

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC,

Vicar Aaron Fenker

June 2011



"A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered.." Proverbs 17:27

Celebrate the Feasts **by Vicar Aaron Fenker**

The church of God is continually rejoicing. It's joy cannot be taken away because her Lord, Jesus Christ, was dead, but now is alive forevermore. His bursting forth from the tomb for our justification fills our hearts with perpetual joy even amidst a world full of so many struggles, tragedies, temptations, and worries. In spite of all those things, which sorely do attack us, we have overcome them and gain the victory and we shall overcome them and gain the victory not only because of Christ's death, but also His most glorious resurrection.

How does the Church keep confessing her joy? How does she continually celebrate the joy she has in her Lord who bought her with His own blood and sanctified her by the washing through water with the Word? The Church celebrates several feasts throughout the year which point the body of Christ back to Him in all that He has done for us and for our salvation.

The first great feast of the Church comes as no surprise to any of us. The first major festival of the Church is Christmas. At Christmas, and it's close sister Epiphany, the Church remembers and celebrates that the Son of God came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. That this God-man, that is, God in human flesh, was manifest in power through His preaching and miracles.

The second great feast of the Church is also no surprise to us for it is Easter. The Easter celebration, while called here the second great feast, really is the greatest feast of all. For during it we remember that our Lord Jesus was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, He suffered and was buried, and that on the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures. This is the greatest celebration, the Easter season is seven weeks long, and, even more than that, every

Sunday is itself another Easter celebration.

Yet there is another feast. One that may not come to mind at all. The third great feast is the celebration of Pentecost. Here the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and Son, and who with the Father and Son together is worshiped and glorified, came upon the holy Church. On the day of Pentecost, the curse of Babel was undone. At Babel the LORD God curse man and divided his language, but at Pentecost the Apostles spoke so that all heard the Gospel in their own tongue. The Holy Spirit came upon them in tongues of fire that allowed them to perform such a wonderful miracle.

Now we celebrate it too. Not that we seek to be empowered by the Spirit in the same way as the Apostles. Pentecost shows us that the Gospel truly is for all. That all may hear the wonders of God in their own tongues. How do we know this is an important feast? Well, we should rejoice that the Spirit was sent for without Him we cannot believe in Christ. Only the Spirit gives faith in Christ. We should rejoice that He is sent upon the Church especially in the Word so that this faith can be given. But more than that, the Apostle Paul himself wished to celebrate this feast (Acts 20:16, 1 Corinthians 16:8).

The three great feasts of the Church truly are Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. It's where we celebrate our God who took on human nature, who died for our sins and rose again for our justification, and who sent the promised Comforter, the Holy Spirit, and He did all of this for us and for our salvation. So too on Pentecost we rejoice with great joy. And, as at all great feasts, we look forward to communion together at our Lord's altar where we receive His body and blood for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. And we do this too on Pentecost because there we receive Christ Jesus, who was born, died and rose, but the Spirit is the one who uses this gift to sanctify and keep us with Jesus Christ in the true faith. And more than

that, wherever Christ appears there the Father, and the Holy Spirit come along too.

So let us celebrate the feasts. Not out of compulsion, but out of great joy. Always celebrating and rejoicing in the salvation accomplished for us by our great God and Savior who calls us to Himself by His Spirit that we may believe all that He has accomplished for us and for our salvation

Where Do We Go from Here?

By Pastor McPike

The fifty days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost must have seemed like a fog to the disciples. There were the tragic events of Holy Week including Jesus' crucifixion. Then, the disciples were exposed to the unbelievable reality that Jesus was actually risen from the dead. So consider this: Really horrible news (such as death) is unbelievable. If you have experienced a death you know how that feels. So the disciples are working to wrap their minds around the death of Jesus, and even MORE unbelievable news comes along – He is Risen! If the unbelievable news of Jesus' death wasn't enough to create fog in the disciples' minds, combining it with a dead guy showing up at random times behind locked doors and out on the seacoast was certainly enough to cause them to question their sanity.

So I'm sure that they were living in a fog. In the misty uncertainty swirling about them were questions like, "How did this happen?" or "Why did He have to die?" or "What's going to happen to us?" and the like. Of course, confusion over what Messiah really was to be all about continued to cloud the picture even more.

Great change brings about these questions. Back in 2009, I wrote an article with this same title: "Where do we go from here?" That was in the wake of Pastor Peters' death. The congregation had been foundering a bit in uncertainty at that time, and the uncertainty was focused on the vacancy in the office of pastor. Clarity emerged in the form of a program of vacancy pastor/vicar. Immanuel is not in a growing metro area. There are evangelism opportunities, to be sure, around us, but there is not a lot of growth potential as there would be in a larger, more transient community. Yet the congregation has a "niche," holding benefits, presenting a Lutheran presence in the area, and, for the last two years, training vicars. Now, the vicar training part is gone, and some of the fog has returned.

