

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

942 Grape Avenue, Fisher, IL 61843-8512



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

June 2025



From Pastor McPike's Desk...

Happy 1700 years, Nicene Creed!

From near the time of the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ until about the year AD 318, Christianity was illegal. Christians were persecuted. Worship had to be conducted in secret. Anyone suspected of being Christian was targeted by both non-Christians and the Romans, challenged to do things against their faith. When they refused, they were branded Christians and punished in any number of ways.

Satan is a really smart guy. Does that statement surprise you? Consider this... for the years from the first Pentecost through AD 318, Christianity was illegal. Christians were persecuted. And in that period, the church grew like wildfire. In fact, it was probably the period of the greatest growth in the history of the church.

In the year AD 318, Roman Emperor Constantine claimed to have a vision where he went into battle. Out in front of the advancing Roman Army was the cross of Jesus. The Romans were victorious in that battle. Christians were not only legitimized; Christianity became the official religion of the empire. Sadly, within a few years, Christians began arguing among themselves about theology. Do you see Satan's strategy change? For over 300 years, people opposed to Christians beat on the church from the outside, and it grew like wild. Once legitimized, however, Christians started beating up on each other and fracturing into divisions.

One of the earliest challenges to church teaching was by a Christian leader named Arius. Arius followed the teachings of Greek "Dualism", which basically said that the "spirit" part of Creation could not mix with the "material" part, because the spirit was holy and good and the material was all evil. He even went so far as to say that Satan created the material world, because a Holy God could not be involved in the creation of that which was not holy.

This is problematic on a whole bunch of levels. It makes Satan into a creator, while we confess that God is the creator of all. But worse than that, the incarnation, or God becoming human in Jesus Christ, becomes impossible. If all matter is evil and all spirit is holy and good, then God, being good, could not possibly be in any way connected with matter, which is evil. His answer to Jesus of Nazareth was that He was a created being, blessed by God, but certainly not God!

To address this issue, the very first All-Church council was held in the city of Nicea, beginning in May, 325 and lasting until later August. Bishops from all over the Christian Church came together at this council to debate these issues and settled on a draft of a creed that sought to answer the problem proposed by Arius, which has since become known as Arianism. I say “draft”, because the creed was basically finished in the year 325, but refined a bit at a second church council in Constantinople in 381. It has basically been used in a variety of languages unchanged since that time.

The Nicene Creed is one of three creeds called “ecumenical” creeds. These creeds are ecumenical in that they are so ancient that they predate any divisions of Christianity. Interestingly enough, the Nicene creed as we confess it ended up at the center of a controversy that continued to brew right up to the first split of Christianity, known as the “Great Schism” in the year 1054. This division split Western Christianity (centered in Rome) from Eastern Christianity (what is now known as the “Orthodox” Church).

Anniversaries are important as reminders of past events, where we have come from and what we stand for. Each time we use the Nicene Creed, we are taking on our lips a confession of faith that has been used for nearly 1,700 years. Think of it! Through translations over the centuries, this creed has stood the test of time. Despite the plethora of differences among Christians over the centuries, most churches that confess creeds still use, and agree with, the Nicene Creed. Since 2017 we have celebrated the 500th Anniversary of various Reformation events. In 2020 (actually 2021) we celebrated the 125th Anniversary of our congregation. In the past several years, I have preached at various church anniversaries (60th in Martinsville, Indiana; 100th in Norfolk, Nebraska; and this September, the 150th of Trinity Lutheran, Indianapolis). Next year is the 250th Anniversary of the founding of our nation. Yet none compares in scope, importance not to say longevity, as a creed, a statement of faith, a **common** statement of faith that has been spoken in many lands in many languages for ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED years!

We pray to the Lord of the church that the unity represented by that creed formulated at a church council being held 1,700 years ago right now, a creed that has stood the test of time, would be blessed by the working of the Holy Spirit to expand the Christian church and draw it together in unity.

