

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC
Reverend Daniel Fienen



From Pastor McPike's Desk...

"Two for the price of one?"

Since 2008, pastoral services here at Immanuel have been provided in different, creative ways. At first, my help supplemented Pastor Peter's declining ability due to various health problems. After he died, I was asked to stay on, which I was happy to do, but realized that serving at Osman and working full-time at Carle (and, at the time, very part-time at Covenant) was a bit much. For the first two years, we secured twelve month vicars; then, Pastor Schmidt, and later Pastor Fienen, along with a summer vicar.

Some may wonder on any given Sunday why there are two pastors present. That's a good question, especially lately when both pastors are fully qualified, ordained pastors in the LCMS. A small congregation like ours does not seem to need that sort of participation on any given Sunday. There are a couple of reasons for it. When this arrangement began, I was interested in having help both in preaching as well as the very flexible option of being absent when needed. Retaining a second pastor allows both. Sermon preparation can take anywhere from a few to many hours in a given week. My usual hours at Carle are 8-5, Monday-Friday. On weeknights prior to preaching a sermon, my routine following my arrival at home around 5:30 or so is to fix a quick supper, then sit down at the computer for anywhere from 2-3 hours in the evening for several nights working on the sermon. While it is true that a pastor of 26 years in ministry has a ready file of sermons, even those require re-working before they can be used on a given Sunday. And so, Sundays when I come to church and someone else preaches represent a previous week that I have had a much more relaxed schedule. Also, while my presence

is not necessary on those Sundays that I do not preach, being present helps provide continuity for the Adult Bible Class, and also for the congregation. I have the opportunity to be more in tune with what is going on with people and with the congregation. Also, the 'second pastor' can see "how we do things", and while he might not do them exactly that way, there is a greater consistency for the two of us serving together when he then is called upon to serve alone.

Why do I say "for the price of one?" Simply this: As each of these creative solutions has been implemented, the council has held to the standard of having the entire amount of spending for the arrangement to be roughly what would be required should the congregation call its own individual pastor. In other words, in these last 2 ½ years where pastoral care has been provided by me together with a second pastor (Schmidt or Fienen) and a summer vicar, the sum total of spending for all three equals what would be spent on a seminary graduate who would be called to the pastor of the church. Certainly, there are a few disadvantages, such as availability. That is offset by the years of experience of each pastor, together with the variety provided by more than one pastor as well as the vicars.

Early in this arrangement, I would "check in" with the congregation on a fairly regular basis with a "where do we go from here?" sort of evaluation of the program as it was at that time. Because that can perpetuate uncertainty, the approach now is "how are things going?" which feels much less uncertain. Still, the congregation can at any time decide that it is time for a new direction and make that known, and plans will be put into place to bring that about.

The pastors who serve at Immanuel are paid a fixed salary that, together with the cost of the vicar, totals the amount of money that a pastor would cost. This level of expenditure over the past few years has proven

to be quite easily accomplished, as the congregation continues, with the exceptions of the months of bad weather, to take in more money than it spends. Because the amount of money paid to each pastor is fixed on a monthly basis, it does not matter who or how many serve in any given service. The cost is the same. It truly is "two (or more) for the price of one".

Church Council Minutes

April 1, 2014

(Abridged Edition)

9 members, plus Pastor McPike, attended the monthly council meeting held on April 1, in the fellowship hall.

Secretary's minutes were read and approved. Treasurer Bob Zimmerman reported the cash balance being \$67,187.07. St. Jude's Children's Hospital will be the recipient of our April mission giving. St. John's Lutheran School in Champaign will be our May recipient and Concordia University – River Forest scholarship fund will be our June mission project.

Pastor reported that he has not had any phone contact with the summer vicar yet. Our summer vicar will be Kurt Cockran from Oklahoma. Pastor will be outlining our expectations for his summer ministry with us. With Pastor Fienen's announcement of accepting a call, puts the congregation looking for a substitute pastor again. Pastor McPike has been notified of a friend of Pastor Callahan of Thomasboro who is in the area and might be interested in filling this position. He will be asked to preach the Sundays that were assigned to Pastor Fienen in April and May. We will use the summer vicar for June/July and then revisit the situation in August. Pastor McPike also announced that there would be homemade unleavened bread and homemade wine served for the communion in the Maundy Thursday worship service.

