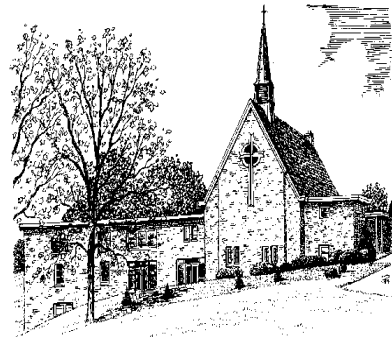


The King's Business

June, 2024

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VOL. 58, NO. 6



The Pastor's Page

"Pastor, I've just been really struggling with my faith lately." I've heard some variation of that statement from three different people over the past couple months. It's something I hear from parishioners every now and then, but the sudden uptick kinda surprised me. I'm not sure why so many people have been feeling this way recently.

And, to be honest, I don't know that all three cases were really identical. Saying that you're "struggling with your faith" can mean different things to different people. It can mean that you're not feeling motivated to come to church or read your Bible. It can mean that some sin or vice has been tempting you. It can mean that you've been having doubts about the truth of God's Word. Often it can mean that you just feel like God is absent and your prayers aren't being heard. "Struggling with your faith" can mean many different things, depending on the person and the circumstance.

I'm glad these people came to me though. And if you're feeling the same way, I would encourage you to reach out to me too. The struggle over matters of faith is not something we need to engage in alone. I think most pastors feel the same way as St Paul when he wrote to the Romans, *"For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine."* (Romans 1:12) Not only do I desire to encourage you, but I am likewise encouraged when I do.

But back to the matter at hand, how do we handle those times when we feel like we're struggling with our faith? Well, I have two pieces of wisdom to offer in that regard. They're not earth-shattering revelations, but maybe they'll help. They seemed to be useful to the three individuals I already spoke to.

First, it's worth asking yourself, "Am I struggling with my faith, or am I struggling with sin?" Yes, we do

occasionally wrestle with questions of faith. Of how we should interpret and apply God's Word to our lives. That is a struggle, sometimes.

But, in my experience, the bigger daily struggle is with our old Adam. And with the lies from the devil that the old Adam likes to hear. The devil is a masterful liar and the old Adam is a gullible fool who believes every sinful thing he hears. And it is a constant struggle to drown him in the waters of your baptism, that a new man may rise up and cling to the truth of Jesus Christ.

Yet, the fact that you're struggling isn't a bad thing. Which leads to my second piece of wisdom: faith is the reason we struggle. If we didn't have faith, we wouldn't bother struggling. We'd give in. We'd believe the lie. We'd abandon God's Word, God's Church, God's Sacraments. Without faith, we'd abandon it all and give ourselves over to the world.

So the fact that you're struggling isn't a sign of weak faith. It isn't a sign that there's something wrong with your faith. It isn't a sign that God has abandoned you.

On the contrary, it's a sign that God has filled you with His Holy Spirit and empowered you to fight. He has given you the strength to wrestle with these questions and to see the error of your past sins and to see the temptations that now plague you and to find encouragement as despair threatens you. You are struggling specifically because your faith is alive and healthy and doing exactly what it's supposed to do: reject the lies of the devil and seek out the truth of God's Word.

I hope that is some comfort for you. And if it's not, as I said, come see me. Let me encourage you. Faith is always a struggle. But it doesn't need to be a lonely struggle.

God's blessings to you this month
- Pastor Ketelsen

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

1001 Immanuel Drive, Boonville, MO 65233

Church Office: 660-882-2208

E-Mail: Immanuel.Boonville@gmail.comWebsite: 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)

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!

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.

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.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

May 19, 2024

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Ketelsen opened with prayer asking for guidance as we make decisions regarding the Lord's work.

Acceptance of New Assembly Members: None present.

Acceptance of Agenda/Amendments of Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes of the February 18, 2024

Congregational Assembly Meeting: Correction of minutes was noted: under "New Business – Item 4b: should read: "Tim Derendinger suggested that the Church consider making a significant investment in Evangelism that will be beneficial in the community." Motion to accept minutes as corrected was made by Earl Mangels and seconded by Tim Derendinger. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Given in the Elders' report.

Reports of Officers:

President: Gene Cummins complimented Jason Linneman, nominating chairman, for his time and effort spent in securing candidates for elected positions.

Vice President: No report.

Secretary: Not present, no report.