The congregation, in a special meeting the Sunday after Easter, began to address this "foggy situation." Basically, the congregation has committed itself to a six month vacancy which starts July 10, 2011 with vicar leaving through the Annual Meeting in January. While technically, from the perspective of the District Office,

the congregation has been "vacant" since March 2009 when Pastor Peters died, in reality, the congregation's vacancy, defined as a time of uncertainty, began before that with pastor's declining health and concluded with the arrival of the first vicar in 2009. Thus, this upcoming period of vacancy is a time to reflect and analyze the course of the congregation and determine the next best direction for the future.

I have been pleased to serve Immanuel these past three or so years. It was no small amount of grief that "fogged" my head when I was trying to determine the next best steps for us both to take just after being told that Immanuel would not receive a vicar. My time at Immanuel has been good for me both personally and professionally in a variety of ways. For that, I am very grateful. I am also pleased to continue as we go into this new phase of self-discovery. Our next six months together will be a time for us to take a good hard look at what the next steps should be for the benefit of all.

When we first learned that we would not be getting a vicar, we were told that pastoral candidates were available. Indeed, there may yet be students at Fort Wayne awaiting first placement. This is an anxious time for these fellows, as they are now finished with their formal schooling and basically have no source of income to which to go. Immanuel could well have taken such a student as the next pastor. Somehow, this did not seem to "feel right." As time of deliberation continued, that became much clearer. Frankly, requesting a student on very short notice would mean installation of that new pastor probably in mid-July. Thus, the new pastor would be immediately following what has become the very popular combination of vacancy pastor/vicar. This left the potential for the new pastor's ministry to start in a sort of disadvantaged situation. On that basis alone, it seemed better to slow the process down. And while in January we may arrive at exactly the same decision we could have made in late April – that the time has come for a new pastor to come – it will be a decision arrived at following prayer, deliberation, and consideration rather than a rash decision of "well, we're not getting a vicar, send us a pastor instead" made in about three days. In short, come January we will all have a much better idea what this new combination of me serving you without a vicar will look like, and we can make a much more informed choice for the next steps at that time.

Where do we go from here? We go forward, keeping our eyes open, remaining in prayer, and looking to God to lead us into the future.

Church Council Minutes

The following items were discussed at the Church Council Meeting held on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at

7:00 p.m. Pastor McPike opened the meeting with prayer from Luke 24 verses 13-35.

Members in attendance: Mike Hendricks, Darwin Warsaw, Jill Hardesty, Larry Lutz, Vicar Aaron Fenker, and Pastor Jeff McPike.

The May Church Council Meeting was held in the church annex with Pastor McPike opening the meeting with prayer from Luke 24 verses 13-35.

Members in attendance: Mike Hendricks, Darwin Warsaw, Jill Hardesty, Larry Lutz, Vicar Aaron Fenker and Pastor McPike.

Treasurer Mike Hendricks presided over the meeting in the absence of Chairman Whitehouse.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Jill Hardesty read the minutes from the April meeting. Motion was made by Darwin Warsaw to approve the minutes. Second by Larry Lutz. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Mike Hendricks gave the Treasurer's Report with a balance of \$60,401.01 as of April 30, 2011. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Darwin Warsaw. Second by Jill Hardesty. Motion carried.

Treasurer Hendricks also discussed the following:

- A payment of \$150.00 was made to the McLean County Habitat for Humanity from the LWML Fund.
- The 2011 drainage taxes have been paid as of May 10, 2011.
- The plating costs of the communion chalice and the offering plates, which totaled \$485.00, came from the memorial funds of Lyle Bidner and Herman Fillenworth.

Pastor's Report:

The Pastor's Report was given by Pastor McPike. He expressed to the Council that he feels good about his decision to stay at Osman. Vicar Aaron's last Sunday will be on July 10, 2011. That day is also the Quarterly Voters Meeting. A potluck will be planned for after the meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

A new communion statement was unveiled to the Council which also includes the bible verses in which each statement comes from. Mike Hendricks made a motion to approve the proposal to amend the Communion Statement for the church bulletin. Second by Jill Hardesty. Motion carried.

Jeri Bidner will be recognized on Sunday, May 15, 2011 from the Synod District. A picture from the congregation will also be given to her to display in the church Annex. This purchase will be made with Thrivent funds. A motion was made by Jill Hardesty to make this purchase. Second by Darwin Warsaw. Motion carried.

