

# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



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

**September 2024**



## From Pastor McPike's Desk...

The Lutheran Church is a singing church. This has been true since the days of Luther. One of the reforms supported by Luther was to give singing to the people. Prior to that time, choirs of monastics sang everything in the church. The people just gathered to listen. They were observers and spectators, more than participants. Luther saw the value in good hymnody, where people would learn as they sang. Luther understood that words set to music were easier to commit to memory than simply memorizing words alone.

Organs have been a key support for Lutheran worship throughout the ages. They provide support for singing hymns, liturgy, as well as music at other times in the service. A good organ and good organist both leads the singing in worship as well as supporting it. Originally, organs had pipes that were shaped and sized in a variety of ways to produce a variety of sound. As technology advanced, electronic organs became an alternative to pipe organs. Pipe organs are a better value in the long run, as is evidenced by the existence of such instruments in Europe that are hundreds of years old. Pipe organs have a huge “sticker price” compared with electronics, and they do demand regular tuning to keep them sounding good.

When our current church building was in its first decade, those looking to the future of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman saw fit to purchase an organ that was installed in the balcony in 1959. For the past 65 years, the Allen “Rondo” Organ has been a key supportive part of our worship. Actually, it is quite miraculous for that instrument to have lasted this long, and for that we can thank God. As a comparison, think about the radio or television that may have been purchased by you or your parents in 1959. Full of tubes, requiring all sorts of maintenance to keep it going, there are precious few around, most being in museums or props in the corner of a living room. I actually have a 25 watt stereo amplifier in my living room that my grandfather purchased new in 1959. It works well, but only because I have replaced all the tubes and other electronic components... twice. The average lifespan of an organ such as we have used for 65 years is less than three decades.

A little over a month ago, a newer-to-us organ was transported to our church. Thanks to all who made that happen! It has been sitting behind the elder's pew since. It dates from the late 1990s, and is far more advanced than our 65 year old “Rondo”. That instrument was placed in the balcony on

August 20, while the “Rondo” was moved to the main floor. Many thanks to Scott Gercken, who was able to obtain the newer organ, provide some maintenance, and store it at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Brookfield until it could be moved to Osman.

Tradition in churches over the years is to give thanks to God for His blessings in the past and to call upon God to bless future endeavors. To that end, our sixty-five year old current organ will be used through Labor Day Weekend, September 1, 2024. At the end of the service that day, a short “Valedictory” rite will give thanks to God for the blessings of those with foresight to purchase that organ sixty-five years ago and recognize the service the instrument has provided us over the past six and a half decades. A final “recital piece” will be played, and that organ will be officially retired.

The following Sunday, the service will begin with a rite of dedication for the newer organ now in the balcony. This will include dedication rite, prayers, and then a dedicatory piece of music played at the beginning of the service.

A “dedicatory organ recital” is being planned for a later date, most likely October, very possibly Reformation Sunday afternoon in conjunction with “Reformationfest.” The plan is to invite previous organists who wish and are able to participate, as well as of course our current organists, Alicia Haggin and her son, John, who regularly provides some of the music in our services.

A tradition of a great Lutheran organist from the eighteenth century, Johann Sebastian Bach, was to conclude each of his compositions with the letters “S.D.G.” These stand for the Latin words, “Soli Deo Gloria”, which in English is “To God alone be glory.” And so we give thanks for our retiring organ and the six and a half decades glorifying God, and we dedicate our newer instrument to be an instrument glorifying God for the future at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman.

**S. D. G.**

### **Church Directories**

Member phone and address directories are available on the back elder pew. There were over 40 additions, deletions, and corrections since our congregational directory was printed in 2020. If all of the directories have been taken, there is a clip board to sign up for one. More will be printed as they are needed.

### **Volunteers Needed**

Volunteers are needed to read the Old Testament Reading and the Epistle Lesson for the Sunday worship service. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet by the flower chart on the side bulletin board. The Sundays are listed, and the next month’s inserts are tacked next to the sign-up sheet. Also, please consider volunteering to visit the members of our congregation that cannot attend our worship services. There is a sign-up sheet on the back bulletin board for all those who would like to bring a smile to some of our absent members.

### **Church Council Meeting**

The church council will meet on Wednesday, September 18th at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall.

## **Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting**

Ladies Aid/LWML ladies will meet on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. Brenda Hendricks will be giving the topic, and Wilma Grussing and Diana Zimmerman will be the hostesses. Roll call will be answered by a Bible verse on patience. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

## **Quilting**

The ladies will be tying quilts for Lutheran World Relief on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 PM and on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 AM in the fellowship hall. The dates are later in the month due to the Labor Day Weekend. All ladies of the congregation are invited to tie knots. The group has made over 80 quilts since last October when the last collection day was held. This will be the last month to add to the total as the count starts over on the quilting dates in November. The quilts will be taken to collection locations for Orphan Grain Train and Lutheran World Relief in October.

## **Possible September Lawn Mowers**

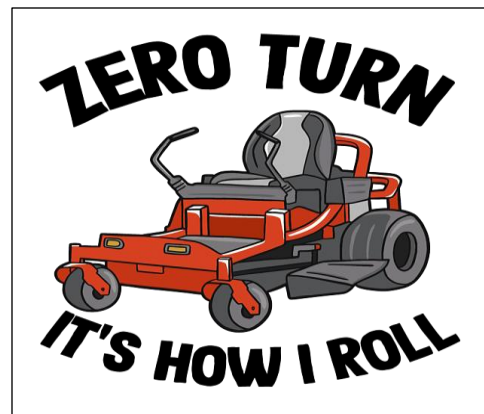
The week of September 1-7 – Myron Zimmerman

The week of September 8 – 14 – Neil Bidner

The week of September 15 – 21 – Bryan Warsaw

The week of September 22 – 28 – John Grussing

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.



