

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC

Reverend Daniel Fienen

November 2013

*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!*

Psalms 107:1

From Pastor McPike...

"Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? 18 Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this *foreigner*?" 19 And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well." (Luke 17:17b-19)

That quote comes from the Gospel lesson that was appointed to have been read on October 10, when we at Osman celebrated LWML Sunday. (Luke 17:11-19) Ten lepers were cured of a life threatening disease. Only one returned to say "thank you". It shows how there are many recipients of goodness, but not many return to actually "give thanks."

That calls me up short. I don't say "thank you" nearly enough for the good things that I have been given. I don't send "thank you notes", appealing to either "I'm too busy" with my two+ jobs, college search for Sara, school activities and other things for kids; but everyone is busy, and they usually find time to write them. I also could appeal to "it's the woman's job", (after all, when thank you notes are sent, usually it is the WIFE who sends them from a couple, right?) ... since there isn't anyone like that for me right now, I just ignore the job; but that is terribly sexist, and I don't like the way it sounds. So I will just confess my sin and say, I'm sorry that I don't do it, and I'm working at trying to be better.

Truth is, I have a lot to be thankful for. I have two really great children, and I have a really great close friend who is good support in a variety of times. My parents are still alive and doing well, even regularly making the journey between their home in Southern Indiana and the Gulf Coast of Alabama near Mobile. I'm a board certified chaplain, and I have a full-time job in a profession (chaplain) that I sought for many years. I pastor a wonderful church in the

country with people who have treated me very well. Many pastors should be so lucky! Many of you think of me and show it by cards, gifts and comments throughout the year. My sister and brother are both successful people living in Indiana and have great kids. While my house is a mess, it is a "paid-for" mess... and maybe someday I'll part with the necessary funding to actually pay someone to come make it look a bit better on the INSIDE. This past month, a Bavarian flag has been fluttering in the breeze in celebration of Oktoberfest!

Because of the national holiday here in the United States, November is the time month that we think about giving thanks. It is time for us to pause and thank God and show gratitude not only to Him but also to those around us for the great things that we have. And, as I expressed earlier, it can be a time of repentance, looking at how we fail to give thanks when things are going well because we are just too busy, or we *think* we are too busy. It can be a time to reach out even more and express appreciation for what we have.

So, first of all, please accept this "Thank you" for all the good things that you have shown and done for me and my children over this past year leading up to now. You put on a 25th Anniversary celebration that could be considered the envy of parties for pastors. Numerous meaningful gifts have been given, and gratefully received. Thank you so very much for all that you do. Thank you also for your support of the ongoing ministry at Immanuel. Ours is a unique situation, and seems to suit us quite well. And thank you to the many of you who put forth time and energy to further the work of Immanuel.



Quarterly Voters Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2013
(Abridged Edition)

Chairman Rick Hardesty called the quarterly voters meeting to order on October 6, after the regular worship service. 37 members were in attendance.

Secretary's minutes were read and approved. Treasurer, Bob Zimmerman, reported the third quarter cash balance as \$93,149. 91. Report was approved.

Pastor McPike thanked all of the members for the on-going ministry of our church. He stressed that stewardship is far more than money in the treasury. We can use our time, talents, and treasures to spread the news of salvation throughout our communities.

John Gercken reported that the lighting upgrade has been completed in the annex. The council has contacted the references for Kross Tuck Pointing, and they were all very satisfied with the work done by them. Therefore, we will be signing a contract with them to do our church and annex. The work will begin in the spring. We are still collecting bids for the gutters.

Chairman Hardesty thanked all of the members who cleaned the church in September. In thanks for all of the construction work that Dick Johnson does for our church, a quilt was purchased for Dick and Deb at the Habitat Sale in Shipshewana, Indiana. Darwin made the motion to reimburse Donnie Warsaw \$850 for the purchase of the quilt. Esther Lutz seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Hardesty made mention of the need to clean and organize the storage shed. The items that are stored in there and no longer used will be offered to the members and what is not wanted will be discarded. Brenda Hendricks will be working on this project so watch bulletin articles for more information.

There are still positions to be filled for the council slate. We are in need of a chairman, 2 elders, 1 trustee, assistant Sunday school superintendent, assistant financial director, and head usher. Please consider using your time and talents to fill these positions. The sign-up sheet is on the back bulletin board.

