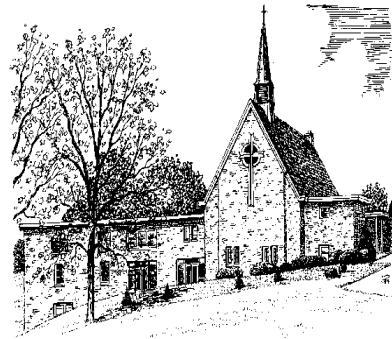


# The King's Business

February, 2024

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VOL. 58, NO. 2



## The Pastor's Page

As a pastor, I receive many questions of a theological nature. It's one of my favorite parts of the job. I love answering questions. Some are serious and thoughtful. Some are light-hearted and funny. But there's one question I receive possibly more than any other, and it just happens to be the one that is the most difficult to answer: "My [friend/relative] is dying and is not a Christian. What should I say?"

You would think this would be the easiest question for a pastor to answer. Proclaiming the Word of God is my job, right? And yet, it's phenomenally difficult for two reasons. One, because usually I don't know the person involved. And two, because usually I can't intervene in the situation directly. And so my answer becomes a wobbly trapeze act of trying to appeal to a person I don't know with words that aren't my own.

It's terribly frustrating. Not because I don't want you to ask me such questions. I really, really do. I just wish I could provide a better answer. I wish there were some magic formula in which I could ask you half a dozen pointed questions, gain everything I need to know about the other person and your relationship to them, and then hand you a script that was guaranteed to convert them. Sadly, no such formula exists.

No, the harsh truth is that sharing God's Word can be difficult. It can be difficult in any situation, but especially with a friend or family member. And even more so with a friend or family member who is nearing the end of their life. There's so much at stake. So much to gain and so much to lose. At least, that's how we feel.

And yet, there really isn't that much to lose, when you think about it. Because, ultimately, the worst that could happen is that you're rejected. Told to shut-up and never speak of your faith again. It's a possibility. But tell me, which is better: to see a person you love die and say,

"I tried but they wouldn't listen," or to say, "I didn't even try. Why didn't I try?"

Or maybe it's the nerves that get to us. The intense pressure to say just the right thing at just the right time in just the right way. We wait and we wait for the right words at the right moment. Because if we don't then we've... what? Failed God? I don't think so.

The truth is, there may be slightly better or slightly worse ways to share the Gospel with someone, but it is impossible to be a failure at it. Not if what you're sharing is really the Gospel. Scripture reminds us of this time and time again.

A farmer sows seeds on a field. Some of it lands on good soil. Some of it on bad. The farmer isn't a failure because some of the seed doesn't sprout. In fact, he's a very good farmer because he did his job and tried to get a crop from every piece of soil he could. The seed was good, but soil just wasn't right.

A rich man dies and goes to hell. He begs God to warn his brothers so that they won't suffer the same fate that he has. God tells him, "If all the Law and the Prophets put together couldn't convert your brothers, then they could see a man rise from the dead in front of their very eyes and they wouldn't believe." There's nothing that can be done for them.

Time and time again, in parable after parable, Jesus tells us that creating faith in someone's heart is out of our hands. It doesn't really matter what, when, or how we offer them the Gospel. Either they will believe or they won't.

That may sound a little hopeless, but it's actually not. It's a very hopeful thing. In fact, it's at the very core of the Gospel itself. Faith isn't an act of human hands or human words. It's an act of God.

And we can take comfort in that. Because if it were up to human beings to present the Gospel in just the

right way, then none of us would believe. We are each living, breathing, testifying proof of that. We are proof of the tremendous power of God's grace working in each believer. Brought to us through His Word and Sacraments, with the power of the Holy Spirit working in, with, and under each of them.

The people in your life who made sure that you became a Christian? They probably weren't eloquent evangelists or miracle working Apostles. They were just like you. Simple Christians faced with a choice to shine the light of the Gospel or hide it under a bowl. They chose to shine it. And God worked the miracle of faith in you.

Which, in the end, is the only advice I can ever give you. Shine the light of the Gospel. Say something. Anything. Quote John 3:16 until you have no voice left. Sing "Jesus Loves Me" until their ears bleed. Repeat the Apostles' Creed until they drag you off to the loony bin. Say something. Anything. Just shine the light of the Gospel. And let God perform the miracle.

