

# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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

**March 2023**



## From Pastor McPike's Desk...

*Though it is now March of 2023, this column has focused on the history of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod from before its beginnings through the present as a way of celebrating the Synod's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which was last year. While we are nearing 176 years after April 26, 1847, when the Synod came into being with the signing of the constitution at First St. Paul Lutheran Church, Chicago, we continue to look at various aspects of this church body to which we belong.*

*What happened to German?*

“THEY SHOULD LEARN TO SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE.” This is unfortunately commonly heard today in reference to the many who have come from south of the US-Mexican border. It is also true that Spanish has become quite common in larger cities as well as areas where there are jobs that appeal less to established white Americans and more to those who have more recently arrived.

There is, however, another time in history when those words were spoken, and for those of us of German descent, they were spoken about our own immigrant ancestors. Indeed, there was a time when German was quite commonly spoken in whole communities in the United States. In the 1790s, approximately one third of the US population were German speakers. There is a legend about Frederick Muhlenberg who was the son of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, organizer of the first Lutheran body known as the *Pennsylvania Ministerium* in the 1700s (a very early predecessor to the LCA, later ELCA). According to the legend, Representative Muhlenberg in 1790 cast the deciding vote against German becoming an official language of the USA. However, such a vote was never taken, as the bill was never advanced.

Large waves of immigrants almost always take at least two generations to move from their native language to the language of their new country. Earlier editions of this history mentioned that German immigrants brought both language and culture with them and practiced it. Those who came for religious reasons, such as the Saxons to Missouri and Bavarians to Michigan, saw a close link between German culture and orthodox Lutheran theology. Keep in mind that these immigrants came here primarily because they wanted to retain “true” orthodox Lutheranism. Thus, they saw the need to also retain the language of Lutheranism, or at least what they understood as such, and that was German.

Also there comes a point in the lives of many adults (including, unfortunately, this author) when a new language is so much harder to learn. Among the things I would change if I could go back in time, would be to take German in high school.

So, what seems typical with many immigrant populations, at least to the US, is that many of the immigrant older adults never really learn to speak English very well. The children in those populations grow up fluent in their native tongue but quickly learn English. By the third generation, there are those who can remember how “their grandparents spoke German”, remembering some words and phrases, but not very fluent in the language of their forbearers.

Pastor C.F.W. Walther was an adult when he immigrated in 1839. Rumor has it that he never became very good at English and did not even like the sound of it. Actually, he did not have to. All classes at *Concordia Seminary* were taught in German, and services at Trinity and the other St. Louis congregations who claimed him as pastor continued in German. The other key figure in the formation of the LCMS, Rev. J.K.W. Löhe, never left Germany – never even traveled to the US, not once! Indeed, Pastor Löhe showed his disdain for English by referring to it as a “vile sounding tongue”. (Interesting, as many non-German speakers find the guttural, abrupt, staccato rhythm, and sound of German sounding rather harsh!) At the same time, that group of Germans learned lessons from previous groups of Germans who had come to America a generation or more earlier.

What were those lessons? As previously mentioned, there were numerous German immigrants to North America before the major immigrations beginning the LCMS in the 1840s. As stated above, these would gather in groups for worship as German Lutherans because that was the faith of their homeland. The second generation, being fluent in German but also English, was able to also participate in worship and other activities with the older generations. However, as these immediate descendants, fluent in both German and English, would meet and marry someone that spoke only English... there was a problem. Also... as stated above, Generation #3 could understand some German (when they were at Grandparents to visit) but not well, and otherwise spoke only English. And so, in these earlier pre-LCMS German immigrations, by the third generation there was a call for English language worship, catechism and Bible study materials. Early American Lutherans ended up unfortunately doing what was expedient and would simply “borrow” such materials from neighboring English speaking churches. In other words, they used materials that had a non-Lutheran theological foundation. This led to an erosion of Lutheranism among those immigrant descendants who found that how one worships and prays is how one tends to believe. For example, one would not expect Bible study materials or hymns of the local Reformed congregation to teach or express the doctrine of the Real Presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper. As such, by the third and fourth generations, even congregations that retained the name Lutheran were quickly losing the key teachings and identity of being Lutheran.

The LCMS carefully considered this. They understood that no matter how much they loved their German language and culture, in order to remain truly Lutheran, materials must be carefully and accurately translated from German into English, so as to be available to generations of Lutherans who would not even speak German. Lutheran hymnody has a lot of solid doctrine. Luther’s Small Catechism had been used since it was first written in 1529 as the standard instruction book to teach the faith. These things needed to be available in English.

The other thing that the early LCMS leadership knew was an old axiom advanced in writings

of an early Christian author by the name of Prosper of Aquitaine. In Latin, it is *Lex orandi, lex credendi*. It has been variously used over the centuries, but for Lutherans it has come to mean “how one worships is how one believes.” It is the spiritual equivalent to “you are what you eat”. Thus, while the early leaders of the LCMS hated the idea of worship, catechism, Bible study and the like in English, they also saw the need to be ready for the day when it would happen, with doctrinally sound materials translated from German into English. The large number of Germans immigrating to the United States kept this at bay for a number of years (as up until the First World War, there was always a sizable population of first Generation Germans to keep German language alive). Two world wars were needed to literally SHOVE the LCMS from German to mostly English. Before that time, congregations using English did so as a second or additional service.

