

Osakis Lutheran Church
Action News
August 2019



Edition #545
Vicki Hinrichs, Editor

Summer is a great time of the year. We are gone on vacation, enjoy family reunions, attend and share in weddings and have other fun activities lined up. These things also take us away from home, from service and our giving to church. If you find yourself somewhat behind on giving, take a few minutes to address this. You can mail or drop off your check; or you can visit our website at www.osakislutheranelca.com. Click on "Donate" to set up your church support, get caught up or just make a one time donation.

We thank you always for your giving, you are an important vital part of us all.

Mike Curtis, Stewardship Committee.

Half-time secretarial help needed.

Microsoft Word experience required.

Power Point optional.

Pay according to experience.

Contact Osakis Lutheran Church at 320-859-3816

Vacation Bible School was a great success again this year! Lots of sing, fun activities, and learning. Thank you everyone for food and donations. Thank you Melanie Stier for housing Luther Crest Staff at your home. Thank you Melanie, Vicky and Christ Grove for being top chefs.

We are in need of a Tribe leader to take Jeanne Jensen's tribe. Tribe leaders secure a lector, server for coffee and communion help on communion Sundays. Position alternates with other tribe leaders, every fourth month. Members names will be provided. Please pray about this. I do not care to continue taking on two tribes. Thank you. Wilma Triebenbach 320-859-4326

Church in Society

Save the Date! GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS service day will be Sunday September 22, 2019. There will be a number of projects this year to choose from, so whatever your ability, we should have something for everyone to participate in. We will have ornamental hands available at church to pick from (coming out in the near future) so you can choose a project prior to the service day. More info to follow in the near future. For now just please SAVE THE DATE! GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS September 22, 2019.

August is World Hunger Penny Jar. The big jar will be out Sunday August 25, 2019 for all to add loose change, dollars, or checks (written out to OLC with world hunger written in the memo area of the check).

OBA is just around the corner and there will be more info to come as we approach that time. So stay tuned.

God Bless everyone!
Sincerely, CIS

Rich Reflections

Last month I said summer is a great time for storytelling. Our Sunday readings this summer provide that for us; parables. Parables aren't just cozy bedtime stories. After all, Jesus got in serious trouble with people of faith for his troubling tales. You see parables are meant to provoke, disrupt, indict, or turn our world upside down.

The so-called Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) is one of the two most well-known of Jesus' parables. Given the popular use of "Good Samaritan," and our recollection of lessons from our youth; we might understand it as a lesson in being a neighbor. But that's just the tip of the iceberg.

The lawyer who asked Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" was asking his question to get something checked off his "to do" list. A one and done approach. Jesus asked for his understanding. The lawyer said we should love God and neighbor (Deuteronomy 6:5, Leviticus 19:28 respectively). Jesus gives approval.

Then the lawyer asks, "Who is my neighbor?" It's a legal question. Neighbors have the same rights and responsibilities. The lawyer is really asking, who is NOT my neighbor; who do I NOT have to love?

However, Jesus shows no interest in making such small distinctions—probably because Jesus remembers what it says later in Leviticus 19, "The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God." (v.34)

So, Jesus tells a story to help make his point about compassion. A person is robbed, beaten and left half dead on a very dangerous, winding, hilly road. A priest, then a Levite walk by the person, but don't stop to help—with no explanation.

Jesus sets up a pattern. Jewish people listening to this, after hearing a priest and a Levite, are sure that the third person in the story will be an Israelite. It's simply a common set of groupings for God's historic people. If we hear Father, Son, and... we know the third one is Holy Spirit

But Jesus makes a startling substitution as he names the third person: a Samaritan! What?!

We cannot fully appreciate how jarring that would have sounded. You see, Samaritans were not only very disliked,

they were considered so undesirable they were thought of as enemies. Imagine Jesus setting up a different series of three: Larry, Curly... and Osama bin Laden! Now you get the idea.

Pause for just a moment, please. What group(s) of people do you dislike? It's okay to admit it, we all have some in our hearts and minds. In our state, nation or world, what group of people would you consider most detestable, even an enemy? Hold onto that thought.

Back in the parable, we wonder why do the priest and Levite fail to stop and help? It's a dangerous road. They seem to ask, "If I stop to help what will happen to me?" The Samaritan asks, "What will happen to the *other* person if I don't stop?"

So what question is Jesus inviting us to ask as we hear this story? Before answering, it's worth remembering that the original title of the story borrows some of Jesus' words, "the man who fell among robbers."

