

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC,

Vicar Aaron Fenker

April 2011



"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8

Repent or Perish

Vicar Aaron Fenker

In the name of Jesus. Amen. When such horrific tragedies like the earthquake and subsequent tsunami that befell the people of Japan, St. Paul's words often come ringing in our ears. "For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now" (Romans 8:19-22 NKJV). That creation is groaning, limping along is very clear to all of us.

Creation continually groans, but there are times when we can see this more clearly. And, whenever creation groans louder than usual, the events that follow cause us to worry, fear what's going to happen next. This is because when creation groans, especially by way of earthquake, our one "sure" foundation is taken away in this world. We like to think that the ground we stand on is secure, sure, firm, but earthquakes take away that certainty. We enjoy seeing what we can accomplish by our ingenuity, creativity, our own strength and might, but that can all be taken away in just a few seconds.

While we can try and find comfort in the idea: "Well, creation is groaning after all." The world despairs. And we may too! We might wonder, "Where was God?" "Why did this have to happen at all?" "Why did it have to happen to them?" We are not given to know these things. Really, we should not even try to dive into this hidden will of God. For that God is scary, unruly, seemingly out of control. But our Lord Jesus bids us to do one thing when such disasters befall us, repent.

"There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:1-5 NKJV).

We always want to know what God is doing. We want to know why things happen in the world, why disasters befall some and not others, and maybe even why disasters have to happen at all! Such disasters call us all to repentance. They call us to turn from our self-centered, our me-focused lifestyle. In these disasters, we can truly see that all we do passes away in an instant. We are no better off than those who perished. God is not in some way happier with us in this country, or even happier with Christians - for I'm confident that even Christians died in that tragedy. This happens so that we repent.

A brutal governor massacres those worshipping. Repent. A tower falls on and kills eighteen people. Repent. There's a devastating 9.0 earthquake followed by a tsunami. Repent. We are called to turn away from what we think is certain, what we think should happen in the world, what we think God should really be doing. We are called to turn to Jesus. That's what repent really means. Repent doesn't mean feel sorry for those who suffer - which should happen! Repent calls us back to Christ. Calls us back to Him who can save us from this groaning world. Who saves us from not only disasters of this world, but from even worse things: sin, the devil, our own flesh, the world, and death itself. He's washed us clean in Baptism. Rescued us by His death. He feeds us with His own true body and blood.

As Jesus said, "I have overcome the world." And He means it. He's overcome all the disasters of this life, and the life to come. By being united with Him through water, word, and body and blood we too overcome the world. The world has nothing on us. When disasters happen, we should repent, help those who suffer, but always remembering this: no matter what happens in this life - earthquakes, tsunamis, wars, rumors of wars, or whatever tragedy is happening in your own life - Christ has overcome it. And He gives you the victory. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Church Council Minutes

The following items were discussed at the Church Council Meeting held on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.:

Members attending: Lee Whitehouse, Mike Hendricks, Darwin Warsaw, Annette Warsaw, Jill Hardesty, Larry Lutz, Vicar Aaron Fenker, and Pastor McPike.

The March Church Council Meeting was held in the Annex with Pastor McPike opening the meeting with bible verses from Matthew 17 and prayer.

Secretary Jill Hardesty read the minutes from the February meeting with one amended correction in the Secretary's Report from the February meeting regarding the motion from the Council on the movement of \$20,000 to the Church Extension Fund in St. Louis, where the Herman Meyer Memorial is. It should have been stated that Darwin Warsaw made a motion to take this decision to the church congregation at the next voters meeting in April to vote. Motion was made by Mike Hendricks to accept the Secretary's Report as amended. Second by Darwin Warsaw. Motion carried.

Treasurer Mike Hendricks gave the Treasurer's Report with a balance of \$53,292.00 as of February 28, 2011. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Darwin Warsaw. Second by Larry Lutz. Motion carried.