Treasurer: Gene Cummins presented the printed financial report in Kim Toellner's absence. Kim indicated to Gene that YTD income is \$41,000 and YTD expenses are \$50,000. Kim continues to work with Serck's office to improve accounting reports.

Board of Elders: Gary Naumann presented the report. He said the Samaritan Fund's balance to date was \$4,147.24.

Other Elder business noted in the report are:

Funeral for Ottis Lawson was held on May 7.

Confirmation of confirmands will possibly be at the end of June.

School Board is searching for a second Kindergarten teacher and a Preschool aide for the 2024-25 school year.

Ascension Day service was held on May 9.

The LCMS Hospital Chaplain-Columbia position has been vacant since 2020. The call process has been started for a new Chaplain.

Elder assignments are made through November.

Board of Property: Billy Wells thanked Gene and Craig for taking down the Easter display. He also noted that a pressure tank was added to help with the Church's water pressure issue.

Board of Christian Education: a printed report was considered in absence of the Chairman. It was noted that Sunday School is on break for the summer. There are currently three teachers lined up and an additional 1-2 are needed. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 29-August 2.

School Board: a financial report was presented in absence of the chairman. A budget for the 2024-25 school year will be available at the August Congregational Assembly meeting for consideration and approval.

Board of Stewardship: Sharon Strough reported on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Two Thrivent gift cards were used for expenses. There's a fifth Sunday in June. It was

decided to move the Fifth Sunday Fellowship to July 14th to commemorate Pastor's 15th year of ministry.

A motion to approve all reports was given by Gary Naumann and seconded by Earl Mangels. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Election of Officers: Only one Board had a contested race. The President asked for nominations from the floor. As there were none, balloting took place. Newly elected officers are:

President: Gene Cummins; **Council Secretary:** Tammy Meyer; **Board of Property Chairman:** Darren Linneman; **School Board Chairman:** Gayle Linneman; **Elders:** Tim Fahrenbrink and Cody Waibel.

Announcements: Julie Thacher mentioned that Immanuel might consider being more active on social media. She indicated how other churches use their social media page as an outreach in the community and beyond. Stefani Ketelsen said she has done and continues to work on keeping Immanuel's page current. She noted that information needs to be "liked" and "shared" or leave a comment to help create more activity.

Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, Earl Mangels motioned to adjourn and seconded by Billy Wells. Motion carried. All joined in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Twenty-three (23) members and one (1) guest were in attendance.

Gene Cummins, Georgia Davis, Larry Davis, Susan Templemire, Gayle Linneman, Wanda Derendinger, Josh Derendinger Billy Mac Wells, Earl Mangels, Dana Mangels, Patty Mangels (guest), Julie Thacher, Tim Derendinger, Ray Schrader, Pastor Joshua Ketelsen, Stefani Ketelsen, Randy Strough, Sharon Strough, Diane Cummins, Don Meyer, Glenda Gerhardt, Arlene Loesing, Jason Linneman, Gary Naumann.

Submitted by
Diane Cummins

PRESCHOOL NEWS

We are out of school for the summer. We had an amazing last week of school. We had science day we made galaxy slime, cloud dough, magic snow, calming jar and silky soft playdoh. It was so much fun. Some of our parents/grandparents helped at each of our tables. We were a mess but by the time we finished for the day the parents and Ms. Rachel had it all cleaned up. You couldn't even tell we had made a mess before. We had a water day. It was too cold or rainy on those days to get wet. So, Ms. Gerhardt put Orbeez (water beads) in the water table and we were able to play with them. We used tweezers to pull fake worms out of mulch. We made jewelry out of beads and pipe cleaners. Ms. Gerhardt looked so cool with all her newly made jewelry. We were able to dig in beads and find treasures. We had a graduation for the MWF class and our families came. We received our diplomas and went downstairs to eat cookies with our family and friends. Friday was spent at Harley Park with all our friends and families together. We had such a good time.

Note from Ms. Gerhardt: Thank you for sharing your children with us at Immanuel. They truly are a blessing. Thank everyone for ALL the gifts during the year. Every time I walk in my house I am reminded of your children and what a joy they were.

KEEPING UP WITH KINDERGARTEN

WE DID IT!

After 154 days we made kindergarteners into 1st graders.

Our last week of school was full of fun! Monday we had art day. We painted on canvas, made chalk drawings, and finished up our memory books. Tuesday, we had a sleepover party. Students decorated pillow cases and watched a movie with popcorn. Wednesday, we had a beach day. We played with kinetic sand and Orbeez. Thursday, we did some science experiments. We made our own bouncy balls and kaleidoscopes.

