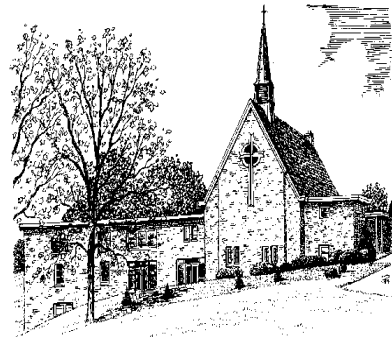


The King's Business

September, 2023

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VOL. 57, NO. 9



The Pastor's Page

I had a member ask me a question last week: Who was the greatest leader of the Bible? It's one of those questions that really gets a pastor's theological juices running and I gave it a lot of thought.

It's deceptively difficult to answer. Not because there are so many good choices, but because there are so many unexpectedly bad ones. Virtually every great man of faith in the Bible had some moment of sin in his life, tainting his legacy and making us question how "great" he really was.

David? Guilt of adultery and murder. Solomon? Guilty of allowing idolatry in Israel. Moses? Guilty of disobeying God's instructions. Abraham? Guilty of lying about his marriage. Noah? Guilty of drunkenness.

Maybe we need to go to the New Testament, then. Peter? Guilty of denying his Lord. Paul? Guilty of being a Pharisee who persecuted Christians. John? Guilty, with his brother, of arrogantly seeking a seat at Jesus' right and left hand.

You see what I mean? Lots of leaders. Lots of sin. The best option I could come up with at the time was my own namesake: Joshua. A man who faithfully, confidently declared that if the Lord was with them, they would take Canaan, even if it was filled with giants. A man who told all of Israel, "*Choose this day whom you will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*"

And yet, as great as he was, he too was a sinful man. In Joshua 7, we learn about a time when the Israelites suffered a surprising defeat against the city of Ai. Joshua's response is not one of faithfulness and seeking

the Lord's counsel, but one of utter despair that they will ever be able to conquer Canaan.

Again, in chapter 9, a group of people approach Joshua, seeking a peace treaty with him. They claim to be nomadic travelers, but are in fact Gibeonites who live in that very region, trying to deceive Joshua. The Lord had commanded Joshua to drive out and destroy anyone he finds, but instead, he ignores the Lord's instructions, fails to seek the Lord's wisdom on the matter, and makes an oath not to attack them. It's a mistake that will haunt Israel for years to come. Even Joshua sinned.

Truthfully, the history of God's leaders in the Bible can get really depressing. The sins and failures begin to pile up. The disobedience, idolatry, pride, and selfishness become truly dumbfounding. You begin to wonder: is there anyone who can lead God's people?

No. At least, not among sinful human beings. That's one of the messages of the Old Testament. As David says in Psalm 146, "*Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.*" Time and time again, leader after sinful leader, God's people discover that even the most godly, faithful leader will always fail. It's inevitable.

Which is a lesson for us. It's a lesson in repentance. You will sin. You will fail. It's inevitable. You are never as strong as you think you are.

It's a lesson in forgiveness. Those around you will sin. Those around you will fail. It's inevitable. Whether it's a spouse, family member, friend, or leader, they are never as strong as you think they are.

But most of all, it's a lesson in putting your trust in Jesus Christ. The Son of Man in whom there is salvation. The one who like a shepherd leads us with sinlessness and sacrifice. The one who will never fail,

never let us down, never make a choice that he later regrets.

By water and the word, he has made you his child. That wasn't a mistake. It was grace. He knows your sin and he forgives your sin. And still he leads you in righteousness. Choose this day whom you will serve, for the Lord has chosen you.

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.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/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. - 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)

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.

*And those who know your name put
their trust in you,
for you, O LORD, have not forsaken
those who seek you.*

Psalm 9:10

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday School: for age 3 – 5th 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. The Class will be on break for the summer beginning May 23rd.

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 will resume on April 12th.

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.

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.

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!



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

July 18, 2023

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Ketelsen opened with prayer.

Acceptance/Amendments of Agenda: Craig Meyer made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Kim Toellner seconded, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from April 18, 2023, were accepted with no objections.

