

# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



*Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC*

*Reverend Keffie Deen II*

*February 2015*

Blessed rather are those who hear  
the word of God and keep it!

Luke 11:28

From Pastor McPike...

There are several things in the "works" coming up this spring that I would like to point out.

### **Sunday Bible Class**

The Sunday Bible class will begin studying the book of Daniel on Sunday, February 2. Bible class is an important part of the life of Christians. In addition to regular worship and communion attendance, it is the way in which Christians are fed and nourished on the Word of God. Right now, Bible class attendance is averaging less than 10, while church attendance is in the 60s. Stronger attendance in Bible class can only strengthen the congregation in an overall way.

### **Lent Midweeks**

Each year, pastors struggle to know what to provide as a "series" for the Wednesday nights of Lent. Often, various "series" are provided by the LCMS around particular themes. At Immanuel, we have not utilized these for the years since 2008 thus far. What we have done is a variety of creative things, including the use of the Old Testament Reading from the previous Sunday, the use of Psalms appointed for the week. In the past two years, we have used various parts of the catechism, fitting because Lent grew out of a time in the ancient church when those preparing for adult Baptism (i.e., going through adult confirmation) were sequestered in intensive study of God's word and the chief teachings of the church.

This year, the Lenten Midweeks are going to utilize the long-standing tradition of reading from the "Passion History, drawn from the Four Gospels". Each of these readings has a basic "theme" of events in the passion of our Lord. That "theme" will be the subject of the service for this year. Next year, plans are

already in place to return to use of the catechism, possibly in a way that coordinates with the upcoming confirmation of three of our young people just after Easter next year.

Midweek worship starts with Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2015. A soup supper will precede the service. Our Lord gave up so much for us. This is an opportunity to enrich our faith and look to how He not only forgives us and considers us to be His own children, but how His power continues to call us to live for Him.

### **Adult Catechism Instruction Class**

We are pleased to have three adults that are interested in becoming communicant members of Immanuel. We hope for there to be more before March, 2015 comes around. By early March, 2015 (watch next month's Newsletter for further details), a class will start that will run into the middle of May. Anyone is invited to come! In fact, it is very fitting that catechism class have a mix of members and those wishing to join studying side by side.

*Ash  
Wednesday*

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, February 18, starting at 7 PM.

### **Ash Wednesday Soup Supper**

Plan ahead to attend the Ash Wednesday soup supper on Wednesday, February 18, in the fellowship hall. The supper will be sponsored by the LWML ladies and will start at 5:30. A freewill offering will be taken, and the money will be used to support our LWML projects.

From Pastor Deen...

I must confess. I am writing this letter to ask you for a favor. What I need is for all of the readers to sign a couple of petitions that I have formed. I have formed petitions in order for both Kickball and 4 Square to become Olympic sports. You read that correctly. I said I want for Kickball and Four Square to become official Olympic sports. Think about it. As a child I used to love these two games. I would fantasize for hours about making the game winning catch of game 7 in the summer classic known as the world series of Kickball. I dreamed about reigning supreme as the undisputed best four square player in the game for years to come. To me these games were perfect, and to master these games were to master the playground.

But what happened? Well it was decided as we got older, that recess was something that was not necessary. And the thought of playing those games became rather silly and “child like”. I remember when I was at the seminary a group of us 20 and 30 somethings got together and played Kickball in a local park and it was blast. I must say it was one of the highlights of my times at the seminary. One thing I remember about that day was the strange looks we received by others. I also remember two kids who were passing by and were more than ecstatic to come and play Kickball with us.

The whole idea of 20 and 30 somethings playing Kickball is not just something that was relegated to me and my friends. It turns out that Kickball leagues for adults are springing up all throughout the country. Now why is this? Well I have a theory about all of this. Games like Kickball and 4 square were fun. And while many of us are all grown up, there is a kid inside of us that still wants to experience that unabashed joy that games like Kickball have to offer.

