

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 Daniel Fienen

December 2013

Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Matthew 1:23

From Pastor McPike's Desk...

Advent is upon us once again. Yes, of course, as you look out in the world, you see the 30, 40, 50 or more day celebration of Christmas going on, where the world is squeezing the whole holiday cheer thing to try and get as much good feeling as possible from it and, on December 25 (or maybe even earlier) finding a lot of emptiness. In reality, the season of Advent is probably more important than Christmas itself. Because, as important as it was that Jesus came as a baby in a manger, it is only important when you tie the events of Christmas to the events of Good Friday and Easter, and to how since Christ came once as that manger baby, so He continues coming as our brother in His Word and Sacrament, and that He comes as our judge at the end of time to take us to be with Him in heaven forever.

The world did not find out about the coming of Christ all at once. God unfolded His plan of salvation over thousands of years in the times of the Old Testament. When Adam and Eve first fell into sin, God promised that someone (a male descendant of theirs) would come someday and do something that would destroy the power of evil. That's all they knew. He made further clarifying promises to Abraham, David, and then even more clearly through prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah and Malachi.

The season of Advent reminds us of Christ's coming. Through the readings, hymns and themes of Advent, we are also reminded that God did not give the information about Christ's coming all at once, but slowly over a long period of time. As such, we don't start the church decorated for Christmas on the first Sunday in Advent, but we gradually add decorations to the church, so that as we attend each Sunday, we see more and more the evidence that Christmas is coming,

and we remember more and more the circumstances of the coming of Christ, and how He will come again, and how He comes continually in Word and sacraments.

So as you see the decorations being added as the season of Advent approaches, remember the way in which God added details of Christ's coming over the years of the Old Testament. Advent is not holiday preparation time. It is heart preparation time as we remember our God who came (Christmas), Who comes (Word and Sacraments) and Who is coming (at the end of time.)

On a personal note...

Effective November 27 at 5 PM in the afternoon, I officially resigned my position as the "PRN" chaplain at Presence Covenant Medical Center in Urbana. ("PRN" is important sounding medical jargon that means simply, "as needed" or denoting employees who do not work a regular schedule). I worked at Presence for over 10 years, since April 2003 providing "on-call" coverage, usually overnights. For many of those years, I covered most of the Friday nights for them.

In the last three or so years, I have found scheduling time for that hospital more and more difficult. At that time, I spoke with the department director, Sister Mary Robert. She allowed me to cut back to two on-call nights a month. Considering the lower level of activity there, that really didn't seem like a lot, but I felt guilty by not taking any more, even though my colleagues there said that it was fine.

For the past year and a half I have been thinking seriously of leaving my employment there, but wanted to stay long enough to have been there 10 years. I also felt a special loyalty to Sr. Mary Robert, who had been very supportive of me in the past. When Sr. Mary Robert died last December, I decided that I would stay

past my ten year time and then consider resignation. The perfect opportunity came recently, and with the agreement of all involved, I submitted my resignation effective November 27, 2013. That leaves me with only two jobs now... full-time chaplain at Carle and pastor at Immanuel, Osman, both of which I am very pleased to continue to do.

As the job in the past two years did not demand much of me, it actually isn't going to net me a lot of extra free time. What it will do is allow me a bit more downtime than I had before, as well as a bit more flexible time.

As always, I appreciate the support that I continue to enjoy from all of you good people at Immanuel.



Council Meeting

Church council will meet Tuesday, December 3, at 7 PM in the fellowship hall.

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.

Job descriptions for these positions are posted on the back bulletin board as well as online. Go to www.OsmanLutheran.org/council/ and click on the appropriate job description under the Information column. Please consider using your God given talents to serve your church.

Church Council Minutes

November 5, 2013

(Abridged Edition)

7 members, plus Pastor McPike, attended the monthly council meeting held on November 5, in the fellowship hall.

Secretary's minutes were read and approved. Treasurer Bob Zimmerman, reported the cash balance being \$92,731.79. Report was approved. St. Johns Lutheran Church near Milford that burnt down last month will be the recipient of our November mission giving. The Mahomet Schools' program for needy children will be the recipient for our December mission giving.

Pastor McPike commended the congregation for their stewardship. He reported that we will have a special service for Thanksgiving Eve and one for the beginning of Advent on Wednesday, December 4.

The trustees reported that the installation of the furnace went well. There are a few minor things that the trustees will correct on the installation. The air conditioners have a timing unit so that one will kick in and then the other and this should prevent the lights from dimming. We have not received a time line from Kross Tuck Pointing for their work on the outside of the church and annex. When we do, we will contact Dick Johnson to get the fascia boards wrapped and installed. Chairman Hardesty received a bid from Dalton Seamless Guttering in Mahomet for \$800 for the gutters. He also received a bid of \$1250 from Alternative Enterprises who will work on the draining the water away from the building.

The sign up sheet for the 2014 slate of officers for the council is posted on the back bulletin board. Please use your time and talents to serve the church.

Carbon monoxide detectors will be installed in the church.

