

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



***Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC,
Vacancy Pastor
Vicar Steven Mazzaferro***

June 2010



The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

From Pastor Jeff McPike

Changing Times

I have to tell you, I have seen a lot of change in the first six months of this year. My grandmother died, making my father's generation now the oldest of the family. My parents sold the home I have known since I was 13, and moved to be two hours further away. My oldest daughter got confirmed. That daughter graduated from the eighth grade, finishing school at a place she has been at since the year 2001.

By itself, that can sound rather overwhelming. Yet you know by now that my grandmother was 97, and suffered from significant dementia to the point that she didn't know us anymore. The house that sold had been for sale for two years. Moving further from me meant living right down the street from my sister, which will be a great help when my parents get to the point of needing help. And the passages in my daughter's life... happy times, though with some reflection on how life just keeps "moving on."

We are in a very different place from where we were last year. Last year, our pastor had just recently died. The congregation made a commitment to a vacancy pastor and vicar, and we had just met the man who would be our vicar for a year. We were grieved by the passing of the old, but anticipated the coming of the new.

This year, things are a bit different. We've been a year as vacancy pastor, vicar, and congregation. We've committed ourselves to another year with another vicar. The thing is... we are now faced with saying goodbye to a vicar we have gotten to know rather well, while saying "hello" to a vicar we've yet to meet. And we have very little time in which to make the transition. Vicar Steve leaves June 30, 2010. Vicar Aaron will be installed July 11, 2010.

Congregations taking vicars see a certain rhythm to the year's experience. When the vicar arrives, he is a student, having spent two years studying at seminary,

ready for a year of experience but never quite knowing exactly what to expect. It is a time of adjustment for the congregation, and a time of adjustment for the vicar, and a time of adjustment for the supervisor. Any relationship is the sum of its parts. Vicar Aaron will not be Vicar Steve. Such, neither will our relationships be the same. Vicar Steve and Vicar Aaron are different people. We will get to learn how one excels in certain areas and the other in others. Some may relate to one better than the other. That doesn't make either man good or bad, just different. It's a change.

I raise this as a bit of a concern, to get into your minds that things are about to change. Twenty-four years ago (gee... has it been that long??), I was the new vicar, the second vicar, at Grace Lutheran Church, Auburn, Michigan. The first vicar was great with the youth, and had been quite close to some of the young families. I was not so good with the youth, and found the families my age to be less than welcoming. I began to wonder what was wrong with me. The pastor and I spent a bit of time considering the situation, and before long, we discovered that it was not anything negative regarding me. It was that I was not the first vicar. And while the whole congregation knew from the start that vicars only stay one year and then they are gone, they lost sight of that as they grew close to my predecessor over his year among them. When he left, they were surprised by the grief that overtook them. And they were less than willing to commit themselves to me, because... guess what? One year later, I would be gone, too. As such, it took far longer for me to feel "integrated" into the congregation.

This is something for us to think about. Vicar Aaron will not be Vicar Steve. Vicar Steve is not Vicar Aaron. We've grown to like Vicar Steve. We are comfortable with him. He's done well, he's grown, he's learned. He's not in the same place that he was when he arrived. But Vicar Aaron will be somewhat in the same place early in July that Vicar Steve was a year ago

in July. And we'll get to watch him grow and learn; we'll get to help mold him into being a future pastor in the LCMS.

So, while this year we had no vicar and were anticipating our first, we are challenged this year with saying goodbye to our first and just days later, welcoming our second. And there will be some grief. There always is when the familiar goes away and we have to get used to something different. Our challenge is to be as welcoming to Vicar Aaron as we were to Vicar Steve, while at the same time saying goodbye to Vicar Steve.

Yet we remember, in this as in all that we do, we are not alone, but we live and work and move in the power of Christ and the grace of God. He will bless Vicar Steve as he returns to Fort Wayne to finish his education. He will bless Vicar Aaron as he comes to serve us. And he will bless Immanuel as we continue letting our lights shine in Osman, and the surrounding areas, as God's people.

Church Council Minutes

The following items were discussed at the Church Council Meeting held on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.:

Members attending: Lee Whitehouse, Rick Hardesty, Mike Hendricks, Dwight Hooker, John Gercken, Larry Lutz, Terri Hooker, Darwin Warsaw, Don Warsaw, Pastor Jeff McPike, and Vicar Steve Mazzaferro.

Chairman Whitehouse welcomed all members to the meeting. Pastor opened with a prayer.

Reading of minutes from April 6, 2010 Council Meeting. Motion to accept by Mike Hendricks. Second by John Gercken. Motion passed.

Treasure Report was given. April 30, 2010 balance = \$26,718.45. Motion to accept by Don Warsaw. Second by Dwight Hooker. Motion passed.

Mike noted we had \$150.00 in discretionary funds and asked what the Council wanted to do with it.

