



Monthly Newsletter of
**Osseo
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church**

50351 Harmony Street ~ Osseo, WI 54758
(715) 597-3213

APRIL 2023 | www.oelc.org | oelc@triwest.net | Pastors Terry Lorenz & David Hoadley



MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 6th

Worship Service at
6:00pm (livestreamed)

GOOD FRIDAY

April 7th

Worship Services at
Noon (livestreamed)
& 6:00pm

EASTER

April 9th

Sunrise Service

at Buena Vista Scenic
Overlook

(5 miles south on 53)
6:32am

Easter Celebration Services

8:15am (livestreamed)
& 10:45am



Church Staff

Pastor: Terry Lorenz
pastorterrylorenz@tcc.coop
715-533-8121 or 715-695-3524

Associate Pastor:
Dave Hoadley
Pastordave54758@gmail.com
763-221-1928

Parish Admin.: Molly Vold
oelc@triwest.net

Choir Director/Organist:
Dan Newman
newmandr4546@me.com

Accompanist: Cathy Hoadley

Custodians:
Nikki & Carl Holmen
Sheila Nelson

Financial Assistants:
Shirley Bagley & Betty Ward

Sunday Schedule

Worship Services:
9:00am
8:15 & 10:45

Sunday School

(Sept.-May): 9:30am

Wednesday Schedule

(Sept.-May):

Confirmation 4:00pm
Meal 5:00pm
Worship 6:00pm
Choir Practice 6:45pm

Church Office Hours:

8-4 - Mon.-Thurs.
8-Noon - Friday
8-Noon - Sunday



ATTENTION Ministries & Committees!

We need a picture of your group by the end of April. We are working on a project to show who the members are in these groups. Contact Molly to take your picture or send her a picture of your group – oelc@triwest.net



He Appears Every Holy Week Eliciting Mixed Feelings at Best

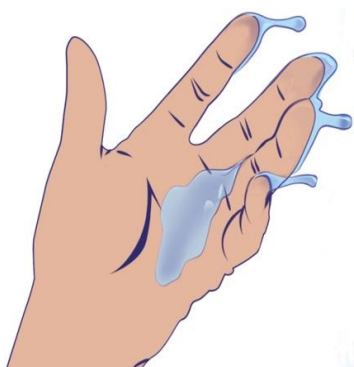
This year we'll first hear from him on Good Friday when, according to John's gospel Jesus, who has already been roughed up by the Romans, taken for a consultation with Annas the high priest emeritus, denied by Peter, questioned by the reigning high priest Caiaphas, denied by Peter a couple more times, and then at long last, when it was well into the wee hours of the night, will be taken to appear before Pontius Pilate – some have called it a trial, but that's a stretch.

One gets the feeling right away that Pilate, governor of Judea at that time, would have just as soon remained asleep in his bed next to his dreaming wife and oblivious to the story that was unfolding around him. But, for better or worse, it was not to be so.

After having been dragged from his bed into the middle of an already disrupted hornet's nest he can see no reason why the man they call King of the Jews, brought to him in the dark of the night, should die or be punished at all. What Pontius Pilate did find

was evidence that this man's problems were destined to become his problems if he was not very careful.

This is where the



mixed feelings I alluded to earlier begin to make themselves known. Pilate's poignant question gives away his own mixed feelings regarding Jesus Christ when he asks, "What is truth?" The truth, as he has discovered, can be whichever side of the story serves your needs best.

The opposing stories in this particular conflict have Pilate trapped between the proverbial rock and a hard place. If he has Jesus put to death, the locals will surely make a heroic martyr of him. If he sets Jesus free and there is trouble in Judea the Romans will want to know why.

In the end, amidst the agony of finding no crime yet knowing there is no way to avoid punishment I so wish that Pilate had found something else to do with his hands than to simply publicly and politically wash them for all to see.

