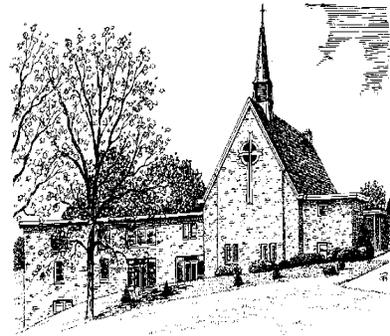


The King's Business

June, 2022

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VOL. 56, NO.65



The Pastor's Page

A few months ago, a member of Immanuel recommended that the Board of Elders and I take a look at a book entitled *Autopsy of a Deceased Church* by Rev. Dr. Thom Rainer. Rainer is an interesting fellow. He started out as a corporate banker, then later entered seminary. After receiving his M.Div. and Ph.D., he served as a Southern Baptist pastor for several years, became a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and then eventually was selected as the CEO of Lifeway Christian Resources, the publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Convention.

But through it all, Rainer never really stopped being a numbers guy, I think. He still has an analytical mind. And one of the things he is most known for are his studies, surveys, and statistics about the church, which he has compiled into numerous books and articles.

Autopsy of a Deceased Church is one such book. During his ministry, Rainer has visited many, many struggling congregations. Some of those congregations have survived. Some have not. Rather than just focus on the success stories, Rainer thought it valuable to look at the congregations that died as well. To do an "autopsy" on them and discover just what led to their failure and collapse.

Of course, being of the Southern Baptist persuasion, Rainer makes some assumptions and draws some conclusions that I just can't agree with. He doesn't have Word & Sacrament as his foundational principles for ministry, nor the right division of Law & Gospel as his foundational principle for preaching. He's much too focused on church growth and not nearly focused enough on sound doctrine and practice.

Nevertheless, there's still a great deal we can learn from his congregational autopsies. And the elders and I engaged in some wonderful discussions about the

strengths and weaknesses of Immanuel as we discussed them. In fact, they encouraged me to share some of those discussions with all of you, which is what I plan to do over the next few months.

And the first danger that Rainer identifies is an interesting one. He calls it the "slow erosion" phenomenon. It's the idea that churches rarely collapse all at once, in some spectacular display of dysfunction and sudden abandonment by their membership. No, most churches die slowly.

It's a slow erosion. A member here, a member there. A few more funerals than baptisms. A few more transfers out than transfers in. More and more members just slowly slipping away, not because they actually left the church, but because they just... vanished. And no one's sure quite where they went.

I immediately thought of our confirmation photos in the Fellowship Hall. The youth crowded together on the chancel 50 years ago. Barely able to fit on the steps for the picture. And then the photos from the past 10 or 20 years: three or four confirmands standing next to the pastor. Or just one lone junior-higher standing there awkwardly. Not to mention several years where there aren't any pictures at all.

This doesn't just reflect a problem with the youth program. This reflects a problem with the church program. This is slow erosion at work.

Now, what Rainer points out is that the really dangerous problem with slow erosion is not simply the effect it has on churches. It's the fact that it's so easy to ignore. So easy to pretend like it's not happening. Or that it will correct itself in time. Or to forget that the congregation was anything except what it is today.

And he points out that the Israelites suffered a similar problem. Following the Babylonian exile, a

remnant of Israelites returned to the ruins of Jerusalem. They immediately set to work building a new Temple to the Lord, laying a brand new foundation where the old Temple had once stood. It was a good and righteous thing to do.

And then the project stalls. They focus on their own homes. Their own businesses. Their own farms. And slowly they forget why they had returned to Jerusalem in the first place. And the physical slow erosion of that foundation begins to mirror the spiritual slow erosion of the people.

Until finally the prophets Haggai and Zechariah stand up and call the people to repentance. And a leader named Zerubbabel gathers the people to begin building again. And in a relatively short period of time, the slow erosion is reversed. The Temple is rebuilt. God's people have a spiritual foundation once again.

How? It's actually pretty simple: They admitted they were wrong and they sought God's forgiveness. They feared the Lord and the Lord declared that He was with them. They trusted in the Lord and He showed them His grace.

Repentance is a powerful thing. But it's not easy. It requires admitting that there's a problem. Even worse, it requires admitting that you are part of the problem. That there is something you are doing wrong. That there was more that you could have done in the past. That you sinned and that you need forgiveness.

