

**Osakis Lutheran Church
Action News
June 2020**



*Edition #555
Vicki Hinrichs, Editor*

*Dear Heavenly Father,
Our need for You is greater today than ever. As we face these uncertain times, we need our hope restored. We need to be reminded of Your constant and complete healing grace and love for us. As we reach out to You, we pray that You help us to heal the burdens of our neighborhoods, our country and our world. Help us be faithful in prayer and put our hope in You. Teach us what You want us to learn from this pandemic. Please help us to not take our fear and lack of control out on those around us, and show us how to be patient as the world heals. In these days of sickness, give us the wisdom to draw nearer to You.*

*In Your name, we pray,
Amen
Prayer from The Salvation Army.*

Council's Corner: by Jessie Thornbloom

Sunday School: Please stay tuned for information on Vacation Bible School!

Council: Our major discussion in May, and will continue to be in the upcoming months, was when we will start phasing back to in-person worship and how that will look. A "Smart Team" has been formed to ensure that as we start worshipping together we are safe and following CDC guidelines. Thank you to everyone on this team, the decisions being made are not easy ones! In the meantime, council will continue working on our goals for 2020. One goal is to explore new approaches to get more new and existing members to be involved in the Ministry of our church. With the pandemic forcing all traditional forms of worship to be idle, we might find that new innovative services will excite new and existing members to become involved in their faith and our church!

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



Rich Reflections

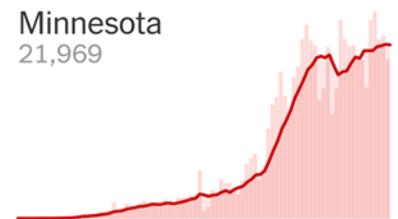
I miss you! Being an extrovert who likes to participate in group singing has made this time challenging. Preaching to an empty sanctuary, except for the 3-4 needed to do video worship, lacks energy.

“So when can we meet together again?” That’s a great question, and one that many of us are asking. We have formed a “Safe Team” to help advise the church council making these decisions. The team will be looking at specific data, science and seeking the advice of medical and public health experts. Safe Team includes Laurie Dykema, Jacki Harth, Pat Ryan, Melanie Stier and myself. They represent the council, community, mental and physical health arenas.

But there are other considerations. In Hebrews, “Don’t stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other.” (10:25) Of course we haven’t stopped, but we’ve changed the way we do it. At the same time we recall Jesus’ words in Matthew, “I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (25:40)

White House guidelines (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>) have told us that even “Phase One” re-opening should come after there has been a decline in cases for 14 days. We, in Minnesota and Douglas/Todd Co., were hitting new highs in cases and deaths in the week of May 17-23. Cases in Douglas Co. doubled during the first and third weeks of May. Our neighbor Stearns County has the 3rd highest case count in the state.

Dr. Deborah Birx, White House adviser, noted Minnesota as one of 4 highly active Covid19 states in the country. So with these local trends, together with the Summer influx of travelers, and the re-opening of businesses and likely bars & restaurants; the next few weeks will be telling as to whether or not we will continue to see a growing infection rate.



Why have churches been more restricted than many businesses?

Being close to other people for 15 minutes +, increases the risk

(think of being outside: the longer you stay out, the more likely to have sunburn)

Churches have a higher percent of vulnerable people

Singing and louder unison speaking spray viruses longer distances (20-25 ft.)

While citizens of this nation, of any religion, may freely exercise their right to worship. As followers of Jesus we are called to a higher law, with Jesus’ command to love our neighbor. **Please watch** NW Minn. Bishop Bill Tesch speak about three principles for this time “Faith, Facts & Love”: <https://youtu.be/FbJkww8BqDw>



On the upside, we are going to consider if and how we might be able to have worship outside of the building in a way that would be safe. There are a couple of different possibilities.

We will try to come up with the best possible option inside or outside, together or distanced. The church council will meet June 3rd.

