

# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



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

**July 2024**



## From Pastor McPike's Desk...

Most of the Gospel readings for this year come from the Gospel of St. Mark. Not only is Mark the shortest Gospel book, but it also has a very simple outline. The first "half" of the book is from the beginning to Mark 8:27-30. The theme of this portion of Mark's Gospel is "Is Jesus the Messiah?" Mark answers this question by using criteria given by Moses in the Old Testament.

When Moses was about to die, he gave many instructions to the people of Israel. One of those instructions was essentially, "do not listen to false prophets." This was important... it had not been an issue for the people of Israel, because Moses has been their leader serving also as prophet since they left Egypt. But when he was about to die, it was important that they be able to recognize who spoke truth from God and who was trying to lead them astray. Moses gave the people two basic things to look for. First, any prophet must not contradict what had already been previously established as having come from God. Basically, that meant the prophet must always agree with teachings from God given through Moses. (This is why those opposed to Jesus kept claiming that He was speaking against things said by Moses). The second thing for them to look for was that the prophet must be able to do something showing that the power of God was in them. That power of God was identified to be power over the devastation brought by sin: power over disease, power over nature, power over demons/devil, power over death.

The late Rev. Ken Klaus, Speaker of the Lutheran Hour from 2002-2009, is someone I consider one of the most engaging Lutheran preachers of the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century. I often refer to sermons of Pastor Klaus for inspiration and illustrations. In a preaching journal to which I have been a charter subscriber, *Concordia Pulpit Resources*, Dr. Klaus published (in 2000) a series of sermons on the power of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark. I have decided to follow those this summer. Two were preached in June (June 23 and 30). The remaining sermons will be preached the rest of the Sundays in July after July 7. Those sermons are as follows:

"Power over Nature" (Mark 4:35-41) June 23

"Power over Death" (Mark 5:2' 1-24a; 35-43) June 30

"Power over Evil" (Mark 6:7-13) July 14

"Power for Us" (Mark 6:30-34) July 21

"Power over Wisdom" (Mark 6:16) July 28 (transferred from July 7)

Mark spends the first half of his book presenting evidence as proof that Jesus is Messiah by showing God's power at work in Him. Once again, you can see why I call these demonstrations of the power of God "Miraculous Signs" - and not simply "miracles." Miracles are acts that have no particular explanation in a "natural" way to accomplish something. A "sign" is something that points elsewhere. Every one of the "miracles" of Jesus were signs pointing to Him, saying, "Jesus is the Messiah."

**Next Month: The second half of the Gospel of Mark: "What Kind of Messiah is Jesus?"**

## **Our Deepest Sympathy**

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Gene Welborn who passed away on Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, at the age of 93. May God provide comfort and care for those who mourn his loss. The funeral was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman on Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, and his burial followed at Willowbrook Cemetery in Fisher.

## **Ladies Aid/LWML**

The Ladies Aid/LWML ladies will have their next meeting on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. Topic will be given by Brenda Edwards. The hostesses will be Annette Warsaw and Marsha Warsaw. The roll call will be answered by a favorite Bible verse on obedience. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. The ladies will be tying quilts on July 1<sup>st</sup> at 8 AM in the fellowship hall. All ladies are welcome to attend – no experience needed!

## **Possible July Lawn Mowers**

The week of June 30 – July 6 – Steve Warsaw

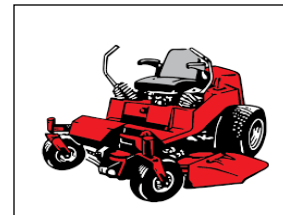
The week of July 7 -13 – Jim Poppe

The week of July 14 – 20 – Lee Whitehouse

The week of July 21 – July 27 – Jeff Warsaw

The week of July 28 – August 3 – Leonard Delaney

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. With the possible dry weather, please check to see if the property needs to be mowed each week.



## **Baked Goods Needed!**

EVERYBODY is invited to bake for the Ladies Aid/LWML Bake Sale in Bellflower on Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>! It will be served out of the Bellflower Fire House beginning at 7:30 AM. You can bring your "goodies" to the fellowship hall refrigerator on July 3<sup>rd</sup> or you can bring them before 7:30 on July 4<sup>th</sup> to Bellflower. Plates with two to four cookies work well and individual baggies of snack foods are usually popular as parade watchers can eat these as they await the parade.

