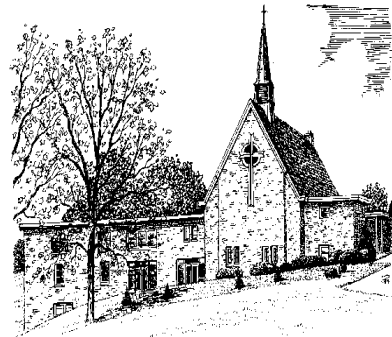


The King's Business

August, 2024

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VOL. 58, NO. 8



The Pastor's Page

Should Christians watch the Olympics? I've been pondering that question a lot recently. Maybe it's something you've wondered. Maybe it's something you've already decided. Or maybe this is the first time you've ever paused to consider it. You probably should, though.

For many years, the Olympics have become increasingly pagan in their tone and content. That shouldn't be terribly surprising. The first Olympic games were an ancient Greek festival to honor Zeus. The very name "Olympics" comes from the city of Olympia, where a major temple of Zeus was located.

Of course, the modern games were begun without any sort of religious intent, pagan or otherwise. In fact, I would venture to say that they were conspicuously atheistic and humanist in character, celebrating the "human spirit" and the physical achievements that human beings are capable of making.

However, a fellow pastor recently pointed out what he felt was a turning point in that regard. As part of its opening ceremony, the 1994 Winter Olympics at Lillehammer, Norway included a segment all but worshipping the gods of Norse mythology. Since then, it has become standard practice for the host country to include imagery celebrating their indigenous pagan religions.

That theme was continued this year in Paris, and in the most profane way possible. A live-action replica of Leonard da Vinci's *The Last Supper* was placed alongside the catwalk of a simulated fashion show. However, the twelve disciples were replaced by drag queens and Jesus was replaced by a woman

wearing a halo. And, if this wasn't blasphemous enough, partway through a nearly naked man, painted blue, covered with fruit, and representing the Greek god Dionysus (god of wine and partying), was placed in front of the table, as if replacing the bread and wine of the supper. It was disgusting.

So, I ask again, should Christians watch the Olympics? Part of me wants to say, unequivocally, no. They have returned to their ancient pagan origins. We should have no part of this spectacle that oscillates between atheistic humanism and intentional sacrilege.

And yet, even as I say that, I am struck by the words of St Paul. Because, as odd as it sounds, I think St Paul did watch the Olympics. Or, at least, similar sporting events dedicated to pagan gods. I can't find any other reason why he would so often refer to foot races in his epistles.

The foot race was the central competition of the ancient Olympic games and Paul makes reference to the sport no less than six times across five different letters. Training for a race is a metaphor for discipline and self-control. Running a long race is a symbol of endurance in the Christian life. Casting off weights and encumbrances during a race is compared to casting off sin in our lives. Crossing the finish line and winning the prize is a picture of being welcomed into paradise.

Paul knows a lot about foot races. It sounds like he was a fan of the sport. Which makes me wonder if even the modern Olympics can be redeemed from a godless culture. Redeemed and seen as a reminder of our own spiritual self-discipline, spiritual

endurance, spiritual encumbrances, and spiritual rewards.

I'll leave that for you to decide. You're not sinning by watching the Olympics. You're not a super-duper-extra-special Christian for turning them off. Like so often in this complicated, sinful world, this is yet another subject where we need to decide what is helpful, wise, and encouraging to our faith and what is not. As always, all we can do is pray for discernment and, right or wrong, throw ourselves on God's grace.

God's Blessing to You This Month

- Pastor Ketelsen

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.

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!*

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

Sue Diesher

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)

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

July 23, 2024

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Ketelsen opened the meeting with prayer.

Acceptance/Amendments of Agenda: Pastor requests to add a topic under New Business for space usage permission; agenda approved with amendment.

Approve Minutes of 06/18/24: Jason Linneman motioned, and Sharon Strough seconded for approval of June 18 Council meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

- a. Pastor reminds council members to send biographies to Stefani for "Ministry Monday" posts on Facebook.
- b. Vacation Bible School preparation is underway and going well.

President's Report: No report.

Vice President's Report: No report.

