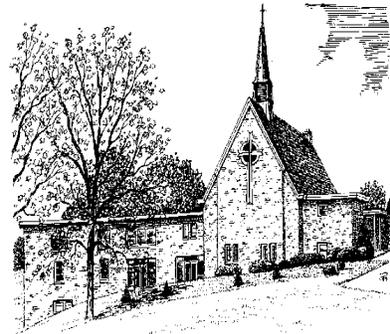


# The King's Business

March, 2023

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VOL. 57, NO. 3



## The Pastor's Page

Last month, I wrote about the Feast of the Purification Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord. About its Biblical origins. About its alternative name: Candlemas. About the traditions that surround it. And about its rather surprising connection to the secular holiday of Groundhog Day.

And in the course of discussing Groundhog Day, I touched on the topic of superstitions. A topic that, even as I was writing that article, I knew deserved a much lengthier discussion. So here we are.

Superstitions come in many forms. There are the more nebulous forms: luck, karma, "the universe," etc. And there are more concrete, defined versions too: astrology, fortune-telling, the occult, and the like. What they all have in common is the belief in a supernatural power or force that is not the Triune God.

And that's really the core of the problem. Superstitions are idolatry, pure and simple. Not only did your lucky hat not help the Chiefs win the Super Bowl, but the fact that you believed it could mean that it had become a god to you. A lesser god, maybe. One that only has power over the outcome of a few football games every year. But a god, nonetheless.

Because a god, as Luther defines it in the Large Catechism, is "that from which we are to expect all good and in which we are to take refuge in all distress." So, whenever we turn to superstitions for our good – whatever form that takes for us – we are taking refuge in a false god. We are finding comfort and security and hope in an idol.

The funny thing is, I think most Christians know this, but they do it anyway. Why? Well, I've got a theory. I think we turn to superstitions because we don't want to do the alternative: pray. We don't think God wants to hear about our concern, whatever it may be. Does he? Well, that depends.

If we're talking about the outcome of a football game... to be honest, probably not. In fact, what he probably wants is that we cared less about the outcome of that football game too. Which is the real reason we don't pray about it. If we pray, then God might answer. But he might not answer in the way we want.

You see, the false gods of superstition that we create are gods that we control. They are gods that care about the exact things that we care about. Even if those are sinful things. Even if those are things that have taken us away from God's Word or the good stewardship of God's resources or the love for our neighbor that God calls for us to have.

The lucky hat you wear for Chiefs games doesn't judge you for the hours upon hours spent watching football games and drafting fantasy football teams. It doesn't judge you for spending hundreds – or thousands – of dollars on football game tickets, football jerseys, and football parties. It doesn't judge you for the foul language you spew at the TV screen or the foul mood you're in the next day when your team loses. Your lucky hat has only one law: wear me on game day and I'll make sure you have fun.

I use the example of professional sports because professional sports – both players and fans – are rife with superstitions, but it happens plenty of other places too. In fact, we can create a superstition for just about any situation we wish we could control, but can't.

Yet, many of those situations are perfect opportunities for prayer. And God definitely does want to hear about them. You don't need to have a lucky tie you wear to job interviews. Just pray about the job interview. You don't need to pick up a penny to have good luck all day. Just pray that God would bless and keep you this day. You don't need to wish on a star before you do something important. Just pray that God

would guide your actions and decisions, whatever they may be.

You see, that's probably the biggest problem with superstitions: they become a substitute for prayer. So, while your lucky hat, lucky tie, or lucky penny may be relatively harmless on their own, the real harm is in the little chunk of faith that it has pushed out for that superstition to become part of your life.

If faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains, why would we want to sacrifice even the smallest part of it for a false god who can give us nothing in return? And why wouldn't we want to turn to the creator of heaven and earth – who has shown us infinite love and concern by dying on the cross – for every one of our needs.

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 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.

*When worry is  
knocking at the door,  
Let FAITH answer.*

### **Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**1001 Immanuel Drive, Boonville, MO 65233**

**Church Office:** 660-882-2208

**E-Mail:** [Immanuel.Boonville@gmail.com](mailto:Immanuel.Boonville@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.ImmanuelBoonvilleMO.church](http://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/George 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. – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade is meeting in the Sunday School Room.

