

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC

Reverend Daniel Fienen

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

John 10:27

February 2014

From Pastor McPike's Desk...

"Covered with the white robes of Christ's righteousness..."

There are so many aspects to our relationship with God that are rather difficult to grasp because they fall close to if not outside our usual reality. To attempt to help with this, the Christian Church over the past two centuries has come up with numerous symbols and ceremonies to attempt to help with understanding. Various church decorations, robes worn by clergy, banners, candles, crosses and other church furniture has been used to this end. One such symbol that has grown up in use over the centuries is known as the funeral pall.

Very basically, a funeral *pall* is a large cloth, usually white, off-white or gold/white mix that completely covers the casket while it is in the church for a funeral. Often, the pall is decorated with either an embroidered cross, or "banding" (strips of decorative-colored material) forms a cross that is over the body of the person. The pall is applied at or before the beginning of the service in the church and removed prior to the time that the casket is taken from the church and placed in the funeral coach.

While unfamiliar at Osman, the pall is often used in a variety of liturgical churches (including Lutheran, Catholic, Episcopal and possibly others). Like any symbol, it is very important to understand the symbolism of the pall. The symbolism is very rich.

Our church teaches that all people are born sinful and subject to the wrath of God. This statement is typical as an opening statement in the Baptism service. When baptized, we teach that while we are still sinners, Christ's righteousness covers us. As God looks at you and me and any baptized persons, He does not

see our sinfulness, even though we still sin daily and sin much. He sees the righteousness of Christ, our Savior. We are given credit for being God's perfect children by virtue of our faith in Christ.

We get to heaven, then, not on our own merits, but on the merit of Christ. Using the popular concept of meeting St. Peter at the so-called "Pearly gates", if we were to present the reason for why we should get into heaven, the answer would be simply, "Because of the righteousness of Christ." Christians, then, live *under that righteousness*. Why is it that we try to do good? Because God considers us to be righteous. We attempt to live up to what God has already declared us to be – His perfect, forgiven people in Jesus Christ.

When a child is baptized, there is often a white cloth of some sort placed on the child that symbolizes this covering of Christ's righteousness that is the gift given in Baptism. The funeral pall, the large cloth (usually white) covering the casket in the church, symbolizes that the person who has died and is being buried is in heaven because they were baptized, because they lived under the righteousness of Christ, and because they died believing in Christ. The funeral pall, then, is a symbol of the baptism of a Christian, is the symbol not only of the deceased person's baptism, but of that deceased person's baptismal life in Christ. The casket is presented in the church covered in white, because the one in it lived life covered with the white of Christ's righteousness. The large "Paschal" candle, which symbolizes the presence of the Risen Christ with His people between Easter and His ascension into heaven, is also used at funerals for the same reason – as a reminder of baptism.

The funeral pall has additional lovely symbolism. Because the same pall is applied to each and every casket, we are reminded that before God, we all appear the same – present before Him not on our own merits,

but only on Christ's merit. Thus, regardless of whether the deceased person or family is very poor or very wealthy or anything in between, whether they are in a very inexpensive cloth-covered metal casket or a very lavishly decorated hardwood one, they all appear the same before God. This symbolism is also quite lovely, and very appropriate. God sees us for what Christ has done for us, not what we have managed to accomplish in this life.

A donation of a funeral pall is being considered at Osman as a memorial. Once in place, the use of this pall would be optional for each family to consider. No family will be made to use the pall, nor will there be any such expectation. For those that do, explanations will be made both in bulletins as well as sermon references, so that the significance and symbolism is clearly understood.

If there are any questions about the funeral pall or its use, please contact Pastor McPike.



Our Sympathy!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Zimmerman family on the loss of Paul Zimmerman. He was taken from this earthly life on Saturday, January 18, and his funeral was conducted by Pastor McPike at Osman on Wednesday, January 22. May our loving heavenly Father grant comfort and peace to those who mourn.

Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, March 5th, starting at 7 PM.

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

Plan ahead to attend the Ash Wednesday soup supper on March 5th in the fellowship hall. The supper will be sponsored by the LWML ladies and will start at 5:30. A freewill offering will be taken, and the money will be used to support our LWML projects.



Thank You!

The Paul Zimmerman family would like to thank the church for the use of the hall for Dad's visitation. We would also like to thank those that helped set it up for the visitation. It was a wonderful place to hold it and we received many compliments on it. We would also like to thank the Ladies Aid and all those who donated food and cooked the delicious meal for our family and friends. Paul would have been very pleased. We appreciate the Pastor's visits and all the prayers you have made in our difficult time. God's blessings to all of you. Arnita, Terri, Dwight, Myron, Janet and families

Thank You!

