

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN



The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC

Vicar Aaron Fenker

December 2010

Ending and beginning...

Pastor Jeff McPike

The church year is on a bit of different timing from the calendar year. Each year, the church year ends with the last Sunday of the Church year being five Sundays before Christmas, and the new church year begins then on the first Sunday in Advent, four Sundays before Christmas. The key is Christmas, the time that we celebrate the coming of Jesus.

Churches that seek to truly observe Advent struggle in that observance, because of the encroachment of the Christmas holiday season that starts earlier each year. Stores begin setting up displays not long after Labor Day, and “holiday” television commercials seem to start closer to Halloween than ever. All this “earlier than ever Christmastime” is an attempt to benefit from the coming of the holiday in some form or other. It also is because as people try to “make the holiday meaningful” they find that it is basically an empty time. Christmas without Christ is simply an over-rated season of warm feelings that leaves one feeling empty at the end of the day.

We in the church do not celebrate the coming of a holiday, however. We have a season that precedes the holiday in which we celebrate Jesus’ birth, and, in that, take the opportunity to celebrate the coming of Christ (hence the word, “Advent”, which means “Coming”). Certainly, we celebrate the coming of Christ as He came at Christmas; but we also celebrate His coming in Word and Sacrament and His coming again at the end of time. That Christ came once as a baby, grew up to die and rise again is the foundation of our faith. That He is coming again is both good and bad news: good news that He will bring this world of misery to an end, and bad news for those

who do not follow Him. His coming continually is wonderful that He strengthens us through Word and Sacrament to face the challenges of life on a daily basis.

Advent is also a time to remember that Christ’s coming was not an “all at once surprise”, but something that had been long planned and carefully announced. As a way to somewhat illustrate the gradual nature of Jesus’ first coming, as well as look at the various signs of His eventual return, we will observe the custom we adopted last year of not decorating the church all at once, but we will start gradually. Advent wreath will be the addition on the first Sunday. In weeks to follow, we will place greens and then finally the tree itself. This may seem to be a bit “counter-culture”, and there is good reason for that – it is! The church is “in the world but not of the world”. We are sensitive to people’s desires, but always make everything that we do in the church, even at (especially at) Christmas a clear proclamation of Christ in how we act, what we say, and in our music and worship. There is plenty of “popularized Christmas” all around us that speaks only of a holiday of warm, fuzzy feelings which allows for Christ as an “option” for those who so choose. This is our time as God’s people to truly confess the holiday time as “Christ’s Mass” (which is where the name comes from – focus on Christ’s coming and the Sacrament of Communion) rather than “X-mas” – a day of emotion that doesn’t necessarily need God at all.

Also part of our Advent observance at Immanuel is our Advent midweek service that will be held on December 1 at 7:00 followed by a time of fellowship. Immanuel is a great name to celebrate this time of year! “God – with – us”! He came (once, as is

celebrated at Christmas/Easter), He comes (in word and sacrament) and He is coming (finally to end this world and take us all to be with Him forever in heaven).

Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here.
Until the Son of God appear!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to you, O Israel!

Blue? Why Blue?

Pastor Jeff McPike

Immanuel will be dedicating and using new paraments this coming Advent. Over the last number of years, many churches using paraments have gone to the color blue for Advent. The colors that are on our altar represent something about the season of the church year. Purple, the color used in Lent and, until now, used in Advent, is a color that represents sorrow, suffering, repentance. Lent is a time of sorry, repentance as we take time in Lent to remember the suffering of Jesus made necessary because of our sins. Advent has a character similar to Lent, which is why churches in the past often used purple for Advent as well as Lent. But while similar, there are some distinctions between Advent and Lent. Lent is a time that we spend in preparation for the commemorating Christ's passion and death just before our celebration of Easter, the resurrection. Advent is a time that we remember Christ's coming. John the Baptist preached a message of repentance in preparation for the coming of Christ. The use of a deep "Royal Blue" is a reminder of that repentance, as that blue has some of the same color qualities as purple. It is not as "dark" as purple, in that way, not as much a color of sorrow, because the repentance that we look to in Advent is a joyful repentance as we anticipate the coming of our King. Because Christ is our coming King, the color of blue is "Royal Blue".

