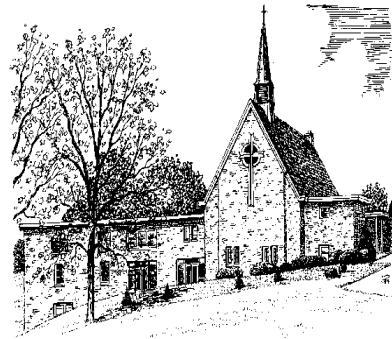


# The King's Business

December, 2025

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VOL. 59, NO. 12



## The Pastor's Page

As soon as Thanksgiving fades, the world quickly shifts into Christmas mode. Lights go up, music fills the air, and calendars grow crowded. We decorate, shop, bake, and plan. All of which can be enjoyable parts of the season. But these outward preparations often consume our time and attention, leaving little room for the preparation the Scriptures emphasize. Advent invites us to something deeper than arranging our homes: preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Advent is the Church's season of preparation. It teaches us to slow down, to watch, and to listen. The world prepares for a holiday. The Church prepares for a Savior. And the preparation Christ desires is not tinsel or tidy schedules but repentance, faith, and renewed hope in His promises. John the Baptist sums it up for us: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight." His message was not about creating a festive atmosphere but about turning hearts toward the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

John prepared the way through repentance and we continue that pattern today. Luther describes Christian life as daily drowning the Old Adam through contrition and faith. Advent reminds us that we are not naturally ready for Christ's coming. The Law shows us that we have hearts cluttered with sin, in need of the Gospel's cleansing. True preparation is not self-improvement but the Spirit's work of bringing us low so that Christ can lift us up.

We prepare by returning to the Word. The prophets' promises, the angelic announcements, and the songs of Zechariah, Mary, and Simeon all direct our hearts to the Child born for us. Advent devotions, Scripture reading, and family prayers around the Advent wreath immerse us in the promises of God for His people.

Through the Word, the Holy Spirit creates faith, restores hope, and reorients our lives toward Christ.

We prepare through worship. Advent services have a quieter tone that stands in contrast to the world's rush. The readings speak of repentance and hope. The hymns help us pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel." In the Divine Service, Christ Himself comes to us even before Christmas arrives. He forgives, strengthens, and prepares His people through His Word and Supper. Spiritual preparation is not something we achieve. It is something Christ gives.

We prepare through prayer. Advent teaches us to pray as the Church has prayed for centuries: "Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come." These prayers confess our need and ask God to do what only He can: create clean hearts, renew steadfast spirits, and keep us watchful for His appearing. Even the simple prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus," expresses Advent readiness.

We prepare through love, the natural fruit of faith. Advent is a season to remember the lonely, comfort the grieving, and show mercy to those in need. Not to earn God's favor, but because God's favor has already come to us in Christ. When Christ prepares our hearts, He also directs our hands. As we receive His love, we are freed to give it.

Above all, the comfort of Advent is that Christ Himself prepares us. He does not wait for us to be ready. He comes to make us ready. The Word made flesh enters our world not because we have created the perfect setting, but because we cannot save ourselves. He comes with forgiveness for the repentant, strength for the weary, and peace for all who trust in Him.

As you prepare for Christmas this year, let the outward tasks take their rightful place, but let the greater preparation be the one Christ works in you through His

Word and Spirit. Join us throughout Advent, and especially on Christmas Eve at **5 PM** and Christmas Day at **9 AM**, as we rejoice in the Savior who comes to prepare our hearts for His appearing.

May our Lord give you a merry Christmas and a blessed New Year,  
Pastor Ketelsen

*Does the Church Office have current contact information for you and your family members? If you have a new address or phone information, please contact the Church Office at by email at [Immanuel.Boonville@gmail.com](mailto:Immanuel.Boonville@gmail.com) or at 660-882-2208, Option 1 with your current information. Thank you.*

Copies of sermons are available. If you missed a service, or just loved one immensely, copies are available on our church website, [ImmanuelBoonvilleMO.church](http://ImmanuelBoonvilleMO.church). You can also find hard copies in the red folder in the church Narthex. Please help yourself, and feel free to share with friends or shut-ins.