Secretary's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report:

- a. Treasurer Kim Toellner presented the monthly financial statements.
- b. In early July President Cummins had informed council members that the Treasurer was required to transfer \$15,000 from the Edward Jones money market account to the general operating fund to cover account overdraft.
- c. Monthly Concordia plan expenses of the preschool/kindergarten are covered by church operating funds and the expenses are then reimbursed from school funds; part of the year's transfer from the school fund was made in June and the remainder will be made at the end of July.
- d. Current finances reflect an operational budgetary shortfall of approximately \$3,000 per month.
- e. Current monthly tithing is not meeting historical tithing. Additionally in 2020 and 2021 the Church received COVID Funds to help meet payroll.
- f. There was further discussion about how memorials are counted in the church budget. Interest income is received from memorial contributions by past members.

Elder's Report:

- a. Craig Meyer reported no meeting was held in July.
- b. In June three new members were added to the congregation through the rite of Confirmation.
- c. Outside of a monthly meeting, the Elders voted to approve the purchase of an additional computer monitor for the church secretary's office with a purchase price of under \$100.

Board of Property: Not present; no report.

- a. Pastor Ketelsen mentions the drain line in the ceiling above the education room has been leaking. He will follow up with Accurate Heating and Cooling and ensure the issue is addressed before vacation bible school so that the air conditioning can be turned on in that room for the duration of VBS.

Board of Christian Education/LYF: Chair Andrea Thacher presented a verbal report.

- a. Vacation bible school will be held July 29 through August 2.
- b. There are currently 35 registered for VBS with many more expected.
- c. Volunteers have been secured.
- d. Decorating will begin after church on July 28.
- e. Regular children's Sunday school is likely to resume the Sunday following Labor Day.

School Board: Chair Gayle Linneman was not present but provided a letter that was read by Jason Linneman; a proposed budget was also presented.

- a. There are currently 20 students registered for pre-school and 4 for kindergarten.
- b. The combined proposed budget for pre-school and kindergarten was reviewed.
- c. Gayle proposes a committee be appointed to review school scholarships as well as to explore the possibility of setting up a separate scholarship bank account.
 1. Treasurer Toellner suggests if a new account is established that the account be managed by that Committee.
- d. Craig Meyer motioned for the proposed budget with amendments to the Concordia Plan and salaries be presented the Congregational Assembly for vote; Kim Toellner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- e. There is an existing memorial/donation account that was established several years ago and designated for a special purpose; that account should be presented to the Congregational Assembly in conjunction with the school budget; President Cummins will discuss the special designation with the family for further clarification.

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

- a. Approximately 25-30 people attended the Sunday fellowship in July.
- b. Cookies and light refreshments will be set up in the narthex following one of the August services.
- c. The church picnic is scheduled for September 29.
 - 1. Pastor advises this date could coincide with an event the school is also considering for that day.
 - 2. Pastor Ketelsen is researching possible entertainment.

Jason Linneman motions to accept all board reports; Andrea Thacher seconds; and the motion carried.

Unfinished Business: There was a two-year auto-renewal on the Otis Elevator contract and the company is demanding payment for the renewal; Craig Meyer will draft a letter to Otis regarding their breach of the contract provisions and Immanuel's intent not to renew. As discussed during the Treasurer's report, President Cummins reiterated \$15,000 was taken from the Edward Jones money market account and transferred to the general operating account to cover expenses.

Kim advises the council she will be out of town until August 9, which might not provide the accounting firm enough time to generate the financial reports for the Congregational Assembly meeting on August 18.

New Business: Pastor presented a request by a group to set up a lemonade stand on election day to raise money for community ADA playground equipment. Kim motioned for approval of use of space for the lemonade stand; Craig seconded the motion and it carried.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: Jason motioned to adjourn; Kim seconded the motion, and 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, Sharon Strough; Kim Toellner; Andrea Thacher; Tammy Meyer

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Meyer
Church Council Secretary

PRESCHOOL NEWS

I cannot believe school is starting this month. I am so excited to meet all my new little friends. Our Open House will be Sunday, August 18 between 3-4 p.m. School will be starting Monday, August 26th for the MWF class Tuesday, August 27th for the Tu-Thur class.

KEEPING UP WITH KINDERGARTEN

Another school year is about to begin. This is my 5th year in Kindergarten. We have 4 students this year. As I have learned in the past, the quantity of students can change dramatically from year to year, but the Lord has reasons. I look forward to watching this group grow and learn!

