

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

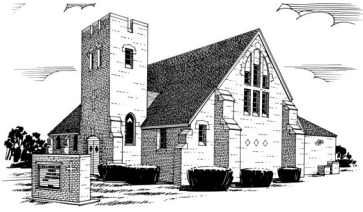
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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC



January 2020

Your word is a lamp to guide
my feet and a light for my path.
Psalm 119:105

From Pastor McPike...

Grief is as individual as the person experiencing it. Factors that influence grief include the closeness and type of the relationship, the characteristics of the grieving person and those of the person who is lost. The most common cause of grief is death, but it can also include moving, divorce, job change, changes in the home such as a child moving to college or to another part of the country (or the world!). Any loss can cause grief. Anytime you find yourself struggling with thoughts of "I wish it was the way it used to be", no matter what "it" is, that is a form of grief.

We've experienced our own losses recently here at Immanuel. The recent deaths of both Jodi and Esther each had dimensions of grief and loss felt variously by members of the church and also corporately. There are those of you who lost close loved ones not connected to the congregation. There was the death of Megan Thompson, whom most of us didn't really know but supported with our benefit. Megan was young; Jodi was with us all the time and we saw the toll the cancer fight was taking on her, and how valiantly she faced it until close to the end. Esther struggled, continued to come to church despite the odds, had been a member for a very long time. Your own personal loss, whatever it has been, had dimensions that influenced how you are processing that grief in your own life.

At the tail-end of all this was the sudden, tragic death of Jessica Hostert. She attended our church only a short time. Because she was so quiet, sat in the back in a quiet, unassuming manner to draw no attention to herself, not many had a chance to speak personally to her. Yet her death rocked our congregation. Was it because she was killed just over a mile from Osman while coming to church? Was it because she was young, and as we look around our church, there is a tragic shortage of younger people? Was it because of the recent deaths of Esther and Jodi? Was it because of personal tragedies that you had in your own lives not mentioned here? The answer to all these questions is a single word: "Yes". Grief piles up. Grief causes us to connect into ourselves and touch those things that we would rather avoid. More than one member called me in near tears over her death, stating something like "Pastor, I just can't stand to lose anyone else right now." While the loss of a young lady we barely knew who had just started coming seems to pale in comparison with losing long time members... wife, sister, mother, grandmother, etc., what it shows is that grief piles up, and when events happen in short order, they tend to become a very heavy load. In other words... if Jessica's death made you sad, it wasn't just Jessica... it was Jodi, Esther, Megan, or your own loss at the time, whatever that is/ was.

In our grief, the words of St. Paul read at every Osman funeral since I came in 2009 (maybe before that). "We want you to know the truth about those who have died, so that you will not be sad, as are those who have no hope." (1Thess. 4:13) No, our faith in Christ does not take our sadness away. But it supports us in our sadness, helps us through our sadness, and tempers our sadness in the sense that while we'll miss those who die, we do it for ourselves, because as they die in faith, they live in the splendor of heaven, free from all the cares of this life, awaiting the resurrection at the last day.

As different as feeling grief is unique to each individual, so also the processing of it. Mark Hostert, Jessica's younger brother, has been reaching out in a variety of ways as a way of processing the loss of his sister. The following letter from him is written as a tribute to his sister, addressed to our congregation. It is also his expression of his own grief as he tries to make sense out of what has no sense.

-Pastor McPike

To: The Congregation at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman:

Greetings

I'm Mark Hostert, Jessica Hostert's younger brother. I wanted to write you a letter to express my thanks. It meant so much that members of your community would come all the way down to Steeleville, Illinois to honor my sister. Also, Pastor McPike for taking my calls and helping to piece together information about what happened on Sunday the 24th. It means so much to this family that your church and congregation would offer to place a cross with flowers for her.

Wrapping my head around this situation has seemed impossible. Everyone grows up and eventually learns that life isn't fair. As humans, we typically come to this understanding at some point as we age. Usually we think that we didn't get the job we wanted, we had car trouble, our plumbing went bad - but within a few weeks, life is, more-or-less, back to normal. We never think tragedy would strike in the matter that it did for my family just two weeks ago.

