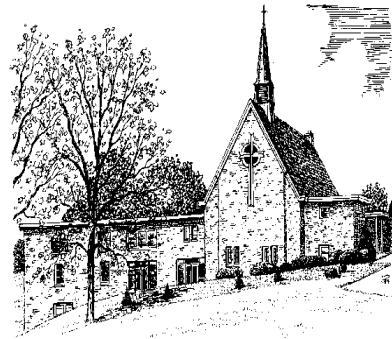


The King's Business

September, 2025

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VOL. 59, NO. 9



The Pastor's Page

At a recent circuit meeting, the LCMS pastor of the region got together and began a new study of the Smalcald Articles. Among the various documents of the Lutheran confessions, the Smalcald Articles aren't quite as well known as, say, the Augsburg Confession or the catechisms. But they were an important document, none the less.

And as we dove into the historical background of this document, we were reminded that Martin Luther himself included the Smalcald Articles in his will as his personal statement of faith. Likewise, his prince at the time, John Frederick, did the same. Both men wanted their heirs and the generations to come to know what they believed, taught, and confessed in Christ.

That raised a good question for us: Have you considered including a confession of faith in your will? We often call it a "last will and testament." The word 'testament' is about giving testimony, and in earlier centuries it was common for Christians to include a statement of faith in their wills. Today, our wills typically deal with earthly possessions, but they can also bear witness to what is most valuable: your trust in Jesus Christ.

Why would you want to do this? Well, first, such a statement gives you the opportunity to make a public confession of faith even after your death. When your children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren read your words, they will know that Christ was at the center of your life. They will not have to wonder what mattered most to you. Your confession can continue to teach, encourage, and bear witness long after you are gone. Luther's testimony in the Smalcald Articles continues to strengthen Christians nearly five hundred years later.

Your words, though perhaps brief and simple, could do the same within your own family.

Second, a statement of faith in your will offers a word of comfort to those who mourn. Death is hard and grief is real. Yet your words can remind your loved ones that you died in the Lord. They can read in your own handwriting that you trusted Christ for forgiveness, life, and salvation. In that moment, when their hearts are weighed down by loss, your confession can point them to the risen Christ, who has overcome death and opened the way of eternal life. What a powerful gift it would be for your children to hear you say, even after your passing, that you died with Christ on your lips and with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection in your heart.

Third, such a statement brings clarity about your funeral and ensures that the service reflects your faith. Not every family member may share your confession, and in moments of grief, decisions can be difficult. But your testimony can make it plain: you want a funeral centered not on sentiment, but on Christ crucified and risen. You want hymns that proclaim the Gospel, Scripture readings that point to the resurrection, and a service that comforts the mourners with God's promises. By stating this clearly, you not only guard your funeral against confusion, but you also use that final occasion to confess Christ one more time.

This is not a requirement, but it is a powerful opportunity. Just as Luther's words continue to echo down to us centuries later, so your confession of Christ could echo to your children and grandchildren after you. As the psalmist says, "I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord" (Psalm 118:17).

Perhaps consider taking time to write such a statement. It doesn't need to be long—just a simple testimony of the Gospel that carried you through life. In doing so, you will leave behind not only an inheritance of earthly goods, but also a lasting legacy of faith in Christ.

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.

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.

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

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

July 15, 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: A personnel topic was added for discussion. Agenda accepted with amendment.

Approve Minutes of June 17, 2025: Gayle Linneman motions to approve the minutes of the June 17 council meeting; Gaven Linneman seconds. The motion carries.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ketelsen reports that he continues to prepare for VBS, a new member class and confirmation classes.

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 presents a verbal report:
 - i. She had a conference call with a BTC Bank representative to discuss moving accounts; after council discussion, the accounts will remain with Southern Bank.
 - ii. One half of the school liability owed to the general account has been paid.
 - iii. Following up on a previous inquiry, Kim determined the 'Accounts Receivable Employees' line item on the Balance Sheet reflects Pastor's note payback.
- e. **Elder's Report:** Chair Craig Meyer reports the Elders are reviewing security training and protocols.
- f. **Board of Property:** Chair Darren Linneman not present.
- g. **Board of Christian Education/LYF:** Chair Jasmine Campbell and Pastor Ketelsen report staffing needs for VBS have been met.
- h. **School Board:** Chair Gayle Linneman presents a verbal report:
 - i. One scholarship has been approved; two scholarships are pending submission.
 - ii. The school computers required an upgrade due to Microsoft operating

system obsolescence; two new computers were sourced and purchased.

- i. **Board of Stewardship/Outreach:** Chair Gaven Linneman reports the church picnic will be held the last Sunday in September and plans are underway.

