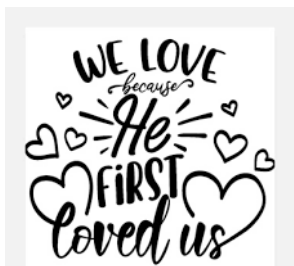


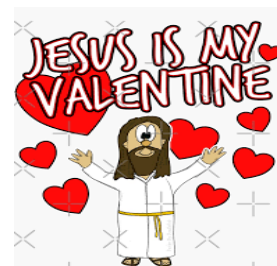
# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



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

**February 2025**



## From Pastor McPike's Desk....

### **“There is Love... and then... there's God's love”**

February is known for several things. People are tired of snow and cold. Spring has not yet sprung, but the days are getting longer, and the sun's heat is doing more to warm our part of the earth than the previous two to three months. In the middle of the month is a day that has been attributed to St. Valentine.

St. Valentine was a priest or bishop who lived in the third century of the church. He ministered to persecuted Christians in the Roman Empire, and was martyred on February 14, 269. Saints who are martyred are often remembered on the day that they were martyred, not the day they were born. Their death day is considered to be their “birthday” into eternity with God. St. Valentine is the patron saint of love, which probably goes without saying.

Greek, the language of the New Testament, has four words that translate to English as “love”. *Philia*, (pronounced “Fil-lee-ah”) which is love of siblings, which is why “*Philadelphia*” is called the “City of Brotherly love.” *Storge* (pronounced “Store-gay”) is love family members tend to have for each other... even when they do not necessarily like each other. *Eros* (pronounced “Air-rose”) is romantic love, the physical attraction, sexual-involved love (hence the English word, *Erotic*). No further explanation needed!

The chapter in the Bible sometimes referred to as “the Love Chapter” is 1 Corinthians 13. This tends to be a popular chapter for weddings. Take a look at it. It includes the following: “Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.... It keeps no record of wrongs.” This sounds like a great formula for a fantastic marriage, and indeed it is. But I have always cringed a bit when it is included in weddings without explanation.

Why? Why should love as presented in this chapter be explained? Well, remember first that what we have as our Bible is a *translation* from the original languages. In the case of the New Testament, that is ancient Greek. When this passage is read at weddings without explanation, many can

swoon in the “love” that tends to permeate the air with all the various connotations. The Greek word for Love in 1 Corinthians 13 is the fourth Greek word... *Agape*, pronounced “Ah-gahp-ay”. This is the love that God has for us.

God’s love for us, *agape*, is the kind of love that only God can have. *Agape* love can come only from the perfect, the sinless. God’s love gives without looking for how God is going to benefit from giving that love. It is a love that humans do well to strive for, but short of the grave, will never achieve. The word “love” used in Luke 10:27 “Love the Lord your God with all your heart... and your neighbor as yourself” is also the word *Agape* or the “perfect, giving, never looking for return” kind of love.

This, then, explains why I’m not fond of this chapter used in weddings unless it is explained. Love is mentioned numerous times in this chapter – which, understandably, is the topic of the day at weddings! – yet it is not romantic love, it is God’s giving love. Now, to the extent that each person employs such love, to the extent that sinful humans can employ it, the marriage will be a wonderful success. This kind of love can truly only come from those who are God’s children. As we are God’s baptized children, we are called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as God would have us live. Loving others as God would love us is central to the Christian life.

Love is not love for love’s sake. It is love for God’s sake. It is love that comes from God, is powered by God, modeled by God, blessed by God.

### **Newly Elected Officers**

The newly elected church officers were installed in the worship service on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. The officers installed were the following: Debbie Lammle, secretary; Ryan Lammle and Don Warsaw, elders; John Grussing, trustee; Brenda Hendricks, assistant financial secretary; and Melanie Niemann, financial secretary. Thanks to the following outgoing church council officers: Sandy and Lee Whitehouse, Bob Zimmerman, Susie and Steve Martin, and Barb Whitehouse-Gercken for dedicating their time and energies to the work of the church. The present 2025 council consists of the following members:

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Chairman – John Lammle   | Treasurer – Terri Hooker              |
| Secretary – Debbie Lammle  | Financial Secretary – Melanie Niemann |
| Asst. Financial Secretary – Brenda Hendricks                       | Trustees – Jeff Warsaw, John Grussing |
| Elders – Dwight Hooker, Jerry Niemann, Ryan Lammle, and Don Warsaw |                                       |

The next council meeting will be Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall.