Barb Whitehouse-Gercken made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Warsaw seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hendricks

Church Council Minutes
October 1, 2013
(Abridged Edition)

6 members, plus Pastor McPike, attended the monthly council meeting held on October 1, in the fellowship hall.

Secretary's minutes were read and approved. Treasurer Bob Zimmerman, reported the cash balance being \$93,149.51. Report was approved. The Fisher Food Pantry will be the recipient of our October mission giving.

Pastor McPike reported that Pastor Ehlers will be preaching on October 28th while he is attending a chaplain retreat in North Carolina. Pastor thanked Alicia and the trumpeters - Sara McPike, and Jared Hatcher for the special music on September 29th.

Chairman Hardesty discussed with the elders that at times they may have to be the substitute acolytes and the substitute ushers.

The trustees reported that the repair of the lights in the annex has been completed. Chairman Hardesty checked on the references for Kross Tuck Pointing. All of the references were very pleased. Since the voters gave their approval at the special voters meeting in early September to hire them to do the tuck pointing of the church and annex, we asked for a proof of insurance and a formal contract. We are waiting for bids for the guttering. We have received a quote from Alternative Enterprises for grading and leveling of the dirt after the gutters are installed to get the water away from the building. .

The sign up sheet for the slate of officers for 2014 for the council is posted on the back bulletin board.

There was further discussion on installing internet in the church and fellowship hall. It was decided not to pursue this project until after the tuck pointing is completed.

The council approved cleaning of the storage shed and getting rid of some of the stored items. Brenda will organize this as a Thrivent project.

The next council meeting will be November 5th. The next quarterly voters meeting will be Sunday, October 6th.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hendricks



Council Meeting

Church council will meet
Tuesday, November 5, at 7
PM in the fellowship hall.

Thrivent News

Thrivent Choice Dollars! This month our congregation received \$264 in choice dollars. This is one way that you can determine how Thrivent uses its charitable outreach grant dollars. Thank you to Wilma Grussing, Moneta McCleary, Bill McCleary, and Butch Sprau for their donations. If you are a Thrivent member, please check to see if you have any Choice dollars to contribute. You can do so by calling 1-800-847-4836. When prompted, say "Thrivent Choice" and when next prompted say "Choice Dollars". Between October 1st and November 20th any choice dollars will be doubled if donated to a congregation. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Brenda Hendricks.

Mark your calendar now for the Annual McLean County Thrivent meeting! On Sunday, November 10, the annual meeting will be held at Shannon's Five Star Restaurant at 1305 S. Mercer Avenue in Bloomington. Be informed about the projects, volunteer hours, and the latest on Thrivent Choice dollars by the McLean County Board while enjoying entertainment and a great meal. The program starts at 4 PM and you must have reservations. Make reservations either by e-mail or phone NO LATER THAN November 3 to jek652000@msn.com or 309-473-2587. Election of officers will also take place. This is the first time in many years that we do not have anyone from Immanuel - Osman on the ballot.



Church Council Officers Needed!

There are several positions available on the council board which will be elected at the January voters meeting. Please sign the sheet on the back bulletin board if you are interested in serving a term on the council. We are in need of a chairman, 2 elders, a trustee, an assistant financial secretary, an assistant Sunday School superintendent, and a head usher. Please consider using your God given talents to serve your church.

Operation Christmas Child

The Sunday school children will be packing shoeboxes of hygiene supplies, school supplies, and small gifts for children in over 130 countries where children receive few or no gifts. It is sponsored nationwide by Samaritan's Purse who has reached over 100 million children worldwide in the name of our loving Jesus Christ and there are millions more who are waiting for a shoebox gift. All Sunday school children, high school students, and teachers are asked to bring a 12-pack of color pencils for the boxes. The boxes will be assembled by the children on November 3. They will assemble 10 boxes for boys and 10 boxes for girls. The \$7 shipping fee per box will be paid with the Thrivent choice money that our congregation receives. McLean County Thrivent will provide \$400 for the purchase of supplies for the boxes.

