

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



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

May 2025



From Pastor McPike's Desk...

"Who Is the Holy Spirit?"

A while back, I visited a patient who said, "I used to be Lutheran, but when we moved to this area a number of years ago, Lutherans were still stuck in old ways of worship. They never mention the Holy Spirit."

Of course, the hospital room, particularly in a critical care situation, is not the place to take on such statements. So at the risk of sounding defensive...

We begin almost every worship service with a Trinitarian Invocation, "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the **HOLY SPIRIT**." While the Apostles' Creed is a bit light mentioning the Holy Spirit, the Nicene Creed confesses, "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets." A number of hymns make direct reference to the Holy Spirit. Prayers also reference Him. And of course, liturgical churches like ours work to make Pentecost, a day ignored by much of Christendom, a great day; throughout history, Pentecost was the third of the three major festivals of the church year right up there with Christmas and Easter.

I admit being one of those irritated at the forgotten nature of Pentecost – and by extension, the Holy Spirit – until the last few years. And what I could not say in that room that day, because again, hospital rooms are not places for chaplains to engage in theological debate, is that it is very true that the Holy Spirit is not much mentioned - because that's the way He wants it.

The patient didn't know I was a Lutheran pastor. I don't announce my credentials when I am with a patient unless specifically asked. The patient, however, went on to say, "Why do we say that we worship God as Trinity when the third person is not mentioned. That's why we had to find a church that had SPIRIT filled worship." That told me what was really going on. It wasn't that the Holy Spirit wasn't mentioned; it was an objection to the historic liturgy.

John 1:18 says, "No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known." This basically tells us that God the Son, known to us most in the person of Jesus Christ, is the way in which God has "shown" Himself to people throughout history. When God spoke at Creation, it was the second person of the Trinity. When God appeared to and spoke from the burning bush to Moses, it was the second person of the Trinity.

More modern worship forms tend to depend on how it makes the worshiper feel. Now, I will be the first to say that feeling good or getting good feelings in worship can be a great blessing. What

provides those feelings for me in worship is robust hymn singing and much of the pageantry that goes along with historic church worship. Wasn't it great to hear all the singing with 88 people in church on Easter Sunday? Other people have other feelings associated with various hymns and forms of worship.

The problem with reliance on feelings in worship is that feelings can be deceptive. While it is great to "feel good" in worship, what about those times when we don't? Does that mean that we have drifted from God? Does that mean that God is not as close to us, or we to God?

Because feelings can be deceptive, it is important to rely on *objective* truth – the Gospel. It does not depend on how I feel. In fact, relying on the Gospel message of God's grace in Christ can come to help assuage concern at exactly the times I do NOT feel like God loves me, or that I am lovable or acceptable to God. It tells us that while we were yet sinners, while we cannot come to God on our own, while there is no "merit or worthiness in me" (Luther's explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed, about the Holy Spirit), Christ came to do what we cannot. And the Holy Spirit is there in the background, just doing what shadow, background figures do... His work, without drawing attention to Himself.

Easter Thank Yous

Thank you to Pastor McPike for his pastoral duties performed during Holy Week. Your many talents made all of the services very special. Thank you to all of the Ladies Aid/LWML ladies who made the soup, sandwiches, desserts, and relishes for the Maundy Thursday supper. An offering of \$229 was collected for Lutheran World Relief for aid of hurricane and wildfire victims. Thank you to the ladies in Altar Guild who so diligently worked during Holy week to dress the altar for the three special services. Those who helped were Debbie Lammler, Terri Hooker, Debbie Martin, Susan Martin, and Sue VanWakeman. Thank you to all the council members for providing delicious food for the Easter breakfast. An added thanks goes out to Neil Bidner and daughter, Megan, Ryan and Sandy Lammler, and Chase and Mackenzie Zimmerman for serving and cleaning up after the event. Thank you to Alicia, her family, Sara McPike, and Theresa VanWakeman Wilson for adding beautiful musical selections to the worship services.

Congratulations, Graduate!

Reese Gallier, daughter of Nikki and Rob Gallier, will graduate from Mahomet High School on May 9th. She will continue her education at Parkland Junior College in Champaign to study radiation technology and will be a part of the women's basketball program. May God be her guide as she pursues her career. Congratulations, Reese!



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
MAY 11TH

Ladies Aid/LWML

The Ladies Aid/LWML ladies will meet on Thursday, May 8th at 7 PM. The topic will be given by Brenda Edwards, and the hostesses are Brenda Edwards and Debbie Martin. The roll call be answered with a Bible verse on planting seeds. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend. The ladies will be tying and assembling quilts on Monday, May 5th at 12:30 PM and on Wednesday, May 7th, at 8 AM. No experience needed so we welcome all ladies who want to make quilts for people in need.

Church Council

The church council will meet on Wednesday, May 21st at 6:30 in the fellowship hall.

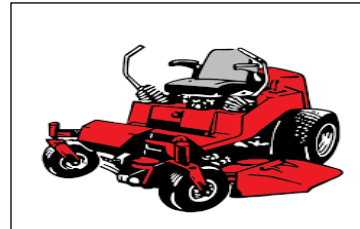
May Lawn Mowers

The week of May 4 – May 10 – Butch Sprau

The week of May 11 – May 17 – Mark Barrack

The week of May 18 – May 24 – Kent Whitehouse

The week of May 25 – May 31 – Jeff 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 which was in the March newsletter, there is one on the back bulletin board. If you have any questions, contact trustee Jeff Warsaw or John Grussing.

