

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



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

April 2024

GOD IS STILL
WRITING
YOUR STORY
STOP TRYING
TO STEAL THE PEN

From Pastor McPike's Desk...

Worship in the Lutheran Church is rich with symbolism. From the Invocation to the Benediction – from the layout and decoration of the church, there is meaning that seeks to enhance our worship and confess our faith. This month, I would like to point out a few things that we utilize in our worship at Osman and explain the significance of those things.

Paschal Candle is the big, tall candle, which is lit primarily during the Easter Season. The word “Paschal” comes from a Hebrew word with a similar sound that means “Passover”. So by its very name, this candle is a reminder of the close ties between Passover and Christ’s resurrection. Passover is the Old Testament celebration of the redemption of Israel from slavery in Egypt. Easter, of course, celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, which is the redemption of all people from slavery to sin. This candle is sometimes called the “Christ candle” or “Easter Candle.”

The candle traditionally is lighted at the beginning of the Easter Vigil service, which is a service held in the dark hours before Easter dawn. Easter Vigil is a lovely service if you have never experienced one. It often starts with the church completely dark. The lighted Paschal Candle is carried in procession to the front of the church. Often, other candles are then lit from it. Readings from the Old Testament are read, each pointing to the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The final reading relates to Baptism, as Baptism ties the resurrection into the lives of people personally.

For churches like ours that do not observe an “Easter Vigil”, the Paschal Candle is lit at the first announcement of Jesus’ resurrection. The candle then burns throughout the service and stays lit at the end of the service, as it symbolizes the presence of the Risen Christ with His disciples. For each Easter service following, the candle is lit early enough so that it is already burning when most worshipers arrive and remains burning until most everyone leaves the church.

The candle burns through the service when Jesus’ ascension is announced, around the Sixth or Seventh Sunday of Easter. As the burning candle represents the presence of the Risen Christ with His disciples, it is extinguished on Ascension, because that is the time that Jesus removed his physical, visible presence from His disciples.

There are two other times when the Paschal Candle is used. One is for Baptisms. In Baptism,

the presence of the Risen Christ comes to live in the person being baptized. The other is for funerals. The use of the candle at funerals is a reminder that the person being buried is in heaven because the presence of the Risen Christ lived within that person to the point of death.

On another topic, a word about the way in which the “festiveness” of the services are emphasized. In my practice of ministry, I use “formality” more for festivals. On the highest festivals (Christmas, Easter, Pentecost), I chant and use more formality. During the festival season of the church year (Advent to Trinity Sunday), we tend to be more formal. We sing the Introit, etc. Beginning with the Sunday after Trinity Sunday (Pentecost 2), we are less formal. We speak the Introit and chanting is all but eliminated. That is the “functional” reason for doing so. The practical is... some folks like chanting, some do not. This provides something for everyone.

Quarterly Voters Meeting

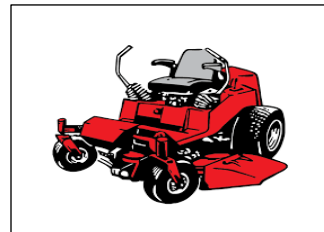
The quarterly voters meeting will be held on Sunday, April 21st, immediately after the worship service.

Portals of Prayer Subscriptions

It is time to renew subscriptions to the Portals of Prayer. If you would like a subscription and have never had one, please contact Brenda Hendricks before April 20th. The members who already have subscriptions have been contacted about renewals. The congregation pays for the subscription.

April Lawn Mowers

The week of April 7 – 13 - Jim Van Wakeman
The week of April 14 - 20 - Brenda Hendricks
The week of April 21 – 27 - Dick Johnson
The week of April 28 – May 4 – Darwin Warsaw



The schedule this year lists the week that the volunteer needs to mow. It is recommended to mow on Thursday through Saturday of that week, so it looks nice for Sunday. If you have misplaced your schedule, it was in the March newsletter which can be found online and there is also one posted on the back bulletin board. If you have any questions, contact trustees Lee Whitehouse or Jeff Warsaw.

