

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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

December 2022



From Pastor McPike's Desk...

Last month's celebration of the 175th Anniversary of the LCMS talked about the two seminary system of the church. The "Practical" seminary, founded in Bavaria and Fort Wayne, moved to St. Louis during the Civil War, and then to Springfield, where it was for around 100 years. Changing conditions with higher education then caused it to need to move again, this time... home!

The "Practical Seminary" ended up in Springfield at the old *Illinois State University* Campus, formerly located there. The transfer of the program to Springfield in the 1870s became necessary because of a few reasons. The two programs were both growing, causing the St. Louis campus to become overcrowded. Additionally, the very different approaches of the two schools, St. Louis with such a great emphasis on academics and the "Practical" program emphasizing making pastors caused friction between the two faculties and student bodies.

The "Practical Seminary" goes home

The system of two year colleges and a two year senior college for seminary bound students was quickly becoming outdated by the mid-20th Century. School teacher educations more and more required Baccalaureate Degrees (or higher), which were not available at the Junior college (2-year) level. Junior colleges began expanding their programs to four-years. By the early 1970s, Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, had become an unnecessary dinosaur. That program merged with the program at Ann Arbor, Michigan to make the four year program there.

But what about the beautiful campus in Fort Wayne that was barely 15 years old? Two forces called for another move of the "Practical" seminary. One, the campus at Springfield had been occupied for 100 years and the aging buildings were needing more and more maintenance. Second, the Kramer family had gifted the land in Fort Wayne for the construction of a Senior College with "strings attached" – namely, that the Synod could never sell the land; when it was no longer used for a Synodical school, it reverted to Kramer family descendants.

Because of this, in 1976, the "Practical" seminary "went home" to Fort Wayne and moved on to the former Senior College campus. The Springfield campus was sold.

Seminary programs "Normalized"

The Springfield seminary was a source of controversy within the Synod, as for nearly 75 years

very little in the way of academics was emphasized. It truly was a Lutheran pastor's "trade school", teaching mostly "how-to", without a lot of background academics. This caused the LCMS to consider elimination of the Springfield program in the early 1900s. Twice, the Synod in convention voted on whether or not to close Springfield. Both motions were narrowly defeated. Yet Springfield saw this as an indication that the seminary's future depended on adoption of tougher standards. Before 1930 there were basically no entrance requirements. If a man came to Springfield without a high school education, he was required to take more courses to make up for that. By the 1940s, a high school diploma was mandatory, and shortly after that, at least 2 years of college was strongly encouraged. The length of the program was flexible, depending on the amount of education an incoming student already had.

One thing that set the Fort Wayne/Springfield Seminary apart from the St. Louis Seminary was this: A man wanting to be a pastor could apply from practically any time in life. Those having no college at all usually were educated for six years. Those with some college or a college degree went for a shorter period of time.

By the 1960s, Master of Divinity Degree was offered at Springfield, but the requirements and prerequisites were quite different than St. Louis. Even when I applied in the early 1980s, Fort Wayne required only 12 hours of Greek as a pre-seminary course. Applicants not having basic courses in Old Testament, New Testament, and Lutheran Theology were required to take those, but they could apply toward the Master of Divinity Degree.

By contrast, the St. Louis Seminary, even as late as the early 1980s, was not keen on taking students that had not matriculated through one of the Concordia Colleges with a study in pre-seminary. St. Louis also required 12 hours of Greek, 9 hours of Biblical Hebrew, and about 9 hours of Old Testament and New Testament Bible proficiency and 3 hours of basic theological study. It goes without saying that a "second career" student, or one coming from, say, Purdue University in Engineering (like I did) found Fort Wayne to be quite welcoming and St. Louis to be quite closed off.

Having two schools offering the same degree with a rather different set of requirements for positions within the church is not the best way to serve the church. Thus, by the mid-1980s, the degree programs of the two schools were "normalized". The number of hours required for graduation, prerequisites and the like were in flux during the time I was attending the Fort Wayne Seminary from 1984-1988. Today, both schools are roughly the same. Fort Wayne tightened up academics and normalized pre-requisites. St. Louis, of obvious necessity, became more welcoming to second-career students. (If this change had not been made, by 1990 their student body would have been quite small!)

