



April 2021

Vol. 165, #4

*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:

Shortly after you read this the “halleluiahs” will return, along with plenty of Easter lilies, white paraments and vestments, and joyous hymns in major keys that soar with the news of the Resurrection. Apart from that, and especially after all the special ‘one-off’ services of Holy Week, it seems a bit business-as-usual. It’s maybe even a slight letdown for some of us. All the special observations of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter are over, and it seems we slip back into the same old rut. This, however, is a very good thing.

We are people of the Resurrection. Each day, each week, each year, as the clock ticks, we remain the Lord’s Easter people. We now live in a new creation—a cured, healed, and restored creation. The Fall has been undone. Death has been destroyed. This is the reality of our existence in Christ. So, the ‘rut’ we slide back into on Easter Morning is us, as God’s elect, simply living the reality we move about in each day. Each Sunday—the day of the Resurrection—is a simple, yet powerful, reminder of our new lives in Christ. Each week we are called out by the Lord to remember—and even to participate in—our new existence. From the very first days of the New Testament Church, the Bride of Christ—the beautiful and deep descriptor of who and Whose we are—has gathered on Sundays. She has gathered again and again to be fed with that same body and blood—the body and blood we also receive, which paid for our rebellion and has broken our tombs.

Each week, we make a simple confession of this reality as we recite one of the ancient creeds. Traditionally, the Nicene Creed has been recited when the Lord’s Supper is celebrated. In the profound ancient creed, we confess ‘the one holy [Christian]<sup>1</sup> and apostolic Church’. Apostolic is a key word in the creed pointing us directly back to the witnesses of these miraculous events. It points us to the Apostles, and the Apostolic writings—the New Testament. Of the four records of our Lord’s life, two authors of those records lived with Him for three years. Three of the writers were probably witnesses of the resurrection. (I say probably as Matthew and John were Apostles, and Mark, although not an Apostle, probably witnessed the events too, as he was part of the larger circle of disciples—the group of over 500 to whom our Lord appeared.) We confess what they confessed, what they saw. And so, we remain the Apostolic Church. We confess a reality that, sadly, many don’t realize has changed the world in which we live in so many good ways. It’s a reality that stands towering on the historical fact of the resurrection and cracks the façade of this tired, fallen world, showing us a glimpse of the good things to

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<sup>1</sup> I’ve bracketed the title “Christian” since the ancient creed itself used the word “catholic” in that place. It was not used to promote a particular branch of Christianity. The word is a transliteration of the underlying Greek word which means “according to the whole.” It’s meant to state that what we confess has been confessed by the Church of all times and places. It is a statement and guardian of orthodoxy. We stand squarely in the long line of the saints that have confessed before us, as we should.

come. It's a reality Satan and this fallen world hate; it screams that their days are indeed numbered. Which is why it is under attack.

Each year, as Easter rolls 'round, the attack intensifies. Local pundits, such as Don Wooten, love to argue, with seeming erudition, why the ancient claims on which we stand are simply myths. And they seem to forget that they, as inheritors of western culture, stand on these too. They and their national cohorts delight in parading in front of us scholars who have made careers presenting a one-sided opinion about the Christian religion—the side that fits the popular narrative of the resurrection as fable. Note that this view requires an *a priori*<sup>2</sup> dismissal of the apostolic witness. It's a view based not on the evidence, but on the desired outcome.

You see, if the resurrection is an historical fact, that means the Man who rose from the dead is who He said He is—the Son of God. He is, then, the “I Am” that spoke to Moses from the bush. He is Creator and Judge. And He is Redeemer and Sanctifier. If He rose, He is God—as He claimed to be, and that means we might, in fact, be required to submit to Him and realize we are under His authority. So, you can see why the world, especially in its present state, doesn't want to acknowledge this truth.

But it's more than that. Even in a staunchly conservative church like ours, people still stumble over this—the historicity, and therefore the authority, of Christ. And when we stumble, the true Christ and the truth of who and what the Lord Jesus Christ is easily becomes something untrue. And this is dangerously palatable to our world. Christ is stripped of his divinity and reduced to be the champion of the cause célèbre of the season. Currently, the christ (lower-case intentional) our culture invents and worships is the champion of love—however *we* define it. He is the god of equity. He is no longer the True God. He is no longer the One who confronts us in our disobedience, reminds of what we once were and, in Him, will be again. He no longer is the One in whom we are a new creation. And this is what Satan wants. He wants us to believe in any christ but the True Christ. He wants us to have a christ that is powerless to save us. So, the attacks come. And they will continue to come.

But, my brothers and sisters, we know the truth. It is read and fed to us each Sunday as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord. As we do *each and every* Sunday—the Lord's Day. So the 'rut' isn't really a rut after all. It is actually God's garden wall protecting and nurturing us. It is an Ark keeping us out of the sea of misery and death through which it sails towards its final port. It is beautiful—yet often that beauty is overlooked by us who, by the Lord's gracious visitation, know little of life on the other side and in the water. In this garden, as we are made and conformed to the image the Christ—the God-Man, who was born in time, lived and walked among us, died and rose and, in so doing, destroyed our deaths—in Whom we now live. We live as people of God. We live as people who know death is not the final word of our story. We confess our heritage and history alongside the multitude that has gone before us. And we do this because we know we are people of God.

