

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

August 2015

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

From Pastor McPike...

In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." (1 Cor. 11:25)

We hear these words each time we celebrate the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion. In these words we hear the command to celebrate the Lord's Supper frequently. "Do this... often." But how often is often?

"Often" has meant different things over the years. For centuries, from the time of the early church on to the later middle ages in Europe, "often" meant at least weekly, and also included major festivals of the church. The earliest church calendar to develop was only a weekly cycle, with each Friday being a day of fasting to remember the death of Jesus on "Good Friday", and each Sunday being a day of celebration to remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. As the church calendar expanded into a year-long period, this weekly cycle was still evident through the late Middle ages. A good example of this comes in the season of Lent. Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, is said to be a "forty-day" period of time. Yet counting the days from Ash Wednesday to the day before Easter reveals that the period is actually 46 days long. What is the difference? The Sundays in Lent were not considered to be part of Lent. In much older times, when the influence of Christianity was such that many people fasted during the season of Lent, Sundays were not included in the fast, or were days when the fasting was broken. Sunday was always seen as a "mini-Easter", even during Lent. As such, the minimum time that Communion was celebrated was each and every Sunday. Additionally, other "holy days" falling during the week were also occasions for the celebration of Holy Communion. Lutherans in Europe continue this tradition to this day.

The Lutheran Church finding itself in America did not fare so well. There are a couple of reasons for this. One reason is that early in its history, Lutheran churches in America did not have enough pastors, and one pastor may have visited remote outpost congregations only occasionally. Also, American Lutheranism of the 19th and 20th Century became infected with what became known as "pietism", which puts a strong emphasis on "being prepared" for communion. Now, certainly we are to be prepared in the sense that we recognize our sinfulness, desire to flee from sin and receive the power of God in Communion to help us do just that. But the influence of "pietism" shifted the focus of Holy Communion more from it being a gift where God gives us His forgiveness and power to live the Christian life toward "how ready am I for communion". There was also some additional logic that suggested that were we to have communion too often, it would not be "special" any longer. Compare that to other life-sustaining processes... such as breathing, for instance. If we would only breathe 5 times or so per minute or less so that we can emphasize how special air is (and we would die without air), how well would we function?

All this explains how "often" ended up being something other than "at least every Sunday". But it does not answer the question of today. "How often is often?" How often should we be having communion? Local traditions often dictate this. There are some at Osman who can tell us of their memory of communion being celebrated four times in a year, something that was not at all uncommon back in the early 20th Century in American Lutheranism. From there, the frequency was increased to once each month. Later, churches would adopt twice per month communion.

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod passed the following resolution at its 1995 convention: *[The Synod in convention encourages] pastors and congregations to study the scriptural, confessional, and historical witness*

to every Sunday communion with a view to recovering the opportunity for receiving the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day." (Resolution 2-08A, 1995) Because of this resolution, with an eye toward the long-term history of the church from the earliest times, more and more of our congregations are moving toward having Communion every Sunday. Trinity in Urbana did so already back in the later 1990s not long after this resolution was adopted. St. John in Champaign has practiced it for only the past few years. University Lutheran has a longer history of doing so.

The Lord Jesus did not say "have communion every Sunday". The wording says "as often" meaning to do it regularly and often but not setting a legalistic requirement on it. Still, how often is often? Changing local traditions can be quite troubling for a congregation. The local tradition at Osman in recent history has been to consider the first and third Sundays of each month Communion Sundays. Other Sundays, then, will be "non-communion". In months where there are five Sundays, that meant the last two were "non-communion".

The proposal presented at the June meeting of the Church Council is that we slightly shift that policy. Instead of saying that we have Communion on the First and Third Sundays, we will now indicate that our regular practice is to not have communion on the Second and Fourth Sundays. This would seem to state our current practice only from a different direction. In a way, it is. But in another way, it reflects a change in attitude. To say that communion is celebrated on the First and Third Sundays is to say, in effect, "we do it only a couple times a month." To shift that to non-communion Sundays being the Second and Fourth Sundays of the month is to say, "we regularly have communion except on two Sundays each month, which are usually the second and fourth." Doing this, we also consider that there will be second or fourth Sundays that are festivals where we will also add communion.

