

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC
Vicar Brian Johnston

August 2016

Thank You!

Dear Church Family,

First I want to thank you for the many beautiful cards that I received for my birthday – a whole table full! I like to look and read them again when I come in for a rest while working in the garden. Marvin built a deck and ramp in my front yard and that is where my 73rd garden is located. With so much rain, the weeds and grass are plentiful.

Another time that I enjoyed this summer was the week of VBS. I am thankful that I was able to go every day. The theme, the decorations, the skits, the lessons, the songs, the crafts, the food – everything was so good! The director and the two teachers were great. I was telling Vicar that we had learned the 23rd Psalm in Sunday School along with our many finger plays. Addison and Jenna said that they remembered doing that. The VBS colorful shirts were so neat. Thanks for giving me one! The closing program in church was one of the best!

Now here comes a lot of people to thank. The Sunday morning when we were meeting in the fellowship hall Vicar Johnston and John Lammle came and started talking to me. John was saying that they were planning a float for our Immanuel (God With Us) Lutheran Church of Osman for two parades. No way was I interested. When I got home from church that day, I thought “What did I agree to do???” Thanks to everybody who worked and finished the float. With our table and little chairs and the church benches and the words on the float, it really looked like our Sunday School room. Now my

concern was, we have such few young ones. It worked out fine though. At Bellflower we had Melia and Linnea, Addison, Jenna, James, and Bella. At Fisher we had Melia and Linnea, Reese, Addy and Carter. They were all so good, and I think they enjoyed throwing out candy. We also had people riding on the float with us and also walking beside us. At Fisher I had the idea of having a shepherd and so Aaron Warsaw made a great one with only a few hours of notice. Patty and Shirley helped with our singing. I am sure many, many people now know of our Lutheran Church of Osman thanks to the float and Vicar’s cards that were handed out. It was a rewarding experience. Vicar has been so helpful – I wish he could be here longer, and Pastor is one of the best.

In Christ,
Jeri Bidner

Upcoming Important Dates

August 3rd at Noon-Ladies Aid Luncheon at Paxton Tea Room

August 3rd at 7pm-Church Council

August 12th at 8am-Clean the church

August 14th at 10am- Church Picnic at Fisher Community Building

August 21st-Tentative date for Farewell Potluck for Vicar Johnston

Message from Vicar Johnston

The past couple of weeks there has been a Bible study on Wednesday nights at 7 in the hall. We have been going through the Gospel of Luke looking at Luke's Prophet Christology. Christology is the study of Christ. As it is confessed in Luther's catechism we see Jesus act in three different kinds of ways. He acts as a prophet, a priest, and a king. What we are attempting to do in this Bible study is to look primarily at how Christ's ministry reflects that of the prophets and how His ministry is a prophetic voice to us today.

To start we have to understand first what a prophet was. Most people when they hear the word prophet, they think of someone who foretells the future, particularly in how God is pronouncing judgment in the future. This is not a complete understanding in what a prophet was. A prophet was a person chosen directly by God to be his spokesman to declare the entire word of God, both Law and Gospel. The way they did this is by using four stages of prophetic speech.

1. Pronouncing what God has done for his people in the past.
2. God telling his people how they have rebelled against Him and broken the covenant.
3. God pronouncing judgment (i.e. God telling those who have rebelled that they are going to die).
4. God promises to the faithful that they will be remnant and will be brought through the tribulation and restored in the future.

Through these four stages one can see that this all revolves around the covenant which God promised to his people. He promised them bountiful harvests, the promised land, and protection as conditional promises. These promises were based on a reciprocal relationship between God and Israel. Both parties had to hold up their side of the deal for these conditional promises. God surely upheld his side of the covenant, but Israel did not. Therefore, God sent his prophets to proclaim His word in its entirety, both His law and gospel.

