

# 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

**July 2022**



## From Pastor McPike's Desk...

The year 2022 marks the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. The LCMS is a church body that is more “congregational” in polity than it is “Episcopal”. That means, while some church bodies have archbishops, bishops and others who are in a greater hierarchy than the local pastors in churches, the LCMS is congregational. The local church is an independent unit. Congregations link together to do work that is greater than they could not do alone – such as operate colleges and seminaries for the training of church workers, support of missionaries -- especially in foreign lands, and other efforts that are beyond the local churches. The words “Synod” comes from two Greek words that mean “Walk – together”. In this edition, we’ll see how the chaos that ensued in 1841 after Bishop Martin Stephan was deposed and expelled from the colony (see the June Newsletter) shaped the structure of the LCMS to what is today.

*Reorganization – “Are we a church?”*

For centuries, the church centered in Europe was one of an “episcopal” structure. Before the time of the Reformation, the whole western church was one – the Roman Catholic Church. This was a structured system headed by the pope, then cardinals, then archbishops, then bishops, priests, deacons, etc. It was somewhat like the military - what the person over you said is what you did. The other aspect to this was the symbiosis between church government and civil government. Laws were enacted based on how the church should conduct itself, and penalties (including possible time in jail) were a consequence. Even after the Reformation, there was an official “state church”, and there was one religion (determined by the ruler) for the whole region. This is why, when the teachings of the official church in Prussia became problematic for Saxon German Lutherans, these were the choices: Comply or risk arrest, OR... leave altogether. The over 800 Saxons, including five parish pastors who joined the 1839 immigration (see previous articles) chose the latter, and wound up in St. Louis and Perry County (100 miles south) Missouri.

Those 1839 Saxon immigrants intended to import that centuries-old structure of the “state church” model to their colony in America. In fact, as previously stated, church leaders would also be community leaders (think of the town pastor also being the mayor) and the church leadership (church council) also was the town council. However, when scandal struck and their “Bishop” was deposed and sent into exile in Illinois, all that was called into question.

The fall of Martin Stephan raised a serious question: “Are we the church?” This was based on those centuries of defining church by a top-down structure that was also tied to defining the church by that structure. So, when the colonists found themselves without a bishop, they began to ask, “are we the church?”

*What is the church?*

“The Church” was, to that time, defined by apostolic authority. In other words, the “authority” to preach the word and the “authority” to administer the sacraments... the authority of the pastoral office came originally from Christ, through the Apostles, and then down through the successors of the Apostles, the various church leadership positions, mostly within the established church. When Pastor Stephan had himself elected bishop, this was, in part, to provide a continuation of this authority. He had been ordained in Germany by German bishops, and so he carried that authority that would provide it to the colonists as they established a church in America. However, once deposed, where was that authority? Could the pastors preach? Could they forgive sins? Could they function as pastors at all? Under whose/what authority? What is the church?

Discontent caused a fissure among the Saxon Immigrants. A growing number of them felt that they had left “the church” in Germany, and thus were an illegitimate group separated from the church. More and more of them felt that they should return to Germany, repent of their sin of leaving the church, and be re-integrated.

A debate was thus proposed, where the two sides, one being those wishing to go home to Germany and the other that the Saxon Immigrants should stay in Missouri. The debate centered on a number of questions, but the main issue was “Are we the church?” which then made necessary another question, “What is the church?” Pastor C.F.W. Walther was one debater, and the other was Jacob Marbach, a lawyer who was part of the Immigration. The debate was held in Altenburg at the “Log cabin” schoolhouse (Concordia Seminary) in 1841.

Briefly, Marbach argued from the traditional understanding of “church”, that the “authority” of church, the organization of “church” was based on the authority of the Apostles coming from the hierarchical structure of the church. The pastoral office came from this “top-down” structure. Thus, he argued that the Saxon Immigrants were not the church and should return to Germany.

Pastor Walther, on the other hand, after a long study of the scriptures, came to the conclusion that the authority of the church was based in the word of God. As groups (called congregations) gathered regularly around the preaching of God’s word and the administration of the sacraments, there the church is found. The congregation should thus examine worthy candidates to exercise the office of the ministry among them and call that person to be their pastor. In other words, the call from the congregation is what makes a person a pastor, NOT any hierarchical structure. In fact, argued Walther, the congregation is the truest expression of God’s church on earth. Any other associations, structures, groupings of the church simply are congregations pooling resources in order to accomplish a work that would be far more difficult, if even possible, for congregations to accomplish alone.

Walther’s position won the day. Even Marbach conceded to Walther’s view. The Saxon immigrants had regular functioning congregations already. These were the church. Should they join in any sort of structure later on, they would continue to be the church, and that structure would be the church only by extension (the “church” as a collection of “churches”). This structure, by the way, ended up defining the basic structure of the new body known as the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States (today’s LCMS), still, at that time, six years in the future.

**Next month: “Other German Immigrations: from Franconia”**

## **Thank You**

I am so grateful Immanuel Osman is in my life! You have brought me more happiness than you could ever know. And today I want to say "thank you" for being my wonderful "congregation family"! I appreciate all the cards, prayers, and food you have prepared for me so I could rest, relax, and continue to heal.

God's Blessings,  
Debbie and John Lammle

## **Thank You**

Thank you! Thank you so much to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman for the \$200 donation to Give Me Five – Food Bag Program – in Mahomet. That will cover over forty bags of food for our summer program.