How often is often? The Bible does not answer this question with a legalistic timeline or requirement. Receiving communion *often is a Gift from God, not a legalistic demand of the Law.* However, as we look at what we get from communion,

- forgiveness of our sins
- strength for our faith
- a special bond of fellowship with God and with fellow Christians

...the question that could rather be asked is, "Why can't we do this *more often?*"

Effectively, by shifting from a tradition of stating

that we have communion on "First and Third" to a tradition of having non-communion "Second and Fourth", we are only adding four Communion Sundays each year. But more than that, we are changing the way in which we are emphasizing the importance of this sacred meal for our Christian lives and for the life of the Church. It is our regular practice to do it, and only to take two Sundays a month off to not do it.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes will begin on August 30th at 8:30am in the Pastor's office.

Osman Wi-Fi

The Osman Wi-Fi code for "OsmanChurch(public)" is "romans1017".

"Worship for Shut-ins"

Know someone who can't get to church? Lutheran Ministries from Concordia Theological Seminary produces "Worship for Shut-ins". It airs locally on WCIX-49 Sunday mornings at 7:30 AM.

Council Meeting

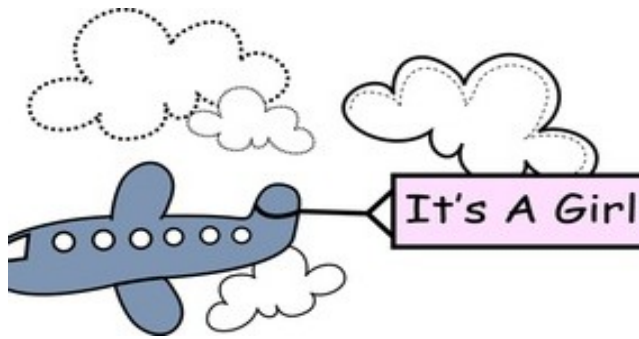
The Church Council will meet on Wednesday, August 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Annual Church Picnic!

The annual Osman Church Picnic will be held at the Bellflower Pavilion on Sunday, August 9th beginning at 10:00am. Singing favorite hymns, sharing delicious recipes, and games for young and old are just a few reasons not to miss this special event! Meat, buns, and drinks will be furnished by the council. Please bring a lawn chair and your own table service and a dish to share. Guests are always welcome!

Thrivent News

The total received from Thrivent Choice to our church for June and July was \$241. We thank the following members who directed Choice Dollars to our church: John Grussing, Dwight and Terri Hooker, Shirley Sprau, and Connie Warsaw.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
21 July 2015

CHAMPAIGN, IL -- Haggin of Champaign, Inc. is pleased to announce Version 2.2 of their critically-acclaimed series of children, codenamed "Rita Marie." The official launch date and time was 8:59 PM on 20 July 2015. Rita Marie weighed in at 9 lb 6 oz and 21" long.

Alicia Haggin, president and CEO of Haggin of Champaign, was resting after the strenuous launch and could not be reached for comment. COO Nicholas Haggin provided a statement on her behalf:

"After two successful boys, we thought it was time to try a different direction, while maintaining our rigorous standards of cuteness, mischief, and general awesomeness. Rita Marie already passes our most exacting cuteness test, and we are confident that she will learn everything she needs and more from Version 2.0 ('John Nicholas') and Version 2.1 ('Joseph Benedict') to be as mischievous and awesome as is humanly possible."

Transformers Division manager Joseph "Optimus Prime" Haggin was also resting and could not be reached for comment. Lego Division manager John "Master Builder" Haggin was happy his baby sister looked like a girl because "some girls look like boys."

Nicholas Haggin
A.M.D.G.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Nick, Alicia, John, and Joseph Haggin for the addition to their family, Rita Marie. May God bless her and take care of her. May God be kind to her and do good things for her. May God look on her with love and give her peace!