The best way to describe how the prophets shared God's word is by using an illustration of a row boat. If you are in a row boat, you are facing where you came from while having your back is to where you are going. The prophets didn't preach by "looking into the future." Rather they preached by going back to what God had first told them. If you do this, then this will happen. If you do not do this, then this will be the consequence. But as an unconditional promise, God promised that the messiah would come through them. That they will be a part of His plan to bring about salvation to the world. Therefore, out of God's mercy and love for His people He allowed for a remnant to remain.

Jesus is a prophet in Luke in the same way. In Luke 4, while Jesus is in Nazareth He outlines his entire ministry by using the words of the prophet Isaiah. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Jesus in his ministry preaches God's Law and Gospel (good news)¹, He will perform miracles which will reflect that of the prophets, He will liberate the captives and the oppressed,² and He will win salvation for humanity on the cross, thus showing God's favor. Jesus gives even more detail that He is acting as a prophet when John the Baptist sends his disciples to Jesus in Luke 7:22. In short Jesus in His ministry is pointing back to the prophets of old to tell that He is the Messiah and that judgment is coming upon himself. As a result we who are sinners will be, and are, set free.



(Vicar Johnston has office hours from 9 – noon on Monday through Friday in the office of the church in the annex.)

¹ This means that he will be using the four stages of prophetic speech in his ministry. While he is not dealing with the conditional promises of God, he is fulfilling the unconditional promise of God. He is the messiah who has come to forgive sins of all people.

² This liberation has a forgiving sense to it. The word ἀφῆμι means to forgive. But here that word is translated as liberate. Therefore one can conclude that this liberation will have a forgiving sense. All of humanity is captive to their sin and oppressed by sin, death and the devil.

Jeri Bidner-Teaching Through the Generations

Geraldine Bidner, the senior Sunday School teacher at Immanuel Osman, has taught Sunday School classes for sixty-three years. She was confirmed by Rev. F.H. Reimann in 1944. Jeri was first urged to use her teaching talents by Lena Warsaw. Lena told Jeri that she would watch her little ones, if she would begin teaching Sunday School at Osman. She began teaching a class under the balcony with Alma Hassebrock playing the piano so the children could sing. Jeri has had several interesting and challenging classes through the years, but remembered most the class with twenty-two students. Three tables were needed in the annex to accommodate the size of the class. But that didn't affect Jeri's willingness to provide the children with God's Word through the Bible stories. Through her years of teaching, Reverend Wackler was one of the influential pastors who helped encourage Jeri's teaching style. Pastor Henry also began a monthly teacher's meeting which Jeri enjoyed very much. Jeri would still be teaching now, but Immanuel Osman just ran out of "little ones" to teach.

Jeri was awarded the Outstanding Volunteer Teacher of the year award from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod-Central Illinois District in 2011. Pastor McPike was very influential in this award, since he suggested soliciting former student's comments on the application. Nancy Walden, formerly of Immanuel Osman, read of the award in her church bulletin, and sent Jeri a congratulatory letter thanking her for her influence in her life.

When John Lammle asked Jeri to ride on our church float in the 4th of July Parade and Fisher Fair 75th parade. Jeri didn't hesitate in accepting the challenge. She was a shining light on the float, reminding people of the love of Jesus, and was the one to suggest singing songs of praise on the parade route. Thanks Jeri for sharing God's Word with all those children at Osman, and continuing to shine with your presence in and around the community! We love you!

(Members young and old came out to support Jeri, our senior Sunday School Teacher.)



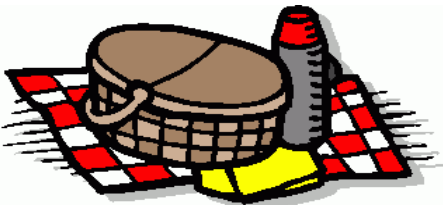
Thank You!

