

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



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

October 2023



From Pastor McPike's Desk...

“A New Song”...

Starting in 2017, Lutheran churches all over the world have been celebrating “500th Anniversaries”. Starting it all off, of course, was the 500th Anniversary of the event most Lutherans look to as the beginning of the Reformation – the posting of the 95 Theses on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, on October 31, 1517. Since then, there have been numerous events that have also turned 500.

Being involved in the Reformation was dangerous. The church and state were so closely tied together that there were laws and punishments related to what a person believed and taught. Indeed, by 1521, Luther had a price on his own head, and for 13 months was hidden away by order of his prince, Frederick the Wise, at one of Frederick’s many castles, Wartburg Castle. Luther was basically protected from that point on, as long as he stayed in lands under the control of Frederick.

Others following Luther were not so lucky. Indeed, the “500th Anniversary” that we are looking at today is that of the execution of two Augustinian Monks in Belgium (then part of the Netherlands), Heinrich Voes and Johann Esch. Voes and Esch were executed in the marketplace in Brussels. The blood of these two martyrs ended up being the first shed for the cause of the Reformation. In those days, news of events was carried by wandering minstrels. Singing of ballads communicated such events. Once the news of the execution of these two monks reached Luther, he was inspired to write his first hymn, a ballad, of sorts, about the event. Luther also wrote the tune, which first appeared in Johann Walter’s 1924 Wittenberg Hymnal.

Luther was inspired to write the hymn recounting the martyrdom of these two Augustinian brothers because of a rumor circulating after the event claiming that before the flames consumed them, these two who were burned at the stake as heretics actually disavowed the cause of the Reformation. This being the first of Luther’s hymns inspired the reformer to write even more as the years would pass. Also, Luther came quickly to understand the power of music and words linked together to drive home important messages, confess faith and strengthen Christians.

On the following page is the translation by Tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001, published by Concordia Publishing House in 1982.

1. A new song now shall be begun, Lord, help us raise the banner
Of praise for all the Good He has done, For which we give Him honor.
At Brussels in the Netherlands God proved himself most truthful
And poured his gifts from open hands On two lads, martyrs youthful
Through who He showed His power.

2. One was named John, a name to show He stood in God's high favor.
His brother Henry, well we know, Was salt of truest savor.
This world they now have left behind And wear bright crowns of glory.
These sons of God had fixed the mind Upon the Gospel story,
For which they died as martyrs.

3. From where the Foe in ambush lay, He sent to have them taken
To force them God's Word to betray And make their faith be shaken.
Louvain sent clever men, who came In twisting nets to break them.
Hard played they at their crooked game, But from faith could not shake them.
God make their tricks look foolish.

4. Oh, they sang sweet, and they sang sour, They tried all their devices.
The youths stood firmly like a tow'r And overcame each crisis.
In filled the Foe with raging hate To know himself defeated
By these two lads, and he so great. His rage flared high, and heated
His plan to see them burning.

5. Their cloister-garments off they tore, Took off their consecrations;
All this the youths were ready for, They said Amen with patience.
They gave to God the Father thanks That He would them deliver
From Satan's scoffing and the pranks That make men quake and shiver
When he comes masked and raging.

6. The God they worshipped granted them A priesthood in Christ's order.
They offered up themselves to Him And crossed His kingdom's border
By dying to the world outright, With ev'ry falsehood breaking.
They came to heave pure and white; All monkery forsaking,
They turned away from evil.

7. A paper given them to sign – And carefully they read it –
Spelled out their faith in ev'ry line As they confessed and said it.
Their greatest fault was to be wise And say, "We trust God solely,
For human wisdom is all lies, We should distrust it wholly."
This brought them to the burning.

8. Then two great fires were set alight, While men amazed did ponder
The sight of youths who showed no fright; Their calm filled men with wonder.
They stepped into the flames with song. God's grace and glory praising.
The logic choppers puzzled long But found these new thing dazing
Which God was here displaying.