*Concordia Publishing House* printed materials in both English and German. In 1914, 85% of the CPH materials were in German. By 1921, that number had fallen to less than 10%. Still, it took a second war to make the change more complete. The town of my first parish - Norfolk, Nebraska - was settled by Germans in the 1860s. In 1919, there were two German Speaking Lutheran congregations, one LCMS and the other WELS (Wisconsin Synod). Keep in mind... this was AFTER the end of WWI. Ten families of the LCMS congregation, Christ Lutheran, petitioned that congregation to call a second pastor to preach, teach and catechize in English. They were denied. And so, they asked for a peaceful release from Christ Lutheran, bought property a block and a half up the street and established Grace Lutheran Church (my first congregation). Grace was an English only Lutheran congregation from the start. There was such an appetite for English among Lutherans in Norfolk that Grace grew from a congregation of ten families in 1919 to several hundred eight years later, building the large, marvelous structure that they have today and dedicating it in 1929, ten years after their founding. The other congregations adopted English more slowly. Indeed, the last regular German service was held at Christ Lutheran Church, Norfolk, in 1967!

### **Next month: The hymnals of the LCMS**

## **Readers**

Before COVID we had volunteers who read the Old Testament Reading and the Epistle Reading each Sunday from the lectern. If there is enough interest, this practice is ready to be initiated again. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet by the flower chart on the side bulletin board. The Sundays are listed, and the next month's inserts are tacked next to the signup sheet.

## **Old History Books**

When the first history book of the church was printed in 1995 there were some issues with the glue not holding the pages together. A member of the congregation has taken a few of these books and had them spiral bound. If you care to have one, you can pick one up on the back elder pew.

## **Thank You**

Thank you so much for all of the prayers, cards, visits, and meals that our church friends have given to us. Especially thanks to the Sunday School children who tied a beautiful soft fleece blanket for me. Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts, hearts, and prayers. May God bless you with peace and joy. Butch and Shirley Sprau

## **Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting**

Eight ladies met on February 9th for the first Ladies Aid/LWML meeting of 2023 at 1 PM in the fellowship hall. After the meeting was called to order the LWML Pledge was said by the group. The topic was given by Marsha Warsaw and was taken from the book entitled Jesus written by Max Lucado. Roll call was answered with a Bible verse on love. Marsha Warsaw, substitute secretary, read the minutes from the November meeting, and they were approved as read. The mites were collected. Connie Warsaw gave the treasurer's report which showed a balance of \$2259.99. The treasurer's report was approved. The correspondence consisted of a thank you from the Jeri Bidner family for the memorial given to the church, a thank you from the Lutheran Children and Family Services for the Christmas donation, 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 few months. Terri Hooker reported that the group has completed 38 quilts since last October. 62 pillowcase dresses for Dresses for Africa have been completed. The group hopes to reach 80 by May for the "What's Your 80?" campaign for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national LWML. In old business the adopted family was discussed. The group voted to help Amy Jamison and Family of Bellflower the first six months of the year and Hannah Duncan and son of Bellflower the second half of the year. President Hendricks thanked the ladies who donated hats, mittens, and gloves during December. She delivered them to Salt Creek Resource Center in Farmer City. The group voted to provide a soup supper before the Ash Wednesday church service with serving from 5:30 to 6:30. The group discussed serving the Champaign Zone Pastors on March 14<sup>th</sup> in the fellowship hall. Breakfast items and lunch will be served. The Danville Zone Spring Fling will be hosted by our ladies in March. Everyone was encouraged to help as more details will follow. The CID convention will be held on April 28-29 in Quincy. Our group will need a voting delegate. The National Convention will be in Milwaukee in June. Two from our group have registered. Delicious cookies and a hot chocolate bar prepared by Wilma Grussing and Brenda Hendricks was enjoyed before the meeting. The next meeting will be March 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. Connie Warsaw will have topic and Terri Hooker and Diana Zimmerman will serve as hostesses. The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

## **Quilting Dates**



The ladies will be quilting on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM and March 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM. Several Thrivent Action Team cards have been used to buy the filler for the center layer of the quilts. The quilts will be given to Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train in the fall. All ladies of the congregation are invited. No quilting experience is needed as tying knots is the skill that is required to make a quilt that will bring a smile to many needy people in other countries.

## **Time Change**

Daylight saving time will begin on the second Sunday in March, which is March 12<sup>th</sup>. This means we will all need to move our clocks up one hour!

