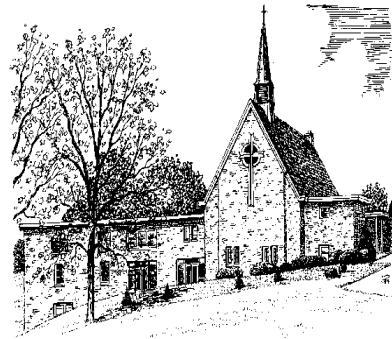


The King's Business

January, 2024

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VOL. 58, NO. 1



The Pastor's Page

I'm not normally one for New Years' resolutions. They just usually don't work out. And I'm not going to go through the insanity of trying the same thing over and over again, expecting different results. This year, though, there is something I'd really like to try to improve upon and I think it's a fairly achievable goal: I'd like to be a cleaner person.

I don't mean personal hygiene, of course. I mean clutter. My life has become very messy. My desk is perpetually covered in papers. My bookshelves are overflowing with books I haven't read (and probably won't). At home, our basement and garage are... well... a disaster. I don't expect to fix all of this overnight. But if, at the end of 2024, even one area shows signs of improvement, I'll be pretty happy.

There's an old saying: "Cleanliness is next to godliness." It's not a proverb that's found in the Bible. John Wesley used the expression in a sermon once, and so he is often cited as the source. But the way he used it makes it sound like it was probably already a widely used expression in his day. So we don't really know where it came from.

But as I started thinking about it, I realized there is some truth in the expression. Christian discipleship is very often like cleaning a room in my house. The steps I go through are very similar.

For example, the first thing I usually do is go through the room and throw out the obvious trash. Toss out the junk mail that's piled up on the counter. Get rid of the candy wrapper that missed the trash can. Tear down the Amazon boxes and load them up for recycling.

Likewise, Christians need to occasionally take stock of their lives and throw out the trash. Is that smutty TV show you got hooked on actually edifying? Or is it just a pile of garbage that should have been thrown away a long time ago? Is spending all that time on social media

really making you a more loving, obedient child of God? Or is it just cluttering your thoughts, words, and deeds with hate, greed, and envy? If it's obviously trash, throw it out. Get it out of the way.

With that done, then I can move on to organizing. Which is where things get tricky. Some things are easy to organize. They have an obvious place where they belong and I just need to take the effort to get them there.

Other times, the clutter has no place where it belongs. I need to create a place for it. But that means moving things around and creating a place. Which means displacing something else. And with only so much space in my home or office, there's only so many places things can go before something has to get thrown out.

There's only so much time in our lives too. And organizing our lives is tricky. Finding a place for all the activities can be difficult. Things need to be moved around. Priorities need to be made. Something will probably have to be thrown out in the end.

As Christians, we always want to spend more time on our faith. We want to get to church every Sunday. We want to attend a Bible Study. We want to have family devotions. We want to have personal times of prayer. We want all these things. But the world is constantly competing for space in our lives. Tempting us to throw out something that really matters in favor of something that is enjoyable, but superficial.

Finally, the room looks clean. I've thrown out the trash. I've organized the clutter. It's cleaner than it's ever been. Now comes the really hard part: keeping it that way. And, I don't know about you, but that is where I will inevitably fail, because the mess always comes back.

Why does it always come back? Because I'm a human being. And human beings always take the path of least resistance. We always prefer the immediate

pleasure over the long-term good. We are weak. We are sinners.

Letting a room get messy isn't a sin. But that same lack of discipline and dedication to a goal is at the root of much of our sinfulness. We are not as strong as we think we are. And like the clutter creeping back onto my office desk, sin always creeps back into our lives. So what do we do? Give up cleaning and just live in filth?

No. We start over. We confess our sins, knowing that God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We repent, tossing the obvious sin in the trash once again, organizing and reprioritizing our lives around Word and Sacrament. And we try to keep the room clean again.

Knowing full well that we will fail. But also knowing that we serve a God who is a master at cleaning up messes. In Holy Baptism, he has washed us until we are whiter than snow. In the Lord's Supper, he makes His Church a radiant bride, without spot or blemish. In the forgiveness of sins, we are cleansed in the blood of the Lamb.

No matter how messy your life became in 2023, God knows how to clean up your mess. So start 2024 with a little decluttering of your spiritual life and find, under all that mess, His grace waiting for you.

God's blessings to you this month.

- Pastor Ketelsen

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: 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. - 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 and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

**Congregational Assembly Meeting
November 19, 2023**

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Ketelsen opened with prayer.

Acceptance/Amendments of Agenda: Gene Cummins called for any new members to sign the constitution; no new members present. The agenda was reviewed. A motion to accept the agenda by Gary Naumann, was seconded by Earl Mangels. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: The Congregational Assembly Meeting minutes from August 20, 2023 meeting were reviewed. A motion by Tim Derendinger to approve those minutes was seconded by Earl Mangels. The motion passed.