Why do we do the same thing with our faith? Maybe you were a lifelong Christian, or maybe you came to faith later on in your life. Regardless of when it happened we all had an unabashed joy despite how little we may have known. But as we start to learn more, and things in life start happening to us, it's often that our faith starts to waver, or we want everything explained to us, and we don't understand it, we are quick to dismiss it, or start doubting what it is that God can do. We become proud, we become overconfident, and we start to think that we are self-sufficient. But as Matthew 18:3 reminds us, unless we humble ourselves, and become totally and completely

dependent on God, we will not enter the kingdom of God. While I am not discouraging our growth and understanding in our faith and knowledge of Scripture, I also encourage you to crack your Bible and review some of the stories that you were so fond of while you were a kid. Learn the songs as well as the actions to some of those “kids” songs that your child learns in Sunday school. You may think that it's childish and way beneath you, however don't be afraid to try to reconnect with that unabashed joy of scripture and songs that you were a big fan of when you first believed...it may be as fun as a pickup game of Kickball in the park.



### **Choir Practice**

There will be choir practice on Thursday, February 5th at 7:00p.m. Come and practice for the Transfiguration and Lent.

### **Thank You!**

A big THANK YOU to Scott Gercken for fixing our organ. A couple of pedals had loosened up and were playing on their own. It is so nice to have a working organ again.

Thanks!  
Alicia Haggin

## **Church Council Minutes**

**January 6, 2015**

**(Abridged Edition)**

6 members, plus Pastor McPike, attended the monthly council meeting held on January 6 in the fellowship hall.

Secretary's minutes were read and approved. Treasurer Bob Zimmerman reported the cash balance as \$73,670.90 as of the end of December. The mission giving project for January was approved. It will be the Lutheran Hour Ministries. Bob reported on the fourth quarter finances, mission giving, memorials, and the proposed budget.

Pastor McPike thanked everyone for remembering him and his family at Christmas with gifts and cards. He stated that there are 2-3 adults interested in Confirmation and he will start that in the spring. He is preparing a new Bible Class lesson on the book of Daniel. It will start during the month of February.

Jeff Warsaw, trustee, reported that he is getting a quote for new ceiling fans in the church from Brandon Clemmons. He also is still working on installing three small speakers under the balcony so the sound system can project better in the back of the church.

Chairman Hardesty read the proposed officer list for 2015 election. There still was not a candidate for treasurer. Discussion followed on possibly paying this position since it is so time consuming.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hendricks

### **Mission Giving!**

Our congregation gives a percentage of our offerings to the missions of the Missouri Synod. In addition to that we give to various local and national organizations. In 2014 our congregation gave to the following: St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Gifford, Special Olympics, St. Jude's Hospital, St. John's Lutheran School in Champaign, Kingdom Message Ministries of the Philippines, Concordia University in River Forest Scholarship Fund, Pastor Peter Kolb, Orphan Grain Train, U. S. Olympians Relief Fund, Mahomet Town and Country Social Worker for Mahomet Schools, Blue Ridge Back Pack Program, and the Fisher Food Pantry. We have received some very nice thank you's for our donations.

## **Thank You!**

Thank you to the outgoing council members who served in positions for the last two years. They are as follows: John Gercken as trustee, Beth Bidner as Sunday school superintendent, Larry Lutz as financial secretary, Jim Van Wakeman and Bill Schroeder as elders, Brenda Hendricks as secretary, and Jordan Bidner as head usher. Thank you for donating your time and talents to the business of our congregation.

### **Quilting!**

The ladies will be quilting on Thursday, February 5 and Saturday, February 7 from 8 AM to noon. If anyone is interested in taking material squares home and sewing them into a quilt top, see Brenda Hendricks. If anyone has old sheets (fitted or flat) we could use them for middles or backs for the quilts. All are welcome to join in volunteering a few hours while working on a worthwhile project for Lutheran World Relief. We now have the ability to track the shipment of our quilts so we are waiting to hear where our beautiful quilts from 2014 were shipped to.

### **Thrivent News**

If you have Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2014, they must be directed by March 31, 2015. Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman received \$3,690 in 2014 from Choice Dollars. That's an increase of \$1,117 over the previous year. Thanks to everyone who designated our church for their Choice Dollars.

