



Monthly Newsletter of
Osseo
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

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

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

2023 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

WELCA Christmas Buffet	Dec. 6 - Noon
Midweek Advent Worship	Dec. 6 - 6 p.m.
Midweek Advent Worship	Dec. 13 - 6 p.m.
Sunday School Christmas Program	Dec. 17 - 8:15 a.m.
Midweek Advent Worship	Dec. 20 - 6 p.m.
Christmas Eve <u>Day</u>	No morning worship services
Christmas Eve Worship	4:30 & 6:30 p.m. -with Holy Communion and candlelight hymn sing
Christmas Day Worship	9:00 a.m. -with Holy Communion
Lessons and Carols	Sunday, Dec. 31 - 9 a.m. -no Holy Communion



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 (May-Aug.)
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



It Can be Tricky to see Clearly as Christmas Approaches

Have you ever noticed that it can be quite tricky to see clearly, even around the church, as Christmas approaches? In one sense I mean this quite literally as our neighborhood Christmas tree lot at the corner of Park Street and Hwy 53 flings open the doors come late November and brings out their seasonal wares of wreaths, greens and, of course, a lovely selection of nicely shaped, healthy looking Christmas trees. Don't get me wrong, it's a welcome sight as Valerie and I have, on more than one occasion, found the perfect tree right next to the place we come to work and worship. But you have to admit that if you leave our church parking lot via Park Street heading for Hwy 53 it can be tricky to see what is coming at you as you prepare to turn left at the intersection. The row of rotund trees nearest the road makes it tricky to see cars until you're well into the intersection so please take extra care.

In another sense, a more figurative one, I mean to say that it is tricky for many of us, driving or otherwise, to see clearly at Christmas time. For some there are just so many things to accomplish, places to get to or events and gatherings to take part in that our heads can seem to begin to spin causing December to become mostly a blur of activity. On the hand, Christmas can be too quiet and uneventful for others. The absence of loved ones and more independent days along with a general feeling of being less engaged and more alone in the world can distort our vision of the joyful time of year that Christmas once was.

Your church can help sharpen your vision of Christmas. We, in the name of Jesus Christ, can help one another; by encouraging those who are too busy to maybe just slow down, if only for the Sabbath. We, in the name of Jesus Christ, can reach out to those with too much alone time on their hands and let them know they still matter – to their fellow church members and certainly to God Almighty. The beauty of your church is that clarity, renewed meaning, God's peace, fellowship, inclusivity and so many other wonderful things are celebrated when we gather for worship in Jesus' holy name.

God's peace and joy to all,

Pastor Terry



The following was written before Mrs. Carter's death on November 19th.

I've shared in the past my admiration of former president Jimmy Carter and his lifetime of humanitarian work in response to his faith in the Gospel. But he hasn't been alone on the journey. In 1946, Mr. Carter, a cadet at the US Naval Academy, married 19-year-old Eleanor Rosalynn Smith, a friend and neighbor from Plains, GA. After her father died when she was 13, as the oldest of her siblings, Rosalynn had been helping her mother support the family and care for the other children.

Jimmy's Navy career kept them moving, and they had three sons born in three different US states. When Jimmy left the armed forces in 1953, they moved back to Georgia, where Rosalynn helped manage his family's multiple business ventures. Their final child, Amy, was born in Georgia in 1967.

When Jimmy entered politics, winning a Georgia Senate seat in 1962, Rosalynn was a tireless supporter and part of the campaign management team. She helped him in a successful run for Governor of Georgia in 1970, then in his campaign for the White House in 1976. She often traveled the country apart from him as an ambassador of his campaign message, using her quiet and friendly manner to win support for her husband. As First Lady of the US, she attended Cabinet meetings, represented the President at official occasions, and was his personal envoy to Latin America.

