



Monthly Newsletter of  
**Osseo  
 Evangelical  
 Lutheran  
 Church**

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

# PARISH VISITOR

MAY 2023 | [www.oelc.org](http://www.oelc.org) | [oelc@triwest.net](mailto:oelc@triwest.net) | Pastors Terry Lorenz & David Hoadley



**CONFIRMATION**  
 SUNDAY  
**MAY 7TH**  
**10:45am**

## Church Staff

Pastor: Terry Lorenz  
[pastorterrylorenz@tcc.coop](mailto:pastorterrylorenz@tcc.coop)  
 715-533-8121 or 715-695-3524

Associate Pastor:  
 Dave Hoadley  
[Pastordave54758@gmail.com](mailto:Pastordave54758@gmail.com)  
 763-221-1928

Parish Admin.: Molly Vold  
[oelc@triwest.net](mailto:oelc@triwest.net)

Choir Director/Organist:  
 Dan Newman  
[newmandr4546@me.com](mailto: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



**May 17<sup>th</sup> ~ 7pm**  
**O-F H.S. Auditorium**

**PRESENTATION**  
 of  
**THE**  
  
**QUILLOW'S**  
**9:00am**  
**May 21st**



*All Sunday School Youth Sing*

JOIN US THIS  
**SUMMER**  
 SUMMER WORSHIP

**9:00am**  
**(1-service)**  
**Begins May 21<sup>st</sup>**



## ***10 Confirmands to Affirm Their Baptism at OELC***

On Sunday, May 7, 2023, at our 10:45 a.m. worship service ten young men and women will come forward to publicly declare their intention to remain in a covenant.

At this age, early on in their teen years for most, they already have a general understanding of what is at the heart of a covenant. If they bought their own phone and data plan, they know what a contract is, if they have been involved with scouting they understand the obligations of an oath taken, and certainly all students of public schools know all about codes that must be adhered to in order to remain in good standing. In many ways we begin preparing our children to live in a world of contracts, obligations, and codes from a young age. But the covenant that we are asking them to speak to on Confirmation Sunday is different, for its origin is of God and its success is dependent upon God.

“Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism?” we ask of our confirmands. “I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.” is the response the community waits to



This covenant, God's covenant, is lopsided compared to the covenants the world offers for our well-being. In the covenants of this world the work of the document is clearly defined and most often evenly divided; the covenant states what we can or cannot do and we respond accordingly. In the mysterious covenant of holy baptism, we rely on God for all things.

It is God who first gives us life and then gives us everlasting life in holy baptism, Jesus Christ who shows us love unto death and then victory over death, and the Holy Spirit who shows us the power of God and then empowers us in faith.

The Affirmation of Baptism is a wonderful opportunity for all of us, young and old, to consider our response to the covenantal question put before God's people.

*God's peace and joy to all,*

***Pastor Terry***



An issue arises occasionally that is addressed in different ways depending on the person's mood. I might be asked, "How do you choose hymns for worship?" or else, "Why in the world did you choose THAT {or THOSE} hymn(s):?"

Pastors and church musicians work together to create worship services that follow a theme, typically the main message of the sermon, but sometimes based on the service including Holy Communion, Holy Baptism, or another special event. Pastor Terry and I both adapt a lot of the liturgy from the red ELW into our own words so that the Call to Worship, the various prayers, and even the benediction and dismissal relate to the whole flow of the service. Dan and any other musicians choose preludes, postludes, special music, and choir anthems based on the Scripture texts or that day's main theme.

The same is true for the hymns. It may seem odd, since between the ELW and With One Voice we have so many hymns to choose from, but sometimes it's tough to find songs that fit just right. Obviously if the psalm on which the Call to Worship is based includes a lament or cry for help, an upbeat opening hymn would feel out of place. If the sermon excites us to go be Christ's disciples, a slow, mournful Hymn of the Day would break the mood.

