



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

THE IMAGE

Rock Island, Illinois 61201

August 2019

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"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:

Over the month just passed, we've had the blessing of reading the Gospel According to St. Luke in sequence. This is an advantage of the Three-Year Lectionary, which we at Immanuel follow. Last month started with the sending of the seventy-two disciples. After this, our Lord gave us the parable of the Good Samaritan. Then came the episode at Martha's house where Martha's sister Mary sat and listened while her sister busied herself with mundane and, at that moment, unnecessary tasks. Finally, the month ended with the Lord teaching us to pray, and Him teaching us, in a parable, about the importance of persisting in prayer.

As our Lord moves toward His destination—His Passion in Jerusalem, He is teaching. He's teaching us. He's teaching us how His Church will live and what it will do during the great time of tribulation between His Ascension and His final return. This teaching will continue throughout this month as well.

Pay attention to what our Lord says. After all, He is God. He has called us. It would do us well to hearken to His voice and think, meditate, and pray about what He teaches us. So, to what do we hearken? What is He teaching us in these things throughout these weeks?

First, He teaches us that we are sent (more accurately, we are "apostled"). In a sense we go before Him. Like the seventy-two, He sends us out. He sends us seemingly with nothing—seemingly. Yet, even as lambs among wolves, we are not defenseless. We are people of the promise—life is ours. As those sent (those "apostled"), we go with His authority. We go with the authority of His Word. We carry that Word, the Word of Christ, to wherever we are sent. Where are we sent? He sends us to our kitchen tables, or child's or parent's bedside. He sends us to our neighborhood, and to our workplace. What else do we need as we are sent? What is more powerful, or more important, than the Word of life?

Secondly, we are sent as Christians. We are called to sacrifice. This is too often forgotten by us. Christianity is not to be thought of as "what's in it for us?" No. In Christ, we already possess everything. Life is ours. We, like the Lord who gives us life, are called to sacrifice. Even for our enemies. Like the Samaritan (who is Christ), we are called to be a neighbor to those to whom we are sent. This we do as we show mercy—exactly as Christ shows mercy to us. We are to think of our neighbor, we are to put the need of our neighbor, before ourselves. This is what we, as Christians, are sent to do.

Also, He teaches, as we look to Martha and Mary, what's important. In that brief encounter in their home, we see Him reminding us what we are to busy ourselves with. We are to busy ourselves with Him—with His teaching. We are to busy ourselves with learning from Him. How often we make ourselves so busy that we neglect the weightier things. This should not be. Only as we sit at His feet, only as we gather where

He calls us to learn what it means to be called. We only learn how to live and love as Christians from Christ. And He has told us exactly where that teaching and learning takes place—in His Church.

Finally, He teaches His people not only how to pray, but why we persist in prayer. This is one of our greatest gifts and greatest tools. Often, prayer seems like nothing—a last resort. Our prayer as Christians comes with a promise. As we persist in prayer, we are promised, not only to be heard, but to be answered by God Himself. Amazing, isn't it. We, who have few, if any, answers to the great problems the fallen world sets before us each and every day, are taught to persistently pray. God has the ability to answer any of our prayer for any need small or great. And He invites us to consistently bring these requests to Him. Again, we might learn how often we neglect this teaching. Pray seems so weak compared to action. Yet, this is what we are told to do. So hear Him. Do it! Pray. Pray, if for no other reason, because He tells you to. Do not neglect this great and powerful gift.

My dear friends in Christ, we are to be His Church. To this He has called us. He has not left us to figure it out on our own. No! He teaches us how we are to be His people. So be His people. Be the people who live as though they have everything, In Christ indeed you do!

In Christ's most Holy Name,

Rev. Len Astrowski, Pastor



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

No one to list this month.

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

August 24

Doug & Ellen Campbell

58 years

Memorials

In memory of Harold Nelson to the General Memorial Fund.

In memory of Vern Soeken to the General Memorial Fund.

In memory of Sylvia Klavon Simms to the General Memorial Fund.

Membership Changes

None this month

Address Changes

Donna Dettmann: 3520 37th Ave, Rock Island IL 61201-6530

Mona Meyer: 3520 37th Ave, Rock Island IL 61201-6530

Pat Mueller: 11310 16th St #13 Milan IL 61264-4005

Our Military people

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

Michael Williamson

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.

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.

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 **September 2019 issue** is **August 15th**. Have all items to the office, in writing, by that date. Thank you.

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 and/or Pastor—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.

Save Stamps For Missions

Bring used postage stamps to church.

They may be trimmed leaving 1/8" of the envelope showing around the stamp or simply cut the envelope down leaving the stamp (in tact) and others will trim to specifications.