A style of paraments was chosen that is a significant departure from what we are used to at Immanuel. There will be significantly more material, and larger symbols. The thought is that as the church continues to struggle to make a distinction between its Advent

observance and that of the world's "December Holiday Season", so we would dress our church in a new color and style to remind ourselves of that. Also, the a stole for the pastor was ordered to match the paraments. The tradition is that the pastor is "clothed" with some of the same cloth as the altar furniture, thus reminding us that in his functioning as worship leader, he is being used by God for God's service, just as the furniture.

An anonymous donation to the Immanuel altar guild was used to fund the new paraments, as well as other recent purchases and improvements to the chancel. We are very grateful for this generous gift.

Church Council Minutes

The following items were discussed at the Church Council Meeting held on Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.:

Members attending: Mike Hendricks, Rick Hardesty, Dwight Hooker, Shane Zimmerman, Larry Lutz, Terri Hooker, Darwin Warsaw, Don Warsaw, Vicar Aaron Fenker, Pastor McPike

Pastor McPike opened with a prayer.

The minutes were read from the October 12, 2010 Council Meeting. Motion to accept the minutes as read by Don Warsaw. Second by Darwin Warsaw. Motion Passed.

The Treasurers report was given with a balance on October 31, 2010 \$42,536.36.

Motion to accept the Treasurers report by Darwin Warsaw. Second by Shane Zimmerman. Motion Passed.

Motion to give a donation of \$300.00 to Lutheran World Relief and Human Care for November and Deember, 2010 by Rick Hardesty. Second by Dwight Hooker. Motion passed.

Mike Hendricks distributed out and discussed a proposed budget for the 2011 Fiscal Year and asked the council to look it over and come back with suggestions and questions

Pastor / Vicar Report

Pastor McPike reported:

Pastor recommended putting the Constitution in the Dec news letter for the congregation can look over before the Annual Meeting.

Vicar will be doing Thanksgiving Eve service.

Discussion of Advent service Wednesday December 1 at 7 p.m. Coffee and cookies will be provided by the Church council after the service each council member should 2 dozen cookies.

Vicar Fenker reported:

The Danville Pastor Circuit Meeting will be held Nov. 9, 2010.

Vicar went to the Pastor Conference in Peoria.

Vicar will be gone November 13 and 14.

Elders Report

Nothing

Sunday school Report

The Children are practicing for the Christmas program

Trustee report

Courson Music, Champaign fixed the issues with the sound system.

Work on the annex floor is on hold for now.

Old Business

Presentation to Scott Gercken will be held Christmas Eve.

New Business

Shane and Vicar will hold a training class for the ushers.

Decorating for Christmas will be at 1pm on the following dates:

November 28 - Advent Wreath

December 4 - Greens

December 11 - Tree

Christmas decorations will be taken down Saturday, January 8, 2011 at 9 am.

We need ideas for use of memorial funds

Motion to adjourn by Terri Hooker. Second by Shane Zimmerman.

Closed with the Lords prayer

Submitted by Rick Hardesty, Council Secretary

Constitution and By-Laws

Included with this month's newsletter is the draft of the Constitution and By-Laws. This document was recently re-worked and revised, with revisions approved by the congregation near the time of Pastor Peters' death. Once Pastor McPike came to Immanuel, other changes became apparent.

A significant departure from previous printings of the document is that the changes are incorporated into the document so that what you will read is the way in which the document reads today. In the past, the document adopted from 1957 was presented, with all changes following. The new reading format allows for ease of reading and understanding. Other minor changes include revisions that remove references to church groupings indicating fellowship, and allow for the changing scene of fellowship between the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and other church bodies as the Synod manages those changes. Please read the document. If you have any questions or concerns about it, please contact pastor, vicar, or a council member.

LWML News

The next LWML meeting will be December 9th in the fellowship hall at 7:00pm. All women of the congregation are invited. The topic leader will be Barb Whitehouse Gercken and the hostesses are Moneta McCleary and Agnes Marinie. The members will reveal their secret pals and exchange Christmas gifts, followed by drawing new secret pals for the coming year.

