

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

For whosoever shall call upon the
name of the Lord shall be saved.

June 2015

Romans 10:13

From the desk of Pastor Deen...

"Chiggers"

Well it is upon us, and boy does it feel good. Just months ago, we were muttering under our breath, slipping and sliding on the ice, and asking ourselves, why do we live in Illinois, where the winters are so darn cold. But now it's here, and while the "official" day isn't until June 21st, summer is here. If you haven't yet, chances are you are gearing up for the first grill session of the year. You are looking forward to the little league ball games and the trips to Dairy Queen afterwards. The kids are giddy knowing that school is off the radar and you can't wait to take that first coveted swim. Summer is here...let's make a checklist to make sure we have everything. Grill...check. Sunscreen...check. Summer reading list for the kids...check...and insect repellent...check.

We all know the importance of insect repellent don't we? While summer is nice, mosquitoes can ruin a cookout quicker than rain, and make the seventh inning stretch at a ball game seem like an eternity. I worked at a camp one year and I was annoyingly introduced to a bug that I had never heard of before. That bug was a chigger. I don't know how many of you know what a chigger is, but let me tell you they are an insect that you would rather not deal with. Chiggers are small insects that while I have never seen one with a naked eye, I have felt the unpleasant wrath of them. To my knowledge, there is no repellent to them, no proven cure for their "bite." Chiggers feed on the fluids in your skin cells. They inject a digestive enzyme that ruptures the cells. The enzyme forms a straw for chiggers to suck on the skin cell fluids. Translation, when they bite it doesn't hurt, but the itch of chigger bite has no equal.

I remember once I had gotten a chigger bite

on my foot, and one night as I was trying to sleep, my foot started itching so, so very badly. So I started scratching so, so very hard. It felt so, so good to scratch this bite on my foot...but the strange thing was, while it felt so good to scratch, the more and more I scratched, the more and more my foot itched. I must've scratched my foot for a good 5 minutes, before I told myself to simply 'STOP'! So I stopped, but I couldn't sleep. That itch was driving me crazy. So I started back scratching it...this time more furiously, and harder...five minutes later with the itch just being unbearable...I told myself once to simply 'STOP'! And I did, this time for a full six minutes. I couldn't stop; this hands down was the worst itch ever. So after engaging in this routine three or four times, I was scratching and I suddenly noticed my fingers were wet...I groped in the dark trying to find my flashlight, I shined the beam of light on my foot, and it was then that I realized what had just happened.

My foot was bleeding...YUCK! I had been told that chiggers will make you scratch to the point of drawing blood, but I thought that was just an exaggeration, I had no idea it was true. I literally had scratched my foot to the point in which it bled. I realized what I had done, embarrassed by it all, I wiped away the blood from my foot, and laid down. The sad thing was, it took every ounce of will power I had in every deep fiber in my body to not scratch my bloody foot. While that story is rather embarrassing, doesn't that just sum it up for both you and me? Are we not that guy in our cabin at camp vigorously trying to scratch our foot away...or should I say vigorously trying to cover up our sin that enslaves us.

We lie to our family, drink to the point of drunkenness, delete the "History" bar on our computer and just flat out deny that we have a problem while we curse God under our breath. It's a song that is as old as time. We see in 2 Samuel, King David dealt with this

same problem, as he went so far as to use his power to have his friend murdered to cover his sin that he had committed. Sin was on the verge of driving David mad, and possibly destroying his kingdom. No matter how many times I read and hear the story of King David, and his sin towards Bathsheba and Uriah, I always marvel at 2 Samuel 12 v.13. As Nathan has just confronted David with the terrible actions that he has done...David said six words: "I have sinned against the Lord." Nothing poetic or groundbreaking...he just admitted his sin...and just like that Nathan said "The Lord has taken away your sin..."