She had a love for the performing arts, inviting to the White House many artists from the US and around the globe, and helped focus attention on the arts in this country. But probably her biggest legacy will be her work with mental health. As First Lady she spoke before a Senate subcommittee on mental health in 1979, and after the couple left Washington and founded the Carter Center in 1982, Rosalynn created the Carter Center Mental Health Program. The goal has been to raise awareness of mental health issues, and to eliminate the stigma and discrimination associated with mental health and diseases of the brain.

Part of her vision was to see mental health covered by insurance companies at the same level as physical health issues. In 1996, the Mental Health Parity Act (MHPA) became federal law, which, while a small step, began a move toward that vision. The MHPA led the way to 2008's Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity (MHPAE) Act, which extended the original language to include substance abuse disorders. In July of 2023, the US Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services proposed another update that, besides strengthening the guidelines of the 2008 Act, would specify that eating disorders and autism care are considered mental health issues that should be covered. That proposal is still in the works.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, part of the government's National Institute of Health (NIH), more than 57 million American adults live with some form of mental illness, with over 14 million dealing with what's termed a Significant Mental Illness. The most recent update from The Carter Center notes that parity between mental illness health care and physical health care is far from being achieved. But the Center is working with a list of newsrooms like the Los Angeles Times, the Chicago Tribune, and Texas Public Radio to produce stories spreading the word about mental health, care, access, and parity. What improvement in mental health care the country has seen in the last 50 years or will see someday wouldn't be possible without the groundwork done by Mrs. Carter's high-profile advocacy.



Advent, Christmas and Epiphany blessings to you from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson, Synod Ministers, Elizabeth Bartsch, Sara Villarreal Bishop, Diane House, Lidixe Montoya, Randy Olson, Laura Ramlow

Mary the Brave: Mary the God Bearer

As a young pastor and working mom, I struggled with the challenges of balancing work and home life, often while carrying a child in my womb, arms, on my hip, in a front or back baby pack, or car seat. Now my children are adults, and I have the joy of watching them carry my grandchildren. They do it differently than I did, their car seats are much nicer than the ones we had, but like us, they carry their children with much love.¹ I still carry my adult children and grandchildren and will always carry them, in my heart with much love. This Advent and Christmas season I'm reflecting on Mary, the God bearer. (In Greek it's Theotokos².) Mary carried Jesus. Like all parents she carried her child with love, but she is also the God bearer. It was a brave thing Mary did to bear God into the world.

To love is a brave thing. It is a brave thing to become a parent. Mothers put their own lives at risk bearing a child in their womb and giving birth. It requires a measure of bravery for parents to bring a child into this world filled with the bad news of climate disasters, gun violence, war, political upheaval, racism, food/water insecurity, and escalating health and higher education costs.

History has painted Mary to be quiet, meek and mild, submissive to God's will, but a closer read shows us that Mary was brave. Mary was neither meek nor superhuman.³ She had grit. She was faithful, courageous, strong and brave. Most of all, she was human. Her encounter with the angel Gabriel, the messenger of God made her brave. She knew that her pregnancy was dangerous and she could die giving birth. She also knew that as an unmarried teenaged mother it would cause upheaval in her family and community. She would give birth to Jesus during Roman occupation, a time of political unrest. Mary was *brave*. Her encounter with the living God made her brave

Her encounter with God gave her bravery and the faith to see that if God was calling her God would also protect her. It revealed to her that God chooses the people on the margins, those overlooked and underestimated. Bearing God in the world was to bring good news and hope to those oppressed. May Mary, the God Bearer, inspire us all to be brave!

