

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 2026



From Pastor McPike...

The church has once again celebrated the third great festival of the Christian Year – Pentecost. Of the three, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, the latter is the most overlooked. Many Christian churches probably gave minimal, if any, attention to Pentecost.

Pentecost has interesting roots. Did you know that it is the only New Testament festival to also have a Hebrew counterpart with the same name? Of the three festivals, the most well-known Jewish festival among Christians is Passover, which corresponds with Good Friday and Easter. It was at the Passover meal with His disciples that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. It was also shortly afterward that Jesus was betrayed, arrested and, by the next day, serving His unique role as Passover lamb, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.

Another great festival in the ancient Hebrew or Jewish calendar that corresponds to a major Christian festival is the Feast of Tabernacles, also known as the Feast of Booths. In modern English, we'd call it the "feast of tents." It is the time when faithful Jews would come to Jerusalem to celebrate God's goodness to their ancestors who made their way through the wilderness from Egyptian slavery to their true home in the Promised Land. One major feature of the Feast of Tabernacles is given away by its name. The "tabernacle" was the tent church (a.k.a. "portable house of God, or temple") that the ancient Israelites carried through the wilderness. They were under God's protection through the entire journey. The connection to Christmas comes through the Evangelist St. John who, in chapter 1 verse 14 of his book wrote, "The word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." Literally from the original Greek, "The Word became flesh and *tabernacled* among us." The eternal God, who has no physical form, chose to clothe Himself with *our flesh*, very much like living in a tent, a temporary dwelling. This speaks to the Incarnation of the Christ, that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Thus, the link to Christmas.

Looking at the modern calendar, it is rather obvious that the connection to Christmas is more theological than actual. Indeed, when considering modern Jewish festivals, the one most closely associated with Christmas is Hanukkah. That festival falls in December. It also has a bit of "Christmas Feel" to it, as it is a winter festival of lights. Hanukkah, though, celebrates deliverance of the Jews from the ruler Antiochus, who desecrated the Temple in the 160s BC. The Jewish revolt, led by Judas Maccabaeus, was successful despite the small number of Jews available to fight. This makes Hanukkah a festival that came about through events and timing much later than the end of the Christian Old Testament.

The Feast of Tabernacles comes in late September/early October. This year, it starts on September 25 and runs through October 2 (a full 8 days). While it is early to mid-autumn on our calendar, the theological significance – the WORD (Jesus) becoming flesh (taking on our temporary form) and living among us, reminds us of Christmas. When the ancient Israelites finished their time of “tent dwelling”, they lived in permanent homes in the Promised Land. So, when our time in this “tent dwelling” (our earthly lives) is done, we will live in our permanent dwellings in the mansions of heaven.

The Old Testament festival of Pentecost (50 days after Passover for Jews) is an early harvest festival. The ancient significance of Pentecost, however, was to celebrate the giving of the Law (Torah) to Moses and Mount Sinai. Basically, it celebrated the BIRTHDAY of the Old Testament Church.

Did you ever wonder why there were people of so many different languages in Jerusalem at Pentecost? Over the centuries leading up to the coming of Jesus, Jewish people had been defeated many times. As can be the case today, many times these defeats also included Jewish people being taken as hostages into exile to live far away from Jerusalem or the land of their ancestry. This became known in history as the “Diaspora”, or Jewish *dispersion*. These displaced Jews worked to keep their language and culture alive in the areas where they found themselves. After living in these dispersed lands for a very long time, often generations, they were fully assimilated into the culture around them. So when it became possible for them to travel, they would make religious pilgrimages to Jerusalem for major Jewish festivals. That is why all the people named in Acts 2 (“Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues! (Acts 2:9-11).

Simply, these were all Jews or descended from Jewish hostages that had been taken captive over previous centuries. They had become fully part of the culture where they lived, but always kept an eye toward “home”, which was of course Jerusalem and the surrounding area.

This set up the Pentecost miracle of “Speaking in Tongues”, which only means “speaking in another tongue”, the old English phrase for “speaking in another language.” Sadly, churches took the old and outdated language of the King James Version of the Bible (first published in 1611) and used “Speaking in Tongues” to refer to some sort of mystical God-language. The simple truth is, this is the Holy Spirit, empowering a bunch of uneducated fishermen, tax collectors and others to speak in the every-day languages of the descendants of Jewish captives who spoke the language of the people they lived around. Think of the way the church could explode from there! Twelve Apostles, each speaking in what had, over several generations become the every-day language of descendants of Jewish captives, who would then take that message of the Gospel back to their home areas and speak it in the language of the people among whom they lived.