Treasurer Mike Hendricks also discussed the following:

- A donation of \$150 to the Lutheran World Relief for the March donation for discretionary causes was made in an unanimous Council vote, with discussion held on what organization to donate funds to in the future with worthy causes noted, such as Christ Lutheran School in Buckley and Lutheran World Relief and Human Care.
- Treasurer Mike Hendricks also has been checking into the cost of an accountant or an accounting firm to handle the payroll for the church. Supervalu Retail Accounting and private accountants have been interviewed with

monthly cost differences from \$80.00 to over \$100.00. Discussion will take place with the congregation at the next quarterly voters meeting in April with options to vote on.

- He also mentioned he has checked into a direct deposit system for donations to the church and/or weekly giving options with the First Mid-Illinois Bank in Mansfield. Another option would be from Thrivent that has a similar program.
- Also stated, he would secure a credit card for pastoral use for any incidentals and more specifically for the church's website server company, which Pastor McPike is putting on his personal credit card now.

The Pastor's Report by Pastor McPike mentioned that Pastor Don Ehlers, from Champaign St. John's Lutheran Church, was home from the hospital and doing well.

- White paraments for the altar were ordered by the Altar Guild and will be used for both Easter and Christmas.
- Divine Drama Adult Sunday School will be held through Lent, and then Vicar will take over.
- Sunday, March 27, 2011, the organist, Alicia Haggin, will be gone and Scott Gercken will fill in, in her absence.

Vicar Aaron reported that the Bible Study class has been cancelled through lent. It will continue after the Lenten season. He has been visiting congregation members this month.

No Elder's Report.

In the Sunday School Superintendent's Report, Pastor McPike indicated that the Sunday School children will be singing and laying Palms down on Palm Sunday.

In the Trustee's Report, Darwin Warsaw reported that he's completed the mowing schedule for 2011. Jill Hardesty will retype the list and send to Karen Bryan to publish in the newsletter and post on the bulletin board in the back of the church.

- The door closer to the front church door project has not been completed.
- Darwin repaired one pew under the balcony.
- The drainage issue in the church hall is pending and Don Warsaw will get bids with other companies to finish the tiling job.
- Darwin Warsaw, Don Warsaw and Dick Johnson met to discuss extending the eaves out on three sides of the church to alleviate the drainage problem. They will wait for warmer weather to complete. The cost will run about \$500.00.

There was no Old Business to report.

In New Business, the church has been approached by Belangee Funeral Home in Bellflower, for the feasibility of holding a visitation/funeral at the church hall, due to the Bellflower Funeral Home being demolished earlier in the year. Elvin Belangee asked if the church would be willing to host funerals/meals, etc., if someone wanted to hold a visitation/funeral/family meal at our location. Discussion was held on insurance, liability, zoning, new wider front door, fees charged vs. donation type of cost, parking, expanding the West parking lot to the spruce trees and ADA issues among others. Discussion will continue and calls will be made to insurance companies, McLean County Zoning, etc. about the feasibility of the request and reported to the Council at a later date.

Also discussed were church organist guidelines for funerals, choir rehearsals, and weddings for our church organist. When our organist was hired, it was to be discussed at a later date. This topic will be mentioned and discussed at the next Voters meeting in April in front of the congregation as to what they want her to do and the cost involved.

Pastor McPike thanked Larry Lutz for the CD's that he makes for our shut-in members. Larry indicated that when Pastor McPike stands facing the congregation at the start of the service, it's hard to hear him speak on the CD, but after he gets in front of the microphone, the recording is clear. Possible solutions were discussed.

In Other Business, Mike Hendricks thanked the Youth Group for their Valentine's Day Supper that was very well attended.

The next Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 in the Annex.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Darwin Warsaw. Second by Annette Warsaw. Motion carried with adjournment at 8:20 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Hardesty, Council Secretary

LWML News

The last LWML Meeting was held on March 3, 2011 with Debbie Lammle leading the meeting. The LWML pledge and song were recited, followed by devotions by Barb Whitehouse Gercken and topic by Agnes Martinie. Barb Gaines read the minutes and roll call and Diana Zimmerman gave the Treasurer's Report.

