

Parish Visitor

Official Newsletter of Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 2024



Sign-up to make
**SOUP &/or
DESSERT**
for the
**LENTEN
SOUP
SUPPERS!**

First supper is
February 21st
Starts at
4:45 until the
time of the
service.

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@trivest.net

Choir Director/Organist:
Open until filled

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

**Ash
Wednesday
February 14th
6:00pm**

**Wednesday
Lenten Services**

Worship at 6:00pm
Feb. 21 & 28
March 6, 13, & 20





I Think We're Gonna Need More Ashes This Year

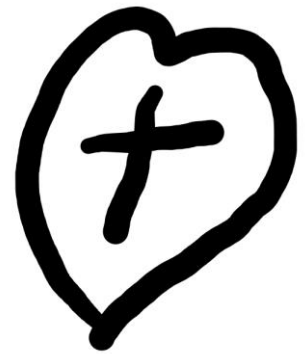
It would be a stretch to blame the absence of flashlights for the fleeing Israelites long ago on the converging of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day on the same day in the year 2024. It is true, however, that God's instruction for the timing of their long-awaited departure from captivity was chosen deliberately to coincide with the brightest night sky of the month so that His beloved people could, at long last, scurry out of Egypt in the middle of the night.

Way back then God had also said not to ever forget the events of the chaotic night His people finally broke free from Pharaoh. So those of us who still listen to God at least still retain the timing of the whole affair. That is why we call Easter a moveable feast and that is also why the season that leads us to Easter begins on a different day every year. This year Ash Wednesday lands smack dab on Valentine's Day, which is good for those of us who struggle to remember important days of remembrance. With that in mind, I think we may need more ashes for the celebration of remembrance we will take part in this coming Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day on February 14th.

I was just thinking that it might be a timely blending of two signs, not just ashes in the shape of a cross on the foreheads of God's children, but perhaps crosses within the silhouette of a heart drawn right where the whole world can't see you without seeing God's Lenten message for all of us, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return"...if it were not for God's love for you in Jesus Christ.

Time will tell whether I have the courage to follow through with an admittedly hairbrained idea that comes from spending too much time in my office by myself.

God's peace & joy to all,
Pastor Terry Lorenz





Pastor Dave and Cathy Hoadley give our thanks to all who gave cards and/or gifts over the Christmas holidays. We made every attempt to personally acknowledge each gift, but if we missed anyone, please forgive us, and know we appreciate all the people of OELC and wish you a happy, healthy 2024 filled with God's blessings.

Join us for Wednesday Night Worship in the chapel on February 7 for the stories of Jesus healing Jairus' daughter and the bleeding woman. The band "Kingdom 3:16" will provide music. The chapel service then takes a break during the time of Lent, when area pastors will be visiting for mid-week worship in the sanctuary. Wednesday Night Worship will resume in the chapel on April 3.

Upcoming youth events:

- Sunday, February 18: TGIF movie night—we'll check the local theaters for an appropriate movie, or else have one here in the Youth Room.
- Wednesday, February 21: Senior High—event to be determined. Contact Pastor Dave with ideas!

Throughout the Broadway musical "Annie," the title character repeatedly belts out a song confidently proclaiming that "Tomorrow they'll be sun." For a lot of December and the first weeks of January, it certainly didn't seem like it in Osseo. Day after day, the sky resembled the gray of a navy ship. No snow covered the brown grass until the morning of New Year's Eve, adding to the lack of color.

When I was probably in elementary school, my older (5 years) and (obviously) wiser sister and I were talking about clouds. I asked, "Why is there still some light outside if it's cloudy?" "You think a few clouds can block out all the sun?" she replied. Even during the darkest storms, *some* sunlight was making it through.

During the string of dreary days, we knew it was only a matter of time before the sun would shine again. We also knew, as people living in Wisconsin, that the snow would come. Sure enough, as we reached the middle of January, we got a substantial snowfall, and then finally the sun—along with below-zero temperatures and wind chills. As I write this, the forecast is for the bitter cold to last a few days, then a slow warming, so those who enjoy outdoor winter activities will get a chance to be out and about. I don't remember when my first airplane flight was, but over the years I still get a thrill when the plane breaks through cloud cover and into brilliant blue sky and abundant sunshine. That experience is a reminder that, as my sister taught me, the sun is always waiting behind the clouds.

Emotional and spiritual clouds know no season. There are various reasons why our friends and neighbors, or maybe ourselves, might feel as if gray skies dominate our lives for days on end. Individuals, communities and our world have faced and continue to face tragedies and challenges in recent weeks. When things seem dismal and colorless, it's tough to sing out with the confidence of the fictional Annie, but deep down we know the sun will break back through sometime. When the psalmist writes of dark valleys, they are places to travel through, not destinations.

As Christians, we don't control the clouds. We can't make the gray days go away for our friends and neighbors. But we can be the light that filters through even the thickest clouds. We can sit with them, and talk with them, and listen to them, and pray with and for them, while we all wait for the sun, or the Son, to come again. Maybe tomorrow, maybe not, but we have God's promise that light will one day replace all darkness.

