



THE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSOURI SYNOD

# THE IMAGE

Rock Island, Illinois 61201

March 2019

Vol. 163, #3

**"The MISSION of Immanuel is to glorify God, build the Christian Church, foster Christian fellowship and concern, and join in the worldwide work of winning souls for Christ."**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This month we take up where we left off on our reflection on the Lord's Supper. Last month, hopeful you recall, we reviewed several passages of Scripture (by all means, not an exhaustive list). These passages teach us why we celebrate the Lord's Supper. We now continue with some observations about the practice of the Christian Church from its earliest days after Scripture was recorded—and I'll apologize right now for the footnotes.

Outside of Scripture perhaps the earliest surviving catechism, *The Didache* (c. A.D. 90-150), places the Lord's Supper at the heart of the gathering of the saints on the Lord's Day (which is Sunday). It was celebrated each week. What happened in the centuries between then and now is a discussion far outside the scope of this letter, but, suffice to say, our practices do not align with those of the earliest church.

Now, by the time of Luther, the celebration of the Sacrament of the Altar was so skewed as to be a mere parody of what was practiced in the early church. It is in this context that Luther's preface to the Small Catechism is understood, specifically as he states:

...because the tyranny of the pope has been abolished, people no longer want to receive the sacrament, and they treat it with contempt. This, too, needs to be stressed, while keeping in mind we should not compel anyone to believe or to receive the sacrament and should not fix any law or time or place for it. Instead we should preach in such a way that the people make themselves come without law and just plain compel us pastors to administer the sacrament to them. This can be done by telling them: You have to worry that whoever does not desire to receive the sacrament *at the very least* around four times a year despises the sacrament and is no Christian, just as anyone who does not listen to the gospel is no Christian. For Christ did not say, "Omit this," or "Despise this," but instead, "Do this, as often as you drink it..." He really wants it to be done and not completely omitted or despised. "Do this," he says.

Luther, here, is lamenting the lack of appreciation and hunger for the Lord's Supper. Note that he does not limit the number of times the Sacrament should be received to four times a year (as I have heard—even from pastors!). Instead, Luther gives a minimum while directing the reader to the command of the Lord. Also it is noted that he admonishes the pastor to preach in such a way as to lead people to the gift of the Sacrament. Also, we see a glimpse of Luther's teaching methods: teach the people in such a way as to have them demand what is right from the pastor.

Luther reiterates this to the Saxon pastors in the Large Catechism as he states:

For in this sacrament he offers us all the treasures he brought from heaven for us, to which he most graciously invites us in other places, as when he says in Matthew 11: “Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” Surely it is a sin and a shame that, when he so tenderly and faithfully summons and exhorts us for our highest and greatest good, we regard it with such disdain, neglecting it so long that we grow quite cold and callous and lose all desire and love for it. We must never regard the sacrament as a harmful thing from which we should flee, but as a pure, wholesome, soothing medicine that aids you and gives life in both soul and body. For where the soul is healed, the body has benefited as well. Why, then, do we act as if the sacrament were a poison which would kill us if we ate of it?

These words summarize Luther’s lengthy argument regarding the necessity of the Sacrament of the Altar. Luther understands, looking back toward Scripture, what the gift of the Lord’s Supper is and what a central part it is in the life of the Church. It was the intention of the confessors to accomplish two things. First, the confessors, especially Luther, desired to teach the laity what a treasure (gift) to the church the Lord’s Supper is and to instill in them a hunger for the body and blood of the Lord. Secondly, they desired that pastors would teach thusly and offer the Sacrament so that those desiring this gift could have it as often as desired.

Writing four-hundred years later, Herman Sasse (perhaps the greatest Lutheran historian of the Twentieth-Century) would echo Luther stating:

...the church needs the Supper. So far as we humans can judge, a church bereft of this Sacrament would be swallowed up by the world and cease to be church, just as it has in fact transpired. Whenever the Lord’s Supper has been permitted to decay, the boundary lines between church and world have universally disappeared and the church has been absorbed into the world. The Supper is thus the Sacrament in which the church’s “foreignness from the world,” and hence her essence as a church of God, finds visible expression.

Sasse makes the point that in a church where the Sacrament—the very thing that makes the church other-worldly—falls into disuse, the church will quickly become just another facet of the world. In our day, this is illustrated by the likes of Joel Osteen, Joyce Meyer, Rick Warren, and others where pop-psychology packaged as Christianity becomes the norm. Apart from their self-title as Christian churches, there is little to distinguish them from non-Christian preaching (Osteen sounds like Oprah). While I am not insinuating that we, in our circle, are in danger of following in the steps of Osteen and his ilk, I am saying that we need to remember that it is this gift that sets the Church apart from the world more than anything else. On Sunday morning, all may hear the Word of God, but not all may participate in the Lord’s Supper—even among all those baptized not all may participate in the Lord’s Supper. To lose or diminish this gift is to lose that visible aspect of the Gospel—the one thing that clearly illustrates a people set apart by God.

