

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

April 2014



From Pastor McPike...

Lent, a time for renewal

Because Easter is so late this year, we find ourselves at the first part of April right in the midst of the season of Lent. Normally, if Lent is not over by the end of March, Holy Week is right around the corner. However, this year, the last Sunday in March is only the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Easter is still two weeks or so away.

Lent is a time of renewal. It is a time to remember our sinfulness that caused Jesus to go to the cross. It is also a time to recall the basics of the Christian faith. Lent has its origins as a forty day period of time just before Easter as the time when folks desiring baptism were engaged in intensive study of the basics of the Christian faith. They studied what we would consider to be "catechism lessons". The catechism is important as it presents the basics of the Christian faith according to six chief parts. Luther desired that it be the very foundation of what every Christian should know throughout life. Yet what we often see today is the catechism being studied most by 7th and 8th graders, and then hardly picked up after.

In the last two years during Lent at Immanuel, we have focused on a "back to basics" approach for the Wednesday midweek services. Last year, we looked at the entire catechism for each of the evening services. This year, we are taking a more careful look at the Lord's Prayer. It is important to remind ourselves of basics. Subjects that we don't look at again after high school or college are often very hard to recall later in life. So it is with the basics of the Christian faith.

If you have not taken the time to join us so far, it is NOT TOO LATE!!

Maundy Thursday - a bit of a change and why

At its March meeting, the church council took up the topic of the meal that follows the Maundy Thursday service. In past years, Maundy Thursday included a meal after the service. However, since at least 2008, the service has been structured with the very solemn ceremony called "Stripping the Altar", where the chancel is stripped of all furnishings and left bare or draped in black, reminding us that Christ was stripped of everything before He was killed on Good Friday. The climax of that service is leaving the church in silence after the stripping ceremony concludes. The council discussed how it then is a bit out of character to have any sort of meal or goodies after this ceremony in the hall. This led to trying something new this year.

As a major emphasis of the early part of Maundy Thursday is fellowship, as Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with His disciples and used the conclusion of that meal to inaugurate the Lord's Supper, which is the chief fellowship meal of the Christian Church to this day. Fellowship is an important aspect of Passover. As such, fellowship is an important aspect of Maundy Thursday. Having fellowship in the hall is not at all out of place on that night. But, along the way that our services have evolved recently, it is better that such fellowship in the hall happen *before* the church service, so as to not disrupt the solemnity of the conclusion of the service. As such, some form of getting together will be taking place before the service on Maundy Thursday. Following the service, we not only leave the service in silence, but also then the church as well, allowing worshipers to carry the quiet contemplation to their own homes for that night.

Holy Week

Holy Week is the last week of the 40 day season of Lent and the week preceding Easter. In Holy Week we focus on the last week of Christ's life, remembering especially His Passion and resurrection.

Palm Sunday is the commemoration of our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem five days before his crucifixion. This day takes its name from the fact that as Jesus approached Jerusalem on a donkey, the huge crowd that followed carried palm branches as they praised Him and shouted "hosanna, hosanna!". The people hailed Him as the long awaited "Son of David", that is, the Messiah.

Maundy Thursday remembers the events in the upper room the night before Jesus died. The upper room events include the institution of the Lord's Supper, the eating of the Passover meal, and the washing of the disciples' feet. At the end of the Maundy Thursday service, the altar is stripped in preparation for Good Friday. This symbolizes Christ being stripped by the Roman soldiers prior to His crucifixion. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Good Friday - On the last Friday before Easter we remember Jesus crucifixion. It is the day when Jesus paid for our sins by dying in our place. Everything is taken off the altar and draped in black for this service.

Easter Sunday, the celebration of Christ's resurrection, is the beginning of new life. Easter celebrates Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil, as well as the promise of our justification and everlasting life. Holy Communion will be celebrated Easter morning. (The season of Easter lasts 50 days until the day of Pentecost.)

Holy Week is a marvelous time for Christian growth. It offers incredible potential for satisfying spiritual hunger. It does this by exposing those who attend its services to God's Word and Sacrament. We grow as the Holy Spirit works through the Gospel and Sacrament that we hear and receive during these days. **THIS HOLY WEEK—"TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD."**

Maundy Thursday Fellowship Hour

Since the tone of the Maundy Thursday service is of a somber nature, the fellowship hour will be before the worship service instead of after. The committee will be serving sandwiches, chips, dessert, and drinks. The serving will be from 5:30 – 6:45.

