



January 2021

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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:

The Twelve Days of Christmas (also called Christmastide) last from the Feast of the Nativity to the Feast of the Epiphany. As we gather in church these few days we will be once again told of the early history of our Lord.

First, we celebrate His naming and circumcision, eight days (according to God's Law) after His birth. In Christ's circumcision we first see Him fulfilling the Law on our behalf. It is the beginning of Him living out His name: יְשׁוּעָה ("Joshua," which in English has become "Jesus"). Our Lord's name simply means "The LORD is Salvation." Jesus is salvation. His name is what He does.

After the circumcision, next will occur Jesus' presentation in the Temple. It is there, when our Lord is just a handful of weeks old, Simeon will declare this baby the salvation of His people. It is also significant for, in a most unusual way, the LORD returns to the Temple. Instead of being shrouded in a pillar of smoke and fire and resting above the cherubim, the LORD returns cloaked in the flesh He himself created—which He is also re-creating. Interestingly, only the eyes of faith (as manifest to Simeon and Anna) can recognize Him. That's often the problem for us. We can see the baby, but not see Him. We can see the cute manger scene, but not see God in our flesh suffering for His people—saving His people. We have difficulty seeing that He is saving you and me in this quiet and humble way.

We can, and often do, sit back in the arm-chair of history and marvel at how His own people couldn't see Him. We ask ourselves: "Why couldn't they see these events as the confluence of so many of the ancient prophecies being fulfilled before their very eyes?" Perhaps it was because He wasn't in the cloud, the lightning, and fire but came as an infant that needed to be carried. That *would* make God hard to see wouldn't it? Yet we have the testimony of Simeon—rather the Spirit speaking through Simeon. Yes, we might ponder their blindness, but often fail to recognize our own.

What do I mean? The church at large in America has stopped looking for God exactly where He said He would be found. He is with us as we gather in His name (that's why we invoke the name of God). He is with us at the Font (where we are "washed in the blood of the Lamb"), and comes to us from His Altar, again hidden, under bread and wine (Take! Eat! This is my body...Take! Drink! This is my blood...). It's so easy for our eyes (and our hearts) to miss what our ears have been told. Yet He is indeed among us. How do we know? The confluence of His Word in this place tells us exactly this. However, things get in the way. These simple and humble things, water, bread, wine, and a middle-aged man, don't look like much at all. It's not very exciting. It doesn't taste like much. He doesn't get me all charged up to face the week ahead. Can you see that our eyes are looking elsewhere? Where does our Lord tell us to find Him? In these simple, common, humble things—that's where.

It is through these that the most wonderful thing happens to you. God in Christ comes to you. He comes to give you himself. He comes to write His name upon you. “The Lord is Salvation” claims you as is own, and we hardly notice.

If often think of the Temple on the day the LORD returned heralded by and old man and old woman. I think of His return to His house carried in the arms of His teenage mother. I think of the people bustling by in that busy place, perhaps brushing past their Creator and not even seeing Him for their hurried steps. Yet God was there. And He was there to save. He was there to save them, as He is here to save you.

Maybe that’s our task now as His people. Perhaps it’s our task to remind people here in our busy city that God dwells among them, that light and life are here in their midst. Perhaps our task is simply to remind ourselves and our neighbors of these things: God is here, and He is here for you. He’s easy to find—right where He said He would be. Jesus is here for You.

So the season of Christmas will quickly end with the Epiphany. There the Gentiles (you and me) were brought into the presence of God—hidden in flesh—to be blessed. Each time we gather that great scene is replayed. We are brought into the presence of God in Christ to be blessed. Indeed we are. In Him, you are forgiven for all of it, and you are made an heir to the Kingdom of heaven. God is with us at Immanuel.

A blessed Christmastide to you!

Pastor Len Astrowski



Happy Birthday... We ask God for His blessing upon all our members, especially those who celebrate birthdays in January (especially 80+ this month) including ***Irene Christofferson – January 14th.***

Happy Anniversary ... We ask God for His blessing upon all couples celebrating a wedding anniversary in January including ***Jack and Sharri Millen who will be celebrating 60 years on January 21st.***

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

Michael Williamson

Membership Changes

Deletions

By Death: Lois Stewart, December 17, 2020

Additions

By Baptism: Alexander Charles Miller and Owen Matthew Miller

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.

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 **February 2021 issue** is **1:00 PM January 15th**. Have all items to the office, in writing, by that date. Thank you.