June Lawn Mowers

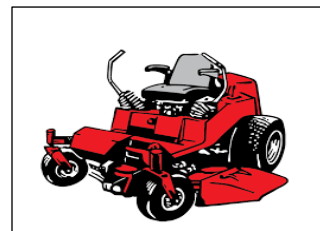
The week of June 1 – 7 - Shane Zimmerman

The week of June 8 - 14 – John Lammle

The week of June 15 – 21 – Chase Zimmerman

The week of June 22 – 28 – Skinner Johnson

The week of June 29 – July 5 – Steve 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 March newsletter, there is one on the back bulletin board. If you have any questions, contact trustee Jeff Warsaw or John Grussing.

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting

Eight ladies met on May 8th for the Ladies Aid/LWML meeting at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. The group enjoyed two delicious desserts served by Brenda Edwards and Debbie Martin before the meeting. After the meeting was called to order, the LWML song was sung, and the LWML Pledge was recited. A devotion was given by Debbie Lammle. Brenda Edwards led a topic on mentoring. Roll call was answered by a Bible verse on planting seeds. The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved. The mites were collected. Instead of a mite prayer, a small skit entitled "The Mighty Penny", an episode with Abraham Lincoln, was given by Brenda Hendricks. The treasurer's report was given which showed a balance of \$1853.18. The annual dues of \$17 was collected from each member present. It was reported that 48 quilts have been completed. 46 dresses have been made and when 50 are completed they will be shipped. A letter from our adopted Seminary student, Jacob Bergstedt, was read.

In the old business President Hendricks thanked all members who helped make and serve food at the Maundy Thursday soup supper on April 13th. 31 hungry members enjoyed a delicious meal of soup, sandwiches, and desserts. \$269 was collected in the freewill offering basket for Lutheran World Relief for fire and tornado victims. The CID Annual Convention was held in Lincoln, Illinois, on April 25th and 26th. Connie Warsaw and Brenda Hendricks were the voting delegates, and they gave a power point presentation on the convention. They also attended the Peace Lutheran LWML Mother-Daughter salad supper on Sunday, April 27th and gave a report on it.

In new business the group voted to have the bake sale at the Bellflower July 4th celebration in the firehouse before the parade. President Hendricks informed everyone that their help will be needed as Osman will host the Danville Zone Fall Rally in September. The exact date will be announced later by the CID board. The National Convention will be held June 26 – 29 in Omaha, Nebraska. The next meeting will be held on July 10th at 7 PM. The topic will be given by Annette Warsaw, and the hostesses will be Terri Hooker and Connie Warsaw.

Church Council

The church council will meet on Wednesday, June 18th, at 6:30 in the fellowship hall.

Vacation Bible School

It's time for Vacation Bible School! Since we will not be offering a Vacation Bible School, our children are cordially invited to Vacation Bible School from June 16th – 20th from 9 – 11 AM at St. John's Lutheran Church in Champaign. It will be an Epic Australian Adventure. The children will go on an epic adventure through Australia. They will encounter amazing animals, lush landscapes, stunning sea life, and wondrous wilderness. And most importantly, they will be guided by our Savior Jesus. The children will learn how Jesus calls, leads, teaches, saves, and sends us to share the Good News with others. As they journey through God's Word, they will discover that Jesus is the way, and the truth, and the life. Registration is open to potty trained 3 year olds through current 5th grade children. If you have any questions email vbs@stjohnls.com. Please use this link to register: <https://vbsmate.com/events/stjohnchampaign/30492>.

Confirmation Recognition Sunday

Confirmation Recognition Sunday will be Sunday, June 8th. Several Confirmation Classes from 1970 – 1980 will be celebrating their confirmation anniversary during church with a social hour in the hall afterwards.

Quilting

The ladies will be quilting on Monday, July 7th at 12:30 PM and on Wednesday, July 9th at 8 AM. All ladies of the congregation are invited to help tie knots for quilts. The quilts are donated to Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train. The group has finished forty-eight quilts, and seven have already been given to Orphan Grain Train at the CID Convention in April.

