

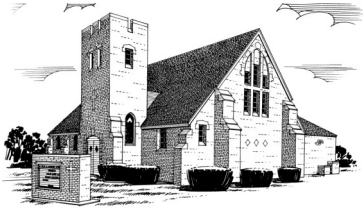
THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN **The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**

Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC



April 2020

**Christ is Risen! He is Risen
Indeed! Alleluia!**

From Pastor McPike's Desk...

Sacred Space

What comes to mind when you think of "Sacred Space"? Another word for it would be "Holy Space" as "Sacred" means basically, holy, or that which reminds us of the holy. The Bible mentions any number of places where spaces were considered sacred. Genesis 32 records the story of Jacob "wrestling with God", and he called the place where it happens he called "Peniel" which is Hebrew for "Face of God". God had already made it known that His holiness and sin could not exist in the same space. Therefore, God's face is the face of holiness, and Jacob realizes the blessing of being in the same space as God and not being wiped out.

Moses was told of sacred space on the top of Mount Sinai while the Israelites were still in slavery. Exodus 3 records the incident with the burning bush, where Moses was told to remove his shoes. God then spoke to him from the bush, and told him that he was to be the leader of God's people in order to get them out of slavery and mistreatment.

A sort of "portable" sacred space was created by the creation of the holy place in the tent church called the "tabernacle". This the Israelites carried with them from the time they left Mount Sinai until they reached the promised land. Once settled in the capitol city, Jerusalem, the Israelites were determined to make permanent the tabernacle structure and outline, resulting in the temple. In both the tabernacle and temple, the sacred space was called the "holy of holies" or "holy place". It held various appointments, including Moses' staff, the ark of the covenant, and the tables of the Ten commandments. Only one priest was allowed

into the holy place once each year and then only after the thing was so full of smoke that nobody could really see much of any of the inside.

Traditionally constructed church buildings sought to capture this "holy place" or "holy space" concept. While the entire structure can be considered a holy place, the area of the church called the chancel, where the pulpit, lectern, altar and related appointments reside is generally thought to somewhat parallel the "most holy place" in the old Jerusalem Temple. Indeed, in Lutheran Churches until a few decades ago, those working in that portion of the church customarily refrained from idle "chit-chat" as that was the place representing the presence of God.

The purpose of "sacred spaces" is to put one in the "mood" or create an atmosphere of being in communion with God. Think of our varied experiences here at Osman – when we would have worship at the park for our annual picnic, or worship in the hall when our church was being repaired; well... it just wasn't quite the same.

Because we are being encouraged to practice "social distancing" to help slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus, we have lost access to gathering in our "sacred space". We are disconnected from each other, all members of the body of Christ, as a bunch of disconnected bricks of the same building scattered randomly in a field.

A challenge, then, is to find creative ways to recreate "sacred space" in this interim period. One way is to choose a particular place in your home; turn off phones, cell phones, televisions, radios or any other distractions. Perhaps light a candle or two at a space

that might come close to representing an altar. And in that space, engage with God through His word. If you have the ability, play the worship service that has been uploaded to osmanlutheran.org website. If not, read the lessons, Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel for that week (you can find that on another of my websites, <http://yaag.org>). While you are there, think about others in our fellowship. While it won't be the same as being in church, it can be useful to recreate church where you are.

Don't forget your offerings!

It goes without saying that while we are being kept apart during the viral outbreak, our church continues to have expenses and will need your ongoing support. Please consider setting aside, or mailing in your contribution so that we don't get woefully behind. Certainly, these are trying times for all!

Due to the COVID-19 Virus guidelines, all these activities will be pending the decisions made by the Church Council and Pastor McPike.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Maundy Thursday

On Thursday, the "first day of Unleavened Bread", Jesus sent two disciples to locate a room and prepare for the Passover, the Last Supper. During this meal, Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Altar, giving His disciples His body and blood under the bread and wine of the meal. He also washed the disciples' feet. Judas left during this meal to complete his act of betraying Jesus. Jesus then led the remaining 11 apostles to Gethsemane, where He secluded Himself and His inner circle-Peter, James, and John, for prayer, asking the Father to spare Him the crucifixion if possible, but accepting His Father's will that He die for us and our sins. Sometime during the evening, perhaps while Jesus prayed, the day passed into Friday.

