



October 2020

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THE IMAGE

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

3300 24th St. Rock Island, IL 61201-6212

"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:

In just a few weeks (on October 25th) we will again celebrate Reformation Day. As many of you know, *the* Reformation Day is October 31 and commemorates Luther's nailing of his ninety-five theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. This day is traditionally held as the beginning of the Reformation.

Now many of you may not have made the connection that Reformation Day is also known as All Hallows Eve (which we have distorted into Halloween). It is the Eve of All Saints Day. How very interesting that the "movement" (which is really a very poor term for it) which would draw the Church back to the teachings of the Apostles, Scripture, and again raise Christ to the center of its life would begin on the eve of the church's commemoration of all the saints. Luther, and those with him, would again demonstrate that we are saints not because of anything we have done, but simply because of Christ. We are saints because of what Christ has done. It's that simple.

Most of us know this verse from Ephesians: "*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast*" (2:8-9). Again, this is quite simple. Salvation is a gift. Period. Of course, the devil is not happy that we have such wonderful Good News. We find these simple and clear words of God twisted and perverted into a splintered Protestant Church. To these simple words are added the necessity of experience which demands rational proof of one's conversion. We see to this gift added the requirement of a decision for Christ (which is to say that you may only have this gift after you ask) which necessarily destroys infant Baptism and the promise of grace to "children such as these." So the Reformation goes on.

Over the centuries from the time of the Apostles to the Reformation, the church (which would become the Roman Catholic Church) had also distorted God's simple Word so that salvation was being peddled on street corners and people had lost terror over sin. Yet Scripture also notes that we were dead in our sins before God gave us the gift of salvation: "*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...*" (Ephesians 2:4-5). You see, the Reformation is inextricably linked to All Saints Day, and not just to All Saints Day, but to our Baptism, The Lord's Supper celebrated among us, and our funerals—when our voices forever join those of the heavenly host. So the Reformation goes on.

The simple, beautiful truth of the Gospel is that our salvation is a gift. Knowing it is a gift and not based on anything in us (neither successes or failures count) results in great peace—the peace which passes all understanding. We rest on the rock of Christ—which is exactly what the wonderful above quoted verse from Ephesians tells us. This is what all of Scripture tells us. Yet, as we see in the fractured Christendom around us, the beautiful simple truth of the God who loves us and saved us while we were dead in our sins is often too hard to believe. So the Reformation goes on. But as always, we thank God for the gift He gives to us in this place and the peace that comes with this precious and simply given gift. Allow me to close with these words of Luther:

*“Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word;
Curb those who fain by craft and sword
Would wrest the Kingdom from Thy Son
And set at naught all He hath done”*

(Martin Luther 1541, from *Lord Keep us Steadfast in Thy Word*).
As the Reformation goes on, may God keep us steadfast in His Word!

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Leonard Astrowski, Pastor



Happy Birthday... We ask God for His blessing upon all our members, especially those who celebrate birthdays in October (especially 80+ this month).

Sharron Millen – October 8th
Gladys Hawkins – October 23rd
Mary Hoffman – October 31st

Happy Anniversary ... We ask God for His blessing upon all couples celebrating a wedding anniversary in October. (We have two 50+ this month)

Terry & Karen Kirkbride – 53 years
Ardo & Carolyn Holmgrain – 64 years

Memorials

In memory of Anna Grams to the General Memorial Fund

Membership Changes

Deletions

By Death: Anna Grams, 9-8-2020

BELLS - For the time being we've put the beautiful bells in storage. We're missing playing as much as you miss hearing them. It's impossible to practice and play when we must social distance. We're all patiently waiting for that day when we'll be back.

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.

IMAGE DEADLINE for the **November 2020 issue** is **1:00 PM October 19th**. 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.

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.

*Our Military
people*

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

Michael Williamson

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



Christian Care Center Meal: The LWML would like your help! We are not able to serve in-person, but we can provide a feast! We are asking for food for dinner on [Wednesday, October 21st](#). All food items must be in disposable containers because no containers will be returned. All food needs to be at the church kitchen no later than Noon on [Wednesday, October 21st](#). Please watch for a sign-up sheet in October and see Christine with questions.

