

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC

December 2011



Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Matthew 1:23

From Pastor McPike

Vicarage is a time that forms a pastor in so many ways. That's why I took my charge as vicarage supervisor very seriously over the two years that we were privileged to have vicars at Osman. I did my vicarage at Grace Lutheran Church in Auburn, MI. That is where I picked up the tradition of decorating the church progressively all the way up until Christmas Eve. At that church, the tree actually did not appear until the Sunday before Christmas (Fourth Sunday in Advent), and then it was undecorated. On Christmas Eve, worshipers would enter the church and see the decorated tree for the first time, but the decorated tree remained unlighted until the reading of the Christmas Gospel, "...and she brought forth her firstborn son, wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for Him in the inn." It is quite dramatic, maybe even more-so today, for the church to be only progressively decorated and to see the lights of the tree for the first time when Christ's birth is announced. At Osman, we have adopted a more "blended approach." I have appreciated your willingness to go along with "a bit of delay" as we progressively decorate our church being reminded of that time, the progressive revelation of details concerning the coming of the Savior through the whole Old Testament period.

Advent means *coming,* and Advent-Christmas is the celebration of the coming of our Savior. The season of Advent can be described by use of the three tenses of the verb "to come" -- past, present, and future.

Jesus came, once at Christmas. Certainly that is worth celebrating. "When the Time had fully come," says St. Paul, "God sent forth His son." All conditions in the world had to be just right. Faithful believers from Old Testament times waited 4,000 years for God to make good on those promises begun already in the Garden of Eden as God was evicting the first two

forgiven sinners from paradise. But not only do we celebrate Christ who once came -- an event in history as important as it is, we celebrate the Christ who continually comes. Every time you open your Bible, every time you take communion, every time a baby is baptized, Christ comes -- Advent happens. We have a unique opportunity to celebrate that with special emphasis with the backdrop of the coming of Christmas during the Advent season.

So far, two of the three verb tenses of the verb "to come" -- Christ came (past tense) once at that first Christmas; Christ comes (present tense) continually through Word and Sacrament; Christ is coming (future tense) as king, lord and judge of all. As Pastor Schmidt pointed out in his sermon on the Last Sunday in the Church Year, there is a bit of a movement from Christ coming again in Glory spelled out at the end of the church year that spills over into Advent.

This year is my third Advent-Christmas at Osman, and I want to thank each and every one of you for including me and my children in your church family.

Church Council Meeting

The November Church Council Meeting was called to order by Treasurer Mike Hendricks on Tuesday, November 12, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. with Pastor McPike opening the meeting with prayer from Matthew 22:25-30.

Members in attendance: Mike Hendricks, Jill Hardesty, Larry Lutz, Darwin Warsaw, and Pastor McPike.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Jill Hardesty read the minutes from the October meeting with no additions or corrections to the minutes. Motion was made by Darwin Warsaw to approve the minutes. Second by Larry Lutz. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Mike Hendricks gave the Treasurer's Report with a balance of \$60,461.50 as of October 31, 2011. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Darwin Warsaw. Second by Jill Hardesty. Motion carried.

Treasurer Hendricks also discussed the following:

- The AED has been purchased for \$1,200 and we are awaiting its arrival. It was discussed that the Elder on duty would check the AED weekly for any maintenance. Decisions on that will be made at a later meeting after it's received.
- Pastor McPike brought up the idea of possible internet services to the church. This would aid in updates for the AED and also for sermons that were recorded on Sundays. Darwin Warsaw will be checking into the cost and provide more information at the next meeting.
- The church received a thank you note for the \$300.00 donation to the seminary in St. Louis from Dr. Meyers.
- Payroll was discussed and Treasurer Hendricks said he will continue to handle the payroll through the Treasurer's office through his term. Both pastor's are on a 1099 form and it's a much simpler process.
- Treasurer Hendricks told the Council that Country Companies audits our Treasurer's books for 48 hours every year.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor McPike said they are one-half way completed with Adult Confirmation on Tuesday nights.
- Pastor Schmidt is preaching three times in November and also has taught a few classes of catechism students.
- In January, "movie night" will be held for all catechism students and anyone else is also welcome to join. Later this winter, a movie on Walther will be showed.
- Pastor Bueltman has told Pastor McPike that, from a synod standpoint, Pastor McPike can vote as a pastor at the district convention.
- Pastor's Germany tour dates have been set from July 8 through July 18, 2012.
- The Osman evaluation was discussed in depth. Discussion was held and the Council felt that bringing the issue to the congregation in January would be the way to do it. This will be an in-depth documentation that could possibly take over one year to complete. More will be coming later with continued discussions.

