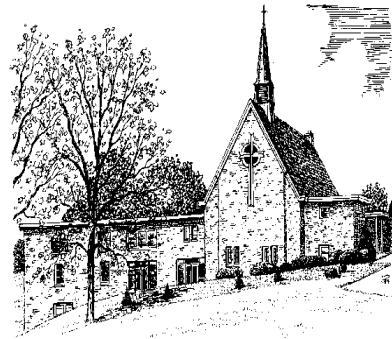


The King's Business

February, 2025

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VOL. 59, NO. 2



The Pastor's Page

Names serve an incredibly important function. Simply put, they are the first thing we use to identify ourselves. Names distinguish one person from another. One family from another. Sometimes they even tell us something about a person's ancestors. Names are important.

They're important in the Bible too. When God gives someone a name, it usually means he has chosen them for a very special task. Marked them with a new identity, not unlike our own baptismal identity. Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Israel, John, Peter, Jesus... all people of faith given a special name to reflect their special purpose in God's plan of salvation.

Names in the Bible were also sometimes prophetic. Solomon means "peace" in Hebrew, which was fitting for a king whose reign was marked by a time of incredible peace in Israel. Elijah means "my God is Yahweh," which was pretty much the primary message of Elijah's ministry against the false gods of Baal and Asherah. Malachi means "my messenger," which not only describes his role as a prophet, but also his prophetic message, for he would prophecy about the coming of John the Baptist and the Messiah.

And, of course, we can't forget God's own name, spoken to Moses from the burning bush: Yahweh. The great "I Am." The God who is, in a world of gods who are nothing. False gods who can do nothing. Who can neither punish, nor save, while Yahweh can and does do both.

Names are important. Which is why it can be so confusing when names are misused. God himself commands us not to misuse his name in the Second Commandment. And I think we can understand why. None of us would appreciate seeing our name misused. In fact, misusing a person's name can actually be a crime.

Defamation, fraud, and identity theft are all the misuse of a person's name in ways that are protected by law.

But there's another name that is occasionally misused and there's really not much we can do about it: Lutheran. Yes, the name "Lutheran" gets misused quite a bit. You see, in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, we put a great deal of importance in the name Lutheran.

That importance is reflected in our rite of confirmation. When a person is confirmed in an LCMS congregation, they promise to confess as faithful and true the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as they have learned to know it from the Small Catechism. They have chosen to call themselves a Lutheran Christian and so we expect them to publicly confess the doctrine of the Lutheran church.

A similar thing happens during ordination. When a new pastor is ordained, he agrees that the documents of the Lutheran confessions are a true exposition of scripture. That they are in agreement with the one scriptural faith. That he has made these written confessions his own personal confession because they are in accord with the Word of God. And that all his preaching and teaching will be in conformity with Holy Scripture and these confessions. In short, being a Lutheran pastor means agreeing with the doctrine of the Lutheran church.

Now you might think that this sort of thing is obvious, but it's not. Because, as I said, the name "Lutheran" does get misused. It gets used by groups and churches and organizations that really don't believe much of anything that the Lutheran confessions teach. Who use the name flippantly or as a matter of tradition or, even, outright fraudulently, in order to fool others into thinking they are Lutheran, when they actually aren't.

I'm not going to go into the specifics of who is or is not actually Lutheran. I didn't write this article to serve as a witch hunt for fake Lutherans. No, my point was simply this: anyone can call themselves a Lutheran, just as anybody can call themselves a Christian. These are just words unless and until we give them meaning and substance. To be a Christian is to believe what Christ taught. To be a Lutheran is to believe what the Lutheran Confessions teach. Using either of those terms in any other way is fraud. But, unfortunately, we live in a sinful world where people commit fraud every day.

Thankfully, we do have some help in this task. The LCMS uses a designation for the independent organizations affiliated with it: Recognized Service Organization (RSO). RSO's are organizations that have demonstrated that they are "in harmony with the doctrine and practice of the LCMS."

You probably know of a few RSO's already. Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri is an RSO. Lutheran Bible Translators is an RSO. Lutheran Hour Ministries and Lutheran Women's Missionary League are RSO's.

