

Osakis Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 427

Osakis, MN 56360

***Osakis Lutheran Church
2022 Church Council***

President—Rick Hansen

Past President—Melanie Stier

Secretary—Jacki Harth

Treasurer—Nancy Exley

Financial Secretary—Cindy Christensen

Worship—Mary Redetzke

Education—Kristen Will

Trustees—Lil Ortendahl

Youth—Kristen Will

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:

- \$35,000 tithing from the large donation last year was approved at the annual meeting. \$10,000 has been sent to the Synod. \$10,000 for Luther Crest, \$5,000 to Habitat for Humanity, \$5,000 to Someplace Safe, and \$5,000 to the Backpack Attack will be sent out with letters this month.
- \$4,600 was needed from the general fund to make payroll this month.
- Income for February \$7,970.67, Bills paid in February \$8,855.41. Income to date for 2022 \$27,454.27, Bills paid to date \$33,466.56. Some line items and insurance have increased this year.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rich has developed sermons on Prayer and Topics to Grow Connection with God. He will attend a Synod Conference get together on Saturday, and there is a Synod Assembly the 3rd weekend in May. First Communion plans will be worked out with parents of the new communicants.

Committees:

Trustees: NNN

Stewardship: NNN

Church in Society: not active

Education and Youth: VBS plans as stated above in new business

Worship: met to discuss brunch church that had about 11-15 people attending. The service was well done and it will be scheduled again, possibly the last weekend in April, or the first Monday in May.

Offer Our Prayers with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting was adjourned with the next meeting on Monday April 4th at 6:00.

***please note change of time for 2022 meetings.

Submitted by Jacki Harth, Council Secretary

Other News:

Worship: We plan to continue to offer 'In-Person' & 'Online' worship services.

'Monday Quilters' last day to meet will be Mon April 25th. Thank You for all of your hard work all these years!

**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 March 7th, 2022

Present: Pastor Rich Fitzer, Rick Hansen, Melanie Stier, Jacki Harth ,
Mary Redetzke, Nancy Exley, Lil Ortendahl

President Rick Hansen called the meeting to order.

Devotions- Pastor Rich

Sharing joys/concerns, highs/lows

Approval of agenda.

Lil O. made a motion to approve the agenda with additions, Nancy 2nd.

Approved.

Unfinished business from last meeting:

Minutes: no corrections or additions

Custodian job opening: There are two people to follow up with. Pastor Rich has been working on the job description and added some quarterly duties. The pay and hours worked are up for discussion with the applicants.

Newspaper Ad approved in Feb using designated donation: The ad is not yet running in the Osakis Anchor, Pastor Rich will follow up getting the ad in the paper.

Goals for 2022: corrections to the May 2014 Strategic Plan were approved at last meeting.

Endowment Committee: A meeting has not been set due to coordinating schedules and availability of the committee.

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

Vacation Bible School will be back in person this summer! The dates are July 11-14th from 8:30-3:00. \$2700 will be used from the Jung fund (designated for youth activities) and there will be a charge of \$20 a child with a \$40 family limit. VBS is open to all and Melanie and Kristen will distribute registration information in May. Notices to members will also be sent out asking for donations (sponsor a child, donate food, etc.)

Easter Schedule: The Worship committee has made plans for Holy Week and First Communion which may occur over two Sundays. Pastor proposed one service on Easter and the council agreed due to lack of in-person attendance.

Join Us For Worship

Sunday	April	3	Worship Service	10 a.m.
Sunday	April	10	Worship Service	10 a.m. - 'Palm Sunday'
Thursday	April	14	Worship Service	7 p.m. - 'Maundy Thursday' - Also the 5th graders will take their 1st Communion
Friday	April	15	Worship Service	7 p.m. - 'Good Friday'
Sunday	April	17	Worship Service	10 a.m. - 'Easter Sunday'
Sunday	April	24	Worship Service	10 a.m. - 'Holy Humor Sunday'

Sunday School News:

May 1st will be our last day of Sunday School for this year. We plan on serving Ice-cream Sundaes that day after worship. We hope you can join us for this fun event!

New Sunday School /Christmas Program director needed.