LWML would like to thank everyone who grabbed a fleece blanket kit to tie for the East Side Mission in Davenport. Please return the tied blanket by [October 18th](#) so we can deliver them to the mission for distribution. Thank you for working with LWML to serve the Lord through this ministry.

Be on the look out for more information on the early October Pick Up and Go: Nacho-Ordinary Fundraiser supporting Cristo Rey.

“NACHO” ORDINARY FUNDRAISER
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 2020
(pick up will be 10:15am-Noon in Immanuel's cafeteria)
LWML's Third Pick Up & Go mission project:
FIESTA PACKS
We are selling Fiesta Packs to benefit
Cristo Rey/Christ the King Lutheran Church
\$10.00
WILL GET YOU A STARTER KIT WITH PREPACKAGED
CHIPS AND QUESO TO HAVE YOUR OWN FIESTA!
Also, each order will enter you into a drawing
for a chance to win a fabulous gift basket!
**PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDERS NO LATER THAN
SEPTEMBER 27, 2020**
TO PLACE AN ORDER OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
PLEASE CONTACT CARRIE WERKE at
CARRIE.WERKE@GMAIL.COM

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 (intact) and others will trim to specifications.

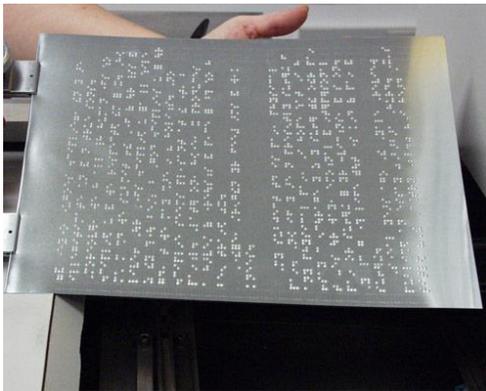
The stamps collected are turned in to be further sorted to make sure they are ready for sale. The stamps are sold to stamp collectors all over the world. The proceeds support

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.

Your offerings to LWML missions are paying grants to spread the Gospel to a world in need.

**Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Grant #11 — Touching the Living Word
Lutheran Braille Workers — \$100,000**

The mission of Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) is to passionately reach out to people who are blind and visually impaired with the Good News of Jesus Christ as their Savior. In the United States, there are nearly 11 million people who are blind or visually impaired and over 36 million people worldwide. Of this number, it is estimated that more than 94 percent are unchurched. The braille Bible has 37 volumes; each volume has 90 pages. A zinc plate is produced via a plate embossing device (PED) which enables pages to be printed. Multiple plates are needed to print one Bible. The mites raised for this grant will help LBW to purchase a new PED to produce the zinc plates. With the new equipment and new technology, LBW will be able to better meet worldwide demand for Bibles in multiple languages. For more information, go to www.lwml.org/2019-2021-mission-grant-11.



Central Illinois District Grant– 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.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter article – October 2020

We celebrate the Reformation at the end of each October. The Reformation began on All Saints' Eve in 1517, which was when Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. So, let's hear from Luther himself on the topic of giving and stewardship.

In the Small Catechism under the Table of Duties, Martin Luther gives specific Bible passages to help Christians know their duty in their various vocations as members of their family, society at large, and in God's family, the Church. Under the heading "What Hearers Owe Their Pastors," Luther lists five passages from the Bible, three of which have to do with giving to your local congregation. They are these:

- "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel." (1 Cor. 9:14)
- "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." (Gal. 6:6–7)
- "The elders [presbyters, i.e., pastors] who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, 'Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,' and 'The worker deserves his wages.'" (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

Luther comments on these passages in his 1535 Lectures on Galatians. He wrote:

