

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512

(217) 897-6170

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



*Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC,
Vicar Aaron Fenker*

February 2011



*Love puts the fun in together, the sad
in apart, and the joy in a heart.
Author Unknown*

From Pastor McPike

Let's keep up the MOMENTUM!

Sir Isaac Newton, born December 25, 1643, came up with three laws that are still basic level understanding for engineering students to this day and defines how our world works. The first is known popularly as “the Law of Inertia:”

“An object at rest will remain at rest unless acted on by an unbalanced force. An object in motion continues in motion with the same speed and in the same direction unless acted on by an unbalanced force.”

Whenever you have had to move a heavy object, you have experienced this. Have you ever pushed a car that would not start? You know that if you are on level ground, getting the car rolling is much more work than keeping it going. Making the car go forward takes more effort than keeping it rolling (as long as, again, it is on level ground).

The same sort of law applies to the church. When the church is standing still, it can take considerable effort to get things going. When the church is moving, “motion” is already there, which is a good time to look at what is happening and “keep going.”

January has been a good month at Immanuel. In the Annual Voters Meeting, we accepted the transfer of a family. On the fourth Sunday we baptized an adult (when is the last time that happened?) and on the fifth Sunday (as of this writing) we are scheduled to baptize a child. On the fourth Sunday, we ran out of small communion glasses (there are 40 in a tray, and two full trays were out-so over 80 people, or probably something like 90 took communion that day).

A fluke? I suppose that could be said. In contrast with the three funerals of last fall and the looming concerns (such as was expressed at the Annual Meeting when one of the younger Sunday School class teachers said, “soon, we are going to be out of a job” because we have so few young children), I'd like to see

this as forward momentum. And as the law of motion says, it takes less energy to join a body already in motion than it does to get a stationary one moving. So I prefer to see this as forward motion, and I challenge you with this: How can we keep this going? Whom do you know around you, or in your workplaces, or the places you socialize, who is not already involved in a church? Whom do you know that may not have a personal relationship with the Lord? Who can you invite to join us?

In my three year association with Osman, I can tell you that the congregation has lots of things going for it. Why should we hide our light under a bushel? I can also tell you that the church grows relationship by relationship. Read the book of Acts sometime and try to answer the question, “How did the church grow in Acts?” The answer, I think you will find, is that it grew through relationships. Osman has been blessed over the years to grow and be sustained by growing families. As we see that potential seriously slipping, how else can we grow OUR family-Immanuel Lutheran?

Constitutional Change

By Pastor Jeff McPike

As you probably know, we have been talking about the church constitution and bylaws for the past few months. Much good work has gone into bringing this document up to date in the past few years, and the final revisions were seen as bringing some last minute “tweaks” to all that good work.

The proposed Constitution and Bylaws document was published in a recent Newsletter with the express intent to vote on it in the January Annual Voters Meeting. That effort was stopped in a last minute decision by the Church Council in January. Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws require two separate votes at two voters' meetings, and an additional change to be considered was discussed at that Council meeting.

Our current documents call for a slate of officers to be presented at the Annual Meeting that has two candidates for each open office. We actually did not comply with that in the January meeting as we did not have anyone except the incumbent treasurer willing to continue those duties, and he was hoping to stand down from the office and hand it to someone else. When no one else came forward, he agreed to continue in the position, offering to help the congregation transition it to a position where the elected treasurer would work with an outside accounting firm to manage the financial affairs of the congregation. Church finance in all but the smallest congregations has become far more than a larger sized checkbook where the treasurer writes checks to pay bills and adds in deposits. Tax law surrounding payroll, even for a church Osman-sized, is a complex and involved matter with lots of laws to continue to be familiar with. It is not something that many people are willing to take on.

Mike Hendricks has done a very nice job working with the church books over the past several years as these tax complexities have grown at Immanuel. We thank him for that, and for his willingness to continue in the job as we look for his guidance to transition the books to an outside firm.

The underlying problem of elections, however, remains. While we hope for a reversal of the trend of declining membership, over the past number of years, there have been fewer people from which to draw a slate of officers for each new year. This leads to a consideration presented at the January Council meeting, and that is a revision to the Bylaws allowing for a “unified slate of officers.”

