THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC

November 2026



Confirmation 2026



2026 Confirmation took place on October 25th during the regular worship service. This was the first confirmation that our congregation has had since 2020. The classes for these three young adults were held on Sunday mornings for the last few years under the direction of Annette Warsaw, Connie Warsaw, and Pastor McPike. Pictured from left to right are the following: Bella Rayann Ford, daughter of Sara (Martin) Ford and Parker Ford; Pastor McPike; James Dean Amdor, son of Amanda (Warsaw) Amdor and Chuck Amdor; Christopher Michael Genzel, Jr, son of Kari (Reifsteck) Genzel and Chris Genzel.

From the desk of Pastor McPike….

Thanksgiving – Law? Or Gospel? Or Both?

November is the month of Thanksgiving, as it is the month in which a federal holiday sets aside the fourth Thursday of that month every year as a "Day of National Thanksgiving". The holiday is a time for family and food. A time in which we are encouraged to be thankful.

Since the Lutheran Church distinguishes itself by making a careful distinction between Law and Gospel, how do we consider Thanksgiving? I would suggest that it is both.

Thanksgiving naturally evokes a sort of law response... similar to that raised by the story of the healing of the Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19). Leprosy in Jesus' day was a death sentence. It was a slow, painful way to die. Because it was contagious, it also meant separation from family, friends, livelihood and everything that made life worth living. In the Bible story, Jesus happens on ten men afflicted with this disease who cry out to Him for mercy. Jesus heals all ten; and while all ten were probably grateful, only one shows gratitude. Verses 17-19 of Luke 17: "Jesus asked, 'Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Rise and go; your faith has made you well." Many a sermon has been written focusing on the nine that failed to say "thank you" to Jesus for this great miracle. And many a sermon has also then ventured into the territory of legalism as the preacher expounded on how we also do not say "thank you" nearly enough. Thanksgiving in many churches is a time where Law and legalism dominate the message. "God gives you everything; you should be more grateful!"

If that's the typical "law" approach to Thanksgiving, where's the Gospel? That can be found in Luther's Small Catechism" in the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer: "God gives daily bread, even without our prayer, to all, even those (who do not believe); but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to know it, and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving." The bottom line, the Gospel message is, God gives good things to all people, whether they believe or not, whether they say "thank you" or not, whether that thanksgiving comes often or seldom. Jesus: "For (God) makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." (Matthew 5:45) In this verse, "good" and "just" mean those who are Christians, and "evil" and "unjust" are those who are not. God simply gives. Otherwise, it would be rather easy to drive down the roads of Bellflower Township and distinguish those who believe in God from those who do not; the fields of Christian farmers would be lush, green and produce a great crop; fields of others would be bare and dead. We know it is not that way. God gives to all. That's Gospel; that's grace.

Toward the end of the Nineteenth Century, Dr. C.F.W. Walther, founding president of the LCMS and of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, gave 39 evening lectures on 25 theses to seminary students as encouragement to them to properly distinguish and apply law and gospel. Thesis 25 can be summarized, "The Gospel must predominate." This is not to say that the law is not important; or that the law can be ignored; or that the law should be only a minor player. It means that preaching should shine with the message of God's grace and forgiveness.

Applying this to Thanksgiving, we look at Thanksgiving as a time when we remember, celebrate and give thanks for all the good things that God gives us. At the same time, as light is shined on how God is the giver of all, we realize that we are not always mindful of that. Sadly, yes, there are times when we each join the "other nine" healed lepers. Fortunately, even at those times, God continues to shower us with good things. While Thanksgiving Day should not be a time to bludgeon us into thankfulness, it can certainly provide a reminder and reset of the goodness of God, motivating us to give thanks for all that He gives.

"O Give Thanks, to the Lord, for He is Good,

for His steadfast love endures forever." (Psalm 136:1).

Summary of October Council Meeting

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Council held their meeting on Wednesday, October 21st, at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall. The meeting was called to order with six members present. Pastor McPike opened the meeting with a reading from Psalm 46 and a prayer. Jerry Niemann read the minutes of the last meeting, in the absence of Secretary Debbie Lammle. The minutes were approved with a few minor corrections. Treasurer, Terri Hooker, presented the treasurer's report, detailing expenses of $8018.92 for the month of September. Income for the month was $3957. Choice Dollars for the month was $245 with the total for the year being $3614. She reported that the total cost of the organ repair was $3184. The revenue and expense budget performance shows year-to-date net budget deficient of $1,655.86. Treasurer's report was accepted.

