



Monthly Newsletter of
**Osseo
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church**

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

DECEMBER 2021 | www.oelc.org | oelc@triwest.net | Pastors Terry Lorenz & David Hoadley

2021

OELC HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

No
Thanksgiving Eve
Service this year

Midweek Advent services will be:
Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, & 22 at 6:00pm

Christmas Eve ~ 2 Services:

4:30pm (live streamed) & 6:30pm
(Sign-up not required this year)

Christmas Day Worship at 9:00am
Sunday, Dec. 26 ~ 9:00am
Lessons & Carols

Church Staff

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

Associate Pastor:
Dave Hoadley
pastordavid@tcc.coop
715-597-3213

Parish Admin.: Molly Vold
oelc@triwest.net

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

Custodians:
Nikki & Carl Holmen
Mia Nicolai

Financial Assistants:
Shirley Bagley & Betty Ward

Sunday Schedule

Worship Services:
8:15 & 10:45am

Sunday School:
9:30am

Wednesday Schedule:

Confirmation 4:00pm
Meal 5:00pm
(No meal during Advent)
Worship 6:00pm
Choir Practice 6:45pm

Church Hours:

8-4 - Mon., Tues., Thurs.
8-7 - Wednesday
8-Noon - Friday
7-Noon - Sunday

POINSETTIA SALE

Small Poinsettia = \$11
Large Poinsettia = \$24
Orders due by Dec. 6th

YEAR-END OFFERING

**REMINDER: Please have your 2021 year-end
OELC offering to the church office
by Noon on Friday, December 31st ~ Thank you!**

**ANNUAL MEETING ~ January 30th, 2022
Starting at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall**



Zechariah-

The Quietest of the Advent Voices

Surely you remember good ol' Zechariah from the Bible, don't you? If not, let me try to narrow it down a bit. Do you remember the good ol' Zechariah who we meet in the first chapter of Luke's gospel? He is the last entry under said

him, perhaps even forgotten who he was. You see he was married to lady named Elizabeth for a good long time and, while their many years together were blessed in a great many ways, the two of them had seemingly been overlooked in one significant way – they had had no child.

In addition, Zechariah, who was a temple priest in Jerusalem, seldom had the opportunity to perform what must have been one of the most desirable parts of his work. He was one of thousands of temple priests who waited patiently for their bi-annual one-week rotation in the temple. More specifically within his two weeks of temple service each year Zechariah no doubt waited with great hope for the chance to enter into the inner sanctum to tend to the incense altar in order that prayers might be lifted up to God Almighty. He had been passed over by the casting of lots a great many times and was an old man when his name was finally chosen.

What a day in the life of Zechariah, finally it would be he and God alone in the heart of the temple - except it wasn't just he and God alone. If you are remembering the story now you'll remember that an angel of the Lord named Gabriel was present as well. It turns out, according to Gabriel, that God had not overlooked Zechariah & Elizabeth but, rather, had chosen them to bear a son who would announce and prepare the way for the arrival the long-awaited Messiah, the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Somewhat startled, I imagine, Zechariah poses a seemingly fair question: 'How will I know that this is so?' and it gets him even more attention from God, albeit the wrong kind of attention. Gabriel rationalizes in response to Zechariah's question, "because you did not believe my words... you will become mute, unable to speak". And thus, the Zechariah of many biblical Zechariahs, the New Testament temple priest who has an up-close encounter with the angel of the Lord, and the first witness to the dawning age of the coming of the long-awaited Messiah becomes the quietest of all the Advent voices.

You may remember the occasion when Zechariah is finally allowed to speak again, it's nine plus months after his encounter with Gabriel the angel. Elizabeth has given birth to a son and on the eighth day of his life he is to be named and marked outwardly as a child of God's. The naming becomes the stumbling block on that long-ago day. There is no discussion about the boy being marked outwardly in circumcision but there is plenty of discussion as to what his name will be. Finally, it is Zechariah who declares in writing (all caps I always imagine) **THE BOY'S NAME SHALL BE JOHN.**

The gospel writer Luke records that giving the child the name John, or Zechariah getting his voice back, or him praising God with great passion caused quite a ruckus that day. It elicited fear that came out in the form of a collective question, "What then will this child become?"