Thank You

Thank you for sending me a copy of the new church directory. I trust that all is well at Osman. My vicarage is going well. Keeping busy with preaching, Bible Study, confirmation, and shut-ins. In the three months that I have been here, we have had ten funerals. It is a very good experience. I am going to a Pastors' Conference this week. My new address is:

Daniel Grimmer
16180 Aurora Avenue Apt. #102
East Pointe, Michigan 48021
May God bless all of you!
Vicar Dan Grimmer

Thanksgiving Eve Service

The Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on Wednesday, November 27th, at 7 PM. Come praise the Lord with thanksgiving for all that He has provided for you!

Fellowship Club

Everyone is invited to the next Fellowship Club event scheduled for Sunday, November 17 at 5 p.m. Pastor McPike will be presenting the second part of his Germany trip. The evening will begin with a German meal, including German pancakes made by Pastor McPike. Meat and drinks will be provided. All those attending are asked to bring their own table service and a German dish to share. To avoid duplicates, please sign up on the bulletin board and write down what you are bringing. Those members celebrating October, November and December birthdays will also be recognized.

Internet at the Church? Why?

In the past few years, the question of having an Internet connection at Immanuel has come up more than once at church council meetings. In each case, it was decided that having Internet is not really necessary.

This may be true today. But the Internet has evolved from being a “novelty” to what more and more people would consider a basic utility. More and more people have not only a connection to the Internet, but a high speed connection.

In the following, a few “Questions and Answers” about Internet will give some general understanding as to how it can be helpful. We don't have it today, and we may not have it for a while to come, but there are more and more ways it could prove useful as time goes on.

Why have Internet? There is nobody here most of the week to use it.

That's a true enough concern. However, as was pointed out at the September meeting of the church council, the telephone service at the church could be viewed the same way: there is telephone service at the church for the few possible times the building is occupied and might need it. In fact, with most people carrying a cell phone today, there is probably less need than ever for phone service at the church. The only real reason to maintain phone service at the church today is to maintain the directory listing for the telephone with local phone companies, for inclusion in their phone books. Actually, what is probably true is, if Internet were to be installed in the church and made available via “wifi” (wireless connection that phones and tablets can use), it would probably be used many times more on a regular basis than the telephone service is right now. In fact, telephones work over the Internet, and cost much less than conventional land-lines. Many homes no longer even have a telephone line to them at all. Instead, if there still are “conventional” looking telephones, they are hooked by a “box” to the Internet and use that instead. The major disadvantage is, since no local phone company is involved, there is no entry in the phone book.

Let's look at another aspect of the statement, “*There is nobody here most of the week to use it.*” This probably comes from thinking that the office computer would be the only thing connected to the Internet, and so someone sitting in the office on the computer would be the only way in which the Internet would be used. However, there are many more uses for Internet than just someone physically sitting at the desk in the Pastor's office.

The office computer needs an internet connection to

stay updated. Computers today rely on having a regular connection to the Internet in order to receive important software (program) updates, even to stay current with the correct time. The office computer requires that someone take the time to check and set its clock right now, because it is not connected to the Internet. While that task may sound simple enough, because most computers are Internet connected, it is a task that few think about. Why is the time on the office computer important? The office computer records the church services. If the internal clock of the computer is off, the automatic recordings of the church services will be off by the same amount.

The AED needs an internet connection. The new AED device in the Annex would make good use of an internet connection. Certainly, we can get by without such a connection, but if the device were connected, then it would automatically be monitored and updated from the manufacturer. If any trouble developed with it, the manufacturer would know and could alert us to these problems.

Its not just about someone at the church using the Internet, its about workers away from the church reaching in. What is meant by that? Well, as has already been pointed out, nobody is regularly in the office at Immanuel, and as such, it could be argued that Internet is not necessary. However, a connection to the Internet would allow workers away from Osman to connect back into the church from a remote location (such as from home). As copy machine technology improves, this could even mean that copies for meetings or Bible class could be printed ahead of time simply by sending a few commands from a remote location. Again... a necessity? Not really, but certainly another bit of evidence in favor.

A new copy machine will probably make good use of the Internet. The service contract on our current copier has expired, meaning that we are using the machine on a month-by-month basis right now. While it continues to function, and we hope that it will for some time to come, when it is replaced, the newer device may well be able to be monitored and maintained from a central location through the Internet.

