

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 2025



From Pastor McPike's Desk...

Recently, I was stunned when someone – a Christian – mentioned hearing the hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” and spoke rather disparagingly about it. “I don’t like military-sounding hymns.” Despite feeling very defensive, I had to fight the urge to argue because it was not the place or the circumstance to do so.

Words like “Shield”, “Weapon”, “Old Evil Foe”, “Deadly Woe”, “Dread Arms in Fight”, devils eager to devour us, let alone having our lives taken, our goods looted – these just do not fit with some views of Christianity of love, peace, and joy. Certainly, love, peace and joy are marvelous gifts from God. They are God’s will for us. Yet, in this world filled with sin, we do not always, nor in some cases very often, get to enjoy them. Read St. Paul’s description of those who oppose us in Ephesians 6. That comes complete with the reminder that Christians can expect MORE difficulty, because we are connected to Satan’s sworn enemy, our Lord Jesus Christ. What a wonderful tool to encourage evangelism! “Become Christian and find yourself in the crosshairs of the most powerful evil being in all existence!”

While every worship service puts the focus on Christ, a focus of the First Sunday in Lent is, quite simply, on the “the old evil foe”, the devil. The devil may not be taking possession of people as I think he did much more in Jesus’ day – for good reason. Why, in a time in the world’s history where many people either don’t believe in the devil, or at least do not think that the devil is very active, would Satan want to stir things up and literally frighten people into the doors of churches? Church attendance is at an all-time low. People are leaving churches more and more every day. And if not leaving them, they at least are paying minimal attention by non-attendance and non-participation. Satan very well had a face-to-face showdown with Jesus just after our Lord was baptized. The evil one was celebrating when our Lord hung bleeding and dying on the cross. Yet, why would the devil want to work to make a fuss over himself when we humans are doing a dandy job of that all on our own?

Yes, I felt defensive when those disparaging words were said about “A Mighty Fortress.” There is plenty of wonderful, good news in that hymn, as we who know it well can attest. Simply calling our God “A Mighty Fortress” – literally from the German “a strong castle”, a trusty shield, helping us free in every need is wonderful news.

Or there's my favorite line in the entire hymn: "One little WORD can fell him." (Emphasis mine). One little word... any word, from God's word, can send the devil packing. You do not have to say anything fancy or flowery, fierce or forceful. All it takes to send the devil packing is, "Begone, Satan!" Hmmm... I think Jesus said the very same thing!

Lenten Schedule

The Ash Wednesday church service with Holy Communion was held on March 5th. There will NOT be any other Wednesday night Lenten services. Maundy Thursday service will be held on April 17th at 7 PM with a supper provided by the Ladies Aid/LWML ladies preceding the service. Good Friday service will be held on April 18th at 7 PM. The resurrection of our Savior will be celebrated on Easter morning, April 20th, at 7 AM.

Mowing List

Yes, spring will be here soon!! Attached to this newsletter is the mowing list for 2025. If you cannot mow on your designated date, please trade with someone on the list. If you cannot mow, please let John Grussing 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.

Church Council

The church council will meet on Wednesday, March 19th at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall.

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

Ladies Aid/LWML Ladies will meet on Thursday, March 13th at 1:30. The topic will be given by Connie Warsaw, and the hostesses will be Marsha Warsaw and Connie Warsaw. Roll call will be answered with a Bible verse on serving others. All ladies of the congregation are invited!

Time Change

Daylight saving time began on Sunday, March 9th. This means all of us moved our clocks up one hour so we could enjoy more daylight in the evenings. Enjoy that daylight until Sunday, November 2, 2025!

Thank You

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus. Your donation of \$200 will translate into 50 bags of food to go home with our students on the weekends. Very Grateful, Lori Larson – Mahomet Schools

Thank You

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the generous donation to our Hope Pack Program for the Blue Ridge Schools. It will definitely help to feed our hungry children! Charlene Sprecker – Salt Creek Resource Center

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

Seven ladies met on February 6th for the Ladies Aid/LWML meeting at 1:30 PM in the fellowship hall. The group enjoyed a delicious dessert served by Terri Hooker and Brenda Hendricks before the meeting. After the meeting was called to order, the LWML song was sung, and the LWML Pledge was recited. A devotion was given by Debbie Lammle. Deb Martin led a topic entitled "Living in Love". Roll call was answered by a Bible verse on love. The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. The mites were collected. The treasurer's report was given which showed a balance of \$2131.83. Wilma Grussing reported on cards she had sent in the past months. Terri Hooker reported that 24 quilts have been completed. 39 more dresses have been made and when 50 are completed they will be shipped.

