

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC

January 2018

Behold, the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin
of the world!

John 1:29

From the desk of Pastor McPike...

Sitting, standing, kneeling, oh my! On the meaning of posture in worship.

Kneeling? Ok... now I have your attention. Not to worry. Immanuel/Osman has no kneelers. The following, however, is a discussion of the reason that we stand, sit, and other postures as a part of our worship.

Sitting needs little by way of explanation. Sitting is a natural posture for us, and one that encourages listening. We sit because we get tired of standing, because it is more of an "at rest" posture in a group, allowing us to concentrate on other things.

Kneeling is a sign of humility. In ancient times, people would kneel when in the presence of someone of importance, such as a king. Kneeling before someone is body language for "you are greater, I humble myself before you." Times when kneeling in a liturgical (traditional) worship service include:

*Confession of sins. By our body language, we are saying that we are sorry before God.

*Prayer. Kneeling before God is humbling ourselves, even as we are bold to pray because God invites us to pray.

*Reception of Communion. We are invited into the presence of the King, to dine at His table. Yet we are unworthy sinners! Kneeling is a reminder of that. (Again... it is not *wrong* to stand, or even *improper*... we have no rail at which to kneel for communion at our church).

Standing is a sign of respect. Just as those in attendance stand in the courtroom, so we stand as we recognize that we are in the presence of the God of all that exists. Typical times to stand in services are:

*At the beginning. The opening words of the Divine Service invoke the name of the Triune God. We stand in respect.

*For the reading of the Holy Gospel. While each Scripture lesson is "from God" as it comes from the Bible, the Gospels are special in that they talk about Jesus and most often directly quote Him.

*For prayer. When we cannot kneel for prayer, we stand out of respect.

*During the early part of the service of Communion. Jesus is about to "show up" by providing His body and blood for us to eat and drink.

*For "Doxological" stanzas of hymns (stanzas that specifically give praise to the Trinity, mentioning each person by name). These stanzas are also denoted with a small "triangle" next to them in the hymnal. (The tradition is to also put an "Amen" at the end of hymns where there are such stanzas)

*When receiving the blessing at the end of the service. God is speaking His "final word of the day".

Bowing is also a body posture that can be devotional. Some bow at the mention of the Trinity, some at the mention of the name of Jesus. Some Christians bow during the portion of the Creed which specifically talks about Jesus "becoming man" when He was in His state of humiliation. (The *State of Humiliation* has nothing to do with Jesus being embarrassed. It is the period of His earthly life between conception and death when He did not always nor fully use His divine powers as God.)

Right? or Wrong? NEITHER!! As with any of these customs, they are just that. There is no "right" way or "wrong" way. The only "wrong" thing that is done is insisting that there is a "right" way or "wrong" way, or considering someone's way of doing something as "wrong" and one's own way as "right". While the Bible gives some examples of posture used in Old Testament worship, it says absolutely *nothing* about commanding or forbidding one's posture in worship as "Right" or "wrong". What we should pay attention to is "meaning". Why are we doing these things? Because they have meaning? Do we know what they mean? Do they enhance or detract from worship? If the former, then they can be good. If the latter, it can best that they not be done.

With many of these customs, there is also an *accepted* way that they are done which is shared with many other churches. This helps not only reinforce the meaning, but provides consistency among sister congregations and continuity with the history of the church.

Here at Osman, we stand for the final stanza of the opening and closing hymn. Some churches stand for the entire first and/or last hymn; others not at all; others only when the processional cross is used. There may be a long standing tradition that I don't know about which is the reason that we do it this way here (if so, if you know please tell me!)

St. Paul says that things should be done “decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40). This indicates that for any of these devotional practices in worship, the most important thing is to do what makes the most sense and agree on it.

Posture is important, both in the message it communicates to others. If you slouch, yawn and look distracted when someone is talking to you, for example... what are you “saying” to them? BORING!! We stand out of respect for our God. We sit attentively when needed. What we do in the church should be meaningful and assist us in the worship of our great God. At the same time, being told that we need to change because “we are wrong” when the Bible clearly does not indicate a practice to be either right or wrong is, in and of itself, inappropriate and disruptive.