Good Friday

Judas brought soldiers of the chief priests to arrest Jesus, identifying Him with a kiss. Jesus was taken to Annas and then to the high priest, Caiaphas. There the soldiers mocked and beat Jesus while Peter denied Him in the courtyard. At daylight, the Sanhedrin condemned Jesus for blasphemy and took Him for sentencing. Pilate first sent Jesus to King Herod, the king of Galilee because Jesus was a Galilean. Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate in a royal robe. Pilate initially refused the Jewish leaders' request for a death sentence. He had Jesus flogged and mocked Him further with a crown of thorns and a reed scepter. The crowds called for Jesus to be crucified and in the end Pilate relented. Pilate washed his hands of the matter, released the prisoner Barabbas, and sentenced Jesus to be crucified. Jesus carried His own cross assisted at some point by Simon of Cyrene. Jesus was nailed to the cross at the "third hour" (about 9am) and died about the ninth hour(3pm). His body was removed from the cross and rushed to burial in a nearby tomb before sundown.

Easter Sunday

A new day and a new week dawned with an earthquake, as an angel rolled back the stone sealing Jesus' tomb. Several women among the disciples, coming with spices to complete the burial preparations, found the tomb empty, and angels announced Jesus' resurrection. The women hurried back to report to the apostles, and Peter and John raced to the tomb, where they confirmed that Jesus was not there. Jesus appeared that day to Mary Magdalene, the women, Simon, Cleopas, and another disciple on the road to Emmaus, and ten of the apostles in the Upper Room. Jesus had risen just as He said, winning forgiveness, life, and salvation for us all!

Easter Breakfast

The Immanuel Osman youth and their parents will be serving breakfast after service on Easter morning. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit, and drinks will be served. A free will offering will be taken to help the youth cover the expenses for the National Youth Gathering in 2022. Thanks in advance for your support of the youth (and the future) of our church.

Prayer to The Pastors from our Confirmation Class

Dear Heavenly Father,
Please lead us to a good life through the dedication of our pastors. Continue to inspire them to preach the good news of Jesus Christ. We pray for their safety and thank them for the good deeds they show to us. We pray that you will keep them strong in the faith and let them continue serving us at Immanuel Osman. Keep them healthy and let them know how much we appreciate them. Thank you for blessing our church with Pastor McPike and Pastor Ehlers, who open our eyes to you Lord. In Jesus name we pray.

Addi, Ashley, Jack, Jenna, Megan, Melia, and Reese

Soup Supper

Thank you to all the members who volunteered in a variety of ways for the benefit soup supper on Saturday, March 7. \$7896 was donated to the freewill offering for our recipient, Declan Lammle. The money will help with medical expenses for his upcoming care after his premature birth. \$1080.50 was added to the collected amount from our Thrivent Choice Dollars and other congregational donations which makes the grand total of \$8976.50. The check was given to Declan's parents, Ryan and Sandy, this past week.

New Baby!

Congratulations to Melinda and Brian Edwards on the birth of their baby girl, Rhylin Mae, on March 3rd. She weighed 8 pounds 3 ounces and was 20 inches long. She is welcomed home by her older sister, Vada and older brother, Emery. Her proud grandparents are Jerry and Brenda Edwards. May God bless this new baby and her family and keep them in His loving care.

New Baby!

Congratulations to Tiffany and Malachi Johnson on the birth of their baby girl, Jade Patricia, on March 13th. She weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces and was 21 inches long. She is welcomed home by her older sister, Savanna. Her proud grandparents are Greg and Joy Johnson and her proud great-grandparents are Bill and Moneta McCleary. We keep the family in our prayers especially as Malachi is serving our country in Afghanistan.

Maundy Thursday Supper

IF, IF, IFthe coronavirus restrictions have been lifted by April 9th, there will be a Maundy Thursday worship service at 7 PM. The Ladies Aid/LWML will be serving a chili supper from 5:30 to 6:45 on that evening. There will not be social time after the service. The menu will include chili, sandwiches, relishes, and desserts.