Summary of the Council Meeting

Six elected church officers attended the meeting on April 16th. Secretary Deb Lammle read the minutes from the March meeting, and they were approved. Treasurer Terri Hooker gave the treasurers report with total expenses of \$8,166.54 and total income of \$5,397.00. The checking account as of March 31, 2025, was \$58,266.51. Treasurers report was approved. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to place the interest earned from the upcoming CD into checking.

Easter caroling was reported as a success with approximately 15 members and guests traveling to 3 different locations while singing to 4 of our shut-ins. The Mission Outreach Committee met on April 9th. Survey letters will be mailed to members after Easter. The Ladies Aid/LWML will be serving soup, sandwiches, and desserts before the Maundy Thursday service. Easter breakfast will be served after Sunday service with egg casseroles, fruit, and coffee cakes provided by the church council members. The young couples will be serving breakfast.

The Organist and Teacher Appreciation dates and gifts were then discussed. Chairman Lammle showed the council the gifts that would be given to these people on April 27 and May 4. Seven members of Immanuel Osman have committed to going on the Men's Day trip to the Mecum Auction in Indianapolis, IN on May 10th. The group will meet at Farm and Fleet in Urbana on the day of the event. Departure time will be 7am. The discussion of serving food at The Lloyd Power's Farm Sale near Bellflower on August 27th was tabled until next meeting. In new business Confirmation Recognition was discussed. It will be held on June 8th. A ten-year span of classes will be asked to attend. Debbie Lammle will be organizing this event. Pastor sent Chairman Lammle information on Church Mutual Insurance. This topic was tabled until the next meeting.

The next Council Meeting will be May 21st.



(Received in December but misplaced so never printed in a newsletter or a bulletin) God bless you with the same peace, hope, and love that you bring to the lives of others. I could never begin to describe the level of gratitude I have for all of your kindness, generosity, and compassion. I am so very thankful and appreciative. The world is a better place with

people like you in it. I wish only the best for everyone and a happy and healthy New Year! Sending love and light. Sincerely, Emily Fuqua (recipient of the benefit soup supper in November)

Easter Caroling

Sixteen youth and adults volunteered to sing Easter carols to our shut-ins on April 13th. They made a stop to sing to Sara and Dave Kunde, Susan and Austin Miller, Karen Bryan, and Linda Warsaw. Other residents at the Holly Brook Estates in Gibson City enjoyed the Easter message, too. The group made Easter baskets filled with fruit and goodies for our members that were visited and our Sunday School and Confirmation students made cards for them. Alicia and Nick Haggin and family organized the singing group and provided some great musical voices and accompaniments. The group enjoyed a potluck meal in the hall before singing which was organized by Deb Lammle.



Organists Recognition



In October of 2024 the LCMS announced plans for a year-long emphasis on church worker appreciation, highlighting the blessings the church receives through all its called workers. This month, LCMS congregations and schools were encouraged to observe Director of Parish Music Appreciation. Chairman, John Lammle, began the Voter's meeting on April 27th with a presentation to Alicia and John Haggin to show appreciation for all their dedication to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman. The plaque presented to the two organists was made with parts from the old Allen Rondo organ from 1959, along with the organists' favorite hymns. Pastor McPike explained that Alicia's talent exceeds the quality of many organists in the area twice our size. And now John, her son, is following in his mom's footsteps. We are truly fortunate to have the talents of the entire Haggin Family, who add to a

a beautiful worship to the glory of God. Pastor stated he was fortunate to be able to work side by side with such an accomplished group! Thank you, Alicia and John!

Baptism

On Easter Sunday, April 20th, Nora Lynn Feit, daughter of Gina (nee Masko) and Anthony Feit was baptized. She is the granddaughter of Dave Masko and the late Cindy Masko. Her sponsors were Katherine Masko and Chad Mazanowski. We thank the Lord that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon Nora the forgiveness of sins and have raised her to a new life.



Save the Date!

June 8th is not only Pentecost, but Confirmation Recognition Sunday. Several Confirmation Classes from 1970 – 1980 will be celebrating their confirmation anniversary during church with a social hour in the hall afterwards. Hope his important date will be held as a priority on your calendar.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

May Birthdays

Doug Majercin.....	5-01
Susan Miller.....	5-04
Cheyenne Zimmerman.....	5-04
Martha Warsaw.....	5-08
Wade Warsaw.....	5-12
Barb Whitehouse-Gercken.....	5-21
Jesse Johnson.....	5-21
Darwin Warsaw.....	5-22
Kris Zimmerman	5-29
Blaine Martin	5-30

Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
March 30	37	11	1
April 6	38	12	1
April 13	48	11	1
April 17	47	N/A	N/A
April 18	47	N/A	N/A
April 20	88	N/A	N/A
April 27	33	8	1



Susan and Steve Martin05-09-1975
(50th Anniversary)
Ashley and Bryce Martin05-19-2012



Ascension – May 29th

Because the date of Easter varies from year to year, the celebration of the Ascension moves with it. It always falls on the fortieth day after Easter and, since Easter always falls on a Sunday, Ascension Day always falls on a Thursday; it is frequently called "Holy Thursday." Ascension Day celebrates Christ's exaltation. While on earth, he was a servant. Now in heaven, he is the ruler and Lord of all. By entering heaven as the representative of mankind, he completed the work of our salvation and guarantees the eventual glorification of all who love Him. Just as Jesus went up in the clouds, he will return the same way. This is the great hope of all Christians. For just as Jesus went into heaven, so will all Christians. (Dan Graves – from Christianity.com)