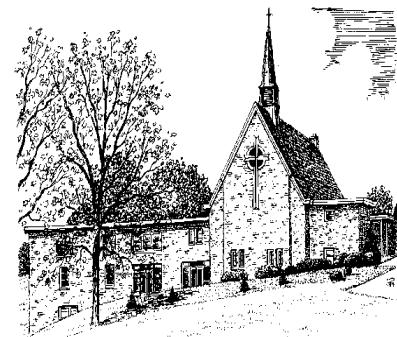


The King's Business

January, 2026

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VOL. 60, NO. 1



The Pastor's Page

January is often a quiet month in the life of the Church. We have Epiphany early in the month, but then the Christmas decorations come down and we settle into what the liturgical calendar calls "Ordinary Time." The word *ordinary* here doesn't mean dull or insignificant. It comes from the word *ordinal*, referring to weeks that are part of a regular, orderly structure. Still, in most years January feels relatively straightforward: green paraments, familiar readings, and a steady rhythm of Word and prayer.

January 2026, however, is a little different. This year, three feast days happen to fall on Sundays. The Baptism of Our Lord will be observed on Sunday, January 11. The Feast of the Confession of St. Peter follows on Sunday, January 18. The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul then comes on Sunday, January 25.

And because these feasts replace the normal Sundays after Epiphany, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper on every Sunday in January. Which is certainly not our typical practice of first and third Sundays for Holy Communion. But I would say that's a good thing and a blessing. Because each of these feasts centers us firmly on Christ and His saving work.

The Baptism of Our Lord takes us to the Jordan River, where Jesus steps into the waters not to repent, but to fulfill all righteousness for us. There the Father declares Him to be His Beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descends upon Him. This feast isn't only about Jesus' baptism. It's also about ours. We're reminded that God has placed His own name upon us, joined us to Christ's death and resurrection, and continues to claim us as His children. To receive the Lord's Supper on this day underscores that baptism isn't just an event in the past. We are now children of heaven, feasting on heavenly food.

On January 18, the Church commemorates the Confession of St. Peter. This feast recalls Peter's bold and simple confession: "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" It's a celebration not of Peter's strength, but of the Word revealed to him by the Father. In a world full of competing voices and shifting loyalties, the Church gathers to confess again who Jesus truly is. At the altar, that confession is not merely spoken with our lips. It is received on our lips. The same Christ whom Peter confessed gives His true body and blood to us for the forgiveness of sins.

The month concludes with the celebration of the Conversion of St. Paul on January 25. Paul's dramatic encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus reminds us that the Church doesn't grow by human effort or persuasion, but by the sheer mercy of God. The persecutor is made an apostle. The enemy of God's Kingdom is made an ambassador of Christ's reconciling work. At the Lord's Table, we see that same mercy at work for us. We come not because we are worthy, but because Christ calls sinners to Himself and feeds them with His own life.

Taken together, these three feasts make January a month of remarkable theological richness. They also invite us to reflect on the value of receiving the Lord's Supper often. The Sacrament isn't a reward for the spiritually strong, nor is it an occasional spiritual "boost." It is Christ's ongoing gift to His Church, given for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Regular reception forms us in repentance and faith. It teaches us to look outside ourselves for grace. It anchors our Christian life not in our resolve or performance, but in Christ's promise: "*Given and shed for you.*"

To begin a new calendar year gathered weekly around the Lord's Table is a profound blessing. As 2026

unfolds with its joys and uncertainties, we aren't left to face it on our own. Christ meets us again and again, Sunday after Sunday, with His Word and His Supper. January may be called "ordinary," but this year it reminds us that in the Church, even the ordinary weeks are filled with extraordinary grace.

God's richest blessings to you in 2026,
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.

Copies of sermons are available. If you missed a service, or just want to reflect on one, copies are available at ImmanuelBoonvilleMO.church, our church website. 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**

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

Patty Mangels

Office Manager: **Cora Linneman, Tiffany Bowers**

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**December 16, 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, Craig Meyer motions to accept the agenda as presented. Jason Linneman seconds the motion and the agenda was accepted without dissent.