Pastor McPike started his report by stating that he has cancelled his trip to Germany. He reported the number of pastoral vacancies in the area. Pastor Frank will be leading the worship service in his absence on November 1st. There will not be a Reformation Festival meal or a Pastor Appreciation meal this year as Confirmation will be celebrated on the usual Sunday that these have been celebrated in the past – last Sunday in October. Reformation will be celebrated in the October 25th service as this is the 500th year anniversary of Luther's printed German communion service.

There was not an elders' report, trustees' report, or finance committee report. In old business the wiener roast was evaluated and declared successful, with idea of possibly moving it up a week next year to avoid harvest conflicts. The church will participate in Halloween Trunk or Treat at Fisher on October 24 and at Mansfield on October 25.

In new business the Outreach Committee will participate in the Gibson City Lighted Christmas Parade on November 21st. They will serve hot chocolate and hot cider and pass out cards about Immanuel Osman. There will be Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 22nd at 7 PM. The congregational call list which is used for notifying members of cancellations will be updated to include new attendees. The next council meeting will be held on November 18th. The meeting was adjourned followed by reciting of the Lord's Prayer.

Mowing Schedule

During the month of November, the trustees will take over the job of mowing the church property. Thank you to all of the members who mowed from April through October. Your service is very much appreciated!

Baptisms





On Sunday, October 4th, Liam James Dean O'Brien, son of Jake and Samantha (Holderfield) O'Brien was baptized. His sponsors were Colton Coy and Lauren Holderfield. His grandparents are Gayle and Bryan Holderfield. We thank the Lord that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon Liam the forgiveness of sins and have raised him to a new life of grace.

On Sunday, October 25th, Bella Rayann Ford, daughter of Sara Ford and Parker Ford and granddaughter of Susie and Steve Martin, was baptized. Her Godparents were Lennie and Terri Heiser and Brent and Jill Burnett. We thank the Lord for that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed on Bella the forgiveness of sins and have raised her to a new life of grace. Everyone was welcomed to join Bella at the church's fellowship hall to enjoy a meal and help celebrate her special day as she was baptized and confirmed on the same day. Pictured on the left is Bella with godparents Brent and Jill Burnett.

Quilting

The ladies will be quilting on Monday, November 2nd at 12:30 and Wednesday, November 4th at 8:30 AM. This will be the beginning of the new count of quilts for the year as the 109 quilts that were completed from October 2025 – September 2026 were divided between Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train. All ladies of the congregation are invited to help with this mission project.

Thrivent Members!

If you have any Thrivent Choice Dollars which are given upon ownership of certain Thrivent products, do not forget to donate those to one of the 35,000 churches and nonprofits that Thrivent recognizes. Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman is one of those choices. The deadline to donate 2026 Choice Dollars is December 31st. This is a change from previous years. $3614 has been contributed to our church in the last year. If you have Thrivent Choice Dollars, but do not know how to donate them, please see Terri and Dwight Hooker or Connie Warsaw.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

The next Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12th, at 1:30 PM in the fellowship hall. Connie Warsaw will have the topic. Marsha Warsaw and Annette Warsaw will be the hostesses. The roll call will be answered with a Bible verse on crucified/crucify. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

Our Deepest Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Charlie Homann who passed away on Saturday, October 24th, at the age of 91. May God provide comfort and care for those who mourn his loss. The funeral was held on Thursday, October 29th, at the Calvert-Belangee Funeral Home in Farmer City. The burial was at Greenleaf Cemetery in rural Farmer City.

LWML Sunday

LWML Sunday was celebrated on Sunday, October 4th. The LWML ladies displayed some of the quilts and dresses that they had made since last November. The group made 109 quilts which will be divided between Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train. They made over one hundred dresses for Dresses for Africa. Diana Zimmerman and Connie Warsaw greeted the people at the door for the worship service. Annette Warsaw and Brenda Hendricks read the Old Testament Lesson and the Epistle for the day. The altar was adorned with purple and yellow flowers. Pastor McPike used the LWML as examples in his sermon. Several ladies made muffins which were handed out to the members along with a mite box. The large mite box was also placed on the back table available for donations. Debbie Lammle made a picture display at the back of the church which illustrated some of the projects that the ladies did this last year. Our goal of spreading the message of our Savior to many people in many places with our mission grants and our local projects was the focus of the day.