God's Blessings to You This Month  
- Pastor Ketelsen

### 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.

**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.

*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.*

### 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: Rachel Humphrey

Kindergarten Teachers: Stefani Ketelsen

Glenda Gerhardt

Office Manager: Patty Mangels

Custodians: Cora Linneman/Doug Thoma

Production/Distribution of Newsletter: Patty Mangels

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

**Sunday School** – 10:15 a.m.

**Fellowship Time** - Fifth Sundays 9:15 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)

**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.

**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING****CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING****January 16, 2024**

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

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

**Acceptance/Amendments of Agenda:** No amendments, agenda accepted.

**Approval of Minutes:** Jason Linneman made a motion to approve the minutes from October 24, 2023. Sharon Strough seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:**

- 1) Pastor reported Confirmation classes are proceeding.
- 2) Advent and Christmas services went well with a large Christmas Eve attendance of 148. The Epiphany service had a very small attendance.
- 3) Lent and Easter are early this year. The Elders recommended the Ambassadors of Reconciliation series for the Lenten services.
- 4) There is one attendee for the new member class, along with his wife – Gordon and Penny Cain.

**President's Report:** No report.

**Vice President's Report:** No report.

**Secretary's Report:** No report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Kim Toellner was absent, no report submitted.

- 1) Gene stated the extension fund of \$175,000 was invested at 2.65% for 5 years, which expires on 9/15/24. This fund generated \$4,593 year-to-date.
- 2) The Edward Jones accounts are performing well with a balance of \$529,000 in October, \$535,000 in November, and \$546,000 in December.

**Elder's Report:**

- 1) Craig reported they have begun keeping an Excel spreadsheet to track the Good Samaritan activity.
- 2) The Wednesday night Bibles and BBQ men's group has resumed this month, generally the

second and fourth Wednesdays each month, but in February they will meet on the first Wednesday, February 7, as the second week is Ash Wednesday.

- 3) Pastor reported that the Elders requested additional children's books to be used during church services. Pastor was able to acquire several new books at 30% off during a CPH Christmas sale.

**Board of Property:** Billy Mac Wells was absent, reported by Craig.

- 1) Craig reported that the lights on the outer aisles and through the middle will be left on as another safety measure. Adam Scott with Scott Electric will re-wire these lights in order to keep them on at all times. Pastor reported that the light outside the school doors needs repaired. This will also be looked at by Adam Scott while he is here.
- 2) The boiler inspection was performed today, which passed and is good for another two years.
- 3) Jimmy Gerhardt repaired the valve in the radiator in the school room.
- 4) The loss of water pressure is still being investigated.
- 5) The bathroom décor needs updated.

**Board of Christian Education:** Andrea reported that Sunday School classes are going well with eight in attendance if everyone is present.

**School Board:** Christian Stock was absent. Pastor reported that Christian applied for a credit card for school use, which has not been processed yet. Parent/Teacher conferences were held on Monday, January 15.

**Board of Stewardship and Outreach:**

- 1) Sharon reported there were 84 prayer requests in 2023. There have been two so far in January.
- 2) Pastor reported the Lutheran Hour Ministries had a float in the Rose Bowl parade.
- 3) The Missouri Youth gathering for high school ages will be held in July; there are three interested in attending.
- 4) There is no fifth Sunday until March, which is Easter, so there will be light refreshments on Sunday, January 28.

- 5) The Shine Missouri District event is between April 12 and April 21; this is the fourth year. Pastor will look into participating in this event this year. Participation has increased from 5,000 in 2021 to 10,000 in 2023.

Craig Meyer made a motion to accept all board reports, seconded by Andrea Thacher. Motion carried.

**Unfinished Business:** The sign company representative is working on a quote for a one-sided sign in the location of our current sign. Pastor will look into a possible grant for this project.

**New Business:** The nativity set needs replaced. Gene presented information on a life-size set ranging in price from \$1,095 to \$3,499, depending on set options. It is made of a PCA hard plastic. Gene will get more information.

**Announcements:** None.

**Adjournment:** Jason Linneman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Craig Meyer. Motion carried.

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Ketelsen asked all to join in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Those in attendance at the meeting included the following: Craig Meyer, Sharon Strough, Andrea Thacher, Gene Cummins, Jason Linneman, Pastor Ketelsen, and Lori Linneman.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Linneman  
Church Council Secretary

*"Be still, and know that I am God.  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!"*

Psalm 46:10

## Keeping up with Kindergarten

Well, we hardly had school the month of January. Lots of snow and ice days. We still kept going along the best we could. It felt like the first day of school several times.

