

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC

February 2016

Remember the Sabbath day, to
keep it holy.

Exodus 20:8

From the desk of Pastor McPike...

Lent – a time of *Catechesis*

The season of Lent is a six week period of time that comes before Easter. It is a time that Christians take the opportunity to spend in self-reflection and self-examination. Jesus came to this earth to do the very serious work of saving us from our sin, and that cost Him His life. He had to pay the price for our disobedience with His own blood, His suffering and death. He had no sin, but was considered by His heavenly Father to be the worst sinner of all, all for us. As we consider that, we consider that every bad thing, every harsh word, every sinful desire of ours ended up contributing to His being placed on the cross and dying for us.

Lent is also a time when the early church would spend time teaching new converts the basics of the faith. These *catechumens* would be immersed for the final six weeks of their training prior to becoming full members of the church in prayer and study of the faith. The conclusion of that would be their baptism, as they had likely not been baptized prior to that. Baptism for new converts happened at the Easter Vigil, a lovely service where the history of God reaching into this world to save His people was rehearsed. Easter is a time when baptism is remembered, as our baptism links us to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

It has long been a dream of mine to use the Lenten midweek services as a time to focus on the basics of the faith. We have already done that in one way here at Osman as we have used more than one Lenten season to review basic chief parts of the catechism.

This year, we are going to go one step further. Not only are we going to remind ourselves of the basics of the faith – remembering the lessons of our own *Catechesis* – *no matter how many years ago that was!* - and at the same time we are going to take a few minutes to examine the two *Catechumens* that will be confirmed this coming April on those basics. In other words, instead of public questioning that we have done over the years being all in one service for the entire catechism, we will have it spread over a few of the Wednesday midweek services, where we can take the opportunity for the entire service to focus on those issues.

This is an opportunity for the entire church – not just those who are being confirmed and their families. As Lent is a time for reflection, this year at Osman, it can be at time to reflect on *Catechesis* – the study of the basics of the faith as presented in Luther's *Small Catechism* as we learned them when we were young.

Upcoming Services

Ash Wednesday: February 10th 7pm with LWML sponsored meal before.

Lenten Services: February 17th, 24th, March 2nd, 9th, 16th.

Maundy Thursday: March 24th

Good Friday: March 25th;

Easter: March 27th (Breakfast served by the youth)

Confirmation Questioning: February 24th, March 2nd, 9th, and 16th.

Church Council

Church Council Meeting

February Church Council Meeting will be held February 2nd, in the Fellowship Hall at 7pm. All members should plan to attend the 2016 Planning Meeting.

Council Members

The 2016 Immanuel Lutheran Council Members: Chairman-John Lammle, Treasurer-Bob Zimmerman, Secretary-Debbie Lammle, Finance Committee-Diana Zimmerman, Assistant Finance Committee-Shirley Sprau, Elders-Marvin Clemmons, Aaron Warsaw, Don Warsaw, Shane Zimmerman, Trustees-John Gercken, Lee Whitehouse, Sunday School Superintendent-Connie Warsaw, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent-Beth Bidner, and Head Usher-Cheyenne Zimmerman. Please feel free to address any questions or concerns to any of the above council members..

F.Y.I.

"Worship for Shut-ins"

Know someone who can't get to church? Lutheran Ministries from Concordia Theological Seminary produces "Worship for Shut-ins". It airs locally on WCIX-49 Sunday mornings at 7:30am.

Osman Wi-Fi

The Osman Wi-Fi code for "OsmanChurch(public)" is "romans1017".

Important news

Important news is sent via EMAIL. Urgent alerts (such as service time or location changes) are sent via cell phone text message. If you want to be on either or both lists, please contact Pastor McPike

Mission Giving!

