

# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
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**August 2024**



## From Pastor McPike's Desk...

### *“What Kind of Messiah?”*

Last month's column identified that the Gospel according to St. Mark can be divided into two parts. The first, from the beginning to Mark 8:26 seeks to answer the question, “Is Jesus the Messiah?” Mark's Gospel, unlike Gospels by Matthew and Luke, skips the whole birth narrative and starts with John the Baptist, who is the forerunner of Jesus to announce that Jesus has come. Jesus' first appearance is when He was baptized. These events set the stage to provide the positive answer to that question – “Is Jesus the Messiah?”

From the Baptism of Jesus up to Mark 8:27, the Gospel writer devotes his book to answering that very question. He does so by using the criteria given to the people of Israel in Deuteronomy. There, God gave His people four points of identification – Messiah would demonstrate having God's power, specifically: power over disease, power over demons/Satan/evil, power over nature, and power over death. Jesus, of course, very clearly demonstrated that power through what many call “miracles” or what I like to call “miraculous signs.”

The division between the two sections of Mark comes in Mark 8:27-30. Jesus and His disciples are basically alone, and He asks them, “Who do people say I am?” The popular speculation about Jesus is repeated by the disciples (“Some say John the Baptist, some say Moses, some Elijah, or possibly some other prophet”.) He then asks a second, more pointed question: “Who do YOU say I am?” Peter boldly says, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” In more direct language, Peter is answering the question of “Is Jesus the Messiah?” with a resounding YES!!

The rest of the book of Mark, from that point forward, seeks to answer a second, albeit related question: “What Kind of Messiah is Jesus?” Immediately after Peter's bold confession, Jesus begins to answer this second question, “What kind of Messiah is Jesus?” with this answer – He is the kind of Messiah who must die in order to accomplish our salvation. The rest of the book of Mark gives one illustration after another of this answer. Jesus is the Messiah; but He is a Messiah who has to suffer and die.

This is hard to come to terms with. The common thought today is that when something is working, that is validation that it is the right thing. When something is working, that means, find out what is working and do more of it.

Jesus' early ministry was "working" – working well! He preached, and people loved what He had to say. He did miracles, and that impressed people. As He preached, as he taught, as He did miracles, the crowds grew and grew. Looking at it from this perspective, Jesus should have just kept it up! More miracles, more preaching, more teaching. Do what works! Do MORE of what works!

But Jesus did not do this. Once Jesus and His twelve disciples had the conversation about "Who is He?" Jesus then began to describe what He was going to do. "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law. He must be killed and be raised on the third day." (Luke 9:22). Peter, of course, reacts the way that anyone in his situation would react. His friend, His teacher, had just said that He was going to die. This was not welcome news. Juxtapose this talk of Jesus suffering and dying with Jesus' popularity up to this point, and it is even easier to understand Peter's reaction. "Jesus! You are at the top of your game! The crowds love you. Many people adore you! Why would you want to talk crazy like this and drive them all away?"

Our Lord Jesus came to save us, and that cost Him His life. It was a messy, horrible business. It was necessary to save us from our sins.

Doing the right thing can be a difficult and costly situation. Just ask Jesus. It would have been far easier for Him to listen to the temptations along the way to take the easy way. The devil tempted Him right after He was baptized with three separate suggestions on taking the easy way. Peter, in his most well-meaning voice, tried to block Jesus from taking the messy and difficult path of salvation.

Jesus had His difficult moments following the path to the cross. That same difficult path can come to us as we follow Jesus. As we can see by shrinking church attendance in our day, following Jesus is not popular.

### ***What does this mean?***

The whole Gospel of St. Mark presents Jesus as Messiah by showing the power of God over sickness, evil, nature, and even death. Jesus came as that Messiah to offer His own life so that we would live. What does that mean for us? As the final sermon in the series by Pastor Ken Klaus from the end of June through July, this means, "Power for us".

Yes, Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus met the Old Testament "tests" or indicators for Messiah, by showing power over sickness, power over evil, power over nature, power over death. As sons and daughters of the King, loved by our Lord Jesus, we also have that power. True, we cannot control nature; we cannot make all disease disappear; we cannot raise the dead; but we have power in all these situations. God's power walking with us, being with us, helping us in the midst of fear and dread is power for living, power in dying, power for the vision of seeing in the future when, risen and reigning with our God, we will live forever in heaven. Because Jesus is the suffering Messiah who gave His life for us, we have His power to live as His forgiven people, facing the difficulties of this life until we leave this life for the life that God promises all those who live trusting Jesus for forgiveness and salvation.

