

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC
Reverend Keffie Deen II



March 2015

From Pastor Deen...

I must admit that with weather like this, I tend to get a case of the winter blahs and blehs. You have snow; you have ice, rock salt, and your trusty ice scraper known as your credit card. So the other day I wanted something warm, sweet, but not too sweet, and something that would give me some energy to overcome these winter time blues. So I took out a loan, and went to Starbucks to get a cup of coffee. But all jokes aside, whether you like them, or hate them, Starbucks makes plenty of money by selling coffee, and the reason why is because there are literally thousands if not tens of thousands of ways to get a cup of coffee. Four varying sizes, hot or iced, with whip cream, without whip cream, foam, no foam, skim, 2%, whole and yes even soy milk can be used... the possibilities are endless. In fact, you can even bring your own things to put in the coffee, and they are supposed to honor your request. The most absurd example I've heard of is a customer ordering a drink. After the drink was made, the customer merely grabbed the cup and deemed that the drink was not warm enough and ordered them to remake the drink.

While that model of giving the customer what they want may work for a cup of coffee, I wonder if that attitude has left us spoiled and oftentimes craving the unrealistic. Sadly enough it has crept in and clouded our judgment on Pastors, Churches and most devastatingly God. I'm not pointing the finger at Immanuel Lutheran, but this is an attitude that has run amuck with believers and non-believers alike.

This summer while working landscaping, a co-worker of mine (who shall remain nameless) told me he didn't like his Pastor, and that dislike is why he stopped going to church. When I asked him why, he explained that his old Pastor used to coach his son's Little League Baseball team, and his current Pastor had no kids and didn't coach the little league team. I looked at him quizzically and asked, "so are you saying

you wouldn't like me as a coach, because I don't have any kids and have no desire to coach baseball?" I didn't realize that is what determines whether or not you are a good pastor or not.

But it's most disturbing with God...or should I say gods. When God our Father upsets us, how eager are we to go looking for another god to satisfy what it is that we want our God to be like. In the same way we might order an iced Carmel mocha with skim milk, we demand that God be kind, caring, strong, and willing to overlook the sin that you so blatantly do. Or you are looking for a god that will be there when your mom dies, but is understanding enough to know that work, recreation, and your fanatical love for your college team will always come before Him.

But God is not a drink to be ordered at Starbucks; we can't just read one verse and decide we don't like him, just like some may do with your coffee that isn't warm enough. Exodus 20 is very clear on that. The first and most important commandment is Exodus 20:3 where we are told that we should have no other Gods before him. Vs. 5 of that same section points out that he is a jealous God, a jealous God who will not take a backseat to anyone...a God who demands and deserves our full praise.

The most telling description of our God is also the most known Bible verse. God is a God, who was so mindful of the mess that we had gotten ourselves into, so compassionate as not to allow us to wallow in that mess, and loved us so much that he sent his Son, who was perfect to take our place, and die for us. And because of his death, we are able to share in his resurrection. While it just may be human nature, or just the sin inside of us that dies so hard, we must not overlook not only the most important, but the most comforting fact...no sugar, no cream, and no foam needed. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Soup Supper Benefit

We will be preparing a benefit soup supper on Saturday, March 14, 2015 from 4:30 - 7 p.m. for Emily Robinson from Farmer City. Emily is 13 years old and has scoliosis and just recently went to Chicago to have a rod put in her back. She is the daughter of Bobby Robinson who runs the Lions Den Cafe in Bellflower. The meal will be chili, potato soup, oyster soup, sandwiches and pie. There is a sign up sheet on the back bulletin board for food donations. You do not have to be a Thrivent member to donate or help at the benefit. Thrivent will match \$1 for every \$3 donated up to \$1,000.

Thrivent News

By directing Thrivent Choice Dollars, eligible members recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars. This month our congregation received \$526. Thank you to Wilma Forrest, Terri Hooker, Moneta McCleary, Gregory McCleary, Darryl Redding, Joyce Sievers, Butch and Shirley Sprau, Connie and Don Warsaw. March 31, 2015 is the last date to designate funds for 2014. You can do so by logging on to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or calling 800-847-4836. When prompted, say "Thrivent Choice" and when next prompted, say "Choice Dollars".

LWML News

The Danville Zone LWML President's meeting, led by Debbie Lammle, will be held on March 7th here at Immanuel Osman, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Presidents meet to share activities from their local societies and to learn more about important district and national activities coming up in the near future.

The CID LWML Convention will be held in Champaign at St. John's Lutheran Church on April 17th and 18th, and the National LWML Convention will be in Des Moines, Iowa on June 25-28th. Five ladies from Immanuel Osman will be attending the national convention: Barb Gaines, Brenda Hendricks, Terri Hooker, Debbie Lammle, and Connie Warsaw. Start praying now that God will direct the decisions determined by the delegates voting at the convention.

Confirmands

The confirmands will meet with Pastor McPike after church on Sunday, March 22 in the Fellowship Hall for a meal and catechism instruction.



