

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



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

October 2024



From Pastor McPike's Desk...

Wars and rumors of wars...

The year 2017 was the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Since then, various 500th Reformation memories have been promoted during this time of year, as October is the month that most typically celebrates the Reformation.

Unfortunately, Reformation events of 500 years ago in the year 1524 are not happy. However, there are lessons to be learned.

Five hundred years ago, 1524, was the start of a bloody insurrection called the "Peasants Wars". The "Reformation" had to do with theology, primarily the teaching that we are saved by grace through faith and not works. Many saw this as a movement against oppression. Certainly, the church of the day oppressed the average Christian. Rome was extorting money from the population to finance the building of St. Peter's Basilica through the sale of "indulgences," promising forgiveness of sins with every purchase. The church was using fear to manipulate people and extort money from them. Those who saw this being against oppression used the opportunity to revolt against the powerful landowners. The revolt lasted into 1525. Over 100,000 died.

While the revolt was supported and encouraged by influential churchmen like Thomas Muenzer and Ulrich Zwingli, Martin Luther condemned it. Luther wrote a tract, "Against the Murderous, Thieving Hordes of Peasants". Luther's main point was that government is instituted by God (Romans 13) and should be obeyed unless the government itself became corrupt and promoted things that were against the will of God. As did the Apostle Paul before him, Luther advocated for civil disobedience only in matters where the government required doing something contrary to the word of God. In all other matters, the government is to be obeyed because they are God's representative to keep order and protect the weak and vulnerable. Because of Luther's influence, the revolt was put down, but at a cost of over 100,000 lives.

Jesus indicated that when we hear of "wars and rumors of wars" (Matthew 24:6-13) we should not be alarmed. But also do know, these are all signs that the world will come to an end. He does not give us the "when", but He does indicate that the world is not going to last forever.

Are we in the last days? There are two answers to this question. One answer is "yes". We are in the last days. We have been since Jesus died and rose again and the Spirit came on Pentecost. We know

not, however, how soon or long the coming of that day (“Judgment Day”) really is. We are only told to “watch” and “be ready.”

Our Risen Lord Jesus gives the simple formula of readiness when in Matthew 24:13, He says, “He who stands firm to the end will be saved.” Standing firm comes from being close to God. Being close to God is being where God comes to us, and that happens through His word and the sacraments. Regular worship, Bible study, and reception of the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to stay close to God. These means of grace, God’s word, and the sacraments, connect us to the very power of God giving us the ability to “stand firm to the end” so that we “can be saved.”

Communication Importance

Please be informed on the happenings at the church by reading your weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter. If you are absent for a worship service, the bulletin is always available on the church website at www.OsmanLutheran.org. Did you know we also have a Facebook Page? It is being maintained by church secretary, Sandy Whitehouse. And if you need to contact someone, there is a new church directory with phone numbers and email addresses in it published just two months ago. There are copies on the back elder pew.

Our College Students

We have several young members of our church attending college this fall. The college years are one of the biggest transitions in a young person’s life. Communications from church members could help them in times of doubt, stress, or loneliness. The addresses of four of our young college students are posted on the back bulletin board. Keep them in your prayers and maybe send them a cheerful note or card!

Church Council

The church council will meet on Wednesday, October 16th, at 6:30 in the fellowship hall. There will also be a Quarterly Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 20th after the worship service.

Operation Christmas Child Donations

Thank you to our members who graciously donated many school supplies for the Operation Christmas Child boxes this year. Two Thrivent Action Team cards will be used to complete the purchasing of supplies and the shipping expenses. The Sunday School children with the help of some adults will pack the boxes in November. The boxes will then be taken to Gibson City to the collection point. This project would not be possible without the donations from the congregation! Thank you!

Have a Safe Harvest!

