

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN **The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**



Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC
Reverend Justin Schmidt



For God so loved the
world, that He gave
His only Son.

John 3:16

From Pastor McPike's desk...

Advent

Advent consists of four Sundays, beginning with the Sunday closest to November 30th. Advent's four Sundays not only celebrate the church preparing for the birth of Jesus Christ, but also for his continual presence through the Bible and communion, and his eventual return to judge the living and the dead. We celebrate Advent using candles inside a wreath, each of which carries a distinct meaning.

The wreath contains four candles on the outside and one large candle in the center. The center candle symbolizes the birth of Christ and the four outer candles symbolize each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day. The acolytes light an additional candle each week until all the candles are lit on the 25th of December.

The Advent wreath consists of a circle of evergreen branches set around four candles. The wreath circle stands for the eternal life that Christ gives to all believers. The candles, which usually consist of three blue candles and one pink candle, represent the coming of Christ as the light of the world. The blue candles signify that Advent is a season of repentance as well as expectation. The center candle is the Christ candle and is lit on Christmas Eve and throughout the twelve days of Christmas, ending on January 5th.

The first candle lit on December 2nd this year, is the Prophet Candle, and symbolizes the hope and anticipation of Christ's coming in the flesh as prophesied in the Old Testament. The second candle, the Bethlehem Candle, recalls how Christ was humbly born of a virgin in Bethlehem. The third, the Shepherd's Candle, recalls the shepherds rejoicing after they saw the Christ child in the stable. The fourth is the Angel's candle, reminding Christians of the angels who announced Christ's birth.

The Advent wreath here at Immanuel Osman was given in memory of Walt and Mary Lammle and Verna Adams by their family and friends. The oil filled blue candles were given in memory of Lois Christie.

May we all draw closer to Christ and the real meaning of Christmas as we celebrate this Advent Season!

Thank You Altar Guild!

Thanks to the Altar Guild members for all they do through the year to see that our worship space is kept beautiful and in good order here at Immanuel Osman. From setting up for communion to decorating the altar for special services to planning the recovering of the chairs and love seat, all these are completed to the glory of God and to provide a setting which enables the congregation to worship in a meaningful way. We do appreciate the work you do!

Thank You for Flowers!

A special thanks to anyone who provided flowers this year for the altar. Your donations help beautify the altar and add to the worship atmosphere. Thanks again! From Altar Guild members

Shut-in Visits

Thanks to Darryl Redding and Debbie Lammle for visiting the shut-ins last month.

Christmas Eve

Children's Program Practices

Christmas is on its way which can only mean one thing, PRACTICE! In preparation for the Christmas Eve program, the Sunday School children, Catechism and High School students are asked to join us for a fun program that will celebrate the true reason for the season! Please contact Annette at 217-489-9290 or granddesign1@yahoo.com, if you have any questions! Remaining programs practices:
Sunday, December 16: (during Sunday School time)
Wednesday, December 19: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 22: 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, December 23 (during Sunday School time)

Joy to the World

Ladies Aid News

The Ladies Aid held their November monthly meeting on November 8th with eight members present. President Lammle called the meeting to order followed by singing, devotion, and topic. Roll call was answered with a verse on gentleness, a fruit of the spirit. Wilma Grussing read the minutes, followed by treasure's report by Joanne Nelson, and flower fund report by Shirley Sprau. President Lammle read correspondence from Carolyn Heinz and seminary student, Dan Grimmer, who is studying in England.

Old business included the discussion of the gift of a roaster, given by Jeannine and Harry Henriksen in honor of their 59th wedding anniversary.

Under new business, the group voted on giving \$25 dollars to Bethesda and Lutheran Bible Translators. New officers for the coming year include Connie Warsaw-President, Wilma Grussing-V. President, Annette Warsaw-Secretary, Joanne Nelson-treasurer, Shirley Sprau-Flower Fund Treasurer, Moneta McCleary-Lutheran Child and Family Services Rep., and Debbie Lammle-Seminary Correspondent. Christmas gifts for the pastors were discussed and voted on. Members were reminded to bring a small gift for the Christmas luncheon on December 12th, and were asked to sign-up for a specific item to bring for the meal. Discussion concerning the Advent Supper was next on the agenda. It was voted to have a Soup Supper before the Advent Service, including chili, vegetable soup, sandwiches, bar cookies, and drinks. A free will offering will be taken. All members were asked to bring a Christmas decoration to place on the tables for the event. A sign-up will be placed on the bulletin board for Ladies Aid members to specify what food they're bringing to the supper. Thanks were then given to Wilma Grussing for providing the delicious refreshments. The meeting ended with singing the table prayer to the tune of "Amazing Grace" and reciting the Lord's Prayer. Following refreshments, the members stayed to make Christmas favors for the shut-ins. Thanks to Agnes Martinie, Annette Warsaw, Connie Warsaw, Debbie Lammle, Joanne Nelson, and Shirley Sprau for helping to create the beautiful Styrofoam Christmas trees.

