

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512

(217) 897-6170

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC

Reverend Justin Schmidt

April 2013

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

Alleluia!

From Pastor McPike's desk...

The times, they are a'changin' ...

Yes, these words could very well state the feelings of the Disciples of Jesus about Maundy Thursday evening just as Judas betrayed our Lord to the authorities. There was a point in time that Jesus, the guy they had followed, the guy they had committed to, was very popular. But not only was He no longer popular, He was under arrest! And then He was on trial. And then, He was condemned. And then... He was put on a cross. And by 3:00 PM the next afternoon – He was dead. Dead, and buried. Wow! What grief! Jesus, the Man who could control the weather, could not control His own destiny. Jesus, the man who could walk on water, could not walk out of a sham trial. Jesus, the man who had raised the dead, was now Himself dead.

The times, they are a'changin'. We can't even begin to imagine the constellation of feelings that must have run among those disciples starting with His arrest and running through His death and burial. The one that has to characterize them all is grief. What is grief? Grief comes indirectly from an Old English word which basically means “to be robbed”. People who are grieving do so because they feel like they have been robbed of someone or some part of their lives that is very critical for them. When we hear the word “grief”, we often think of the death of a loved one. But there are other reasons for grief. Grief comes anytime you look into the future after a life-changing event with the feeling that “nothing will ever be the same.”

So Jesus' disciples faced grief not only when they were mourning His death. They also continued to face it as the reality that He had risen from the dead came to them. Think for a moment about the lives of Jesus'

followers before His crucifixion. They walked with Him. They ate with Him. They were mostly always together. And then – Jesus dies, and is buried. Nothing will be the same. But wait! He is Risen! Yes, but again... nothing will ever be the same. Now, it is a different kind of grief. Now it is the kind that looks back on the past, as they were this small close-knit group of 13 guys spending all their time together, but it won't ever be that again. Eleven of the 13 are still hanging out pretty much all the time – but Jesus - the leader – He comes one minute, and is gone the next. They would be together and suddenly He'd appear, and they were overjoyed to see Him, and He'd say a few things to them and then He'd be gone. Now you see Him, now you don't. More grief – because it certainly was not like that in the three years of His ministry before His death.

Yet these changing times for the disciples offered great advantage – great potential. For once Jesus ascended into heaven, He sent them the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit transformed them from the scared, insignificant grouping of fishermen, tax collectors and others into powerful witnesses for Jesus. And even when those disciples faced early difficulty and persecution, and St. James was first to be put to death for his connection to Christ, even these grief-events created the opportunity for the church to grow, for the message about Jesus Christ to go out into the world in new and wonderful ways that it would not have before.

The times, they are a'changin' – again! This month, we bid farewell to Pastor Schmidt, who has accepted the call to serve as the pastor of the dual parish at Delavan and San Jose, Illinois. This will mark a new time in his life and for his family, and it of course marks another pastoral transition for Immanuel. It is one more way in which the kingdom of God continues to grow and

flourish and how we at Immanuel have been privileged to be part of it.

We began this little “adventure” now almost five years ago by taking on 12 month vicars as part of their seminary training. After two of them, we were told there would be no more. Then came Pastor Schmidt, who has been a blessing to us, and he tells of how we have been a blessing to him. Also, even though no more 12 month vicars are available, we continue to find ways to connect to seminary students by taking on “summer vicars”. The vicarage year in the LCMS is the third year of a man's preparation to be a pastor of the church. It is required both for him to serve as pastor and for his degree, which is a “Master of Divinity” (M.Div.). “12-month vicars” have had two years of seminary. The “summer vicar”, is more of an informal arrangement. Students do not have to do it. These “vicars” typically have had only one year of seminary, and in some cases have preached maybe once or twice outside the required classroom sermons. They come with little experience seeking experience. Summer vicars seek such positions because they want to put the time between their first and second seminary years to work gaining practical experience. Thus, they are eager to learn and gain this experience.

