

# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



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

**January 2025**



From Pastor McPike's Desk...

## The Importance of Baptism

Last month, I told you about my "pilgrimage" to St. Peter Lutheran Church in Indianapolis where I was baptized. To recap, on the last Sunday of the church year in 1960, I was baptized at St. Peter Lutheran Church where my parents had been attending since their move to Indy a couple of years before. Before I have memory, they changed to a church closer to where they had moved on the far east side of the city, Trinity Lutheran Church of Indianapolis. I attended school at Trinity from Kindergarten through Grade 7, at which time we moved to Martinsville, Indiana.

I wanted to continue discussion of baptism just a bit this month because of the First Sunday after Epiphany. Each year, that Sunday celebrates the Baptism of Jesus. Baptism, then, is the topic for this month.

The importance of Baptism cannot be overemphasized. Baptism is our birth into the Christian Church. While it is possible to come to faith through the hearing of the Word of God, Baptism is commanded by God. In Matthew 28, as Jesus was about to ascend into heaven after His resurrection from the dead, He gave the command to make disciples. The two directives of that command were baptism and instruction. As Jesus welcomed little children despite the disciples attempt to keep them away (ref), He thus tells us that even infants can believe. This is told to us as faith is not merely an intellectual exercise. The Holy Spirit works faith in our hearts. This, of course, is in contrast to those church bodies that hold that faith is only an intellectual exercise, leading them to withhold Baptism until one can make their own confession and "ask for it."

Baptism washes away sins. Baptism makes one a child of God. Baptism gives the gift of the Holy Spirit. So why, then, did the sinless son of God need baptizing? This question, first posed by Jesus' cousin at the Jordan River, brings into focus the purpose of Baptism both for Jesus and for us. When the sinless Son of God was washed with baptismal water, He took upon Himself the sin that Baptismal water washes from all of us. Baptism marks the beginning of a life of faith in a Christian. Baptism marks the beginning of the ministry of Jesus that would be completed at the cross and empty tomb.

Remembering Baptism is important. By "remembering", for those baptized as infants, it is

obvious that we are not remembering the event like we would remember Confirmation or a Wedding. Part of the charge to parents and sponsors in Baptism is that they would remind the person often of their Baptism. That starts with simply telling the person about Jesus and how Jesus saved them in the water of Baptism. Parents, sponsors, and the church bear witness to an event not remembered in time by the baptized. Through the parents, sponsors, and the church, the person “remembers their Baptism.”



The second picture shown here shows the former location of the Baptismal font at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Indy. Where I am shown standing below the symbols is where the font was located for many years, where it was when I was baptized in 1960. Many churches chose to have “baptistry areas” which were off to the side from the focal point of the church. This has changed recently.

Like we have done at Osman, St. Peter relocated their baptismal font to the front of the center aisle. Unlike Osman, St. Peter’s font cannot be moved. For one thing, it is solid marble, and thus very heavy. For another, a marble base has been made that has eight sides. Many baptismal fonts have eight sides, as eight is the number in the Bible that represents regeneration. Four is the number that represents the human race, and eight, then, is “four made over”, symbolizing regeneration. In baptism, we are regenerated.

There is rich symbolism to be gained in locating the font at the front aisle. We see it all the time as we look to the front of the church. We pass it when coming up the aisle to approach the altar. That is significant, as we are only acceptable to God through forgiveness, and forgiveness is given in Baptism. Frequent reminders of Baptism are frequent reminders that we are God’s children, have been given faith, and look forward to being in heaven with Him forever.

## **Christmas Thank You's**

Thank you very much to all the members who helped decorate the church and the church property for the Christmas season. Thank you to Lee Whitehouse for getting the tree for the church. Thank you to the Sunday School children for decorating the tree in the fellowship hall.



Thank you to the members who packed the Christmas treat bags that were distributed on Christmas Eve. Those helping from left to right front row - Diana Zimmerman, Addison Warsaw, Terri Hooker, Connie Warsaw, and Annette Warsaw. Those helping from left to right in back row - Jeff Warsaw, Joy Johnson, Dwight Hooker, Don Warsaw, Bob Zimmerman and Brenda Hendricks.

## **Poinsettia Donations**

A sincere thank you to the members who donated a poinsettia which decorated the church on Christmas Eve and the following two Sundays. Those who donated were Brenda and Jerry Edwards, Sara and Dave Kunde, Deb and John Lammle, Debbie Martin, Sue and Jim Van Wakeman, Sandy and Lee Whitehouse, and Diana and Bob Zimmerman.

## **Hat, Mitten, and Glove Donations**

At the November Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting, the ladies voted to donate hats, mittens, and gloves instead of having a Christmas gift exchange. This project was also offered to the congregation. The collection box on the back pew overflowed with donations. There were 20 pairs of mittens and gloves and 22 hats donated. These items will be donated to places that help the needy in our communities.

## **Caroling**

Get your singing voices ready to praise God and at the same time bring a little cheer to our shut-ins. The entire congregation is invited to go singing on January 5<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon (time will be announced later). We will sing at the Villas of Holly Brook in Gibson City and hopefully a few more places. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can go! All those interested in caroling please bring one dozen cookies and a dish to share so the group can eat before heading to Gibson City. Ham and mac-n-cheese will be furnished! We will not be eating afterwards.

