

Parish Visitor

Official Newsletter of Osseo Evangelical LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2024



Church Needs YOU!

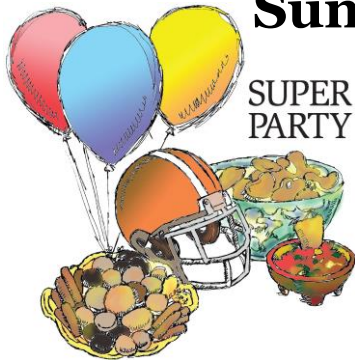
COUNCIL

Want to be a part of the decision making for OELC? Let a council member or the church office know you are interested in joining the council.



ANNUAL MEETING ~
January 28th, 2024
Starting at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall

OELC Pre-Super Bowl Party Sunday, February 11, 2024



SUPER PARTY

- 12:30pm – Chili Cook-off Competition Starts
- 1:00pm – Adult Trivia/Kids Open Gym Games, music & bean bag toss
- 2:00pm – BINGO for Everyone!
- 3:00pm – Door Prize Drawing & Chili Winner Announced

FUN, FAMILY EVENT!!!

Free-will offering, fundraiser for the church. Please invited friends & family from outside the church. Feel free to donate a prize for the door prize basket & bingo winners.



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:
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



EPIPHANY - IT'S ALL ABOUT WHO WE ARE IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST THAT HAS COME INTO THE WORLD

I doubt they had me in mind when the Twesme's, Tom & Rosemary, were once again carefully, thoughtfully placing the familiar nativity scene out front of our church back in November – but I couldn't help but notice.

I was working on removing the previous holiday's adornments - the deflated, frozen pumpkins inside the handrails at both entrances. As I walked from one entrance to the other in the early morning light, I noticed that, by God's providence, I had been added to the nativity scene. I was really kind of a nice feeling and a pretty good reminder of what the Church's season of Epiphany seeks to accomplish.

By now 2023 has given way to 2024 and the Church's season of Christmas has come to an end with the celebration of the Epiphany of our Lord. By now our lessons from scripture have moved on from the stable to the many ways in which we are called to faithfully live into our faith in Jesus Christ, Immanuel.

Through the season of Epiphany we will consider a number of call stories: God will call Samuel, Jonah, and wisemen while Jesus will call Nathanael, Philip, Peter, Andrew, James, John and other disciples. You and I are not exempt from these call stories for they all seek to direct us to consider who we are in the light of Jesus Christ, born among us to reveal who we are and how we will serve as faithful children of God.

A blessed and fruitful season of Epiphany to all,
Pastor Terry Lorenz





The transition into a new year raises lots of emotions. We wave goodbye to the ending year, using the number of fingers appropriate to how the year went. There's lament that we've aged another year and amazement that days can seem so long and years so short. There's sorrow for those who have left our lives in the past year, losses we couldn't have foreseen last January 1st. There's anticipation for the year to come, maybe plans for improving our health or making other life changes. Some folks make official "New Year's resolutions," and others say, "Meh, we'll see how I feel."

A new year also often leads to trips down memory lane, recalling events from years longer past. Some may make us laugh, some may make us cringe, and some may make us laugh due to how cringeworthy they were at the time. And we can be reminded of how our memories, our past, our history, continue to influence who we are today. That truly horrible thing we did or said hopefully taught us to never do or say something like that again. And the joys and successes we had built our confidence and gave us positive lessons we hope to pass along to the next generation.

Sometimes memories, especially when a group of people share the same memories, are called history. History is an important part of human existence. Knowing where we come from, as an individual or as a community, can help us imagine a future path, and celebrating our individual or communal history can invigorate us to keep moving forward.

Autobiographies and memoirs are a common way of sharing personal history. Even if the reader wasn't present for the actual events, she or he can usually relate to a similar experience. The treasured author Erma Bombeck made a long (but still too short) career out of this as she wrote about her off-beat, yet totally recognizable, family life.

The danger comes when history transitions into nostalgia, the longing for a past that seemed idyllic and an improvement on the present. Nostalgia often skews and omits certain details about the past. A lot of folks in our society point to some past "golden time," usually their childhood, when our world didn't have the troubles it does today. That may be true, but an honest assessment will admit to plenty of troubles unique to that point in history.

