

# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri  
Synod

**May 2024**



## From Pastor McPike's Desk...

### Mother's Day... "Mother Church"

What do you think of Mother's Day? That question can draw a wide variety of responses. There are some who feel it very important to set aside a day to honor women who not only gave birth but raised children. Others feel like it is a "card-shop holiday" meant to promote the purchase of cards and other related gifts for folks to give to their mothers. Still others, think that every day should honor mothers for what they do on a daily basis, not just one day a year.

Mother's Day was always a pretty important day in my house. My maternal grandmother lived to be 86, and my paternal grandmother, 97. The first funeral of a "mother" in my immediate family occurred when I was 27 years old. My father's mother died when I was 49. My own mother died when I was 61.

So Mother's Day had a tradition of being important in my own family. That is why I found it unusual to hear two women I worked with when I was a college student at the local newspaper, *The Martinsville Reporter*, saying they did not like Mother's Day. On the one hand, they knew their own children and grandchildren wanted to honor them. On the other, their own mothers were dead and that made them sadder than sad. As I look back on this, I was being exposed to the reality of grief in my early 20s.

I turned to the "Great Google", who "knows all", as it were, to find out where Mother's Day comes from. The "National Women's History Alliance" has a website that suggests three dates: 1858, when Ann Jarvis, "a young Appalachian homemaker, organized "Mother's Workdays" to improve the sanitation and avert deaths from disease-bearing insects and seepage of polluted water." Second date is 1872, "when Boston poet, pacifist and women's suffragist Julia Ward Howe established a special day for mothers –and for peace– not long after the bloody Franco-Prussian War." The third, 1905, "when Ann Jarvis died. Her daughter, Anna, decided to memorialize her mother's lifelong activism, and began a campaign that culminated in 1914 when Congress passed a Mother's Day resolution."

Looking further into the history of Mother's Day, there has been a tradition in the Roman Catholic Church that claims to be the "original Mother's Day". That church has a tradition of "Mothering Sunday". For centuries, "Mothering Sunday" was the Fourth Sunday in Lent. It was a day

that Christians would be encouraged to return to “Mother Church” which is the church where they were baptized. Those who made this return visit were known as to have “gone a-mothering.”

While we in the Lutheran church have not observed “Mothering Sunday”, to relate the church where a person was baptized as “Mother Church” is entirely appropriate. Baptism is where spiritually dead people are “born again” through water and of the Spirit. This of course is the sacrament that brings forgiveness of sins, works faith in the person’s heart and gives the gift of the Holy Spirit. That location where a Christian is born in the Sacrament of Baptism could well be considered to be “mother church.”

This reminds us that Baptism involves the whole church. In the Baptism service, three groups are specifically addressed: parents, sponsors, and the whole congregation. This identifies the specific levels of responsibility for folks in Baptism.

**Parents** – have the primary responsibility for the raising the child “in the fear and knowledge of God, according to the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.” Baptism is not magic. It is BIRTH into the Christian Church. But just like an infant needs to be nourished and cared for, educated and guided in order to mature into adulthood, so newly baptized children need to be brought to church, Sunday School, Catechism instruction. Also, parents can read to their children and have devotions with them. All this leads to that child growing in faith to a mature Christian.

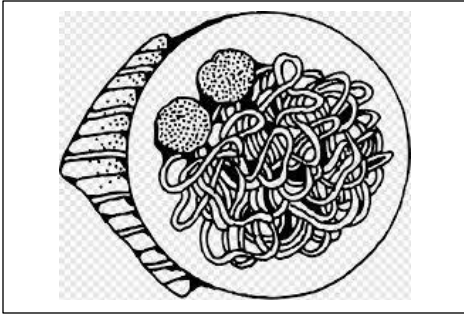
**Sponsors** - Godparents is an older term. Godparents or sponsors basically look over the parents’ shoulder, provide encouragement and, if the children should lose their parents, take over the parental responsibility. This means that should the parents not live up to their job in this way, sponsors encourage parents in their responsibilities. In the past, parents were encouraged to choose sponsors that also are Lutheran. While not always followed in these latter days, this makes sense. Since the sponsors are promising to stand in for the parents or encourage parents that are not living up to their own promises, it makes sense that sponsors themselves understand these parental obligations as it relates to the Lutheran Church.