This Advent and Christmas season, I invite you to be Theotokos, God Bearers. I invite you to carry the good news of Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection to all those we meet on this journey of life and the love of Jesus in your hearts always. Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Luke 1: 26ff In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you..." "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God... For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

¹ Robert Munsch, *I'll Love You Forever*, Firefly Books (September 1, 1995)

² Since the 3rd century, Christians had referred to Mary as theotokos, "God-bearer." The first documented usage of the term is in the writings of Origen of Alexandria in AD 230. [Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God | uCatholic](#)

³ [Mary the Brave: Neither Meek nor Superhuman - CBE International](#)



Youth event nights 2023-2024

- Sunday, December 17—6-8pm - Grades 6-12 & families
Christmas Caroling & Party
- Wednesday, December 20 - 6:30-8pm - TGIF game
night at Boards & Bricks, parents welcome to join
- Wednesday, January 3—Senior high
- Wednesday, February 7—Senior high
- Sunday, February 18—TGIF
- Wednesday, March 6—Senior high
- Wednesday, April 3—Senior high
- Sunday, April 21—TGIF
- Wednesday, May 1—Senior high (depends on prom)
- Wednesday, May 8—Baccalaureate? (depends on district)
- Saturday, May 11—Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up
- Summer—To be determined



The next TGIF event is game night at **Boards & Bricks** in downtown Osseo on Wednesday, December 20th. Parents welcome! Please meet at the store about 6:30pm. Pastor Dave will arrive as soon as possible after Wednesday Night Worship. If games tend to bring on the munchies, Board & Bricks has present and classic snacks available for purchase.



Planning for the 2024 Appalachian Service Project Mission Trip is underway. We've been assigned the week we requested (a very popular week, so we're fortunate), meaning the trip will depart Friday, June 21 and return to Osseo Sunday June 30. Out-of-pocket cost is \$200 per person (scholarships available if needed) and can be paid all at once or in payments prior to the trip. All youth grades 9 through 12 in 2023-2024 are invited! Contact Pastor Dave for more information.

What is Little People for the Steeple?

"Little People for the Steeple" is going to be our focus at Sunday School this year! We're asking folks to bring nonperishable food items, personal care items such as toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, etc. Dog food, cat food, anything that a variety of donation sights in our area will accept. The Sunday School kids will be collecting these items the second Sunday of the month, which is also the Sunday that they provide special music at the 8:15 a.m. worship service. The kids will push shopping carts down the aisles of the church so folks can put their items in them. Our Sunday School teachers have volunteered to distribute what we collect and deliver them to places like OELC's Food Bank, New Horizon's in Whitehall, as well as the Osseo Fairchild School Store. Please help support our "Little People for the Steeple" any way you can! Thank you!



The Osseo-Fairchild School District Thunder Supply & Market,

which offers food, clothing, and other supplies to students and families as needed, has a hard time keeping personal hygiene supplies in stock. They are looking for **shampoo and conditioner, deodorant/anti-perspirant, soap/body wash, packs of toilet paper, and feminine period products.** Drop items off in the brown bin near the main office.



General Operating Fund

Income & Expense Report—Through November 28, 2023
With Comparison to 2022 & Annual Budget

<u>Income</u>	2023	2022		
LOC/trans/int.	38,853	5,943		
All offerings	294,471	229,959		
Other Gen.	29,016	30,153		
	362,340	266,055		
<u>Expenses</u>	2023	2022	Annual Budget Remaining	YTD %
Pastoral Staff	221,308	206,716	20,216	91%
Non-Pastoral Staff	69,843	68,840	13,164	84%
Worship & Music	3,510	2,769	(10)	100%
Ministries & Committees	1,158	2,091	2,542	31%
Church Property	40,864	42,218	5,436	88%
Parsonage	6,409	6,898	2,591	71%
Admin/Office	7,961	7,401	789	90%
Line of Credit	10,075	0		
Non-Op Exp.	11,254	13,572	-	-
	372,383	350,505		

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

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

\$ 16,744

+ 362,340 (Revs.)

\$ 379,084

(- 372,382) (Exps.)

