

# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC



*October 2016*

### Christian Education Sunday Observed

Christian Education Sunday was observed on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Sunday School children and the adult Bible Class was treated to doughnuts and drinks before church. The Sunday School children played the bells to introduce the Hymn of the Day, "I Am Trusting Thee Lord Jesus" at the beginning of the worship service. Then they sang "Always and Forever – No Matter What" as the offering hymn.

After the church service some of the children enjoyed a lunch at the fellowship hall while they worked on fleece blankets and crafts. They completed 7 blankets which will be added to the 11 that were completed during Vacation Bible School. These blankets will be given to Canteen Run of Champaign – Urbana which services the homeless people in Champaign County. The sun catchers which the children painted will be used for the Operation Christmas Child boxes which will be packed in November. Thank you to Barb Whitehouse – Gercken who applied for a Thrivent Action Team Grant for \$250 to pay for the fleece material. Thank you to Marsha Warsaw for donating some fleece material. Also thank you to Connie Warsaw, Sunday School Superintendent, for organizing the day and Beth Bidner, Annette Warsaw, and Brenda Hendricks for helping with the blankets.



From.....

## Pastor McPike's Desk

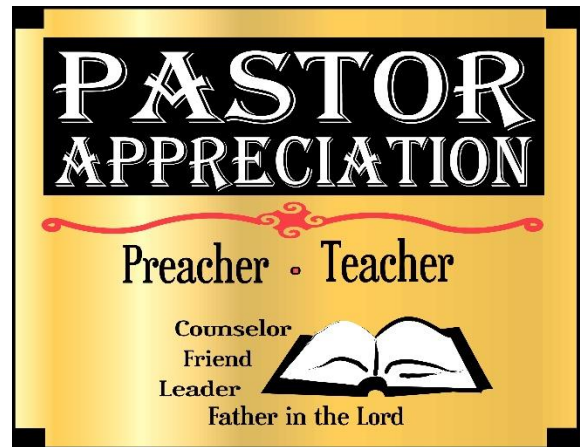
Five hundred years ago right now, an Augustinian Monk was serving as professor of theology at the University of Wittenberg in Germany. He had been living a life where he felt he had not done enough – that he could never do enough to please God. His only picture of God was to see Him as a righteous judge who demanded perfection from His people. For those who fell short of God's expectation of perfection, God commanded be thrown into the fires of hell for all time. Eternal punishment was the only thing Luther saw. Making this view of God that much more real was a church establishment of the day that worked hard to exploit that view of an angry and vengeful God, offering a way out – for purchase. Much money could be made by frightening the faithful into thinking that the only way they could avoid the fires of hell was to pay for it.

As this monk studied the Bible, he found his change in understanding turning on a single phrase “the righteousness of God”. For years, this phrase “the righteousness of God” meant the gold standard by which God judged us. For those who could not find a way to measure up – the only alternative was eternal damnation. The monk felt that simply could not be fair! Yes, for a time, the monk even hated God. How unfair of a perfect God to hold us to that same standard, an unattainable standard for all of us sinners. Who then can be saved?

Slowly, with much study, the monk came to a very different understanding of that phrase “righteousness of God”. Certainly, God's righteousness is His perfection. Certainly, also, that perfection is what God expects of us. However, through the book of Romans, the monk began to understand that the “righteousness of God” coming to us by faith is a gift of God given to us by the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. In other words, certainly it is perfection. But it is perfection by which God looks at us and considers us perfect by virtue of our baptism. In baptism, the gift of faith is given to us, and as we live in that faith, we live covered with the righteousness of Christ. The monk discovered that Christ's righteousness was a gift given us by faith whereby our sins are covered. As God looks at us, He sees not our faults and failures. He sees Christ's righteousness.

