

# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



*Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC,  
Vicar Aaron Fenker*

*November 2010*

Happy Thanksgiving  
Thanksgiving  
Thanksgiving  
Happy Thanksgiving  
Give Thanks

*"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,  
and into his courts with praise; be thankful  
unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord  
is good..." Psalm 100:4,5*

### Echo Their Joyous Strain

Vicar Aaron Fenker

"The song of the angels." That's what Martin Luther called the "Gloria in Excelsis." It is the heavenly song of the Angels from the night when Christ was born. It's origin, however, is much earlier than Luther, yea, it comes from the early centuries of the church.



The earliest form comes from the fourth century (c. 300s), but it may be earlier. The way in which it uses language is akin to the Magnificat and Benedictus. The Gloria's ancient origins come from the Eastern tradition in the morning service. Its addition to the Western service probably came from a Christmas Vigil.

It is a hymn of adoration to the whole Trinity, first addressed to the Father. Its middle portion has a list of acclamations to the Son. It reaches its pinnacle of adoration when it addresses both Christ and the Holy Ghost as "most high in the glory of God the Father."

While it came into the service at Christmas, it is most appropriate to sing it in other seasons as well. Because of its joyous, exuberant tone it is not sung in the seasons of Advent and Lent – both being more penitential seasons of the church year. It is also well placed being after the Kyrie, for it is a response to the Kyrie with joyous voices of God's people as they celebrate the sending of His Son to be the Savior of the world.

Singing it every Sunday is good, for each Sunday we play the part of the shepherds. During the Service of the Word, the angels of heaven come once again and sing with us. It's the answer to our prayers, and it shows us where to go to find the Savior. He is no longer in the manger of straw, but in the manger of Holy Scripture.

In Holy Scripture we can "go and see what has taken place, of which the angels sing." We will also soon get to eat with Him of Whom the angels sing.

He will dine with us and give us His body and blood for our forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Salvation came in Christ in Bethlehem, but it very much comes to us still each Lord's Day. This Gloria raises the angels' voices in the Service of the Word, and they are heard again in the Sanctus, but the Words also echo John the Baptizer's words kept in the Agnus Dei.

Salvation was the purpose when the angels sang over the fields of Bethlehem, and the purpose of these words is still salvation. Salvation received in Font, Keys, and Supper. The angels each week bid us to go to Christ, and receive his gifts. All we must do is say, "Amen!" Gift received. Then we just echo their joyous strain, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo!" In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

### Quarterly Voters Meeting

The following items were discussed at the Quarterly Voters Meeting held on Sunday, October 10, 2010 immediately following the worship service:

John Gercken called the meeting to order.

Pastor McPike gave the opening prayer.

Elder John Gercken asked if anyone needed to sign the constitution.

The minutes were read from the July 11, 2010 Voters Meeting. Marvin Clemmons made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Second by Gene Welborn. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report was given with a September 30, 2010 balance of \$39,487.30

Gus Warsaw made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Second by Brenda Hendricks. Motion passed.

Pastor Report:

Bible Study on Wednesday nights with Vicar.

Reminded congregation to be thinking about the direction of the Pastor/Vicar arrangement. Is this the way you want it set up?

### Old Business:

Rewrite in the constitution. Minor revisions to restructure and simplify some words. Add some procedures for who leads meetings in the absence of the chairman.

Mike Hendricks discussed the poll on changing start times for Sunday school and church. It was decided the majority liked the times as they are. So no change is needed.

### New Business:

Pastor discussed the new "paraments" the Altar Guild purchased for the altar to use during advent. Pictures were shown and pastor described how the "paraments" would look.

Mike Hendricks mentioned it was "Pastor Appreciation Month" and offered thanks to Pastor and Vicar for their work.

The Fourth Quarterly Voters meeting will be held on Sunday, January 9, 2011, the first Sunday after the first Monday of the calendar month.

Motion to adjourn by Barb Whitehouse-Gercken. Second by Don Warsaw.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by: Rick Hardesty, Council Secretary

## **Church Council Minutes**

The following items were discussed at the Church Council Meeting held on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.:

Members attending: Lee Whitehouse, Mike Hendricks, Rick Hardesty, John Gercken, Larry Lutz, Terri Hooker, Darwin Warsaw, Don Warsaw, Vicar Aaron Fenker, and Pastor McPike.

Pastor McPike opened with a prayer.

The minutes were read from the September 7, 2010 Council Meeting. John Gercken requested the word "sister-in-law" be added to a benefit for Megan Rappleyea, Rebecca Gercken's sister-in-law.