As the size of the church shrinks, along with the number of pastors that are needed, the question that has been tossed about is ... does the LCMS continue to need BOTH seminaries? (In 1988, Fort Wayne placed 95 pastors in the LCMS ministry; in spring, 2022, only 106 were placed from BOTH schools). On a very practical level, both student bodies could fit on the St. Louis campus, but there are other considerations. One is simple tradition. The church has always had two seminaries, so that should continue. (The old "we can't change anything"). Another practical consideration is the same thing that caused the "Practical" Seminary to go home in the 1970s... if that school closed, the church would lose that property to the Kramer Family. Overall, there is a larger concern... that two seminaries, each with their own unique theological faculties, provide an important check and balance to the doctrinal stability of the LCMS. That became apparent in the 1970s with a movement known as "Seminex".

Tune in next month – for the story of "Seminex".

Our Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Jeri Bidner who passed away on Saturday, November 12, at the age of 101. May God provide comfort and care for those who mourn her loss. Her funeral was held on Friday, November 18, at this church followed by her burial at Grandview Memorial Gardens in rural Champaign. Jeri taught Sunday School for 63 years. In 2011 Jeri received the Central Illinois District Volunteer Teacher of the Year Award at the age of 90. Jeri has had the distinction of being the oldest member of our congregation for many years.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes



On Sunday, November 20th, the Sunday School children packed twenty-four boxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Terri Hooker and Connie Warsaw purchased the toys, personal care items, and school supplies using Thrivent Action Team cards. A twelve lesson program entitled **The Greatest Journey** is added to the box at the headquarters before they are shipped to many countries. This program teaches the children about Jesus and His great love for them. Right after church the boxes were taken to Gibson City Bible Church which is the nearest collection place to Osman. Part of the shipping cost for each box was also paid with a Thrivent Action Team Card. Helping with the project are from left to right – Bella Ford, James Amdor, and Blaine Martin.

Church Officers Needed

In January 2023 the church council will be needing names to fill the election ballot. The positions that will need to be filled on the council will be a secretary, two elders, one trustee, and one assistant financial secretary. Be thinking about how YOU can use your talents to serve the congregation. There is a sign-up sheet on the back bulletin board.

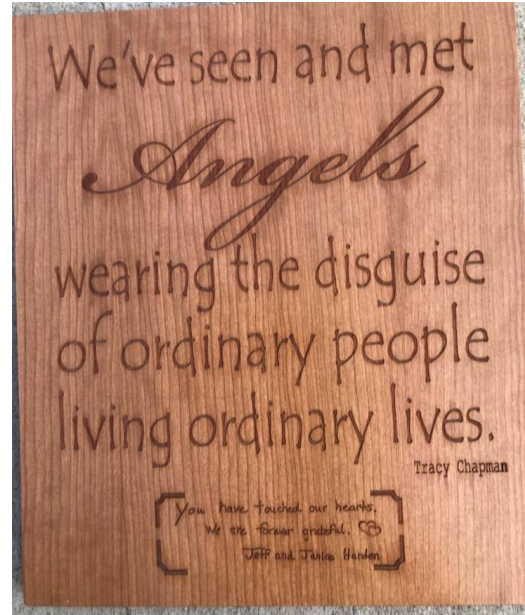
Offering Envelopes

If you have never had offering envelopes and would like some for 2023, please see Barb Whitehouse-Gercken or Brenda Hendricks. If you usually had offering envelopes and do NOT want any, please notify them, too. Please contact them by December 1st so the 2023 envelopes can be organized and prepared to be handed out.

Church Council Meeting

The next church council meeting will be on Wednesday, December 14th, at 6:30 PM. This is a change to avoid the week of Christmas.

