

# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



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

**February 2026**



## From Pastor McPike's Desk.....

First of all, please accept my thanks for the gifts, cards, and greetings given to Sharon and me over the holiday time. Also, the gift card from the congregation allowing me to purchase additional books for my electronic library is very much appreciated. Thank you all for all that you do!

Because the day commemorating St. Valentine falls in February, the second month of the year is thought of as the "love month." Most of the emphasis is on romantic love. However, the topic of love causes us to think about the love that God has for us.

Actually, there is more to that. God does not just love us. God is love. God is perfect love. God's love is in contrast with our love. God is love, and God simply loves without looking for how that love benefits Him. God is the perfect lover.

We are not perfect lovers. When we love, we expect that love to benefit us in some way. When we look at God's love and compare our love to God's love, we can see how far short that we fall. We are flawed creatures.

When God first created us, He made us "in His image." What does that mean? Simply, we were created to love perfectly just as God loves. Love without looking for what we are going to get out of it. Love without looking at "what's in it for me?" Perfect love. But of course, when sin came into the world, we lost the ability to perfectly love. Even though we believe that Jesus' death on the cross paid for our sins, when we try to live the life that God calls us to live, which means to love the way God loves us and God expects us to love, we find out very quickly that we cannot do it. We have sin within us, and we sin with everything we do, even when we try to love perfectly. We simply cannot.

Jesus concludes His "Sermon on the Mount" with a simple command. "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). That means, love perfectly. There is no "second best" or "nice try." God expects, God demands perfection.

God has achieved that perfection by His Son's life, death, and resurrection. He paid the penalty for our sins. His love reached to us to give us His forgiveness. His love reached to us in Jesus Christ being punished for all our incomplete love.

Love can certainly be celebrated this Valentine's Day. As you do that, however, stop for a moment and give thanks for the greatest LOVER of all... our great God Who gave Himself to save us.

## **Newly Installed Church Officers**

Due to the wintry weather, church was cancelled on January 25<sup>th</sup> so the annual congregational meeting which includes the election of officers was also cancelled. The meeting will take place on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, with the installation of officers to follow on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Since this missed the deadline for this newsletter, it will be included in the March newsletter.

## **Ladies Aid/LWML Ladies**

The Ladies Aid/LWML ladies will have their first meeting of 2026 on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. The topic will be given by Brenda Edwards, and the hostesses will be Marsha Warsaw and Diana Zimmerman. Roll call will be answered with a Bible verse on baptism. All ladies of the congregation are invited!

## **Printed Osman Yearly Updates**

After the last church history book was printed which covered the years through 2021, the idea was presented to print a multi-page supplement of each year that could be slipped into the back of the spiral bound history book. The 2022 and 2023 printed summaries of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Osman were made available at the quarterly congregational meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The 2024 edition is now available on the back elder pew. There is a signup sheet on the pew if all the copies have been taken. More will be printed as the need arises. The 2025 edition will hopefully be ready by the April quarterly meeting.

## **Council Meeting**

The usual third Wednesday of each month for the council meeting in February falls on Ash Wednesday, so the meeting will be rescheduled in the next couple of weeks.

## **Quilting Dates**

The next dates for quilting will be February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:30 PM February 4<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM in the fellowship hall. The quilts will be given to Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train in the fall. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend as no experience is needed! The quilts that the ladies made in 2025 were part of the 315,818 quilts that were sent to fifteen different countries and many places in the United States.

## **Lenten Season Schedule**

The Lenten Season will be upon us soon! We will observe Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup> with a 7 PM worship service. There will not be mid-week Lenten services, but there will be Holy Week services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The Easter service celebrating the risen Savior will be held at 7AM on April 5<sup>th</sup>. The details of the Easter breakfast will be discussed at the next council meeting.

## **Thrivent**

With Thrivent Choice you can support the causes you care about and 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 \$619 million to churches and nonprofit organizations nationwide. If you still have Choice dollars available from 2025, the deadline to designate those funds is March 31, 2026. 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. The Thrivent Choice dollars that are designated to our church are added to the free will offering from our benefit soup supper to add to the check given to our recipient.

## **Samaritan's Purse**



In November Terri Hooker and Connie Warsaw organized the packing of boxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child program. Some members of the congregation donated certain specified supplies for the boxes, and two Thrivent Action team cards were used to purchase supplies and pay for shipping costs. The latest email from Samaritan's Purse states the following – "Thank you for partnering with Operation Christmas Child to help take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to millions of boys and girls around the world. The 12,205,900 boxes will help open doors for us

to reach even more children with God's love in the new year. These shoeboxes go to the very ends of the earth – from jungles to deserts, from megacities to remote villages. One of the most powerful testimonies we have received recently comes from one of our teams deep in the Amazon rainforest of Peru. The Chapra people are an indigenous tribe, far removed from the modern life in many ways. Recently, more than 1,000 Chapra children received shoebox gifts, most of them hearing about our Savior for the very first time from the twelve lesson program entitled **The Greatest Journey** which is added to the boxes at the headquarters before the boxes are shipped." And our congregation was a part of this outreach so thank you once again to the students who packed the boxes, the members who donated the supplies, and Terri and Connie for organizing this mission project!

