

# ***THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER***

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## **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN**

**The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**



*Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC*

*June 2013*

**I am the way, and the truth,  
and the life. No one comes  
to the Father except through  
Me.**

**John 14:6**

### ***From Pastor McPike's desk...***

A bit of controversy erupted at the April meeting of the Voters' Assembly over matters that deal with spending and spending caps. Before the next Voters meeting, a bit of perspective is in order. This is, admittedly, my perspective; an extension of the brief comments made as the discussion was being concluded at the April meeting.

The issue that the Church council brought before the Voters was simply to raise the spending limits that are pre-set in the congregation's by-laws. Currently, the trustees are limited to \$100 and the Council to \$500 without seeking approval from the Voter's. The Council proposed at the April meeting that because times have changed since these limits were imposed, the spending limits be changed to \$500 and \$1,000, respectively.

As with any issue, this one, of course, has two sides. The church council, in making the proposal, has discussed more than once how far \$100 goes these days in Trustee repairs. Their point is well taken. How far does \$100 go just in buying supplies at Menard's? Lowe's? Home Depot? Or your favorite hardware store or lumber yard? We are very blessed at Immanuel that there are many whom I will not even attempt to begin to name who can provide the labor, which of course makes that \$100 go much farther than were we to constantly have to seek the services of various contractors to make these things happen.

The issue, however, from the perspective of office holders, goes beyond the aforementioned

economic changes and price increases that would seem to have left the \$100 and \$500 limits far behind. Each year, the nominating committee scours the church roster, appealing for folks to 'do their duty' and serve as an officer of the church. In the case of trustees, this requires not only attendance at 24 monthly council meetings, but also checking prices, arranging all the efforts necessary (and often, especially in our small church, doing the work, though that is not required, only the oversight of such work) to get work done to keep the church facilities in great shape. These folks give themselves to work on behalf of the congregation. As such, they need the necessary "tools" to do what is needed, including access to financial resources in order to accomplish these things. The reply from various Voters at the most recent meeting was "just come and ask". The trustees and council basically heard that as "do the work, but we don't trust you with the money, so you'll have to always ask". This even leads to speculation of... why serve in an office, if officers are not trusted with responsibility? Now, while that may not have been the intended message from those present in the Voters' Meeting in April, it is the one that has been received.

The actual wording of the by-laws describing the work of the Trustees is, "The Trustees shall act as *stewards* (emphasis mine) over the property of the congregation..." What is a steward? Someone who is appointed by other(s) to deal with property as if it were theirs but at the direction and in the best interest of the owner(s). The church council as a whole are a representative

body of the congregation who deal with the day-to-day matters of the congregation on behalf of the congregation at the congregation's basic direction. Council members certainly have their own particular opinions on how best to care for the work of the church. But they take seriously their role to accurately represent the people (membership) who elected them to serve.

The other side of the issue is the perspective of the Voters' Assembly. They are the ultimate "the buck stops here" group in the congregation by its design. This has been a unique feature of the Lutheran Church -Missouri Synod going back to the days of our founding. The paradigm of the structure of "Church" from Europe was mostly episcopal, with an archbishop controlling a whole region, bishops under him, with the power going all the way down to the parish pastor. The church property was the property of the larger group. Church members in local congregations had no real control over calling their own pastor or the work done on their property. Clergy dominated the scene. Since the founding of the LCMS, congregations are charged with owning and maintaining their own property, cashflow, and asset management. The Voters are the ultimately responsible group for all this. It is important for the Voters' Assembly to take this role seriously. Voters' expresses the will of the whole congregation.