Thank you to Jill and Rick Hardesty for being the youth group sponsors for the past few years. They have decided to resign from that position after organizing many Harvest and Easter breakfasts, creating the Valentine dinner that was enjoyed by many members, and chaperoning many other youth events. Thank you very much for your interest in the youth of our church! Nikki and Rob Gallier have volunteered to fill this position.

Thank You!

Thank you to Brenda Hendricks for serving as our congregation's Thrivent advocate for the past four years. We appreciate all you have done to keep our congregation informed on the Thrivent issues.

Thank You!

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

Thank You!

Thank you to the outgoing council members who served in positions for the last two years. They are as follows: Steve Warsaw as trustee, Nikki Gallier as Sunday school superintendent, Darryl Redding as financial secretary, Roy Whitehouse and Marvin Clemmons as elders, and Courtney Delaney as head usher. Thank you for donating your time and talents to the business of our congregation.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Church Council Minutes

January 7, 2014

(Meeting was cancelled due to the weather so no minutes.)

Council Meeting

Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4th, at 7 PM in the fellowship hall.

Quilting!

The ladies already have 17 quilts made for the Lutheran World Relief this year. They will be quilting again on Thursday, February 6 and Saturday, February 8 from 8 AM to noon. If anyone is interested in taking material squares home and sewing them into a quilt top, see Brenda Hendricks. If anyone has old sheets (fitted or flat) we could use them for middles or backs for the quilts. All are welcome to join in volunteering a few hours while working on a worthwhile project for Lutheran World Relief. We were able to track the shipment of our quilts that were collected in October. Some of our quilts were shipped to the country of Chad.

Tired of the Winter Weather?

Why not sign up on the bulletin board at church for the "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" event on Saturday, March 8th. Anyone, single or married, can participate in the Fellowship Club sponsored activity. Five members have volunteered to host a small dinner party with four to six guests each. No one (but the committee) knows where they will be dining until the day of the event, and the host and hostess don't know who's coming to their home until they arrive. You will be notified a week in advance as to what you will be taking to the dinner party such as appetizer, salad, vegetable or dessert. The host and hostess could plan a short devotion, an interactive game or activity, or just visit after the meal over dessert and coffee. A nice intimate way to continue fellowship with your church family! Those members celebrating birthdays in January, February and March will also be recognized.



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 \$46. Thank you to Kim Clemmons and Marge Morrissey for their donations. ALL 2013 THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS MUST BE DIRECTED BY MARCH 31. In 2013 Immanuel Lutheran of Osman received \$2571 from choice dollars.

Thrivent Advocates...Terri Hooker and Connie Warsaw will be the two new Thrivent Advocates. They will be the ones that you can go to if you have a question about Thrivent Choice dollars or about other Thrivent questions. They will receive the newsletters from the home office and also the ones that will communicate with the McLean County board to be informed so that they can relay the information on to the Thrivent members in our congregation.

Thrivent Benefit Soup Supper! At the Thrivent meeting last Sunday after church, the members voted to sponsor a soup supper. At the printing of this newsletter, the name of the recipient cannot be printed because the family has not yet been reached to give us permission to use his/her name. It is scheduled for Saturday, March 22, at the fellowship hall from 4:30 - 7:00. The menu will be chili, oyster soup, potato soup, sandwiches, pies and drinks. Plan now to attend for some good fellowship in the community. Thrivent will donate a 1-3 match for all the money donated to this good cause.

Relay for Life Fundraiser

Please help the Relay for Life team at Fisher to raise money for cancer research by attending a homemade Chicken & Noodle Dinner at Fisher High School on Friday, February 7th starting at 4:30 p.m. and continuing until we run out. Mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls and bottled water will also be served for a \$7 fee per person or \$25 for a family of four. Even if you can't attend, we appreciate any donations you might want to contribute. See Debbie Lammle if you have questions.

Quarterly Church Council Minutes

January 12, 2014

(Abridged Edition)

39 voting members attended the quarterly voter's meeting held on January 12, 2014, after the regular worship service.

Secretary's minutes were read and approved. Treasurer Bob Zimmerman reported the cash balance as being \$101,811.06 at the end of 2013. Bob thanked all of the members for their generous giving in 2013.

Pastor McPike thanked all of the members for their gifts, cards, and thoughts for his family during the Christmas season. Pastor McPike reported that he has been at Osman for 6 years in March. During that time we have had 2 twelve month vicars, 2 summer vicars, and 2 pastoral assistants. He is very happy with the arrangements at Osman and hopes that our congregation is satisfied with the present arrangements.

