

# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512

(217) 897-6170

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



*Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC,  
Vicar Aaron Fenker*

*September 2010*



*It is only through labor and painful effort, by grim energy and resolute courage, that we move on to better things. Theodore Roosevelt*

### ***The End is...Here!***

**Vicar Aaron Fenker**

Within our current age and culture—as it might be with every age—the end and meaning of human existence is defined within ourselves, but waves, earthquakes, and hurricanes come and disrupt the world’s perceived order of things—boats are rocked, towers fall down, and houses are blown away. All these things show that creation itself is groaning, waiting, and crying out, “The end is near!”

In the church our existence and life is found and defined in the true Alpha and Omega, Christ. He gives us our meaning and life in Him through the waters of Baptism. He reassures us of this reality in the Words of Absolution. He also gives us all of Himself in His body and blood for our forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Ever since the fall God’s plan was to save us by the sending of His Son into our flesh. This plan was realized at the incarnation and birth of Jesus. The plan included Him living His life completely under the law in our place. By His death, resurrection, and ascension Christ opened heaven to us, thus His plan was completed – we are now saved.

That’s it. Done. Account settled. Our liturgy now proclaims this saving work to us, gives us the fruits thereof, and keeps us in that work until our death or until Christ’s coming in glory. There is nothing more to be done. Now, within the church, we receive all of Christ in His gifts through which we receive all grace, and every blessing from our Father in heaven.

Within the church the full realization of Christ is now! Not later, now! Not to be expected sometime in the future, and definitely not to come about through our own deeds or faith. Right now Jesus Christ is ascended at the right hand of the Father in heaven, but even in heaven Jesus still remains the same as He always was, that is, the born-of-the-Virgin, died, risen,

ascended, and reigning-in-glory Lord who continually comes to us through His wonderful gifts.

When Christ comes in His gifts, especially His Supper, He brings heaven too. Heaven for us in the Church is not later, but now! And this truth is held, carried, and given to us when we gather to receive God’s gifts.

Within the church we are not as the world is. The world seeks its meaning and definition, its status with God, and God’s demeanor towards it based upon what things it deems important. Such a definition from below does not befit the church and saints of God.

What takes place in our worship is what truly shows us what our meaning and definition, our status with God, and God’s demeanor towards us are based on, Christ’s work applied to us in His gifts. Not just a part of Christ’s work, but all of it from birth (Gloria) until Calvary (Agnus Dei) is there. Not only those events that took place on earth, but also those events that happen now and will happen with “angels, archangels, and the whole company of heaven” are there. There in the Divine Service we proclaim, “The end is... here!”

In Christ Jesus is our payment for sin, our belief in doubts, and our strength in our failings. Yet this Jesus does not remain off somewhere to be sought out. Instead He comes to us. He comes bringing the Father and the Holy Spirit too. He comes bringing heaven. He comes with grace and every blessing at the Font, at Absolution, at the Word read and preached, and in His holy body and blood. All that is left for us to say is, “Amen” – gift received.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

### **Christian Education Activities This Fall**

**Pastor Jeff McPike**

While Christian Education is something that is ongoing for a lifetime, the start of school each year signals a re-emphasis on all Christian Education

activities. At Immanuel, the tradition is to observe a Sunday called "Promotion Sunday," which is a time that students move to the next level of Sunday school. Indeed, there is a re-emphasis on Sunday school, catechism instruction, and other aspects of Christian Education.

With the publication of the hymnal we now use (2007), there is actually a Sunday observance called "Christian Education Sunday." (This is actually something Pastor McPike came up with over 20 years ago long before the publication of this hymnal!) Other churches call the Sunday "Rally Day." Whatever the name of the day, it is an opportunity to emphasize Christian Education.

The name "Christian Education Sunday" is much more universal and inclusive, and gives an opportunity to be reminded that Christian Education is a life-long pursuit, from the time of Baptism, Sunday School, Catechism instruction, Youth Bible Class, and Adult Bible Class. It serves to emphasize the importance of Christian Education being "life-long learning."

### **Immanuel Has a New Organist**

Alicia Haggin grew up in Champaign where she took piano lessons from Linnea Mueller. Towards the end of her senior year in high school, she was pressed into service as an organist for a special event at her church. She enjoyed it so much that she signed up for organ lessons her first semester at the University of Illinois. By the end of her freshman year, she had her first job as a church organist and choir director.

Alicia graduated with her Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance in 2006. She is currently studying for her Masters in Organ Performance with Professor Dana Robinson at the University of Illinois.