Approve Minutes of October 26, 2025: Craig motions to approve the minutes of the October 26 council meeting; Jasmine Campbell seconds. The motion carries.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ketelsen presents a verbal report:

- Attendance at the Advent services has been good.
- Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 p.m.; Christmas Day service will be at 9:00 a.m.
- On January 6, Immanuel will host the Circuit Pastor's monthly meeting with a church service in the morning; the Epiphany service for the congregation will be that evening.

Reports of Officers:

- a. **President's Report:** No report.
- b. **Vice President's Report:** No report.
- c. **Secretary's Report:** No report.
- d. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Kim Toellner is not present but written financial reports are provided and reviewed.
- e. **Elder's Report:** Chair Craig Meyer presents written report.
- f. **Board of Property:** Chair Adam Templemire presents a verbal report:
 - i. Cora Linneman will be ending her additional custodian duties.
 - ii. Two custodian applicants have been interviewed, and an offer of employment was made and accepted by one of the candidates.
 - iii. Fifteen ceiling tiles were replaced in the Sanctuary.
 - iv. The outside signage had loose letters that were secured.
 - v. There are some electrical issues that will be repaired.

- vi. Salt will be purchased for the water softener so that it can be functional again.
- vii. Yearly maintenance and inspection for the elevator will be \$2700.

g. **Board of Christian Education/LYF:** Chair Jasmine Campbell presents a verbal report.

- i. She is making plans for a youth worship and small group to occur sometime in January or February.
- ii. VBS materials will be ordered soon to take advantage of the early discount.
- iii. The children's Christmas play is coming together and will be presented during the December 21 church service.

h. **School Board:** Chair Gayle Linneman is not present; no report.

i. **Board of Stewardship/Outreach:** Chair Gaven Linneman is not present; no report. There is discussion about having a fellowship with doughnuts and coffee/juice following the children's program on December 21.

Craig motions to approve the board reports. Jason seconds the motion, and it carries.

Unfinished Business:

- a. **Bathroom Construction and Remodel:** Craig reports Jason Mathis has provided a bid for construction of two new bathrooms across from the kindergarten room and remodel of the existing bathrooms. Following discussion, the project will be presented at the February Congregational Assembly meeting with a proposed capital campaign to raise half of the \$35,000 budget.
- b. **Sewer Repair:** Following discussion, there was a decision to flush the lines with root killer in lieu of further repairs at this time.

New Business: None.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: Jason motions to adjourn and Jasmine seconds the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

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

Attendees: Pastor Ketelsen; Gene Cummins; Jason Linneman; Craig Meyer; Jasmine Campbell; Adam Templemire; Tammy Meyer.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Meyer
Church Council Secretary

PRESCHOOL NEWS

December Highlights!

What a joyful and busy season we've had! We are excited to share highlights from our recent chapel lessons, Christmas activities, and a few important dates coming up in January.

Chapel Lessons

During chapel, the children learned about:

- Angels & Shepherds
- Simeon & Anna

We also enjoyed the Christmas story told from different perspectives:

- Innkeeper – Tim D.
- Mary – Mrs. Ketelsen
- Joseph – Pastor K
- Angel – Geannie Shay

Each day, Worley our shepherd took us on a special journey as we searched for Jesus in the manger, helping the children connect more deeply with the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Program

Our Christmas program, "Angel, Angel, What Do You See?", was a wonderful success. The children did an amazing job sharing the story through song and performance.

Christmas Party

We loved celebrating with our Christmas party and were so thankful to have parents join us. Thank you, parents, for celebrating with us, and thank you to the children for all the thoughtful gifts!

Classroom Fun

- The Weather Frog continues to help us learn about what the weather is doing each day.
- We enjoyed seasonal activities, including making elves and Santa ornaments.