Chairman Hardesty then recapped the happenings for the past year. He listed them as follows: remodeled the Pastor's office, cleaned the carpet in the church and annex, purchased a new vacuum cleaner, cleaned out the storage shed, purchased new heating and air conditioning units for the church, installed new ballast and lights in the annex and office, installed new CFL lights in the sanctuary, repaired a gas leak in the annex, trimmed the trees on the church property, reviewed and adjusted the insurance policy on the church to cover all buildings and contents, hired Kross Masonry to tuck point the church in 2014, purchased a TV monitor to display pictures of the congregation and to advertise upcoming events, purchased CO detectors for the church and fellowship hall, and installed new stain glass windows in the ladies' and men's bathroom.

Chairman Hardesty asked the voters if they were interested in another summer vicar. It was the general consensus of the voters present to apply for one for this next summer.

Treasurer Zimmerman presented the proposed 2014 budget. He highlighted the 3% increase for the salaried personnel. He read all the line items and explained why the council made some changes from last year. Darwin Warsaw made the motion to approve the proposed budget. It was 2nd by Jeff Warsaw. Motion carried.

Chairman Hardesty then outlined the upcoming work of the church. In the spring the Tuck pointing project on the church and annex will begin. This will require new wrapped fascia boards to be installed and new gutters to be installed. New doors on the east end of the church and annex and new windows in the annex and office have been previously approved, but the work

still needs to be done.

Chairman Hardesty asked for a motion from the floor to approve the \$800 bid for gutters from Dalton Seamless Gutters in Mahomet. Jeff Warsaw made this motion. 2nd by Roy Whitehouse. Motion carried.

Chairman Hardesty asked for a motion from the floor to approve the \$1,250 bid from Alternative Enterprises (Mark Barrack) for the installation of down spout tiles to get the water away from the church. After some discussion, Darwin Warsaw made this motion. 2nd by Mike Hendricks. Motion carried.

Chairman Hardesty thanked the outgoing council members for their time and efforts. He also thanked the congregation for their help and support during the last two years as chairman.

Chairman Hardesty then called for the annual vote of new council positions. He asked for nominations from the floor for each position three times. Since there was not a name on the ballot for chairman, Deb Lammle nominated Rick Hardesty. 2nd by Don Warsaw. The names on the ballot were as follows: for elders were Neil Bidner and Steve Martin; for assistant Sunday school superintendent was Annette Warsaw; for assistant financial secretary was Susan Martin; for trustee was Jeff Warsaw. Since there was not a name on the ballot for head usher, Mike Hendricks nominated Jordan Bidner. 2nd by Jill Hardesty. It was a unanimous vote for the slate of officers.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4th. The next quarterly voters meeting will be Sunday, April 6.

Pastor McPike led the voters in the common table prayer before they proceeded to the fellowship hall for the potluck dinner.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 11:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hendricks
Council Secretary

Statistics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Adult Class</u>
01/05	0	Snowed Out	0
01/12	65	6	12
01/19	39	2	11
01/26	69	3	14

February Altar Guild

Barb Gaines and Debbie Lammle

February Acolyte Schedule

February 02.....Ryan McPike
 February 09.....Chase Zimmerman
 February 16.....Cheyenne Zimmerman
 February 23.....Hannah Duncan

February Lay Readers

February 02.....Shirley Sprau
 February 09.....Aaron Warsaw
 February 16.....Annette Warsaw
 February 23.....Marsha Warsaw

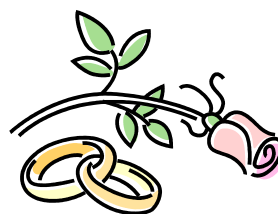
February Birthdays

Bryan Edwards.....02-03
 David Peyton.....02-03
 Theresa VanWakeman Wilson.....02-07
 Christie Delaney.....02-10
 Charlie Homann.....02-10
 Jenna Mangold.....02-14
 Lora Nelson.....02-16
 Neil Bidner.....02-17
 Lisa Miller.....02-17
 Jeff Warsaw.....02-19
 Andrea Hicks.....02-20
 Sarah Schuh.....02-21
 Tyler Barrack.....02-23
 Amanda Burgess.....02-24
 Reese Gallier.....02-26
 Marti Brandt.....02-27



February Anniversaries

Barb and Jerry Reifsteck.....02-04-1998
 Joanne and Marvin Nelson.....02-06-1960



Elder Schedule

Bill	April	July	Oct
Jim	May	Sept	Jan
Steve	Feb	August	Nov
Neil	March	June	Dec