Possible October Lawn Mowers

The week of September 29 – October 5– Shaun Zimmerman

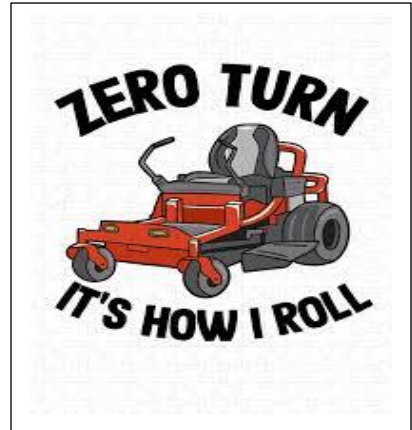
The week of October 6 – October 12 – Steve Martin

The week of October 13 – October 19 – Jerry Niemann

The week of October 20 – October 26 – Brenda Hendricks

The week of October 27 – November 2 – Dwight Hooker

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.



Wiener Roast/Hayride

The wiener roast and hayride was cancelled on Sunday, September 22nd, due to predicted wet weather conditions. The rescheduled date for this event is Sunday, October 13th at 5 PM.

Pastor Appreciation

To Our Pastor,

You teach us from the Bible words of Faith, Love, Hope and so much more. Your dedication to God is what we are grateful for. We thank you for your words of encouragement at all times. You never seem to get weary helping others along God's way. So happy to have you as a Pastor and this is a reminder to let you know you are a special gift from God to us and our lives you have truly touched. Thank you, Pastor, for serving Osman in the special way you do! YOU ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Reformation

Within the Lutheran Church, Reformation Day is officially referred to as THE FESTIVAL OF THE REFORMATION. Until the 20th century, most Lutheran churches celebrated Reformation Day on October 31st, regardless of which day of the week it occurred. Today, most Lutheran churches transfer the festival on or before October 31st. The liturgical color of the day is red, which represents the Holy spirit and the Martyrs of the Christian Church. Luther's hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" is traditionally sung on this day. The Reformation will be celebrated in our regular worship service on Sunday, October 27th.

Time Change

Daylight Saving Time started on March 10, 2024, and will end on November 3rd, 2024. DO NOT FORGET to set clocks BACK an hour before bedtime on Saturday, November 2nd. More and more people have become dissatisfied with the time change. Many states, including Illinois, have introduced legislation to end the time change, but no action has been taken in Illinois.

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

Seven ladies met on September 12th for the Ladies Aid/LWML meeting at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. The group enjoyed delicious fall treats of apple cider and apple doughnuts served by Wilma Grussing and Diana Zimmerman. After the meeting was called to order, the hymn "I Am Jesus Little Lamb" was sung, and the LWML Pledge was recited. A devotion was given by Debbie Lammle about bearing fruit and a prayer was read for the anniversary of 9-11. Brenda Hendricks led a topic on Psalm 23. Roll call was answered by a Bible verse on patience. The minutes from the July meeting were read and approved with no corrections. The mites were collected. Diana Zimmerman gave the treasurer's report which showed a balance of \$2742.71. The treasurer's report was approved. Wilma Grussing reported on cards she had sent in the past months. Terri Hooker reported that 92 quilts have been completed. A special thanks was given to Joy Johnson who has made many quilt tops in the last few months. Terri and Dwight Hooker will take some of the quilts to Flatville which is the Lutheran World Relief collection point the last Saturday in October. Brenda Hendricks will take some of the quilts to Springfield to the Orphan Grain Train collection point the last Saturday in October. Diana Zimmerman reported that there have been 26 more dresses made since the last shipment in April. Some of the quilts and dresses will be displayed in the church for Ladies Aid/LWML Sunday.