This year, a seminary student named Jonathan Scheck has been recommended by the Field Work office at Fort Wayne as a summer vicar. Jonathan was born and raised in Laurel, Maryland. He is the middle child of five, having an older brother and sister, and two younger sisters. He is a graduate of Howard Community College and the University of Maryland – Baltimore County, majoring in history. He is looking to arrive here about June 1.

Someone else that we will become acquainted with at Osman is Pastor Daniel Fienen (pronounced “Fee-nen”). Here is his bio:

Pastor Fienen was born May 14, 1952 in Evansville, Indiana to Norman and Carolyn Fienen. He graduated from Concordia Lutheran Junior College, Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1972; Concordia Senior College, 1974; Concordia Theological Seminary, 1978; and Western Kentucky University with an M. A. in Humanities, 1980.

He was the founding pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Ortonville, Michigan where he served from 1979 until 1988. In September of 1988 he accepted the call to serve Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Holdrege, Nebraska where he served until the end of

1999. During his time in Holdrege, he also served as a volunteer Police Chaplain with the Holdrege Police Department. He was installed in January of 2000 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Danville, Illinois where he served until he retired at the end of June, 2012. Immanuel together with Trinity Lutheran Church, Danville sponsor Danville Lutheran School, so Pastor Fienen was active with the school and helped teach the 7th and 8th Grade religion class which also served as confirmation instruction for the students from the sponsoring churches.

Since retirement, Pastor Fienen was vacancy pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Mattoon, Illinois, beginning in June of 2012 until their new pastor was installed in November, 2012. He has also done supply preaching at various congregations.

We will be talking more about our current arrangement at the Voters' Meeting on April 7.

Though Pastor Schmidt's departure brings grief, God has been good to us in the past. He is our hope for the future. What does the future hold for Immanuel? Immanuel will continue to be a congregation where God's word is preached and the sacraments are administered. The exact way in which all those things happen can change, but the basic mission remains the same.

Change moved the disciples out of their comfort zone, and accomplished great things. God has already used change to move Osman into doing great things. How can changes continue to do so? God's power, and God's guidance, will lead the way.

Contacting Pastor McPike

Contact information for reaching Pastor McPike is printed on the front cover of each Sunday bulletin. Home telephone number is 217-903-4853, and EMAIL is pastor@OsmanLutheran.org

While the telephone number also rings pastor's cell phone, it does not receive text messages. There have been some wondering why pastor has not responded to text messages. Quite simply, the “903” number does not accept them. It provides plenty of opportunity to contact pastor, however. Not only is it his home number, it simultaneously rings his cell phone, and can be answered either at home or on his cell. And if you do leave a message, that message is instantly forwarded to pastor's cell phone. Pastor also receives EMAIL on his cell phone almost as quickly as you send it. If you have further concerns, please see Pastor McPike.

Church Council Meeting

The April church council meeting will be held on April 2 in the fellowship hall.

Quarterly Voters Meeting

The Quarterly Voters Meeting will be held after the worship service on Sunday, April 7th. If you are 18 years or older and a member of our church, please sign the constitution to become a voting member.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes

March 12, 2013

(Abridged Version)

7 members attended the monthly council meeting held on March 12, in the church hall. It was originally scheduled for March 5, but because of wintry weather, it was rescheduled to March 12.

Secretary minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report, given by President Hardesty, recorded a balance of \$88,750.69. A program similar to the back pack program in the Fisher school district had already been approved for the mission project for April. The mission project for May will be decided at the next meeting.

Pastor McPike reported that our summer vicar, Jonathan Scheck will be here for June, July, and August. He will be moving here June 1st. He reported a change in the April Communion schedule due to the Confirmation and Questioning. Pastor Schmidt's last Sunday at Osman is Easter. Pastor McPike reported that he appreciated all the help that Pastor Schmidt had given to him and the congregation. A discussion followed on how we will replace that person in our ministry personnel. Pastor Ehlers will preach on June 2 so that Pastor McPike can attend his parent's 60th wedding anniversary. Once again he expressed a great appreciation of the newly remodeled office and very thankful for all the members who helped with that project.