### ***Immanuel has another way to be part of virtual Sunday services!***

*We now have Zoom. Those who do not have access to Facebook can call a phone number, input a special code, and listen to the audio of the service LIVE on their phone.*

*Step 1: Call 1 (253) 215-8782 a little before 9:00 am*

*Step 2: Follow the prompt to input the Meeting ID: 9283696439*

*Step 3: Join "the meeting" and listen to the service LIVE*

*Please contact any members or friends who could make use of this service!*

### ***Office Hours***

*Tuesday & Wednesday - 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

*Thursday - 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.*

## **Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**1001 Immanuel Drive, Boonville, MO 65233**

**Church Office:** 660-882-2208

**E-Mail:** [Immanuel.Boonville@gmail.com](mailto:Immanuel.Boonville@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.ImmanuelBoonvilleMO.church](http://www.ImmanuelBoonvilleMO.church)

**Pastor:** Rev. Joshua Ketelsen

**Pastor's Cell Phone:** 989-306-2586

**Preschool Director/Teacher:** Glenda Gerhardt

**Preschool Teacher Assistant:** Trina Derendinger

**Kindergarten Teachers:** Stefani Ketelsen

Glenda Gerhardt

**Office Manager:** Patty Mangels

**Custodian:** Cora Linneman

**Production/Distribution of Newsletter:** Patty Mangels

**Sunday Service** - 9:00 a.m.

**Sunday School** - 10:15 a.m.

**Fellowship Time** - Fifth Sundays 10:15 a.m. as announced

**Lord's Supper** - 9:00 a.m. - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays & Festivals

**Midweek Services** - 6:30 pm on Wednesdays during

Advent & Lent

**Kindergarten**

All Day Kindergarten

(Pre-registration required)

**Preschool**

3-5 year olds

Mon-Wed-Fri, 8-11am & 12-3pm (4 & 5 year olds)

Tues-Thurs, 8-11am & 12-3pm (3 year olds)

(Pre-registration required)

## **BIBLE STUDY**

**Sunday School:** for age 3 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade is meeting in the Sunday School Room.

**Youth Class** for junior and senior high meets in the youth room in the sub-basement.

**Adult Bible Study:** meets Sunday Mornings at 10:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

**Tuesday Ladies Bible Class** meets on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. in the large classroom on the main floor.

**Bibles and Bar-B-Q Men's Bible Discussion Group** meets the second and fourth Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. They are on break through Advent.

**Thursday Morning Breakfast Bible Study:** meets on Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at 87 Diner. Please join us for food, fellowship, and study.

**CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING****November 16, 2025**

**Call to Order:** President Gene Cummins called the meeting to order.

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Ketelsen opened with prayer.

**Acceptance of New Assembly Members:** Adam and Brandy Templemire were welcomed and signed the Constitution.

**Acceptance/Amendments of Agenda:** Gene proposed a topic be added to the agenda for a lay voting delegate. Jason Linneman motions to approve the agenda with amendment. Gayle Linneman seconds. The motion carried.

**Approve Minutes from August 17, 2025 Congregational Assembly Meeting:** Larry Davis motions to approve the minutes; Earl Mangels seconds. The motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:**

- a. Advent begins in two weeks.
- b. The new member class continues with 4 new members participating.
- c. Craig Meyer is conducting acolyte training.
- d. Pastor was selected as circuit delegate and will attend the national convention next July.

**Reports of Officers:**

**President:** No report.

**Vice President:** No report.

**Secretary:** No report.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer Kim Toellner presents written financial reports that reflect January – October balances.