The RSO designation is a really helpful tool in sifting through the many "Lutheran" groups. And if you're ever wondering if a particular organization that uses the name "Lutheran" is actually using the name properly, checking to see if they're an RSO of the LCMS is a good first step. There are over 300 RSO's and the LCMS website has a directory of all of them.

Names are important. I call myself a Lutheran pastor because it describes what I believe, teach, and confess about God's Word as a pastor, just as we call ourselves Immanuel Lutheran Church because it describes what we believe, teach, and confess about God's Word as a congregation. I hope the name Lutheran has the same meaning for you as well.

God's Blessings to You This Month
- 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 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

Website: 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

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 10:15 a.m. as announced

Lord's Supper - 9:00 a.m. - 1st & 3rd 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 - 5th 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.

Office Hours

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

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

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

January 21, 2025

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Ketelsen opened the meeting with prayer.

Acceptance/Amendments of Agenda: With no amendments offered, the agenda is accepted as presented.

Approve Minutes of 10/15/2024 & Congregational Assembly Minutes of 11/17/24: Gene and Pastor report no further information or contact has been received from Otis Elevator. Sharon Strough motions to approve the minutes; Craig Meyer seconds. Minutes approved.

Pastor's Report:

- a. Ash Wednesday is March 5. Lenten materials have been received; the series is called The Hand of the Lord; A book is included that will be a part of the Easter gift for children as well as presented to the school children.
- b. Most of the Bible study groups are concluding or starting a new series:
 - a. The Wednesday men's study group just started a new series.
 - b. The Thursday group is wrapping up and will be starting a new series.
 - c. The Sunday study will also be ending soon and starting another in relation to Lent.
- c. A new member class is being organized; there are possibly 4 interested at this time.

Reports of Officers:

- a. **President's Report:** No report.
- b. **Vice President's Report:** Not present; no report.
- c. **Secretary's Report:** No report.
- d. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Kim Toellner is not present, but a written report is presented for review; Gene reminds the council that two separate draws of \$10,000 and \$15,000 were taken out of the Edward Jones account to meet expenses in 2024.
- e. **Elder's Report:** Chair Craig Meyer reports there was no in person meeting in January, but Elders did have discussions about Ayers baptism and Gupta wedding. Sunday service was cancelled on January 5 in addition to the Epiphany service on January 6 due to inclement weather; Pastor hosted online services for both. The online

services appear to have been well received with 64 profiles logged on during the live Sunday service.

- f. **Board of Property:** Chair Darren Linneman presents a verbal report:

- i. The sewer/drain issue in the downstairs restrooms has been fixed along with flush valve replacement on all toilets.
- ii. The lights in front of the church have been fixed.
- iii. The east side roof and sacristy continue to leak; Darren will reach out to some roofers for inspection.
- iv. A committee will be formed to discuss the remodel of bathrooms and bids will be obtained to present at the Congregational Assembly meeting.

- g. **Board of Christian Education/LYF:** Chair Andrea Thacher reports that vacation bible school items will be ordered soon; Andrea will ensure VBS is coordinated around the youth fair this year. She is also beginning work on the Easter egg hunt.

- h. **School Board:** Chair Gayle Linneman is not present, but Pastor reports parent teacher conferences were held Monday, January 20. There has been interest expressed for 7 children for next year's kindergarten class.

- i. **Board of Stewardship/Outreach:** Chair Sharon Strough presents a verbal report:

- i. There were 85 total prayer requests in 2024.
- ii. Also in 2024, 185 pounds of food was donated to the food pantry.
- iii. The Shine event will be April 4-13; Sharon and Pastor ask for project ideas.
- iv. A fellowship gathering in the narthex is scheduled following the January 26 service; Sharon proposes additional narthex fellowships be held this year.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

- a. **Roof issues:** Issues were discussed under the Board of Property report.
- b. **Sewer issues:** Shay Mechanical informed us we need to have the sewer pipe lined as it is cast iron; splinters start forming on the inside and hold on to debris.
- c. **Girl Scouts use of Fellowship Hall:** After discussion, Darren moves to deny the request;

Craig seconds. Motion carried and use of the hall for Girl Scout meetings is denied.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: Sharon motions to adjourn, and Andrea seconded. The motion carried.