After many years of directing and leading weekly Sunday School classes, I have decided to pass this position on to a new person. It has been amazing working with so many parents and helping the children strengthen their faith. I am willing to help the new director order supplies and get things ordered for the 2022-2023 Sunday School year. If this is a position (one or both) that you feel you would be interested in, please contact Debbie in the office, Pr. Rich, or myself at jessianne_15@hotmail.com

Blessings! Jessie Thornbloom

Mission Action Monday Quilter's Group



- On March 14th, 4 quilts were tied and 3 quilts were brought in.
- We gave a quilt to Jim Heuer.
- Carol Marthaler donated 15 quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Update: We currently have a Kenmore Sewing Machine for sale, asking \$75.00 (obo). We also still have a few quilts left for sale, including a few fleece blankets for a minimal amount. Even though we are going to end 'Monday Quilters' at the end of April, we will continue to make quilts for Baptisms, and Graduates, for the future. Again, we would like to thank those who have donated to our cause, and volunteered their time & talents! God Bless! ♥



Offering

March Income to date: \$8,780.72
 Online Giving for March to date: \$1,780.00

General Fund Income to date \$27,454.27
 Bills paid to date \$33,466.56

March 6, 2022

Envelopes \$2,003.00
 Loose \$15.00
 Sunday School \$1.00
 Lent \$20.00
 Ash Wednesday \$185.00
 Dedicated Funds:
 Ella Nomeland Scholarship \$20.00
 Food Shelf \$300.00
Total: \$2,544.00

March 13, 2022

Envelopes \$3,438.00
 Lent \$86.00
 Food Shelf \$100.00
 Dedicated Funds:
 Anchor Ad \$100.00
Total: \$3,724.00

March 20, 2022

Envelopes \$1,508.00
 Loose \$15.00
 Lent \$40.00
 Dedicated Funds:
 Tech Fund \$75.00
Total: \$1,638.00

March 27, 2022

Envelopes \$615.00
 Sunday School \$11.72
 Lent \$173.00
 Dedicated Funds:
 Stoeckel Campership \$75.00
Total: \$874.72

Prayer Concerns

Shelly Engfer-Triebenbach, Janice Frank, Marie Larson, LaRayne Johnson, Amanda Steinbeisser, Jim Heuer, Sonja Kerber, and Peter Moberg.

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, Don Jensen, Stella Bender, Audrey Collins, LaRayne Johnson

Terrace Heights: Alice Sanders

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

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!

Easter Blessings

May Christ's glory and the promise of this joyous time of year, bring peace and happiness to you and those you hold most dear.



'April Birthdays'

04/01 Gregory Johnson
04/02 Larry Frisch, Darren Redetzke
04/03 Chloe Bjorstrom
04/04 Logan Grove, Alexis Thornbloom
04/06 Annabelle Redetzke
04/09 Kali Schoeck
04/10 Jon Hinnenkamp, Joy Larson
04/12 Laurie Garcia
04/15 Carol Nack, Amanda Steinbeisser
04/18 Myron Barber, Jason Mounsdon,
Abby Will, Morgan Will,
Neil Ranum,
04/20 Trenton VanNyhuis
04/21 Kaitlyn Malvin
04/22 Linda Blake
04/24 Michael Curtis, Lawrence Lewin
04/25 Darcy Larson
04/27 Andi Johnson, Beverly Schultz
04/28 Vicky Grove, Morgan Staloch,
Seth Strelow
04/29 Dinara Dykema, Leah Maddock,
Madlyn Manders
04/30 Joe Johnson, Jordan Judd,
Charles Miller, Mary Redetzke,
Ethan Wiggins



Search for a President-Elect

The Nominating Committee is still in search for a President-Elect for this year who would then be our Church President in 2023. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact:
Kathy Ryan #320-491-1820 or
Pr. Rich Fitzer #859-3816.

Thank You.

It's Spring

**Thank you, Lord, for pretty flowers
blooming in the Spring.**

**Thank you, Lord, for sunny days,
and tiny birds that sing.**

**The animals are waking up -
the Earth is fresh and new.**

**And everything that you have made
is giving praise to you.**

Song of Solomon 2:11-12



Rich Reflections

One Easter, a woman of faith, who had been widowed in the middle of the preceding winter, was feeling the pain of her husband's death once again. While she had not lost all hope, she was drenched with doubts from this most recent wave of grief.

She had only been to church once since the funeral. It had felt familiar in a good way, but that was overshadowed by dark loneliness as she sat conspicuously alone. The night before Easter she prepared herself to attend worship—hoping against hope that the proclamation of Jesus' resurrection would renew her faith and lift her spirits.

Amid the crowd on that festive morning, she found a seat alongside people she didn't know. Then the pastor opened with service with the traditional greeting "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" and the congregation joyfully replied, "He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" Then they were invited to share that greeting with the people next to them.

When the man next to her initiated, "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" she said, "It had better be true."

("It Had Better Be True," Dr. Gerhard Frost, Visitation Pamphlet Series, Logos Productions, Inver Grove Heights, MN.)

