

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC

December 2017

"Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

Church Council

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman Voter's Meeting - July 23, 2017

The Quarterly Voter's Meeting was called to order by Chairman John Lammle on July 23, 2017. Pastor McPike opened the meeting with prayer. The secretary, Sandy Whitehouse, read the minutes of the April Voter's meeting. Jill Hardesty made the motion to accept the minutes; Deb Lammle seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer, Bob Zimmerman, read the 2nd quarter balance with a total of \$62,316.61. Bob reviewed the second quarter's totals for each category and stated we are well on track to what has been budgeted for. We were able to absorb some cost avoidance this year since we did not receive a Vicar. Darwin Warsaw made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Dave Kunde seconded; motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor McPike thanked the congregation for the continued support and partnership he receives in ministry. Pastor also wanted to relay his appreciation to Pastor Ehlers for his assistance to Immanuel Lutheran of Osman. Pastor Ehlers enjoys serving our church as well and always allows us to get on his schedule before others ask for his assistance.

Vacation Bible School starts on July 23 and will go through the 27th. VBS will be held in the evenings this year. Pastor and Sarah will perform a short skit each night at the beginning of VBS. Sarah also will provide a short presentation of her South Africa travels to VBS. Along with the children participating in VBS, Pastor McPike will be holding an adult VBS program in the church at the same time, studying the life of Luther. All are welcome to attend, but if you aren't available, there will be printed material available. Since we've used a Vicar in past years to hold a weekly summer class, this allows Pastor to fill that void this year. Thank you needs to be extended to Brenda Hendricks and all the other volunteers for leading and assisting with this year's VBS program.

Pastor noted there is interest to hold an adult catechism class. Please let Pastor know if you are interested. He would like to have at minimum 3-5 people interested.

Reminder to everyone that Sara McPike will be doing a presentation on Sunday, July 30 on her recent travels to South Africa. The evening will begin at 5:00pm. There is a sign-up on the bulletin board.

Sunday School Superintendent's Report: Nothing to report.

Trustee Report: The ramp project is almost finished. All concrete work and ground work has been completed. A temporary railing has been installed while we continue to obtain quotes on the permanent railing. We have received a very generous donation to go towards the ramp project which is greatly appreciated since it appears the railing will cost more than anticipated. We have received 1 bid for the railing, but we will request a couple more bids.

Old Business:

In the previous Voter's meeting, it was mentioned that paraments had recently been purchased. John Lammle went back and reviewed, and we purchased purple paraments in September 2014.

Reminder the church picnic will be held on August 13 at the Bellflower Community Center. There will be fun, food and games!

New Business:

The church computer has stopped working. We are looking at solutions to fix the existing computer, or possibly purchase a new one. This is the computer that records our weekly services and is placed on our website. We noticed it quit working after there was an extended power outage. It was recommended we look into our insurance coverage to see if it will cover the replacement costs.

Upcoming Activities:

Vacation Bible School July 23-27

Sara McPike Presentation July 30

Church Picnic August 13

Weiner Roast September 24

Pastor Appreciation/Reformation Fest Late October

The next Quarterly Voter's meeting will be on October 22, 2017.

A motion to adjourn was made by Barb Whitehouse-Gercken; Theresa VanWakeman-Wilson seconded; Motion carried.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Whitehouse

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman Church Council Meeting - October 18, 2017

The monthly council meeting of the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman was held on October 18, 2017. The following members were present: John Lammle, Dave Kunde, Steve Martin, Roy Whitehouse, and Sandy Whitehouse. Pastor McPike was out of town, but sent his Pastor Report ahead of time. Sandy Whitehouse read the minutes from the September council meeting. Roy Whitehouse made a motion to accept the minutes; Dave Kunde seconded; Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

- The September 30, 2017 balance was \$61,377.03. Steve Martin made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; Roy Whitehouse seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Report:

- Pastor reminded the Council he will be out of the country between November 5 and November 13. Pastor Ehlers will be available for emergencies, funerals, etc.
- Reformation Fest: The concluding celebration will be Sunday, October 29. A recap of how we have celebrated:
 - First Celebration Sunday was held Nov 13, 2016, as we celebrated the birth & baptism of Martin Luther.
 - Faces of Reformation series was placed in bulletins throughout the year and used during Bible Study.
 - Luther hymns have been a part of our services throughout the year.
 - The Christmas skit last year included Luther writing the Christmas hymn "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come".
 - Second Celebration Sunday was held on February 18, 2017 with a German meal and presentation on Erasmus of Rotterdam. On February 19, we used the German Communion Services of 1526 entitled "Deutsche Messa".
 - Third Celebration Sunday was held on June 25, 2017 with the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession.
 - Vacation Bible School on the Reformation Theme "Our God is a Mighty Fortress".
 - VBS Closing Sunday with "A Mighty Fortress" being a major theme.
 - Video Bible study on Luther and the Reformation was held from September through October on Sunday mornings.
 - Fourth Celebration Sunday, October 29, 2017 will be held using Luther's German Mass.
 - Reformation Fest will be held the evening of

