

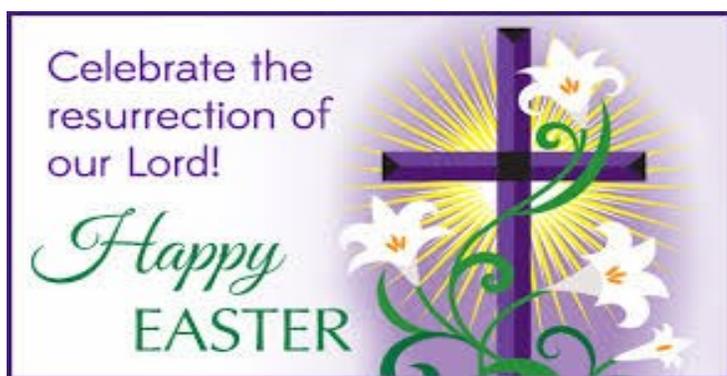
**Osakis Lutheran Church
Action News
April 2020**



*Edition #553
Vicki Hinrichs, Editor*

**Call the church office 859-2350 or
Pastor Rich 859-3816 if needing
pastoral care.**

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



**Reminders for the whole congregation during
this time:**

***Please, please email the church to verify your
email address. Send an email to :
olcsecretary@arvig.net***

Check out online information and videos.

***Church web page:
www.osakislutheranelca.com***

***Facebook: simply search for Osakis Lutheran
on Facebook***

***YouTube: search YouTube for the Osakis Lu-
theran channel***

***Stewardship Committee and Church Council
kindly ask that those who have steady in-
comes, maintain their regularly offering giv-
ing. Either mail to :***

***Osakis Lutheran Church
PO Box 427
Osakis, MN 56360***

***Or donate online on the homepage of Osakis
Lutheran Church website***

Council's Corner: by Jessie Thornbloom

**With the Covid 19 epidemic consuming the
media, conversations, social media, and the
way we live day to day life, it can be easy to
forget about everything “normal”, but in time
we’ll get there!**

**During the last council meeting, a Campership
Application was presented and approved. For
those individuals interested in deepening their
faith and attending Luther Crest Bible Camp,
an application is available in the office to ap-
ply for a scholarship. Be sure to check out
this option as you look into attending camps
this summer and fall. Because of our deep
rooted connection with LCBC we focused on
this camp, but campers can apply for this
scholarship if they attend any other Bible
Camp.**

**I’ll leave you with this message as it seems fit-
ting for the events that are taking place at this
time.**

Society: Why is this happening?

**God: To remind you that I’m in control. To
bring your attention back to me. I’m bringing
you together as families and neighbors. I’m
showing you patience and perseverance. I’m
reminding you of your purpose and priorities.
Now is the time to learn and teach your chil-
dren what this life is really about.**

Society: We’re scared!

God: I’ve got his and I’m with you!

**During the time of social distancing and now two
weeks of more intense stay at home requests from
the state, we are hoping to have a few volunteers
to help stay in touch with our most isolated mem-
bers. Some are home alone by themselves, some
are in complete room quarantine at Galeon.**

**Please call or text Pr. Rich 859-3816 if you would
be willing to make a few phone calls each week.
You are guaranteed to hear appreciation on the
other end of the line.**

Rich Reflections

We will be okay. It may not be easy. It may take longer than we would like. But, we WILL be okay. This is true. We know it's true. We lived through the Great Recession, we lived through 9/11, through Viet Nam, World War II, the Great Depression, and we even have one member who lived through the Spanish Flu (1918-20).

The church lived through nearly 300 years of brutal Roman Empire persecution. It lived through the dark ages and the plague. Through the Reformation, and the Counter Reformation to name a few.

Even more importantly, God has promised to see us through the storms of life, not necessarily to spare us, or remove us, but to go with us:

Isaiah 43:2 – *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.*

Psalms 23:4 – *Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.*

Joshua 1:9 – *Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*

John 14:18 – *I will not leave you **orphaned**; I am coming to you.*

Hebrews 13:5 – *I will never leave you or forsake you.*

Some in our country may say that we should return to normal activity as soon as possible. Some say that this will pass quickly. However, the Centers for Disease Control, National Institutes of Health, World Health Organization, and the Minnesota Department of Health are all telling us that we need to stay away from others as much as possible, and that it may take 3-4 months.

That may not be what you wanted to hear. It's not what I want to hear. But our parents taught us, "better safe than sorry." Jesus reminds us, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of **the least** of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." So we'll do what we need to, for the least.

Now, April is here. **April means Easter!** Easter means Spring, new life, resurrection. It means life beyond life, and life beyond death. And we can appreciate that this year more than most.

Rev. Gerhard Frost recalled an Easter from several years ago:

"One Easter, a woman of faith, who had been widowed

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 her most recent wave of grief.