If you are the person left half dead on the road, what question do you ask? Something like, "Who am I willing to receive help from?" Are you willing to receive compassion and assistance from someone you detest? Or would you rather die than accept help from "them"?

Jesus is showing us that in the face of the enemy is also the likeness of God. The one who causes you to fear for your life, may be the one to save your life. Yes, there are bandits, it's dangerous. Jesus wants you to recognize everyone is a human being.

"You're not the Samaritan, but the person in the ditch. Who will save you? Can you acknowledge that everyone has the possibility of doing that? If so, then the parable has worked on you."

—Amy Levine, New Testament scholar

Back to the lawyer. If we define neighbors as "those who need us," who are our neighbors? The Samaritan shows us care for neighbor is on-going: bandaging wounds, carrying to safety, paying for good lodging and returning to do more.

That's quite a story indeed! One that changes us.

Let's keep wrestling with it.

Pr. Rich

August Birthdays

- 1 Karen Larson
- 2 Matthew Ramey
- 3 Tim Schoeck, Tyler Stier
- 5 John Swenstad, Spencer Wolbeck
- 6 Karen Johnson, Riley Kreemer
- 8 Michael Kugel, Lisa Watnaas
- 10 Wendy Szech, Ty Werven
- 11 Harold Norris
- 13 Robert Wilson
- 14 Conner Person, Jace Person
- 16 Christy Helm, Mandy Kapaun
- 17 Scotty Ellefson, Melanie Stier
- 18 Kristin Barrett
- 21 Linette Forsell, Gloria Jensen
- 22 Ruslan Dykema, Faye Maus, Pam Sherman
- 23 Joshua Kapaun, Marvin Mensen, Don Peterson, DeAnna Vik
- 24 Jane Field
- 26 Gina Wagner
- 27 Brad Forsell, Angela Wells
- 30 Kristen Aramburu, Wendy Bohm



Mission Action Moment

The two sewing sessions in June-July were very productive: 15 quilts were completed. Sheila made four, another mystery quilt appeared, and Ray Gabler had designated two quilts that were to be given to the Monday Quilters. We are grateful.

Two quilts have been sold and one was donated to the OWA for their annual fundraiser auction. (It sold for \$60).

The Monday Quilters gave \$100 to the Vacation Bible School program.

As always, we would welcome anyone who could occasionally spend a Monday morning with us. We even put guests to work—thank you, Linda—come visit Sheila more often!

Quilt making Mondays in August are the 5th and 19th.

Rebekah Circle Minutes 7/9/19

In Attendance: Ruby Maus, LaRayne Johnson, Janice Frank, Madlyn Manders, Marlys Benson

Guest: Barb Larson

The Action News was assembled by Marlys Ferris, Ruby Maus, Loretta Becker, and La-Rayne Johnson. They were taken to the Post Office by Deb.

Check # 786 for \$20.00 was written to Miriam Circle to help cover the costs for the CMH Birthday Party. LaRayne will call card bingo.

The Hostess for today's meeting was Barb Larson in honor of her mother's (Ruby Maus) 102nd birthday. She served chicken salad sandwiches and cupcakes. Thank you Barb!

Our Bible Study was "Sarah and Hagar". Our next lesson will be "Miriam: A Critical Spirit" which is chapter 3 of Women of the Old Testament. The Bible reading for that study is Numbers chapter 12.

Treasurer's Report: We began the month with a balance of \$104.00. A check was written to Miriam Circle for \$20.00 and we collected \$20.00 in our offering. Our balance is still \$104.00

Our next meeting will be on August 13th at 2:00 p.m. We will meet at Terrace Heights in the dining room. It will be our "Ice Cream Event." Marlys will bring ice cream, and everyone else will bring toppings, cookies, bars, etc. Your choice.

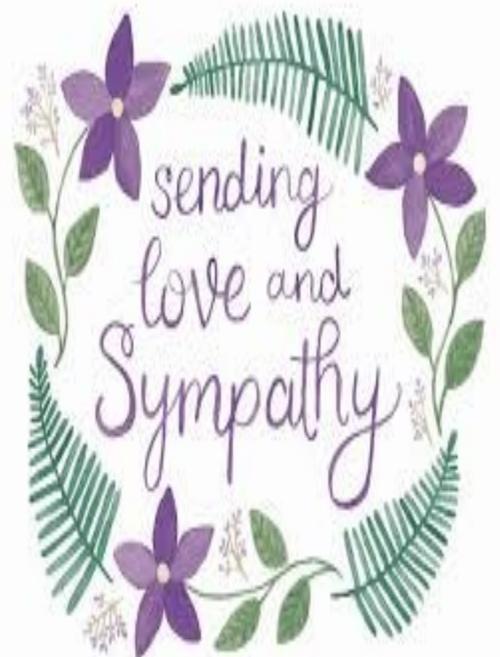
Our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of these church members who have recently passed away.

