

Osakis Lutheran Church
Action News
July 2020



Edition #556
Vicki Hinrichs, Editor

Council's Corner: by Jessie Thornbloom

Greetings Osakis Lutheran Church Members!

Last council meeting extensive discussion was had with a decision to start some type of outdoor worship, only to have the Governor speak days later and change restrictions. A big thank you to our Safe Team for meeting and helping set up guidelines for returning to in-person worship while keeping the safety for all members in mind. Through a joint decision by Council and the Safe Team the plan to resume **in-person worship**, provided the MN & Doug. Co. case numbers remain favorable, will be **July 12th**.

It is exciting to think that we can once again start gathering again for worship in our own pews; however, reopening will be gradual. Guidelines will be in place in the interest of the public health and the common good. On-line services will continue indefinitely for those who feel uncomfortable gathering at this time or find that this option fulfills their household's needs.

To maintain social distancing and to help reduce the spread of the virus the following actions will be taken: 45 members (maximum) will be welcomed on a first come first seated basis, all will enter through the south entrance, pews will be tapped off with only one family per pew, passing the peace will be done through gestures, signing songs will be hummed or played through the use of a recording device, and masks will be required (some will be available at the church).

To help limit the contact with surfaces the following actions will be taken: bulletins will be pre-distributed days in advance, self placed offering will be at the entrance of the church, the fellowship hall and basement will be blocked off, and self administered communion packets will be provided. Extra cleaning will be done during the week in preparation for the week's service.

Again, this will be a gradual process with precautions that show love for our neighbors and care for the vulnerable. Please refer to the decision chart when deciding if gathering as a group is what is best for you and your household. Please contact the church office or a council member with any questions you may have.

God Bless!

Decision Chart:

Is in-person worship or on-line worship best for me?

	On line worship option	Group worship option
Am I sick? Any symptoms?	x	
Do I have an underlying health condition?	x	
Am I over 65/70?	x	
I am unable or prefer not to wear a mask	x	
I am isolating due to possible Covid exposure	x	
I am isolating due to medically vulnerable family member	x	
I live with a vulnerable family member	x	
I work with vulnerable or sick population	x	
None of the above		x

Rich Reflections

Summer greetings to you!

There's so much on my mind and a good deal of "fuzz" in my brain. From the people I've talked with, it sounds like many others have had a similar experience. Where to start? Well, here goes: one positive thing, one challenging thing, and a word of encouragement.

Positive: We are *tentatively* planning on having **worship in-person, July 12**. During June new Covid19 cases in Minnesota & Douglas/Todd Co. have been slowing. However, we will be watching this very closely, to see what the reopening of businesses and tourism brings.

How will we do this as safely as we can?

Masks for all, if you can do it at Menard's...

40-45 people 25% of our capacity

(video streaming continues)

no physical contact with others for:

bulletins, offering, Communion, etc.

music played, but no singing

dismissal will be by rows

...and other details spelled out elsewhere in this issue of Action News, on Facebook, at www.osakisluthernelca.com, and in accordance with White House and Mn Dept of Health guidelines.

These precautions are what medical experts are recommending, and in our case it the Christ-like way of caring for all of those around us. When deciding whether to attend please use the Decision Chart (or checklist) in Action News.

Challenging time: The last 5 weeks have brought us face to face with things that have shocked us and left us wondering what is going on in the world. Events involving race boiled over and now we're re-examining a multitude of things. What can you do, and what can I do?

Do you have multiple close friends who are Asian, Black, Latinx or Native American? Very few of us do. It's not your fault. But how can you become more familiar with "our" history or their daily lives?

Books to grow our knowledge & insight:

"White Fragility – by Robin DiAngelo

"So You Want to Talk About Race" – by Ijeoma Oluo

"How to Be Anti-Racist" – by Ibram Kendi

"Why are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria" – by Beverly D. Tatum

"I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness" – by Austin Channing Brown

Movies to expand our understanding:

"Just Mercy" – true story in 1990 Alabama

"13th" – constitutional amendment abolishing slavery reduced by Jim Crow & criminalization

"Crash" – best picture winner explores interwoven lives in post 9/11 America

"I am Not Your Negro" – James Baldwin: from Civil Rights Movement to the current situation

"The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" – of a woman whose cells were used years after she died in medical testing, without permission

What will I do? First of all, I'll stay close to Scripture.