## **Thriven Choice Dollars**

With Thrivent Choice, you can support the causes you care about to change lives by recommending where some of Thrivent's charitable outreach funds go. Since the program's inception in 2010, eligible Thrivent members have used this program to direct more than \$520 million to churches and nonprofit organizations nationwide. If you still have Choice dollars available from 2022, the deadline to designate those funds is March 31, 2023. It is easy to do. Simply go to [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) and search for the church or organization that you care to help. Or you can call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and say "choice dollars" at the automation. Eligibility in the program for Thrivent members is based on insurance premiums and contract values.

## **Lenten Schedule**

The Ash Wednesday church service with Holy Communion was held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will NOT be any other Wednesday night Lenten services. Maundy Thursday service will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM and Good Friday service will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. The resurrection of our Savior will be celebrated on Easter morning, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7 AM.

## **Mowing List**

Yes, spring will be here soon!! Attached to this newsletter is the mowing list for 2023. If you cannot mow on your designated date, please trade with someone on the list. If you cannot mow, please let John Grussing know one week in advance at 309-498-5080 . There is also a list posted on the back bulletin board. We appreciate everyone who helps our church in this way.

## **Newsletter On-Line**

Every member has the option of receiving a printed newsletter or reading the newsletter on-line. If you chose to view the newsletter on-line you must go to the church website. It is not sent to personal email addresses. The church website is [www.osmanlutheran.org](http://www.osmanlutheran.org). At the top of the page, click on the info tab. At this screen you can choose recorded sermons, bulletins, or newsletters. Choose the date of the item you want. If you want the online version and not the printed issue, please let the church secretary know.

## **New History Book**

The church history book which covers the years from 1995 – 2021 will be printed soon. The cost to our members has increased from \$20 to \$25 per book due to the length of the book and the increased price of paper. The money will be collected when the books are delivered. If you want a book and have not signed up for one, please notify Connie Warsaw or Brenda Hendricks. There will not be many extra ones ordered.



Terri Hooker .....03-02  
 Mike Miller .....03-06  
 Brenda Hendricks .....03-09  
 Shirley Sprau .....03-14  
 Joy Johnson .....03-19  
 Shaun Zimmerman .....03-20  
 Marsha Warsaw .....03-21  
 Nikki Gallier .....03-25



Shirley and Butch Sprau .....03-03-1973  
 Kari and Chris Genzel .....03-10-2006  
 Brenda and Jerry Edwards .....03-27-1982  
 Joy and Skinner Johnson .....03-31-1979

## Statistics

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Worship Service</u> | <u>Bible Class</u> | <u>Sunday School</u> |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| February 5  | 47                     | 13                 | 2                    |
| February 12 | 46                     | 11                 | 0                    |
| February 19 | 40                     | 14                 | 1                    |
| February 22 | 26                     | N/A                | N/A                  |



The pretzel is a traditional Lenten food that was actually invented to be a simple snack during the liturgical season of Lent. When early Christians would pray, they would cross their arms across their chest and touch each shoulder with the opposite hand. They also fasted very strictly during Lent, making their bread

with only water, flour, and salt. A monk shaped this simple Lenten bread in the form of praying arms and served it to children. The pretzel was born! **(Symbolic Holy Week and Easter Cookbook)**. Since Lent is a time of prayer, use the pretzel image as a reminder that we need to repent and ask for forgiveness during this season. Pray that we may see God's goodness and glory in new ways throughout this season of Lent. May we know the depths of God's love for us more fully. May we feel the pain that our Savior endured for our sake, and may we rejoice that sin was conquered when Christ rose to life again.

# **Mowing Schedule - 2023**

## **(Please try to mow between Thursday and Saturday)**

March 27 – April 1 – Jerry Edwards  
April 3 – 8 – Jim Van Wakeman  
April 10 – 15 – Brenda Hendricks  
April 17 – 22 – Dick Johnson  
April 24 – 29 – Darwin Warsaw  
May 1 – 6 – Butch Sprau  
May 8 - 13 – Mark Barrack  
May 15 – 20 – Kent Whitehouse  
May 22 - 27 – John Gercken  
May 29 – June 3 – Shane Zimmerman  
June 5 - 10 – John Lammle  
June 12 - 17 – Chase Zimmerman  
June 19 - 24 – Skinner Johnson  
June 26 - July 1 – Steve Warsaw  
July 3 – 8 – Jim Poppe  
July 10 - 15 – Lee Whitehouse  
July 17 - 22 – Jeff Warsaw  
July 24 - 29 – Leonard Delaney  
July 31 – August 5 – Bob Zimmerman  
August 7 – 12 – Don Warsaw  
August 14 – 19 – Roy Whitehouse  
August 21 – 26 – Kenneth Whitehouse  
August 28 – September 2 – Myron Zimmerman  
September 4 – 9 – Neil Bidner  
September 11 – 16 – Bryan Warsaw  
September 18 – 23 – John Grussing  
September 25 – 30 – Shaun Zimmerman  
October 2 – 7 – Steve Martin  
October 9 – 14 – Jerry Niemann  
October 16 – 21 – Brenda Hendricks  
October 23 – 28 – Dwight Hooker  
November - Trustees