Standing for the final stanza

Moving forward, what makes the most sense is to continue the local tradition here at Osman to stand for the last stanza of the first and last hymn in each service. However, whenever another hymn of the service has a “doxological” stanza (indicated by the triangle in next to the last stanza in the hymnal), we will also stand for that. Additionally, the “signal” that we will stand for those hymn stanzas will be a bit of an organ interlude. Also, since observing that portion of the “tradition”, I suggest that we also place an “Amen” at the end. (The hymnal many of us grew up with had an “Amen” at the end of each hymn; the “blue hymnal” that came before our current book took them all out. The oldest tradition is that “Amen” is placed at the end of doxological stanzas, which I'm proposing that we do). Standing for the hymns with *doxological stanzas* – the ones with triangles after them, and singing an “Amen” after will allow us to be more in line with practices in our sister LCMS congregations, which promotes uniformity and reduces confusion, both when members of Osman visit elsewhere and when other LCMS Lutherans visit Osman.

Church Council

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman Church Council Meeting - November 15, 2017

The monthly council meeting of the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman was held on November 15, 2017. The following members were present: John Lammle, Dave Kunde, Steve Martin, Don Warsaw, Bob Zimmerman, John Gercken and Sandy Whitehouse. Sandy Whitehouse read the minutes from the October council meeting. Steve Martin made a motion to accept the minutes; Dave Kunde

seconded; Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

- The October 31, 2017 balance was \$60,324.47. Dave Kunde made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; Steve Martin seconded. Motion carried.
- Treasurer and Finance Committee will have a draft budget ready for the December meeting.

Pastor Report:

- Pastor thanked the congregation for the Pastor Appreciation gifts and the Reformation Fest.
- For the December 6 Advent Service, the LWML will be doing a light lunch after the service.
- Since Christmas Eve is on Sunday, we will have the regular services that morning. The Christmas program will be held at that evening's service.
- Pastor thanked everyone for the successful benefit on November 4.
- All Saints Sunday went very well.
- Dedication for the red paraments will be held the last Sunday in November.
- We will have a dedication for the ramp, however we will need to notify family members whose memorial money was used, to make sure they know when that will be. We will plan for the end of the year to hopefully accommodate those family members.

Finance Committee Report:

Nothing to report this month.

Elders Report:

Nothing to report this month.

Sunday School Superintendent's Report:

Nothing to report this month.

Trustee Report:

- Wheel Chair Ramp project is now complete. Dedication will be held at the end of the year.
- Surge protection for the church: Brandon Clemmons will install next week and will check the grounding.
- Reversible Ceiling Fans for the Church Sanctuary: We will table this until a later date.
- HVAC Contract: JC Heating and Cooling quote was \$355 for 1 year. Bob Zimmerman made a motion to approve the purchase of the HV Contract; Don Warsaw seconded. Motion carried.
- We need to check on the programming of the thermostats. The temperature in the Hall seems to be warmer than needed after people have left.

Stewardship Committee Report

Nothing to report this month.

Parish Nurse Report:

Nothing to report this month.

New Business:

- The Church marquee light is out. The Trustees will fix.
- Do we need additional reflective tape on the steps? This seems to help people see where the edge of the steps are. Don Warsaw said he has a roll which he can use to add additional tape strips.
- Additional materials have been found which may be

used to replaced worn pew material.

- Church Property and Contents Policy has been reviewed and approved to take to the voters at the next Voter's Meeting in January.
- The Youth will be having a Christmas Tree Table Display contest and silent auction of the trees. These will be miniature trees and the proceeds will go to the Youth.
- Emergency Action Plan: What would be our plan of action if our church experienced a shooting? What steps can we do to prevent something like that from happening? Chairman Lammle will ask the McLean County Sheriff's department if they could come speak to the council at an upcoming meeting. We also need to post emergency contact information throughout the Church, Annex, and Hall. An increase in outdoor lighting would help as well.
- 125 Anniversary Celebration:
- Move the big celebration day from March to July 19 to avoid Lent season. We would also hold special dates in May & June.
- Pastor McPike will draft a letter to be sent to potential speakers
- Former Pastors and Vicars of Immanuel Lutheran of Osman will be invited.
- Church Book update - quote has been requested
- Church Directory – Life Touch has been contacted for quote. It was mentioned we can offer 'memorial' ads to help cover the costs.
- Memorabilia – Looking at designing a Christmas ornament. Also, completing a quilt started by early members and having displayed in a quilt cabinet.