There's 130 years of history at OELC, 50 years of history at the present site. That's been celebrated over the years and will continue to be in the future. We don't know where God is leading us in this next year or beyond, but to me, the two phrases with about a 90% chance of damaging churches are, "We've always done it this way," and "We've never done it that way." It'd be foolish to totally ignore history, but it's equally foolish to allow nostalgia to get in the way of finding new and innovative ways of doing the ministry and mission of this congregation. Do you have ideas? Let us know! Not every idea can be implemented, but by talking and working together, we may discover opportunities for improving how we share the gospel message with one another and with the world. Thank you for your partnership.

Pastor Dave

Thank you!

To those who participated in the Live Nativity Scene during our Sunday School Christmas Program.



Baby Jesus: Ari Nicolet

Mary: Molly Nicolet

Joseph: Brad Nicolet

Sheep: Addi Nicolet

The Angels

Becky Larson

Judy Kolar

Shirley Bagley

Sara Boetcher



The Music Guru

Valerie Lorenz

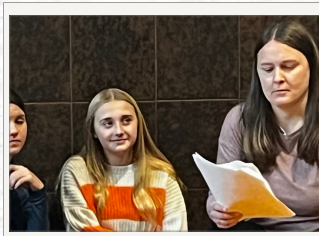


The Wisemen

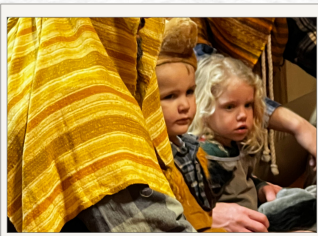
Jack Kolar

Chris Halvorson

Frans Carlstrom



Sunday School Teachers, Aides, Kids & their parents



Donkey

Hudsyn Hulett

Camel

Max Boortz

Cow

Knox Zawacki

Shepherds

Matt Hulett

Luke Boortz

Jimi Zawacki



Special thanks to

Jack & Judy Kolar for their donation of some new additions to costumes

&

Kay Vold for her help in repairing some of the costumes.

Osseo-Fairchild FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) is collecting gently worn, used & new shoes to raise money for their organization. They place a box at the north entrance of OELC & will be collecting through January 15th. For more information, contact Mrs. Stendahl – dstendahl@ofsd.k12.wi.us



Youth event nights 2024

- Wednesday, January 17—Senior high
- Sunday, January 21 – grades 6-12 & families
- 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



Senior high youth will meet on **Wednesday, January 17** following Wednesday Night Worship We'll have a **bean-bag tournament** in the gym with various **PRIZES**. Snacks and beverages will be available in the Youth Room. RSVP to Pastor Dave.

OELC and Elk Creek Lutheran are partnering to volunteer for serving a meal at The Community Table in Eau Claire on **Sunday, January 21, 1-5 pm**. All youth grades 6-12 and families are encouraged to come. We can arrange a carpool as needed. This would count for Confirmation service hours! Contact Pastor Dave with questions or to sign up.



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.

I give online

I support this church and its ministry by giving electronically.
I place this card in the offering as a way of participating in this act of worship.
If you are interested in giving electronically, please contact the church.

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



SYNOD-WIDE CREATION CARE ZOOM MEETING

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH @ 11AM

Does your Church have a Green Team or is interested in starting one? Connect with other Synod Churches as they share what they have done and their ideas for the future. We are also excited to share information about our Synod Creation Care Team. Please join us!

PLEASE SIGN UP TO RECEIVE ZOOM LINK:
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/FY1SPP8XJS4KZTIL9](https://forms.gle/fy1spp8xjs4kztll9)



General Operating Fund

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

<u>Income</u>	2023	2022		
LOC/trans/int.	48,961	5,963		
All offerings	334,367	262,841		
Other Gen.	32,413	31,111		
	415,741	299,915		
<u>Expenses</u>	2023	2022	Annual Budget Remaining	YTD %
Pastoral Staff	240,306	225,306	1,079	99%
Non-Pastoral Staff	76,604	75,024	6,403	92%
Worship & Music	3,510	2,769	(10)	100%
Ministries & Committees	1,450	2,246	2,249	39%
Church Property	49,247	45,990	(2,947)	106%
Parsonage	7,412	7,009	1,588	82%
Admin/Office	8,394	8,159	356	96%
Line of Credit	10,115	0		
Non-Op Exp.	12,006	14,235	-	-
	409,044	380,738		

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

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

\$ 16,744

+ 415,741 (Revs.)

\$ 432,485

(- 409,044) (Exps.)