Teacher Recognition



On Sunday, May 18th, the congregation recognized the current teachers. Those recognized with a Willow Tree Figurine titled “Love of Learning – Open Books, Open Minds” standing on an engraved base were Connie Warsaw, Annette Warsaw, Susan Martin, and Brenda Hendricks. In October 2024 the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod announced plans for a yearlong emphasis on church worker appreciation, highlighting the blessings the church receives through all of its workers, both pastors and others. Our teachers are shaping young hearts with faith and wisdom. John Lammle, chairman, presented the gifts of appreciation.

Summary of May Council Meeting

The May Council Meeting was cancelled.

Bellflower July 4th Celebration

July 4th is fast approaching! The Ladies Aid/LWML will be hosting a bake sale at the July 4th Bellflower celebration. The present plans are to set up in the firehouse before the parade and move to the park after the parade. All members of the congregation are welcome to bake or make items for the sale. The sale profits are used for projects and expenses for the coming year. More details will follow in the bulletins. Plan ahead now to celebrate July 4th in Bellflower!

Stain Glass Window Dedication

On Sunday, May 11th, the stain glass window on the south side of the annex was dedicated in the worship service. The window was given in memory of Darryl Dean Redding, a loving son, father, grandfather, brother, and uncle. It was a memorial gift given by his son, Dan Redding and sisters and their husbands, Debbie and John Lammle, and Patty and Gil Downey.

Prominent in the center of the window is the picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, holding the shepherd's staff and



surrounded by sheep. As Jesus holds a lamb, we are reminded of His care for us from a very young age, "I am Jesus' little lamb." The 23rd Psalm is called to mind by the "green pastures" and "still waters" also shown in the window. The window emphasizes God as Trinity by the three panels. The left panel features the "all seeing eye", symbolizing God the Father, who is always watching over us in His care for us. Further emphasis of His care are the "waves" or lines that are shown surrounding the symbol, representing God's love and grace. The Grace of God is "Agape" love, meaning that it is the kind of love that is always giving without looking for what God gets from it in return. God loves just because He does. The triangle is a symbol for the Trinity. It is an equilateral triangle (sides and angles equal), to show that each person of the Trinity is equal to one another, as we confess especially in the Athanasian Creed on Trinity Sunday. Rounding out the Trinitarian theme of the window is a dove in the right-hand panel. The dove has for centuries symbolized the Holy Spirit, calling to mind how the Holy Spirit "descended like a dove" upon Jesus in His baptism, as well as at the Transfiguration.

LWML National Convention

The LWML National Convention will be held in Omaha, Nebraska from June 26 - 29. There are so many activities, worship services, servant events, and Bible studies scheduled for this convention. One of the activities which has been a tradition for many years is a mission walk. On that Saturday afternoon many ladies will walk over the bridge and back that is on the Iowa/Nebraska border. Pledges that have been collected by the participants will support the chosen grants that will be voted on for 2025 – 2027 biennium. Connie Warsaw and Brenda Hendricks will be attending this event. If you choose to donate to help these mission projects, please make checks payable to LWML and write WALK on the memo line. The deadline for giving your donation to these ladies is Monday, June 22. We hope you will be a part of the larger mission of spreading God's Word around the world.

Pentecost Sunday
June 8th

Summary of Quarterly Congregation Meeting

Chairman, John Lammle, began the Voter's meeting on April 27th with a presentation to Alicia and John Haggin to show appreciation for all their dedication to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman. Pastor stated he was fortunate to be able to work side by side with such an accomplished group! Alicia responded with words of appreciation for the wonderful plague and thoughtful words. Pastor McPike continued the meeting with prayer. Secretary, Debbie Lammle, read the minutes of the last voters meeting. The minutes of the last voters meeting were accepted. The treasurer's report showed a total in the Money Market account of \$57,308.86. Total checking/savings was \$347,756. 68. The total assets were \$347,760.68. The treasurer's report was accepted. Pastor gave his report which included words of gratitude for serving at Osman and some dates that Pastor Strom will be filling in for him. Pastor McPike has the privilege to speak at his home congregation in September when they celebrate their 150th anniversary.