I wish he would have raised just one hand, if not to save a life, then to bring a merciful end to the beating, whipping, and public humiliation. I wish Pilate could have shaken Jesus' hand or placed his hand on his shoulder and shared a few words of regret and comfort for what was to come.

To this day, when we confess our faith in what Jesus accomplished in his life, death, and resurrection we also confess what Pilate didn't do with his hands while he had the chance.

A blessed Holy Week and Easter to all,

Pastor Terry





Family Support Center Advocacy Hotline:

715-723-1138 or 800-400-7020

According to the Family Support Center (FSC) based in Chippewa Falls, January was both Stalking Awareness Month and Human Trafficking Awareness Month, February was Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, and April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Here's some information to think about: Safe Horizon, a national non-profit victim services agency (www.safehorizons.org) estimates that

each year in the US 7.5 million people (other sources say more than 13 million), both men and women, are victims of stalking; often, but not always, by someone they know like a current or former romantic partner. One in 7 victims relocate as a result of the stalking. Stalking is defined as a "course of conduct," meaning two or more acts, that causes emotional distress or fear of bodily harm. Some behaviors that are signs of stalking include:

- unwanted phone calls to home or work.
- signs someone has been in or near the victim's home, car, or workplace while she/he wasn't there.
- recording, monitoring, or photographing the victim's activities.
- repeated contact (letters, e-mail, gifts, etc.) despite being told to stop.
- attempts to get information about the victim from a third party.
- sharing information and/or rumors on social media or via word of mouth.

By Wisconsin law, stalking does not require a threat by the offender, only that the conduct is intended to or has caused fear to the victim or would be likely to cause fear to any reasonable person. Wisconsin's statutes classify stalking as a Class I [*as in India*] felony, with greater penalties under certain circumstances.

Worldwide almost 25 million people are considered victims of "forced labor" (including forced sexual exploitation), or "human trafficking." Data in Wisconsin are hard to quantify due to inconsistencies in legal definition of terms and data reporting practices. According to a report from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, during the 15-month period of June 1, 2017, through August 31, 2018, there were 99 substantiated allegations of child (under 18) sex trafficking in the state, involving 86 unique victims (meaning 13 were involved in multiple allegations). The interstate highway system in Wisconsin and Minnesota makes those states a common corridor for human trafficking of all sorts.

A 2019 nationwide report from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported 1 in 12 high school students who had been dating in the prior 12 months had experienced physical and/or sexual dating violence. According to Dare2Know Wisconsin, in this state that number is 1 in 5, with 2/3 of teens in abusive relationships not telling anyone about the abuse.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services reported that in 2012, 1.2 million Wisconsin adults said they'd experienced sexual assault in their lifetime, roughly 20% of the state's 2010 census population of 5.8 million. About one out of three women and almost one out of five men reported being victims, and again, 50% identified a current or former romantic partner as the offender.

In virtually all cases, people of color and members of the LGBTQIA+ community had significantly higher rates of victimization than Whites, and in all cases, under-reporting, and the issues like how to legally define certain terms suggest the numbers are actually much higher.

No one likes to talk or even think about these issues, but talking is exactly what needs to happen. Awareness and education are keys to battling the devastation caused by these misdeeds. FSC has information available on each of these topics, along with parenting support, on its website: familysupportcenter.webs.com. If you or someone you know needs support, call the 24-hour FSC hotline at **715-723-1138 or 800-400-7020**

Speaking for myself, I'm not any sort of expert, but I'm not afraid to talk one-on-one with anyone, especially youth, about these or any other topic regarding human sexuality. You cannot embarrass me by engaging me in a discussion about sex. Everything is, of course, confidential unless covered by the "mandatory reporting" laws (I have to report any suspicions of abuse or neglect, any talk of suicidal thoughts/plans, and any talk of thoughts/plans of harming self or others).