**The Congregation** – This is the third “layer” of “sponsorship” for the newly baptized. Congregations take responsibility for Christian Education by providing Sunday School, Catechism, and Confirmation. Additionally, should the parents become remiss in their promises of support for the children, the church provides them encouragement to attempt to help improve that. The congregation, then, could be considered to be the “mother” of each Christian baptized therein. As our attention of late has turned toward church attendance, taking responsibility to reach out to those who have been baptized at Osman but no longer come can be a good start.

As a chaplain, when someone requests baptism in the Hospital, I work to try to connect them to a local church. That is not always possible. Baptisms that happen at 2AM in the NICU just as the baby is dying do not allow time for discussion. It is important, whenever possible, for baptism to be connected to a Christian Community, whatever the structure of that community.

And that reminds me... I need to take a Sunday off one of these days to return to my mother church, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, where on November 20, 1960, I was born again of water of the Spirit. Soon after I was baptized, my parents began attending the church where I grew up, Trinity Lutheran Church of Indianapolis. Because I was so young when that changed happened, I actually have no memories of being in attendance at St. Peter except what my folks and baptismal certificate say.

## **Noodles for Neighbors**



Noodles for Neighbors is the name of the Fundraising Dinner for the Andrew Ellis Family of Bellflower. It will be held on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, from 4:30 – 6:30 PM in the Bellflower Community Center Cafeteria. The menu will include spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert, and beverages. It will be sponsored by the Village of Bellflower Board.

## **Ladies Aid/LWML**

The Ladies Aid/LWML ladies will meet on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. The topic will be given by Deb Martin and the hostesses are Brenda Hendricks and Sue Van Wakeman. The roll call be answered with a Bible verse on humility. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend. The ladies will be tying and assembling quilts on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 PM and on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 8 AM. No experience needed so we welcome all ladies who want to make quilts for people in need.

## **MOST Ministries**

MOST stands for **M**ission **O**pportunities **S**hort **T**erm. Each year MOST Ministries provides recycled eyeglasses to people living in the developing nations around the world. Donations of eyeglasses are sorted, tested, and repackaged by volunteers for distribution in the mission field. The cost of a pair of glasses in many developing nations can exceed a month's salary. Without these donations hundreds of thousands of people would go without the glasses they need to work, read, or attend school. MOST ministries often provides the only pair of eyeglasses a person will ever own. While distributing the eyeglasses, the mission team also teaches the Word of God which many have not heard. Thank you to our members who donated 13 pairs of glasses for this cause. Thank you to Brenda Hendricks, Terri Hooker, Deb Martin, and Connie Warsaw for sewing over 125 eye glass cases for this cause. The eyeglasses and cases were taken to the ingathering at the CID LWML Convention in Rock Island in late April.

## **Church Council**

The church council will meet on Wednesday, May 14th, at 6:30 in the fellowship hall.

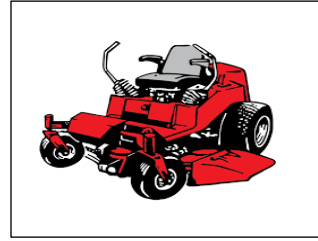
## **Thank You**

Dear Osman Family,

Thank you for all of the cards, calls, food, thoughts, and prayers during Rick's knee replacement surgery. He is doing very well and looking forward to this second knee replacement in August! God bless you all! Rick and Jill Hardesty

## May Lawn Mowers

The week of April 28 – May 4 – Darwin Warsaw  
The week of May 5 – May 11 – Butch Sprau  
The week of May 12 – May 18 – Mark Barrack  
The week of May 19 – May 25 – Kent Whitehouse  
The week of May 26 – June 1 – Steve Martin



The schedule this year lists the week that the volunteer needs to mow. It is recommended to mow on Thursday through Saturday of that week, so it looks nice for Sunday. If you have misplaced your schedule which was in the March newsletter, there is one on the back bulletin board. If you have any questions, contact trustee Jeff Warsaw or Lee Whitehouse.

## Bring A Friend to Church Sunday



Save the date of June 9<sup>th</sup>! Plan to attend our “Bring a Friend to Church Sunday”. Please bring a favorite dish to share for a potluck lunch following the service. This is a chance to invite a friend so they can see what our church has to offer in bringing Christ to our community with a message from our exceptional pastor and worship music from our talented organist.

## Update on Emily

Emily Grussing, daughter of John Grussing and granddaughter of Wilma Grussing, is recovering from a brain stroke in Springfield, Missouri where she is attending Missouri State University. Presently her address is Emily Grussing, Mercy Rehab Hospital, 5904 S. Southwood Road, Springfield, Missouri 65804. Please keep her in your prayers for recovery and if you would like, send cards as she enjoys getting mail. Her address will be updated as she progresses with rehabilitation sites.

