

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



*Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC*

June 2024



From Pastor McPike's Desk...

Father's Day, Fathers, and our Heavenly Father

I love my father. He has been a great dad, great husband, and great provider. He climbed from abject poverty to what probably would be called "upper-middle" class. He has a picture of a house he lived in during the depression as a boy; it was built by his father from native lumber obtained by trading two hogs. He tells stories from his youth of snow on his bed, as native lumber warps, twists, cracks, and splits because it has not been properly dried. (Not to mention that my dear grandfather was hardly a fine craftsman... more of a hack). And of course there was no running water, indoor toilets, etc. Dad was lack-luster in high school, and he flunked out of his first year at Indiana University and joined the US Navy. Aboard ship, he was a radio operator, which stirred in him an interest in Amateur Radio, which then encouraged MY interest. I have been licensed for 43 years, and my nephew, Matthew, licensed just about 5 months ago, has also been influenced by his grandfather.

Dad married mom in 1953, left the Navy shortly after and told her, "If we're going to have anything, I need to get a college education." He did that from the same Indiana University that he had left the Navy for. Turns out he is very smart, just not very motivated at first. His degree in mathematics led him to a career in insurance, working mostly in the Actuarial Department. When I went to IUPUI to study engineering, dad went back to school and became a CPA. In retirement, he continued doing taxes and accounting until probably 2015. He did my taxes until then... and never charged me a cent. At the going rate from my current tax man, over 25 years of free tax service adds up to probably close to \$8,000!

Though dad grew up in poverty, my parents ended their home ownership with two three-bedroom homes, one in southern Indiana and the other in Loxley, Alabama, which is about 25 minutes north of Gulf Shores. When mom got sick, they sold the Alabama house, and in 2020 when things got much worse, they moved to Assisted Living/Memory Care and sold the southern Indiana home.

My dad was the inspiration for my international travel, specifically LutherTours. I still remember the day he brought the AAL magazine (now Thrivent) to show me an advertisement for pastor-tour hosts. "Pastors with ten travelers get to go free", he said, adding, "and I am your first signup, so you need to find only nine more!" Neither my mother nor my kids' mom cared to go, so he and I traveled together on three such tours. He still loves to talk about the great times we had in Europe.

So, when someone like me reads the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer, followed by Luther's explanation in the *Small Catechism*, warm feelings about a great dad help give definition to the theology. The Introduction is, of course, "Our Father, Who art in heaven". Luther then explains: "With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father."

Not everyone, however, has had a good father. There are far too many fathers who have been mean, abusive, demanding, or just downright absent. The woman whose father crawled on top of her in bed on a regular basis when she was a child will not have the same warm feelings I do. Nor will the man whose father never gave him an ounce of affirmation or was verbally or even physically abused. A good friend of mine who was a pastoral counselor talked many years ago of the challenge one of his patients gave him. She could not bring herself to see God as Father because her own father had been such a monster. The psychological and spiritual fallout plagued her long into adulthood.

Interestingly, Hans Luther was harsh and demanding, and so his son Martin lived much of his early life hoping for his father's affirmation. Often times he felt that he was never good enough. This, then led Martin Luther to feel for much of his early life that God the Father was an angry, demanding judge who could never be pleased despite young Martin's best efforts. No wonder, when lightning struck a tree as Luther was on his way back to University in Erfurt that he mis-took that for God's anger and judgment and cried out his promise to become a monk. He was desperate to please his father; desperate to please his heavenly Father and was quite filled with doubt of doing either.

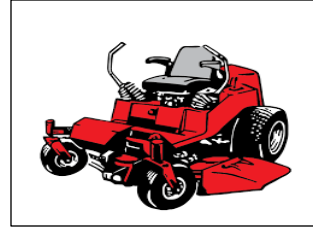
Why would Jesus choose "Our Father" as the beginning of the most-prayed prayer in history while the world is filled with so many rotten fathers? Our Lord will have to fill in the blank on that one. That Luther, with a very stern, hard-to-please father of his own, could write these words that appear in the catechism is his way of saying, "God the Father is what every Father OUGHT to be." In other words, as hard as it can be for someone who has had a terrible relationship with dad, or doesn't even know dad, there is still, out there, the "way it should have been." And "the way it should have been" is the way our Heavenly Father is. He provides and cares for us. He looks upon us with a perfect father's love that even the best earthly father cannot match. We who have been blessed with good earthly fathers have a positive way to see God. Those who have had a less than lovely relationship with an earthly father, or an absent or unknown father, can look to God as to "how it should have been". Once again, sin and the work of the devil are evident even in the relationships that should be the best we could experience in the world. Yet because our Heavenly Father loves us so much, He sacrificed His one and only Son to pay for that sinfulness. Jesus, the perfect Son of the Perfect Father, did battle with the Devil, who spoiled fatherhood for all time. Jesus, the perfect Son of the Perfect Father, destroyed the power of the devil, and gives us His forgiving love.

Quilting

The ladies will be tying and assembling quilts on Monday, June 3rd at 12:30 PM and on Wednesday, June 5th, at 8 AM. No experience needed so all ladies who want to make quilts for people in need are welcome. Presently the ladies have 58 quilts finished to give to Orphan Grain Train and Lutheran World Relief.

June Lawn Mowers

The week of June 2 – June 8 – Shane Zimmerman
The week of June 9 – June 15 – John Lammler
The week of June 16 – June 22 – Chase Zimmerman
The week of June 23 – June 29 – Skinner Johnson
The week of June 30 – July 6 – Steve Warsaw



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 9th! 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 music from our talented organist.