Thank you so much for all of the letters you have written to me and for sending the sermons to me weekly. I have decided to move to another school so until then please don't send anything to me at this address. My mom will give you my new address after I get to the new school which will be sometime in August. Thank you again and God's blessings to all of you! Natalie Hooker

Thank you so much for all of the prayers and cards that were sent my way after my heart attack on Friday, July 8th. Also thanks to Pastor McPike and Vicar Johnston for visiting me while I was in the hospital. Rick Hardesty

Thank you to all who sent cards and prayers for my recovery from surgery-7/14. Everything is good. I appreciate, too, Pastor McPike's visits while in the hospital. You're a great family! Jim Van Wakeman

Thank you to Brenda Hendricks and Terri Hooker for visiting the shut-ins this month.



Church Picnic

Everyone is invited to the annual church picnic on August 14th, inside the Fisher Community Building, corner of School Street and 3rd Street, which is handicapped accessible and air conditioned. The church service will begin at 10 AM, with the meal to follow. Meat, drinks, and table service will be provided. Please bring side dishes to share, and stay for the traditional egg toss and Bingo. Hope to see you there!

Ladies Aid

The Immanuel Lutheran Ladies Aid held a meeting on July 6th in the Fellowship Hall at 1:30pm. President Lammle welcomed Vicar Johnston to the meeting. After the devotion and prayer by Brenda Hendricks and topic by Debbie Lammle, the business meeting began. Minutes were read by Shirley Sprau and treasurer's report by Brenda Hendricks for Connie Warsaw. Thanks was given to everyone who has continued to help quilt and make pillow case dresses. The ladies will continue quilting two days during the second week in August. Thanks was given to those who helped with the 4th of July Bake Sale, which made \$270.50 for both the LWML and Ladies Aid. A reminder was made concerning cleaning the church on August 12th at 8am and for signing up for the Ladies Aid luncheon to be held August 3rd at the Country Thyme Tea Room in Paxton. All the ladies were urged to invite a friend to share in the fellowship and experience the shopping provided at nine different stores in the area. A motion was made and seconded to pay for the Vicar's lunch on the 3rd. With no new business, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and common table prayer. The next meeting will be September 7th, with Debbie Lammle providing devotion and refreshments, and Brenda Hendricks with topic. The roll will be answered with a verse on grace.

LWML News

Quilting dates: Due to some scheduling conflicts we have changed our quilting dates for August. We will be meeting on August 9 and 10 at 8 am in the hall.

Church Council

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman Church Council Meeting-June 8, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Council was held on June 8, 2016, with ten members present. Those attending were John Lammle, Shane Zimmerman, Aaron Warsaw, Don Warsaw, Bob Zimmerman, John Gercken, Deb Lammle, Connie Warsaw, Diana Zimmerman, Shirley Sprau, and Pastor McPike. The Stewardship Committee Review was moved to our July Church Council meeting. Dwight and Terri Hooker and Roy and Annette Whitehouse are planning to attend. Pastor McPike began the meeting with prayer. Debbie Lammle read the secretary's minutes from the May church council meeting and minutes from the special meeting after church on May 15th. Motions were made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes.

Pastor's Report: Pastor McPike met with Vicar Johnston and gave him a list of self-learning goals. He will be teaching a 6-week Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Sara McPike and Vicar Johnston will be giving chapel talks during Sunday morning service during the summer. Since Pastor will be gone the first and last Sundays in July, communion will be celebrated on the 10th, 17th, and 24th of July. Pastor thanked everyone who helped with the food served at the Pastor's Circuit Meeting held at Immanuel Osman. It was one of the largest Circuit meetings attended. The Pastor in Monticello questioned the advertisement of our church in the Monticello paper, but after discussion the council decided to continue advertising in this paper.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Bob Zimmerman, read the treasurer's report with a balance of \$81,720.39. Shirley Sprau made a motion to accept the report; John Gercken seconded; motion carried. Treasurer Zimmerman reported that the LP cost for the church was \$100 cheaper than last year.

Elder's Report: Shane Zimmerman reported that he pre-set the thermostats for the summer in the church and hall. It was suggested that the council supply the next Vicar with a list of items provided for his apartment.