Pastor's Report:

- 1) Pastor reported that installation of officers did not happen on July 9. It was rescheduled for Sunday, July 23.
- 2) Vacation Bible School will begin on Monday, July 24.
- 3) Confirmation will start around the beginning of the school year with tentatively four confirmands.
- 4) Bible studies are going well. In August, the Wednesday Bibles & BBQ group will meet on the first, third, and fifth Wednesdays.
- 5) Two new members will be confirmed on Sunday, July 30 – Harper Stock and Jasmine Campbell.

President's Report: No report.

Vice President's Report: No report.

Secretary's Report: Lori inquired about missing signatures to the constitution in the records she received upon election to office of congregational secretary. There are no signatures on file after August 18, 2019. Pastor asked that she check with Patty and Susan to see if they have them. If not, he asked that she make sure we at least have signatures of all officers on file. Craig stated signatures need to be on file before members are eligible to vote at assembly meetings.

Treasurer's Report: No report. Kim stated it is in progress. Gene reported the Edward Jones stock was up \$30,000. An anonymous gift of \$26,200 was received; this gift was invested in a 1-year CD at 5.3% interest, to be used as necessary.

Elder's Report:

- 1) Craig reported a peaceful release of Barbara Patterson.
- 2) Discussion was held regarding a Veteran's service possibly next Memorial Day weekend.
- 3) Tim Derendinger attended the Elder's meeting to share his outreach ideas. He suggested a praise band concert in the parking lot potentially next summer.

Board of Property: In Billy Mac Wells' absence, Gene Cummins reported on the following per Billy:

- 1) The valves in the downstairs bathroom were replaced.
- 2) The A/C over the office is making a noise.
- 3) Billy has contacted several companies for quotes to seal the parking lot; he has received one.
- 4) The grass in the cracks of the sidewalks have been sprayed, as well as the playground.
- 5) Billy has not been able to find anyone to repair the broken stained-glass window. Pastor reported that Central Glass out of Columbia could remove, repair, and reinstall. Jason suggested Koonse Glass (formerly Village Glass Works) might be able to repair without removing.
- 6) The groundhog hole has been treated and filled.

Board of Christian Education: In Andrea's absence, Pastor reported that 54 children have pre-registered for Vacation Bible School.

School Board: In Christian's absence, Gene reported on the following per Christian:

- 1) Gene and Wilbert met with Christian and Kim to review the school budget.
- 2) Christian requested to set up a separate bank account for preschool and kindergarten combined. He suggested the name "Immanuel Lutheran Early Childhood Education Center". Craig stated a formal name change would need to be brought before the assembly for vote.
- 3) Kim reported that SERCK will do all record keeping for the school account at no extra cost.
- 4) Christian requested applying for a credit card for school use with a \$2,000 limit.
- 5) Kim stated the school currently has a balance between \$9,000-\$12,000, currently still being reconciled. Scholarship funding is included in that amount. The donation account has a balance of \$35,000, which would not be transferred to the school account.
- 6) Kim Toellner made a motion to open a school bank account calling it Immanuel Lutheran Church School Account, and to move the appropriate amount of funds to establish the account, as well as apply for a credit card with a maximum limit of \$2,000. Christian, Kim, and Gene would be authorized to sign on the school account. Craig Meyer seconded the motion, motion carried.
- 7) Kim Toellner suggested that the church pay all janitorial expenses instead of splitting it three ways between church, preschool, and kindergarten.
- 8) Christian requested replacing the drinking fountain with a water-bottle-filling style. Craig Meyer made a motion to set a budget for this at \$3,000. Jason Linneman seconded the motion, motion carried.
- 9) Two potential teachers are being interviewed for an afternoon teacher.

Board of Stewardship and Outreach:

- 1) Sharon reported there were 13 prayer requests in June, and five in July so far.
- 2) July 30th is a fifth Sunday. There will be snacks in the Narthex. The next fifth Sunday will be in October.