The stamps collected are turned in to be further sorted to make sure they are ready for sale. The stamps are sold to stamp collectors all over the world. The proceeds support the Central Illinois District LWML Mission projects. Bring the stamps to a LWML meeting, to a church service, leave them in the church office, or give them to Sandy Kramer.

August 2019 LWML CID Mission Grant #2

22 Dinners- Kare 9 Military Ministry in Auburn, IL – \$3,600

According to the Veteran's Administration, each day nearly 22 veterans commit suicide. To remember these victims and to help prevent others, Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn, IL hosts a free meal on the 22nd of each month for active military members, veterans, and their families. It will be a safe, confidential and upbeat environment for sharing the gospel and fellowship as they bring awareness to Veterans' needs. The Kare 9 Military Ministry dog, Dinah, will be involved to offer comfort. These funds would be used to offset the cost of food for the dinners.

How can I help? Pray that God provides the military men and women comfort and compassion through this grant. Support this grant by donating to your church's LWML society mite fund.

Pill Bottle Donations

The LWML at Immanuel will be collecting empty pill bottles to send to developing countries for medical use and also recycling. We have connected with a ministry (see below) that handles the distributions. If labels are easily removed, please remove them before bringing them to us. Please drop them off in the wooden box in the coat area of the narthex or bring to the church office.

Matthew 25: Ministries accepts donations of empty plastic pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies and for shredding and recycling. Our pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment.

Acceptable collection items include:

- ◆ Prescription and over-the-counter pill bottles
- ◆ Large and small pill bottles
- ◆ Pill Bottles with and without secure caps (child-resistant)

Pill bottles that are not appropriate to include with shipments of medical supplies are recycled and may generate revenue that supports Matthew 25: Ministries' programs such as shipping costs to the developing nations.

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Stewardship Ministry
August 2019 Newsletter**

Have you ever noticed the subtle ceremony of receiving the offerings during the Divine Service? The offerings are collected in plates or baskets, and they are brought forward and given to the pastor or an assistant. The pastor turns toward the altar, and, as he slightly bows his head, the offerings are raised slightly to the Lord and placed on the altar or an adjacent table.

Why do we have this ceremony? And what does it teach us? For that is what ceremony does – it teaches, as the Augsburg Confession tells us what we need to know about Christ (AC XXIV, 1–3).

Originally, this ceremony included more than simply bringing forward what was collected in the offering plates. The elements for the Holy Communion – the bread and the wine – were brought forward with the offerings. The offerings and elements were lifted toward the Lord and placed upon the altar. The altar, now made a table, would be set for the Lord’s Supper.

Gifts brought to the altar come from the sweat of His people’s brow. They are the bread and wine, the fruits of His people’s labor in this fallen world. After six days of labor and toil, the people are to bring a generous proportion for the Lord’s work. Gifts set upon the altar are offered to the Lord for Him to take up and press into service for His gracious work.

For what is offered to the Lord from the sweat of His people’s brow – the bread of anxious toil – comes back to us as the bread of life. The bread comes down from heaven that whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup will receive life through the forgiveness of their sins.

This is not unlike what the Lord did for His people in the Old Testament:

“You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire – oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.” (Deut. 14:22-26)

What a blessing! God provides for us in all things. He provides bread from the sweat of our brows. He receives this from us in the first-fruits offerings we give to Him in thanksgiving and praise, and He turns these into spiritual bread. He gives this heavenly bread – the bread of eternal life – back to us so we might have joy.

So, the next time you are in the Divine Service, watch this ceremony in wonder. The offerings we have given to Him, the Lord gives back to us in His supper so that we may rejoice in the salvation He won for us upon the cross.



SAVE THE DATE!!! September 24th is the Rock Island Zone's FALL RALLY. Don't miss this one gals and pastors. The Galesburg Mt. Calvary ladies are excited about hosting us all, and are busy with plans and preps. Our speaker is our District Human Care Chairman, Laura Stratman. Those of you who know Laura, know she is on fire for the Lord.

This year our Rock Island Zone created the District Banner for President Sheila Lutz to carry at the opening of the Convention. This banner will be circulated throughout our District Zones for display in their church. A huge thank you to Barb Rauh of Holy Cross Moline for creating this banner. She also created the banner our Zone carried at the Danville District Convention back in April. Thanks Barb!

Card received from the Sunday School children and their teacher at Cristo Rey: Thank you for your love of Christ towards us!! — The Sunday school children at Immanuel learned about how missionaries share the love of God far away and that we can be missionaries in our neighborhood and community. The children assembled Easter bags filled with trinkets and treats and delivered them to Cristo Rey to be handed out on Easter Sunday, along with coloring books, markers and snacks for the Sunday school children.

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)
Adult Bible Class at 10:15 AM
Sunday School taking a break till Fall.

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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