

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC

September 2023



From Pastor McPike's Desk...

In April 2022, the LCMS celebrated 175 years, being founded in 1847. This column has been dedicated to a basic history of our church body since that time, right up to last month when the challenging question, “can an immigrant church survive without immigration?” was proposed, looking at the decline of mainline Christianity at large, the Synod itself, and rural congregations like Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman.

While time was spent remembering the history of our own church body, the LCMS, there is also another anniversary that bears remembering in the history of Lutheranism. Back in 2017, we celebrated 500 years since the posting of the 95 Theses on October 31, 1517. This is usually seen as the start of the Lutheran Reformation. It is by no means a single date holiday. During the years since, we have had a chance to remember a number of related events that also have “turned 500” - such as the Heidelberg Disputation (1518), Luther’s appearance before the Emperor known as the “Diet at Worms” (1521), Luther’s 13 month stay “hiding” at the Wartburg Castle (1521-1522), and the publication of the New Testament in German (1522) to name a few. This year is not so monumental, but two events bear a few lines here. The first will appear this month, the next, in October.

One event that happened 500 years ago in April 1523 was the escape of twelve nuns from the convent at Nimbschen, including Katharina von Bora - the woman who married Luther in 1525.

Katharina von Bora was born around 1499 to an impoverished nobleman. Her mother died by the time she was 4 or 5, and her father, unable to support his children, sent her first to the Benedictine Cloister at Brehna. She completed her education there, and then later moved to the Cistercian monastery at Nimbschen where her aunt resided. She eventually became a nun.

One question to answer is – who would want to enter a monastic community when they were very young, devoting themselves to a life of celibacy, being apart from their families with no independence to live where they wanted or pursue any craft or trade that they might want? Speaking about nuns, women in the Middle Ages had two basic ways to make it in the world. They were supported by a man, either a husband or father. Fathers who could not do so would often do exactly what Katharina’s father did, as entrance into the monastic community was cheaper for the family than dowry for marriage. The advantage, too, was that hardly anyone could read or write in those days. Yet Katharine not only had an education, but also was fluent in Latin, the language of education and the church in that day. Along with her sister nuns, she was able to read the Bible.

By around 1519, Martin Luther was becoming well known, and also rather well published in and around lands of Germany. The leader of the Cistercian cloister where Katharina lived became interested in Luther's teachings and was able to obtain a number of his writings. Though Luther's writings were forbidden, they were nonetheless read by the sisters, and several of them, including Katharina, began to long to leave. But how? They had no resources, and nuns could only leave with the permission of a family member such as a parent. Katharina's father refused. Word of their plight reached Martin Luther, and he masterminded their departure from monastic life.

Five hundred years ago, in April 1523, twelve young nuns huddled in the shadow of the convent walls shivering... more out of fright and anticipation than the cool evening. Soon, their get-away vehicle came. Leonard Koppe, a merchant and town councilman, arrived driving a fish wagon. The young women quietly hurried to their waiting "coach" and slid into large fish barrels that lined the back.

Nearly two days later nine of them made it to their final destination in Wittenberg (the other three had been dropped off earlier in the town of Torgau). Exhausted, starving and disheveled they presented themselves to the mastermind behind their escape, Martin Luther himself, who later described them to a friend as a "wretched crowd".

Luther managed to arrange marriages for eight of the nine who came to Wittenberg, but one proved to be a bit more difficult to match. Katharina von Bora eventually sent word that she was willing to marry either Luther's friend Nicholas von Amsdorf, or Luther himself. She and Luther married two years later, in 1525.

While this is interesting history, once again, we see that there are those who were willing to risk a great deal and sacrifice comfort and security in order to follow what they believed. Indeed, Katie Luther ended up being a very well suited companion for the great reformer, as she was educated, thus well matched for him, and able to support his endeavors throughout some very difficult times in the beginning days of the Reformation.

Katie, and many like her, left her comfort zone, followed her heart, and contributed a great deal to the church that we today have as Lutherans. The challenge before us is... how can we leave our own comfort and branch out in ways that will spread the gospel message that we so comfortably enjoy despite the fact that we are wretched sinners deserving God's wrath and punishment?

Next month: Luther writes his first hymn... 500 years ago this year.

Adult Confirmation Class

There has been some interest in an adult Confirmation Class. If you are interested or know someone who is interested, please contact Pastor McPike.

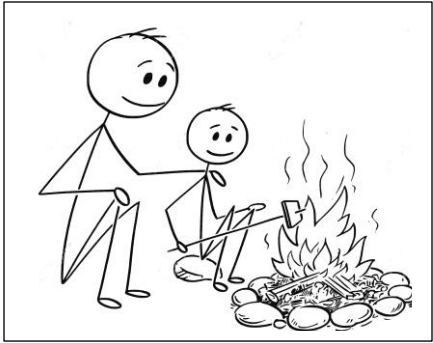
Church Council Meeting

The church council will meet on Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30 PM in the hall.

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

Ladies Aid/LWML ladies will meet on Thursday, September 14th at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. Brenda Edwards will be giving the topic, and Debbie Martin and Sue Van Wakeman will be the hostesses. Roll call will be answered by a Bible verse on serving. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

Wiener Roast



The annual wiener roast will be held on Sunday, September 24th at 5 PM. at the fellowship hall. The wieners, buns, and drinks will be provided. Every guest is asked to bring a dish to share and their own table service. There will be a fire pit set up south of the hall for roasting wieners and marshmallows. There is a sign-up sheet on the back bulletin board so groceries can be bought to fit the number planning to attend. There will not be a hayride.