So we have a necessary "balance of power", in a sense, and it is important to keep that balance in check. On the one hand, the collection of the all the congregation as expressed in the Voter's Assembly is a democratic group, and together the ownership, management and use of the congregation's resources belong ultimately to that body. To balance that, the Church Council is comprised of members who are elected to represent the whole of the Voter's Assembly, charged with specific tasks. These folks give up time and energy, applying themselves to the offices to which they are elected. It is their job to serve on behalf of the Voters'. Council, the officers, meet monthly, where Voter's is scheduled only quarterly. Council is made up of few, meaning that it is often easier for work to get done. Extra council meetings are easy to arrange. Extra voters meetings are more of a chore. And of course, each

year in January, council members, when installed, take a promise in the church service before the congregation to act in their offices in a *responsible manner for the good of the congregation*. This would seem to call for the Voters allocating a limit of spending that would allow for the council in general and the trustees in particular, to exercise the responsibility they promise at the altar when installed.

Actually, this has brought to light a further matter of practicality. Documents such as the constitution and by-laws of the congregation are no place for such 'hard-wired' spending limits. Constitution and By-Laws, by design, require a bit of effort to change. In the case of our documents, matters of proposed change are to be presented at one regularly scheduled voters, published in the church newsletter, and then voted on in the next meeting. This insures that nothing in the documents changes in a hurried or careless fashion. Yet while the actual vote makes it binding for us as a congregation, the matter is not over even then. Because Immanuel is a congregation of the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, every revised constitution and by-laws must also be submitted to the District for ratification by District and Synod. You can see, then, that having any sort of numeric value such as a spending limit that may need to be changed from time to time really is not appropriate in such documents.

Far better for those documents to contain the principles for how such a limit would be set, rather than setting the limit. The vote to change these limits can, by design, be stipulated to be more complex than a simple majority vote. Publication prior to the meeting, 2/3 majority, 75% or 80% majority could be set in some combination, so that the limits aren't just change "on the fly". Perhaps stating that limits may only be changed at the annual meeting would be another way of placing additional controls.

The bottom line is, considering the fundamental change from the simple stipulation of spending limits to re-writing the by-laws to dictate how spending limits would be set might well be a better use of the energy invested in the on-going debate.



The LWML-CID annual convention was held at the Lutheran School Association in Decatur on April 27, 2013. Brenda Hendricks and Shirley Sprau were our delegates and Debbie Lammle and Connie Warsaw were the alternates. Rev. Jason Rensner led the Bible study and our convention speaker was Rev. Kristopher Whitby, National Sr. Counselor. Both were very interesting. Mission grants for 2012-2013 were voted on. At our June meeting a complete report on the convention will be given.

We have four ladies traveling to the National LWML Convention held in Pittsburgh, PA from June 27-June 30th. They are Brenda Hendricks, Terri Hooker, Debbie Lammle and Connie Warsaw. The theme is Quenched by the Water. They will be traveling with a bus full of LWML ladies from the western part of the state.

We will be quilting again on Wednesday, June 5th and Saturday, June 8th starting at 8 a.m. each day. We also have some squares already cut, if anyone is interested in sewing them together to make tops. We also could use sheets for back and middles. Please consider joining us for good fellowship while helping those in need.

On May 12th Mothers Day, we handed out baby bottles to fill with donations for the Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center in Champaign. We had an excellent response with 35 bottles taken. Please bring the bottles back on June 9th or June 16th. Thanks to everyone for participating in this mission project.

Mark your calendars! The LWML and Ladies Aid will be holding a bake sale at Bellflower on July 4th. Please bring your baked goods to the Bellflower Fire Station by 7:30 a.m. on the 4th or to Shirley Sprau's or Connie Warsaw's home the night before.

LWML will meet on June 13, 2013 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Shirley Sprau will have the topic and Brenda Hendricks and Terri Hooker will be our hostesses. All ladies of the church are welcome.



The Ladies Aid will meet on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Brenda Hendricks will have the devotion and prayer and be our hostess. Annette Warsaw will have the topic. Roll call will be answered with a verse on blessed. All ladies of the church are welcome.

### **High School/Confirmed Sunday School Class**

The High School/Confirmed Sunday School Class will resume in the fall, on September 8, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. under the balcony. Enjoy your summertime activities students! Joy Johnson

### **Food Shower**

Vicar Jonathan Scheck, our summer vicar, will be arriving the first week of June. There is a food donation box by the elders' pew if you would like to donate food to fill his shelves upon his arrival. Canned and boxed food is always welcomed, but gift certificates to local grocery stores are great ideas, too, so that he can purchase his own selections.