Of the hundreds of hymns found just in the ELW, a large number are unfamiliar to many people, but it's hard to predict who in the pews knows which songs. Plus, there are some traditional favorites from other Christian traditions that aren't found in either of our two books. I feel it's a disservice to all of us to simply choose from a small sample of the music available to us, but I'm also well aware that it can feel uncomfortable and daunting to try to sing a hymn we've rarely if ever heard before.

Honestly, if I decide to include an unfamiliar hymn, I DO attempt to make it one that I hope has a tune that is somewhat easy to follow. But even Ted Williams struck out more than 700 times in his career, and I know my attempts have sometimes failed. I'm sad if folks have felt the hymns I picked detracted from the worship experience. But I also think it's okay to be okay with not knowing every hymn of every worship service. Perhaps there's an opportunity to listen to the tune and ponder the words during the first verse or two and join in singing when you feel like you've got the idea. Then the next time, you'll know it better.

Dan and I have had discussions on other ways to introduce new or unfamiliar hymns, so please know that we DO understand the issue and are taking seriously the task of making worship a positive experience for everyone. I welcome any ideas folks may have.

Blessings,

*Pastor Dave*





# 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.



## BUDGET REPORT

### General Operating Fund

Income & Expense Report—Through April 26, 2023  
With Comparison to 2022 & Annual Budget

## DOLLAR\$&CENTS

<u>Income</u>	2023	2022		
All offerings	101,600	82,288		
Other Gen.	7,363	10,778		
	<b>108,963</b>	<b>93,066</b>		
<u>Expenses</u>	2023	2022	Annual Budget Remaining	YTD %
Pastoral Staff	81,307	70,890	160,217	34%
Non-Pastoral Staff	26,724	25,379	56,284	32%
Worship & Music	870	599	2,630	25%
Ministries & Committees	183	852	3,517	5%
Church Property	20,277	20,306	26,774	42%
Parsonage	2,882	2,807	6,500	28%
Admin/Office	3,272	2,728	5,478	37%
	<b>135,515</b>	<b>123,562</b>		

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

\$ 16,744

+ 108,963

\$ 125,707

(- 135,515)

\$ -9,808

~ balance on 4/26/2023

**Bills-to-be-paid=\$ ~14,000**

### Other Fund Balances:


Mission: \$ 1,878

Special: \$ 43,918

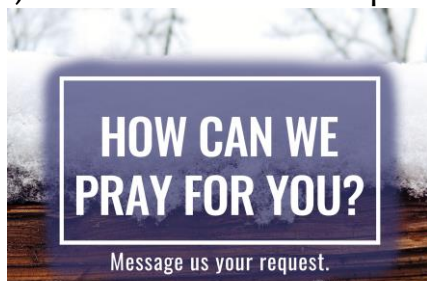
Debt: \$ 18,778

Youth: \$ 6,170

## May Worship Assistant Schedule

Date	Time	Acolyte & Crucifer	Lector	Communion Servers
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	8:15am	Kole B. & Jianna S.	Vern L.	Vern & Becky L., Donna F.
	10:45am	Noah G. & George C.	Confirmands will assist with worship	
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	8:45am	Aidan E. & McKenzee M.	Jamie L.	
	10:45am	Ty S. & Gabe K.	Cathy H.	
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	9:00am	Dalton C. & Kiearra S.	Chris F.	
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	Noah G. & Kole B.	Michael S.	Michael S., Donna F., 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

**May 21<sup>st</sup> - 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:

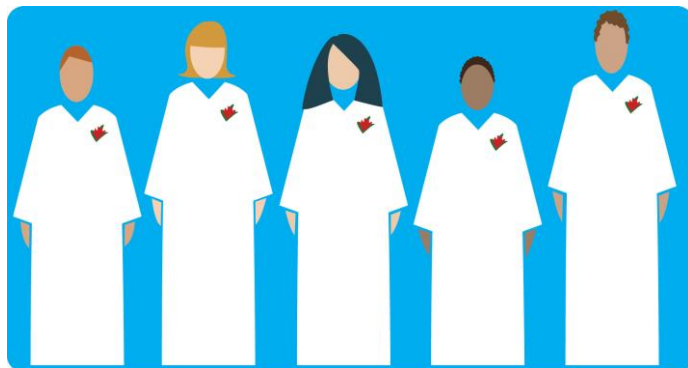
#### **Wednesday, May 3**

Confirmation Rehearsal & Class Photo in sanctuary. Report to church at 6:15 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



