

**Osakis Lutheran Church
Action News
October 2020**



*Edition #559
Vicki Hinrichs, Editor*

Council's Corner: by Jessie Thornbloom

As we are wrapping up the 2020 year and looking at putting the Annual Report together, we are reflecting on our joys and concerns. We are putting a small group together to help create some short-term (next 100 days) goals. We are excited to hear that even though we may not be running as “normal,” there is still a lot of “good” that we can do. One discussion we had this past month was, “What about the Holiday Season? What can we do? What will it look like?” As many times in the past, the answer seemed to be—we don’t know. We do know that throughout our discussion and some creative thinking, we found that if there is a will, there is a way! There was a feeling of joy and hopefulness as we started thinking of some creative alternative! Stay tuned!!

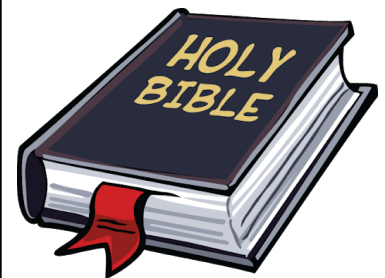
Sunday School

We had 12 students on Bible Sunday and a handful each Sunday after. It's good to see all the children again, and to continue to study our faith.

We plan on playing the bells (instead of singing) on October 18th!

Church Council Committees—please start looking over your budget and start planning for the 2021 year. Budgets should be sent to the church office in October.

3rd graders will receive their Bibles on Sunday October 11th during the church service.



Confirmation Sunday October 25

A TRISTEE COMMITTEE CHALLENGE

We have a need for an individual, family or group to tackle a project at Osakis Lutheran. Someone with power sprayer(s) to tackle the mold and algae growth/buildup on our church outside brick surfaces, especially west and north sides. Our fellowship siding could use a good rinse also. Proper chemicals need to be used. Must check with Trustee Lil (8594426) before starting. Reward of thanks and WFC chocolates.

Rich Reflections

During this month we'll be presenting 3rd grade students with their first "grown up" Bible, and begin teaching them how to use and read it. Later in the we'll be asking 9th grade students to make affirmation of their Baptism. Helping you people establish a strong foundation of faith is one important part of our mission.

Of course, if you have a firm foundation but never build upon it, it's a waste of effort—possibly an act of foolishness. There are also so many other things swirling around our lives which demand building an entire structure of faith.

Some of these things in the world are matters of justice. And that might sound political. However, a closer look helps us see that justice is at the heart of God's action throughout the Bible and beyond.

Did you know that the Bible speaks about more often about "justice" than it does about "grace"?

137 times **justice** is mentioned in the bible.

Pastor Timothy Keller has written a book, "Generous Justice" Throughout the book he shows that justice is about setting out to make the world the way God intended. It has very little to do with punishment.

"We instinctively tend to limit for whom we exert ourselves. We do it for people like us, and for people whom we like. Jesus will have none of that. By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need - regardless of race, politics, class, and religion - is your neighbor. Not everyone is your brother or sister in faith, but everyone is your neighbor, and you must love your neighbor."

— Timothy Keller

God's greatest prophet in the Bible, Moses, makes clear in his farewell address that justice is not just keeping rules. And it goes far beyond looking out for the people of faith. Israel is to maintain justice for those people we tend to overlook.

*"You shall not pervert the **justice** due an alien or an orphan, nor take a widow's garment in pledge.*

*"'Cursed is he who distorts the **justice** due an alien, orphan, and widow.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'"* Deuteronomy 24:17; 27:19

It seems clear that justice is an important matter of faith. Scripture makes it clear that we are to be concerned that our neighbor, as well as the stranger, are treated well and fairly.

In our "Unraveled" series we will not only explore what happens when our lives fall apart, but how shall we respond to tyrants cause justice to unravel for others.

*"If a person has grasped the meaning of God's grace in his heart, he will do **justice**. If he doesn't live justly, then he may say with his lips that he is grateful for God's grace, but in his heart he is far from him. If he doesn't care about the poor, it reveals that at best he doesn't understand the grace he has experienced, and at worst he has not really encountered the saving mercy of God. Grace should make you **just**."*

— Timothy Keller

God's justice, through Jesus Christ, has forgiven us, and set us free! "So if the **Son** makes you **free**, you will be **free** indeed." —John 8:36

Thanks be to God for Generous Justice.

