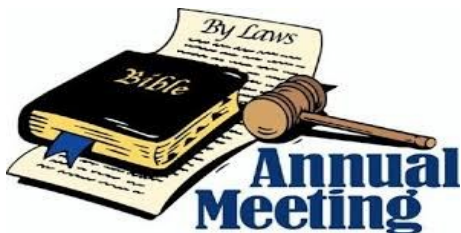


**Osakis Lutheran Church
Action News
January 2020**



*Edition #550
Vicki Hinrichs, Editor*

***Annual Meeting
Sunday January 26th.
Please plan on attending!***



Help Wanted: Church Secretary

Please contact Pastor Rich for more information and to apply!

Winter Weather Worship

During snow storms please check the Osakis Lutheran Facebook page or the Voice of Alexandria. We will make decisions around 8 a.m.

News from the Education Committee

*Over 60 PreK—5th grade children from our community attended our Christmas Activity Night, with another 15 6th-8th graders volunteering their time to help with the event!

*The Christmas Program was wonderful! Thank you to the children, Jessie Thornbloom, and all the volunteers who made it happen!

*Be on the lookout for the Graduate Scholarship Application reminder, which is applied for after completing the first year of college.

Sunday School

The Sunday School program, the 12 Symbols of Christmas, was on the 15th of December. The kids did an excellent job sharing the symbolism of many Christmas items and decorations, singing songs for the congregation, playing the bells, and leading a song in candlelight. It's always so fun to see the kids share their talents with others.

Sunday School will resume January 12th. Thanks to everyone involved in the program!

Church in Society

A BIG THANK YOU to all for your generous alternative giving over the Christmas period. We will have detailed amounts in our January church bulletins for we haven't totaled all of the numbers as of yet.

The committee's focus for January and February will be on the backpacks for the children. More to come on that.

Sincerely, OLC's CIS Committee

From the Youth Group:

The cookie and lasagna sales went great! Thank you!

Look for new ideas for fundraising that will be announced when planned.

We are still looking for more kids to join our youth group!

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!

Rich Reflections

Christmas is a short season, just twelve days. Many years not even two Sundays. Epiphany is a longer season. It starts with the Star and the Magi. Epiphany starts with a bang and ends with a bang as well. The last Sunday of Epiphany is the Transfiguration a bright shining and leading star of a different sort. In between are up to eight Sundays where the altar cloths return to green. The stars fade, the surprising miracles and celebrations recede, and everyday life re-emerges. However, that doesn't mean is that God is not present or stops revealing himself. That is the core meaning of Epiphany, a revealing or a sighting of God. What the season captures is that we limited humans can't take it all in at once. We also can't live on the mountaintop, at least not yet. But we are called to follow.

One bible verse which might help us sense the importance of the ordinary is Genesis 28:16. It's where Jacob blurts out after his dream, "surely God is in this place and I did not know it." That thought captures our living experience in the modern world. It also captures the Spirit of Epiphany. Our blindness to God's presences often starts with desiring our own way. It takes an Epiphany, a revelation of God, for us to see the larger reality of our world and our existence. For most that Epiphany is Baptism, but there are more dramatic ones.

But just because we have such an Epiphany doesn't mean that we like it, or even know fully what it means. Jacob's stated desire after his Epiphany was "so that I may come again to my father's house in peace." Yet he didn't turn around and go patch things up with Esau and the Father he and his mother had just conned. Jacob spends 14 years with Laban getting conned with Leah and then receiving Rachel. Only when that family situation becomes unbearable does Jacob return and still afraid of Esau. Following the Epiphany was not Jacob's strong suit.

Having an Epiphany is great, but the real task of an Epiphany is following. The Magi rejoiced and they followed the star. The disciples left the mount and returned to the plain and continued to follow Jesus. The Christian life is one of receiving the Epiphany and following. God is surely here. The Father's providence continues over the seasons and the years. Christ is present with us in Word and Sacrament. He is present when we gather and goes with us when we go through the indwelling of His Spirit. God is surely in this place – our churches and our lives.

The invitation, and challenge, of the Christian life is to see and receive and follow. Herod heard the report of the Magi along with the scribes. None of them followed. The Galilean and Judean crowds saw the miracles, but would each refuse to follow in their own way. The light continues to shine in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5). The call of Epiphany is to follow.

The stars of Epiphany are leading stars. Are you willing to follow where Epiphany shines?

Happy New Year & Blessed Epiphany!

Pr. Rich

Thank you to all who have sent cards, gifts, and other gestures of kindness during Advent and now at Christmas.