**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.

**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. We are on break during Lent.

**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.

*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.*

## CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

**November 20, 2022**

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

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Ketelsen opened with a prayer.

**Acceptance/Amendments of Agenda:** Gene Cummins requested to add discussion of the elevator to the Old Business agenda. Craig Meyer made a motion to accept the agenda with the amendment. Earl Mangels seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Terry Ehlers made a motion to approve the Congregational Assembly minutes from August 20, 2022. Earl Mangels seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Pastor's Report:**

- 1) Pastor reported that the Advent services theme will be "This is My Son".
- 2) Pastor has names for the next confirmation class.
- 3) The New Member class has not been organized yet.

**President's Report:** No report

**Vice President's Report:** No report

**Secretary's Report:** No report

**Treasurer's Report:** No oral report. The treasurer's report was reviewed.

### **Balances as of October 31, 2022**

Citizens Bank and Trust	\$42,136.44
Citizens Bank and Trust PK Donations	35,325.15
Edward Jones 2	226,599.59
Edward Jones Guided Solutions	134,895.00
LCEF	18,936.50
LCEF Offering	14,514.10
Thrivent-LS	167,264.17
Restricted LCEF - CD's	175,000.00
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$814,670.95</b>

Good Samaritans Fund \$1,853.35

### **Elder's Report:**

- 1) Craig Meyer reported that the Good Samaritan Fund limit was increased from \$50 to \$100, which is monitored by Pastor and Patty.
- 2) The Elders were encouraged to begin calling on members.

**Board of Property:** Per Gene Cummins in absence of Billy Mac Wells

- 1) Arch Glass inspected the windows. They are good, East better than West. The West windows show some wear. We are waiting on a quote.
- 2) Storms from the North result in water draining in at the front of the church at the altar. We are getting a bid for sealing. Jason Linneman suggested calling a roofing company for repair around the steeple.
- 3) The Saturday after Thanksgiving, at 9:00 a.m., the outside nativity will be put up if anyone is interested in helping.

**Board of Christian Education:** Per Pastor Ketelsen in absence of Andrea Thatcher.

The Christmas program will be an expansion of last year's program since last year's never happened. There will be a full-length service on the Wednesday before Christmas. Diane Cummins questioned if an organist would be needed for that service since it is not part of the Advent series. Pastor stated they would let her know.

### **School Board:**

- 1) Glenda Gerhardt stated that the cold/flu season has been bad.
- 2) The security system is working well. All parents have a code for entry. There is no entry without a code.

### **Board of Stewardship and Outreach:**

- 1) Sharon Strough reported there were five prayer requests in November.
- 2) Two 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday meals were served with 65-70 attending one, and about 55 at the second.
- 3) Sharon encouraged everyone to attend one of the available bible studies.

Tim Derendinger made a motion to approve all board reports. Tom Toellner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Unfinished Business:**

1. The phone system is working great. Voicemails are sent by e-mail to both Patty and Pastor.
2. Gene thanked the Loesing Family for designating funds for the security system. The Board is still considering adding cameras to the South and West doors. There would be no push button system on the wood doors. Glenda

reported that Customer Service has been great to work with. Terry Ehlers questioned if cameras could be installed on the east doors outside the fellowship hall, but solar panels are used and there is not enough sunlight on the east side, so at this time there will not be cameras at those doors.

