

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



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

JULY 2026



From Pastor McPike's Desk...

“But our citizenship is in heaven.” - Philippians 3:20

July 2026. Two Hundred Fifty Years after Thomas Jefferson authored and members of the Continental Congress became signatories of the document that identified separation from the British Crown and independence as a free nation. What a blessing it is to be citizens of our nation and the freedoms that we enjoy.

Citizenship has been a hot topic of news. Who qualifies as a citizen? Who can become a citizen? What is the path to become a citizen? I propose to consider each of these topics from a theological point of view in the paragraphs below.

Who qualifies as a citizen of the kingdom of heaven? **NOBODY!** “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Martin Luther makes the point that God’s grace extends to the whole world, though we do not deserve it. Luther’s explanation to the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed, after explaining all that God does for us, says this: “All this He does out of Fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.”

In his catechism, Luther made this The Close of the Commandments: “I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me...” Exodus 20:5. Also Ezekiel 18:20: “The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.” Children born to Christian parents require the “washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.” A person can have the largest family tree who are all very devout Christians. That person, however, unless living in the faith, is not a citizen of the kingdom of God.

We deserve nothing. That’s the bottom line. But that doesn’t fit our mindset, does it? The thinking is... because we go to church, or are part of a church-going family, or have roots in a particular church, that somewhat God is more favorably disposed to us. NO!

Next question: Who can become a citizen of the kingdom of heaven? **Anyone!** Of course, John 3:16 states it about as broadly as possible. “God so loved **the world**, that He gave His only begotten Son.”

The World is all people, everyone, everywhere, of all time. St. Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 2:4: “[God] desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Last question: What is the path to citizenship in the kingdom of heaven? The second portion of John 3:16 tells us: “that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” There are many other passages. St. Paul says in Ephesians 2: “For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; it is not of yourselves, it is a gift of God, lest no one can boast.” Jesus Christ came into this world to live, suffer, die and rise again so that anyone with faith in Him is a citizen of the kingdom of heaven.

Thus, while we live on this earth, we hold citizenship in the nation, state, city or community in which we reside. St. Paul talks about this in 2 Corinthians 5:11: For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” Jesus entered into this temporary, “tent-like” existence for a while to live among His own, die and rise again. John 1:14 “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” Our existence on this earth is a “tent-like” existence. Our true home is in heaven. Our citizenship in these United States is fleeting. Our citizenship in heaven is eternal.

July Quilting

The ladies will NOT be tying quilts in July. They will continue on August 3rd at 8:30 AM and August 5th at 12:30 PM. The quilts will be divided between Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train. Presently 81 quilts have been completed since October. All members are invited to come help as NO experience is needed!

July Lawn Mowers

The week of July 5 – 11 – Jim Poppe
The week of July 12 -18 – Lee Whitehouse
The week of July 19 – 25 – Jeff Warsaw
The week of July 26 – August 1 – Leonard Delaney



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 church bulletin board. If you have any questions, contact trustee John Grussing or Lee Whitehouse.

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

The next Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 9th, at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall. Deb Martin will have the topic. Debbie Lammle and Terri Hooker will be the hostesses. The roll call will be answered with a Bible verse on creation/created. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

Council Meeting

The next church council meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 15th, at 6:30 PM in the hall. The quarterly voters meeting will be held on Sunday, July 26th, after the worship service.

Our Deepest Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Dave Kunde who passed away on June 5th, at the age of 89. May God provide comfort and care for those who mourn his loss. The funeral was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman on Monday, June 22nd, and his burial followed at Shiloh Cemetery in rural Mahomet.

Visiting the Shut-ins

Thank you to Debbie Lammle and Sue VanWakeman for visiting the shut-ins in May and Connie Warsaw and Brenda Hendricks for visiting in June. All members of Ladies Aid/LWML and all church members who are interested in visiting the shut-ins, please sign up on the back bulletin board. There are several months that are available. Volunteers may decide on the most convenient day and time to visit. A short visit from a church member could make all the difference!