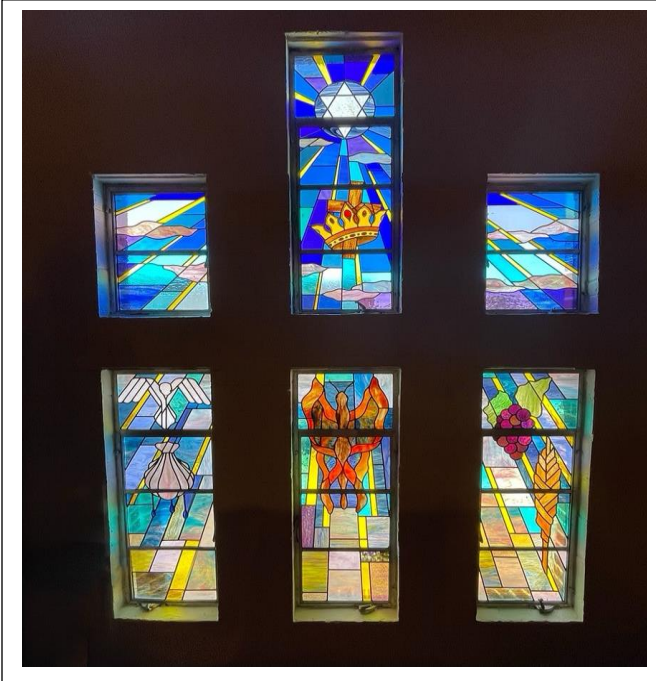
Thank You

Thank you to the Church Council members who provided items for the Easter breakfast. Thank you to Neal and Beth Bidner, Chase and Mackenzie Zimmerman, Jeff and Annette Warsaw, Ryan and Sandy Lammle, and Lee and Sandy Whitehouse for serving. Thank you to Bob and Diana Zimmerman for helping Deb Lammle decorate.

Church Council Meeting

The church council will meet on Wednesday, April 17th, at 6:30 in the fellowship hall.

Dedication of Windows



On March 17th, the upper stained glass windows on the west wall of the balcony were dedicated in the worship service. The windows were given in memory of Arnita Zimmerman by her children, Terri and Dwight Hooker and family and Myron and Janet Zimmerman and family. Glass FX Studio from Champaign created the designs and installed the windows.

The cross symbolizes Christ's sacrifice to save us from our sin. The crown over the cross shows that Jesus is king who defeated death on the cross. Evidence of that defeat appears directly below the cross and crown, the butterfly, which is the symbol of the resurrection. To each side of the butterfly

are the symbols of the two sacraments of the Lutheran Church. The shell represents Baptism, with the dove reminding us that in Baptism done with water, the gift of the Holy Spirit is given. The window on the other side of the butterfly shows the basic ingredients reminding us of the Sacrament of the Altar, where God's blessing comes as we regularly take and eat and drink the body and blood of Christ given in the bread and wine.

Mother – Daughter Salad Supper

The LWML ladies of Peace Lutheran Church in Thomasboro will be sponsoring a Mother-Daughter Salad Supper on April 28th at 4 PM. (The doors will open at 3 PM.) It will be held at Peace Lutheran Church in Thomasboro. The speaker will be Grace Khachaturian - Miss Illinois 2018. She competed in Miss America that year. She is a TV talk host, speaker, podcast host, and author of the book IT'S OK. Bring your mother, daughter, sister, best friend, and join in the good food, fun, and fellowship! If you would like to bring a salad, please do so. There is limited seating so please call Ronda Scott at 217-643-7472 for reservations by April 21st. A freewill donation will be accepted at the door for a charity of their choice. All women of the congregation are invited.

Thank You

Thank you to all the Altar Guild ladies who folded the palms and helped with Holy Week services. Also thank you to Steve Martin for getting the cross from the storage shed and putting it away after Holy Week. He also found the wood for the cross that was displayed in the hall for the Easter breakfast. We appreciate everyone's help.

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

Nine ladies met on March 14th for the Ladies Aid/LWML meeting at 1:30 PM in the fellowship hall. The afternoon started with a prayer for Nikki and Rob Gallier as Rob's kidney transplant was that day. The group enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by Terri Hooker and Deb Martin before the meeting started. After the meeting was called to order, the LWML song was sung. A devotion was given by Deb Martin. Connie Warsaw led a topic about the Road to Emmaus. Roll call was answered by a Bible verse on trust. The minutes from the November meeting and the February meeting were read and approved with no corrections. The mites were collected. Diana Zimmerman gave the treasurer's report which showed a balance of \$1952.18. The treasurer's report was approved. Wilma Grussing reported on cards she had sent in the past month. Terri Hooker reported that only 30 quilts have been completed. Diana Zimmerman reported that 54 dresses were mailed to Dresses for Africa.