October 29, featuring presentations about aspects of Luther's life, as well as great German food and polka music.

- Pastor would like to observe All Saints in November. Names of deceased members of our congregation will be read during the service, each followed by the tolling of the bell. We have not done this in the past, and Pastor would like to start doing it each year, but this first year would "catch up" for past deceased members. In order to do this, we would need to do the following:
 - Addresses need to be obtained
 - A letter from Pastor to the families will be sent, explaining the recognition of their family member and encourage their attendance.
 - A list of deaths going back to 1995 has already been prepared.
 - Pastor proposes we go back to 2008, when he first started with Osman funerals.
 - In future years, it will be for those who die from All Saint Sunday (first Sunday in Nov) to the next All Saint Sunday the following November.
 - On All Saints 2020, we could consider commemorating all those who have died in the 25 years since the Centennial – 1995-2020.
 - Thanksgiving – consider bringing back the congregational meal on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, followed by the Thanksgiving Service.

Finance Committee Report:

Nothing to report this month.

Elders Report:

Roy Whitehouse informed the Council he may have future conflicts with job responsibilities. He will continue his Elder responsibilities when possible. Roy will let the Council know if situations arise.

Sunday School Superintendent's Report:

Nothing to report this month.

Trustee Report:

- Wheel Chair Ramp project:
- Railing: A bid was previously accepted from JD Construction Services for \$5,140.00. A completion date is not available yet.
- Surge protection for the church: Brandon and Marvin Clemmons will provide a quote for a surge protector in Square D Panel and upgrade to the grounding.
- Reversible Ceiling Fans for the Church Sanctuary: Brandon Clemmons suggested we purchase the fans and he will install them. John Lammle asks that the Council members research fans and prices and bring to the November meeting.
- HVAC Contract: Chief Bauer has been out to provide a quote. Steve Martin has not received the quote, but it was noted that Bob Zimmerman has received an invoice from them. JC Heating and Cooling is also going to provide a quote. Bob Zimmerman will be informed to not pay the invoice at this time until we can receive the 2nd quote.
- Drainage Project - Should we take the \$7,000

budgeted out of the future budget? Voters will need to decide this but we'll talk more about this at the November meeting.

Stewardship Committee Report

The Stewardship Committee would like to hold a Benefit for the hurricane victims of Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico on November 4. The money raised from the benefit will go to the LCMS Hurricane Relief fund. They are requesting \$1500 of the 2017 Stewardship Fund at this time. Dave Kunde made the motion to approve the request; Steve Martin seconded; Motion carried.

Parish Nurse Report:

Nothing to report this month.

New Business:

- Church Property and Contents Policy:
- A draft copy was provided to the Council members to review for future documentation of use of church property and church contents. There will be further discussion of this at the November council meeting.
- Reformation Fest: As noted in the Pastor Report, this will be held on October 29 and will begin at 5:00pm. The German band has been reserved at a cost of \$250. Free will offering will be accepted to offset expenses. Pastor appreciation gifts will be distributed during the event. There is a sign-up sheet for food donations. We will need to purchase brats, buns and table service. John Lammle will ask Butch and Shirley Sprau to pick up these items.
- Agenda:
- 5:00-6:00pm Reformation Walk in and around the Church
- 6:00-7:00pm Eat with German music
- 7:00pm Presentation of Gifts to Pastor's, followed by Choir singing
- Thanksgiving Service/Dinner Potluck: It was agreed to hold a Thanksgiving meal on Sunday, November 19. Dinner will be served, and then we will have a Thanksgiving service. The Council wives will provide the meal. Deb Lammle will call a planning meeting.

