

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
Reverend Justin Schmidt



Give thanks in all circumstances; for this
is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:18

From Pastor McPike's desk...

Included in this month's Newsletter is a pull-out sheet that contains an evaluation form of the congregation. This is a bit of a different approach than in previous years. In previous years, as we would reach the end of the calendar year heading into the January Annual meeting, the congregation was asked to consider what direction to choose from specific alternatives. Each year since Pastor Peters died, there were considerations on what particular directions the ministry of the church should take, whether to get a vicar, whether to call a pastor, whether to continue with the existing situation. Once the option of getting a vicar was no longer possible due to the shortage of vicars, the next step was to consider what ministry options we thought best suited Immanuel for the future.

Rather than keep the congregation in a state of flux, asking each year "do you want to continue the current arrangement with the two pastors", the two pastors have committed themselves to the current arrangement. The evaluation this year is less about "do you like what's going on?" and more about "How do you see the pastoral ministry needs of the congregation now and in the future." These surveys certainly can be confidential. You don't have to sign your name. The church council will look them over and evaluate the responses, and will examine the present ministry being provided at Immanuel and compare it to the congregation's perception of its ministry needs. This will help shape the future of the congregation. For example, should the survey reveal felt needs by the members of the congregation that include a full-time pastor, then the pastors and the congregation will need to take a long, hard look at the suggestions, the current state of things and the

possibilities and decide what the best next step might be. Should the ministry needs of the church be able to be met by the current situation, then there will be no change.

Please give this matter prayerful attention. We would like to get the surveys back by the beginning of December.

Officers for 2013

Each year, the church council faces the task of filling a ballot for the election of a slate of officers for the coming year. Each year the council members tend to wring their hands wondering who they can contact in order to serve. Many of the members have already served in one capacity or another. The jobs keep coming around, the needs continue to be there.

This year, in particular, we are again faced with the same concerns that were before us just two years ago. The job of treasurer is being vacated by Mike Hendricks. At the last minute at the election for 2011 officers, Mike agreed to remain in the treasurer job temporarily until a suitable replacement could be found. At that time, the council was also charged with the task of determining if the services of an accounting firm should be secured for the future, as there are portions of the treasurer job that, due to payroll tax regulations, have become rather complex.

Those determinations were made, and have already been presented to the Voters. When Mike made the announcements about those outside accounting firm possibilities, he had more or less determined that he would continue at least through the end of 2011. By the beginning of this year, the congregation was again told what the cost would be, and Mike indicated that he would stay on for the remainder of the term. That term expires at the

Annual Meeting in January, 2013.

The taxes are not as complex, and Mike has done considerable work to simplify them. He also has expressed willingness to coach a future treasurer on the job. The long and short is this. Does Immanuel want to pay \$150 or so per month (\$1,800 for the year) for an accounting firm to deal with the treasurer's job? If no one steps up to the plate, that is the eventuality that we could face.

There are, of course, other offices needing filled. Prayerfully consider the gifts the Lord has given you, and how you can best use those gifts in His service.

Thrivent News

Thrivent Choice Dollars! By directing Thrivent Choice dollars, eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars. This month our congregation received \$44. We thank William Amdor for his contribution. If you think you might have choice dollars based on Thrivent products that you have, please see Brenda Hendricks to get those dollars directed to a nonprofit organization or congregation.

Benefit Supper! On Saturday, November 10th, our Thrivent members will have a benefit soup supper for Brooke Miller of Bellflower. The proceeds will be used to help defray some of the medical costs for Brooke. The menu will be chili, oyster soup, potato soup, sandwiches, pies, and drinks. It is a freewill offering, but Thrivent will match \$1 for every \$3 donated. There is a donation sign-up sheet at the back of the church. Spread the news – invite the community!