## **Ladies Aid/LWML Christmas Party**



Fourteen Ladies Aid/LWML members and guests braved the snow showers to enjoy a lunch at Jack's Café in LeRoy on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. After the delicious meal was enjoyed, several games were played such as BINGO, "Know Your People in the Pews", and Bow Toss which proved to be a challenge to most who played. Those attending were front row from left to right – Connie Warsaw, Annette Warsaw, Wilma Grussing, Deb Lammle,

Brenda Hendricks, Marsha Warsaw, and Terri Hooker. In the back row from left to right are Don Warsaw, Addi Warsaw, Jeff Warsaw, John Grussing, John Lammle, Steve Warsaw, and Dwight Hooker.

## **Officers Needed!**

The church officer's sign-up sheet still has LOTS and LOTS and LOTS of empty blanks for officers for the ballot for 2025. The positions that will need to be filled on the council will be a secretary, two elders, one trustee, and one assistant financial secretary. These officers will be elected at the annual voters' meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Be thinking about how YOU can use your talents to serve the congregation.

## **Altar Flowers**

Please sign-up on the bulletin board if you would like to donate altar flowers in memory of a special person or occasion or pay for the eternal flame candle for a specific month. The flowers donated will be used for two Sundays. There is also an Altar Guild sign-up sheet on the side bulletin board if you would like to help prepare the altar for worship services. Please know that your assistance will be very much appreciated!

## **Quilting**

The ladies will be quilting again in the new year. The first dates for quilting will be January 6<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM and the 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM in the fellowship hall. All ladies of the congregation are invited to help tie quilts that are given to Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train to be distributed all over the world to needy people.

## **Church Undecorating**

The church will remain decorated for Christmas through Epiphany. All members of the congregation are invited to take down decorations and store them neatly on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, at 9 AM.

## **Benefit Check Presented**

Dwight Hooker and Brenda Hendricks who represented the Stewardship Committee presented the check from the soup supper benefit which was held November 16<sup>th</sup> to Emily Fuqua after the worship service on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The check totaled \$8133.25. This is the total from the freewill offering taken at the supper and the Thrivent Choice Dollars that have been given to our congregation as well as the money given to the church specifically designated for benefits. Please keep Emily in your prayers as she continues therapy and return doctor visits to Northwestern Hospital as she recovers from a liver transplant and a heart procedure.



## **Thrivent Members!**

If you have any Thrivent Choice Dollars which are given upon ownership of certain Thrivent products, do not forget to donate those to one of the 35,000 churches and nonprofits that Thrivent recognizes. Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman is one of those choices. The deadline to donate 2024 Choice Dollars is March 31st. If you do not know how to donate them, please see Brenda Hendricks or Terri Hooker.

## **Church Council Meeting**

The church council will meet on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, in the fellowship hall at 6:30 PM.

## **Newsletter**

When printing color pictures on a black and white printer the clarity is not always the best. To see a brighter version of the newsletter look at it on the church website.

## Deadline for Bulletin Announcements

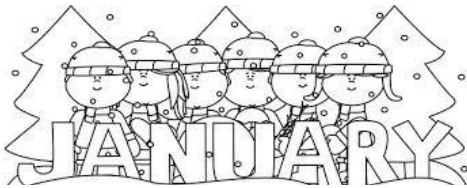
If you have announcements for the weekly bulletin for January 12<sup>th</sup> and January 19<sup>th</sup>, please forward those to Connie Warsaw by noon on the Friday of that week. You may contact her by email at [cdwarsaw@gmail.com](mailto:cdwarsaw@gmail.com) or by phone at 217-202-9860.

## 7 Resolutions to Grow Your Faith in the New Year

With a new year right around the corner, many people take time to look back over the past year's successes, joys, and hardships. As the year ends, you may begin to consider what you want to achieve or change in the new year. Creating a list of resolutions to accomplish in the coming year has become widely popular. The idea is to make a list of things you want to change or do, or new habits you want to develop, so that next year will be better and more purposeful. The most common resolutions are to lose weight, manage finances, and travel. Christians may find themselves putting together a list of resolutions, as well. More than simply losing weight or decluttering one's home, believers can use the idea of making resolutions to place needed emphasis on their relationship with Jesus and strengthening their faith in God. Here are seven new year's resolutions for every Christian to place effort on in the new year.

Spend more time with God - Connect with a church - Serve regularly - Read the Bible - Share the Gospel - Focus on spiritual growth - Give generously

(Written by Pamela Palmer on [www.Biblestudytools.com](http://www.Biblestudytools.com))



### January Birthdays

Joey Haggin..... 01-02  
 Sara Kunde..... 01-05  
 Brad Lutz..... 01-10  
 Anne Amdor..... 01-18  
 Hannah Duncan..... 01-19  
 Megan Bidner..... 01- 21  
 Bryce Martin..... 01-23

### January Anniversaries

Christie and Leonard Delaney.....01-07



## Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
December 1	46	14	0
December 8	46	8	2
December 15	34	11	0
December 22	48	12	2
December 24	78	NA	NA

## Immanuel Magnets

Annette Warsaw designed some beautiful refrigerator magnets with the theme “Immanuel”. They are laying on the back elder pew if you would like to pick one up today.

## Christmas Eve

The rafters were filled with beautiful Christmas music at Osman at the worship service on Christmas Eve. The musicians from the balcony played the organ, brass instruments, and woodwind instruments to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The musicians were Jenna Clemmons (trombone), Alicia Haggin (organ and recorder), John Haggin (organ), Joseph Haggin (trombone), Nik Haggin (recorder and clarinet), Rita Haggin (recorder), Sara McPike (trumpet), and Addi Warsaw (French horn). Added to the beautiful music from the balcony was Pastor McPike singing part of his sermon on the hymn “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”. All of the attendees soon caught the excitement of the celebration of the best gift of all – Jesus – as the lights dimmed and the individual candles held by the people in the pews lit the recesses of the church as all sang “Silent Night”.

