

Osakis Lutheran Church

Action News

November 2020



Edition #540

Vicki Hinrichs, Editor

Council's Corner: by Jessie Thornbloom

In preparation for the end of the year and the Annual Meeting, a small personnel committee has been meeting with committee chairs and employees. It's nice to meet with these individuals to hear their joys and concerns from the past year. From these conversations we can grow as a congregation and/or celebrate the "good" that's occurring within the walls.

Throughout our meetings the committee received two resignations. Vicki Hinrichs has decided to resign as editor of the Action News newsletter. We would like to thank her for her dedication and organization in putting together the newsletter each month. We know there were countless hours of writing, editing and tracking down news. The Action Newsletter will continue to be printed and sent out. Debbie Bulfer will take the lead on this at the start of the new year. The second resignation received was from Pat Converse as the organist. Pat has decided to retire, and after deciding she's been the organist for over 35 years, we agreed retirement was well earned! We can not thank Pat enough for her countless hours of practice, weekly worship services, and playing for special events. Fortunately, she has agreed to come back and sub if we ever need her to! With all this being said, we are looking for someone to fill this position. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in this position, please contact the office. When we can eventually meet in-person again, it would be great to celebrate with beautiful music!

Finally, thank you to everyone who holds a position (paid or not) at OLC! It is through your hard work and dedication that makes this church continue to function.

Sunday School

It's been fun seeing the kids each week. Our weekly attendance is anywhere from 3 to 12 kids. We are enjoying our time listening to some of the key Bible stories, watching a short video, and then participating in a small activity. If you would like to have a Sunday School pack put together so that you can read these stories and participate in the activities from home, please let me know. Jessie Thornbloom

@jessianne_15@hotmail.com

PAVE THE PATH!

OLC is conducting a DRIVE by FOOD DROP OFF!

When Saturday November 21

Time: From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Osakis Lutheran Church (south side of the building)

CHALLENGE is to line the 150 feet of sidewalk with nonperishable items for the Douglas County Food Shelf and Todd County Food Pantry!

Together let's PAVE THE PATH! And line the 150 feet of sidewalk. Signs and Helpers will be there to guide the way. Thank You so much for your support!



Rich Reflections

November in the church means All Saints' Day and Reign of Christ Sunday. All Saints' Day is a day for remembering those who've died, but it's also a day for celebrating the "Communion of Saints," our connection with all believers everywhere. The Reign of Christ calls us to live in a way that reflects Christ's ultimate reign, here and now in the present. So Jesus' final message or teaching before his death shapes our faith and our actions.

Matthew 25: 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;

35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty & you gave me something to drink,

I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

36 I was naked and you gave me clothing,

I was sick and you took care of me,

I was in prison and you visited me.'

37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,^[a] you did it to me.'

As followers, disciples, of Jesus' life and teaching it's simple but challenging. It's fairly easy to understand, but more difficult to live this out in all aspects of our daily life—not to mention our community life.

So where in our community, state, country, or world do we see those who are hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked (homeless), sick or imprisoned? We may not always realize it, but we have all of these people here in our local area.

Sometimes we can look at these people suffering and ask what they did or failed to do that put them in this situation. That's an easy trap we can fall in-

to. 20th century Christian teacher Thomas Merton said,

"Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business, and in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy."

Really it's all encompassing. We consider our neighbor in how we shop, how we travel, how we use natural resources, when we vote, where we work, and especially when it comes to who we invite and fully welcome into our homes, houses of worship, communities, state and nation.

The Bible is surprisingly clear about how we treat "the least of these who are members of my family":

"The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God." – Leviticus 19:34

"You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow's garment in pledge." – Deuteronomy 24:17

"When you have finished paying all the tithe of your produce in the third year (which is the year of the tithe), giving it to the Levites, the strangers, the orphans, and the widows, so that they may eat their fill within your towns" – Deuteronomy 26:12

There are literally dozens more passages which speak of how we live with and love those around us. It may seem overwhelming, but simply stop and remember that Jesus gave this teaching to us, because he believes in us. What an awesome thought, calling and privilege!