In old business Brenda Hendricks reported that she had contacted the Seminary about a placement of another seminary student to adopt since the one that we had been supporting dropped out of the Seminary. The consensus at the last meeting was to try to adopt a student from the Central Illinois District, if possible. We have been assigned Jacob Bergstedt whose home congregation is Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Hoopeston. Other old business included discussion of the adopted family which will be Hannah Nelson and son Beau for January through June and Abby/Amelia Kirkpatrick from July through December.

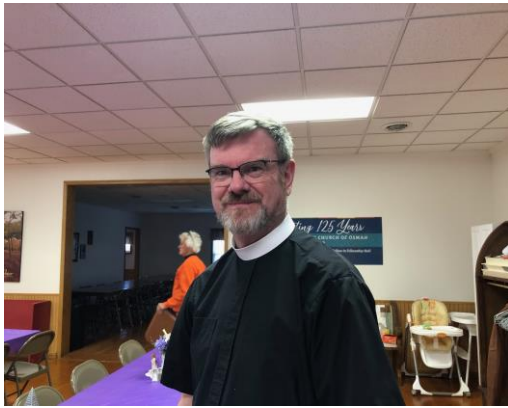
In new business the members signed up for food donations for the Maundy Thursday Soup Supper. Some upcoming LWML events were explained for the members – Spring Fling hosted by St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Woodworth on April 6th, CID Convention in Rock Island on April 26th and 27th, and Mother -Daughter Salad Supper at Peace Lutheran Church in Thomasboro on April 28th. The next meeting will be on May 9th at 7 PM. The topic will be given by Deb Martin and the hostesses are Brenda Hendricks and Sue Van Wakeman.

Holy Week and Easter Thank You

Thank you to James Amdor, Rita Haggin, and Michael Haggin for dropping the palms down the aisle for Palm Sunday and also for helping sing the prelude. Thank you to Alicia Haggin, Sara McPike, and Theresa Van Wakeman Wilson for adding extra music to our Maundy Thursday worship hour. Thank you to Terri Hooker and Susan Martin for their help stripping the altar at the end of the service. Thank you to Pastor McPike for delivering "The 14 Stations of the Cross" as our main focus for our worship on Good Friday. Thank you to the Haggin Family (Alicia, Nicholas, John, Joseph, Rita, and Michael), Pastor McPike, and Theresa Van Wakeman Wilson for adding special music to this dramatic worship service. Our Easter was filled with faith, love, and commemoration. We celebrated the resurrection of our Lord, and His greatest sacrifice, our Savior. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Sunday service: Pastor McPike for his beautiful, chanted service, Alicia Haggin for the talented playing of the organ, Sara McPike for her trumpet accompaniment, Theresa Van Wakeman Wilson for her harmonious singing, and Jill Hardesty and Debbie Lammle for dressing the altar. An additional thank you to Pastor for making the wine and Jill Hardesty for making the bread for communion. Let us continue to remember that "Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed! Hallelujah!!"

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper

Thank you to the Ladies Aid/LWML members who helped make and serve the food for the Maundy Thursday Soup Supper which was held before the worship service. 38 guests enjoyed the menu of chili, potato soup, sandwiches, desserts, and drinks. \$326 was collected in the freewill offering which will be used for a mission project in our community.



Chase Zimmerman04-03
 Courtney Williams.....04-03
 Erik Henriksen.....04-08
 Connie Warsaw.....04-12
 Leonard Delaney.....04-17
 Steven Sprau.....04-18
 Gina Feit (Masko).....04-19
 Hallie Payne.....04-23
 Bob Zimmerman.....04-23
 Linda Warsaw.....04-25
 Kristan Hansen.....04-25
 Deb Lammle.....04-26



Alicia and Nicholas Haggin..... 04-28-2007

Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
February 25	38	17	2
March 3	40	0	0
March 10	45	12	0
March 17	60	16	3
March 24	45	14	1
March 28	36		
March 29	29		
March 31	60		



Easter at Osman



Rob and Nikki Gallier Update

The kidney transplant surgery went well, and we are both feeling really good. Every day we get stronger and less sore. Rob's new kidney is doing great – he has already lost 35 pounds of fluid. He feels so much better! He is on a lot of anti-rejection meds and will stay away from big crowds for about four more weeks. (written by Nikki)