Christmas Treat Bags

The treat bags that are given to our guests on Christmas Eve will be assembled on Monday, December 24, 2-12 at 9:00 a.m. Anyone can help on this project. If you would like to donate money for this project, please give your money to one of our elders - Marvin Clemmons, Butch Sprau, Aaron Warsaw and Roy Whitehouse - or the treasurer, Mike Hendricks.

Hay Rack Ride and Wiener Roast

A great time was had by young and old alike at the annual Hay Rack Ride and Wiener Roast here at Immanuel Osman. The tour of the Osman country-side during the hay ride was first on the agenda, followed by roasting hot dogs and marshmallows for s'mores, and exciting games like sweeping, transferring, and popping balloons. The younger members were also engaged in decorating their own pumpkin to take home. What a great time to share with your church family!



LWML Meeting

The LWML will meet Thursday, December 13th in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 PM. Barb Gaines will be the topic leader and Debbie Lammle and Agnes Martinie will be our hostesses. We will reveal our secret pals and draw names for the new year. All ladies of the church are welcome.

Gift of Material

Due to Brenda Hendrick's connections, we learned about a huge amount of new material being sold at a garage sale. It was from Mike and Judy Wallace's daughter's estate. A few ladies from our church purchased material. We told the ladies what we use the material for and after the garage sale, they let us come and take for free all that was left. If anyone wants to make quilts, please help yourself to the material in the closet in the hall. This comes at a great time because Lutheran World Relief has a quilt campaign for 2013 - 1 year - 500,000 quilts. The quilts deliver comfort and hope and are their most requested resource. Tied in Faith - Sent in Hope - Wrapped in Love.

Confirmation Class

Confirmands will meet with Pastor Schmidt on December 9th after church for lunch and the study of Luther's Small Catechism. Thanks to the Youth Group for paying for the meal.

Thank You!

Thank you to Harry and Jeannine Henriksen for the new roaster purchased for the church in honor of their anniversary. We were in need of another roaster, so it was a very thoughtful gift.

Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid members, husbands, and guests will hold their annual Christmas luncheon on December 12th at noon. Please bring a dish to share and an \$8 present for the gift exchange.

Ladies Aid members: Please sign-up on the bulletin board to donate soup, sandwiches, or bar cookies for the Advent Soup Supper.

Advent Soup Supper

The congregation is invited to an Advent Soup Supper before the Advent Service on December 12th, starting at 5:30pm. The menu includes chili, vegetable soup, chicken salad sandwiches, ham and cheese sandwiches, dessert, and drinks. A free will offering will be taken.

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 \$355. We thank the following members for their contributions: John Gercken, John Grussing, Wilma Grussing, Brenda Hendricks, Deb Lammle, Carolyn Majercin, Steve Martin, Susan Martin, Moneta McCleary, Bill McCleary, Greg McCleary, Marge Morrissey, Darryl Redding, Connie Warsaw, Donnie Warsaw, and Gene Welborn. Starting in January there will be a new procedure to direct these dollars. More information will follow in the new year.

Benefit Supper Donations!

On Saturday, November 10th, our congregation held a benefit soup supper for Brooke Miller of Bellflower. It was a very busy evening as we served approximately 140 people. We collected \$5267 and Thrivent will add at least \$1500 to that total. The proceeds will help Brooke with her medical expenses. Thanks to all the members who donated food and volunteer hours to make this supper a success. It is always great to share God's love with needy people in our communities!

Celebration!

The entire congregation is invited to a 10th Anniversary Celebration for Pastor Schmidt and Appreciation Celebration for both pastors on December 16th, immediately after church. Please sign-up on the back bulletin board by Dec 9th so the caterer knows the amount of food to prepare. The menu includes baked steak, party potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, and drinks. A free will offering will be taken. Plan now to attend and show our pastors how much we appreciate them!

