

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 2025



From Pastor McPike's Desk...

Hymns... for hymn-singing churches, hymns can quickly become quite controversial. We each have favorites. There are any number of reasons why hymns become favorites. Familiarity is one. When a hymn is well known, it is a joy to sing. When not well known, it can be a struggle. The meaning of a hymn can be lost when it is a struggle to sing.

Lutherans have always been very concerned about hymns. Hymns should not only be nice to sing, good to listen to, but also teach the faith. Martin Luther was quite musically inclined in his own right, and was known to remark, “Why should the devil get all the good tunes?” Luther used music to teach. There is a Luther-authored hymn to teach each of the six chief parts of theology found in his *Small Catechism*. Two hymns in our hymnal teach the faith in ten stanzas, one written by Luther and one by his contemporary, Paul Speratus.

Pastors in the Lutheran tradition are seminary trained to craft worship services that are meaningful, teach the faith, and proclaim a good balance of law and gospel. One way of this is to look seriously at the wording of hymns. Hymns are chosen based less on popularity and more on how well they support a particular theme in the service. An easy way to look at that is how we sing Christmas hymns on Christmas and Easter hymns on Easter. While themes are not so obvious for many other Sundays and services, the principle is the same.

Hymns can be a source of contention in the church. Many worshipers rate their satisfaction with their “Worship experience” more on the hymns than anything else, including the sermon! I spend a significant amount of time trying to choose just the right hymns for each Sunday. And contrary to what might be thought, there are many hymns I would love to choose, but do not, because they are so unfamiliar. When I do choose an unfamiliar hymn, I often will sing more of it as a solo. And I will make a plea – please do not just close the book when you do not know a hymn. If you feel you cannot or do not want to sing it, watch the words. Words of hymns teach the faith!

Starting in Bible class in November, we will be looking briefly at each hymn in the hymnal. We will talk briefly about each one and rate how familiar each is to sing (or not). I use a computer program (that I wrote) that has every hymn in the hymnal and includes various things like title, author, season of the church year, etc. I also include a “rating scale” – on how familiar and easy to sing. 5 – very familiar, 4 – less familiar, 3 – somewhat unfamiliar, and 2 – unfamiliar. I never choose hymns from category #2,

seldom use from category #3, and when I choose a category #3 hymn, I balance it with category #5 hymns in the same service.

This process will take a number of weeks (months?). Bible class starts at 8:30 AM. I will admit – it is something that I should have done when first starting... but when I started, my time at Osman was meant to be a vacancy (ie., “temporary”). Who knew that I would end up staying longer than the longest tenured pastor? In the past, Bible class teaching about hymns have dealt in depth with one hymn each Sunday. The difference with what we will be doing starting in November is looking at a number of hymns. I will have short comments on each, depending on the situation, and we will list the hymn according to the scale 5, 4, 3, or 2.

I hope more people will come to Bible class. It is a way to know more about the hymns of the church. It is an opportunity to feed on the word of God, which empowers us to live as God’s people.

Benefit Soup Supper



The Stewardship Committee will be sponsoring a benefit soup supper on Saturday, November 8th. The menu will include oyster soup, potato soup, chili, sandwiches, and desserts. The recipient will be Casey Thomas and family from Bellflower. She has three children and two parents that she is caring for after the major breadwinner of the family died in August of lung cancer. The food donation sheet is posted on the back bulletin board. Two Thrivent Action Team cards will be used to buy supplies.

Time Change

Daylight Saving Time started on March 9, 2025, and will end on November 2nd, 2025. DO NOT FORGET to set clocks BACK an hour before bedtime on Saturday, November 1st. 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 Officers Needed

In January 2026 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 chairman, treasurer, two elders, one assistant finance secretary, and one trustee. Be thinking about how YOU can use your talents to serve the congregation. There is a sign-up sheet on the back bulletin board so run NOW to sign your name to fill one of these positions!

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

The Ladies Aid/LWML ladies will meet on Thursday, November 13th at 1:30 PM in the fellowship hall. The topic will be given by Marsha Warsaw, and the hostesses will be Sue Van Wakeman and Debbie Lammle. Roll call will be answered with a Bible verse on showing thanks.