Mites were collected and an update was given on the CID Mission Grants. President Lammle challenged the group to increase their mite contributions at the request from the National office. The group was also urged to be together in prayer at noon every Monday with other LWML sisters in Christ.

Correspondence was read from our seminary student. Thanks were given to those visiting shut-ins, helping quilt, sending Christmas cards to the seminary student, and planning the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper. Information about the National Convention was then given. The group attending National will be meeting later in April to fill out their registration forms together. Those working at the convention should fill out a medical release form and send it to Karen Ruhlig.

Those interested in quilting will meet after the Ladies Aid Meetings in June and July. Cleaning the church will be discussed at the next LWML Meeting. It was voted to order three Easter lilies for the shut-ins.

Several members of the LWML volunteered to make Kleenex covers and purchase the tissues to place inside. These are needed for the National LWML Convention in June.

The group regretfully accepted the resignation of Kathy Brendel. Important upcoming dates were then discussed. The next meeting will be June 9, 2011 with Marsha Warsaw giving the topic, and Terri Hooker and Brenda Hendricks serving refreshments. Prayers were said and refreshments served.

Ways to Join with Other LWML Members in the Zone, District, and Nationwide

The Lincoln Zone of the Central Illinois District, in cooperation with the Peoria-Pekin Zone, invite you to the 66th Annual CID LWML Convention on April 1-2, 2011, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Peoria, IL. The theme is "Prepare, Serve, and Strengthen" taken from Ephesians 4:12: "To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." As featured speaker, Bill Engfehr, will share firsthand experiences what it is like to attend a national convention.

Attend the LWML Spring Gathering, Woodworth Lutheran School, Saturday, April 16, 2011. Brunch will be served at 8:30 a.m. Let Debbie Lammle know if you are interested so she can RSVP by April 9, 2011.

Attend the 34th Biennial National LWML Convention right here in Peoria, IL from June 23-26, 2011. The theme is "Being with Jesus, Living on the Edge" from Acts 4:13b. The keynote speaker is Deb Burma, an author of women's Bible studies and devotions as well as articles for our Lutheran Women's Quarterly. Bible study leader is Dr. Reed Lessing and song leader is Lana Gibbons. Inspirational speaker, Katie Stam, will share her experiences from her journey as Miss America 2009. Servant Connections, Gifts from the Heart, Camp BWJ, exhibits, LWML Store, and much much more are included in this four-

day convention. Make plans to attend now with your LWML sisters in Christ!

Help in Japan!

On Friday, March 11, 2011, Japan experienced a catastrophic 9.0 magnitude earthquake which spawned a deadly tsunami. According to news reports, the death toll from the tragedy may exceed 10,000. The disaster also has left a half-million people homeless and caused tens of millions of dollars in property damage and economic losses. PLEASE KEEP THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN IN YOUR PRAYERS!

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League wants to respond to the needs created by this recent disaster in Japan. Some of these immediate disaster support opportunities include:

Orphan Grain Train is ready to begin shipping humanitarian aid into Japan when security measures are in place in that country. For hands-on projects, go to www.ogt.org and click "Special Projects."

Our local LWML has donated health kits to disaster victims before and will discuss donating more of these kits in the very near future. The new name for these items is "Mercy Kits," but they include the same items as the health kits (towel, washcloth, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, and Band-Aids).

Lutheran World Relief. Quilts and kits provide essential items that families need to survive following a disaster. Our local society will be quilting again this summer to help provide these much needed items.

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod President Harrison has announced that the LCMS is sending \$200,000 to two Japanese Lutheran church bodies and encourages prayer and financial support for those suffering in Japan. The Japan Earthquake Relief "help page" is located online at www.lcms.org/help. It has been suggested that our Church Council contribute to this fund as our "mission contribution" in the months ahead.

The devastation in Japan has given us an opportunity to return some of the love God has shown to us. It is our sacred duty to strengthen those in distress as well as those serving in the mission field in Japan. Let us keep them all in our prayers!

