

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



*Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC,
Vicar Aaron Fenker*

October 2010



Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

Gift Received!

Vicar Aaron Fenker

The church has a language all her own. She's received certain words down through the sands of time. There are words that her pastors and theologians use, but are unfamiliar to the rest of us. There are Greek words which are only used in the Sacred Scriptures. You also know the language of the church. While you may not know all the words pastors and theologians use, there are words that you have in common with them. We've received them as a gift from the church; words like "Alleluia,"¹ "Hosanna,"² and "Sabbath."³

Within the Divine Service on Sunday morning, there is a word that trumps all the others. I would take a guess that it is the most used word in the service. The word is "Amen." This word is the word of faith. This is the word of the faithful. Certainly the pastor says this, but the people of God have been given this word to say with joy and gladness.

Within his small catechism, Luther teaches us about this word. At the end of the Lord's Prayer we say "Amen" and Luther teaches: "This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means 'yes, yes, it shall be so.'" While Luther is only teaching here about the Lord's prayer, we can learn something about this word from this explanation.

Again, this is the word of faith. It cries out in the face of all doubt and uncertainty saying, "What I have asked for I shall receive." And we receive the gift not only for Jesus' sake, but also because we have a heavenly Father who loves us. Whenever "Amen" is said in the liturgy, it is doing one of two things. Through "Amen" faith is either confessing that what was just said is true and shall happen, or it is faith actually opening its hand to receive the gift the Lord is

there offering. Thus, we can sing "Amen, that is, so shall it be" (LSB 766:9) and "Amen, this ever true shall be" (TLH 238:6).

When the pastor, absolving us once again before Communion, when he says the Pax Domini, that is, "The peace of the Lord be with you always," we respond "Amen." "Yes, I receive that. I want that." "That gift of peace is mine." The word "Amen" is the word of the faithful, and the pastor only says this word as one of them. If the pastor is the only one saying "Amen," in some sense he has stolen the word from the congregation. It's their word.

"Amen" should be said boldly and with all confidence as dear children as their dear father. So we say "Amen" when Pastor says, "I forgive you all your sins." "Amen." Gift received! "Take eat the body of Christ." "Amen." "The Lord bless and keep...the Lord make His face...the Lord lift up...and give you peace." "Amen. Amen! AMEN!" "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." "Amen."

Whether we are asking for something new. Remembering our Baptism. Receiving the Lord's absolution or His body and blood. Receiving a new gift from the Lord. The answer is the same. "Amen." Gift received! "Amen" is a word of faith, and every time it's spoken, it's just as if the Lord has placed a gift right into your hand. In the name of Jesus. AMEN!

Pastor Appreciation Month

October is "Pastor Appreciation Month." We thank both Pastor McPike and Vicar Fenker for their dedication to our church here at Osman. We ask the Lord's blessing on both of them as they bring God's Word to our congregation. We thank them for all of their commitments in taking care of us emotionally and spiritually. While all of us are spiritually gifted to share in the Church's mission, we are especially blessed to be led by two extremely talented men of God. In

1 Thessalonians 5:13-14, church members are asked "to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work." We, the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, truly express our heartfelt appreciation and thankfulness to Pastor McPike and Vicar Fenker!

Champaign Zone Pastoral Meeting

The Champaign Zone Pastoral Meeting was held at Osman on Tuesday, September 14, 2010. Eleven pastors attended the meeting; nine of them enjoyed a light breakfast and a lunch served by the Ladies Aid. We would like to thank all the ladies who donated food for this event and especially Moneta McCleary and Connie Warsaw who served the meal.

Church Council Minutes

The following items were discussed at the Church Council Meeting held on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.:

Members attending: Lee Whitehouse, Mike Hendricks, Rick Hardesty, John Gercken, Darwin Warsaw, Don Warsaw, Vicar Aaron Fenker, and Pastor Jeff McPike.

Pastor McPike opened with a prayer.