Pastor McPike is in talks with Pastor Bell from Thomasboro as a possible fill in for Sundays and other events where Pastor would not be able to be at Osman. Pastor would like for us to approve a monthly stipend for Pastor Bell, so he would consider us above any other congregation when Pastor McPike could not be in attendance. A motion was made by Darwin Warsaw to approve up to \$800.00 per month, either with one person or a combination of two people to fill in as payment for their services. Second by Larry Lutz. Motion carried.

Pastor McPike also commented that the congregation needs to decide next January 2012 to commit that the "Pastor Vacancy" would be over and to possibly put Osman's name in for a full time pastor, in lieu of the declining Vicar prospects.

He also commented that he still would like to teach Adult Bible Class in the fall and is possibly looking at someone to assist in teaching Confirmation classes. There are three possible confirmation students for 2011-2012 in the class.

Pastor McPike will be gone on the Sunday's of May 22, 2011 and May 29, 2011. Vicar Aaron will be in attendance those weeks.

Vicar's Report:

Vicar will be on vacation the first week of May or the first week of June. He and Pastor McPike will work it out.

Vicar Aaron attended the Pastor's Circuit Meeting at Joy Friendship Church on Tuesday, May 10, 2011.

Bible class continues on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m.

He continues to visit member shut-in's.

Trustee's Report:

Trustee Darwin Warsaw reported there will be a wedding on Saturday, May 14, 2011 at Osman. Sara Martin has requested the use of the church. Another request for the use of the church hall was made for Sunday, May 15, 2011 for a wedding shower. Both events were approved.

Darwin Warsaw also reported that the lighting project has been completed, as directed. The total cost of the project was \$822.31. Thank you to Martha Warsaw and Wade Warsaw for their assistance.

He also reported that Don Warsaw has found a field tile that we can tie into for the drainage problem that we have at the church and hall areas. This is an ongoing project that will hopefully be completed this summer.

Old Business:

Pastor McPike stated that Bible School will be held in the late June timeframe. Talks are beginning for theme and dates.

Evergreen FS has a billing issue with our propane bill and Treasurer Hendricks is right on top of it with

any documentation needed to rebut the charges. He'll continue to follow up on the problem.

There was no New Business to report.

The next Church Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Darwin Warsaw. Second by Larry Lutz. Motion carried with adjournment at 8:30 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer and Luther's Evening Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Hardesty, Council Secretary

Special Voter's Meeting

A special meeting of the Immanuel Lutheran Church congregation was held on Sunday, May 1, 2011 in regard to the option of the congregation not getting a called vicar for the 2011-2012 year.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lee Whitehouse. He "officially" told the congregation that we were not going to be getting a vicar from the seminary after the current vicar leaves. Then Chairman Whitehouse turned the meeting over to Pastor McPike.

Pastor McPike explained the options that the congregation has for both the offices of Pastor and Vicar. After a lot of thought on Pastor McPike's end, he has come to the conclusion that he would like to stay on and be the Vacancy Pastor and serve our congregation. In saying that, Vicar Aaron will be leaving in July. Pastor McPike would not like us to make any rush decisions that we might regret later. His proposal is for him to continue on as "Vacancy Pastor" and we can work anything out until the January 2012 Annual Voters Meeting. He would like to continue to teach the Adult Bible Class and we would have to work out confirmation classes, starting in the fall, but for now, he feels the best thing for the congregation is to stay the course and not rush into anything. Pastor McPike said that he feels very strongly that we can continue with the "setup" as is and would possibly ask other congregation pastors or vicars to help fill in when Pastor McPike would not be available for Sunday worship services.

A motion was made by Darwin Warsaw to go with Pastor's solution as mentioned. Second by Bill Schuh. Motion carried. Joy Johnson publicly thanked the Pastor for his honesty and being there for us and those feelings were translated around the room with many thanks to Pastor McPike.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barb Whitehouse-Gercken. Second by John Gercken. Motion carried with adjournment.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Hardesty, Church Council Secretary

Ladies Aid Meeting

The Ladies Aid will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1, 2011 in the Fellowship Hall. Shirley Sprau is the hostess and will give the devotion. Connie Warsaw will give the topic. All ladies are welcome to attend!

Fellowship Club

Come and bring a friend who likes to quilt or enjoys viewing quilts to our next Fellowship Club on Saturday, June 4, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Adults and children alike are invited to come and enjoy time together with our church family.

The children will view a movie in the Annex while the adults view quilts in the church sanctuary. Votes will be cast for the three favorite quilts, and small prizes awarded.

The group will then move to the Fellowship Hall, where the April, May, and June birthdays will be announced, followed by refreshments furnished by Nikki and Rob Gallier and John and Debbie Lammle.