We can't believe that we are more than half way through the school year. These next three and a half months is the time for the most growth academically. It is so fun to watch them read and begin to sound out and recognize words "in the wild".

Thank you for all of your support.

In HIS Service,  
The Kindergarten Team

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

We had an amazing December. We met a shepherd named David, who everyday took us on a new journey to find the baby Jesus. We were introduced to the wisemen, who reminded us to always look to God. David taught us many things about our journey to the manger. We learned about God's love for us and how we can share that with others. We learned when we feel insignificant, God has chosen us as His children and that means we are the child of the King of Kings. We learned that every good thing we have comes from our Heavenly Father who loves us very much. David also reminded us that as we celebrate the birth also of Jesus, we also remember the cross Jesus died on and rose again to save us from our sins. Jesus loves us very much.

We learned about Advent. Mrs. Ketelsen lit the Advent Wreath for us and explained what the lighted candles meant. We love how pretty the church is with all its decorations.

We had a program for our families. We had fun saying our lines from the book Angel, Angel What Do You See. We sang Happy Birthday Jesus to end our program. The song reminds us that all the tinsel, lights, carol and bells are nice but the real gift is Jesus.

After the program, we went downstairs to our party. It was so nice to have our families with us. We had 72

people at one party and 47 at the other. We are so thankful for the families God blessed us with.

### Upcoming January Events

Monday, January 8 – Return to school

Monday, January 15 – NO SCHOOL &  
Parent/Teacher Conferences

## STEWARDSHIP/OUTREACH BOARD

A copy of *O Holy Night*, a devotion from Our Daily Bread has several devotions on the history of our Christmas carols, is available in the Narthex.

The January *Lutheran Witness* has an article on Trinity Lutheran Church, Altenburg, MO. Some of our members have been to this church. Let the congregation know if you have visited Trinity Lutheran Church. The magazine is available in the Narthex.

There is information available on the bulletin board about ma4 (Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging), a statewide resource for older Missourians. Missouri's area agencies on aging (AAAs) provide vital services, programs, advocacy, and information to Missourians ages 60+ and their caregivers.

Lutheran Bible Translators is celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a prayer: Heavenly Father, as we enter 2024, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Lutheran Bible Translators, we lift our hearts in thanksgiving to you. You have faithfully provided for the organization, leading to the publication of 46 New Testaments and full Bibles, impacting over 15 million souls with Your Word. We pray for the active programs in 132 language communities in 17 countries. We pray Your continued blessings will be upon the staff, its 54 missionaries, and their families. Lord, Your Word brings hope, life, and transformation. Guide us, make every path straight, and lead more people to the knowledge of the Truth. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and lord, we entrust 2024 into Your merciful hands.

If some you know needs food pantry assistance, the contact number is 660-537-2183. The commitment of the members of our congregation has helped Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) reach many people. If you want to become involved, contact John Barnes. NHN-

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is available on Facebook for more information.

There were a total of 84 prayer request in 2023. So far in January, there have been three prayer requests.

The following is a message from Tim Von Engeln, who organizes the Salvation Army bell ringing:

Hello everyone, and happy 2024. I just wanted to get back with everyone with a big thanks for your participation in bell ringing. The money collected by bell ringers helps the needy in our community when there are gaps from other sources. It might be the last place for one to find help. Best of all, nearly all the money stays in Cooper County.

We had a very successful year, with two new organizations participating, including Central Missouri Glass and Boonville Farmer's Market. Of course, we definitely want to extend our thanks to organizations who have stayed involved for years, and our ability to count on them each season of bell ringing. Thanks especially to each lead volunteer coordinator within organizations. Thanks to all who worked more than a one-hour shift, especially on cold days---blessings to you. Thanks to Walmart for allowing us space, where we have maximum visibility and access.

I also wanted to thank several Methodist Men, who helped pick up the money, twice each day, especially Bill Salyer, Mike Krohn, Larry Long.

Each deposit was taken to the Citizens Community Bank, which required lots of sorting, counting, and accounting by bank staff. So we thank the bank employees for keeping everything straight and accurate.

Now the work begins with distribution of the donations, and I want to mention Verena McKinney for her work, along with Debra Windsor at the Methodist Church.