Pr. Rich

October Birthdays

1. Stephanie Finnegan
2. Tracy Abraham
5. Jessica Thornbloom
7. Leah Chalmers
10. Scott Abraham
11. Riley Mounsdon, Richard Nelson, Hannah Szech
12. Paul Christensen, Linda Manders
13. Jase Nevala
14. Marvel Sandbakken
15. Jeffrey Ellefson
16. Tia Dykema
17. Jane Amdahl, Vicki Hinrichs
19. Dawn Juntunen
20. Alan Larson, Rosemary Lynch
21. Altrude Daniels, Sarah Miller, David Pease, Jill Ramey
23. Phoeniz Neal, Stanley Paulson, Brandon Spanswick
24. Larry Werder
26. Guy Steinbeisser
29. Carter Grove, Zoey Thornbloom
31. Remi Chapman, Marie Larson, Linda Paulson, Riley Werven



Thanks to all who have helped with a variety of projects in September. Four quilts were brought in, seven completed on work days. Kits were assembled for Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministries.

Residents of Terrace Heights have been rolling bandages; a box of 250 will go to GHM.

It has been good to have help from young hands: Matt and John Ramey, and Nancy Taft brought over TJ and April to work with us. THANK YOU!

Carol, now living in Alex, continues to work on our quilts for LWR and Bev is getting ready for winter—crocheting mittens!

Many items were taken to LOVE, INC, \$200 was given to Habit for Humanity.

Next work days are October 12th and October 26th.



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Offering

August Income \$15,146.75
August Expenses \$15,255.08
Income to date \$114,044.92
Expenses to date \$104,031.86

August 30, 2020

Envelopes \$607
World Hunger \$86
Total \$693

September 6, 2020

Envelopes \$1,357
Habitat for Humanity \$100
World Hunger—ELCA \$50
Building Repairs \$150
Total \$1,657

September 13, 2020

Envelopes \$1,517
Loose \$6
Sunday School Offering \$4
Total \$1,527

September 20, 2020

Envelopes \$1,092
Sunday School Offering \$5.20
Bible Study \$25
Library Refund \$72.09
Tech Fund \$35
National Youth Gathering \$70
Total \$1,299.29

All bills are paid, benevolences through July 2020 are paid. Thank you everyone for your continued support.
Nancy Exley, Treasurer

Prayer Concerns

Shelly Engfer-Triebebach, Grace Johnson, Janet Werven, Janice Frank

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, Alice Sanders

Westview Assisted Living: Stella Bender, Audrey & Lowell Collins, Faye Maus, Bud & Madlyn Manders, Don Jensen

Out of Town

Alexandria: Knute Nelson: Altrude Daniels

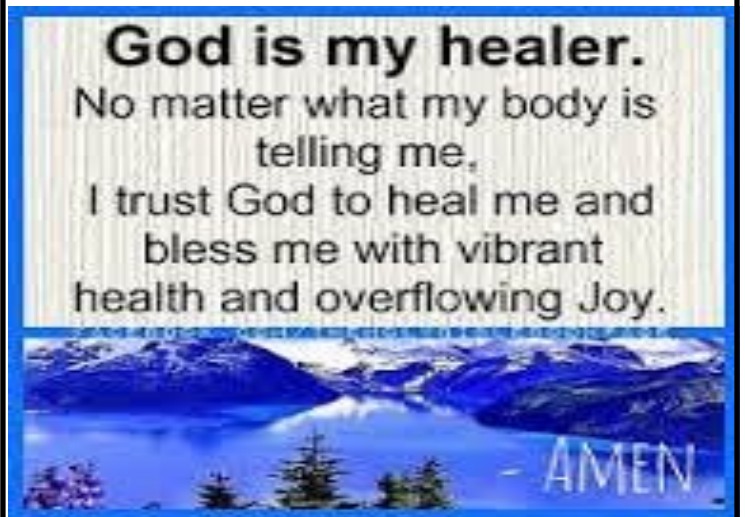
Windmill Ponds: Delores Stephens

Harding, MN: David Jorgensen

Long Prairie: Ruth Sherman

Sauk Centre: Diane Maloney

Please remember to include those who are our friends, neighbors, and members of Osakis Lutheran with a prayer, greeting, or a card!



Sunday October 4 Worship Service & Sunday School 10 a.m.

Sunday October 11 Worship Service & Sunday School 10 a.m.

Sunday October 18 Worship Service & Sunday School 10 a.m.