### **Vicar Housing**

The congregation will be renting a one bedroom apartment for the vicar on Green Street in Fisher. The lease starts June 1<sup>st</sup> and volunteers will clean it before his initial moving in day. Sometimes it is very hard to find housing for just a few months so thanks to Larry Lutz for notifying the council of this possibility and also to Jill and Rick Hardesty for meeting with the owner and making all of the arrangements. There are a few housing items that might still be needed and that will be communicated through the weekly bulletins.

### **Wedding Congratulations**

Bryan Edwards and Melinda Wilkinson will be united in holy matrimony on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Bryan is the son of Jerry and Brenda Edwards. May the Lord bless this marriage with His love and continual care.

### **Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes**

May 7, 2013 (Abridged Edition)

7 members attended the monthly council meeting held on May 7 in the fellowship hall.

Secretary's minutes were read and approved. Treasurer, Bob Zimmerman, reported a balance of \$93,826.63. The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod – Mercy Operations which is the organization that Pastor Fale talked about with the Bible Class on May 5 will be the recipient of our May mission giving.

Pastor McPike reported that the church office is now locked, because of items of value stored in his office. If you need to get in, contact a janitor, trustee, or chairman. Annette Warsaw will be helping with children's sermons. Pastor Daniel Fienen from Danville will be here once a month through the summer and twice a month after that. Vacation Bible School dates were announced from June 23 – 26. It will start on Sunday night with a cook out and then continue in the mornings on those following dates.

Discussion on whether to have Sunday School in the summer followed. Consensus was for Nikki Gallier, Sunday School Superintendent, to poll the teachers.

Steve Warsaw will schedule the church and annex carpet shampooing with Clean Care from Mansfield. Some light furniture will have to be moved. The janitors will do some comparison shopping for a new vacuum cleaner. The handicap ramp issue was discussed. A chair lift inside the front door is not an option. That leaves the option of redirecting the present ramp leading into the annex or building a ramp going into the back door of accounting room. No action was taken on the issue. Also there seems to be some electrical problems in the church with lights in the annex and the public address system humming. This appears to be a grounding problem and will be investigated by an electrician. A design for the Holy Week advertising sign for the end of the street by the railroad was approved and will be ordered for next year.

The next council meeting will be June 4. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hendricks

### **Thrivent News**

By directing Thrivent Choice dollars, eligible members recommend where Thrivent financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars. This month our congregation received \$61. Thank you to John Grussing and Brenda Hendricks for their donations. Since March 2013, it is not automatic that your choice dollars will be distributed so it might be a good idea to check to see if you have any. You can do so by logging onto [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or by calling 1-800-847-4836. When prompted, say "Thrivent Choice" and when next prompted say "Choice Dollars". If you have any questions, please see Brenda Hendricks.

### **Congratulations College Graduate**

Jonathon Schuh graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in mechanical engineering in May. He will continue his education pursuing a doctorate in mechanical engineering also at the University of Illinois. May God guide Jonathon as he pursues his next goal by using his God-given abilities!



Church council will meet on Tuesday, June 4, at 7 PM in the fellowship hall.

### **Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild will meet on June 9th after church with Pastor McPike and Vicar Scheck to discuss the needs of the organization. The ladies will bring a dish to share for this luncheon meeting. See Debbie Lammle for more details.



**Pastor McPike is celebrating  
his 25<sup>th</sup> year in the ministry!**

Pastor McPike was ordained on June 26, 1988 at his home church, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Martinsville, Indiana. He served eleven years as pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Nebraska. He moved to Trinity Urbana in 1999, where he completed his chaplaincy training at Carle and continued a very extensive program for endorsement and certification. Pastor McPike now serves as Chaplain at Carle Hospital while serving as our pastor here at Immanuel Osman.