Ray Gabler passed away on Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Michael Ellefson passed away on Wednesday, July 10, 2019

Roy Juntunen passed away on Wednesday, July 24, 2019

May there be comfort in knowing that someone so special will never be forgotten.



August 2019

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 Bible Study @ Terrace Heights 1 p.m.	2	3
4 Praise Team Practice 8:45 a.m. Worship/Communion 10 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship 11 a.m.	5 Sewing 8 a.m.	6	7 Church in Society 2 p.m. Church Council 6:30 p.m.	8 Bible Study @ Terrace Heights 1 p.m.	9	10
11 Worship 10 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship 11 a.m.	12	13 Rebekah Circle @ Terrace Heights 2 p.m.	14	15 Bible Study @ Terrace Heights 1 p.m.	16	17
18 Praise Team Practice 8:45 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship 11 a.m.	19 Sewing 8 a.m.	20 ACTION NEWS DEADLINE	21	22 Worship @ CMH 10 a.m. Bible Study @ Terrace Heights 1 p.m.	23	24
25 Worship/Communion 10 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship 11 a.m.	26	27	28	29 Bible Study @ Terrace Heights 1 p.m.	30	31

2019-2020 dates from Education Committee:

Rally Day/Backpack Blessing September 15

Bible Sunday October 6

Confirmation Sunday October 27

Christmas Program December 15

Last Day of Sunday School May 17



Osakis Lutheran Church Council Meeting, Wednesday, July 10, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m.

Present: Jessie Thornbloom, Diane Zimmer, Pastor Rich, Nancy Exley, Lil Ortendahl, Mike Curtis, Wilma Triebenbach, Jerry Wiggins and Kathy Ryan

President Elect, Jessie Thornbloom, called the meeting to order.

Pastor Rich gave devotions.

Highs and Lows

Lil Ortendahl motioned to accept minutes of the last meeting. Diane Zimmer 2nd. Approved.

Committee Reports:

1. Treasurer's report: Income to date \$73,964.35. Expenses to date \$70,413.50. Benevolences through April have been paid. Owe Pastor Rich money for his expenses and June Portico.
2. Trustees' report: See attached sheet.
3. Pastor report: Four funerals in June, busy with some follow up care. Three more people in fragile health. Backpack Attack open house August 28th. Fundraiser. Parable Bible Study at Terrace Heights. Tweaking Pathfinder program from feedback from guides. Vacation July 19 to 29th. New member Sunday, sometime this fall (6 families). New laptop (gift). Still looking at choices. Scott Triebenbach Family (600 7th Ave W.) Scott home alone with kids while Shelly is away in Boston for treatment for medical issues. Maybe council members could help with meals.
4. Church in Society: July 14th we will celebrate 70 years of Age month. August emphasis is ELCA World Hunger month (Penny Jar). September emphasis is "God's Work, Our Hands" month; which we participate in on September 22nd. This is a change from our original date.
5. Education report: VBS July 8-11 with 26 kids attending. Thank you to Jessie Thornbloom for her work on the parade float this year.

New Business:

- A. Nancy Exley is retiring as secretary for our church. She will keep the Treasurer's position. An ad has been put in the Osakis Review and the Echo Press, Facebook and Action News. She would like to be done July 31st.
- B. We have received a letter from the Synod inviting us to participate in "Catchup Sunday", where a special offering is taken so the congregation can catch up on their individual pledges to the church and possibly our pledge to the Synod. Will plan something.

New roof – currently getting bids for the fellowship hall roof and the east side of the church building. There is currently \$41,600 in the roof funds. Bids coming in at @ \$30,000.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Kathy Ryan, Council Secretary

Youth Chairperson needed!

Jill Ramey has stated that she will be giving up her chairperson position for our Youth Group. We are looking for someone who would accept this position. Please talk with Pastor or Jill to gather more information.

This position can be shared by two people if interested.

Online Giving!