Thrivent News

Benefit Soup Supper! Thank you to all the volunteers that made the benefit soup supper for Andy Heckman a success. The supper itself went down in church history as being the largest to date. We served over 250 people and the total of the freewill offering is growing daily. Presently the amount totals \$7533.00, but checks just keep arriving so the final paperwork will be delayed until later this week. With the addition

of the Thrivent money, the total will exceed \$9000.00.

The Heckman Family will use this money to help with Andy's medical bills resulting from various medical complications. His goal is to have a kidney and heart transplant in the near future. Please keep Andy and his family in your prayers.

Thrivent Choice is in its second year. Thrivent Choice lets our members help choose where Thrivent Financial gives back. Members eligible for "Choice Dollars" can help direct Thrivent Financial's charitable dollars to thousands of Lutheran nonprofit organizations and congregations enrolled in the program. Immanuel Lutheran of Osman is one of those choices. In February we received money from the following members: John Gercken, Greg McCleary, Shirley and Butch Sprau, Connie and Donnie Warsaw, and Brenda Hendricks. This money becomes part of our church's treasury to be used to further the work of our ministry. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Thrivent Choice Voting Event Results. Votes were cast by more than 130,000 Thrivent Financial members in the second Thrivent Choice Voting Event which wrapped up February 28, 2011. Members 16 and older voted for one of seven health and human care organizations. As with the first Voting Event, Thrivent Financial will distribute \$1 million among the participating charities based on the percentage of votes each organization received. The results were as follows:

Bethesda Lutheran Communities receives \$136,317, Feeding America \$206,335, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service \$50,979, Lutheran Services in America \$129,927, Orphan Grain Train \$153,182, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital \$279,941, and Wheat Ridge Ministries \$43,319.

Ladies Aid Meeting

The Ladies Aid will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 in the Fellowship Hall. Moneta McCleary is the hostess and will give the devotion. Debbie Lammle will give the topic. All ladies are welcome to attend!

Quarterly Voters Meeting

A Quarterly Voters Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 10, 2011 immediately following the worship service.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex.

Confirmation

Courtney Delaney, daughter of Leonard and Christie Delaney, will be confirmed on Sunday, April 17, 2011. We welcome Courtney into our communicant family!

Care Packages to Afghanistan

The LWML will join with the Ladies Aid to send care packages to congregational family members who are serving in the military in Afghanistan. It was suggested that we open this project up to the entire congregation. A list of items needed will be posted on the bulletin board at the back of the church, and the congregation will have until April 17, 2011 to donate to this project.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday is a celebration of the Last Supper that Jesus took with his disciples. During communion on Maundy Thursday, only the common cup will be offered to the congregation, not the individual cups. The Youth Group will serve tacos, etc. after the service.

On Good Friday, the day we commemorate Jesus' trial, crucifixion and suffering, death, and burial, we will have a Tenebrae service, followed by stripping the altar.

Holy Week begins the Sunday before Easter with the observance of Palm Sunday. The palms disbursed during the church service signify the branches that were spread on the road as Jesus approached the Holy City of Jerusalem.

Courtney Delaney, daughter of Leonard and Christie Delaney, will also be confirmed on Palm Sunday.

Please join us this week to commemorate these special events in Jesus' life, and then meet us again on Easter morning at 7:00 a.m. to celebrate His triumphant resurrection from the dead. Holy Communion will be celebrated and the youth will serve their annual Easter breakfast following the worship service!

WML National Convention in Peoria!

Prayers are needed for the upcoming 34th Biennial Lutheran Women's Missionary League's Convention to be held in Peoria, Illinois on June 23-26, 2011. The theme this year is "Being with Jesus-Living on the Edge." The worship Proclaimer is Dr. Ken Klaus, past speaker of *The Lutheran Hour*, and one of the Keynote Speakers is Deb Burma. The Bible Study leader is Dr. Reed Lessing, an Associate Professor and Director of the Graduate School at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, with Lana Gibbons as Song Leader. Katie

Stam, Miss America 2009, will also be addressing the LWML ladies. (Katie is the first Miss America from Indiana in the pageant's 88-year history.)

