

Osakis Lutheran Church
Action News
August 2020



Edition #557
Vicki Hinrichs, Editor

Council's Corner: by Jessie Thornbloom

Greetings Osakis Lutheran Church Members! I would like to take this month to say thank you! First, thank you to all of our members for being patient and understanding during these past few months as everyone is working to find the “new normal.” Thank you to those of you who made phone calls to those who needed a friendly voice or those of you who helped drop off groceries, care package items, communion kits, and to all who offered up prayers. A huge thank you to Paul, Cindy, and Tony Christenson, Pat Ryan, Melanie Stier, Wendy Stephens, Vicki Hinrichs, and Pat Converse. This group helped with recording, singing, reading, and preparing weekly worship these past few months. This group worked together so that we could all worship and feel some form of normality, even if it was from our living rooms. Thank you the members of the Safe Team: Melanie Stier, Pat Ryan, Jacki Harth, Laurie Dykema, and Pr. Rich. This team put in countless hours researching and following state and local situations, discussing how and when we could safely return to in-person worship, creating precautions and guidelines, and preparing the church for the return of members. This team will continue to meet and update in-person worship guidelines as needed. Another thank you to Pr. Rich. We were fortunate enough to be able to watch weekly services on Facebook or YouTube and see a familiar face. As with anything new, this was probably not as seamless as he made it seem. Finally, thank you to everyone who continues to serve (in or out of the building) and support our church to ensure our church community runs smoothly and peacefully. As the old saying goes, many hands make light work! -Blessings!

Habitat for Humanity Project

We are seeking volunteers and \$1500 to support a Habitat for Humanity project that is currently underway in the area. We join 17 other faith-based groups in this worthy endeavor. This will be Jeri Ann's family home and the build site is located at 1804 Woodland Park, Alexandria, MN.

An astounding 92 Habitat Homes have been supported in the area since 1997. 92 places that families can call their home! Each family must be employed as they will pay a manageable mortgage on their home. Additionally, each family must provide at least 200 hours of service in the building of their home and other Habitat projects. So, you can see this is a hand up, not a hand out!

We are looking for 10 folks, 16 or older, to help with the build. Our time slot is the morning of Monday, August 10th—just half a day. We will be helping on the second half of the project so we wouldn't be involved with any heavy construction. At this stage of the project we would possibly be helping with trim, appliances, accessories and light landscaping. No experience is necessary! A project manager guides us all the way. If you wish to physically help with the build, let me know.

Thank you for supporting this project physically and/or financially! We will mark our progress on some lumber and display at our church service. If you are supporting financially, make your check to Osakis Lutheran and please earmark your contribution to Habitat for Humanity. Call or text me if you have any questions.

Thank you!
Pat Ryan 320-815-2411

Rich Reflections

Last week I was out watching the night sky, below the Big Dipper, for the NEOWISE comet. It looked like a fuzzy star to the naked eye, but with binoculars the view was much better. A rare sight.

Then I put the binoculars down, turned to the south and beheld an even greater sight in the crystal-clear sky. Rising up from the horizon and stretching toward northeast was the surprisingly brilliant Milky Way, and an incredibly bright star to the southeast.

Since it was late July, I was wondering if it was Sirius, the dog star, part of the Canis Major constellation, which lends its name to this season: “the dog days of summer.” When things are so hot that it drives people and dogs crazy.

I checked a star map, it turned out to be Saturn. But I discovered that Sirius is also known as the rainbow star because it flickers different wave lengths of light across the sky: white, yellow, red, purple, blue. (*look online for the color picture below*)

Then my wandering mind started playing with those two descriptions of Sirius. Racial tensions, since George Floyd’s death, has some saying color matters and others saying they are color blind. But both of those “reductions” leave us wanting.