Old Business: Reformation Fest was a success with around 50 individuals attending. Thanks to Deb Lammle for coordinating the Reformation Walk and to everyone who participated, including those who assisted with the dinner. There are several openings on the Council for Officers and we need many more to volunteer.

Upcoming Church Activities:

- Thanksgiving Service/Potluck November 19
- Decorating of the Church:
- Greens and Advent Wreath on December 3
- Tree on December 10
- Rest of the decorations on December 17
- Youth Holiday Breakfast December 17
- December Council Meeting December 20
- Christmas Eve Service Program December 24

Closing:

The next Council meeting will be held on December 20, 2017.

A motion to adjourn the November Council meeting was made by John Gercken; Seconded by Dave Kunde. Motion carried.

The Council adjourned the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Whitehouse

Health Notes from our Parish Nurse

January is Glaucoma Awareness Month

Glaucoma is a group of diseases that damage the eye's optic nerve and can result in vision loss and even blindness. About 3 million Americans have glaucoma and it is the 2nd leading cause of blindness worldwide. Open-angle glaucoma, the most common form, results in increased eye pressure. There are often no early symptoms, which is why 50% of people with glaucoma don't know they have the disease. There is no cure (yet) for glaucoma, but if it's detected early, you can preserve your vision and prevent vision loss. Taking action to preserve your vision health is key. Anyone can get glaucoma, but certain groups are at higher risk. These groups include **African Americans over age 40, all people over age 60, people with a family history of glaucoma, and people who have diabetes**. People with diabetes are 2 times more likely to get glaucoma than people without diabetes. There are many steps you can take to help protect your eyes and lower your risk of vision loss from glaucoma.

- If you are in a high-risk group, **get a comprehensive dilated eye exam** to detect glaucoma early and start treatment. Prescription eye drops can stop glaucoma from progressing. Your eye care specialist will recommend how often to return for follow-up exams. Medicare covers a glaucoma test once a year for people in high-risk groups.
- Even if you are not in a high-risk group, getting a comprehensive dilated eye exam by the age of 40 can help detect glaucoma and other eye diseases early.
- Open-angle glaucoma does not have symptoms and is hereditary, so **talk to your family members** about their vision health to help protect your eyes—and theirs.
- Maintaining a healthy weight, controlling your blood pressure, being physically active, and avoiding smoking will help you avoid vision loss from glaucoma. These healthy behaviors will also help prevent type 2 diabetes and other chronic conditions.

Vision loss from glaucoma usually affects peripheral vision. Later, it will affect your central vision. Glaucoma is treated with eye drops, oral medicines, or surgery (or a combination of treatments) to reduce pressure in the eye and prevent permanent vision loss. **Take medicine as prescribed, and tell your eye care specialist about any side effects.** You and your doctor are a team. If laser or surgical procedures are recommended to reduce the pressure in your eye, make sure to **schedule regular follow-up visits** to continue to monitor eye pressure. This year, take steps towards protecting your eyes and the vision health of your loved ones by learning about glaucoma and other eye diseases. Know the facts, know the risks, and take action!

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Healthy New Year

Susan Miller parishnurse@osmanlutheran.org

Annual Voter's Meeting

Everyone is urged to stay after church on January 28th for our annual Voter's meeting. Normal business and election of officers will take place, followed by a potluck in the fellowship hall. Members are asked to bring one or more dishes; table service and drinks will be provided.

Ways to Serve

Please consider signing up for altar flowers, eternal flame, Altar Guild, visiting the shut-ins, or reading the lessons for the coming year. The new lists will be posted on the bulletin board at the back of the church starting in January. Thanks to everyone who volunteers their time and talents to make Immanuel Osman a wonderful place to worship.

Christmas Caroling by the Choir

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Choir spent Sunday afternoon spreading Christmas cheer to our shut-ins, Marge Morrissey and Phyllis Burnett along with the residents of Bridal Brook and Glenwood Assisted Living at Mahomet. Marge and Phyllis were given a tray of cookies and a poinsettia from the choir. After the choir sang several Christmas hymns, Pastor read the Christmas story. The group went to Monicals afterwards for fellowship and pizza. It was a great way to spread the Christmas cheer!