## July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade Entry

Instead of a church float in the Bellflower July 4th parade this year, the church council has decided to provide bottles of water to those in attendance as a means of outreach. The bottled water will be labeled with Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman and will be handed out by the council members along the parade route.

## Ask A Friend to Church Sunday

"Ask a Friend to Church" was held on June 9th during the regular worship service. The guests were daughters-in-law, moms, sisters, nephews, and friends from work. After the service 44 members and guests helped celebrate the day with a potluck. Several three generation families were present: Dave Masko, Gina and Anthony Feit, and baby Nora and Bob and Diana Zimmerman, Chase and Mackenzie Zimmerman, and Colt Zimmerman. Let's make 60 in attendance the new norm at Osman! KEEP THOSE GUESTS COMING!!!



## **Ladies Night Out**

The Immanuel Lutheran Ladies and their guests met together on June 21<sup>st</sup> in the fellowship hall for a “Girls Night Out”. A wild game of Bunco was enjoyed by all ages, grade school to seniors. In between rounds of Bunco, the guests indulged in delicious food and drinks. Lilly, a friend of Alicia Haggin, won the loser prize, a gift card to Cold Stone Creamery. Gayle Jackson, sister of Susie Martin, won the grand prize which was a gift card to Hobby Lobby. Besides learning a new game, some met new friends and shared favorite recipes. Thanks again to Jeff and Annette Warsaw for providing window air conditioners to make the room comfortable since the air conditioning unit was not working. We look forward to the next celebration of “Girls Night Out”.



Left – Barb Whitehouse-Gercken,  
Julianna Gercken,  
Jaylyn Bernau, and  
Karen Derges

Right – Gayle  
Jackson – Winner  
of Bunco



## **Visiting the Shut-ins**

Thank you to Brenda Edwards and Debbie Martin for visiting the shut-ins in June. All members of Ladies Aid/LWML and all church members who are interested in visiting the shut-ins, please sign up on the back bulletin board. There are several months that are available. Volunteers may decide on the most convenient day and time to visit. A short visit from a church member could make all the difference!

## **Hall Air Conditioner**

The fellowship hall air conditioner is not working. The air conditioning unit that was installed in February is being totally replaced. It may take a few weeks to receive the new unit. Window air conditioners donated and installed by Jeff and Annette Warsaw are keeping it cool at the present time.

## **Church Council**

The church council meeting will be held on July 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in fellowship hall. The Quarterly Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, after the regular worship service.

## Baptism

Owen Michael Krueger, son of Aaron and Jamie (Hendricks) Krueger, was baptized on Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> here at Immanuel Osman. Owen's grandparents are Brenda Hendricks and the late Michael Hendricks. The godparents were Brant and Danielle Hendricks. God's blessings to this precious child of God.

## Church Picnic

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, for the church picnic after the worship service. Both the worship service and the potluck will be held at the Fisher Community Building. Watch for more details!

## Happy Birthday!



Wilma Grussing, our oldest member, will be celebrating her 95th birthday on July 13th. She attends the monthly Ladies Aid/LWML meetings, helps with quilting each month, and bakes the best chocolate chip cookies for church events! She is the Ladies Aid/LWML member that sends cards to our church members for all occasions. Let's shower her with many cards and blessings! Her address is 510 West Center Street in Bellflower, Illinois 61724. Happy Birthday,

## Thank You

Our church donates money to the organizations in Blue Ridge, Fisher, and Mahomet School Districts that help feed hungry students. This is a thank you that the church received this week:  
Dear members of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman,

THANK YOU! Your donation to our Give Me Five Program helps us provide weekly bags of food to the students from Pre-K to Grade 12 in the Mahomet Seymour School District who need food. You are truly being His hands and feet! Fondly, Lori Larson

## Thank You

THANK YOU! I received so many heartfelt, encouraging, and warm messages while I was sick. I am truly grateful for the outpouring of care and appreciate all the cards, texts, food, and calls. Thank you all! Sharon Griffin

*Have a Safe and Happy  
July 4<sup>th</sup> !*

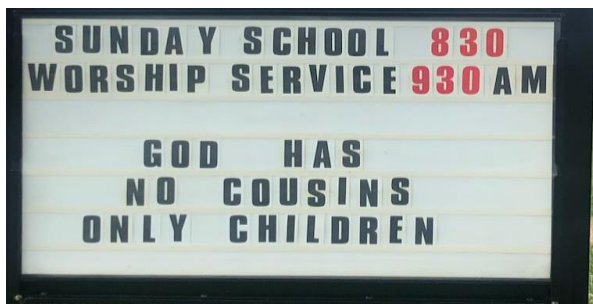
## CPR Training



The CPR – Defibrillator/Choking Training was held Monday evening, June 24<sup>th</sup> in the fellowship hall with seven members and one guest participating in the training. The training was conducted by Laura Willis, the Business Manager at Leroy Ambulance. It was a recertification for our retired nurses and a great learning experience for others. With an estimated 15-minute response time from the Bellflower Fire Department it is comforting to know that twelve of our church members have now taken the time to receive this training.



