

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

October 2022



From Pastor McPike's Desk...

For the past five months, the focus of these articles has been on how various groups of Germans came to the United States. This edition will now look at how those groups came together to end up in Chicago at First St. Paul Lutheran Church to form what has been since renamed as the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

Organizing and collaborating in a world before mass transit and mass communication

Our world of Zoom, EMAIL, cell phones and other communication devices, let alone the various forms of transportation available make it hard for us to look back to the mid-1800s to what life was like in our United States. It seems like nothing short of a miracle that anything got done in those days.

But things did get done. The news of the day was printed on paper and distributed by hand. Transportation was on foot, by water where available, on horseback by land.

In a previous article, mention was made that the chief reason for the immigration of various groups of German Lutherans to the United States was the promise of freedom of religion – more specifically, that the government's "hands off" attitude toward religion (guaranteed by the first Amendment to the US Constitution), promised immigrants the ability to gather and craft a church that would not be challenged by the laws and governmental officials. Certainly, this was the main reason for the immigration of Saxon Germans from in and around Dresden in 1838-1839. In other words, while large numbers of immigrants arrived in America looking for opportunity and brought with them religion and their own customs, the Saxon Immigrants came looking first and foremost because of their religion. The promise of land and economic prosperity took second place.

Pastor C. F. W. Walther was interested in whether there were other Lutherans of similar mindset in America, and so he began to publish a paper called *Der Lutheraner*, or "The Lutheran". The watchword for this paper, translated from German, was "God's Word and Luther's doctrine pure shall evermore endure." Dr. Walther published it for the express purpose of connecting with like-minded Lutherans living in the United States in hopes of the establishment of a new church body that would champion Lutheran doctrine in the spirit of Luther.

German Lutherans responded from several parts of America. Fort Wayne had a significant number of Germans, as did Ohio. These had yet to affiliate with any sort of more national church body.

Thus, the LCMS has always been more of a presence in the middle portion of the United States.

Over the years from 1842 to 1847, several meetings were held, some in St. Louis, some in Fort Wayne, some in Chicago. Potential delegates for the new synod were sent from a variety of areas. The pre-constitutional convention was held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne. Then, on April 26, 1847, twelve pastors representing fourteen congregations from Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Michigan, New York, and Ohio signed the new constitution at First St. Paul Lutheran Church in Chicago to form the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other states. Early in the 1900s, the word “German” was dropped, and for the Synod’s Centennial in 1947 the name was shortened to “The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.”

The early headquarters of the Synod were at Concordia Publishing House on South Jefferson Street in St. Louis, which was in the same general area as Concordia Seminary, Lutheran Hospital, and Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Pastor C.F.W. Walther

Dr. Walther seems, at times, to be almost larger than life. He was an ardent student of the Bible. He edited and published the periodical *Der Lutheraner* that actually pre-dated the founding of the LCMS. *Der Lutheraner* (The Lutheran) was written as a journal that would appeal to both lay people and pastors alike, consistent with the attitude of Dr. Walther that the church body should be equally represented by pastors and laity. He was first president of *Concordia Seminary, St. Louis* until his death. He was a founding member of the LCMS and served as president of the LCMS from 1847 to 1850, and again from 1864 to 1878. During this time, he served as the senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Louis. When St. Louis required various “daughter” congregations to be started, all three remained connected to Trinity and Pastor Walther until his death in 1887. None would give up Walther as pastor, and so the *Gesamtgemeinde* (congregational association) allowed Walther to be considered pastor of all four churches, while each church had its own local pastor. That association was dissolved shortly after his death. Thus, he was pastor not only of Trinity, but Holy Cross (on South Jefferson), Bethlehem, and Immanuel. In the 1850s he became the editor of the Synod’s first purely theological journal written more for theologians, *Lehre und Wehre* (Doctrine and Defense). Walther held the tradition of “Luther Hour” which was after dinner in the dining hall at Concordia Seminary on Friday nights. In 39 Fridays during the last two years of his life, he presented lectures on *The Proper Distinction of the Law and the Gospel* in 25 Theses. Two students from this period later transcribed their notes into book form by the same name nearly 15 years following Walther’s death. This book is still required reading for LCMS Seminary students to this day. He wrote hymns, the most famous is the Easter Hymn, “He’s Risen, He’s Risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord” found in several Lutheran hymnals including our own *Lutheran Service Book*. His book, *Kirche und Amt* (Church and Ministry) articulates the matters dealt with back during the Altenburg debates in 1841 and is also required reading for Seminary students. His book on Pastoral Theology (like a handbook on how to handle practical matters in parish ministry) was standard until replaced by the English version authored by Professor W. Arndt in the 1930s. Professor Arndt’s work relied heavily on Walther’s German, but also updated it to reflect the issues of the times.