Upcoming Dates in January

- Friday, January 16 – NO SCHOOL
- Monday, January 19 – NO SCHOOL, Parent-Teacher Meetings

Thank you for being such a wonderful part of our school community. We wish you a joyful Christmas season and look forward to the new year ahead!

KEEPING UP WITH KINDERGARTEN

Our kindergarten classroom has been filled with excitement and joy as we celebrate the Advent season

together. We've been enjoying many Christmas stories, sharing favorite books about the meaning of the season, the birth of Jesus. The children especially loved our "Wandering Wisemen" and all the places they ended up. The children made special Christmas ornaments to take home, each one unique and full of care. One favorite celebration was St. Lucia Day, when we learned about light and kindness. We made pancakes to share and created paper candle crowns, which brought many smiles.

It's hard to believe we are already halfway through the year! The children have grown so much in confidence, curiosity, and kindness. Thank you for sharing your children with us and for being part of this joyful season in our classroom.

In His Service,
The Kindergarten Team

STEWARDSHIP/OUTREACH BOARD

Outreach is an ongoing topic for our congregation. There was an article in last month's Thrivent Magazine on the topic for budget for outreach funds as well as for your family expenses, as well as other financial potential donations. One approach they use is the matching donation opportunity. If someone needs to make a sizable donation for financial reasons, they should consult a financial advisor creating a foundation that will help an individual with their 1040s.

The Rose Bowl Parade is held every year on New Year's Day. This year's parade begins at 8:00 A.M. PST (10:00 A.M. CST). By the time you receive this newsletter, the Parade will be in the past. Did you watch the parade and see The Lutheran Hour float to get the answer to last month's trivia question? The correct answer is that the float featured a blimp. Did you find the answer from the hints? Or did you find out by watching for the LH float in the parade?

This month's outreach trivia is local, not international and is about our Nativity Display. #2, #4, and #19 are the hints. The correct answer will be in the February newsletter. Driving by the nativity display at night is very impressive.

Our school and Sunday School programs were a positive Christmas Season success. The Christmas Eve service was well attended, and it was wonderful to see so many members and guests.

Watch in the February newsletter for a wrap-up of donations from the Salvation Army bell-ringing.

November had 4 prayer requests, and this month there have not been any prayer requests.



The suggested donations in the month of January for the NHN Food Pantry is soups and saltine crackers, pasta, pasta sauce, and rice. 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, January 6th, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 13th, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 20th, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.



Thank You!



The Altar Guild gratefully acknowledges those who donated poinsettia plants for the Christmas season. Your contribution is very much appreciated!

Tom and Sharron Toellner

Becky and Terry Ehlers

Karen and Bob Schnetzler

Ed and Dawn Frederick

Patricia Loesing

Marcella Frederick

Tim and Wanda Derendinger

Gary Naumann

Doris Linneman

Mark and Sara Loesing

Norman and Pat Lenger

Adam and Brandy Templemire

Gary and Sharon Thoma

Julie Thacher

Wilbert and Nancy Meyer

Sandra Lawson

2026 FLOWER CHART

Open Sundays for 2026 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 \$40 **plus tax** (\$20 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!



E² Conferences

Various locations across Missouri

Jan. 31–March 7

Encourage and equip your congregation's leaders and volunteers through practical presentations, partnerships, and networking! Join us for a free E² Conference on a Saturday morning, 9 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Registration: 8:30–9 a.m.

Dates & Locations:

- Jan. 31 – St. John's Lutheran Church, Arnold
- Feb. 7 – St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Lee's Summit
- Feb. 21 – Faith Lutheran Church, Springfield
- Feb. 28 – Calvary Lutheran High School, Jefferson City
- March 7 – Saxony Lutheran High School, Jackson

These conferences are designed especially for laypeople—church workers are encouraged to attend with their lay leaders. Discover the full schedule and speakers for each conference and register now. Walk-ins are always welcome!

Questions? Please contact Events Assistant Sue Thompson at sue.thompson@mo.lcms.org.