A pre-convention golf outing is being planned, as well as many servant events such as making welcome and care kits, marking bibles, rolling bandages, tying quilts, making gospel bracelets, and much, much more.

If you would like to donate needed materials such as new bath towels, hand towels, and wash cloths to be taken to the convention, see one of the following people: Marsha Warsaw, Connie Warsaw, Debbie Lammle, Terri Hooker, Brenda Hendricks, Wilma Grussing, Barb Gaines, or Julia Camp. A list of the complete items that can be donated are on the back bulletin board in the church. These items will be given to worthwhile agencies in the Peoria area and to Orphan Grain Train. Your participation will be greatly appreciated!

A mission "Pledge Walk" will be held during the convention on June 25, 2011 along the beautiful banks of the Illinois River. Those attending the convention might be obtaining pledges from the congregation to assist in gathering money for the mission program of the LWML.

A blood drive will also be held during the convention in Peoria. You will receive free blood pressure, temperature, pulse rate, and hemoglobin tests, as well as the opportunity to give to a great cause.

An opportunity to sing praises to the Lord with fellow LWML members will be available as you sing with the Convention Choir. Exhibits, an LWML store, and special interest luncheons will also be available to view and participate in during your four-day stay in Peoria. A special convention T-shirt, that is a white short-sleeved three-button 65-35 poly/cotton pique, may also be ordered.

Entertainment during the convention includes "Sibling Harmony;" the three Buelman siblings who perform together; Kristine Stout, handbell soloist; and Phyllis Wallace, host of the "Woman to Woman" radio talk show produced by Lutheran Hour Ministries.

It was in our state of Illinois where women had the foresight to organize the first LWML in 1942. Let's make this a year to remember in the history of those attending National Conventions here at Immanuel Osman. It's not too late to sign up and join in on the fun and fellowship in Peoria this June!

Church Mowing Schedule

The 2011 Church Mowing Schedule is attached. Instructions are on the sheet. If you have any questions, please see Trustee Darwin Warsaw.

Church Website

You can view the Church Website at <http://OsmanLutheran.org>. Weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters are listed as well as other information about our church. Thank you, Pastor McPike, for your hard work and a job well done!

Email Addresses for Pastor/Vicar

The email addresses for Pastor McPike and Vicar Fenker are: pastor@osmanlutheran.org and vicar@osmanlutheran.org.

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
02-27	80	10	No Class
03-06	75	11	11
03-13	70	8	14
03-20	81	4	9
03-27	Statistics Unavailable		

Lent Worship Services

Date	Worship	Holiday	Donations
03-09	70	Ash Wednesday	\$728.00
03-16	49		\$374.70
03-23	51		\$320.40

Elder-on-Duty

Rob Gallier	Mar	Aug	Dec
Butch Sprau	Apr	July	Oct
Aaron Warsaw	May	Sept	Jan 2012
Shane Zimmerman	Feb	June	Nov

Altar Guild

AprilDebbie Lammler

Lay Readers

04-03Vicar Aaron Fenker
 04-10Aaron Warsaw
 04-17Vicar Aaron Fenker
 04-24Shane Zimmerman

April Birthdays

Chase Zimmerman04-03
 Courtney Delaney04-03
 Timothy Brandt04-10
 Dorothy Miller04-12
 Connie Warsaw04-12
 Benjamin Burgess04-13
 Barb Gaines04-16
 Kathy Brendel04-17
 Leonard Delaney04-17
 Steven Sprau04-18
 Gina Masko04-19
 Mike Hendricks04-23
 Hallie Johnson04-23
 Bob Zimmerman04-23
 Chris Barrack04-24
 Linda Warsaw04-25
 Kristan Hansen04-25
 Deb Lammler04-26
 Marvin Nelson04-28