Thank You!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your especially generous, tax-deductible gift of \$150.00.

In 2015, with your support, we plan to expand **The Lutheran Hour**[®] listenership beyond the 800,000 individuals across North America who hear the program every week. But the Lord's work doesn't end there. God uses Lutheran Hour Ministries worldwide. In fact, we celebrate the opening of our 34th ministry center in Mongolia this year.

Your support helps the ministry begin 2015 on sturdy ground. With individuals like you standing beside us, we can move forward in our efforts of *Bringing Christ to the Nations - and the Nations to the Church*.

Thank you for choosing to be part of the Lutheran Hour Ministries family. May God bless your year ahead.

Your partner in His mission,
Kurt Buchholz
Executive Director

Thank You!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$150.00 to the Fisher Area Food Pantry.

In Christ,
Judi Miller
FAFP Treasurer

Thank You!

Thanks to Wilma Grussing, Debbie Lammle, and Shirley Sprau for visiting the shut-ins last month.

Thank You!

Members of Immanuel will be viewing the new paraments on the altar, lectern, and pulpit during this Lenten season thanks to a very generous anonymous donor. Thanks to this very thoughtful person!

From the Altar Guild

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped furnish food and helped serve the Ash Wednesday soup supper.



Time Change

Daylight Savings Time will begin on Sunday, March 8th. Don't forget to move your clocks and other technological devices up one hour. Be ready to spring FORWARD! Daylight Savings Time will continue until Sunday, November 1st.

LWML News

The LWML will meet for their regular meeting on March 12th at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. Annette Warsaw will have the topic and Terri Hooker and Connie Warsaw will be the hostesses. All the ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

Thank you to the committee of Barb Gaines, Deb Lammle, and Annette Warsaw for organizing the Ash Wednesday soup supper. Also thanks to all the LWML members who donated food and helped serve. It was a great time to share in some fellowship.

Thanks to all of those who participated in quilting last month. So far the weather has wreaked havoc with the quilting schedule so we have only met one time. We have completed 10 quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and there are several more ready to be quilted. We will quilt on Thursday, March 5th and Saturday, March 7th.



Choir Practice

Beginning February 25th, there will be choir practice after the Lenten Midweek services. Please come and prepare for Holy Week and Easter!



Council Meeting

The church council will meet on Wednesday, March 4th after the Lenten Midweek service.

Valentine's Dinner

The fourth annual Valentine's Dinner was held at Immanuel Osman on February 14th in the Fellowship Hall. Rick and Jill Hardesty, John and Debbie Lammle, and Darryl Redding hosted the event. Fifty two members and friends enjoyed an evening of great food and fellowship. The evening began with a Valentine's mixer and pictures taken of all in attendance.



A steak or chicken dinner was served with baked potatoes, salad, green beans, corn, Beef House rolls, and assorted desserts. Hannah Duncan, member of the youth group, read a Valentine's poem. Nick and Alicia Haggin led the group in singing love songs, followed by a beautiful solo by Nick.

Those members with birthdays in January, February, and March were recognized with a special birthday card. Jill Hardesty gave prizes to Mr. and Mrs. Eric Hicks for driving the farthest and Mr. and Mrs. Bill McCleary for having the most grandchildren. The free will donations were given to the youth group which will be used for the youth gathering next year. Rick and Jill Hardesty developed individual pictures from the event which they handed out during church the next day. Thanks to all who attended and made this event one of the "top ten" events at Osman!



Statistics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Adult Class</u>
2/01	0 church	0 cancelled	0
2/08	67	4	21
2/15	53	n/a	n/a
2/18	n/a	Ash Wednesday	0
2/22	n/a	n/a	n/a

March Altar Guild

Deb Lammle
Jill Hardesty

March Acolytes

01..... Tyler Duncan
08..... Will Delaney
15..... Mitchell Gallier
22..... Tyler Duncan
29..... Will Delaney

March Lay Readers

01..... Debbie Lammle
08..... Joy Johnson
15..... Shirley Sprau
22..... Aaron Warsaw
29..... Annette Warsaw

March Birthdays

Terri Hooker.....03-02
Mike Miller.....03-06
Brenda Hendricks.....03-09
Shirley Sprau.....03-12
Frances Zimmerman.....03-13
Melia Warsaw.....03-16
Joy Johnson.....03-19
Shaun Zimmerman.....03-20
Taylor Homann.....03-20
Kim Schuh.....03-21
Marsha Warsaw.....03-21
Byron Christians.....03-25
Nikki Gallier.....03-25
Matthew Poppe.....03-25
Amanda Forrest.....03-30
Jerry Reifsteck Jr.03-31
Bill Schuh.....03-31

Happy Birthday!

March Anniversaries

Shirley and Butch Sprau.....03-03-1973
Brenda and Jerry Edwards.....03-27-1982
Joy and Skinner Johnson.....03-31-1979

Happy Anniversary!

Elder Schedule

Steve	Jan		
Neil	Feb		
Aaron	Mar		
Shane	Apr		