Living in God's abundant kingdom,

Pr. Rich Fitzer

November Birthdays

- 1 Ariel Chalmers
- 2 Jeremy Floer, Gina Hoffarth
- 4 Dylan Hansen, Thomas Williamson
- 5 Kaden Gadbow
- 6 Laurie Dykema, Nathan Kulzer, Stephanie Person
- 8 Karen Gilsrud, Scott Nosbush, Christy Werder
- 9 Richard Fitzer, Paul Sorum
- 11 Cody Helm, Isaac Schmidt, Brent Werven
- 12 Yvonne Christensen, Suzette Sibell
- 13 Kathy Steinbeisser, Christine Werven, Nancy Woidyla
- 14 Brittany Johnson
- 15 Melissa Engfer, Thomas Finnegan
- 16 Daniel Finnegan
- 17 Stacy Betsinger, Jennifer Gilbert
- 19 Gail Holt, Jenna Nosbush, Guy Swenson
- 22 Nancy Exley
- 24 Matthew Stier
- 26 Marjorie Swor
- 27 Brian Ramey
- 30 Curtis Woidyla



Mission Action Moments

In our last two work sessions eight quilts were completed and six were brought in.

510 bandages were packaged by Terrace Heights residents.

Mittens are being distributed. 12 pair to Osakis Public School and 25 pair to WIN (What I Need) at Minnewaska School.

Briggs Anthony Sandbakken received a quilt at his baptism and a baby quilt has been sold.

Too early to think of Christmas??? (Maybe not???) - There are beautiful quilts for sale in the fellowship hall.

Note from Sheila: After the Monday Quilters meeting on October 26 and shipment of quilts and kits on October 28, we will not be meeting for the rest of 2020. The wearing of masks is difficult or impossible for some of our members because of health reasons. We will stop meeting and assess the situation in 2021. If anyone wants to continue doing some work from home that will be okay. Thank you for those who have come out in recent months and our hope is to continue in 2021.

Sunday November 1 Worship Service & Sunday School 10 a.m.

Sunday November 8 Worship Service & Sunday School 10 a.m.

Sunday November 15 Worship Service & Sunday School 10 a.m.

Sunday November 22 Worship Service & Sunday School 10 a.m.

Sunday November 29 Worship Service & Sunday School 10 a.m.

All Services will be limited in person and live on Facebook and later can be viewed on You Tube

... unless otherwise announced by church council.

Church in Society

November and December Emphasis is Alternative Giving.

Diane will make up order blanks from the Alternative Giving catalog. They will be available on the table under the CIS bulletin board beginning on October 31. If you wish to participate you may pick up a form from the table, fill it in, write a check for the amount to Osakis Lutheran with a memo to Alternative Giving or put it in an envelope with Alternative Giving on the front and place it in the collection plate or leave it in the office. We will then add up all the funds and send the order blanks and funds to ELCA Good Gifts all together. **The end date for this campaign is December 20.** Thanks!

Our ELCA World Hunger campaign has raised \$216 AND Habitat for Humanity contributions are \$595 at this point in time. Thank you Osakis Lutheran!

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.

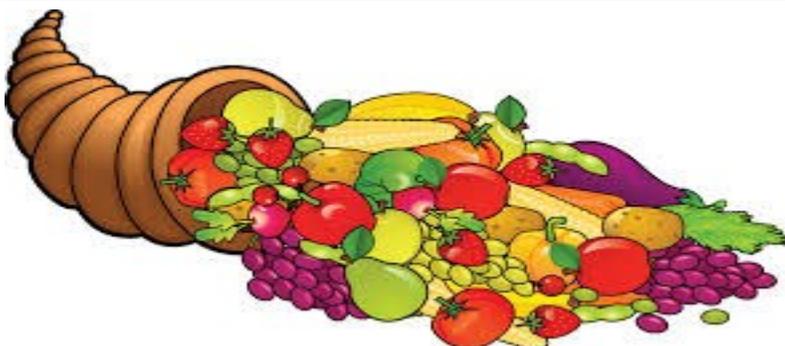
Mail a Check: You can mail your offering envelope to: P.O. Box 427, Osakis, 56360