Blessings,

Pastor Dave

2023 Church Dates-to-Remember

April 2023

- 2nd Palm Sunday – Pancake Breakfast between services
- 6th Maundy Thursday – Service at 6pm
- 7th Good Friday – Services at Noon & 6pm
- 9th Easter Sunday – Sunrise Service at -6:30am
- 12th Confirmation Classes Resume
- 26th Last Day of Confirmation Classes

May 2023

- 3rd Confirmation Rehearsal (6:30)
- 7th Affirmation of Baptism (10:45)
- 21st All Grades Sing (8:15)
1-Worship Service Begins at 9am; High School Graduates Brunch following Worship & Presentation of Quillows at 9am
- 29th Memorial Day – Church Office Closed

Summer Coffee Dates:

June 4th, July 2nd, & August 6th

- All Saints Sunday – 1st Sunday in November
 - Church Council Meeting – 2nd Wednesday of month
 - Committee Annual Reports Due – December 1st
 - Harvest Dinner – 4th Wednesday of October
 - High School Youth Group – 2nd Sunday of month
 - Holy Communion – 1st & Last Sunday of month
 - Men's Bible Study – 1st Tuesday of month
 - Newsletter Articles Due – 16th of the month
 - Noisy Offering – Last Sunday of month
 - OELC Annual Meeting – Last Sunday in January
 - Prayer Shawl Gathering – 1st Wednesday of month
 - Quilting – 2nd & 4th Tuesday of month
 - Sunday Bible Study – 2nd & 4th Sundays of month
 - Sunday School – 9:30-10:30am, Sept. – May
 - Tri County Food Pantry – 3rd Saturday of month
 - Women's Bible Study – 3rd Wednesday of month
- ***Some dates change due to scheduling conflicts, holidays, or other factors.

Reminders:

PRAYER LIST – please let us know if you would like to add a new person or remove a current person on our prayer list.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – All submissions are due on the 16th of every month.

WHEN YOU HAVE CHANGES – Please let the church office know of changes to email address, mail/resident addresses, telephone numbers, job, college, graduations, etc.

NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN WEBSITE: www.nswsi.org

ELCA WEBSITE: www.elca.org

OELC OFFICE HOURS:

- 8 to 4 - Monday – Thursday
- 8 to Noon - Friday
- Church hours will be modified per activities.

Pancake
Breakfast



Palm Sunday

Pancake Breakfast

April 2nd

Between services

Free-will donation

Pancakes, sausage, applesauce,
juice & coffee



Mark your calendar for Spring is coming! Spring Salad luncheon! Wednesday, May 3 ~ Noon



Yes, yes, it is true!!! After 3 years of waiting out COVID Sue Warner, the apron lady, will be presenting her program at the W/ELCA Spring Luncheon.

Find your favorite Apron, new, old, or your grandmothers and wear or bring it to the Salad Luncheon. Be rewarded with a special program “Aprons-The Ties That Bind” by Sue Warner, St Paul, MN. Please bring a salad to share and invite your friends and neighbors.



General Operating Fund

Income & Expense Report—Through March 27, 2023
With Comparison to 2022 & Annual Budget

<u>Income</u>	2023	2022		
All offerings	70,311	49,221		
Other Gen.	4,418	5,023		
	74,729	54,244		
<u>Expenses</u>	2023	2022	Annual Budget Remaining	YTD %
Misc.	1,120	2,884	0	-
Pastoral Staff	57,133	47,399	184,391	24%
Non-Pastoral Staff	18,565	15,801	64,443	22%
Worship & Music	690	402	2,810	20%
Ministries & Committees	183	546	3,517	5%
Church Property	11,153	10,602	35,147	24%
Parsonage	1,637	1,917	7,363	18%
Admin/Office	2,287	2,341	6,463	26%
	92,768	81,892		

1-1-2023 Beginning Balance in General Operating Fund ~

\$ 16,744

+ 74,729

\$ 91,473

(- 81,892)

\$ 9,581

~ balance on 3/27/2023

Bills-to-be-paid=\$ 8,211

Other Fund Balances:

Mission: \$ 1,401

Special: \$ 42,616

Debt: \$ 18,483

Youth: \$ 7,748



- 1 Terrilee Bratsven, Peter Ottestad, Julia Simpson
- 2 Violet Konop, Nick Morales
- 3 Dionne Anderson, Jody Groell, Makena Koch, Peggy Lundberg, Steve Seefeldt, Jane Stanek, Croix Zawacki
- 5 Jackie Frase, Hannah Hallum
- 6 Millie Herman, Ginger Hong, Brian Zimmerman
- 7 Jack Kolar, Morgan Kubishak
- 8 Cathy Hoadley, Jenny Lange, Ann Schiefelbein, Everett Shaffer, Eileen Stensen
- 9 Matt Torpen
- 10 Ada Nelson
- 11 Lorraine Allen, Sawyer Anderson, Dave Hoadley, Iris Hoffman
- 12 Larry Bagley, Danika Kuehn, Joe Tietjens
- 13 Payton Bertrang, Nicole Toft
- 14 Ken Torpen, Devyn Vojtik
- 15 Brantley Hallum, Stacy Holden, Sam Jacobson
- 16 Addie Hoffman
- 17 Steve Velie, Emily Wilkinson
- 18 Cale Boettcher, Becky Larson, Matt Vold, Laurie Zimmerman
- 19 John Balliett
- 20 Butch Boettcher
- 21 Mitchell Halvorson, Kanon Kittelson
- 22 Iris Bemis
- 23 Harvey Baumbach, Eddie Miske
- 24 Mike Bemis, Sandy Bertrang
- 25 Colton Bertrang, Olivia Biesen, Sophia Biesen, Chase Nelson, Gordon Vradenburg
- 26 Dawn Daffinson, Michael Scheller
- 27 Destiny Eide, Mavis Rathjen
- 28 Dale Amundson, Noah Krueger, Abby Mulcahy
- 29 Camryn Christopherson, Michelle Diehl, Riley Nix, Braelyn & Wrenley Decker
- 30 Allyson Barka, Greg Dahl, Laura Eide, Kristin Flury, Cayden Guntner, Kennedy Vold

*If your birthday should be on this list & isn't, please contact the church office.



The Quilters meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 10-4
Bring a sack lunch.
Everyone is welcome.
If school is canceled, so is quilting.



Gatherings are on the first Wednesday of the month.
All are welcome!
For more information, call Lorna at 715-590-2159.



The ladies of OELC meet for monthly bible study on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. We use the bible study found in the Gather magazine. Copies of the magazine and study are available in the church office, or you can subscribe. Come join us as we study in word, prayer, and faith God's holy Word and it's meaning. All studies are held at OELC.



Retired Pastor Donna Fonner and Pastor Terry take turns leading weekly sessions in the Family Room. Topics of discussion will be the Book of James each Sunday through May 14th.

Grab your coffee and treat & meet in the Family Room after the 8:15 service. A copy of this short but important book of the Bible and schedule of weekly conversation will be provided.

Bible study will take place between worship services from 9:30 to 10:30 am

Osseo-Fairchild School District Nurse Ashley Hurlburt has created the **Thunder Supply & Market** - a resource room for middle school and high school students experiencing financial instability. A large percentage of OFSD students live in households at or below the federal poverty line. OELC is partnering to gather items that Nurse Ashley can offer in the **Thunder Supply & Market**.

Among the needs:

New/gently used clothing in sizes for middle school/high school students:

- Outerwear—coats, hats, gloves/mittens, shoes and boots
- Socks
- Underwear (new only, please)
- Everyday clothing—jeans/pants, shorts, T-shirts/other shirts, active wear, sleepwear

Easy-to-prepare food:

- Food items students can bring home for family meals away from school
- Daily breakfast and dinner
- Weekend meals
- Snacks

PLEASE CHECK OUT THE FLYERS ON MOLLY’S OFFICE DOOR FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Donations can be left in the basket next to the mini-pantry cupboard or given to Pastor Dave.

