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Senior Pastor



Mr. Keith Richard
Director of Discipleship

Mr. Michael Buhl
Director of Operations

North Boone After School Care Proposal

Immanuel Lutheran Church – Connecting People to Christ for Life!

Immanuel Lutheran Church has been a part of the Boone County community for over 145 years. We are a large congregation and hundreds of families from the community consider Immanuel their spiritual home. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Immanuel is part of a larger Christian community of over 2 million people throughout the United States.

Immanuel – Being Christ to Others!

As people loved and forgiven by God, we therefore have a desire to love and care for those around us in our community, region, and world. This happens in many different ways including, but not limited to the following.

Immanuel Lutheran School – Providing children with a good education makes every community stronger.

Helping Hands – This program assists community members with financial and physical resources.

Comfort Dogs – We have two Comfort Dogs and several handlers that bring comfort during times of tragedy.

Feed My Starving Children – We partnered with a great organization and our community to feed the hungry.

Lutheran Emergency Response Team (LERT) – Always on call to serve when disaster hits.

Serve Day – Twice a year our members are sent into the community to serve in various ways.

Immanuel North

Immanuel North is our 2nd location located in the Country Side Mall in Poplar Grove. It is a worship site on Sunday mornings but also is a sort of service outpost for northern Boone County. Through that facility we have offered music classes for toddlers and their parents, financial training classes, and two different Girl Scout troops call our facility home. Other community service projects include:

Annual Rummage Sale – Proceeds go to community organizations or projects that help us love the community.

Food Drives – We have partnered with the Upper Elementary and Middle School for food drives.

Clothing Drives – Immanuel donated over 75 winter coats to the district this winter for children in need.

Homework Club – We have served every Tuesday for the last two years at the Upper Elementary School.

Boone County Food Pantry – We have a long standing partnership with this wonderful organization.

First Annual Poplar Grove Christmas Celebration – We helped initiate this great community event.

Helping in Time of Need – Tornado clean up, house fires, or car accidents – Immanuel has been there to help.

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*A Congregation of the
Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod*

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Immanuel and the North Boone School District

For the last 3 years Immanuel has had a great relationship with the North Boone School District. We value education, community, and people. Besides the things listed above which serve the district, we have provided teachers in the district with gifts and snacks during Teacher Appreciation Week each year for the last several years. We truly believe that great schools are one of the foundations to a great community and so we want to support our school district in every way we can.

Through the many projects we have worked on with the district we have been mindful and respectful of the fact that students come from different faith backgrounds. Therefore we have intentionally not initiated conversations about church and religion. It is not our place to be talking to children about Jesus without the consent of the parents. This is very important to us, and I am sure you could talk with any of the principals we have worked with in the district and they will affirm that we have been faithful with this in all we have done.

After School Care Opportunity

We would appreciate the opportunity to partner with the district to provide a safe and affordable after school care program. We believe we could serve the families of the district well partly because of the relationship we already have with the district and partly because of the things listed below.

Safety is the Top Priority - Immanuel is a DCFS license-exempt organization, but would strive to follow DCFS guidelines to the best of our ability. We currently run a before and after school program at our Belvidere location for students attending our day school.

Staffing – The director would be onsite every day at Poplar Grove Elementary School. She will report directly to Immanuel’s Director of Discipleship who is also a trained elementary school teacher. We would follow staff to student ratios set up by DCFS. There will always be at least two leaders onsite. All staff go through complete background checks.

Immanuel is Local - This is where we live, and the students the district serves are our friends and neighbors.

Affordability - Our fee structure would be a very simple and affordable **\$10 per day per student**. Payments and paper work involved with finances would be run through Immanuel and our Director of Operations at Immanuel.

Classroom Management - We will be working with Poplar Grove Elementary School and the principal to make use of classroom management techniques and incentives that the students are already familiar with during the school day.

A Structured and Enriching Afternoon - Students will be given a healthy snack (**we will pray with the children before eating**), support with homework, time to play and visit, and opportunities to work on arts and craft projects. In addition, on certain days we will have various volunteers come in to lead story time (**could be a Bible story**) or lead an interactive Bible lesson that may include singing with the students.

Communication - The Parent Handbook will outline all aspects of the program and provide contact information for all leaders of the program.

Transition - An after school program has already been in place for years and has made use of the United Methodist Church's facility. We will work closely with leaders of that program to ensure a smooth transition for families and students. Our program would run at the same time that the current program runs – After school until 6:00 PM.

Faith Based Activities

As mentioned above we have never included any faith based activities or conversation in any of our other district activities. This is because they took place in the course of the school day or were school sponsored activities. Talking to children about Jesus without the knowledge of their parents is not acceptable to us. However, our after school care program proposal would include faith based instruction. We feel comfortable doing this for the following reasons.

- It would not be a district program and it would not be offered during the school day.
- Parents would know ahead of time that these activities were included.
- Families enroll and pay for this program by choice with full knowledge of what the program offers.

We would include a "What We Believe" page in the parent handbook, again so that parents would have full knowledge of what their children may hear. If you are interested in learning more about this you can check out Immanuel's website at www.immanuelbelvidere.org or the website of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod at www.lcms.org.

Further Questions

If anyone has further questions or would like a representative from Immanuel to meet you in person please contact Keith Richard – Director of Discipleship at 815-544-8058 or at krichard@immanuelbelvidere.org.