A “unified slate of officers” would be a single slate with one candidate being proposed for each office. Not only is this becoming apparently necessary because there are fewer folks to run for office, but it makes good sense. Pastor McPike attended a “Parish Leadership Seminar” years ago where this concept was introduced, not to deal with declining members to fill positions, but rather to put forth a slate of folks that can work well together. While in the church we should all work with one another, we also recognize that there are personalities that work better with some than with others. A unified slate is the Nominating Committee’s proposal of folks that can work well together in the coming year. This is not a “railroad job” (as it were) where only those hand-picked by the Nominating Committee are elected. At some interval (one month is suggested) prior to the election, the completed slate of officers is published in a couple of ways—such as the December Newsletter, the Email list, bulletin, etc. Conversation can then be had among the membership about this proposal. Anyone wishing to suggest an

alternate for any particular office can do so when nominations are opened at the annual meeting.

Such an approach avoids running two people against each other where one is “defeated” and the other is the “winner.” Certainly, Church Council positions should be filled with the best candidate, and not be a “popularity contest.” In my 16-year parish ministry, I occasionally ran across members who had been proposed for an office and defeated where it was pretty obvious that they were simply “the other name on the ballot” and never had a chance of winning. In some cases, these folks simply stopped coming to voters meetings and their participation in the life of the church dropped. Way back in my childhood (which, at my age, is much farther back than I care to dwell on!), my own father was considered for the position of church treasurer at our church at the time, Trinity Lutheran Church of Indianapolis. My father is a 1953 graduate of Indiana University with a degree in Mathematics and since became a CPA. He was defeated. Really? Later, he went on to be the church treasurer of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Martinsville, Indiana, and (somewhat like Mikel!) had a terrible time getting rid of the job. Dad ended up being treasurer of Prince of Peace for some 20 years, and then later did payroll for his successors without having the actual title because he had such a good system of dealing with it as well as current knowledge of all tax laws. But in the 1960s at Trinity, he was not considered “good enough” compared with someone else, and this was not helpful to him.

As such, the following suggestion is being made as an additional change to the church Bylaws to allow for this “unified ballot” to be presented. In Bylaw, Article II, under the subheading “The Nominating Committee”

Present Wording:

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE, appointed by the Church Council, shall nominate such members of the congregation who, in their opinion, would qualify for such offices to which they nominate them. This committee shall present a slate for election at the Annual Meeting. There shall be two candidates placed on the ballot for each office by the Nominating Committee. The committee shall present one ballot and additional names may be nominated from the floor. A vacancy for any reason except expiration of term shall be filled by the Church Council until the next regularly scheduled Annual Voters’ Meeting.

Proposed Changes:

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE, appointed by the Church Council, shall nominate such members of the congregation who, in their opinion, would qualify for such offices to which they nominate them. This committee shall present a slate for election at the

Annual Meeting. One candidate shall be placed on the ballot for each office by the Nominating Committee. This ballot shall be finalized by the time of the Newsletter one month prior to the month of the Annual Voters Meeting, and also presented in one church bulletin in that same month. At the Annual Voters Meeting, the committee shall present this ballot. Additional names may be nominated from the floor. A vacancy for any reason except expiration of term shall be filled by the Church Council until the next regularly scheduled Annual Voters Meeting.

There is no perfect system. This change would seem to address the decline in eligible members to run for office while also presenting a rationale for the same. Please read through, talk about and consider this, as this will likely be an additional change to be considered for the Bylaws in the April Quarterly Voters Meeting.

In Hoc Signo

By Vicar Aaron Fenker

In the name of Jesus. Amen. Pious tradition says that in AD 312 Emperor Constantine, the first Christian Roman Emperor, saw a vision of a cross and a voice which said, "In hoc signo vinces," that is, "In this sign you shall conquer." Holy history also says that Constantine's mother, Helena, found the True Cross (the one Jesus actually died on). It will probably remain a mystery as to why the family of Constantine is so tied to the cross, but Constantine and his mother shouldn't be the only ones tied so closely to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. We should all be grounded there as well.

St. Paul says to the Corinthian church, "I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2). The angels tell the women, "You seek Jesus who was crucified" (Matthew 28:5). St. John the Apostle says, "I saw a Lamb as if it had been slain" (Revelation 5:6). Our redemption is tied to that cross. For there on that cross Jesus, who is God Himself, died for the sake of our sins. His blood was spilled for our sins, and in that blood is our redemption (Romans 3:25), and the means for our peace with God (Colossians 1:20). The depth of God's unsearchable and unknowable wisdom is shown forth for all to see when His only-begotten Son was crucified, died, and was buried.

