



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

THE IMAGE

Rock Island, Illinois 61201

March 2020

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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:

When our Lord speaks for the first time in the Gospel according to St. Mark, these are His words: *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel"* (Mark 1:15). Heeding the words of our Lord, we take time to reflect on our life of repentance. And it is just that. We are called to a *life* of repentance. As we find ourselves in this Lenten season we are reminded, even as we focus during its forty days, that repentance is the everyday life of God's people.

So, what is repentance? A concise discussion of this theological word is found in our confession, specifically *The Augsburg Confession*. Article XII of that confession states the following:

It is taught among us that those who sin after Baptism receive forgiveness of sin whenever they come to repentance, and absolution should not be denied them by the church.

Properly speaking, true repentance is nothing else than to have contrition and sorrow, or terror, on account of sin, and yet at the same time to believe the Gospel and absolution (namely, that sin has been forgiven and grace has been obtained through Christ), and this faith will comfort the heart and again set it at rest.

Amendment of life and the forsaking of sin would then follow, for these must be the fruits of repentance, as John says, "Bear fruit that befits repentance" (Matt. 3:8).

Rejected here are those who teach that persons who have once become godly cannot fall again.

Condemned on the other hand are the Novatians who denied absolution to such as had sinned after Baptism.

Rejected also are those who teach that forgiveness of sin is not obtained through faith but through the satisfactions made by man.

I think about, as the confession explains, sorrow and terror over sin. Maybe that's what were given to recapture during Lent. We become quick to dismiss our sin as simply "missing the mark." We forget how our disobedience actually angers God. But, as Lent unfolds and Good Friday approaches, we hear

of our Lord:

And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, Saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground (Luke 22:41-44).

"Remove this cup..." our Lord says. This is the cup of God's wrath (Isaiah 51:22). He takes this "staggering cup" from His people—from you and me. And He gives it to His Son. It is a dreadful thing to drink the cup of God's wrath. Yet, in such great anguish over what's about to come, our Lord sweats drops of blood. He says to His Father, "Your will be done." And it is done for you. For you He drinks that cup of wrath.

But why is God so angry—wrathful—that we should look upon that anger with sorrow and great fear? To find an answer, I occasionally think about my childhood. My parents worked so hard to give me everything that was good for me. They worked tirelessly to give me food and clothing, a safe home and bed, opportunities that they never had, and gifts. And, often, what did I do with these gifts of such great love. I, like the prodigal, squandered and abused them. I used them for my own purposes, or misused them and mistreated them, or used them in such a way that the gifts were quickly broken and wasted. Often, I simply rejected what they offered to me. Imagine the gall of that. My parents hoped, worked, and prayed for the very best for me. And I didn't want it. And, of course, when I behaved in such a way—rejecting the good for what I wanted—my parents were rightfully very hurt and often very angry.

Now, apply that as an analogy to God. He gives us everything for our good. This is how you should think of the Commandments. They are given as a good gift. Yet, like a petulant child, we choose to ignore them, or to write our own commandments. We reject and destroy the good gifts. And often, after we choose to ignore the good gifts and see our lives reduced to shambles, we have the audacity to wag our finger at Him and cast the blame Him! "YOU MADE ME THIS WAY!" And so, the Father who in love creates us and gives such immeasurable good, is filled at anger. And rightfully so.

So, this is what we think about during Lent. And as we again grasp these theological realities, it moves us to ever more deeply cherish the forgiveness earned and given by Christ our Lord. This, in turn, helps our repentance, and our bearing fruit—our good works. We become more eager to please the merciful God that took the cup of His wrath and gave it to His Son.

So, we repent. Why? The Kingdom of God is a hand!

A blessed Lent to you.
Rev. Len Astrowski, Pastor



Happy Birthday ... We ask God for His blessing upon all of our members, especially those who are celebrating birthdays in March [no 80+ this month].