## Places to Serve

All members can volunteer to visit our members who cannot come worship with us. There is a sign-up sheet on the back bulletin board of the church if you are interested in “bringing some smiles” to people who have health issues and cannot get to church. There is also a list for readers to volunteer to read the First Reading and the Epistle Lesson for the worship services. It is also on the back bulletin board. The bulletin inserts are also posted there if a volunteer is interested in knowing what the readings will be for each Sunday.

# HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!



**May Birthdays**

- Doug Majercin.....5-01
- Susan Miller.....5-04
- Cheyenne Zimmerman.....5-04
- Martha Warsaw.....5-08
- Wade Warsaw.....5-12
- Barb Whitehouse-Gercken.....5-21
- Jesse Johnson.....5-21
- Darwin Warsaw.....5-22
- Kris Zimmerman .....5-29
- Blaine Martin .....5-30

**Ascension Day – May 9**

For 40 days after his resurrection on Easter Sunday, the Bible says that Jesus travelled and preached with his apostles, preparing them for his departure from earth. Ascension Day marks the moment Jesus literally ascended into heaven before his disciples, at the village of Bethany, near Jerusalem.

**Pentecost Day – May 19**

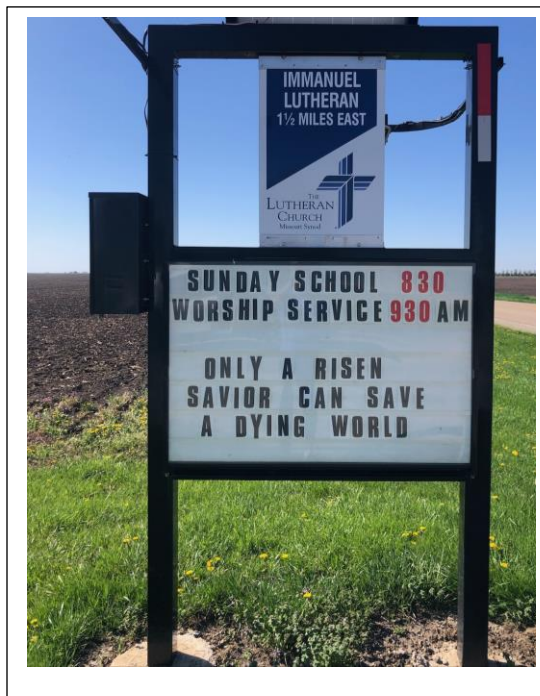
It is celebrated seven Sundays after Easter. The description in Acts 2 states that, after Jesus ascended into heaven, Jesus’ followers were gathered together for the Feast of Harvest and the Holy Spirit “filled the whole house where they were sitting” (Acts 2:2). “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” (Acts 2:4). This unusual event drew a large crowd. By the end of the day that the Holy Spirit came, the Church grew by 3,000 people (Acts 2:41).

**Statistics**

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
April 7	49	12	2
April 14	36	15	3
April 21	44	15	0



- Susan and Steve Martin .....05-09-1975
- Ashley and Bryce Martin .....05-19-2012
- Amanda and Chuck Amdor .....05-30-2009



# Congratulations, Graduates!



**Jenna Clemmons**, daughter of Kim Clemmons and Marvin Clemmons, will graduate from Fisher High School on May 19<sup>th</sup>. She will continue her education with the Parkland Pathways Program. She will be attending Parkland College and the University of Illinois simultaneously, working toward a degree in journalism.

**Jack Gallier**, son of Nikki and Rob Gallier, will graduate from Mahomet High School on May 19<sup>th</sup>. He will continue his education at University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota to study business and will be a part of the football program.

**Ashley Genzel**, daughter of Kari and Chris Genzel, will graduate from Fisher High School on May 19<sup>th</sup>. She earned her CNA Certificate while in high school and will continue her nursing degree at Parkland College.

**Addison Warsaw**, daughter of Annette and Jeff Warsaw, will graduate from Blue Ridge High School on May 19<sup>th</sup>. She will continue her education at University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon, majoring in journalism and minoring in sports business.

**Will Delaney**, son of Christie and Leonard Delaney, will graduate from Illinois State University with a Bachelor's Degree in agribusiness.

**Mackenzie Delaney**, daughter of Christie and Leonard Delaney, graduated in December with a Master's Degree in social work from the University of Illinois.