\$ 6,702

~ balance on 11/28/2023

Other Fund Balances:

Mission: \$ 6,512

Special: \$ 41,729

Debt: \$ 725

Youth: \$ 5,888

Line of Credit:

OELC owes \$ 5,023.74



HAPPY Birthday FROM YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

- 1 Mark Consigny, Alyssa Hagberg, Walker Shaffer
- 2 Garret Bratsven, Ethan Fremstad, Brittany Minshall, Drew Vold
- 3 Chelsey Ashwell, Anthony Larson
- 4 Tim Abley, Ann Bechard, Gerry Bodway, Jolie Kuehn
- 5 Avery Nicolet
- 6 LeAnne Hugdahl, Torri Shimon
- 7 Penelope Boortz, Jan Indrebo, Sue Rosenthal
- 8 Matt Korger, Elli Larson, Jill Nelson, Maisyn Sass
- 9 Mark Vold & Gus Vold
- 10 Tammy Dahl, Mary Gunderson
- 11 Tryggve Korger, Esmæ Eide
- 12 Makayla Blattner, Susan Consigny, Gail Carlson, Joseph Cuddy
- 14 Orion Prudlick, JoAnn Rongstad, Scott Vold
- 15 Larry Husom, Mona Vold Jacobson, Nick Jacobson
- 17 Jamie Fremstad, Betty Ward, Danielle Palmer
- 18 Mary Allen
- 19 Jennifer Bothe, Eileen Fremstad, Henry Mach, Tom Peterson
- 20 Debbie Kelly, Bradley Moldenhauer
- 21 Gordy Hong, Kelly Vold, Patsy Walswick
- 23 Aaron Hagberg
- 24 Marceil Gunderson, Dave Iverson
- 25 Baby Jesus, Logan Boettcher, Nikki Holmen, Seymour Larson, Taylor Nelson, Connor Wilkinson
- 27 Kenneth Gabler, Carrie Ness, Dan Newman, Gerald Schaefer
- 28 Alexis Ness
- 29 Rylee Bratina, Hunter Brixen, Linda Ness
- 30 Sandra Jacobson

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



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).



BULLETINS
SECURITY SYSTEM
NEWSLETTER
in the church office

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



Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17 at 8:15am



Lectors, Communion Servers,
Acolytes, Crucifers, Ushers –
Christmas Day also!



Order your POINSETTIA(S) today! Every Christmas season, OELC members decorate around the church and in the sanctuary with red poinsettias which add to the beauty of God's house and enhance the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Please consider ordering a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone(s) you love, cherish, and want to remember this Christmas season.

Large Poinsettias = \$25

Regular Poinsettias = \$12

Please order by Dec. 4th

The order form is on the sign-up table outside the office. You are welcome to take your plant home after the holidays.



Friday, December 29th

The church office closes at Noon. Please have your end of year offering to the church office by 11:30a.m.



**Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 28th, 2024 ~9:30am~
Between services in the Fellowship Hall**



What is Realm? *Realm is a real ministry tool.*

Realm is a secure online ministry tool designed for real time connection. It helps our church connect with you and you connect with us. Realm allows you to manage your personal information and who is allowed to see it, control your giving, and keep in touch with the groups/ministries/teams that you are part of.

Why is Molly asking me to join Realm & schedule myself?

Volunteer Scheduling Tools – Create and communicate volunteer schedules: Realm church volunteer scheduling software provides staff with each member's serving preferences and scheduling conflicts to make the headache of creating schedules easy. And when life happens, volunteers can even request to find replacements to serve.

Church Volunteer Management Tools – Give time back to staff: Managing volunteers can be a time-consuming role for staff. Realm allows volunteers to assign themselves, at the times they prefer, mark when they can't serve, and communicate with other volunteers.

Who can view my information on Realm?

Realm is a private, password protected database system for members of our church only. YOU can choose your privacy settings to any of the following: "anyone in OELC", "leaders & team members", "leaders", "users with permission only" (this indicates OELC's staff only), and finally, "custom privacy" (choose different privacy levels for specific contact fields and personal information. Note that this information is always visible to users with permission to view profiles (staff).

Should my adult children remain in my household?

This is a great moment to encourage your adult children to create their own profile in Realm so that they can remain connected with us in their adult life.

Can I watch videos to learn more?

Yes, go to www.oelc.org/realm.html - this page is being updated weekly.