2026 - January - 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
12/28/25 <i>The Feast of the Holy Innocents</i> 9a Worship /HC 10:15a Bible Study <i>Pastor leaves on vacation in afternoon</i>	12/29/25 <i>No School</i> <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	12/30/25 <i>No Ladies Bible Study</i> <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	12/31/25 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 3:00-5:00 pm Open House at the Manor, New Franklin <i>No School</i> <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	1/1/2026 <i>New Year's Day</i> No Breakfast Bible Study <i>Office Closed</i> <i>No School</i> <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	1/2/2026 <i>No School</i> <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	1/3/2026 <i>Pastor returns from vacation</i>
4 9a Worship/HC 10:15a Bible Study & Sunday School	5 <i>School back in session</i>	6 <i>No Ladies Bible Study</i> 7p Elders	7	8 7a Breakfast Bible Study	9	10
11 <i>The Baptism of Our Lord</i> 9a Worship/HC 10:15a Bible Study & Sunday School	12	13 1 pm Ladies Bible Study	14 6p Bibles & BBQ Men's Group	15 7a Breakfast Bible Study	16 <i>No School</i>	17
18 <i>The Feast of the Confession of St. Peter</i> 9a Worship/HC 10:15a Bible Study & Sunday School	19 <i>No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences</i>	20 1p Ladies Bible Study 7p Council	21	22 7a Breakfast Bible Study	23	24
25 <i>The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul</i> 9a Worship/HC 10:15a Bible Study & Sunday School	26	27 1p Ladies Bible Study	28 6p Bibles & BBQ Men's Group	29 7p Breakfast Bible Study	30	31

Those Serving the Church

Service:	Organists:	Readers:	Elders:	Altar Guild:
1/4	Tammy Poulsen	Julie Thacher	Cody Waibel	Stefani Ketelsen Carol Norman
1/6 Epiphany Service	Tammy Poulsen			
1/11	Gladys Moore	Penny Cain		
1/18	Tammy Poulsen	Sharon Strough		
1/25	Diane Cummins	Tim Derendinger		

CHURCH STATISTICS		
Date	Worship	Sunday School/Youth/Adult Bible Class
11/2	70	NA/NA/17
11/9	75	NA/NA/15
11/16	72	Voters' Assembly
11/23	65	NA/NA/12
11/26	30	Thanksgiving Eve
11/30	60	NA/NA/16
YTD Income including LCEF as of 11/30/2025		Not Available
YTD Expenses as of 11/30/2025		Not Available



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: None
Deceased: None

JANUARY SCRIPTURE READERS

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

1/4 Julie Thacher
1/11 Penny Cain
1/18 Sharon Strough
1/25 Tim Derendinger

JANUARY SECURITY TEAM

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

1/4 Gary Naumann
1/11 Penny and Gordon Cain
1/18 David Scott
1/25 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 12	Denise Kaiser-Miles
January 17	Raeola Walker
January 20	Teri Bowers Samuel Thacher Kara Johnson
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

**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, 2026 Vol. 60, No. 12
Published Monthly
www.ImmanuelBoonvilleMO.church**

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

Great Passages of the Bible

The Ten Commandments.....	Exodus 20
The Shepherd Psalm	Psalm 23
The Birth of Jesus	Luke 2
The Crucifixion of Jesus.....	John 19
Our Resurrection through Jesus	1 Corinthians 15
The Lord's Prayer	Matthew 6
The Sermon on the Mount.....	Matthew 5, 6, 7
The Beatitudes	Matthew 5:1-12
The Great Commandments.....	Matthew 22:34-40
The Last Judgement	Matthew 25:31-46
Parable of the Good Samaritan	Luke 10
Parable of the Prodigal Son	Luke 15
The Great Commission.....	Mark 16:15
The Golden Rule.....	Matthew 7:12
The Abiding Chapter	John 15
The Love Chapter	1 Corinthians 13
The Gospel in Miniature	John 3:16