The answer to that question comes in the last 14 verses of Luke, chapter one. You should read it as a reminder this Advent season. It is a powerful and important prophesy from the quietest of all the Advent voices announcing the coming of the Savior of the world. It is also a birth announcement for



Like so many things in our world, the pandemic has scuttled the ability for OELC youth to gather and plan events since early 2020, but we're starting to ramp things up again! On Sunday November 7, a group of senior high youth had a great time in the new Youth Room for pizza and the movie "Back to the Future." Soon folding chairs will be moved out and comfy furniture will be moved in, and plans are being made for preparing the walls to be painted. Once the prep

work is done, youth grades 6-12 will be able to help design and paint the walls and hang curtains. The Youth Room is available on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, but really can be used any time the church is open.

Maybe even more exciting is that a senior high mission trip with Appalachia Service Project is in the works. As I write this, we have registered for summer 2022, giving them a first and second choice of weeks in July and a first and second choice of states to travel to. When ASP lets me know these details, I will pass them along via family e-mail, Facebook, and bulletin announcements. We can add people as long as ASP has space for the chosen week, so if youth haven't signed up, please contact me ASAP. Please DO NOT let financial concerns keep youth from signing up—we will do fundraisers and have scholarship moneys available as needed. Adult crew leaders/chaperones needed!



The next senior high event is a Christmas party planned for Sunday evening, December 12th at 6:00 in the Youth Room. Those attending are asked to bring a wrapped gift (\$10 range) to include in a gift exchange game. We'll also have food and Christmas music. Any adults willing to help plan and host, please contact me.

Another quick but sincere "thank you" to all who helped at the Harvest Supper! The enthusiasm and hard work of the youth set the tone for all involved that day.

Congrats to all who were part of the recent choir and band concerts! It's great to see and hear the talent of the young people in our congregation and our community, and I look forward to future concerts. Best of luck to those getting ready for winter sports; have a fun and safe season!

Wishing everyone a blessed Advent and a wonder-full Christmas!

Pastor Dave Hoadley

Christmas Message to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Psalm 137:4 How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?

In 1926, my maternal grandmother left Germany and immigrated to the United States. One of my earliest memories is singing Silent Night (Stille Nacht) in German by the Christmas tree in her small house in Jackson, MN. I wonder what it was like for her to move to a foreign land not speaking the language. I wonder how difficult it must have been for her to sing her song in a foreign land.

Last Christmas most of us couldn't gather inside our church buildings to sing Silent Night on Christmas Eve. Some of us sang to our computer screens, some sang in their cars in the parking lot, some sang with masks. We were all trying to sing the Lord's song in a foreign land, the land of COVID. It has been difficult. Our song has been muted.

Psalm 137 is a lament Psalm. The writer of Psalm 137 is describing the pain of the people who were forced to live in a foreign land after witnessing the destruction of their homeland and their temple. They are grieving the losses, lamenting, crying, and finding it impossible to "sing the Lord's song in a foreign land."

My heart goes out to the Afghan Refugees who are experiencing their first winter at Fort McCoy. I wonder how difficult it will be for them to sing their songs of faith in a foreign land. Many know that they will never go home again.

In Luke 1 Mary sings her song in unknown territory. She has received the message from Gabriel that she will bear God's son and his name is to be Jesus, and he will reign as king forever. This incomprehensible message is confirmed by her relative Elizabeth and changes Mary's life's circumstances. Mary is asked to do what no one has ever done before. This is uncharted and foreign territory for a young girl. She sings her song in a foreign land like her sisters before her Miriam, Ruth, and Hannah. She sings a song of courage, faith, hope, and love.

This Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season I invite you to reflect on Mary's song as an old song sung in new circumstances. Many of us and our churches find ourselves dealing with circumstances we might not have chosen for ourselves and wish were different, circumstances that might cause us to lament and grieve. We are here now. Sing. Join Mary and the faithful of every time and place, that great cloud of witnesses, and sing of courage, faith, hope, and love. Sing. Sing an old song of trust in unfamiliar territory, and sing a new song of hope in a new land. We are here now.