Pastor's Verbal Report: Pastor Ketelsen stated that Advent Services will begin soon. The theme for advent services is Peace Come to Earth. There will be Thanksgiving Eve Service on Nov. 22. There will be Services on Christmas Eve in the morning and evening since it is on a Sunday and a Christmas Morning service also. There will be no New Year's Eve services. Three confirmands are attending and welcome at the meeting today.

President's Report: No report.

Vice President's Report: No report.

Secretary's Report: No Report.

Treasurer's Report: No report. The treasurer, Kim Toellner was not present.

Elders' Report: **Craig Meyer** was present. Elder's Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2023 typed report was presented.

Board of Property Report - Billy Mac Wells presented a report verbally. He stated that the Elevator Contract Company for service would be with Schindler. Due to water pressure issues either a new water line would need to be installed or a water pressure pump. The pump would come at an expense of approximately \$3000.00, and it was determined this would be the less expensive way to go. Gary Naumann made a motion that the Church Council be given the authorization to approve amount and have a water pressure pump installed. This motion was seconded by Norman Lenger.

Board of Christian Education: No typed report presented. Pastor Ketelsen stated they are working on the Christmas program.

School Board: No typed report. Gene Cummins stated that the budgets were turned in for the school.

Board of Stewardship/Outreach: Sharon Strough was present. She stated that the October brunch had 60 in attendance. There is a sign-up sheet for the Advent Services suppers. Pastor Ketelsen contributed that any relief for wars or other catastrophes can be sent to the LCMF.

A motion made by Norman Lenger and seconded by Earl Mangels to approve all the Officer's and Board's reports. The motion passed.

Unfinished and New Business:

1) Gene presented the handout from Impact, (a sign company) regarding information and design for a new sign for the church. The estimate is approximately \$48,000.00 to \$58,000.00 with an additional expense of approximately \$5,000.00 for the power box and electric to run to the sign. A motion by Norman Lenger to have Council/committee continue looking for sign options at lower cost options and present next meeting. This motion seconded by Craig Meyer. Motion passed.

2) Discussion regarding the budget for 2024 presented. The Stewardship: Missions (Synod) was at \$6,500.00 for 2023 and 2024. There was a discussion of increasing this amount. Gayle Linneman made a motion to increase this amount to \$10,000.00. Dianne Cummins seconded this motion. The motion passed.

3) The budget reviewed for 2024. Norman Lenger made a motion to approve the budget as presented with the \$3,500.00 increase on the Stewardship: Missions (Synod) line. Billy Mac Seconded the motion. The motion passed. The total Budget line being increased by the \$3,500.00 would come to \$207,449.00.

Adjournment: Gary Naumann made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Earl Mangels. The motion passed.

Attendees: Gene Cummins, Glenda Gerhardt, Earl Mangels, Patty Mangels (guest), Susan Templemire, Gary Naumann, Don Meyer, Randy Strough, Tim Derendinger, Josh Derendinger, Norman Lenger, Pat Lenger, Craig Meyer, Billy Mac Wells, Gayle Lineman, Jason Linneman, Tim Fahrenbrink, Ray Schrader, Pastor Joshua Ketelsen, Sharon Strough, Terry Ehlers, Amber Scott, Matt Scott, Tyler Scott, Louis Stock, (three confirmands: Sean Scott, Landon Scott, Jaxson Templemire)

Closing Prayer: All joined in The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Templemire

Keeping up with Kindergarten

We managed to get through December and all the excitement surrounding Christmas. We are half way through the school year. Which seems impossible. These kids have grown so much in all ways.

We spent some time making cool Christmas crafts. We followed the wisemen on their "journey" to Jesus. This included a daily devotion. We read LOTS of Christmas books. I think we managed to drive home the point that Christmas is about Christ.

Reading small groups began in December. It hasn't quite clicked for them that they are readers. They have the foundation and tools. It still seems intimidating to them.

We look forward to a new calendar year full of new things to learn.

Blessed New Year,
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

LCMS National Youth Gathering will be July 19-23, 2025. Location will be New Orleans, LA. Parents, are your children eligible to attend? The Gathering is for Junior High age through High School age. Get with the Pastor and our current youth leaders for future planning.

Looking at outreach at the national level, the Rose Bowl Parade was on January 1st, and Lutheran Hour Ministries of Southern California had the 73rd float in the 135th parade. LHM.ORG is a good resource for a very wide variety of topics.

Lutheran Bible Translators will start their 60th year of operation in 2024.

Thrivent Magazine Winter 2023 issue has many examples of outreach. This magazine is a good resource throughout the calendar year. The *Lutheran World Relief* autumn 2023 issue has updates on their work in the world. These magazines will be on the table in the narthex.

Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri has a new address, 916 Bernadette Drive, Columbia, MO 65203. Their phone number is 866-326-5327. They are always in need of diapers, wipes, and other baby supplies.

Thanks again to all of the Bell Ringers. Your commitment to this outreach is outstanding. We will continue to ring the bell on the Shop with a Cop weekend unless another date is preferred. Let Terry Ehlers or Pastor Ketelsen know if you would like the date changed.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry will have new dates of distribution starting in January, 2024. Look for more information in this newsletter. Contact John Barnes or Terry Ehlers for more information on how to help with this outreach.