Chairman Lammle thanked the Ladies Aid/LWML for serving the Maundy Thursday soup supper. We had 88 in attendance at our Easter Service which is the largest church attendance in 2025 so far. Thanks was given to the council members for providing the delicious food and the young married couples for serving the brunch.

The Mission Outreach Committee has the same goal as the LCMS summit which is to "begin to identify areas of challenge and opportunity within our church." All voting members will receive a survey in May asking for their input on several questions. The chairman asked that each member please take time to complete and return it to the committee. A self-addressed stamped envelope is included with the survey.

An order has been placed for an Aprilaire Dehumidifier to be installed on the furnace. We are waiting for installation by JC Heating and Air Cooling of Gibson City. The humidity is running as high as 60% and the recommended range is 30-50%. Darwin Warsaw again suggested that the trustees investigate installing heat lamps in the furnace ducts as an additional way to reduce humidity.

The next Voters meeting will be July 20th, and the next council meeting will be May 21st. The meeting was adjourned.

Brenda Hendricks explained "The Year in Review" sheets that she compiled for 2022 and 2023. They were handed out and were also made available on the back pew.

The next Voters meeting will be July 20th, and the next council meeting will be May 21st. The meeting was adjourned.

Father's Day

On this Father's Day, June 15th, 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!

Mens Outing



Three members and four guests took a trip to the Indianapolis Fair Grounds to the Mecum Car Auction on Saturday, May 10th. The auction included 3000 vehicles which included a wide range of cars from early Model Ts to current model cars. The group had a private tour from a Mecum representative which took the group behind the scenes of how the auction works. Special thanks to John Carlson for the complimentary tickets and to Jerry Niemann who gave the tickets to the Osman group. The group cooked out at the parking facility after the auction and enjoyed some good fellowship.

Thank Yous

Thank you for the lovely display box you presented to John and me last Sunday (April 27). We will put it up in our living room when we bring it home from church! Immanuel is such an appreciative congregation, and it is a blessing to serve here. Thank you for the appreciation and kindness you have shown to me and my family for nearly 15 years. Thank you for your support as John learns how to accompany a service. You guys are the best! Alicia

Thank you very much for the beautiful gift that the congregation gave to us last Sunday. The Willow Tree angel that is holding a book that stands on a wooden plaque that has an engraved inscription that reads "Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman 2025 Teacher Appreciation" will be proudly displayed by all of us in our homes. Our God given talents have given us a way to share our faith with our youth. Thank you for the experience. Susan Martin, Annette Warsaw, Connie Warsaw, and Brenda Hendricks

History of Father's Day

On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, Washington, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers, and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910.

It was not until 1972, in the middle of a hard-fought presidential re-election campaign, Richard Nixon signed a proclamation making Father's Day a federal holiday at last. **(History.com editors)**

Dehumidifier Installed



JC Heating, Cooling, and Plumbing from Gibson City installed the new dehumidifier onto the furnace on Wednesday, May 7th. It is mounted on the wall of the furnace room. The dehumidifier will reduce the percentage of humidity in the church to decrease the growth of mold especially in the rafters of the church. The dehumidifier was approved at a special congregational meeting in March and this bid was chosen by the council from the bids that were researched.

Happy Birthday
To Everyone
Born in June!

6/03 Susan Martin
6/05 Colt Zimmerman
6/09 Donald Warsaw
6/12 Jim VanWakeman
6/13 Amanda Amdor
6/15 Rong Warsaw
6/15 Michael Brooks
6/16 Brenda Edwards
6/19 Dick Johnson
6/21 Natalie Hooker
6/22 Beth Bidner
6/24 Kim Clemmons
6/26 Laura Zimmerman
6/27 Ashley Martin
6/30 Jack Gallier

6-11-1994 Jill and Rick Hardesty
6-15-1985 Terri and Dwight Hooker
6-23-2001 Beth and Neil Bidner
6-25-1977 Debbie and John Lammle

Happy Anniversary

Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
May 4	33	10	0
May 11	49	9	1
May 18	37	13	1
May 25	39	14	0



A dust storm on May 16th littered the church yard with corn shucks. Thanks to the members who helped rake for hours so the lawn could be mowed.