### **Kudos to Our Confirmands**

Gauge Ryan Bertrang  
Sara Dawn Giacomino  
Izaiah James Green  
Drew Wayne Hanson  
Abby Mae Heath  
Blake Nicholas Johnson  
Emerick Matthew Korger  
Noah Lance Krueger  
Tyler Mason Smith  
Cheyenne Summer Thompson



## 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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> and returning to Osseo on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. 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.



Adopt-A-Highway clean-up day is **Saturday, May 13 at 10:00am**. We'll meet at church and caravan to the site south of Buena Vista. Pizza will be served at the church when we're done. Anyone age 11 and over is encouraged to join. Anyone with a larger vehicle willing to move crews back to their cars and help gather garbage bags, please contact Pastor Dave.



BACCALAUREATE  
SERVICE

### 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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!

### CONGRATULATIONS 2023 Graduates!!!

Connor Abley  
Eleice Dahl  
Cayden Guntner  
Mitchell Halvorson  
Isaac Iverson  
Nick Jacobson  
Lydia Jensen  
Madi Loonstra  
Lexi Mazur  
Braeden Metzler  
Kaia Metzler  
Nathan Morales

Ada Nelson  
Mia Nicolai  
Ashton Oliver  
Ayva Oliver  
Rae Prudlick  
Brenna Seefeldt  
Brody Seefeldt  
Cody Severson  
Torri Shimon  
Paige Skoyen  
Miah Tankovich  
Kadance Wampole

# 2023 Church Dates-to-Remember

## May 2023

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Confirmation Rehearsal (6:15)  
W/ELCA Salad Luncheon (Noon)  
7<sup>th</sup> Affirmation of Baptism (10:45)  
13<sup>th</sup> Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up day  
17<sup>th</sup> Baccalaureate at H.S. (7pm)  
21<sup>st</sup> All Grades Sing (9:00)  
1-Worship Service Begins at 9am; High School  
Graduates Brunch following Worship &  
Presentation of Quillows at 9am  
29<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day – Church Office Closed

## June 2023

- 14<sup>th</sup> W/ELCA Picnic & Bingo  
18<sup>th</sup> ASP Sending Service (9am); Lake Martha Days  
Worship in the Park (10am)  
June 23-July 2 ASP Trip to Kentucky

## August 2023

- 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Canoe Trip

## Summer Coffee Dates:

June 4<sup>th</sup>, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, & August 6<sup>th</sup>

All Saints Sunday – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in November  
Church Council Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month  
Committee Annual Reports Due – December 1<sup>st</sup>  
Harvest Dinner – 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of October  
High School Youth Group – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month  
Holy Communion – 1<sup>st</sup> & Last Sunday of month  
Men's Bible Study – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month  
Newsletter Articles Due – 16<sup>th</sup> of the month  
Noisy Offering – Last Sunday of month  
OELC Annual Meeting – Last Sunday in January  
Prayer Shawl Gathering – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month  
Quilting – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of month  
Sunday Bible Study – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of month  
Sunday School – 9:30-10:30am, Sept. – May  
Tri County Food Pantry – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of month  
Women's Bible Study – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.nwswi.org](http://www.nwswi.org)

**ELCA WEBSITE:** [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

### **OELC OFFICE HOURS:**

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

## **OELC Men's Bible Study to Break for Summer**

The Men's Bible Study of OELC will break for the summer after our May 2nd meeting. We meet in the west room at the Norske Nook at 8 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. May's session is titled "Our Need for Honest Truths" and is based on the reading from Galatians 2:11-21. We will not be meeting in June, July, or August. Watch your August newsletter for next year's bible study schedule. Thanks to all who have taken part over this past program year.