Old Business:

Nothing additional

Upcoming Church Activities:

- Quarterly Voter's Meeting October 22
- Pastor Appreciation/Reformation Fest October 29
- Stewardship Benefit November 4
- November Council Meeting November 15
- Thanksgiving Service/Potluck November 19
- Youth Holiday Breakfast December 17
- December Council Meeting December 20
- Christmas Eve Service Program December 24

Closing:

The next Council meeting will be held on November 15, 2017. The Quarterly Voter's Meeting will be October 22. A motion to adjourn the October Council meeting was made by Steve Martin; Seconded by Dave Kunde. Motion carried. The Council adjourned the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Whitehouse

Thank You

Thanks again to the families of Jeannine Henriksen and CJ Warsaw for providing memorial funds to purchase the new red superfrontal paraments, pulpit and lectern paraments, as well as a matching veil and stole. These new paraments will be dedicated on November 29th during the church service.



Thanksgiving Meal and Service

Fifty five members of Immanuel Osman attended the Thanksgiving meal on November 19th at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Our feast included ham, turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, corn, and homemade rolls. Thanks to the council members' wives, Shirley Sprau, and Sandy Whitehouse for planning, setting up, and serving this annual event. Thanks to all who brought delicious salads and desserts, and a special thanks to Pastor McPike for the meaningful service of thanksgiving in word and song!

"We praise Thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator, In grateful devotion our tribute we bring; We lay it before Thee, we kneel and adore Thee, We bless Thy holy name, glad praises we sing."



Thanksgiving Meal Committee

Reformation Fest and Pastor Appreciation Event

Did you know? As early as 1524, Luther published a hymnal with 23 of his own hymns. This was one of the many facts about Luther that you would have heard while attending the Reformation Walk held at Immanuel Osman on October 29th. A music cantor told of Luther's love of music, Luther's parents reflected on his birth and baptism, a teacher of Luther told of his education followed by a lesson in German from Herr Haggin, John Tetzel explained indulgences, young Martin nailed the 95 theses to the front of the church door, and Frederick the Wise explained the arranged "kidnapping" of Luther, at the same time experiencing Luther translating the Bible in the Wartburg Castle. Our last stop in the walk was the Wittenberg café where everyone enjoyed a wonderful German meal while listening to German music. Bob Zimmerman presented Pastor McPike with a gift from the church to show our appreciation for all Pastor does spreading the Word of God at Immanuel Osman. Debbie Lammle presented a gift to pastor from his children, Sara and Ryan, who couldn't be present at the celebration. The choir ended with the Reformation Polka. Thanks to everyone who helped organize, participate in, and attend this special event-the 500th anniversary of the Reformation: **It's Still All About Jesus!**



Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on November 14 in the Immanuel Lutheran Fellowship Hall. After the meeting was called to order, the hymn "Come Ye Thankful People Come" was sung. Shirley Sprau read a devotion entitled "Focus on God" and was followed with a prayer. Agnes Watson led the topic entitled "Sheep Go To Heaven" from a LWML Quarterly. Seven members answered the roll call with a Bible verse on thankfulness. The minutes were read by Wilma Grussing. Connie Warsaw gave the treasurers' report which showed a balance of \$1678.49. Debbie Lammle reported the flower fund treasury balance as \$213.80 after sending several cards to our church members during the month. She then shared an email correspondence from our adopted student, Chris Walters. Brenda Hendricks thanked all the members who helped make quilts this year. 99 quilts were sent to Lutheran World Relief. She made a special thanks to Terri and Dwight Hooker for delivering them to Gibson City and to Deb Martin and Connie Warsaw for hemming the quilts. She also thanked the ladies who helped serve and make food for the funeral dinner for the family of Wilma Forrest. The group agreed to send \$35 to Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne for the food pantry and \$35 to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis for the food pantry. Each member gave a personal donation to Lutheran Children and Family Services which Agnes Watson collected. The new officers that were appointed were as follows: President – Shirley Sprau, Vice President – Debbie Lammle, Treasurer – Connie Warsaw, Secretary – Brenda Hendricks, Flower treasurer – Wilma Grussing, and LCFS chairman – Annette Warsaw. The ladies were asked to bring cookies for the fellowship hour on December 6th after the Advent worship service. Shirley Sprau and Debbie Lammle volunteered to serve the goodies. The ladies were invited to bring their husband or a guest to the Ladies Aid Christmas luncheon on Wednesday, December 6th, at noon in the fellowship hall. A signup sheet for the menu items was circulated at the table. The ladies were also asked to bring an \$8 to \$10 gift. The meeting closed with singing the hymn "We Praise Thee, Oh God Our Redeemer, Creator". The next regular meeting will be in March.

