

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512

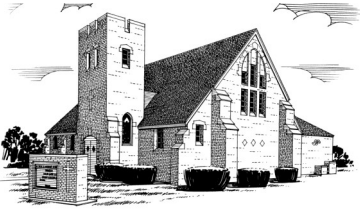
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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN **The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**

Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC

June 2020

Be still , and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the
nations, I will be exalted in the
earth. Psalm 46:10



From Pastor McPike's Desk...

Moving Forward in times of COVID-19

It has been a long time since we have been able to gather as the people of God at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman. Honoring God by setting aside a time to gather as His people is something God has called on His people to do since the days of the Israelites in the Old Testament. Yet, safety right now is the ruling factor. We honor God by protecting ourselves and others, keeping the Fifth Commandment.

Going forward, we are looking at creative ways that we can satisfy our needs spiritually. Not having communion since March is not at all a good thing! Jesus Himself said "Do this OFTEN". Yet COMMUNION implies gathering together, which we have not been able to do.

The church council decided to continue services ONLY online. These are available both audio (under the "sermons" link on the website) and, thanks to Nick Haggin, video via YouTube. So while we are able to worship "virtually", this does not allow for Communion.

The church council decided that communion would be done via a "drive-up" situation starting in June when the state of Illinois goes into "Phase 3" of the re-opening plan. These opportunities will be Sunday, June 7, 2020, and Sunday June 21, 2020. The time period will be between 10 and 11 AM on Sunday morning.

The best traffic pattern for this would be to turn south at the east-most road into Osman (the narrow gravel that goes toward Steve and Susie's house), turn right (toward the church). I will be set up near the front door of the church to bring communion to you. You can then exit through the parking lot back to County Road 100. We will utilize plastic cups; I will be wearing a mask and using gloves. The host will be provided on a paper plate. You will have nothing to return to me.

Another concern that has been raised is that communion will be happening apart from a formal worship service. This is similar to communion given to folks in their homes, in the hospitals or nursing homes. The only thing really necessary for communion is God's word coupled with the elements. That means that for each car, the Words of Institution (which is the power in the sacrament) will be said so that the communicants in the car can hear them. As far as the actual receiving of communion is concerned, that is all that is necessary.

Closely connected with communion is confession of sins and absolution. Because we don't do that individually, the custom has been in the Lutheran Church for that to be done corporately at the beginning of the service. Indeed, in days of old, confession and absolution was done privately or in small groups, and the actual Sunday morning service would begin with the "Introit" or "Entrance Hymn". Having confession and absolution at the beginning of the communion service is a sort of "next best thing" since most don't go to private or small group confession/absolution anymore.

That being said, the two do not have to be completely linked. What is more necessary than making sure that confession and absolution happen just before receiving communion is that our lives are regular in confessing our sins before God and receiving His forgiveness. So for our communion at Osman, that will be possible in the following ways:

On the Sunday prior to the Sunday where communion is offered, we will use the Morning Service without communion or some other form of a confessional service as a part of the worship. Additionally, the confession of sins and absolution will be emailed prior to the Sunday when communion is offered. Finally, the hymnal contains several forms for confession and absolution. Each setting of the Divine Service has forms of this (pages 151, 167, 184, 203, 213). In each case, there are two forms of "absolution". One, which is what I always use, is the actual giving of the forgiveness of sins which Christ called his church, through the called pastors, to give to the people usually containing the words "In the stead and by the command". However, there are alternative "absolutions" which are more "declarations of grace" that do not require a pastor. This form was one CFW Walther would encourage used, and can be used when there is NOT a pastor leading the confession and absolution. These forms are identified by the fact that you do not see the direct first-person words, "I forgive you", but you have a declaration that there IS forgiveness. Any of these forms can be used by an individual, or by two or more people either in unison or responsively. Just because a part of marked "P" for "Pastor" does not mean that those parts can't be used by someone else who agrees to be a leader in a small group setting. The only words that should be reserved for the pastor are the paragraphs that have wording that identifies the speaker as pastor "I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained... forgive you all your sins..." etc.

If you do not have Lutheran Service book, check out page 5 in "The Lutheran Hymnal" (the book many of us grew up with). If you have Lutheran Worship, it would be pages 136, 158, 178.