Pastor Schmidt's 10th Anniversary in the Ministry

Pastor Schmidt, who has served here at Immanuel Osman for close to a year, is celebrating his 10th anniversary in the ministry. Pastor Schmidt grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with his parents and sisters. He was very involved with sports while growing up, lettering in baseball and swimming. His mother was a stay at home mom, although later in life she worked as a Pharmaceutical Technician. Pastor's father retired as the Vice President of Information Systems of Bayer Corporation. Pastor Schmidt attended Virginia Tech majoring in Engineering, following by attending Concordia College in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he majored in theology. Pastor was influenced to go into the ministry by two pastors that served in his home congregation while growing up. Pastor Schmidt felt a personal connection to Pastor Wayne Hoffman, who talked about personal experiences in his life, and wasn't just the "man in the pulpit". Pastor knew at the age of twenty that he too would like to serve God by answering the call for pastors in the harvest field. Pastor attended Concordia in St. Louis right after college and was ordained at age 29. He met his wife while attending Concordia at Ann Arbor, Michigan and was married on February 29, 1999 at New Boston, Michigan. His wife's name is Marion, and his four children are Amanda, age 17, Wolfran (Wofie), age 7, Lilian, age 5, and Augustine (Augie), age 3. Pastor and his family live in Monticello.

Pastor's last call was to Peace Lutheran Church in Thomasboro, IL. From there Pastor and his family moved to Monticello. At the present time Pastor Schmidt works as the Long-Gun production Supervisor and Chief Compliance Officer at Altamont Company in Thomasboro. He also fills in at churches from Champaign to Thawville, and is very active with family activities. He enjoys hunting in his spare time.

Pastor Schmidt fills the position of pastor, shepherd, and leader here at Immanuel Osman. He accepts God's call to give and serve with overwhelming love. He shows his great

rapport with children in his children's sermons, teaching them to honor God as a loving father figure. Through his sermons, Pastor Schmidt has a compassionate manner that the congregation is open to receive and comprehend the message. Pastor Schmidt has used God's gift of spreading His Word for our benefit and in service to others here at Immanuel Osman. And to him, God will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Matthew 25:23. We are very blessed to have such a talented pastor in our midst, and appreciate his willingness to serve at Immanuel Lutheran church of Osman!

Pastor McPike

Our theme of "Pastor Appreciation" most certainly wouldn't be complete without also including the history of Pastor McPike. He most kindly took time to fill in the information on his journey through life and the ministry.

In the winter of 1982, Rev. Robert Voehl of Prince of Peace Lutheran in Martinsville, Indiana was seriously injured in a car accident. He was in ICU at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis for many weeks in a coma. During this time, the church contracted with a retired pastor to fill in. The pastor's voice was not so strong, so Pastor McPike was asked to fill in doing parts of the service that didn't require a pastor. He was about 22 or so at the time, and a junior at IUPUI in Engineering. A number of people encouraged him to consider ministry based on seeing him in that position. When his pastor finally returned (about a year later) and saw that he was doing these things, he encouraged him to apply for the seminary. He applied to the seminary in the fall of 1983, and read the acceptance letter at the Christmas Eve service that year.

Pastor grew up on the east side of Indianapolis and attended Trinity Lutheran Church and School there through the seventh grade. In 1973, his parents purchased a home in a smaller community outside of Indy called Martinsville, and they relocated there at the end of that school year. He finished his schooling through high school at Martinsville. Pastor McPike received his Engineering degree from IUPUI - Indiana University - Purdue University at Indianapolis in 1984. He graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary in 1988.

Pastor McPike was ordained on June 26, 1988 at his home church, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Martinsville, Indiana. "I was privileged to have several key figures in my faith formation journey participate. Rev. David E. Hakes, my vicarage supervisor, was the preacher. The late Rev. Robert Paul Voehl, my pastor (1978-1988) was the liturgist. The late Rev. Walter C. Maas, my pastor at Trinity/Indianapolis (1962-1974) was the 'Officiant' at the ordination." He was installed as associate pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Norfolk, Nebraska on July 10, 1988. He had also invited Rev. Wayne Wilke, Dean of Students at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, who was his pastor (1974-1977) that confirmed him and Rev. Ronald Zehnder, emeritus, who baptized him at St. Peter Lutheran Church, Indianapolis on November 20, 1960, but they were unable to attend.

His father was a 1957 graduate of Indiana University in

Mathematics. He worked for many years at Indianapolis Life Insurance Company in the actuarial department. As pastor was attending IUPUI, his father took courses there as well, and became a CPA in the early 1980's. His mother was a stay at home mom until he was in high school. She took a job as a bank teller, where she worked until she retired.