Closing Prayer: Pastor asked everyone to join in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Attendees: Pastor Ketelsen; Gene Cummins; Craig Meyer; Sharon Strough; Andrea Thacher; Darren Linneman; Tammy Meyer

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Meyer
Church Council Secretary

PRESCHOOL NEWS

We were so happy to get back to school and see all of our friends again. The snow was fun but we missed our friends.

Our tables are rearranged and we sit in an oval where we can talk and see all of our class. We all have name plates at our seat. Some of us are working on writing our names. Some of us are also working on writing our letters (upper and lower case).

We are also working on the sounds of the letters. We color, do puzzles and play games to help the strength in our hands. We have learned about rhythm and dancing.

January was busy but very fun. Miss Gerhardt met with all of our parents and told them how smart and kind and loving we are. There were white and blue snowflakes hanging from the ceiling and red and pink Chinese lanterns also. It was very pretty. We are learning about our colors. We know a lot about colors!

Pastor Ketelsen is teaching more about what the Creed says and what it means. We learned about Jesus birth, death and resurrection. God really loves us a lot. Miss Gerhardt taught us about the little children getting to see Jesus and He blessed them. We also learned about 10 lepers (they were very sick). The lepers called out to Jesus and He healed them all but only one thanked Jesus. We learned about Zacchaeus and how Jesus changed his life.

THANK YOU to the members at Immanuel. We love our school. We love going to chapel. We are so thankful you give us this opportunity and pray for you. We are blessed by this church family.

Upcoming Dates in February

13th Valentine Party 10:00 a.m.

14th Valentine Party 10:00 a.m.

17th NO SCHOOL (President's Day)

KEEPING UP WITH KINDERGARTEN

Well, January had a few more days off than we anticipated.

Parent Teacher Conferences were this month. It is always nice to get to tell parents how awesome their kids are.

The students have completed their "trip" around the world. They tried different foods, listen to music, and explored landmarks. Next, they will be mini meteorologists and study weather.

Hopefully, this month is business as usual.

In HIS Service,
The Kindergarten Team

STEWARDSHIP/OUTREACH BOARD

Neighbors Helping Neighbors received 159 pounds of donations from Immanuel, as well as the cash donation of \$1,080.00 that was reported in the January Newsletter. These donations are greatly appreciated as the NHN distribution numbers are increasing.

The Missouri District Youth Gathering will be April 4-6, 2025 at Cross Pointe Retreat Center in Rocky Mount, MO. More information is available at <https://mo.lcms.org/youth-ministry/>. Going to the Missouri District Youth Gathering can help you prepare for the National Youth Gathering on July 19-23, 2025 in New Orleans, LA.

SHINE! will be April 4-13, 2025. SHINE! is an annual statewide servant event occurring each April. Two yards were prepared for the summer and clean up at the Neighbors Helping Neighbors building were the projects in 2024. If you have any suggestions for additional areas of service, please let Terry Ehlers or Pastor Ketelsen know.

Updated LCMS magazines are on the table in the Narthex. *Lutheran Witness* has an editorial we should read. If you would like a copy of the editorial to take home, please let Patty know and she will get you a copy.

LCEF Magazine has an article about St. Paul High School, Concordia, MO, who used their load for campus housing remodeling.

During December there were 11 prayer requests. The total prayer requests for 2024 were 85. January prayer requests were 3. Please continue to share your prayer requests.



The suggested donations in the month of February for the NHN Food Pantry is paper products and cleaning products (paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, bleach, dish soap, laundry products, bathroom cleaner, 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, February 4th, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, February 11th, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 18th, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.



Temporary Tattoo Design Contest for the 2025 LCMS National Youth Gathering

The LCRL announces that it is sponsoring an EPIC Temporary Tattoo Design Contest for the LCMS National Youth Gathering. We invite all youth who are eligible to attend the LCMS National Gathering to **submit a design** for a temporary tattoo that will be featured at the LCRL display at the National LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA, July 19th-23rd, 2025. All entries MUST be received by March 1st, 2025.



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!



Concordia Seminary Choir Tour

Laudamus, a select choir of seminarians preparing for full-time service as pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will be performing at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 14, 2025 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2201 Rollins Rd., Columbia, MO as part of its 2025 tour, "My Song is Love Unknown." Under the direction of Dr. Samuel Eatherton, kantor and the Kreft Professor for Music Arts, the choir delights in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through music. Come and be delighted by the musical offerings of these future pastors! The Concert is free and open to the public, and a freewill offering will be taken.