The trustees report included a discussion of fixing the outside light at the hall, making the church and restrooms handicap accessible, and refinishing some of the pews in the back of the church. Dick Johnson will start on that project after Easter.

New business included a discussion of putting past confirmation class pictures up on the wall in the fellowship hall. Another idea presented was possibly designing a picture history of our past pastors. Several of our youth group members have registered for the National Youth Convention in San Antonio, Texas, in

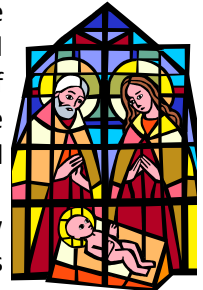
July.

The next council meeting will be April 2. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hendricks

New Stained Glass Windows

New stain glass windows were installed in the church men and women's restrooms in memory of Edwin Zimmerman. They were donated by Frances Zimmerman and the Edwin Zimmerman memorial fund.



The women's restroom window depicts "Noah's Ark" with the symbols of a rainbow and an olive branch splashed with colorful hues of blues. The sun rays are pointing upward toward the Trinity.

God has promised us that He would never destroy the earth again with a flood so He gave us the beautiful rainbow of many colors as a token of His promise. The olive branch is fitting as Noah sent the dove out three times from the ark. The first trip out brought the dove back as he had no place to land. A week later God sent the dove out for a second time and he came back with the new life of the olive branch. A week later God sent the dove out once more and the dove never came back as he had dry ground and vegetation. Hence, a new beginning for all.

The men's restroom window is "The Birth" depicting our Savior lying in His bed of straw with a circle of light around His head. There is a beautiful, bright star to point the way for all to see. The light rays are also pointing to the Trinity in this window. The birth of Christ is the basis for our belief of being saved from this world of sin and the knowledge of His forgiveness and everlasting life.

Please take time to view them, and know that a sunny day is the best way to really appreciate the vivid colors! Bob and Diana Zimmerman

Confirmation Reception!

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be hosting a cake and punch reception on Sunday, April 21 after the worship service. This will be the Sunday that the confirmands are questioned in our service. The reception will immediately follow in the hall. Come join in welcoming these four young adults into our congregation!



Open Gym/Fellowship Night

Nineteen youth and seventeen adults attended the Open Gym/Fellowship Night at the Fisher Grade School on March 2nd. The youth played basketball in the gym while the adults played cards and dominoes in the cafeteria. Darryl Redding cooked the brats and hot dogs, with other side dishes provided by Debbie and John Lammle, Jill and Rick Hardesty, and Darryl Redding. January, February, and March birthdays were recognized. A great time was had by all. Watch for May's Fellowship activity in upcoming bulletins.

Pastor Schmidt Farewell Potluck

Pastor Schmidt and his family were guests of honor at a potluck held after church on March 17th, shortly after Pastor announced earlier this month that he had accepted a call at St. Jose and Delavan congregations. Sixty members of Immanuel Osman attended this activity. Gifts were given Pastor Schmidt by the LWML and Ladies Aid, as well as hand crafted gifts made by Larry Richoz. Immanuel Osman was blessed to have Pastor Schmidt in our midst, but wish him the best as he guides a new flock in the future!



Thank You!

To the Congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church,
During the time of Jeannine's illness, Immanuel and it's kind, loving members were a comfort and a joy to her. Our family felt we belonged from our first visit. As Jeannine's health failed, she was sorry that she was unable to be more active. Her last time away from home was to be at church. The Henriksen family thanks you for all your kindness and prayers during our most difficult time. May God Bless you all, Harry

Easter Lilies

Thanks to Jeri Bidner, Neil and Beth Bidner, Kathy Brendel, Karen Bryan, Mike and Brenda Hendricks, Harry and Eric Henriksens, Larry and Esther Lutz, Steve and Susan Martin, Bill and Moneta McCleary, Butch and Shirley Sprau, Jim and Sue Van Wakeman, Don and Connie Warsaw, Jeff and Annette Warsaw, and Gene and Dorothy Welborn for donating an Easter Lily that adorns the altar for this special occasion. Other thanks to John and Debbie Lammle and Steve and Susan Martin for donating the garland on the cross and potted plants at the foot of the cross. Anyone donating a lily may take them home after Easter Sunday service.