Pastor Dave



Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

January 15, 2024

Dear Pastors, Deacons, SAMs and Lay Leaders of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

After much prayer, reflection and conversation with my family I have decided not to seek a second term as bishop. It has been an honor and privilege to serve this synod first for four years as the Director of Evangelical Mission and now for the last six years as Bishop. I am grateful for your partnership in ministry, your prayers, support and trust through these years. Serving through COVID was an unexpected challenge! Through it all I was proud of your creativity, hard work and determination to continue to proclaim the good news and care for your congregations and communities. I am confident that you will continue to serve faithfully walking in the way of Jesus in the future. Please know that I will pray for you and for the next bishop.

I invite you to take time in these next few weeks to pray about the bishop's election. Please plan to attend your conference assembly in February. This meeting will be the nominating ballot to begin the pre-identification process for the bishop's election. Your Deans will be sending information about the meeting. (I am grateful to the Deans for their leadership in the election process.) [Here is the link to the synod constitution which lists the expectations for the bishop.](#) [Here is the link to the synod assembly 2024 election information.](#) We will have some time to talk about the Bishop's Election process on January 30 at 2:30 p.m. at the end of the Winter Theological Gathering at Luther Park. (Spirit Focused Ecclesiology with Rev. Dr. Cheryl Peterson) If you haven't, please register [here](#).

You are receiving this letter on Martin Luther King Day, January 15. Martin Luther King Jr., the Baptist pastor and civil rights leader was born on this date in 1929 and was assassinated on April 4, 1968. This federal holiday is declared to be a National Day of Service. We are encouraged to volunteer and do something to improve our communities. Martin Luther's dream was to address the racism, violence, hatred and poverty and create the Beloved Community. I hope and pray that you and your members will take your faith to the streets and be servant leaders in your communities for Jesus' sake. In these last six years we have tried to create space for intentional conversations about racial, environmental and gender justice. It is my dream you will continue to do so. Please read the latest edition of the synod's justice newsletter, Just Love, Just Act for ideas on ways to continue the conversation. [December 2023 Newsletter](#)

I am so grateful for you the rostered and lay leaders of this synod and for the amazing synod ministers I've had the opportunity to work with over the course of these years as bishop. A heartfelt Thank You to Liz Bartsch, David Behling, Sara Bishop, Diane House, Greg Kaufmann, Lidix Montoya, Erin Nelson, Randy Olson, and Laura Ramlow. I am honored to have been a part of such great team of leaders. I have been inspired and learned so much from each one of you. Thank you all.

God's blessings, as we moving forward bravely in this new year taking the next most faithful step!

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson".

Epiphany 2, Martin Luther King Day



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Join Us Super Bowl Sunday!!!



Chili

Make the best chili to win a prize

FREE TO ENTER
&
FREE-WILL OFFERING
TO TASTE

COOK OFF

Have your chili to the church, warm & ready to be eaten, by 12:30pm.

Come join us for the PRE-Game

FUN, FAMILY EVENT!!!

Sunday, February 11th

12:30 - 3:30pm

Bingo
Bean Bag Toss
Games & Music
Trivia
CHILI!!!



Donate prizes for the drawing & bingo!

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.



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.



More and more people are giving to churches electronically. Whether they make individual online donations or set up recurring payments, they support the church in the same way as those who give in person.

Yet, when we invite worshippers to place their offerings in the plate, they are left out. Providing an online giving card does many great things:

1. It allows online givers to participate in this act of worship.
2. It tangibly reminds online givers of their gift, which may not be top of mind – especially if it’s automated.
3. It allows online givers to model to others the spiritual discipline of giving.

General Operating Fund

Income & Expense Report—Through January 30, 2024
With Comparison to 2023 & Annual Budget

Accounts	2023	2022
General Weekly Offering	\$94,215.00	\$27,070.00
Mission Fund Offering	\$4,260.00	\$305.00
Processing Costs	\$739.99	\$189.95
Altar Flowers	\$100.00	\$125.00
Debt Weekly Offering	\$1,275.00	\$0.00
Prayer Shawl Ministry	\$25.00	\$0.00
C-YADonations	\$600.00	\$0.00
Easter Lily	\$34.00	\$28.50
Lenten Offering	\$150.00	\$0.00
C-YAEvents	\$175.00	\$0.00
Easter Sunday	\$250.00	\$200.00
Gifts/Memorials	\$50.00	\$200.00
Miscellaneous	\$97.75	\$10.00
Poinsettias	\$25.00	\$50.00
Christmas	\$50.00	\$220.00
Sunday School Offerings	\$10.00	\$60.00
ONLINE GIVING 2023 vs 2022	\$104,079.74	\$28,458.45

