

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512

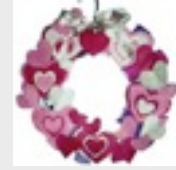
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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC
Reverend Justin Schmidt

February 2012



Fear thou not; for I [am] with thee: be not dismayed; for I [am] thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Isaiah 41:10

From Pastor McPike

This year's Lenten Midweek series – Luther's Catechism

The Christian Year has evolved over the 2,000 years of the history of the church. In early days, there was only Easter – celebrated each Sunday. In fact, that was the first actual assertion of Christianity on the calendar. The Jews, of course, had for 1500 years before Christ held their worship day on the Sabbath, which was sunset Friday through sunset Saturday. Early Christians, recognizing the key importance of the resurrection of Christ from the dead, began to worship on the first day of the week, or Sunday morning. Most traditionally printed calendars continue to show that influence; while Sunday is considered part of the "week-end," it often appears first in the line of seven days, not with its "week-end partner," Saturday.

Every Sunday through the year continues to celebrate Easter. The "proper preface" (paragraph read by the pastor as part of the Communion liturgy) for the long Pentecost Season (early June through late November) usually reads, "Who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by His glorious resurrection opens to us the way of everlasting life." In that statement, "this day" refers to any Sunday, not just Easter.

Because Easter is Christ's new life, and is the basis for our life in Christ, it connects very nicely with Baptism, our new life in Christ. Thus, as Christian worship evolved into a year-long rhythm more like what we are now used to, new converts to the faith would be baptized on the Saturday night before Easter Sunday worship in a lovely service that has come to be known as the Easter Vigil. In this service, many references are made to baptism and to the history of God's salvation reaching out to His people, including the promise of a savior after the first sin (Genesis 3:15), the story of the Flood, the call of Abraham, the birth and near-sacrifice of Isaac, the Exodus, and some

stories speaking to the Exile in Babylon 580+ years before Christ. Those being presented for Baptism on the night before Easter required instruction in the faith, somewhat like our present "catechism classes" for both youth and adults. As years went on, those desiring church membership were instructed for a period of time, later to more formally become 40 days prior to the night before Easter, influenced by the 40 day period Jesus spent in the wilderness or the 40 years of wilderness wandering of the Israelites after leaving Egypt. As time continued even more, this 40 day period prior to Lent became important for all Christians to 'get back to basics' of the faith, the most basic being repentance. Lent thus became a time of repentance, a solemn period preceding the commemoration of Christ's death on the cross, as a way of reminding ourselves why Christ came.

This year at Osman, we are going to use the Lenten evening services, starting with Ash Wednesday through the Wednesday evening services and including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Each evening, one part of the catechism will be featured. We will read from that part of the catechism, sing a hymn related to it, and hear a sermon that expounds on it and ties it to the season of Lent.

The schedule is:

- Ash Wednesday, February 22: Confession and Absolution,
- Wednesday, February 29: Apostles' Creed, First Article,
- Wednesday, March 7: Ten commandments,
- Wednesday, March 14: Lord's Prayer,
- Wednesday, March 21: Apostles' Creed, Third Article,
- Wednesday, March 28: Holy Baptism,
- Maundy Thursday, April 5: Holy Communion, and
- Good Friday, April 6: Apostles' Creed, Second Article.

Lent is a time of renewal. Come renew yourself with us in our midweek services this year.

Church Council Minutes

The Church Council Meeting held on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, was called to order by Treasurer Mike Hendricks in the church Annex with Pastor McPike opening the meeting with a message from Psalm 72.

Members in attendance: Mike Hendricks, Jill Hardesty, Darwin Warsaw, Lee Whitehouse, Shane Zimmerman, Butch Sprau, Larry Lutz, Annette Warsaw, and Pastor McPike.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Jill Hardesty read the minutes from the December meeting. Two corrections were noted with wrong dates and corrected minutes. Motion was made by Darwin Warsaw to approve the minutes as read and amended. Second by Butch Sprau. Motion carried

Treasurer's Report:

Secretary Jill Hardesty read the minutes from the December meeting. Two corrections were noted with wrong dates and corrected minutes. Motion was made by Darwin Warsaw to approve the minutes as read and amended. Second by Butch Sprau. Motion carried

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor McPike suggested the payroll option discussion should take place at the Annual Voters Meeting in January. Treasurer Hendricks will have a report ready to present.
- Youth Movie Night will be held on January 29 and is requesting all Catechism students to be in attendance. Pastor will show a film on Luther.
- Pastor will purchase Luther movie DVD's for the church library.
- A new member reception will be held on Sunday, January 29 to welcome all new members to our congregation during the Sunday School hour.
- A volunteer is needed to record the "official acts" into our church website and to type into the database of events. Secretary Hardesty suggested Church Secretary Karen Bryan, since she records other events into the official book. Pastor will follow up with Karen.
- The Sunday Sermon recordings are going good and Pastor has been given the approval to purchase a Shareware Program that will start and stop automatically the recording of each sermon, even if no one is around to begin and stop the program on the church computer. Darwin Warsaw made a motion to purchase the Shareware and a UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply) for the church

computer. Second by Mike Hendricks. Motion carried.

