

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC
Reverend Keffie Deen II

December 2014

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

Advent

Advent begins November 30 this year, and with it comes the blue paraments and advent wreath. The word "advent" is from the Latin word for "coming", and describes the "coming" of our Lord Jesus Christ into the flesh. Advent begins the church year because the church year begins where Jesus' earthly life began. After Advent comes Christmas, which is about his birth. Then Epiphany, about his miracles and ministry, Lent - about his Calvary-bound mission, then Easter about his resurrection and the sending of the apostles, Ascension (40 days after Easter) and Pentecost, with the sending of the Holy Spirit.

The traditional use of Advent candles originated in eastern Germany even prior to the Reformation. As this tradition came down to us by the beginning of this century, it involved three blue or purple candles and one pink. The blue or purple candles match the paraments on the altar. The pink candle was the third candle to be lit (not the fourth) on the Third Sunday of Advent, called Gaudete Sunday. "Gaudete" means "rejoice" in Latin, which is taken from Philippians 4:4. Hence a "pink" candle was used to signify "rejoicing". Some also included a white "Christ Candle" in the middle of the advent wreath to be lit during the 12 days of Christmas (December 25 - January 5). The concept of giving each candle a name, i.e. Prophecy, Bethlehem, Shepherd, and Angel is a relatively novel phenomenon and probably originated with the early sales of Advent candles and devotional booklets.

May we all rejoice in the coming of our Savior this Advent Season!

Advent Worship Service

On Wednesday night, December 3rd, we will have an Advent service beginning at 7 PM.

Church Council

The church council will meet on Tuesday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

2015 Budget

The proposed 2015 budget will be available on the back elders' pew after it is finalized at the December council meeting. It will also be printed in the January newsletter. That should give all members ample time to look it over before the quarterly meeting on January 11.

Christmas Program Practice

Practice will be Tuesday, December 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd from 6:00 - 7:30p.m. We also have a Christmas Camp on Saturday, December 6th from 8:00a.m. - 12:00 noon.

Contribution Envelopes

The Finance Committee will be assigning new contribution envelopes starting the second week in December. If you would like a numbered contribution envelope and do not have one assigned to you or if you would like to discontinue your contribution envelopes, please contact Larry Lutz or Susie Martin no later than December 8th. Otherwise, you will receive your envelopes as usual. Thanks!

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve

Anyone wanting to donate a poinsettia for the Christmas Eve service please sign-up on the bulletin board by December 21st. The cost of the poinsettias are \$11. Checks may be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman and given to Bob Zimmerman.

Thank You

Thanks to Wilma Grussing and Debbie Lammle for visiting the shut-ins in November.

Church Council Minutes

November 4, 2014

(Abridged Edition)

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

Secretary's minutes were read and approved. Treasurer Bob Zimmerman reported the cash balance as \$68,909.93 as of the end of October. Our monthly mission giving had already been approved at an earlier monthly meeting. It will be the Blue Ridge School District's back pack program.

Pastor McPike thanked the congregation for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. He reported that Confirmation Class is underway. Pastor Deen is helping with that. He reported that he is working on two new Bible studies for adult Bible class. One is on the book of Daniel and one is on the flood. He will advertise those in the church bulletin when completed. He is still working on the voice mail on the answering machine in the office. He also is editing the Christmas program which was purchased from Concordia to fit our Sunday school population.

In old business Chairman Hardesty reported that the guttering is completed on the church. He was very satisfied with Dalton Guttering on the job done. Examples of church thank yous designed by Annette Warsaw were displayed for the council to choose which one we liked. Pastor McPike brought a sample of a wood insert that will work to keep the Christmas greenery more stable around the perimeter of the church. Bob Zimmerman agreed to purchase more and get them installed before the decorations go up.

In new business the date for the Advent service was set for Wednesday, December 3rd. The Ladies Aid will prepare a soup supper to be served before the service. The Christmas decorating schedule was set. A quote to build a door on the cabinet that holds the banners in the altar guild room was presented for \$500. It was approved. Bob Zimmerman presented the proposed 2015 budget. The council discussed the changes. It will be printed and put on the back elders' pew for members to view before the quarterly meeting in January.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hendricks
Council Secretary

New Sign up Lists

Watch for new sign-up lists on the bulletin board for visiting the shut-ins, serving on Altar Guild, donating altar flowers, sponsoring the Eternal Flame candle, or sponsoring Fellowship Club for the New Year!

Fellowship Club

On December 7th please invite a guest and come out for Fellowship Club at Immanuel Osman to hear Nathan Montgomery of Salt and Light Ministries. Nathan has dedicated a huge part of his life promoting the concept of using your God given skills, talents, gifts and abilities to impact not only your life, but the lives of others. Nathan will also explain some of the recent changes in the organization. Please bring a non-perishable food item or new toy which will be given out to people in need who come to Salt and Light. At 6pm a light supper will be served, so please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many to prepare for. We will also recognize the members who have birthdays in October, November, and December.

Ladies Aid News

Advent Soup Supper

The Ladies Aid will be serving a light supper - soup and sandwiches on December 3rd from 5-7 p.m. before the Advent service. The free-will offering will be used to continue to serve our Lord. Did you know our Ladies Aid contributes to several Lutheran charities? This is just one of the activities the Aid supports. We are a very small dedicated church group with a God directed goal. Please join us for food and fellowship on the beginning of the 2014 Advent season.

Ladies Aid Annual Christmas Party

The Ladies Aid will have their annual Christmas party on Wednesday, December 3rd in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00 Noon. There will be a potluck lunch (guests invited) followed by a short Christmas program and an \$8.00 gift exchange. This is the last meeting for the Ladies Aid until March 2015.