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

"Amid the crowd of friends and strangers, she found a seat a few rows from the back alongside people she didn't know. The pastor opened 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. "This is most certainly true," wrote Martin Luther. He also preached about the disciples who hid in fear that first Easter morning.

"What did the disciples fear? They feared death. Yes, they were in the midst of death. But whence came that fear of death? ...Death could not have harmed them, for the sting of death, with which it slays, is sin. Yet they lacked, as we all lack, the right knowledge of God. For if they had known God to be God, they would have been confident and without fear."

Even when we are stuck in our rooms, we need not fear. **Christ is risen! God is with us!** We will be okay.

Pr. Rich



April Birthdays

- 1 Greg Johnson
- 2 Larry Frisch, Darren Redetzke
- 3 Chloe Bjorstrom
- 4 Logan Grove, Alexis Thornbloom
- 6 Annabelle Redetzke
- 9 Isabelle Szech, Kali Schoeck
- 10 Joy Larson, Jon Hinnenkamp
- 12 Laurie Garcia
- 15 Carol Nack, Amanda Steinbeisser
- 18 Myron Barber, Neil Ranum, Jason Mounsdon, Abby Will, Morgan Will
- 20 Trenton VanNyhuis
- 21 Kaitlyn Malvin
- 22 Linda Blake
- 24 Lawrence Lewin, Mike Curtis
- 25 Darcy Larson
- 27 Bev Schultz, Andi Johnson
- 28 Vicky Grove, Seth Strelow, Morgan Staloch
- 29 Madlyn Manders, Dinara Dykema, Leah Maddock
- 30 Mary Redetzke, Joe Johnson, Judy Thornbloom, Charles Miller, Jordan Judd, Ethan Wiggins



Mission Action Moment

Although the world around us is changing, the need for warmth and quilts is not, so quilting continues. Ten quilts were completed this period.

Ten fleece blankets were taken to Life Connections, eight blankets to the "Linus Project" in St. Cloud, three blankets and two boxes of miscellaneous items to Love, Inc.

Thank you to the Forsells for the many sheets that were brought in; we are grateful. Also, thanks to REA for a donation of \$200 for supplies.

If wanting to do sewing at home, please contact Sheila Watschka.

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To bring a smile (maybe), this verse from The Message, a contemporary version of the Bible by Eugene Peterson:

"Even dunces who keep quiet are thought to be wise; as long as they keep their mouths shut, they're smart."

:)

Rebekah Circle Minutes

Rebekah Circle did not meet in March, and will not be meeting in April due to Covid 19.

Bank statement: We added \$65 to our balance of \$89.50. As of 2/12/20 we have a balance of \$154.50.

Meet Debbie, our new church secretary at Osakis Lutheran Church!

My name is Debbie Bulfer. I was born in Kansas, lived in Idaho, and moved to Minnesota when I was 10. We first lived in Worthington, then moved on to Fairmont where I graduated High School in 1992. I made Fairmont my home until I decided to move up to this area in 2010.

My husband's name is Dusty, we have been married since Valentine's Day 2018, but we were high school sweethearts at the age of 15. I have 4 children - 2 boys and 2 girls ages 13, 18, 22 and 26. My husband also has 4 children - 1 daughter, age 14, who lives with us - and 3 sons (2 of which have the condition of Fragile-X Syndrome). My daughter, Rose, is graduating from Alexandria High School this year, and then it will just be Lilly and Kylie at home, (they are in 8th & 7th grade).

I have always loved working in an office environment, and began my career while I was still attending high school. I worked as a summer intern at my local Social Security Administration, and since then I have worked in various offices learning my trade through on-the-job training. I have also attended Colorado Mountain College in Colorado, and I took a few Administrative and Accounting Classes at Minnesota West Technical College in Jackson, Minnesota.

My passions in life are my Family and Friends, helping others, and being a child of God. I *see* the beauty in almost everything, I am in awe with the wonders of our Earth, and our universe just amazes me! So I have become a self-taught 'landscape' photographer known as - 'Debbie B Photography' and I am always ready to capture those 'candid' moments of family and friends as well... (a lot can be said in just one picture). I have also taught myself how to make jewelry (mostly necklaces, earrings and bracelets) and I have my own jewelry line called 'The Ellen-Irene Collection' I can make pieces in colors and styles of your choosing. One can find both of my pages on Facebook, and I also sell my work at The [Prairie Renaissance Cultural Alliance \(PRCA\)](#) Art Gallery, located in downtown Morris, MN.

I feel very blessed to follow the road that the Lord has put me on, which has led me to work at the Osakis Lutheran Church, and I have enjoyed meeting some of the people in this area. :)

Church in Society

Greetings Everyone!