Your fellow pilgrim on this journey,

Pr. Rich

June Birthdays

- 1 Marlys Benson, Blake Kleinschmidt, Brooke Kleinschmidt
- 2 John Chalmers, Charlie Jennings
- 3 Lowell Collins
- 4 Ryan Strelow
- 5 Janice Frank, Allyson Holewa, Mackenzie Staloch
- 6 Madi Stier, Marcus Wolf
- 7 Mike Gilbert, Emma Kulzer, Diane Maloney
- 8 Taylor Larson
- 11 Michael Steinbeisser
- 12 Abby Kleinschmidt
- 13 Audrey Collins
- 14 Carrie Mounsdon, Ryan Wagner
- 15 Janna Juntunen, Seth Staloch, Shelly Triebenbach
- 17 Jacey Larson, Ryan Larson, Travis Redetzke, Jason Schueler
- 18 Karlee Hoffarth
- 20 Rodger Larson
- 22 Brad Hoffarth, Josiah Kapaun
- 23 Hillary Bjorstrom, Luke Schmidt
- 24 Kirstin Bohm, Judy Reinke, Owen Schultz, Angie Williamson, Michael Woidyla
- 25 Jessica Gadbow, Jaden Holewa, Trent Redetzke
- 29 Lee VanNyhuis
- 30 Bexley Abraham



Mission Action Moment

The Monday Quilters are waiting for the “go ahead” so we can get back to our appointed tasks.

Nine high school seniors have received—or will soon be receiving their graduation quilts made by Sheila.



*You are in my
thoughts and
prayers.*

Our deepest sympathy to Pastor Rich and his wife Wendy and their family on the death of Wendy's mother Cynthia Erickson.



Offering

Treasurer Report for April 2020

April Income \$13,896.44
April Expenses \$15,506.29
Income to date \$68,078.29
Expenses to date \$54,227.93

April 26, 2020

Envelopes \$1,264
Easter \$1,050
Total \$2,314

May 3, 2020

Envelopes \$2,037

May 10, 2020

Envelopes \$1,100
Memorial for Vonnie Brustad \$100
Local us and office supplies \$125
Total \$1,325

May 17, 2020

Envelopes \$4,424
Tech Fund \$70
Stoeckel Campership \$70
Memorial for Pastor David Helgen \$100
Total \$4,664

Prayer Concerns

Jeanne Jensen, Shelly Engfer-Triebebach,
Grace Johnson, Jason Wiggins, families & friends
of Cynthia Erickson

**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 Muehlen-
hardt, Elaine Mattson, Marie Larson, Jeanne
Jenen

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

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

Out of Town

Alexandria: Knute Nelson: Altrude Daniels

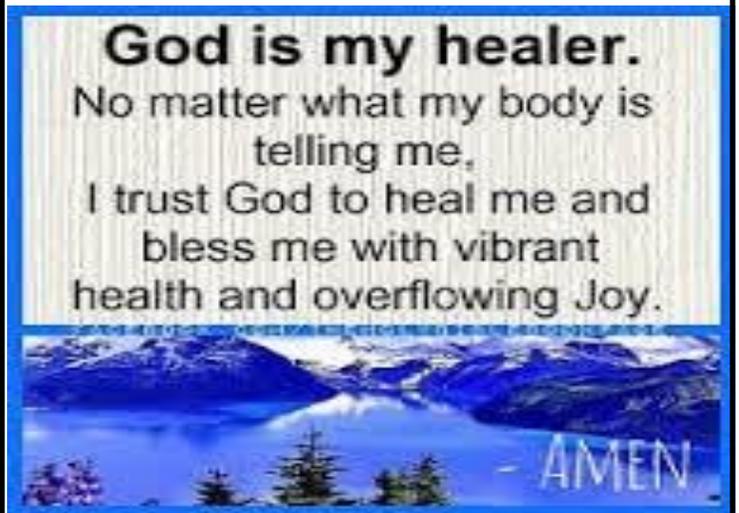
Windmill Ponds: Delores Stephens

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!***



Sunday June 7 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday June 14 Worship Service 10 a.m.