In order to commemorate this milestone in Pastor's ministry, we are having a special catered meal and program on June 23<sup>rd</sup> after church in the Fellowship Hall in his honor. The meal includes baked pork chops, cheesy potatoes, green bean casserole, tossed salad, homemade rolls, dessert, and drinks. A free-will offering will be taken.

Please sign-up on the back bulletin board in the church by **June 16<sup>th</sup>** if you plan on attending. We look forward to everyone's support in celebrating this memorable time in Pastor's ministry!

**Welcome Summer Vicar**

Plan now to help give a warm Osman welcome to our new summer vicar, Jonathan Scheck, on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Donuts and drinks will be served at 9am in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there!

**Shut-in Visits**

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

**Fellowship Club**

Since no one signed up for hosting Fellowship Club this month, we want to extend a special birthday wish to all the members that have birthdays in April, May, and June!

"Birthdays come and go, and years may pass away,  
But God's love and mercy, you'll find will never fade,  
His love is always there, No matter what we do,  
In our hearts forever, His love remains so true!  
May God richly bless you especially today,  
May you know His awesome love in a more meaningful way,  
May you take a moment in the busyness of life,  
Enjoy this special day God's made, And in His love abide!"

**Girls Night Out**

Fourteen members of Immanuel Osman and their guests attended "Girls Night Out" on May 10<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. The ladies played Bunco and enjoyed refreshments prepared by Shirley Sprau, Diana Zimmerman, and Debbie Lammle. Dorothy Welborn won the prize for top score. It was a great night of fellowship and fun!



Dorothy Welborn was the winner of Bunco at Girls Night Out!

**Vacation Bible School**

**Vacation Bible School 2013** is scheduled to start Sunday, June 23, with a barbecue kick-off in the evening, and will be held in the morning from Monday, June 24, through Wednesday, June 26. Volunteers will be needed; more information to come soon!

### Statistics

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Worship</u> | <u>Sunday School</u> | <u>Adult Class</u> |
|-------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 04/28       | 114            | 3                    | 21                 |
| 05/05       | 66             | 6                    | 22                 |
| 05/12       | n/a            | 7                    | 16                 |
| 05/19       | 62             | n/a                  | n/a                |
| 05/26       | n/a            | n/a                  | n/a                |

### June Altar Guild

Susan Martin

### June Reading Schedule

06-02.....Marsha Warsaw  
 06-09.....Shane Zimmerman  
 06-16  
 06-23.....Kim Clemmons  
 06-30.....Marvin Clemmons

### June



06-02  
 06-09.....Chase Zimmerman  
 06-16.....Cheyenne Zimmerman  
 06-23.....Hannah Duncan  
 06-30.....Mackenzie Delaney

### June Birthdays

Susan Martin.....06-03  
 Brant Hendricks.....06-08  
 Jamie Poppe.....06-08  
 Donald Warsaw.....06-09  
 Jim VanWakeman.....06-12  
 Amanda Amdor.....06-13  
 Michael Brooks.....06-15  
 Brenda Edwards.....06-16  
 Jeri Bidner.....06-18  
 Dick Johnson.....06-19  
 Natalie Hooker.....06-21  
 Beth Bidner.....06-22  
 Kim Clemmons.....06-24  
 Laura Zimmerman.....06-26  
 Ashley Martin.....06-27  
 Jack Gallier.....06-30

**Happy Birthday**

### June Anniversaries

Jenna and Nathan Mangold.....06-03-2011  
 Jill and Rick Hardesty.....06-11-1994  
 Terri and Dwight Hooker.....06-15-1985  
 Kim and Bill Schuh.....06-20-1987  
 Brenda and Mike Hendricks.....06-21-1980  
 Beth and Neil Bidner.....06-23-2001  
 Debbie and John Lammle.....06-25-1977  
 Janet and Myron Zimmerman.....06-30-1979

**Happy Anniversary**

### Elder Schedule

| Marvin | Feb   | June   | Oct |
|--------|-------|--------|-----|
| Roy    | March | July   | Nov |
| Bill   | April | August | Dec |
| Jim    | May   | Sept   | Jan |