First of all we would like to Thank Everyone for their contributions towards MN FOOD SHARE this past month! Thank you for putting forward to our neighbors who find themselves, by no fault of their own, in a food insecurity situation. Times can be rough as we all are aware of.

We are moving along as planned for our April Focus on Habitat for Humanity. At this time we plan on joining in on the Thrivent Faith and Build! We would like to commit to a goal of raising \$1,500 and to get a group of 12 to 15 people to volunteer for a project, in the near future, organized through HFH. Our own Pat Ryan will be the go to person if interested. All of the CIS Committee members can answer your questions as well.

We will have a 2x4 stud placed in the narthex for all to sign as you donate towards the goal. This stud will be used in the build to show our support, literally!

As far as May looks, we will be informing about Lutheran Social Services.

Thank you to all! CIS

*** CIS will be postponing Habitat for Humanity until a later date in time. We will keep you posted! ***

Wednesday April 1 Lenten Service 6:30 p.m.

Sunday April 5th Palm Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m.

Thursday April 9th Maundy Thursday Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

Friday April 10th Stations of the Cross 12 noon @ Park Osagi (weather permitting and pending approval)

Friday April 10th Good Friday Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

Sunday April 12th Easter Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday April 19th Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday April 26th Worship Service 10 a.m.

* Church services are live streamed on Facebook, and can be viewed on YouTube.*



First Communion students that will be meeting with Pastor Rich in April:

Gabe Will, Jeffrey Ellefson, Zach Sadlemyer, Trent Redetzke, Rylee Muzik, and Luke Schmidt.

Pick up Campership Scholarship Application Forms (available for youth attending camp) from the church office.

Graduation Sunday will be Sunday May 3rd.

Vacation Bible School will be July 13-16, 2020.



Sunday School: Although we aren't meeting in person, we will continue to worship in spirit. Students have received a letter with each weekly's Bible story and questions as well as a Lenten activity. This is a great opportunity for families to read these stories together, reconnect, and strengthen their faith. Children are also being encouraged to write letters to residents at the Galeon. This is a great time for God's work to be done through our hands! We are hoping to resume classes on April 26th!

Osakis Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Wednesday March 4, 2020 @ 7:30 p.m.

Present: Wilma Triebenbach, Nancy Exley, Pastor Rich, Jessie Thornbloom, Paul Christensen, Brent Werven, Melanie Stier and Kathy Ryan

President Jessie Thornbloom called the meeting to order.

Pastor Rich gave devotions

Highs and Lows

Additions to Agenda:

Campership Application/Registration Form

New Membership Talent Survey

Ideas for Involvement

Melanie S. made a motion to approve additions to the agenda. Brent W. 2nd Approved.

Wilma T. made a motion to accept minutes of the last meeting. Paul C. 2nd Approved.

New Business:

Review of Campership Application Form – some changes made. See attached form. Paul C. made a motion to accept the amounts of \$100 and \$50 for scholarships as shown on the form. Nancy E. 2nd Approved.

New Membership Time and Talent Sheet – would like to include some version of this in new members packet. Brent W. felt that the one presented was a bit long and added that the Stewardship Committee will probably also be putting one out there this fall, along with financial pledges.

Ideas for Involvement – Council will provide the Lenten Meal on March 11.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Income to date \$18,041.40 Expenses to date \$19,503.67 Income for February \$8,753.07 Nancy added that Lacey Sadlemeyer would be a signor on the youth checking account and that Debbie Bulfer, our new Administrative Assistant, would be added as a signor to use the church debit card. She will also be making deposits. Wilma T. made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Melanie S. 2nd Approved.

Pastor's Report:

New Bible Study at Terrace Heights – “7 Last Words of Christ”

Two couples in pre-marital counseling

Constitution – need two people to sit down and review ELCA requirements.

Representing our church at Luther Crest

Education: Next meeting, March 11th. March 29th is Bingo Family Night from 3 – 5 pm It's open to the community, 80 prizes.

Next meeting April 1, 2020 @ 7:30pm

Closed with The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Kathy Ryan, Council Secretary

Osakis Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 427

Osakis, MN 56360

Osakis Lutheran Church

2020 Church Council

President—Jessie Thornbloom

Past President— Paul Christensen

President Elect—Melanie Stier

Secretary—Kathy Ryan

Treasurer—Nancy Exley

Church in Society—Diane Zimmer

Financial Secretary—Cindy Christensen

Deacons— Wilma Triebenbach

Education—Melanie Stier

Trustees— Lil Ortendahl

Worship—Pat Converse/Shelly Triebenbach

Youth— Lacei Sadlemyer

Stewardship—Mike Curtis/Brent Werven

Ex Officio—Pastor Richard Fitzer

Church Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 9 a.m.—2 p.m.

Closed Friday

The deadline for the bulletin is
Thursday at 9 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.