Sunday School Superintendent's Report: Connie Warsaw reported that the Education Committee met on May 24th with three in attendance. The group suggested

having more youth group meetings with Bible studies and service projects provided for the children. Brenda Hendricks and Shirley Sprau will be rotating teaching Sunday School during the summer. Questions were asked about the confirmation curriculum. Connie then reported that she had advertised for VBS in five newspapers and placed posters in six surrounding communities. Two classes will be taught during VBS with 6-7 students in PreK through 1st, and 15-16 students in Grades 2-5. Donuts and drinks will be served on June 26th at 9am with a slide show presenting the activities completed during the week at VBS. Barb Whitehouse Gercken applied for a Thrivent Action Grant to purchase fleece for blankets made by the VBS children. These blankets will be given to local charities.

Trustee Report: Chairman Lammle stated that a list needs to be compiled of jobs needed to complete by the trustees or those on the Handyman list, so that an appropriate budget can be made. It was mentioned that the west wall in the new part of the fellowship hall needs to be repaired.

The second bid for a concrete ramp has not been obtained. Discussion was then held about the annual service for the church air conditioner. No invoice was obtained in November. It was stated that Lee Whitehouse called and had the company service the air conditioner in April of this year. It was suggested that from now on a member of the church should sign off on a work order after service is completed.

Chairman Lammle reported that Waggoners, Inc. have advised us that the current material on pews has been discontinued and they no longer have any in stock. Color matches have not been found.

2016 Church Activities: Girls Night Out-June 10th, Vicar Welcome-June 19th, VBS-June 20-24th; Fisher Fair Parade-July 11th, BBQ and Chili Cook-off-July 23rd, Church Picnic-August 14th, Hay Ride/Weiner Roast-Sept. 25, Pastor Appreciation/Reformation Fest-Oct. 30, Thanksgiving Dinner/Service-Nov. 20th, Christmas Eve Children's Eve Program-Dec.24th, and Christmas Service (no Sunday School) on Dec. 25th.

The invitations for the BBQ and Chili Cook-Off are being sent next week. The church picnic on August 14th at 10am will be held at the Fisher Community Building in Fisher. Pastor stated that he would talk to organist, Alicia Haggin, about the songs and need for the electric piano. Chairman Lammle said he would pick up the podium, collection plates, and bulletins. The council will set up the tables and chairs at 9am on the 14th. Chairman Lammle will get the church grill and other grills for the event. Meat for the picnic will be purchased at Ingold's Grocery by Debbie Lammle. Bob Zimmerman, John

Lammle, and Don Warsaw were mentioned as possible grillers. Directions to the picnic site will be placed in the bulletin 2 weeks in advance of the event. Annette Warsaw and Vicar Johnston will be asked to plan games for the picnic. Jill and Rick Hardesty will be asked to lead "Bingo". Diana Zimmerman and Shirley Sprau volunteered to bring drinks.

Church Signs: Two church directional signs are ready to order pending ILDOT approval. Chairman Lammle has the ILDOT application form, and will complete and send back. The removal of the old sign at corner of RT 136 & 47 was discussed. It was decided to repair or replace the sign. Cost per sign through Concordia Publishing House is \$152 each (double sided). Chairman Lammle received permission to use the blue LCMS logo.

Chairman Lammle thanked the Ladies Aid for serving as Greeters through August. He stated that the 125th Anniversary Committee composed of Chairman Darwin Warsaw, V. President Jill Hardesty, and Treasurer-Darryl Redding had met and provided suggestions for council to review. He passed out copies for discussion and review at the next meeting. Other suggestions by the council were to invite the new President of the Synod (to be elected in July) to speak, and all former pastors and vicars to attend a special Sunday celebration. It was also suggested to have themed celebrations such as "Wedding Sundays", "Confirmation Sundays", and "Baptism Sundays". A new cook-book and directory will be considered as a project for the centennial as well. Larry Lutz has 250 Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman pens for the 125th Anniversary. It was suggested that Alicia Haggin, organist at Immanuel Osman, be asked to help create special music for the 125th Anniversary celebration. Chairman Lammle commended the work of the committee so far.