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

Unfinished Business

- a. **Review sewer issues:** Bid from Brian Weir Plumbing reviewed and discussed. Jason Linneman motions to table the issue and gather more bids. Craig seconds and the motion carries.
- b. **Review playground renovation:** Pastor Ketelsen reports the mulch is scheduled to be delivered on Friday. Additional concrete caps are needed but backordered. This topic is tabled, pending further work.
- c. **Review downstairs bathroom remodel:** Construction bids are needed for the two additional bathrooms off the classroom area. This topic is tabled, pending receipt of the bids.
- d. **Review Glenda Gerhardt's insurance and salary:** There will be changes to insurance coverage due to Glenda's Medicare status. After discussion, Gaven motions to increase Glenda's salary; Jason seconds the motion. The motion carries.

New Business:

- a. **Personnel discussion:** A closed personnel discussion was conducted.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: Craig motions to adjourn and Gaven 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; Gayle Linneman; Gaven Linneman; Kim Toellner; Tammy Meyer

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Meyer
Church Council Secretary

PRESCHOOL NEWS

School has started!! It has been busy and very exciting. The first two days, we had no upset children. The children were so brave. They loved playing together, snacking together, reading together and learning about God. We are learning about Creation, After the Fall, Jacob's Lie, Jacob's Ladder, Crossing the Red Sea and Traveling in the Desert. Pastor Ketelsen is teaching us about the 10 Commandments. We heard the introduction for the commandments in August. In September Pastor Ketelsen will teach us the First, Second, Third and Fourth Commandments and what they mean. We start out with prayer every morning followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

They love learning new songs about the alphabet, days of the week and months of the year. They are so very smart and willing to try anything. We have celebrated four birthdays so far. We are learning about our bodies and how special God made them. We are very excited about the playground. We can hardly wait to play on it. Thank you to the members of Immanuel for their willingness to support this ministry.

Upcoming Events in September

September 1 NO SCHOOL

September 12 Early Dismissal-
Homecoming parade

Upcoming Birthdays

Waverly
Rose

KEEPING UP WITH KINDERGARTEN

The first day of Kindergarten is always such a big day! We had a few nervous smiles and a lot of excited energy as we began our new adventure together. It is such a joy to watch the children step into the classroom, ready to learn, make new friends, and discover all that God has in store for them this year.

With God's guidance and your prayers, I know this will be a year full of growth and blessings for each child in our class.

In HIS Service,
The Kindergarten Team

2025-2026 Immanuel Preschool and Kindergarten Enrollment is open. For an application, please contact Glenda Gerhardt at 660-888-9996.

VBS HAPPENINGS

We had an amazing VBS program. God blesses our congregation every year with help from our adults and participation from the community. We have people from our church and our community who offer their help. There were 24 adults helping in all areas.

We had an average attendance of 50 children a night. They came to Wonder Junction to learn the wonder of Jesus birth, His Childhood (Jesus at the Temple), His Ministry years (Jesus does Wondrous Things), His death & resurrection and the Wonder of His Return. They learned the lessons through songs (Toe Tappin' Tunes), crafts and lesson time. They were introduced to animals Cougar Kitten (just like Cougar Kitten, Jesus needed to be fed and cared for too!) Wolf Pup (Jesus had to learn things while he was growing up, just like Wolf Pup did). Bison reminded us how Powerful he was, but as powerful as Bison was Jesus was more powerful. Grizzly Bear came to see us straight from hibernation. Jesus didn't hibernate, He actually died and then rose from the dead!! Mission the Horse reminded us that we are all on a mission while we are waiting for Him to return.

The children had fun at VBS. They laughed and learned together. They realize they are a part of the family of God and we get to tell others about His love for us. Friday night we did the program and the children sang the songs for their families. Children leading others to God. We are blessed. Thank you to the members of Immanuel for hosting this VBS program. We are blessed by your outreach.

STEWARDSHIP/OUTREACH BOARD

Our local outreach VBS was highly successful. Thanks again for any support you provided. We provided for Lutheran Family and Children's Services. Look for information elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Kansas/Missouri Region Thrivent Member Network is sponsoring *Better Together: Diaper Drive '25*, where they will match \$1 for every diaper donated. Immanuel is investigating whether the *Baby Bottle Boomerang* we did after VBS will qualify for the match and get more money for Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Mid-Missouri.

Statewide MO *Voice* magazine has several articles of interest, including "Effective Family Ministry" and Save the date for 2026 SHINE! week, which is April 10-19. Look for and suggest any project of interest for SHINE to the Pastor. This is the week before Earth Day events.

The August *Lutheran Witness* is about Holy Communion. The magazine is on the table in the Narthex.

