

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—Kathy Ryan

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.

## V. Reports

### a) Treasurer's Report:

Income for November 2020 - \$15,742.10

Expenses for November 2020 - \$9,549.46

Income to date \$151,039.00

Expenses to date \$137,511.74

All bills and benevolences are paid through October 2020.

We have about \$18,000 in checking now.

Haven't heard anything about payroll forgiveness yet. (PPP - Payroll Protection Program).

Will ask Robin Curtis and Janet Nelson to do audit for the year again.

### b) Pastor's Report:

Pathfinders – gatherings are virtual now.

Baptism for Nelson baby

Memorial Service for Bud Manders, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Planning campfire & caroling, December 20<sup>th</sup>, and Christmas Services; annual meeting plans.

### c) Education:

Next meeting, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

### d) Church in Society:

Continue Collecting for ELCA Good Gifts through December 20<sup>th</sup>. Working on their yearly report, which they will send to Debbie when they are finished.

### e) Trustees Report: (Budget)

We are anticipating tuckpoint brick and replacing glass windows on bell tower to alleviate moisture into outer/then inner walls. Do not have estimate yet.

Quote to replace water sink faucets to automatic is \$500 per sink.

Quote to replace/install automatic lighting in 4 bathrooms not in yet.

Planning for stripping and rewaxing of floors in the fellowship hall and basement (has not been done for years).

**Next meeting will be Wednesday January 6, 2021 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:**

Brenda Collins who passed away on  
December 8th

Lowell J. Collins who passed away on  
December 13th



### **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  
In Person and Council Zoom Meeting  
Wednesday December 2, 2020

Present: Pastor Rich, Jessie Thornbloom, Kathy Ryan, Nancy Exley, Mike Curtis, Lil Ortendahl and Melanie Stier (via Zoom)

I. President Jessie Thornbloom called the meeting to order.

Devotions.

Highs and lows.

II. Approval of Agenda:

Mike C. made a motion to approve the agenda, Nancy E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Approved.

III. Old Business:

a) Review of November minutes – Nancy E. made a motion to accept the minutes, Mike C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Approved.

b) Unfinished items from previous meeting(s)

Budget Approval (initial) – Nancy E. said the budget has remained pretty much the same as last year, with a few minor changes. Mike C. made a motion to tentatively approve the budget for 2021, Lil O. 2<sup>nd</sup> Approved.

Christmas Plans update- Campfire and Caroling at Mike Curtis' home December 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. If the weather is bad we will try for Tuesday December, 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Putting together 2 Virtual Concerts.

Assembling packages for Christmas Service, ready for pick up 1 week before the 24<sup>th</sup> (candles, communion, hot chocolate, etc...).

IV. New Business:

a) Recognition for Pat Converse – Pastor Rich talking to the family about ideas for a gift and recognition at one of the services this month.

b) Fund for families in need – Nancy E. has received a couple of donations totalling \$400, given for local families in need. Pastor Rich said he knows of a couple families; other ideas – the mitten tree, Sunday School funds (Adopt a Family), contact Osakis Women of Action for suggestions.

Sunday January 3 Online Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday January 10 Online Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday January 17 Online Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday January 24 Online Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday January 31 Online Worship Service 10 a.m.

As of now, all services in January will be Online only: live on Facebook, and later can be viewed on You Tube.

Watch the Announcements in the Bulletin, and on our Facebook Page, for any changes!

### **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](http://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:**

#### **Christmas**

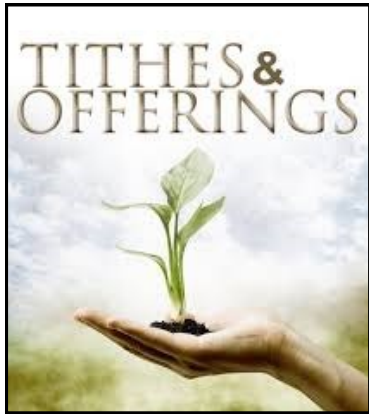
We would like to give a big THANK-YOU to Dawn McNeil for donating the 2 beautiful Christmas arrangements that have been placed outside of our South entrances.

#### **2021 Worship**

Our council carefully decided back in October to follow the in-person, or distance learning, decisions of Osakis High School. They will be distance learning until at least January 8th, so we will plan to only worship online through Jan. 10th. No further plans have been made yet for 2021, so please watch for Announcements.