New Business: Chairman Lammle asked the council of their opinion on participating in the Fisher Fair 75th Anniversary Parade on July 11th. We would tie in our recognition of senior member, Jeri Bidner, with evangelism. Members who had Jeri as a Sunday School teacher could ride or walk along the float, as well as the present Sunday School class. Marvin Clemmons gave approval to build the float in his shed. Pastor McPike suggested the theme for the float might be "Teaching God's Children through the Generations". Chairman Lammle will send in the application for the parade. It was suggested to pass out post cards showing the location of the church and times of worship and that Vicar could assist with this project. It was suggested that we have letters "Congratulation to the Fisher Fair on their 75th Year" on the back of the float. Connie Warsaw will coordinate with the youth to ride on the float. A planning meeting was set for May 15th 7pm at the Fellowship Hall.

Diana Zimmerman asked the council if wine and sangria could be served at the "Girls Night Out". The council approved.

Pastor McPike set up the laptop, purchased by the church, so he could use it for Bible class, other church events, as well a back-up for the secretary. Linda Warsaw will be having hip replacement surgery on July 5th, and will be taking time off from her secretary position. It was suggested that Vicar Johnston help with her duties.

It was suggested to collect pictures of Vicar for a photo book as a gift when leaving Osman. A black robe is also needed by the Vicar and Pastor McPike will look into the cost.

Connie Warsaw suggested that the church give a memorial to the family of Alicia Haggin on the passing of her mother. Connie Warsaw made a motion and Shirley Sprau seconded to send \$50 as a memorial to Cardinal Kung Foundation, Stanford, Connecticut in Alicia's mom's memory. Bob Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn. Connie Warsaw seconded; motion carried. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Lammle

Quarterly Voters Meeting

Voter's Meeting-April 10, 2016

The quarterly Voter's meeting of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman was held on April 10th with 43 members present. Pastor McPike began with devotion and prayer. Debbie Lammle read the minutes of the last voter's meeting. Rick Hardesty made a motion to approve the minutes; Roy Whitehouse seconded; motion carried.

Bob Zimmerman gave the treasurer's report with a balance of \$80,727.22. Don Warsaw made a motion to accept the report; Jill Hardesty seconded; motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor McPike thanked everyone for the well wishes received by he and his wife and to all those who attended the Open House at their new home in Philo. Pastor stated he was pleased with the confirmation questioning, which fulfilled a long time dream of his. By dividing the questioning into three parts, the confirmands could focus on a smaller portion of the catechism during each questioning. Pastor informed the voters that we would have a summer vicar, Brian Johnston, who is very eager to begin the second week in

June. Brian is from Vacaville California, and has three older brothers. He completed an internship at Trinity Lutheran Church in Urbana as their Director of Christian Education, and is highly recommended by the Pastor at Trinity, Pastor Strom. Brian is in the army reserve and is committed to one drill weekend in July and August. His experience working with youth will be a great asset.

Trustees Report: A Handyman List will be posted on the bulletin board in the church for any man or woman that would like to help with jobs in and around the church. The mowing list will be posted soon.

Lee Whitehouse reviewed the two bids for the bell tower repair. One bid by McKummsey at \$1500 and a second bid from John Popejoy in the amount of \$2790. After discussion by members who have used the McKummsey firm, a motion was made by Marvin Clemmons to hire McKummsey for the bell tower repair. Rick Hardesty seconded; motion carried. Anyone interested in learning how to use the new mower purchased with the Leona Albin memorial funds, may attend a meeting at the church on April 16th at 8am. Maintenance and gas for the mower will be provided by Don Warsaw. Other trustee projects in progress include the wheelchair ramp upgrade, property drainage review, and cushion repair on church pews. Other church council projects in progress include advertising in four local newspapers, advertising in three village web sites, upgrading church web site, and possible purchase of church directional signs.