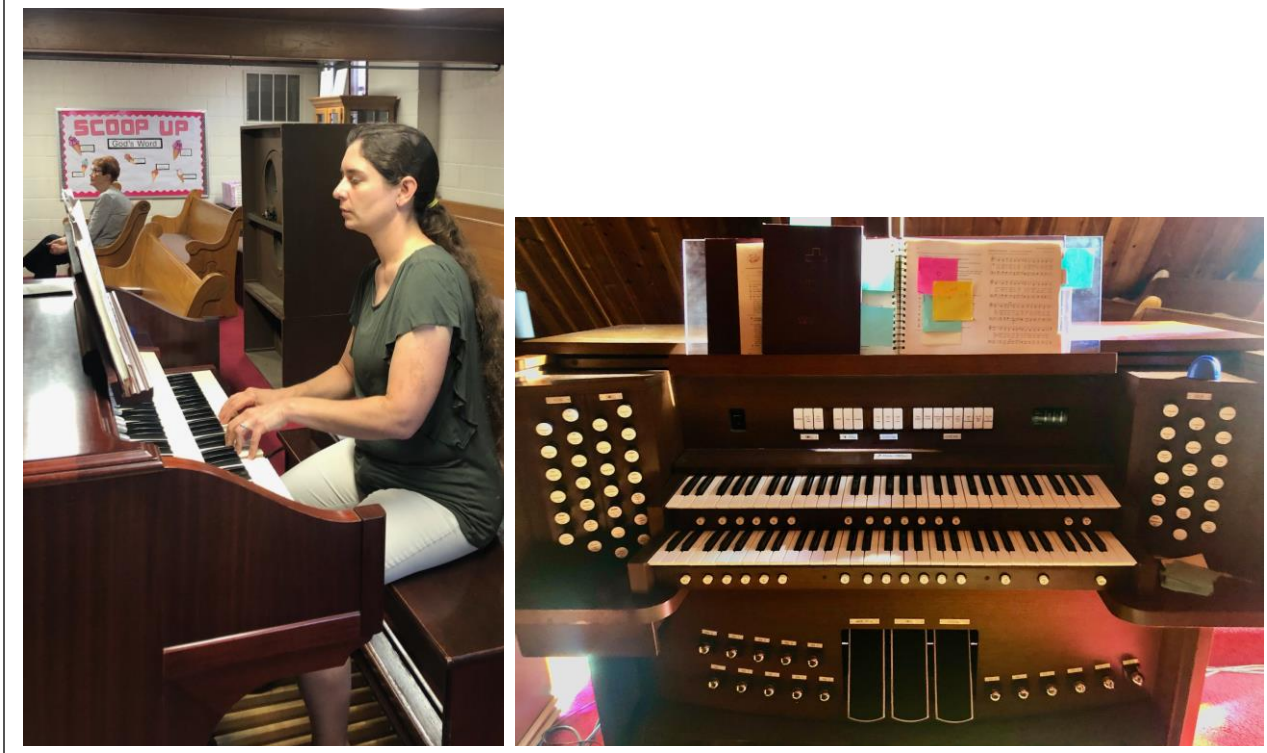
In the old business President Hendricks read a letter from our adopted Seminary Student, Jacob Bergstedt, whose home church is Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Hoopston. The food committees were reviewed. President Hendricks thanked Annette and Connie Warsaw for organizing the August luncheon which was held at Yoders in Arthur. 13 members and guests attended and enjoyed great food and great fellowship. Brenda Edwards reported on the Fall Zone Rally which was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Loda on September 10th. Deb Martin, Brenda Edwards, and Brenda Hendricks performed the skit that they did to invite the group to Osman next fall.

In the new business the members voted to send a check for \$250 to cover some of the shipping cost for the quilts being sent to Lutheran World Relief. Ladies Aid/LWML Sunday was discussed. Two ladies will be greeters, and two ladies will be readers for that Sunday which will be October 6th. Purple and yellow flowers will be put on the altar that Sunday and special bulletin covers will highlight the theme which is "Ready to Serve". Some upcoming LWML/Ladies Aid events are the Central Illinois District Retreat at Camp Cilca on October 4th and 5th and the National LWML Convention in Omaha, Nebraska in June 2025. The next meeting will be on November 14th at 1:30 PM. The topic will be given by Marsha Warsaw and the hostesses will be Brenda Edwards and Debbie Lammle.