Confirmand's Lunch with Pastor McPike

Pastor McPike will meet with the confirmation class for the last time before questioning on April 14th after church in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to the Youth Group for paying for the meal.

Confirmation

MacKenzie Delaney, Hannah Duncan, Chase Zimmerman, and Cheyenne Zimmerman have completed two years of confirmation under the instruction of Pastor McPike, Pastor Schmidt, and Debbie Lammle. MacKenzie is the daughter of Leonard and Christie Delaney. Hannah is the daughter of Chris and Mary Duncan. Chase is the son of Shaun and Kris Zimmerman, and Angela Holtz. Cheyenne is the daughter of Shane and Cindy Zimmerman. The confirmands will be questioned on April 21st and confirmed on April 28th. Let these confirmands remember Christ's words from Ephesians 4:7- "But unto everyone of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ." God bless our confirmands!

SPRINGTIME

In the glow of the dawn,
Welcome a new day,
Greet the golden sunlight or rain,
Nature in all its subtlety.

Whip of the wind,
Earth unfolds,
Softly falling rain,
Growing plants and buds blossoming.

Visions of the earth, with glories of nature,
Beauty of the daffodils,
Sunshine and rain from a rainbow,
Awe! Nature in full bloom.

Rising in early morn,
Birds with note loud and musical,
Lustrous species adorned with rich bicolors
glowing,
Attracting attention from movements of character
unvarying.

Birds building nests in the spring,
Sound of sweet melody, humming birds sing,
Sunshine spreading a colorful blanket,
Tis the perfect joy of spring!

~Blanche Black



Thrivent News

Thrivent Choice Dollars!

By directing Thrivent Choice Dollars, eligible members recommend where Thrivent financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars. This month our congregation received \$53. Thank you to Roy Whitehouse for this donation. Starting this year choice dollars are not automatically given to your choice location so every few months you may want to see if you have any dollars to give. You can call Thrivent at 800-847-4836 or go online if you have set up a password at www.thrivent.com.

Common Bond Vote

All Thrivent members will be asked to vote on the Common Bond issue between March 1 and April 30. Don't forget the deadline at the end of this month! Members are asked to vote on extending our bond from Lutherans to all Christians. This vote will set the direction of Thrivent for generations to come. Your paper ballot should have arrived in the mail. If you prefer, you can vote online at www.Thrivent.com or over the phone.

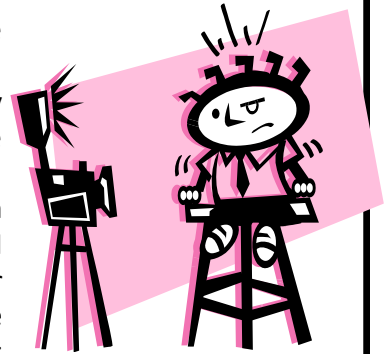
Soup Supper Benefit

THANK YOU to all of the members who volunteered at the Thrivent benefit soup supper held on Saturday, March 23. Anna Trotter, the recipient, and her family entertained us with a variety of songs during the evening. The free will offering totaled \$5318, and we are still receiving donations. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will contribute \$1500. This money will be deposited into the Anna Trotter Fund at the Fisher National Bank in Mahomet to help with expenses with her leukemia treatment. We served 175 people a very delicious meal of soup, sandwiches, pies, and drinks. Thank you again for helping us spread the love of Jesus to members of our community.