There is also a nice form of confession and forgiveness found in a night service in either LSB or Lutheran Worship. LSB p. 254 and LW page 264. This service is the last of the "Daily Offices" (if you have been watching services online you know about "Daily Offices"). Compline has a portion where two people, or two groups, or a person and a group (all in a family unit in this COVID-19 world) can confess to each other and forgive each other. This "giving of forgiveness" back and forth is a bit different than the pastor's absolution, because while it does say "I forgive you" on to the other, it does not have the wording of doing it as the called pastor. This brings up an additional important point. When Jesus gave the forgiving of sins to His church, He gave it to the CHURCH. Pastors exercise this on behalf of the church in Christ's stead, but any Christian can forgive any other. Thus, the forms you find with Compline.

Blessings in this time. God be with you.

125th Celebration Postponed

After much thought and discussion, the church council has recommended that the 125th celebration that was planned for July 19th, 2020 will be postponed until the summer of 2021. The church council felt it was in the best interest of everyone involved, with what is going on with COVID-19 to postpone the celebration until next summer of 2021, when we hope that we can properly gather and worship again as we are accustomed to.

New Phase 3 Restrictions

The church council is monitoring the new Phase 3 restrictions that will be in place soon and possible changes to those restrictions. We'll keep the congregation informed of any new developments.

**Pastor and Marlyn Ehlers
celebrate 60 years!**

What a blessing it is for Pastor and Mar Ehlers to be regularly connected to our church. This year, Pastor celebrates 60 years in ministry in June, and Pastor and Marlyn celebrate 60 years of marriage in the fall.

They absolutely request NO GIFTS. A shower of cards would be a nice gesture, however. Those can be sent to:

**Rev. & Mrs. Donald Ehlers
1506 THEODORE DR UNIT B
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61821**

The following bio comes from their daughter, Karen. Of note... Pastor Ehlers and Pastor McPike were ordained on the very same date 28 years apart!

Pastor Ehlers grew up in Columbus, Nebraska attending the Lutheran parochial school through the 8th grade. He spent his junior year in high school at St. John Academy in Winfield, Kansas. After attending the University of Nebraska for 1-1/2 years, he enrolled in Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Illinois. He was assigned to Immanuel Lutheran in Fargo, North Dakota for his vicarage. This is where he met his wife, Marlyn, who volunteered with the church's youth group.

Upon graduation from the seminary, Pastor Ehlers was assigned to a mission church in Lisle, Illinois. He was installed on June 26, 1960. He and Marlyn were married that same year on October 8th in Fargo.

Pastor Ehlers served St. John Lutheran Church in Omaha from 1965-1968 and St. John Lutheran Church in Champaign from 1968-1997. He has served numerous churches in the Central Illinois District as vacancy pastor and guest preacher during his semi-retirement.

Pastor and Marlyn Ehlers have three children and six grandchildren.

To Those in His Service:

Dear Pastor McPike, Pastor Ehlers, Nick and Alicia Haggin,

Thank you for your willingness to serve Him and for tirelessly giving so much of your time, effort and energy. The work the Lord is doing through you is a blessing to many. Thank you for your presence when we needed the assurance of God in our lives! Please know you are lifted up in prayer and your ministry is greatly appreciated!

Father's Day

On this Father's Day, we give thanks for all the fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers. We also give thanks to God who is a father to the fatherless. Whether you feel full of joy, nostalgia, or pride as you think about Father's Day, take comfort in the fact that you have a perfect Father in heaven who loves and accepts you just as you are. God's blessings to all the fathers!

Chris Walters

Congratulations to Chris Walters, who is assigned to Lutheran Ministries in Fort Wayne, just as he requested for his vicarage year. Chris was the seminary student supported by the Ladies Aid/LWML here at Osman and the son-in-law of Pastor and Deb Henry. Chris will be a chaplain in nursing homes. He and his wife Dana requested this assignment so the children could stay in school in Ft. Wayne.

Also, prayers for Dana who suffered from the corona virus, but is back to work at this time. Chris and the children were quarantined for a week. God's blessings to the family as Chris begins this new chapter in his education!