May the Hope of Advent, Joy of Christmas and Light of Epiphany bring you Peace.

Bishop Laurie

Luke 1:46-49
And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name."



Reminders

PRAYERS 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: nswwi.org

ELCA WEBSITE: www.elca.org

OELC OFFICE HOURS:

- 8 to 4 - Mon., Tues., & Thurs.
- 8 to 7 - Wednesday
- 8 to Noon - Friday
- 7 to Noon - Sunday

This is YOUR Chance!

If we've not called you yet, this is your chance to raise your hand, so to speak, to let the Nominating Committee know of your willingness to serve in one of several volunteer roles in congregational leadership for the coming year.

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates to stand for election for 3 three-year terms on the Congregation Council, as well as three members to serve as representatives to the synod assembly next May, two members to serve as representatives on the OELC Endowment Committee, two-four members to join the Personnel Committee (to assist and advise the Council on matters of personnel administration), two-four members to join the Stewardship/Finance Committee and two new Nominations Committee members, to assist next year's outgoing Council members in this same work.

Of these roles, serving on the Council is perhaps the most "time-intensive," and yet even these leaders serve only a few hours each month: one 60-120-minute meeting, the 2nd Wednesday of each month, after 30-60 minutes of meeting preparation and review, plus serving on various work groups or committees, for another 30-60 minutes each month. A total commitment of less than five hours each month, and yet together, these leaders can support the works of countless volunteers and staff, all throughout our congregation.

We hope you'll hear this call and be moved to reach out. Preparations are being finalized this month for the upcoming election and activities for the annual meeting at the end of January. Are you ready to say "YES!"? Contact any member of the Nominating Committee: Brent McCune, Patty Hoffman, Linda Heiman, Vern Larson, or Shannon Hasz. They'd all be happy to answer questions or share their experiences. Don't delay any longer, your moment is now!

2020 ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, January 30 at 9:30am

December Birthdays

- 1 Mark Consigny, Alyssa Hagberg
- 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 Orion Hestekin, LeAnne Hugdahl, Torri Shimon
- 7 Penelope Boortz, Jan Indrebo, Janelle Hestekin, Sue Rosenthal
- 8 Matt Korger, Elli Larson, Jill Nelson
- 9 Mark Vold & Gus Vold
- 10 Tammy Dahl, Mary Gunderson
- 11 Tryggve Korger
- 12 Makayla Blattner, Susan Consigny, Joseph Cuddy
- 13 Ella Bischoff, Danielle Langner, Shey Whited
- 14 Orion Prudlick, JoAnn Rongstad, Scott Vold, Darcy Wall
- 15 Larry Husom, Mona Vold Jacobson, Nick Jacobson
- 17 Jamie Fremstad, Betty Ward
- 18 Mary Allen, Wyatt Felber
- 19 Jennifer Bothe, Eileen Fremstad, Henry Mach, Tom Peterson
- 20 Jase Barney, Debbie Kelly, Bradley Moldenhauer
- 21 Gordy Hong, Kelly Vold, Patsy Walswick
- 22 Samantha Krienke
- 23 Aaron Hagberg, Megan Merritt, Graham Tiller
- 24 Marceil Gunderson, Dave Iverson
- 25 Jesus, Logan Boettcher, Seymour Larson, Taylor Nelson, Connor Wilkinson
- 27 Kenneth Gabler, Carrie Ness, Dan Newman, Gerald Schaefer
- 28 Cody Carlstrom, Alexis Ness, Zach Williams
- 29 Rylee Bratina, Hunter Brixen, Linda Ness, Karlee Olson

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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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

QUILTING

Quilting Ladies meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 10 a.m.—4PM.

Bring a sack lunch. Everyone is welcome. If school is canceled, so is quilting.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The OELC Men's Bible Study Group meets on the first Tuesday morning of the month.

Please help spread the word that all are welcome to attend our monthly sessions.