The next council meeting will be December 3rd. The next quarterly voters meeting will be Sunday, January 12.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hendricks

2014 Church Budget

The proposed 2014 budget will be available on the back elder's pew after it is discussed at the Council meeting on December 3rd. It will also be printed in the January newsletter. Since the quarterly meeting is not until January 12, that should give every member ample time to look it over.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Proposed Candidates for 2014

CHURCH OFFICERS

CHURCH OFFICE

NAME

Chairman

_____ ☐

_____ ☐

_____ ☐

_____ ☐

2 – Elders

_____ ☐

_____ ☐

_____ ☐

_____ ☐

ASS'T. SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPT.

_____ ☐

_____ ☐

_____ ☐

_____ ☐

ASST. FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Susan Martin ☐

_____ ☐

_____ ☐

_____ ☐

1 -- TRUSTEE

Jeff Warsaw ☐

_____ ☐

_____ ☐

_____ ☐

1-Head Usher

_____ ☐

_____ ☐

Advent

The season of advent will begin on December 1st. One of the apparent changes to the altar decor is the



advent wreath. It has 3 blue candles and one pink. The first candle is the Prophet candle symbolizing the hope and anticipation of Christ's coming in the flesh as prophesied in the Old Testament. The second, the Bethlehem candle, recalls how Christ was humbly born

of a virgin in the insignificant village of 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 candle in the center of the wreath is the Christ candle, which is lit on Christmas Eve. May we all strengthen our commitment to Christ through this special season of the church year!

Tree Decorating

The Christmas tree for the church will be decorated in a progressive method this season. The tree will be up for the worship service on Sunday, December 8, but will not be decorated. However, the greenery surrounding the sanctuary and the altar will be put up for the December 8th service. The tree will then be decorated and lit for the worship service on December 15th. The first decorating which will be everything but the tree will take place on Saturday, December 7th at 9 AM and the second decorating which will be the tree will take place on Saturday, December 14th at 8 AM before the Sunday School children's practice.

Christmas Program Practice

Attention Parents of Sunday School Children—We will practice on the following Tuesdays—December 3, 10 and 17 from 6-7:30 PM. We will practice on Saturday, December 14 and 21 from 9-10:30 AM. Our final practice /dress rehearsal will be Sunday, December 22, in the church during regular Sunday School hours. We also will be doing some practicing during Sunday School starting today, so it's important to have your child at Sunday School as much as possible between now and the program. Thanks so much for your support! The Christmas Eve program will be held Tuesday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Poinsettias

Please sign-up on the bulletin board by December 15th if you wish to donate a poinsettia for the Christmas Eve Service. Flowers were ordered from Prairie Gardens with gold foil. The price is \$11.00. Please give your money to treasurer Bob Zimmerman. The flowers will remain on the altar until after the new year, unless those donating want to take them sooner.

Shut-in Visits

Thanks to Shirley Sprau and Debbie Lammle for visiting the shut-ins this month.

Thank You

Immanuel Osman members "step up" whenever there is a need. Thanks to all those who visited the shut-ins, served on the Altar Guild, read the lessons during service, gave the "Chapel Talks", hosted Fellowship Club, donated altar flowers, sponsored the eternal flame candle, and served as acolytes and ushers. We also want to thank the council members who serve faithfully throughout the year without recognition. We are a church family that serves without question and always serves with a joyful heart! Watch for new sign-ups on the bulletin board after Christmas.

Thank You!

To the members of Osman,

A special thank you for the beautiful quilt. We will cherish your gift forever. It's always a pleasure to work with everyone.

Also a very special thank you to the group of wonderful people (you know who you are) who took the time and thoughtfulness to purchase and present us with the quilt. We will never forget that day.

With sincere gratitude,
Dick and Deb Johnson

Danville Zone President's Meeting

The Danville Zone President's meeting was led by Debbie Lammle on November 23th in the Fellowship Hall here at Immanuel Osman. Presidents from eight different societies were present to discuss the information from the Board Meeting held at Camp Cilca four weeks earlier. Refreshments were served before the meeting. Each president told something they were thankful for, followed by stating different activities their organizations were involved in. The meeting ended with song and prayer.



Caroling to the Shut-ins

The Choir will go Christmas caroling to our shut-ins on Sunday, December 8. We will leave the church at 12:00 noon.

Choir Practice

The Choir will practice on Wednesday, December 4th after the Advent Service, and on Wednesday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. to prepare for Christmas.

Fellowship Club

Fellowship Club was celebrated Sunday, November 17th, with a German meal of brats, sauerkraut, red cabbage, potato pancakes, apple strudel, German chocolate cake, and other wonderful dishes. After the meal Pastor McPike presented his second slide presentation on his Germany trip. Birthday cards were given to those celebrating a birthday in October, November, and December. They included Pastor McPike, Bill Amdor, Bill McCleary, Steve Warsaw, Esther Lutz, Agnes Martinie, and Pastor's mother. Watch the newsletter for the next Fellowship Club activity.

