

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



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

October 2026



From Pastor McPike's Desk....

The Lutheran Church is an infant baptizing church. We baptize infants because of our Lord's command to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). "All nations" includes everyone in those nations. Little children are baptized because Jesus invites little children, and they can believe. Our Lord Jesus taught, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14) St. Peter wrote, "Baptism ... now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." Little children are born sinful; baptism is the way in which God's grace comes into their lives. Baptism connects the power of God's Word with water to bring faith, forgiveness, and the gift of the Holy Spirit into the baptized. St. Augustine in the early church called the sacraments the "visible Word."

Jesus' command about baptism in Matthew's Gospel is to teach what He has commanded (Matthew 28:19). Over the centuries, confirmation became a time that marked when the key points of Christian teaching had been taught to those baptized too young to cognitively understand.

Of the two, baptism is more important. Baptism is the sacrament. Confirmation is the RITE. Interestingly, in the Lutheran Church, for someone looking in from the outside, confirmation would seem more important. Baptism is marked by family gatherings... while confirmation can often be celebrated with rather large parties, at least in some families.

But what about when a person comes to faith when older? While our tradition is to instruct first, then baptize, those who come to faith before baptism do not need to be confirmed. They have learned the same basics as those baptized as infants but learned it prior to baptism. Keep in mind that confirmation is "confirming" the teaching part of Jesus' command to both baptize and teach. So, while for those baptized as infants, confirmation marks "confirming" the teaching phase of Jesus' command to baptize, for those not baptized but instructed first, baptism becomes both the sacrament and the confirmation.

This will be the case here at Osman at the end of October (Sunday, October 25, the same day we will also celebrate Reformation), which is the day the catechism class will formally conclude their catechetical studies. Of the three catechumens, the two who were baptized as infants will be confirmed. One, however, who was not baptized as an infant will be baptized, which will be her confirmation. Two different paths arriving at the same destination.

I am very pleased for this opportunity. It allows us to highlight the importance of baptism. It reminds us that confirmation is a part of Christ's command in Matthew 28 to both baptize and teach. Incidentally, this will be only the second time in my over 38 years of ministry that a member of the catechism class will finish catechism class with baptism instead of confirmation. I couldn't be more pleased.

We pray God's blessings on our three young people.

Time Change

Daylight Saving Time started on March 8th, 2026, and will end on November 1st, 2026. DO NOT FORGET to set clocks BACK an hour before bedtime on Saturday, October 31st. More and more people have become dissatisfied with the time change. Many states, including Illinois, have introduced legislation to end the time change, but no action has been taken in Illinois.

October Lawn Mowers

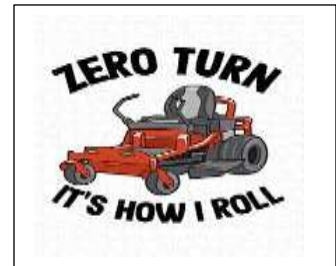
The week of September 27 – October 3 – Shaun Zimmerman

The week of October 4 – October 10 – Steve Martin

The week of October 11 – October 17 – Jerry Niemann

The week of October 18 - October 24 – Brenda Hendricks

The week of October 25 – October 31 – Dwight Hooker



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 John Grussing or Lee Whitehouse.

Operation Christmas Child Donations

Thank you to our members who donated some school supplies for the Operation Christmas Child boxes this year. Two Thrivent Action Team cards and money donated by our members will be used to complete the purchasing of supplies and the shipping expenses. The boxes will be packed in November. The boxes will then be taken to Gibson City to the collection point. This project would not be possible without the donations from the congregation! Thank you!

Church Council

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

Ladies Aid/LWML Sunday

Ladies Aid/LWML Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, October 4th. The 2026 theme focuses on supporting missions which is part of the LWML Mission Statement. LWML Sunday is celebrated annually in most Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod churches. Some of the Ladies Aid/LWML members will serve as greeters and readers on this Sunday. Some of the 109 quilts and some of the many dresses that the ladies have made for Dresses For Africa will be displayed in the church for two Sundays in October. The flowers on the altar on that date will be purple and yellow, which are the official LWML colors. Mite boxes will be available for all members. All members of the congregation can collect coins to donate to the many mission projects of the Central Illinois District LWML and the National LWML. Just remember that our bank no longer takes pennies so do not put those in your mite boxes.

