

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 2025



From Pastor McPike's Desk....

Since 2017 we have looked back at various events of the Reformation that happened 500 years ago. In these years that followed, we have looked at other "500 years ago" events. The year 1525 is 500 years ago this year, and several significant events took place.

The German Peasants' War

A significant event from 500 years ago is the German Peasants' War, which actually started the year before in 1524. The sharp contrast between the wealthy nobility and the peasants, whose labor the nobility depended on to basically make society work, created a good deal of tension in the later Middle Ages. In speaking out against the abuses that he saw in the church of his day, Luther's ideas became an inspiration for the peasants or common folk to rebel against the oppression of the aristocracy of the day. Luther preached freedom, or in German "Freiheit", which for him was freedom of the Gospel, freedom from the legalistic demands of the church of his day that taught that works were necessary to obtain God's favor and secure even the possibility of heaven. The Peasants used "Freiheit" (freedom) as a call for political/social freedom. They formed armies and seized monasteries and castles. They raided and looted key areas of those who owned property. The German Peasants' War was the largest uprising in Europe before the French Revolution.

While the writings of Martin Luther against the church of his day may have been seen as inspiration for this activity, Luther resoundingly condemned it. He saw this as strictly a fourth commandment issue. In his mind, the nobility were the authority, and the peasants were subject to this authority and to go to war against it was sin. In the midst of the war, he published a tract titled, "Against the Murdering and Robbing Hordes of Peasants." The nobility, with organized armies, put down the revolt, but at great cost. The casualty estimate numbers around 100,000 dead.

Marriage of Martin Luther and Katharina von Bora

Martin Luther orchestrated the escape of a number of nuns by arranging to have them smuggled out in herring barrels. Upon arrival in Wittenberg, marriages were secured for all but one – the daughter of an aristocratic family named "von Bora". Katharina basically refused all the marriage arrangements made for her until it came to marrying the strongest voice of the Reformation, Martin Luther. June 13 is their 500th Wedding Anniversary. Katie Luther was 16 years younger than was the Reformer.

Publication of “The Bondage of the Will”

A very important writing that defines Lutherans to this day was published 500 years ago. “The Bondage of the Will” is a work where Luther explained that the will of the human is captive to the devil and unable to turn to, decide for, or “accept” God in any form. God must reach out to us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to convert us to Christ. To this day, large parts of Christianity struggle with this theology. It is the grace of God in Christ that saves us. We cannot do it on our own. We cannot even hope to want to do it on our own. God’s power must do it.

Luther’s “Deutsche Messe” (German Mass)

While the German Mass is actually dated 1526, the first use was in Wittenberg on Christmas Day, 1525. Until that time, the mass or “communion service” or “Divine Service” had been mostly in Latin, with hymns and readings gradually changing to German. Calls for a German liturgy started several years before; Luther was reluctant to change from Latin to avoid disrupting the worship of the faithful. Only after a number of years where people became used to hearing German more and more did Luther publish his “German communion service.”

A much older anniversary: Happy 1700th, Nicene Creed!

The Council of Nicea met from May to August, 325, which is 1700 years ago! What is important about the Council of Nicea? This is where the first version of the Nicene Creed was produced and accepted. More on that in a following newsletter article.

Easter Lilies

Everyone interested in donating an Easter lily, please sign up on the list on the back church bulletin board by April 6th. The cost is \$13. If you will be paying by check, please make the check out to Debbie Lammle.

Folding Palms

All Altar Guild members and everyone else who would like to help are invited to help fold palms into crosses in the annex on April 12th at 9:30 AM. No experience is needed!

Easter Carolling

Everyone is invited to join in singing Easter hymns on April 13th after church to our shut-in members and others that enjoy hearing the Easter message. So that the group does not have to stop for lunch, we will have a potluck dinner in the hall after church for those planning on singing. Ham and a crock pot of mac'n'cheese will be provided, but please bring a dish to share. We will carpool to the Villas of Hollybrook to sing to Karen Bryan, followed by a few other stops. A fruit basket will be given to each person we sing to. Sign up on the bulletin board at church with the item you will be bringing to share at the potluck and the fruit you will be bringing for the fruit baskets. Let's share our Easter spirit and bring the love of Christ to those who do not always get to church.