Okay, that’s a lot to process, and it is a good place to pause our discussion.

So, until next month, I pray our Lord bless you all, especially as Lent begins.

In Christ,

Rev. Leonard A. Astrowski, Pastor



*Happy Birthday ...* We ask God for His blessing upon all of our members, especially those who are celebrating 80+ birthdays in March [or one of our homebound members]. Why not brighten their day with a card or note?

March 3 — Ruth Pugh

*Happy Anniversary...* We ask God for His blessing upon all couples celebrating a wedding anniversary in March. No 50+ anniversaries this month.

## **Memorials**

In memory of Tom Ayers to the General Memorial Fund.

In memory of Yolanda Meyer to the Social Ministry Committee.

In memory of Mary Anselmi to the Social Ministry Committee.

In memory of Ron Trush to the General Memorial Fund.

**IMAGE DEADLINE** for the **April 2019 issue** is **March 15th**. Have all items to the office, in writing, by that date. Thank you.

**Don't throw away used printer and ink cartridges (any brand) — turn them in to the church office.** We recycle them and receive \$2.00 credit for each one, which helps a great deal when we purchase office supplies. Thank you for your continued support.

**Our volunteers who do the yard work** are still collecting cans for recycling. The cash received is for yard expenses. The container we had was removed from the property without our knowledge. You may leave bags by the door, but we suggest bringing them during office hours, 9am-3pm Monday thru Thursday, leaving them inside the door of the educational wing (by the kitchen). **We are no longer collecting plastic bottles.** Thanks for your continued support and your donations.

**Reminder...**when you enter the hospital, be sure to say you are a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rock Island. If you would like the pastor to know immediately please have a family or friend call the office—otherwise we may not be aware of your hospitalization. Also, unless requested otherwise, members of the church will be prayed for using their first and last names.

## **PLEASE NOTE...**

**Recycle your Portals of Prayer** when you are finished rather than tossing it in the trash. Bring them to church office and we will get them to the Central Illinois District LWML who will recycle them to prison ministries.

## **Membership Changes**

### Additions:

By Holy Baptism and Confirmation: Michael John DePaepe

### Deletions:

By

### **Changes to the September 2018 membership address directory:**

Phone Change: JoAnn & Bob Taube (309) 798-8705 (phone number in directory no longer correct).

New number is: 309-798-8705.

Add to Amanda DePaepe, her husband, Michael J. DePaepe.

## **Our Military people**

Please keep all those who are serving our country in your prayers.

Laura Anderson

Michael Williamson

**THE 2019 FLOWER CHART AND THE ETERNAL LIGHT CHART have been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.** Cost for Altar Flowers (two vases) is \$30.00 and for Eternal Light is \$10.00. Please be sure to check the calendar periodically for the date(s) you signed to donate. If you have email access, please send the information for the bulletin to [ilchurch@mchsi.com](mailto:ilchurch@mchsi.com). If internet is not available, please write it out on a piece of paper and put it in the offering plate.



**TIME CHANGES...** on Saturday night, March 9th — set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed.

**Interested in singing in a “short-term Choir” to prepare songs for Easter Sunday morning?** Please let us know so a schedule of practices in preparation for April 21st Easter 9:00 AM Worship Service can be set up.

Please let us know if you would like to sing a solo, duet, quartet, play an instrument, etc. throughout the year. We will be happy to assist with accompaniment, choice of music, etc. if desired.

Christine Roth (carothri@yahoo.com) PH: 309-756-6151

Katherine Cobert

# Family Night

**Join us for an evening of learning, fun, and food.** On Saturday, March 2nd, beginning at 5 pm, Immanuel will host a **family potluck**. Pastor Astrowski will also tell us about both St. Valentine and St. Patrick from a Lutheran perspective. Bring your favorite game, or just enjoy chatting with your Immanuel family this night. Bring the family, a dish to share, and a happy heart as we join together in fellowship.

**Time to renew your Lutheran Witness** ... This magazine is published by the LC-MS with many interesting articles and information. Yearly subscription cost is \$15.96 for July 2019 thru June 2020. To renew your current subscription, or to start a subscription, make your check payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church and place it in an envelope marked "Lutheran Witness. Drop it in the mail, at the office, or in the offering plate at a worship service.

If you currently subscribe and do not wish to renew, please contact Marty at the office, send an email, or write a note on the back of your attendance card at a worship service. **Deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Chancel of our church will be decorated with lilies** on Easter Sunday, April 21st. We invite you to donate towards the cost of the lilies. Your name and what you would like to have written (as a memorial, in thanks to God for something, in honor of someone, etc.) will be in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. Call Marty at the office (786-3391) or e-mail the information to [ilchurch@mchsi.com](mailto:ilchurch@mchsi.com). Place your donation in an envelope with "lilies" written on it along with your name, amount, & envelope number. Drop it in the offering plate at a service or mail it to the office. The deadline for the names is Monday, April 12th.