Next Month: Two Seminaries, one church.

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

Eight ladies met on September 8th for the Ladies Aid/LWML meeting at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. After the meeting was called to order the LWML Pledge was said by the group. The topic entitled "Promise, Power, Peace" was given by Annette Warsaw. Roll call was answered by a favorite job. Marsha Warsaw, substitute secretary, read the minutes from the July meeting, and they were approved as read. The mites were collected. Connie Warsaw gave the treasurers report which showed a balance of \$3119.99. The treasurer's report was approved. There was not any correspondence to read. Wilma Grussing reported on cards she had sent in the last two months. Terri Hooker reported we have completed ninety-two quilts. The completed quilts will be taken to Thomasboro for the Lutheran World Relief truck in late October. The group approved to send a \$200 check for shipping expenses. The group decided not to quilt in October, so the next quilting dates were announced as November 7th and November 9th. In old business Brenda Hendricks thanked Sue VanWakeman and Deb Lammle who planned the August luncheon which was held at Jacks Café in LeRoy on August 10th. Four members and two guests enjoyed a great meal. President Hendricks explained how our group helped the Bellflower Methodist ladies serve the Gary Bidner funeral dinner. She then thanked all the members who supported the adopted family since our last meeting. The first item of new business was a discussion on the delay of being assigned a new adopted Seminary student. After several phone calls the name has not been given to the group. We had previously voted to give \$75 a month from September to May. President Hendricks will continue to contact them. LWML Sunday was planned for October 2nd as the next item of business. Two ladies volunteered to be greeters and two volunteered to be readers. Terri Hooker will decorate the church pews with the quilts. A short skit will be presented at the end of the worship service which is a conversation between a wallet and a mite box. The Danville Zone Fall Rally will be held on September 13th in Cissna Park and Connie Warsaw and Brenda Hendricks will attend it. A discussion followed on getting visits made to our shut-ins for the next few months. The meeting was concluded by the ladies making 8 school kits and 8 health kits for Orphan Grain Train. These kits will be added to the other Danville Zone church's kits to make 80 for the campaign of "What's Your 80?" in celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the National LWML. All of the supplies that were packed were purchased with a Thrivent Action Team Card. Brenda Edwards and Terri Hooker served delicious "munchies" before the meeting. The next meeting will be on November 10th at 1:30 PM. Connie Warsaw will have the topic, and Deb Lammle and Sue VanWakeman will serve refreshments.

Ladies Aid/LWML Sunday

Ladies Aid/LWML Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, October 2. The 2022 theme is "For Us and With Us" based on Romans 8:31-39. LWML Sunday is celebrated annually in Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod churches. Some of the Ladies Aid/LWML members will serve as greeters and readers on that Sunday. Some of the 92 quilts and some of the many dresses that the ladies have made for mission projects will be displayed in the church. Mite boxes will be available for all members on the back elder pew if members would like to donate to the many mission projects of the Central Illinois District LWML and the National LWML.