Church Directory

An updated printed church directory with addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses has been printed and can be picked up on the back elder pew. Please only take one per family.

Lenten Schedule

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 with serving from 5:30 to 6:45. The supper will include chili, sandwiches, and desserts. 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.

Church Council Meeting

The church council will meet on Wednesday, April 16th, at 6:30 in the fellowship hall

Quarterly Voters Meeting

The quarterly voters meeting will be held on Sunday, April 27th, immediately after the worship service.

April Lawn Mowers

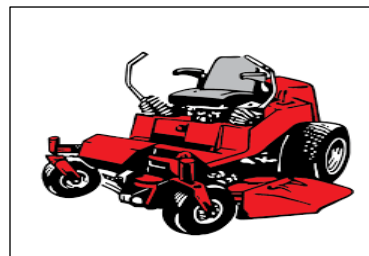
The week of March 30 - April 5 - Connie Warsaw

The week of April 6 - 12 - Jim VanWakeman

The week of April 13 - 19 - Brenda Hendricks

The week of April 20 -26 – Dick Johnson

The week of April 27 – May 3 – 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 John Grussing or Jeff Warsaw.

Quilting

The ladies will be quilting on April 7th at 12:30 AM and April 9th at 8 AM. 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 the United States and other countries.

Mother – Daughter Salad Supper

The LWML ladies of Peace Lutheran Church in Thomasboro will be sponsoring a Mother-Daughter Salad Supper on April 27th at 4 PM. It will be held at the church located at 200 West Arnold Street in Thomasboro. The speaker is Steve Ingram, a local comedian. 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. Call Peace Lutheran Church at 217-643-3265 or Rev. Michael Stoerger at 217-560-4473 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.

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

Eight ladies met on March 13th for the Ladies Aid/LWML meeting at 1:30 PM in the fellowship hall. The group enjoyed delicious "green" refreshments for St. Patrick's Day provided by Connie Warsaw and Marsha Warsaw before the meeting started. After the meeting was called to order, the LWML song was sung. A devotion was given by Diana Zimmerman for Debbie Lammle. Connie Warsaw led a topic about our beautiful Savior. Roll call was answered by a Bible verse on serving others. The minutes from 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 \$2078.18. The treasurer's report was approved. A thank you from a Concordia Seminary student for all the help that he and his family has been given while at the Seminary was read. Terri Hooker reported that 35 quilts have been completed. Diana Zimmerman reported that 46 dresses are completed for Dresses for Africa and will be mailed when the total reaches 50.

The old business included discussion of the adopted family which is Beth Ellis and girls from Bellflower and a review of ladies signed up for each month. The food committees were also discussed. President Hendricks thanked all the ladies for their donations to the hat, mitten, and glove collection in December and the Phil's Friends collection in January/February.

In new business the members discussed the Maundy Thursday Soup Supper. The menu was selected. A free will offering will be collected and given to a mission project such as Lutheran World Relief for the California wildfire victims or the North Carolina storm victims. Some upcoming LWML events were explained for the members – Spring Fling hosted by Immanuel Lutheran Church in Danville on April 5th, CID Convention in Lincoln on April 25th and 26th, and Mother -Daughter Salad Supper at Peace Lutheran Church in Thomasboro on April 27th. The next meeting will be on May 8th at 7 PM. The topic will be given by Brenda Edwards, and the hostesses will be Brenda Edwards and Deb Martin.

Donate Life Month

April is the National Donate Life Month. Currently, there are 103,000 people on the organ transplant list. Each day, seventeen people die because an organ did not become available in time to save them. Each donor can save the lives of up to eight people and enhance the lives (through tissue donation) of seventy-five more. Every eight minutes another patient is added to the transplant list. To learn more about organ donations go to www.giftofhope.org. or you can also ask Pastor McPike, who serves on the Gift of Hope committee at Carle.

Health Care Power of Attorney

If you became incapacitated for whatever reason, who would medical professionals turn to for critical healthcare decisions? Do you have documentation identifying your wishes? If you do not, the decision maker could be someone the state of Illinois determines by a pre-set formula called the "Illinois Healthcare Surrogate Act." If you want more information or if you want to complete paperwork specifying a Health Care Power of Attorney, Pastor McPike can do that for you after the worship service anytime.