Fleece Blankets

At Vacation Bible School this year the students tied fleece blankets. The blankets were originally going to be donated to Lutheran World Relief, but due to strict regulations on the size of each blanket, they were instead donated to Champaign-Urbana Canteen Run which is an agency that tends to the homeless. They were delivered in late October. We received this thank you this month:

"Thank you for making the blankets and donating them to the Champaign-Urbana Canteen Run. They are very warm blankets. Your donation will help us to continue to serve the homeless". Sincerely, Canteen Run volunteers – Servants of Christ

LWML News

Quilting Project

Thank you to all the women who worked on quilts this past year by donating their time, talent or materials. We sent 99 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. Special thanks to Terri and Dwight Hooker for the hours they spent sorting, boxing and transporting the quilts. God bless you all for your selfless efforts! We will resume quilting in January with the dates to be set later.

LWML Meeting

The fourth quarter LWML meeting will be held on December 14 at 7 p.m. in the hall. Annette Warsaw will have the topic and Barb Whitehouse-Gercken will be the hostess. Anyone who wishes to participate in the grab bag gift exchange can bring a \$10-\$15 gift. We will also be having election of officers for the next two year cycle. Please plan to attend!

December is Safe Toys and Gift Month

The American Academy of Ophthalmology urges you to shop and celebrate with an eye on safety. They recommend to keep in mind safety guidelines when choosing a gift for little ones. Several recent studies have found some popular toy types are commonly associated with childhood eye injuries. These include air guns and projectile shooting toys, high-powered lasers, and sports equipment. The Academy is encouraging gift givers to follow these tips this holiday season.

- **Beware of airsoft, BB guns, and other projectile toys.** Avoid items with sharp, protruding or projectile parts.
- **Never allow children to play with high-powered laser pointers.** These powerful lasers can cause retinal damage in seconds when aimed into the eye.
- **Read labels for age recommendations before you buy.** Follow instructions for proper assembly, use, and supervision.
- **Don't just give presents. Make sure to be present.** Always make sure an adult is supervising when children are playing with potentially hazardous toys or games that could cause eye injury.
- **Know what to do (and what not to).** If someone experiences an eye injury, seek immediate medical attention. As you wait for medical help do not touch, rub, or apply pressure, or try to remove any object stuck in the eye.

The Academy "hopes people will take steps to shop and play responsibly this year. Following these tips can help make sure our little ones have healthy vision for many holiday seasons to come".

Susan Miller parishnurse@osmanlutheran.org

Benefit Soup Supper

Thank you to all who volunteered their time on Saturday, November 4 to make the benefit soup supper for the victims of hurricanes in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico a success. The free will offering collected at the event, plus the Thrivent Choice dollars from our congregation totaled \$3603. The money was given to Lutheran Church Missouri Synod - World Relief and Human Care. Approximately 158 people were served with delicious soups, sandwiches, and desserts. Fellowship abounded as the food was eaten by many people in our communities. It was a group effort by everyone who cooked, baked, served, and organized this event. A special thanks to Roy and Annette Whitehouse and Dwight and Terri Hooker for planning this benefit.

Giving at Christmas

On Sunday, November 12th, our children (Megan Bidner, Jenna Clemmons, Mitch Gallier, Reese Gallier, and Addison Warsaw) helped pack Samaritan Purse Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. The boxes were packed at the beginning of their Sunday School time. A Thrivent Action Team card for \$250 was used to buy the supplies for the boxes and to cover the \$9 per box postage charge. Terri Hooker applied for the card. The congregation also donated school supplies in August which were added to the gift. The boxes were delivered to the local pick-up destination in our area which was the Bible Church in Gibson City. The Sunday School children were excited to add a note in some boxes about themselves. Pastors around the world host shoebox distributions in places where people may not know Christ. The boxes that the children packed last year were delivered to Cameroon, a country in central Africa. Other churches use the boxes as resources for outreach in orphanages and other at-risk areas. A Gospel story booklet "The Greatest Gift" is added to each box so each recipient can learn of the greatest gift at Christmas. Thank you for sharing the news of the birth of our Savior with children around the world!



Thank You !

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you for your sympathy cards. I read them over and over; they help comfort.

I am blessed that I am Jack's mother. As a parent, I got to love him, take care of him to the best that I could, helping teach and enjoy him, knowing that he did not belong to me but to the Lord.

Jack was born on my mom and dad's 25th wedding anniversary and was called Jack by my dad the first night, when he saw him at Mercy Hospital. He went to be with his much loved and missed granddaughter Caitlyn Brooke Mathis on her 25th birthday. He dearly loved his grandchildren—"Pampaw Jack".