She and her husband, Nick, live in Champaign with their two year old son, John.

### **Church Council Minutes**

The following items were discussed at the Church Council Meeting held on Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.:

Members attending: Lee Whitehouse, Mike Hendricks, Rick Hardesty, Shane Zimmerman, Dwight Hooker, John Gercken, Larry Lutz, Terri Hooker, Darwin Warsaw, and Vicar Aaron Fenker.

Vicar Aaron opened with a prayer.

The minutes were read from the July 6, 2010 Council Meeting. Motion to accept the minutes by Dwight Hooker. Second by Darwin Warsaw. Motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Balance on July 31, 2010: \$37,047.54. Motion to accept the minutes by Darwin Warsaw. Second by John Gercken. Motion passed.

A thank you was received from Pastor Kaufman.

Donation of \$150.00 to Spanish Missions, Rev. Pablo Dominguez, 423 First Avenue, Silvis, IL. 61282, Cristo Rey Lutheran Church.

### **Pastor/Vicar Report:**

Vicar Aaron reported:

Communion will be moved from August 15th to August 22nd.

Discussion was held on moving Adult Bible Class to the front pews so people coming in would not feel like they are disturbing the class.

Vicar will start home visits soon.

Pastor and John Lammler are working on the constitution for the fall Quarterly Voters Meeting.

There is a new Synod President.

Pastor sent a message reminding the Council it is not too early to be thinking of new Council members.

Elder's Report: None.

Sunday School Report:

Confirmation class times will stay the same this year.

Sunday School starts September 5th with Promotion Sunday.

Trustee Report:

Don Warsaw said the Fellowship Hall has been sprayed for bugs.

Old Business:

August 15th is the Church Picnic; 10 a.m. at the Bellflower Park Pavilion.

Condiments, napkins - Terri will check on them.

Meat - Don will pick up.

Kid's Games - will check with Debbie Lammler and Christie Delaney. Terri will call.

Drinks - Terri, Lemonade; Don, Water; Jill, Ice Tea; Bingo - Rick, Jill, and Dwight.

New Business:

Discussion about appreciation for Scott.

Motion to adjourn by Darwin Warsaw. Second by Terri Hooker.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by: Rick Hardesty, Council Secretary

### **Proud Parents/Grandparents**

With joyful hearts we introduce Linnea Kate Warsaw who was born on August 8, 2010 at 2:14 p.m. She weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces and was 21 inches long. Proud parents are Greg and Stefani Warsaw and big sister, Melia; proud grandparents are Steve and Marsha Warsaw. Linnea Kate is named after her great, great-aunt and great, great-grandmother.

## **Ladies Aid**

August Luncheon. Thanks to Wilma Grussing and Joanne Nelson for making the arrangements for the August luncheon at Jack's Cafe in LeRoy. We had a great turnout and everyone enjoyed the delicious food.

The Ladies Aid will meet on Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.; all ladies of the church are welcome to attend. Debbie Lammle will have the devotion and be our hostess and Shirley Sprau will have the topic.

## **Thrivent News**

Thank you to our members - Shirley Sprau, Donnie Warsaw, Connie Warsaw, and Brenda Hendricks - who helped serve at the McLean County Thrivent Brat Fest on Sunday, August 22, 2010 in Bloomington. Our small congregation was well represented with thirteen members enjoying the meal and good fellowship.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Gives Back! Through "Choice Dollars," you can help choose where Thrivent distributes part of its charitable funds among thousands of Lutheran organizations, including our congregation. If you received a letter in the last month informing you that you have designated "Choice Dollars," please visit the Thrivent website at <http://www.thrivent.com/choicedollars> > [www.thrivent.com/choicedollars](http://www.thrivent.com/choicedollars) and make your choice of where you will donate your money or call 1 (800) 847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice." If you have any questions, please see Brenda Hendricks. Do not waste this opportunity to give some money to our congregation.

The next Thrivent Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 5, 2010 immediately after the worship service.

## **LWML News**

Thank you to everyone who helped clean the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, August 28, 2010. I know how busy everyone is, so making time for God's work is very much appreciated!

The LWML Fall Meeting will be held on September 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are invited to attend. The topic leader will be Debbie Martin and the hostesses are Marge Morrissey and Debbie Lammle.

Danville Zone Fall Rally. All LWML women of the church are invited to the Danville Zone Fall Rally on Thursday, September 16, 2010 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Buckley, IL.