SPONSORSHIPS

OELC offers several opportunities to honor a loved one, commemorate a special occasion or celebrate a milestone.

BULLETINS: You can sponsor a weekly worship service bulletin. There is one sponsorship available per week. The cost is \$20.

ALTAR FLOWERS: If you prefer altar flowers, there is one sponsorship per week. The cost is \$25, or you may bring your own (2 vases) or order them yourself from Colby’s Florist. You may also increase your fee for special order flowers (more than carnations).

SECURITY SYSTEM: You can sponsor the building’s security system each month for \$25.

NEWSLETTER: The Parish Visitor is also available to be sponsored. For 1/2 a month, it is \$40 and for the entire month, it is \$75.

To sponsor any of the above, call the church office at 715-597-3213 or email at oelc@trivest.net. Payment can be made by check payable to “OELC” or online (still email to let me know what it is for).



“Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church”



“oelc_osseo”



Kwik Trip Cards make GREAT gifts!!!



Profits from the cards will go into the Youth account, which is used for kids going to Luther Park Bible Camp or any TGIF activities. They are available in the office. Thanks for helping support the Youth at OELC.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

If you would like to support our OELC Coffee Fellowship, here are 3 easy ways to help:

1. Provide treats & juice and serve as host/hostess
2. Provide treats & juice and the committee will serve for you
3. Sponsor treats & juice (\$30) and the committee will serve for you.

If you are willing to help with Coffee Hour, simply do the following:

1. Pick a date on the sign-up sheet
2. Write in your name
3. Put down your preference (see above)

1, 2, or 3



Volunteering TRI COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

3rd Saturday of the Month

At Osseo Rural Fire Station behind Stockman's

10:00-11:00 am

OELC is partnering with the Tri-County Food Pantry to make a limited supply of free food and personal hygiene items, including feminine period products, available to anyone in need between the monthly distribution dates. The Food Pantry will stock items in the Mini-Pantry cabinet just inside the south doors (by the office) and anyone is welcome to come get items whenever the church is open. Please spread the news to others who might make use of this.



FYI: Ruby's Pantry

2nd Tuesday of the month

4:00-5:30pm

Next distribution is March 14th at the Osseo Fire Station. Volunteers needed anytime between 2:00-6:30pm.



Noisy Offering to Support Osseo Elementary School Lunches

Our noisy offering in the past has been designated by our Worship Committee for the O-F Elementary School Lunch Program. Our noisy offering is received in the large metal bucket hanging in the sanctuary every last Sunday of the month. Thank you for your consideration of our Noisy Offering ministry.

CHOOSE HOW YOU GIVE

"All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God."

- Deuteronomy 16:17

Give easily and securely...

1. www.oelc.org/giving.html
2. Text "OELC" to 73256 & follow the prompts
3. Mail your offering envelope to:
OELC
50351 Harmony Street
Osseo, WI 54758

Choose How You Watch Services...

Livestream Options:

1. OELC website
www.oelc.org
2. OELC Facebook Page
"Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church"
3. YouTube Channel
"Osseo Lutheran"

Did you know?

If you go to OELC's homepage (oelc.org), the bulletin is available for every service