This discovery prompted the monk to raise a challenge to the established practices of the day – practices that centered around selling God's merit for a price. The name of that monk, of course, is Martin Luther. Dr. Luther, the professor of theology, posted 95 Theses... 95 statements taking issue with how we are forgiven, how God accepts us, and His love for us. This was done on the eve of a church holiday, November 1. The challenge set off a firestorm throughout Europe and the western church, a “Reformation”. Thus, October 31 is the date celebrated as Reformation.

This year, October 31, 2016, is 499 years after this event happened. The year 2017 is 500 years since Luther posted these theses. During this year, we are planning a variety of events to commemorate 500 years since Luther posted the 95 Theses. Adult Bible class will pause at least monthly to examine various people that shaped the conditions and circumstances of the Reformation. And there is the possibility of a trip to St. Louis and Perry County, Missouri sometime next year, where we can attend Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Louis, the church where C. F. W. Walther was pastor until he died. Watch for details on this special year.



### **Pastor Appreciation Month:**

**Immanuel Osman feels blessed to have you, Pastor McPike, as our shining light, who encourages, prays, guides and serves. You give of yourself and faithfully minister in both big and small ways. We thank the Lord for you and your ministry, your love for us, and for the good work you are doing in and through our church.**

# LWML News

## LWML Meeting

The LWML met on September 9 and began by singing the LWML song followed by the LWML pledge. Agnes Martinie had the devotion entitled "Strong Love". Debbie Lammle's topic was about our "Changeless God". 11 members were present. The minutes were read by Marsha Warsaw, and Deb Martin provided the treasurer's report with a balance of \$1,197.14. Both were approved. There was no correspondence from the seminary student but thank-you notes were read from Rick Hardesty and the organization for the pillowcase dresses. Thank yous were offered to all members who donated food and worked at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July bake sale. We made \$270.15. Thank yous also went out to all who donated to the baby bottle project with special thanks to Deb Martin for coordinating the event. We collected \$416.27. Thank yous were given to all who donated food to our members in need along with those who helped cleaned the church and the members who worked on the quilt for vicar.

We have completed 115 quilts so far, along with 115 pillowcase dresses. The quilts will be boxed and sent at the end of October with a monetary donation for shipping costs. Thanks to Terri Hooker who coordinates this and tracks the quilts. Upcoming quilt dates will be October 6 and November 3, and we will only work on a Saturday if we have the need.

The group discussed the celebration of LWML Sunday which will be held on October 9<sup>th</sup> with the theme "Come and See". Several members volunteered to help with the service. We will display the quilts beginning that Sunday through the end of the month.

Under new business, the group discussed some potential new projects to undertake. It was decided to support the Military Biblestick Program through Faith Comes by Hearing. This will run for the first 3 weeks in November to coincide with Veteran's Day. The Biblestick is a small audio player containing the New Testament and selected Psalms and will be sent to service men and women through chaplains. The group also discussed the possibility of making busy quilts for Alzheimer's patients or walker carriers.

Upcoming events: Fall Rally at Thomasboro on September 20. Five of our members will be attending. Camp Cilca retreat is on October 7 and 8 with registration deadline on September 30. The LWML CID convention will be held in Altamont on April 28 and 29, 2017. The national LWML convention is scheduled for June 22-25,

2017, in Albuquerque, New Mexico with the theme of "Jesus Christ Above All".

Sue VanWakeman and Debbie Martin served delicious refreshments. The next meeting will be on December 8 with Barb Whitehouse-Gercken having the topic and Connie Warsaw and Annette Warsaw serving. We will have gift exchange and reveal secret pals as well.

## LWML Rally

The Danville Zone Rally was held on September 20 in Thomasboro with the theme "The Time is Now". There were 68 members and guests in attendance. The guest speaker was Rev. Terry Strom from Trinity Lutheran in Bloomington, and he gave a very inspiring presentation about missions and his many trips to both Haiti and Kenya. His group not only shares God's message of love but also helps provide eyeglasses to those who need them. A Bible study was presented by Pastor Mark Peters, the District Counselor that followed the theme of the rally. The ladies of Peace Lutheran in Thomasboro were very gracious and provided delicious food for both the coffee hour and lunch. The business meeting was presided over by Deb Lammle, and Dianne Estes from Milford was re-elected as Vice President. The 2017 fall rally will be held in Watseka.