I just want to add an observation.... that bell ringing is a mini-mission right here in our community. I'm moved by schools who set this as an activity for teaching and training of our youth. This year, there was a family who volunteered, whose son had died from difficult



circumstances this past year, and they rang the bell as memorial to him.

Now here is a difficulty which we must overcome.....Verena has been disbursing the campaign funds for around 30 years and is looking to retire from this volunteer position. The board needs revitalizing, and I hope to get someone who can share the recruiting and scheduling task with me. If you can help, or if you know someone to nominate, please let me know, and keep this need in your prayers.

Sincerely, and in God's grace,  
Tim Von Engeln



The suggested donations in the month of January for the NHN Food Pantry is soups and saltine crackers. As always, any non-perishable canned and boxed goods are welcome. 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, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:00 – 10:30 a.m.

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

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

\*Please note that the distribution dates for 2024 are changing. Beginning in January, the distribution will be on the first Tuesday of the month from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and the second and third Tuesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.



*<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

Philippians 2:3-4



## Thank You!

The Altar Guild gratefully acknowledges those who donated poinsettia plants for the Christmas season.

Your contribution is very much appreciated!

Norm and Pat Lenger

Doris Linneman

Tom and Sharron Toellner

Karen and Bob Schnetzler

Gary and Sharon Thoma

Julie Thacher

Wanda and Tim Derendinger

Gary Naumann

Becky and Terry Ehlers

Wilbert and Nancy Meyer

Pat Loesing

Mark and Sara Loesing & sons

Marcella Frederick

Lori and Darren Linneman

Ed and Dawn Frederick

Patty and Earl Mangels

In memory of Edward and Earlene Loesing from their family



## ***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!*



## A Place Where Children Are Welcome

Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."*

Matthew 19:14

A church can be an intimidating place for parents with young children. More than anything else, parents are concerned about their kids being a distraction for others. Those distractions come in a variety of forms, but definitely include kids making noise when everyone else is quiet, making a mess in the pew (crackers and cereal make crumbs easy) and children have to be taken out often. Some congregation members give the unspoken impression that their children are an unwelcome distraction.

A young pastor, on a whim, contacted one of the famers to bring a bag of straw to the first evening Advent service. Following the offering, he invited the children to come to the narthex where they could grab a handful of straw to bring forward and place in the manger to symbolize our preparing for the coming of Christ. It was a good idea, at least in his mind. The children excitedly reached into the bag to pull out large handfuls of straw and then proceeded to skip down the aisle, dropping more straw with each step. By the time the last child made it back to the pew, the center aisle looked like the ground at a petting zoo. After the service, the young pastor braced for the angry comments, but none were shared. The members were thankful to see the children in worship and being made to feel welcome. I was that young pastor. I was thankful for how the

congregation members made those kids feel welcome.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is present for the young and old alike. Beginning with the name of triune God reminds us that all of God's baptized children are equal in His eyes. Together, we can confess our sins, receive absolution, hear God's Word, raise our petitions, and receive His blessing. We still have work to do in helping parents to understand that their children learn the liturgy and can participate in the service from a young age. In fact, sitting in the front pew, rather than the back pew, makes it easier for children to see and hear. However, parents will only sit up front if they feel that their family is welcome, even when the children have a bad day.

How can your congregation show parents that their children are welcome? Some congregations have bags with books and coloring pages to engage children during the service. Other congregations provide activities for children to take home and do with their parents, including devotions. Children's voices are heard in the repeated petitions of the prayer of the church, in singing familiar hymns and praying the Lord's Prayer. May God bless our congregations so that they can be places where children are always welcome.

*Prayer – Almighty God, heavenly Father, You have blessed us with the joy and care of children. Give us calm strength and patient wisdom, that as they grow in years, we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Fraternally in Christ,  
President Lee Hagan

**Immanuel Lutheran Church,  
Preschool & Kindergarten  
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**2024 FLOWER CHART**

Open Sundays for 2024 are still available. If you would like to donate the flowers, please sign the chart, which is posted on the door across from the lounge. As a reminder, regular vase arrangements from A-Bow-K are **\$35 plus tax** (\$17.50 per vase). Special flowers and / or larger arrangements are extra. Other local florists may be used. Prices may vary depending on each florist. Your willingness to donate altar flowers is always appreciated! Please continue saving the 27/28 oz. red Folgers coffee plastic containers for flower take home use after the service. Thanks!