I never thought I would have to write an obituary. Jessica was the writer of the family. She was published in a law journal. And, I never thought I would have to write one for my sister. Perhaps some of you read that obituary. While Jessica was a member of your congregation for a short time, I thought I would also use this letter to tell you a little more about her.

We've also had a close family in terms of spending our time and days together. We do not have that many relatives, many have since passed. We only have a few cousins. It was mostly us, my dad, John; my mom, Priscilla; my older brother, Tim; of course, Jessica; and me, Mark. We would spend our childhood bickering about small things, who would get the best spot on the couch, or the recliner, who would pick what to watch for television, and of course, the last slice of pizza.

Jessica was only two grades ahead of me. So, we spent a lot of time riding to school together. In high school, Jessica focused on academics. She was always quiet and reserved. She put hours into studying for tests, large exams, writing papers. But, there was another side to her. She loved to travel. She had visited parts of Europe and even stayed with a foreign exchange student that she became friends with in high school. Calling her friend from Germany I found that she and Jessica would still send each other letters by mail.

During her 8th grade trip to Washington D.C. the class was tasked to visit the war memorials. One of her classmates, Eric, broke down in tears at the Korean Memorial site, seeing all the names. Eric had a grandfather that served in the war. Jessica came over to him, placed a hand on his shoulder, and said to her classmates, "Eric is really the only one out of our class that really understands war, and what this means." So, even when she was quiet, and reserved, she sought out to comfort others.

We drove to college together for many years. Jessica had a job at the campus, tutoring other students. I can remember her taking the job very seriously, offering help to those and placing just as much effort into helping as she did putting effort into her own studies. I remember sometimes having to wait a little bit extra longer before we could head home because she continued to help past hours.

This was reflected when she got into SIU Law School. As you might have read, Jessica finished first in her class. But, peer after peer has messaged me. And, all their thoughts reflect that Jessica would comfort them in their panic, she would offer help when they struggled - taking time out of her day, out of her studies to provide that help. That's who she was. She was a helper.

When my brother and I went to her apartment to gather a few belongings before her services I had found a plastic bag full of Coca-Cola caps. She had been saving them for Pastor Smith at Wine Hill for the My Coke Rewards. Even though she had moved to Mahomet, she was still thinking of home, and others. She would call my mom every day. She would ask about how things were going, how the family dog was doing, if my dad was cleaning the house. One of the things she was concerned about, other than moving away from home, was how she was going to make sure my dad went to church.

Going through her awards, accolades, scholarships, and degrees we found over 35. But, Jessica was so unassuming that they were stowed away in a closet, in their original mailers. You see, she did not brag about her accomplishments. She never flaunted her intellect in front of others. She simply put those things to the side, and helped others.

I find it rare when someone who has her work ethic, her intelligence, her attention to detail, and articulation to be so unassuming and modest. Not only all of those things combined but helpful, true in her pursuits, thoughtful, and grateful for her opportunities.

Jessica will be deeply missed as a daughter, a sister, and a friend. I hope that this letter gives you a better understanding of who she was. I thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and for your support during this time.

Much like Stephen King I'm bad with conclusions. So, I think I would like to end things by saying this: Jessica was a good person, a good soul, kind-hearted, dedicated, thoughtful, thorough, helpful, and overall wonderful.

I miss her. And love her.

Sincerely,

Mark Hostert



Thank You!

Thanks to Bill and Moneta McCleary, Jim and Jane Poppe, Don and Connie Warsaw, Brenda Hendricks, Butch and Shirley Sprau, Jim and Sue VanWakeman, Steve and Susan

Martin, and Richard and Rae Ringer for donating a poinsettia. We appreciate the beautiful contribution to the Christmas Eve service. You may take your flowers home after the January 5th service.

Thank You!

We are deeply grateful for the kindness and compassion you extended to our family during this difficult time. You have touched our hearts. I know this is not what any of us had in mind just a few weeks ago when you organized a benefit on our behalf, but alas "we are just a vapor that appears for a little while". While Megan's time was short, her impact on this world and the eternal impact she had on others is immense. The Lord has and will continue to use this trial for His glory. Thank you for the support and love that you have shown to Megan and our family. Continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

With Love,
Charlie (Megan's husband)
The Thompson Family
The Buxton Family



Prayers Requested

Your prayers have been requested for former member John Homann. He will be having intensive surgery on January 3 that will probably remove his right leg with his second recurrence of bone cancer. All prayers and cards of thoughts would be appreciated. His address is: John Homann, 501 E Main St, Westville, IL 61883

Thank You!