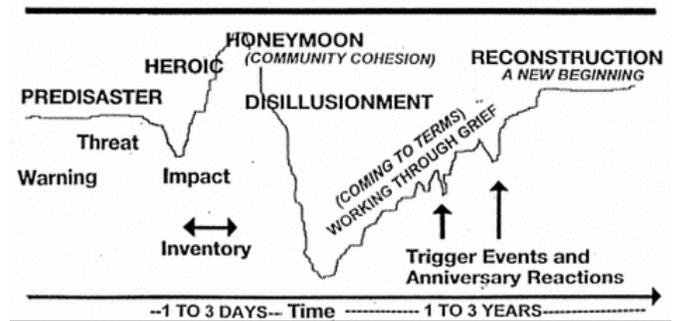
It seems like all of us have gone a little crazy during this pandemic. Some panicked and alarmed, some denying there are significant problems. I wonder if it’s somewhere in between. There is plenty for all of us to learn about Covid-19 and systemic racism. Both are real, both are complex to understand.

Thinking about the “dog star” also reminded me that a dog’s love is possibly the closest thing in this life to God’s love – unconditional. The Bible tells us that perfect love removes fear, and fear is the seed of most anger. Another cause is stress. Plenty of that too.

So, with the rest of summer, our lives slowed down, let’s take a moment or two each day to watch, listen and consider the amazing and diverse beauty that surrounds us day and night—in people and in nature. Take a daily/nightly breather simply to see and listen for what you may have overlooked. Ask God to help you grow in your appreciation and understanding.

This diagram pictures what we have learned about the aftermath of floods, tornadoes and other disasters over the years. It also applies to our time of pandemic.

Phases of Disaster



Recoil Phase – [1 week to 3-6 months after event]

- Attend to basic needs in a chaotic environment.
- Concerns for safety, food, and sleep.
- Unrealistic expectations about recovery
- Sharing resources/ willingness to help.
- Denial of extent of needs or emotional impact.
- Community cooperation.
- “Honeymoon” phase.

Remembrance & Disillusionment – [2 mos to 2 yrs]

- Reality of impact on lives and community.
- Realization of losses and work to be done.
- Procedures to get assistance.
- Politics emerge.
- Grieving Psychosomatic complaints.
- Abuse issues, and spiritual questioning.

We’re still trying to figure things out, as the virus recedes and surges. We’re not living in fear, but we also don’t want to be “that church.” The one that ignores safety steps and becomes the source of an outbreak. The Safe Team or Council would be happy to get your ideas on next steps moving forward.

I’m going to have a week of vacation to start the month. It’s hard to find a pastor to fill-in with people returning to worship. Most ELCA churches are not yet returning to in-person worship.

Therefore, August 2nd we will have a recorded, online only worship. This is for one Sunday only! It’s a worship service that the NW Minn Synod staff recorded for congregations to use at this time.

Take a long, slow, deep breath and give thanks,
Pastor Rich

August Birthdays

1. Karen Larson
2. Matthew Ramey
3. Tim Schoeck, Tyler Stier, Katie Wiggins
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
19. Brenda Tvrdik
21. Linette Forsell, Jeanne 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
28. Angela Wells
30. Kristen Aramburu, Wendy Bohm



Mission Action Moment

Finally! After a very long recess, the Monday Quilters are back in business!

A table loaded with "stuff" awaited the workers on Monday, July 20th, so there was a lot of sorting and cleanup to be done. 19 quilts had been brought in. 10 were packed for Lutheran World Relief, 10 for sale or donation, 9 quilts of Various fabrics and sizes will go to Love, Inc.

3 quilts have been sold.

There will be three work days in August: 3rd, 17th, and 31st. Come if you feel comfortable working in that setting.

Some things have been taken to Someplace Safe by Sharon Frederickson and we thank her.