Annual Ladies Aid Luncheon

The Ladies Aid will meet for their annual luncheon on August 5th at Sweepers Restaurant and Bar in Arcola starting at 11 a.m. This is a change in the time. After that we will attend the play "Half-Stitched The Musical" at the Green Mill Village Theater in Arcola starting at 1 p.m. The cost is \$27 for both lunch and the play. The gratuity is NOT included in this price. We have 21 signed up to go and you will receive vouchers for the meal and play.

Shut-in Visits

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

New Address

Frances Zimmerman has moved to: The Villas of Holly Brook, 1400 N. Melvin Street, Apartment #4, Gibson City, IL 60936.

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman
Voter's Meeting- April 12, 2015

The Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman Voter's Meeting was held on April 12, 2015 immediately after church with 36 members present. Chairman Hardesty called the meeting to order. Pastor began with prayer and a reading from Psalm 148. Secretary, Debbie Lammle, read the minutes from the January 11th Voter's Meeting. Annette Warsaw made a motion to approve the minutes; Butch Sprau seconded; motion carried. Bob Zimmerman gave the treasurer's report for the first quarter with a balance of \$73, 539.86. Don Warsaw made a motion to approve the report; John Gercken seconded; motion carried. Bob Zimmerman explained that money will be reimbursed for the hall expenses by our insurance company, and the purchase of the three sinks was made possible from the Sprau's memorial money. Bob thanked the Sprau family, as well as everyone for their generous offerings and those who worked diligently to get the kitchen functional in time for the Easter breakfast.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor started his report by quoting I Corinthians 12:12. "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ." Pastor stated that this illustrates the unity and diversity of the different gifts exercised by God's people here at Osman. Pastor expressed his thanks to everyone who helped with the kitchen repair. He continued by inviting the congregation to an adult Catechism class on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. The class

will continue for 10-14 weeks. Pastor expressed a concern that there may not be enough summer vicars to go around, and therefore Immanuel Osman may not get one.

The CID District Convention will be held in Springfield from July 6-8th. A lay delegate may be sent from our congregation. This topic will be discussed at the May Council meeting.

Old Business:

Chairman Hardesty thanked Annette, Jeff, and Don Warsaw for designing and mounting the Easter banner on Front Street in Osman. He continued thanking all the talented individuals who helped with the repairs to the Fellowship Hall, including Dick Johnson, Bill McCleary, Don Warsaw, Butch Sprau, Steve Warsaw, Bob Zimmerman, Steve Martin, Lee Whitehouse, and Jeff Warsaw. Other thanks were given to the janitors, Ladies Aid, LWML, and everyone who helped get the kitchen back in order.

New Business:

An album of pictures showing the damage and progress on repairs was compiled for church records and for the congregation's viewing. Treasurer, Bob Zimmerman, put together a folder of expenses incurred during the repairs to the Fellowship Hall, a total of \$6,397.03.

The group was given an update on the inspection made by the Country Insurance and Financial Service. Although minor adjustments were suggested, the Insurance agent stated that Immanuel Osman is adequately insured and he feels great about the current policy. Chairman Hardesty informed the voters of the locations of the fire extinguishers in the church and fellowship hall as well as the AED located on the west wall in the annex. Training for the AED device has been provided for several members of our congregation. An additional phone is now located on the secretary's desk in the annex.

Bob Zimmerman made a motion to hire Illini Home Improvements to install spray foam in the crawl space under the kitchen as per estimated cost of \$536. Shane Zimmerman seconded the motion; motion carried.

A special thanks was given to Pastor McPike for providing a temperature probe to be placed in the crawl space that will alert him when temperatures drop to detrimental lows.

Several members of the congregation and council members have suggested that we change some operational procedures in the hall. After lengthy discussion, the members present agreed with the council's recommendation to leave the hot water heaters and the second refrigerator on all the time.

Bottled water will be kept in the second refrigerator for anyone to use while at the church or fellowship hall. Chairman Hardesty stated that we will track the utility bills to determine the cost difference after the appliances have remained on.

It was brought to the attention of the group that a slight amount of mold is present near the ceiling fans at the top of the church, and keeping the AC at a lower temperature might help with this problem. Discussion on this topic will be held at the next council meeting.