In November, Pastor in his children's sermon talked about leaves in a positive perspective. They will die and then rise again on the tree in the spring, just as our Savior died and rose again to save us from our sins. A year ago, I wrote on how leaves are a punishment for sins. No

matter how you attack them, rake, bag, mow, mulch, blow, or burn, you can never get them all.

As we start our new 2024 calendar year, our outreach will continue to be examined and discussed. Read your Council and Congregational Assembly minutes to stay current.

There were four prayer requests in November and one prayer request in December. The numbers for the year 2023 will be reported in the February newsletter.



Thank You!

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

Your contribution is very much appreciated!



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 2nd, 8:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 9th, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 9th, 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.



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.



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!*



When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

Luke 2:15



2024 - JANUARY - 2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
12/31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 9a Worship 10:15a Bible Study (No Sunday School)	1/1/2024 <i>New Year's Day</i> No School Office Closed	1/2/2024 7p Elders No Ladies Bible Study No School	1/3/2024 No School	1/4/2024 7a Breakfast Bible Study No School	1/5/2024 No School	1/6/2024 6:30p Epiphany Service
7 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 9a Worship/HC 10:15a Bible Class and Sunday School	8 6:30p New Member Class	9 1p Ladies Bible Study Pastor to Circuit Meeting in a.m.	10 6:30 p Bibles & BBQ Men's Group	11 7a Breakfast Bible Study	12 No School Teachers Work Day	13
14 9a Worship 10:15a Bible Class & Sunday School	15 No School Parent/Teacher Conferences	16 1p Ladies Bible Study 7p Council	17	18 7a Breakfast Bible Study	19	20
21 <i>Life Sunday</i> 9a Worship/HC 10:15a Bible Class and Sunday School	22	23 1p Ladies Bible Study	24 6:30p Bibles & BBQ Men's Group	25 7a Breakfast Bible Study	26	27
28 9a Worship 10:15a Bible Study & Sunday School	29	30 1p Ladies Bible Study	31	2/1 7p Breakfast Bible Study	2/2	2/3

Those Serving the Church

Service:	Organists:	Readers:	Elders:	Altar Guild:
1/6 Epiphany	Diane Cummins		Tim Fahrenbrink	Stefani Ketelsen Carol Norman
1/7	Tammy Poulsen	Craig Meyer		
1/14	Tammy Poulsen	Gary Naumann		
1/21	Gladys Moore	Julie Thacher		
1/28	Diane Cummins	Penny Cain		

*But as for me, I will look to the LORD;
I will wait for the God of my salvation;
my God will hear me.
Micah 7:7*

CHURCH STATISTICS

Date	Worship	Facebook Live/Total	Sunday School/Youth/ Adult Bible Class
11/5	67	5/9	4/3/10
11/12	50	4/20	NA/NA/13
11/19	56	6/16	Voters' Assembly
11/22	16	4/13	Thanksgiving Eve
11/26	53	7/15	3/NA/NA
11/29	23	3/6	Advent Midweek
YTD Income include LCEF as of 11/30/2023			\$163,380.80
YTD Expenses as of 11/30/2023			\$193,390.52

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

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Transfer out: Ruth Ann Graves to Zion Lutheran, Macon, MO

Transfer in: None

Reaffirmed: None

Confirmed: None

Baptism: None

Deceased: None

JANUARY SCRIPTURE READERS

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

1/7 Craig Meyer
1/14 Gary Naumann
1/21 Julie Thacher
1/28 Penny Cain

If you need to change a time when you are reading, or if you would like to be added to the list of readers, please contact Craig Meyer.

**ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH**

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

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

January 1 Tom Toellner
Emma Scott
January 3 Jamal Franklin
January 4 Pat Loesing
January 5 Earl Mangels
January 6 Tyler Scott
January 8 Ray Schrader
Timothy Fahrenbrink
January 10 Kimi Mawia
Fisher Meyer
January 12 Denise Kaiser-Miles
January 17 Raeola Walker
January 20 Teri Bowers
Samuel Thacher
January 21 Cate Selby
Heath Thalgott
January 23 Ottis Lawson, Jr.
January 25 Jessica Moore
Kate Peterson
January 26 Sharon Dyer
Alan Moore
January 27 Jennifer Friedrich
Ralph Twillman
Alexis Scott
January 31 Marc Huggins

*Jesus is the reason for the...
Well, for everything!*

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

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S POSTAGE PAID
BOONVILLE, MO
PERMIT NO. 330**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

January, 2024 Vol. 58, No. 1

Published Monthly

www.ImmanuelBoonvilleMO.church

<u>What's Inside</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
Anniversaries & Birthdays	7
Announcements	5
Bible Studies	2
Calendar	6
Church Contact Information	2
Church Membership Changes	7
Church Statistics	7
Church Council Minutes	3
Keeping Up With Kindergarten	4
Office Hours	2
Preschool News	4
December Scripture Readers	7
Shut-ins	7
Stewardship/Outreach Board	4-5
The Pastor's Page	1-2
Those Who Serve	6
Zoom Services	5

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!