibling? Some parental, accepting love?

“*Why have you Forsaken me?*”

Abandoned. Forgotten. Neglected. Ignored. Rejected. Jesus was feeling those things. You probably have felt some of those too! Jesus was crying out and railing against God. He was quoting Psalm 22. If Jesus complains to God, then certainly we have permission too. Do you see and hear others in the world lamenting to God, crying out for help? Which forsaken people can you reach out to? How can you support them, even if you can’t fix their problem?

“*I Thirst*”

Jesus was literally thirsty after hours on the cross. We could also think about satisfying deep, God-given thirsts. In the land of 10,000 lakes we seldom worry about water. But with increasing droughts in the U.S. and the world, contaminated water in places like Flint, Michigan, and people in Texas having to boil water before drinking, we might consider water literally. How can we better care for this essential, finite resource? You could begin at www.water.org or www.cleanwateraction.org.

“*It is Finished*”

It’s fairly obvious that this is the completion of Jesus’ earthly life. But what else is finished!? Jesus has finished establishing God’s reign on earth, displaying the unconditional, no-strings attached love God has for everyone and every thing! How do feel knowing that there’s nothing you can do to make God love you less? How will it change your thoughts knowing that God loves you “enemies” unconditionally? How will you let that change your thoughts, words and actions in the world?

I don’t have the specific answers to all those questions for you. However, you can clearly see that Jesus’ “Final Words” aren’t just history, or merely nice thoughts. These are eternal words that shape our relationship with Jesus, and are meant to shape our relationship with all that God has created!

May God grant you time to ponder Jesus’ last words and a mind and heart open to welcome the Spirit’s answers for you. -Pr. Rich

Osakis Lutheran Church Action News March 2021

Edition #543
Debbie Bulfer, Editor



Council's Corner: by Melanie Stier

Hello everyone and Happy 2021! I'm Melanie Stier, your current President. I'm very excited to be taking on this new role and look forward to what this year will bring for our congregation. I first want to thank the others who have taken on leadership roles and responsibilities within our congregation this year or in the past. It is such an essential part to play, whether it's a committee chair, volunteering for Sunday School, providing supplies, or any of the many other roles you can be a part of. This past year has been one where we've been challenged and stretched out of our comfort zones. There have so many unpredictable times, so it's reassuring to have our church family always here for us. As we continue to worship from our homes and in person, we look forward to finding a variety of ways to connect with each other. This brings us to our 2021 goals. Some of the areas we are hoping to strengthen include reaching out and involving current and new members, improving communication, and finding ways to expand our outreach and ministry. We look forward to working with members on these goals and continuing to find ways to grow as a congregation. I'm so thankful to have you all as partners in this beautiful mission!

God's Blessings,
Melanie Stier
2021 Council President

Osakis Lutheran Church



Wednesday Lent Services

March 3rd - Service will be at 6:30 pm
March 10th - Service will be at 6:30 pm
March 17th - Service will be at 6:30 pm
March 24th - Service will be at 6:30 pm



March 28th - Palm Sunday
- Service will be at 10:00 am

April 1st - Maunday Thursday
- Service will be at 7:00 pm

April 2nd - Good Friday
- Service will be at 7:00 pm

April 4th - Easter Sunday
- Services will be at 7:00 am
and 10:00 am