Motion to donate \$150.00 in April 2010 to St. Peters in Thawville as an honorarium for Rachel Pointer. Motion to accept by Don Warsaw. Second by John Gercken. Motion passed.

Pastor/Vicar Report:

Services

May 23, 2010 - Pastor and Vicar Gone. Substitute, Pastor Jeff Caithamer.

June 13, 2010 - Pastor in Buckley.

June 20, 2010 - Confirmation.

June 27, 2010 - Vicar Steve leaves.

July 11, 2010 - Install Vicar Aaron Fenker.

July 18, 2010 - Communion moved to July 11.

July 18 and July 25, 2010 - Pastor gone.

Revelations to start back up in Adult Bible Class and would like to finish by July.

Recording system for the church is working well; still a hum in the system. The amplifier needs checked; this will be done soon.

Elder Report:

Dwight suggested that the Adult Bible Class needs to hold to the 9:15 a.m. stopping time.

Handing out the communion cups seems well received.

Need to place a note in the bulletin and newsletter for "a request for those people who need a copy of the recorded services."

Sunday School Superintendent Report:

Confirmation class is going well.

Trustee Report:

(1) The air conditioners have been checked. The four ton unit is okay. A thermostat has been replaced.

(2) We have removed the bees from the church.

(3) Discussion was held about using the credit we have at Lowes to purchase new energy-efficient replacement lights for along the sides of the church and under the balcony.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Discussion of items pertaining to the Council providing "meat and drinks" for these events:

(1) Upcoming church picnic - Pavilion reservation for August 15 or August 22, 2010.

(2) June 27, 2010 potluck for Vicar Steve.

(3) July 11, 2010 cookout for Vicar Aaron.

(4) Ladies Aid will collect food for our new vicar.

General Information:

Hall Reservations

May 23, 2010, Andrea Edwards (afternoon).

June 26, 2010, Terri Hooker (all day).

June 27, 2010, potluck for Vicar Steve.

July 11, 2010, cookout for Vicar Aaron.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, June 1, 2010.

Second Quarterly Voters Meeting: Sunday, July 11, 2010.

Motion to adjourn by Terri Hooker. Second by Rick Hardesty.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Hardesty, Secretary

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex.

Ladies Aid Meeting

The Ladies Aid will meet on Wednesday, June 2, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Wilma

Grussing is the hostess and will give the devotion and prayer. Joanne Nelson will give the topic. All ladies are welcome to attend!

LWML News

LWML Central Illinois District Convention. The 66th Annual LWML Central Illinois District Convention will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 4-5, 2010 at St. James Lutheran Church in Quincy. Jan Wendorf, LWML National President, and Nicholas Salifu, from Ghana, Africa, will be the guest speakers.

On June 5th, the convention will begin at 9:00 a.m., with parking around St. James Lutheran Church and shuttle parking available from the Lutheran Church of St. John, 3340 State Street. Friday afternoon includes servant events at the Illinois Veteran's Home beginning at 1:30 p.m. Friday evening, fellowship will start at 5:30 p.m. with dinner in St. James Lutheran School cafeteria (adjacent to the church).

"Gifts from the Heart" will be gathered for developmentally disabled adults through "Transitions of Western Illinois." "Thank you" to the following ladies for representing our church: Brenda Hendricks and Connie Warsaw as delegates as well as Wilma Grussing, Agnes Martinie, and Vicar Steve.

The LWML Meeting will be held on June 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Topic leader is Brenda Hendricks and hostesses are Connie Warsaw and Shirley Sprau. All women in the congregation are invited to attend.

Vacation Bible School Meeting

A meeting will be held on Sunday, June 6, 2010 immediately after the worship service for those who are interested in helping with Vacation Bible School.

Cleaning the Church

Spring cleaning of the church will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 12, 2010. Come one, come all, to help beautify God's House!

Confirmation

Confirmation for Tyler Barrack will be held here at Osman on June 20, 2010. May we all pray for Tyler as he prepares for this special occasion!

Farewell for Vicar Steve!

A potluck will be held immediately after the worship service on Sunday, June 27, 2010 to honor the farewell for our vicar. The Council will provide the drinks for this event which will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Our members are asked to bring a dish to share and their own table service.

July 4th Bake Sale

The Ladies Aid and LWML are sponsoring a bake sale at the Bellflower July 4th celebration. Please have your items to the fire station by 7:30 a.m. that morning (Sunday) so that the items can be priced.

Thrivent News

"Join Hands Day" is an event where volunteers of all ages work together on a project in the church's community. Our members voted in May to help spruce up the rental property in Mansfield that the new vicar will live in when he comes in July. When the date of his arrival is known (sometime in early July), we will set an exact date to clean, do yard work, wash windows, and the typical spring cleaning activities.