We can't change the slow erosion of the past. But we can repent. And we can move forward. By God's grace, by God guidance, by God's wisdom, we can rebuild. Because God is with us. And he is our foundation.

God's blessings to you this month.
- Pastor Ketelsen

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 10:30 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: Deborah Burgess

Kindergarten Teachers: Stefani Ketelsen

Glenda Gerhardt

Office Manager: Patty Mangels

Custodians: Cora Linneman/Marvin Earley

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)

Dial-A-Devotion

660-882-5377

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday School: for age 3 - 5th grade is now meeting in the kindergarten room. They are still looking for more teachers.

Youth Class is for junior and senior high.

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

Tuesday Ladies Bible Class meets on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 pm in the large classroom on the main floor. They will be on break for the summer.

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.

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Psalm 119:105*

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

April 19, 2022

Call to Order: Vice President Wilbert Meyer called the meeting to order. Gene Cummins President was unable to attend.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Ketelsen opened with prayer.

Acceptance/Amendments of Agenda:

Approval of Minutes: A motion by Jason Linneman to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2022 Church Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Andrea Thacher. The motion passed.

Pastor's Verbal Report: Holy week, Easter celebration, and Palm Sunday went great. Attendance was normal to slightly above normal. Easter services had 143 in attendance for both services. Confirmation Sunday is the first Sunday of June/ Pentecost. We are finalizing the details for the National Youth Gathering, and it all has to be turned in by the end of the month. New bible study starts on Proverbs, and Sunday mornings will be on the book of Jeremiah.

President's Report: No report.

Vice President's Report: No report.

Secretary's Report: No Report.

Treasurer's Report: Kim Toellner was present.

Balances as of March 31, 2022

Citizens Bank and Trust	\$68460.80
Citizens Bank and Trust PK Donations	40951.73
Edward Jones 2	240,210.99
Edward Jones Guided Solutions	141,867.22
LCEF	16,599.80
LCEF Offering (ACH- electronic funds)	4,852.87
Restricted LCEF - CD's	<u>175,000.00</u>
Total Bank Accounts	\$687,943.41

Good Samaritans Fund \$2,230.57

A motion by Wilbert Meyer to approve the treasurer to move the amount of funds from donation account to cover any school shortfall as per the end of the school year budget before the July meeting. The motion was seconded by Jason Linneman. This is so correct figures can be presented to the Congregational Assembly in July.

Elders' Report: Jason Linneman was present. He presented the typed report of April 5, 2022 Elder's Meeting.

Board of Property Report - Billy Mac Wells was not present, but some information was relayed through Wilbert Meyer. The water line has been fixed and an additional backflow preventer added. They will have to put on two to satisfy the city; the part had to be ordered. The middle solar panel isn't working. Having difficulty getting in contact with the company. We are getting invoice but they are not taking the payments from our account. Ice Machine in the kitchen is not working properly. Pastor will mention to Patty to see if she can look at invoices from 2016 to see if it was purchased the year the kitchen was remodeled.

Board of Christian Education: VBS will be the last full week of July. Palm Sunday there were twelve kids in Sunday School. Easter breakfast donations amounted to \$679.00.

School Board: Christian Stock was not present. Christian did receive the donation for advertising of our School. He is working with KWRT on this and Stefani Ketelsen is working on the Facebook advertising.

Board of Stewardship/Outreach: Sharon Strough was present. She stated that Terry Ehlers extended a "thank you" for the coffee cans. If you have a graduate from High School or College, please contact the church office. Lenten suppers were attended nicely, last one had 17 in attendance. The next activity is fifth Sunday in May coming soon.

Unfinished and New Business: The Committee investigating information about a new sign are still gathering information.

The Committee handling the investments are requesting a list of suggestions for a Memorial List to have ready when the opportunity arises. Requesting the items be submitted to Wilbert Meyer from the Officers and Board Chairs.

Adjournment: Jason Linneman made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Sharon Strough. The motion passed.

Attendees: Sharon Strough, Andrea Thacher, Kim Toellner, Wilbert Meyer, Jason Linneman, Pastor Ketelsen, and Susan Templemire

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

Respectfully submitted
Susan Templemire, Secretary

PRESCHOOL NEWS

It's hard to believe that the school year is over. We are so excited for summer to get here. We want to go swimming, hiking, camping and riding our bikes.