Hayride/Wiener Roast

Approximately 30 members of Immanuel Osman came out for the Hayride and Wiener Roast on October 27th at the church. A small group of Tiffany Lutz, son Drayton, Debbie Lammle, Kim & Marvin Clemmons, son Jordan and daughter Jenna rode the hayrack which was pulled by Bob Zimmerman. After a delicious meal the kids got to decorate pumpkins to take home. Trying to pop balloons during the games was a harder feat than expected, but a great time was enjoyed by all!



Live Outdoor Nativity Pageant

On Sunday, December 8th, prepare to be touched by the true gift of Christmas! Peace Lutheran Church of Thomasboro is excited to celebrate and share the Good News of Christ's birth through the performance of a live, Outdoor Nativity Pageant. Come by anytime between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. to see the Pageant and be sure to take part in the free food, drinks and children's activities inside the church. From U.S. Route 45, turn West into Thomasboro and follow the road-side luminaries to 200 West Arnold St.

Thrivent News

Thrivent Choice Dollars! This month our congregation received \$439 in choice dollars. This is one way that you can determine how Thrivent uses its charitable outreach grant dollars. Thank you to Kim Clemmons, John Gercken, John Grussing, Wilma Grussing, Brenda Hendricks, Mike Hendricks, Susan Martin, Pastor McPike, Butch Sprau, Shirley Sprau, Donnie Warsaw, and Gene Welborn. 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". The Double Thrivent Choice Dollars expired the last day of October because the 5 million dollar limit had been reached if contributing to a congregation.

The Annual McLean County Thrivent meeting was held on Sunday, November 10, at Shannon's Five Star Restaurant at 1305 S. Mercer Avenue in Bloomington. 7 members from Osman attended the meeting. Our congregation received \$2,500 for the four projects that we did this year. They were the matching funds for the Anna Trotter benefit, quilting for Lutheran World Relief, assembling the boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and organizing the storage shed. We were proud to have sponsored four of the forty-one projects in McLean County. A delicious meal was served and the entertainment was provided by the Jazz Voices from Normal West High School. The officers for the McLean County Board were elected. We do not have a member from our congregation on the board. We thank Connie Warsaw and Brenda Hendricks for all of the years that they have served on the board.

Bellflower Area Christmas Cantata

The Christmas Cantata, "Mary Did You Know?" will be presented at the Bellflower Community Center on Saturday evening, December 14th, at 7 PM. It is sponsored by the Bellflower United Methodist Church, but it includes singers from several area churches. Singers have joined together under the direction of Norm DeGraff to bring the good news of Christmas to our community through music and song. The evening will conclude with Christian fellowship and refreshments. There is no admission charge or donation.

Advent Soup Supper

The congregation is invited to a soup supper before the Advent service on December 4th starting at 5:30 p.m. The menu includes chili, vegetable soup, chicken salad and ham salad sandwiches, bars and brownies. A free will offering will be taken.

Advent Worship Service

On Wednesday night, December 4th, we will have an Advent worship service beginning at 7 PM.

Christmas Treat Sacks

Donations for the goodies that will be put in the Christmas Eve treat sacks can be given to any elder during the month of December. The elders are Bill Schroeder, Roy Whitehouse, Marvin Clemmons, and Jim VanWakeman. The treat bags will be assembled on Tuesday, December 24th at 9 AM.

Ladies Aid News

The Ladies Aid met on November 6th with 9 members present. The group voted to give \$25 to Lutheran Bible Translators and Bethesda Lutheran Communities. New officers for 2014 will be: Wilma Grussing - President; Shirley Sprau - Vice President; Annette Warsaw - Secretary; JoAnne Nelson - Treasurer; Moneta McCleary - Flower Treasurer; Brenda Hendricks - LCFS Treasurer; Debbie Lammle - Seminary Correspondant. Their next meeting will be the annual Christmas luncheon on Wednesday, December 4th at noon with husbands and guests invited. Please bring an \$8 present for the gift exchange and your potluck dish. Also please bring a table decoration to be used at both the luncheon and soup supper.

LWML Meeting

The LWML will meet Thursday, December 12th in the Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m. Joanne Nelson will be the topic leader and Debbie Martin and Shirley Sprau will be our hostesses. We will reveal our secret pals and draw names for the new year. All ladies of the church are welcome.

Feed My Starving Children

Half a million MannaPack meals have been distributed to Typhoon Haiyan survivors in the Philippines, and an additional 2.5 million meals have been requested by humanitarian organizations working in the region. On Nov. 9th at Springfield LWML members and other organizations assembled enough MannaPacks to feed 44 people for 365 days.



Statistics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Adult Class</u>
10/13	72*	5	23
10/20	72	6	16
10/27	52	0	15
11/03	52	8	24
11/10	61	4	21
11/17	89	8	20
11/24	77	n/a	n/a
11/27	n/a	0	0

*correction to previous edition

December Altar Guild

Debbie Lammle and Shirley Sprau



December Acolytes

12/01.....Chase Zimmerman
 12/08.....Cheyenne Zimmerman
 12/15.....Hannah Duncan
 12/22.....Kenzie Delaney

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 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

Happy Anniversary!

Elder Schedule

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