Our next bible study will be held on Tuesday, December 7th, 2021, at 8a.m. at the Norske Nook and will be based on Luke 24:13-35 and is entitled "Hope for Healing." Any

questions or concerns, please call Pastor Terry Lorenz at 715-533-8121, 715-695-3524, or call the church office. You may bring your own bible or use the handouts provided.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study has returned with a record number of ladies!!! 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 in the Family Room.

Although the Gathering has been postponed a year, we are still super excited to be with you in 2022 to experience God's boundlessness in Minneapolis. Print this page and cut out the new poster details to attach to your 2021 Gathering poster. Make sure to snap a picture and tag us on social media!



2022 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

NEW DATES. SAME BOUNDLESS GOD.

#ELCAYG2022

July 24-28, 2022

Minneapolis, MN

gathering@elca.org

888-411-3522

elca.org/gathering

MYLE
MULTICULTURAL
YOUTH LEADERSHIP
EVENT OF THE ELCA



PRE-GATHERING EVENTS
JULY 21-24



the tAble
AN ELCA GATHERING
OF YOUTH
WITH DISABILITIES

Update your poster, then tag us in your post! #ELCAYG2022

[fb.com/youthgathering](https://www.facebook.com/youthgathering)

[@elcagathering](https://twitter.com/elcagathering)

#ELCAYG2022



Find us on
Facebook

“Osseo Evangelical
Lutheran Church”



Follow us on
Instagram

“oelc_osseo”



Wednesdays

Snack: 3:40; Class: 4:00;
Meal: 5:00; Worship: 6:00

SUNDAY SCHOOL

2021-2022 IMPORTANT DATES

December 19 ~ 4K-6th grade

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 8:15 a.m.

- 12/26 —NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 1/2 —NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 2/13 —4K-4th grades SPECIAL MUSIC at 8:15 a.m.
- 3/13 —4K-4th grades SPECIAL MUSIC at 8:15 a.m.
- 4/10 —4K-4th grades SPECIAL MUSIC at 8:15 a.m.
- 4/17 —NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (EASTER Break)
- 5/8 —Last Day of Sunday School -
ALL GRADES SINGING at 8:15 a.m.

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.



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”



Volunteering

TRI COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

3rd Saturday of the Month
At Osseo Rural Fire Station
behind Stockman's
10:00-11:00 am



2nd Tuesday of the Month
At Osseo Rural Fire Station behind Stockman's
3:00-4:30 PM

It will be outdoor drive through if weather
permits and drive through inside the
fire station if weather is bad.

Guests donate \$20 for one share of food.
Limit of 2 shares per car.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please come help at 1:30, if possible,
or when you can get there.

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. Simply Giving (see Molly
in the church office)
3. Text “OELC” to 73256
& follow the prompts
4. Mail your offering envelope to:
OELC
50351 Harmony Street
Osseo, WI 54758

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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Dec. 1st WELCA Christmas Buffet
 Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22 Midweek Advent Service at 6:00pm
 (no meal during Advent)
 Dec. 12th Youth Group Christmas Party
 Dec. 19th Sunday School Christmas Program (8:15)
 Dec. 24th Candlelight Services at 4:30pm (live
 streamed) & 6:30pm
 ~Sign-up not required this year~
 Dec. 25th Christmas Day Service at 9:00am
 Dec. 26th Lessons & Carols Service at 9:00am
 March 2nd Ash Wednesday
 March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6 Lent
 April 10th Palm Sunday
 April 14th Maundy Thursday
 April 15th Good Friday
 April 17th Easter Sunday
 Jan. 3rd WELCA Booklet Assembly (10am)
 Jan. 30th OELC Annual Meeting between services
 May 4th WELCA Salad Luncheon
 July 24-28, 2022 National ELCA Youth Gathering in
 Minneapolis

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 8:15 & 10:45
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 Associate Pastor: David Hoadley
 Our Mission at OELC:
 to share our faith and bring people
 to love our neighbors as ourselves,
 and to minister to the needs of ALL people.

PARISH VISITOR