

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman

The Lutheran Church – Missouri
Synod

Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC

SEPTEMBER 2026



From Pastor McPike...

Sharon and I had the opportunity to embark on a road trip this past month. Most of you know that I have been absent from Osman for pretty much the entire month of August. We traveled to northern Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine and Vermont. On Saturday, we toured the historic sites of Boston. On Sunday morning, we attended First Lutheran Church in Boston.

Worship at First Lutheran was a remarkable experience. It was remarkable not because of the building, which, while tastefully built, is a 1950s structure similar to most buildings of that era – BORING. (Seriously, it is a 1950s box). That is, of course, compared with buildings built in much earlier times, particularly modern Gothic or Victorian architecture and ornate furnishings.

So, if the church building was unremarkable, what made the experience? Several things. First Lutheran is said by many to have the best pipe organ in the LCMS. While I am not totally certain about that – the organ at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis was built by premier organ builders in North America in Quebec- the organ is impressive. The organist, the Cantor at First Lutheran, was able to get out of that instrument, everything of which it is capable.

Second, there is no padding... not a single bit. No carpet, no pads on the pews. Even the kneelers are hardwood, which this nearly 66 year old found pretty much unable to fully use due to the pain involved! (My knees on hardwood could be considered a form of torture). Carpet, padding, etc. kills acoustics. Deadened acoustics discourage singing. When I first came to Champaign-Urbana in 1999, St. John Lutheran was fully carpeted. Their beautiful pipe organ struggled, and so did the singing. In the 2000s, the church was remodeled and most of the carpet removed, and the improvement to the sound of the organ and singing was remarkable.

Third, the service at First Lutheran, Boston, was VERY “high church.” Pretty much everything was sung (chanted). The service started with a processional with a cross being carried up the aisle. The pastor wore a chasuble (as do I). A choir used some rather old sounding Gregorian chant from the balcony for some of the singing. The celebrant (the pastor who celebrated communion) used incense as part of the communion portion of the service. If you have never attended a service where incense is

it adds an element of mystery to the service. We attended a service in Notre Dame de Paris a number of years ago (before the horrible fire) and the incense added to the mystery. Our God, who has made Himself known to us in Jesus Christ, dwells in mystery in the mansions of heaven. The end of Isaiah's vision in the sixth chapter of that prophet's book says, "smoke of incense swirled around the throne."

Now, you might expect with all this high church description that the worship was poorly attended, or that the average age of the worshipers was nearly a decade beyond my own. That is the FOURTH remarkable part of what we experienced. The church was FILLED with young people. While the average age of our attendance on any given Sunday is into the 70s... I would guess from what we saw at First Lutheran in Boston, that the average age to be... 35 or so. Numerous young families. All were participating in this amazing worship.

You may remember that I was privileged to preach for the 150th anniversary of my home church, which is Trinity Lutheran, Indianapolis. Or should I now say, the "former Trinity Lutheran, Indianapolis." Trinity was recently subsumed into a multi-site mega church called "Cornerstone Lutheran." Trinity, the second oldest LCMS church in the city, is now renamed "Cornerstone Lutheran, Warren". (The church is in Warren Township in Marion County, Indianapolis.) That makes me quite sad. It is as if Trinity's proud heritage has been erased. Certainly disregarded. (This would be the perfect place to go on a rant about how Trinity abandoned traditional worship years ago and have been struggling for years now; they do not even have hymnals in the place. The pastor from my childhood would roll over in his grave. But I digress...)

Interestingly, St. Peter Lutheran, Indianapolis, (the church of my baptism) located closer to downtown in a rather dingy neighborhood, had a rather robust attendance of much younger people the Sunday we attended. The worship at St. Peter is rather the same as that of First Lutheran, Boston. And another church that Sharon and I have attended when we visit her daughter, Grace Lutheran, San Diego, is similar in worship and also a younger crowd.