Those thoughts are not unusual or new. First century Christians struggled with the reality of Christ's resurrection and ours. The apostle Paul was addressing this in one of his letters.

1Corinthians 15

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?... 17If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins... 19If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. 21 For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; 22 for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

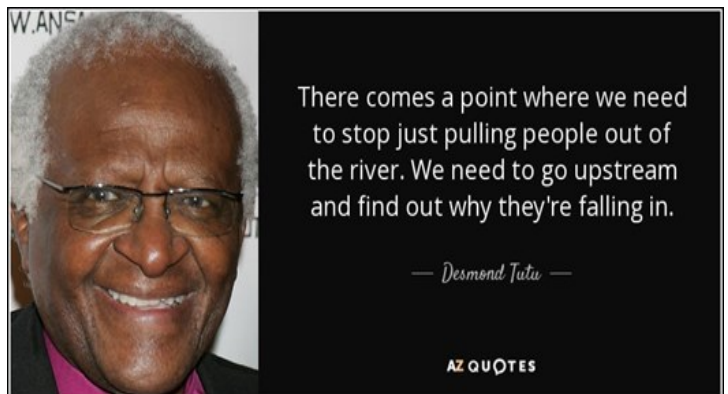
Many believers began doubting when Jesus didn't return quickly to raise the dead. Paul reminds them that if they only believed in Jesus as a fairytale like figure just to get through this life, it was a pitiful faith. Sometimes the promises of Jesus' resurrection and eternal life seem so far off that we may wonder what good does our faith do in the here and now.

After the past two years with all the upheaval and disruption in our lives, we may question like the early believers. Or we might pessimistically retort like the widow on Easter morning, "It had better be true." Paul is right. If our faith is only for this life, then what ultimate hope do we have?

However, the opposite is true too. If a "get out of hell free" card is our main reason for believing, then Jesus' incarnation and life among us was meaningless. We want Jesus' life and our life to matter—they do!

Jesus said, "I came that you may have life and have it abundantly." He said this shortly after restoring sight to a man born blind. The faith community had excluded the man because they thought he was unacceptable to God.

As followers of the resurrected Jesus we are NOT called to judge why people suffer, but we ARE called to care for those who suffer and are hurting. Then we also consider the causes and seek to change or end those causes which prevent people from receiving abundant life.



Come celebrate our Easter faith:

"Help for today and Hope for tomorrow."

Pr. Rich



Council's Corner:
by Rick Hansen

We are continuing in the Lent season with some great studies by pastor Rich on prayer. I have learned some new, practical pointers on improving my communication with the Lord.

I'm sure we are all looking forward to Easter coming up. I know to some of us that means getting together with loved ones we don't always see to celebrate Christ's resurrection. It is a special remembrance to all Christians. There are continuing plans for our church congregation and outreach, including VBS coming up in July.

God bless! Rick Hansen

SAVE THE DATE!!!
Luther Crest Vacation Bible School
at Osakis Lutheran Church

When: Monday, July 11th-Thursday, July 14th from 8:45 am – 3:00 pm

Who: Students who have completed Kindergarten - 6th grade

Cost: \$20 per child with a \$40 family maximum

*Lunch and snack provided each day!

Registration forms will be mailed out the end of May*

Prayer: a Toolbox for Life
Sundays in Lent

April 3 – Prayer : caring for you & others
Healing wounds & relationships
Reaching out beyond ourselves

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Explore real life on
Wednesdays in Lent

April 6 - We all compare ourselves to others. Why are we concerned with what other people think or say? Maybe if we knew our true selves we wouldn't give so much weight to others' opinions, and live more in tune with the life God wants for us.

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Lutheran laughter –
Holy Humor Sunday, April 24

In honor of God's great Easter laugh, come worship with laughter, jokes, silliness and fun on Sunday, April 24th at 10:00 am.

Wear your brightest colors, or a silly hat, and bring a good, clean joke to share.

Sonia C. Solomonson, managing editor of *The Lutheran*, once wrote a splendid article titled "Two Parts Faith, One Part Humor" reporting on Lutheran congregations observing Holy Humor Sunday.

For instance, Pastor Jim Arends of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in La Crescent, MN, said, "This gives us a chance to celebrate the joy of Easter in a fun way a week after we've celebrated it in a glorious way... We don't celebrate this to increase attendance but it has had that effect." The congregation's musical groups contributed especially joyful and fun selections.

She concluded: "So who says we can't laugh and celebrate in our places of worship? We can find a way to mix faith and humor, stir it into our lives, and let it simmer into a rich stew that will feed all those around us."