**Board of Elders:** Tim Derendinger presents written report in Craig Meyer's absence.

**Board of Property:** Following discussion about the open Board of Property Chair position, Sharon Toellner moves to appoint Adam Templemire as Chair and Kim Toellner seconds the motion. The motion carries and Adam is welcomed to the board.

- a. Gene overviews some of the building projects currently under consideration by the Council, including sewer repairs and new bathroom construction.
- b. Gene reports that \$30,000 from investment funds have been transferred for the playground upgrade. A \$3,000 donation was also received for the project. The total spent was approximately \$34,000.

**Board of Christian Education:** Chair Jasmine Campbell requests participants for the Christmas play. She will also be posting a sign-up sheet for Sunday school leaders.

**School Board:** No report.

**Board of Stewardship:** Chair Gaven Linneman is not present. A written report is submitted by member Terry Ehlers that overviews the Salvation Army Bell Ringing and Neighbors Helping Neighbors outreach activities as well as the availability of the latest edition of the Lutheran Witness.

Gary Naumann motions to approve the Board reports. Earl Mangels seconds the motion and it carries.

**Unfinished business:**

- a. **Review of ongoing projects:** The building projects were previously discussed under the Board of Property report. These projects are under current consideration of the Church Council.

**New Business:**

- a. **Approval of the 2026 Budgets:** The submitted budgets were reviewed and discussed. Norman Lenger motions to accept the proposed 2026 budgets. Earl Mangels seconds the motion and it carries.
- b. **Lay Voting Delegate for Synod President Election:** Following discussion, Jason Linneman motions to nominate Terry Ehlers as our lay voting delegate. Gary Naumann seconds the motion and it carries.
- c. **Synod donation:** Gene reports \$10,000 was previously budgeted for the Synod donation and asks if anyone wants to amend the amount. Hearing no objections, \$10,000 will be donated.

**Announcements:**

- a. Glenda Gerhardt thanks everyone for the recognition of her 25 years of service.
- b. Gene requests anyone with suggestions for the church janitor position talk to him.

Gayle Linneman motions to adjourn; Earl Mangels seconds the motion. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned.

**Closing Prayer:** The meeting closed with everyone reciting the Lord's prayer.

**Attendees:** Twenty-nine members and one guest were in attendance.

Bob Schnetzler, Karen Schnetzler, Norman Lenger, Pat Lenger, Larry Davis, Georgia Davis, Earl Mangels, Randy Strough, Gene Cummins, Billy Mac Wells, Brenda Wells, Don Meyer, Glenda Gerhardt, Brandy Templemire, Kimberly Toellner, Adam Templemire, Gayle Linneman, Jason Linneman, Pastor Joshua Ketelsen, Tim Derendinger, Tom Toellner, Sharron Toellner, Diane Cummins, Ray Schrader, Sharon Strough, Gary Naumann, Jasmine Campbell, Patty Mangels (guest), Arlene Loesing, and Tammy Meyer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy Meyer  
Church Council Secretary

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

### November Highlights!

November was a very exciting month. We are learning about opposites, shapes and rhyming words. We always work on alphabet, days of the week and counting. We are learning new games like Red Light – Green light and Mother May I and Shadow Tag. We love to play. Our favorite book is "The Book With No Pictures". We love the Elephant and Piggie books and the Pete the Cat books.

We learned about Naaman Listening to God's Messenger, Jonah-Tell God's Message and Three Men Standing. God is always faithful to us, loves us and never leaves us. Pastor Ketelsen introduced us the Creed. Pastor told us about Creation the first week. The second week we learned about the Creation and Fall of Man. We love Chapel time and have some good answers for some of his questions.