At the Thrivent meeting on Sunday, January 18th, the members voted to sponsor a soup supper. We are not sure who the recipient is at this time due to a problem with the person we voted on. We are going to meet TODAY, February 1st after church in the Annex to discuss a new recipient. The benefit is scheduled for March 14th at the Fellowship Hall from 4:30 - 7:00. Thrivent will donate a 1-3 match for all the money donated up to \$1,000 to this good cause. Watch the bulletin for more details.



### **Valentine's Dinner**

Don't miss the Valentine's Dinner at Immanuel Osman on February 14th beginning at 5 p.m. A steak or chicken dinner will be served, followed by entertainment. Bring your spouse, friend or just come individually for a wonderful evening with your church family. A free will offering will be taken and given to the youth. Sign up by February 8th on the bulletin board in the back of the church.

### **Thank You!**

Thank you to Don and Connie Warsaw for visiting our shut-ins during January.

### **Free WiFi at Osman**

Over the past two years or so, Immanuel has weighed the options of having an internet connection at the church. There are many reasons both for and against such a thing. Increasingly, internet is shifting from something that was more associated with entertainment (and who would think of running cable TV to the church?) to an actual communications utility like having a phone line. Immanuel had internet installed last fall, and so far installation and the cost of the monthly subscription is being provided free of charge to the church until at least the end of this year. While we wouldn't want to encourage people to pay too much attention to their electronic devices during worship, the WiFi at the church and hall is free for anyone who comes to the church to use. You will find the WiFi signal "Osman Church (public)". Select that and use the password "romans 1017" (no quote marks). This provides internet access including filtering (meaning sometimes when you try to connect to ad-based websites they won't work; that's done by design). Please contact a council member if you notice problems.

### **Altar Guild Chairman**

For special services please contact the altar guild chairman on duty. The following schedule will be used this year: January-March - Barb Gaines; April-June - Debbie Lammle; July-September - Barb Gaines; October-December - Debbie Lammle.

### **Immanuel Lutheran Church** **Quarterly Voters Meeting Minutes** **January 11, 2015**

The January voters' meeting was called to order by Chairman Rick Hardesty with Pastor McPike opening the meeting with prayer. Jordan Bidner, Angie Deen, and Pastor Deen signed the constitution and 36 members were present.

### **Secretary's Report**

Secretary Brenda Hendricks read the minutes from the October voters meeting. A motion was made by Jeff Warsaw to approve the minutes as read. Seconded by Jill Hardesty. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bob Zimmerman gave the treasurer's

report with a balance at the end of the fourth quarter of \$73,670.90. Darwin Warsaw made the motion to approve the report. Seconded by John Gercken. Motion carried. Bob thanked several groups for their giving during the year. Thrivent Choice dollars added \$3879.50 to the treasury. He thanked all the members who donated money for advertisements, altar paraments, and social events. He thanked all the congregation for their contributions to memorial funds, flowers on the altar, and the eternal flame. Bob thanked all members for their generous contributions.

### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor McPike spoke on his last 7 years serving Osman. He thanked the congregation for their support, and he stated that he was proud of our rural ministry. Our congregation is now listed by the Missouri Synod as a non-calling vacancy, which means we are not calling a minister because our needs are being met. We have had to say some goodbyes to our assistant pastors, but we have also been privileged to say some hellos.

Pastor McPike announced the transfer of membership from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Rockford to our congregation by Pastor and Mrs. Keffie Deen.

He announced that Will Delaney and Tyler Duncan were our guests as Confirmands. They were asked to attend the meeting to observe how the business of the church is conducted.

The summer vicar program was discussed. A discussion and motion will be made later in the meeting to see if we are interested for this summer.

Growth in our congregation is a challenge. We can be a community church since there is not a Missouri Synod church nearby without driving to Bloomington or Champaign. Each member needs to share their faith in order for our congregation to grow.

Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday service on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Pastor will once again use part of the catechism for part of the service as he did last year.

He also reminded the congregation that the sermons are posted online.

