

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



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

March 2026



From Pastor McPike's Desk...

This month I have some random things to share.

BAD NEWS

First, some bad news. Many of you already know this: Michael Mohr, formerly president of the Central Illinois District, was arrested in early February on charges related to child pornography. He has since been visited by Synodical President Matthew Harrison and removed from the clergy roster of the LCMS. He is in Federal custody in St. Louis awaiting trial.

When any Christian falls into a public sin, the devil stirs up lots of really damaging publicity to make the Christian Church look bad, hoping to keep anyone not interested in Christianity from becoming Christian, and those within the church who might already be skeptical to drift away. This is especially true when the person who falls is a church leader.

Pray for the victims. Pray for the church and church leadership. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns.

LESS THAN GOOD NEWS

Remember the commercials in the 1970s? "Is it real, or is it MEMOREX?"

It came to my attention recently that churches are reconsidering the streaming of their services or presenting their sermons on the internet in either visual or audio form. The reason? AI – Artificial Intelligence is being used to copy the voices of pastors and others in the service and then contact is made with members asking for money or for other nefarious reasons. I am not sure what we at Osman will do yet in this regard, but please know... if you get a phone call that says it is from me and sounds like me and I am asking for money... HANG UP. It is not me. I will never do that. No amount of desperation will cause that to happen.

We are into a whole new reality when it comes to AI. I recently heard that if there is enough of a recording available, the voice, even the image of a dead loved one can be reproduced by AI, making it possible to have a conversation with (it). I do not even want to think what that will do to grief work. I read a recent article in the New York Times where actors are raising concern about a short video clip

produced entirely by AI. Supposedly it was impossible to tell the difference compared with video shot of real actors.

That makes the question, "Is it real, or is it AI?"

DISTRICT NEWS

According to the By-Laws of the Central Illinois District, once Michael Mohr was removed from the position of District President, the person to assume that role would be the first VP, Rev. Michael Burdick. Pastor Burdick rather quickly resigned from that position, indicating that he was not available to be full-time district staff. Second Vice President Rev. Mark Eddy then became the First VP, and at the action of the District Board of Directors, the District President. Rev. Jason Braaten, the next highest vote-getter at the last convention, became first Vice President. Pastor Braaten serves Immanuel Lutheran, Tuscola, and as vacancy pastor at Immanuel Lutheran in Broadlands.

A NEW LENTEN PRACTICE

Now for something better realizing that his somewhat contradicts the "Less than good news" article above. I became aware as Ash Wednesday approached that I have been missing the "Reading of the Passion History" drawn from the four gospels over the past several years since we stopped having midweek Wednesday evening Lenten services. In talking over possible solutions with Sharon, which included finding a way to incorporate them into the Sunday service, she suggested that I record the reading and make it available online. That is what I have done, including a couple of prayers as well. Those started the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday and will run on Wednesdays through the week prior to Holy Week. They will be available as "sermon" files on the website, so if you missed the ones before the publication of this newsletter article, you can find them and catch up. The website is <http://www.osmanlutheran.org>.

Lenten Schedule

The Ash Wednesday church service with Holy Communion was held on February 18th. There will NOT be any other Wednesday night Lenten services. Maundy Thursday service will be held on April 2nd at 7 PM with a supper provided by the Ladies Aid/LWML ladies preceding the service. Good Friday service will be held on April 3rd at 7 PM. The resurrection of our Savior will be celebrated on Easter morning, April 5th, at 7 AM.

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

Ladies Aid/LWML Ladies will meet on Thursday, March 12th at 1:30. The topic will be given by Brenda Hendricks, and the hostesses will be Annette Warsaw and Diana Zimmerman. Roll call will be answered with a Bible verse on believing. All ladies of the congregation are invited!

Quilting

The ladies will be tying quilts on Monday, March 2nd at 12:30 and on Wednesday, March 4th at 8:00 AM. No experience is needed to tie these quilts that will be sent to many needy people in the United States and other countries.

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

The Ladies Aid/LWML held their winter meeting on February 12, 2026, beginning at 1:30. The meeting began with the common table prayer following by refreshments being served by Marsha Warsaw and Connie Warsaw. President, Debbie Lammle, called the meeting to order, followed by the group reciting the LWML pledge and song. Opening devotion was given by Terri Hooker. Brenda Edwards gave an enlightening topic. The business meeting continued with Debbie Martin reading the minutes from the last meeting and taking roll call. Connie Warsaw gave the treasurer's report with a balance of \$1860.52. Correspondence was read from LCFS of Illinois. It was reported that the card chairman, Sue VanWakeman, sent cards to Dave Kunde, Don Warsaw, and Linda Warsaw. Terri Hooker reported that the group have made 31 quilts so far this year. A special thanks were given to Debbie Martin and Brenda Edwards for hemming the quilts.

Old Business: President Lammle thanked the outgoing officers for the dedication to the organization. She passed around a sign-up sheet to donate gifts to our adopted family- Mike, Kathy, and Andrea Dennemann. The group was thanked for taking food to Austin and Susan Miller and Barb and John Gercken. Brenda Edwards and Diana Zimmerman were thanked for their part in organizing the funeral dinner for Agnes Watson. Brenda Hendricks and Connie Warsaw were thanked for helping serve.

The group served Agnes Watson's funeral dinner. 45 family and friends were served a meal of Italian beef, party potatoes, assorted salads, and a variety of desserts. The group received a gift of \$300 from the Watson family to help pay for the food. 42 pairs of gloves and 20 hats were delivered to Salt Creek Food Pantry in Farmer City and Faith Second Chance Thrift shop in LeRoy by Brenda Hendricks.