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

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



**Offering**

November Income	\$15,742.10
November Expenses	\$9,549.46
Income to date	\$151,039.00
Expenses to date	\$137,511.74

**November 29, 2020**

Envelopes	\$1,107.00
Natl. Youth Gathering	\$100.00
Food Shelf	\$630.00
Thanksgiving	\$45.00

Total: \$1,882.00

**December 13, 2020**

Envelopes	\$1,857.00
Checks for Chicks	\$20.00

Total: \$1,877.00

**December 20, 2020**

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

Total: \$872.00

**Prayer Concerns**

Shelly Engfer-Triebebach, Grace Johnson, Janet Werven, Janice Frank, Sheila Watschke, Sue Hoffarth, Paul Sorum, Marie Larson, and the families & friends of Lowell Collings, Bud Manders, Anna Mae Woidyla (Mike's mom).

**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



## January Birthdays

- 1 **Brian Sorensen**  
2 **Debra Mensen, Diane Zimmel**  
3 **David Carlson, Brent Juntunen**  
4 **Debbie Bulfer**  
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, Douglas Lillemoen,  
Timothy Thornbloom**  
15 **Robin Curtis**  
16 **Gage Larson, Brandon Malvin**  
17 **Joseph Garcia**  
18 **David Dykema**  
19 **Deborah Dowell, Hunter Johnson,  
Drew VanNyhuis**  
21 **Ethan Abbott, Karen Williamson**  
22 **Jesse Sorensen**  
23 **Richard Hansen**  
24 **Loren Ortendahl**  
25 **Carole Davis, Breanna Larson**  
26 **Barbara Berg**  
27 **Hannah Redetzke**  
29 **Marissa Hinrichs**  
31 **Noah Johnson**



## 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

I'm ready to kick 2020 out the back door. We are all ready for a new year. Looking for a fresh start, a new beginning, something normal.

And yet I have to remind myself, flipping the calendar won't be like flipping a light switch. Oh, how I wish it were. There will still be tough days and weeks ahead. Ups and downs with the virus, misunderstandings in race relations, and disagreements about political issues.

But it is going to be a new year. During Advent and at Christmas we talked about how God gives us dreams to follow and to live out. Dreams for us and dreams for others. These dreams are not wishful thinking, they are God's picture of what can be and ought to be.

### *To Carry A Dream*

To carry a dream is to walk at night,  
Or to walk by light, But with a pebble in your shoe.

To carry a dream is to plant trees in old age,  
To be a part of a church, That is human and frayed.

To carry a dream is foolish and wild.  
It's the faith of a child, Wishing on stars.

But to carry a dream is also hopeful & wise,  
The faith of our elders, Saying God will provide.

So may we walk Until we see the light.  
May the pebble in our shoe  
Remind us why we fight.  
May they say We are foolish and unwise,  
And may we continue to dream;  
May hope keep us alive.

*Poem by Sarah Are*

During Advent we heard the dreams that God had given the prophet Isaiah and Mary, Mother of our Lord. Dreams to encourage and lead the people after a time of devastation of Babylon and after a young woman hears some most unsettling news.

*The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners – Isaiah 61*

*For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. He has shown strength with his arm. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. – Luke 1*

### *All in All*

It takes strength to dream.

It's that same strength that leads people to say,  
"I love you" first, Those three vulnerable words,  
Wrapped in heart strings, Whispered,  
Because what could be is too good to keep quiet.

It takes strength to choose joy.

It takes strength to push the covers  
Off our weary bodies morning after morning,  
To plant weary feet on solid ground,  
And look for signs of beauty.

It takes strength to remember we are not alone,  
But the story starts: bone of bone & flesh of flesh.  
That feels like so long ago.

Oh yes, It takes strength to dream.  
I imagine that's why many choose not to,  
For it would be far easier to simply sleep.  
But there are always those who dream,  
Those who are up at night picturing what could be,  
Because this world is too good not to.

So we say, "I love you."

We push the covers off. We find solid ground.  
We look for beauty. And we dream.  
We dare to dream.

*Poem by Sarah Are*

Epiphany (January) is about making Jesus know to the world. Making known the dreams that Jesus brings for every single person on earth. It takes work, but it brings great joy.

Looking forward to this new year,  
Pr. Rich



# Osakis Lutheran Church

## Action News

### January 2021

Edition #541  
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