

# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



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

**August 2025**



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

I do not like the word “passed” in any of the forms it is used to describe someone who has died. Yet these have become very popular. “Passed.” “Passed on.” “Passed away.” I have never liked it, because it is an attempt to deny the reality of what has happened. At any number of bereavement conferences I have attended, presenters have said, “Do not be afraid of the ‘D’ word.”

In July, I attended a conference at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis titled “Dying Well in Christ.” The first presenter called out this very popular trend of using “Passed” in various forms and indicated that it is because we fear death. By nature, we tend toward a fear of death, don’t we? Death is that final threat to us that stands before us as the barrier from which we cannot return. It separates us from our earthly journey. It breaks apart relationships. If there is anything that is final in this life, it is death.

“Passed” in its various forms has become popular because it allows us to avoid “the ‘D’ word”, and thus, the harsh reality of that which we fear. We should, however, not fear death. Every Easter, yes, even every Sunday, we celebrate how we do not fear death because our brother, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, came to this earth, faced death in our place, and rose victoriously to announce His defeat of death. Jesus did not “pass”. He did not “avoid the inevitable.” Jesus died. And Jesus rose again.

This is why we gather in the church for a funeral. Funeral services are not simply celebrations of someone’s life. They celebrate Christ’s life, death and resurrection from the dead that now gives us hope in the face of death. With St. Paul, we do not hide behind the reality of death saying the person “passed”. Rather, with the apostle, “We believe that Jesus died and rose again. And so we believe that that God will bring with Jesus those who have died believing in Him.” (1 Thess 4:14).

Christians, then, do not gather at the church simply to “say goodbye.” We do not gather to “celebrate life” as in celebrate the “life that was.” We do gather to grieve, but not as those who have no hope. Our grief is for the separation, the tearing away from us that has happened in the death of those who are now parted from this life and await us in eternity. Our grief comes from the reality that someone beloved to us is no longer on this earth, no longer is available to share this life with us here in time. But, as St. Paul reminds us, “we do not grieve as those who have no hope.” Death is real. But

death is defeated. As we also confess to the world at each and every gathering at the grave, “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” Funerals certainly celebrate life, but more than that. Funerals celebrate victory! Funerals celebrate life because Christ has defeated death. Funerals celebrate the life of Christ, the love of Christ, and the joy that we have that our loved one, having died in the waters of baptism, having now died in this life, will never die again. We celebrate lives lived and lives in heaven.

An absolutely amazing Christian hymn that is more than perfect for every funeral confesses this truth, especially in the last stanza:

Lord, let at last Thine angels come, To Abram’s bosom bear me home  
That I may die unfearing;  
And, in its narrow chamber keep, my body safe in peaceful sleep,  
Until Thy reappearing.  
And then from death awaken me, that these my eyes with joy may see,  
Oh Son of God, Thy glorious grace, my Savior and my fount of grace!  
Lord Jesus Christ, My prayer attend, My prayer attend.  
And I will praise Thee without end!  
**(LSB 708:3) “Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart”**

We need not attempt to “pass” death. Jesus FACED death, defeated death, and thus has taken the sting from death. “I know that my redeemer lives”!

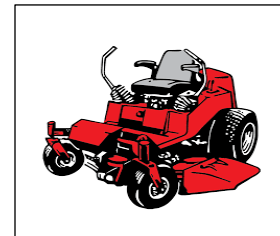
We at Osman have a privilege of gathering every Sunday for a “Celebration of Life”. We celebrate the life of our Savior, who gave His life only to take it up again, defeating death. We further, every Sunday, celebrate life when we come forward to partake of the body and blood of Christ in the bread and the wine. Holy Communion is truly a “celebration of life”. We receive the actual life of Christ in His body and blood, giving us power to live today and assuring us of rescue from death when our great God calls us from this life.

## **Church Council**

The church council will meet on Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the fellowship hall.

## **Possible August Lawn Mowers**

The week of August 3 – 9 – Bob Zimmerman  
The week of August 10 – August 16 – Don Warsaw  
The week of August 17 – August 23 – Rick Hardesty  
The week of August 24 – 30 – Ryan Lammle  
The week of August 31 – September 6 – Jerry Edwards



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.