The floor was then open for questions for Pastor McPike. There were none.

### **Old Business**

Chairman Hardesty asked if there was any old business to be discussed. He did announce that the tri-fold brochures about our church which were mentioned in the minutes read earlier in the meeting have not been finalized, but have not been forgotten.

## **New Business**

Chairman Hardesty opened the discussion of whether we wanted a summer vicar. Barb Whitehouse-Gercken liked the weekday Bible studies led by the summer vicars. Marsha Warsaw thought it was exciting for our church to be a part of their education. Annette Warsaw liked them helping with Vacation Bible School. Darwin Warsaw made the motion to continue with the summer vicarage program. John Gercken seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Hardesty thanked the outgoing officers. They were John Gercken, Jim Van Wakeman, Bill Schroeder, Beth Bidner, Larry Lutz, Bob Zimmerman, and Brenda Hendricks.

Chairman Hardesty then recapped the accomplishments for the year. We finished the tuck pointing job, installed gutters and part of the fascia, installed the internet, worked on the furnace duct work, took the curtains down under the balcony, incorporated new microphones for the sound system, rearranged the pews for better wheelchair access to the church, and added handicap parking signs to the parking lot. Discussion of the internet expense and usage followed.

Chairman Hardesty then turned the discussion over to Bob who presented the 2015 proposed budget. He announced that all the wages will stay the same for next year. He asked for questions on the budget but did not get any from the floor. He continued to explain the utilities item. We used more LP than our contracted amount last year so we had to pay extra. That is why that line item went over. He proposed that we go with \$10,000 this year. Hopefully with new air conditioner/furnace it will be more efficient and possibly we will also have a milder winter.

Darwin Warsaw proposed a \$200 a month payment to the treasurer for all the work in that position. We would pay that in-house rather than pay an outside source which was earlier approved by the congregation. The motion was seconded by Roy Whitehouse. Motion carried.

Darwin Warsaw then made the motion to approve the proposed budget. Jeff Warsaw seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Hardesty then read the ballot for the election of officers. It read as follows:

Treasurer:  
Secretary: Deb Lammle  
Elders: Aaron Warsaw and Shane Zimmerman  
Asst. Sunday School Supt: Connie Warsaw  
Asst. Financial Secretary: Diana Zimmerman  
Trustee: Lee Whitehouse  
Head Usher: Cheyenne Zimmerman

Chairman Hardesty then called for the annual vote of new council positions. He asked for nominations from the floor for each position three times.

For secretary, Deb Lammle, with no additional nominations from the floor. Jill Hardesty made the motion to close nominations. Theresa Van Wakeman-Wilson seconded.

For elders, Aaron Warsaw and Shane Zimmerman, with no additional nominations from the floor. Jeff Warsaw made the motion to close nominations. Annette Warsaw seconded.

For assistant Sunday School superintendent, Connie Warsaw, with no nominations from the floor. Jeff Warsaw made the motion to close nominations. Sue Van Wakeman seconded.

For assistant financial secretary, Diana Zimmerman, with no nominations from the floor. Roy Whitehouse made the motion to close nominations. Jeff Warsaw seconded.

For trustee, Lee Whitehouse, with no nominations from the floor. John Gercken made the motion to close nominations. Annette Warsaw seconded.

For head usher, Cheyenne Zimmerman, with no nominations from the floor. Jill Hardesty made the motion to close nominations. Jeff Warsaw seconded.

For treasurer, there was not a name on the ballot. Connie Warsaw nominated Bob Zimmerman from the floor. Jeff Warsaw made the motion to close nominations. Roy Whitehouse seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Hardesty then read the ballot as presented. Darwin Warsaw made the motion to cast a unanimous ballot. John Gercken seconded. Motion passed.

The newly elected officers will be installed on Sunday, January 18.

The next quarterly voters meeting will be April 12, 2015.