\$ 23,441

~ balance on 12/27/2023

Other Fund Balances:

Mission: \$ 6,967

Special: \$ 40,623

Debt: \$ 1060

Youth: \$ 5,899

Line of Credit:

OELC owes \$ 15,075


HAPPY
Birthday
FROM YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY

- 1 Terri Swett
- 3 Ruth Anderson
- 4 Theo Hoffman, Tyler Langner, Lori Rongstad, Lester Bratsven, Heather Nix, George Clark, Hazel Price
- 5 Cassandra Stibor, Eldrick Halvorson
- 6 Nathan Stanek, Megan Gaulke, Marissa Gaulke, Bennett Kuehn
- 7 Marilyn Balliett, Anna Cuddy, Adam Julson
- 8 Lester Pederson
- 9 Serenity Knudtson
- 10 Ethan Kittelson, Mackenzie Scheller
- 11 Jenny Zimmerman
- 12 Madison Hugdahl
- 13 Linda Dahl, Kalynn Dewitz
- 14 Mary Severson, Jon Steinke
- 17 Mason Cuddy-Ness, LueAnn Schaefer, Jessica Mach, Jennifer Boshier, Piper Bertrang, Hayden Bertrang, Jedidiah Lorenz
- 18 Adelyn Helland, Tina Severson, Molly Vold Rosemary Hegland, Barbara Hageness,
- 19 Brandon Boettcher, Aliza Hollister
- 20 Trevor Holmen, Jill Lane, Carol Zimmerman, Caitlyn Carlstrom
- 21 Noah Green, Jamie Lindell, Charles Fremstad, Bryce Haas, Teller Ashwell
- 22 Jane Johnson, Ann Hallum
- 23 Emma Fremstad
- 24 Kevin Welke, Anna Boortz, Alex Vold, Jack Steinke
- 25 Sylvia Haugen
- 27 Jack Swenson, Breckyn Sass, Kelsey Higley
- 28 Isaac Iverson, Darcey Halvorson, Kari Smith
- 31 Julie Dewitz, David Hageness, Gordon S. 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



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:

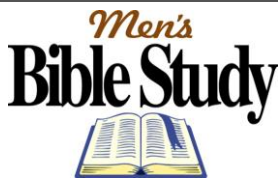
Sundays between Worship Services (~9:30am)



"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, 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.

2024 Church Dates-to-Remember

January 2024

- 3 Wednesday Meal & Worship resumes
- 7, 14, & 21 - 1st Communion Classes (4th Graders)
- 28 OELC Annual Meeting (-9:15am)

February 2024

- 4 4th graders receive 1st Communion
- 4 Installation of Church Council members
- 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
- 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.



First
Communion
Classes



January 7th, 14th, & 21st

Receive Holy Communion
February 4th



6:00 p.m. in the Chapel

Wednesday Night Worship themes for January:

- January 3: Jesus begins his ministry (**Mark 1**)
Featuring “Kingdom 3:16” and Holy Communion
- January 10: Jesus heals and teaches (**Mark 2**)
- January 17: Sabbath & appointing the 12 (**Mark 2**)
- January 24: Parables in Mark (**Mark 4**)
- January 31: Gerasene demoniac (**Mark 5**)

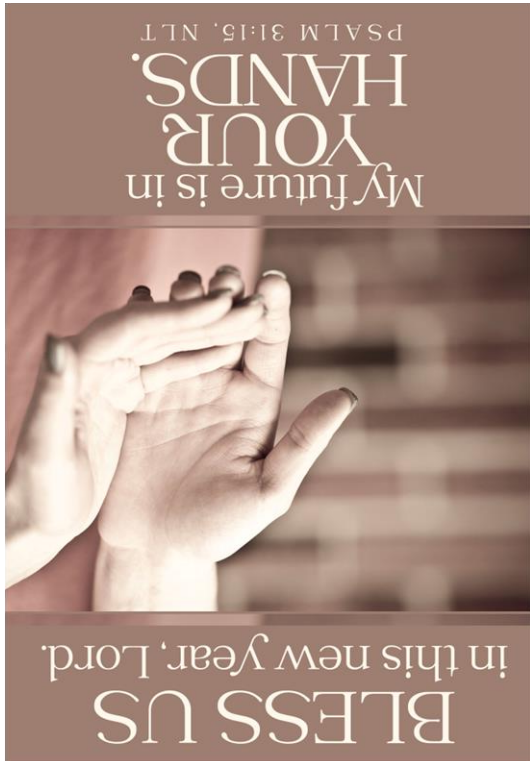


CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP
MEALS
RESUME

Wednesday,
January 3rd
5:00-6:00 p.m.

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

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OSSEO, WI
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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 love our neighbors as ourselves,
to Jesus Christ,
and to minister to the needs of ALL people.