Thanks to all those who give their time and efforts so that Immanuel Osman continues to be a great place to worship! From serving on the Church Council, to working as a paid staff member, to all the other members who fill the pews and make this a loving church family – we appreciate all you do! May we always make our members feel welcome and appreciated by thanking those who serve, those who visit the shut-ins, serve on the Altar Guild, read scriptures, donate flowers, and serve as acolytes and ushers. WE APPRECIATE YOUR SELFLESS CONTRIBUTIONS!



Open House in Philo

*Pastor and Sharon are hosting
their annual Epiphany open house
at 112 W. Jefferson St., Philo, IL
from 2-4 PM on Sunday, January 4, 2020*

Getting to know our Confirmands...

Hello! I am Megan Bidner. I will turn 15 years old on January 21st. I am a freshman at Fisher High School.

If you could ask any Biblical character a question, who would it be and what would you ask?

I would ask Mary how she felt the night she gave birth to Jesus. How did it feel to be the mother of the Savior?

What is your Baptism date?

June 26, 2005

What career do you hope to pursue with your God given talents?

I hope to be a physical therapist with a concentration on sports medical training.

What is one of your most favorite Bible verses?

Matthew 28: 18-20 which reads "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

What is your most favorite Bible story?

Noah's Ark

Would you describe yourself as being a follower or a leader?

I am a leader if I am sure of how to do something, but I am a follower until I can do it correctly.

If you had 30 minutes of free time, what would you enjoy doing?

Running or spending time with my parents

If you could dedicate your life to solving one problem, what problem would you solve?

Pollution, especially the cleaning up of the plastic and trash in the ocean

In 20 years from now, what will you want to be remembered for?

My performance in track

What song do you remember singing when you were in Sunday School?

"I'm Inright, Outright, Upright, Downright Happy All the Time"

What is your best memory about Vacation Bible School?

When Reese and I were running behind the hall and we tripped and fell into the small swimming pool at the same time

What will you remember the most about Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman as you grow older?

The Christmas Eve programs

Annual Voter's Meeting and Potluck

The annual Voter's meeting will be held Sunday, January 26th after church, with a potluck following in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring dishes to share and table service. Drinks will be provided. Come and get caught up with your church family!

Annual Ladies Aid Luncheon

The annual Ladies Aid Luncheon at Immanuel Osman was held on Dec. 11th at the fellowship Hall, beginning at 11am. The festivities began with "Wheel of Fortune", a game led by Debbie Lammle with the goal to come up with names of old Lutheran Christmas hymns. After guessing the names of the hymns, the group sang 2 verses of the song, accompanied by Brenda Hendricks. The winners won a packet of hot chocolate mix and chocolate covered marshmallows dipped in crushed candy canes. (a little side note, the letter "o" is a legitimate guess!!!) Following the game, we held the gift exchange. After singing the table prayer together, we filled our plates with a variety of delicious foods from Wilma Grussing's delicious meatballs to Brenda Hendrick's red velvet truffle. A group photo was taken by John Lammle. The gathering was just one of the many ways our church family celebrates the spirit of Christmas!

Ways to Serve Your Church

Please sign up on the bulletin board for visiting the shut-ins, serving on the Altar Guild, and donating altar flowers. Please let Debbie Lammle know if you wish to read the scriptures during the Sunday morning services.

Protecting Yourself From Cold Stress

Workers who are exposed to extreme cold or work in cold environments may be at risk of cold stress. Extremely cold or wet weather is a dangerous situation that can cause occupational illness and injuries such as hypothermia, frostbite and trench foot

Hypothermia is a condition in which the body uses up its stored energy and can no longer produce heat. It often occurs after prolonged exposure to cold temperature.