## **Summer Vicar – 2012**

In June, July, and August of 2012 our church helped educate a Seminary student in a summer vicarage. His name was Daniel Grimmer. In the latest "Lutheran Witness" he wrote a 3-page article entitled "Remember The Sabbath Day". I contacted him by email and this is part of his response. "I remember all of you at Osman very well. I still tell my wife, Christine, that the summer of 2012 was one of the best summers of my life. We are a family with four children now with the youngest, Joanna being born July 3, 2025. Our other children are Adam – 9 years old, Simeon – 7 years old and Martha – 4 years old. I celebrated ten years in the ministry in July. We are still in Mitchell, South Dakota." There is a family photo on the back bulletin board.

## **Summary of January Council Meeting**

Nine elected church officers attended the meeting on January 21st. Chairman John Lammle called the meeting to order. Debbie Lammle read the minutes from the last council meeting. The minutes were approved as read. Terri Hooker read the treasurer's report with total expenses for the month as \$7406.51 and total income as \$5810. The balance for the end of December was \$46,234.71. The treasurer's report was approved.

Trustee, Jeff Warsaw reported that a second dehumidifier is needed to help control the mold in the church with a bid of \$3800 (Each furnace will then have its own unit). Since weather and high efficiency furnaces cause mold, the fans in the church will be turned on high after church services. With the addition of a dehumidifier, the furnace filters will be moved to the front of the furnaces. The return air grills at the front of the church will be changed so they will not be visible.

The next quote given was for cleaning the carpet in the church. Service Pro gave the following bid which lasts for 30 days: Cleaning the carpet would be \$1822.09. If it is decided to remove carpet rather than cleaning, costs would be as follows: in the sanctuary \$2738.05, in the balcony \$597.70, in the annex \$1093.56, and set-up cost of \$192.15. Cleaning the seats on the pews was not included. The original bid includes cleaning the ceiling and walls. The members of Immanuel will need to remove the pews from the sanctuary. The mold will remain in the church unless you control humidity. The \$20,000 budgeted for church repairs, in addition to the \$9000 in the building fund will help pay for this mold project.

Pastor McPike then gave his report. He reported that he will be gone on March 22 and April 19<sup>th</sup>. A substitute pastor will cover the 19<sup>th</sup>, but no one is currently scheduled for the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Catechism classes are going well. Confirmation is tentatively scheduled for Pentecost Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. Adult Bible class is enjoying the information about the hymns in the Lutheran Hymnal. Lutheran School week will be attended by Alicia Haggin, but she has a substitute to fill in for her on that Sunday, January 25.

In old business, Chairman Lammle, asked Jerry Niemann to compile an overview of the insurance companies we are considering for the Voter's meeting this coming Sunday. The council will recommend to the voters that we change to Lutheran Brotherhood. He also reported that a welcome area has been set up under the balcony. The Mission Outreach Committee is still discussing purchasing a welcome rug for the front entryway. A questionnaire will also be given out during the Voter's meeting with possible vision statements.

In new business it was discussed that memorial money which has been in the treasury for over five years does not need family approval to use. However, the church treasurer normally contacts the family before using the memorial money. Chairman Lammle presented Pastor McPike with the book Isaiah 40 -55 that has been on back order since Pastor Appreciation in October. Once the total cost of the Christmas tree and greenery are determined, the family of Jeri Bidner would like to purchase a white banner to match the white paraments that the church already has.

The meeting was adjourned and followed by reciting of the Lord's Prayer.

## Confirmation Classes

In February 2025 three students started attending confirmation classes held in the fellowship hall every Sunday morning from 8:30 to 9:30. The students are James Amdor, Bella Ford, and CJ Genzel. From February through May they studied Lutheranism 101 for Kids. When they returned in September 2025, they started a 30-lesson Catechism Study in the Enduring Confirmation Curriculum published by Concordia Publishing House. They are being instructed by Annette Warsaw and Connie Warsaw. There will be several extra study sessions scheduled after Sunday worship services in order for them to complete this curriculum. Please keep these students and teachers in your prayers as they continue to study God's Word with a goal of being confirmed in the near future. These three students also rotate being great acolytes for our worship services.

## Benefit Soup Supper

Since the fall is such a busy time of the year, the Stewardship Committee is going to change the benefit soup supper to March this year. If you have any ideas for a worthy recipient, please contact Dwight and Terri Hooker or Brenda Hendricks. The planning and advertising will need to begin soon!



### February Birthdays

Bryan Edwards.....02-03  
David Peyton..... 02-03  
Theresa Van Wakeman Wilson.....02-07  
Austin Miller.....02-09  
James Amdor.....02-10  
Christie Delaney.....02-10  
Neil Bidner.....02-17  
Jeff Warsaw.....02-19  
Reese Gallier.....02-26

### February Anniversaries

Susan and Austin Miller...02-12-1977  
Sara and David Kunde...02-14-2012  
Sandy and Lee Whitehouse...02-28-2015

## **Statistics**

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
December 24	81	NA	NA
December 28	36	12	2
January 4	46	8	0
January 11	49	13	0
January 18	41	9	2

**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
First Day of Lent

