

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



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

November 2024



From Pastor McPike's Desk...

The Many Faces of Grief

November is known for several things: Time change, elections, and most of all, Thanksgiving. In the church, November is a month that starts with All Saints Day, November 1. This is a day that we, saints of God still living in this sinful world, remember those saints who have already gone to be with the Lord in heaven. Saints are made in Holy Baptism, where sins are washed away, and we are made children of God and given the gift of faith and the Holy Spirit. Saints in heaven are those who have been saints here on earth; their earthly lives ended; their eternal souls delivered to the presence of God.

When death comes, grief tends to follow. We Christians can rejoice that the person who died is out of pain and misery; we can praise God for taking the person to heaven; we are relieved knowing where that person is for eternity; yet we are sad. The amount of sadness or *grief* that we experience is influenced by several things. Circumstances of death and the quality of the relationship can play a major part. In 2012, I was still employed at what is now OSF in Urbana. Sister Mary Robert Morton, one of the nuns of the founding order of the hospital and head of Pastoral Care, had been very kind to me especially during my divorce. One December morning of that year, she was found dead in bed. The news was quite a shock. She was 73, and her health was in decline, but her death at that time was totally unexpected. That death was very sad for me. There was a time when I could not talk about her without tears. She was my boss; more than that, she had been so kind to me in a very difficult time in life. I took her death very hard.

On the other hand, I have never been moved even to any remote sadness over the death of my brother, Thomas. That statement may shock those who do not otherwise know about Tom, until you hear that he was born 21 months before me and died two days after his birth. He is buried in a cemetery south of Bedford, Indiana, where my mother now is. I never knew him. I have shed tears over dead pets, but never my older brother. The quality of the relationship says more about grief than does the *type of relationship*.

Anticipatory Grief

When a person dies rather suddenly, the coming of grief can feel like being slammed into a wall.

It is like you never saw it coming. Suddenly, grief with all related emotions hit all at once. Longer term death, someone who has been ill for a considerable amount of time, may tend to have less grief once death comes. My mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2018. As I watched her decline, I experienced *anticipatory grief*. Every time the disease changed her, sadness came, because it said, "death is coming." I mourned each stage of her decline. Sadness over what was about to happen came and went. When she died, I personally experienced far less sadness than would have been the case had I received a phone call announcing that she suddenly died while otherwise seeming to be perfectly healthy.

Last month, Sharon's ex-husband died rather suddenly. The general reaction to this death illustrates a classic case of what bereavement experts identify as "disenfranchised grief." Sharon has been divorced for around 17 years. She is married now to me. Some of the reactions to the news of Wes' death have betrayed the assumption that divorce means not caring about the person and wanting them out of your life. For some, that may be true. Someone who found out how sad Sharon is mentioned to me privately, "if my ex died, I would not feel a thing." That illustrates nothing wrong with the person. That person was not married very long and had no children. Wes and Sharon met at the end of undergrad, married, went to Iowa City to graduate school, and during their 25 years together, had two children. Even though the marriage itself ended, he is a big part of her life history. Additionally, Wes was at our house when their girls were home, and some holidays, especially Christmas. He and I got along well. And of course, there are Wes and Sharon's two daughters, who are beyond heartbroken that their dad died so suddenly, and so relatively young.

Disenfranchised grief, then, is grief that is not expected, not recognized. This, again, recognizes the quality of the relationship. I did a funeral very early in my ministry where the wife of many years shed NO TEARS... not one. In fact, she had a rather different reaction. She was in my office shortly after the funeral talking about how she was glad he was dead. That may sound strange until I tell you that she was regularly verbally and often physically abused by him. Complicating that was how he was well known as an upstanding member of the community. In public, he was a great guy. Privately, he was a monster. She knew she was expected to grieve her dead husband; instead, she was relieved when he died.

This sort of grief reflects "general expectations." We "expect" a wife to grieve her husband. The expectation for divorced people is the survivor will not care; the survivor will not grieve.

Grief has many faces. St. Paul reminds us that one face of grief Christians do not face is hopelessness. In his first letter to the Thessalonian church, he reminds us that we do not grieve as those who have no hope. Why? "We believe Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have died believing in Him." (1 Thess 4:14). With Job, we can rejoice in the midst of sorrow, because we know that our Redeemer lives, and that he will stand at the last day upon the earth. And even though our bodies are destroyed, we will rise again on the last day to see him with our own, resurrected, re-created eyes. (taken from Job 19:25-27).

For all the saints, who from their labors rest; who Thee by faith before the world confessed; Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest; Alleluia!! (LSB 677:1)

Ladies Aid/LWML Sunday

Ladies Aid/LWML Sunday was held on Sunday, October 6th. The LWML is the largest mission minded organization recognized by the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. The national mission grant goal for 2023 - 2025 has been declared at \$2,350,000. The theme was “Ready To Serve” based on Luke 1:38. Special bulletin covers which depicted this theme were used. Terri Hooker, Deb Martin, and Brenda Hendricks decorated the front and back of the church with the quilts that the ladies made this year. Some of the dresses that the ladies have made for little girls in Africa were also displayed along the sides of the church. Connie Warsaw and Diana Zimmerman were the greeters at the door, and Marsha Warsaw was the reader. The back bulletin board under the balcony listed the mission projects that our local group participated in during this last year. Mite boxes were available on the back table for all members who wanted to take one home and fill it with extra change to help finance some of these great ways to serve their fellow mankind and help educate them about the love of Jesus and His promise of eternal life.



Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

The Ladies Aid/LWML ladies will meet on Thursday, November 14th at 1:30 PM in the fellowship hall. The topic will be given by Marsha Warsaw, and the hostesses will be Brenda Edwards and Debbie Lammler. Roll call will be answered with a Bible verse on peace.

Quilting

The ladies will be quilting on Monday, November 4th at 8 AM and Wednesday, November 6th at 12:30. This will be the beginning of the new count of quilts for the year as the 92 quilts that were completed from October 2023 – September 2024 were shipped to Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train in the month of October. All ladies of the congregation are invited to help with this mission project.

Appreciation For Altar Guild

We have a small but mighty group of ladies here at Immanuel Osman called the Altar Guild. The ladies volunteer their time and talents to serve every week. One or two ladies sign up on a calendar to serve each month. They set up communion each Sunday, clean up after service, then take the linens home to be laundered. Candelabras are filled with oil every other service. Special candles and banners are placed on the altar during certain Sundays. Flowers are placed on the flower stands when appropriate. Paraments are changed according to the season of the church year, and altar vases are polished when needed. Each individual duty does not take much time, but when you add them up together, the responsibility becomes quite large.

Special added directions are given for Holy Baptism, Pentecost, Holy Week, Advent, Christmas Eve, Thanksgiving, funerals, and Reformation Sunday.

If you see these ladies - Susan Martin, Debbie Lammle, Debbie Martin, Terri Hooker, and Sue Van Wakeman in the church, give them a big “THANKS” for all they do in service to the Lord!!! Anyone interested in helping this diligent group, please contact Debbie Lammle at 217-419-6717. God’s blessings to this caring and loving group!

A special thank you to Terri Hooker, Diana Zimmerman, and Jill Hardesty for serving on the Altar Guild while Debbie Lammle was struggling with cancer.

Benefit Soup Supper



Mark your calendars now for a benefit soup supper which will be held on Saturday, November 16, in the fellowship hall from 4:30 PM to 7 PM. The menu will include oyster soup, potato soup, chili, sandwiches, and desserts. The recipient will be Emily Fuqua of Oakwood. She is 32 years old and has had a heart procedure and a liver transplant in the last several months. The food donation sheet is posted on the back bulletin board. Two Thrivent Action Team cards will be used to buy paper supplies and groceries.

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.

Church Council

The church council will meet on Wednesday, November 20th, at 6:30 in the fellowship hall.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Wiener Roast and Hayride



An evening of fun, fellowship, and a variety of food was held October 13th beginning at 5 PM. 23 members and friends met at the church for the annual wiener roast and hayride. Since strong winds were in the area, instead of roasting hot dogs by the fire, Jerry Niemann was nice enough to grill the hot dogs on his gas grill. John Lammle pulled the hay rack (provided by Steve Warsaw) with his cub cadet lawn mower. The tour of Osman was the route taken by the group, followed by sharing a delicious meal, and ending with assembling s'mores for a delicious dessert. The group participated in a first-time activity of roasting marshmallows for s'mores at the burner of the kitchen stove!

Thanks to Debbie Lammle and Diana Zimmerman for decorating the hall. Thanks to Steve Warsaw for the straw and hay rack. Thanks to John Lammle for pulling the hay rack, and Jerry Niemann for bringing his gas grill and grilling the hot dogs. Another thanks to Debbie Lammle for making the drinks and Sandy Whitehouse for getting the hot dogs and buns. We appreciate everyone's efforts to make our little church the best place to be!



11-02....Deb Peyton
 11-03.... C. J. Genzel
 11-06....Lee Whitehouse
 11-10....Malachi Johnson
 11-11....Karen Bryan
 11-11....Brent Lutz
 11-13....Randy Zimmerman
 11-14....Steve Warsaw
 11-15....Dwight Hooker
 11-16....Rick Hardesty
 11-19....Mary Beth Duncan
 11-22....Agnes Watson
 11-25....Jenna Clemmons

Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
September 29	36	14	1
October 6	36	11	0
October 13	32	12	2
October 20	46	9	0



11-03-2001...Annette and Jeff Warsaw
 11-16-2002...Stefani and Greg Warsaw
 11-20-2016...Rong and Aaron Warsaw
 11-22-1969...Connie and Don Warsaw
 11-26-1983...Anne and Bill Amdor

Mowing Schedule

During the month of November, the trustees will take over the job of mowing the church property. Thank you to all of the members who mowed from April through October. Your service is very much appreciated!

Christmas Child Boxes

The Sunday School children with some adult supervision will be packing the Operation Christmas Child boxes on Sunday, November 24th during the regular Sunday School time.

Bellflower Thanksgiving Feast

Come and enjoy a meal with family and friends on Sunday, November 10th from 11 AM to 1 PM. at the Bellflower Community Center. A great meal including all of the favorite Thanksgiving foods will be served. Donations will be accepted to benefit community events.

Church Officers Needed

In January 2025 the church council will need names to fill the election ballot. The positions that will need to be filled on the council will be a secretary, two elders, one assistant finance secretary, and one trustee. Be thinking about how YOU can use your talents to serve the congregation. There will be a sign-up sheet on the back bulletin board in the near future.