## LWML Sunday

LWML Sunday will be celebrated during the service on October 9. The women of LWML invite the congregation to celebrate together as the body of Christ under the theme "Come and See". Join us and learn how the Lord has worked through the LWML in bringing the lost and erring into fellowship with Him through mission and ministry. Our quilts will be displayed that day and through the end of the month. Our ladies will be serving us during the service as greeters, ushers, singers, and readers.

# Christian Musical Group

The Sibling Harmony musical group which includes Kurtis, Kim, and Kevin Bueltmann, will be performing at Friendship Lutheran Church, 3601 S. Duncan Road, in Champaign on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7pm. A free will offering will be taken. This group performed at the National LWML Convention in Peoria, Illinois, so some of our ladies have heard them. There is more information on the back bulletin board.

## Harvest Breakfast



**Help the Youth and Enjoy a Great Breakfast!** The annual Youth Harvest Breakfast will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> after church in the fellowship hall. The menu includes egg casserole, sausage gravy and biscuits, and fruit. A free will offering will be taken with the proceeds going to help fund the next youth gathering.

## Church Council Minutes

### Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman Council Minutes

August 3, 2016

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman's Church Council held its monthly meeting on August 3, 2016, with ten members present. Those attending were John Lammle, Don Warsaw, Bob Zimmerman, John Gercken, Debbie Lammle, Connie Warsaw, Diana Zimmerman, Shirley Sprau, Vicar Johnston, and Pastor McPike. Pastor opened the meeting with devotion from Luke 12, followed by prayer. Secretary, Debbie Lammle, read the minutes of the last meeting. Shirley Sprau made a motion to approve the minutes; John Gercken seconded; motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor McPike thanked everyone who helped with the church float and distributed flyers which stated location and service times for Immanuel Osman along the Bellflower and Fisher Parade routes. Pastor suggested celebrations at Immanuel Osman for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, starting with recognizing Luther's birth and baptism on Sunday, November 13th, 2016. He also suggested a celebration recognizing Luther's death on Sunday, February 19, 2017, a celebration on June 25, 2017, recognizing the presentation of the Augsburg Confession, and another celebration on Sunday, October 29, 2017, recognizing the posting of the 95 Theses. On October 29th, Pastor suggested featuring important reformation figures and singing new and old Luther hymns. He will communicate

with organist Alicia Haggin to incorporate special music in the service. Pastor is meeting weekly with Vicar Johnston; also planning to attend the upcoming Education meeting and set a date for Christian Education Sunday. Pastor informed the council that member, Susan Miller, was going through the Parish Nursing Program and requested a letter of recommendation from him to begin the program at Carle. The insurance for Susan Miller serving as Parish Nurse would be covered by Carle Hospital. Debbie Lammle made a motion to pay the \$75 for Susan's registration in the program; Diana Zimmerman seconded the motion; motion carried. The need for a nurse's station in the church was discussed with a possible location in the annex. It was also suggested that the annex might be a possible location for adult Sunday School. These topics will be discussed at a later meeting. Pastor mentioned a national known speaker, Faith Roberts, could be used as a possible speaker at Immanuel Osman. A black cassock for Vicar Johnston's farewell gift was suggested by Pastor McPike. John Gercken made a motion to purchase the cassock; Don Warsaw seconded; motion carried. Vicar expressed his appreciation for the gift and would get his measurements to Chairman Lammle. Vicar informed the council that an average of 5 to 6 members had been attending his Wednesday evening Bible Study. He also stated he was making daily shut-in visits. He would be gone for his military drill weekend the first weekend in August. Vicar stated he was meeting with Pastor McPike weekly and was moving back to Ft. Wayne seminary on September 2nd.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob Zimmerman gave the treasurer's report with a balance of \$73, 536.50. Don Warsaw made a motion to accept the report; Connie Warsaw seconded; motion carried.