Church Directory

Church directory pictures!! Don't forget to bring your beautiful smile on this Friday, April 5th and this Saturday, April 6th, for your picture for the new church directory. There is a master copy of the schedule on the back table, and you should be receiving a postcard in the mail verifying your scheduled time. Please be prompt for your

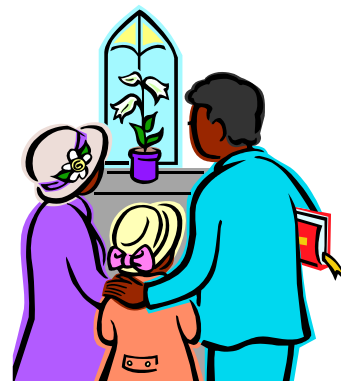


appointment as we have a pretty tight time frame on both days. Don't forget your item of food for the food bank to receive a \$5 coupon off of any purchase of pictures. All members photographed get a complimentary 8 x 10 or 9 wallets and a complimentary directory. There is a 20% discount on all portraits for seniors, 60 or over, active military, police and fire.



Church Council Meeting

The April church council meeting will be held on April 2 at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall.





The LWML met on March 14, 2013 with 12 members present. Marsha Warsaw led the Bible study on being thankful in all circumstances. A great reminder for all of us. We collected our mites and read a mission grant devotion for one of our national projects - Project JOEL - Outreach to Youth - Central/South America. Members were thanked for donating food or helping at the Ash Wednesday soup supper. We served 40 people and made \$349. The baby bottle project for Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center has been approved by Pastor McPike. We will be passing bottles out on Mother's Day to collect money in for the center. Everyone in the congregation will be encouraged to take home a bottle and bring back in a month.

Four ladies signed up to go to the Spring PING Fling on March 16th and will report back at the June meeting. They are Wilma Grussing, Brenda Hendricks, Debbie Lammle and Connie Warsaw. We also have four ladies registered in the National LWML convention in Pittsburgh at the end of June. Quilting dates were then set for the next three months. They are: April 10 and 13, May 1 and 4, June 5 and 8.

The LWML CID convention will be held in Decatur on April 26 & 27. The theme is "My Cup Runneth Over" Psalm 23:5. Rev. Kris Whitby will be the featured speaker. He is the LWML National Senior Pastoral Counselor. Shirley Sprau, Debbie Lammle, Brenda Hendricks and Connie Warsaw said they would be interested in going on Saturday. Gifts from the Heart donations will be collected for the Northeast Community Fund. These can be goods for the pantry, paper goods such as toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap, dishwashing soap, shampoo and similar products. Also school supplies for the LSA students will be accepted such as notebooks, pencils, pens, colored markers, crayons, or box of tissues. Please put your donations on the elder's pew before April 27th. The fall rally will be on September 19th. Wilma Grussing and Joanne Nelson served delicious St. Patrick's Day refreshments. Our next meeting will be June 13, 2013 with Shirley Sprau having the topic and Brenda Hendricks and Terri Hooker as hostesses.



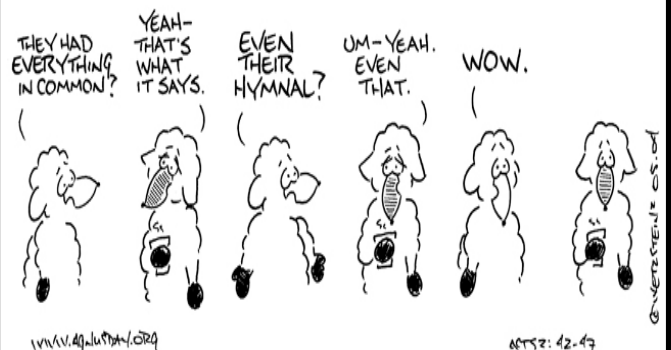
The Ladies Aid will meet on Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at 1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Roll call will be answered with a verse on heaven. Debbie Lammle will have the devotion and be our hostess, and Agnes Martinie will have the topic. All ladies of the church are invited to attend.