Reformation Sunday

Reformation Sunday was celebrated a week early at Osman to accommodate Pastor McPike's schedule. To commemorate Reformation Sunday, red paraments, a red banner, and red flowers were displayed at the altar. After church, a voter's meeting was held. Some of the members then walked over to the hall for a German potluck which included sauerkraut, schnitzel, and German Chocolate Cake. Among the pictures displayed on the tables were a picture of Pastor McPike on his ordination day. Pastor McPike was presented a red velvet birthday cake for his 65th birthday, and everyone joined in singing "Happy Birthday". The day's events ended with the singing of the "Reformation Polka" accompanied by Alicia Haggin on the piano.



Happy 65th Birthday, Pastor!

LWML Sunday



LWML Sunday was celebrated on Sunday, October 5th. The LWML ladies displayed some of the quilts and dresses that they had made since last November. The group made 88 quilts which will be divided between Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train. They made over sixty dresses for Dresses for Africa. The ladies were greeters and readers. The altar was adorned with purple and yellow flowers. Pastor McPike explained LWML to the congregation before the service started and used the LWML as two examples in his sermon. The small mite boxes were available on a table at the back of the church for all members to take home and fill with change and a large mite box was available by the offering plate in the back of the church. \$56 was collected in the large mite box. The color LWML cover was used for the bulletin, and an insert was printed which listed the projects that the ladies had participated in this past year. The bulletin board at the back of the church was also decorated in purple and yellow with LWML information on it. Our goal of spreading the message of our Savior to many people in many places with our mission grants and our local projects was indeed the focus of the day!

Quilting

The ladies will be quilting on Monday, November 3rd at 12:30 and Wednesday, November 5th at 8 AM. This will be the beginning of the new count of quilts for the year as the 88 quilts that were completed from October 2024 – September 2025 were divided between Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train. All ladies of the congregation are invited to help with this mission project.

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!

Church Council

The church council will meet on Wednesday, November 19th, at 6:30 in the fellowship hall.

Summary of the October Council Meeting

Seven elected church officers attended the meeting on October 15th. The meeting began with a reading from Psalm 46 by Pastor McPike, followed by prayer. Chairman Lammle turned the meeting over to Jerry Niemann who introduced his guest, Larry Abbe, from Paxton, who began with an update on Church Mutual and Brotherhood Mutual Insurance quotes. Most churches in the area have Brotherhood Insurance. Jerry handed out a detailed list of main differences between the two companies. After a comparison, changing companies would not give a cheaper premium, but would provide better coverage. This topic will be discussed at the next council meeting, but not at the upcoming voter's meeting.

After this discussion, Debbie Lammle read the minutes from the last council meeting. With no corrections, the minutes were approved as read. The treasurer's report was read with total expenses for the month at \$8555.45 and total income at \$3685.00. The balance for the end of the September was \$50,259.95.

Pastor McPike informed the council that Pastor Frank will be filling in for him on Oct. 26th and Nov. 2nd. He also stated that catechism books have been ordered, and he is continuing to work on the audio system to record the sermons. Adult Bible Class will be studying "Survey of Hymns".

In old business the potluck celebrating Reformation and Pastor Appreciation for after church on Sunday, October 19 was discussed. Discussion on the beautiful clean up job on the property north of the church followed. It was decided to place a box at the back of the church for donations for Chris Robbins, the new owner of the property, to help with the cost of dumpsters. Dennis Martin used his time and equipment to bulldoze the home that was burnt. A thank you was sent to Dennis Martin for his help in this endeavor. Checks donated to this cause should be made to Chris Robbins.

The Mission Outreach Committee has begun work on items generated from the survey they passed out. A church brochure made by Annette Warsaw as well as greeters at the beginning of the service are just a few of the items addressed by the committee. The council is also addressing suggestions such as a calendar added to the newsletter, the elders bringing the offering to the altar to be blessed and using ushers during communion.

In new business Chairman Lammle asked Council members to provide their suggestions to he or Pastor on the wording of a vision statement for our church. A vision statement describes what our church is building toward in the future. The Benefit Supper for Casey Thomas on November 8th was discussed. The Choice Dollars from the year before, combined with the donations on the day of the benefit, is what the committee uses to give to the recipient of the benefit. After a recent medical issue at our church, Chairman Lammle suggested buying a wheelchair to be stored in the church. He is researching some styles to be purchased. The Thanksgiving worship service on November 23rd was discussed. An email about the "trunk or treating" event at the Bellflower gym was read. It was agreed that our church would participate and that an Immanuel Osman address label would be attached to the treats handed out. This event will be on October 31st.