**Old Business:** Discussion was held concerning payment of church staff while on leave. A motion was made by Diana Zimmerman and seconded by Shirley Sprau to pay the secretary for two months after her surgery, as previously done. Chairman Lammle will draft a policy for payment of hourly church employees. Don Warsaw volunteered to talk to Linda Warsaw concerning paid leave. Chairman Lammle asked Pastor McPike for suggestions for where to send local mission money starting in 2017.

**Sunday School Superintendent Report:** At the suggestion of Vicar Johnston, Connie Warsaw mentioned that a letter had been sent to non-member families who had participated in the past VBS. August 11<sup>th</sup> was set for the next Education Committee Meeting, and Christian

Education Sunday would be set sometime in September. Superintendent Warsaw stated she was researching a children's program for Christmas.

**Trustee Report:** Trustee, John Gercken, had no report concerning trustee issues. Chairman Lammle stated he would like to vote on the ramp remodel at the next voters' meeting and would discuss the updates on bids with Lee Whitehouse. Pastor McPike stated that it was difficult to hear while seated under the balcony, due to furnace noise, and suggested covering or rerouting existing duct work.

2016 church activities for the rest of the year were discussed. Chairman Lammle stated that he was happy with the church participation at the Bellflower and Fisher parades when recognizing Senior member, Jeri Bidner. He stated the sub 40 activity was cancelled due to lack of participation. The details for the upcoming church picnic were discussed. Chairman Lammle will get the piano, screen, and projector needed for the youth presentation, and Vicar Johnston will be in charge of the games. Someone is also needed to pick up the grill. It was approved by the council to have the Vicar Farewell Potluck on August 21<sup>st</sup> after church. The hayrack ride and wiener roast is the next activity to plan, followed by the Pastor Appreciation/Reformation Fest on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested to have the same polka band as last year. Debbie Lammle will inquire about the cost of the band.

**Old Business:** Chairman Lammle stated that the ILDOT approved the church sign on Route 150, and he would be ordering it soon. The Ladies Aid members will be serving as church greeters until September. Then the LWML ladies will take over.

Discussion was then held concerning the discontent of a member who did not get to attend the National Youth Gathering. It was decided the secretary would write a letter of apology to the family.

**New Business:** Chairman Lammle read from the constitution concerning the Nominating Committee for elections of new council members. He stated he would like to follow the constitution and then proposed that the committee would be comprised of himself and the current church council. He presented a partial draft of nominees for the upcoming year. He also stated that a sign-up will be placed beside the proposed ballot to allow others an opportunity to run for a certain position. It was suggested that an assistant treasurer position could be established who could be trained by the current treasurer. This change would require council and voter

approval. It was also suggested that an adult could fill the head usher position. This topic will be revisited again next month.

The discussion of what constitutes a quorum was then held. Chairman Lammle reviewed the LCMS guidelines for a quorum, as well as going over the wording in the constitution on the church website, a 2010 version of the constitution, and the original constitution which are not the same. The first two constitutions do not have documented changes as the original version. Later this year or the beginning of next year, Chairman Lammle would like the newly formed Constitutional Review Committee to review changes made to the constitution and try to locate documented voter approval of changes made.

A motion was made by Connie Warsaw and seconded by Diana Zimmerman to purchase a personal parking sign for senior member Jeri Bidner. Motion carried. Chairman Lammle will order this sign. Connie Warsaw then asked about a current list of active and inactive members. Secretary Lammle stated she had a typed list of members that is used for member sign-in before each voters' meeting. Pastor McPike stated there are three levels of members-baptized, communicant, and voting. There is an electronic list of baptized and communicant members that needs to be reviewed.