Congratulations

Pastor Keffie Deen has accepted a call to St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Albany, New York. Pastor and his wife, Angi, expect to move to New York in February. Prayers to Pastor and Angi as they begin their new adventure, as well as for St. Paul Lutheran, Sadorus as they continue to look for a pastor.

Thank You

Thanks to Bill and Moneta McCleary, Don and Connie Warsaw, Jeff and Annette Warsaw, Lee and Sandy Whitehouse, Gene and Dorothy Welborn, Butch and Shirley Sprau, Austin and Susan Miller, Jim and Sue VanWakeman, Brenda Hendricks, Larry and Esther Lutz, Jeri Bidner, and Steve and Susie Martin for donating a poinsettia for the Christmas Eve Service. You may take your flower home after the Jan. 31st service.

Christmas Breakfast and Festival of Trees

The Youth sponsored a delicious breakfast of casseroles, coffee cake, and fresh fruit after church on December 17th. In connection with the breakfast a "Festival of Trees" was held, with ten different miniature trees decorated and on display. One tree decorated by the youth in blue and gold,



was sold during a silent auction. Butch and Shirley Sprau were the top bidders. After a vote by the members present, the tree brought by John Lammle was given the prize for the "Best Decorated". Thanks to Sue VanWakeman, Theresa VanWakeman-Wilson, Bob and Diana Zimmerman, Annette Warsaw, Debbie and John Lammle, and Darryl Redding for participating in this activity.

Dedication

The new ramp will be dedicated during the December 31st church service. The following families gave memorial funds to help pay for the cost of the ramp: Charlie Homann, Ron and Susan Warsaw, Butch and Shirley Sprau, Marvin Nelson, Larry and Esther Lutz, Pam Christians, Mrs. James Bloch, and Agnes Martinie. New doors on the east side of the church were given with Frances Zimmerman and Mike Hendricks memorial money. Thanks to Dick Johnson for installing the new doors.

LWML News

Fourth Quarter Meeting

LWML met for their 4th quarter meeting on December 14. We listened to a song entitled "A Silent Night" and recited the pledge. Agnes Martinie provided devotion on Proverbs 14. Annette Warsaw had a very timely topic about gifts and reminded us that we all have been given gifts by God to use for His service. 15 members were present and the minutes were read by secretary Marsha Warsaw. Deb Martin provided the treasurer's report with a balance of \$1,014.51. Both reports were approved as read.

Diana Zimmerman read a thank you from the Little Dresses for Africa and Deb Lammle read an email from our seminary student Chris Walters. Thank-you's were offered to Deb Lammle for covering as president in September, to Brenda Hendricks for her PowerPoint presentation during adult Bible class on LWML Sunday, to all members who participated in LWML Sunday, to all quilters and dressmakers and to Terri Hooker for her tireless efforts in displaying, boxing and transporting the quilts. Many thanks were offered to all who have helped out our adopted family this last year.

The group has completed 112 quilts over the last year and 99 were sent out. We currently have 21 completed for the upcoming year. We have sent out 2 shipments of pillowcase dresses this year for a total of over 100. There was a discussion about the 125th celebration quilt and Deb Lammle reported that the lady at the Quilting Bee in Mahomet has offered to quilt it at no charge except the batting.

The group discussed Christmas gifts for our adopted family. It was decided to have the members who signed up for Dec coordinate this. Anyone who wants to contribute can bring their gifts to church by Dec 24 morning service. After some discussion, the group decided to continue the adopted family project and will look into another needy family for the upcoming year.

Pres. Gaines advised the members that the Military Biblestick project was postponed until Memorial Day of 2018 due to the many other events in November. Brenda Hendricks provided an inspiring report on her experience at Camp Cilca in October.

Under New Business the group decided to give gifts to both Pastor McPike and Pastor Ehlers this year. Under Zone News Pres. Gaines reported that the Parochial School project netted a total of \$3783.24 to be divided among the 4 schools. Another project for the zone will be decided in the near future. The group was advised that there is some interest in designing one banner for the zone to be used for conventions instead of having a society make a new one each year.

Upcoming Dates

The 2018 CID Convention is set for April 27 and 28 in Bloomington with the theme "Look up! Look in! Look Out!" Keynote speaker will be Gary Thies who was at the national

convention in Des Moines in 2016.

