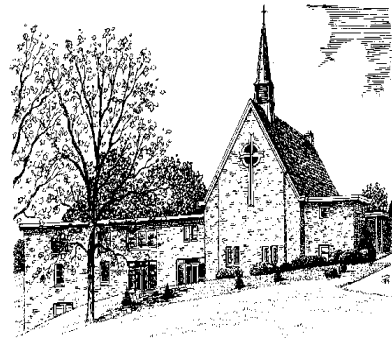


The King's Business

February, 2026

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VOL. 60, NO. 2



The Pastor's Page

This year, we have an interesting overlap of religious seasons. February 18th is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent for Christians. However, it also happens to be the first day of Ramadan for Muslims. And I have no doubt that the world will look at that alignment and find it appropriate. After all, both seasons are visibly marked by fasting and prayer and generosity. Yet beneath those shared practices lie two very different understandings of God, salvation, and human sinfulness.

Lent begins with ashes and the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." From the very first moment, Lent tells the truth about us. We are sinners. We are mortal. We cannot fix what is broken between us and God. Lent is therefore not a season of self-improvement. It is a season of repentance.

The fasting, prayer, and giving of Lent are not ways to make ourselves acceptable to God. They are methods of disciplining the flesh and eliminating distractions, so that we can hear again the Word that kills and makes alive. Lent drives us to the cross, where salvation is not achieved by our effort, but given by Christ's suffering and death for sinners.

In other words, Lent is shaped by the Gospel. We fast because we are already reconciled to God in Christ, not in order to become reconciled. We repent because forgiveness is promised. We pray because we have a Father who already knows our needs and has already given His Son for us.

Ramadan is also a season of fasting, prayer, and alms, but it operates within a fundamentally different framework. In Islam, there is no atoning Savior who bears sin in the place of sinners. There is no cross where God Himself pays the debt of human guilt. Instead, Ramadan functions as an act of obedience within a system where acceptance by God is tied to submission and legalism.

Fasting during Ramadan is not about responding to divine mercy. It is an obligation commanded by law. Prayer and acts of charity are done because they are required. Every good work in Islam is done because, at the end of your life, your deeds will be weighed and your hope rests in whether those deeds are sufficient to earn the favor of an inscrutable deity.

So, you can see that both Lent and Ramadan take sin seriously, but they solve the problem of sin in opposite ways. Ramadan answers sin with religious effort: fasting more strictly, praying more often, giving more generously. The burden remains on the worshiper to prove their obedience.

Lent answers sin with Christ: with His obedience, His suffering, His blood, and His death in the place of sinners. The burden is lifted from our shoulders and placed on the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

This is why Lent, though somber, is never hopeless. We begin with ashes, but every day brings us closer to Easter. We confess our sins, but we do so already knowing the verdict: for Christ's sake, I am forgiven. Our fasting is not about earning God's approval, but learning again and again that "man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

So, while Lent and Ramadan may begin on the same calendar day and share some outward similarities, they move in opposite directions. Ramadan moves toward the uncertain hope that obedience might be enough. Lent moves toward the certain hope that Christ is enough. Lent moves toward the sure and certain hope of the Gospel.

May God bless your Lenten preparations 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 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.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:1-7

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

Custodian: 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 is not meeting at this time.

Adult Bible Study: meets Sunday Mornings at 10:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday Ladies Bible Class meets on Tuesdays 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 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Thursday Morning Breakfast Bible Study: meets on Thursdays at 7:00 a.m. at 87 Diner. Please join us for food, fellowship, and study.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

January 20, 2026

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 was accepted without dissent.

Approve Minutes of December 16, 2025: Craig Meyer motions to approve the minutes; Jason Linneman seconds and the motion carries.

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

- It appears there is another air lock in the radiator; Accurate Heating came and they were unable to diagnose the issue; Adam Templemire will contact Specialized Mechanical.
- Cintas provided some information for the purchase of paper products and cleaning supply services. Adam will review the information and compare pricing.
- Ash Wednesday is February 18.
- A new member class will be organized since there are candidates that were unable to participate in the last class.