Connie Warsaw made the motion to adjourn; Debbie Lammle seconded; motion carried. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Lammle

## New Members

Rev. James and Johanne Bloch of Mahomet have transferred membership from Trinity Lutheran Church Danville to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman. Rev. and Mrs. Bloch were members of the former Our Savior Lutheran Church, St. Joseph, Illinois, which has now closed, and all memberships of that congregation that were remaining were automatically transferred to Trinity/Danville. Pastor Bloch preached for a time at Christ Family Lutheran Church, Mahomet. He spent much of his career in ministry in southeastern Ontario near Toronto.

## Thank You

Thanks to Sue VanWakeman and Debbie Lammle for visiting the shut-ins this month.



## Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on September 7<sup>th</sup> in the Immanuel Lutheran Fellowship Hall. Devotion was read and refreshments served by Debbie Lammle. Brenda Hendricks had a power point presentation as her topic. Minutes and roll call were given by Shirley Sprau. Connie Warsaw gave the treasurer's report with a balance of \$1799.43, and Wilma Grussing reported that \$285 was in the flower fund treasury. Our new seminary student will be Bryan Johnston, our last summer vicar. President Lammle thanked those who helped with Vicar Johnston's quilt, helped clean the church, served as greeters, and attended the Ladies Aid luncheon at the Tea Room in Paxton. A motion was made and seconded to decorate small artificial Christmas trees for the shut-ins. President Lammle will oversee this project. Brenda Hendricks volunteered to purchase shower gifts for those members in our church who are getting married: Aaron Warsaw, Jamie Hendricks, and Nathan Hooker. The next meeting will be October 5<sup>th</sup>, with Wilma Grussing giving the devotion and serving as hostess and Annette Warsaw giving the topic. The roll call will be answered with a verse on holiness. All ladies of the church are always invited to attend the Ladies Aid meetings on the first Wednesday of each month from March through December.

## Reformation Fest/ Pastor Appreciation

Mark your calendars NOW for a great event to commemorate the Reformation and at the same time thank Pastor McPike for all that he does for Immanuel Osman. Everyone is invited to an evening of German food, music, and celebration on October 30<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5pm in the fellowship hall. The menu will include brats, German potato salad, sauerkraut, apple strudel, and Pastor's German pancakes. A special polka band and our own Osman Choir will entertain you during the evening. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the church if you plan to attend.

## Hayrack Ride/ Wiener Roast

The annual hayride and wiener roast at Immanuel Osman was held on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Forty-eight members and friends came out to enjoy a beautiful evening while viewing the countryside on the hayrack ride, followed by a delicious meal made by a number of great Osman cooks. A mixer was played which involved asking each other questions and learning new facts about our church family. Chairman John Lammle then presented Jeri Bidner with her personal parking sign. (I don't know with the size of Jeri's family how they kept it a secret!) The children then played fun games that involved a lot of laughter along with popping balloons. It was another great evening of food, fun, and fellowship!



## Church Council

Important Date Change: The October church council meeting has been changed to October 12th and the Quarterly Voters' Meeting changed to October 16th. Please mark your calendars!

### Important Upcoming Dates

Pastor Appreciation Month in October

Ladies Aid- October 5th at 1:30 PM

Quilting-October 6th at 8 AM

LWML Retreat and Board Meeting-October 7 – 8th

LWML Sunday – October 9th

Church Council-October 12th at 7 PM

Choir Practice – October 13th at 7 PM

Quarterly Voter's Meeting-October 16th after church

Youth Harvest Breakfast-October 23rd after

## Benefit Soup Supper



**Soup Supper Benefit!** Thrivent Financial will be organizing a benefit soup supper for Jodi Burgess who is undergoing continued treatments for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. The soup supper will be held in the hall on Saturday, November 12, from 4:30 to 7. The menu will be chili, oyster soup, potato soup, sandwiches, pie, and drinks. A free will offering will be taken. Some of the Thrivent Choice Dollars that have been donated to our congregation will be used to support this recipient. Also a Thrivent Action Team Card for \$250 has been applied for by Dwight Hooker to help with the expense of the groceries. There is a sign-up sheet for food donations on the back bulletin board.

