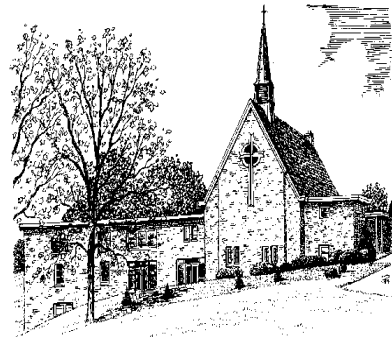


The King's Business

November, 2024

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VOL. 58, NO. 11



The Pastor's Page

Within the last few years, a phrase has emerged in the vernacular of the younger generations: touch grass. From what I understand, it had its origins during the COVID lockdowns. Huge numbers of people were staying in their homes, with no interaction with the outside world except through the internet, social media, and other digital means. And, as you might expect, when you spend that much time by yourself on the internet, you tend to lose touch with reality.

Telling someone to “touch grass” was a way to address this. It basically meant, “Go outside. Experience the real world. Take a walk in the park. Talk to another human being in-person. You've been cooped up in your home too long. Your perception of the world is warped. Touch some grass.” Despite the fact that the lockdowns are long over, the phrase has persisted. Because, in our detached, digital world, sometimes we still need to be told to touch grass.

And yet, the phrase “touch grass” implies something interesting: that the greatest truths we can know are found in the physical world. That simply unplugging from the digital world in favor of the physical world can make us see reality clearly again. I don't agree. Yes, we do occasionally need to unplug from the digital world. But our perception of reality can be just as warped by the physical world too.

Truth be told, often what we need most is not to “touch grass,” but to “touch heaven.” To stop looking at the world through the eyes of sinful creatures and start looking at the world from God's perspective, with God's priorities and God's plan of salvation. It's amazing what you see when you do.

This thought came to mind as I was writing a sermon recently. I mentioned during my All Saints Day sermon that a day will come when we stand before the throne of God and we won't care about the results of the 2024

election. And that's true of so many things, both good and bad.

Bad things happen in our world and we fall into worry and despair, wondering how much worse it can get. Good things happen in our world and we cling to them, milking them for every bit of hope and joy that we can, even though we know they are temporary and fleeting, at best. And, at the end of the day, we're tied up in knots, anxious about everything. Hoping for the best, but preparing for the worst.

Why are we anxious? Because our sinful flesh tells us that this world is all there is and all that matters. All my sinful flesh can do is “touch grass” and worry about this sinful world.

But when I stop and touch heaven, all that anxiety melts away. Because I know I have a God who holds me and my family and my church in the palm of his hand. I don't know the future, but he does. And that's all that really matters.

He knew humanity's future when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. He knew Israel's future when he called Moses to lead his people out of Egypt. He knew Judah's future when he allowed them to go into Babylonian exile. He knew His Son's future when He was conceived in the virgin Mary. He knew the Church's future when he poured out the Holy Spirit on the apostles. And he knew your future when he baptized you as his beloved child.

Touch only grass and you find a world of chaos and evil and destruction, where nothing makes sense, injustice prevails, and death reigns over everything. Touch heaven and you find a world of perfect order and goodness and redemption, where everything makes sense, God's grace prevails, and the resurrected Christ reigns for all eternity. As St John tells us in his first epistle, *“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.”*

Touch heaven and you know the perfect love of God for you, casting out all your fear.

don't know every detail of the future. I don't need to know every detail of the future. When I look at the world from heaven's perspective, those kinds of details don't really matter. For this world's time is short and my time upon this earth is even shorter. And the things that really matter are not the things of earth, but the things of heaven.

The preaching of the Gospel. The administration of the Sacraments. The souls brought into the kingdom of God and the fruitfulness of my work in that kingdom. When I touch heaven, these are the things that really matter. And I have nothing to be anxious about at all.

God's richest 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!

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.

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

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 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 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. They are on break until January 8th, 2025.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**October 15, 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: President Cummins called for any amendments to the agenda; there being none, Jason Linneman moved to accept the agenda as presented. Gayle Linneman seconded, and the meeting proceeded.

