

Osakis Lutheran Church Action News December 2020



Edition #541
Vicki Hinrichs, Editor

Council's Corner: by Jessie Thornbloom

During our last council meeting we were informed that Diane Zimmel and Marlys Benson will be stepping down from Church in Society. These ladies have put in countless hours planning, organizing, and hosting events that help our church and our communities (near and far). Thank you Diane and Marlys!!!

Does this sound like a committee you or someone you know would enjoy serving in? If so, please let Diane or Debbie in the office know you are interested!

Church in Society Committee

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.

Campfire & Carols—December 20th, 5:30 p.m.

We are going to invite people to join in a bonfire and singing of Christmas carols. We'll also take a few moments for a Christmas devotion and to pray for our faith and civic communities. Mike & Robin Curtis have graciously agreed to host us in their farm yard 1/2 mile south of the Veteran's Memorial on Hwy 27, on the right hand (west) side of the road. Even though we'll be outside, please wear masks and maintain safe distances. If there is a snowstorm, our back up date is Tuesday December 22nd at 5:30 p.m.



Sunday School

This year we will NOT be holding a Christmas Program in the church like we have in the past. The Sunday School kids will share a project with you virtually on December 20th. I guess it 'tis the year of virtual communication.'

In the past the Sunday School children have hosted the "Adopt a Family" project. This year with all the COVID restrictions, it would be difficult for families to pick up an ornament and purchase those gifts. Instead, the Sunday School offering will go towards adopting 1-2 children. The money we've collected will be used to purchase gifts and then those gifts will be dropped off at United Way. If you are interested in participating in this program, please reach out to **ABBEY KVIDT** @ akvidt@uwdp.org

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!

Christmas at Home Kits

Christmas Eve worship will be done online this year. However, we are planning some special things for Christmas Eve this year. We will have members of the congregation with pre-recorded segments of the service. Additionally, starting December 15, you will be able to pick up your own worship kits to use at home on Christmas Eve. The kits will include Holy Communion elements, individual candles to light for "Silent Night", a scroll of paper with the Christmas Gospel from Luke 2, and one or two other goodies.

Our council carefully decided, back in October, to follow the in-person, or distance learning decisions of Osakis H.S. They will be distance learning till at least Jan. 8. So we will plan to worship online only through Jan. 10.

Rich Reflections

Many of us have talked about how it seems like every week this year brings some unwelcome or disturbing news. And many of those weeks felt like they were a whole month. Some might even say it's been one long nightmare. This has me, and perhaps you, "dreaming of better days."

"Those Who Dream" will be our Advent theme this year as we prepare for Christmas. But not merely wishful thinking dreams.

The 1st Sunday: *those who dream... keep awake*

Those who dream do not fall asleep to realities of the world. God prompts us to pay attention to where God's dreams for change and new life are emerging.

This Advent season begins amid pandemic and protest. We were not prepared for the dramatic shifts in our ways of living as COVID-19 began its trek across the globe. Many physical bodies have been ravaged and lives taken by this fierce virus. Families, churches, schools, and employees have been scattered into physical isolation.

2nd Sunday: *those who dream... prepare the way*

John the Baptist calls the crowds on the journey of repentance and transformation. Similarly, we are called to prepare the way for God's message of love and liberation to be shouted, heard, and received. Those who dream make way for righteousness and peace to kiss, for faithfulness to spring up from the ground (Ps. 85:10-11).

For some of us, it may be difficult to imagine being John the Baptist standing in the wilderness. He is vulnerable, "clothed with camel's hair" (v. 6a). He proclaims that there is one more powerful coming (v. 7a). Yet, we do know messengers like John the Baptist. They are the *peaceful* protesters in the streets."

3rd Sunday: *those who dream... are not alone*

We recognize what preceded Mary's song of praise: news that was disorienting and bewildering, possibly threatening her life. Together, Mary and Elizabeth find courage and comfort in spite of their unusual circumstances. We, too, are called to carry, support, and encourage one another's dreams.

"The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God'" (v.30). There are three possible responses to fear: fight, flight, or freeze. But she is

not paralyzed by fear.

Mary and Elizabeth's witness teaches us is that solidarity emerges when we share a dream that moves us to ask what God intends for and requires of us. A modern-day prophet wrote this year: "Millions of people motivated simply by human compassion laid down the burdens of division. You set aside race, class, age, language, and nationality to demand respect for human dignity."

4th Sunday: *those who dream... sow joy*

Ultimately, dreams sow joy, even if that joy doesn't immediately spring forth. Sowing seeds into the soil always feels risky and feeble—how can something so small become something so beautiful, so big, and so nourishing? Like Mary, we are called to tend and nurture the dreams God has woven into us.

Mary's song wells up in her as joy because she's connected with Elizabeth—young woman to older woman experiencing redemption in and through their bodies. On one hand, in a culture where bearing children meant fulfilling one's womanhood, why shouldn't they be overjoyed? On another hand, bearing a child in old age and becoming pregnant before marriage were reasons to diminish their joy. Mary's song shows us that sowing joy emerges as we surrender to God's vision.