Reformation

Within the Lutheran Church, Reformation Day is officially referred to as THE FESTIVAL OF THE REFORMATION. Until the 20th century, most Lutheran churches celebrated Reformation Day on October 31st, regardless of which day of the week it occurred. Today, most Lutheran churches transfer the festival on or before October 31st. The liturgical color of the day is red, which represents the Holy spirit and the Martyrs of the Christian Church. Luther's hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" is traditionally sung on this day. The Reformation will be celebrated in our regular worship service on Sunday, October 25th.

Confirmation

Three young adults will be confirmed on Sunday, October 25th, during the worship service. They are James Amdor, Bella Ford, and CJ Genzel. Since this is a day for the confirmands to celebrate with their families, there will not be a Reformation/ Pastor Appreciation Dinner in the fellowship hall as previously planned. Rescheduling it did not work with Pastor McPike's schedule so we will continue with it next year.

Ladies Aid/LWML

Ladies Aid/LWML does NOT have a monthly meeting in October, and the ladies do not quilt in October. The next meeting will be November 12th at 1:30 and the next quilting dates will be November 2nd and 4th.

Fall Wiener Roast

25 members and guests enjoyed the fall wiener roast on Sunday, September 27th at 4 PM at the fellowship hall. The beautiful weather allowed the men to roast the wieners on a fire pit which were added to a wide variety of food selections that the attendees brought. The children played games and colored pumpkins indoors, and some enjoyed some ball throwing activities outside. It was a beautiful evening of fellowship.

Fall Wiener Roast Pictures



Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

The meeting of the Ladies Aid/LWML was held on September 10, 2026, in the fellowship hall. President Debbie Lammle called the meeting to order, followed by the LMWL song and pledge. Opening prayer and devotion were given by Brenda Hendricks. Annette Warsaw gave an enlightening topic. The business meeting began with roll call and the secretary's minutes from the last meeting by Debbie Martin. Mites were gathered and a prayer was given for the August Mission Grant. The Treasurer's report was given by Connie Warsaw with a balance of \$3,330.81. Mission Coordinator, Terri Hooker, reported that 94 quilts have been tied. It was voted to send \$250 with the quilts that go to Lutheran World Relief. Diana Zimmerman reported that 58 pillowcase dresses have been made so far. President Lammle thanked the group for their generous gifts that have been given to our adopted family. It was suggested to fill a Thanksgiving basket with food items for the adopted family, and that we should place a sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board for anyone who wants to help with this project.

The Hallelujah Hat Party was postponed due to illness of the speaker. Thanks was given to Brenda Edwards and Brenda Hendricks for planning the August Luncheon. President Lammle reported on the Zone President's meeting in Cissna Park. She stated a list of activities which the other societies in the zone participated in. Brenda Hendricks reported on the Fall Rally which she, Debbie Lammle, Debbie Martin, and Connie Warsaw attended at St. John's Lutheran Church in Champaign.

A sign-up sheet was passed around for anyone interested in visiting Assisted Living in Gibson. It was suggested to play Bingo with some of the residents and take treats to share. Another sign-up was passed around for those interested in attending a tea at Country Cottages outside Fisher on October 15th.

We will be supporting the same seminary student as last year. LWML Sunday will be celebrated on October 4th. A sign-up sheet was passed around for readers and greeters. It was decided to have the LWML members make homemade muffins to be given to our church members on LWML Sunday along with a mite box to be taken home and filled and returned to church on November 1st. The President challenged the group to ask someone from the church to attend our next Ladies Aid/LWML meeting.

The next meeting is November 12th at 1:30pm. Connie Warsaw will have the topic; Marsha and Annette Warsaw will have refreshments. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

*Pray For a safe harvest
for our farmers!*

Summary of September Council Meeting

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Council held their meeting on Wednesday, September 16th, at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall. The meeting was called to order with eight members present. Debbie Lammle read the minutes of the last meeting, with no additions or corrections. Minutes were accepted. Treasurer, Terri Hooker, presented the treasurer's report, stating the checks written this month. She also wrote the last check to Country Financial. The yearly total for Thrivent Choice Dollars was \$3369. The August Expenses were \$8583.34, and the August income was \$8853. The balance as of the end of the month was \$48,067.56. Treasurer's report was accepted.