While David still had to deal with the consequence of his sin...he was forgiven for the sin that he had committed. No hoops to jump through, no special ceremonies to perform, no blood that needed to be shed...at least not by David. The blood had already been shed by Christ, and it's for our sins that we too try so hard to cover that he died. Forgiveness of our greatest sin has been won for us on Calvary...no need to scratch that itch...it's already been scratched. All we have to do is ask. I really wish it was that easy to get rid of chiggers.

Osman Lutheran Church Council Meeting

April 1, 2015

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Council met on April 1st with 9 members present. Those present: Rick Hardesty, Bob Zimmerman, Debbie Lammle, Steve Martin, Aaron Warsaw, Annette Warsaw, Susan Martin, Diana Zimmerman, and Pastor McPike.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hardesty. Pastor's message was from Psalm 31:9. Secretary, Debbie Lammle, read the minutes from the March 4th and 5th Council meetings. Annette Warsaw made the motion to approve the minutes and Aaron Warsaw seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was given with a balance of \$73,539.86. Steve Martin made a motion to accept the report and Aaron Warsaw seconded; motion carried. Bob Zimmerman made the motion to give our May monthly mission donation to St. John's Lutheran School in Champaign and the June monthly donation to St. Judes. Susan Martin seconded; motion carried.

Pastor then gave his report. He stated that there are increased requests for summer vicars and we don't have one assigned to Osman as yet. On April 14th Pastor McPike will begin an adult Bible class every Tuesday at 6:30pm for 10-14 weeks. The class is open to anyone in the congregation.

There will be homemade bread and wine served at the Maundy Thursday and Easter morning services.

Pastor continues his Sunday morning Bible Class on Daniel. The children's catechism class continues on Sunday morning, taught by Debbie Lammle. Pastor suggested a catechism camp, directed by our summer vicar, be held this summer.

Discussion continued concerning the increased amount of reserved propane gas needed for the year. Decision won't be decided till May when the prices might decrease.

The contract on the copier and functions needing adjustment was then discussed.

Trent Swift from Country Insurance and Financial Services gave a very detailed summary of our insurance coverage on the church and fellowship hall. He stated that we were very adequately insured and feels great about the policy we have. He did suggest placing the fire extinguishers in a more visible location.

Old Business:

Sunday School Superintendent, Annette Warsaw, stated that VBS will be held either the week of July 5th or July 12th. Material from CPH has been ordered.

It was stated that the mowing schedule will be placed on the bulletin board in the back of the church and in the May newsletter.

Chief Bauer will be inspecting the air conditioning units in May.

Jeff and Annette Warsaw spoke with J Tandy Designs Inc. concerning updating the audio system at Immanuel Osman to improve the overall sound and enhance the clarity in the rear of the church. Handouts were passed out outlining the estimated cost for improvements to be made. Another quote was also requested from electrician, Brandon Clemmons. No decisions were made concerning this topic.

New Business:

Blinds, trash cans, and bus tubs were purchased for the Fellowship Hall. Accounts were set up under Osman Lutheran Church at Lowe's and GFS.

Annette Warsaw passed around examples of thank-you cards she had designed for use by the church. The majority of the council liked the design with the church photos included.

Discussion was held on events held at Immanuel Osman without the use of our paid staff. This was tabled till the next meeting.

Chairman Hardesty referred to a detailed handout given to each council member concerning the expenses incurred with the kitchen restoration.

Shirley Sprau, president of Ladies Aid, will be contacted to organize a group of ladies to put the kitchen back in order. **It was recommended by the church council to leave the water heater and extra refrigerator on at all times.**

Discussion continued on placement of drink supplies and Sunday School materials in the Fellowship Hall. Aaron Warsaw made a motion to adjourn. Diana Zimmerman seconded. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Lammle