3. Regarding continuing kindergarten, Glenda will know more after Parent Teacher conferences regarding how many plan to attend kindergarten next year. Glenda was asked to attend the January Council meeting to report. Continuing kindergarten will be discussed at the February Congregational Assembly Meeting. Gene reported that 10 months' worth of donations to the kindergarten totals \$9106.00
4. Regarding the electronic sign, there has been no update from Gary Naumann. It will be a one-sided sign integrated into our current sign. Craig Meyer stated that the old sign needs cleaned up.
5. Gene asked Craig for an update on the tree trimming. Craig has not received a response yet. He will inquire what the \$3200 bid will cover.
6. We are two years into our three-year contract on our insurance policy. Gene is getting bids for renewal. Renewal will be several thousand dollars higher than our current policy. Our current policy is \$2.8 million in coverage, which is under insured by about \$500,000. If we have no claims, we will receive a \$500 credit, and \$1000 credit the final year.
7. Otis Elevator is under contract for elevator inspections. The elevator is currently out of order due to the phone not working. Otis quoted \$2154 to fix the elevator phone. The flexible hydraulic line needs replaced every seven years. If a hard pipe was installed, it would be permanent. Otis quoted \$15,454 to replace the hydraulic line with a hard pipe. Schindler quoted \$2188 to fix the phone, and \$3561 to replace the hydraulic line with a hard pipe. Craig Meyer made a motion that we use the new company, Schindler. Wilbert Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **New Business: Budgets**

1. Gene Cummins reported that the Property Insurance was increased from \$9200 to \$10,500 due to workers' compensation not being added in previously.
2. Tim Derendinger stated that weekly giving needs improvement. Due to inflation of 8-9%, Tim suggested that a 5% increase in Pastor's salary was not enough. Terry Ehlers stated that Pastor is now only doing one service per week. Tim Derendinger made a motion to increase Pastor's salary by an additional 4%. Craig Meyer calculated this to be \$43,160 as a proposed salary. Norman Lenger questioned if there are district guidelines to follow on salary. Pat Lenger noted that this would also increase his Concordia Plan. Tim changed his motion to increase Pastor's salary to \$43,160. Jason Linneman seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. Wilbert Meyer stated that the Synod donation has not increased in several years. Terry Ehlers asked where that donation gets sent. Patty stated it is sent to Synod in Illinois. Tom Toellner suggested maybe we increase our Synod donation instead of kindergarten. Wilbert Meyer made a motion that we increase our Synod donation by \$500 for a total \$6500. Julie Thatcher seconded the motion. Motion carried to increase our Synod donation from \$6000 to \$6500.
4. Diane Cummins questioned what the \$4,800 budget for organist is for because she and Gladys Moore do not get paid for playing the organ. Craig Meyer stated that is budgeted for future use just in case the church needs to hire an organist in the future.
5. Gene Cummins called for a motion to approve all budgets with two changes: 1) Increase Pastor's salary to \$43,160 instead of \$41,500; and 2) Increase our Synod donation to \$6,500 instead of \$6,000. Motion was made by Terry Ehlers to approve the budget with the two changes. Craig Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Announcements:** Tim Derendinger questioned what Pastor's community outreach articles mean, and that we should be putting more money into outreach. Tim

requested that the Council discuss, at their next meeting, budgeting funds to fulfill community outreach.

**Adjournment:** Motion was made by Terry Ehlers to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Earl Mangels. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Ketelsen closed the meeting asking all to join in the Lord's Prayer.

Twenty-five members were in attendance, including the following: Gene Cummins, Lori Linneman, Darren Linneman, Norman Lenger, Pat Lenger, Sharron Toellner, Tom Toellner, Tim Fahrenbrink, Gayle Linneman, Jason Linneman, Pastor Joshua Ketelsen, Randy Strough, Sharon Strough, Craig Meyer, Glenda Gerhardt, Tim Derendinger, Wanda Derendinger, John Derendinger, Cody Waibel, Earl Mangels, Terry Ehlers, Don Meyer, Wilbert Meyer, Diane Cummins, Julie Thatcher.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Linneman,

Church Council Secretary

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

### February Happenings:

We had our Valentine Parties. We had 100% attendance and everyone had our big person. Thank you to our mom, dad, grandma, grandpa and aunts. We had so much fun and got lots of Valentines from our friends.

We brought our alphabet letter bag, which helps us learn the sound and recognition. We covered letters H-O. We also worked on our letter notebooks. We have made it through the letter T. This month we added our Quiet Quail, Rockin' Reindeer, Sad Seal and Terrific Turkey.