He worked for the local newspaper at Martinsville during high school, college, and even a summer of seminary. He had an early interest in news and took classes in journalism and publications. He was co-editor of the "Artesian Herald", the school newspaper at Martinsville High School. He used a 35mm SLR camera and took pictures for the paper and yearbook. Most of that was done in black and white, and he developed his own film at the school darkroom and printed pictures there, as well. His job at the newspaper started out sweeping floors, but evolved into working with the actual production of the paper, as well as delivery. When he got into college, he started working in the business office, helping with the computers, which were quite a new thing for a small business back in the late 1970's. He had permission to use the office computer after-hours, off the clock, which really increased his proficiency in computers at a time when they were still far too large and costly for the average home user.

His first church (probably one of the loveliest LCMS church buildings he has been in) was Grace Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Nebraska. He was there 11 years. He made it clear that his goal was chaplaincy, when he moved to Urbana to Trinity in 1999. By serving in Urbana, he was able to complete chaplaincy training at Carle, and take a very part-time job there in 2000 and a part-time job at Covenant in 2003, while still at Trinity. He was fortunate to land the job he has now in 2004.

He began filling in for Rev. John Fale in 1992 at Lutheran Community Hospital, doing some on-call work. At that time, Lutheran was a 100-bed hospital in a town of 21,000 people, so the frequency of late night callbacks was not nearly what it is at a place like Carle. "Over the following six years, Rev. Fale worked with me until I enrolled in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa. Each "unit" of CPE is a 400 hour commitment: 100 hours are a mixture of didactic presentations on related topics, group interaction and supervisory time. The other 300 hours are actual clinical work with patients, much of which is involved in peer group and supervisory time. This "unit" met on an extended basis one day per week, so that pastors could work it into their work schedules from October to April. The unit concluded about the time of the move to Urbana, and Carle having a CPE program, was a major factor in that move. St. Luke's was an 89 mile drive one way, making the move to a community where the local hospital had a CPE program quite appealing." He finished his other three required CPE units at Carle by the winter of 2000.

In order to be a chaplain, in addition to the 4 units or 1600 hours of CPE, holding a Master's degree in theology, one must be "endorsed". This endorsement means different things in different denominations. In some church bodies, it is as simple as getting a letter from a supervisory figure in the

church saying the pastor would make a good chaplain. Lutherans have the most extensive process of endorsement, which involves submitting a battery of written materials to a committee of three endorsed Lutheran chaplains, and then meeting the committee for an interview of between 1 and 1.5 hours. He was endorsed in 2003.

The final step in being a chaplain is certification. His is with the Association of Professional Chaplains, headquartered in Schaumburg. Again, a good deal of written material is required demonstrating competence in 29 professional and pastoral areas of ministry, as well as meeting a committee of at least three Board Certified Chaplains for a one hour interview. He was certified in 2009.

His areas of coverage at Carle are the Surgical ICU, Oncology, Rehab unit and general surgical floor. Each chaplain is required to be on-call a minimum of 4 nights per month, meaning that we have to be able to be present at the hospital within a half hour of being called for emergencies or other urgent requests. A typical day consists of responding to pager requests, routine requests that come through the medical record system and "rounding" or just checking with nurses and patients on the various assigned units. He visits individual patients, family members and assess their spiritual resources, risks to their spiritual wellness and tries to provide support.

He serves on the "Gift of Hope" team at Carle, which promotes organ donation and on the Institutional Review Board (IRB), a group of people who meet regularly to review research to make sure that the research subjects rights are protected. Since 2008, he has served on the LCMS by sitting on the editorial board of "Caring Connections", an online journal for Lutheran chaplains, and two different boards that oversee the endorsement of Lutheran chaplains. The editorial board meets once each month by telephone conference call for approximately one hour. The board overseeing endorsement meets twice per year for an entire day in St. Louis at the LCMS International Center.

Pastor McPike has two children as you already know. Sara is 17 and Ryan in 14. Sara, a junior at Urbana High School, is in marching band, wind symphony, jazz band and drama. She has been in chorus there and was active in choirs while a student at St. John Lutheran School. She plays for church occasionally, and is active in the St. John Youth as a "LYF-lighter", which is a youth leader there. She hopes to attend Concordia University-Chicago for music, Lutheran Education and possibly a deaconess.

Ryan is a freshman at Urbana High School. He enjoys singing in the UHS chorus. He has greatly benefited from Urbana School system being one of the better systems in the Midwest for his condition which is Autism. Autism is a diagnosis in order to obtain special services, but it really is a "spectrum", meaning that folks that are "on the spectrum" have some things in common, but the autism manifests itself differently according to each person's unique personality.