## Operation Christmas Child

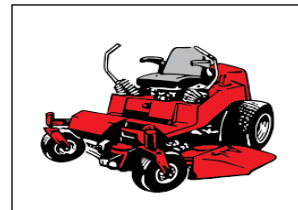


We will be packing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child in November for children in poor countries across the world. Since school supplies are on sale NOW, this would be a good time to purchase needed items. We are in need of 15 glue sticks, 14 combs, 16 pencil sharpeners, 9 boxes of crayons, pencils and ink pens, 4 bars of soap, 24 boxes of markers (10-12 packs), 19 boxes of colored pencils, 6 pair of socks, 23 toothbrushes. We usually pack 12 boxes for boys and 12 boxes for girls so other small items can be added such as matchbox cars, bracelets, small hair bows or

clips, etc. If you prefer to give a cash donation, we would be glad to buy items that are needed. There will be a collection box on the elder's pew. Two Thrivent Action Team cards will be used to buy larger items and to pay the \$10 postage fee (maybe more) for each box. If you would like to pack a box or have questions about what is acceptable, please see Terri Hooker or Connie Warsaw. Thanks so much for helping with this worthwhile project and bringing a smile to a child's face.

## Possible August Lawn Mowers

The week of July 28 – August 3 – Leonard Delaney  
The week of August 4 – August 10 – Bob Zimmerman  
The week of August 11 – August 17 – Don Warsaw  
The week of August 18 - 24 – Dwight Hooker  
The week of August 25 – August 31 – Lee Whitehouse



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 Lee Whitehouse or Jeff Warsaw.

## Heating and Air Conditioning Unit Installation



In February 2024 JC Heating, Cooling, and Plumbing from Gibson City installed a new heating/air conditioning unit for the fellowship hall. In the middle of June as the temperatures got hotter, the air conditioning unit malfunctioned due to a freon issue. A new replacement one was installed on Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup> under the warranty agreement. Window air conditioners were borrowed from Jeff and Annette Warsaw and floor fans were borrowed from other members to cool the area until the new unit could be installed. Thank you to everyone who helped with this endeavor.

## **Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting**

Eight ladies met on July 11<sup>th</sup> for the Ladies Aid/LWML meeting at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. The group enjoyed delicious birthday treats of ice cream and cake to celebrate Wilma Grussing's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday served by Marsha Warsaw before the meeting started. After the meeting was called to order, the LWML song was sung and the LWML Pledge was recited. A devotion was given by Brenda Edwards as substitute for Deb Lammle. Brenda Edwards led a topic entitled "The Right Time". Roll call was answered by a Bible verse on obedience. The minutes from the May meeting were read and approved with no corrections. The mites were collected. Diana Zimmerman gave the treasurer's report which showed a balance of \$2759.96 after a very successful bake sale which made \$919.50. The treasurer's report was approved. Wilma Grussing reported on cards she had sent in the past months. Terri Hooker reported that 72 quilts have been completed. There are only four more times to quilt for the count this year. The quilts are taken to Orphan Grain Train and Lutheran World Relief collection points in October. There have been 20 more dresses made since the last shipment in April.

In the old business President Hendricks reviewed our selection of the adopted family of Abby and Amelia Kirkpatrick, and Marsha Warsaw gave an update on the surgeries that Amelia has had recently. The food committees were also reviewed. President Hendricks thanked all the members who baked cookies for the Andrew Ellis Benefit in Bellflower in June. The Bellflower Board was very thankful for our help and the benefit made around \$10,000. She also thanked those who made food and helped serve Gene Welborn's funeral dinner. The July 4<sup>th</sup> bake sale was reviewed and a thanks was given to all members who made food and sold the items on Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, which was the rescheduled date due to weather issues.