Ladies Aid Officers for 2015

President, Shirley Sprau
Vice President, Deb Lammle
Treasurer, Connie Warsaw
Secretary, Annette Warsaw
Flower Fund, Wilma Grussing
LCFS Treasurer, Moneta McCleary
Seminary Correspondent, Deb Lammle

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Proposed Candidates for 2015 CHURCH OFFICERS
ELECTIONS SUNDAY, Jan. 11, 2015

CHURCH OFFICE NAME

Secretary _____ ☐
(Choose 1) _____ ☐
_____ ☐

Treasurer _____ ☐
(Choose 1) _____ ☐
_____ ☐

2 – Elders (choose 2) _____ ☐
_____ ☐
_____ ☐

ASS'T. SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPT.
(Choose 1) _____ ☐
_____ ☐
_____ ☐

ASST. FINANCIAL SECRETARY
(Choose 1) Debbie Lammle ☐
_____ ☐
_____ ☐

1 -- TRUSTEE _____ ☐
_____ ☐
_____ ☐

1-Head Usher _____ ☐
Youth or Adult _____ ☐

Youth Group News



Youth Group serves a Harvest Breakfast

Thanks to the youth leaders Nikki and Rob Gallier and the youth for sponsoring the Harvest Breakfast this year! The food and fellowship were a special part of what makes Osman special!



Youth Leaders Nikki and Rob Gallier

Thank You!

A special thank you to everyone who helped make the 1st annual Thanksgiving Dinner a big success! We are especially thankful for all those who donated salads and desserts, helped in the kitchen and for the fellowship of working together as a team!

Confirmation Class

The confirmation class will be meeting with Pastor after church on Sunday, December 14th for a meal and catechism class.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY
NEW YEAR



Operation Christmas Child



On Sunday, November 9th Megan Bidner, Jenna Clemmons, Addison Warsaw, and Cheyenne Zimmerman packed 20 plastic boxes with school supplies, toys, and hygiene items for children in countries that will have nothing to open on Christmas. We also included materials and crafts that told about Jesus' love for them. This project is sponsored by Samaritan's Purse International Relief. We also received \$400 from Thrivent to purchase items and help pay shipping expenses. We also want to thank our church members who donated items for the boxes. This year we received many donated items and that helped our money go farther.

Thrivent News

Free Desk Devotional for Members

Thrivent gives you access to many benefits of membership. You can now order Inspirations for Daily Life, a perpetual daily desk devotional. Each page has a spiritual thought for the day, a related Scripture and a beautiful colored photo. Both benefit and associate members can order one free copy, while supplies last. Order online at Thrivent.com or by phone at 800-847-4836 and at the prompt say "fraternal." To learn about all the benefits of membership, visit Thrivent.com/membershipbenefits.

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 \$265. Thank you to William Amdor, Kim Clemmons, Allen Grussing, John Grussing, Wilma Grussing, Brenda Hendricks, Carolyn Majercin, Butch & Shirley Sprau, Connie Warsaw, Annette & Roy Whitehouse for their donations.

Benefit Soup Supper

THANK YOU to all of our members who donated food and worked at the Thrivent benefit soup supper held on Saturday, November 15th. The recipient, Austin Miller, was paralyzed from the waist down in a fall a year ago. He faces a lifetime of special needs and treatments and many renovations are needed to his home to allow for his wheelchair. The free will offering totaled \$2,157 and Thrivent Financial will match \$1 for every \$3 for another \$719. We served 130 people and 210 volunteer hours were accumulated to do this project. We can't do these benefits without the help of our church members so we greatly appreciate all you do.

Annual Meeting

The Annual McLean County Thrivent meeting was held on Sunday, November 9, at Shannon's Five Star Restaurant in Bloomington. Six members from Osman attended the meeting. They were Bill & Moneta McCleary, Wilma Grussing, Brenda Hendricks, Don & Connie Warsaw. A short business meeting was held with reports from the Financial Director and Community Team Director. The officers for the McLean County Board were elected and Brenda was elected Assistant Financial Director and Connie elected Director of Congregational Advocates. Michelle Schultz briefly explained the new Action Teams. Between now and 2017 all chapters will be eliminated and requests for projects will be handled differently with a maximum of \$250 for any project. We enjoyed the Jazz Voices from Normal West High School as they presented a patriotic program to honor our veterans. Everyone enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner.

Caroling

The choir will go caroling to our homebound members on Sunday, January 4, 2015. More information to follow.



LWML

The LWML will meet on Thursday, December 11, in the fellowship hall at 7 PM. Wilma Grussing will be the topic leader and Deb Lammle and Agnes Martinie will be our hostesses. We will reveal our secret pals and draw names for the new year. All ladies of the church are welcome to attend.



Statistics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Adult Class</u>
10/26	56	5	21
11/2	62	5	17
11/9	60	3	12
11/16	65	5	13
11/23	68	5	9
11/23	51	Evening	Service
11/30	n/a	n/a	n/a

December Anniversaries

Jodi and Jake Stockle.....12-04-1999
 Dorothy and Gene Welborn.....12-20-1953
 Jennifer and Curtis Homann.....12-21-1991
 Martha and Darwin Warsaw.....12-31-1966



December Birthdays

Larry Camp.....12-01
 Myron Zimmerman.....12-02
 Jonathon Schuh.....12-04
 David Hasty.....12-05
 Curtis Homann.....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
 Nathan Hooker.....12-25
 Deb Johnson.....12-28
 Jennifer Homann.....12-30
 John Grussing.....12-31

Happy Birthday

December Acolytes

12/07.....Tyler Duncan
 12/14.....Will Delaney
 12/21.....Mitchell Gallier
 12/28.....Tyler Duncan

December Altar Guild

Debbie Lammle and Shirley Sprau

Elder Schedule

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