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

Seven ladies met on May 9th for the Ladies Aid/LWML meeting at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. After the meeting was called to order the LWML Pledge was said by the group. The opening devotion was given by Sue Van Wakeman and was entitled “Oliver Special”. The topic was given by Deb Martin and was an analysis of the Bible story of Hannah. Roll call was answered with a Bible verse on humility. Secretary Deb Martin read the minutes from the March meeting, and they were approved as read. The mites were collected. Diana Zimmerman gave the treasurer’s report which showed a balance of \$2,265.46. The treasurer’s report was approved. It was decided that dues of \$17 would be collected at the next meeting. Wilma Grussing reported on cards she had sent in the last few months. The group decided that in June the quilting dates will be Monday, June 3rd and Wednesday, June 5th. Diana Zimmerman shared a thank you from Dresses for Africa which the church received after the last shipment of dresses. In old business the group discussed the adopted family and the rotation of food committees. President Hendricks thanked Terri Hooker, Deb Martin, and Connie Warsaw who helped sew 125 glass cases for MOST Ministries. These were taken to the ingathering at the LWML Convention in Rock Island. Connie Warsaw narrated a power point presentation on the Spring Gathering in Woodworth in April and President Hendricks did the same with a power point presentation on the LWML Convention. Both ladies also added comments on the Mother/Daughter Salad Supper which they attended at Peace Lutheran Church in Thomasboro on April 28th. In new business the ladies voted to have a bake sale at the July 4th celebration in Bellflower. A motion was made and seconded to give the freewill offering that was collected at the Maundy Thursday Soup Supper to the Andrew Ellis Family in Bellflower. A delicious dessert and drinks were served before the meeting by Brenda Hendricks and Sue Van Wakeman. The next meeting will be July 11th at 7 PM. The topic will be given by Brenda Edwards and the hostesses will be Annette Warsaw and Marsha Warsaw. The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Council Meeting

The next church council meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 19th at 6:30 PM in the hall.

Ladies Night Out

All women of the church are invited to ask a friend for a night of food, fun, and fellowship. We will play Bunco with prizes given out. The date for the event is June 21st at 6:30pm at the fellowship hall. Food and drinks will be provided, but if you wish to help out, bring a snack of your choice. If you wish to help with small prizes, it will be greatly appreciated as well. Mark your calendars now!

CPR/Defibrillator Training

The date for the CPR/Defibrillator + Choking training is set for Monday evening June 24th at 7:00 PM. Training will be held in the fellowship hall. Observers are welcome and those who recently received the training in Bellflower are welcome to attend. There is a sign up sheet on the back bulletin board if you are interested in attending.

Vacation Bible School

Since there will NOT be a Vacation Bible School held at Osman this year St. Johns Lutheran Church in Champaign would love to have children attend their VBS. The theme is "Clues to Christ" and will be held June 17-21 from 9 – 11:30. The students will be singing songs, making crafts, playing games, and eating snacks. You can register now at <https://vbsmate.com/events/stjohnchampaign/28907> for students 3 years old (potty trained) through completed fifth grade. Another Vacation Bible School option is at Peace Lutheran Church in Thomasboro. Their VBS will be July 15 – 18 from 6 – 8 PM. The theme will be "Let's Build An Ark". Students from age four through twelve are welcome.

Bellflower July 4th Celebration

July 4th is fast approaching! The Ladies Aid/LWML will be hosting a bake sale at the July 4th Bellflower celebration. The present plans are to set up in the firehouse before the parade and move to the park after the parade. All members of the congregation are welcome to bake or make items for the sale. The sale profits are used for projects and expenses for the coming year. More details will follow in the bulletins. The church will not be entering a float in the parade this year but will be handing out water with promotional information about our church. Plan ahead now to celebrate July 4th in Bellflower!

Father's Day

On this Father's Day, June 16th, we give thanks for all the fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers. We also give thanks to God who is a father to the fatherless. Whether you feel full of joy, nostalgia, or pride as you think about Father's Day, take comfort in the fact that you have a perfect Father in heaven who loves and accepts you just as you are. God's blessings to all the fathers!

Thank You

Our church donates money to the organizations in Blue Ridge, Fisher, and Mahomet School Districts that help feed hungry students.

Thank you so much for your donation to the Feeding Our Kids Organization. Your donation will help many students in our community. Thank you so much!

Sincerely, Tara Stafford, Fisher Grade School

Thank you for the donation to the Salt Creek Food Pantry which the Blue Ridge Backpack Program is a part of. This donation will help buy food for the packs that go home with hungry students each week of the school year.

Sincerely, Charlene Sprecker, Treasurer of Salt Creek Food Pantry

Happy Birthday
To Everyone
Born in June!

6/03 Susan Martin
6/05 Colt Zimmerman
6/09 Donald Warsaw
6/12 Jim VanWakeman
6/13 Amanda Amdor
6/15 Rong Warsaw
6/15 Michael Brooks
6/16 Brenda Edwards
6/19 Dick Johnson
6/21 Natalie Hooker
6/22 Beth Bidner
6/24 Kim Clemmons
6/26 Laura Zimmerman
6/27 Ashley Martin
6/30 Jack Gallier

Statistics

Date	Worship	Bible Class	Sunday School
April 28	39	8	1
May 5	44	15	0
May 12	31	13	2
May 19	40	0	0
May 26	32	15	2

Happy Anniversary

6-10-2017 Jamie and Aaron Krueger
6-11-1994 Jill and Rick Hardesty
6-15-1985 Terri and Dwight Hooker
6-23-2001 Beth and Neil Bidner
6-25-1977 Debbie and John Lammler
6-30-1979 Janet and Myron
Zimmerman

SUNDAY SCHOOL 830
WORSHIP SERVICE 930 AM
PLANT THE SEED
OF FAITH