Our congregation gives a percentage of our offerings to the missions of the Missouri Synod. In addition to that we give to various local and national organizations. In 2015 our congregation gave to the following: Lutheran Hour Ministries, Christ the King Lutheran Church in the Quad Cities, Emily Robinson from Bellflower, St. John's Lutheran School in Champaign, St. Jude, Orphan Grain Train, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Seoul, South Korea, Lutheran World Relief, Fisher Food Pantry, Mahomet Food Pantry, and Backpack Food Program at Farmer City.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes

December 7, 2015

The Osman Lutheran Church Council met on December 7th for its monthly meeting with ten members present. Those attending were Rick Hardesty, Debbie Lammle, Bob Zimmerman, Diana Zimmerman, Aaron Warsaw, Steve Martin, Shane Zimmerman, Lee Whitehouse, Connie Warsaw, and Pastor McPike. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Secretary, Debbie Lammle. A correction was made concerning the ramp project being completed in the spring. Since a vote had not been taken, the statement was omitted from the minutes. The minutes were then approved as corrected. Pastor McPike gave a devotion from Philippians, followed by prayer. Treasurer, Bob Zimmerman, read the 4th quarter report with a balance of \$83,643.34. Steve Martin made a motion to approve the report; Shane Zimmerman seconded; motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor began discussion on the Christmas Eve Program. In Annette Warsaw's absence, Connie Warsaw reported that the Sunday School children and their parents had been informed of the program. They will be practicing two or three evenings and during Sunday School on December 20th.

Pastor informed the council that he had suggested the questioning of the confirmands during four Lenten services, instead of one Sunday in May. Discussion with the parents continues.

Pastor Ehler's will be filling in at Immanuel Osman one Sunday in March.

A motion was made and seconded to stop ordering the "Happy Times" magazine and children's bulletin because of the few children using them on Sunday mornings. Motion carried.

Trustee's Report:

Lee Whitehouse informed the council that fire extinguishers had been hung in the hall and repositioned in the church. He also took a sample of the ceiling in the church to be tested for possible mold. Lee Whitehouse will also get a list of materials compiled by Dick Johnson needed for the wheelchair ramp project. Dick will also be consulted concerning contractors available for this project. It was asked that the trustees have an estimate for the cost of the wheelchair ramp project by the Voter's Meeting on January 10th.

Inspection of fire extinguishers will take place in January 2016.

Other items discussed: Replacement bulbs for the lighted sign in the front of the church, two new ladders located in the outside shed, and programing of

thermostats in the church completed by Shane Zimmerman.

New Business:

A question was directed to the Chairman concerning what the elders would do if Pastor McPike had an emergency and could not preach at the last minute. Pastor reported that he would email a sermon to the elders, or if time allowed, the elder or chairman would secure a replacement. Pastor Ehlers is eager to assist Immanuel Osman when needed. Pastor McPike requested the elder's assistance in identifying the elderly who are unable to come forward for communion on a given Sunday service.

Bob Zimmerman contacted Dave Hasty from Gibson to change the two keys needed to unlock the church and hall doors to one key which operates both buildings.

Connie Warsaw will remind Annette Warsaw concerning the Christmas article in the local newspapers.

Diana Zimmerman made a motion that the church secure garbage pick-up every two weeks from Knights Disposal. Lee Whitehouse seconded; motion carried. Bob Zimmerman looked into this matter and found out we could have two totes if needed. Steve Martin also offered an extra garbage tote if needed.

The council was informed that the cameras, both inside and outside the church, are functioning well. The cameras, graciously donated by Pastor McPike, take a picture, records, and stores images every five to 10 minutes. This helps with our insurance coverage.

Important dates: Decoration of church will be changed to 9am on December 12th. Treat bags will be assembled on December 24th at 9am. Connie Warsaw secured Thrivent Action money in the amount of \$250 for purchasing candy and fruit for this project.

Discussion was held concerning funds for a replacement organ. It was decided to inform the members at the next Voter's meeting of our priority needs, and that anyone who wants to donate money for the organ budget may earmark their offering on a given Sunday to this fund. At the end of 2016, we will assess whether the money budgeted for a summer vicar could be transferred to the organ fund if not used.