9. They now regret their deed of shame, Would like to slough it over;
They dare not glory in their blame, But put it under cover.
They feel their gnawing infamy, Their friends hear them deplore it.
God's spirit cannot silent be, But on Cain's guilty forehead
He marks the blood of Abel.

10. The ashes of the lads remain And scatter to all places.
They rise from roadway, street, and lane To mark the guilty faces.
The Foe had used a bloody had To keep these voices quiet,
But they resist in ev'ry land The Foe's rage and defy it.
The ashes go on singing.

11. And yet men still keep up their lies To justify the killing;
The Foe with falsehood ever tries To give the guilt clean billing.
Since these young martyrs' holy death Men still continue trying
To say, the youths with their last breath Renounced their faith when dying
And finally recanted.

12. Let men heap falsehoods all around, Their sure defeat is spawning.
We thank our God the Word is found, We stand it its bright dawning.
Our summer now is at the door, The winter's frost has ended,
Soft buds the flowers more and more, By our dear Gard'ner tended
Until He reaps His harvest.

Luther was deliberate in writing hymns. This one, about the first martyrs of the Reformation, tells their story and seeks to set the record straight in the midst of false rumors regarding the steadfastness with which they met death. Many of his other hymns sought to confess the truth of the Gospel in one way or another, be they hymns about the catechism, his hymn about the story of Christianity ("Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice") or his most well-known, "A Mighty Fortress is our God". Luther understood the value of music and words to tell stories and teach and confess the faith.

Church Council

The church council will meet on Wednesday, October 18th, at 6:30 in the fellowship hall. There will also be a Quarterly Voters 'Meeting on Sunday, October 22nd after the worship service.

Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Month. We are so thankful for Pastor McPike for his 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) As you feel led, consider writing Pastor a note of appreciation. His address is Pastor Jeffrey McPike, 112 West Jefferson Street, Philo, Illinois 61864.

Possible October Lawn Mowers

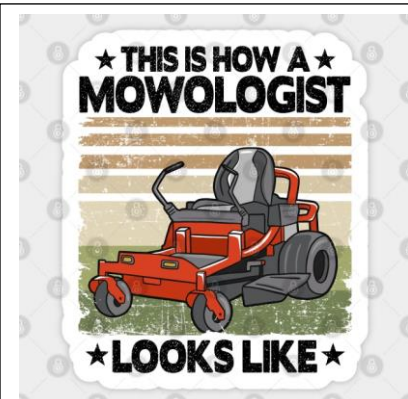
The week of October 2 – 7 – Steve Martin

The week of October 9 – 14 – Jerry Niemann

The week of October 16 – 21 – Brenda Hendricks

The week of October 23 – 28 – Dwight Hooker

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 March newsletter, there is one on the back bulletin board. If you have any questions, contact trustee John Grussing.



Benefit Soup Supper



Mark your calendars now for a benefit soup supper which will be held on Saturday, November 11, in the fellowship hall from 4:30 PM to 7 PM. The menu will include oyster soup, potato soup, chili, sandwiches, and desserts. The recipient will be Rob Gallier who has had several health issues in the last year which has forced him to be on dialysis which will eventually lead to a kidney transplant. There will be a food donation sheet posted on the back bulletin board in the next few weeks.

Operation Christmas Child Donations

Thank you to our members who graciously donated many school supplies for the Operation Christmas Child boxes this year. Two Thrivent Action Team cards will be used to complete the purchasing of supplies and the shipping expenses. The Sunday School children with the help of some adults will pack the boxes in November. The boxes will then be taken to Gibson City to the collection point. This project would not be possible without the donations from the congregation! Thank you!

Have a Safe Harvest!

Ladies Aid/LWML

Ten ladies met on September 14th for the Ladies Aid/LWML meeting at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. The group enjoyed delicious refreshments served by Deb Martin and Sue Van Wakeman before the meeting started. After the meeting was called to order, the LWML song was sung and the LWML Pledge was said by the group. A devotion centered on “complainers” was read by Annette Warsaw. Brenda Edwards led a thought provoking topic on the “what ifs” in life. Roll call was answered by a Bible verse on service. Marsha Warsaw read the minutes from the July meeting, and they were approved as read. The mites were collected. Connie Warsaw gave the treasurer’s report which showed a balance of \$2576.57. The treasurer’s report was approved. Correspondence was read from our adopted student, Nicholas Brusick, from the Peoria area. Wilma Grussing reported on cards she had sent in the last two months. Terri Hooker reported we have completed 119 quilts. Next quilting date was announced as November 6th.