The actual date set by the national Thrivent organization is May 1, 2010 but our county will be giving us \$100.00 to use on this project up to the end of July. Many hands make light work! Watch for more information in early July!

Food Shower for Vicar Aaron Fenker

The Ladies Aid is sponsoring a food shower for Vicar Aaron Fenker. If you would like to donate nonperishable food items, paper supplies, or cleaning supplies, please bring them to the church during the month of June. There will be boxes by the elder's pew to place any items. If you would rather help him buy meat or perishable items, a gift certificate to local grocery stores would allow him to select his own food.

Let's give him a warm Osman welcome with full cabinets to get him started.

Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping

The Ladies of the Lutheran church basement are back! In this sequel to the smash comic musical that delighted Bloomington audiences in 2009, the Ladies of the East Cornucopia Lutheran Church are cooking, laughing, and singing yet again to your pleasure! This time, the ladies aren't sure what to make of the changing times of the late 1960's now that women are wearing pantsuits and they're even allowing guitars in church! Five people in our congregation have seen the musical already and you will not be disappointed! Mavis "rocks" again in this performance!

Please mark the date on your calendars! Information will be coming later this summer/early fall for tickets.

Performance date: Wednesday, January 26, 2011; performance time: 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The ticket price depends if more than 25 people attend (15% discount). Payment and final count are due at the end of November 2010.

Visiting Shut-ins

All members of LWML, Ladies Aid, and those interested in visiting the shut-ins, please sign up on the bulletin board. (This is in addition to the visits by Pastor and Vicar.) Volunteers don't have to visit all four shut-ins in Colfax and Gibson City on the same day. You may choose the day to visit that best fits your schedules. A visit from a church member will truly brighten the long days of the shut-ins!

Bulletin/Recording of Worship Service for Shut-Ins

If anyone is aware of shut in's or other people who are unable to physically make it to church every week, let Esther and/or Larry Lutz know so they are included in the "Prayer List," they will receive a copy of the bulletin, and they will be given a recording of the service if they would like.

Prayer Requests

If you have any prayer requests, please contact Pastor McPike, Vicar Mazzaferro, or call and leave a message at the church. We will try to keep up with prayer requests, and don't want to leave anyone out, but we won't know about them unless you tell us! Also, hospitalizations will not automatically be included by pastor unless you give him specific permission (to satisfy federal privacy rules).

Electronic News List

An electronic news list has been created to get information to Immanuel members and friends. Please send a note to OsmanNews@n9cqs.com and you will be signed up for the list. Please note, your email address will not be used for any other purpose than for this news list. If you have questions, please ask Pastor McPike.

Bulletin/Newsletter Deadlines

Bulletin Deadline. To have submissions included in Sunday's bulletin, please forward them to Karen Bryan by 12:00 noon on Thursday.

Newsletter Deadline. To have submissions included in the monthly newsletter, please forward them to Karen Bryan by 12:00 noon on the Wednesday before the last Sunday of the month.

Statistics

Date	Worship	Sunday School	Adult Class
04-25	71	6	15
05-02	79	11	10
05-09	74	9	6
05-16	70	5	17
05-23	80	6	13
05-30	Statistics Unavailable		

Elder-on-Duty

Rob Gallier	Apr	June	Nov
John Gercken	May	July	Oct
Dwight Hooker	Mar	Sept	Jan 2011
Shane Zimmerman	Feb	Aug	Dec

Altar Guild

JuneDebbie Lammle and Shirley Sprau

Lay Readers

06-06John Gercken
 06-13Rebecca Gercken
 06-20Scott Gercken
 06-27Mike Hendricks

June Birthdays

Susan Martin06-03
 Brant Hendricks06-08
 Jamie Poppe06-08
 Donald Warsaw06-09
 Amanda Amdor06-13
 Michael Brooks06-15
 Brenda Edwards06-16
 Jeri Bidner06-18
 Dick Johnson06-19
 Natalie Hooker06-21
 Beth Bidner06-22
 Kim Clemmons06-24
 Laura Zimmerman06-26
 Jack Gallier06-30

June Anniversaries

Jill and Rick Hardesty06-11
 Terri and Dwight Hooker06-15
 Brenda and Mike Hendricks06-21
 Beth and Neil Bidner06-23

Debbie and John Lammle	06-25
Janet and Myron Zimmerman	06-30

What Makes a Father

God took the *Strength* of a mountain,
The *Majesty* of a tree,
The *Warmth* of a summer sun,
The *Calm* of a quiet sea,
The *Generous* soul of nature,
The *Comforting* arm of night,
The *Wisdom* of the ages,
The *Power* of the eagle's flight,
The *Joy* of a morning in spring,
The *Patience* of eternity,
The *Depth* of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it a *FATHER*!

Happy Father's Day!

Sunday, June 20, 2010