"When Paul says 'all good things,' this is not to be taken to mean that everyone should share all his possessions with his preacher. No, it means that he should provide for him liberally, giving him as much as is needed to support his life in comfort. ... The apostle is so serious in advocating this topic of support for preachers that he adds a threat to his denunciation and exhortation, saying: 'God is not mocked.' ... All this pertains to the topic of support for ministers. I do not like to interpret such passages; for they seem to commend us, as in fact they do. In addition, it gives the appearance of greed if one emphasizes these things diligently to one's hearers. Nevertheless, people should be taught also about this matter, in order that they may know that they owe both respect and support to their preachers. Christ teaches the same thing in Luke 10:7: 'Eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages'; and Paul says elsewhere (1 Cor. 9:13–14): 'Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the Gospel should get their living by the Gospel.' It is important for us who are in the ministry to know this, so that we do not have a bad conscience about accepting for our work wages ... it happens when those who proclaim the glory of God and faithfully instruct the youth derive their livelihood from them. It is impossible that one man should be devoted to household duties day and night for his support and at the same time pay attention to the study of Sacred Scripture, as the teaching ministry requires. Since God has commanded and instituted this, we should know that we may with a good conscience enjoy what is provided for the comfortable support of our lives from church properties to enable us to devote ourselves to our office." (LW 27:125–126)



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OCTOBER 2020



One thing that makes me happy is when a child is baptized!

Some people use their human reasoning and say children are innocent and don't commit any sin. But according to the Holy Scriptures, Lutheran Christians recognize that children are born with original sin. Psalm 51:5 says: *Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.* and Rom. 3:23 says: *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*"

Children need Jesus, as their Savior. They need to know the truth of God's Word.

How is a baby able to believe in God if he doesn't yet speak? Mark 10:27 says: *Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."* God gives faith to the children through Holy Baptism. We don't know exactly how faith comes to the hearts of infants and children, but we surely know that the Triune God is present with the Word and the water. God makes possible the impossible.

When parents, by faith, bring their children to be baptized because they believe God's saving promises and benefits, their children receive:

a) Forgiveness of sins, b) Rescue from death and the devil, and c) Eternal salvation.

It is good for us to recall our own baptism every day and especially every time we are present at a baptism. The baptismal command in Matt. 28:19 says: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"*

Smile if you have been baptized!



Derecho.

The Quad Cities received a heavy downpour accompanied by gusts of wind (derecho) that uprooted trees. Large branches also fell causing the loss of power in many areas. Many families suffered the consequences, including ours. At our house, two large trees were uprooted. One of them almost hit the house, but thanks be to God the falling tree was stopped by the branches of another tree. Unfortunately, the danger of falling continued. The next day a good neighbor offered to help me lower the heavy tree. We spent three hours trying to lower it without causing any damage. In the following days I dedicated myself, at times, to using the chainsaw. We were without power for three days. On the church property, a tree was blown over by the wind. The remains were picked up by the city's public services. Members of the church were without power for several days. One family was without electricity for 7 days.



Baptism & Wedding.

The joy and peace Christ gives came to the Ramirez family when their son, Aaron, 4 years old, was brought recently to the living waters of Holy Baptism on August 15, 2020. That same day I officiated at the wedding ceremony of his parents, Raul and Claudia Ramirez.

Please pray for the Ramirez family who show interest in the Lutheran doctrine. I'll continue to be in contact with them. Praise God for making Aaron a child of His and for bringing Raul and Claudia to a Christian marriage! May God continue to bless them abundantly!



Aug. 14. It was a special day for Mrs. Alvarado, a member of Cristo Rey. She obtained her American citizenship in an oath ceremony in Rock Island. My wife and I attended with her in order to support and congratulate her. It should be mentioned that my son, Ruben, took the citizenship oath, also, in a ceremony on August 18, 2020 in Des Moines, IA. Congratulations, Mrs. Alvarado and Ruben, on becoming citizens of the United States of America!



*Thank you so very much, dear friends,
for your loyal support of the Hispanic ministry at
Cristo Rey with prayers, donations, and monetary gifts!*



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

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-Friday, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Our Website: Immanuelri.org

Church Office Phone: 309-786-3391

Pastor Astrowski's Phone: 989-326-0199

Email addresses:

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Like our Facebook page: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rock Island, IL—LCMS