## **Ladies Aid/LWML Luncheon**

All Ladies Aid/LWML members and guests are invited to a lady's luncheon on August 14<sup>th</sup> at Murdock's Place in Loda. If you are interested in attending the luncheon on that day at 11:30, please sign up on the list on the back bulletin board. Please indicate on the list the number of lady guests that you are bringing so the reservation number can be called in a few days in advance. After the luncheon, there might be some shopping awaiting you in Paxton!

## **Bellflower July 4<sup>th</sup>**



The Ladies Aid/LWML hosted the bake sale at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Bellflower Celebration. It was held in the firehouse, and many customers bought "goodies" and made donations. The sale profited \$1003. Thanks to all the church members and the Ladies Aid/LWML members who made the goodies. The unsold goodies were taken to the community park after the parade where Connie and Don Warsaw continued to sell the baked goods. Some of the church council members walked the parade route and distributed water bottles to the spectators from the back of Dwight and Terri Hooker's small wagon. Labels with our church's name and address had been attached to the water bottles. The hot weather made the cold water a welcomed treat!



## **Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting**

Nine ladies met on July 10th for the Ladies Aid/LWML meeting at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. The group enjoyed homemade ice cream and a delicious birthday cake served by Terri Hooker and Connie Warsaw to celebrate Wilma Grussing's 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. After the meeting was called to order, the LWML Pledge was recited. A devotion was given by Marsha Warsaw in the absence of Deb Lammle. Annette Warsaw led a topic on "Reflecting Jesus". Roll call was answered by a Bible verse on freedom. The minutes of the May meeting were read and approved. The mites were collected, and President Hendricks led a mite prayer. The treasurer's report was given which showed a balance of \$2814.18. The annual dues of \$17 was collected from those members who were not present at the last meeting. It was reported that 65 quilts have been completed. 50 dresses were shipped to Dresses for Africa. A thank you letter from Lutheran World Relief on our donation from the Ash Wednesday supper was read and a thank you card from Dresses for Africa for our beautifully created dresses was also shared.

In the old business President Hendricks thanked all members who helped make and serve food for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Bake Sale in Bellflower. It was a great success with purchases and donations.

In new business the group voted to support another Seminary student since our previous student is out on vicarage. The group voted to raise the amount to \$85 per month for the 9 months of his school year. Deb Lammle and Deb Martin are on the August Luncheon committee and Deb Martin gave the report by giving the group two choices for places to eat. The group voted to eat at Murdocks in Loda on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Ladies may invite a friend to join in the luncheon. President Hendricks informed everyone that their help will be needed as Osman will host the Danville Zone Fall Rally on September 9<sup>th</sup>. She explained some of the workers that will be needed. The National LWML Convention was held June 26 – 29 in Omaha, Nebraska. Connie Warsaw and Brenda Hendricks gave a power point about their adventures at the convention. The next meeting will be held on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. The topic will be given by Debbie Lammle, and the hostesses will be Wilma Grussing and Diana Zimmerman. Roll call will be answered on a Bible verse on harvest.

## **Bring A Friend to Church Sunday**

Save the date of August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Plan to attend our "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday". A social reception will follow the service in the fellowship hall. This is a chance to invite a friend so they can see what our church has to offer in bringing Christ to our community with a message from our exceptional pastor and worship music from our talented organist.



## **Quilting**

The ladies will be quilting on Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM and on Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM. All ladies of the congregation are invited to help tie knots for quilts. 65 quilts are completed and will be donated to Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train.

## **Spouse Recognition Sunday**



On June 13, the LCMS churches remembered the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther's marriage to Katharina von Bora. Also, in June the LCMS honored church worker spouses, both for their support of their spouses who serve the church and for the ways they bless others through their own skills and gifts. Katie Luther's life of service to Martin and to the church is a great example for all of us, but especially for those whose family members serve the church .

