

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512

(217-897-6170)



Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC

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From Pastor McPike's Desk...

(The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod is observing its 175th anniversary this year. To celebrate, Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman is presenting a brief history in the newsletter. Last month, the origins of the Saxon Immigration from around Dresden to eastern Missouri were presented. In this issue, a description of key events that help define the polity, teaching, and organization of the LCMS right to this day will be outlined.)

Why come to America?

The struggles experienced by new movements often work to shape those movements. The LCMS is no exception. As stated last month, the Saxon immigrants left Germany because they basically felt like Lutheranism was dead when German church officials abandoned the teaching of the Bible as defined by Luther and those who came immediately after him. There are many reasons for the large waves of immigration that poured into the US in the 18th and 19th centuries. Many immigrants came because of economics and opportunity. Folks came to America for a better life. The wide-open spaces promised that. As European immigrants came to America, they brought a host of customs from their homeland, including religion.

The Saxon Immigration was founded on the hope of having a “true Lutheran Church” in the United States. As previously stated, many saw the church in Germany as having died from abandoning its birthright, the foundation set about by the Reformation. This meant that a key reason any person or family joined the Immigration Association was primarily for *religious reasons*. This is not to say that financial opportunity and success were not also sought. However, the founding principles of the group, the requirement that immigrants sell most all of their possessions and give the proceeds of the sale to the association, meant that religion was key. This is in a bit of contrast with other Lutherans in the United States at that time. While those who immigrated for other reasons did bring their religion with them, it was not the primary reason they came.

No better illustration of “religion first” can be seen than the construction of the first true structure in Perry County after the county lands were purchased in early 1839. That structure was a log cabin that was for the purpose of a school – the beginnings of *Concordia Seminary*, today located in Clayton (St. Louis). (The log cabin remains today preserved by an arm of the LCMS known as the Concordia Historical Institute). Think about it! While the settlers had no permanent homes in which to live, they were constructing a college/seminary building for educating pastors and teachers for

future generations. This is how dedicated those Saxons were to preservation of true teaching of God's word in the legacy of Martin Luther.

The First Church: Trinity, St. Louis

While the goal of the immigration was to establish a communal colony outside of other populated areas, several of the colonists established themselves in St. Louis in the rough winter of 1839. Of course, being concerned with being truly Lutheran, they began a congregation in downtown St. Louis. Trinity Lutheran Church was the name chosen for the church, and it is an active congregation to this day. Rev. Otto Hermann Walther was the first pastor of Trinity. Unfortunately, Pastor O. H. Walther was not so healthy, and in the early years, died. This led the congregation to call their second pastor, who would remain pastor until his death in 1887, Rev. C. F. W. Walther. Dr. Walther would prove to be a key figure not only for the St. Louis congregation, but the seminary and future Synod as well.

Sin came too!

Anytime humans go anywhere, sin is along for the ride. On the ship *Johann Georg*, Rev. Martin Stephan, the pastor who was the focus and credited for starting and leading the Saxon Immigration, began to take advantage of his situation. More bluntly put, Stephan lived like a king, while the rest of the colonists were scraping by. He had the best quarters aboard ship and river steamer as well as in the early homes purchased by association funds in St. Louis. He also had himself elected Bishop by those traveling on the same vessel as he (though there were other ships filled with association members who never got a vote). This was an attempt to maintain consistency with the church structure as it has been familiar for centuries in Europe.

Life was hard for those immigrants that first winter of 1839. Yet Stephan kept spending association money on himself including paid help to serve in his household. Resentment grew. Additionally, Stephan came alone... leaving behind wife and a family filled with children. Most of the immigrants were family units. Why had the leader decided to leave his family behind in Dresden?

These questions, his abrupt "election" to bishop, along with his opulent lifestyle compared with the struggle of the rest of the immigrants caused considerable unrest among the group. Crisis came after one of the other pastors preached a sermon on the sixth commandment. Gradually, several women came forward to confess to the pastors of the group that they were guilty of sinning against this commandment by having sexual relations with a man not their husband. Over six women came forward after that sermon, and they all named the same man – Bishop Martin Stephan.

The colonies were in chaos. Bishop Stephan was tried by a "court" of the other pastors, found to be guilty of sexual impropriety with more than one woman, and guilty of mis-using community funds. Once found guilty, he was deposed as Bishop, put into a rowboat at Wittenberg, Missouri (their community that was on the Mississippi River) and sent across the river to Illinois. He maintained his innocence until the day he died. He ended up settling in the community that is now Red Bud, Illinois, and founded St. John Lutheran Church, which is still there to this day.