Early symptoms

- Shivering fatigue
- Loss of coordination
- confusion and disorientation

Late symptoms

- No shivering
- Blue skin
- Dilated pupils
- Slowed pulse and breathing
- Loss of consciousness

First Aid

- Request immediate medical assistance.
- Move the victim into a warm room or shelter.
- Remove wet clothing.
- Warm the center of their body first- chest, neck, head, and groin- using an electric blanket; or use skin-to-skin contact under loose, dry layers of blankets, clothing, or towels.
- If conscious, warm beverages may help increase body temperature. Do not give alcohol.
- Once temperature has increased keep them dry and wrapped in a warm blanket.
- If no pulse, begin CPR.

Frostbite is an injury to the body that is caused by freezing, which most often affects the nose, ears, chin, fingers, or toes.

Symptoms

- Reduced blood flow to hands and feet
- Numbness
- Aching
- Tingling or stinging
- Bluish or pale, waxy skin

First Aid

- Get into a warm room as soon as possible.
- Unless necessary, do not walk on frostbitten feet or toes.
- Immerse the effected area in warm (not hot) water or warm the affected area using body heat. Do not use a heating pad, fireplace, or radiator for warming.
- Do not massage the frostbitten area; doing so may cause more damage.

Trench Foot is an injury of the feet resulting from prolonged exposure to wet and cold conditions that can occur at temperatures as high as 60 degrees F if the feet are constantly wet.

Symptoms

- Reddening of the skin
- Numbness, tingling pain
- Leg cramps, swelling

- Blisters or ulcers
- Bleeding under the skin
- Gangrene

First Aid

- Remove shoes/boots, and wet socks
- Dry feet
- Avoid walking on feet, as this may cause tissue damage

Protect Yourself

- Monitor your physical condition and that of your coworkers.
- Wear appropriate clothing. Wear several layers of loose clothing for insulation. Tight clothing reduces blood flow to the extremities.
- Be aware that some clothing may restrict movement resulting in a hazardous situation.
- Protect the ears, face, hands, and feet in extremely cold or wet weather.
- Boots should be waterproof and insulated.
- Wear a hat to reduce loss of body heat from your head
- Move into warm locations during breaks; limit the amount of time outside.
- Carry extra socks, gloves, hat, jacket, blankets a change of clothes and a thermos of hot liquid.
- Include chemical hot packs in your first aid kit.
- Avoid touching cold metal surfaces with bare skin.

From Center for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institute Occupational Safety and Health

parishnurse@osmanlutheran.org

Decorating for Christmas



Sue VanWakeman, Bob and Diana Zimmerman add the finishing touches to our Christmas tree

LWML Meeting

The last LWML meeting for the year was held on December 12th at 7pm with a business meeting, "decorating the mitten tree", a gift exchange, election of officers and refreshments. President Debbie Lammle called the meeting to order with the singing of the LWML song. Devotion was given by Barb W. Gercken, and in place of a topic, Debbie Lammle and four other LWML members read a program called "Decorating the Mitten Tree". The mittens that went on the Christmas tree will be taken to Cunningham's Children Home along with other scarfs and hats for those less fortunate at Christmas time. Roll call and minutes from the last meeting were read by secretary, Shirley Sprau. Motion made and carried to accept the minutes. Sue VanWakeman, treasurer, read the report from the last quarter with a balance of \$248.91. A motion was made and carried to accept the report. President Lammle showed 5 of the 21 Mission Grants for the National LWML as a power point presentation, followed by prayer for Lutheran Bible Translators. Correspondence was read from Chris Walters, seminary Student supported by the Ladies Aid/LWML, thank yous from the Welborn's, Lutz's, and Bethesda, and a Christmas card from the Concordia Food Bank. Diana Zimmerman also read a thank-you from "Little Dresses for Africa" of which Immanuel Osman has sent 168. President Lammle sent cards to several members of Immanuel from the LWML. She also suggested a "Christmas Card Shower" for several members who have moved away, are home-bound, shut-in, our adopted family, and all our dedicated staff at Osman. Many thanks were given to those who delivered food to members who had been hospitalized, those who made quilt tops, tied, or bound the edges, made pillowcase dresses, brought refreshments for quilting, those who contributed to our adopted family, Diana Zimmerman for shipping the pillowcase dresses, and Terri and Dwight Hooker for taking the quilts to the LWR pick-up. Additional thanks to Brenda Hendricks for bringing the National LWML Banner to Osman and Connie Warsaw for meeting Diane Pratt from Danville to pick up the banner. (Debbie Lammle took the banner to Allison Arends, Champaign LWML zone president.) Continued thanks to those who helped clean the hall, to Brenda Hendricks, Brenda Edwards, Wilma Grussing, Terri Hooker, and Diana Zimmerman for helping with the LWML service in October. Debbie Lammle gave the children's sermon that day and Sue VanWakeman helped her make a bulletin board for this special service. Thanks were given to Brenda Hendricks and Connie Warsaw for representing our society at the fall rally, and Brenda Hendricks for attending the LWML Fall Retreat and preparing the Clarion. Thanks were also given to Marsha Warsaw for taking gifts to our adopted family. Additional thanks were given to Brenda Hendricks for organizing the Advent Service and everyone who brought cookies or bars for the event. Thanks also to everyone who helped with the two funeral dinners at our church.

