

# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC

**March 2024**



## From Pastor McPike's Desk...

### Communion Every Sunday? Why? Why Not?

“Among us (Holy Communion) is celebrated every Lord’s Day and on other festivals, when the sacrament is made available to those who wish to partake of it.”  
(Kolb, R., Wengert, T. J., & Arand, C. P. (2000). *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* (page 258). Fortress Press.)

That statement is from a document called the *Augsburg Confession*, which is the statement that Lutheran princes and theologians put forth in the City of Augsburg on June 25, 1530. The group was summoned by Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, in an attempt to bring lands loyal to the Reformation and lands loyal to the Roman Catholic Church together. Since Martin Luther had a price on his head following his excommunication, he could not travel freely throughout Germany, and so the task of writing the “confession” fell to his right-hand man at the University of Wittenberg, Philip Melancthon. Luther got as close as he could to Augsburg, a fortress outside the city of Coburg, and received regular written updates by courier on horseback.

The Augsburg Confession sought to present the faith of those loyal to the Reformation. Where there was agreement, the *Confession* was rather brief. Since those loyal to the Reformation (Lutherans) and the Roman Catholic church did not disagree on the frequency of communion, there is only a very brief statement made about it. Holy Communion (the word was actually “The Mass”, which is a name for it that has more commonly been associated with the Catholic church and possibly the Anglican Church in later years) was commonly celebrated. The statement made it clear that Holy Communion was as integral a part of regular and festival worship services as was the sermon, Bible readings, creed, Lord’s Prayer, and hymns. While those following the Reformation had problems with the Catholic Church when it came to certain aspects of Communion, there was no disagreement in how often communion was celebrated.

A very important part of this statement is this: “when the sacrament is made available to those who wish to partake of it.” This means that just because Communion is offered does not mean that people need to take it. What this basically means is this: those who became used to taking communion on certain Sundays each month (first and third, let’s say, which is what it was at Osman for many years) can still take it only on those Sundays. Just because it is there does not mean you have to take it.

One objection to not taking communion each time it is offered is this: “Won’t people judge me for not going to communion?” Maybe. But if they do, they are the ones with the problem. Just because communion is offered does not mean you need to take it. There are any number of reasons why people attend church and do not take communion. That is between the individual person and God. Anyone who might talk about it behind the person’s back is guilty of sinning against the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment.

Jesus told us to take communion *often*. How often is often? It was not made into a law because communion is GOSPEL, and to mandate how often to take it is to make it a law. It also follows that to restrict the number of times it is *offered* is also to make a law out of it ... which basically means that communion is not available for those who want it on a regular basis. This is also true: to *not offer it* more frequently is to allow law to dictate how the gift is given.

Unrelated to the conversation of the frequency of Communion is a discussion held by the Church Council in a recent meeting last fall as to the necessity of using Communion Cards. The discussion led to the conclusion that Communion Cards are only going to be used until this order of cards in the pews runs out. The exact date for this will be printed in the newsletter and bulletin. The council felt they were unnecessary, as the count for communion never matches the cards, and each person’s individual communion attendance need not be tracked, and if so, can easily be tracked in other ways.

## **Lenten Schedule**

The Ash Wednesday church service with Holy Communion was held on February 14th. There will NOT be any other Wednesday night Lenten services. Maundy Thursday service will be held on March 28th at 7 PM with a soup supper preceding the service. Good Friday service will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. The resurrection of our Savior will be celebrated on Easter morning, March 31st, at 7 AM with fellowship time after the service with drinks, doughnuts, and coffee cakes served by the church council.

## **Mowing List**

Yes, spring will be here soon!! Attached to this newsletter is the mowing list for 2024. If you cannot mow on your designated date, please trade with someone on the list. If you cannot mow, please let Lee Whitehouse or Jeff Warsaw know one week in advance. There is also a list posted on the back bulletin board. We appreciate everyone who helps our church in this way.