Gospel singer Shirley Caesar sings a song entitled, "This Joy I Have." The lyrics are:

*This joy that I have the world didn't give to me
This joy that I have the world didn't give to me
This joy that I have the world didn't give to me
The world didn't give it to me
and the world can't take it away.*

Let us dream peace & love & joy into life!
Pr. Rich

December Birthdays

- 2 Curtis Kalpin, Hayden Malvin
- 4 Lavonne Peterson
- 5 Alexa Hoffarth, Chase Triebenbach
- 6 Roxanne Alsaker
- 7 Kathleen Ryan
- 8 Hadley Kugel, Ann Lillemoen, Karol Schlosser
- 9 Zoey Aramburu, Dorene Mielke
- 12 Lillian Ortendahl
- 14 Mila Nosbush, Tyler Spanswick
- 16 Gabe Will
- 17 Sheila Watschke
- 19 Ethan Chalmers
- 20 Russell Hevern
- 21 David Bohm, Staci Morisch
- 22 Logan Betsinger, Tyler Vik
- 23 Jaxon Kreemer, Joanne Ranum
- 24 Kathy Gayken
- 25 Daniel Szech
- 27 Cody Hansen
- 28 Carol Nelson
- 29 Luke Staloch
- 30 Barbara Carlson, Katrina Hinnenkamp



Mission Action Moments

Thanks to Don for making a delivery to Hensley Trucking of tiems to be taken to Minneapolis for shipping.

To Global Health Ministries:

- 61 Newborn Kits
- 56 Aids/Hospice Kits
- 46 Pillowcases
- 1252 Bandages

To Lutheran World Relief:

- 51 Quilts
- 104 Personal Care Kits

These numbers are totals for 2020...there was NO spring shipment. Thanks to all who worked on or donated to all our projects.

Marge received a quilt for her birthday—the BIG ONE! Congratulations!

Plans for 2021 are very indefinite—we'll keep you informed.

May blessings of Peace, Joy, and Good Health be yours this season.



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Offering

October Income \$10,512
October Expenses \$12,806.12
Income to date \$135,297.15
Expenses to date \$127,962.28

October 25, 2020

Envelopes \$2,240
Loose \$28
Total: \$2,268
Stripe for 10/5/2020 \$1,120

November 1, 2020

Envelopes \$1,014
Loose \$21
Operation Bootstrap \$40
Memorials \$5,000
*In memory of Joyce Rossi from the
Hoffarth & Rossi Families
Total: \$6,075

November 8, 2020

Envelopes \$3,077
Loose \$15
Food Shelf (Local Families in need) \$200
Stoeckel Campership \$100
Backpack Attack \$50
Total: \$3,442

November 15, 2020

Envelopes \$2,185
Stoeckel Campership \$70
Advertising Refund \$121.10
Total \$2,376.10

Prayer Concerns

Shelly Engfer-Triebebach, Grace Johnson, Janet Werven, Janice Frank, Sue Hoffarth, Sheila Watschka, Paul Sorum, the family and friends of Onie Schlosser Wolbeck, Nancy Muehlenhardt, and Bud Manders.

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 & Lowell Collins, Faye Maus, Madlyn Manders, Don Jensen

Out of Town

Alexandria: Knute Nelson: Altrude Daniels

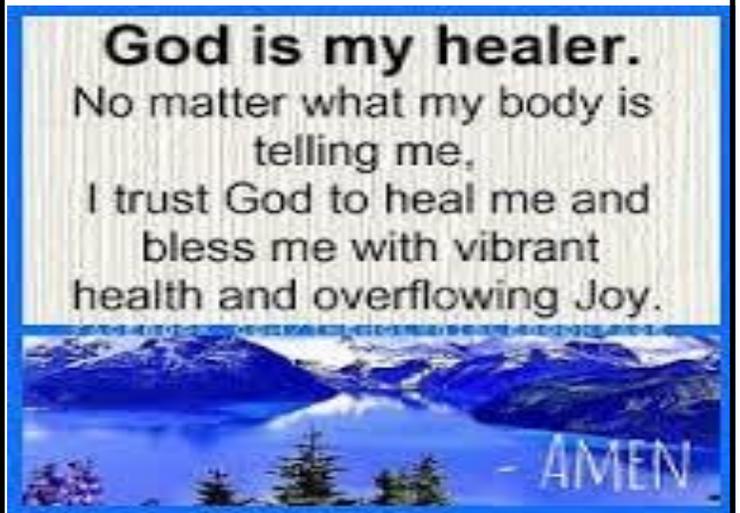
Windmill Ponds: Delores Stephens

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 December 6 Worship Service 10 a.m.
Sunday December 13 Worship Service 10 a.m.
Sunday December 20 Worship Service 10 a.m.
Thursday December 24 Christmas Eve Service
Sunday December 27 Worship Service 10 a.m.