- Pastor thanked the Council for the Christmas gift and thanked everyone for all of the holiday activities, decorators of the church sanctuary, and a great job to all of the kids, teachers, and helpers that put on the Christmas Eve Program.

Elder's Report: No report.

Sunday School Superintendent's Report:

- Annette Warsaw reported there is a problem with the wireless microphone. The Trustees will look into the problem.
- Annette is already planning for VBS toward the end of June 2012 time frame.

Trustee's Report: Nothing new to report and just a small pending drywall project in the Annex office is on hold until Spring.

Old Business:

- The installation of the double door in the Fellowship Hall update will be ready for the April Voters meeting, according to the Committee.
- The Youth Group has rented the Bellflower Gym for "Pre-Superbowl" activities on Saturday, February 4, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. All congregation members are welcome to attend! Bring your friends!

New Business:

- Assistant Sunday School Superintendent Annette Warsaw is requesting the use of real candles during the 2012 Christmas Eve service with cups around the candles that are lit at the end of the service. More to come on that.
- Also, Annette suggested that in every bag of "goodies" handed to everyone on Christmas Eve that a note be put in the bag welcoming everyone to our church and possibly have our Sunday school times and church service times on the paper.
- Christmas decorations will be removed and taken down after the January 8 Annual Meeting.

The next Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 14, 2012.

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

Respectfully submitted, Jill Hardesty, Council Secretary

2012 Church Council Officers

The 2012 Osman Church Council was voted on at the Annual Voters Meeting on Sunday, January 8, 2012. Below is a complete "slate of officers" serving us:

Chairman - Rick Hardesty (new)
 Secretary - Jill Hardesty
 Treasurer - Mike Hendricks
 Elders - Aaron Warsaw
 Butch Sprau
 Roy Whitehouse (new)
 Marvin Clemmons (new)
 Sunday School Superintendent - Annette Warsaw
 Asst. Sunday School Supt. - Nikki Gallier (new)
 Financial Secretary - Christie Delaney
 Asst. Financial Secretary - Darryl Redding (new)
 Trustees - Steve Martin
 Steve Warsaw (new)
 Head Usher - Jordan Bidner (new)

Congratulations to all newly elected officers and thank you for your service to our congregation!

Installation of Officers

Rick Hardesty (Chairman), Roy Whitehouse and Marvin Clemmons (Elders); Nikki Gallier (Assistant Sunday School Superintendent); Darryl Redding (Assistant Financial Secretary); Steve Warsaw (Trustee); and Jordan Bidner (Head Usher) were installed as new Church Council officers during the worship service on Sunday, January 29, 2012. Let us pray that through those that God has placed in positions of leadership, He would provide for the needs of our church here on earth. Give those who serve Godly wisdom, that their decisions would be God-pleasing and to the best interest of spreading His Word. Thanks also to the outgoing officers who gave of their time and talents during their previous term in office.

We ask this in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Adult Confirmation

Two adults were confirmed on Sunday, January 29, 2012 as part of the worship service. Ashley Hadler, fiancée of Bryce Martin, and Kristine Zimmerman, wife of Shaun Zimmerman, have completed the confirmation instruction classes and will become part of our congregation today. May the Lord be their guide as they continue in their Christian lives.

Fellowship Club/Open Gym Night

The Fellowship Club will combine with the Open Gym Night on February 4, 2012, for a night of games, food, and fun! The entire congregation is invited to the Bellflower Community Gym from 6:00-9:00 p.m. for brats, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, and drinks. Activities will be available for all ages, such as volleyball, basketball, and board games.

Please sign up on the bulletin board at the back of the church so we have enough food for the hungry

crowd. You won't want to miss this time for fellowship and fun with your church family!

Acolyting in February

The following confirmands will be acolyting during February:

February 05	Cheyenne Zimmerman
February 12	Hannah Duncan
February 19	Mackenzie Delaney
February 22	Chase Zimmerman (Ash Wednesday)
February 26	Ryan McPike
February 29	Cheyenne Zimmerman (Lent)

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, February 14, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex.