We had an amazing Grandparent cooking day. Our grandparent or parent cooked some of our favorite foods

with us. It was so much fun. After cooking the food all of us sat down and ate it together. Ms. Gerhardt and Miss Trina said our foods were delicious. We had muffins, cookies, cupcakes, fruit, pinwheels, spaghetti with meatballs, lil smokies, pizza, breakfast burritos, pigs in a blanket, puppy chow, pancakes and Chex mix of various kinds. Our adults also helped us make a turkey out of our handprints and footprints. We wrote what we were thankful on the handprints. We had so much fun. We took a pilgrim centerpiece for our thanksgiving table at home with our face added to it. We are now working on our line and song for our Christmas Party.

### Upcoming in December:

Dec. 18-19	Christmas Party/Program
Dec. 22- Jan. 2	NO SCHOOL
Jan. 5	SCHOOL STARTS

## KEEPING UP WITH KINDERGARTEN

December is an exciting month in Kindergarten! We are beginning the season of Advent, preparing our hearts for Jesus' birth. The children are enjoying our Wandering Wisemen, searching each morning to see where the travelers paused on their journey to Bethlehem.

We are beginning our small reading groups, giving students a chance to practice skills at their own level and grow in confidence. In the afternoon, the students are wrapping up learning about community helpers. They have had visits from a waiter, Pastor, and a doctor.

Last month we celebrated a very special event, the joyful wedding of the letters Q and U! The students loved learning how these two letters always stick together to make their special sounds.

It's a month full of wonder, learning, and joyful anticipation. Blessed Advent and Christmas to all!

In HIS Service,  
The Kindergarten Team

## STEWARDSHIP/OUTREACH BOARD

The bell ringing for the Boonslick Salvation Army – Cooper & Howard Counties has gotten off to a great start. The first week of donations were \$2,299, and the second week of donations was \$2,181.50, for a total of \$4,910.64, which is a good start to the goal of \$15,000.

Volunteers from Immanuel will be ringing the bell from 11 am – 2 pm on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The local Salvation Army serves both Cooper and Howard Counties. The money collected stays local, and aside from emergency situations where they provide gift cards from Walmart and C&R Grocery Store, their priority is to assist those in need to stay in their homes.

Another local organization Immanuel helps to support is the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry (NHN). A barrel is in place in the narthex of the church to receive shelf stable food items and other items, such as paper products. Recently a request for plastic grocery bags was received, and Immanuel has responded with so many bags that the barrel has been overflowing. Please continue to bring bags as this is an ongoing need.

The Christmas basket project for the Community Action Center was a great success this year. Tom and Sharon Toellner have headed up collecting items for this project for several years, and this year they were able to provide for about twenty families, an increase of five baskets from last year. Thank you to all who donated, and to Tom and Sharron for their efforts on helping to provide support to our local community.

In the Fall 2025 issue of *The Lutheran Layman* (copy on the table in the narthex) there is an article about Lutheran Hour Ministries' 75<sup>th</sup> year of Gospel Proclamation through the Rose Parade. The 137<sup>th</sup> Tournament of Roses Parade will be held on January 1, 2026, in Pasadena, California, beginning at 8 am PST. Read the article for details about the LHM Float. After reading the article, you will be able to answer this trivia question: This year's LHM Float is a \_ \_ \_ \_ (hint: it flies!).

The November newsletter included a letter from Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri "Season of Hope Tree." The tree will be put up during the church decorating on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. You are encouraged to take a tag(s), purchase the items, and place them under the tree, or you will be able to make a monetary donation. If you prefer to make a monetary donation (make checks to Lutheran Family and Children's Services), please place your donation in an envelope marked with LFCS on the front, and place it in the offering plate. All items collected will be given to the clients that are served from the Columbia office.

Prayer requests in October were eight, and prayer requests in November were four



The suggested donations in the month of December for the NHN Food Pantry is paper products (paper plates, paper towels, etc.). As always, any non-perishable canned and boxed goods are welcome, as well as cash or C&R gift certificates. Food Pantry envelopes are available in the Narthex. **Please make checks to Neighbors Helping Neighbors.** Thank you for your generosity.

### NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.



### Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.*

*And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty.*

*From thence He will come to judge the living  
and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.*





## **“Give thanks in all circumstances.”**

*1 Thessalonians 5:18*

We have a family tradition, like many others, of going around the table and sharing with everyone something for which you're thankful. Some would think that is a little bit more difficult this year. Actually, it's quite the opposite. This year has taught me to be thankful for all of the blessings that God has given to me. In fact, I am probably more mindful of the blessings because I don't take much for granted.

It has been four months since the stroke happened. Therapy continues five days a week for several hours each day through at least the end of the year. Speech therapy has been cut down to 30 minutes a day, while adding a half an hour of physical or occupational therapy. My walking continues to improve and to build endurance. recently, I walked 2 miles on the treadmill uninterrupted. I continue to work in occupational therapy on my right arm, which has been slow to respond. I would ask for your continued prayers for gain of function on my right side, specifically my right hand.

Jill has returned to work at the beginning of November. At the top of my thanksgiving list is my wife, children and grandchild for their care and support. We are blessed to have family and friends who have visited and texted me and been a great support. I am so appreciative of the therapists in New Orleans and St. Louis, who have helped me so much. Lastly, I'm thankful to God for all of His blessings and reminded to not take them for granted. Martin Luther's explanation to the First Article summarizes our physical blessings and then concludes with the words "For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him." I thank God for His blessings and you for your prayers.

Happy Thanksgiving! Lee Hagan

### **SEASON OF HOPE TREE**

Lutheran Family and Children's Services has provided Immanuel with tags for their "Season of Hope" tree. If you would like to contribute to helping LFCS families, please take a tag(s), purchase the items, and

place the items with the tag under the tree. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please place your donation in an envelope marked with LFCS on the front and place it in the offering. All items collected will be given to the clients served from the Columbia office.



### **Saint Paul Lutheran High School Christmas Concert**

Saint Paul Lutheran High School will be performing its Christmas concert on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Concordia. The performance will feature the Saint Paul Instrumental Ensemble and the Singing Saints Concert Choir. The concert is under the direction of Dr. Jerrode Marsh. Come hear your favorite Christmas carols sung and played by the talented musicians at Saint Paul. There is no admission fee but a free-will offering to support the school is appreciated. For more information, please visit the website at [www.splhs.org](http://www.splhs.org) or the Saint Paul Lutheran High School Singing Saints Facebook page. There will be a cookie reception following the concert across the street in the St. Paul's Grade School gym.

### **EVERY HEART PREPARE**

We decorate in preparation for Christmas. In November and December people spend hours putting up lights in their living space and ornaments on their evergreens. Poinsettias are placed on the mantel and presents under the tree, and we "deck the halls with boughs of holly." These Christmas decorations bring enjoyment and anticipation to the holiday.

Advent is the church's season of preparation for Christmas, for the coming of the Lord. This Advent season, as part of our preparation, we reflect upon three common Christmas decorations and how they help us see Christ and prepare for His coming: evergreens, lights, and the creche. Then on Christmas we will focus on the decorated presents which point us to the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

*But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD,  
I wait for God my Savior;  
my God will hear me.*

*Micah 7:7*

# UPCOMING ADVENT SPECIAL SERVICES



## *Advent Services*

*\*Wednesday, December 3, 6:30 pm*

*\*Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 pm*

*\*Wednesday, December 17, 6:30 pm*

*\*There will be a Light Supper before the Midweek Advent Services*

*Children's Christmas Play, Sunday, December 21 during 9:00 am  
worship service*

### *Christmas Eve Service*

*Wednesday, December 24, 5:00 pm*

*Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion*

*Thursday, December 25, 9:00 am*

*Epiphany Service with Holy Communion*

*Tuesday, January 6, 6:30 pm*

Immanuel Lutheran Church,  
Preschool & Kindergarten  
1001 Immanuel Drive  
Boonville, MO 65233

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