Beth Bidner, Sunday School Superintendent, announced that July 13 - 17 will be the dates for Vacation Bible School. She would like to do more advertising this year so she and Annette Warsaw will design some ads for the local newspapers. She also had talked to Pastor about purchasing a laptop computer to be used several ways at the church but especially for VBS. She gathered two quotes. One from Simplified computers for \$993 and one from Micro Systems for \$916. After some discussion the council approved the purchase of the laptop for \$916. It will be locked in Pastor's office and will be used for various programs at the church.

Theresa Van Wakeman – Wilson presented a sample of material that could be used for the curtains under

the balcony. The council discussed several options with the curtain replacement but nothing was voted on.

Trustee John Gercken reported that the wireless microphones in the church do not work. He found an 8-channel, wireless mic system for \$287.03. The council agreed to purchase this system which includes 4 microphones and 2 lapel microphones. These should help with the recording for the shut-ins.

Chairman Hardesty explained the window option on the west wall of the Annex. This needs to be installed as the tuck pointing project progresses. After some discussion the council decided to put one 50" by 50" window in. The discussion indicated to install a plate glass window first and then see if anyone is interested in using memorial money for stain glass.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hendricks

Quarterly Church Council Minutes

April 6, 2014

(Abridged Edition)

39 voting members attended the quarterly voter's meeting held on April 6, 2014, after the regular worship service. Beth Bidner signed the constitution.

Secretary's minutes were read and approved. Treasurer Bob Zimmerman reported the cash balance as being \$67,187.07 at the end of March.

Pastor McPike reviewed the circumstances of getting another substitute pastor since Pastor Fienen is accepting a call to Michigan. He explained that the substitute preaches two Sundays a month which frees up his time. The financial arrangement with the substitute pastor, the summer vicar and his salary equals what we would be paying a first year full time pastor. He has contacted Pastor Keffie Deen from Rantoul to fill this position. Our summer vicar will be our substitute in June and July.

Chairman Hardesty then updated the congregation on the tuck point project. The contractor is presently working on the back of the church and the annex. They are still in the grinding stage of the project. They will be using the leftover bricks as much as possible to save on buying new ones. While working on this project, we need to address the window on the west wall of the annex. The council proposed that we put in a 50" x 50" plate glass window. Only one quote was collected at the time of the meeting and it was \$1525.56 which would include the installation. The congregation voted not to exceed \$2000 on the window.

Chairman Hardesty the explained that the council paid for some ads for Holy Week for local newspapers. Annette Warsaw designed the ads for the Farmer City/LeRoy, Rantoul, Mahomet, and Fisher papers. She then explained how she worded the directions to find our church.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the first stanza of Hymn #920.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hendricks
Council Secretary

Church Council

Church council will meet on Tuesday, May 6, at 7 PM in the fellowship hall.

Food Shower

Our summer vicar, Kurt Cockran, will arrive in early June. The LWML is sponsoring a food shower during the month of May so he can have full cabinets when he arrives. All members of the congregation are welcome to bring food for the collection box which will be on the back elder pew. Paper products, cleaning supplies, and gift certificates are also welcome.

Welcome

Welcome to Pastor Keffie Deen II who will be replacing Pastor Fienen as our substitute pastor. Pastor Deen grew up in Milwaukee. After graduating from high school, he attended Concordia University, Wisconsin (Mequon) where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Theology and Youth Ministry in 2003. He then entered Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, and graduated in 2008. His first call was a chaplain and religion teacher at Lutheran High North in St. Louis. He has also served as associate pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Rockford, Illinois. Pastor Deen and his wife live in Rantoul.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars now for Vacation Bible School! This year it will be held from July 13 to July 17. It will kick off on Sunday, July 13, with a cook out and will continue that night with activities until 7:30. On that Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday the events will run from 9 – 11:30 AM. The theme this year is "Gangway to Galilee – Amazing Grace Adventures". Invite a friend or two and come join in the fun!