The Rally theme is "Go Tell It Everywhere" and the Rally speaker is Rev. Andris Kraulins from Riga, Latvia. Registration and the coffee hour will be from 9:00-9:45 a.m. in the church basement. The

registration and luncheon fee is \$10.00 payable at the door. The registration form is due by September 2, 2010.

There will be an "ingathering" to benefit the OSF Children's Hospital in Peoria, and the items brought in will be stored and taken to the 2011 National Convention in Peoria. The church is located one block east of Rt. 45 in Buckley on the corner of East Main and North Oak. There will be a bible study so please bring your bibles.

The Fall Rally "Ingathering" for OSF Children's Hospital. At the 2011 LWML Convention in Peoria, IL, the teens in the Kids' Camp will be completing two servant events. One of these events involves the OSF Children's Hospital. Not only will they make board games for the children but they will also sort, pack, and deliver to the hospital the items received through the CID-LWML "ingathering." LWML members are asked to help gather the items for the teens.

Items listed below are requested from our Danville Zone (Each of the twelve zones has a different list.). Please note that ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW! Please bring your items or send them with someone else going to the Zone Fall Rally.

Danville Zone Shopping List. Baby rattles, crib mirrors, lullaby CD's, teething, mobiles, blankets (especially needed are blankets for teens and they like the fleece ones), music light-up toys (Fisher Price, Flutterbye, Dreams, and Lullaby Birdies), and vibrating toys.

If anyone would like to donate any of these items, please give them to Debbie Lammle on or before the next LWML meeting on September 9, 2010.

Ink Cartridges/Cell Phones. Please continue saving used ink jet cartridges and cell phones for the national LWML convention next year in Peoria!

## **Church Council Meeting (Note Date Change)**

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex (SECOND TUESDAY of the month).

## **Bulletin/Recording of Worship Service for Shut-ins**

If anyone is aware of shut ins or other people who are unable to physically make it to church every week, let Esther and/or Larry Lutz know so they are included in the "Prayer List," they will receive a copy of the bulletin, and they will be given a recording of the service if they would like.

**Prayer Requests**

If you have any prayer requests, please contact Pastor McPike or call and leave a message at the church. We will try to keep up with prayer requests, and don't want to leave anyone out, but we won't know about them unless you tell us! Also, hospitalizations will not automatically be included by pastor unless you give him specific permission (to satisfy federal privacy rules).

**Electronic News List**

An electronic news list was created to get information to Immanuel members and friends. Please send a note to OsmanNews@n9cqs.com and you will be signed up for the list. Please note, your email address will not be used for any other purpose than for this news list. If you have questions, please ask Pastor McPike.

**Bulletin/Newsletter Deadlines**

Bulletin Deadline. To have submissions included in Sunday's bulletin, please forward them to Karen Bryan by 12:00 noon on Thursday.

Newsletter Deadline. To have submissions included in the monthly newsletter, please forward them to Karen Bryan by 12:00 noon on the Wednesday before the last Sunday of the month.

**Statistics**

Date	Worship	Sunday School	Adult Class
07-25	63	6	6
08-01	64	6	1
08-08	95	15	11
08-15	56	Church Picnic	
08-22	75	5	8
08-29	Statistics Unavailable		

**Elder-on-Duty**

Rob Gallier	Apr	June	Nov
John Gercken	May	July	Oct
Dwight Hooker	Mar	<b>Sept</b>	Jan 2011
Shane Zimmerman	Feb	Aug	Dec

**Altar Guild**

September .....Jill Hardesty and Debbie Martin

**Lay Readers**

09-05 .....Marvin Clemmons  
 09-12 .....Barb Gaines  
 09-19 .....John Gercken  
 09-26 .....Vicar Aaron Fenker

**September Birthdays**

Jim Poppe .....09-06  
 Mark Barrack .....09-07  
 Matthew Barrack.....09-09  
 Ken Whitehouse.....09-12  
 Gene Welborn .....09-14  
 Nicholas Homann .....09-16  
 Stephanie Gaines.....09-17  
 Marge Morrissey.....09-20  
 Ryan Peyton .....09-21  
 Mitchell Gallier .....09-23  
 Rob Gallier.....09-24  
 Arnita Zimmerman.....09-25  
 Scott Gercken .....09-26

**September Anniversaries**

Phyllis and Davis Hasty .....09-14  
 Esther and Larry Lutz .....09-18  
 Brenda and David Peyton .....09-26



Feast and have fun under the bright summer sun!