### Classroom Units

Letters U, V, W, X

Writing letters and identifying sounds

Identifying Numbers 1-50

Baby Animals

Spring is Here

### Important Dates in March:

March 9-13 NO SCHOOL

(Young Years Conference)

### Upcoming March Chapel

Jairus's Daughter

The Lord's Supper

Jesus on Trial

Jesus on the Cross

Jesus Greet's Mary

### Upcoming March Chapel (Pastor)

Our Father Who art in Heaven

(God is a good Father to us)

1<sup>st</sup> Petition-Conversion of Saul

2<sup>nd</sup> Petition-Paul's Missionary Journey

3<sup>rd</sup> Petition-Garden of Gethsemane

4<sup>th</sup> Petition-Manna in the Wilderness

### March Birthdays

Mack, Mallory, Ellis, Amelia, Chance

Preschool Registration for the 2023-2024 school year has opened to our current students and congregational family. We open up the first week of February for our returning families from previous years. The second week of February we open to the community. We are very excited!!

## KEEPING UP WITH KINDERGARTEN

We are living our best Kindergarten lives. Lots of learning and playing. We learned a few games this month like Chutes and Ladders and Jenga.

We have built many magnetic tile creations. We painted art projects. We made heart shaped pizza for Valentine's Day.

We buried our Alleluias for Lent and discussed Lent.

Thank you for all of your support!

In HIS Service,  
Stefani Ketelsen  
and  
Glenda Gerhardt



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.

**STEWARDSHIP/OUTREACH BOARD**

There are many opportunities to be involved in outreach in the Boonslick community. Some of the programs are listed below, and the flyers are posted on the bulletin board by the greeting card rack. This can help you, a family member, friend, or neighbor to volunteer to assist these worthy programs.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Cooper County enhances our communities by engaging volunteers, age 55 and over, matching their experiences, talents and interests to meaningful service.

The Foster Grandparent Program through Central Missouri Community Action helps seniors earn a few extra dollars that will not affect any state or federal program that is currently being received. Classroom Grandparent Volunteers receive pre service training to help children in schools, head start, and day care locations.

Boonslick Heartland YMCA offers free after-school meals to area youth on full school days. Check with the YMCA for more information.

Boonslick Center for Women's Ministries, or CWM, offers free one-on-one peer counseling. Check the flyer for more information.

Missouri WIC is a supplemental food and nutrition program that helps you and your family stay healthy. The WIC program is through the Cooper County Health Department.

Circle of Support is a cancer support group for women, both newly diagnosed and survivors, that meets on the third Thursday of the month.

The Department of Health and Senior Services invites you to nominate someone for the Caregiver of the Year. The department will feature a story and photo of an unpaid Missouri caregiver each month on its website. At the end of the year, an overall Caregiver of the Year will be selected.

There were seven prayer requests have been received in January. In February, there have been six prayer requests.



The Fellowship Committee has changed the format for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday breakfast to a potluck format breakfast/brunch. This will allow more variety and an adequate amount of food. Those attending are encouraged to bring a favorite dish or bring a new recipe you have been wanting to try. Thank you.



The suggested donations in the month of March for the NHN Food Pantry is cash donations for Easter meals. 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, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 – 10:30 a.m.  
 Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.  
 Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 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.*



*Do everything you can  
 and then leave the rest  
 to God.*



# ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL 10 POINT PITCH TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

ZION ACTIVITY CENTER

DOORS OPEN 5:00 P.M.

TOURNAMENT BEGINS 6:00 P.M.

ZION ACTIVITY CENTER

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE:

PULLED PORK NACHOS

PULLED PORK SANDWICH

HOT DOGS

DESSERTS

SODAS, ETC.

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

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**EASTER LILIES:** The Altar Guild will be accepting donations for Easter Lilies **beginning March 5<sup>th</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Cost per plant is \$15.00. If you wish to donate a lily(ies),

**please** use the sign-up sheet which will be on the table in the narthex. Take an envelope that is provided, place your cash/check in it and place it in the offering plate when it is passed during the worship service. If paying by check, please make it payable to **Immanuel Lutheran Church. THANK YOU!!** Your support is greatly appreciated!