McLean County Annual Meeting! All Thrivent members are invited to the McLean County annual meeting on Sunday, November 11th at Shannon's 5-Star Restaurant in Bloomington. The meeting will start at 4 PM with a program on Identity Theft which will be followed by a short business meeting, election, entertainment, and supper. If you interested in going, please call Sharon Hoy at 309-824-4408 or Deb Huber at 309-828-6784 or contact Connie Warsaw or Brenda Hendricks by November 4. Reservations are a necessity!

All Saints Day Celebration

All Saints Day is a festival on which the church remembers and honors all the Christian faithful. The traditional date for the observance is November 1, however, we will celebrate it on the first Sunday in November. In celebration of All Saints Day, we would

like to give thanks for the following items that have been given to our church through memorial money in the last two years. They are as follows: in memory of Verna Adams and Lois Christie - altar supplies; in memory of Herman Fillenworth and Lyle Bidner - replating of the Communion cup and plates; in memory of Elva Hendricks - Lutheran floor mat; in memory of Ruth Bennett - re-upholstery of the church furniture; in memory of Walter Poppe, Everett Albin, and Gene Bundy - the LCD projector and the large screen.

Operation Christmas Child!

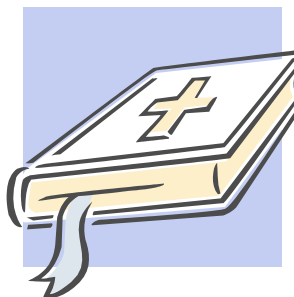
Operation Christmas Child is sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. It basically is packing a shoe box with small gifts and hygiene products for children in poverty-stricken countries. Our Sunday School children and confirmands

are going to assemble some of these boxes to make some child's Christmas special. We have applied for a Thrivent grant



for \$400 to help buy supplies for the boxes. This grant will help supplement the supplies that we collect. The children are asked to donate 2 boxes of Crayola crayons - 24 packs. We need donations by our members of plastic totes the size of a shoe box. We need 20 - 25 boxes by November 4th. These will be collected on the back elder pew. The children will assemble the boxes on Sunday, November 4th, during Sunday School, and the postage of \$7 per box will be paid by Thrivent Choice dollars that have been donated to our congregation. Thanks for your donations!

Biblical Humor



There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new gym - fellowship hall building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

The present ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman involves two pastors who have 8-5, Monday-Friday jobs other than serving Immanuel. The major disadvantage to this is weekday availability.

Advantages to a small congregation like Immanuel are numerous. The congregation would otherwise be able to afford only one pastor, but in this case has two. The pastor that could be supported by the congregation would be a pastor with only up to ten years ministry experience, if paid according to Central Illinois District recommended salary scale.

The present ministry involves two pastors; one has almost 25 years experience, and the other, 10 years. Additionally, a 2-3 month "intern" (vicar) can also, according to our present finance situation, be supported for summertime work, which allows the congregation to both provide an educational forum for seminary students training to be pastors in the church, as well as experience the variety of developing styles that these young men bring.

The following survey questions are drawn from a much larger congregational survey that churches seeking to call a pastor are asked to complete and submit to the District prior to the call. Rather than a simple question of "Do you like what's happening?" or "Do you like one or both pastors?", these questions seek to obtain a bit of a profile of how members of the congregation envision ministry needs of the congregation. These can then be compared with the strengths and weaknesses of the two pastors presently at Immanuel, as well as the situation under which they currently serve.

Please complete as few or many of the following questions as you wish. Thank you!

In your own words, why does Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman exist today?

What are the chief priorities of the ministry of Immanuel?

Our congregation's strengths in ministry are:

Areas where our congregation needs improvement are:

What is your understanding of the ordained ministry of the church?

