

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC
Reverend Justin Schmidt

January 2013

Be kind to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one
another, as God in Christ forgave
you. ~ Ephesians 4:32

From Pastor McPike's desk...

Epiphany – Christmas in Motion

I actually preached a sermon by that name in the past year or so. Epiphany is a festival of the church far older than Christmas Day, celebrated December 25. Epiphany also has a far richer meaning than Christmas. Christmas tends to focus on events (Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem, “no room in the inn”, the shepherds, the Angels, etc.) Epiphany is less about an event (though it tends to be associated with the visit of the Magi or “wise men” or “three kings”), and more about the reality of God becoming man in Jesus. The season of Epiphany that follows tends to feature Gospel lessons each Sunday where the otherwise ordinary looking Jewish guy Jesus does or says or knows something only available to Him because He is God. Jesus coming into our world, living our life, taking our place under the law. A world filled with darkness, and Jesus coming to bring light to that darkness. Epiphany seeks to remind us that the reality of what happened at Christmas is life changing.

A special THANK YOU for Christmas gifts

I can remember telling vicars here at Christmastime not to come to expect the level of generosity that is characteristic of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman. Other congregations have different ways to express their appreciation for the pastor at Christmas. My home church would take up a collection among the members and then give the pastor a single gift, or a check. One year, the pastor needed a new TV and so the congregation used the money to purchase a TV. Other years, they gave the pastor a check. Other congregations give the pastor individual gifts. (My dad, the tax man, by the way, says that is the best way to do it).

So I want to take this opportunity to thank the people of Immanuel/Osman for your generosity during this Christmas season. Each year since I’ve been there, I have stood in the back of the church and marveled at the buzz of activity that happens right after the service as people distribute the cards, gifts and good wishes to each other and for our workers. I am not a very good “thank you note” writer, which is a failing of mine (and I own that), so I wanted to take this opportunity to say my sincere thank you to all of you for the cards, gifts and good wishes that you so generously gave to me and my family this Christmas time. I am overwhelmed to the point of tears, not only by the sheer volume, but by the obvious thought that goes into the selection of them. The daughter of a good friend of mine commented, “Christmas shows how well people pay attention throughout the year.” So true. Gifts that are purchased with thought toward what the person likes, wants, needs, etc. show that the giver is truly paying attention.

- from Pastor, Sara and Ryan

Let us pray...

“The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16). Beginning with this new year of 2013, we are going to start something new at Osman. We will begin praying for churches outside our own by specifically mentioning individual congregations, service organizations, districts, and synodical boards. By this, we not only are supporting them with prayer, but also keeping them more in our attention. In addition, we will also be praying for the recipient of our “mission offerings”. For the last few years, each month the church council decides on a “mission project” to receive \$150 from the congregation for that month. We are shifting that this

year, so that the project will be decided the month previous so that prayers for that organization can be included each Sunday for the next month. These will be listed in the bulletin, along with a possible explanation of what this organization does. In this way, we are not only providing monetary support, but also prayer support.

Congregations will include those of the three circuits around us, the Iroquois circuit, the Champaign circuit (of which we are part) and the Mattoon circuit. Other congregations as they are known or brought forth can also be included. Please forward requests to Pastor McPike.

And just as a reminder...while we endeavor to include individuals within the congregation in prayer, it is always better to request those prayers specifically than to assume that they will simply be included. This is especially true with prayers for the sick. Unless the pastors can know ahead of time that it is okay mentioning someone, there is a tendency to err on the side of no specific mention.

Thrivent News

During this season of giving, our congregation's advocate for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Brenda Hendricks, presented Brooke Miller a check for \$7022 after the church service on Sunday, December 30. This was the proceeds from the benefit soup supper which was held in November added to the matching funds from Thrivent. This will help Brooke with medical bills for diagnosis and treatment of multiple sclerosis. We thank all the members of the congregation who donated time, money, and food for this project!

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 \$33. Thank you to John Gercken, John Grussing, and Butch Sprau for their donations.

The first Thrivent meeting of the 2013 will be held after church on Sunday, January 27th, in the annex. Everyone begin to think about possible benefit recipients with you so we can begin to plan the year.

Annual Voters Meeting and Election

The Annual Voters Meeting and Election will be held on Sunday, January 13th after the church service. New church council officers and the 2013 budget will be discussed and voted on. Please be there! The ballot was published in the December newsletter and has been posted on the back bulletin board. There can be nominations from the floor for each position. There will be a potluck following the meeting in the fellowship

hall, and everyone is welcome to attend! The church council will provide the drinks. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

LWML News

The LWML met on December 13th for their regular meeting. We opened by singing "Go Tell it on the Mountain" and the LWML pledge. Barb Whitehouse-Gercken gave a timely devotion on the shepherds' visit to the manger and reminded us that we also need to visit the manger often. Barb Gaines had the topic, and we read Bible verses about God's gifts to us and spelled out Christmas with some of the many gifts God gives us. A great reminder for all of us to be more thankful and remember that all we have comes from God. The greatest gift of all was Jesus.

Thirteen members answered roll call and the minutes from the September meeting were read. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$1,052.66. Three letters were read from Dan Grimmer updating us and thanking us for sponsoring him. Members were thanked for their participation on LWML Sunday. We collected \$56 in the large mite box. A new food committee list was passed out with a couple of changes. We are back up to the first committee on the list.