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. The general account currently stands at approximately \$9,300; considering normal expenses and income there is a need to transfer \$15,000 from Edward Jones to general checking. Gaven Linneman motions to transfer \$15,000 from Edward Jones investment accounts to general revenue to cover expenses. Craig seconds the motion and it carries.
- e. **Elder's Report:** Chair Craig Meyer presents written report.
 - i. Tim Fahrenbrink and Cody Waibel have both decided not to run again so nominations and election are needed for those positions.
- f. **Board of Property:** Chair Adam Templemire presents a verbal report:

- i. The outside floodlight has been replaced, and the water softener salt was replenished to make it operational again.
- ii. The annual fire extinguisher inspections have been completed.
- iii. Shay Mechanical came to fix a recent sewer issue.
- iv. A basketball goal has been donated for the playground and will be installed to replace the rotted one.

g. **Board of Christian Education/LYF:** Chair Jasmine Campbell is not present; no report.

h. **School Board:** Chair Gayle Linneman presents a verbal report:

- i. Parent teacher conferences were held.
- ii. There has been interest expressed for six kindergarten students for next year.
- iii. Presently, the families of the entire kindergarten class are considering attendance at Zion next year.

i. **Board of Stewardship/Outreach:** Chair Gaven Linneman is present; no report.

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

Unfinished Business:

- a. **Money for General Fund:** Gene will transfer the \$15,000 from Edward Jones as discussed/voted under the Treasurer's report.
- b. **Nominating Committee for May election:** Gene's term has ended and he is ineligible to run again due to term limits. Other council positions that are up for election include the Board of Property (Adam Templemire), Secretary (Tammy Meyer) and the Board of Education (Gayle Linneman). Adam, Tammy and Gayle all consent to run again.

New Business:

- a. **Downstairs bathroom update:** As discussed in December, a \$28,000 bid was received for construction of two new restrooms across from the kindergarten room and updating the existing restrooms using materials like the upstairs bathrooms. Gayle motions to present the project to the Congregational Assembly on February 15 for approval of \$35,000 as the maximum project budget. Gaven seconds the motion and it carries. The Council recommends at least half of the total cost be raised through a capital campaign.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: Gaven Linneman motions to adjourn and Gayle Linneman 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; Adam Templemire; Gaven Linneman; Tammy Meyer.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Meyer
Church Council Secretary

PRESCHOOL NEWS

January has been a wonderful month in our classroom! Parent-teacher conferences went very well, and we truly appreciate the time you took to meet with us.

In chapel, we learned many meaningful Bible stories, including Jesus welcoming the children, Jesus healing the ten sick men, Zacchaeus, and the story of the two men praying. Pastor Ketelsen continues teaching us about the Creed. He shared lessons about Jesus' suffering and crucifixion, His resurrection, His ascension, and who the Holy Spirit is.

In the classroom, we are continuing to learn more about letters and numbers and how to identify them. We also enjoy dressing our weather frog every day—he has been wearing his coat quite often this month!

We are excited to celebrate with a Valentine's Day party in February. We love our school and are so thankful for your prayers and for providing such a wonderful place for us to learn and grow.

KEEPING UP WITH KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten has jumped right back into learning after winter break as we settle into our routines once again. The children are enjoying time together as we re-establish classroom rhythms and expectations.

In reading, we are focusing on both short and long vowel sounds. Students are practicing listening carefully, decoding simple words, and building confidence as emerging readers. It's exciting to watch their skills grow each day!

We have begun exploring the solar system. The children are learning about the sun, moon, and planets. They are full of curiosity as they discover how God created such an amazing universe.

Kindergarten is off to a great start this new year, and we are thankful for the enthusiasm, kindness, and growth we see in our students every day.

In HIS Service,
The Kindergarten Team

STEWARDSHIP/OUTREACH BOARD

The Salvation Army campaign for this year was very successful. There were 6 weekends of bell ringing, with 31 organizations at Boonville Walmart ringing the bell, collecting \$14,173.83 (last year was \$12,276.45). The Howard County volunteers collected \$1,772.75 (last year was \$1,276.45). Donations from all sources from the Red Kettle Campaign were \$15,958.03 (last year was \$13,842.97). Donations have increased and The Boonslick Salvation Army – Cooper & Howard Counties has expressed their gratitude for all the volunteers and donations.

On the table in the Narthex are copies of *Preparing for Jesus*, an Arch Book telling the story of Jesus' birth based on Matthew 2:1-12 and Luke 2:1-21 for children. This book can be saved or provided to a grandchild or other relative.

There are several articles, magazines, etc. available in the Narthex, including *the Case for Christmas* book and the January issue of *Lutheran Witness*. Prayer calendars are also available.

Our donations to Neighbors Helping Neighbors in 2025 were outstanding. Your donations of bags, money, food pantry needs, or time in volunteering are greatly appreciated. Please continue your generosity during 2026.