Approve Minutes of 09/17/24: Three corrections were noted. Under the Pastor's report and the Elder's report, the references to the "Lenten" series needs to be changed to "Advent". Gayle motioned to approve the minutes with the noted corrections; Craig Meyer seconded. The motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

- a. Preparations are being made for Advent and Christmas services.
- b. December 22 will be the children's Christmas program.
- c. Convocation was held on October 13 and went well; Pastor Ketelsen, Louis Stock, Sharon Strough and Stephanie Ketelsen attended. Six other churches participated. A presentation provided guidance on spiritual conversations.
- d. A circuit forum will be convened soon for the nomination of a new circuit visitor.
- e. Pastor had a preliminary discussion with the Zion school board regarding how we can work together on school recruitment and tuition.

President's Report: Gene has talked to John Kaiser about adding a crosswalk as voted by the council at the September meeting.

Vice President's Report: No report.

Secretary's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Kim Toellner provided the budget reports and there was the following discussion:

- a. Kim will ask the accounting firm to modify the budget reports to include:
 - i. Reporting on the \$30,000 CD from the Pelacio funds;
 - ii. Adding an annual budget column and removing the percent columns on the P&L statement; and
 - iii. Report revisions as requested by the Elders.
- b. Kim noted the \$10,000 donation to the district has not been made this year; Gene suggests splitting it into two payments of \$5,000.

Elder's Report: Craig Meyer presented a written report:

- a. Elder assignments have been made through January 2025.
- b. The 2025 budget was approved by the Elders and presented to the council.

Board of Property: Not present; no report.

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

- a. A fourth Sunday school teacher has agreed to serve in the rotation.
- b. The children's Christmas program will be December 22.

School Board: No report.

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

- a. The picnic went well with an attendance of about 65-70 people.
- b. Meals will be served before the Advent services; sign-up sheets will be posted soon.
- c. There will be a reception in the narthex following the December 22 service.

Craig motioned to approve the board reports; Jason seconded. The motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Gene reported a meeting was held with an Otis Elevator representative to discuss contract issues. Pastor, Gene and Billy Mac Wells participated. The representative advised she will get back with us.

- b. Gene met with the insurance agent. The coverage amount is \$3,194,000 which covers 90% of build back costs; the wind and hail deductible is \$5,000 with a \$2,500 credit. The premium quote is \$12,534. Gene will get a quote for a \$10,000 deductible versus \$5,000 for comparison.
- i. UPDATE: On September 17 President Cummins shared with the council members that raising the deductible from \$5,000 to \$10,000 will save \$707 per year. A motion and electronic vote resulted in the approval of raising the deductible to \$10,000.
- c. A work day for the church grounds is scheduled for Saturday, October 19.

New Business:

- a. 2025 Budget – Gene will gather the remaining budgets and send them to the council members for approval so the budget can be voted on at the November Congregational Assembly meeting. The Elders have approved their budget which includes a \$1,500 increase in Pastor Ketelsen's salary along with a \$2,500 reduction of Pastor's Concordia Plan due to health insurance premium reductions.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: Jason motioned to adjourn, and Kim seconded. The motion carried.

Closing Prayer: Pastor asked everyone to join in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Attendees: Pastor Ketelsen; Gene Cummins; Jason Linneman; Kim Toellner; Gayle Linneman; Craig Meyer; Sharon Strough; Andrea Thacher; Tammy Meyer

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Meyer
Church Council Secretary

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Our October was another busy and fun month. We learned more on our alphabet. We covered A through F in September. In October we made a **G**oose, **H**ouse, **I**guana, **J**ellyfish, **K**oala **L**ion, **M**ouse, **N**inja and an **O**ctopus. We have brought our letter bags with us to school every day to show our friends what we found in our house that starts with the letter of the day. We have colored and put puzzles together. We love to dance and listen to books.

In chapel Pastor Ketelsen continued teaching us about the 10 Commandments. 5th Commandment was the story of the Good Samaritan. 6th Commandment was about Adam & Eve. 7th Commandment was about Zacchaeus. 8th Commandment was about Jonathan and David. The 9th & 10th Commandments were about the Birds of the air and the Lilies of the field and how God takes care of them and us!!

In chapel, Ms. Gerhardt told us more stories about God's love and protection for us. We learned about the Israelites traveling in the Desert, Gideon and the battle God won for him, David being chosen by God and anointed by Samuel, David and Mephibosheth, and Elijah's Ups and Downs. Our God is amazing and He loves us very much. He takes care of everything we need. God knitted us in the womb and takes care of us always.