Now that Spring is here (supposedly!), some of the elders of OELC could use some help with spring cleaning. Anyone willing to offer assistance with tasks like window washing, yard clean-up, or other general cleaning and maintenance as needed, or if you are an elder or have other barriers and need some odd jobs done, please contact Pastor Dave. This is a great opportunity for OELC youth to serve our neighbors!





- 1 Chris Halvorson, Wyatt Ramseier, Jerrad Martinson, Krystal Martinson
- 2 Sharon Nelson, Oliver Daffinson
- 3 Travis Hagen
- 4 Kadance Wampole, Blake Johnson
- 5 Pam Selz-Pralle, Raneau Myhre
- 6 Clay Freitag
- 7 Brett Boortz, Mary Solberg, Kayla Hulett
- 8 Elizabeth Cuddy, Eleice Dahl, Stuart Dodge, Bob Johnson, Carter Welke, Jeff Dodge
- 9 Allie Daffinson, Lizzie Jacobson
- 10 Sharon Steinke, Paisley Mish
- 11 Sophia Scheffer, Delores Gabler
- 12 Chuck Julson, Orlin Fremstad, Alexis Stibor
- 13 Jack Vold, Marilyn Ives
- 14 Mariah Steinke, Vivianne Hart
- 15 Mary Sterry
- 16 Mark Nix, Matthew Jensen, Jean Julson, Sara Swenson, Kirsten Zimmerman, Sharon Zimmerman, Ali Glodowski
- 17 Nancy Gunderson
- 18 Andy Gunderson, Gloria Berg
- 19 Niki Torpen, Brayden Hooker, Eilene Muenkel
- 20 David Higley, Blake Moldenhauer
- 21 Mark Diehl, Mark Kubishak, Hazel Halvorson
- 22 Shannon Hasz, Traci Loonstra, Jennifer Martinson, Brenna Seefeldt, Brody Seefeldt
- 23 Miah Tankovich, Will Mazur
- 24 Kasey Fremstad, Cody Severson, Mike Loken, Pat Skoug
- 25 Rosemary Twesme, Becky Adams
- 28 Scott Swett, Braeden Metzler, Kaia Metzler, Vern Larson
- 29 Stephanie Higley
- 30 Abby Groell, Tairyn Velie

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



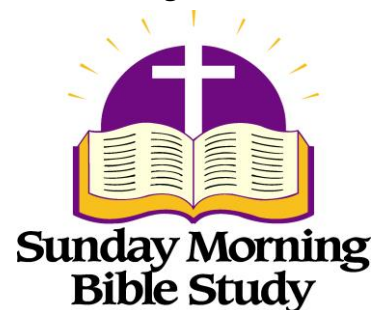
The Quilters meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 10-4  
Bring a sack lunch.  
Everyone is welcome.  
If school is canceled, so is quilting.



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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup>.

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@triwest.net](mailto:oelc@triwest.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

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month

4:00-5:30pm

Next distribution is May 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](http://oelc.org)), the bulletin is available for every service

## The Women of OELC ~ W/ELCA Books, Coming Soon!

Very soon you will be receiving your W/ELCA book (if you are a female member of OELC). W/ELCA stands for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The W/ELCA book lists 4 work groups and **every female member** is assigned to a work group. Work groups provide & serve food at funerals and other events. The book also has lists for kits that are sent to Lutheran World Relief. The book also contains the dates of annual events: Salad Luncheon, Picnic & Bingo, Bazaar, & Christmas Buffet.

## HIDDEN BOOKS

### FIND THE HIDDEN BOOKS OF THE BIBLE!

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Bible is a remarkable book. Within this letter there are 26 books of the Bible hidden. Can you find them all? Have a go at it using a pen or pencil highlight the ones you find or click with a mouse.