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

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



Osakis Lutheran Church
In Person and Council Zoom Meeting
Wednesday October 7, 2020

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

I. President Jessie Thornbloom called the meeting to order.

Highs and lows.

II. Approval of Agenda:

Add to New Business: Plans for Annual Meeting and Backpack Attack update. Lil O. made a motion to approve the agenda, with additions, Melanie S. 2nd Approved.

III. Old Business:

a) Review of minutes – Paul C. made a motion to accept the minutes of the last two months (Aug-Sept) meetings, Melanie S. 2nd Approved.

b) Ad hoc group to develop more specifics for 2021 annual goals:

Group has not met yet but will plan to meet soon.

c) 2021 Budget preparations by committees – due Oct. 19th.

IV. New Business:

Job position openings – Paul C. informed us that Pat Converse is retiring (she will continue to do funerals only). We need to be thinking about who might replace her, especially by the time we resume full in-church services. Also, Vicki Hinrichs will no longer be doing the Action News; Debbie Bulfer will take this on as part of her office work.

Safe meeting protocols: When/if we should dial back on in-person worship? “Covid case count getting high in the area, so we will go to on-line service only if (and when) the school goes to distance learning.” We should be able to advise the congregation by the Thursday before a Sunday Service. Decision by consensus of the safe team. It seems like the right thing to do.

Annual meeting plans – currently considering afternote ideas to in-church meeting. Looking to the Synod for suggestions.

Backpack Attack – getting together in the school parking lot to fill backpacks on Oct. 8th (Update from Lil O. – 600 backpacks were filled!)

V. Reports

Treasurer’s Report:

Income for September 2020 - \$10,740.23

Expenses for August 2020 - \$10,754.78

Income to date \$124,785.15 with expenses to date \$115,156.16

All bills are paid. Benevolences are paid through July 2020.

Checkbook balance \$15,000

Melanie S. made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report, Paul C. 2nd Approved.

Pastor's Report:

Attending "Transformed" anti-racism workshops this week, sponsored by NW Minnesota and East North Dakota Synods.

Funeral for Steve Braun Oct 10th

3rd graders receive Bibles Oct 11th

Confirmation Banquet Oct 11th & Affirmation of Baptism Oct 25th

Sandbakken baptism Oct 18th

Pathfinder day retreat Oct 31st at Luther Crest

New members Nov 1st

c) Church in Society:

Will be offering alternative gift giving through the ELCA World Hunger catalog for the month of November through December 20th. We will have an item list available under the CIS bulletin board.

e) Trustees Report:

Bushes got trimmed. There will be one more \$50 bill coming from Adam Hjelm for his good work on the lawn this summer.

Nancy was wondering if there was going to be a fundraiser for youth attending the National Youth Gathering in 2021. Will talk to Lacey Sadlemyer.

*Pastor Rich gave devotions.

Next meeting will be Wednesday November 4th, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Kathy Ryan, Council Secretary

**Affirmation of Faith
October 25, 2020**

Mason Ronald Grove

Cody James Helm

Bria Hope Hoffarth

Andrew Joseph Imdieke

John Ronald Ramey

Jayden Scott Schlosser

Chase Edward Triebenbach



We welcome Briggs Sandbakken, Child of God, into our church family. He was baptized on October 18. Briggs parents are Matt & Stephanie Sandbakken. God's Blessings!

***3rd grade students receiving
their Bibles in October***

Elizabeth Floer

Thomas Finnegan

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.