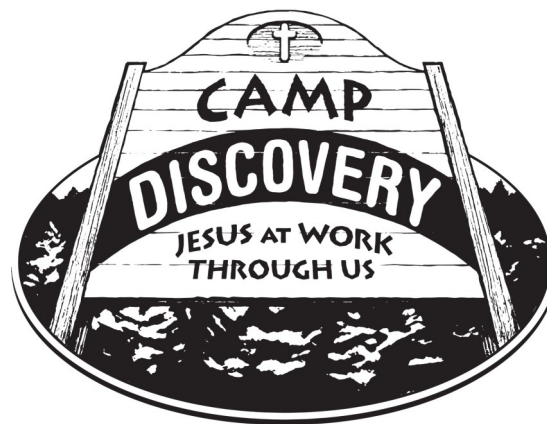
SUMMER VICAR UPDATE

Immanuel has been out in front presenting opportunities for summer vicars during the past few years. This has allowed us to track the progress of these men as they have moved through the seminary process. This spring, Seminarian Dan Grimmer received a call into the Holy Ministry to Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell, South Dakota. Seminarian Kurt Cockran was placed for his formal vicarage at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Conroe, Texas. Seminarian Jonathan Scheck is currently completing his vicarage at St. John Lutheran Church, Wheaton, Illinois, and will return to Fort Wayne to complete his seminary career and be assigned a call next spring. These men have or will serve more successful and enriched full vicarage experiences because they put themselves forth to serve at Osman first as their "summer job" between the first and second year of seminary.

UNFORTUNATELY, as the summer vicar program has become more popular, more congregations than ever are making requests. So far this year, there are no applicants to serve a summer vicarage here at Osman. As the academic year at the seminary is soon to end, this means we will likely not have anyone apply. We are sad for this, particularly for our VBS program. However, we at Immanuel are adaptable, and as such we will manage this and look for even more ways to serve the greater church from our little corner of the world known as Osman. God's blessings as we continue to go forth in Jesus' name.

Large Print Bulletin Inserts Available

Over 50? Can't read the fine print anymore? Large print bulletin inserts are available most Sundays at the elder's pew.



Vacation Bible School

Our Camp Discovery VBS will be held Sunday, July 12 - Thursday, July 16. All children, ages Preschool through 5th, are invited to attend! This means grand kids, nieces and nephews, neighbors, and yes, even perfect strangers! Just mention it, you never know how God can use us to bring little ones to Him! And join us for our VBS Kick-Off Cookout Sunday, July 12 at 5:00 pm followed by our first VBS lesson, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm! Monday - Thursday, we will continue our journey each day 9:00 - 11:30 am. We appreciate your prayers as we ask God to bring children to our program so they can know and grow in Jesus, our Savior!

VBS Volunteers!

We need some **AWESOME Volunteers** for VBS, Sunday, July 12 - Thursday, July 16! Help share the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we explore Bible stories, take Bible challenges, make crafts, eat snacks, play games, sing, and more! If you can help full or part time, we have a job for you - snacks, games, crafts, teachers, and anything in between! Also, a VBS teacher/helper meeting will be announced in coming weeks. Cookie helpers - a sign up sheet will be on the back bulletin board. Please see Annette if you are called to help!

VBS Cookie Helpers!

Our VBS children need your help! Beginning Sunday, July 12, we will set out on a five day CAMPING adventure as we grow closer to Him. We need all the cookies/treats we can eat to keep our energy up as we learn, play and grow in the Word! Please consider baking or buying treats. A sign-up sheet may be found on the back bulletin board! The campers thank you in advance!

Ladies Aid!

The Ladies Aid will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3 in the Fellowship Hall. Agnes Martinie will have the devotion and prayer and serve as hostess. Debbie Lammle will present the topic. Roll call will be answered with a verse on Blessing. All ladies of the church are welcome to attend!

Girls Night Out!