The minutes were read from the August 3, 2010 Council Meeting. Mike Hendricks requested the word "family" be added to a thank you that was received from Pastor Kaufman. Motion to accept the minutes as corrected by Mike Hendricks. Second by John Gercken. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report was given with a balance on August 31, 2010 of \$38,062.35. Motion to accept by Rick Hardesty. Second by John Gercken. Motion passed.

A thank you was received from Reverend Pablo Dominguez for the donation given last month.

Motion to give a donation of \$150.00 to the family of Pastor Darin Berg made by Don Warsaw. Second by John Gercken. Motion passed.

Pastor/Vicar Report

Vicar Aaron reported:

Vicar would like to attend the symposium at Ft. Wayne, IN in January 2011.

Vicar will attend the synod conference in Peoria, IL from October 18-20, 2010.

Vicar said member visits started.

Vicar also stated that he will have bible studies possibly on Wednesday nights starting with the book of Galatians.

Pastor McPike reported:

He extended a big "thank you" to the women of Immanuel Osman who helped with the lunch for the

Circuit Meeting for pastors held September 14, 2010. Pastor said it was a very good meeting. The pastors appreciated the meal.

Pastor had a request from University Lutheran Church for help on September 26, 2010. He said that Vicar Aaron would cover for them.

Communion will be moved from October 17, 2010 to October 31, 2010.

Pastor will be at a Lutheran conference on October 17, 2010 and October 24, 2010.

Pastor handed out a copy of the church constitution for review. Pastor McPike, Mike Hendricks, John Lammle and Jill Hardesty all contributed to put this document back together.

Elder's Report: None.

Sunday School Report:

Vicar commented that confirmation class is going well.

Trustee Report:

Darwin Warsaw ordered a new smoke bell for the Eternal Flame; Don Warsaw and Shane Zimmerman installed the part.

Don Warsaw said he had sprayed the parking lots and repaired the rope on the church bell.

Don Warsaw also reported the two ton air conditioning unit for the church had been repaired.

Old Business:

Discussion was held about planning a get together to show appreciation for Scott Gercken's work as organist and choir director.

October 10, 2010 - Wiener Roast/Hayrack Ride. Thrivent will furnish hot dogs, buns, condiments, drinks, and organize games. Congregation needs to bring a dish to share. Council needs to bring hay, wagon, wood, truck, or tractor.

Recording for church services are going well. Larry and Esther Lutz are making and distributing CDs to those who need and/or want them. Larry has also purchased a couple CD players to distribute as needed.

New Business:

November 13, 2010 - Thrivent will hold a benefit for Megan Rappleyea, Rebecca Gercken's sister-in-law.

The Youth Group's proposed schedule was handed out for the Council to look at (listed below).

September 26, 2010 - Kick off meeting for Youth Group at the Hall; will end with the families going to Monicals in Mahomet for pizza.

October 24, 2010 - The Youth Group will host the Harvest Breakfast.

The November meeting will be held on the third Sunday.

December Christmas Party - Caroling with choir and pizza afterwards.

The 2011 schedule was also noted.

Motion to adjourn by Darwin Warsaw. Second by John Gercken.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Rick Hardesty, Council Secretary

LWML News

LWML Meeting. The LWML held its quarterly meeting on September 9, 2010 in the Fellowship Hall. Debbie Lammle opened the meeting, followed by Wilma Grussing reading the devotions, and Debbie Martin leading the topic.

The business portion of the meeting was started with Shirley Sprau reading the minutes and roll call (in Secretary Barb Gaines' absence). Diana Zimmerman gave the treasurer's report with a balance of \$269.10. Mites were collected and the correspondence read from the seminary student that the Ladies Aid and LWML are supporting.

Recognition was given to all who helped with cleaning the Fellowship Hall and church, donating to the bake sale at Bellflower, purchasing a gift for Vicar Steve, Vicar Fenker's food shower, visiting the shut-ins, tying 26 beautiful quilts, and donating used *Portals of Prayer*.

New business included discussion of the Fall Rally in Buckley, using Thrivent money to assemble health kits for Lutheran World Relief, completing a survey concerning changing the Central Illinois District (CID) LWML Convention to a biennial event, LWML Sunday, and purchasing flowers for any member of the LWML that enters the hospital.