The council was informed that our ministry at-home is in line with the Missouri Synod requirements.

Past projects were then discussed. It was noted that funding for the drainage tile in the amount of \$7500 was approved by the voters and the project will be carried out when a contractor can be found.

A thank-you was passed around from Alice Jones, the coordinator of the Backpack Food Program at Farmer City.

Shane Zimmerman made a motion to accept the proposed budget for 2016; Aaron Warsaw seconded; motion carried. The budget will be handed out at the next Sunday service.

Bob Zimmerman made a motion to sign an agreement with Chief Bauer to provide service for HVAC units in 2016. Diana Zimmerman seconded; motion carried. The control panel that has to be replaced is under warranty for this year.

Discussion was then held on blinds for the windows in the pastor's office and church annex. A motion was made by Bob Zimmerman and seconded by Steve Martin that Lee Whitehouse measure and purchase blinds for four windows not to exceed \$500.

The finance committee informed the council that the end of the year statements are ready to send to the members of Osman using offering envelopes. They indicated 8 offering boxes are still available.

Council members were asked to encourage others in the congregation to sign up for needed offices for the coming year. It was suggested that a mail tray in the annex be designated for the trustees, so issues needing their attention can be addressed in writing.

The council was informed of the continued leak in the southwest corner of the bell tower. It was suggested that a professional roofer be called to assess the problem and give an estimate.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Lammle

2016 Lenten Service Refreshment Schedule

February 10th - Ash Wednesday **LWML Supper**

February 17th

Mr. & Mrs. Don Warsaw
Karen Bryan
Mr. & Mrs. John Gercken
Wilma Grussing
Mr. & Mrs. Butch Sprau
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Warsaw
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Warsaw

February 24th

Mr. & Mrs. John Lammle
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Welborn
Agnes Martinie
Darryl Redding
Mr. & Mrs. David Kunde
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Lutz

March 2 - Taco Supper

Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Clemmons
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Gallier
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Delaney
Mr. & Mrs. Shane Zimmerman
Mr. & Mrs. Shaun Zimmerman

March 9th

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Zimmerman
Arnita Zimmerman
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Hooker
Mr. & Mrs. Neil Bidner
Mr. & Mrs. Myron Zimmerman
Mr. & Mrs. Jim VanWakeman
Theresa VanWakeman Wilson

March 16th

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Gaines
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Warsaw
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Whitehouse
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Edwards
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Martin

March 24th - Maundy Thursday

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Hardesty
Mr. & Mrs. Austin Miller
Debbie Peyton
Brenda Hendricks
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Whitehouse
Mr. & Mrs. Darwin Warsaw
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Poppe

Note: If you wish to change committees or be added to a list, please contact Secretary, Debbie Lammle. The couples at the top of the list will act as chairman for the committee.

Ingredients for the punch and coffee will be provided.



Choir

Choir Practice!

There will be choir practice on Wednesday, February 3, at 7:00 PM in the Annex. Please come and prepare for the Transfiguration and Lent!

Thrivent News

Choice Dollars

You have until March 31, 2016 to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars earned in 2015. In 2015 we received \$2,844 dollars from Choice Dollars and spent \$780.68 on Easter Egg Hunt, Operation Christmas Shoe Boxes and \$500 to Pastor Peter Kolb. Thanks for designating Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Soup Supper Benefit

Thrivent Financial will be organizing a benefit soup supper for the children of Alex Clark of Mansfield. Alex graduated from Blue Ridge in the Class of 2007 and passed away on December 5th at the age of 27. She left behind a 2 year old son and a 3 month old daughter. The grandparents now have legal guardianship of the children. The soup supper will be held on Saturday, February 27th, from 4:30 to 7. The menu will be chili, oyster soup, potato soup, sandwiches, pie, and drinks. If you would like to donate food, the sign-up sheet is on the back bulletin board. The family has been blessed with many donations of diapers and formula so there is not a need at this time to organize a Thrivent Action Team to purchase material items for them.