At this time, it looks like we will not be hosting a spring rally. The LWML-CID is going to hold four district leadership meetings on March 16th from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 pm. We do not have the location or any other information, but will print it in the bulletin and newsletter when we receive it.

Terri Hooker reported that she delivered 25 quilts and the check for \$75 to Gibson City on October 27th. Terri and Dwight were then thanked for boxing up and delivering the quilts. Debbie Martin explained the information she had received on the baby bottle project that was discussed last meeting. It is with Living Alternatives pregnancy resource center. After some discussion, it was decided to ask Pastor McPike for his approval to do this project and open it up to the entire congregation. If he approves, we would begin the project on Mother's Day and run for four weeks.

It was also decided to hold a soup supper on Ash Wednesday, February 13, 2013 before the worship service. Marsha Warsaw, Brenda Hendricks and Connie Warsaw volunteered to serve on the committee.

It was also decided to quilt a couple of times a month - the first Wednesday and first Saturday of each month. January will be the 2nd and 5th. LWR has a drive for 500,000 quilts in 2013, and since we have lots of material, we thought we would try and make more quilts this year.

We then revealed who our secret pal was for 2012 and drew the new secret pals for 2013. Debbie Lammle and Agnes Martinie served delicious refreshments. Our next meeting will be March 14, 2013. Marsha Warsaw will have the topic and Wilma Grussing and Joanne Nelson will be our hostesses.

Flowers, Altar Guild, Fellowship Club, and Shut-in Visits

New lists are posted on the back bulletin board. Please sign up to furnish flowers for the altar, serve on Altar Guild, host Fellowship Club, or visit the shut-ins. Anytime through the year, anyone may sign up for one or more of these activities. Flowers may be given in memory of loved ones or for special occasions. Flowers are not placed on the altar on Sundays during Lent. Members of Altar Guild prepare for communion on the first and third Sundays of each month, and other special occasions. Fellowship is held four times a year, and usually two families volunteer to host the event. Activities for Fellowship are decided by the members who sign up. Shut-in visits are made monthly, and the exact day and time of the visits are decided by those who sign up. If you have any questions, please call Debbie Lammle (217-897-1668). Thanks to all who give of their time and talents here at Immanuel Osman.

THANK YOU!

Immanuel Osman is so blessed to have several very capable members and friends that often fail to get recognized for their talents. We have gifted soloists, including Pastor McPike, Theresa Wilson, and Nick Haggin, very artistic craftsman Larry Richoz, very talented instrumentalist Sara McPike, and an accomplished organist Alicia Haggin. God has surely given us more than our share of humble, modest people that give of their time to make our worship each Sunday meaningful! Thanks to all of you for sharing your God given talents with us here at Immanuel Osman!

Congratulations College Graduates!

Congratulations to Katherine Masko and Jamie Hendricks who graduated at the semester. Katherine graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in engineering and Jamie graduated from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville with a degree in nursing. May God direct their ways while pursuing their career paths.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Christie McCleary Delaney for being inducted into the Fisher High School Hall of Fame. She'll be honored in a ceremony on January 12, 2013. Way to go Christie!



Some Church Humor from the Flock

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick, and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play. "Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances." During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up." At that moment, the substitute played "The Star Spangled Banner." And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!



Statistics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Adult Class</u>
12-02	80	7	15
12-09	100	8	14
12-12	53	0	0
12-16	90	8	12
12-23	81	7	12
12-24	129	0	0
12-30	65	3	13



January Birthdays

Alma Hassebrock.....01-03
 Phyllis Burnett.....01-05
 Harry Henriksen.....01-06
 Cindy Masko.....01-07
 Brad Lutz.....01-10
 Rebecca Gercken.....01-14
 Jean Amdor.....01-18
 Hannah Duncan.....01-19
 Megan Bidner.....01-21
 Bryce Martin.....01-23
 Mackenzie Homann.....01-26
 Matthew Burgess.....01-27



January Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

January Reading Schedule

01-06.....John Gercken
 01-13.....Mike Hendricks
 01-20.....Joy Johnson
 01-27.....Debbie Lammle

January Acolyte Schedule

01-06.....Chase Zimmerman
 01-13.....Cheyenne Zimmerman
 01-20.....MacKenzie Delaney
 01-27.....Hannah Duncan

January Elder on Duty

Aaron Warsaw

January Altar Guild

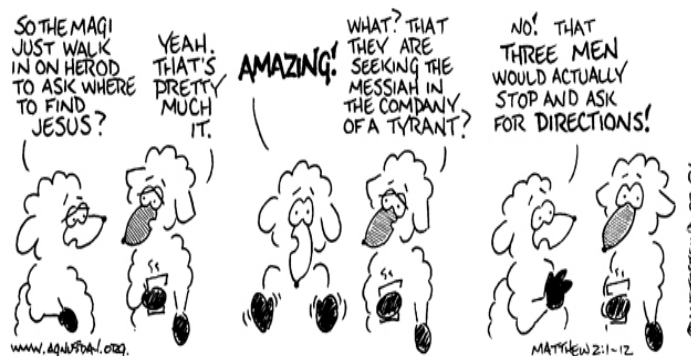
Barb Gaines and Debbie Lammle



January Anniversaries

Christie and Leonard Delaney.....01-07-1995

Agnus Day



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