- There will be a Christmas Day church service on Sunday, December 25th at 9:30 a.m.

Elder's Report: No report.

Sunday School Superintendent's Report:

The Christmas program has been chosen for the children with the Christmas Eve program being held on December 24, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee's Report:

- The Annex eave's project has been completed. There is some insulation to reinstall in the ceilings and that will be completed shortly. Dick Johnson and Darwin Warsaw will complete the project. Jill Hardesty made a motion to purchase insulation for \$150.00 to complete the project. Second by Larry Lutz. Motion carried.
- The new gutter system on the back of the Annex is still yet to be completed. Dalton & Son, Mahomet, has been approved to complete the project. Darwin Warsaw will follow up with them for the project completion.
- The storm windows inside the church have been put in for the winter months.
- Steve Martin put the blocks on the outside vents of the church.
- Darwin Warsaw will purchase the Christmas tree with the setup date on December 4, 2011. Decorations will be put up on December 11, 2011.

Old Business:

Jill Hardesty handed out forms for offices that need to be filled for the January Quarterly Voter's Meeting elections. Some names have been suggested and asked to serve. The Council will be asking for additional names of congregation members and report back at the December Council Meeting.

New Business:

In New Business, Treasurer Mike Hendricks handed out the proposed 2012 budget. The Council discussed most of the budget items except salaries. The December meeting will be important for all Council members to attend to make decisions on those issues.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jill Hardesty. Second by Darwin Warsaw. Motion carried with adjournment with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Hardesty, Council Secretary

Slate of Officers

2012-2013 Church Council

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Chairman | ○ Rick Hardesty | |
| Elders | ○ Marvin Clemmons | ○ Roy Whitehouse |
| Assistant Sunday School Superintendent | ○ Beth Bidner | ○ Nikki Gallier |

Assistant Financial Secretary

○ Darryl Redding ○ Diana Zimmerman

Trustee ○ Jeff Warsaw

Head Usher ○ Jordan Bidner

CID Junior High Lock-In

Chase Zimmerman and two friends attended the CID Junior High Lock-In at Illinois Wesleyan University, along with Debbie Lammle, Sara and Ryan McPike, and their mother, Jill McPike, on November 11-12, 2011. The group listened to the CID DCE band; were inspired by national speaker, Travis Hartjen; and participated in several sports activities in Shirk Center.

Along with over 400 attendees, they packaged 400 Thanksgiving meals for a food pantry called Daily Bread in Petersburg, IL. The group was kept busy in organized activities from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Even though some of the participants rallied to the occasion and stayed up the entire nine hours, many others gave in and fell asleep by 3:00 a.m.

The theme of the lock-in was taken from Ephesians 3:16-21: "That according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do abundantly far more than all that we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

The experience was enjoyed by all!



Chase Zimmerman packaging Thanksgiving bags for the Food Pantry at the CID Junior High Lock-In on November 11-12, 2011.

Thrivent News

Thrivent Annual Meeting. McLean County Thrivent held their annual meeting at Shannon's Restaurant in Bloomington on Sunday, November 13,

2011. The business meeting consisted of a report from last year's annual meeting; a report of the forty-four (44) projects from "Care Abounds in Communities" funds that were sponsored by the various churches in McLean County; the local election, and a presentation about the "Thrivent Builds" house which was built in Bloomington.