The meeting was adjourned followed by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Summary of the Quarterly Congregation Meeting

The Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman held their quarterly Voters' meeting on October 19, 2025, after church service. Chairman Lammle called the meeting to order, followed by prayer by Pastor McPike. Secretary, Debbie Lammle, read the minutes from the last Voter's meeting. They were approved. Terri Hooker gave the Treasurer's report with a balance as of September 30, 2025, of \$338,151.15. It was approved.

Pastor McPike thanked everyone for the continued support while preaching at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman. He informed the congregation that Pastor Frank will be preaching at Osman the next two Sundays.

Chairman Lammle thanked the Mission Outreach Committee for their dedication to Immanuel Osman. A church brochure, greeters each Sunday, a calendar in the newsletter, and a possible children's area were discussed by the committee. A vision statement was also brought up and how Immanuel Osman would build for the future. Members then addressed the topic of a children's place in the church. Discussion followed.

The best improvement to the church was the demolition of the burnt home on the corner north of the church parking lot. There will be a box at the back of the church for donations to Chris Robbins, who began the work of cleaning up the area. Dennis Martin was thanked for the time and equipment he used to clean up the sight as well. Chris will be invited to church in the near future, which would provide us an opportunity to present him with the donations. Checks should be made out to Chris Robbins.

It was decided not to have a Thanksgiving potluck before the Thanksgiving service on November 23rd. Chairman Lammle reminded the group of the upcoming election of officers.

To show Pastor our appreciation for his dedication to Immanuel Osman, he was presented with a gift from the congregation, third in a series of books from Isaiah 40-55. He was also given a sweatshirt.

The meeting was adjourned, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Bellflower Thanksgiving Feast



A delicious meal of Thanksgiving favorites- such as turkey baked ham, green beans, noodles, dressing, mashed potatoes, and many desserts - will be served at the Bellflower Community Center on Sunday, November 2nd from 11 AM – 1 PM. Free will donations will benefit community events. The feast is sponsored by the Village of Bellflower. Take out meals are also available.

All Saints Worship Service

In the church year, All Saints Day is celebrated the first Sunday in November, but this year All Saints Day will be celebrated on Sunday, November 9th, due to Pastor McPike's schedule. November 1 is an historic day in the life of the church. This day, celebrated over the centuries as *All Saints Day*, is a day that the church pauses to remember those in faith who have passed from this life into life everlasting. As is always the case, we give all honor, glory, and praise to our Lord Jesus Christ. But we can also be inspired by the memory of those who have passed from this life as we remember them and remember some of the ways in which God has worked through them. We will be remembering those that have left us since last All Saints Day – Larry Lutz and Myron Zimmerman.

Upcoming Church Services

All Saints Service – Sunday, November 9th – during regular worship service

Thanksgiving Service – Sunday, November 23rd – 7 PM

Advent Service – Sunday, November 30th - during regular worship service

Christmas Eve Service – Wednesday, December 24th – 7 PM



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
11-22....Agnes Watson
11-25....Jenna Clemmons



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

*Happy
Thanksgiving!*

Salt Creek Resource Center – Food Pantry

Salt Creek Resource Center (Farmer City) Food Pantry usually gives a bonus box of food to recipients for a Thanksgiving dinner at their November distribution. They are experiencing lower donations than usual this year. There is a list of needed items on the back bulletin board. If you care to purchase anything on the list, there will be a collection box on the back pew. Cash donations are also accepted. The items will be needed by November 8th.

Picture Clarity

The October newsletter that is being handed out today has several pictures to accompany articles. When you print color pictures in black and white they not only lose some of their beauty but they also do not appear clear. To view the newsletter with the pictures in color go to the church website at Church@OsmanLutheran.org. Click on newsletters and go the appropriate month.

Church T-shirt Order Update

If you ordered a church t-shirt or golf shirt a few months ago, they will be arriving soon. They will be distributed in the church hall after church when they arrive. You will pay for them when you pick them up. Watch for an update on their arrival.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes

The Sunday School children with some adult supervision will be packing the Operation Christmas Child boxes on Sunday, November 16th during the regular Sunday School time.

Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
September 27	32	11	1
October 5	34	11	0
October 12	34	8	1
October 19	42	11	2

A Daily Thanksgiving Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives, thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy! In Jesus' Name, Amen. Written by - Debbie McDaniel