All Sunday school children are asked to bring their mite boxes to church for the Christmas Eve Program on December 24th. We thank the children for giving their offerings to support the LWML Mite Projects.

Ladies Aid Meeting

The annual Ladies Aid Christmas luncheon (potluck) will be held on Wednesday, December 1, at noon in the fellowship hall. Husbands and guests are welcome. There will be a \$5.00 gift exchange. Join us for a delicious meal and good fellowship. The officers for 2011 are as follows: President – Shirley Sprau; Vice President – Debbie Lammler; Secretary – Wilma Grussing; Treasurer – Joanne Nelson; Flower treasurer – Connie Warsaw; LCFS Treasurer – Moneta McCleary. Ladies Aid does not meet in January or February so our next meeting will be March 2, 2011.

Altar Guild

Advent season begins November 28th and with this season comes several visual reminders in our sanctuary of the birth of our Savior. One is the advent wreath, which symbolizes everlasting life. The circle represents the continuous love of God with no beginning and no end. Each of the four colored candles in the Advent wreath represents a week leading to Christmas. Traditionally, three of the candles are purple or blue, and one is pink. The final candle is white and is located in the center of the wreath. The first candle is called the "Candle of Hope". It symbolizes faith in God keeping his promises to humanity. The second is called the "Candle of Preparation", reminding Christians of the preparatory work of John the Baptist in preaching repentance. The third candle is the "Candle of Joy". It recalls the angels joyfully singing about the birth of Christ. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love" reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth. The Christ candle, the white candle in the center, stands for Jesus Christ himself. May we all keep these reminders in our hearts to promote hope, joy, and love during this advent season.

Anyone wanting to donate a poinsettia for decorating the altar during the Christmas season please sign-up on the back bulletin board. The cost will be announced later and the money given to the church treasurer, Mike Hendricks. Checks should be made to the church. The poinsettias may be taken home after church on Sunday, January 2nd.

A special thank-you to all the ladies of the Altar Guild for their modest, loving dedication they have shown in helping to make each worship service here at Immanuel possible.

Thrivent News

On Saturday, November 13th, our local Thrivent group hosted a benefit soup supper for Megan Rappleyea. Megan is married to Rebecca Gercken's brother and is a student at Illinois State University where she is studying nursing. Megan has been diagnosed with breast cancer and the benefit will help with medical expenses. The menu of oyster soup,

chili, potato soup, sandwiches, and pies was enjoyed by all. \$1941 was collected at the supper which will be partially matched by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. We would like to thank everyone who contributed their time and food so that we could work together to help someone in need in our community. Please keep Megan in your thoughts and prayers!

Thrivent Choice is a program initiated by the Nation Thrivent organization to allow some of their members to contribute some of the fraternal profits to charities of the individual's choice. Some of our members have received notification that they have dollars to give. The deadline to donate these dollars is March, but if you have received a letter and need help working through the process, please see Brenda Hendricks. Our church is registered as one of the possible places to contribute to. We have received \$409 from various members. We thank the following members for their contributions: Deb Lammle, Butch Sprau, Shirley Sprau, Bill McCleary, Wilma Grussing, Wilma Forrest, Connie Warsaw, Donnie Warsaw, Brenda Hendricks, Mike Hendricks, and Gene Welborn.

The annual meeting for the McLean County Thrivent was held on Sunday, November 14th, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bloomington. There was election of local officers, a presentation on Thrivent Builds which works with Habitat for Humanity, and an awesome musical program performed by Table of Twelve from Normal Community High School. Congratulations to Connie Warsaw who was elected as records director and Brenda Hendricks as financial director on the McLean County Board.

Advent Midweek Service

We will celebrate the Advent season with a worship service on Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at 7 p.m. A fellowship time will follow the service with the church council members providing the refreshments. Come join in the celebration of the new church year as we prepare for the celebration of the feast of the Nativity of Lord, Jesus Christ.