Sunday October 25 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

October Emphasis:
ELCA World Hunger

This year there is NO PENNY JAR. If you would like to contribute to ELCA World Hunger, please send your check to:

ELCA World Hunger
Gift Processing Center
P. O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

If you wish to contribute to ELCA Disaster Relief or Global Missionary Support you may send a check to the same address with a notation that it is for Disaster Relief or for Global Missionary Support.

OPERATION BOOTSTRAP AFRICA

There will be no OBA walk this year. For those of you who like to contribute to OBA, this year the funds will go to support a nursing student. The nursing school OBA supports is the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center, School of Nursing. It's located in Arusha, TZ and costs \$1,500 a student for one year. This includes tuition, room & board, and textbooks. Do we need medical people in this world? Oh Yes we do! So any donation you can make will go to help put a student through nursing school. Please send your donations to:

Operation Bootstrap Africa
5701 Kentucky Avenue North #200
Minneapolis, MN 55428
Please note in the memo line: Lakes Area Walk

Thank you!

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, September 9, 2020

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

I. President Jessie Thornbloom called the meeting to order.

Pastor Rich gave devotions.

Highs and lows.

II. Approval of Agenda:

Mike Curtis made a motion to approve the agenda, Paul C. 2nd approved.

III. Old Business:

a) Review of minutes – Melanie Stier made a motion to accept minutes of the last meeting. Mike C. 2nd approved.

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

Volunteers – Lil O, Jessie T, Mike C, and possibly Nicky Nessman (Lil will ask her). They will bring back suggestions by November Council Meeting.

c) Review mask wearing expectations for people in the building:

Pastor Rich noted that some people coming into the church/fellowship hall were not wearing masks. After discussion, council decided we should post at all entry ways that “Mask wearing is mandatory when entering the building.”

IV. New Business:

2021 Budget Preparations – Nancy will be handing out budgets at the October Church council Meeting with expenses listed through September 2020. October 19 due date.

Christmas 2020 – Worship Committee is working on this too, but Pastor Rich was asking for ideas from council. Possibilities: Services at school (gym), Community center, living nativity/progressive Christmas story (football field or Osagi Park).

100 day goal setting for this fall – Jessie T., Melanie S. and Pastor Rich participated in a webinar (Annual Roadmap) where they looked at our church values in determining goals:

A clear sense of mission

Build strong, healthy, relationships among members

Address social concerns (helping those in need)

The presenter suggested they continue to work with this form for future goals/communication plan timeline.

V. Reports

Treasurer’s Report:

Income for August \$15,146.75.

Expenses for August \$9,813.24 plus payroll of \$5,441.84 = \$15,255.08

Income to date \$114,044.92 with expenses to date \$104,031.86

All bills are paid. Benevolences are paid through July 2020. Lil O. made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Paul C. 2nd approved.

Pastor’s Report:

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September 16th Pathfinders begins Ditch cleaning, and Sept 23rd Learning.

September 21st & 22nd Fall Synod Theological Conference

October 4th Pastor Rich will be gone; guest preacher will be Pr. John Martinson.

October 11th Baptism, Sandbakken

C) Church in Society:

Collecting monetary gifts for ELCA World Hunger this month. In October they will be putting addresses in the Action News for those who would like to directly donate to: OBA, Global Missions and ELCA Disaster Relief.

D) Education:

Pathfinders –

\$40 per child/\$50 per family max to cover all meals.

Ditch clean-up on Wednesday September, 16th.

Confirmation –

Sunday October, 25th.

Confirmation banquet on Sunday October, 11th at 5:30 pm.

Sunday School

Sunday September, 13th: Backpack Blessing

Offering projects: Adopt-a-family/United Way

3rd Grade Bibles

Sunday October, 11th

2020-2021 Dates:

1st Day of Sunday School – Sept 13th

1st Day of Pathfinders – Sept 16th

Bible Sunday – Oct 11th

Confirmation – Oct 25th

Christmas Program – Dec 20th

Last Day of Sunday School – May 16th

Next meeting October 11th at 4:00 pm

E) Trustees Report:

An OLC non-member has volunteered to do weekly lawn mowing with our equipment. Thanks to all who have helped with this responsibility! We still need lawn trimming done. Call the church office to sign up to help.

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

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Kathy Ryan, Council Secretary



Want to start a new family tradition that will teach your kids about thankfulness? Every night for the month of October, gather as a family, and add a few items to your Thankful Pumpkin! You'll have a beautiful Thanksgiving decoration!



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.