Benefit Soup Supper



On Saturday, November 20th, a soup supper was held in the fellowship hall to benefit our recipient, Janice Harden, of Bellflower. Many volunteers helped serve a delicious meal of potato soup, oyster soup, chili, sandwiches, and desserts to 162 hungry attendees. There were also some carry out meals prepared. The total income from the freewill offering was \$8935. This money will be used to help with expenses for Janice's care as she struggles with cancer. The groceries were purchased with two \$250 Thrivent Action Team Cards. It was a great evening of delicious food and fellowship as "our team of volunteers" worked together to help someone in need in our community. On Wednesday, November 23, the Stewardship Committee presented Janice and her husband, Jeff with a check for \$11,620. This included the freewill offering plus the Thrivent Choice Dollars that some members donated in 2021. On the night of the benefit, the family presented the church with a beautiful wooden plaque which reads, "We've seen and met angels wearing the disguise of ordinary people living ordinary lives" which is a quote written by Tracy Chapman. At the bottom of the plaque written in Janice's own handwriting are these words, "You have touched our hearts. We are forever grateful". The plaque is displayed at the back of the church.

Christmas Treat Bags

Everyone who would like to contribute to the fruit and candy sacks which are given out on Christmas Eve, can give their money to one of the elders: Dwight Hooker, Jim VanWakeman, Don Warsaw, or Chase Zimmerman in the next three Sundays. A \$250 Thrivent Action Team Card has been applied for to also help pay for the goodies. The treat bags will be assembled on December 24 at 9 AM in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited to help assemble them.

Christmas Worship Services

Christmas Eve Worship Service – Saturday December 24th - 7:00 PM

Christmas Day Worship Service – Sunday, December 25th – 9:30AM

(No Bible Class or Sunday School)

Poinsettias

Please sign up on the bulletin board at the back of the church if you wish to donate a poinsettia for the altar for the Christmas season. The flowers will be displayed on December 24th, December 25th, and January 1st. After the service in January, the flowers may be taken home. The cost is uncertain at this time so watch for details.

Church Decorating

For Sunday, November 29th, the tree stands undecorated. Why isn't the tree decorated? We decorate a bit gradually to remind ourselves that the "first Advent" – or the entire Old Testament history, was thousands of years long. When someone important is coming, we want to prepare. How do we prepare for Christ? We repent of our sins and celebrate the forgiveness that Christ gives to us. Advent is not popular because it is not popular to look at ourselves as sinners needing forgiveness. Advent does not look forward to the coming of a holiday, but to the coming of our Savior. On the last day, it will not be Jesus as a cute baby. It will be Jesus as judge. We who believe and trust in Him for forgiveness will be grateful to hear our sentence of acquittal. Many will not fare well. And so the church has a season before the celebration of Christ's first coming (Christmas) to remind ourselves that He will come again. **On Saturday, December 3, at 9 AM the congregation is invited to help add decorations to the tree and also to put up the greenery and outside decorations.**

Celebrating the Reformation



On Sunday, October 30th a Reformation skit was performed to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the New Testament printed in German.



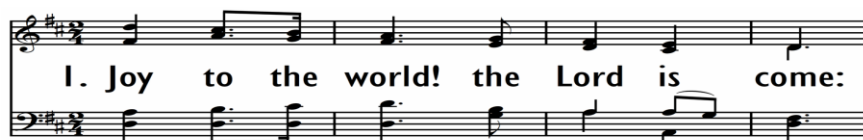
This past September was the 500th Anniversary of the first printing of Luther's translation of the New Testament in German. Luther left Wartburg castle in May 1522, and in September, the first editions of his newly translated Testament were being printed. This was the focus of the Reformation this year as Pastor McPike wrote a skit which took place as the sermon. Pastor portrayed Martin Luther, Addison Warsaw and Annette Warsaw portrayed two questioning citizens, and Brenda Hendricks was the narrator. Pastor's wife, Sharon, provided all of the apparel.