Church Decorating

The church will be prepared for Christmas in several stages this year. The advent wreath will be prepared and displayed starting on Sunday, November 28. The hanging of the greens will take place at 1 PM on Saturday, December 4th. The decoration of the tree will follow on Saturday, December 11th, at 1 PM. Everyone is welcome to help prepare our House of worship for the celebration of Jesus birth. The decorations will be taken down on Saturday, January 8th.

Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve service will include a program entitled “God Loves Me Dearly” which will be a variety of Christmas hymns with the program that is told by a storyteller. The children will participate with finger plays, scripture readings, and songs. The service will begin at 7 PM on December 24th.

Christmas Treat Bags

The Christmas treat bags will be prepared again this year for distribution on Christmas Eve. If you care to donate, please give your money to one of the elders – Rob Gallier, Dwight Hooker, John Gercken, or Shane Zimmerman in the next few weeks.

Christmas Caroling

Everyone is invited to go caroling to the shut-ins of our congregation on Saturday, December 11th, at 1 PM. Please plan on sharing the birth of Jesus in song not only to our shut-in members but also to the local nursing home residents. It is always much appreciated! It is also very rewarding to the carolers to see the smiles on the resident’s faces as they recognize the familiar Christmas hymns. Come one, come all!

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 purposes 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.

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

December.....Debbie Lammle and Shirley Sprau

Lay Readers

12-05.....Kim Clemmons
12-12.....Leonard Delaney
12-19.....Marvin Clemmons
12/26.....Barb Gaines

December Birthdays

Larry Camp12-01
Myron Zimmerman12-02
David Hasty12-05
Paul Zimmerman12-06
David Brown.....12-08
Debbie Martin12-09
Darren Peyton12-12
Jerred Grussing12-17
Amber Hendricks12-17
Connie Grussing.....12-18
Wilma Forrest12-20
Diana Zimmerman12-21
Kierra Barrack.....12-24
Nathan Hooker.....12-25
John Grussing12-27
Deb Johnson.....12-28

December Anniversaries

Jodi and Jake Stockle.....12-04
Dorothy and Gene Welborn.....12-20
Arnita and Paul Zimmerman.....12-20
Martha and Darwin Warsaw.....12-31

CONSTITUTION OF THE Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church of Osman at Fisher, McLean County, Illinois

PREAMBLE

In accordance with God's word, as it may be applied to every congregation, (1 Cor. 14:40) "Let all things be done decently and in order", we, a number of Lutherans dwelling in this community, have united to organize a congregation, and here with in the undersigned document present the Constitution under which we would be united into a congregation and by which the affairs within and without the congregation are to be determined.

ARTICLE I – NAME OF THE CONGREGATION

The name of this congregation, affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, shall be IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH of Osman of Fisher, McLean County, Illinois.

ARTICLE II – CONFESSIONAL BASIS OF THE CONGREGATION

The congregation accepts and acknowledges unreservedly as the norm according to which the doctrines in our congregation shall be taught and all arising controversy shall be settled:

1. All the canonical books of the Old and New Testament are the inspired and revealed Word of God.
2. All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580 as a true and sound exposition of the Word of God. Those Symbolical Books are: The Ecumenical Creeds of the Christian Church (The Apostles', The Nicene and the Athanasian Creeds); The Unaltered Augsburg Confession; The Apology of the Augsburg Confession; The Smalcald Articles; Luther's Large Catechism; Luther's Small Catechism and the Formula of Concord.

(While not explicitly stated, the "Smalcald Articles" includes also the "Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope".)

ARTICLE III -- OBJECT AND PURPOSE OF THE CONGREGATION

The object and purpose of the congregation is, according to the Word of God, chiefly to establish and maintain the public ministry of the Gospel in our midst, in order that the means of grace may be properly administered. To this and it is necessary:

1. To conduct regular public worship, in which only purely Lutheran forms shall be used in all ministerial acts, and only hymns which are purely Christian in content shall be sung.
2. To exercise truly evangelical pastoral care in all branches, this includes especially a thorough catechetical instruction in Christian doctrine.
3. To found and maintain whenever possible a Christian parish school, and/or any other educational agency, in which, besides the Holy Scriptures and Luther's Small Catechism, such books and literature, shall be used for religious instruction, which are not at variance with the Word of God; and other books used in Christian instruction shall not be used to teach anything contrary to Lutheran doctrine.