If you want a project to work on, you could tear sheets for bandages. Call LaRayne 859-4221 for simple instructions.



www.shutterstock.com · 141877248

Offering

June Income \$7,541.88

June Expenses \$9,558.11 with payroll \$14,877.11

Checkbook Balance approximately \$20,617

Income to date \$90,216.17

Expenses to date \$78,422.47

June 28, 2020

Envelopes \$270

Back Pack Attack \$50

Stripe Total for June 7, 14, 21, 28 \$1,569.57

July 5, 2020

Envelopes \$1,664

Stoeckel Campership \$70

Auto Inside Door \$200

Total \$1,934

July 12, 2020

Envelopes \$1,065

July 19, 2020

Envelopes \$3,454

Loose \$1

Habitat for Humanity \$200

National Youth Gathering \$70

Total: \$3,725

Prayer Concerns

Lyla Engfer, Shelly Engfer-Triebebach, Grace Johnson, Don Jensen, Nancy & Glenn Taft, Lil Ortendahl

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, Jeanne Jensen

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

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

Out of Town

Alexandria: Knute Nelson: Altrude Daniels

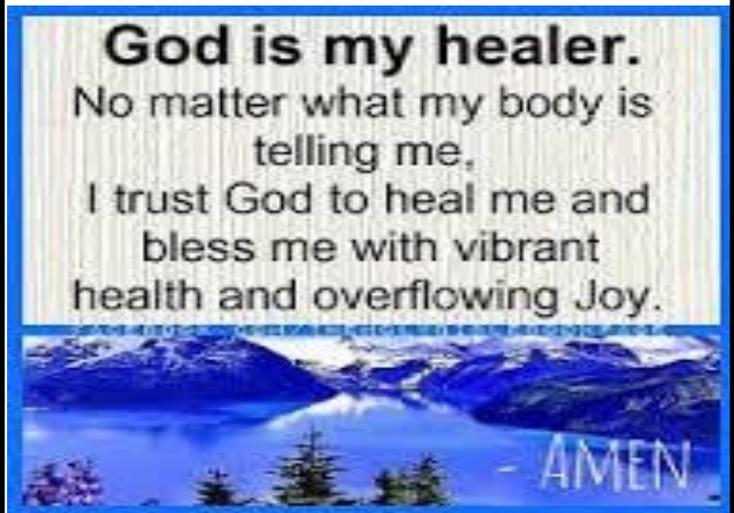
Windmill Ponds: Delores Stephens

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!



Sunday August 2 Worship Service 10 a.m. Online only

Sunday August 9 Worship Service 10 a.m. (limited in person)

Sunday August 16 Worship Service 10 a.m. (limited in person)

Sunday August 23 Worship Service 10 a.m. (limited in person)

Sunday August 30 Worship Service 10 a.m. (limited in person)

All Services will be virtual; live on Facebook and later can be viewed on You Tube

... unless otherwise announced by church council.

From the Library

New DVDs

Check out the table in the library for our new collection of DVDs.

*There is a variety for all ages and interests. **PLEASE GIVE THEM A LOOK. ONCE** you have done that, you could check out the ones on the shelves. The sign out card is on the back of the DVD container. Please indicate the date you took them, your first and last name, and then leave the card on the library desk. I would like to have them back within a three week time period IF you have finished viewing them by then. **ALSO, if you would please check your shelves for any Library material you may have taken out and that might have been forgotten in your home.***

Thanks!

Marlys Benson, Librarian

Rebekah Circle Members

Rebekah Circle is canceled until we are once again allowed to meet. Check Action News, the bulletin, phone call, etc. We will begin where we left off with our Women of the Old Testament.

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.

**Call the church office 859-2350 or
Pastor Rich 859-3816 if needing
pastoral care. Communion by
appointment—contact Pastor Rich.**

Osakis Lutheran Church
In Person and Council Zoom Meeting
Wednesday July 8, 2020 @ 6:30 pm

Present: Pastor Rich, Paul Christensen, Melanie Stier, Nancy Exley and Lil Ortendahl.
Via Zoom, Mike Curtis

I. President Elect, Melanie Stier called the meeting to order. Pastor Rich gave devotions.
Highs and lows

II. Approval of Agenda:

Added Helgen memorial gift to agenda by Lil Ortendahl, 2nd by Paul Christensen

III. Old Business:

a.) Paul Christensen. made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting.
Mike Curtis 2nd approved.