October Lawn Mowers

The week of October 2 – 8 – Shaun Zimmerman

The week of October 9 - 15 – Steve Martin

The week of October 16 - 22 – Brenda Hendricks

The week of October 23 - 29–Lee Whitehouse



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

Storm Damage



Between midnight and 1 AM on Monday, September 19, the area around the church was hit with a powerful storm which brought hail and high winds. Many limbs and leaves were scattered through the church yard as well as one pine tree being taken out by its roots. Thank you to the members who cleaned up the mess. Thank you especially to Don and Connie Warsaw, Steve and Susie Martin, and Brenda Hendricks who cut branches, loaded them on the trailer, and raked the areas around the church and hall. Thank you to Steve Martin for hauling away the trunk of the tree and Don Warsaw for removing the large stump from the fallen pine tree north of the hall. We are very grateful that no major structure damage was done to any of the buildings on the church property. However, an insurance adjuster was contacted to inspect the roofs for hail damage. The report of this inspection will be given at the quarterly voters meeting later this month.

Council Meeting

The church council will meet on Wednesday, October 19th at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall. There will also be a Quarterly Voters Meeting on Sunday, October 23rd after the worship service.

Reformation

Within the Lutheran Church, Reformation Day is officially referred to as THE FESTIVAL OF THE REFORMATION. Until the 20th century, most Lutheran churches celebrated Reformation Day on October 31, regardless of which day of the week it occurred. Today, most Lutheran churches transfer the festival on or before October 31. The liturgical color of the day is red, which represents the Holy spirit and the Martyrs of the Christian Church. Luther's hymn "A Mighty Fortress is our God" is traditionally sung on this day. The Reformation will be celebrated in the regular worship service on Sunday, October 30th.

Wiener Roast



Thirty-eight members and guests enjoyed the wiener roast on the evening of Sunday, September 25th. Because of the breezy weather, the fire pit was set up south of the fellowship hall. The wieners were roasted by Don Warsaw, Jeff Warsaw, James Amdor, and John Grussing. Everyone brought dishes to share so a great potluck was offered to all. This is the first potluck since the Reformation Fest in 2019 due to COVID restrictions. After everyone enjoyed the meal and some fellowship, Pastor McPike gave a short presentation about his role as Chaplain at Carle Hospital in Urbana and explained the "Advanced Care Planning" program at Carle. He handed out forms to those interested in completing to

appoint power of attorney for health care. The children enjoyed roasting marshmallows at the end of the evening around the fire.

Have a safe harvest!



October 3 – Bill Amdor
 October 7 – Steve Martin
 October 8 – Eric Zimmerman
 October 12 – John Gercken
 October 12 – Addison Warsaw
 October 15 – David Kunde
 October 19 – Jordan Bidner
 October 19 – Greg Johnson
 October 22 – Greg Warsaw
 October 24 – Pastor Jeffrey McPike
 October 28 – Katherine Masko

Date	Worship	Bible Class	Sunday School
September 4	34	9	1
September 11	44	No class	2
September 18	44	12	2
September 25	41	11	3

October Anniversaries

October 9, 1982 - Barb and John Gercken
 October 10, 1981 - Deborah and Dennis Martin
 October 31, 2005 - Theresa and Rick Wilson

Pastor Appreciation Month

(Partially taken from Hope for the Heart website)

October is Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Month. We are so thankful for Pastor McPike and Pastor Ehlers for their tireless, selfless service to our church and communities. The Bible says ... *"Honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work."* (1 Thessalonians 5:12–13 NLT)

Please take a moment to pray for our pastors. Pray for their:

Joy – that God will give them deep joy in His love and in His promises, regardless of circumstances

Rest – that God will help them rest well each night, help them know when to have boundaries, and that they would rest in the hope of the gospel

Strength – that God will give them His strength each day to fulfill all He has called them to do and courage to share His Word boldly in these difficult days

Wisdom – that God will give guidance and discernment as they study, preach, teach, counsel, and shepherd the flock God has put under their care

Protection – that God will protect our pastors, as well as their marriages and families from spiritual attack, discouragement, and burnout

As you feel led, consider writing them a note. Their addresses are as follows: Pastor Jeffrey McPike, 112 West Jefferson Street, Philo, Illinois 61864 and Pastor Don Ehlers, 1506 Theodore Drive, Unit B, Champaign, Illinois 61821