Easter Cards

Invite all of your friends and neighbors to worship at Osman during Holy Week. There is a beautifully printed card with an envelope on the back elder pew for you to take with you and mail to a friend, relative, or neighbor. All of our worship services and times are listed on the card and also directions to our church. This is a great way to share the beautiful message of our risen Savior with our communities.

Summary of the Council Meeting

Eleven elected church officers attended the meeting on March 16th. Pastor McPike attended by a phone conference. He opened the meeting with devotion. Secretary Deb Lammle read the minutes from the February meeting, and they were approved. Treasurer Terri Hooker gave the treasurers report with a balance of \$61,406.02 as of February 28, 2025. The total income for the month was \$18,115. The treasurer's report was approved.

Pastor provided an update on Orphan Grain Train indicating that they now have a paid employee in Chicagoland that will be able to act as "Resident Agent" for the state of Illinois, a position Pastor McPike has filled on a volunteer basis for over 20 years. This allows them to continue to be active in Illinois. He requested prayer for two churches- Trinity Lutheran in Urbana and Faith Lutheran in Monticello. Confirmation is going well, although scheduling is sometimes challenging. Acolytes are doing well and taking their duties seriously. He advised that Pastor Strom will be preaching at Osman on April 13, May 25, June 22, and July 20.

Jeff Warsaw, trustee, stated he had posted the mowing list for the summer. He provided a second quote of \$5895 for a dehumidifier from Lance Heating and Cooling. The first bid was given at last month's meeting from JC Heating and Plumbing. Both companies stated that a unit will not be needed in the balcony. A motion was made and seconded to accept the less expensive bid from JC Heating and Plumbing. Motion carried. Everyone agreed we should install the dehumidifier in the furnace first and monitor the humidity level. After much discussion it was suggested to have a special congregational meeting where we get approval to purchase and install a dehumidifier. He also stated that Dick Johnson had done work in the women's restroom and the door into the altar guild room. A new church sign for Rt. 54 between Bellflower and Farmer City will be ordered. A motion was made, seconded, and carried for the purchase of the sign.

In old business, it was reported that the Jeri Bidner Family and Myron Zimmerman family will be using their memorial funds to split the cost of the new Christmas tree and garland for the church. The next Mission "Outreach" committee meeting will be March 26th. Options to upgrade the information sign located west of the church is still under consideration. The council reviewed the 2025 church activity list. The Mecum Auction and Historic Farm Days were added to the men's activities. Participation in local Trunk or Treat events in Mahomet and Fisher was also discussed.

The Easter breakfast menu was discussed, with coffee cake and egg casseroles suggested as part of the menu. The young adults will again be asked to serve with the council members and spouses making the food.

Since Pastor suggested more communication during Easter, an Easter card will be handed out at church. An Easter banner has been ordered which will be placed along a road in a heavily travelled area near the church. Flyers will be distributed in businesses in the area and then picked up after Easter. Posting on Facebook and announcements in the church newsletter will also get the word out about our Easter Service.

In new business, a possible fund raiser for the church was discussed. Serving the Lloyd Power upcoming farm sale near Bellflower was then discussed. The sale will be held at the end of August. Proceeds could go to a certain needy cause or the mold project. The congregation will be asked at church this coming Sunday if they are interested in helping. Another topic discussed was the ordering of the Portal of Prayer devotion booklets for interested members. The minimum order of the same size booklet to get direct mailing and a cheaper price is 25. The congregation has 23 members interested so two extra copies will be ordered and given to local nursing homes. Another idea presented was typing a 3-5 page handout of each year’s events. These would be done for 2022, 2023, and 2024 – the years after the last history book was printed. Hopefully these could be completed to hand out at the April Voter’s Meeting. The council agreed this would be a good thing to do. Placing the council minutes in the monthly newsletter was the next item discussed. After discussion it was decided to send an abridged version of the minutes to the council members for their approval before publicizing it in the newsletter. Motion was made and approved. A bill for permission to copy hymn lyrics in the bulletin or newsletter was the next topic. It was decided not to pay for this service this year.

The next meeting will be April 16, 2025.



- 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

Happy Anniversary!

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

Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
March 2	33	13	0
March 9	35	13	0
March 16	35	10	1
March 23	39	11	0