More discussion of the 2011 National LWML Convention at Peoria was held, and all members urged to send in their "Call for Workers" form. T-shirts and possibly aprons to be worn at the National Convention will be ordered at the December meeting.

The annual Women's Retreat will be held at Camp Cilca on October 22-23, 2010. President Lammle also informed the group that any women ages 21-35 could complete an application to be considered as the Young Women's representative at the National Convention next year.

A new prayer list was given out and important upcoming dates discussed. Thanks were given to Marge Morrissey and Debbie Lammle for providing the refreshments.

The next meeting will be held on December 9, 2010 with Barb Whitehouse-Gercken as topic leader and Moneta McCleary and Agnes Martinie providing the refreshments. Wilma Grussing volunteered to lead the December meeting in President Lammle's absence. The meeting ended with the Lord's prayer and common table prayer.

The LWML Fall Zone Rally was held in Buckley, IL at St. John's Lutheran Church on Thursday, September

16, 2010 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Three members from our church, Shirley Sprau, Wilma Grussing, and Agnes Martinie, along with Vicar Fenker, attended this event. Ruth Jones of Buckley was elected President of the Zone, and Selda Coffey from Immanuel Lutheran Church of Loda was elected the Christian Growth Chairman. The "ingathering" items collected at the rally will be sorted, packed, and delivered to the OSF Children's Hospital in Peoria, IL during the National Convention next year. Each of the twelve zones in our district was asked to collect a different group of items for this project. Thank you to those that contributed to this upcoming servant event at the national convention.

The annual **Central Illinois District LWML Fall Rally** will be held at Camp Cilca on October 22-23, 2010. The guest speaker is Heidi Floyd who will also be in Peoria in 2011. Heidi is the Developmental Ambassador for the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer. Having lost her mother to breast cancer, she was eager to work for a company devoted to breast cancer research.

If you are interested in attending this event, the registration form is posted on the back bulletin board at church. You can attend one or both days. The early bird registration is \$40.00 per person. After October 8th, the cost is \$45.00. If attending Saturday only, it is \$20.00. Checks may be made to the CID LWML.

LWML Sunday will be celebrated on October 24, 2010, just one day before the commemoration of Dorcas. Dorcas was an exemplary Christian who demonstrated her faith by her material support of the church. Dorcas was well known and loved for her acts of charity in the city of Joppa, especially for making clothes for the poor. The connection of Dorcas to the LWML women helping those in need was the reason for celebrating on this particular Sunday.

The members of the LWML are helping with this special Sunday in many different ways including ushering, greeting, leading the LWML pledge, singing, and reading the lessons. Special flowers and a banner will be placed on the altar as well as displaying the quilts tied by the LWML on the church pews. A special devotion will be added to the bulletin on this special Sunday. A large mite box will be placed in the back of the church to urge those in attendance to help with the Central Illinois District LWML mission grant for Student Aid for Church Workers.

Please plan now to attend this memorable worship service.

National LWML Convention. Calling all women of Immanuel Osman between the ages of 21 and 35. The CID LWML is looking for someone with a lot of "get up and go" that would be willing to serve the Lord during the National LWML Convention in

Peoria, IL from June 23-26, 2011. You would be responsible for attending several meetings and working with other young women from around the country. Please see Debbie Lammle if you are interested.

Thrivent News

Thrivent Choice Dollars! About 30% of benefit members of Thrivent received a letter during this last month indicating that they could direct “Thrivent Choice Dollars” to thousands of Lutheran nonprofit organizations, including our own congregation. Our congregation has received \$289.00 in contributions from the following members: Wilma Grussing, Bill McCleary, Connie Warsaw, Donnie Warsaw, Butch Sprau, Shirley Sprau, Brenda Hendricks, and Mike Hendricks. We thank you very much for your kind generosity. If you received a letter and have questions, please contact Brenda Hendricks.

