

Osakis Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 427

Osakis, MN 56360

«First Name» «Last Name»

«Address Line 1»

«Address Line 2»

«City» «State» «ZIP Code»

***Osakis Lutheran Church
2021 Church Council***

President—Melanie Stier

Past President— Jessie Thornbloom

Secretary—Jacki Harth

Treasurer—Nancy Exley

Financial Secretary—Cindy Christensen

Deacons— Wilma Triebenbach

Education—Kristen Will

Trustees— Lil Ortendahl

Youth— Lacei Sadlemyer

Stewardship—Mike Curtis

Ex Officio—Pastor Richard Fitzer

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
9 a.m.—2 p.m.

The deadline for the bulletin is
Wednesday at 10 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.

Pastor's Report: Thank you to Mike and Robin Curtis for hosting our Campfire service. Approximately two dozen people in attendance and was very well received. The bonfire was great! Christmas Even care packages were distributed and very well like. Looking forward to Lenten season.

Trustees Report: Robbie Schultz will be doing the snow plowing. Cost to change bathroom sinks to non-touch is about \$2,000. Rick Stanek will put together an estimate for the lights. Company in Iowa gave an estimate of \$13,500 for bell tower repair and other findings of repair.

Stewardship: Nothing to report.

Church in Society: Nothing to report.

Education: Next meeting is February 7, 2021

Worship: Mary Redetzke is leading this committee.

Melanie Stier will assist Pastor Rich in getting the new camera up and running for worship. First Lutheran has a Tech person that Pastor will contact.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Next meeting will be February 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Nancy Exley, for Kathy Ryan

**Our sympathy to the family
and friends of:**

Altrude Daniels



**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 Council Minutes

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 7:30 p.m.

Present: Lil Ortendahl, Mike Curtis, Paul Christensen, Jessie Thornbloom, Pastor Rich and Nancy Exley

Pastor Rich gave devotion.

Joys and Concerns

Motion was made to approve the agenda by Nancy Exley, 2nd by Paul Christensen. Motion approved.

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the December meeting by Mike Curtis, 2nd by Paul Christensen. Motion approved.

Discussion of the Annual Meeting. Still looking for President Elect. We will ask at the meeting for a person for this position but will continue to look in the meantime.

Changes in the budget requested by Lil Ortendahl. Increase in Office Copier usage, Office Supplies and Paper, also Property Maintenance and Repair for the church. A motion was made to approve to increases by Lil Ortendahl, 2nd by Paul Christensen. Motion approved.

Pastor included Covid Guidelines by NW MN Synod and the ELCA. Discussed the legal aspects of zoom meetings and the annual meeting not being in person. Pastor Rich spoke with Pastor Greg at First Lutheran in Alex on legality of the Annual Meeting as far as ballot and budget. Resolution made and approved to add zoom and non in person documentation to our constitution. Plan to have all details worked out for the Annual Meeting by January 17th. Voting will be per person, not household and members can drop off the voting choice at church. Debbie will complete annual report. Minutes of 2020 meeting, 2021 budget and treasurer report will go snail mail with a cover letter and voting choice.

In person worship will resume January 24th. Motion made to approve this by Mike Curtis, 2nd by Nancy Exley. Motion approved.

New Business: Discussion on the automatic door opener at the Fellowship Hall door. We anticipate a memorial gift and will use a portion of that gift to install door opener.

Treasurers report: All bills and benevolences for 2020 have been paid. Motion made by Paul Christensen to approve Treasurer report, 2nd by Mike Curtis. Approved.

Join Us For Worship

Sunday February 7 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday February 14 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday February 21 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday February 28 Worship Service 10 a.m.

As of now, we will be offering both 'In-Person' and 'Online' services. If you join us 'In-Person' we ask you to again follow the Safe Practice Guidelines. If you wish to join us Online you can find us live on Facebook, or the service can later be viewed on YouTube.

Church in Society

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.

** Does this sound like a committee you, or someone you know, would enjoy serving in? The position is OPEN! So if you would be interested please let Diane, or Debbie in the office, know!