-Pastor Rich & Wendy

January Birthdays

- 1 Brian Sorensen
- 2 Debra Mensen, Diane Zimmer
- 3 Dave Carlson, Brent Juntunen, Michael Kummrow
- 5 Amanda Garvin
- 6 Stella Bender, Nichol Nessman, Michael Redetzke, Darcy Staloch
- 7 Dawn McNeal
- 9 Chrisob Sadlemyer, Kellie VanNyhuis
- 10 Mark Nessman, Richard Thornbloom
- 12 Delores Stephens
- 14 James Heuer, Doug Lillemoen, Tim Thornbloom
- 15 Robin Curtis
- 16 Gage Larson, Brandon Malvin
- 17 Joseph Garcia
- 18 Dave Dykema
- 19 Deborah Dowell, Hunter Johnson, Drew VanNyhuis
- 21 Ethan Abbott, Karen Williamson
- 22 Jesse Sorensen
- 23 Rick Hansen
- 24 Loren Ortendahl
- 25 Carole Davis, Breanna Larson
- 26 Barbara Berg
- 27 Hannah Redetzke
- 29 Marissa Hinrichs
- 31 Noah Johnson



Mission Action Moment

The Monday Quilters are ready to get back to work—January 6th will be the first sewing day of 2020. We need lots of help. The first item of business will be to finalize the dispersement of funds.

We donated \$100 to “Jingle Bells”, and also \$100 to the City Hall Mitten Tree. We also provided 17 quilts, 11 baby blankets, and 5 pairs of mittens to that project. Sheila took a large box of mittens made by Bev for the homeless in Minneapolis.

A comfort quilt was given to Ivy No-meland and a child received a quilt at his baptism.

From Max Lucado:

“Life give lemons to good people, bad people, all people. Life comes with lemons, BUT we don’t have to SUCK ON THEM.”

Rebekah Circle 12/8/19

In attendance : Ruby Maus, Faye Maus, Janice Frank, LaRayne Johnson, and Marlys Benson

Guest: Pastor Rich

Business: LaRayne opened the meeting with a prayer from A Prayer for Peace from St. John of the Cross.

\$75 was collected for the Mitten Tree. LaRayne will give it to Heidi Ciepielinski to take to the Mitten Tree folks.

Action News was assembled by Ruby Maus, Ivy Nomeland, LaRayne Johnson, Marlys Ferris, and Loretta Becker.

Pastor Rich led our Bible Study which was about Hannah. Thank you Pastor Rich. Our next study will come from our book Women of the Old Testament. It will be "Abigail: A Level-Headed Woman." from 1 Samuel 25:2-44.

We had our December potluck. It was great! In January, LaRayne will be the hostess.

From the Treasurer: We began the month with a balance of \$58.50. The bank had \$190.10, but check #373 for OLCW and check #789 for \$31.60 to OLCW for their LSS fund have not been cashed. Subtracting those two checks from the bank balance, we balance. We collected \$18 from our offering for 12/8/19 which give a balance of \$76.50.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Our next meeting will be on January 14th at 2 p.m. at Terrace Heights in the lunchroom.



January 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2 Bible Study @ Terrace Heights 1 p.m.	3	4
5 Praise Team Practice 8:45 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship 11 a.m. Girl Scouts 3:45 p.m. Church Council potluck 5:00 p.m.	6 Sewing 8 a.m.	7	8 Pathfinders 5:45 p.m.	9 Bible Study @ Terrace Heights 1 p.m.	10	11
12 Worship & Sunday School 10 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship 11 a.m. Girl Scouts 3:45 p.m.	13	14 Rebekah Circle @ Terrace Heights 2 p.m.	15 Pathfinders 5:45 p.m.	16 Bible Study @ Terrace Heights 1 p.m.	17	18
19 Praise Team Practice 8:45 a.m. Worship & Sunday School 10 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship 11 a.m. Girl Scouts 3:45 p.m.	20 Sewing 8 a.m. <u>Action News</u> <u>Deadline</u>	21	22 Pathfinders 5:45 p.m.	23 Worship @ CMH 10 a.m. Bible Study @ Terrace Heights 1 p.m.	24	25
26 Worship & Sunday School 10 a.m. Annual Meeting Girl Scouts 3:45 p.m.	27	28	29 Pathfinders 5:45 p.m.	30 Bible Study @ Terrace Heights 1 p.m.	31	



Osakis Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 @ 7:30 p.m.

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

President Paul Christensen called the meeting to order.

Pastor Rich gave devotions.

Highs and Lows

Mike C. made motion to accept minutes of the last meeting. Jerry W. 2nd. Approved.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's report: All benevolences paid through October. Income to date \$159,541.61 Expenses to date \$162,975.84

Assessment for JD2 (Watershed District) to the church is \$2,234.01; to the parsonage it is \$347.68. Kathy Ryan made a motion to pay the total \$2581.69 from the Jung Fund before Dec. 31st to avoid interest charges. Lil O. 2nd. Approved.

New copy machine—Pastor Rich & Nancy met with a representative from MCSI (Toshiba) because our current copy machine is breaking down often (purchased used in 2011). The new machine would cost \$6,360 with a monthly contract cost of about \$42-\$45. Would also make color copies, Mike C. made a motion to purchase a new copier right away, to be paid for from the Mission Investment Fund. Wilma T. 2nd. Approved. The old copier would be offered for sale in the bulletin at @ \$350.