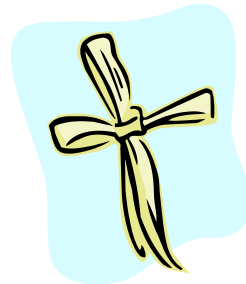


Holy Week Services and Activities

The **Maundy Thursday** service will begin at 7 p.m. with Holy Communion. Worshippers will leave this service in silence. There will be fellowship time with refreshments before church in the fellowship hall.

Good Friday service will begin at 7 p.m. After this somber service, everyone will leave in silence.

Easter worship service will begin at 7 a.m. with Holy Communion. The youth will serve a breakfast in the fellowship hall after the service. Everyone is cordially invited! An Easter egg hunt for the children sponsored by Thrivent will take place during the breakfast.



Folding Palms

Anyone interested in helping fold palms into crosses for Palm Sunday, please meet in the annex on Saturday, April 12th at 2:30 p.m. No previous experience needed!

Thank You

Thanks to Diana Zimmerman and Connie Warsaw for visiting our shut-ins last month.

Our Sympathy

Our sympathy goes to the family and friends of Joanne Nelson who was called to her heavenly home on March 11. Her funeral service was held at Immanuel of Osman on Saturday, March 15. Joanne was a member of LWML, Ladies Aid, and choir. She was also a very faithful member of Bible Class. May our loving Lord grant comfort and peace to all those who mourn.

Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on March 5th for their first meeting of 2014 with 5 members present.

Agnes Martinie had the devotion and was hostess for the day. Topic on forgiveness was by Wilma Grussing.

For this year the roll call will be answered from Bible verses taken from the New Testament. So ladies, dust off your Bibles and pick a verse from Mark for the April 2nd meeting. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend the meetings that are held in the Fellowship Hall at 1:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. We have a time of a short Bible study, important business (as we do have important business to discuss) and a time of fellowship before we adjourn. So come, join us. We need you, and we welcome visitors. You would be surprised how much can be accomplished by such a few, dedicated women.

Ladies Aid Meeting

The Ladies Aid will meet on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 in the Fellowship Hall. Shirley Sprau will have the devotion and prayer. Connie Warsaw will give the topic, and Shirley Sprau will be our hostess. Roll Call will be answered with a Bible verse from Mark.

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 \$295. Thank you to Kim Clemmons, John Grussing, Wilma Grussing, Brenda Hendricks, Michael Hendricks, Debbie Lammle, Darryl Redding, Butch Sprau, Annette Whitehouse and Roy Whitehouse for their donations.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to all of the members who donated food and worked at the Thrivent benefit soup supper held on Saturday, March 22. The recipient, Lexi Peterson, was diagnosed with leukemia last summer and is receiving chemo treatments out of state. She left Sunday for the next five weeks of treatments. The free will offering totaled \$2,732 and we are still receiving donations. Thrivent Financial will match \$1 for every \$3. We served 139 people and had enough food left to serve 35 people lunch after church on Sunday. Thank you again for helping us spread the love of Jesus to members of our community. Please keep Lexi in your prayers.

LWML News

The LWML met on March 13 for their regular meeting. We opened by singing "Lutheran Women One and All" and saying the LWML pledge. Barb Whitehouse-Gercken had the devotions and Deb Lammle had the topic. 11 members answered roll call and the minutes from the December meeting were read. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$1402.68. Correspondence was read from Pastor Fienan and from Jonathan Scheck.

Everyone was thanked for helping with the soup supper before the Ash Wednesday service. We served 40 people. Terri Hooker gave a report on where our first two shipments of quilts from last year were shipped. The first shipment was sent to Chad and the second shipment went to India. It was decided to donate one of the beautiful quilts that we knotted this year to a benefit for a family in the Champaign area whose newborn baby was born with several medical problems. The quilt will be raffled. The quilting dates of April 3rd and 5th, May 1st and 3rd, and June 5th and 7th were set.

We will be helping to host the Spring Gathering on April 12th at Peace Lutheran Church in Thomasboro. We are in charge of the fruit bowls and the drinks for the brunch and also the table decorations and programs. The theme is "Hats Off to LWML" so we made paper hats for the table favors. It was decided to purchase the fruit with money from the treasury.

The 69th CID Convention is on April 25th and 26th in Effingham. We need two delegates and two alternates for the convention. Barb Whitehouse-Gercken and Deb Lammle both volunteered for the alternates. We are still looking for the two voting delegates.