### **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. The amount contributed to our church in the last year has decreased greatly so if you have Thrivent Choice Dollars, but do not know how to donate them, please see Brenda Hendricks or Terri Hooker.

## **Lenten Season Schedule**

The Lenten Season will be upon us soon. Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. There will NOT be mid-week Lenten services, but there will be Holy Week services on Maundy Thursday at 7 PM and Good Friday at 7 PM. Easter worship service will be held on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Time to be announced later.

## **Quilting Dates**

The next dates for quilting will be Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8AM and Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM in the fellowship hall. The quilts will be given to Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train. There are many people in the United States and abroad that need quilts this year.

## **Our Deepest Sympathy**

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Myron Zimmerman who passed away on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, from injuries suffered from a fall in his home. His funeral was held on Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Osman and his burial followed at the Bellflower Township Cemetery in rural Bellflower. May God provide comfort and care for those who mourn his loss.

## **Lutheran Hour Sunday**

Lutheran Hour Ministries Sunday will be celebrated on March 9<sup>th</sup> at St. John's Lutheran Church in Buckley. The Lutheran Hour Speaker, Reverend Dr. Michael Zeigler, will be the guest speaker. The service will begin at 11 AM. Lunch will be served after the service in the school gym. The free will offering will be given to Lutheran Hour Ministries. Please let Brenda Hendricks know a week in advance if you plan to attend the lunch. Come and learn more about the mission of Lutheran Hour Ministries whose theme is "Together - One Family Connected in Christ".

## **Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting**

Ladies Aid/LWML Ladies will have their first meeting of 2025 on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. The topic will be given by Deb Martin, and the hostesses will be Terri Hooker and Brenda Hendricks. Roll call will be answered with a Bible verse on love. All ladies of the congregation are invited!

## **Spam Alert!**

One member reported to Pastor McPike that an EMAIL stating "Are you available? I have a request for you to manage discreetly..." and requests an immediate reply. This did NOT come from Pastor McPike! It is called "Phishing email", meant to try to steal information. If you get such an EMAIL, please delete it without doing anything else with it.

## Lutherland Tour

Is anyone interested in a Lutherland Tour? Rev. Daniel Olson, Pastor at Luxemburg, Wisconsin, former pastor at Buckley, Illinois, is planning a Lutherland Tour for June 22 through July 2, 2025. The cost of \$4500 which includes all transportation, hotels, tour directors, entrance fees, taxes, tips, 8 breakfasts, and 6 or 7 dinners. For more information and to review the itinerary, please contact Jerry and Melanie Niemann as soon as possible.

## Phil's Friends Workday

Save the Date! St. John's Ladies Aid/LWML at St. John's Lutheran Church in Buckley is hosting a Phil's Friends Workday on February 11, 2025, from 9:00am-12:00pm. Lunch will be provided. Phil's Friends is a nonprofit organization that makes care boxes for cancer patients. The ladies will be tying lap quilts, making cards, and collecting items for the boxes. The list of items needed for the boxes was in the bulletin last Sunday and is also listed on the back bulletin board. There is a collection box at the back of the church if you would like to donate items. Please let Brenda Hendricks know if you would like to attend. "Cancer is Strong. Hope is Stronger."

## Old Organ Removal

Thank you to John Lammle and Steve Martin who disassembled the organ and the speaker last week and removed it from under the balcony. Since no was interested in the organ or the speaker it was destroyed with some of the wood being saved.



### **February Birthdays**

Bryan Edwards.....02-03  
 David Peyton.....02-03  
 Theresa Van Wakeman Wilson.....02-07  
 Austin Miller.....02-09  
 James Amdor.....02-10  
 Christie Delaney.....02-10  
 Neil Bidner.....02-17  
 Jeff Warsaw.....02-19  
 Reese Gallier.....02-26

### **February Anniversaries**

Susan and Austin Miller...02-12-1977  
 Sara and David Kunde...02-14-2012  
 Sandy and Lee Whitehouse...02-28-2015

*do everything  
in Love*

1 Corinthians 16:14

## **Statistics**

| Date        | Worship Service | Bible Class | Sunday School |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| December 29 | 33              | 0           | 2             |
| January 5   | 0               | 0           | 0             |
| January 12  | 31              | 6           | 0             |
| January 19  | 37              | 12          | 3             |
| January 26  | 42              | 13          | 2             |