Quilting

The ladies will be tying quilts for Lutheran World Relief on Monday, September 11th, at 8 AM and on Wednesday, September 13th, at 12:30 PM in the fellowship hall. The dates are later in the month due to the Labor Day Weekend. All ladies of the congregation are invited to tie knots. The group has made over 100 quilts since last October when the last collection day was held. This will be the last month to add to the total as the count starts over on the quilting dates in November.

Adopted Family

The Ladies Aid/LWML adopts a local family to help during the year. This year they divided the year and helped one family from January through June and another one from June to December. The first adopted family was Amy Jamison and her family of Bellflower. Her husband, Troy, was killed last year in a tree trimming electrocution. She has now been diagnosed with breast cancer and because of her treatments and reactions to them she is not able to work. If any members of the congregation would like to help her out with gift cards or monetary resources, there is a small box on the back elder pew. Also, if you would like to send cards of encouragement, her address is printed on strips of paper attached to the back bulletin board.

Possible September Lawn Mowers

The week of September 4 – 9 – Neil Bidner
The week of September 11 – 16 - Bryan Warsaw
The week of September 18 - 23 – John Grussing
The week of September 25 – 30 – Shaun Zimmerman

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 March newsletter, there is one on the back bulletin board. If you have any questions, contact trustee John Grussing.

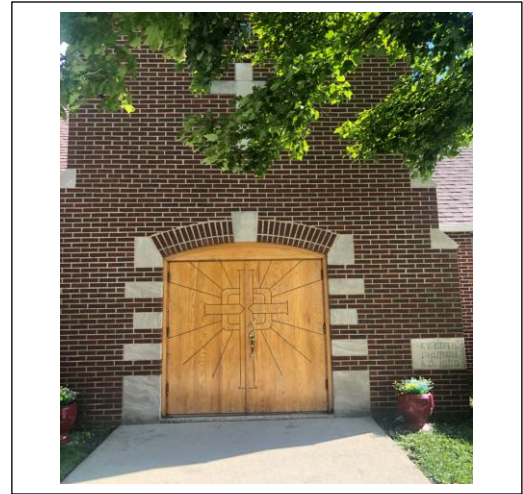


Church Picnic

The annual church picnic was held on Sunday, August 13th, at the fellowship hall. Due to the refinishing of the front doors of the church, the worship service was held in the hall which was followed by the potluck dinner. 33 members and guests enjoyed the meal and the fellowship. Five children and a few adults enjoyed the games played after the meal. A Thrivent Action Team card for \$250 was used to buy some of the game items, prizes, and food items. The larger majority of the money was used to buy fleece that will be used for the Sunday School children to tie blankets for some needy children in our communities.



Front Church Doors



Darwin Warsaw organized a crew to take the front doors off of the church to refinish them. On Monday, August 7th a crew removed the doors and on Saturday, August 12th they put the doors back on. During that time, Darwin worked on the doors in his workshop. Those helping with this project were John Grussing, Carolyn Majercin, Darwin Warsaw, Jeff Warsaw, Wade Warsaw, and Lee Whitehouse. These doors were installed twenty-seven years ago this fall. For protection Darwin treats the inside of the doors with tung oil. About every five years the doors are totally removed from the frame so that the exterior can be sanded down and refinished with varnish to protect the wood.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes

The shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child will be packed by the Sunday School children in November. Thank you to the church members who have donated school supplies and dropped them in the collection box at the back of the church. There is still a need for 18 combs, 21 pencil sharpeners, 17 boxes of crayons, 20 bars of soap, 11 packages of markers, and 24 wash cloths. If you prefer to give a cash donation, we would be glad to buy items that are needed. We could not do this project without the help of the congregation. Two Thrivent Action Team cards will be used to buy larger items and to pay the \$9 postage fee for each box. If you would like to pack your own box or have questions about what is acceptable, please see Terri Hooker or Connie Warsaw. Thanks so much for helping with this worthwhile project.

Volunteers Needed

Before COVID we had volunteers who read the Old Testament Reading and the Epistle Reading each Sunday from the lectern. In the last year we have again asked for volunteers to continue this. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet by the flower chart on the side bulletin board. The Sundays are listed, and the next month's inserts are tacked next to the signup sheet. Also, please consider volunteering to visit the members of our congregation that cannot attend our worship services. There is a signup sheet on the back bulletin board for all those who would like to bring a smile to some of our absent members.



September 6 – Jim Poppe
 September 7 - Mark Barrack
 September 12 - Ken Whitehouse
 September 14 - Gene Welborn
 September 15 – Georgette Pauling
 September 17 - Stephanie Gaines
 September 21 - Ryan Peyton
 September 23 - Mitchell Gallier
 September 24 - Rob Gallier
 September 24 - Sara McPike
 September 26 - Scott Gercken
 September 29 - Nicholas Haggin

Statistics

Date	Worship	Bible Class	Sunday School
July 30	37	11	1
August 6	43	9	0
August 13	39	No class	No class
August 20	44	9	2
August 27	46	12	3

Anniversaries

Kris and Shaun Zimmerman 9-2-2011

Sandy and Ryan Lammle 9-5-2014

Sue and Jim VanWakeman 9-13-1969

Happy Birthday, Gene!

On September 14th, Gene Welborn will be celebrating his 93rd birthday! He is the oldest male member of our church. If you would like to send a card, his address is Country Health Care and Rehab at 2304 County Road 3000 North in Gifford, IL 61847. He is in Room #203.

LWML Sunday



The first Sunday in October is traditionally set aside for the observation of LWML Sunday, but it may be celebrated at any time. Our congregation will celebrate LWML Sunday on October 8th. Throughout human history, God pictured the coming redemptive King through various images of His promise, providence, provision, and protection for His people. We could easily become down and out because of the evil of our world, and quickly give up because of the constant bad news; but hope, peace, joy, and love is the promise of our God for His people!