The Bible was written by God, using many authors from all sorts of backgrounds, having many different jobs. God tells us the story of his nation Israel and His son, Jesus Christ, making sure it has been preserved for us through the ages for us to read today.

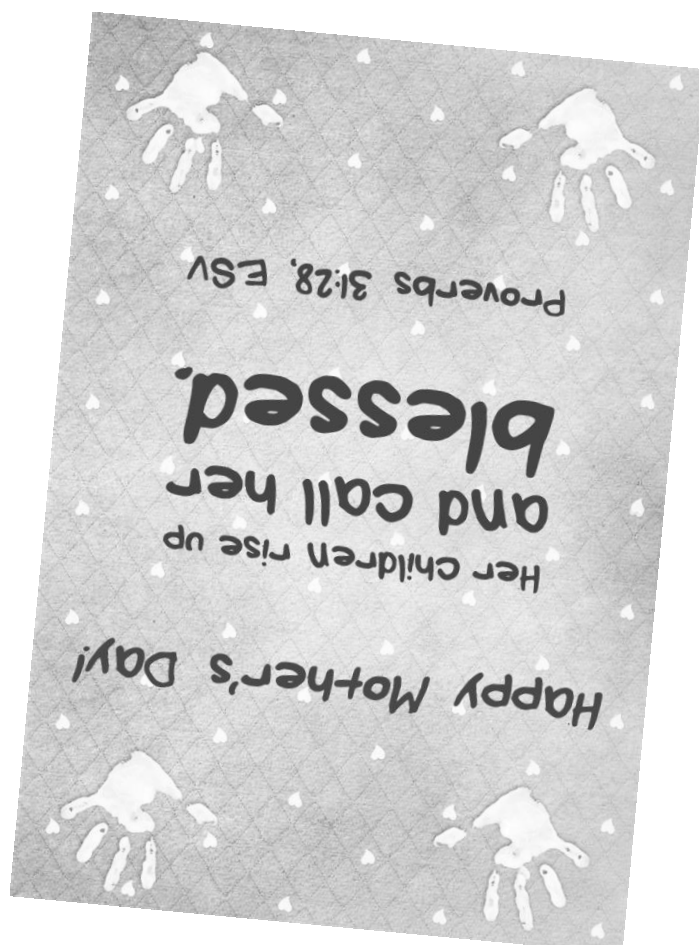
The Bible outlines the right way to lead our lives, as well as containing many historical accounts. Moses led Israel through the Red Sea, at the battle of Jericho trumpeters marched round the walls for seven days, Judea saw great wars and captivity, Abishag gained David as a husband, the Pharisees would act superior to everyone else, perhaps almsgiving for example, but Jesus kept giving them a most stern rebuke. Jesus also performed many miracles, after receiving the Holy Spirit upon his baptismal achievement, with his first miracle being turning the water into wine for the groom at the wedding, maybe it was a nice Spanish Rioja? Mesopotamia was an important region in Biblical history, with Ur and Babylon in that area, as was Sudan I elsewhere read.

When studying the Bible it is helpful to look out for any Bible echo. Search for them whenever you read as you will see some fascinating things, particularly when reading the letters to the various churches, or ecclesias. Testing what you hear against the Bible is also very important to show if it is true, for example if someone suggests Jesus was born in Suez rather than Bethlehem, you would use the Bible to check its accuracy. The same applies if you think Paul ate locusts, David played a banjo eloquently for Saul, Barnabas went on missionary work to Dijon, a horse carried Jesus into Jerusalem or Lazarus died of swine flu, keep going back to the Bible as you can learn a lot from answers to your questions. There is no need to put being academic ahead of everything else though as Jesus said it is most important to love one another, in a



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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](http://www.oelc.org) & [oelc@trivest.net](mailto:oelc@trivest.net)  
Please join us for Sunday Worship  
Sundays 8:15 & 10:45  
Wednesdays 5:00 meal; 6:00 Service  
9:00am (Summer)  
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.