*The problem I thought too light to put in
God's hands became a problem too heavy
for my shoulders.*



2025 - FEBRUARY - 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1/26 9a Worship 10:15a Bible Study and Sunday School	27-Jan	1/28 1p Ladies Bible Study	1/29	1/30 7a Breakfast Bible Study	31-Jan	1-Feb
2 9a Worship/HC 10:15a Bible Study and Sunday School	3	4 1p Ladies Bible Study 7p Elders <i>Pastor to Circuit Meeting</i>	5	6 7a Breakfast Bible Study	7	8
9 9a Worship 10:15a Bible Study and Sunday School	10	11 1p Ladies Bible Study	12 6:30p Bibles & BBQ Men's Group	13 7a Breakfast Bible Study <i>Valentine's Party</i>	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day Valentine's Party</i>	15
16 9a Worship/HC 10:15a Voters' Assembly	17	18 1p Ladies Bible Study	19	20 7a Breakfast Bible Study	21 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	22
23 9a Worship 10:15a Bible Study and Sunday School	24	25 1p Ladies Bible Study	26 6:30p Bibles & BBQ Men's Group <i>Pastor to Calvary Witness Workshop</i>	27 7a Breakfast Bible Studay	28	3/1/2025

Those Serving the Church

Service:	Organists:	Readers:	Elders:	Altar Guild:
2/2	Tammy Poulsen	Sharon Strough	Gary Naumann	Susan Templemire Brandy Templemire
2/9	Diane Cummins	Tim Derendinger		
2/16	Tammy Poulsen	Brad Toellner		
2/23	Gladys Moore	Christian Stock		

*Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth
and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day
long.*

Psalm 25:1-5

CHURCH STATISTICS

Date	Worship	Facebook Live/Total	Sunday School/Youth/Adult Bible Class
12/1	40	11/16	3/0/16
12/4	15	3/4	Advent Midweek
12/8	86	9/16	4/0/17
12/11	30	2/8	Advent Midweek
12/15	64	12/22	5/0/15
12/18	27	1/2	Advent Midweek
12/22	72	10/22	Children's Service
12/24	151	8/10	Christmas Eve
12/25	31	10/17	Christmas Day
12/29	63	11/16	0/0/7
YTD Income including LCE as of 12/31/2024			\$192,518.64
YTD Expenses as of 12/31/2024			\$207,013.90

You are encouraged to take time to visit with, or send a card to, those members who are no longer able to attend regular church services. How wonderful it must be to know you are remembered, prayed for, and someone has taken some of their precious hours to visit with you. Addresses for the care facilities above are shown below. The Church Office can help you with other addresses when requested.

MEMBERS SHUT-IN OR IN NURSING HOME**Nursing Home:**

Bristol Manor – Raeola Walker

1290 W. Ashley Rd., Room 110, Boonville, MO 65233

Mexico Veterans Home – Tom Moore

1 Veterans Drive, Room 122, Mexico, MO 65265

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Transfer out: None

Transfer in: None

Reaffirmed: None

Confirmed: None

Baptism: Liam Wayne Ayers

Deceased: None

FEBRUARY SCRIPTURE READERS

All services are at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

02/02 Sharon Strough

02/09 Tim Derendinger

02/16 Brad Toellner

02/23 Christian Stock

**ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH**

January 3 Aaron and Jessica Shay
January 9 Timothy and Marta Fahrenbrink

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

January 1 Thomas Toellner
Emma Scott
January 3 Jamal Franklin
January 4 Patricia Loesing
January 5 Earl Mangels
January 6 Tyler Scott
January 8 Ray Schrader
Timothy Fahrenbrink
January 10 Kimi Mawia
Fisher Meyer
January 11 Christopher Dinwiddie
January 12 Denise Kaiser-Miles
January 17 Raeola Walker
January 20 Teri Bowers
Samuel Thacher
January 21 Cate Selby
Heath Thalgott
January 25 Jessica Moore
Kate Peterson
January 26 Sharon Dyer
Alan Moore
January 27 Jennifer Friedrich
Ralph Twillman
Alexis Scott
January 31 Marc Huggins

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:31

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

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Copies of sermons are available. If you missed a service, or just loved one immensely, copies are available on our church website, 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.