Update on the family our LA/LWML and Immanuel helps support

An update on the family our LA/LWML and our church supports: Mom Abby cried when I told her that she and her daughter, Amelia, were chosen to be our family again this year. Amelia has Williams Syndrome which is a missing chromosome. It causes many problems and she receives care from 4 therapists for her condition. Some of the effects of Williams syndrome are late development; Amelia walked when she was 2 and talked at age 3-4. Her heart has to work harder and she has regular echocardiograms to monitor this. Her immune system is lowered and she has scoliosis and wears a brace. Anxiety is also associated with her condition. I am happy to say she is talking more clearly now. Mom Abby has started a house cleaning business so she can be flexible for her daughter's many appointments. More is being learned about Williams Syndrome and we pray she will have more opportunities to help her in the future. They are so very thankful for your loving support!

If you would like to help: Amelia is a bright, happy child and loves receiving cards in the mail and doing simple crafts. She also loves unicorns, puppies, and norwhals. Amelia wears size 6 skinny in pants that are easy to fasten, size 6 in tops, and size 13 in shoes. Gift cards are greatly appreciated. Visa cards for Amelia's medications, Walmart, Meijer, and gas cards really help. Their address is 114 S Grant St. Saybrook, IL 61770. Thank you again! (Marsha Warsaw is the LA/LWML family contact and will happily deliver any gifts for you.)

March Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

The combined group of Ladies Aid and LWML members met for their first meeting on Thursday, March 12th at 1:30. Twelve women attended with the roll call answered with a Bible verse about grace. Deb Martin opened with devotion and prayer, and Annette Warsaw led the topic entitled "Amazing Grace". There were no secretary minutes read, but the treasurers report was read and approved. Deb Lammle read the correspondence from Chris Walters, our adopted Seminary student. Wilma Grussing gave the card treasurer report and Terri Hooker and Diana Zimmerman gave the report on quilts and dresses. The group has made 46 quilts since October and 244 dresses since March 2019. The old business consisted of distributing the by-laws to the members, discussing the program book, prayer list, and food committee list. New business consisted of accepting the same family as our adopted family for 2020. That family is Abby and Amelia Kirkpatrick from Saybrook. Discussion of Maundy Thursday chili supper, CID Convention which is April 30 – May 2 in Morton, and continuing our support for Bethesda finished out the meeting. The meeting ended with prayer followed by refreshments served by Wilma Grussing and Brenda Hendricks. Please note the CID Convention for April 30 - May 2 has since been cancelled..

Gifts for Adopted Family

Ladies Aid/LWML ladies will continue their support of an adopted family. The family is Abby Kirkpatrick of Saybrook and her daughter, Amelia. The ladies have each chosen a month to purchase items for the family, but anyone in the church may donate to this cause. A small box is located at the back of the church on the elder's pew for this purpose. Grocery store gift cards and gas gift cards are also great gifts. Marsha Warsaw delivers all of the donations to this very appreciative family.

Shut in Visits

There were not any shut in visits made this past month due to the coronavirus precautions.

CANCELLED

Events have been cancelled through April 30!