Ina (Warsaw) Thomason

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of Ina Marie (Warsaw) Thomason, former member of Immanuel Osman, who died May 6, 2020 at Sunny Hill Nursing Home in Joliet, at the age of 101. Ina was born August 25, 1918 in Saybrook to Albert and Lena (Beetzel) Warsaw. She was baptized at Osman on October 14, 1918, and confirmed on Palm Sunday, 1933 also at Osman. Ina was predeceased by her husband Russell, and her eldest son Allen D. She was survived by son Loren (Carol) Thomason, daughter Christina McSherry, daughter-in-law Sharlene Thomason, seven grandchildren, nephews Ross and Darwin Warsaw, and niece Carolyn Majercin.



Congratulations to All 2020 Graduates!



Mackenzie Delaney daughter of Leonard and Christie Delaney graduated from Parkland College with an Associate in Arts, General Studies degree. She will be attending U of I this fall majoring in Social Work. God's blessings to Mackenzie as she begins this new journey in her education!

Will Delaney son of Leonard and Christie Delaney graduated from Fisher High School on May 17th with a celebration of fireworks and a parade. Will was a 5x all conference football player, 2x all conference basketball player, member of the National Honor Society and Beta Club, and graduated Magna Cum Laude. Will is in the Parkland Pathway to the U of I program, studying Ag Business, marketing, and management. Will gave the graduation speech for his class which was taped before the parade. God's blessings to Will as he begins this new chapter of his life!



125th Ornaments

125th ornaments are available until after the 2021 celebration. Please see Debbie Martin, Christie Delaney, Wilma Grussing, or Marsha Warsaw.

Thank you!

Bellflower Area Christmas Cantata

Looking now for people who would like to participate in this year's Bellflower Area Christmas Cantata. Anyone from communities in the Bellflower area is welcome. Tenor and bass voices are especially needed. Rehearsals will be weekly beginning in October with a performance scheduled for early December. Exact schedule to be announced later. If you would like to be a part of the choir, please contact Allen Grussing at [309-722-5004](tel:309-722-5004) or allen.grussing@gmail.com.

Ladies Aid/LWML

The Ladies Aid/LWML meeting that was originally scheduled for Thursday, June 11, will be postponed. The next meeting will HOPEFULLY be July 9th at 1:30PM.

JUNE 2020

Due to the COVID-19 Virus guidelines, all these activities will be pending the decisions made by the Church Council and Pastor McPike.

Osman's Upcoming Events

Tentative Upcoming Events

June 7 - "Drive Up Communion" 10AM-11AM
 June 17 - Church Council at 6:30pm
 June 21 - "Drive Up Communion" 10AM-11AM
 Father's Day
 June 28 - Quarterly Voter's Meeting
 July 9 - Ladies Aid/LWML meeting 1:30PM
 Aug 23 - Confirmands Questioning & Reception
 Aug 30 - Confirmation
 2021 - Centennial Celebration

June Anniversaries

Jenna and Nathan Mangold.....06-03-2011
 Jamie and Aaron Krueger.....06-10-2017
 Jill and Rick Hardesty.....06-11-1994
 Terri and Dwight Hooker.....06-15-1985
 Beth and Neil Bidner.....06-23-2001
 Debbie and John Lammle.....06-25-1977
 Janet and Myron Zimmerman.....06-30-1979

Statistics

Date	Worship	Sunday School	Conf	Adult Class
4/26	0	Covid-19	0	0
5/03	0	Covid-19	0	0
5/10	0	Covid-19	0	0
5/17	0	Covid-19	0	0
5/24	0	Covid-19	0	0
5/31	0	Covid-19	0	0

June Birthdays

Susan Martin.....06-03
 Brant Hendricks.....06-08
 Jamie Poppe.....06-08
 Donald Warsaw.....06-09
 Jim VanWakeman.....06-12
 Amanda Amdor.....06-13
 Rong Warsaw.....06-13
 Michael Brooks.....06-15
 Brenda Edwards.....06-16
 Jeri Bidner.....06-18
 Dick Johnson.....06-19
 Natalie Hooker.....06-21
 Beth Bidner.....06-22
 Kim Clemmons.....06-24
 Laura Zimmerman.....06-26
 Ashley Martin.....06-27
 Jack Gallier.....06-30