All Services in December will be online only: live on Facebook and later can be viewed on You Tube

Church in Society

December Emphasis is Alternative Giving.

Diane will make up order blanks from the Alternative Giving catalog. They will be available on the table under the CIS bulletin board beginning on October 31. If you wish to participate you may pick up a form from the table, fill it in, write a check for the amount to Osakis Lutheran with a memo to Alternative Giving or put it in an envelope with Alternative Giving on the front and place it in the collection plate or leave it in the office. We will then add up all the funds and send the order blanks and funds to ELCA Good Gifts all together. **The end date for this campaign is December 20.** Thanks!

Pave the Path (November 21)

We took in approximately 700 pounds of food. In addition, we received about \$600 in cash donations. Both amounts are being split between the Todd & Douglas County Food shelves. This is more (according to Marlys B.) than previous years. So we give thanks for much generosity.



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

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

In Person and Council ZOsakis Lutheran Church

Zoom Meeting

Wednesday November 4, 2020

Present: Paul Christensen, Pastor Rich, Jessie Thornbloom, Melanie Stier, Kathy Ryan, Nancy Exley and Diane Zimmel (via Zoom)

I. President Jessie Thornbloom called the meeting to order.

Devotions.

Highs and lows.

II. Approval of Agenda:

Add to New Business: Review of safe meeting protocols/coronavirus cases rising in MN. Melanie S. made a motion to approve the agenda, Paul C. 2nd Approved.

III. Old Business:

a) Review of October minutes – Nancy E. made a motion to accept the minutes, Jessie T. 2nd Approved.

b) Staff openings – Vicki Hinrichs has agreed to take over for Pat Converse when we return to regular in-church worship services. She agreed to play an organ service once a month but prefers the piano.

c) Annual meeting preparation for Zoom meeting – plans continue for an in-person (church sanctuary) and Zoom meeting; specifically, how to handle attendance (signatures for quorum) and voting, if necessary. Pastor Rich will check on ways to vote. Jessie T. spoke with the Synod. They advise us to do what we can, so we don't have to re-write the constitution; so the congregation has to approve a "virtual meeting" prior to the Annual Meeting preferably. We will probably mail out a letter to all members of the congregation. It's possible that approval must be unanimous. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2021. Paul C. suggested that the meeting booklets be available 2 weeks before the meeting. Melanie S. made a motion to approve. Nancy E. 2nd Approved.

d) Budget: Initial review Paul C. provided personnel budget. Diane Z. said CIS budget remains the same. Worship and Trustees committee have not provided their budgets yet, per Nancy E.

IV. New Business:

Offering Envelopes – Because some members are giving electronically, they do not need envelopes provided to them at the beginning of the year. Cindy Christensen said there will still be about 75 numbered envelope packets, but we will also be providing generic envelopes (which are less expensive).

Goal-setting – the committee met Oct. 18th to plan "Pave the Path" on November 21st. The goal is to collect 150 feet of food donations for Todd and Douglas Co. food shelves. This will be done on the sidewalk in front of our church as an outside event.

Review of Safe Meeting Protocols – Corona virus cases are rising in Todd and Douglas Counties with a significant jump last week. Should we continue with in-church worship services? We will stick with the plan we made last month; "We will go to on-line services only if (and when) the school goes to distance learning."

V. Reports

Treasurer's Report:

Income for October 2020 - \$10,512.00

Expenses for October 2020 - \$12,806.12 (including Payroll of \$5,684.75)

Income to date \$135,297.15

Expenses to date \$127,962.28

Checkbook balance \$12,536.07

All bills and benevolences are paid through October 2020.

Nancy has applied for forgiveness of our PPP (Payroll Protection Program).

Will pay outstanding bill for parsonage bathroom work done from earlier this year (about \$1,000).

Chris George will be installing some sensor lights in the church.

Paul C. made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Kathy R. 2nd Approved.

Pastor's Report:

Pathfinders retreat will be rescheduled.

4 new member families

Affirmation of Baptism Oct. 25 for 7 youth.

"Joy" Adult study online with Dr. Anna Madsen

Lots of pastoral care (telephone, text messaging)

c) Church in Society:

- Continue with alternate gift giving through ELCA World Hunger catalog for the month of November through December 20th.
- Diane Zimmer and Marlys Benson have been committee members for many years. However, Diane informed us that because of family health issues and coronavirus conditions (which makes it hard for fundraising/participation by the congregation) they are letting Church in Society go inactive as of January 2021. Marly will continue to maintain the library.

Next meeting will be Wednesday December 2, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Kathy Ryan, Council Secretary

Our sympathy to the family and friends of:
Iona "Onie" Schlosser Wolbeck who passed away on Nov. 9

Nancy Muehlenhardt who passed away on Nov. 11

Bud Manders who passed away on Nov. 23



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

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.