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

Other News:

2021 Worship

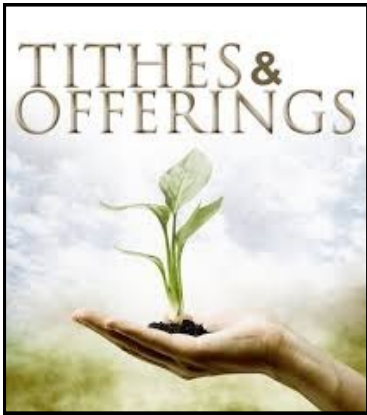
We were able to go back to 'In-Person' Worship beginning on January 24th. We plan to continue to offer 'In-Person' services as well as continue them 'Online'. Watch for further announcement for any changes.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting was held on Sunday January 31st, 2021

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

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



Offering

December Income	\$11,315.00
December Expenses	\$15,814.07
Income to date	\$162,354.00
Expenses to date	\$153,325.81

January 3, 2021

Envelopes	\$602.00
Christmas	\$175.00
Alternative Giving	\$25.00
Tech Fund	\$70.00

Total: \$872.00

January 10, 2021

Envelopes	\$707.00
Christmas	\$400.00
Stoeckel Campership	\$70.00
ELCA Good Gifts	\$580.00

Total: \$1757.00

January 17, 2021

Envelopes	\$525.00
Initial	\$50.00
Tech Fund	\$70.00

Total: \$645.00

January 24, 2021

Envelopes	\$974.00
Sun School Offering	\$3.00
Jason Schuler—Grant Money	\$500.00

Total: \$1,477.00

Prayer Concerns

Shelly Engfer-Triebebach, Grace Johnson, Janet Werven, Janice Frank, Sue Hoffarth, Marie Larson, Mr. Amdahl, and the family and friends of Altrude Daniels.

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—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!

John 3:16
 For GOD so loved the
 world that He gave His only
 begotten SON, that whosoever
 believeth in Him should
 not perish, but have
 everlasting
LIFE



February Birthdays

- 02/01 Grace Wells, Jesse Wells,
Jerome Wiggins
- 02/03 Alan Hjulberg
- 02/05 Pat Converse
- 02/06 Casey Nevala
- 02/07 Tucker Kreemer
- 02/10 Linda Kalpin
- 02/13 Shirley Laven
- 02/15 Wilma Triebenbach
- 02/16 Douglas Sherman,
Ricky Spanswick
- 02/17 Johnathan Betsinger,
Justin Mickle, Lola Schueler,
Emilia Sorensen
- 02/19 Pam Ellefson,
Lorraine Nomeland
- 02/20 Gordon Lynch
- 02/22 Zoey Bjorstrom, Elizabeth Floer
- 02/24 Lyla Engfer, Russell Sandbakken
- 02/25 Rylee Mickle, Luke Nessman
- 02/26 Isaiah Neal
- 02/27 Peyton Garcia, Heather Neal
- 02/28 Michael Wagner



Mission Action Moments

Totals for 2020

Thanks to Don for making a delivery to Hensley Trucking of items 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

Thanks to all who worked on, or donated to, all our projects.

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

May blessings of Peace, Joy, and Good Health be yours as we head into the New Year!

Rich Reflections

As I write this I'm getting ready to discuss a new book "Faith after Doubt" on a Zoom meeting with the author Brian McLaren and several colleagues in the area. It's Covid-19 way of doing a book tour. The quick take away is that we have permission to have doubts related to faith. And we even need some questions to move and grow in our faith beyond Sunday School and confirmation.

Given this time of year in the church, I'm also looking ahead to Lent and trying to figure out what things to which we can give our attention on Sunday's and Wednesdays.

Here's what I'm thinking at this time. Adam Hamilton is the author of the book we used two years ago. His book "Final Words from the Cross" not only looks at Holy Week, but it has broad importance for our everyday lives.

Father Forgive Them

Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise
Behold Your Son...Behold Your Mother
My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?

I Thirst

It Is Finished . . . Into Your Hands I
Commit My Spirit

Each chapter begins with the biblical account followed by a first-person story as might have been told from the viewpoint of one of the characters at the cross. Then the chapter explores the meaning of Jesus' dying words for our lives today.

Rachel Held Evans has written 4 books trying to make sense of the faith she grew up with in a world that has changed so much in the past several decades. Sadly she died two years ago at age 37 just when she was hitting her stride as a faith leader.

So we will use some of her writing and videos, probably for Wednesday messages and faith mentoring with our youth. Evans, like McLaren, gives us permission to ask hard questions about our faith. Questions don't equal rejection. They help us go deeper in our faith, understanding and hopefully in living out our faith more consistently with the rest of our lives.