The guests were entertained by The Table of Twelve, an a cappella girls choir from Normal Community High School. Door prizes were given away and the evening ended with a delicious meal.

Connie Warsaw was elected McLean County Thrivent Record's Director and Brenda Hendricks was elected as the Financial Director. Thank you to our nine members that attended the meeting.

Thrivent Choice Program lets members recommend where some of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' charitable outreach funds go by directing Choice Dollars. This month our congregation received \$431.00 from the following members: Wilma Forrest, Wilma Grussing, Carolyn Majercin, Marge Morrissey, Darwin Warsaw, and Gene Welborn. Thank you very much to these members for their donations.

Operation Christmas Child

The boxes that the children assembled during Vacation Bible School for "Operation Christmas Child" were delivered to the collection point last week in Champaign. These boxes will be shipped to children across the world that do not receive Christmas gifts. The cost of shipping was paid with the Thrivent Choice Dollars that members have contributed to our congregation. With a few other contributions from our members, there were twenty-nine boxes that will be shipped to make children somewhere very happy! Thank you to Connie Warsaw who delivered the boxes to Champaign.

Christmas Stockings

With the generous funding of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, the LWML ladies were able to donate thirty-five (35) filled Christmas stockings with numerous cookies, candy, and gifts for the inmates at the Lincoln Correctional Center to give their children when they visit for the holidays. The following Thrivent members helped with this activity: Agnes Martinie, Debbie Lammle, Shirley Sprau, Steve Warsaw, Terri Hooker, and Wilma Grussing. Thanks to Thrivent and the members who assisted with this project and helped those less fortunate to have a joyous Christmas!

Advent Wreath

The Advent season of the church year is here again. The advent wreath in the front of the sanctuary has five candles. The first candle lit is the "Prophecy Candle" or "Candle of Hope." We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God! As Romans 15:12-13 says, "And again, Isaiah says, the root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

The second candle lit is the "Bethlehem Candle" or the "Candle of Preparation." God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready." Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD!" As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."

The third candle is the "Shepherd Candle" or the Candle of Joy." The angels sang a message of JOY! The story from the second chapter of Luke tells how the angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds foretelling of the birth of Jesus.

The fourth candle is the "Angel Candle" or the "Candle of Love." The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

The fifth candle is the "Christ Candle." The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless Lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29)

Holiday Church Schedule

The holiday season will begin with an Advent Service on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The Ladies Aid will serve a soup supper before this service in the Fellowship Hall.

The Children's Christmas Service will be held on Christmas Eve (Saturday) at 7:00 p.m. A regular worship service will be held on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, 2011.

Christmas Program Practices

Christmas Program practices will be held on Saturday, December 3rd from 8:30-11:00 a.m.;

Wednesday, December 7th from 6:30-8:00 p.m.;
Wednesday, December 14th from 6:30-8:00 p.m.; and
Wednesday, December 21st from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Christmas Decorating

The Christmas decorations will be put up in phases this year. Just like Advent is the preparing of the Christ Child's birth, the decorations will get more complete as the weeks approach Christmas.

The tree and the garland will be put up on Saturday, December 3, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. On the following Sunday, December 11, 2011, at 1:00 p.m., the tree will be completely decorated and the remaining decorations on the garland will be added.

Come help decorate the Lord's house for the celebration of the Christ Child's birth!

Acolyting in December

The following Confirmands will be acolyting during December:

December 04	Chase Zimmerman
December 11	Cheyenne Zimmerman
December 18	Mackenzie Delaney
December 24	Hannah Duncan
December 25	Chase Zimmerman

Christmas Caroling

It is time to use your voice to share the Christmas joy with our shut-ins and nursing home residents. Our members will meet at noon on Sunday, December 4, 2011, to start their journey. Come join in making the day special for so many people who are always excited to hear the Christmas music. All members are invited!