It was decided to cancel the spring cleaning of the church until the tuck pointing job is completed. We will plan a congregational food shower for our summer vicar in late May so he will have cabinets of food and some cleaning supplies upon his arrival in June. We will be distributing baby bottles to the congregation to collect change for the Pregnancy Resource Center starting on Mother's Day. We will collect for a month. Diana Zimmerman and Shirley Sprau served delicious refreshments.



Church Council Minutes

March 4, 2014

(Abridged Edition)

7 members, plus Pastor McPike, attended the monthly council meeting held on March 4, in the fellowship hall.

Secretary's minutes were read and approved. Chairman Hardesty reported the cash balance being \$62,820.47. He reported that we transferred \$35,700 to the building fund for the tuck pointing project. Since our contract with FS for propane will be up for renewal in May, the council approved that we pay the balance on the contract which was \$1085.21. \$700 was also transferred from the checking account to the needy account to replenish it. Report was approved. Christ Lutheran High School in Buckley will be the recipient of our February mission giving. Special Olympics will be our March mission project.

Pastor reported that he has contacted the seminary about the possibility of a summer vicar. There were three choices and one has corresponded with Pastor. Kurt Cockran from Oklahoma will be our summer vicar. He will serve our congregation for June and July. The council is presently searching for summer housing for him. Pastor requested that the fellowship hour be before the Maundy Thursday service instead of after due to the solemn message of that evening. Chairman Hardesty will contact that committee. Pastor also inquired about more publicity for our Holy Week services. Annette Warsaw will be asked to design an ad for the local newspapers. We have also purchased a banner publicizing our Holy Week schedule as designed by Annette Warsaw to be mounted on the corner of Grape Avenue.

Neil Bidner reported that Beth, Sunday School Superintendent, has purchased the Vacation Bible School material. The theme for this summer is "Gang Way to Galilee".

Trustee John Gercken reported that an antennae for the television in the hall has been installed. It was suggested that the furnace in the annex be looked at for the possibility of installing more cold air returns. The new furnace in the church also needs more cold air returns which is why it is so loud when it runs during church. The wireless microphone needs to be used by the choir and also by the Pastor. The taped recordings that are sent to our shut-ins do not pick up those parts of the service if a microphone is not used.

Kross Tuckpointing will start our project this next week. It will take 2-3 weeks for the grinding and the rest of the work will follow in April. One third of the bill will need to be paid at the beginning so Treasurer

Zimmerman will send the check for \$10,826.04 to them. The bid for the guttering for the project will need to be adjusted as the Annex gutters are fairly new and do not need to be replaced.

The procedure for cancelling church was discussed. The trustees, the elder for the month, and Pastor shall all be involved in the decision. Pastor will contact people who are on the e-mail list. A revised emergency list of members and their phone numbers was distributed.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hendricks

Church Council Meeting

The April church council meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 1 in the fellowship hall at 7PM.

Quarterly Voters Meeting

The Quarterly Voters Meeting will be held after the worship service on Sunday, April 6th. If you are 18 years or older and a member of our church, please sign the constitution to become a voting member.



Mowing List

It is that time of the year again! The mowing list is attached to this newsletter and is also posted on the back bulletin board. If conflicts arise and you cannot mow, please contact Jeff Warsaw or John Gercken. If you switch with someone, please mark it on the copy on the back bulletin board.

"Hold on to the Faith"

Faith—"Confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see!" The ladies of the LWML Danville Zone were holding on to the faith as they met for their President's meeting at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman, Fisher, IL on March 22nd. The ladies share their faith as they meet and interact with each other, inspiring one another to further God's kingdom in a variety of different ways. Society projects that were shared at the meeting included auctioning quilts made by the LWML ladies with the profits going to a local charity, delivering fruit baskets to the shut-ins, and making baptismal banners for all the babies in the congregation. "A Child's Garden of Bible Stories" was given to all Sunday School children, pillow case dresses made, and financial support given to a member of the congregation going into the ministry. Collecting for a local food pantry, baking homemade cinnamon rolls for the local Lutheran School teachers during "Lutheran School Week", and giving food to a local community hit by a tornado were also accomplished by other LWML societies. Another suggestion to "share the love" was placing pictures of the members who were in the military or away at college on the bulletin board in the church. (and of course praying for them each Sunday!) One ladies' group incorporated a religious skit into the annual church picnic event, asking the young ladies to get involved as well. Others made baby blankets to distribute to the Women's Domestic Center. Money from a Thrivent grant was used for quilting supplies. One of our Danville societies was interviewed on the local TV channel. They explained their "Back-Pack Project" which helps students who don't have nourishment over the weekend. Over 160 back packs full of food were distributed to children at four different schools. Not all the quilts went to Lutheran World Relief. One LWML gave their Vicar a hand-made quilt as a going away gift and another beautiful quilt to their Seminary Student at Christmas. Serving in these ways help us hold on to the faith in Christ! Thanks to the LWML women who hold true their commitment to "Serve the Lord With Gladness" and at the same time—"Hold on to the Faith!"