Trustees' report: Parking lot—met with Brian (M.P. Roadway) about hole that is still in the parking lot.

He will make it good in the spring, along with the top coating.

Looking into some sidewalk problems, these may be responsibility of the city (next spring).

Snow removal—people are signing up to help with shoveling. Had snow blower checked out.

Parsonage bathroom repairs—Mr. Hagedon took it on with an estimate of no more than \$1300.

There may be additional repairs he can make. He will begin work in January.

Pastor's report: Baptism of one infant. New Bible Study at Terrace Heights—Isaiah. Alex conference pastor's meeting @ OLC December 5, 2019. Caroling at Galeon Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m. with confirmation kids—council invited. Christmas Eve services at 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. Pastor Kathryn Rothman guest preacher Dec. 29.

Youth report: Made \$334 from the chili cookoff. Meeting Dec. 8 to go over cookie orders.

Education report: Christmas Program Dec. 15 @ 10 a.m. Dec. 9th 35 kids signed up for Christmas Night Out for Parents. Pathfinders are helping with kids' activities. Food from the grocery store at cost and they also donated buns. Next meeting Jan. 15, 2020 @ 7 p.m.

New Business: Next Council meeting January 5, 2020 @ 5 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall. Bring your spouse and a dish for Christmas fellowship. Meeting will follow regarding the new budget. Melanie Stier made a motion. Lil O. 2nd. Approved.

Lawn care—Jessie T. spoke to Adam Hjelm, our neighbor, about spraying our lawn for weeds and planting flowers. Alex Irrigation has sprayed for weeks in the past, but doesn't seem to do a very good job. We would pay Adam for each time he does this (@ \$50).

Dawn McNeal has made some outside Christmas decorations, her gift in memory of her grandmother.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Kathy Ryan, Council Secretary



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Offering

Attendance 11/24/19 **89**

Undesignated \$6,587

Parking Lot \$60

Tech Fund \$67

World Hunger \$210.45

Thanksgiving \$50

Stripe Offering \$165

Attendance 12/01/19 **73**

Undesignated \$899

Thanksgiving \$35

Stoeckel Campership \$67

National Youth Gathering \$210.45

Attendance 12/15/19 **126**

Undesignated \$2714.31

A financial update – have paid bills to current. Also paid benevolences through November. Outstanding December bills total \$3,265.62 plus payroll for 12/31/19

There is \$4,555.00 in dedicated offerings that need to be transferred to their designation also.

Thank you all for your support.

Nancy Exley, Treasurer

Prayer Concerns

Jeanne Jensen, Shelly Engfer-Triebebach, Cynthia Erickson, Greg Johnson, Nancy Robinson, Lois Ketelle, Janice Frank, Joyce Rossi, Lowell Collins, and Grace Johnson.

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, Paul Jacobson

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

Out of Town

Alexandria: Knute Nelson: Altrude Daniels

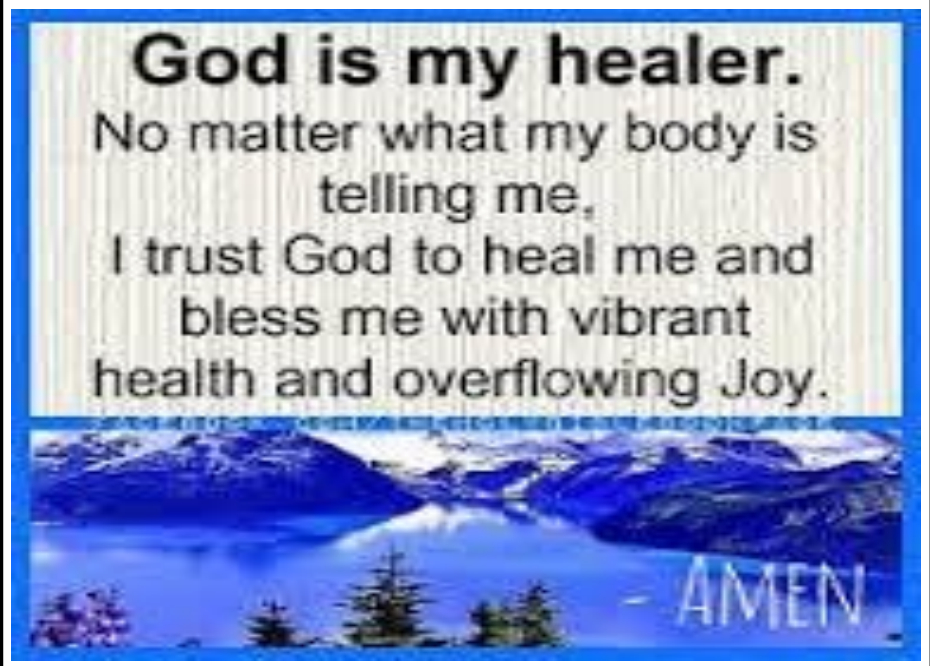
Windmill Ponds: Delores Stephens

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!



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.