In old business Brenda Hendricks thanked all the members who supported the adopted family since our last meeting. She also thanked Diana Zimmerman and Marsha Warsaw for organizing the great August Luncheon which was held at Yoders in Arthur. Diana Zimmerman gave an update on the cancer treatments that Amy Jamison is receiving. She is the mother in our previously adopted family. The food committees have taken food to three members of our congregation who have been ill or hospitalized recently.

In new business Brenda Hendricks informed the group of a benefit being held for Amy Jamison on Sunday, October 22nd, at the Farmer City American Legion Building. The group has been asked to bake goods for the bake sale. This opportunity will also be open to all members of the congregation. Baked goods can be brought to the hall on Sunday, October 22nd and will be transported to Farmer City. Terri Hooker and Deb Martin agreed to be the nominating committee to prepare the ballot for the election of officers which will be held at the November meeting. LWML Sunday will be celebrated on October 8th. Two readers and two greeters volunteered for that Sunday. The church will be decorated with quilts and dresses. Connie Warsaw gave a report on the Danville Zone Fall Rally which was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Danville on September 12th.

The next meeting will be on November 9th at 1:30 PM. Brenda Hendricks will have topic, and Terri Hooker and Deb Lammle will serve refreshments.

Ladies Aid/LWML Sunday

Ladies Aid/LWML Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, October 8th. The 2023 theme is “The King Is Coming” based on Psalm 24:7-10. 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 119 quilts and some of the many dresses that the ladies have made for mission projects will be displayed in the church. The flowers on the altar on that date will be purple and yellow which are the official LWML colors. Mite boxes will be available for all members on a table at the back of the church. All members can collect coins to donate to the many mission projects of the Central Illinois District LWML and the National LWML.

Wiener Roast

Thirty-seven members and guests enjoyed the wiener roast on the evening of Sunday, September 24th. A fire pit was set up on the gravel between the church and the fellowship hall. The wieners were roasted by Don Warsaw, Steve Warsaw, Bob Zimmerman and other assistants. Everyone brought food to share so a great potluck was offered to all. After everyone enjoyed the meal and some fellowship, Jenna Clemmons, a senior at Fisher High School, spoke on the many volunteer hours she has spent in the surrounding communities which have all raised money for different charities or local people in need. The Sunday School children have been tying fleece blankets, so James Amdor and Bella Ford presented Jenna a fleece blanket to give to a nine year old girl that Jenna helped by hosting a benefit with the Gibson City Swim Team. The little girl has been diagnosed with cancer and is presently receiving treatments. At the end of the evening some competitive games were played by the children and young adults!

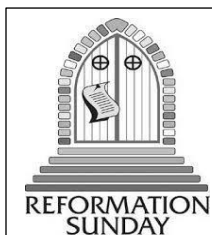


Reformation Fest

On Sunday, October 29th, all members and their guests are invited to a celebration of the Reformation in the fellowship hall beginning at 5 PM. There will be a program followed by a potluck which will feature German food. Start looking now for your favorite German recipe and come join in the fun! More details will follow in the bulletins.

Amy Jamison Benefit

A benefit is now scheduled for Sunday, October 22nd, at the Farmer City American Legion Building at 3 PM. Amy was diagnosed with breast cancer a few months ago and is undergoing treatments. There will be a silent auction, music, and bake sale. The Ladies Aid/LWML ladies are baking goods for this sale. All members of the congregation are welcome to donate baked goods. The baked goods can be brought to church and put in the hall on Sunday, October 22nd.



Reformation
Sunday
October 29th



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



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

Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
Sept 3	37	9	2
Sept 10	46	10	1
Sept 17	39	11	0
Sept 24	40	14	2