

**Osakis Lutheran Church
Action News
February 2019**



*Edition #539
Vicki Hinrichs, Editor*

Thank you all for your continued support here at Osakis Lutheran Church. We had a good year financially and look forward to a good one in 2019.

Nancy Exley, Treasurer

Youth

We are working on super bowl subs on Feb. 3rd.

Upcoming: Palm Sunday will be our breakfast meal before church. We will be asking for donations for a few things this year, watch for a sign up sheet that will be posted.

We will not be doing rolls & muffins this year for Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Kids are thinking about summer camp...February 14th is the deadline for early bird discounts.

Jill Ramey, Youth Group leader



Congratulations to Pastor Rich as he won most unique soup at the Backpack Attack Fundraiser on Sunday January 20th. The winning soup was Holden Village tomato basil soup.



Lenten Faith Mentoring coming in March

Faith Mentoring is part of the Pathfinders program at Osakis Lutheran Church. Pathfinder students (grades 6-8) select adult mentors who will discuss the video messages presented during Midweek Lenten worship. Faith Mentors do not take the place of parents, pastors, teachers, or peers, but provide one additional connecting point to the community of faith.

Most Faith Mentors are ordinary people who play a vital role in the growth of a young person's faith. Faith Mentors are special people. They offer trust and respect; they are honored to participate in another person's faith journey. No special background or training is required for someone to be a Faith Mentor, but the orientation session will be helpful. Please consider making yourself available. Call or text Pr. Rich 320-859-3816. Yes that's a cell number.

Rich Reflections

February: Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Black History Month, and Lent. Not so fast!

This year February is "Lent-free" as it were. Ash Wednesday is March 6.

It's Minnesota so we know there's easily six more weeks of winter. However, remember in your prayers those who struggle with Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). It is a real thing. Thankfully sunset will be after 6pm by the end of the month.

Valentine's may look like a "Hallmark holiday" and Black History can seem like just another "agenda" to endure; with little in common between the two. On the surface, "Yes!" But what if we go beyond superficial Facebook lives?

There were at least three men named Valentinus whose lives in the 3rd century AD form the legend. The main story is that he was a priest who was executed for helping Roman soldiers marry when it was forbidden at the time by the Christian faith.

Unfortunately, designating one month for the story of one race has received criticism from multiple directions: ranging from calls of divisiveness, to oversimplifying complex historical truths into hero worship without facing hard realities.

So, are there any connections among these "civil" calendar designations, and our "sacred" lives of faith? It depends. Most of us, including me, tend to find what we look for. It's called confirmation bias; it's natural but it's not real helpful.

This season of Epiphany, as I wrote previously, is about making Jesus real and revealed. January 27th we heard ***Jesus' mission statement*** from his sermon in Nazareth:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, ...to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

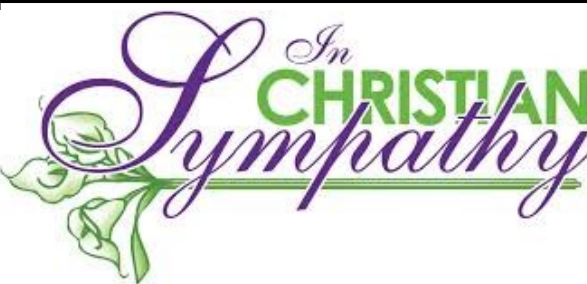
He goes on to remind them that the prophet Elijah was sent to Sidon and Syria. Those places were gentile territory—they were considered "foreign" and undesirable. His hometown people were so angry they wanted to kill him.

Jesus moved on to give his love, acceptance and calling to low society fisherman, unclean lepers, sinful lepers and traitorous tax collectors. He pronounced blessings on the poor, the hungry and the grieving; woe and warning to the rich, the full and those laughing. He concludes his Sermon on the Plain in Luke with the admonitions to love your enemies and do not judge them.

Making Jesus real and revealed is truly challenging, because it challenges me and you to lay down our preconceived ideas of others, cross dividing lines, and reach out to others with God's favor, love and acceptance—all the while desiring to truly know them.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon US!

Pr. Rich Fitzer



Our sincere condolences to family and friends of Dwayne Maus. Dwayne passed away Sunday, January 13. His funeral was Friday, January 18 at Osakis Lutheran Church. He will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him.

We are in great need of ushers! Please consider giving of your time for this talent. Only requires you to be here a few minutes earlier than service start time and a welcoming smile. Sign up calendar is on table in the narthex.