Smartphones of members would work better if Osman had an Internet connection. Likely objections to this are, if people are at the church, they should not be on their smart phones. The other side of that is, smart phones, and tablet computers are becoming more used all the time. They usually come with a data plan that allows them to be on the Internet through a cell connection. One issue is, it takes a better quality cell signal to put a smart phone on the Internet than it does to just make phone calls or text. Cell phone service at

Osman is marginal, and often the connection is too slow for smart phones to be practical. There have been times during council meetings when looking something up at the last minute could have moved things along with the meeting, but the cell phone internet connection just wasn't doing the job.

Other devices will, in time, probably be internet connected. It is already possible to install thermostats that are connected to the Internet. The temperature of the church could be monitored and adjusted without having to make a special trip.

Other possibilities include "live streaming" of the church service, where instead of waiting for the service to be mailed using CDs, one could go to an internet site, possibly on a smart phone, to listen, or possibly listen and watch the service live.

Times are changing. Technology changes. I'm sure that 75 years ago, there were likely similar discussions about whether or not the church needed a telephone. Does Osman need Internet? The answer to that question will vary with the person asking. As the church council has discussed this in various council meetings over the years, the answer in the past has always ended up being "no". However, the number of reasons in favor of Internet grows each time the issue is considered.

No decisions on this issue have been made. It may come before Voters in the future, possibly as early as January, maybe later. But as time and technology move along, it is something to consider.

Thanksgiving

by Judith A. Lindberg

T is for the trust the pilgrims had so many years ago
H is for the harvest the settlers learnt to grow
A is for America, the land in which we live
N is for nature and beauty which she gives
K is for kindness, gentle works, thoughtful deeds
S is for smiles, the sunshine everyone needs
G is for gratitude...our blessings big and small
I is for ideas, letting wisdom grow tall
V is for voices, singing, laughing, always caring
I is for Indians, who taught them about sharing
N is for neighbors, across the street, over the sea
G is for giving of myself to make a better me

Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid will meet on Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Annette Warsaw will have the devotion and prayer and will be our hostess. Joanne Nelson will have the topic. Roll call will be answered with a verse on harvest. All ladies of the church are welcome.

LWL Quilts

Thanks to the following people for helping get the quilts boxed up for Lutheran World Relief. Brenda Hendricks and Connie Warsaw for folding, Terri Hooker and Debbie Lammle for boxing them up, Terri Hooker for making the tracking labels, and Dwight and Terri Hooker for delivering them to Gibson City on Saturday, October 26th. Eighty four quilts and three blankets were delivered. Thanks to all those who made quilts or helped put them together. We think this is the most we have ever made. Great job!



Recycle

Please remember to save your used printer cartridges, cell phones, lap tops, GPS, or digital cameras. Please put them on the elder's pew. LWML collects them and the money we receive is given to our mission projects. Over \$1000 has been collected on these recycled items.

Shut-in Visits

Thanks to Connie Warsaw and Diana Zimmerman for visiting our shut-ins during the month of October.

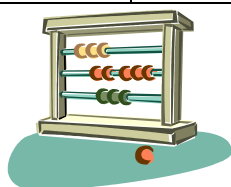
Storage Shed Clean Out Project!

The storage shed needs a little organizing and cleaning. Some of the items that are stored in it that are no longer being used are going to be given away or recycled. If any member is interested in the following items, please contact Brenda Hendricks: a 4-drawer black metal filing cabinet, a 6-foot blue metal shelving unit, a nice brown wooden desk (approximately 6 foot long), light brown folding wooden chairs (no more than 8 per individual and handled on a first come basis.) On Saturday, November 9th, all Thrivent members are invited to help clean out and organize the shed as we have been given \$200 for this project.



Statistics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Adult Class</u>
9/29	63	4	22
10/06	61	7	17
10/13	13	5	23
10/20	72	n/a	n/a
10/27	n/a	n/a	n/a



November Altar Guild

Barb Gaines and Shirley Sprau



November Acolytes



November 03.....Cheyenne Zimmerman
 November 10.....Hannah Duncan
 November 17.....Kenzie Delaney
 November 24.....Ryan McPike

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
 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



Elder Schedule

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