Happy Anniversary... We ask God for His blessing upon all couples celebrating a wedding anniversary in March. There are no 50+ this month.

Memorials

In memory of Martha England to the General Memorial Fund

Membership Changes

By Transfer IN: Angie Mills and baptized children, Payton, Claire, Grace & Dylan from Mt. Calvary (LCMS), Galesburg, IL per request.

Add to Current Directory

Mrs David (Angie) Mills
Payton, Claire, Grace & Dylan
11026 Ridgewood Rd
Milan IL 61264-4536
Angie Cell: 217-671-1718

IMAGE DEADLINE for the **March 2020 issue** is **February 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.

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 Military people

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

Michael Williamson

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... 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. Unless requested otherwise, members of the church will be prayed for using their first and last names.

THE 2020 FLOWER CHART and **THE ETERNAL LIGHT CHART** are 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. If internet is not available, please write it out on a piece of paper and put it in the offering plate.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

The Lutheran Hour can be heard each Sunday on the following Stations at the listed times.

WGEN Kewanee, IL 1500 AM 5:30 am

WKEI Kewanee, IL 1450 AM 5:00 am

KCLN Clinton, IL 1390 AM 9:30 am

WMT Cedar Rapids, IA 600 AM 6:30 am

You can receive Daily Devotions to your computer. Go to lhmin@lhm.org



TIME CHANGES... on Saturday night, March 7th — set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed.

Lent 2020

FOLLOWING JESUS, OUR GREATEST GIVER

Our Midweek Lenten theme this year is based in the following words of our Lord: “I have given you an example, that you should do just as I have done for you” (John 13:15). This Sermon Series will be used throughout our circuit, and it will help us in **FOLLOWING JESUS, OUR GREATEST GIVER**.

The Pastors of the Circuit will again be exchanging pulpits, so each week you will be blessed to hear one of the other circuit pastors proclaim God’s Word to you. This will be a time for us, as God’s people, to reflect on Christ’s gift of salvation, and how this blesses us to also share our gifts.

Lenten Suppers will be served at 5:30 PM in the cafeteria, with worship at 6:30 PM in the church. Volunteers are needed for March 18th and March 25th. 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. Any questions, contact one of the Elders.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meal Host</u>	<u>Preacher</u>
February 26	Elders	Pastor Astrowski
March 4	Linda Haake/Barb Soyke	Pastor Eddy
March 11	LWML	Pastor Umbarger
March 18		Pastor Sommerer
March 25		Vicar Marks
April 1	Jack & Jane Copeland	Pastor Anderson

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

The Chancel of our church will be decorated with lilies on Easter Sunday, April 12th. 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 church@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 Tuesday, April 7th.



Sunday , March 8th is Mighty Mites Sunday!

Join us in supporting Missions throughout the world through your generous donations. Look for the Mite Box in the vestibule along with information about the missions we are supporting. Thank you from Immanuel LWML!

March 2020 LWML CID Mission Grant #7 Creating a Lutheran Library for East African Pastors - \$5,000

Pastors teach the catechism, train the little ones, and guide the flock, but imagine doing so without books in the language of your people. Pastors in East African countries face this challenge daily while ministering to Swahili-speaking people. This grant would help provide Swahili language theology books for pastors in Kenya and Tanzania.

How can I help? Pray that God provides the East African pastors the theology books, support, and comfort during their ministry to their people. Support this grant by donating to your church's LWML society mite fund.

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.

Mexican Fiesta Silent Auction

Once again we will be having a fabulous silent auction during our Mexican Fiesta on March 28th.

We are looking for items in the following themes:

- ⇒ Comfy and Cozy
- ⇒ Man Cave
- ⇒ Pamper Yourself
- ⇒ Taste of the Quad Cities
- ⇒ Made in the Quad Cities

Another option is to donate your own item or put together a basket with friends and/or family. Anything is appreciated!!! Please have items to the church office by Sunday, March 22nd and include a description of what is in the basket and a value of the items.