Come join in on the fun and share those special quilts made by family members or unique quilts you've purchased!

LWML News

Tying Quilts. Anyone interested in helping tie quilts, please join the LWML ladies on Wednesday, June 1, 2011 in the Fellowship Hall at 8:00 a.m. Bring a sack lunch and stay for the Ladies Aid Meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Items Needed for the Convention. The Activities Chairman for the National LWML Convention, Kimberly Janssen, has requested a collection of the following items: Chapstick (no flavor), Christian CD's, coloring books, crayons (box of 24), large pink erasers, extra soft toothbrushes (1-2 per pkg.), yellow highlighters, journals, \$5.00 prepaid gift cards, small spiral notebooks, regular size or travel size toothpaste, travel games or activity books, woman's fuzzy socks, and work puzzle books. Place these items in the box at the back of the church marked "ingathering items." The LWML societies in Illinois are hoping to receive 300 of each of these items by June 12, 2011. The race is on...let's see if we can help meet this goal!

LWML Meeting. The LWML will meet on Thursday, June 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Shirley Sprau will give the devotion and serve as hostess. Connie Warsaw will give the topic. New members are always welcome!

34th Biennial LWML Convention. After many months of preparation, the 34th Biennial LWML Convention will be held this month, June 23-26, 2011 at the Peoria Civic Center. Eight women from our

congregation – Barb Gaines, Brenda Hendricks, Connie Warsaw, Debbie Lammle, Julia Camp, Marsha Warsaw, Terri Hooker, and Wilma Grussing – will be volunteering their time in many different categories, from group leaders to ushers, hostesses, and food service workers. They will be participating in servant events and Mission Pledge Walks, listening to inspirational speakers, and praising God through song with thousands of other Christian women.

Information about the 2011 Convention is only a click away on the LWML Website. Check out the Convention page under “Events” at www.lwml.org. Updates and photos will be posted daily during the four-day convention.

Continue to keep these ladies in your prayers as they begin their spiritual journey, “Being with Jesus-Living on the Edge.”

The Day of Pentecost

June 12, 2011 is Pentecost Sunday. To commemorate this special church festival, red geraniums will be placed on the altar. If you wish to donate one of these plants for a cost of \$7.00, please sign up on the back bulletin board in the church by June 5, 2011. You may make the check out to the church and give to our treasurer, Mike Hendricks. (Feel free to take your flowers home after the service on the 12th).

Prayer for Pentecost: O Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove, with might and power You enflamed the hearts of Jesus’ first disciples. You ignited their souls with the desire to proclaim the wonderful message of salvation to all the nations. Come down among us on Pentecost Sunday, that we, too, would fervently yearn to share the proclamation of peace to our community, our nation, and even unto the world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex.

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.

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
04-24	108	Easter Sunday	
05-01	73	4	11
05-08	89	9	16
05-15	75	8	12
05-22	76	6	10
05-29	Statistics Unavailable		

Elder-on-Duty

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



Sunday, June 19, 2011

F.A.T.H.E.R.S.

“F” aithful.
 “A” lways there.
 “T” rustworthy.
 “H” onoring.
 “E” ver-loving.
 “R” ighteous.
 “S” upportive.

Altar Guild

JuneDebbie Martin and Susan Martin

Lay Readers

06-05Vicar Aaron Fenker
 06-12Barb Gaines
 06-19Vicar Aaron Fenker
 06-26John Gercken

June Birthdays

Susan Martin06-03
 Brant Hendricks06-08
 Jamie Poppe06-08
 Don Warsaw06-09
 Amanda Amdor06-13
 Michael Brooks06-15
 Brenda Edwards06-16
 Jeri Bidner06-18
 Dick Johnson06-19
 Natalie Hooker.....06-21
 Beth Bidner06-22
 Kim Clemmons06-24
 Laura Zimmerman06-26
 Jack Gallier.....06-30

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 Lammle06-25
 Janet and Myron Zimmerman06-30

June Mowing List

06-04Steve Warsaw and Larry Camp
 06-11Don Warsaw and Bill Schuh
 06-18Lee and Roy Whitehouse
 06-25Bryan and Greg Warsaw

A Father Is:

There in every memory
 See his love and care
 Strength and hands to count on
 Freely he does share
 Provider, toil so faithfully
 To make our dreams come true
 Give strong and tender discipline
 Though it is hard to do
 A Father is God's chosen one
 To lead the family
 And point it to His will for life
 Of love and harmony...

Sue Skeen

When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years.

Fathers Day Quote by: Mark Twain, "Old Times on the Mississippi" Atlantic Monthly, 1874

“A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society.”

Billy Graham