Such preaching is foolish to the world (1 Corinthians 1:18). The world doesn't want a crucified Lord. They don't want a God who died and rose again. Yet the heavenly host says of this Lamb, "For You were slain, and have redeemed a people to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9). The angels also proclaimed, "He is not here, for He is risen just as He

said" (Matthew 28:6). And this death and resurrection is ours. For we have been united with Christ in a death like His in our Baptism, and we too shall be united in a resurrection like His. For us Baptism works the forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who, with faith, cling to these rich promises.

But we receive these gifts from Baptism because God has promised to give them, and because we are tied to Christ crucified. For when Christ died and the water flowed from His spear-riven side, it filled the Holy Font with a blessed water which washes us clean of all sins and evil desires, and gives us Christ's righteousness as a garment. And the cross has been placed upon our foreheads and hearts to mark us as one redeemed by Christ the crucified. Every time the sign of the holy cross is made we can remember our Baptism into Christ. We can remember how in Baptism the cross and its fruits come to us.

Christ, the cross, and Baptism are all united. They are united so that we can receive all Christ's benefits. They are united so that our coming in and going out is kept from this time forth and even forevermore. Thus we can make the sign of the cross freely, or not (just as freely) always remembering that Christ has marked us as His own in the waters of Holy Baptism and now we no longer need to fear our sins. The cross. Now that's a sign you can conquer and have conquered with all because Jesus washed you at the Font with His holy, precious blood. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Behold what blessed sign is given;
On breast and brow 'tis now applied-
The cross which marketh us forgiven,
Redeemed by Christ the crucified.
"Thy going out," Christ hath proclaimed,
"And coming in shall be maintained
From this time forth, eternally
For with this Font I set thee free."

Church Council Minutes

The following items were discussed at the Church Council Meeting held on Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.:

Pastor McPike opened with a prayer.

Members attending: Lee Whitehouse, Mike Hendricks, Rick Hardesty, Shane Zimmerman, Dwight Hooker, John Grecian, Larry Lutz, Terri Hooker, Darwin Warsaw, Don Warsaw, and Pastor McPike.

The minutes were read from the December 7, 2010 Council Meeting. Correction in "Old Business." Insert "usher" in place of "acolytes" for training. Motion to accept the minutes as corrected by Don Warsaw. Second by Darwin Warsaw. Motion passed.

The Treasurer Report was given with a balance on December 31, 2010 of \$46,763.79. Motion to accept

the Treasurer Report by Darwin Warsaw. Second by John Grecian. Motion passed.

- Mike Hendricks distributed and discussed with the Council the proposed budget for FY 2011.

- The monthly \$150.00 discretionary donation was discussed. It was decided to wait for the new Council officers to be installed and let them make the choices.

Pastor/Vicar Report:

Pastor:

- Thanked the Council for the Christmas gift for him and the gift the congregation gave him and his family.

- Need to moving communion from January 16, 2011 to January 23, 2011.

- Vicar will be gone until Tuesday, January 11, 2011.

- New member reception is still being planned (Dr. Schuss family).

- January 23, 2011 we will have an adult baptism and confirmation (Jerry Edwards).

- Alicia Haggin (our Organist) had her baby on Sunday, January 2, 2011 at 10:00 p.m. His name is Joseph.

- Altar Guild is looking into replacing the offering plates and an old communion cup. Larry Lutz will contact some companies.

- Altar Guild is looking into oil-filled candles for the Advent Wreath funds coming from the Lois Christie Memorial Fund.

- Altar Guild and others are challenged to put together a list of items to be purchased with memorial funds.

- Pastor suggested using Geraniums on the altar for Pentecost like we use poinsettias for Christmas.

Elders Report:

Shane Zimmerman commented the floor mat needs work at the front door to the church. Asked the Trustees to look into it.

Sunday School Superintendent's Report: None.

Trustee Report:

More work is needed on the closer for the front door.

Work in the Annex is still on hold.