<u>Income</u>	2024	2023		
LOC/trans/int.	860	165		
All offerings	24,499	23,255		
Other Gen.	1,358	833		
	<u>26,717</u>	<u>24,253</u>		
<u>Expenses</u>	2024	2023	Annual Budget Remaining	YTD %
Pastoral Staff	23,710	23,759	222,750	9%
Non-Pastoral Staff	7,042	8,040	76,575	8%
Worship & Music	0	302	5,000	0%
Ministries & Committees	0	28	2750	0%
Church Property	3,448	3,997	45,943	6%
Parsonage	791	606	9,959	7%
Admin/Office	252	668	8,958	3%
Line of Credit	10,131	0		
Non-Op Exp.	371	628	-	-
	<u>45,783</u>	<u>38,028</u>		



1-1-2024 Beginning Balance in General Operating Fund ~
\$ 27,422
 + 26,716 (Revs.)
 \$ 54,138
 (- 45,783) (Exps.)
\$ 8,356
~ balance on 1/30/2024

Other Fund Balances:
 Mission: \$ 778
 Special: \$ 64,606
 Debt: \$ 360
 Youth: \$ 6,144

Line of Credit:
 OELC owes \$ 5,063

2024 Church Dates-to-Remember

February 2024

- 4 4th graders receive 1st Communion (8:15)
- 11 Sunday School Special Music – 4K-4th grades (8:15)
Little People for the Steeple
- 14 Ash Wednesday – Service at 6pm
- Feb. 14-March 27 – NO Confirmation Classes
- 18 1st Sunday of Lent
Breakfast Club – Dr. Suess theme
- 21 Soup Suppers & Lenten services begin

March 2024

- 10 Sunday School Special Music – 4K-4th grades (8:15)
Little People for the Steeple
- 24 Palm Sunday
- 28 Maundy Thursday – Service at 6pm
- 29 Good Friday – Services at Noon & 6pm
- 31 Easter Sunday – Sunrise Service at -6:30am
No Sunday School

April 2024

- 3 Confirmation Classes Resume
- 24 Last Day of Confirmation Classes

May 2024

- 1 Confirmation Rehearsal & Photo (6:30)
- 5 All Grades Sing (8:15)
Affirmation of Baptism (10:45)
Last day of Sunday School - kids done at 9:15
- 19 1-Worship Service Begins at 9am
- TBD High School Graduates Brunch following Worship
& Presentation of Quillows at 9am
- 27 Memorial Day – Church Office Closed

Annual & Monthly Set Dates

- Sunday Bible Study – Sundays Sept.-May between services
- 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 – 1st Wednesday of month
- Holy Communion – 1st & Last Sunday of month
- Men's Bible Study – 1st Tuesday of month (Sept.-May)
- 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 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.

CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP
MEALS

Wednesdays
5:00-6:00 p.m.
Open to ALL



Worship in the
chapel Feb. 7th





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:

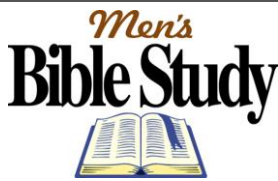
*Sundays
between
Worship Services
(~9:30am)*



"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, 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.

FEBRUARY Birthdays
HAPPY Birthday FROM YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

- 1 Jeff Frase, Kierah Green, Sharon Jermstad, Rayanne Walker
 - 2 Kacia Hagen, Jack Kempf, Hayden Smith
 - 3 Ruth Miske, Greta Nelson, Samantha Scheffer, Sara Giacomino
 - 4 Vanessa Fremstad, Dan Halverson
 - 6 Sue Coey
 - 7 Lisa Boettcher, Lorna Peterson
 - 8 Meridith Galstad, Kristi Hart, Eric Johnson, Denise Knuth, Jack Mach, Tiffany Vold
 - 10 Judy Johnson, Gabe Konop, Xavier Vold, Beau Nix
 - 11 Shirley Bagley, Matthew Hulett, Ben Jacobson, Kim Kubishak, Ben Walker
 - 12 Sierra Flury, Denise Johnson
 - 13 Cindy Anderson, Mary Jo Halvorson, Beverly Husom, Bennett Vold
 - 14 Nels Gunderson, Peggy Olson, Tonya Hagen, Ashley Skoyen
 - 15 Blayke Gunderson
 - 16 Darcy Guntner, Carie Prudlick
 - 17 Elliette Blattner
 - 18 Brenda Clouse, Martin Jermstad, Renee Preston
 - 19 Toni Dahl, Mark Hoffman, Bill Prudlick, Cole Swenson
 - 20 Ashton Bertrang, Kendra Hasz, Justina Zimmerman, Justin Larson
 - 22 Jean Bratina, Drew Severson, Madison Tankovich, Morgan Tankovich
 - 23 Harlan Bemis, Max Boortz, Brock Hansen, Candice Portell
 - 24 Watson Boettcher, Jenny Olson
 - 25 Harlow Clouse, Cierra Hansen, Joey Hulett, Will Smith
 - 26 Ty Hanson, Kinsley Jesunas, Arlene Vold, Brian Zimmerman
 - 27 Janet Johnson
 - 28 Kasey Bothe, Brenda Hong
- *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

Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church
50351 Harmony Street
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

9:00am (Summer)

Wednesdays

5:00 meal; 6:00 Service in Chapel

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.