STILL AVAILABLE — the 2020-2021 Quad Cities Dining Tour Books.

Each book sells for \$35.00. Over 150 restaurants — fine dining and theater, casual dining, and on the lighter side. They make great gifts. See Tammy at the office or call Deanna at 788-3650. \$10.00 from each purchase goes back to the church – if all twelve are sold, \$12.00 from each purchase will go back to the church! Proceeds this year will go towards the beautification of the church grounds.



THE 2021 FLOWER CHART and **THE ETERNAL LIGHT CHART** is 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.

Offering envelopes for 2021 are now available for pick up. If you do not find your set, please contact Tammy at the office (786-3391). **REMEMBER – do not use them until January 1, 2021.** If any 2021 envelopes are received before the end of 2020, they will be held till January 1st. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. — Board of Finance



God has truly blessed us! The Social Ministry Committee was able to provide Thanksgiving food baskets for 28 families in need and Christmas food baskets for 37 families in need. Many thanks goes to the members of Immanuel who so generously donated to the food baskets, as well as the annual donation from the Foundation. We thank Jennie Berry and Marty for applying for Thrivent cards of \$250 each that helped with the purchase of food items as well.

Many thanks to Ron Mau for placing the food order at the Hy-Vee where he works and delivering the food to the church. Thank you to Kathy Nelson for all of her hard work in getting volunteers who helped unload the food when it was delivered, to those who helped set up and fill the baskets, those who helped get the food baskets out to the cars as they drove up on the Mondays before Thanksgiving and Christmas. Special thanks to Tammy, our church secretary, for taking down the names and information needed when people called to request a basket.

Those who helped at Thanksgiving were: Kathy Nelson, Mel Vogel, Kevin Millen, Ron & Janet Mau, Erin & Anna Mau, Doug Campbell, Christine Roth.

Those who helped at Christmas were: Kathy Nelson, Ron Mau, Chip Mau, Clint England, Mel Vogel, Tyler & Carrie Werke, Brent Titus, Christine Roth.

I would never accomplish this task without all of you at Immanuel. -- Marty Menke

*Many Hands
Make Light Work*

Please join us on Saturday, January 9th at 9:00
a.m. to help
take down the Christmas decorations.



A BIG THANK YOU for making our recent LWML-sponsored project of providing gifts for residents at Generations at Rock Island such a success! There were 42 gift tags and all were taken! You did a great job returning the purchased gifts in the short time frame we were given, and placing the gift tags on your wrapped gifts. Again, thank you for your part in sharing Christ's love with the Generation resident's who have no family support.



Thanks to everyone for the generous donation of quarters throughout November! With your help we raised \$200.00 to send to Pastor Salifu towards purchasing benches for his congregation. It's always amazing to see how our "mites" are multiplied!

**LCMS SCHOOL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (SLED) PROGRAM
LCMS School Ministry — \$80,000**

Lutheran schools are one of the Synod's premier agencies for witness, mercy, and life together. Caring Christian teachers daily share the Word of God with children and families. The most important work of the Lutheran educator is to share the Gospel message of hope. According to the Institute for Education Statistics, many school leaders are retiring or pursuing new opportunities, thus creating a deficit of qualified candidates to fill their positions. Lutheran schools are in need of early childhood directors and elementary and secondary administrators. The LCMS School Leadership Development (SLED) Training Program purpose is to identify and recruit thirty leadership participants each year who are currently serving in Lutheran schools and train them through two national SLED events conducted by LCMS School Ministry. The project seeks to strengthen and revitalize Lutheran schools with administrators trained to be vital and effective leaders so that God's children are empowered and encouraged to live out their lives as His children.

LWML CID Mission Grant #3 – Food for the Children program in Danville – \$10,000

The "Food for the Children" program supplies food on the weekends for students identified by school social workers, who have no or little food during that time. All funds would be used for the purchase of food for the weekend bags. Jesus is introduced to the students through pencils, prayer placemats, bookmarks, and Christian mementos.

How can I help? Pray that God uses the "Food for the Children" program to bring these children and their families into His kingdom. Support this grant by donating to your church's LWML society mite fund.

Thank you from the ladies in the LWML



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter article – January 2021

It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often, we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless, but it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So, here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions:

- Who are you?
- To whom do I give?
- And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the *Luther's Small Catechism* informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, and family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties, and our questions arise in giving to the Church.