Modern surveys of younger generations reveal that there is a preference for structured, liturgical worship. Liturgical worship ties us to history. In the Nicene Creed, confessed by the church for over 1700 years, we confess belief in the "one, holy, catholic and apostolic church." The "church catholic" is the church throughout the ages, all true Christians of all generations. Liturgical worship honors all those connections – our connection to all true believers in Christ throughout the world, our connection to all true believers in Christ in ages past, our connection to the blessed apostles of our Lord Jesus, our connection to the Lord who left the incense clouded throne of angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven to live our life, die our death, rise in defeat of death and ascend again to that throne room of heaven as intercessor and judge of all.

Ladies Luncheon

Eleven Ladies Aid/LWML members and guests enjoyed a great luncheon meal at Jack's Cafe in Leroy, on Thursday, August 13th. Before the meal guests were introduced and a prayer was recited. The group also played a BINGO game that required members to get signatures of those present to fit the categories in the squares on the card. Thanks to the committee of Brenda Edwards and Brenda Hendricks for making the arrangements and for the nice treat purses.

Summary of the July Quarterly Congregational Meeting

Chairman Dwight Hooker called the meeting to order on Sunday, July 26th after the worship service. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer. There were not any minutes read from April voters' meeting due to the absence of Secretary Debbie Lammle. Treasurer Terri Hooker presented the treasurer's report as of June 2026 consisting of the quarterly revenue and expense budget. Total current assets are \$322,579.56. Budget is down, but July receipts are good. The voters accepted the report.

Pastor thanked the congregation again for allowing him to serve. He informed the attendees that Pastor Strom will lead services on August 9, 16, 23 and September 6, and 27. Pastor will preach at his family's church, Calvary Lutheran in Bedford, Indiana, on August 2. Pastor is still needing a pulpit substitute for the end of October when he and Sharon are planning on being in Wittenburg, Germany. He also reported that Confirmation will be in the fall.

In old business it was reported that the organ worked the entire service so hopefully the problems have been solved. Thanks was given to the council for their work in creating float for Bellflower and Fisher Parades, help with the picnic, and council wives for making desserts for picnic. The chairman thanked Steve Warsaw for use of his trailer for the parades, and Pastor for setting up his wine tasting table at the picnic.

In new business the congregation was informed that a \$400 gift card from Menard's was purchased for Rob Gallier, member and electrician, for services rendered to the church for which he would not take payment.

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

Jerry Niemann

Secretary, Pro Tem

September Lawn Mowers

The week of August 30 – September 5 – Jerry Edwards

The week of September 6 - 12 – Neil Bidner

The week of September 13 – 19 - Bryan Warsaw

The week of September 20 – 26 – John Grussing

The week of September 27– October 3 – Shaun Zimmerman



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 Lee Whitehouse or John Grussing.

Church Council Meeting

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

Summary of the August Council Meeting

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Council held its monthly meeting on August 17, 2026, with seven members present as well as Pastor McPike. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwight Hooker. Pastor McPike read from Matthew 16 followed by prayer. Secretary, Debbie Lammle, read the minutes from the last meeting. Minutes were approved. Terri Hooker then continued with the treasurer's report. She presented the group with a list of checks written for the month of July. The beginning balance was \$29,960.24 with the ending balance of \$47,156.34. Expenses for the month were \$9576.18 and the income was \$25, 953.85. Report was approved.

Pastor McPike reported that confirmation would tentatively be held the end of October. He thanked the group for the time off to visit his family and to preach at his home church.

In old business the church cancellation on August 16th due to flooding in the parking lots and the bathrooms not functioning was discussed.

In new business the contacts on the inclement weather list were reviewed. A new list will be printed for the elders who make the cancellation calls. The Fall Festival was planned with potluck & wiener roast which will be held on September 27th at 4 PM. Halloween Festivals were discussed with plans to possibly reach out to Fisher and Mansfield this year in the Trunk or Treat event.