## **Wiener Roast and Hayrack Ride**



Save the date! Our church will have a wiener roast and hayrack ride on Sunday evening, September 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 5 PM. The wieners, buns, and drinks will be provided. Every guest is asked to bring a dish to share and their own table service. The hayrack ride will be before the wiener roast. There is a sign-up sheet on the back bulletin board so groceries can be bought to fit the number planning to attend.

## Church Picnic



Our annual church picnic was held at the Fisher Community Building on August 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10am. Forty members and guests enjoyed an enlightening service and potluck dinner, followed by several games of Bingo. A variety of gifts were given out to the winners. Children enjoyed the new

playground equipment at the park. Thanks to John Lammle and Lee and Sandy Whitehouse for setting up, Nick Haggin for the special clarinet accompaniment, and all those who helped clean-up at the end of the event. Thanks to all those who brought delicious food for the potluck. Another thanks to Don and Connie Warsaw and Lee and Sandy Whitehouse for taking the podium and electric piano back to the church. Everyone had a day of good food and fellowship!

## New Organ Installation

On Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, the present organ and speaker was disconnected and lowered from the balcony and the new organ was lifted up to the balcony. The speakers for the new organ had already been carried manually to the balcony and attached to the back wall. This was not an easy task as Penske Moving Company brought 3 men and 8 men from our congregation joined efforts to get the job done. The crew worked a little over 2 hours to get the organs rearranged and ready for use. Thank you to John Grussing, Dick Johnson, Darwin Warsaw, Don Warsaw, Jeff Warsaw, Steve Warsaw, Lee Whitehouse, and Bob Zimmerman for their assistance. The details of the demise of the old organ and the dedication of the new organ are described in Pastor's article at the beginning of this newsletter.



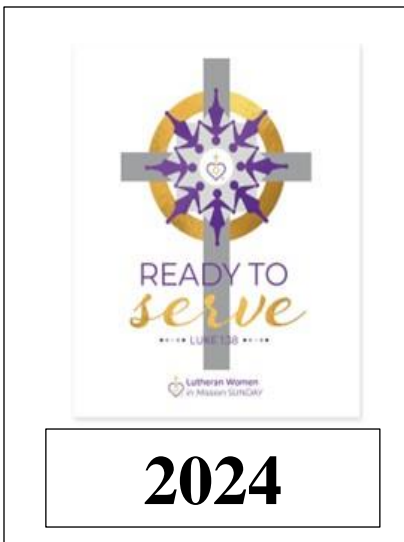
## Operation Christmas Child

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), 13 boxes of colored pencils, and 1 pair of socks. 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 is 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.

## Upcoming Soup Supper Benefit

The Stewardship Committee will be sponsoring a benefit soup supper in November. If you have any ideas for a worthy recipient, please contact Dwight and Terri Hooker or Brenda Hendricks.

## LWML Sunday



The first Sunday in October is traditionally set aside for the observation of LWML Sunday, but it may be celebrated at any time. Our congregation will celebrate LWML Sunday in October, but the date has not been set yet. This year's LWML Sunday theme is "Ready to Serve" based on Luke 1:38. As redeemed children of God, Lutheran Women in Mission give thanks for the opportunity to serve others as we have been served, to proclaim that Jesus is our Lord and that He came for all nations, and to respond with our mite offerings to support God's mission. The church will be decorated with quilts and dresses that our ladies have made. Two LWML members will be readers on that Sunday and two LWML members will be greeters on that Sunday.

## Just Married

Congratulations and God's blessings to Mackenzie and Benjamin Curtin who were married Saturday, August 10, 2024. Mackenzie is the daughter of Leonard and Christie Delaney.





September 4 – Jerry Niemann  
 September 6 – Jim Poppe  
 September 7 - Mark Barrack  
 September 12 - Ken Whitehouse  
 September 15 – Georgette Pauling  
 September 17 - Stephanie Gaines  
 September 21 - Ryan Peyton  
 September 23 - Mitchell Gallier  
 September 24 - Rob Gallier  
 September 24 - Sara McPike  
 September 26 - Scott Gercken  
 September 29 - Nicholas Haggin

## Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
July 28	34	9	0
August 4	40	12	2
August 11	37	13	0
August 18	40	No Class	No Class

## Anniversaries

Kris and Shaun Zimmerman 9-2-2011  
 Sandy and Ryan Lammle 9-5-2014  
 Sue and Jim VanWakeman 9-13-1969

## Labor Day Prayer

All our days begin and end with the Lord. With this prayer for the workday, let us make it a habit to always pray to Him as we begin our day, so that we may always have a blessed work week with His guidance.

Dear God the Father, Thank You for blessing me with another day to be Your worker. It is my greatest honor to be Your follower, and I dedicate all the work I do to You. Please continue watching over me as I go about my day. Grant me the patience and resilience I need to overcome any challenges at work. I pray for a good day at work. With this blessing prayer, I humbly ask for You to bless my work. May I remember to always look to You when I encounter difficulties that may stump me, for when I lean on You, I know I can conquer anything. This I ask through Christ our Lord, Amen. (Christian.net, written by Ronald Rentner)

