



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

THE IMAGE

Rock Island, Illinois 61201

May 2019

Vol. 163, #5

"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:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Now that He is risen, we, who live and breathe in Christ, are a new creation. This old, tired, and fallen world is no longer our home. Sojourners we are, pining for our true home.

As we live and breathe here, amidst the suffering and death, we remember that the rules of our game have been changed. The last great fear we face—death—has become for us sleep. Its fearsome force is now something to be mocked. Death, for us, holds no more fear than a child's bed festooned with stuffed kittens. When it comes, in whatever shape it comes, it no longer stings. It is no longer victorious. Death, no longer, is the final word. Our tombstones may crumble, like the bones beneath them. But those bones have more life to live, more to say. In Christ, those dusty old bones have the last word. And the word is Christ.

This is, now, how we live. Recreated in Christ, we are part of the new creation. We are part of His kingdom—the kingdom of life. We are people of the Resurrection.

How can this be? You might wonder how this might possibly be yours. Indeed, you still sin. You still make bad choices. You still hurt people, and you are hurt by them. You age. You ache—both physically and emotionally. Things don't seem all that different. How can this be? The answer is simpler than we are often willing to accept. It is simply, purely, a gift. It was given to you in your Baptism. There, you were washed with the blood of the crucified and resurrected Christ. It is given to you each time you receive the Holy Supper. There, that same crucified and resurrected body of Christ comes into you. You are made a child of the new creation. In these things, in Christ, you are a new creation. The totality of this will not be fully manifest until our Lord returns and our bodies—long since rendered into dust—have risen. But it will happen. He rose. We will rise. He holds the keys of death and hell. He, as we like to say, owns it. He owns them. Death must do what He says. He will speak. We will rise. Then, the tired things of this world will be things of the past.

He lives. We live, and will live, too.

A blessed Eastertide to you!

In Christ,

Rev. Leonard A. Astrowski Jr., Pastor



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

May 15 — Betty Farrier
May 25 — Ronald Schultz

May 13 — Lucille Marquardt
May 30 — Jackie Nesseler

May 15 — Peggy Lane

Happy Anniversary... We ask God for His blessing upon all couples celebrating a wedding anniversary in May. We have one 50+ anniversary this month.

May 8 Dwain & Irene Christofferson 70 years

Memorials

In memory of Donald Jacobsen to the General Memorial Fund.

In memory of Vernon Soeken to the General Memorial Fund.

In memory of Robert Taube to the General Memorial Fund.

In memory of Ronald Trush to the General Memorial Fund.

In memory of Yolanda Meyer to the General Memorial Fund.

Membership Changes

Deletions

By Death: Donald E Jacobsen, 3-27-19; Vernon E. Soeken, 4-2-19; Robert O. Taube, 4-8-19.

Additions

By Adult Confirmation: Keith D. Hentrich, 4-7-19

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.

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

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.

Reminder... each time you enter the hospital, be sure to say you are a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rock Island. According to the laws, the hospital needs to ask each time you come for a procedure. If you would like the pastor to know immediately please have a family member 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.

There are several openings left on the 2019 Altar Flower Chart and the Eternal Light Chart posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Cost for Altar Flowers (two vases) is \$30.00 and for the Eternal Light is \$10.00. If you have email access, please send the information for the bulletin to il-church@mchsi.com. If internet is not available, please write it out on a piece of paper and put it in the offering plate.

Our Military people

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

Laura Anderson

Michael Williamson



Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - Dinner —6:00 PM

Watch the bulletin for more information about our end of the year dinner.

LWML Convention

June 24—27, 2019

Mobile, AL

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Stewardship Ministry

May 2019 Newsletter

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way. This is why our Lord warns:

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23)

We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have. And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us:

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that, and then think that we have done what God has required.

Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us – not one for the other, but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God, and, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9-13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection.

Through this we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.

You Are Invited!!

The Board of Christian Education would like to invite everyone to hear our special guest speaker Auston McLain. He is the Outreach Advocate for Braking Traffik at Family Resources in Davenport, Iowa. Keeping our children safe is a major issue with all that they see and hear on television and through the internet that permeates our homes daily. Please join us as we learn about our community and what can be done to protect our children. Join us for a potluck beginning at 5:30 pm in the cafeteria. Beverages will be provided.

When: Saturday, May 11

Time: 5:30 pm potluck, 6:30 pm Mr. McLain will speak

Where: Immanuel Lutheran Church

Pastor Nicholas Salifu, a missionary in Ghana, South Africa, whose ministry our church and the LWML have supported, will be in Rock Island on Saturday, May 11. There will be an opportunity to visit with him at Immanuel from 3:00- 5:30 p.m. This is before the pot luck and program on Saturday night.

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 2nd & 4th 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

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

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

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