Ladies Aid/LWML Sunday

Ladies Aid/LWML Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, October 6th. The 2024 theme is "Ready to Serve" based on Luke 1:38. LWML Sunday is celebrated annually in Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod churches. Some of the Ladies Aid/LWML members will serve as greeters and readers on this Sunday. Some of the 92 quilts and some of the many dresses that the ladies have made for mission projects will be displayed in the church. The flowers on the altar on that date will be purple and yellow which are the official LWML colors. Mite boxes will be available for all members on a table at the back of the church. All members can collect coins to donate to the many mission projects of the Central Illinois District LWML and the National LWML.

New Organ



Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman has acquired a “new to us” organ that was installed in the church on August 20th by a group of strong and determined members. This organ was purchased from Scott Gercken and was moved from Brookfield, Illinois to Osman in an enclosed trailer. Upon arrival at the church the old organ and speakers had to be lowered from the organ loft to under balcony. Then the new organ had to be lifted into place in the balcony. This required the use of a lift from Penske Truck Rental.

The new organ replaces a 1959 Allen “Rondo” organ that was installed in the church in 1959. On Sunday, September 1, 2024, a Valedictory postlude was held for that instrument, thanking God for the service it has been able to provide for 65 years, as well as thanks to God for the foresight that leadership at Osman had to purchase and install that organ for us during that time.

The following Sunday, September 8th, our new-to-us Allen MDS-36 was dedicated to God’s glory and used for the first time in worship. We thank our great God for the blessings that He has given us in this new instrument and pray that the service of that instrument would go forth into the decades of the future similar to the instrument that preceded it.

A dedicatory recital is being planned for Reformation Sunday, October 27th at 3:30 PM. Following that recital, our “Reformation Fest” will continue with a German meal in the hall. Because of the pandemic, this will be our first “Reformation Fest” since 2019.

Thank you! Thank You! A big thank you to all the people who have been a part of our organ project! Thank you for your trips to Brookfield to see and to move the new organ. Thank you for the many hours you have spent removing speakers, installing the new speakers, painting, and making the choir loft look beautiful. Thank you for the hours you have spent making sure that the organs were ready to play. Osman may be a small church, but we do great things together! Alicia Haggin



October 3 – Bill Amdor
 October 7 – Steve Martin
 October 8 – Eric Zimmerman
 October 12 – John Gercken
 October 12 – Addison Warsaw
 October 15 – David Kunde
 October 19 – Jordan Bidner
 October 19 – Greg Johnson
 October 22 – Greg Warsaw
 October 24 – Pastor Jeffrey McPike
 October 28 – Katherine Masko

Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
August 25	35	0	0
September 1	46	15	2
September 8	33	13	3
September 15	32	0	2
September 22	41	14	0



October 9, 1982 - Barb and John Gercken
 October 10, 1981 - Deborah and Dennis Martin
 October 31, 2005 - Theresa and Rick Wilson



What Is A True Pastor

I will give you shepherds who are loyal to me, and they will shepherd you with knowledge and skill. (Jeremiah 3:15 CSB) God promised us pastors that are true shepherds over their congregation. I find it interesting God's Word compares pastors to shepherds. A shepherd's job is to take care of His flock. The flock is important to the shepherd. Therefore, the shepherd will do whatever it takes to make sure his flock is safe and provided for. He finds the best grass for his sheep to feed on so they can grow strong and finds pure cool water for them to drink. The shepherd will work hard to keep the flock safe from parasites and disease. If necessary, he will even lay his life down to protect the sheep. This is what a true shepherd does. Pastors do the same for their congregation. They feed their people with pure spiritual food and watered with the Word of God. They keep their congregation safe from parasitic false teachers and diseased false prophets. When wolves try to sneak into the congregation, the pastor will fight them with the sword of the Spirit. True pastors daily lay their life down for their church. (Taken from www.aboldchristian.com)