Old Business:

Discussion was held on the Constitution. It was noted that the Nominating Committee is charged with supplying two names for candidates for church offices. There was discussion about changing that to one name and possibly offering a "slate of officer candidates" to vote on. This will be discussed during the Quarterly Voters Meeting on January 9, 2011.

A vote on changes is tentatively set for the April Quarterly Voters Meeting.

New Business:

Terri Hooker mentioned the phone tree needs updated.

Drinks for the potluck after the Voters Meeting will be handled by Larry Lutz (coffee). Lee Whitehouse will make ice tea and lemonade.

General Information:

The next Annual Voters Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 9, 2011. A potluck will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

The next Council Meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 8, 2011.

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

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Rick Hardesty, Council Secretary

Annual Voters Meeting

Chairman Whitehouse called the Annual Voters Meeting to order on Sunday, January 9, 2011 with 53 members present.

Pastor opened with a prayer.

Chairman Whitehouse asked if anyone needed to sign the constitution. Dr. Bill Schuss signed the constitution.

Minutes:

The Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting. Steve Warsaw motioned to accept the minutes as read. Darwin Warsaw seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer gave his report with a fund balance of \$46,763.79. Don Warsaw made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Larry Camp seconded. Motion passed.

The proposed budget was handed out by the Treasurer and explained to the congregation. Shane Zimmerman made the motion to accept the budget as presented. John Grecian seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor Report:

Pastor thanked the congregation for the Red Stole Christmas gift he was given.

Pastor announced the Schuss family had transferred their membership to Osman and welcomed them.

Alicia (our organist) had her baby; his name is Joseph.

Pastor told the congregation he had asked the Council to extend Vicar Aaron time through July 2011 so Pastor may take a trip in July.

The Lois Christie family has offered to purchase new oil candles for the Advent Wreath.

New Bible Study to start in spring.

Old Business:

Proposed changes to the Constitution will be presented in April.

Just before the January meeting we found another change that needed addressed before we vote.

New Business:

Motion by Darwin Warsaw to keep the Pastor/Vicar arrangement we have now for one more year. Seconded by Bill Schuss. Motion passed.

The list of proposed candidates for Church Council was handed out. There was a discussion of the lack of candidates to fill some of the positions.

Darwin Warsaw discussed the issue of no Treasurer candidates. He pointed out the job has gotten to be more than just writing checks.

Darwin Warsaw made a motion to get prices and consider hiring an outside accountant to handle the duties associated with the Treasurer's position. Roy Whitehouse seconded. Motion passed.

Darwin Warsaw nominated Mike Hendricks for the Treasurer's position to stay on and help with the transition to outside help. Seconded by Shane Zimmerman. Motion passed (52 yea; 1 nay).

Bryan Warsaw was added to the list for Elder. Gina Masko was added for Usher.

Motion by Dwight Hooker to close nominations. Seconded by Jill Hardesty. Motion passed.

The ballots were passed out for election of officers. Election results follow:

Secretary: Jill Hardesty;

Treasurer: Mike Hendricks;

Elders (two): Aaron Warsaw and Butch Sprau;

Assistant Sunday School Superintendent: Annette Warsaw;

Assistant Financial Secretary: Christie Delaney;

Trustee (one): Steve Martin; and

Head Usher: Michael Brooks.

Joy Johnson brought up for discussion:

Moving the little kids out of the Annex and placing them in the Fellowship Hall with the other children. This would move them from the distractions of people coming in for church and standing in the Annex talking.

Chairman Whitehouse mentioned that there would need to be a move anyway because of the repairs to the floor in the Annex. He suggested trying it for that short time and see if it can stay that way.

Installation of the new elected officers will be on Sunday, January 23, 2011.

Motion to adjourn by Terri Hooker. Seconded by Jeff Warsaw. Motion passed.

Submitted by Rick Hardesty, Secretary

Newly Elected Church Council Officers

Congratulations to the newly elected Church Council Officers voted in at the January 9, 2011 Annual Voters Meeting: Secretary-Jill Hardesty; Treasurer-Mike Hendricks; Elders (two)-Aaron Warsaw and Butch Sprau; Assistant Sunday School

Superintendent-Annette Warsaw; Assistant Financial Secretary-Christie Delaney; Trustee (one)-Steve Martin; and Head Usher-Michael Brooks.

We thank the members who are stepping down and appreciate their time, input, and dedication to our church.