The next council meeting will be Wednesday September 16. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lammle, secretary

Our Deepest Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Austin Miller, who died on August 3rd at the age of 72. May God provide comfort and care for those who mourn his loss. His private graveside services will be held on Saturday, September 12th. There will be a celebration of life held at the Farmer City American Legion building on September 12th starting at 4 PM. Please RSVP if you plan to attend. Poster with information about this event is on the back bulletin board.

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

Ladies Aid/LWML ladies will meet on Thursday, September 10th at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall. Annette Warsaw will be giving the topic, and Connie Warsaw and Diana Zimmerman will be the hostesses. Roll call will be answered by a Bible verse on prophet/prophesy. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

Sunday School and Confirmation Classes



Confirmation classes will start after Labor Day in the fellowship hall from 8:30 to 9:30 each Sunday morning. The Sunday School class for older students is also being held in the fellowship hall. The Sunday School class for younger students is being held in the church annex each Sunday at the same time. Please be quiet if you need to enter these areas during these times. Pictured on the left are Colt Zimmerman and Declan Lammle participating in Sunday School activities.

Wiener Roast



Save the date! All members and guests are invited to enjoy a wiener roast on Sunday, September 27th at 4 PM in the parking lot by the fellowship hall. Wieners, buns, and drinks will be provided. Every guest is asked to bring a dish to share and their own table service. There is a sign-up sheet on the back bulletin board so groceries can be bought to fit the number planning to attend. There will not be a hayride. Games will be played after the meal.

Flooding in August

Due to the large amount of rainfall on August 14 and August 15, the parking lots were flooded and the bathrooms did not work for Sunday, August 16th so Sunday School and the worship service was cancelled. This might have been the first in the history of the church that cancellations were caused by flooding. The area received more than 6 inches of rain during that time with accumulations reaching as high as 11 inches in a week in some areas. The church had a little water in the furnace room but no damage was done.

LWML Fall Rally

The Champaign and Danville Zone Fall Rally will be held on Tuesday, September 8th at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Champaign starting at 12:30. The theme is based on Psalm 145:3-4, which reads "Great is the Lord! Tell of His mighty acts to all generations". The registration fee is \$10 which is payable at the door. The speaker is Rev. Michael Schuermann, who serves at University of Illinois Campus Ministry. The ingathering which asks for checks and cash only is for Courage Connection in Champaign. Courage Connection works every day to shelter domestic violence survivors and their children. They provide counseling to find a healthier future and secure a safe and permanent place to call home. Please sign up on the back bulletin board to attend and Debbie Lammle, president, will call in the reservations.



September 6 – Jim Poppe
 September 7 - Mark Barrack
 September 12 - Ken Whitehouse
 September 14 – Jerry Niemann
 September 15 – Georgette Pauling
 September 15 – Declan Lammle
 September 21 - Ryan Peyton
 September 23 - Mitchell Gallier
 September 24 - Rob Gallier
 September 24 - Sara McPike
 September 26 - Scott Gercken
 September 29 - Nicholas Haggin

Have a safe
Labor Day Weekend!

Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
August 2	30	12	2
August 9	38	12	2
August 16	0	0	0
August 23	48	13	0

Anniversaries

Kris and Shaun Zimmerman 9-2-2011
 Melanie and Jerry Niemann 9-4-1970
 Sandy and Ryan Lammle 9-5-2014
 Sue and Jim VanWakeman 9-13-1969
 James and Stephanie Demos 9-14-2002



Both of the wooden decks were stained in August. All 126 spindles, 86 floor planks, 1 bench, and 5 steps have been protected with chestnut brown oil based stain for another year. The decks which were erected in 2004 have withstood the weather very well and hopefully will for years to come.

August Trivia Question Answer: In 1950 and 1951 the congregation rented 80 acres of farmland. The men of the congregation farmed it, and the profit went to the building fund. Who owned the land?

Answer: Harry Baird