Motion to accept the minutes as corrected by John Gercken. Second by Mike Hendricks. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report was given with a balance on September 30, 2010 of \$39,487.30.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Darwin Warsaw. Second by John Gercken. Motion passed.

Motion to give a donation of \$150.00 to Christ Lutheran at Buckley by Rick Hardesty. Second by Don Warsaw. Motion passed.

### Pastor/Vicar Report:

*Vicar Aaron reported:*

Vicar will attend the Synod Conference in Peoria, IL from October 18-20, 2010.

Vicar said he has had two member visits so far.

Vicar stated that he had eleven people in Adult Bible Class.

Vicar will teach Adult Bible Class and Catechism the next two Sundays.

Vicar was commended for his work with Ruth Bernett's family at her passing.

Discussion of Advent services, Wednesday, December 1, 2010; Christmas Eve Service; and a Thanksgiving Eve service the Wednesday before or on Sunday evening. A notice will be in the November Newsletter.

### Pastor Report:

Communion will be moved from October 17, 2010 to October 31, 2010.

Pastor will be at a Lutheran Conference on October 17, 2010 and October 24, 2010.

Pastor handed out a copy of the Church Constitution for review. Pastor McPike is fine-tuning it.

### Elders Report:

John Gercken will be gone October 31, 2010. He will find a replacement.

### Sunday School Report:

Vicar commented that confirmation class is going well.

### Trustee Report:

Don Warsaw commented that the floor to the Annex will be removed for major repairs in November.

Don also commented he called Coarsen Music to come in and help find the trouble with the sound and the recording system in the church. He appreciated the time John, Pastor, and others have spent trying to fix it but thought we need outside help.

Filters were changed on the furnaces, light bulbs were changed, and work was done in the women's restroom.

### Old Business:

Discussion was held about adding a section to the constitution about how to handle the absence of the chairman from meetings.

Budget requests need to be directed to Mike.

November 14, 2010 presentation to Scott Gercken.

### New Business:

We need to consider the Pastor/Vicar setup for the church. Do we want to keep things the way they are?

Motion to adjourn by Terri Hooker. Second by Larry Lutz.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Rick Hardesty, Council Secretary

## **LWML News**

Health Kits. The LWML ladies assembled 69 health kits after church on October 3, 2010 in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to the committee of Debbie Martin, Shirley Sprau, Brenda Edwards, and Debbie Lammle for purchasing the supplies and to the additional

LWML members who helped assemble and tie the kits before boxing.

These kits, as well as the 26 quilts tied by the ladies of the church, will be taken to the collection point at the American Lutheran Church in Gibson City on October 30, 2010. Thanks to our Mission Growth Coordinator, Debbie Martin, and Debbie Lammle for making sure these items are packaged correctly and taken to the drop-off point in Gibson.

Buying supplies for the health kits was made possible by a Thrivent grant of \$400.00.

LWML Sunday was celebrated on October 24, 2010 with the LWML members helping during the service in many ways. Diana Zimmerman and Wilma Grussing were greeters, Shirley Sprau and Terri Hooker were ushers, and Debbie Lammle read the lessons and led the LWML Pledge. All the ladies of LWML sang three verses of the hymn "For All the Faithful Women." One of the verses recognized Dorcus, the woman of the bible that served the sick and poor, was full of kindness, and showed compassion to those in need, just as the LWML organization does today. The flowers on the altar, banner, quilts on the pews, and devotions in the bulletin were all ways to celebrate the special work of the Lutheran Women Missionary League. Thanks Osman ladies for all your dedication to this wonderful organization!

Mite Boxes. The "mite box" is used by the LWML to collect money for missions. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the mite offering is sent to LWML for mission grants and seventy-five percent (75%) is used for district mission grants. Mite money is used to further God's kingdom through the mission grants selected by the delegates at district and national conventions.

The members at Immanuel Osman had an opportunity to donate to the mite offerings during two worship services. The children here at Osman also are saving their mites to help with this worthy cause. The children will bring their filled mite boxes to the Christmas Eve service.

Thanks to all who contributed their offerings to further God's kingdom.

LWML Meeting. The next meeting of the LWML will be held on December 9, 2010 with Barb Whitehouse-Gercken giving the topic and Moneta McCleary and Agnes Martinie as hostesses.

### **Thank You to Lois Christie**

Thank you for the donation made by Lois Christie to the Altar Guild. New linens were purchased with her generous contribution.

### **Ladies Aid Meeting**

The Ladies Aid will meet on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. Moneta McCleary is the hostess and will have the devotion and prayer. The topic will be given by Dorothy Miller. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend!

### **Church Council Meeting**

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex.