The next council meeting will be held May 6th at 7pm and the next Voter's meeting will be July 5, 2015. Motion to adjourn was made by Barb Whitehouse Gercken, seconded by Theresa VanWakeman Wilson; motion carried. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted,
Debbie Lammle

Osman Lutheran Church Council Meeting

June 3, 2015

The Osman Lutheran Church Council met on June 3rd in the Fellowship Hall with seven members present. Those attending included Rick Hardesty, Bob Zimmerman, Debbie Lammle, Susan Martin, Diane Zimmerman, Connie Warsaw, and Pastor McPike. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hardesty. Pastor McPike read a passage from the Gospel of John. Secretary, Debbie Lammle, read the minutes from the May Council meeting. Diane Zimmerman made a motion to accept the minutes. Connie Warsaw seconded. Motion carried. Bob Zimmerman read the treasurer's report with a balance of \$75,131.20. Motion made by Debbie Lammle to approve; second by Connie Warsaw; motion carried. Bob Zimmerman stated that the new contract for propane gas was set at \$435.27 a month, which averages out to \$1.368 per gallon.

Pastor McPike suggested giving our monthly mission contribution to Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in Seoul, South Korea in care of Elliot and Serena Derricks. Debbie Lammle made a motion to give July's monthly mission gift to the Lutheran Church in Seoul and the August contribution to LWR. Susan Martin seconded; motion carried. Diana Zimmerman made a motion to give to the Blue Ridge back pack program in September, Fisher food pantry in October, and the Mahomet food pantry in November. Connie Warsaw seconded; motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor McPike reported that the adult catechism class was going well with eight people attending on average. Pastor is recording the classes

Danville Zone Delegate's Report
from LWML National Convention, Des Moines, Iowa
June 25-28th, 2015

Instead of reporting on numbers, I feel the important part of the National convention for me came from Bible Studies and heart felt witnessing from the Mites in Action Speakers (those recipients of our LWML mites). Our theme was "Sow, Nourish, Reap" taken from 2 Cor. 9:8 "And God is able to make all grace abound to you so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." God is sowing grace in us. God is nourishing us with all that we need. And now God is reaping the harvest of every good work in us. When we share the Word by pointing people to Jesus, God is sowing an investment. We were reminded in the Bible Studies, that if there is to be a harvest, we must nourish. God provides this nourishment through the Word and Sacraments. Just stay patient and keep sharing God's Word. God is at work in every area of our lives, so He can reap the benefits of the harvest.

As you read this at home, raise your right hand and repeat this statement. I, state your name, am a missionary for Christ. The real missionaries are not the ones across the sea, but those who see the cross. Each Christian is a missionary for Christ. So let God sow, nourish, and reap in and through you as you continue your daily walk with Christ.

I treasured every part of convention, especially the interaction with other LWML sisters, participating in Servant Events by assembling materials for those with visual disabilities, and partaking in the Lord's Supper with thousands of LWML sisters. I participated in the Mission in Motion Pledge Walk, and also got my exercise by walking downtown Saturday morning to the Farmer's Market (making sure I returned to the Convention Center for the Saturday morning session). The slide show of the Mission Grants helped me "put a face" to the Mission Grants, and therefore vote more informatively. Another favorite of mine was the procession of 16 Heart to Heart Sisters (LWML ladies from other countries) who play such a vital role in spreading the Word of God. Because of their efforts in enriching the LWML, ethnic ministries are the part of our church that is growing the most!



Brenda Hendricks, Barb Gaines, and Terri Hooker

and placing online for those interested to listening from home. Pastor then stated that the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is recommending that churches offer communion more often. Therefore Pastor suggested that every 5th Sunday of the month, Immanuel Osman offer the Lord's Supper. The council approved his suggestion. Pastor will place this announcement in the August newsletter. Pastor then suggested that we reach out to the families in Osman by placing VBS door hangers on the homes in Osman.

Trustees Report: The council was informed the trustees are still looking for someone to check the mold at the top of the church, and work on the fascia will be done by Dick Johnson later in the summer.

Immanuel Osman already has a maintenance agreement for the church heating/AC units until the end of fall. When this contract expires, the council will get an estimate from Chief Bauer for one contract covering all the units in the Church and Fellowship Hall combined. By October Voter's meeting, the council will try to obtain a second quote for maintenance agreements for all AC and heating units for our members to review.