## **Soup Supper**



The Ladies Aid/LWML ladies will be serving a soup supper before the Maundy Thursday worship service on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The supper will begin at 5:30. The meal will consist of soup, sandwiches, desserts, and drinks. A freewill offering will be collected to help with mission projects.

## **Ladies Aid/LWML**

Nine ladies met on February 1st for the Ladies Aid/LWML meeting at 1:30 PM in the fellowship hall. The group enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by Brenda Edwards and Connie Warsaw before the meeting started. After the meeting was called to order, the LWML song was sung. A devotion centered on Luther's Rose was shared by Deb Lammle. Annette Warsaw led a topic entitled "Mission of Love" from the Fall Quarterly. Roll call was answered by a Bible verse on grace. There were not any minutes read from the November meeting. The mites were collected. Diana Zimmerman gave the treasurer's report which showed a balance of \$1952.18. The treasurer's report was approved. Four thank you notes from our Christmas gift recipients were read. Wilma Grussing reported on cards she had sent in the past months which included Christmas cards to our shut ins. Terri Hooker reported that only 15 quilts have been completed due to scheduling conflicts cancelling some quilting dates. She shared that 194,983 quilts were sent to needy countries from Lutheran World Relief last year. Diana Zimmerman reported that there are 42 more dresses finished for Dresses for Africa and she would try to mail them next week.

In old business Brenda Hendricks read a very detailed text from our previous adopted Seminary student, Nicholas Brusick. He explained in the text that he would not be returning to the Seminary. That led to a discussion of what our group should do to support a student. After contacting the Seminary office by phone, the options were explained as asking for another student, donating money to the general student fund at the Seminary, or using our usual amount for a student for another project. The group decided to contact the Seminary office again and ask for a Central Illinois District student and if there are none, adopt one of the students that wrote the thank yous for the Christmas gift that was sent to the Seminary by our group. This discussion will continue at the next meeting. Other old business included a report that the hat and mitten collection was given to Schneider Elementary School in Farmer City and the Salt Creek Resource Center in Farmer City.

In new business the group voted to help two families next year. For six months the group will help Hannah Duncan and son, Beau, from Bellflower and for six months they will help Abby Fitzgerald and her daughter, Amelia, from Saybrook. The group voted to change the Ash Wednesday soup supper to a Maundy Thursday soup supper serving from 5:30 to 6:45. Deb Lammle volunteered to send Valentine cards to some of our members. Some upcoming LWML events were explained for the members – CID Convention in Rock Island on April 26 and 27 and National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska in June 2025.

The next meeting will be on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. The topic will be given by Connie Warsaw and the hostesses are Terri Hooker and Deb Martin.

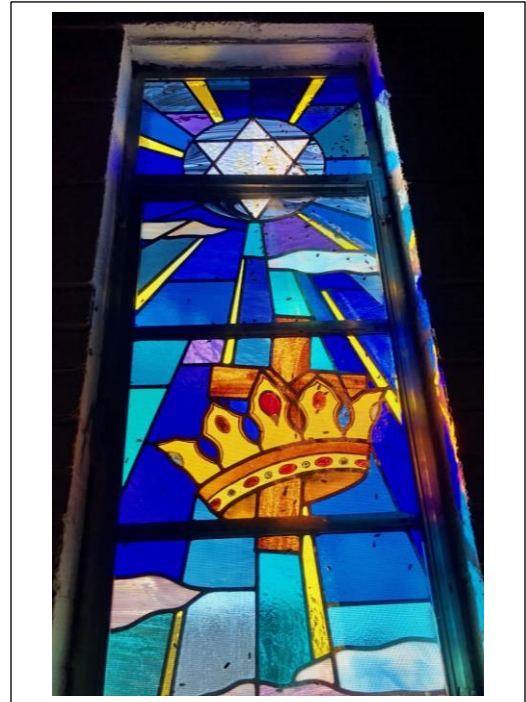
## **Time Change**

Daylight saving time will begin on the second Sunday in March, which is March 10<sup>th</sup>. This means we will all need to move our clocks up one hour!