As part of the LCMS yearlong emphasis on church worker appreciation, Immanuel Osman had the pleasure of recognizing Sharon Griffin on June 29th as a special spouse at our church. Sharon is the spouse of our Pastor Jeffrey McPike.

## **Church Picnic**

The church picnic will be held on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, at the church and fellowship hall. The worship service will be held in the church at 10 AM with no adult Bible Class or Sunday School followed by a potluck dinner and indoor and outdoor games in the fellowship hall. Drinks will be furnished but please bring tableware. Some of the outdoor games will include water if the weather permits so children will need to bring a change of clothes.



## **Serving Farm Sale**

The Lloyd Power Farm Machinery Sale will be held in rural Bellflower at 37058 E 500 North Road on Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. Our church will be serving the food for this sale. The menu of hot dogs, brats, coney dogs, and barbeque with sides of chips, pies, brownies, and a drink will be served. If you would like to donate pies, brownies, or hamburger, please sign up on the back bulletin board. There will also be a need to have some workers the day before at the hall to prepare the food and at the site to set up. The day of the sale will require some workers from approximately 8 AM to 2PM in two hour shifts. If you would like to volunteer to work, there is also a sign-up sheet on the back bulletin board. Most of the food supplies will be purchased with two Thrivent Action Team cards.

## Operation Christmas Child



We will be packing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child in November for children in poor countries across the world. Since school supplies are on sale NOW, this would be a good time to purchase needed items. We are in need of 8 glue sticks, 7 pencil sharpeners, 24 boxes of crayons, 58 pencils, 24 bars of soap, 23 boxes of markers (10-12 packs), 17 boxes of colored pencils, 14 wash cloths, 17 nail clippers, and 23 individual packages of Kleenex. We usually pack 12 boxes for boys and 12 boxes for girls so other

small items such as Match Box cars, hair slips, bracelets, or sunglasses may be added. If you prefer to give a cash donation, we would be glad to buy items that are needed. There will be a collection box on the last pew by the balcony stairs. Two Thrivent Action Team cards will be used to buy larger items and to pay the \$10 postage fee (maybe more) for each box. If you would like to pack a box or have questions about what is acceptable, please see Terri Hooker or Connie Warsaw. Thanks so much for helping with this worthwhile project and bringing a smile to a child's face.

## Poles Removed



During the first week of July the wooden poles on the church property that parallels the railroad tracks were removed. Don and Jeff Warsaw dismantled the top braces and wires and then cut the poles down even with the ground. The wire was then rolled up so it could be disposed of. The poles were used many years ago for railroad communications. Presently some of them were leaning and basically useless with dangling wires. They were a nuisance for the volunteers to mow around. Connie Warsaw and Brenda Hendricks also helped with the demolitions project. Thanks to these workers for eliminating the poles and wires which makes the church property look so much better!





A new lighted roadside church sign is being installed to replace the old one at the intersection of North Road and the Bellflower – Mansfield black top road which is about a mile west of the church. The first sign erected at this site did not fare the windy and rainy conditions across the prairie very well. This sign seems to be built much sturdier and the letters constructed of a heavier material. It will hopefully be fully installed in the next couple of weeks.

## Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
June 29	40	16	0
July 6	47	10	0
July 13	41	11	0
July 20	36	10	1



08-01 Melanie Niemann  
 08-07 Sue VanWakeman  
 08-09 Annette Warsaw  
 08-18 Ashley Genzel  
 08-24 Pam Christians  
 08-25 Butch Sprau  
 08-26 Ross Warsaw  
 08-28 Sarah Ford  
 08-29 Jill Hardesty  
 08-29 John Lammle  
 08-29 Kari Genzel  
 08-30 Will Delaney

## Happy Anniversary!

8-1-2020 Mackenzie and Chase Zimmerman  
 8-8-1981 Carolyn and Doug Majercin  
 8-8-1998 Cindy and Shane Zimmerman  
 8-25-2001 Tiffani and Brad Lutz  
 8-26-1967 Diana and Bob Zimmerman



The Ladies Aid/LWML ladies celebrated with Wilma Grussing on her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday at their meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup>! She is the oldest member of our congregation.