Lastly, we're going to explore some creative alternatives to Soup Suppers, since gathering together at tables won't be a good option for a while longer. One possibility is to share some favorites recipes for soup or other dishes, then either do the cooking or the eating together through Zoom. It may sound unusual, but if you haven't tried, it can actually be kind of fun.

Looking forward to Lent,
Pr. Rich



Osakis Lutheran Church

Action News

February 2021

Edition #542
Debbie Bulfer, Editor



Council's Corner: by Jessie Thornbloom

Thank you for allowing me to serve at council president this past year. I have learned a lot and I am very appreciative of the dedicated people who served on council with me. I continue to be hopeful that we can resume to in-person worship sooner than later. I am hopeful that we will soon be able to meet and participate in fellowship activities. I am also optimistic that new and existing members will continue to support Osakis Lutheran with enthusiasm and step up when there is a need. Thank you to all of you for supporting Osakis Lutheran in your own way!

The Annual Meeting will be January 31 @ 10:00. Watch the bulletin for details. This will look a little different this year.

Sunday School

The 2020 Sunday School year went well while we were together in-person. We had 24 students enrolled and had an average weekly attendance of 8-12 students. We spent our time using the Whirl Lectionary series. The weekly stories were the same scriptures the congregation was hearing. The series included a weekly video that included the Whirl Curriculum characters. The children seemed to enjoy the video that accompanied the lesson, as it reinforced the scripture with funny plot lines and fun characters. We also spent time learning new songs and performed some for the congregation. When Osakis Lutheran Church decided to go virtual, each child received the weekly story, discussion questions, and some projects to work on with their families. The Sunday School Christmas program was presented in a virtual format. Families recorded the children reading the story, "The Night of Jesus' Birth." Families also participated in a project, "How do you keep Christ in Christmas?" Children decorated posters that were placed on the lawn on the South side of the church, and shared their responses that were added to the Christmas Program slideshow. The Sunday School offering was split between Operation Bootstrap Africa and the United Way. The Sunday School children were able to adopt 2 children in the United Way's Adopt a Family Christmas program. Because of restrictions due to COVID, the children were unable to shop for this project, but the Christmas gifts were purchased and given on behalf of the Sunday School children. The Sunday School Program continues to thrive thanks to the dedicated group of parent volunteers who lead each week's small group rotation. They do a great job planning meaningful and faith filled lessons. We will continue to do our best to give the children from Osakis Lutheran Church a solid foundation in faith. Jessie Thornbloom - Sunday School Superintendent

Dear Members of Osakis Lutheran Church:

It has been a pleasure to serve at church council president this past year. To say it's been an interesting year is an understatement. I have learned so much from the other council members. We have some very dedicated members serving on council, and I thank them for that. I was excited to start my new role as council president and was ready to tackle anything head-on. We had a good start with some events in the works to encourage families and community members to join our faith family at OLC, and then MARCH came. All those ideas, plans, and activities were put on hold until further notice. The new challenges that council and myself were about to face were one I never expected or even believed possible. How does a church continue to function when members are home? How do we keep members safe but still provide opportunities to practice their faith? How and when do we allow members to worship in-person? How do we continue to pay our bills? So many unanswered questions and new challenges.

So, this is when members of our congregation and our council started to get creative. Thank you to Pr. Rich for quickly putting together weekly worships that could be livestreamed on Facebook, and then later uploaded to Youtube. Thank you to our Administrative Secretary for printing and mailing countless Bulletins so that our members didn't feel so 'out of the loop' each Sunday. Thank you to those members who safely joined and added music to the video each Sunday. Thank you to those who kept the church clean and made sure the bills were still paid. A huge thank you to the Safe Team that met, and continues to meet, to be sure safety and the well being of our members were considered when in-person worship started once again. Thank you to all members who continued to join online, or in-person, and continued to support Osakis Lutheran with their donations. I am always so grateful and impressed that our congregation can come together and move mountains when we need to! As we move into 2021 and a new president is taking over, I hope to say we can leave 2020 in the past, but in reality I know our church and its members will be recovering from this past year for weeks, months, maybe years to come. I have high hopes that in a short time we will be able to meet, plan and participate in fellowship activities like my plan was before last March!

God's Blessings,
Jessie Thornbloom
2020 Council President