Organ Repair Update

The organ that the church installed in August 2024 has been having problems with suddenly stopping while being played. A new dedicated power line running to the organ was installed on Friday, June 19th, by Rob Gallier. The problem was still evident during the worship service on Sunday, June 21st. Evidently part or parts of the organ need replacing. The organ repairman is coming soon to examine this possibility. Please be patient as the repair is in progress. Thank you to Alicia for adjusting to this malady and providing music via the keyboard in the balcony.

Church Members Appreciation Dinner

On Sunday, July 19th after church, everyone is invited to a dinner in the fellowship hall provided by the church council to thank everyone for all that they do for our congregation. This will take the place of a church picnic this year. It is not a potluck.....the food will be provided. The meats will be grilled, and other salads, chips, drinks, and desserts will complete the meal. There will be games for adults and children after the meal.

Railroad Crossing Blockage

The Norfolk Southern Railroad crossing by the church has been blocked several times recently. The blockages have lasted several days. (June 13 – June 18 and June 20 – June 23) There is a contact phone number posted on the railroad crossing sign to report a problem. Members are asked to call this number every time this happens and maybe even call it more than once. It is an inconvenience to all the Osman residents as well as our church members. The number to call is 1- 800-946-4744 and the crossing number is 479053A.



Baked Goods Needed!

EVERYBODY is invited to bake for the Ladies Aid/LWML Bake Sale in Bellflower on Saturday, July 4th! It will be served out of the Bellflower Fire House beginning at 7:30 AM. You can bring your “goodies” to the fellowship hall refrigerator on July 3rd or you can bring them before 7:30 on July 4th to Bellflower. Plates with two to four cookies work well and individual baggies of snack mixes are usually popular as parade watchers can eat these as they await the parade.

Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer devotional booklets were ordered from Concordia Publishing House for members that wanted them in February. The price per subscription was cheaper if 25 copies per congregation were ordered. The order included 23 members who wanted copies so two extra copies were ordered to keep the cost down. These two extra copies are on the back table. If you want one or know of someone who does, please take one. This edition runs from July through September 2026.

Happy Birthday!



Wilma Grussing, our oldest member, will be celebrating her 97th birthday on July 13th. Let’s shower her with many cards and blessings! Since her residency is uncertain at that time because of her health, please send her cards to her previous Bellflower address which is 510 West Center Street in Bellflower, Illinois 61724. Her sons will deliver the cards. Happy Birthday, Wilma!

Summary of June Council Meeting

Ten elected church officers attended the meeting on June 16th. Chairman Dwight Hooker called the meeting to order. Debbie Lammle read the minutes from the last council meeting. After three minor changes were made, the minutes were approved. Terri Hooker presented the treasurer's report with a balance of \$34,902.29. The total income for the month was \$4,279 and the total expenses were \$8,594.66. The treasurer's reports was approved. The organ repair was discussed and the expense that will be involved.

The Pastor's report was read by Terri Hooker, in Pastor's absence. Confirmation is still scheduled to be held from early to mid-fall. He reported that Trinity Cissna Park and St. Johns Ash Grove will now both have a vacancy since their pastor resigned. Since Pastor Strom might be called upon to serve them, he may not be able to fill in for Pastor McPike in August. Pastor McPike is suggesting a hymn-sing or a prerecorded service at Osman.

In old business, Chairman Hooker informed the council that a new informational card for our church is being printed. The new member recognition will be rescheduled when the new family is available. At the Bellflower parade, bottled water with our church label will be passed out along the parade route beginning at 9 or 9:30. The float details were discussed. A tent will be put up during the Fisher Fair on July 10th in the Exhibit Building and members will man the table from 2 – 8 PM. The congregational meal in July will involve the council grilling the meat and other purchased salads will complement the meal. Desserts will be provided by the council members. Games will be played after the meal.