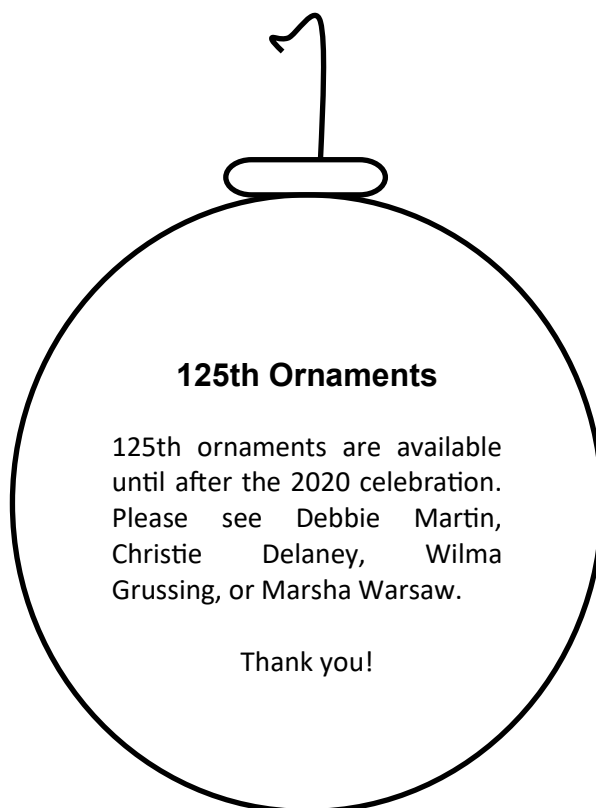
Sincere Thanks

From the bottom of our hearts, we want to express our sincere appreciation for the kindness shown at the benefit for Declan Lammle. We were overwhelmed by the response of family and friends, and of course, you, our church family. We see the hand of God helping us through this difficult time and we will forever remain grateful for your kindness and love!

Ryan, Sandy, Declan, Debbie, and John

2020 Central Illinois District LWML Convention CANCELLED

Due to coronavirus precautions the 2020 Central Illinois District LWML Convention has been cancelled. The 75th celebration of this organization was going to be celebrated in fine fashion at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Morton in late April. The 75th celebration will not be forgotten! It will be rescheduled for next April in the same location. The 3-day event will include most of the same servant events, speakers, and Bible studies. However, the new officers will need to be elected by email and snail mail ballots. Two members of each society in the district will vote on the officers and the mission grants.



Getting to know our Confirmands...

Hello! I am Jack Gallier. I am 14 years old. I am in eighth grade at Mahomet Junior High.

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

I would ask Noah how he could be so patient on the ark and how he was to live a very long life.

What is your Baptism date? **August 12, 2005**

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

I would like to pursue a career in the world of football.

What is one of your most favorite Bible verses?

John 3 :16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

What is your most favorite Bible story?

My favorite Bible story is Moses parting the Red Sea.

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

I would say I am a leader.

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

I would enjoy watching basketball.

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

I would like to solve the problem of having so many problems.

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

I would like to be remembered for being a leader.

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

I remember "Silent Night".

What is your best memory about Vacation Bible School?

My favorite memory would be making crafts.

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

I will remember the fun I had.

April Birthdays

Chase Zimmerman.....	04-03
Courtney Delaney.....	04-03
Erik Henriksen.....	04-08
Timothy Brandt.....	04-10
Dorothy Miller.....	04-12
Connie Warsaw.....	04-12
Benjamin Burgess.....	04-13
Leonard Delaney.....	04-17
Steven Sprau.....	04-18
Gina Masko.....	04-19
Hallie Payne.....	04-23
Bob Zimmerman.....	04-23
Linda Warsaw.....	04-25
Kristan Hansen.....	04-25
Deb Lammle.....	04-26

April Anniversaries

Alicia and Nicholas Haggin.....04-28-2007

Bellflower Area Christmas Cantata

Looking now for people who would like to participate in this year's Bellflower Area Christmas Cantata. Anyone from communities in the Bellflower area is welcome. Tenor and bass voices are especially needed. Rehearsals will be weekly beginning in October with a performance scheduled for early December. Exact schedule to be announced later. If you would like to be a part of the choir, please contact Allen Grussing at 309-722-5004 or allen.grussing@gmail.com.

2020

Osman's Upcoming Events

Tentative Upcoming Events

April 5 - Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion
Confirmation Class at 8am

April 6 - Quilting

April 8 - Quilting

April 9 - Chili Supper served by the LA/LWML at 5:30pm. Maundy Thursday service at 7:00pm

April 10 - Good Friday Service at 7:00pm

April 12 - The Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Day Service at 7am with Breakfast following served by the youth (No Confirmation Class)

April 15 - Church Council 6:30pm

April 19 - Confirmation Class 8am
Quarterly Voter's Meeting after church

April 26 - Confirmation Class 8am

May 13 - Confirmands Questioning & Reception

May 17 - Confirmation

May 24 - Memorial Day

Please note that events through April 30th have now been cancelled!

Statistics

Date	Worship	Sunday School	Conf	Adult Class
2/23	61	2	4	0
2/26	34	-	-	-
3/1	57			
3/4	37			
3/8	60			
3/11	37			
3/15	53			
3/18	0	Covid-19		
3/22	0	Covid-19		
3/25	0	Covid-19		
3/29	0	Covid-19		