Next Month: "Reorganization"

Ladies Aid/LWML

Six ladies met on May 12th for the Ladies Aid/LWML meeting at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. The meeting started with a prayer for Deb Lammle, Shirley Sprau,, and Pastor's father, David McPike. A devotion was read by Brenda Hendricks. There was no topic due to illness. Roll call was answered by a favorite Bible story. Connie Warsaw, substitute secretary, read the minutes from the March meeting, and they were approved as read. The mites were collected. Connie Warsaw gave the treasurers report which showed a balance of \$2331.02. The treasurer's report was approved. There was not any correspondence. Wilma Grussing reported on cards she had sent in the last two months. Terri Hooker reported we have completed seventy-one quilts. We sent fourteen to Orphan Grain Train. Diana Zimmerman reported that we usually send fifty dresses at a time, but do not have that amount yet. Next quilting dates were announced as June 6th and 8th and July 11th and 13th. The July dates were changed due to the July 4th holiday.

In old business Brenda Hendricks thanked all the members who supported the adopted family since our last meeting, all who brought food and helped serve the Maundy Thursday soup supper, those who donated supplies for Orphan Grain Train, and those who donated Christian material for Love Packages.

Connie Warsaw gave a report on the Danville Zone Spring Gathering in Ash Grove on March 19th. The main speakers were from Love Packages located in Butler, Illinois, and Connie elaborated on this organization's task of shipping Christian material all over the world. The LWML CID Convention was held on April 29-30 in Springfield. Brenda Hendricks showed a PowerPoint presentation of this two-day event. She also thanked Connie Warsaw for serving as our voting delegate.

In new business the group had unanimously approved hosting a bake sale at the Bellflower July 4th celebration earlier so details were discussed. The group decided to invite all members of the congregation to donate baked goods since our group is so small. It will be held at the Bellflower fire house and will be held before the parade on Monday, July 4th.

The program "What's Your 80" was also discussed in new business. In celebration of the National LWML's 80th birthday, each LWML group is being asked to do a project with 80. Our group will do 80 quilts and 80 Dresses for Africa. The group decided not to do the baby bottle coin collection for the Pregnancy Resource Center this year. The next meeting will be on July 14th at 7 PM.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer. Debbie Martin and Terri Hooker served delicious refreshments before the meeting.

Visiting the Shut-ins

All members of Ladies Aid/LWML and all church members who are interested in visiting the shut-ins, please sign up on the back bulletin board. There are several months that are available. You do not have to visit all the shut-ins on the same day; the visits may be divided according to the number of people signed up. Volunteers may decide on the most convenient day and time to visit. A short visit from a church member could make all the difference!

National Youth Gathering



The LCMS Youth Gathering is scheduled for July 9–13, 2022, in Houston, Texas, under the theme “In All Things.” Held every three years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of teenagers and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God’s people to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith, and their Lutheran identity. During the five days of the gathering, youth will spend time together in God’s word, worship service, and fellowship with others from across the Missouri

Synod. The two youth that will be attending from our congregation are Jenna Clemmons and Addison Warsaw. The chaperones will be Kim Clemmons and Annette Warsaw. Please keep them in your prayers as they plan their travels and preparations for this huge event.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Champaign from June 20 – 24 from 9 – 11:30 each day. The theme is “Friends of Luther”. The name Martin Luther may ring a bell, but do you know Elisabeth Cruciger? Or do you know Phillip Melancthon? And what did they all believe? Come learn as these and other friends of Luther teach the basics of the Christian faith, from five of the six chief parts of the Catechism. Students will hear Bible stories, as well as sing songs, make crafts, play games, and eat snacks. They will do this while learning about our one true God, and how He is our fortress. Registration is open for children 3 years old to completed fifth grade at <https://vbsmate.com/stjohnchampaign>. If you have any questions, please email vbbs@stjohnls.com.

June Lawn Mowers

The week of June 5 – June 11 – Shane Zimmerman
The week of June 12 – June 18 – John Lammle
The week of June 19 – June 25 – Chase Zimmerman
The week of June 26 – July 2 – Darwin Warsaw



The schedule this year lists the week that the volunteer needs to mow. It is recommended to mow on Thursday through Saturday of that week, so it looks nice for Sunday. If you have misplaced your schedule which was in the April newsletter, there is one on the back bulletin board. If you have any questions, contact trustee Lee Whitehouse.