In the new business the members discussed wedding gift ideas for Mackenzie Delaney who will be getting married in August. They voted to apply for a Seminary student to adopt and approved the amount of \$75 from September to May. Connie Warsaw gave a report on the possibilities for the August luncheon. She will let the members know the location and times. Some upcoming LWML/Ladies Aid events are the Danville Zone Rally in Loda on September 10<sup>th</sup>, the Central Illinois District Retreat at Camp Cilca on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, and the National LWML Convention in Omaha, Nebraska in June 2025. The next meeting will be on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. The topic will be given by Brenda Hendricks and the hostesses will be Wilma Grussing and Diana Zimmerman.

## **Church Picnic**



The church picnic will be held on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Fisher Community Building. The worship service and the picnic will be held there. It will be a potluck, but there is not a stove or oven at this building so all hot food will need to be prepared in a crock pot. There also will not be any meat prepared on grills, so it is a total potluck. Drinks will be furnished but bring tableware. The worship service will begin at 10 AM with no adult Bible class or Sunday School. BINGO will be played after the meal.

## Bellflower July 6th



The Ladies Aid/LWML hosted the bake sale at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Bellflower Celebration that was held on July 6<sup>th</sup> due to impending weather. It was held in the firehouse, and many customers bought “goodies” and made donations. The sale profited \$919.50. Thanks to all the church members and the Ladies Aid/LWML members who made the goodies. Some of the church council members walked the parade route and distributed water bottles to the spectators from the back of Lee and

Sandy Whitehouse’s Jeep. Labels with our church’s name and address had been attached to the water bottles. The unsold goodies and the remaining water bottles were taken to the community park after the parade where they were offered to the community.

## Council Meeting

The church council will meet on Wednesday, August 21st at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall.

## Quilting

The ladies will quilt on Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 8AM and Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. No experience needed!

## **Ladies Aid/LWML Luncheon**

All Ladies Aid/LWML members and guests are invited to a ladies luncheon on August 8<sup>th</sup> at Yoder's Restaurant in Arthur. If you are interested in attending the luncheon on that day at 11:30, please sign up on the list on the back bulletin board. Please indicate on the list the number of lady guests that you are bringing so the reservation number can be called a few days in advance. If the group is 15 ladies or more, then the group has to do buffet which is priced at \$14.99, plus drink.

## **New Organ**

On Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, Don Warsaw drove his truck and an attached rented trailer on a road trip to get the organ. His helpers - John Grussing, Jeff Warsaw, and Lee Whitehouse – and Don had the task of loading the Allen MDS Model Organ and four Allen Organ speakers into the trailer at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Brookfield, Illinois and transporting them to the church where the organ and speakers had to be carried in and placed under the balcony as their temporary home. Soon it will be lifted into the balcony, and the speakers will be attached to the balcony walls. It will be ready to be used in a few weeks. The organ was purchased from Scott Gercken. An organ concert is being planned so watch for more details in the near future.



## **Our Sympathy**

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of John Homann who passed away on Wednesday, July 17th, at the age of 60. He had been battling cancer for eight years. He was the sole youth Confirmand in the Class of 1978 here at Osman. May God provide comfort and care for those who mourn his loss. His visitation and funeral was held on Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, in Westville, Illinois.

## Men's Day Out



On Saturday afternoon June 29th eleven men from our congregation and one guest toured Allen Strongs antique car collection in Urbana. Mr. Strong described each car and its history. His wife was disappointed that the men did not bring their spouses because she is very proud of her collection of ladies' hats and fur coats. In the picture Mark Barrack is modeling one of her fur coats.

### Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
June 30	43	13	0
July 7	42	No Class	3
July 14	33	13	2
July 21	43	14	0



08-01 Melanie Niemann  
 08-07 Sue VanWakeman  
 08-09 Annette Warsaw  
 08-18 Ashley Genzel  
 08-24 Pam Christians  
 08-25 Butch Sprau  
 08-26 Ross Warsaw  
 08-28 Sarah Ford  
 08-29 Jill Hardesty  
 08-29 John Lammle  
 08-29 Kari Genzel  
 08-30 Will Delaney



8-1-2020 Mackenzie and Chase  
 Zimmerman  
 8-8-1981 Carolyn and Doug Majercin  
 8-8-1998 Cindy and Shane Zimmerman  
 8-25-2001 Tiffani and Brad Lutz  
 8-26-1967 Diana and Bob Zimmerman