Terri Hooker read the Pastor's report in his absence. Pastor McPike thanked the council for the time off. There will be 2 baptisms in October. October 4 is the first baptism for Liam James Dean O'Brien, son of Jake and Samantha O'Brian. The other baptism will be October 25th for Bella Ford. The confirmation of Bella, CJ Genzel and James Amdor will follow on the 25th. Pastor will be gone Sunday, November 1st due to his trip to Germany. Pastor Frank will be preaching on November 1st. All Saints Day will be celebrated at Osman on November 8th.

There was not an elders' report, trustees' report, or finance committee report. In old business the wiener roast to be held on September 27th with a potluck and bingo afterwards was discussed.

The Mission Outreach Committee will spread information about Immanuel Osman at the Trunk or Treat at Fisher on October 24th and Trick or Treat at Mansfield on October 25th from 4:30-5:30 PM.

Reformation/Pastor Appreciation will be held October 25th after church service. Everyone is asked to bring German food, and the gift for Pastor was discussed. (THIS HAS BEEN CHANGED SINCE THE MEETING)

In new business the Outreach Committee will participate in the Gibson City Lighted Christmas Parade on November 21st. They will serve hot chocolate and hot cider and pass out cards about Immanuel Osman. Chairman Hooker suggested several upcoming activities to investigate. A discussion followed about cancelling the Quarterly Voter's meeting in October, but the treasurer will pass out the financial report to the congregation.

Thrivent Members!

If you have any Thrivent Choice Dollars which are given upon ownership of certain Thrivent products, do not forget to donate those to one of the 35,000 churches and nonprofits that Thrivent recognizes. Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman is one of those choices. The deadline to donate 2026 Choice Dollars is December 31st. This is a change from previous years. \$3369 has been contributed to our church in the last year. Thrivent Action Team Cards for \$250 each have been used to buy filler for the quilts that the ladies made for Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train, our benefit soup supper expenses, Samaritan Purse postage and supplies, July 4th float expenses, and will be used for Christmas treat bags. If you have Thrivent Choice Dollars, but do not know how to donate them, please see Terri and Dwight Hooker or Connie Warsaw.

Picture Clarity

The October newsletter that is being handed out today has several pictures to accompany articles. When you print color pictures in black and white they not only lose some of their beauty, but they also do not appear clear. To view the newsletter with the pictures in color go to the church website at Church@OsmanLutheran.org. Click on newsletters and go the appropriate month.

Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
August 30	41	11	2
September 6	50	12	1
September 13	48	0	12
September 20	39	11	1
September 27	39	13	1



October 3 – Bill Amdor
October 7 – Steve Martin
October 8 – Eric Zimmerman
October 12 – John Gercken
October 12 – Addison Warsaw
October 15 – Nicholas Demos
October 19 – Jordan Bidner
October 19 – Greg Johnson
October 22 – Greg Warsaw
October 24 – Pastor Jeffrey McPike
October 28 – Katherine Masko

A Shining Light

A pastor is a guiding light
Shining bright in the darkest of nights
A guiding hand, a comforting voice
Helping us to make a wise choice.

A pastor is a faithful servant
Dedicated to the Lord, in all that he does
He preaches the Word, with all of his heart
Spreading the love of God, from the start.

He offers encouragement when we are down,
He listens with care, when we wear a frown,
He offers support when we need a friend,
He is there for us, until the very end.

So here's to you, Pastor McPike, true
Thank you for all that you do
For sharing the love of God, with all of your might
You are a blessing from God, truly a shining light.



October 9, 1982 - Barb and John Gercken
October 10, 1981 - Deborah and Dennis Martin
October 31, 2005 - Theresa (Van Wakeman) and Rick Wilson

From our church sign:

**If prayer were your
job,
would you still be
employed?**