4. Since every church is enjoined by Christ to do mission work, Matthew 28:18-20, therefore our church shall be affiliated with and support to the best of its ability, the work of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, as long as said Synod adheres to the doctrines and confessions of the Lutheran Church.

ARTICLE IV – CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

No person can become nor remain a member, much less be an officer of this congregation, nor enjoy the privileges and exercise and rights of a member, unless he:

1. Has been baptized in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
2. Declares his adherence to all the ecumenical books of the Old and New Testaments as the only divine rule and norm of faith and life.
3. Declares his adherence to the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, and, while he yet may be deficient in the knowledge of all the Lutheran Symbols enumerated in Article II, he must be familiar at least with Luther's Small Catechism and declare his acceptance thereof.
4. Diligently hears the Word of God and frequently partakes of the Lord's Supper.
5. Does not live in manifest works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21), leads a Christian life.
6. Submits himself to the regulations of the congregation which have been and still may be adopted, provided they are not contrary to the Word of God and the Lutheran Symbols, and permits himself to be fraternally admonished and corrected when he has erred, according to Matthew 18:15-18.
7. Is not a member of a secret society, an anti-Christian lodge or any other anti-Christian organization whose nature and purpose is contrary to the Holy Scriptures.

ARTICLE V – RIGHT TO VOTE AND ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE

The right to vote in the meeting of the congregation and to hold an elective office is granted only to its male and female communicant members who have become 18 years of age, and have signified their agreement with the Constitution and By-Laws of the congregation by signing it in one of their regular or special meetings, after they have been received by a vote of acclamation. All voting members are eligible to hold elective office with the exception that female voters may not hold the office of Chairman of the congregation or the office of Elder.

ARTICLE VI --- DUTIES OF MEMBERS

It shall be the Christian duty of all communicant members of this congregation to:

1. Put their time and talents into the service of their church.
2. Admonish erring members according to Matthew 18:15-18.
3. Bring their children to baptism at an early date, bring them with them to Sunday School and Church service, commit all unconfirmed children under their parental care to the Christian day-school or to Catechism instructions, and aid them in their spiritual growth at home.
4. Contribute, according to their ability, to the maintenance of all congregational property and expenses and to the payment of all debts of the congregation, and to support the work of the Synod.
5. In all other respects, comply with the provisions of the constitution.
6. It shall be the duty of every voting member to attend the voters' meetings of the congregation. By failing to attend a meeting, the member waives the right to vote in such meeting.

ARTICLE VII -- RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

Fellow Lutherans of congregations in fellowship with ours shall be received into communicant membership upon a notification of transfer from such a congregation and the approval of such reception by the Church Council, which shall be acknowledged later by the Voters' Assembly. Converts shall be received into communicant membership after due instruction or questioning in the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith as are taught in accord with Article II of this Constitution and after such person or persons have made such knowledge and profession of their faith known before the pastor and the Church Council, confirmation itself being a reception into church membership. All who are thus received become communicant members; and those who are received by profession of faith.

ARTICLE VIII -- CHURCH DISCIPLINE AND EXCOMMUNICATION

An erring member of this congregation shall be dealt with according to Matthew 18:15-18. Whom such a member, after due admonition and dealing with, refuses to conform to Christian doctrine and conduct, he shall cease to be a member and shall lose all rights and privileges of a member of this congregation and all claims upon its property. Any person under church discipline shall not have the right of suffrage in any proceeding pertaining to his excommunication.

ARTICLE IX – PROPERTY RIGHTS

Should a separation in the congregation occur, (may God graciously avert it), the entire property of the congregation and all rights connected therein remain with that group which holds fast to this Constitution and keeps their loyalty and affiliation to the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. In the event of a final dissolution of the congregation, its property shall be sold by the remaining members of the Assembly of Voters, and after all legitimate financial obligations of the congregation have been met, the residual funds shall be allotted to such, as is agreeable to parties concerned.