April Worship Assistant Schedule

Date	Time	Acolyte & Crucifer	Lector	Communion Servers	
April 2 nd Palm Sunday	8:15am	Tyler S. & Emerick K.	Stacy H.	Stacy H., Eric R., Betty W.	
	10:45am	McKenzie M. & George C.	TBD	Traci & Madi L., Jessica M.	
April 6 th Maundy Thurs	6:00pm	Need Volunteers	Amanda C.	Val L., Eric R., Amanda C.	
April 7 th Good Friday	Noon	Need Volunteers	Donna F.	<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;">Summer Coffee Fellowship</div> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;">1st Sunday of the month after worship service</div> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;">June 4th</div> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;">July 2nd</div> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;">August 6th</div>	
	6:00pm	Need Volunteers	Chris F.		
April 9 th Easter	8:15am	Gauge B. & Volunteer	Denny L.		
	10:45am	Need Volunteers	Michael S.		
April 16 th	8:15am	Kiearra S. & Lexi Ness	Jill W.		
	10:45am	Noah K. & Abby H.	Cindy H.		
April 23 rd	8:15am	Aidan E. & Gabe K.	Tom P.		
	10:45am	Ty S. & McKenzie M.	Betty W.		
April 30 th	8:15am	Ben & Emmett S.	Steve G.		Darcy, Steve, Caden & Zoey G.
	10:45am	Dalton C. & Emerick K.	Betty W.		Lisa S., Cathy H., Betty W.

A new Facebook group page has been created to share prayer concerns. The group is called Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Prayer Group and is a closed group, meaning people must request to join. This is an effort to make the page a safe space for sharing concerns and prayers with trusted people who will respect confidentiality. If you'd like to join, feel free to send a request.



IMPORTANT DATES

for

SUNDAY SCHOOL 2023

April 9th – Easter Break – No Sunday School

May 21st - 9:00am –

All Grades Sing

*****Please note the time of the worship service*** Last day of Sunday School. Kids will go with their teachers after the children's sermon and be done with class by 10:00am.**

Confirmation Information:

Wednesday, April 26

Confirmation Rehearsal & Class Photo in sanctuary. Report to church at 6 p.m. for rehearsal, class photo at 6:30 p.m. gowns will be at church and ready.

Sunday, May 7

Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)

- 10:45 worship service



REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR LUTHER PARK SUMMER CAMP! CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE!!!

Information on 2023 summer programs at Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek is available by the main office window. OELC will not be organizing a trip this year, but families can coordinate registering for the same weeks.

Luther Park is hiring summer staff and is searching for volunteer nurses to serve for a week at a time.

The "Heart for Luther Park" fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday August 6 at the camp. There is a live auction, a silent auction, children's activities, and a chicken dinner. Call 715-859-2215 or email info@lutherpark.org to register or for more information.



OELC High School Canoe Trip

We finally have a date for our summer canoe trip – August 4-6.

This year we have decided not to enter the Boundary Waters Canoe Area due to the scarcity of entry permits at this time of year. We are planning for a weekend trip on the Brule River in northern Wisconsin. We will be camping at the Copper Range Campground Friday, August 4th & 5th and returning to Osseo on Sunday, August 6th. We have room for 10 high school kids in addition to 2 adult chaperones. Please contact Pastor Terry if you would like to take part in this trip. There is no cost as OELC has received a very generous donation in support of this trip.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION SEASON!

Information for OELC's Endowment Scholarship can be found on the church's website: www.oelc.org/oelc-endowment-scholarship.html You can also check the bulletin board for information on King's Valley Lutheran Church's scholarship.



Graduating seniors and families: Mark your calendars for two events coming soon to celebrate you! The Community Baccalaureate Service will be held in the OFHS auditorium on Wednesday, May 17 (the same night as Senior Awards Night) at 7:00. Pastor Dave Christianson is planning the service but let me know if you'd be interested in reading scripture or otherwise taking part in the service.

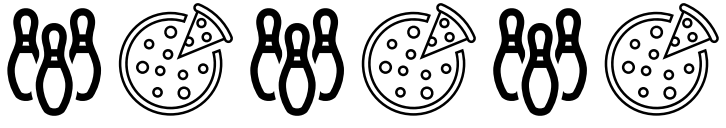
Sunday, May 21st Graduation Sunday Honoring our Graduates

The OELC Senior Brunch is planned for Sunday, May 21 following the 9:00 worship service. Quillows will be presented during the service. Watch the mail for more details!

YOUTH & FAMILIES: Because the second Sunday of April is Easter Sunday, we will NOT have a Senior High youth group meeting that night. Instead, we will have a combined TGIF/Senior High event the following Sunday, April 16. The event is family pizza, pop, and bowling at Wagner's in Eau Claire.