IV. New Business: In Person Worship:

a.) Distributed information on the Douglas County Covid 19 cases showing increases covering time frame beginning May to present.

b.) Safe Team will watch for surges. Safe Precaution checklist for in person worship discussed. Question on age 65/70 for in service worship attendees. Pastor will talk with Safe Team. Fellowship Hall will be blocked off and restrooms on the east side will be only ones available. No fellowship at this time. Sanctuary will be blocked with correct seating. Lil Ortendahl made motion to approve the Safe Precautions for worship. 2nd by Nancy Exley and was approved. Approval to proceed with in person worship; continue with on-line worship.

c.) Wilma Triebenbach will assist with some cleaning, rest will be done by Safe Team.

d.) Lil Ortendahl asked that the money received from Pastor Helgen be deposited into the Endowment Fund. Nancy Exley asked that a plaque be made with Osakis Lutheran Mission Statement, as we do not have one and we should. These items will be discussed at later council meetings.

e.) Long Term Hygiene-forward suggestions to Trustees. Touchless faucets, lighting, soap dispensers, paper towels. Trustees to explore equipment costs. These update in upstairs bathrooms only.

f.) Monday Quilters has requested to begin again starting July 20th Each quilter will have their own equipment, wear masks and practice social distancing. Lil Ortendahl made a motion to approve their request. Nancy Exley 2nd. Motion approved. Pastor will let Sheila and Wendy know.

g.) VBS will be the 2nd week of August with Luther Crest Bible Camp. VBS will be on line and materials will be sent to OLC. VBS offered to Sunday School kids and then to kids who have attended in 2019.

V. Reports:

a.) Treasurer's Report:

Income for June, 2020 - \$7,541.88

Expenses for June, 2020 - \$9,558.11 with payroll \$14,877.11

Checkbook Balance – approximately \$20,617.00

Income to date: \$90,216.17

Expenses to date: \$78,422.47

Paul Christensen made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Lil Ortendahl 2nd - Approved.

b.) Pastor's Report:

Discussed at beginning of meeting. Safe Team and Worship.

c.) Education:

Education will meet August 5, 2020 after council.

d.) Church in Society:

No report.

e.) Trustees

Trustees have not met. Somebody ran over the downspout. Flowers and lawn is watered. Asked Scott and Chase Trienbenbach not to cut lawn too short as we have not been getting rain.

f.) Stewardship:

Possible pep talk in August on giving.

It was requested that a thank you be sent to Vicki Hinrichs for her great work on Action News. Some Sundays we will have prerecorded music for service.

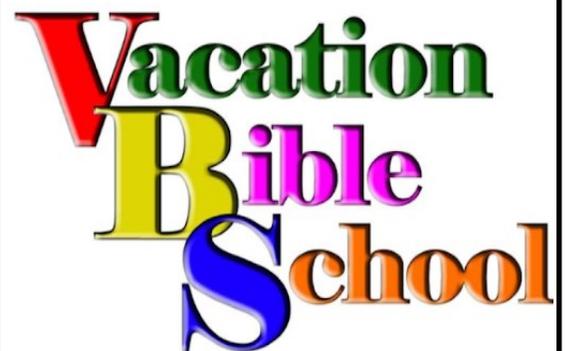
Next meeting: Wednesday August 5, 2020 @ 6:30 pm

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Nancy Exley, Treasurer taking minutes for Kathryn Ryan, Council Secretary

Vacation Bible School will look a little different this year! Luther Crest Bible Camp is running a Bold Transformational Faith program where students can attend VBS from home! During the week of August 10th-13th, there will be videos sent out and Zoom Bible Studies set up for your children. Register using the link below and you can even receive a "Camp Kit" of supplies to utilize throughout the week. What a fun way to bring VBS to your own home!

<https://forms.gle/PTWEMWW3mU1HRrNm6>



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— Lacey 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.