Halloween Trunk or Treat











On Thursday, October 22nd several mission outreach committee members and some other volunteers assembled over 350 treat bags for the Trunk or Treat events in Fisher and Mansfield. The bags had a sticker with our church name and address on them. On Saturday, October 24th a group of members set up the trunk of Jerry and Melanie Niemann's car in Fisher and handed out candy to the trick or treaters. Thanks to Melanie Niemann who also brought painted rocks for the children, which they enjoyed. On Sunday, October 25th a group of members set up the trunk of Dwight and Terri Hooker's car in Mansfield and handed out candy to many "scary creatures". At both locations cards with our church's information was offered to the parents/grandparents that accompanied the trick or treaters. The candy treats were purchased with a $250 Thrivent Card that was offered by Jeff Warsaw. It was a great set of outreach projects.

All Saints Worship Service

In the church year, All Saints Day is celebrated the first Sunday in November, but here at Osman this year All Saints Day will be celebrated on Sunday, November 8th, due to Pastor McPike's schedule. November 1 is a historic day in the life of the church. This day, celebrated over the centuries as *All Saints Day*, is a day that the church pauses to remember those in faith who have passed from this life into life everlasting. As is always the case, we give all honor, glory, and praise to our Lord Jesus Christ. But we can also be inspired by the memory of those who have passed from this life as we remember them and remember some of the ways in which God has worked through them. We will be remembering those that have left us since last All Saints Day – Agnus Watson, Dave Kunde, Austin Miller, and Charles Homann.

Church Officers Needed

In January 2027 the church council will need names to fill the election ballot. The positions that will need to be filled on the council will be a secretary, two elders, one assistant finance secretary, and one trustee. Be thinking about how YOU can use your talents to serve the congregation. There is a sign-up sheet on the back bulletin board so run NOW to sign your name to fill one of these positions!

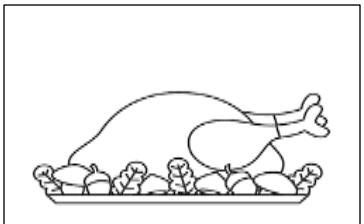
Church Council

The church council will meet on Wednesday, November 18th, at 6:30 in the hall.

Poinsettias

Skipping ahead to the season of Christmas, members usually donate poinsettias for the altar area. The Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School ag chapter uses their greenhouse to grow poinsettias, which is where the altar guild purchased them last year. If you would like to donate a poinsettia, please sign up on the list on the back bulletin board. The poinsettias are $10 each. They need a final number by Friday, November 13th. No money will be collected at this time.

Bellflower Thanksgiving Feast



A delicious meal of Thanksgiving favorites- such as turkey baked ham, green beans, noodles, dressing, mashed potatoes, and many salads and desserts - will be served at the Bellflower Community Center on Sunday, November 8th from 11 AM – 1 PM. Free will donations will benefit community events. The feast is sponsored by the Village of Bellflower. Take out meals will also be available.

Upcoming Church Services

All Saints Service – Sunday, November 8th – during regular worship service
Thanksgiving Service – Sunday, November 22nd – 7 PM
Advent Service – Sunday, November 29th - during regular worship service
Christmas Eve Service – Thursday, December 24th – 7 PM

Picture Clarity

The November newsletter that is being handed out today has several pictures to accompany articles. When you print color pictures in black and white they not only lose some of their beauty, but they also do not appear clear. To view the newsletter with the pictures in color go to the church website at **Church@OsmanLutheran.org**. Click on newsletters and go the appropriate month.



11-02....Deb Peyton
11-03....C. J. Genzel
11-06....Lee Whitehouse
11-10....Malachi Johnson
11-11....Karen Bryan
11-11....Brent Lutz
11-13....Randy Zimmerman
11-14....Steve Warsaw
11-15....Dwight Hooker
11-16....Rick Hardesty
11-25....Jenna Clemmons



11-03-2001...Annette and Jeff Warsaw

11-16-2002...Stefani and Greg Warsaw

11-20-2016...Rong and Aaron Warsaw

11-22-1969...Connie and Don Warsaw

11-26-1983...Anne and Bill Amdor

Attendance Trivia

The last time that the attendance was over 90 for a regular worship service was August 29, 2021, when the congregation celebrated its 125th Anniversary and also hosted two Confirmation Class celebrations.

Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
October 4	53	16	2
October 11	46	0	2
October 18	43	11	0
October 25	91	0	1