"Blessed are the poor; peacemakers" Matt. & Luke

"As you did it to the least of these..." Matthew

"If we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?" 1st John

I'll follow our constitution. *"Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall: (among other things) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world."* Did you know "justice" in the Bible is a synonym for "righteousness", and that justice is mentioned nearly 40% more than "grace."

Finally, I'll speak the truth in love, to the best of my knowledge, and to the best of my ability.

Word(s) of encouragement: "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." –Romans 8:38-39

"The river of the water of life, flowing from the throne of God. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." –Revelation 22:1-2

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." –Philippians 1:6

Celebrating that we are one body in Christ,

Pr. Rich Fitzer

July Birthdays

- 1 Sharon Kummrow
- 2 Kylar Gadbow
- 5 Jani Helm, Sarah Redetzke
- 7 Jack Converse
- 8 David Amdahl
- 9 Ruby Maus, Howard Swenstad
- 10 Janet Johnson
- 11 Patrick Ryan
- 13 Connie Spanswick
- 18 Wendy Jennings, Dave Laven, Nancy Muehlenhardt, Troy Reinke, Janice Thull
- 19 Lydell Gayken, Lynell Gayken, Troy Wolf
- 22 Elaine Mattson
- 23 Camryn Hoffarth
- 24 Timothy Gilsrud, Betty Hinrichs, Joyce Rossi
- 25 Daniel Drum
- 26 Ryan Kleinschmidt, Curt Waldvogel
- 27 Noah Nessman
- 28 Kenneth Twait
- 29 Daniel Field
- 30 Lucille Barber, Marline Johnson
- 31 LaRayne Johnson, Barb Larson



Mission Action Moment

The Love of Sewing is our Common Thread



Sunday School students collected offerings for Operation Bootstrap Africa. We made our goal of \$150! The money will be used to help build and provide resources for primary and secondary schools in Tanzania, Madagascar, and Kenya. It's great to see such giving hearts at such a young age!



Sunday July 5 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday July 12 Worship Service 10 a.m. (limited in person)

Sunday July 19 Worship Service 10 a.m. (limited in person)

Sunday July 26 Worship Service 10 a.m. (limited in person)

All Services will be virtual; live on Facebook and later can be viewed on You Tube

... unless otherwise announced by church council.

Church in Society

Church in Society would like to give a shout out to our 70 and better members! We thank you as a congregation for your years of leadership and support. We would normally have had a special celebration on the 2nd Sunday in July, but due to circumstances we will send you our most appreciation via prayers from our hearts!

I wish to thank everyone for your continued support. All bills have been paid through June 20, 2020 and benevolences are paid/current through May 2020.

Thank you,

Nancy Exley your Treasurer

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

Rebekah Circle Members

Rebekah Circle is canceled until we are once again allowed to meet. Check Action News, the bulletin, phone call, etc. We will begin where we left off with our Women of the Old Testament.

Osakis Lutheran is Faithful & Generous

Thank you! First and most importantly, thank you to all who have continued to give your offerings during the current “stay at home” order. 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: we will not pass an offering plate for several weeks, but ministry continues. 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

Osakis Lutheran Church
Council Zoom Meeting
Wednesday June 3, 2020 @ 7:30 pm

Present: Melanie Stier, Rich Fitzer, Nancy Exley, Kathy Ryan, Diane Zimmer, Paul Christiansen, Mike Curtis, Jessie Thornbloom and Lil Ortendahl

I. President Jessie Thornbloom called the meeting to order. Pastor Rich gave devotions.
Highs and lows

II. Approval of Agenda:
No additions

III. Old Business:
a.) Mike C. made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting. Paul C. 2nd approved.

IV. New Business:
a.) Drive-in worship at the school parking lot – permission has been received to use the school parking lot. Pastor Rich and Pat Ryan have been working on the sound set up. Should be ready for service on June 14th or the 21st. This will be in addition to the regular on-line service. Music will be pre-recorded. Mike C. made a motion to approve drive-in worship service. Nancy E. 2nd approved.

b.) In-person worship – how it will look when and with whom? Our SAFE Team has met twice now. For June, then will be no in-person services. Will watch to see for a 14-day downward trend of Covid 19 cases (MN Coronavirus May & Case Count) in Douglas and Todd Counties, at which time the SAFE Team will revisit in-person services. In the meantime, they are considering what those in-person services will look like (see attached). Lil O. made a motion to accept the recommendations of the SAFE Team so far. Diane Z. 2nd approved.