"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"



L - R: Larry Richoz, Pastor McPike, Sue and Jim VanWakeman, Susan Martin, Kim and Bill Schuh

The "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" event was held at Butch and Shirley Sprau's in Bellflower and Bill and Kim Schuh's in Mahomet on March 8th. Thanks to both couples for opening their homes for this fellowship event. Those attending the dinner party each brought one item for the meal. The best part of the evening was visiting with our church family and getting to know them a little better. It's already been suggested that we make this an annual event!



2nd Annual "Girls Night Out"

Mark your calendars now for the 2nd annual "Girls Night Out" on Friday, May 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Invite a friend and look forward to a night of fun, fellowship and food! Those interested in attending the event should sign up on the bulletin board at church.

2014 OSMAN MOWING SCHEDULE

Please mow the church lot, hall lot and the lot directly North of the East parking lot by the date specified by your name. If conflicts arise, please contact John Gercken at 309-722-3224 or e-mail: aa9uf.gercken@gmail.com or Jeff Warsaw at 217-489-9290. Please note any changes to the schedule on the church bulletin board. Steve Martin has agreed to mow for anyone for a nominal fee. Thank you for your continued assistance.

April 6	Ross Warsaw and Doug Majercin
April 13	Dick Johnson
April 20	Neil Bidner and Marvin Clemmons
April 27	Skinner Johnson and Bill McCleary
May 4	John Gercken and Ken Whitehouse
May 11	Steve Martin
May 18	Jerry and Bryan Edwards
May 25	Myron and Eric Zimmerman
June 1	Steve Warsaw
June 8	Lee and Roy Whitehouse
June 15	Don and Jeff Warsaw
June 22	Bryan and Greg Warsaw
June 29	Bob and Shaun Zimmerman
July 6	Marvin Nelson and Daryl Redding
July 13	Myron and Randy Zimmerman
July 20	Jim Poppe
July 27	Shane Zimmerman
August 3	Larry Lutz and Gene Welborn
August 10	Leonard Delaney and Mike Miller
August 17	John Grussing and Aaron Warsaw
August 24	John Lammle and Rob Gallier
August 31	Steve Martin
September 7	Butch Sprau
September 14	Darwin Warsaw
September 21	Dwight and Nathan Hooker
September 28	Steve Gaines and Bill Schroeder
October 5	Mark Barrack
October 12	Steve Martin
October 19	Mike Hendricks and Rick Hardesty
October 26	Steve Martin

Statistics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Adult Class</u>
02/16	40	3	5
02/23	60	4	13
03/02	0	snowed out	-
03/05	50	Ash Wed	-
03/09	65	3	16
03/12	43	Lent Midwk	-
03/16	88	6	20
03/19	51	Lent Midwk	-
03/23	61	n/a	n/a
03/26	n/a	Lent Midwk	-
03/30	n/a	n/a	n/a

April Reading Schedule

April 6Mike Hendricks
April 13Joy Johnson
April 20Debbie Lammle
April 27Sara McPike

April Acolytes

April 6Kenzie Delaney
April 13Ryan McPike
April 20Chase Zimmerman
April 27Cheyenne Zimmerman

April Birthdays

Chase Zimmerman.....04-03
Courtney Delaney.....04-03
Erik Henriksen.....04-08
Timothy Brandt.....04-10
Dorothy Miller.....04-12
Connie Warsaw.....04-12
Benjamin Burgess.....04-13
Barb Gaines.....04-16
Kathy Brendel.....04-17
Leonard Delaney.....04-17
Steven Sprau.....04-18
Gina Masko.....04-19
Mike Hendricks.....04-23
Hallie Payne.....04-23
Bob Zimmerman.....04-23
Linda Warsaw.....04-25
Kristan Hansen.....04-25
Deb Lammle.....04-26
Marvin Nelson.....04-28

April Anniversaries

None

April Altar Guild

Debbie Martin

Elder Schedule

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