Further comments:

Immanuel Lutheran Church Voters Meeting

Minutes

October 7th, 2012

The October Voters meeting was called to order by Chairman Rick Hardesty with Pastor McPike opening the meeting with prayer. 35 members were present.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Jill Hardesty read the minutes from the July 8th voters meeting. A motion was made by Don Warsaw to approve the minutes as read. 2nd by Aaron Warsaw. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mike Hendricks gave the Treasurer's report with a quarterly balance of \$82,888.18 as of September 30th, 2012. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Bob Zimmerman. 2nd by Gene Welborn. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor McPike spoke about the congregational survey that he has compiled. The survey will be inserted in the November Osman newsletter for everyone to respond to. It will then be analyzed and reported back to the congregation at the Annual meeting in January, 2013.
- All of the Official Acts have been added and completed on our website. We will now proof the entries and fill in where there were some blanks were in the near future.
- There has been a change in leadership at the Central Illinois District (CID) at the convention in July. Rev. Mark Miller is now the CID President.
- Pastor Schmidt is celebrating his 10th year in the ministry. Our church is planning a celebration event either in November or December. The exact date will be announced soon by the Events committee.

Old Business

- Chairman Hardesty asked for an update on the new church directory. Brenda Hendricks reported that there will be family pictures taken for the new church directory with dates planned for the 1st week of April, 2013.
- Chairman Hardesty reported the status of the new door project in the church hall is moving forward. The door is in with the final touches being done in the next week or two.
- Chairman Hardesty gave an update on the AED training that will be held with the Gibson Hospital on the AED that the church purchased. Jill Hardesty is working with the Hospital on the date in November that would be convenient for anyone who wanted to learn how to administer the AED.
- The video projector and screen has been purchased for the church and hall areas. This purchase was made possible by the Walter Poppe, Gene Bundy and Everett Albin Memorial funds. We thank all of these families for this generous donation.

New Business

- The well at the church has been repaired. The pump to the well was dropped another 21 feet, the length of the pipe and is working as it should. The cost was about \$400.00.
- A lock box was drilled open at the Farmer City State Bank because the keys were missing. Treasurer Mike Hendricks made all of the arrangements. Land deeds and sheriff certificates for church land were in the box. These documents have all been transferred to a new safe deposit box located at the First Mid Illinois bank in Mansfield. The box number is #193. We thank the Bob Zimmerman family for paying for the old lock box fees over a number of years.
- Chairman Hardesty noted that there is a signup sheet for new church council positions in January, 2013 on the bulletin board in the back of the church. Please feel free to sign up if you'd be interested or see him or any council member if you need to discuss the office you'd like to run for.
- Two event dates coming up is one, from the Youth Group, the Harvest Breakfast on Sunday, October 14th in the church hall and another event, the annual wiener roast and hayrack ride will be held on Sunday, October 28th at 4pm. We will eat at 5pm.
- Chairman Hardesty stated that there has been a request for additional handicap parking spaces near the church entrance and hall entrance areas. All of the areas suggested will be taken back to the church council and discussed and reported back to the congregation.
- There has been a request to remove the old sliding curtains in the back of the church, under the balcony. Discussion followed and was decided to ask Sunday School Teacher Joy Johnson on her thoughts of some privacy. No vote was taken. Larry Lutz will submit at least 2 bids for newer style closing curtains for discussion at the January 2013 meeting where it will be brought to the congregation for a vote at the Annual meeting.
- Council Secretary Jill Hardesty read a thank you note from Vicar Dan Grimmer that was addressed to the congregation for the memories book that Annette Warsaw and Brenda Hendricks created from pictures that were donated over the summer months when Vicar Dan was at Osman. He was extremely humbled and grateful for the experience.
- The next voters meeting will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2013 with a potluck after the meeting. The election of the new church council members will also take place.

Chairman Hardesty called for adjournment. A motion was made by Barb Whitehouse-Gercken to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Roy Whitehouse. Motion carried and was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 11:25am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Hardesty

Osman Council Secretary

Ladies Aid Meeting

The Ladies Aid held their monthly meeting on October 3rd with Debbie Lammle calling the meeting to order. The meeting began with the hymn "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" accompanied by Shirley Sprau. Devotion and prayer was given by Jeannine Henriksen, and the topic by Shirley Sprau. Roll call was answered with a verse on faithfulness, one of the "Fruit of the Spirit."