In the old business President Hendricks resumed the topic of selecting an adopted family which was presented at the last meeting. The group voted to accept Beth Ellis and her daughters, Bristol and Laine of Bellflower. The sign up sheet for each month was circulated so each member could pick a month to help this family. President Hendricks thanked all members who helped organize and serve the funeral dinners for Larry Lutz and Myron Zimmerman. She thanked all members who attended the Christmas luncheon at Jack's Café in LeRoy in December. It was a great luncheon and fellowship time. She thanked all who donated gloves, hats, and mittens for needy people in our communities. They were given to the Salt Creek Resource Center in Farmer City which runs a food bank and a free clothing shop.

In the new business the members voted to serve a soup and sandwich supper before the Maundy Thursday worship service on April 17th. The group was informed about a Phil's Friends Workshop at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Buckley on February 11th. A list of supplies needed for Phil's Friends boxes was given to the members and a collection box was placed on the back pew for donations. They will be taken to Buckley. Some upcoming LWML/Ladies Aid events are the CID Convention to be held at Lincoln on April 25th and April 26th. Two delegates will be needed from our group to vote on the grants. The National LWML Convention will be held in Omaha, Nebraska in June 2025. Everyone interested should contact President Hendricks so travel arrangements and registration can be completed. The next meeting will be on March 13th at 1:30 PM. The topic will be given by Connie Warsaw, and the hostesses will be Connie Warsaw and Annette Warsaw.

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.



The ladies will be quilting on April 7 at 8 AM and April 9 at 12:30 PM. Several Thrivent Action Team cards have been used to buy the filler for the center layer of the quilts. The quilts will be given to Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train in the fall. All ladies of the congregation are invited. No quilting experience is needed as tying knots is the skill that is required to make a quilt that will bring a smile to many needy people in other countries.



- Terri Hooker03-02
- Brenda Hendricks03-09
- Joy Johnson03-19
- Shaun Zimmerman03-20
- Marsha Warsaw03-21
- Nikki Gallier03-25

Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
February 2	34	11	0
February 9	36	11	0
February 16	35	0	1
February 23	35	12	1
March 5	34	0	0



- Brenda and Jerry Edwards ...03-27-1982
- Joy and Skinner Johnson03-31-1979

“Whatever I can give up for Lent will never match what You gave.”
From Bible Study Tools.com

Lenten Devotion

(As printed from the Gatepost, the CID Newsletter)

Lent starts late this year. We have been able to enjoy two full months of Epiphany, the revelation of the glorious power and grace of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. Remembering this lightens Lent's dark themes of sin and its horrible consequences. Perhaps also the presence of sunlight later in the day will help us to remember the blessed end of all this: God's glorious grace shining on us out of an opened heaven.

While the presence of physical light can improve our moods, Jesus Christ, "the light of the world" (John 8:12), improves everything for God's believing people. God's word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our paths (Psalm 119:105). In Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and every week of the Church year, God's word shows us His gracious love for us, because He did not leave us in the darkness, but "brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel" (2 Tim. 1:10). "Because the God who said, 'Light shall shine out of darkness,' is He who shone in our hearts for the enlightenment of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Cor. 4:6). "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures ... But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruit of those who have fallen asleep ... Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:3,20,57). Enjoy a lighter Lent!

– Pastor Mark Eddy, *1st Vice-President - CID Board of Directors*

Phil Friends' Donations

In February we collected items for the boxes that Phil's Friends donate to cancer patients. The box in the back of our church soon filled with 72 donated items that are needed for these boxes. Things such as toothbrushes, puzzle books, hand cream, and Kleenex packs are all items that help patients in their road to recovery. The items were taken to St. Johns Lutheran Church in Buckley on February 11th where a workday was held to make fleece blankets to also include with these donations. The collection was plentiful from all of the churches in the Danville Zone. Thank you so much!

Mowing Schedule - 2025

(Please try to mow between Thursday and Saturday of the week)

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

Oct 5 – 11	Steve Martin
Oct 12 – 18	Jerry Niemann
Oct 19 – 25	Brenda Hendricks
Oct 26 – Nov 2	Dwight Hooker
November	Trustees