So, what is our duty as members of the Church with regard to giving? Again, the Table of Duties, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer – a member of the Church who receives instruction – St. Paul taught: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the Church, He

has the local congregation in mind. For “the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are to give:

- Regularly (1 Cor. 6:1–2);
- Proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12);
- Generously (2 Cor. 8:20);
- Of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30); and
- With a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the Church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: Do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

It’s that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the Gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.



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 Rev. Pablo Domínguez



JANUARY 2021

Every Day with Christ. As you read this newsletter, we are in the first days of the New Year 2021. Probably you know people who follow customs or practices on these first days. They think that if they do this or that, they will receive good luck, fortune, health, success and so on.

In Mexico, for example, many people do things like this: eat a grape with each ring as the clock marks twelve; carry luggage and walk around the neighborhood; use a broom to sweep the house; wear red or yellow underwear; check the horoscopes; visit a fortune-teller to know the future; and, etc., etc.



Many people ask themselves if their troubles will end or if they will find complete happiness. But, do you know anyone who knows exactly what the New Year will hold? Will we experience sickness or good health; will we experience sadness or happiness; will we suffer when a one loves goes to join the Lord, or will new children join our families... And we ask many other things.

What can we expect in this New Year? I don't know, but I remember fondly a nice song that Monterrey's congregation sang. The first line of the song is this "Every day with Christ, I live in perfect peace".

As I told you, I don't know what will happen in 2021. But, I know with real certainty that Jesus is always with me. He reminds me in Matthew 28:20b "**And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age**" ...His promise for YOU is for 2021, for the years to come and for all eternity.

May you know perfect peace in 2021 as you spend every day with Christ and thank you immensely for your continued support!

Comments.

The pandemic has affected the life of the church, but the church has been able to take advantage of the media to do the work ordered by our Lord. The pandemic must also be viewed as an opportunity to think about how we are living our lives and how we are treating others. We have had time to talk with our families, to greet relatives and friends with whom we have not spoken for a long time, and to take care of our parents and elders. I hope that when the pandemic ends, we will not return to some of our old ways. I pray we will continue to concern ourselves with the needs of others rather than only thinking about ourselves. If indeed we return to our old ways, we sadly did not learn the lesson.

THANK YOU, MEN OF CONCORDIA, GENESEO, IL!

"On behalf of the church we want to thank the group of men from Concordia, Geneseo for their help and support in the recent project in the parking lot. May God bless you abundantly."



Church Directory



UPDATE



We are attempting to update our membership records and would appreciate your help! On the back is a form for you to fill out with your current address, phone and email information. We are looking to start sending the Image via email sometime in the new year, so it will be very helpful to have your current email address! Email addresses will **NOT** be published in the directory unless you direct us to do so. Also, please let us know if you wish to not have other information printed in the directory, or if you do not wish to be included in the directory at all. We will have a new directory out soon!

Please return the form to the church office – you may drop it by the office, leave it in the offering plate, email your information to ilchurch@mchsi.com, or mail it to: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 3300 – 24th St., Rock Island, IL 61201.

Thank You for your assistance!
~Tammy~

NAME: Additional Family Members:	
PHYSICAL ADDRESS:	
MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT THAN PHYSICAL ADDRESS)	
HOME PHONE: (PUBLISH – Y/N)	
CELL PHONE: (PUBLISH – Y/N)	
Additional information you would like to add:	



January 2021

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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

Office Phone: (309) 786-3391

Website: Immanuelri.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	
3 7:15 am Bd of Elders 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	4 6:00pm Book Club	5 9:30am Bible Study 6:30 pm - Intergenerational Bible Study	6 6:30 pm Feast of the Epiphany Service	7 Confirmation 3-4 pm	8	9 9 AM Take down all Christmas Decorations
10 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	11 6:00pm Book Club	12 9:30am Bible Study 6:30 pm - Intergenerational Bible Study	13	14 Confirmation 3-4 pm	15	16
17 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	18 Martin Luther King Holiday – Office Closed 6:00pm Book Club	19 9:30am Bible Study 6:30 pm - Intergenerational Bible Study	20	21 Confirmation 3-4 pm 6:30 PM – Council Mtg. Cafeteria	22	23
24 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	25 6:00pm Book Club	26 9:30am Bible Study	27	28 Confirmation 3-4 pm	29	30
31 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study		6:30 pm - Intergenerational Bible Study				



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:

Pastor Astrowski: pastrowski@gmail.com

Church Office (Tammy): ilchurch@mchsi.com

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