Bible study opportunities are available for all. Check the bulletin board in the hallway, the bulletin, and the newsletter for information. Local outreach services are also available on the bulletin boards. If you don't need them, you may have a family member, friend, or neighbor who could benefit from these services.

The Nativity display answer is: 9 animals (4) + 10 people (2) = 19. I hope you knew the answer based on the January clues.

Please review the long term prayer requests in the Sunday bulletin and contact the office if any changes should be made.

In 2025 there were 58 prayer requests. There were no requests in December, and three in January.



The suggested donations in the month of February for the NHN Food Pantry is paper products and cleaning products, such as 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 3rd, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, February 10th, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 17th, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.



Saint Paul Lutheran High School is currently looking to fill several positions

Open Positions include Superintendent of Building and Grounds and Dining Hall Staff positions (part-time and full-time).

We welcome individuals who are passionate about serving, supporting students, and being part of a Christ-centered school community.

Please contact Mary Hemme for an application at mhemme@splhs.org or 660-463-2238 ext. 281. Applications are due by Friday, February 13th. We look forward to welcoming new members to our Saint Paul family.

Check the bulletin board for more information.



Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came
down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin
Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius
Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the
Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both
the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is
worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic
Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of
sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



2026 - February - 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 9a Worship /HC 10:15a Bible Study	2	3 1:00p Ladies Bible Study 7p Elders	4	5 7a Breakfast Bible Study	6	7
8 9a Worship 10:15a Bible Study & Sunday School	9	10 1p Ladies Bible Study	11 6p Bibles & BBQ Men's Group	12 7a Breakfast Bible Study	13	14
15 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9a Worship/HC 10:15a Voters' Assembly	16 <i>Presidents' Day</i> <i>No School</i>	17 1p Ladies Bible Study	18 6:30p Ash Wednesday Service/HC	19 7a Breakfast Bible Study	20	21
22 9a Worship 10:15a Bible Study & Sunday School	23	24 No Ladies Bible Study	25 5:30p Lenten Supper 6:30 Lenten Midweek	26 7a Breakfast Bible Study	27	28

Those Serving the Church

Service:	Organists:	Readers:	Elders:	Acolyte
2/1	Tammy Poulsen	Brad Toellner	Tim Derendinger	Ryan Toellner
2/8	Gladys Moore	Christian Stock		Emi Ketelsen
2/15	Tammy Poulsen	Chrystal Williams		Will Thacher
2/18 Ash Wednesday	Diane Cummins		Craig Meyer	
2/22	Diane Cummins	Gary Naumann	Tim Derendinger	Landon Scott
2/25 Lenten Midweek	Tammy Poulsen		Cody Waibel	
Altar Guild	Susan Templemire	Brandy Templemire		

*For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! Amen.
Romans 11:36*

CHURCH STATISTICS

Date	Worship	Sunday School/Youth/ Adult Bible Class
12/3	26	Advent Midweek
12/7	100	NA/NA/11
12/10	32	Advent Midweek
12/14	86	NA/NA/15
12/17	33	Advent Midweek
12/21	72	NA/NA/16
12/24	151	Christmas Eve
12/25	28	Christmas Day
12/28	62	NA/NA/16
YTD Income with investment transfer as of 12/31/2025		\$234,458.17
YTD Expenses as of 12/31/2025		\$249,441.87

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**FEBRUARY SCRIPTURE READERS***All services are at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.*

2/1 Brad Toellner
 2/8 Christian Stock
 2/15 Chrystal Williams
 222 Gary Nauman

FEBRUARY SECURITY TEAM*All services are at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.*

2/1 Adam Templemire
 2/8 Louis Stock
 2/15 Cody Waibel
 2/22 Matt Scott

**ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH**

February 2 Timothy and Wanda Derendinger
February 14 James and Jennifer Friedrich

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

February 2 Cash Stock
February 4 Diane Cummins
February 7 James Friedrich
 Dylan Johnson
February 8 John Kaiser
February 9 Joshua Cordray
February 10 Aiden Meyer
February 13 Jordin McGuire
 Lane Toellner
February 14 Amber Lammers
February 15 John P. Derendinger
February 19 Shyla Fairfax
 Norah Williams
 Rose Williams
 Sharon Strough
February 21 Calvin Gibson
February 23 Arthur Schnuck, III
 Astor Locke
February 24 Axton Day
February 25 Dustin Linneman
February 26 Leilani Maggard
February 28 Matthew Shay
February 29 Arthur Schnuck, IV
 Alexis Scott

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

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