Hostesses for the Spring Gathering will be Immanuel Osman, Peace Thomasboro and Immanuel Loda. Date and location to be set.

The 2019 CID Convention will be hosted by our Danville Zone so our society will be actively involved. A committee will be set up later in 2018.

The nominating committee, Barb Whitehouse-Gercken and Wilma Grussing presented their slate of officers for the next 2 year term and they are:

President: Deb Lammle

Christian Growth: Barb Whitehouse-Gercken

Secretary: Shirley Sprau

Treasurer: Sue Van Wakeman

Mission Coordinator: Terri Hooker

A motion was made and carried to approve the slate of officers.

Pres. Gaines offered sincere thanks to the entire group for their continued support and to the out-going officers for their efforts. We ask God's blessings to the incoming officers.

Barb Whitehouse-Gercken provided delicious refreshments with the assistance of Wilma Grussing. Our next meeting will be on March 8, 2018 with topic and hostesses to be determined by the new president. The grab bag gift exchange followed the Lord's Prayer and the common table prayer.

Ladies Aid News

Ladies Aid Christmas Luncheon

The Ladies Aid held their annual Christmas Luncheon on December 6th with several guests attending. All enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch which was followed by the group taking a multiple-choice quiz entitled "How Well Do You Know the Christmas Story?" Yes, we all knew about the shepherds, the angels, the "Wise Men," the star, the innkeeper, the long journey of Mary and Joseph, the baby in the manger, and we knew about the gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But this quiz determined how much of what we knew was tradition and how much came from the Bible. After some discussion and some frustration, the test scores were not revealed. Then the group participated in a Christmas trivia game played with a huge tic-tac-toe board and finished with some crazy Christmas Minute-To-Win-It Games. The group exchanged gifts to conclude the activities.

Ladies Aid Officers

Congratulations to the new Ladies Aid officers: President, Shirley Sprau; Vice President, Deb Lammle; Secretary, Brenda Hendricks; Treasurer, Connie Warsaw; Flower Treasurer, Wilma Grussing; and LCFS Treasurer, Annette Warsaw. Thank you, ladies, for your continued service!

Thank You

Thanks to the families of Jeannine Henriksen and CJ Warsaw for providing memorial funds to purchase the new red superfrontal paraments, pulpit, and lectern paraments, as well as a matching veil and stole.



Alicia Henriksen, Erik Henriksen, Pastor McPike, and Harry Henriksen



Ross Warsaw

Congratulations, Pastor Schmidt!

A special celebration for Pastor Justin Schmidt's 15th year in the ministry was held on Sunday November 19th, at St. Luke Lutheran Church in San Jose, Illinois. The worship service began at 10:30 with a Baptism. A delicious potluck luncheon was served after the service. Pastor Schmidt helped Pastor McPike with ministerial duties here at Osman for 18 months from October 2011 to April 2013. Pastor Schmidt was very excited to see some of the Osman members and did include in his announcements after the service his connection to our Osman congregation. Those attending from our congregation were Don and Connie Warsaw and Brenda Hendricks.



Pictured Front row - Augustine, Lillian Back row - Marion, Otto (Foreign Exchange Student from Norway), Wolfram, and Pastor Schmidt.

Statistics

Date	Worship	Sunday School	Adult Class
11/19	57	2	9
11/26	70	0	0
12/3	67	2	5
12/6	21	0	0
12/10	53	2	10
12/17	75	3	12
12/24 am	35	0	0
12/24 pm	80	0	0
12/31	n/a	n/a	n/a

Congratulations!

January Birthdays

Joey Haggin.....01-02
 Phyllis Burnett.....01-05
 Sara Kunde.....01-05
 Harry Henriksen.....01-06
 Brad Lutz.....01-10
 Rebecca Gercken.....01-14
 Anne Amdor.....01-18
 Hannah Duncan.....01-19
 Megan Bidner.....01-21
 Bryce Martin.....01-23
 Mackenzie Homann.....01-26
 Matthew Burgess.....01-27

January Anniversaries

Rev. Keffie and Angie Deen.....04-02-2014
 Christie and Leonard Delaney.....01-07-1995

Please Note...

If your birthday or anniversary
 has been omitted, please let the
 church secretary know by email:
secretary@osmanlutheran.org

Thank you!

2018 Elder Schedule

Jan Marvin		