Jack was baptized April 8, 1945 in the old church on the same spot where I was baptized 96 years ago. He was confirmed by Rev. Wackler, who helped our family by stopping and picking them up for a fast but safe ride to Osman—they said they had to "hang on".

The funds that were in the cards that had "in memory of Jack" were sent to Julie in Oklahoma to be used in the Caitlyn Mathis Memorial Scholastic Fund. I know that is what Jack would have wanted.

Members of our church congregation helped build on our new church here in Osman.—I love so much. Jack at an early age (before old enough for school) got to be with the members on a few occasions where he helped pick up nails and did a little hammering.

I am so thankful that we have Pastor McPike to fill in for Jesus and give us his wonderful messages and deliver them only as he can do. We are blessed that we have him to help us through the difficult times.

I miss Jack calling and talking and saying on the phone, "now think what you are doing", and the big hugs when he was leaving after a visit.

We Lutherans can be thankful for Martin Luther's "nailed it" five hundred years ago on October 31, 1517. It changed everything for us.

It was a lot of work raising a big family but it has paid off now with all the help I have received from all of them.

Thanks to all of you for being in my church family and I love you all. Jeri

New Address

Johanne Bloch is in a care facility in Wisconsin, which is close to where her daughter Rachael lives. Her address is: Joanne Bloch, 2001 Touchmark Dr M23 (the M23 is for Meadows Room 23), Appleton, WI 54914

Decorating the church

The church here at Immanuel Osman will be decorated for Christmas in the traditional way, with the hanging of the greens and displaying the advent wreath by December 3rd, the placing of the tree on December 10th, and the rest of the decorations on December 17th. Watch for more details in the upcoming church bulletins.

Advent Service

Mark your calendars for our annual Advent Service on December 6th, at 7pm, followed by a social hour with cookies, bar cookies, and drinks sponsored by the Ladies Aid.

Christmas Cantata

Everyone is invited to the Bellflower Area Christmas Cantata, led by Allen Grussing, on December 9th, at 6pm in the Bellflower Community Center. Cookies and punch will be serving following the performance. You are guaranteed to be in the Christmas spirit when you leave!

Poinsettias

Anyone who would like to donate a Christmas poinsettia to adorn the altar on Christmas Eve please sign-up on the bulletin board by December 17th. Your money may be given to Bob Zimmerman, our church treasurer, and make checks to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman. (Watch the bulletin for the price.) Poinsettias may be taken home after the December 31st service. Thanks to everyone in advance for beautifying our worship area!

Holiday Breakfast/Festival of Trees

Please join us on Sunday, December 17th, for the youth sponsored Christmas breakfast. In addition to the breakfast, the youth is sponsoring a "Festival of Trees". Any group or individual may bring a miniature decorated Christmas tree to the Hall on Dec. 16th. Attendees will vote on the best decorated tree during the breakfast and small prizes will be awarded. One tree will be auctioned off and the proceeds given to the youth for their next youth gathering. We would like 6-8 trees for this event, so please sign-up on the bulletin board in the church if you wish to bring a tree. The trees should not exceed 36 inches from the stand to the top of the tree, and only battery operated lights used. You may take your trees home after the breakfast. Thank you for your participation!

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

Statistics

Date	Worship	Sunday School	Adult Class
10/22	59	0	0
10/29	54	2	12
11/5	54	2	12
11/12	57	5	12
11/19	57	n/a	n/a
11/26	n/a	n/a	n/a

Congratulations!

December Birthdays

Myron Zimmerman.....12-02
 Jonathon Schuh.....12-04
 David Hasty.....12-05
 David Brown.....12-08
 Deborah Martin.....12-09
 Darren Peyton.....12-12
 Barbara Reifsteck.....12-16
 Jerred Grussing.....12-17
 Alicia Haggin.....12-17
 Amber Hendricks.....12-17
 Connie Grussing.....12-18
 Diana Zimmerman.....12-21
 Nathan Hooker.....12-25
 Deb Johnson.....12-28
 John Grussing.....12-31

December Anniversaries

Dorothy and Gene Welborn.....12-20-1953
 Martha and Darwin Warsaw.....12-31-1966



2017 Elder Schedule

Jan Marvin	Feb Don	Mar Butch
Apr Roy	May Roy	June Butch
July Don	Aug Butch	Sept Marvin
Oct Marvin	Nov Roy	Dec Don