Mark your calendars for the 3rd annual "Girls Night Out" June 19th, 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Be sure and invite a friend to this enjoyable night out with new and old friends. Just sign-up on the bulletin board and let us know how many are coming. We'll be playing bunco, serving refreshments, and awarding prizes! Come join in the fun, food, and fellowship! (Please sign-up by June 14th)

President Bush's Father's Day Proclamation

"Fathers play a unique and important role in the lives of their children. As mentor, protector, and provider, a father fundamentally influences the shape and direction of his child's character by giving love, care, discipline, and guidance. As we observe Father's Day, our nation honors fatherhood and urges fathers to commit themselves selflessly to the success and well-being of their children. And we reaffirm the importance of fathers in the lives of their children. Raising a child requires significant time, effort, and sacrifice; and it is one of the most hopeful and fulfilling experiences a man can ever know. A father can derive great joy from seeing his child grow from infancy to adulthood. As a child matures into independence and self-reliance, the value of a parent's hard work, love, and commitment comes to fruition."

Prayer for Father's Day

Heavenly Father, Let us praise those fathers who have striven to balance the demands of work, marriage, and children with an honest awareness of both joy and sacrifice. Let us praise those fathers who, as stepfathers, freely choose the obligation of fatherhood and earned their step children's love and respect. And let us praise those fathers who have died, but live on in our memory and whose love continues to nurture us. Above all, thank you our heavenly Father, for creating us, always being with us, and welcoming us home on the Last Day. In Your dear name we pray. Amen

Thrivent News

Great News! The McLean County Thrivent Board has decided to match the Emily Robinson Benefit dollar for dollar. That means we will be giving them a check for \$6,540 instead of \$4,360. As of June 30, 2015 there will no longer be a chapter board, and any money left in Care Abounds in Communities would have gone back to Thrivent. Because very few churches held benefits, they had money that wasn't going to be used. Therefore, they decided to match our benefit dollar for dollar.

The only way to get money from Thrivent in the future is through Thrivent Choice or Thrivent Action Teams. Each Thrivent member can do two projects a year by filling out a form online and receiving a debit card for \$250 for expenses. If you are interested in doing a project and need more help getting started, please see Brenda Hendricks, Terry Hooker or Connie Warsaw.

The total received from Thrivent Choice Dollars to our church last month was \$142.00. We thank the following members who directed Choice Dollars to our church: Bill Amdor, Kim Clemmons, Brenda Hendricks, Carolyn and Doug Majercin. Thanks to all of you! We may use the Choice Dollars in the future to add to what we make at a benefit since we won't be getting matching funds from Thrivent anymore.

CornBelters Baseball Tickets! The McLean County Thrivent Chapter has tickets available for Sunday, June 7, 2015 at 3:05 p.m. The price is \$9 for a box seat and includes a voucher for a hot dog and drink. Please contact Nicole Galante (319) 530-6421 or nicole.olivia@gmail.com by May 31st if you want tickets. Location is the Corn Crib, 1000 W. Raab Rd., Normal, Illinois.

Six Thrivent members attended the "Last Hurrah" dinner held at Shannon's Five Star Restaurant in Bloomington on April 26th. Wilma Grussing, Brenda Hendricks, Terri and Dwight Hooker, Butch and Shirley Sprau all enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner. They were entertained by the Normal Community West High School Jazz Choir under the Direction of Sarah Williams. The evening ended with door prizes that consisted of \$20 Wal-Mart gift cards, potted orchids and scented candles. Due to the changes in Thrivent there will be no more Brat Fests or annual dinners.

Church Council Meeting

The church council will meet on Wednesday, June 3 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank You!

Many thanks to friends and church members for the thoughts and prayers on my 89th birthday. Joy did a good job letting you know about it! May God bless you all for the kind words and blessings. Thanks so much!

Moneta McCleary

Thank You!

Thank you to all of the Thrivent members who helped with the Madison Houser benefit on Tuesday night. We donated some very valuable volunteer hours by manning the bake sale and admission table and by helping with the auction. Also thank you to the members who donated baked goods for the bake sale. The Madi Houser Benefit Night made approximately \$3500, and Thrivent will match part of that with some of the last funds from Care and Communities.