7-02 Ryan Lammler  
 7-05 Jerry Edwards  
 7-06 Mackenzie Delaney  
 7-12 Larry Lutz  
 7-13 Wilma Grussing  
 7-14 William Schroeder  
 7-15 Ryan McPike  
 7-15 Aaron Warsaw  
 7-15 Bryan Warsaw  
 7-20 Carolyn Majercin  
 7-21 Shane Zimmerman  
 7-27 Jane Poppe  
 7-29 John Haggin  
 7-30 Roy Whitehouse



## Statistics

Date	Worship	Bible Class	Sunday School
June 2	43	15	1
June 9	60	12	2
June 16	51	13	0
June 23	43	13	2



7-10-1971 Deb and Dick Johnson  
 7-12-2011 Hallie and Greg Payne  
 7-16-1977 Marsha and Steve Warsaw  
 7-21-2007 Rebecca and Scott Gercken  
 7-24-1999 Nikki and Rob Gallier  
 7-28-2007 Nicole and Jesse Johnson

## “God Bless Our Native Land” – Hymn #965

History indicates that nations or governments almost never last more than five hundred years. By that measure, the United States of America today would be considered middle-aged. Although she may seem a great power that can never be toppled, so did the Roman Empire at one time. And remember the old saying, “The sun never sets on the British Empire”? Well, it does now. Therefore, we would do well to keep the nation in our prayers because one of these years she could be gone along with all our treasured security and freedoms.

Prayers for our country are always appropriate, as the Apostle Paul indicates: “*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority.*” (1 Timothy 2:1-2 NIV84) So one may hear national and patriotic hymns in church, especially during the first week of July. One of the most stirring of these is the prayer expressed by the poem “God Bless Our Native Land”.

It seems the lyrics originated around 1745, perhaps from a Latin text, although it is uncertain. Appearing initially in English as “God Save the King,” Siegfried Mahlmann, a German poet, adapted it for his own country’s use (“God Save Saxony”). Later (1834), Charles Brooks of Massachusetts adapted the first verse again for use in America, and the text was modified yet again about ten years later by then well-known musician and writer John Sullivan Dwight (1813-1893), giving us the hymn with which we are now familiar: **God bless our native land! / Firm may she ever stand / Thro’ storm and night; / When the wild tempests rave, / Ruler of wind and wave, / Do Thou our country save / By Thy great might.**

We call upon God to protect our nation by His almighty power. Surely, He who is able to control the weather, the wind and the waves, is able to do this! We recognize, too, that no country can stand by its own strength, for it is not the wisdom and power of human governments which ultimately uphold a nation, but rather it is God’s great might (see [Daniel 2:21](#); [Romans 13:1](#)). We pray with the confidence that He will use that might in the wisest possible way for the benefit of His redeemed children, His believers in Christ Jesus.

In his *Large Catechism*, Martin Luther explains well the good habit of praying for the nation because through her God gives us needed blessings. “There is, indeed, the greatest need to pray for temporal authority and government, as that by which most of all God preserves to us our daily bread and all the comforts of this life. For though we have received of God all good things in abundance, we are not able to retain any of them or use them in security and happiness, if He did not give us a permanent and peaceful government. For where there are dissension, strife, and war, there the daily bread is already taken away, or at least checked.”

The hymn’s majestic tune (the origin of which is also unknown) has been quoted in the compositions of many world-famous composers and is the national or royal anthem of over a dozen countries. One can scarcely pray the words without imagining or hearing at the same time the immortal melody. Listen: **For her our prayer shall rise / To God above the skies; / On Him we wait. / Thou who art ever nigh, / Guarding with watchful eye, / To Thee aloud we cry, / God save the State!**

**(Written by David Schaller who is pastor of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sister Lakes, Michigan)**