Sunday June 21 Worship Service 10 a.m. Father's Day

Sunday June 28 Worship Service 10 a.m.

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

Hi to All! CIS would like to try and keep up with information on our monthly topics that we have so often talked about when we were all congregating. The Action News has always been available for us to communicate whether we meet or are staying home these days and for good reason. Thumbs up to Action News and to Vic-ki for keeping us informed!

June is Love INC of Douglas County. They are a Christian non-profit agency who partner with local churches. It was founded in 1977 in Michigan. There are 130 affiliates around the U.S. It is people helping people through faith and action in times of struggle. They build caring relationships and life skills to those whom have underlying issues such as poverty and hopelessness.

Volunteers are the heart of Love INC. If interested in one way or another they are located at :
44 Glenn Rd NW
Alexandria, MN
Phone 320-759-3022

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.

Stimulus Check: some may decide that you don't need the Covid 19 stimulus check. If you are that fortunate consider giving a portion to God's work at OLC or elsewhere.

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 May 6, 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

Lil O. made a motion to approve the agenda. Diane Z. 2nd approved.

III. Old Business:

a.) Mike C. made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting, with corrections.

Nancy E. 2nd approved.

b.) April 1, 2020 minutes. Lil noted name corrections - Mr. Hagedon and Joe Johnson with regard to the parsonage bathroom.

IV. New Business (OLCW's vision and new mission and ministry work):

a.) Broad strokes look at how we might slowly re-open (no "when" at this point). Pastor Rich showed us a "Phases of Disaster or Crisis" power point. We discussed this and agreed that it feels like we are in the reconstruction phase with regard to the pandemic.

Pastor Rich provided web links for the White House guidelines and MN Covid Dashboard for us to look at on our own.

b.) Form a smart team to advise on our plan for returning to in-church services - we discussed this, smart team should include people in the church who work in public health (Vicky Grove, Laurie Kykema were suggested). The idea of starting back with just 2 services per month, alternative Sundays, with spacing 6 ft apart, was discussed. About 40 people could sit in the sanctuary under those guidelines, with more seating on the sides/Library area, choir loft and fellowship hall. Also discussed the idea of cleaning teams for in-between services (disinfecting, etc...)

c.) Pastor Rich stated that currently, along with on-line services, we are offering communion the 1st Sunday of the month and providing wine and wafers (picked up in the South entry) for at-home participation.

d.) Lil O. suggested updating the church's answering machine with current office hours, on-line service information and perhaps forwarding messages to Pastor Rich's phone. (He mentioned that last Sunday's service had 33 households watching on-line)

V. Reports:

a.) Treasurer's Report:

Income for April, 2020 - \$32,696.44

Expenses for April, 2020 - \$15,506.29

Checkbook Balance - \$20,491.01

We applied for and received funds from the Payroll Protection Program. The amount received was \$18,800. Thank you to Cory Abers at First National Bank of Osakis for his assistance in completing and processing our application. This is a loan with the Federal Government the interest rate is 1% and becomes payable in 2 years. The loan is held by Glenwood State Bank. It is possible this loan can become forgivable. 75% used for payroll; 25% used for utilities. Would like to take this money out of the general operating account and maybe put it into a savings account. Then just withdraw funds when needed for payroll. Pastor Rich thanked Nancy for all the time she put into applying for these funds. Lots of paper-work!

On-line Giving - We now have a detailed brochure to help make it easier for our members. In April there were 22/23 households giving on-line. Pastor Rich thanked Melanie Stier for her work with the on-line giving project, which turned out to be very timely considering the pandemic.

Did briefly discuss the idea of changing the bank facility we go through for on-line banking to find one that would charge us less, but Melanie mentioned that all institutes charge something and what we have now is the lowest she could find. Also, changing now would be confusing to the congregation. Might consider this again at a later time.

Kathy R. made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mike C. 2nd Approved.

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.