Ladies Aid Christmas Luncheon

The annual Ladies Aid Christmas Luncheon (potluck) will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2011, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a \$5.00 gift exchange. All Ladies Aid members and their guests are welcome!

Ladies Aid does not meet in January or February so our next meeting will be on March 7, 2012.

LWML Meeting

All ladies are invited to the LWML Meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2011, in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m. Shirley Sprau will be the topic leader and Brenda Edwards and Debbie Lammle will serve the refreshments. New officers will be elected. Secret pals will also be revealed and new names drawn for the coming year.

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve Service

Please sign up on the bulletin board if you wish to donate a poinsettia for our Christmas Eve service. The deadline to sign up is December 11, 2011. The cost is \$10.80, and payment should be made to "Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman," and given to Mike Hendricks. Thank you for helping beautify the altar for this joyous occasion!

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex.

Christmas Treat Bags

The treat bags that are given to our guests on Christmas Eve will be assembled on Saturday, December 24, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to donate money for this project, please give your money to one of the elders - Rob Gallier, Butch Sprau, Aaron Warsaw, and Shane Zimmerman - or the Treasurer, Mike Hendricks.

Cookbooks/Notecards for Sale

The Osman Youth Group has twelve cookbooks and thirteen packages of blank notecards remaining in our possession. If you are new to the congregation or did not purchase previously, this cookbook is a collection of Osman favorite recipes over the years! Both are on SALE right now, just in time for holiday giving!

The price for the cookbook was \$8.00 -- NOW REDUCED to \$6.00. The blank notecards that were \$10.00 -- are NOW REDUCED to \$8.00.

Please see Jill Hardesty if you are interested in purchasing.

Confirmation Classes-Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Confirmation classes will not be held on December 25, 2011 (Christmas Day) and January 1, 2012 (New Year's Day). Classes will resume on January 8, 2012.

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.

Office Hours for Pastor McPike

Pastor McPike has office hours after Confirmation classes every Tuesday evening after 7:00 p.m. in the Annex office. Also, Saturday's are available if anyone needs to meet with Pastor McPike, depending on his

home visit's schedule. Please contact him if you need to set up an appointment.

Email Address for Pastor

The email address for Pastor McPike is pastor@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
10-30	68	10	10
11-06	65	11	7
11-13	69	10	9
11-20	76	8	14
11-23	43	Thanksgiving Eve Service	
11-27	Statistics Unavailable		

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

DecemberDebbie Lammle and Susan Martin

Lay Readers

Aaron Warsaw12-04
 Annette Warsaw12-11
 Shane Zimmerman12-18
 Pastor on Duty12-25

December Birthdays

Larry Camp12-01
 Myron Zimmerman12-02
 Jonathon Schuh12-04
 David Hasty12-05
 Curtis Homann12-06
 Paul Zimmerman12-06
 David Brown12-08
 Deborah Martin12-09
 Darren Peyton12-12
 Barbara Reifsteck12-16
 Jerred Grussing12-17
 Amber Hendricks12-17
 Connie Grussing12-18
 Wilma Forrest12-20
 Diana Zimmerman12-21
 Kierra Barrack12-24
 Nathan Hooker12-25
 Deb Johnson12-28
 Jennifer Homann12-30
 John Grussing12-31

December Anniversaries

Jodi and Jake Stockle12-04
 Dorothy and Gene Welborn12-20
 Arnita and Paul Zimmerman12-20
 Jennifer and Curtis Homann12-21
 Martha and Darwin Warsaw12-31

*Jesus, Son of God,
 Born on Christmas Day
 The savior of the world,
 In a manger He did lay.
 The sheep and cattle lowing
 Standing by His bed
 The angels sing in triumph
 What long ago was said.
 That He would come from Bethlehem
 The birth, a miracle
 The holy child in mother's arms
 God's gift unto the world.
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