February Birthdays

- 1 Grace Wells, Jesse Wells
- 3 Alan Hjulberg
- 5 Pat Converse
- 6 Casey Nevala
- 7 Tucker Kreemer
- 8 Helen Bruder, Virginia Chapman
- 10 Linda Kalpin
- 13 Shirley Laven
- 15 Wilma Triebenbach
- 16 Douglas Sherman, Rick Spanswick
- 17 Johnathan Betsinger, Justin Mickle, Emilia Sorensen
- 19 Pam Ellefson, Lorraine Nomeland
- 20 Gordon Lynch
- 22 Zoey Bjorstrom, Elizabeth Floer
- 24 Lyla Engfer, Russ Sandbakken
- 25 Rylee Mickle, Luke Nessman
- 27 Peyton Garcia
- 28 Mike Wagner



Mission Action Moment

Despite wintry weather on both January workdays willing workers turned out and made a good start for the new year. 6 quilts were completed, Carol brought in 7 and Sheila finished 6 quilts.

A crew of “master cleaners” did an early spring house-cleaning job in the sewing room; it even smells fresh! THANK YOU!!

A quilt was donated to the Backpack Attack Fundraiser and another to “Fishing for the Cure” Ice Fishing Challenge on Smith Lake on February 16th.

Quilt making days in February are the 4th and the 18th. If you are a new member of Osakis Lutheran please come and spend a morning with us—we’d like to get acquainted over coffee.

Rebekah Circle Minutes 1/8/19

Present: Ruby Maus, Sharon Kummrow, Janice Frank, Marlys Ferris, LaRayne Johnson, and Marlys Benson

Business: The Action News was assembled by Deb Sabowsky, Ruby Maus, Madlyn Manders, Mary Hunter, LaRayne Johnson, and Loretta Becker. Thank you ladies!

We received Thank You cards from Stella Bender and the Sunday School.

LaRayne opened the meeting with a Prayer for Peace by Mother Teresa.

A clarification of our offerings was given by LaRayne. We have offering containers for LSS, Operation Bootstrap Africa, Sunshine (first half of the year to KITS, last half to Christmas donations), and our monthly offerings.

Heidi Ciepielinski reported that 65 children plus adults were served by the Community Mitten Tree this Christmas.

Bible Study: We finished A Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren. For our next meeting our Bible lesson will come from the January/February Gather magazine. We will discuss two articles, "Come and See" on page 7 and "Winter and Life Abundant" on page 15. Our next meeting is on February 12th at 2:00 p.m. at the Terrace Heights lunchroom.

Treasurer's Report: We began the month with a balance of \$52.00. We added \$13.00 from our offering so we now have a balance of \$65.00. Check number 784 is still our so the bank shows a balance of \$67.00 to begin the month. We balance!

HOSTESS FOR FEBRUARY IS JANICE FRANK.



February 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
<p>3</p> <p>Praise Team Practice 8:45 a.m.</p> <p>Worship & Sunday School 10 a.m.</p> <p>Coffee & Fellowship 11 a.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Sewing 8 a.m.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Church in Society 2 p.m.</p> <p>Pathfinders—learning 5:45 p.m.</p> <p>Church Council 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Bible Study @ Terrace Heights 1 p.m.</p>	8	9
<p>10</p> <p>Worship & Sunday School 10 a.m.</p> <p>Coffee & Fellowship 11 a.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Girl Scouts meet 5:45 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Miriam Circle 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Rebekah Circle @ Terrace Heights 2 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pathfinders—service event Galeon 5:45 p.m.</p> <p>Rachel Circle 7 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p> <p>Bible Study @ Terrace Heights 1 p.m.</p>	15	16
<p>17</p> <p>Praise Team Practice 8:45 a.m.</p> <p>Worship & Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday School sings</p> <p>Coffee & Fellowship 11 a.m.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>President's Day</p> <p>Sewing 8 a.m.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pathfinders—learning 5:45 p.m.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Worship @ CMH 10 a.m.</p> <p>Bible Study @ Terrace Heights 1 p.m.</p>	22	23
<p>24</p> <p>Worship & Sunday School 10 a.m.</p> <p>Coffee & Fellowship 11 a.m.</p> <p>Mentoring Orientation</p> <p><u>Action News Deadline</u></p>	<p>25</p> <p>Girl Scouts meet 5:45 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>NO Pathfinders</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Bible Study @ Terrace Heights 1 p.m.</p>		

Osakis Lutheran Church Council Meeting, Wednesday, January 9, 2019 @ 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mike Curtis, Paul Christensen, Diane Zimmel, Nancy Exley, Jill Ramey, Lil Ortendahl, Jerry Wiggins, Jessie Thornbloom, Pastor Rich and Kathy Ryan.

President Jerry Wiggins called the meeting to order.

Pastor Rich gave devotions.