Call Helen Vogel at [309-781-9627](tel:309-781-9627) with any questions.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – March 2020

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts, the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God, those that pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

The easiest example of this is fasting. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. You have, though, learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above in order to do it.

There is another example of this. It is alms-giving. This is an increase in giving to the church and its mission during this time. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is in leading you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

"But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and[a] we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Tim 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

Spring Greetings from Lutheran East Side Mission

Sometimes the simplest things are just what we are missing. What could be more simplified than one hour of worship on a Sunday morning after breakfast at 11:30, no hurries no worries with service ending in time for lunch; that would be worship service at Lutheran East Side Mission. Yes, we are still here at 805 Tremont Ave in Davenport. Because of God's love and your prayers the Lord's plans for the Mission are long term, working on 32 years.



Your prayers and financial support assure the Mission will have Sunday Worship Service at 11:30; our Worship Service follows the same Gospel Lessons with Holy Communion as do the Circuit Churches. We welcome visitors to join us on Sundays, children ages three to thirteen attend Sunday school at 11:00 am, and Adult Confirmation classes can be scheduled. The After School Program is Monday through Thursday, 3:00 to 5:00, Pastor Bob of Park View Lutheran stops by weekly to visit with the children, playing games, sharing Gospel lessons and teaching the children how to pray. You can never have too many volunteers, in fact our hope would be that you would have the joy of visiting our children's programs and experience that amazing moment when a little hand reaches for yours in need of prayer and understanding. The Summer Program for children ages four to thirteen begins with summer break. This is the highlight of the children's summer; they play, pray and grow their faith. We invite you to stop in for Ladies' Bible Study. We meet monthly, 5:30 to 7:30, and a light meal is served while Pastor Neuendorf leads bible study. Our Mission food pantry is open every Sunday and boxes of paper products and soaps are available one Sunday per month. If you would like to help with shopping for the pantry or perhaps can donate funds to help stock the small pantry please contact the Mission office at 563-323-6812. Thank you for all you do to keep these existing opportunities available for Mission families. We are blessed for all the volunteers, your donations are passed along to provide help and hope for families in our community. Please continue to keep the Mission in your prayers. *"But my life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus..."* ACTS 20:24 NLT

We welcome visitors to the Mission and pray that you will take the time to come and visit us. You may want to share the news of what you have contributed, tell others! We want you to help celebrate what you have done in God's name. *Together we will "...become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more."* 2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT.

The Board of Directors meets the 1st Thursday every other month at 6:30 pm; all are welcome to join us and if you would like to request time on the agenda please call in advance. The Mission continues to be in transition from the fall of 2019 when Pastor David Anderson accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran in Coal Valley. We continue to struggle with numerous changes but the Lord provides hope in times of change and transition. – *"Have I not commanded you" Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* Joshua 1:9

Continue the gift of love and peace year round; we encourage you to spread joy in a world where Christmas with the birth of our Lord and Savior is celebrated, then forgotten until Easter when we celebrate the gift of eternal life. The choice is yours, and it's simple *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* Matthew 6:33

May you experience the love of Christ daily...

CHALLENGE MATCH

Again, thank you for your generous contributions to our Challenge Match. Current total through February 8th is \$32,306.14. We were able to pay down our debt and have a positive balance to begin the year. Praise God!

Jim Boudro, Treasurer
Board of Finance

Circuit Forum, March 15, 2:00 p.m.

Immanuel will host a Circuit Forum on Sunday, March 15, at 2:00 p.m. This forum is a formal gathering held at the request of the Circuit Pastors and all laity are invited and encouraged to attend. The purpose of the forum is to educate ourselves on the demographic and resulting fiscal challenges facing our congregations, to discuss church life in a post-Christian culture, and to discuss possible options for facing these challenges. Please plan to attend this important forum.

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 with Holy Communion at 9:00 AM
Adult Bible Study at 10:15 AM
Sunday School 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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