Thank You

Thank you to Pastor Fienen for all of his dedication to our congregation. He has accepted a call to Grace Lutheran Church in Baldwin, Michigan. He helped out tremendously by preaching two sermons a month during his time with us. He joined in fellowship times and our Bible class discussions. We pray that he is blessed in his ministry in Michigan!

Graduation!

Congratulations to high school graduates from our congregation. Sara McPike will graduate from Urbana High School. She plans to attend Concordia University in River Forest. She will pursue a career in music. Natalie Hooker will graduate from Illinois State University with a degree in physical education. Brooke Clemmons graduated at semester from McMurray College with a degree in psychology and health. We will keep these three graduates in our prayers and ask God to guide them in their next phase of life.

Thrivent News

The final amount raised for Lexi Peterson at the Thriven Soup Supper was \$2,812 and Thrivent has sent us a check for \$931 for a total of \$3,743. We had a total of 171 volunteer hours towards this project and we thank all who donated their time.

The total received from Thrivent Choice to our church last month was a record \$1,624. We thank the following members who directed Choice Dollars to our church: Terri Hooker, Carolyn and Doug Majercin, Steve and Susan Martin, Moneta and Bill McCleary, David and Sharon McPike, Gregory McCleary, Deborah Peyton, Darwin and Martha Warsaw, Don Warsaw, Marsha and Steve Warsaw and Ken Whitehouse. Thanks to all of you!

Our congregation can get an extra boost from the "Direct Now...and add \$20" Thrivent Choice campaign this spring! The campaign runs from April 1 through May 31, 2014. If you give to Thrivent Choice during this time, an extra \$20 will be added to your amount given.

Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, May 7th at 1:30 p.m. Annette Warsaw will have the devotion and prayer. Dorothy Miller will present the topic, and roll call will be answered with a verse from Luke. Annette Warsaw will be the hostess. All ladies of the church are invited to attend!

LWML News

LWML Mission Project

The LWML has chosen a mission project to help "Living Alternatives", a Pregnancy Resource Center in Champaign. Their mission statement says "We are committed to saving the lives of unborn children by promoting life-affirming options and providing practical assistance, while sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed, and to minister restoration to those who have been wounded by the trauma of abortion." On Mother's Day, May 11th, we will be handing out baby bottles for members of our congregation to take home and put donations in. You could put the loose change in your pocket to a good cause. We will do this for one month and collect the bottles on June 8th. We collected over \$500 last year. Please consider being part of this mission project.

Spring Gathering

Thank you to all of the ladies who helped host the Danville Zone Spring Gathering in Thomasboro in April. Those who attended from Immanuel Osman were Shirley Sprau, Wilma Grussing, Agnes Martinie, Barb Gaines, Barb Whitehouse-Gercken, Deb Lammle, Connie Warsaw, and Brenda Hendricks. The theme was "Hats off to LWML". There were 70 women in attendance and all enjoyed the speaker, Pat Milchuck from Simply Pat's Hats in Paxton. A special thank you to Terri Hooker and Connie Warsaw for preparing the fruit for the salad, Shirley Sprau and Deb Lammle for serving the drinks, and Connie Warsaw and Barb Gaines for helping in the kitchen. Also thanks to Annette Warsaw for printing the program.

The LWML-CID Annual Convention

The LWML – CID Annual Convention was held at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Effingham on April 26th. Connie Warsaw and Barb Whitehouse-Gercken were our delegates and Debbie Lammle and Brenda Hendricks were the alternates. The theme was "Soar on Wings Like Eagles" from Isaiah 40:31. Todd and Jan Luedtke were the guest speakers. They spoke on their missionary experiences in Papua New Guinea and China. Misson grants totaling \$80,000 for 2014-2015 were voted on. At our June meeting a complete report on the convention will be given.

Thank You!

We thank Pastor Fienen for all his dedication to Immanuel Osman and wish him God's blessings while shepherding his new flock in Michigan!