ARTICLE X – POWER OF THE CONGREGATION

The congregation, as a whole, has the supreme power to administer and manage its internal and external affairs. For the efficient management of its affairs, regular meetings of the voting members shall be held as occasion requires. Matters of doctrine and conscience shall be decided by the Word of God.

ARTICLE XI – OFFICES OF PASTOR AND TEACHER

The offices of pastor and teacher in this congregation shall be conferred upon such ministers and teachers or candidates who:

1. Profess their acceptance of and adherence to all the canonical book of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and all the Symbols of the Lutheran Church, enumerated in Article II.
2. Have been examined by Synod and certified. (See Article III, 4).
3. Are properly and rightfully called by the congregation.

ARTICLE XII – OTHER OFFICES IN THE CONGREGATION

The elected officers of the congregation shall be a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Elders, Trustees, Finance Committee, Sunday School Superintendent and Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. These officers shall constitute the Church Council. Other officers or committees deemed necessary for the efficient, evangelical and progressive operation of this congregation shall be appointed by the Chairman or Church Council. The Church Council is only advisory, not legislative. The congregation looks to this Council for leadership. The pastor is to be an Ex-Officio member of the Church Council and of all boards and committees.

ARTICLE XIII -- REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

All officers of the congregation, including pastor and teacher, may be released from office in Christian and lawful order. Sufficient and urgent reasons for removing an officer are/can be: persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, willful neglect of official duties or the inability to perform his/her duties due to age, illness or other causes. For the removal of a called worker from office, an affirmative ballot by a majority of all the voting members shall be required.

ARTICLE XIV – ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

All societies, clubs and individual or group actions within the congregation and affecting its welfare shall be promoted, established and maintained only with the consent of the Assembly of Voters and remain under its guidance and control. Fraternal insurance organizations need consent of voters but operate under their own guidance and control.

ARTICLE XV – AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The congregation may amend or repeal any article of this constitution, except Article II, CONFESSIOAL BASIS OF THE CONGREGATION, Article XI and paragraph 3 of Article III, which shall forever remain unalterable. Proposed amendments shall be presented in writing and read at any regularly called meeting of the congregation. Adoption of such proposed amendments shall require two-thirds majority vote of those present at a subsequent regularly called meeting. Such proposed alteration must be published in advance of the deciding meeting that such impending change might be known.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – MEETINGS

Regular quarterly meetings shall be held on the first Sunday of each quarter, when possible, except the first quarterly meeting which shall be considered the Annual Meeting, which is to be held on the first Sunday after the first Monday of January, if possible. All regular meetings shall be announced at least one Sunday in advance. Special meetings may be called by two Council members, when necessary. The quorum to transact business shall be one-fourth (1/4th) of the voting members. The Church Council shall meet once a month.

Ordinarily, the voters present at a properly called meeting shall constitute a quorum to do business. However, for the purchase or sale of property, for the erection of buildings, for a separation in the congregation or total disbandment of the congregation, a majority of all voting members shall be required for a quorum. In the absence of a majority, those present may fix the date for an adjourned meeting for which at least five days written notice shall be given. The members who are present at such adjourned meeting shall constitute a quorum. For the removal of a called worker from office, an affirmative allot by a majority of all the voting members shall be required.

ARTICLE II – OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES AND OFFICIAL MEETINGS

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected every two years. There shall be four elders, two to be elected every year and to serve for two years. There shall be two trustees, one to be elected every year and to serve for two years. There shall be two Finance Committee members, one to be elected every year and to serve for two years. An Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday School shall be elected every year and automatically become Sunday School Superintendent the following year. There shall be an Education, Stewardship and Mission Committee, composed of three members each to be appointed by the Chairman or committees. Women of the congregation may be represented on these committees. The Education Committee shall promote and supervise all phases of Christian education in the congregation. The Stewardship Committee shall encourage and promote all phases of stewardship in the congregation. The Mission Committee shall encourage and promote the mission work of the congregation.

THE SECRETARY shall write the minutes of the Assembly of Voters and Church Council meetings and take into custody all documents and papers of the congregation. He/She shall attend to all correspondence as designated by the congregation.