## Community Invitation

**Allison Speer**, a regular performer on the Gaither Homecoming, will be appearing in concert on Sunday, October 9, at the River Valley Church in Fisher, beginning at 6 PM. Allison is a vocalist and a warm and amusing storyteller. Her career as a Christian recording artist started with her humble beginnings in Parksville Kentucky, to some of this nation's largest venues, as well as humanitarian aid trips to Russia Bosnia, the Philippines, and South Africa. They are expecting a full house so go early. There are no tickets as the concert is free. They will be collecting a free will offering to assist Allison's ministry.

## Stain Glass Windows

A special thank-you for the beautiful stain glass window depicting Noah's Ark which has been installed in the annex. It was provided by Bob and Diana Zimmerman as a memorial to Frances Zimmerman. Also a second thank you for the beautiful 3 panel stain glass windows depicting Baptism, Holy Communion, and the Resurrection in the balcony. It is a memorial to Paul Zimmerman. It was provided by Arnita Zimmerman and her family. We thank these families for their generous additions to our church. A dedication will be held at a later date.

## Fall Trivia

Who wrote the lyrics to the song "Autumn Leaves" the last two lines of which are "But I miss you most of all my darling When autumn leaves start to fall"?

What are the 3 Zodiac signs of fall?

What is a harvest moon?

Why do leaves change color in fall?

When does fall start in the Southern Hemisphere?

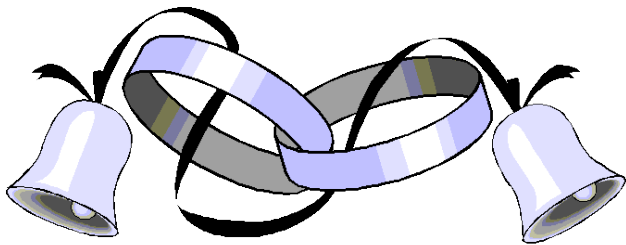
Which major league baseball team has won the most World Series?

## October Birthdays

Tyler Duncan.....10-01  
 Karen Brown.....10-01  
 Bill Amdor.....10-03  
 Jodi Stockle.....10-05  
 Steve Martin.....10-07  
 Eric Zimmerman.....10-08  
 Dustin Peyton.....10-09  
 John Gercken.....10-12  
 Bill McCleary.....10-12  
 Addison Warsaw.....10-12  
 Dave Kunde.....10-15  
 Becki Hendricks.....10-17  
 Wiley Hasty.....10-17  
 Jordan Bidner.....10-19  
 Greg Johnson.....10-19  
 Greg Warsaw.....10-22  
 Pastor Jeff McPike.....10-24  
 Katherine Masko.....10-28

## October Anniversaries

Cindy and David Masko.....10-05-1985  
 Barb and John Gercken.....10-09-1982  
 Deborah and Dennis Martin.....10-10-1981  
 Barb and Steve Gaines.....10-14-1978  
 Moneta and Bill McCleary.....10-19-1946  
 Theresa and Rick Wilson..... 10-31-2005



## Mowing Schedule

October 2 –Rick and Jill Hardesty

October 9 – Dwight and Terri Hooker

October 16 – Steve Martin and Brenda Hendricks

October 23 – Larry Lutz and Gene Welborn

## Elder Schedule

January Aaron	February Marvin	March Don
April Aaron	May Shane	June Shane
July Don	August Marvin	September Shane
<b>October Aaron</b>	November Marvin	December Don
	January 2017 Marvin	

## Statistics

Date	Sunday School	High School	Adult Class
September 4	4	0	No Class
September 11	6	2	12
September 18	3	0	No Class
September 25	7	0	7



**REFORMATION SUNDAY**

**OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>**