## **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

With Thrivent Choice, you can support the causes you care about to change lives by recommending where some of Thrivent's charitable outreach funds go. Since the program's inception in 2010, eligible Thrivent members have used this program to direct more than \$550 million to churches and nonprofit organizations nationwide. If you still have Choice dollars available from 2023, the deadline to designate those funds is March 31, 2024. It is easy to do. Simply go to [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) and search for the church or organization that you care to help. Or you can call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Choice Dollars" at the automation. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or 2 to hear Thrivent Choice Dollars program terms and conditions. If asked to give identity give phone number and date of birth. Eligibility in the program for Thrivent members is based on insurance premiums and contract values.

## **New Stained Glass Windows**



Three beautiful stained glass windows were installed on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, on the west side of the church. Glass FX Studio from Champaign created the designs and installed the windows. These windows are given in memory of Arnita Zimmerman and will be dedicated in the next few weeks.

## **Fellowship Hall Furnace**

During the first week of February the furnace in the fellowship hall quit working. A new furnace has been purchased from JC's Heating, Cooling, and Plumbing in Gibson City. It had to be ordered so the installation date at this time is uncertain. A heater has been placed in the hall to maintain a temperature to prevent freezing pipes. Luckily, the weather has cooperated with warmer temperatures.



**Birthdays**

- Terri Hooker .....03-02
- Brenda Hendricks .....03-09
- Joy Johnson .....03-19
- Shaun Zimmerman .....03-20
- Marsha Warsaw .....03-21
- Nikki Gallier .....03-25

**Anniversaries**

- Kari and Chris Genzel .....03-10-2006
- Brenda and Jerry Edwards .....03-27-1982
- Joy and Skinner Johnson .....03-31-1979

**“Jesus did not say “I am finished.” He said,  
 “It is finished.” He was just getting  
 started.” (Anonymous quote)**

**Statistics**

Date	Church Attendance	Bible Class	Sunday School
February 4	48	13	2
February 11	53	14	0
February 14	25	NA	NA
February 18	38	16	4



**Thank You**

Thank you to the members who helped dismantle the old piano that was in the balcony and carry it down the steps. They also lowered the organ speaker off of the back wall in the balcony. Those helping were Dick Johnson, Don Warsaw, Jeff Warsaw, Steve Warsaw, and Lee Whitehouse. Don Warsaw also painted the back wall of the balcony this week to match the other walls in the church. It sure makes the balcony look so much brighter with more windows uncovered and the light coming in the new stained glass. What an improvement!

**Church Council**

The church council will meet on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

**Mowing Schedule - 2024**  
**(Please try to mow between Thursday and Saturday of the week)**

<b>Week Of:</b>	
March 31 – April 6	Jerry Edwards
April 7 – 13	Jim Van Wakeman
April 14 – 20	Brenda Hendricks
April 21 – 27	Dick Johnson
April 28 – May 4	Darwin Warsaw
May 5 - 11	Butch Sprau
May 12 - 18	Mark Barrack
May 19 - 25	Kent Whitehouse
May 26 – Jun 1	Steve Martin
June 2 - 8	Shane Zimmerman
June 9 - 15	John Lammler
June 16 - 22	Chase Zimmerman
June 23 -29	Skinner Johnson
June 30 – July 6	Steve Warsaw
July 7 - 13	Jim Poppe
July 14 - 20	Lee Whitehouse
July 21 - 27	Jeff Warsaw
July 28 – Aug 3	Leonard Delaney
Aug 4 - 10	Bob Zimmerman
Aug 11 - 17	Don Warsaw
Aug 18 - 24	Dwight Hooker
Aug 25 - 31	Lee Whitehouse
Sept 1 – 7	Myron Zimmerman
Sept 8 - 14	Neil Bidner
Sept 15 - 21	Bryan Warsaw
Sept 22 - 28	John Grussing
Sept 29 – Oct 5	Shaun Zimmerman
Oct 6 - 12	Steve Martin
Oct 13 - 19	Jerry Niemann
Oct 20 - 26	Brenda Hendricks
Oct 27 – Nov 2	Dwight Hooker
November	Trustees