The firefighters came to see us. They told us all about fire safety. We watched a movie about what to do during a fire. We also crawled under FAKE smoke to a door and left the "house". Ms. Gerhardt and Ms. Trina and the firefighters told us we were very brave. Then we walked all around the firetruck and saw all the equipment. We waved goodbye as they left and they turned on the flashing lights and honked the horn and a little sound from the siren. The firefighters left us sticker books and we received a Junior Firefighter Badge.

Our Fall Festival Parties were really fun also. We played the preschool version of corn hole and a parachute with balloons on it. We received lots of treats from our friends. Thank you to all the adults who came.

Upcoming Dates in **November**

1 st	No School – All Saints Day
5 th	No School – Election Day
25 th –26 th	Grandparent Cooking Day
27 th –29 th	No School - Thanksgiving

KEEPING UP WITH KINDERGARTEN

We have busy busy in kindergarten.

This month we did lots of baking. In the afternoon the students made sweet potato casserole to complete their lesson on George Washington Carver. They, also, made pumpkin pies. We talked about ingredients, measuring, stirring, and how it turns to liquid to something somewhat solid.

We have been practicing number recognition and focusing on the teen numbers.

We are learning more and more letters. We are getting better and better at hearing those sounds in words.

The kids have been traveling around the world and stamping their "passports" in various countries.

In HIS Service,
The Kindergarten Team

STEWARDSHIP/OUTREACH BOARD

Immanuel is scheduled to ring the bell at Walmart for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 7th from 10:00am – 2:00 pm, one door only. There is a signup list in the Narthex.

The local Salvation Army now has a Salvation Army Board consisting of officers and members. If anyone would like to serve on the board, you would be welcome to join them on the last Tuesday of the month from noon until 1:00 pm at Nelson Memorial United Methodist Church. They are extending the chapter and the help they can offer to Howard County residents, as many of those residents donate to the kettle. The Board is working on a Facebook page to invite community residents to ring the bell.

Thrivent members, do you still have a Thrivent Action Tem Grant available? Please consider using it for a project around the church. Check with Pastor Ketelsen or Glenda Gerhardt for ideas for a project. Thrivent Network News has shown examples of usage for the Region.

There were 7 prayer requests in September, and in October there were 4 requests.



The suggested donations in the month of November for the NHN Food Pantry cash donations for Christmas meals. 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.



Meet Me at the Manger, an indoor display of more than 600 unique Nativity scenes depicting the birth of the baby Jesus including traditional mangers, world travel mementos, collectible treasures, home-made creations, and touchable children's sets, is a one-of-a kind free gift to the community (free-will offering for short term missions is cheerfully accepted) at Campus Lutheran Church. Open Friday, December 6, 5:00-8:00 pm, Saturday, December 7, 9:30 am-5:00 pm, and a special viewing Friday, December 6, 9:30 am-3:00 pm for senior living facilities and those with ADA mobility issues at Campus Lutheran Church, 304 S. College Ave., Columbia. For more information, please see the flyer on the bulletin board.



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.



Hold Fast the Confession

by Matthew C. Harrison

But who do you say that I am?" (Matt. 16:15). Christ confronts every person and forces a confession. Peter, answering for the apostles, got it right: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16). Jesus followed with a prediction of His suffering and death, and Peter wouldn't have any of that. He thought it was a denial of what he had just asserted. To be the Christ, to be the Son of God, means going to the cross for the sins of the world. In return, Jesus gave Peter the starkest rebuke in the New Testament: "Get behind Me, Satan! ... For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man" (Matt. 16:23).

When confronted by the Word of God, which is to say, the testimony or witness of Jesus' person, a confession is required. "Everyone who [confesses] Me before men, I also will [confess] before My Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32). To confess Jesus is to confess something about self. John the Baptizer gave a marvelous testimony in two ways. He pointed to Jesus and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). It is such a great confession it got put into our Sunday liturgy. And then just as remarkably, John the Baptizer confessed something about himself when he was asked, "Who are you?" He said,

"I am not the Christ" (John 1:19, 20). And they asked him again, and he said, "No." To confess Jesus and His forgiveness won on the cross and distributed in preaching and Baptism and Lord's Supper is to confess: "I am nothing. Jesus is everything. My sin is His. His righteousness, in fact everything He is and did and does, is now mine." O happy exchange!

When we speak of Jesus, it is a confession.