"Girls Night Out"

The second annual "Girls Night Out" will be held on Friday, May 9 in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to invite a friend/or friends to this great evening of games, prizes and delicious food (with the best part being the fellowship with your church family)!

Thank You!

Thank you for making Easter breakfast a success! The youth group make \$561 from free will donations for our annual Easter breakfast. Your generous donations are much appreciated! A big thanks also goes out to all who helped make the Easter breakfast possible...all the youth group members and their families, Larry and Esther Lutz, Jill and Rick Hardesty, Darryl Redding and anyone else who helped make the day a success. Your help is critical to making this event a success!

In Christ,
Rob and Nikki Gallier

Thank You!

Thank you to the committee that planned a beautiful shower for Ryan Lammle and Sandy Noriega last Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. And, thanks to all those who attended and brought such thoughtful gifts!

Debbie Lammle

Thank You!

Thank you to all the choir for the Easter singing, the pretty plant and the fruit. The Cyclamen is beautiful and full of buds and I know I will enjoy it for some time. I miss all of you! Happy Easter!

Wilma Forrest

Thank You!

A big thank you to the choir and Pastor McPike for coming and singing on Palm Sunday. Also, thanks for the Easter food basket and flower. I appreciate it so much! Always good to see such happy faces! I hope you have blessed spring and summer. Thanks again!

Marge Morrissey

Thank You!

Thank you so much for visiting the Meadows at Mercy Creek in Normal and singing Easter songs. My mom has become friends with Wilma Forrest, and I know both appreciated you coming to sing. Blessings to all of you this Easter Season!

Jane and Jim Poppe and Rowana Koshinski

Palm Sunday



Immanuel Osman children singing on Palm Sunday



Pastor McPike, Don Warsaw, Sara McPike, Alicia Haggin, Diana Zimmerman and other choir members sang to Marge Morrissey on Palm Sunday



Pastor McPike visits with Wilma Forrest



The choir visited Agnes and Carol Martinie



Jan Luedtke, CID LWML convention speaker, who spent over 27 years working as a Lutheran missionary teacher in Papua New Guinea with her husband Todd.



Ladies attending the LWML Spring Gathering on April 12 at Thomasboro gathered these items for the Gifford Food Pantry. L-R: Debbie Lammle, Brenda Hendricks, Ronda Scott, Sandy Zalaker.

Statistics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Adult Class</u>
03/23	61	3	15
03/26	54	Lent Midwk	-
03/30	61	3	14
04/02	41	Lent Midwk	-
04/06	68	8	17
04/09	40	Lent Midwk	-
04/13	76	7	18
04/17	56	Maundy Th	-
04/18	43	Good Friday	-
04/20	110	Easter	-
04/27	68	n/a	n/a

Acolytes

05-04.....Hannah Duncan
 05/11.....Kenzie Delaney
 05/18.....Ryan McPike
 05/25.....Chase Zimmerman

Lay Readers

05/04.....Shirley Sprau
 05/11.....Aaron Warsaw

May Birthdays

Doug Majercin.....05-01
 Cheyenne Zimmerman.....05-04
 Martha Warsaw.....05-08
 Wade Warsaw.....05-12
 Alvin Hinrichs.....05-15
 Moneta McCleary.....05-19
 Mike Warsaw.....05-19
 Steve Brandt.....05-20
 Barb Whitehouse-Gercken.....05-21
 Jesse Johnson.....05-21
 Darwin Warsaw.....05-22
 Benjamin Brandt.....05-28
 Jeff Bryan.....05-29
 Brooke Clemmons.....05-29
 Kris Zimmerman.....05-29

May Anniversaries

Susan and Steve Martin.....05-09-1975
 Karen and David Brown.....05-22-1976
 Ashley and Bryce Martin.....05-19-2012
 Becki and Brant Hendricks.....05-26-2007
 Amanda and Chuck Amdor.....05-30-2009

May Altar Guild

Debbie Martin

Elder Schedule

Bill	April	July	Oct
Jim	May	Sept	Jan
Steve	Feb	August	Nov
Neil	March	June	Dec