THE TREASURER shall receive all monies of the congregation, except the Building Fund money as need arises for a Building Fund Treasurer, and keep a records of receipts and disbursements for Current, Special and Mission offerings and make a report of the same at each Council Meeting and Voters' Assembly Meeting. He/She shall make payments in accordance with valid resolutions and regulations of the congregation, and shall keep on file all receipts and vouchers for payment made. His/Her records shall be audited each year before the Annual Meeting.

THE TRUSTEES shall act as stewards over the property of the congregation, to sign documents, and to fulfill all business which the congregation shall transact. They are authorized to spend small sums, not to exceed \$100.00 for necessary expenses in the care of the congregational property. They may expend greater amounts upon the approval of the Church Council or the Assembly of Voters. The Church Council is empowered to spend for necessary items or repairs up to \$500.00 without the consent of the congregation. Greater amounts shall be acted upon by the Voters' Assembly. The Trustees shall authorize the Building Fund Treasurer to pay all allowable bills.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE shall count all monies contributed to the congregation and keep a record of them. They shall distribute offering envelopes to all who desire to use them. They shall keep the congregation informed as to its financial status and needs, as well as Synodical and special needs in harmony with the resolutions and wishes of the congregation. If they find that some members are in arrears they can, in all friendliness, remind them of their Christian duty in stewardship of giving. They shall receive pledges for the coming year as the congregation so wills it and shall explain to new members the financial system of the congregation. The Finance Committee, Church Council and Pastor are to set up the budget for the new year.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT with his/her Assistant is to supervise the work of the Sunday School, to conduct the Sunday School services, and to render a yearly report at the Annual Congregational meeting

THE AUDITING COMMITTEE shall audit the books of the Treasurer before the Annual Voters' Meeting. The Church Council shall at its discretion appoint an auditing committee before the church's October quarterly meeting. Only such members are eligible to serve on this committee as at the time are not handling the finances of the congregation.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE, appointed by the Church Council, shall nominate such members of the congregation who, in their opinion, would qualify for such offices to which they nominate them. This committee shall present a slate for election at the Annual Meeting. There shall be two candidates placed on the ballot for each office by the Nominating Committee. The committee shall present one ballot and additional names may be nominated from the floor. A vacancy for any reason except expiration of term shall be filled by the Church Council until the next regularly scheduled Annual Voters' Assembly.

ARTICLE III – ELECTION OF A PASTOR OR TEACHER

The right to call a pastor or teacher shall at all times remain with the Assembly of Voters. Whom such candidate shall have the received a majority vote, such vote shall be made unanimous before a formal Divine Call is issued. The process shall be the same if the candidate comes from a seminary. This call shall then be signed by the Chairman and Elders of the congregation and the vacancy Pastor.

ARTICLE IV -- RELEASE OF MEMBERS

A communicant member in good standing who desires to withdraw from membership and join a sister congregation in fellowship with ours shall receive upon application to the pastor a certificate of release whereupon the Pastor shall notify the Church Council of such action and later the Voters' Assembly. Should such member be an officer of the congregation he/she

shall, in a regular or special meeting of the Voters' Assembly, make his/her application for release which shall then be acted upon.

A communicant member in good standing who desires to withdraw from membership and join another church body not in fellowship with our congregation shall make his/her request known to the pastor and shall be warned against subject himself/herself to false doctrine. (John. 8:31, 32; Matthew. 7:15; 16:6, 11,12; Romans. 16:17). A communicant member, not in good standing, as deemed by the Pastor and the Church Council, shall be removed from membership of the congregation as seen fit by the Pastor and Church Council. Final authority over the decision of whether a person is in good or bad standing remains with the Pastor.

ARTICLE V – AMENDEMENTS TO BY-LAWS

Proposed amendments to these By-Laws must be submitted in writing at any regularly called or special meeting of the Assembly of Voters. Adopting of such proposed amendments shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of voters present at any subsequent regularly called or special meeting. Such proposed alteration must be published in advance of the deciding meeting that such impending change might be known.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN
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