### **Thrivent News**

The Thrivent Benefit Soup Supper will be held on Saturday, November 13, 2010 from 4:30–7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The recipient is Megan Rappleyea who is originally from Mahomet and is married to Rebecca Gercken's brother. She was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and is undergoing treatment so the benefit proceeds will be used for her medical bills.

The menu will consist of chili, potato soup, oyster soup, sandwiches, pies, and drinks. The sign-up sheet for food donations is posted on the back bulletin board.

The Thrivent Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 14, 2010, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bloomington at 4:00 p.m. After a business meeting and election of officers, there will be a catered meal and musical entertainment. If you are interested in attending, please see Connie Warsaw or Brenda Hendricks by Sunday, November 7, 2010.

Thrivent Choice is still in progress. There have been several members who have contributed their dollars to our congregation. This month we would like to thank Debbie Lammle for her contribution.

If you have received a letter telling you that you have Thrivent Choice dollars, please consider contributing them by phone or online to our congregation. This program will extend through March, but if you do not respond, Thrivent will get to decide what to do with the amount.

Members should have received the national election ballots in the mail this week. Please vote for the candidates of your choice by mail or online by following the instructions outlined with your ballot.

### **Bellflower Thanksgiving Feast**

The annual "Feast" will be held from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 14, 2010 at the Bellflower Community Center. Come catch up with old friends and enjoy a delicious meal!

**Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service**

A Thanksgiving Eve worship service will be held on Wednesday, November 24, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Come join in giving thanks for all of the blessings that have been showered on you and on our church family.

**Christmas Program Practice**

Christmas program practice will begin on Saturday, November 27, 2010, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. The program this year is entitled “God Loves Me Dearly” and will be a part of the Christmas Eve service. Other practices will be held on December 4, 11, and 18. All children from sixth grade down to pre-school should attend these sessions!

**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

We welcome everyone to attend the Wednesday night Bible Study led by Vicar Fenker at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. St. Paul’s letter to the Galatians is being studied. It’s informal in setting; just come when you can. It shouldn’t last much more than an hour. Hope to see you there!

**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
09-26	87	9	11
10-03	72	6	9
10-10	88	8	8
10-17	61	3	8
10-24	61	8	8
10-31	Statistics Unavailable		

**Elder-on-Duty**

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

**Altar Guild**

November .....Barb Gaines

**Lay Readers**

11-07 .....Annette Warsaw  
 11-14 .....Marsha Warsaw  
 11-21 .....Shane Zimmerman  
 11-28 .....Larry Camp

**November Birthdays**

Deb Peyton .....11-02  
 Emily Grussing .....11-05  
 Joni Reifsteck.....11-05  
 Lee Whitehouse.....11-06  
 Malachi Johnson.....11-10  
 Esther Lutz .....11-10  
 Karen Bryan .....11-11  
 Brent Lutz .....11-11  
 Randy Zimmerman.....11-13  
 Steve Warsaw .....11-14  
 Dwight Hooker .....11-15  
 Rick Hardesty .....11-16

Mary Beth Duncan .....	11-19
Agnes Martinie .....	11-22
Nick Forrest .....	11-24
Jenna Clemmons .....	11-25
Bill Forrest .....	11-25
Julia Camp .....	11-30

### November Anniversaries

Annette and Jeff Warsaw .....	11-03
Stefani and Greg Warsaw .....	11-16
Connie and John Grussing .....	11-19
Kim and Marvin Clemmons .....	11-21
Connie and Donnie Warsaw .....	11-22
Jean and Bill Amdor .....	11-26



### Thanksgiving

For each new morning with its light,  
 for rest and shelter of the night,  
 for health and food,  
 for love and friends,  
 for everything Thy goodness sends.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



### Veteran's Day November 11, 2010

"You gave for peace with courage  
 That families may be free  
 So children could grow strong  
 And safe they'd ever be.

In giving for the sake of peace  
 You may have suffered loss  
 Your body may still show its wounds  
 From taking up the cause.

May remembrance of your time away  
 Your sacrifice for peace  
 Spur us on to strive more strongly  
 For freedom, that there'll be release.

From causes that sent some away  
 To fight that we may freely live  
 With gratefulness we thank you, veterans  
 For all you gave and give!"

by Susan Kramer

### We Are Thankful

Dear Lord,

We are thankful for this day,  
 set aside to honor all the ways You bless us  
 with Your goodness, love, and grace.

We are thankful for the people at this table  
 who add a variety of wonderful things to our lives  
 just by being who they are.

We are thankful for the food we are about to eat,  
 which You created for our nourishment and  
 pleasure.

Most of all, Lord, we thank You  
 for always being there for us,  
 guiding us, encouraging us,  
 comforting us and blessing us.

In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

by Joanna Fuchs  
 (www.poemsource.com)