The LWML are still collecting used Portals of Prayers, stamps, Bibles, and other religious materials, but **NO LONGER** collecting ink cartridges or cell phones. Terri Hooker gave a report concerning the Central Illinois LWR ingathering. We turned in

105 mission quilts and 9 fabric kits from Immanuel Osman, with a total of 15 boxes. \$125 from our local society was donated for shipping the boxes. Connie Warsaw gave a detailed report on the Fall Rally and Brenda Hendricks gave a report on the LWML Retreat. Immanuel Danville will host the next fall rally in 2020. Marsha Warsaw gave a report on our adopted family. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to give the family a gift card for \$30 for Christmas. Marsha Warsaw will take the gift to the family. Diana Zimmerman volunteered to give a gift to the adopted family in January, and Debbie Martin volunteered to do the same in February. The mite box challenge was discussed and the group decided to cancel the project.

The group also decided that the first Monday and Wednesday each month would be the best days to quilt. The next days will be January 6th and 8th. The next Clarion deadline is January 25th. It was voted to give Pastor McPike \$50 for Christmas and \$40 to Pastor Ehlers from LWML. The new by-laws for the combined LA/LWML were passed out, and previously sent by email, and given out at the November meeting of Ladies Aid. The motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the by-laws with a few minor changes.

Thanks were given to Debbie Martin and Barb W. Gercken for serving on the nominating committee. The proposed ballot included Mission Coordinator-Terri Hooker, Christian Growth-Debbie Martin, Treasurer-Sue VanWakeman, Secretary-Marsha Warsaw, and President-Brenda Hendricks. No further nominations were made from the group. The motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the slate of officers for the coming two years.

Important dates include the 2020 LWML CID Convention at Bethel Lutheran, Morton, IL on April 30, May 1-2. This convention includes Thursday night communion worship service, Friday Morning-2 bible studies and lunch, Friday evening-75th Anniversary Banquet, and Saturday-75th CID convention.

Thanks were given to those who gave devotions and topics, served refreshments, served as officers, led committees, accompanied the singing, filled their mite boxes, and helped revise the by-laws. Thanks to Wilma Grussing and Brenda Edwards for serving refreshments. The group stood and held hands to recite the Lord's Prayer and common table prayer. The meeting ended with refreshments and the gift exchange. The next meeting of the Ladies Aid/LWML will be March 12th at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.





2020

Statistics				
Date	Worship	Sunday School	Conf	Adult Class
12/01	50	1	6	8
12/04	22	-	-	-
12/08	59	1	7	9
12/15	82	3	7	11
12/22	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
12/24	n/a	-	-	-
12/29	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Osman's Upcoming Events

January Upcoming Events

- 5 Take down Christmas decor after church
- 6 Quilting at 8am
- 8 Quilting at 8am
- 15 Church Council at 6:30pm
- 26 Voter's Meeting with Potluck after church

January Birthdays

Joey Haggin.....01-02
 Sara Kunde.....01-05
 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

Christie and Leonard Delaney.....01-07-1995