Details: 6:00-8:00 at the bowling alley. We can organize carpools to leave OELC at 5:30. Two hours of bowling, including shoes. Unlimited soda pitchers! One 16" one-topping pizza per four people (so 16 people = 4 pizzas). Cost: \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

We need at least 10 people to commit to this event to reserve the time. PLEASE contact Pastor Dave if you are interested in going, and parents, if you can help with driving.



Easter Message from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson ~ April 2023

Matthew 28 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it... the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said... go quickly and tell his disciples."

Dear Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Join me and that great cloud of witnesses this Easter in the acclamation:

Christ is Risen,
He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

The gospel reading for this Easter is from the book of Matthew. Matthew is the only gospel writer that records an **earthquake** on Easter morning. The women arrive at the tomb and are greeted by an earthquake, an angel rolling back the stone, and the news that their Lord and Savior wasn't there, **JESUS HAD BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD**. What? The women were filled with shock and fear. The aftershocks of this earthquake are still felt. The news that death doesn't win and is defeated by the power of God in Christ Jesus continues to shock and amaze us.



What if we imagined Easter not as a lovely spring ritual filled with pastel-colored eggs and candy but as the violent earthquake that it is? Few living in the Midwest have experienced an earthquake. A pastor born in California remembers her mother putting rubber bands on the kitchen cupboard handles so the china dishes wouldn't fall out when there was an earthquake. When has a death of a loved one shaken the foundation of your world? When have you realized how fragile life can be? Christ's resurrection from the dead, his victory over sin, death, and the devil shakes up everything. It is the good news that can even shake us loose from our grief.

What if we experienced Easter as a violent earthquake more like a fresh egg dropped to the floor than one hard-boiled and beautifully decorated? What if the Easter Earthquake shakes us awake, shakes everything out of the cupboards and closets so we are forced to do spring cleaning and decide what to put back and what to throw out? What if we get rid of stuff that doesn't work and give more space to what's important? What is really important? What is God's will for you? What are our Easter priorities?

What if this year the Easter Earthquake cracks open and rolls away the stone from our hearts, shakes loose old ideas, breaks down rock-hard prejudices, and opens us up to new ways to love our neighbor and to share this amazing good news that Jesus lives? What new life might rise up from the rubble? What new relationships might develop? Like a chick struggles to break free of the egg's shell, new beginnings are rarely easy, but they are worth it.

The good news is that Christ's resurrection from the dead and his victory over death is good news even to those who have experienced a literal shifting of tectonic plates beneath the earth. On February 6, 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Turkey and Syria leaving over 50,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands more wounded, displaced, or homeless. More than 10,000 aftershocks have been felt since February 6 leading to more deaths, fear, and trauma. The aftershocks will continue for a long time.¹

This Easter, in response to the earthquake that opened the tomb and to the good news that Jesus has been raised from the dead, I encourage you to give a gift to the Lutheran Disaster Response to help the victims of the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Here is a link to help you do that.

https://community.elca.org/middle-eastcrisis?_ga=2.89763675.1129066314.1679579365-256581953.1608055964

Suddenly there was a great earthquake...

In Christ,

Handwritten signature of Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/graphics/TURKEY-QUAKE/AFTERSHOCKS/dwpkdzklevm/>

Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Osseo, WI 54758-7395
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PARISH VISITOR
is the newsletter of
Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church
50351 Harmony Street
Osseo, WI 54758
715-597-3213
www.oelc.org | oelc@trivest.net
Please join us for Sunday Worship
Sundays
8:15 & 10:45
Wednesdays
9:00am (Summer)
5:00 meal; 6:00 Service
Pastor: Terry Lorenz
Associate Pastor: David Hoadley
Our Mission at OELC:
to share our faith and bring people
to Jesus Christ,
to love our neighbors as ourselves,
and to minister to the needs of ALL people.