Official Acts

Jerry Edwards was baptized into communicant membership in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod at Immanuel on Sunday, January 23, 2011.

William and Kim Schuss and children Jonathan, Daniel, and Sarah were accepted by transfer from Friendship Lutheran Church of Joy, Champaign, IL at the Annual Voters Meeting.

Thrivent

Thrivent Choice Voting. The second Thrivent Choice Voting Event will be held January 24, 2011 to February 28, 2011 featuring seven national nonprofit organizations in the area of health and human care. Thrivent will distribute \$1 million among the following participating charities: Bethesda, Feeding America, Lutheran Immigration, Lutheran Services in America, Orphan Grain Train, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and Wheat Ridge Ministries. The specific amount will be based on the percentage of votes each organization receives.

Thrivent members are encouraged to vote in one of three ways. You can go online at Thrivent.com/choicevote, you can vote on the business reply card in your winter issue of Thrivent magazine which will be mailed the last week in January, or you can call (800) 847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice."

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Bible Study will be held with Vicar Aaron Fenker every Wednesday evening in February at 7:00 p.m. Remember to bring your study guide and a Bible.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex.

Fellowship Club

Want to get to know your church family a little better? I'm sure everyone enjoys being recognized for your birthday, playing games, and having refreshments. That's what "fellowship" involves. We're going to continue this activity four times a year and everyone is invited!

The first gathering will be Sunday, February 20, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We are asking two couples or two members to sign up on the

church bulletin board to serve refreshments and plan the activities for that one evening. Then we will have another sign up in May, August, and November for other members of the congregation to plan the evening's refreshments and activities.

Please let us know if a Saturday or Sunday evening seems better for you when considering the next Fellowship activity. Hope everyone joins in on the fun!

LWML News

Soup Supper before Ash Wednesday Service. Everyone in the congregation is invited to attend a soup supper before the Ash Wednesday service on March 9, 2011 in the Fellowship Hall. The LWML members will be providing the food and serving the meal from 5:30-6:45 p.m. There will be a sign up on the church bulletin board for LWML members to volunteer for soup, sandwiches, desserts, and helping serve. A freewill offering will be taken before the meal to help with LWML projects throughout the year. Plan now on being part of our Lenten journey to the cross!

Register for National Convention. Attention LWML members attending the National Convention next June: After receiving our work assignments for the convention, we will plan a time to meet together to complete our registration and order convention shirts.

Posted Listings at the Back of the Church

New lists are posted on the bulletin board in the back of the church for volunteering to visit shut-ins, serving on the Altar Guild, providing flowers for the altar, reading the lessons during the Sunday morning service, or paying for the Eternal Flame Candle. These are all excellent ways to get more involved with your church family. Thanks to all those giving of their time and talents!

Church Website

You can view the Church Website at <http://OsmanLutheran.org>. Weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters are listed as well as other information about our church. Thank you, Pastor McPike, for your hard work and a job well done!

Email Addresses for Pastor/Vicar

The email addresses for Pastor McPike and Vicar Fenker are: pastor@osmanlutheran.org and vicar@osmanlutheran.org.

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
12-26		3	0
01-02		8	12
01-09		7	11
01-16		7	8
01-23		11	11
01-30	Statistics Unavailable		

Elder-on-Duty

Rob Gallier	Apr	Aug	Dec
Butch Sprau	March	July	Oct
Aaron Warsaw	May	Sept	Jan 2012
Shane Zimmerman	Feb	June	Nov

Altar Guild

FebruarySusan Martin

Lay Readers

02-06Vicar Aaron Fenker
02-13Leonard Delaney
02-20Sara McPike
02-27Shirley Sprau

February Birthdays

Bryan Edwards02-03
David Peyton02-03
Christie Delaney02-10
Charlie Homann02-10
Jenna Forrest02-14
Lora Nelson02-16
Neil Bidner02-17
Lisa Miller02-17
Jeff Warsaw02-19
Andrea Edwards02-20
Tyler Barrack02-23
Amanda Burgess02-24
Reese Gallier02-26
Marti Brandt02-27

February Anniversaries

Barb and Jerry Reifsteck02-04
Joanne and Marvin Nelson02-06



*Love would never be a promise of a rose garden
unless it is showered with light of faith, water of
sincerity and air of passion.*

Author Unknown



Happy Valentine's Day!