Bob Zimmerman met with the LP representative at the church. Separate shut-offs (at no charge) were installed at the annex and church and a pressure leak repaired.

Organist, Alicia Haggin, will contact a substitute organist for the Sundays she will be gone on maternity leave.

The July Council meeting will be changed to July 8th and the annual Voter's meeting to July 12th. Discussion was held concerning a possible 125th Centennial Celebration. Updating baptisms, confirmations, and weddings was discussed. Approval from the congregation will be brought up at the next voter's meeting.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Lammle

LWML Recycling

The LWML will now be collecting only the follow items for recycle: Used Portals of Prayer, used stamps, ink jet and laser cartridges, and cell and smart phones. The money collected from these recycled items is added to the LWML mite offerings. These offerings are then used to support the LWML mission grants, voted on this year at the National LWML convention at Des Moines, Iowa. See Debbie Lammle if you have any of these items to donate.

During Convention there was a time to cry, a time to laugh, and a time to rejoice. The laughter came while listening to the humorous interrupter, Jan Struck, who delighted us by sharing bizarre experiences in her life's journey. Laughter turned to tears of joy when I saw through video, thousands of people in foreign lands learning for the first time of the love of Jesus. Time to rejoice came when we were daily uplifted through song, led by Dina Vendetti. Rejoicing also came from our 80 Young Women Representatives who participated in convention. This was especially encouraging to me, since while attending the Board Meeting at Camp Cilca, one of our young women reps, Dana Moxley, was praised for her excitement for the Lord and enthusiastic ideas. Her father, Pastor Henry, was our pastor here at Immanuel Osman some years ago, and so we knew Dana as a young girl. She has grown into an enthusiastic witness for the Lord and a dynamic speaker for Christ. This convention was full of wonderful witness. Thousands viewed each session of the convention from home, logging on from 25 countries and 49 states.



Debbie Lammler

I treasure my experience as a first time delegate at a National LWML Convention, and **thank you, Immanuel Osman LWML, for voting me as the one to represent our zone.** We were fed by the Word and Sacraments, nurtured through worship and fellowship, and now equipped to sow, nourish, and reap in the Lord's Harvest field. Let's all pledge to continue what was started at convention!

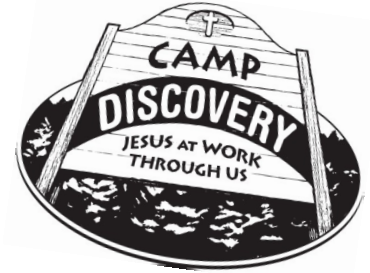
Debbie Lammler

Seminarian

The LWML and Ladies Aid will be supporting Jonathan Scheck during his last year in the seminary. Jonathan was able to visit Immanuel Osman during our church service on July 19th, and stayed in the home of John and Debbie Lammler. He was able to visit with several members during his two day stay in the area.

Camp Discovery - VBS

The excitement shown by the Sunday School children during the Sunday morning service on July 19th told how Jesus works through us. The small but mighty group attended VBS which started with a cook-out on July 12th. The theme for the week was Camp Discovery stressing how God works through each of us by giving us courage, wisdom, salvation, faith, and love. The lessons – David and Goliath; Deborah; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; Bartimaeus; and Ananias were examples of how God worked through them in their situations. The children loved dressing up like the characters in the Bible lessons. They loved the upbeat songs that accompanied the lessons. They enjoyed crafts, games, and snacks. A great learning experience was provided by many volunteers at Immanuel Osman. Thanks to everyone who helped make this possible!



VBS Campers Back row - left to right - Kailey May, Addison Warsaw, Jenna Clemmons, Payton Darling, and Jack Gallier. Front row - left to right - Reese Gallier, Megan Bidner, Mackenzie Darling, and Julianna Gercken



VBS Crafters

Operation Christmas Child!