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

Seven ladies met on November 10th for the Ladies Aid/LWML meeting at 1 PM in the fellowship hall. After the meeting was called to order the LWML Pledge was said by the group. The topic entitled “Reaping a Bountiful Harvest” was given by Connie Warsaw. Roll call was answered by a favorite dessert. Marsha Warsaw, substitute secretary, read the minutes from the September meeting, and they were approved as read. The mites were collected. Connie Warsaw gave the treasurers report which showed a balance of \$2694.99. The treasurer’s report was approved. The correspondence consisted of a thank you from Deb Lammle for the food that was taken to her and also a detailed letter from our newly adopted Seminary student, Nicholas Brusick who is from the Peoria area. Wilma Grussing reported on cards she had sent in the last two months. Terri Hooker reported that we sent 21 quilts to Orphan Grain Train and 72 quilts to Lutheran World Relief this last month. Terri and Dwight Hooker took the ones to Flatville for the Lutheran World Relief truck and Brenda Hendricks took the ones to Springfield for the Orphan Grain Train truck. Six women donated their time during 17 quilting sessions to make these quilts. The next quilting dates are in January. There are 51 dresses made for Dresses for Africa. They will be sent when the amount reaches 80. In old business Brenda Hendricks thanked all the ladies who helped with LWML Sunday in October. Connie Warsaw gave a report on the fall rally that was held in Cissna Park in September. Brenda Hendricks then thanked all the members who supported the adopted family since our last meeting. The group approved to support two new local families next year with alternating months. The families approved were Amy Jamison and family of Bellflower and Hannah Duncan and son of rural Bellflower. The first item of new business was a discussion on who to give our end of the year donations to. A motion was made to give \$100 to Lutheran Children and Family Services to help buy items for Christmas for children waiting to be adopted. The second item of new business was the Christmas Dinner on December 8th. After some discussion it was decided to have a potluck at the fellowship hall. There will not be a gift exchange between members, but rather donate to a hat, mitten, and glove drive. These collected items will be donated locally. Sue VanWakeman served a delicious dessert prepared by Deb Lammle before the meeting. The next meeting will be on February 9th at 1:30 PM. The 2023 yearly booklets will be printed in January which will list the schedule for ladies giving topics and being hostesses.

New Chasuble

The special garment that is the same color as the altar paraments which is worn only during communion by the pastor is called a “Chasuble”. The chasuble was worn by both laity and clergy alike until about the 6th Century, after which it gradually became a special garment worn by the pastor when celebrating communion. Pastor McPike has a full set that match all the other colors of the church year, but until this fall, he never had a blue one. On Sunday, November 29th, the blue one was used for the first time. The use of it represents the special nature of the sacrament itself, which is why it is typically only worn during the communion portion of the service.





Myron Zimmerman.....12-02
 David Hasty.....12-05
 Debbie Martin12-09
 Darren Peyton12-12
 Alicia Haggin12-17
 Diana Zimmerman12-21
 Nathan Hooker12-25
 Deb Johnson12-28
 John Grussing12-31



Martha and Darwin Warsaw – 12-31-1966

Statistics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Bible Class</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
October 30	42	9	3
November 6	62	8	0
November 13	37	11	0
November 20	48	8	3
November 20	22		

There will NOT be Sunday School or Bible Class on Sunday, December 25th or Sunday, January 1st.

Advent Wreath



Advent wreaths are circular, representing God's infinite love, and are usually made of evergreen leaves, which "represent the hope of eternal life brought by Jesus Christ". Within the Advent wreath are candles that generally represent the four weeks of the Advent season as well as "the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus Christ" although each of the candles can be attributed its own significance as well. In one version of such interpretation, the candles specifically symbolize the Christian concepts of hope (week one), peace (week two), joy (week three), and love (week four). Many Advent wreaths also have a white candle in the center to symbolize the

arrival of Christmastide, sometimes known as the "Christ candle." It is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The Christ candle is colored white because this is the traditional festal color in the Western Church. Another interpretation states that the first candle is the Messiah or Prophecy candle (representing the prophets who predicted the coming of Jesus), the second is the Bethlehem candle (representing the journey of Joseph and Mary), the third represents the shepherds and their joy, and the fourth is the Angel's candle, representing peace.

(From [Wikipedia](#))