# **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

## **Stewardship Ministry**

### **March 2019 Newsletter**

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves. We could not exist without those who have gone before us and those who walk alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers so we can eat. But more than that, God created and gave us all the things those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste, their nutritional value, etc., we would not exist.

God gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments, and, of course, He gave us everything to make those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties to be utilized for those purposes. Without God creating and instilling healing properties into those things – and without God creating the ability within man to learn this and implement it to serve our medical needs – we would not enjoy the health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands:

“Then Moses said to the people of Israel, ‘See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.’ ” (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands, and attached to hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds to make those arms and hands move and accomplish the work set before us. And with that mind, He has given us reason and senses.

That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes, as well as from the accomplishments, of ourselves and others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us.

So, everything we have and everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we “believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.”

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual well-being. He sent his Son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. He delivers that justification through the means of grace (baptism, preaching and the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper). And to give you those means of grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Literally everything we have and everything we are in this life – and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about — giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts.

It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church.

“For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him” (*The Small Catechism*, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gifts — for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not only in word but also in deed.



Our LWML at Immanuel will not meet this month.

Make note on your calendar that we are serving the Lenten Meal on Wednesday, April 10th. More details will follow.

## FOR MARCH & APRIL 2019

There were five LWML-CID mission grant projects funded FY2018-2019. New mission grant projects will be voted on at our April 2019 District convention in Danville. Each society is entitled to two voting delegates. Become a delegate and you can vote on how our mites will be used to spread the Gospel message this coming FY2019-2020!

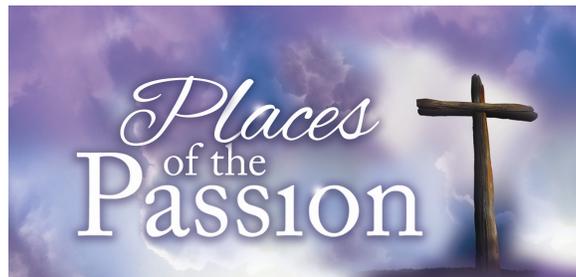
- **Student Aid for Church Workers (\$30,000)**
- **Camp CILCA Christian Growth Center (\$15,000)**
- **Fort Wayne & St. Louis Seminary Food Banks (\$10,000)**
- **Removing Barriers (Camp CILCA) (\$12,000)**
- **Deaconess Kim Bueltmann, Refugee Outreach Facilitator (partial grant for \$4,250)**

**Get ready to wear purple!** We encourage everyone to wear purple to church on **Sunday, March 10, 2018** to take part in **Mighty Mites Sunday**. This is the Sunday to find out about the mites used by LWML to fund mission projects in our country and all over the world. Please see Christine Boudro, Helen Vogel or Shelley Moeller with questions.

This gives everyone an opportunity to support these projects by dropping extra coins, dollars, or checks in the large mite box that will be at the rear of the sanctuary on March 10th. Our Mite deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup> to be counted toward this biennium's mission goal.

Thank you for helping to support these projects. A list of these is posted on the bulletin board by the church office. Mite boxes available at the office or on the table in the narthex.

We will participate in the Lenten Round Robin 2019 with our sister congregations of the Rock Island Circuit. Join us each week at 6:30 PM for worship; supper is served at 5:30 in the cafeteria.



*“Places of the Passion”*

The scenes of Lent are familiar. The Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, the halls of Pontius Pilate, and the hill of Golgotha—these are the places we remember when we meditate on our Lord’s Passion. Yet when Jesus enters a place, He never leaves it as He found it. The most troubling places in our lives become the most amazing places of God’s grace when Jesus visits them. For this reason, in our midweek Lenten series, we will read and contemplate Luke’s account of our Lord’s Passion. Each week, we will read a different section of the story; and each week, Luke will take us to a different place, the places of the Passion.

Our focus, however, will not be on these physical places. Instead, we will gaze in wonder on the spiritual work that our Lord does there. Jesus will share His strength in our times of weakness. He will fill us with His praise in the midst of our sorrow. Week after week, we will enter the places of the Passion only to discover our Lord . . . waiting for us . . . willing to share with us a love that was set in place before the foundations of the world.

Plan to come to our Lenten services this year. Prepare to enter into these places of devotion, for there, your Lord will meet you, sharing with you His wondrous love that saves a fallen world.