It was a fun year. We look forward to hearing about all these students will do in the future.

Thank you for all of your support this school year!

In HIS Service,
The Kindergarten Team

STEWARDSHIP/OUTREACH BOARD

With area schools and colleges out for the summer, many outside activities will keep all of us on the go. Remember to keep your church activities in perspective. Schools may be on break, but Immanuel is not.

Heit's Point Lutheran Ministries has numerous camps this summer. Their facilities are available for reunions and other events. They are located on the 80 mile marker at the Lake of the Ozarks. Go to heitspointlutheran.org for more information.

If you are looking to receive tax credits for your donations, Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry is a local organization that is always in need. There are several other opportunities for church related donations. See Terry Ehlers or Pastor Ketelsen if you would like guidance to an organization.

2025 LCMS Youth Gathering will be July 19-23, 2025, in New Orleans, Louisiana. If you are interested in going, make your plans now. If you are not sure about going, talk to some of the members about their experience at a Youth Gathering in the past.

There were 9 prayer requests in April and 4 prayer requests in May.



The suggested donations in the month of June for the NHN Food Pantry is small jars of peanut butter and snack crackers (Ritz or Club style). As always, any non-perishable canned and boxed goods are welcome. 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, June 4th, 8:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, June 11th, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 18th, 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.*

REGARDING SUNDAY ALTAR FLOWERS

Beginning JULY 1, 2024, the price for regular Sunday altar flowers will be \$40 plus tax (\$20 / per vase) rather than \$35. A-Bow-K Floral, who does the arrangements, regrets this increase. However, their costs from floral suppliers and delivery costs have continually risen.

Regular Sunday flowers means A-Bow-K will use flowers they have available in the shop that week. If special arrangements are requested, the cost will be higher.

This price increase is the first in many years. It is hoped this will not deter members from donating. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Diane Cummins (660.621.1903). The Altar Guild is truly thankful and appreciative for everyone's support.



If you are interested in donating the altar flowers for the Sunday service, please check the flower chart on the door across from the lounge. There are still Sundays available in 2024. Simply sign your name and supply a phone number. The Altar Guild

members for that month will contact you concerning details. Thanks!



⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:4-6

**VBS Dates**

Monday July 29 – Friday, Aug. 2

Time

5:30 – 7:30

We will learn about Creation, Corruption, Confusion, Christ and the Cross and Consummation.

Excitement and adventure await from the first minute of each day when children join in travel groups at the **JUNGLE JAM ASSEMBLY**.

They will travel to
Rain or Shine Bible Time
Tree-mendous Science and Crafts
Canopy Café Snacks
Rainforest Recreation
And back to **JUNGLE JAM CLOSING ASSEMBLY**

Watch July's newsletter for registration information.

Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Boonville High School

*Tyson Naumann
Son of Amanda Naumann
Grandson of Gary Naumann*

*Alexis Nicole Scott
Daughter of Matt and Amber Scott*

*Tyler Brandon Scott
Son of Matt and Amber Scott and the late Jessic Peterson*

*Will Stock
Son of Louis and Cassel Stock and Christie Hunter
Grandson of David and Glenda Stock and Mary and the late George Hardesty*

*Dakota Troost
Son of Chrystal Williams*

Calvary Lutheran High School

*Lydia Elizabeth Meller
Daughter of Timothy and Linnette Meller*

Rock Bridge High School

*Aubri Linneman
Daughter of Damon and Tobi Linneman
Granddaughter of Doris Linneman and the late Verdell Linneman*

Penn Foster College

Cora B. Linneman

Veterinarian Technician and Associates Degree

Daughter of Jason and Gayle Linneman

*Granddaughter of Doris Linneman and the late Verdell Linneman and David
and Sue Miller*

Central Methodist University

Joshua Derendinger

Bachelors in Music Education

Son of Tim and Wanda Derendinger

Chrystal Williams

Masters in Information Technology Management

University of Central Missouri

Jasmine Campbell

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, Minor in Child Family Development

Daughter of David and Kathy Campbell

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Brady Dale Gholson

Doctor of Pharmacy

Son of Jimmy and Ginger Gholson

Grandson of Gary and Sharon Thoma

University of Missouri-Columbia

Carson Lawrence Campbell

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Son of Charles and Gena Campbell

Grandson of Gary and Sharon Thoma

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Preschool & Kindergarten
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Boonville, MO 65233

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