New Business: Chairman Lammle began new business with the topic of Thrivent Choice Dollars. He read the guidelines from Thrivent Financial Terms and Conditions for organizations as well as the section from Thrivent Financial Terms and Conditions for members. Since the funds are now in the hands of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman, Chairman Lammle proposed a policy for the use of Thrivent Choice dollars directed to our church. Chairman Lammle surveyed ten area churches and found that Thrivent Choice dollars in those churches were directed to general funds, Lutheran schools, youth groups, mission trips, and school scholarships. He then proposed that money from Choice dollars at Osman be directed to youth activities such as LCMS youth gatherings and possible mission trips, and adult projects such as church member assistance, non-member charitable benefits, and Adult/sub 40 education and training projects. This training might include a retirement seminar or a Dave Ramsey class on budgeting. Remaining year- end balance would be directed into the organ fund. This policy would be revisited at the end of 2017. A Stewardship Committee was also suggested to coordinate and plan the use of these funds, under the direction of the Church Council,

for religious, charitable, and educational purposes. Lengthy discussion was held. Connie Warsaw, one of the Thrivent advocates, explained that any Thrivent member may apply for two Action Team grants in the amount of \$250 each year for a project in our church. Terri Hooker, Connie Warsaw, and Brenda Hendricks would be glad to help anyone who wishes instruction on applying on-line for Thrivent grant money. Pros and cons were discussed concerning this proposal. Bob Zimmerman then made a motion to accept the policy for the use of Thrivent Choice dollars; Darryl Redding seconded; motion carried.

Chairman Lammle stated other committees formed include the Education Committee led by our Sunday School Superintendent, Mission "Out Reach" committee led by our new members, and 125th Anniversary Committee led by Darwin Warsaw. Future committees will be Constitutional Review, Auditing, and Nominating Committees. Trustee John Gercken suggested the repositioning of the handicap signs presently next to the Fellowship hall. This will be discussed at the next council meeting. Barb Whitehouse Gercken made a motion to adjourn; Butch Sprau seconded; motion carried. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Lammle



Adam Frederick Grimmer, son of Christine and Daniel Grimmer was born on Monday, May 16th, at 7:06 PM. He weighed 9 pounds and 4 ounces and was 22.5 inches long. He was baptized on May 29 by his father, Pastor Daniel Grimmer, of Zion Lutheran Church in Mitchell, South Dakota. Pastor Grimmer was our summer vicar in 2012. Congratulations!



August Birthdays

Jerry Reifsteck.....08-05
 Dorothy Welborn.....08-06
 Jamie Hendricks.....08-07
 Sue VanWakeman.....08-07
 Phyllis Hasty.....08-08
 Linnea Warsaw.....08-08
 Annette Warsaw.....08-09
 Carole Warsaw.....08-09
 Pam Christians.....08-24
 Butch Sprau.....08-25
 Vicar Johnston.....08-25
 Ross Warsaw.....08-26
 Sarah Ford.....08-28
 Jill Hardesty.....08-29
 John Lammle.....08-29
 Kari Genzel.....08-29
 William Delaney.....08-30

August Anniversaries

Kathy and Phil Brendel.....08-02-1985
 Julia and Larry Camp.....08-08-1976
 Carolyn and Doug Majercin.....08-08-1981
 Cindy and Shane Zimmerman.....08-08-1998
 Tiffani and Brad Lutz.....08-25-2001
 Diana and Bob Zimmerman.....08-26-1967

Mowing List

August 7 - Shane and Cheyenne Zimmerman
 August 14 -Shaun and Chase Zimmerman
 August 21- Leonard and Christie Delaney
 August 28- John Grussing and Aaron Warsaw

Statistics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Adult Class</u>
July 3	63	2	15
July 10	53	3	16
July 17	58	1	14
July 24	60	1	16

Elder Schedule

January Aaron	February Marvin	March Don
April Aaron	May Shane	June Shane
July Don	August Marvin	September Shane
October Aaron	November Marvin	December Don
	January 2017 Marvin	

Greeters

August 7 – Connie Warsaw
 August 14 – Annette Warsaw
 August 21 – Debbie Lammle
 August 28 – Wilma Grussing