V. Committee Reports:

a.) Treasurer's Report:

Income for May 2020 - \$14,596.00
Expenses for May 2020 - \$9,448.83
Income to date for 2020 - \$82,674.29
Expenses to date for 2020 - \$58,617.50
Checkbook Balance - \$26,384.60 (this includes \$18,800 in PPE)

We received a \$500 grant from the ELCA for web-casting cameras for the on-line service.
We have not paid a deposit to Luther Crest for VBS (\$800).
Received a gift from Pastor David Helgen's Estate (\$1,000).
Still have not paid Mr. Hagedon for parsonage bathroom work.
Lil O. asked that we pay the Precision Roadway balance of \$850 for the parking lot work they finished recently. Nancy will pay the bill next week.
Paid bill of \$50 to Mr. Loxtercamp for lawnmower tune-up.
Paul C. made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Melanie S. 2nd approved.

b.) Pastor's Report:

5th grade 1st Communion instruction on Saturday June 6th. On June 7th, after the on-line service, each child will come in with their families (different time slots) to part-take of 1st Communion. Debbie will prepare certificates.

c.) Education:

Next meeting August 5th, 2020 at 7:30pm

d.) Trustees

Adam Hjelm has done first lawn treatment.
Lil & Wilma have been watering flowers. Would like to put bark around them. Paul C. donated 2 bags.
Received a \$50 bill from Mr. Loxtercamp for lawn mower tune up.

Church Council minutes continued

b.) Pastor's Report:

- Weekly check-ins with Bishop Tesch.
- Melanie Stier and I are working with the Luther Crest board on new ideas for the summer.
- Final 2 sessions with Pathfinders.
- Quilt ceremony for graduating seniors in July or August.
- Communion kits for worship on-line available for pick-up Thurs - Sat in the South entry.

- Possibility of Bible Study on-line, virtual fellowship time, movie chat night.
- Shelly Triebenbach and LaRayne Johnson are currently calling shut-ins.
- Melanie Stier thanked Pastor Rich on behalf of the council for his work in getting the on-line worship service up and running quickly, and for continuously improving on it.

c.) Education:

- Bingo night pushed off until the Fall, maybe reschedule to the first weekend of Sunday School.
- Vacation Bible School is off for now; however, Luther Crest might provide kits that could be sent to each Sunday School Kid with a lesson for the week. Could see how much that would cost. Melanie thought we had paid them a \$500 deposit last Fall, but Nancy said she didn't remember doing that. Will check on that. Also, Luther Crest is looking to the congregation for contributions. Melanie is looking with them to see what other congregations are giving.

d.) Church in Society:

- May is Lutheran Social Services month. Diane said she will post monthly topics in the Action News for the congregation, with information about how they can participate/give to the causes.

e.) Trustees

- Church and Parsonage insurance paid.
- Backpack Attack Fundraiser - Had permission to use our large food warmers, but didn't need them.
- Contract with Adam Hjelm to weed and feed our lawn - up to 4x per season, not to exceed \$50 each time. He will bill the church. Lawn mowing/trimming needs to be done by congregation volunteers (sign up sheet in Narthex).
- Girl Scouts - No use for the church since mid-February.
- Rick Loxtercamp - Our new 'fix-it' guy has already tuned up the lawn-mower this Spring and will do the same for the snowblower in the Fall. He will bill the church.
- Parsonage bathroom repairs - the bill was \$2,241.00 and has been partially paid. Still negotiating the balance with Mr. Hagedon.
- Fire extinguisher bill is up to \$500 which seems high, so looking for new service provider.
- Automatic door opener from sanctuary to fellowship hall - would really like to get this fund activated and promoted (\$200 in there now). Lil will write something up for the Action News.

Next meeting: Wednesday June 3, 2020 @ 6:30 pm

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Kathy Ryan, Council Secretary

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.