At first the confession of Jesus was a witness, in particular, an eyewitness. The Gospels are careful eyewitness accounts. The rest of the New Testament is careful apostolic testimony of Christ by either apostles (eyewitnesses of Jesus, His death and His resurrection) or those directly connected to them. And these eyewitnesses testified. They bore witness as witnesses at a trial testify to what happened. There are beautiful vignettes in the New Testament of this witness, which is a confession. The woman at the well spoke with Jesus, and then she told her friends and neighbors. "Many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony" (John 4:39).

The New Testament settled in on a magnificent word for this public testimony of Jesus. In the original Greek,

the word is *homologeō*. It means "to say the same thing." It means for us to confess back to God and to others what God and His Christ have said about Himself. In fact, the word confession is the very same word in Latin: *confessio*. St. Paul uses the term: "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved" (Rom. 10:9–10). The word is used in the New Testament confession of sins (1 John 1:9), the confession of the content of the faith (1 John 4:2) and the confession of the praises of God (Matt. 11:25 [often translated "praise" or "thank" here]; Rom. 15:9).

The Lutheran church continues this confession today. The title page of the 1580 edition of our Lutheran *Book of Concord* contains this title: "Concordia: Christian, Repeated, Unanimous Confession." It is "repeated" because the book contains the Augsburg Confession and the Formula of Concord, the latter of which simply reasserts the teaching of the Augsburg Confession and notes how the Augsburg Confession should be rightly understood and confessed. The title of the Augsburg Confession is simply, "Confession [*Bekentnus* in the old German spelling, which means "confession"] of the Faith." In laying out the teaching of the Bible and the Lutheran church, the Formula of Concord repeats over and again: "We believe, teach and confess..."

The *Book of Concord* is also called "Concordia," which literally means "hearts united." After Luther's death, 30 years of confusion reigned before real and extensive unity was reached and confessed via the *Book of Concord*. We have seminaries, universities, churches, health plans and more named "Concordia." To be sure, that means "hearts united," but our forefathers named these institutions with a full-throated confession of the "Concordia," the *Book of Concord*. (If you don't have a *Book of Concord*, you can obtain several versions from cph.org, including a nice little "pocket version" paperback. I recommend the larger Reader's Edition.) This is our confession, our answer to Jesus' question: "Who do you say that I am?"

Hold fast the confession! (Heb. 4:14)

—Pastor Matthew C. Harrison

For more on confession in Scripture, see Matthew 3:6; 7:23; 10:32; 11:25; 14:7; Luke 22:6; Acts 19:18; Romans 14:11; 15:9; Philippians 2:11; James 5:16; John 1:20; 9:22; 12:42; Acts 7:17; 23:8; 24:14; Romans 10:9; 1 Timothy 6:12; Titus 1:16; Hebrews 11:13; 13:15; 1 John 1:9; 2:23; 4:2; 2 John 7; Revelation 3:5; 2 Corinthians 9:13; 1 Timothy 6:12; Hebrews 3:1; 4:14.

UPCOMING ADVENT SPECIAL SERVICES



*Thanksgiving Eve Service with Holy Communion
Wednesday, November 27, 6:30 pm*

Advent Services

**Wednesday, December 4, 6:30 pm*

**Wednesday, December 11, 6:30 pm*

**Wednesday, December 18, 6:30 pm*

**There will be a Light Supper before the Midweek Advent Services*

*Children's Christmas Program, Sunday, December 22 during 9:00
am worship service*

*Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 pm*

*Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion
Wednesday, December 25, 9:00 am*

*Epiphany Service with Holy Communion
Monday, January 6, 6:30 pm*

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

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<u>What's Inside</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
Anniversaries & Birthdays	Insert
Announcements	5-7
Bible Studies	2
Calendar	Insert
Church Contact Information	2
Church Council Meeting	3-4
Church Membership Changes	Insert
Church Statistics	Insert
Keeping Up With Kindergarten	5
Office Hours	Insert
Preschool News	4
November Scripture Readers	Insert
Shut-ins	Insert
Stewardship/Outreach Board	5
The Pastor's Page	1-2
Those Who Serve	Insert
Zoom Services	2



Tom and Sharron Toellner are again helping the Community Action Center with their Christmas Baskets. The items needed this year are laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, Kleenex, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, bar and hand soap, dish soap, and deodorant.

Items are needed by Sunday, November 24th.