New Business: President Lammle asked the group if they were interested in making prayer quilts with a cross inside. They would be used as a means of encouragement to be passed out to those losing a loved one or anyone needing uplifting. The group approved. Announcements will be in the bulletin when the group will assemble to make this project. It was decided to serve a lasagna meal on Maundy Thursday before church service on April 2nd. A sign-up will be passed around at the next meeting.

The Central Illinois District Convention is April 25-26 in Decatur. Our society is supposed to make the district banner with a theme of "The Lord will be your light forever! Isaiah 60:20". Several members signed up to help assemble the banner before the convention.

National Convention will be in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on July 8-11, 2027. The next meeting will be March 12 at 1:30 with Brenda Hendricks giving the topic, and Annette Warsaw and Diana Zimmerman serving the refreshments. Roll call will be on believing.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively Submitted - Debbie Lammle

Mowing List

Yes, spring will be here soon!! Attached to this newsletter is the mowing list for 2026. If you cannot mow on your designated date, please trade with someone on the list. If you cannot mow, please let John Grussing or Lee Whitehouse know one week in advance. There is also a list posted on the back bulletin board. We appreciate everyone who helps our church in this way.

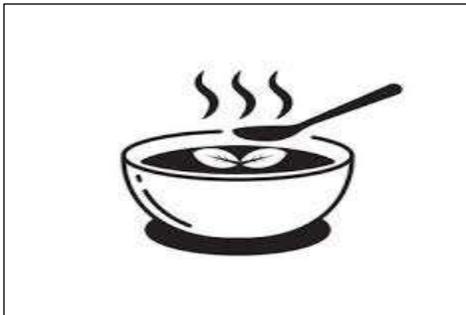
Time Change

Daylight saving time will begin on Sunday, March 8th. This means all of us will move our clocks up one hour so we can enjoy more daylight in the evenings. Enjoy that daylight until Sunday, November 1, 2026!

Church Council

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

Soup Supper



The Stewardship Committee will be sponsoring a benefit soup supper THIS SPRING. The date and the recipient are still uncertain but will be verified soon. The menu will include oyster soup, potato soup, chili, sandwiches, and desserts. The food donation sheet will be posted on the back bulletin board soon. Two Thrivent Action Team cards will be used to buy supplies.

Newly Installed Church Officers

Due to the wintry weather, church was cancelled on January 25th so the annual congregational meeting which includes the election of officers was also cancelled. The meeting took place on Sunday, February 1st, with the installation of officers held on Sunday, February 8th. The officers installed were the following: Dwight Hooker, chairman; Terri Hooker, treasurer; Steve Martin and Jerry Niemann, elders; Lee Whitehouse, trustee; and Melanie Niemann, assistant financial secretary. Thanks to the following outgoing church council officers: John Lammle and Jeff Warsaw for dedicating their time and energies to the work of the church. The present 2026 council consists of the following members:

Chairman – Dwight Hooker

Treasurer – Terri Hooker

Secretary – Debbie Lammle

Financial Secretary – Brenda Hendricks

Asst. Financial Secretary – Melanie Niemann

Trustees – Lee Whitehouse, John Grussing

Elders – Steve Martin, Jerry Niemann, Ryan Lammle, and Don Warsaw



- Terri Hooker03-02
- Brenda Hendricks03-09
- Joy Johnson03-19
- Shaun Zimmerman03-20
- Marsha Warsaw03-21
- Nikki Gallier03-25



- Brenda and Jerry Edwards ...03-27-1982
- Joy and Skinner Johnson03-31-1979

Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School	Confirmation
Jan 25	0	0	0	0
Feb 1	47	16	2	2
Feb 8	38	18	2	2
Feb 15	35	14	2	2
Feb 18	27	0	0	0
Feb 22	37	8	1	2



February Council Meeting Summary

Since the February Council Meeting was held a week later than usual because of the Ash Wednesday worship service, the summary of the February meeting will be included in the April newsletter.

Portals of Prayer

There are two copies of the April – June 2026 Portals of Prayer devotion books on the back pew. If you would like one or know of someone who would like one, please feel free to take one.

*First Day of Spring –
March 20th*

Mowing Schedule - 2026

(Please try to mow between Thursday and Saturday of the week)

Week Of:

March 29 – April 4	Connie Warsaw
April 5 – 11	Jim Van Wakeman
April 12 – 18	Brenda Hendricks
April 19 – 25	Dick Johnson
April 26 – May 2	Darwin Warsaw
May 3 - 9	Butch Sprau
May 10 – 16	Mark Barrack
May 17 – 23	Kent Whitehouse
May 24 – 30	Jeff Warsaw
May 31 – June 6	Shane Zimmerman
June 7 – 13	John Lammle
June 14 – 20	Chase Zimmerman
June 21 – June 27	Skinner Johnson
June 28 – July 4	Steve Warsaw
July 5 – 11	Jim Poppe
July 12 – 18	Lee Whitehouse
July 19 – 25	Jeff Warsaw
July 26 – Aug 1	Leonard Delaney
Aug 2– 8	Bob Zimmerman
Aug 9 – 15	Don Warsaw
Aug 16 – 22	Rick Hardesty
Aug 23 – 29	Ryan Lammle
Aug 30 – Sept 5	Jerry Edwards
Sept 6 – 12	Neil Bidner
Sept 13 – 19	Bryan Warsaw
Sept 20 – 26	John Grussing
Sept 27 – Oct 3	Shaun Zimmerman
Oct 4 – 10	Steve Martin
Oct 11 – 17	Jerry Niemann
Oct 18 – 24	Brenda Hendricks
Oct 25 – Oct. 31	Dwight Hooker
November	Trustees