LWML News

Quilting!

All ladies who are interested in assembling quilts for Lutheran World Relief will be meeting on Thursday, February 4 and Saturday, February 6 at 8 AM in the fellowship hall. We have 36 quilts finished to start the new year which ends in October when they are shipped to warehouses. All ladies are welcome!

Ash Wednesday Meal

Everyone is invited to the LWML sponsored meal before the Ash Wednesday Service on February 10th at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Youth Group

Valentine Dinner!

The Youth Group will be hosting a free-will donation Valentine's Dinner for you and your sweetheart on Saturday, February 13, 2016, in the Hall. The evening will start at 5:00 PM with some pre-dinner musical entertainment by Patty, Annie and Tricia Downey as well as photos with your sweetheart. At 5:30, lasagna dinner and dessert will be served by our Youth Group. Post-dinner musical entertainment will also be enjoyed. Come with your sweetheart or on your own for some "sweet"

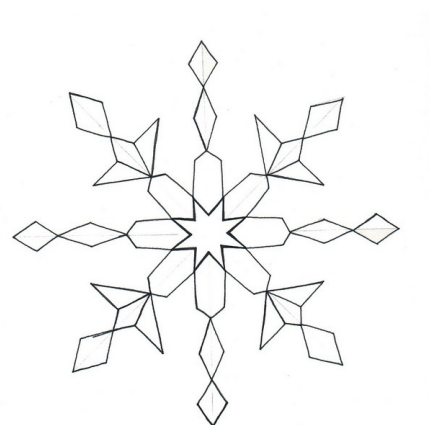


fellowship and to support our youth who will be attending the National Youth Gathering this July 2016 in New Orleans. Please RSVP for the Valentine's Dinner on the signup sheet in the back of the church--we would love to have a big crowd!

VBS

Barnyard Roundup

The theme for this year's VBS is Barnyard Roundup by CPH. If you would like to volunteer to help, please let Connie Warsaw know. We will be picking dates later when parents have their children's summer schedules.



THANK YOU!

Thank You!

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a small country church but has a big, very talented group of singers in the congregation. Cheryl and John, Jordan and friend and I were entertained the evening they came



Christmas caroling. It was wonderful to see all the choir members along with Pastor McPike and Sara. They brought a large platter of delicious Christmas cookies, a pretty poinsettia and a nice little snowman that the Sunday schoolers had made. I have

enjoyed all - thank you! A surprise bonus treat was a photoshoot with me holding Alicia and Nick's little cutie. They are proud parents of her and her two brothers. Jeri

P.S. It is nice of Esther and Larry to send the sermons and bulletins each week. I look forward to getting them. Thanks!



Thank You!

Thanks to the outgoing officers on the church council who have dedicated their time and energy to Immanuel Osman: Rick Hardesty, Annette Warsaw,

Jeff Warsaw, Susie Martin, Steve Martin, and Neal Bidner.



Thank You!

I greatly appreciate all the cards, prayers, and kindness I've received. I feel blessed to have such a supportive group of people within my church. Thank you all.

Cynthia Masko

February Birthdays

Bryan Edwards.....02-03
David Peyton.....02-03
Theresa VanWakeman Wilson.....02-07
Christie Delaney.....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
Amanda Burgess.....02-24
Reese Gallier.....02-26
Marti Brandt.....02-27



February Anniversaries

Barb and Jerry Reifsteck.....02-04-1998

Statistics

Date	Worship	Sunday School	Adult Class
12/27	60	2	11
01/03	74	5	15
01/10	57	2	10
01/17	n/a	n/a	n/a
01/24	n/a	n/a	n/a
01/31	n/a	n/a	n/a