Council Meeting

The next council meeting will be Wednesday, June 15th, at 7 PM in the fellowship hall.

Floating Building

Anyone for float building? It has been suggested that our church have a float in the July 4th Bellflower Parade which will be celebrating their 150th year - Sesquicentennial. If you are interested in helping implement a design or decorate, host the building site, pull the float, and then help tear down and clean up, please let a church council member know or email Chairman Hardesty at rharesty820@gmail.com. Thank you.

Bellflower Celebration

The Bellflower Community will be celebrating their 150th year with many special activities on July 3rd and 4th. A few of the activities are listed below for each day:

July 3rd

Community Church Service – 9:30 AM – Don Harden Field Pavilion
Trolley tours of historic Bellflower – 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Quilt Display – 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM – Community Center
Bed Turning Presentation – 3:30 PM – Community Center
BBQ Pork Chop Sandwich Supper – 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM - Community Center Cafeteria
Program: “Early Families of Bellflower” – 7 PM – Community Center Gym

July 4th

Ryan Albin Memorial 5K Fun Run/Walk – 6:30 AM – Start at Community Center
Osman Church Bake Sale – 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM at fire station
Parade – 9:30 AM
Firemen’s Lunch – 11 AM – 1 PM – Don Harden Field
Games all afternoon
Entertainment – Bellflower Country Opry – 7 PM – Don Harden Field
Fireworks – at dusk at Don Harden Field
(A complete list of activities will be on the back bulletin board soon.)

July 4th Bake Sale

The Ladies Aid/LWML ladies will be having the July 4th Bake Sale in Bellflower on Monday, July 4th. It will be served out of the Bellflower Fire House beginning at 7:30 AM. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to bake goods for this event. You can bring them to church on July 3rd and put them in the fellowship hall refrigerator or you can bring them by 6:30 on that morning to Bellflower. Plates with two to four cookies work well and individual baggies of snack foods are usually popular as parade watchers can eat these as they await the parade.

Father’s Day

On this Father's Day, we give thanks for all the fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers. We also give thanks to God who is a father to the fatherless. Whether you feel full of joy, nostalgia, or pride as you think about Father's Day, take comfort in the fact that you have a perfect Father in heaven who loves and accepts you just as you are. God's blessings to all the fathers!

Happy Birthday To Everyone Born in June!

6/03 Susan Martin
6/05 Colt Zimmerman
6/09 Donald Warsaw
6/12 Jim VanWakeman
6/13 Amanda Amdor
6/15 Rong Warsaw
6/15 Michael Brooks
6/16 Brenda Edwards
6/18 Jeri Bidner
6/19 Dick Johnson
6/21 Natalie Hooker
6/22 Beth Bidner
6/24 Kim Clemmons
6/26 Laura Zimmerman
6/27 Ashley Martin
6/30 Jack Gallier

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Bible Class</u>
May 1	39	3	8
May 8	49	2	13
May 15	43	2	No Class
May 22	43	2	12

Anniversaries

6-03-2011 Jenna and Nathan Mangold
6-10-2017 Jamie and Aaron Krueger
6-11-1994 Jill and Rick Hardesty
6-15-1985 Terri and Dwight Hooker
6-23-2001 Beth and Neil Bidner
6-25-1977 Debbie and John Lammle
6-30-1979 Janet and Myron Zimmerman

Happy 101st Birthday!



Jeri Bidner will turn 101 years old on June 18th. If you would like to send cards to help Jeri celebrate this milestone, please send the cards to her daughter Cheryl's address which is 1917 E. Meadowlake Drive in Mahomet, Illinois 61853. We asked Jeri some of the same questions that we asked the Confirmands of the Class of 2020 which were printed in several of the 2019 newsletters. Let's see how our oldest confirmand answered these questions.

What is your favorite Bible verse? 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 favorite Bible Story? Parting of the Red Sea. I especially loved teaching this to Sunday School kiddos. **If you could dedicate your life to solving one problem, what problem would you solve?** I would dedicate my life to curing and preventing diseases (like COVID) in the world. **What do you want to be remembered for?** I would like to be remembered for the sixty-three years that I taught Sunday School. **What is your best memory of Sunday School?** My best memory is all of the Christmas programs that the Sunday School kids performed in. **What will you remember most about Immanuel Lutheran in Osman?** I will always remember having the opportunity to learn about God's Word, the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the 23rd Psalm.