Jason Linneman made a motion to approve all board reports; Sharon Strough seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Discussion of the school was on the agenda for new business, which was already held during the School Board report.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: Gene Cummins adjourned the meeting.

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

Those in attendance at the meeting included the following: Kim Toellner, Craig Meyer, Sharon Strough, Jason Linneman, Pastor Ketelsen, Gene Cummins, and Lori Linneman.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Linneman
Church Council Secretary

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.

Keeping up with Kindergarten

By the time you read this we will have survived the first couple weeks of school. This year our kindergarten grew beyond what we could have imagined at this time last year. We have 11 students!! God is good!

Stefani mentioned at the Voters' Assembly about how we would love to have some volunteers in the mornings. It would be helpful to have more eyes on the playground and other help. I promise, you don't need any special skills. If you want to do that, let her know.

Our new afternoon Kindergarten teacher is Mrs. Sue Deisher. She is settling in nicely and getting to know each child.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers. Thank you for all of your support.

In HIS Service,
The Kindergarten Team

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Preschool has started. We have a great group of children. We are learning all about us – our names, what we like, how old we are, who our parents are.

We love dancing, singing, playing outside and inside, chapel, and snack. We get to bring our own snacks (so we know we like them!). We like to build with blocks, dinosaurs, tools, and a work bench.

We learned about God creating the world, and Pastor Ketelsen taught us about the 10 Commandments.

Upcoming September Events:

September 4 NO SCHOOL
September 24 Church Picnic
September 28-29 School Pictures



STEWARDSHIP/OUTREACH BOARD

Where did our summer go? Have you been going to ball games for your children or grandchildren?

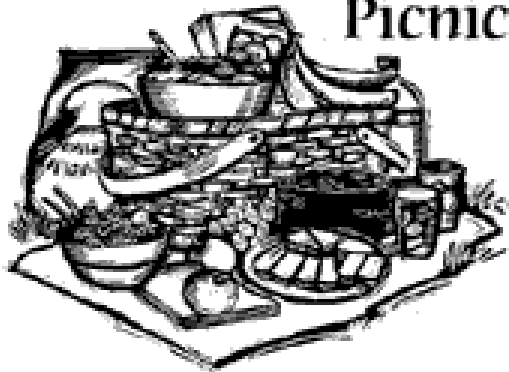
Our two academic programs are going well, with kindergarten showing a great increase in enrollment. There are 31 preschool students and 11 kindergarten students. Ask a school board member or Pastor how this outreach is progressing in the Boonslick community.

There has been an ongoing conversation about keeping the church money and the school money tracked correctly. This is not an easy task and we are trying to work through it. Donations and inheritance money often needs to be kept separate from other income. The school operates on a fiscal year of July-June, while the church operates on a calendar year of January-December. It all requires a lot of math. The school money is now in a separate checking account, which will help track the money better. Ask our Pastor or a school board member for updates.

We heard and read about many outreach opportunities forthcoming. Read your next newsletter for the minutes of the congregational meeting on August 20th. Talk with an elder or our Pastor on these future Boonslick community outreach opportunities.

SAVE THE DATE: CHURCH PICNIC SEPTEMBER 24 AFTER THE CHURCH SERVICE. Invite people to have food and fun with us on this special day.

Annual Picnic



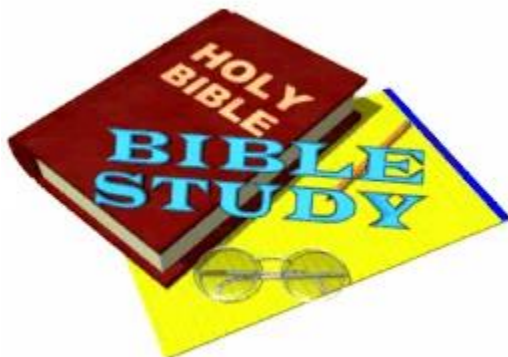
The Annual Church Picnic will be September 24 following the church service. It will be potluck style, so bring your favorite dish(es) or try something new!