Sincerely,  
Lori Larson

## **Thank You**

Thank you! Mel has graduated out of physical and occupational therapy and is currently taking it one day at a time in speech therapy. He has still many hurdles to jump over to get back from his aphasia. He is reading small words, and one day he can speak well on a subject and the next day he cannot. He still has a great deal of head pain. There is still a touch of leaking going on from the brain, that will often times cause pressure type pain. Thank God he still has his memories and is able to work hard on his homework. He can say the Apostles Creed, Lord's Prayer, and Luther's Morning or Evening Prayer with me every day. Our house is still on a type of silent mode, with no electronics for him, although he likes the part of the day where he watches nature out the front window and listens to a CD of favorite hymns from Concordia House. He enjoys the newsletter. I print them from the website and read them to him. Thank you all for your prayers. Thank you for the warm welcome I received at your church the day I visited.

In Christ,  
Melvin and Christine Sims

## **Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting**

The next Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. Marsha Warsaw will have the topic. Connie Warsaw and Annette Warsaw will be the hostesses. The roll call will be answered with your favorite vacation. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

## **Quilting**

The ladies will be tying quilts on Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM and Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM. The ladies will be tying quilts for Lutheran World Relief. All members are invited to come help as NO experience is needed!

## **Thank You**

Thanks for all the help you have given me and for the sixty-three years of teaching the congregation's "little ones". Thank you everyone for all the birthday cards and birthday wishes through Facebook.

Love,  
Jeri Bidner

## **LCMS Central Illinois District Convention**

The 60th Convention of the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and the 9th Convention of the CID Church Extension Fund will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Illinois, on July 17-19, 2022. The convention will open with a Communion Service at 7 PM on July 17<sup>th</sup>. The convention will be in session from 8 AM to 9:30 PM on July 18<sup>th</sup> and from 8 AM to noon on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Election of Central Illinois officers and many other business items will be discussed during these days. Brenda Hendricks will be the voting delegate for our congregation. A report will be given at the congregational voters meeting at the end of the month.

## **LCMS Youth Gathering**

The LCMS Youth Gathering is being held July 9 – 13 in Houston, Texas at the George R. Brown Convention Center. The theme is “In All Things” based on Colossians 1:15 – 20. Held every 3 years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God’s people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity. Jenna Clemmons and Addison Warsaw will be attending the gathering as our youth from our congregation. They will be accompanied by Kim Clemmons and Annette Warsaw. They will be sharing their experience with the congregation upon their return.

## **Baked Goods Needed!**

**EVERYBODY** is invited to bake for the Ladies Aid/LWML Bake Sale in Bellflower on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>! It will be served out of the Bellflower Fire House beginning at 7:30 AM. You can bring your “goodies” to church on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and put them in the fellowship hall refrigerator or you can bring them by 6:30 on that morning to Bellflower. Plates with two to four cookies work well and individual baggies of snack foods are usually popular as parade watchers can eat these as they await the parade.

## **July Lawn Mowers**

The week of June 26 – July 2 – Darwin Warsaw  
The week of July 3 – July 9 – Steve Warsaw  
The week of July 10 – July 16 – Jim Poppe  
The week of July 17 – July 23 – Lee Whitehouse  
The week of July 24 – July 30 – Jeff Warsaw



The schedule this year lists the week that the volunteer needs to mow. It is recommended to mow on Thursday through Saturday of that week, so it looks nice for Sunday. If you have misplaced your schedule which was in the April newsletter, there is one on the back bulletin board. If you have any questions, contact trustee Lee Whitehouse.

## **Council Meeting**

The next council meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. The quarterly congregational meeting will be held on July 24<sup>th</sup> after the worship service.

## **July Birthdays**

7-02 Ryan Lammle  
7-05 Jerry Edwards  
7-06 MacKenzie Delaney  
7-12 Larry Lutz  
7-13 Wilma Grussing  
7-14 William Schroeder  
7-15 Ryan McPike  
7-15 Aaron Warsaw  
7-15 Bryan Warsaw  
7-20 Carolyn Majercin  
7-21 Shane Zimmerman  
7-27 Jane Poppe  
7-29 John Haggin  
7-30 Roy Whitehouse



<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Bible Class</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
<b>May 29</b>	53	11	2
<b>June 5</b>	48	9	2
<b>June 12</b>	48	12	1
<b>June 19</b>	41	10	3

HAPPY  
*Anniversary!*

## **Anniversaries**

7-10-1971 Deb and Dick Johnson  
7-12-2011 Hallie and Greg Payne  
7-16-1977 Marsha and Steve Warsaw  
7-21-2007 Rebecca and Scott Gercken  
7-24-1999 Nikki and Rob Gallier  
7-28-2007 Nicole and Jesse Johnson

## **It's A Boy!**

Congratulations to Joy and Eric Zimmerman on the birth of their son, Ethan Andrew, on June 18<sup>th</sup>. He is welcomed home by big sisters, Luella and Clare. His grandparents are Myron and Janet Zimmerman, and his great grandmother is Arnita Zimmerman. May God bless Ethan and his parents with His care!

## **July 4<sup>th</sup> Float**

The church will be represented in the July 4<sup>th</sup> Bellflower Parade with a float. The theme is "God Shed His Grace on Thee" from the lyrics of "America the Beautiful". Everyone wishing to help assemble the float can come to the FS Building in Bellflower on Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 8 AM.

## **Shut-In Visits**

Thank you to Barb Whitehouse Gercken and Diana Zimmerman for visiting our shut-ins this month. There is a sign-up sheet on the back bulletin board for anyone who would like to take a turn visiting our members who can not attend church for health reasons. You do not have to visit all the shut-ins on the same day; the visits may be divided according to the number of people signed up. Volunteers may decide on the most convenient day and time to visit. A short visit from a church member could make their day!