Are there written instructions for Realm?

Yes, go to www.oelc.org/realm.html and scroll to the bottom of the page.

Want to request an invite to Realm? Email oelc@trivest.net

Want to look up another church member's email? Log in to Realm.

Want to print your contribution statement? Log in to Realm.

Want to give to OELC? Log in to Realm.

Want more information about Realm? Check out www.oelc.org/realm.html

Want hands-on help with Realm & getting started? Contact Molly in the church office.

LET'S BE THE CHURCH...TOGETHER!



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 its meaning. All studies are held at OELC in the Family Room.



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



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

Adult Bible Study Schedule:

Sundays
between
Worship Services
(~9:30am)



"Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church"



"oelc_osseo"



Held in the west room at the Norske Nook at 8 am on the first Tuesday of the month, September through May.

This year we consider the theme of what it means to be a Spiritual follower of Jesus Christ. Our sessions are scheduled for one hour and generally consist of breakfast, prayer, fellowship, and reflection on the passage of the day. Below you will find our scheduled readings for the year. We welcome new participants.

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

How can I be sure?, An honest doubter

Reading: John 20:24-31

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

What should I do now?, Zacchaeus' new life

Reading: Luke 19-1-10

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

What does it cost?, Take up your cross

Reading: Matthew 16:13-28

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Under new management, Paul's change of direction

Reading: Acts 9:1-19

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Eternal values, The rich man and Lazarus

Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Kingdom priorities, Parable of the great banquet

Reading: Luke 14:15-24

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.

To the Council, congregation, pastors, and lay leaders of **Osseo Ev. Lutheran Church**:
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin (NWSWI) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America is writing this letter to invite you to participate in the upcoming election of our synod Bishop at Synod Assembly 2024. All congregations have three responsibilities:



1. Each congregation should send the appropriate number of lay representatives and rostered leader representatives if available to vote at the Dairyland Conference Assembly on Thursday, February 8 at 7PM at Faith Lutheran Church, Durand.
2. The wide distribution of information regarding the nominees, once all individuals have been contacted, and confirmed their interest or have recused themselves, is key. Discussion, town-hall style meetings, participation by all members is encouraged during the Q&A sessions and sharing of the biographic videos should be shown or taken to those who cannot watch it themselves. Healthy participation is key in any election, and non-voting observers are welcome at all gatherings.
3. Each congregation should send an appropriate number of lay representatives and rostered leader representatives if available to vote at the NWSWI Synod Assembly on June 7-8, 2024, in Eau Claire, WI to elect a Bishop from those individuals nominated and confirmed. Additional nominees can be made at Synod Assembly per open Ecclesiastical ballot guidelines.

The process for the nomination of a Bishop was changed at our last Synod Assembly and details will follow from your Conference Dean, Pastor Bethany Walker frclcpastor@gmail.com or 715-672-8107. Details and a full timeline is available on the website: <https://nswi.org/synod-assembly-2024>.

We look forward to navigating this process together, guided by the Spirit, in the work of the Kingdom of Heaven. With deep gratefulness, we thank you for your prayerful participation.

Sincerely,

NWSWI Bishop's Election Committee

VP Al Arndt

Rev. Erin Nelson

Rev. Kurt Jacobsen

Karyn Hullinger Sue Zahrbock

Elizabeth Bartsch

Rev. Sara Bishop

Rev. Greg Kaufmann

Rev. Mamy Ranaivoson

Madeline Leske-Oppedahl

Walking together † for the sake of God's mission † in the world

944 24 ¼ Street • Suite 2 • Chetek, WI 54728 • 715-859-6810 • Fax 715-859-6812 • www.nswi.org

Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church
50351 Harmony Street
Osseo, WI 54758-7395
Address Service Requested
* DATED MATERIAL *

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OSSEO, WI
PERMIT NO. 5



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

9:00am (Summer)

Wednesdays

5:00 meal (no meals in Dec.); 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.