You can now give your offering online! With "Stripe", you can set up your contribution to Osakis Lutheran weekly, monthly, quarterly, or even annually. Visit our church website at www.osakislutheranelca.com to enroll. There you will find a button "donate", click on it, and follow the instructions. Their website is safe and secure.



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Offering

Attendance 6/23/19 49

Undesignated 870

Stripe \$270

Attendance 6/30/19 55

Undesignated \$3,272

Attendance 7/7/19 72

Undesignated \$2,676

Parade Candy \$16

Vacation Bible School \$200

Roof Fund \$2,500

Attendance 7/14/19 49

Undesignated \$1,172

VBS \$100

Church use \$50

Local Expenses \$100

Door Opener \$200

Youth Trip \$100

Youth Camp \$100

Memorial Roof Fund \$110

Memorial \$25

Stripe Offering \$25

Income June 2019 \$11,961.00

Expenses June 2019 \$10,325.68

Income to date \$73,964.35

Expenses to date \$70,413.50

Prayer Concerns

Jeanne Jensen, Mike Kummrow, Shelly Enger-Triebebach,
Beverly Schultz, Lois Ketelle

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: Nancy Muehlenhardt, Elaine
Mattson, Marie Larson, Russ Hevern

Terrace Heights: LaRayne Johnson, Ruby Maus, Lorraine (Ivy)
Nomeland, Bud & Madlyn Manders

Westview Assisted Living: Stella Bender, Joyce Rossi, Audrey &
Lowell Collins

Out of Town

Alexandria:

Knute Nelson: Altrude Daniels

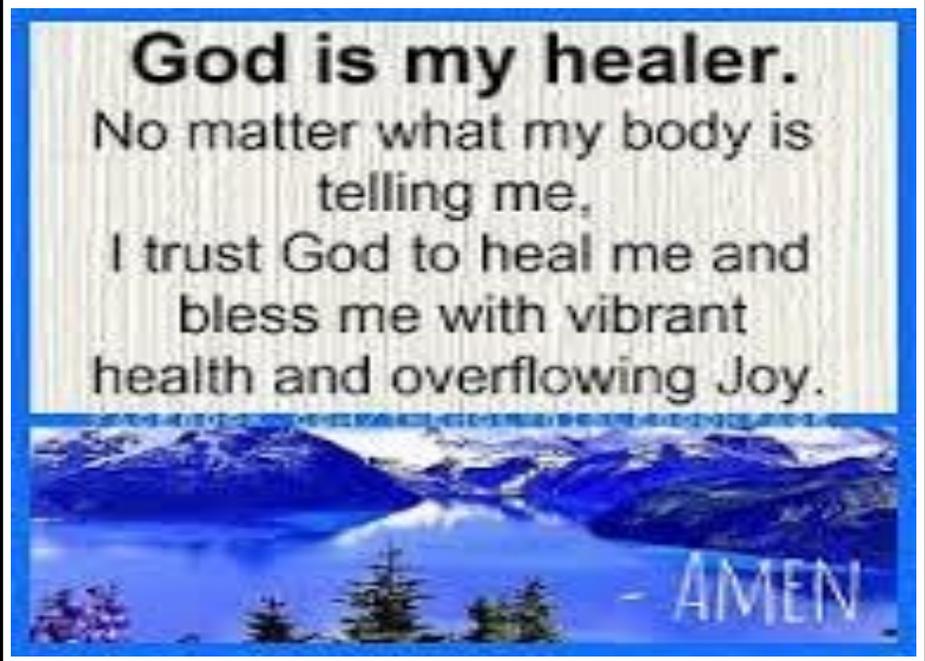
Windmill Ponds: Delores Stephens

Harding, MN: David Jorgensen

Long Prairie: Ruth Sherman

Sauk Centre: Diane Maloney

***Please remember to include those who are our friends,
neighbors, and members of Osakis Lutheran with a
prayer, greeting, or a card!***



Osakis Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 427

Osakis, MN 56360

Osakis Lutheran Church

2019 Church Council

President—Paul Christensen

Past President— Jerry Wiggins

President Elect—Jessie Thornbloom

Secretary—Kathy Ryan

Treasurer—Nancy Exley

Church in Society—Dianne Zimmer

Financial Secretary—Cindy Christensen

Deacons— Wilma Triebenbach

Education—Melanie Stier

Trustees— Lil Ortendahl

Worship—Pat Converse/Shelly Triebenbach

Youth— Jill Ramey

Stewardship—Mike Curtis

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.