No, it is not time to celebrate Christmas yet, but our Sunday School children will be packing shoe boxes in November for children in poor countries across the world. Since school supplies are on sale NOW this would be a good time to purchase items. Items needed are 5x7 inch notebooks, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, and small pencil sharpeners. All members of the congregation can contribute to this mission. There is a collection box on the back elder pew. The Vacation Bible School children collected an offering each day which will be used to buy supplies. They also saw a video explaining this mission as part of their lesson. Through a Thrivent action team we will also be receiving \$250 for this project.

THANK YOU!

A special thank you goes to Brenda Hendricks for decorating the church with a tent, a campfire and trees for the VBS "Camp Discovery" and for writing the special program for last Sunday's VBS service!

LWML NEWS

Pillowcase dresses! The quilters are now using their talents in another field. Many countries are in need of clothing for young girls so with very little effort the ladies are making pillowcases into dresses. They made their very first dress during their quilting time in July. If any members have extra pillowcases or extra lace trim, seam binding, or fabric ribbon, and would like to donate them, please leave on the back pew.

Fall Zone Rally will be approaching quickly. Osman will be hosting the LWML Danville Zone Rally on Thursday, September 17th from 8:30 to 3:30. All LWML members will be asked to serve on a committee – registration, food, or program. There will be a meeting the first part of August to make all of the plans for all of the committees.

Quilting - The ladies will be quilting on Thursday, August 6th and Saturday, August 8th starting at 8 AM each day. We have completed over 100 quilts. There have been some very beautiful quilts made this year. Some of them will be on display on LWML Sunday in October. Please consider joining us for a morning of good fellowship while helping out those in need.

Danville Zone LWML President's Meeting

The Danville Zone LWML President's meeting, led by Debbie Lammle, was held on July 18th at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Milford. Pastor Gibbs, Zone Counselor, opened the meeting with prayer, and presented a slide show of the 2015-2017 Mission Grants voted on at the LWML National Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. President Lammle began the business meeting with a president or representative from ten different LWML societies in attendance. A special thank-you was given to the Danville church LWML presidents for their planning of the Spring Gathering in March. The group was reminded about the Fall Rally on September 17th at Immanuel Osman. District Counselor, Rev. Becker, from Strasburg will give the Bible Study and Karen Ruhlig will speak on her experiences in Poland. President Lammle reported on the information from her Board meeting at Camp Cilca. A list of activities from each society was shared with the group, before ending the meeting with prayer. ****Reminder for Immanuel Osman LWML-the 52 Weeks of Giving Thanks Project will be collected in November. Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletin.**

Adult Confirmation

Three adults were confirmed on Sunday, July 26th, after completing weekly confirmation classes led by Pastor McPike. We are pleased to welcome into our membership Annette Whitehouse, wife of Roy Whitehouse, Sandy Whitehouse, wife of Lee Whitehouse, and Susan Miller, wife of Austin Miller. God's blessings to these special members as they continue to grow in their faith and are strengthened by their loving church family.



Left to right - Sandy Whitehouse, Annette Whitehouse, and Susan Miller

August Birthdays

- Jerry Reifsteck.....08-05
- Dorothy Welborn.....08-06
- Jamie Hendricks.....08-07
- Sue VanWakeman.....08-07
- Phyllis Hasty.....08-08
- Linnea Warsaw.....08-08
- Annette Warsaw.....08-09
- Carole Warsaw.....08-09
- Pam Christians.....08-24
- Butch Sprau.....08-25
- Ross Warsaw.....08-26
- Sarah Kerns.....08-28
- Jill Hardesty.....08-29
- John Lammle.....08-29
- Kari Genzel.....08-29
- William Delaney.....08-30



August Anniversaries

- Kathy and Phil Brendel.....08-02-1985
- Julia and Larry Camp.....08-08-1976
- Carolyn and Doug Majercin.....08-08-1981
- Cindy and Shane Zimmerman.....08-08-1998
- Agnes and Carol Martinie.....08-17-1996
- Tiffani and Brad Lutz.....08-25-2001
- Diana and Bob Zimmerman.....08-26-1967

Statistics

Date	Worship	Sunday School	Adult Class
6/21	61	3	15
6/28	65	3	9
7/05	60	2	11
7/12	77	2	16
7/19	80	10	11
7/26	72	n/a	n/a

Elder Schedule

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