Behind it all is the almighty third person of the Trinity, quietly and behind the scenes doing His work of calling, gathering, enlightening and sanctifying the whole Christian church on earth. God bless the Holy Spirit! May His work of drawing people to Christ empower us to be His instruments where we are today!

Pentecost at Osman



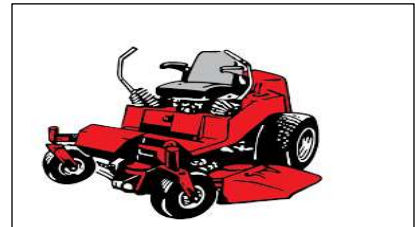
The red altar paraments decorated the altar, pulpit and the lectern on Pentecost Sunday. The red geraniums on the altar reminded us of the fire, which symbolizes the power of God's Holy Spirit which was poured out on the Apostles. The green color reminded us that just as the church began on Pentecost, it grows to this day by the power of the Spirit. Unlike cut flowers that are often used on the altar, geraniums are plants that continue to grow. Pastor McPike's red stole and the red banner were other significant additions.

Quilting

The ladies will be quilting on Monday, June 1st at 12:30 PM and Wednesday, June 3rd at 8 AM. Several Thrivent Action Team cards have been used to buy the filler for the center layer of the quilts. Twelve of the completed 68 quilts were given to Orphan Grain Train at the Central Illinois District LWML Convention in April. All ladies of the congregation are invited to help make these quilts as no quilting experience is needed to tie knots.

June Lawn Mowers

The week of June 7 - 13 – John Lammler
The week of June 14 – 20 – Chase Zimmerman
The week of June 21 - 27 - Skinner Johnson
The week of June 28 – July 4 - 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, it was in the March newsletter which can be found online and there is also one posted on the back bulletin board. If you have any questions, contact trustees John Grussing or Lee Whitehouse.

Church Council Meeting

The next church council meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17 at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall.

Ladies Aid/LWML May Meeting

The Ladies Aid/LWML held its May meeting at 7 PM on Thursday, May 14th. After the common table prayer, Debbie Martin and Brenda Edwards served delicious refreshments. President Debbie Lammle called the meeting to order, followed by the group reciting the LWML pledge. The business meeting began with the secretary, Debbie Martin, calling roll call and reading the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved with one amendment. Mites were gathered and the Treasurer's report was given by Connie Warsaw. A thank you from Skinner and Joy Johnson and Jeff and Annette Warsaw for the food brought to them after a hospital stay was read. Brenda Hendricks reported for Terri Hooker that 67 quilts have been made, and 12 quilts were taken to the Orphan Grain Train at the CID Convention in Decatur.

Old business included adopted family update, sign-up for shut-in visits, a report on Mother/Daughter banquet at Thomasboro by Connie Warsaw and thank-yous for the Garage Sale in Fisher. \$400 was made for the adopted family, Kathy Dennamann and her daughter. A motion was made and seconded to give John Lammle a \$50 gift card to Flippos for his trips to various places to get rid of items that did not sell.

New business included planning for the 4th of July bake sale at Bellflower. Upcoming dates include LWML retreat at Camp Cilca on October 3, Danville Zone Rally on September 8, National LWML Convention on July 8-11, 2027, at Oklahoma City. The next meeting will be on July 9th. Roll call will be on creation; topic by Deb Martin, and hostesses are Debbie Lammle and Terri Hooker. Brenda Edwards and Brenda Hendricks will decide on the August Luncheon. Diana Zimmerman reported that 39 dresses have been made for "Little Dresses for Africa", and when 45 are completed, they will be sent. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to change our Ladies Aid/LWML meetings from 7 PM to 6:30 PM. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Confirmation Classes Recognition

The confirmation classes of 1979,1980,1981, and 1982 will be recognized on Sunday, June 28th, after church in the fellowship hall. All church members please plan to attend and show your support to these confirmands who pledged their lives to Christ!

New Members

We welcome into membership Jim and Stephanie Demos and their sons, Nicholas, A.J., and Lucas from Mahomet. Nicholas and A. J. are presently serving in the Armed Forces. They transferred their membership from St. Johns Lutheran Church in Champaign. A welcoming doughnut/coffee time is presently being planned. Please welcome them!