We feel very privileged to have God lead Pastor McPike to our congregation in a time of great need here at Osman. He has helped our congregation heal, resurge with Christian energy, encourages us with great sermons that leave us

refreshed with hope and thanksgiving--and tells us about "law" with the love of the "gospel" following. Our congregation is indeed very blessed!

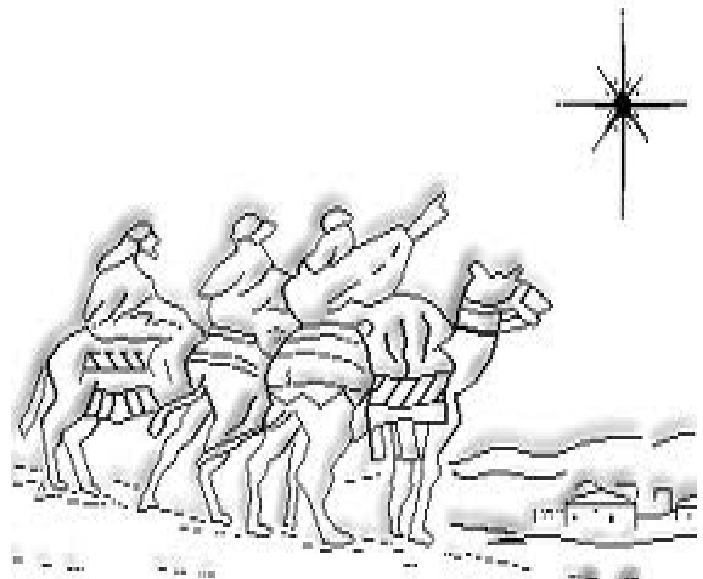
Hanging of the Greens

The Christmas tree in the Sanctuary was scheduled to be decorated on Saturday, December 8. All other decorations will be put up the following week on December 15.

Agnus Day



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



2013 Annual Voters Assembly and Elections

The annual voters assembly and elections for new church officers will be held Sunday, January 13, 2013 immediately following the church service. The ballot of the current slate of candidates follows on the next page. Thank you to everyone who signed up and offered their talents to the church. **Nominations will still be taken from the floor from anyone on the date of the elections, January 13, 2013.**

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Sunday, January 13th, 2013

CHURCH OFFICE

NAME

SECRETARY

Brenda Hendricks _____

TREASURER

Bob Zimmerman _____

ELDER

(choose 2)

Bill Schroeder _____

Don Warsaw _____

Jim VanWakeman _____

ASS'T. SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPT.

Beth Bidner _____

ASST. FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Larry Lutz _____

TRUSTEE

John Gercken _____

HEAD USHER

(choose 1)

Courtney Delaney _____

Gina Masko _____

Statistics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Adult Class</u>
10-28	76	4	19
11-04	78	9	17
11-11	58	5	10
11-18	64	5	10
11-21	45	0	0
11-25	82	6	18



December Birthdays

Larry Camp.....	12-01
Myron Zimmerman.....	12-02
Jonathon Schuh.....	12-04
David Hasty.....	12-05
Curtis Homann.....	12-06
Paul Zimmerman.....	12-06
David Brown.....	12-08
Deborah Martin.....	12-09
Darren Peyton.....	12-12
Barbara Reifsteck.....	12-16
Jerred Grussing.....	12-17
Amber Hendricks.....	12-17
Connie Grussing.....	12-18
Wilma Forrest.....	12-20
Diana Zimmerman.....	12-21
Kierra Barrack.....	12-24
Nathan Hooker.....	12-25
Deb Johnson.....	12-28
Jennifer Homann.....	12-30
John Grussing.....	12-31



December Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

December Reading Schedule

12-02.....	Shane Zimmerman
12-09.....	Larry Camp
12-16.....	Kim Clemmons
12-23.....	Marvin Clemmons
12-30.....	Barb Gaines

December Acolyte Schedule

12-02.....	MacKenzie Delaney
12-09.....	Chase Zimmerman
12-16.....	Cheyenne Zimmerman
12-23.....	Hannah Duncan
12-24.....	MacKenzie Delaney
12-30.....	Ryan McPike

December Elder on Duty

Roy Whitehouse

December Altar Guild

Debbie Lammle

December Choir Practice

Wednesday, Dec 5 at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec 12 after service
Wednesday, Dec 19 at 7:30 p.m.



December Anniversaries

Jodi and Jake Stockle.....	12-04-1999
Dorothy and Gene Welborn.....	12-20-1953
Arnita and Paul Zimmerman.....	12-20-1949
Jennifer and Curtis Homann.....	12-21-1991
Martha and Darwin Warsaw.....	12-31-1966