Internationally, Lutheran Bible Translators is working on updating the Assyrian Bible. This is a prominent language in Middle East countries.

Lutheran World Relief newsletter is about subsistence farming around the world. They inform the reader on how just a single acre can provide for a family.

There were six prayer requests in July. In August, there have been five.



The suggested donations in the month of September for the NHN Food Pantry is soups, saltine crackers, and canned beans (suitable for chili or other homemade soups). 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, September 2nd, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

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

Tuesday, September 16th, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.



LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, you are invited to join us for a Tuesday afternoon Bible study beginning September 9th at 1:00 p.m., as we dive into "Meant for Good" by Donna Snow. This engaging study explores the life of Joseph from the Old Testament—a powerful story of resilience, faith, and God's redemptive plan.

Whether you're new to Bible study or a seasoned participant, this is a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith, find encouragement, and connect with other women. All are welcome—bring a friend!

Books will be available before the first session. We hope you'll join us for this journey through Joseph's story.



Receiving the Blessings of Holy Baptism on August 31, 2025 was Eileen Jewel Schrader, daughter of Ashley Schrader. Olivia's sponsors are Rose and Benjamin Rodriguez. May God ever keep her in His Baptismal grace.





Annual Church Picnic Sunday, September 29th 11:00 am

Worship Service at 9am with school children singing. We invite everyone to join us downstairs following service for entertainment (BINGO) and games for the children while the meal is being prepared. We also will celebrate **Glenda Gerhardt's 25 years** of preschool ministry at our picnic. Meal is potluck style with meat and drinks provided. Members are asked to bring a side dish/salad or dessert.

Please join us for a great fellowship time!!



Dear friends in Christ,
Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
We're writing today with another encouraging update on President Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan, and to once again thank you for your continued prayers and care.

President Hagan is currently on his way back home to Missouri and will begin the next phase of his recovery through outpatient therapy. Thanks be to God for this significant step forward. He continues to make steady progress, and his care team remains optimistic about his recovery.

As before, we kindly ask that you refrain from contacting him directly so that he can focus fully on healing. Many cards and notes of encouragement have been delivered to him, and these continue to be a great blessing. If you'd like to send a message, they can still be mailed to the District office:

Missouri District – LCMS

660 Mason Ridge Center Dr., Suite 100
St. Louis, MO 63141

As President Hagan continues to rest and recover, Interim District President Rev. Craig Otto remains the primary leader of the District, supported faithfully by the second through fourth vice presidents. We give thanks for their dedicated service, along with the many across the Missouri District who are supporting the work of the Church during this season.

Would you kindly include this prayer request in your weekend prayers?

In Prayer for President Hagan

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your ongoing care of our District President Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan as he recovers and ask that You continue to strengthen and restore him. Bless Interim District President Rev. Craig Otto and the Missouri District leadership and staff with wisdom and endurance as they faithfully serve during this time. May Your presence comfort all of us, reminding us that You are always with us until the end of the age. Amen.

We'll continue to share updates as meaningful changes occur. In the meantime, we remain confident in God's mercy and healing, and united in prayer for our brother in Christ.

"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age," (Matt. 28:20b, ESV).

Thank you again for your faithful prayers and support.

In Christ,

Rev. Peter Kirby

Executive Director of Congregational Services



Have you heard about the
APPLE WINE FESTIVAL
to continue celebrating Trinity's 100th Anniversary in 2025!



WHEN: Saturday, October 4, 2025

12:00 - 6:00PM



WHERE: Trinity Upper Parking Lot
2201 W. Rollins Rd
Columbia, MO 65203



WHAT: Open-House Event featuring...

For-Purchase German Food of Brats, Sauerkraut, German Potato Salad,
Pretzels, Dessert, Soda & Water

Over 21 Biergarten with For-Purchase Keepsake Glass that allows for
complimentary Apple Wine, and local German Beer brewed by our
very own Benjamin Asbeck

Live Music from So Grand Polka Band 12:00 - 3:00PM

Children's Area with Activities and Photo Back Drop



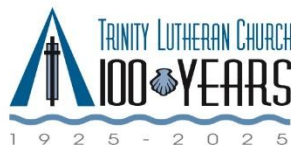
ADMISSION FEE: FREE!



Along with our congregation members, we are inviting our area Lutheran congregations
to join us for fun, fellowship and celebration as we give thanks with all for God's grace given
and shown to Trinity for 100 years. So make sure to mark your calendars!

If you have any questions regarding the event please contact:

Jacque Eckhoff, Apple Wine Fest Chairperson
at jacque711@hotmail.com or 573-289-0273.



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

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