During the business meeting, an email was read from our seminary student and former vicar, Dan Grimmer. His web address is westfieldwolverine.blogspot.com. You can type in your email address on that website (on the right side "Follow by Email") and every time Dan updates his website, you will receive an email.

The Christmas Luncheon was changed to Wednesday, December 12th.

New business included discussion on purchasing new roasters for the kitchen in the Fellowship Hall. Connie and Annette Warsaw volunteered to research the cost of new roasters by the next meeting.

The next Ladies Aid meeting has been changed to Thursday, November 8th at 1:30 p.m. Wilma Grussing will have the devotion and refreshments and Connie Warsaw will give the topic. The roll call will be answered with a verse on gentleness.

The meeting ended with the song "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" followed by a reminder of the quilting date on October 8th. The Lord's Prayer was said, and table prayer sung to the tune of "Amazing Grace".

Following the delicious refreshments, a group of six members stayed after the meeting to make fall straw wreaths for the shut-ins. Thanks to Agnes Martinie, Annette Warsaw, Connie Warsaw, Debbie Lammle, Dorothy Miller, and Shirley Sprau for making the wreaths that will be delivered during the next shut-in visits.

Shut-in Visits

Thank you to Darryl Redding and Debbie Lammle for visiting the shut-ins in October.

Confirmation Class

The confirmands will have their next confirmation class with the pastor on November 11th immediately after church in the fellowship hall.

Thank You!

Thank you to Terri and Dwight Hooker for folding and boxing up the 25 quilts for Lutheran World Relief and delivering them to the American Lutheran Church in Gibson City on Saturday, October 27th. Thank you to all those who made the beautiful quilt tops and those who put them together.

Fellowship Club

Mark your calendars: Fellowship Club will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, November 18th at 6 p.m. to recognize those having birthdays in October, November, and December. A light lunch will be served, followed by games for all ages! Hope you can come and share in the fellowship!

Celebration

Pastor Schmidt is celebrating his 10th year in the ministry. To commemorate this milestone, we will have a special celebration here at Immanuel on Sunday, December 9th. More details will be coming later.

Agnus Day



"Agnus Day appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org"



Statistics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Adult Class</u>
09-30	78	4	18
10-07	68	5	17
10-14	92	6	13
10-21	63	7	14
10-28	Stats Unavailable		

Acolyte

Nov 04	Chase Zimmerman
Nov 11	Ryan McPike
Nov 18	Cheyenne Zimmerman
Nov 25	Hannah Duncan

Reading Schedule

Nov 04	Shirley Sprau
Nov 11	Aaron Warsaw
Nov 18	Annette Warsaw
Nov 25	Marsha Warsaw

November Altar Guild

Barb Gaines

Elder on Duty

Marvin Clemmons	Mar	July	Nov
Butch Sprau	Feb	June	Oct
Aaron Warsaw	May	Sept	Jan 2013
Roy Whitehouse	Apr	Aug	Dec

November Birthdays



Deb Peyton.....	11-02
Emily Grussing.....	11-05
Joni Reifsteck.....	11-05
Lee Whitehouse.....	11-06
Malachi Johnson.....	11-10
Esther Lutz.....	11-10
Karen Bryan.....	11-11
Brent Lutz.....	11-11
Randy Zimmerman.....	11-13
Steve Warsaw.....	11-14
Dwight Hooker.....	11-15
Rick Hardesty.....	11-16
Mary Beth Duncan.....	11-19
Agnes Martinie.....	11-22
Nick Forrest.....	11-24
Jenna Clemmons.....	11-25
Bill Forrest.....	11-25
Julia Camp.....	11-30



November Anniversaries

Annette and Jeff Warsaw.....	11-03-2001
Jeannine and Harry Henriksen.....	11-15-1953
Stefani and Greg Warsaw.....	11-16-2002
Connie and John Grussing.....	11-19-1999
Kim and Marvin Clemmons.....	11-21-1998
Connie and Don Warsaw.....	11-22-1969
Jean and Bill Amdor.....	11-26-1983



November Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, November 6, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.