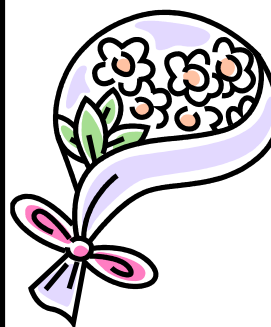
April Altar Guild

Debbie Martin

Agnus Day



"Agnus Day appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org"



Thank You!

Thank you to Connie Warsaw and Diana Zimmerman for visiting our shut-ins during the month of March!

Statistics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Adult Class</u>
02-20	48	Midweek	0
02-24	87	11	14
02-27	44	Midweek	0
03-03	64	12	15
03-06	39	Midweek	0
03-10	80	13	15
03-13	38	Midweek	0
03-17	81	10	15
03-20	43	Midweek	0
03-24	74	n/a	n/a
03-28	n/a	Maundy Thursday	0
03-29	n/a	Good Friday	0
03-31	n/a	Easter	0



April Birthdays

Chase Zimmerman.....04-03
 Courtney Delaney.....04-03
 Erik Henriksen.....04-08
 Timothy Brandt.....04-10
 Dorothy Miller.....04-12
 Connie Warsaw.....04-12
 Benjamin Burgess.....04-13
 Barb Gaines.....04-16
 Kathy Brendel.....04-17
 Leonard Delaney.....04-17
 Steven Sprau.....04-18
 Gina Masko.....04-19
 Mike Hendricks.....04-23
 Hallie Payne.....04-23
 Bob Zimmerman.....04-23
 Chris Barrack.....04-24
 Linda Warsaw.....04-25
 Kristan Hansen.....04-25
 Deb Lammle.....04-26
 Marvin Nelson.....04-28

April Reading Schedule

April 07.....John Gercken
 April 14.....Mike Hendricks
 April 21.....Joy Johnson
 April 28.....Debbie Lammle



April Anniversaries

None



April Acolyte Schedule

04-07.....Hannah Duncan
 04-14.....MacKenzie Delaney
 04-21.....Ryan McPike

Elder Schedule

Marvin	Feb	June	Oct
Roy	March	July	Nov
Bill	April	August	Dec
Jim	May	Sept	Jan

2013 OSMAN MOWING SCHEDULE

Please mow the church lot, hall lot, and lot directly north of the east parking lot by the date specified by your name. If conflicts arise, please contact Steve Martin at 217-897-1164 or Steve Warsaw at 309-722-3381. Please note any changes to the schedule on the church bulletin board. Steve Martin has agreed to mow for anyone who cannot for a nominal fee. Thank you for your continued assistance!

APRIL

April 7	Ross Warsaw and Doug Majercin
April 14	Dick Johnson
April 21	Neil Bidner& Marvin Clemmons
April 28	Skinner Johnson

AUGUST

August 4	Larry Lutz and Gene Welborn
August 11	Leonard Delaney and Mike Miller
August 18	John Grussing and Aaron Warsaw
August 25	John Lammle and Rob Gallier

MAY

May 5	John Gercken and Ken Whitehouse
May 12	Steve Martin
May 19	Jerry and Bryan Edwards
May 26	Myron and Eric Zimmerman

SEPTEMBER

September 1	Butch Sprau
September 8	Darwin and Wade Warsaw
September 15	Dwight and Nathan Hooker
September 22	Steve Gaines and Bill Schroeder
September 29	Bill McCleary

JUNE

June 2	Steve Warsaw and Larry Camp
June 9	Lee and Roy Whitehouse
June 16	Don Warsaw and Jeff Warsaw
June 23	Bryan and Greg Warsaw
June 30	Bob and Shaun Zimmerman

OCTOBER

October 6	Mark Barrack
October 13	Steve Martin
October 20	Mike Hendricks and Rick Hardesty
October 27	Steve Martin

JULY

July 7	Marvin Nelson and Darryl Redding
July 14	Myron and Randy Zimmerman
July 21	Jim Poppe
July 28	Shane Zimmerman