We had an excellent end to our school year. We were able to do trike days with our grandparents. One class had the races outside and it was a beautiful day but very windy. The other class had it inside in the fellowship hall because it rained outside. We raced with blindfolds while following our grandparents voice. We weaved in and out of cones. We had a two on a trike race, where our grandparents made sure we didn't fall off. We had an egg on a spoon race where our grandparents had to pick up the egg every time it fell off the spoon and we had a dress up race where we had to pick out a hat, scarf and gloves to wear. Our grandparents helped us get all the stuff on and then we raced back. We were very happy to have our grandparents with us. It was our first trike day with our grandparents and it was so much fun. We got medals for each race we ran.

We had a science day. Five moms came to help us and we made Galaxy Slime with Elmer's Glue, liquid starch, glitter and liquid watercolors. We made a calming jar with water, food coloring and baby oil. We made Silky Soft Playdough out of hair conditioner and cornstarch. We made Magic Snow out of baking soda and shaving cream. We made Cloud Dough out of baby oil and flour. It was messy but it felt really cool when we mixed it with our hands. We each took home what we made so we could share it with our parents.

We had a water day, where we played in the water table, fished worms out of mulch and went for a treasure hunt in a bin of beans. Then we went out on the playground and had a water fight. Everybody was soaked, including our teachers. We had so much fun.

The Monday, Wednesday, Friday class had a graduation ceremony. We sang and danced for our families and then came up and received our diplomas. Ms. Gerhardt told us we did a really good job. The last day of school, we had a picnic at Harley Park. Both classes attended. It was hot outside but we still had so much fun. Ms. Gerhardt and Ms. Deb told us they will miss us. We will miss them but they will always have a place in our hearts.

Thank you to Pastor Ketelsen, who lead us in chapel once a week. We sang a song at graduation and the words went like this: I am unique, I'm like nobody else, God made each of us very special, I am myself. Blue eyes and brown eyes and some are green. Red hair and brown hair and blondes I've seen, but I've never found another me, that's why I say, God is great, God is good, God made all that we see, like stars and the earth and the flowers and bees, but most of all I'm thankful for making me!! We love this song, we believe this song and will carry it our hearts for a long time!

Thank you to the families at Immanuel who continue to pray for us and provide for us an amazing area for preschool.

STEWARDSHIP/OUTREACH BOARD

With our summer schedules now here, church attendance could be an area of concern. I am traveling – is there a church in the community you are visiting? The Lake Ozark churches send out an invitation to attend church services if you are in the area. Check the article elsewhere in the newsletter for more information

VBS is the last week of July, Monday, July 25th to Friday, July 29th. Keep the dates open for attendance and, if possible, assist in a way that you can help your church family. Are you a Thrivent member? Thrivent offers Action Team cards for expenses. Contact Andrea Thacher or Glenda Gerhardt to see if any Action Team cards are needed.

There were five prayer requests for April. So far in May, there have been two prayer request.

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.



The suggested donations in the month of June for the NHN Food Pantry are drink mixes, juice boxes, or canned meats (tuna, salmon, chicken, Vienna sausages, etc.). As always, any non-perishable canned and boxed goods or cash donations are welcome. Food Pantry envelopes are available in the Narthex. Thank you for your generosity.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday, June 7th, 8:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, June 16th, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 25th, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Do you or someone you know need food assistance, but are unable to drive to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry? We'd like to help! Talk to Pastor Ketelsen and he will assist you in signing up and getting food delivered to your door. Don't worry... your conversation and any information you provide will be completely confidential.



Receiving the Blessings of Holy Baptism on May 22, 2022 was Axton Wynter Day, son of Andrew and Taylor Day. Axton's sponsors are Alex and Desiray

Thompson. May God ever keep him in His Baptismal grace.



A new member class is planned for those who are interested in becoming members of Immanuel Lutheran Church. If interested, please let Pastor

Ketelsen know. Dates and times for classes have not yet been established.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



Boonville High School

Aiden Grant Meyer

Son of Craig & Tammy Meyer

Grace Dennis

Daughter of Louis and Cassel Stock

Fayette High School

Laci Fuhlege

Daughter of Christine Fuhlege & Bart Fuhlege

Lake Dallas High School

Corinth, Texas

Clayton Andrew Linneman

*Son of Steven & Carol Linneman
Grandson of Verdell (deceased) & Doris Linneman*

Central Methodist University

William Irvin-Linneman

BS in Accounting

*Son of Damon Linneman & Kathy Irvin
Grandson of Verdell (deceased) & Doris Linneman*