The preschool and kindergarten classes are scheduled to sing at the church service that day. This is a wonderful outreach opportunity for us to showcase our welcoming fellowship and amazing cooks. It would be great to have some extra dishes/food to ensure there is plenty for all.

Ladies Bible Study News

We will meet for lunch as our first "class" on Tuesday September 12th at noon at Northwood Diner.

We will meet for our first class Tuesday September 19th at 1:00 pm. Our book will be "*The Baptismal River: Studying the Sacrament throughout Scripture*" by Richard Davenport.



The suggested donations in the month of September for the NHN Food Pantry is soups, saltine crackers, and canned beans (suitable for chili or other homemade soups). 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, September 5th, 8:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, September 14th, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 23rd, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.



Thank you for sharing the Good News of Christ crucified for all people

Many thanks for you, dear members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, for your bold and faithful support of the 2023-2026 National Offering.

The LCMS preaches Christ crucified for all people. Your generous support will aid us in bringing this message to more people in more languages, that it may be known around the world.

Your contribution goes out alongside the generous offerings of your brothers and sisters in Christ. As the 223 LCMS National Convention in Milwaukee concluded in early August, God's people in the LCMS had already given nearly \$315,000 to this effort toward an initial three-year goal of \$500,000. As of August 17, that total had grown to nearly \$318,000.

These gifts will fund high-priority, high-quality translations of essential Christian teaching materials into various languages, beginning with Spanish and Chinese (Mandarin/Cantonese) and then moving on to others (i.e., Arabic, Portuguese and Korean), as increasing total contributions permit.

For updates on the 2023-2026 National Offering, including the growing total collected and the translation projects funded, visit lcms.org/national-offering.



**Missouri's Good Neighbor Week Wins Best
Neighborhood Program of the Year at
NUSA Conference
by PAUL SCHREIBER (The Lutheran Layman,
Summer 2023)**

In May the University of Missouri Extension's Missouri Good Neighbor Week took home top honors as the year's Best Neighborhood Program at the 48th annual Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) conference in El Paso, Texas. And The Hopeful Neighborhood Project (HNP) from LHM was a part of that! HNP joined the MU Extension in 2022 as a partner, helping take the program from the county level to a statewide presence. Together their work resulted in 12,854 acts of neighboring in 63 Missouri counties last year.

"This program was impactful because of the many volunteers involved and my partnership with The Hopeful Neighborhood Project," said David Burton, MU Extension community development specialist. "The judges liked the volume of participants, the variety of things that took place, our unique website, and they loved that we improved on our county program in 2021 to take it statewide," according to an MU press release.

"There is just so much good work happening throughout the country," said Jennifer Prophete, director of community programming at LHM. "To be

honored by this group as the best was really humbling. In order to be selected, you have to submit an application, and then give an oral presentation. The judges were impressed with Missouri's Good Neighbor Week because of its tremendous geographical growth over a short period of time and for its many thousands of recorded acts of neighboring last year," she added.

"This was an extremely competitive category," said Precious McKesson, NUSA president. "All of the finalists were very good. We were very impressed with the results of Missouri Good Neighbor Week and believe it has merit as a national approach to get people talking about neighboring simultaneously," per the MU press release.

More than 600 people from 34 states attended this year's NUSA conference. It featured—in addition to the awards program—in-depth workshops and plenary sessions, networking events, tours, and the chance for people to share ideas on how collaboration and intentionality are improving the face of their neighborhoods around the country.

Looking for ideas on how to make your neighborhood more hopeful? Visit hopefulneighborhood.org! There you will find the EveryGift™ Inventory, details on Neighborhood Labs, excellent online courses, annual events to celebrate your neighborhood, wonderful stories told by people making a difference, six sessions of videos on how to get the most out of your neighborhood, and *The Hopeful Neighborhood Field Guide*, an indispensable book for exploring your neighborhood's possibilities.



And may the Lord
make you increase
and abound in love
for one another
and for all ...

1 Thessalonians 3:12

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

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**Sept, 2023 Vol. 57, No. 9
Published Monthly
www.ImmanuelBoonvilleMO.church**

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