Benefit Soup Supper! Mark your calendars now to attend a benefit soup supper on Saturday, November 13, 2010. The benefit will help pay medical expenses for Megan Rappleyea, the sister-in-law of Rebecca and Scott Gercken, for tests and treatment for breast cancer. Megan is 22 years old, is a graduate nursing student at Illinois State University, and lives in Bloomington. The sign-up sheet for food donations will be posted on the back bulletin board in late October.

The McLean County Annual Thrivent Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 14, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bloomington. The meeting will begin with a business meeting, election of officers, and then a catered meal will be served. Entertainment will be provided by one of the local high school's choral groups. If you are interested in attending this event, please sign the sheet on the back bulletin board. Reservations are mandatory.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex.

Ladies Aid Meeting

The Ladies Aid will meet on Wednesday, October 6, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. Dorothy Miller is the hostess and will have the devotion and prayer. The topic will be given by Connie Warsaw. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend!

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Want to study God's word more? Do you have Wednesday evenings free every now and then? Well, starting Wednesday, October 6, 2010 there is a new bible study being led by Vicar Fenker. It's more

informal in setting and will be held in the Fellowship Hall. First we'll be looking at St. Paul's letter to the Galatians. No pressure, just come when you can. Study starts at 7:00 p.m. and shouldn't last much more than an hour. Hope to see you there!

Quarterly Voters Meeting

The third Quarterly Voters Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 10, 2010 immediately following the worship service.

Annual Hayride and Wiener Roast!

Get ready for the fall activities that are being planned for the hayride and wiener roast on Sunday, October 10, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. The autumn weather is telling us that it is time to load up the wagons for the rural jaunt through the country.

After returning to the church this year, the younger children are going to dress a scarecrow, decorate a pumpkin, and play games. Thrivent will provide the wieners, buns, and condiments for the meal. The members are asked to bring a dish to share.

After the meal, the Youth Group and “younger generation” will entertain us with games from “Minute-to-Win-It,” a fairly new television game show. Will the “older generation” muster up enough courage to challenge the youthful winners to determine the real Osman champions of these highly skilled silly games?

Invite a friend and join in the fellowship!

Church Basement Ladies 2

A “second helping” is coming back to Bloomington! Yes, the Ladies are at it again! The performances will be held on Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts on North Main Street.

A sign-up sheet has been placed at the back of the church for the performance. Please mark down how many tickets you would like and which time you would like to attend. We anticipate that the tickets will be ~\$22.00 each if we get over 25 people to attend. Peace Lutheran Church in Thomasboro has spoken for 12 tickets, so come and meet up with them and enjoy the ladies in the antics of the 1960's church basement of the East Cornucopia Lutheran Church, in Minnesota, don't 'cha know. You don't have to go to Church Basement Ladies 1 to pick up on the story. Just come out and have an evening of fun and laughter!

If you have any questions, please see Jill Hardesty.

Bulletin/Recording of Worship Service for Shut-ins

If anyone is aware of shut-ins 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 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 was 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
08-29	71	8	12
09-05	68	7	7
09-12	65	11	11
09-19	78	7	8
09-26	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

OctoberDebbie Lammle and Shirley Sprau

Lay Readers

10-03Vicar Aaron Fenker
 10-10Mike Hendricks
 10-17Joy Johnson
 10-24Debbie Lammle
 10-31Shirley Sprau

October Birthdays

Tyler Duncan10-01
 Karen Brown10-01
 Bill Amdor10-03
 Jodi Stockle10-05
 Steve Martin.....10-07
 Eric Zimmerman10-08
 Dustin Peyton.....10-09
 John Gercken10-12
 Bill McCleary10-12
 Addison Warsaw10-12
 Rebecca Brown10-17
 Wiley Hasty.....10-17
 Julian Barrack10-19
 Jordan Bidner10-19
 Greg Johnson10-19
 Greg Warsaw10-22
 Katherine Masko10-28
 Erika Barrack10-29

October Anniversaries

Cindy and David Masko10-05
 Barb Whitehouse-Gercken and John Gercken10-09
 Debbie and Dennis Martin10-10
 Barb and Steve Gaines10-14
 Moneta and Bill McCleary10-19

A woman was asked by a coworker, "What is it like to be a Christian?" The coworker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