Barb Whitehouse-Gercken made a motion to adjourn and Theresa Van Wakeman-Wilson seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the common table prayer. A potluck followed in the fellowship hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hendricks  
Council Secretary





Wilma Forrest with her granddaughter  
Jenna and husband Nathan Mangold



Carol and Agnes Martinie



Bob, Frances and Diana Zimmerman



Marge Morrissey with Marsha Warsaw  
and Pastor McPike

**"Make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing."  
Psalm 98:5**

This is exactly what the choir at Immanuel Osman did when they sang to the shut-ins on January 4th after church. The members gathered to fill cookie trays for the shut-ins and then traveled to visit Wilma Forrest, Alma Hassebrock, Frances Zimmerman, Marge Morrissey and Carol Martinie. Carolyn Heinze was under the weather, so the group did not stop in Fisher. Osman's organist, Alicia Haggin directed the choir, and Scott Gercken accompanied the group when a piano was available. Besides singing, Pastor McPike read the Christmas story from the Bible at each stop. The snow did not dampen the spirits of the group. They ended the evening with pizza at Monical's in Mahomet. The day's excursion was another chance for the choir to "sing to the Lord a new song."

## **2015 Lenten Service Refreshment Schedule**

The name at the top of the list will act as chairman for the committee.  
Ingredients for the punch and coffee will be provided and placed on the counter in the hall.

### **February 18-Ash Wednesday**

#### **LWML Soup Supper**

#### **February 25**

Mr. & Mrs. Don Warsaw  
Kathy Brendel  
Karen Bryan  
Mr. & Mrs. John Gercken  
Wilma Grussing  
Mr. & Mrs. Butch Sprau  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Warsaw

#### **March 4**

Mr. & Mrs. John Lammle  
Jeri Bidner  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Lutz  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Welborn  
Agnes Martinie  
Darryl Redding

#### **March 11**

#### **Youth Group Taco Supper**

Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Clemmons  
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Gallier  
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Delaney  
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Masko  
Mr. & Mrs. Shane Zimmerman  
Mr. & Mrs. Shaun Zimmerman  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Duncan

#### **March 18**

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Zimmerman  
Mr. & Mrs. Myron Zimmerman  
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Hooker  
Mr. & Mrs. Neil Bidner  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Van Wakeman  
Theresa Van Wakeman-Wilson  
Arnita Zimmerman

#### **March 25**

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Gaines  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Edwards  
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Warsaw  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Whitehouse  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Martin  
Debbie Martin

#### **April 2-Maundy Thursday**

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Hardesty  
Brenda Hendricks  
Deb Peyton  
Mr. & Mrs. Darwin Warsaw  
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Warsaw  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Poppe

Note: If you wish to change committees or want to be added to a list,  
please contact the person at the top of the list.

### Statistics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Adult Class</u>
12/28	62	3	14
1/4	63	2	13
1/11	58	3	13
1/18	62	4	13
1/25	60	2	6

### February Birthdays

Bryan Edwards.....02-03  
 David Peyton.....02-03  
 Theresa Van Wakeman Wilson.....02-07  
 Christie Delaney.....02-10  
 Jenna Mangold.....02-14  
 Lora Nelson.....02-16  
 Neil Bidner.....02-17  
 Lisa Miller.....02-17  
 Jeff Warsaw.....02-19  
 Andrea Hicks.....02-20  
 Sarah Schuh.....02-21  
 Amanda Burgess.....02-24  
 Reese Gallier.....02-26  
 Marti Brandt.....02-27



### February Altar Guild

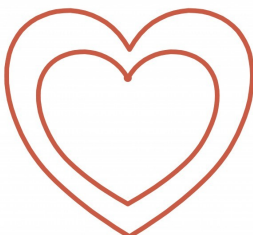
Barb Gaines

### February Acolytes

02/01 Mitchell Gallier  
 02/08 Tyler Duncan  
 02/15 Will Delaney  
 02/22 Mitchell Gallier

### February Lay Readers

02/01 Kim Clemmons  
 02/08 Marvin Clemmons  
 02/15 Barb Gaines  
 02/22 John Gercken



### February Anniversaries

Barb and Jerry Reifsteck.....02-04-1998



### Elder Schedule

Steve	Jan		
Neil	Feb		
Aaron			
Shane			