Happy Fathers Day!

June 21st

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. Also, the church will be entering a float in the parade as well as distributing water bottles to the people watching the parade. The construction site has been confirmed at the FS location in Bellflower. More details will also follow in the bulletins. The float will also be in the parade in Fisher in the evening of Monday, July 6th. The church will have a booth at the Fisher Fair on Friday, July 10th. More details will be printed in upcoming bulletins and the July newsletter.

Summary of the May Church Council Meeting

Pastor McPike and eleven elected church council members met on Wednesday, May 20th, at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall. Pastor McPike began the meeting with a reading from Psalm 25 which was followed by prayer. Secretary Debbie Lammle read the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes were approved. Terri Hooker read the treasurer's report with a balance of \$39,103.98. The total expenses for the month were \$19,829.48 and the total income was \$13,491. After some explanations of expenses, the treasurer's report was approved.

Pastor reported that a new family, James, Stephanie, Nicholas, AJ, and Lucas Demos, have transferred their membership from St. John's Lutheran Church in Champaign to Immanuel Osman. A motion was made to accept the transfer and motion passed. Pastor also stated that Hymn Study is going very well during adult Sunday School.

Trustee John Grussing will be taking the covers off the stain glass windows in the sanctuary. He also stated that he will add ten inches to the handrail on the interior front door to help members use the steps easier. Discussion continued about the organ repairs. Alicia Haggin will be at church when the repair man comes to work on the organ in the next few weeks. Discussion continued on the mold update. The cleaning of the church carpet will be completed after the summer months.

Sandy Whitehouse made a promotional card for the church, and after sharing ideas, the council decided to have 500 cards printed at the cost of \$143. The cards advertising our church will be handed out at the Fisher Sesquicentennial celebration and the Bellflower 4th of July.

Chairman Hooker brought up the appreciation meal for the congregation. It was decided to have this event in place of the church picnic. The event will be July 19 after church, with games after the meal. Chairman Hooker will use a Thrivent card to pay for gifts. Debbie Lammle passed around a list of past confirmands that will be invited to a Confirmation Reception on June 28th after church. Cake and punch will be served in the hall with a small gift passed out to confirmands in attendance. The church will enter a float in the July 4th celebrations in Bellflower and Fisher. The council will hand out water bottles with our church's name on them from the float.

A beautiful wooden plaque made from wood from the balcony by Dick Johnson was shown to the council. Exact location of where this will be displayed was not determined.

The previous Mission Outreach committee discussed the purchase of a rug for the front entrance of the church. More details will be discussed at the next meeting. The Mission Outreach committee rearranged the furniture under the balcony in the church to provide a larger area for small children to play. They also asked that the present elder pew be replaced with a smaller one.

The roadside sign at the intersection of Route 54 and N100 Road will be mounted soon. There was a delay in getting approval from the state to put it up.

The meeting was adjourned followed by reciting of the Lord's Prayer.

Beautiful New Plaque



When the new organ was installed in 2024 in the balcony, the speakers from the old organ were removed. They were encased in beautiful wood so Dick Johnson took the beautiful wood which he thought was too nice to destroy. He made a very nice cross plaque for the church. The exact location of where this will be displayed - either fellowship hall or back of church - has not been determined. Thank you, Dick!



- 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

Happy Anniversary!

- 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

Statistics

Date	Worship Service	Bible Class	Sunday School
May 3	47	8	2
May 10	41	12	2
May 17	37	11	2
May 24	41	11	2

Thank You



My family is so grateful for the kind gift of the money you have shared with us through your lady's organization. Thank you ladies for working at the garage sale. We are adjusting to several changes in our life, and your prayers and help are shown through God and His children. Thank you again! Kathy, Mike, and Andrea

Trivia Answer from Last Month

The question was "What is the total amount of money that has been given to the recipients of our benefit suppers since the first one in 1981? The answer: \$234,065.25

The question for this month: "Who was the first lady to serve on the church council for this congregation?"

Father's Day Quotes

"When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years" - Mark Twain

"There is just one way to bring up a child in the way he should go, and that is to travel that way yourself." - Abraham Lincoln

The story is told of a father of five children who came home from work with a toy. He summoned his children together and asked which of them should be given the present. He asked "Who is the most obedient one here? Who never talks back to Mom and does everything that Mom says to do?" There were a few seconds of silence, and then all of the children said in unison: "You can play with the toy, Daddy!"