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Asa Isabella Linneman

Doctor of Pharmacy

*Daughter of Damon & Tobi Linneman
Granddaughter of Verdell (deceased) & Doris Linneman*

University of Phoenix

Seth Stidham (2021 Graduate)

*Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
Son of Steven Linneman & Amy Stidham
Grandson of Verdell (deceased) & Doris Linneman*

2022 - June - 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
5/29 9am Worship 10:15am Sunday School & Bible Class	5/30 <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Church Office</i> <i>Closed</i>	31-May	1	2 7am Breakfast Bible Study	3	4
5 <i>Pentecost</i> 9am Worship/hc 10:15am Sunday School & Bible Class	6	7 7pm Elders	8	9 7am Breakfast Bible Study	10	11
12 <i>Trinity Sunday</i> 9am Worship 10:15am Sunday School & Bible Class <i>Pastor out in</i> <i>evening*</i>	13 <i>Pastor out for</i> <i>Missouri District</i> <i>Convention*</i>	14 <i>Pastor out for</i> <i>Missouri District</i> <i>Convention*</i>	15	16 7am Breakfast Bible Study	17 <i>Newsletter</i> <i>Deadline</i>	18
19 <i>Father's Day</i> 9am Worship w/Confirmation 10:15am Sunday School & Bible Class	20	21 7pm Council	22	23 7am Breakfast Bible Study	24	25
26 9am Worship 10:15am Sunday School & Bible Class	27	28	1/29	30 7am Breakfast Bible Study	7/1	7/2

Those Serving the Church				
Service:	Organists:	Readers:	Elders:	Altar Guild:
6/5	Diane Cummins	Penny Cain	Craig Meyer	Julie Thacher
6/12	Diane Cummins	Sharon Strough		
6/19	Gladys Moore	Tim Derendinger		
6/26	Gladys Moore	Brad Toellner		

*He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
 Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress;
 My God, in Him I will trust."
 Psalms 91:1-2*

CHURCH STATISTICS

Date	Worship	Facebook Live/Total	Sunday School/Youth/ Bible Class
4 / 3	85	6/11	3/0/16
4 / 6	27	3/3	NA – Lenten Midweek
4/10	154	5/25	3/0/17
4/14	43	2/10	NA – Maundy Thursday
4/15	49	6/13	NA – Good Friday
4/17	102/41	7/17	NA – Easter Breakfast
4/24	70	7/13	3/2/14
YTD Income as of 4/30/2022			
YTD Expenses as of 4/30/2022			

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:

Candlelight Lodge - Betty Niebruegge
1406 Bus. Loop 70W, #105, Columbia, MO 65202

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Transfer out: None
Transfer in: None
Confirmed: None
Baptism: Axton Wynter Day, son of Andrew and Taylor Day
Deceased: None

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 882-2208, Option 1 with your current information.

JUNE SCRIPTURE READERS

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

- 6/5 Penny Cain
- 6/12 Sharon Strough
- 6/19 Tim Derendinger
- 6/26 Brad Toellner

If you needed 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

- June 1** Jessica and Michael Moore
- June 2** Gene and Diane Cummins
Ron and Susan Templemire
- June 9** Gary and Debby Burhans
- June 14** Jason and Gayle Linneman
- June 18** Randall and Suzanne Ayers
Terry and Becky Ehlers
Lee and Angela Schrader
Adam and Brandy Templemire
- June 19** Richard and Patricia Stock
Thomas and Sharron Toellner
- June 21** Joshua and Stefani Ketelsen
- June 27** Gary and Sharon Thoma
Timothy and Samantha Derendinger

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

- June 1** Meagan Alpers
- June 3** Rachel Tag
- June 4** Mary Franklin
Norman Lenger
- June 5** Allison Dinwiddie
- June 6** Lee Schrader
Rebecca Shay
- June 7** Wilbert Meyer
Emily Voss
- June 9** Michelle Gentzel
- June 11** Timothy Derendinger, Jr.
Leann Williams
- June 12** Dawn Frederick
- June 13** Lavill Morton
- June 16** Michael Stock
- June 17** Nancy Leonard
Dylan Kaiser
- June 18** Holly Peterson
- June 21** Tara Loesing
Joseph Mawia
- June 22** Patty Mangels
- June 23** Nancee Swanson
- June 27** Gary Burhans
Andrea Thacher
Audy Templemire
- June 29** Cheyenne Smallwood

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Preschool & Kindergarten
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Boonville, MO 65233

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