Attention All You Sweethearts Out There!

Back by popular demand! The Youth Group Valentine's dinner will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Osman Fellowship Hall. Please be prompt as to not miss the "special program" we have lined up!

On the menu: steak, chicken, corn, green beans, baked potatoes, Beef House rolls with strawberry jam or apple butter, ice tea/coffee, and homemade dessert selections.

Please sign up on the bulletin board at the back of the church how many will be in your party by Sunday, February 12, 2012. We invite everyone to come and join us in a night of fun and fellowship. If you are single, bring a friend! We guarantee you'll have a great time! Freewill offering is requested.

Lenten Service Committees

The committees assigned to each Lenten service for this year are enclosed with this newsletter. The LWML will be hosting a soup supper on Ash Wednesday and the Youth Group will be serving tacos on Maundy Thursday again.

A copy of the committees is also posted on the back bulletin board. If you cannot help on the night that you are assigned, please notify the first couple listed on your committee. Drinks will be furnished by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans this year.

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

The LWML will host a soup supper on February 22, 2012 in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the church to donate soup, sandwiches, or dessert. The food should be brought to the Hall by 4:30 p.m. on the 22nd to be ready for serving at 5:30 p.m. We will continue serving until

6:45 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken and the money will be used to support our LWML projects.

Easter Lilies

Let us continue our tradition of adorning our altar and foot of the cross with masses of Easter Lilies to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and hope of life eternal. A sign up will be posted on the bulletin board for Easter Lilies on February 26, 2012. The cost will be announced in the near future.

Thrivent News

Choice Dollars! Thrivent Choice Dollars helped our congregation in 2011. The amount our congregation received in 2011 was well over \$2000.00. When these designated dollars are received, they become part of the general fund and they were used in various ways this last year. In January we received \$314.00 from the following members: Wilma Forrest, John Gercken, Greg McCleary, Marge Morrissey, Shirley Sprau, and Connie Warsaw. We thank these members for their donations. If you have Thrivent products and have never designated your dollars, please let Brenda Hendricks know so that we can get that process started.

Benefit Supper! Thrivent will be sponsoring a benefit supper for Charles Poland of Newman, Illinois, who is suffering from thyroid cancer. The supper will be on Saturday, March 17, 2012. Charles is a brother to Carolyn Heinze from our congregation.

The menu for the supper will be oyster soup, chili, potato soup, sandwiches, pies, and drinks. A freewill offering will be collected with Thrivent matching part of the income. The serving time will be from 4:30 to 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a sign-up sheet on the back of the bulletin in a few weeks.

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).

Office Hours for Pastor McPike

Pastor McPike is available on Tuesday evenings after 7:00 p.m., by appointment, in the Annex office. He is also available on Saturdays, depending on his home visit's schedule. Please contact him if you need to set up an appointment.

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.

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.

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Adult Class</u>
12-25	48	---	---
01-01, 2012	70	3	9
01-08	90	9	9
01-15	83	14	7
01-22	78	10	13
01-29	Statistics Unavailable		

Elder-on-Duty

Marvin Clemmons	Mar	July	Nov
Butch Sprau	Feb	June	Oct
Aaron Warsaw	May	Sept	Jan 2013
Roy Whitehouse	Apr	Aug	Dec

February Anniversaries

Barb and Jerry Reifsteck02-04
 Joanne and Marvin Nelson02-06

Altar Guild

FebruaryBarb Gaines and Debbie Lammler

Lay Readers

Mike Hendricks02-05
 Joy Johnson02-12
 Debbie Lammler.....02-19
 Sara McPike02-26

February Birthdays

Bryan Edwards02-03
 David Peyton02-03
 Christie Delaney02-06
 Charlie Homann02-10
 Jenna (Forrest) Mangold02-14
 Lora Nelson02-16
 Neil Bidner02-17
 Lisa (Bryan) Miller02-17
 Jeff Warsaw02-19
 Andrea (Edwards) Hicks02-20
 Sarah Schuh02-21
 Tyler Barrack02-23
 Amanda Burgess02-24
 Reese Gallier02-26
 Marti Brandt02-27

True Love

For God so lo**V**ed the world,
 That He g**A**ve
 his on**L**y
 Begott**E**n
 So**N**
That whosoever
 Believeth **I**n Him
 Should **N**ot perish,
 But have **E**verlasting life."
 John 3:16