Highs and Lows

Lil Ortendahl motioned to accept minutes of the last meeting. Mike Curtis 2nd. Approved.

Committee Reports:

1. Treasurer's report: All bills and benevolences for December were paid. Still have about \$1,000 in dedicated funds to transfer, will do when money is available. Lil Ortendahl mentioned that we had not given check for \$200 from the Jung Fund to Kadya Triebenbach for her trip to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, which we had agreed upon at the June council meeting. Nancy will do that. Jill Ramey made a motion to accept the report. Kathy Ryan 2nd. Approved.
2. Trustees' report: Ceiling light in sewing room is out; probably needs new ballast. Lil will call an electrician. She has put out a sign up sheet for snow removal (like lawn care in the summer). Our snowblower is not working right, so currently looking for someone with a trailer to get it to a shop for repair. Thinking at possibly finding a high school student(s) to do snow removal (after our blower is repaired) and paying them to do it.
3. Pastor report: About 250 in attendance at the two Christmas services. Working on increasing Facebook activity, both inside the church and outside. Epiphany season started out with a guest speaker, Jason Bergmann, Director of Operation Bootstrap. Starting to look at Lent season – "Half Truths" by Adam Hamilton a current consideration. Pastor Rich will be taking off a week, beginning February 6.
4. Church in Society: ELCA Good Gifts (for well/animals) totaled \$3,695.45. \$3,012.00 of that went for a well; \$683.45 for animals. January theme is Life Issues. Information is on the bulletin board. February theme is Addictions, with information on the bulletin board, in the church bulletin and Action News. March theme will be on the Food Shelf.
5. Youth: Meeting this Sunday, January 13 from 2-4. Planning for Super Bowl Sunday Subs.
6. Education: Sunday School "Adopt a Family" gave gifts to 10 kids, including gift cards. Confirmation (transition) April 7, 2019

New Business:

- Monday Quilters want to start a fund for an automatic door opener to be installed on one of the doors between the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary. Mike Curtis made a motion to approve. Nancy Exley 2nd. Approved.
- Review council's "Goals for 2018" to update for 2019. Short-term goals #1 cancelled. Long-term goals #1 wording changed to "Expand types and times of Bible Studies. Left #2 as is. Lil Ortendahl made a motion to accept changes to 2018 goals for 2019. Nancy Exley 2nd. Approved.
- Review Budget for 2019 (with changes made at last month's meeting). Mike Curtis made a motion to approve. Jill Ramey 2nd. Approved.
- BackPack Attack – January 20, 2019 soup cook off at the Community Center from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. to raise funds.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Kathy Ryan, Council Secretary



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Offering

Attendance 12/23/18 54

12/24/18 244

Undesignated \$2,168

Thanksgiving \$25

Christmas Offering \$1,985

National Youth Gathering \$65

Initial \$40

Attendance 12/30/18 57

Undesignated \$798

Initial \$5

Poinsettias \$46

Bible Study \$40

Christmas \$20

Missionary sponsor \$300

Tech Fund \$65

Stoeckel Campership \$65

Clean Water Well \$240

Check for Chicks \$30

Attendance 1/6/19 68

Undesignated \$2,529.20

Initial \$65

OLCW mailings \$250

Attendance 1/13/19 92

Undesignated \$2,389

Sunday School \$6

Food Shelf \$100

Initial \$20

Bible Study \$10

Church Rent \$450

Christmas \$60

National Youth Gathering \$65

Attendance 1/20/19 80

Undesignated \$1,652

Initial \$7

Sunday School \$4

Library Fund \$20

December Income \$17,333.47

December bills paid \$16,826.93

Income to 12/31/18 \$142,648.71

Expenses to 12/31/18 \$142,208.54

Bills and benevolences have been paid.

Prayer Concerns

Stella Bender, Helen Bruder, Ray Gabler, Dorene Mielke, 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, Russ Hevern

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

Westview Assisted Living: Stella Bender, Virginia Chapman, Joyce Rossi

Out of Town

Alexandria:

Alex Assisted Living: Roy Juntunen

Knute Nelson: Altrude Daniels

Windmill Ponds: Delores Stephens

Harding, MN: David Jorgensen

Long Prairie: Ray Gabler, Ruth Sherman, Helen Bruder

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!

PRAYER FOR HEALING

Lord, you created me.

My body is sick now and perhaps my soul too. Please heal me, renew me. Repair the body you had made. Refresh the soul you created for eternal existence. You alone know how to restore my health, for you created me. Make me whole again so that I may live my life for you.

Amen.

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

Trustee— Lil Ortendahl

Worship—Pat Converse and 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.