As always, we would love your prayers for another successful year of this important ministry.

In HIS Service,
The Kindergarten Team

STEWARDSHIP/OUTREACH BOARD

Immanuel donated 48 pounds of food to Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry in June. Please continue to place donations in the barrel in the Narthex.

Our outreach in the Boonslick area has been a positive experience this past school year. Our Preschool and Kindergarten graduations were held in May. The teachers shared wonderful end of year articles in our June newsletter. Please continue to support our school!

In the July newsletter there were interesting LCMS statistics reported.

Update on SHINE results: Missouri provided 150 different teams with 10,800 participants, which is the largest involvement so far. Three additional states also SHINE, Illinois, Nebraska, and Virginia.

Trivia question: What is the continent where all our international schools are located? Hint: the answer has four letters, three of which are vowels.



There were three prayer requests in June. There have been seven prayer requests for July.



The suggested donations in the month of August for the NHN Food Pantry are macaroni & cheese, hamburger helper type box dinners, and other boxed dinners. 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, August 6th, 8:00 – 10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, August 13th, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 20th, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

**Please note that the distribution dates for 2024 have changed. 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.*



Missouri District News: Students, parents, and church workers can use the Campus Ministry Network to help connect students with their college's LCMS campus ministry. It's an easy process. Simply visit molcms.college, click on the school where the student is attending, fill out the short form, and the information will be passed on directly to that campus ministry. Not attending a school in Missouri? The Campus Ministry Network also has links for finding an LCMS-U chapter around the country at molcms.college/partners. The first 30 days on a

college campus sets up habits for the whole year. Get connected to a campus ministry near you through the Campus Ministry Network!

**Popcorn and Lemonade Stand
August 6th
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Immanuel Lutheran Church**

Children in Boonville and Cooper County are raising funds to build a brand new, inclusive, and accessible playground in the Boonville Community, as well as add to the already existing parks playgrounds. This playground equipment will allow easy access and independence for children of all physical and cognitive abilities!

Questions/suggestions: Contact us at SuperFinnAutismFoundation@gmail.com. You can also donate through Venmo at SUPERFINNAUTISMFUNDATION.



Missouri District News: As is our custom each fall, the Missouri District celebrates *Tomorrow's Teachers & Preachers*—a campaign dedicated to building awareness of church work vocations and an effort to strengthen our scholarship endowment so that even more financial assistance can be provided to students on the path to ministry. Sunday, August 25, is the day we're encouraging congregations to observe *Tomorrow's Teachers & Preachers* by collecting an offering that will be added to the Missouri District Church Worker Student Aid Endowment. We also invite everyone to remember current and future church workers in your prayers and thank God for the many ways He is and will be using these leaders to care for His flock.



39th Annual Zion Lutheran Church Dinner & Silent Auction

Sunday, August 4, 2024

5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Zion Lutheran Activity Center

Lone Elm, MO

(8 miles south of Boonville on Highway B – fully handicap accessible facility)

Dine In or Curbside To Go - Smoked Pork & Chicken

Baked Potato, Green Beans, Corn, & Variety of Salads

Homemade Pies & Desserts

Free Will Donation

Silent Auction – Themed Baskets and “Family Famous” Baked Goods

Country Store – Homegrown & Homemade Items

Whole Hog Raffle Tickets-\$10 each (drawing on August 4, 2024)

One winner for a Whole Hog will be drawn; need not be present to win.

Hog raised locally by Scott & Rori Comstock. Oct/Nov processing date at Kemp's Custom Butchering. Processing expenses will be the responsibility of the winner. Tickets available from Zion Lutheran Church members or on the day of the dinner.

POPCORN + LEMONADE STAND



AUGUST 6TH | 10AM-1PM

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1001 Immanuel Drive
Boonville, MO 65233



Children in Boonville + Cooper County are raising funds to build a brand new, inclusive and accessible playground in the Boonville Community, as well as add to the already existing parks playgrounds. This playground equipment will allow easy access and independence for children of all physical and cognitive abilities!

CAN'T MAKE IT?
DONATE HERE!

QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS?
CONTACT US!

SuperFinnAutismFoundation@gmail.com



VENMO:
SUPERFINNAUTISMFUNDATION

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
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1001 Immanuel Drive
Boonville, MO 65233

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