**Schedule for Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rock Island**

|          |                  |   |
|----------|------------------|---|
| March 6  | Pastor Astrowski | “A Place at the Table for You”          |
| March 13 | Pastor Hagen     | “The Betrayal: A Place of Eternal Love” |
| March 20 | Pastor Karsten   | “Gethsemane: A Place of Strength”       |
| March 27 | Vicar Biar       | “The Upper Room: A Place of Service”    |
| April 3  | Pastor Eddy      | “The Trial: A Place of God’s Will”      |
| April 10 | Pastor Wright    | “The Courtyard: A Place of Renewal”     |

**LENTEN SUPPERS.** We will continue our tradition of inviting our members and the public to join us for a light supper prior to our mid-week Lenten Worship Services. Supper will be served at 5:30 PM in the cafeteria, with church at 6:30 PM in the church.

**Thank you to all who have volunteered** for serving a supper before our Wednesday Lenten Service. The Board of Elders serve on March 6th; \_\_\_\_\_ on March 13th; Brent Titus on March 20th; Barb Soyke & Linda Haake on March 27th; Foundation on April 3rd; LWML on April 10th. Enough food should be prepared to feed 30-35 people. Soup, sandwiches, a salad or veggies, and a dessert, are some suggestions. A free will offering is taken and the serving group **may** use it to cover expenses or they can donate it to the general congregational treasury.

**Join us at 9:00 AM on Saturdays** during Lent for Lenten Prayer and Meditation in the Sanctuary.

Mexican Fiesta! flyer



## Hello Spring,

Spring weather is near, soon we will be outdoors feeling the warmth of the sun on our face realizing how blessed we are that God once again has re-created the beauty of spring. Families are excited during those first warm evenings having cookouts while the children enjoy outdoor play as we reconnect with spring. Think how amazed Adam and Eve must have been to experience nothing but the beauty of spring-like weather while in the safety of God's presence. But because of sin darkness fell, however, there is nothing in our days that we cannot face when we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. As we walk boldly into our future we must not worry about what is on the road ahead, instead concentrate on staying in touch with our Creator. Know that He is there in a loved-one's smile, a bird singing and in the golden sunlight, during joy and in times of trouble He is near. "Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always." Psalm 105:4

The children attending Sunday school and the Mission after School program are encouraged to continue on this path; seeking and trusting in our Lord. All of us are God's children and we have two options, whether to trust in our loving God or worry; the mind controlled by the Spirit is a mind at peace. Thank you for your support and prayers for Lutheran East Side Mission, because of you our families know that God is our refuge and strength. Without your prayers, gracious giving of time and financial support the Mission would not be an open door for those who are lost and in need of prayers and guidance. You are part of God's plan to restore His presence in a hurting world.

As you begin making plans for your spring calendar please remember the families of East Side Mission; we would love to be included in your church activities and youth events. To make a friend, you have to be one and we could stay friends forever. Knowing that Jesus is always with us, do not be afraid, Jesus calls us to be his disciples, spreading the gospel, teaching His word and sharing our relationship with Him. Thank you for being one of world's best blessings. We pray you know how much you have blessed others today and in the future sharing God's love.

If interested in making friends for life stop by the Mission during the After school program, Pastor Bob of Park View Lutheran has been helping during the program weekly and the children are just as excited today as they were the first day he visited us over three years ago. We are always eager to make new friends and would love to know if you have ideas or suggestions to improve and enhance our program. If you have a special talent such as playing an instrument, cooking, sewing, candle making, jewelry making, wood working or story telling, we have curious minds and eager little hands anxious to learn. Please consider visiting us Monday – Thursday, 3:00-5:00. If you want to share your talent and an evening fits your schedule or any other time please contact us at 563-323-6812.

Our Mission Board of Directors meets on the first Thursday every other month, 6:30 p.m. at the Mission. The Board members come together to share the best of ideas and always accomplish what needs to be done. We welcome guests to the board meetings and if you would like to discuss a topic during the meeting please contact us in advance to be scheduled on the agenda.

Blessings to you from all of us at Lutheran East Side Mission in Davenport.

**THE IMAGE** is the monthly newsletter published for members and friends of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 3300 24th St., Rock Island, Illinois. Immanuel is a member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE:**

Bible Study at 8:00 AM  
Worship Service at 9:00 AM (Holy Communion 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday)  
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:15 AM

We invite you to join us for worship and Bible Study and the fellowship of Christians who share in the joy of salvation in our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Pastor: Rev. Leonard A. Astrowski, Jr.**  
**Organists: Christine Roth and Katherine Cobert**  
**Bell Choir Director: Karen Soeken**

**Church Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM– 3:00 PM      **Our Website:** [Immanuelri.org](http://Immanuelri.org)

**Church Office Phone:** (309) 786-3391      **Pastor Astrowski's Phone:** 989-326-0199

**E-mail Addresses:** Pastor Astrowski: [pastrowski@gmail.com](mailto:pastrowski@gmail.com)      Church (Marty): [ilchurch@mchsi.com](mailto:ilchurch@mchsi.com)

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