There was not any new business.

The next council meeting will be Wednesday, July 15th, at 6:30.

The meeting was adjourned followed by reciting of the Lord's Prayer.

Confirmation Recognition

The confirmation classes of 1979-1982 were recognized on Sunday, July 28th after church at a cake/punch reception in the fellowship hall. The next newsletter will contain more highlights from this event. The members in these classes are as follows:

Class of 1979: Julie Ann Bidner, Kimberly Joy Bidner, Patricia Kay Christians, Rebeca Jane Goodlick, Diana Sue Heiser, Timothy Brian Martinie, Diana Cornelia White, Kent Lee Whitehouse, Steve Martin, and Rebecca Poppe.

Class of 1980: Christine Jutta White

Class of 1981: Greg Johnson, Brent Eugene Lutz, Anita Ann Whitehouse, Andrea Lynn Goodlick, John William Goodlick

Class of 1982: Holly Ann Bennett, Michael Ross Warsaw, Darwin Wade Warsaw, and Shaun Eric Zimmerman



- 7-02 Ryan Lammle
- 7-05 Jerry Edwards
- 7-13 Wilma Grussing
- 7-15 Ryan McPike
- 7-15 Aaron Warsaw
- 7-15 Bryan Warsaw
- 7-20 Carolyn Majercin
- 7-21 Shane Zimmerman
- 7-27 Jane Poppe
- 7-29 John Haggin
- 7-30 Roy Whitehouse

*Have a Safe and Happy
July 4th !*

Happy Anniversary

- 7-10-1971 Deb and Dick Johnson
- 7-12-2011 Hallie and Greg Payne
- 7-16-1977 Marsha and Steve Warsaw
- 7-21-2007 Rebecca and Scott Gercken
- 7-24-1999 Nikki and Rob Gallier
- 7-28-2007 Nicole and Jesse Johnson

Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
May 31	37	9	0
June 7	31	13	0
June 14	36	11	1
June 21	45	11	1

Trivia Question Answer:

The question last month was: “Who was the first lady to serve on the church council for this congregation?” There are actually two correct answers. The secretary elected in 1981 was Ruth Bernett, and the treasurer elected in 1981 was Juanita Whitehouse.

The trivia question for this month: In 1982 our church was the site of a robbery. A gold cross, a pair of communion candleholders, and a pair of candelabras were taken from our church altar. Who were the two altar guild ladies that discovered this robbery?

*“Independence Day: Freedom has its
life in the hearts, the actions, the
spirit of men” - Dwight D. Eisenhower*



July 4th Events

The posters for the activities for the July 4th Bellflower celebration and the Fisher Sesquicentennial Celebration are posted on the back bulletin board. The days are packed with activities! Our church will have a float in the parade at Bellflower on July 4th at 9:30 AM and in Fisher on Monday, July 6th at 7:30 PM. A booth promoting our church will be located in the Fair Expo Building on Friday, July 10th, from 2 – 8 PM.

July 3rd – Church float building at the FS Building in Bellflower – time to be announced soon as we can not be in the building during their business hours so soon to be announced. Most of the float designs will be made ahead of time, but this time will be spent attaching things to the trailer. All members are welcome to help.

July 4th – Ladies Aid/LWML Bake Sale at 7:30 in Bellflower at the firehouse. Baked goods need to be at the church the day before or by 7:30 that morning. The money collected at this bake sale will help with expenses for other mission projects for the year.

July 4th – 9:30 AM - Bellflower Parade – Water bottles with our church name and address on them will be handed out by council members to the people along the parade route before the official start of the parade.

July 6th – Church float will be reassembled in Fisher in the late afternoon for the 7:30 PM Fisher Parade.

July 10th – Church will have a booth at the Fisher Fair Expo Building from 2 PM to approximately 8 PM. Bulletin boards showcasing some of our church's activities will be displayed. Our newly printed church cards will be distributed.