Our Thrivent members helped sponsor a benefit for Maddison Houser on Tuesday, May 19th, at the Blue Ridge Junior High. Madi has a kidney disease which will eventually lead to a kidney transplant. The evening consisted of a talent show, a bake sale, a live auction, and a silent auction. Our members baked goods for the bake sale, took the money at the bake sale, helped at the admissions table, and assisted with the auction. The proceeds for the evening totaled approximately \$3500. At the McLean County Thrivent Board meeting on Saturday, it was voted to give \$3000 to this benefit from Care and Communities Funds. Thank you to all who helped make this event a success.



LWML NEWS

Quilting

We will be quilting again on Thursday, June 4th, and Saturday, June 6th, starting at 8 AM each day. The quilts are given to Lutheran World Relief. This organization is asking for as many quilts as possible to give to the people in Nepal who are displaced due to the destruction from the two earthquakes in the last month. All hands are welcome!

Connie Warsaw initiated a Thrivent Action Team which will consist of our group of quilters and used her \$250 to purchase batting which will be used for the middle of the quilts that we are making this summer. We have made 82 quilts so far this year. All ladies of the congregation are invited so please consider joining us for good fellowship while helping those in need.

Baby Bottles

On May 10, Mother's Day, we handed out baby bottles to fill with donations for the Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center in Champaign. We had an excellent response with about 30 bottles taken. Please bring the bottles back by Sunday, June 21. Thanks to everyone for participating in this mission project.

Bake Sale

Are you hungry for some goodies? The Ladies and the LWML will be holding a bake sale at Bellflower on July 4th. Please bring your baked goods to the Bellflower Fire Station by 7:30 AM on July 4th or to Shirley Sprau's or Connie Warsaw's home the night before. The bake sale will be held before and during the parade.

LWML Meeting

LWML will meet on Thursday, June 11th, at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. Barb Whitehouse-Gercken will have the topic and Wilma Grussing and Barb Gaines will be our hostesses. We will have a report on CID annual convention that was held in Champaign and also on the Danville Zone Spring Gathering that was held in Danville. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend.

LWML National Convention

The LWML National Convention is being held June 25 – 28 in Des Moines, Iowa. The theme is "Sow – Nourish – Reap". Five ladies from our congregation will be attending. They are Barb Gaines, Terri Hooker, Deb Lammler, Connie Warsaw, and Brenda Hendricks. They will report on their adventures at the September LWML Meeting.

Statistics

Date	Worship	Sunday School	Adult Class
4-19	59	2	13
4-26	73	6	17
5-03	44	5	12
5-10	69	5	14
5-17	78	3	13
5-24	n/a	n/a	n/a
5-31	n/a	n/a	n/a

June Birthdays

Susan Martin.....06-03
 Brant Hendricks.....06-08
 Jamie Poppe.....06-08
 Donald Warsaw.....06-09
 Jim VanWakeman.....06-12
 Amanda Amdor.....06-13
 Michael Brooks.....06-15
 Brenda Edwards.....06-16
 Jeri Bidner.....06-18
 Dick Johnson.....06-19
 Natalie Hooker.....06-21
 Beth Bidner.....06-22
 Kim Clemmons.....06-24
 Laura Zimmerman.....06-26
 Ashley Martin.....06-27
 Jack Gallier.....06-30



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June Anniversaries

Jenna and Nathan Mangold.....06-03-2011
 Jill and Rick Hardesty.....06-11-1994
 Terri and Dwight Hooker.....06-15-1985
 Kim and Bill Schuh.....06-20-1987
 Beth and Neil Bidner.....06-23-2001
 Debbie and John Lammle.....06-25-1977
 Janet and Myron Zimmerman.....06-30-1979

Elder Schedule

Steve	Jan	Aug	Nov
Neil	Feb	May	Sept
Shane	Mar	June	Dec
Aaron	Apr	July	Oct