We are God's Easter People. This is *our* reality. And that is the Truth.

A blessed Feast of the Resurrection be unto all of you!

Rev. Leonard A. Astrowski Jr., Pastor

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<sup>2</sup> The phrase “*a priori*” means that an argument's conclusion is drawn not simply from empirical evidence, but also, or primarily, on a certain mode of reasoning. So, attacks on the veracity of Christian claims dismiss the gospel records *a priori* since miracles, according to liberal scholars such as Bart Ehrman, don't happen, and people don't rise from the dead. You see, while this sounds reasonable, it is in reality not, since it dismisses the empirical evidence—eye-witness accounts—of the resurrection and other recorded witnesses of miracles.

# ***April Birthdays & Anniversaries***

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

Eleanor Roets – April 25<sup>th</sup>

***Happy Anniversary ...*** We ask God for His blessing upon all our members, especially those who celebrate anniversaries in April (no 50+ this month).

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

Michael Williamson

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**MEMORIALS: None this month.**

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## **Membership Changes – No changes this month**

**By Transfer In –**

**By Transfer Out –**

**Changes to current directory:**

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**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.

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**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.

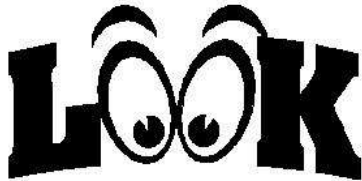
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**IMAGE DEADLINE** for the **May 2021 issue** is **1:00 PM Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**. Have all items to the office, in writing, by that date. Thank You!



**Lenten/Easter Worship Schedule:**

Mar. 28	Sunday	9:00 AM	Palm Sunday
Apr. 1	Thursday	6:30 PM	Maundy Thursday
Apr. 2	Friday	12:00 PM 7:00 PM	Good Friday Chief Service Good Friday, Tenebrae
Apr. 3	Saturday	7:00 PM	The Vigil of Easter
Apr. 4	Sunday	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Easter Sunday Sunrise The Resurrection of Our Lord



**The weekly bulletins and order of service** (including all special holiday services) are now being uploaded each week to Immanuel’s webpage – go to [www.immanuelri.org](http://www.immanuelri.org) and click on the “news” tab. There you will find the weekly bulletins as well as copies of *The Image*. Additionally, all of our services are broadcast **LIVE** via Facebook. You can also find the videos of the services on our YouTube channel. Click the links on our website on the Home Page.



**The Chancel of our church will be decorated with lilies on Easter Sunday, April 4th.** 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 Tammy at the office (786-3391) or e-mail the information to [ilchurch@mchsi.com](mailto:ilchurch@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, March 30th.***



**LWML Monthly Meeting – April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 6:00 PM – Immanuel Lutheran Cafeteria**

The Mission Project is prepping for the May Tea Party. The dessert hostess is the lovely Janet Mau.

**LWML CID Mission Grant #8 – Train Up a Child Teen Camp in Alaska – \$5,750**

Kattivik Bible Camp is located near the Noatak River in Alaska. Over the course of three weeks in the summer, the Camp houses more than 80 middle and high school-aged children. The camp, under the leadership of the Lutheran Indian Ministries’ staff and ministry partners, provides a safe and healthy environment where these teens can work together and connect with their Creator.

How can I help? Pray that God shows His love and support to the children through the staff of the Kattivik Bible Camp. Support this grant by donating to your church’s LWML society mite fund.

**2019–2021 LWML MISSION GRANT #21 - Training to Share the Gospel**

*LCMS DEACONESS MINISTRY LCMS Office of International Mission — \$39,52*

LCMS deaconesses are women who are full-time professional church workers trained to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a ministry of works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching the Christian faith. The LCMS Deaconess Ministry program provides LCMS students the opportunity to become church professionals, learning about diaconal leadership, and the work of deaconesses as it applies to body and soul ministry.

Christ’s love for the whole person remains the supreme example for Christians, caring for the needy in body and soul. He said,

***"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me" (Matthew 25:35–36).***

LCMS Deaconess Ministry works both domestically and internationally. These women serve in congregations alongside the office of pastor or in institutions where, like the women of old, they may serve as institutional chaplains.

This grant will provide educational and financial support to the deaconess programs in our international partner churches in the Philippines, Latvia, Liberia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and India. Their theological training encompasses two years of studies and one year of internship. The grant helps fund theological education, text books, resources, transportation, student aid, and tuition support to the underprivileged women who have a passion to learn confessional theological studies in order to serve the church.

*Thank you from the ladies of the LWML*



**The Camp CILCA Lowdown  
April, 2021**

217-487-7497 / [camp@cilca.org](mailto:camp@cilca.org) / 4124 Camp Cilca Rd, Cantrall, IL 62625

- **Spring Clean Up Day:** Saturday, March 27
  - 8:30-11:30, then lunch.
  - Lots of cleaning to be done.
  - A controlled burn on 7 acres will also be done.
  - Contact the camp office to let us know you are coming!
- **Women's Scrapbooking Retreat:** April 16-18 at the Christian Growth Center
  - \$80 covers your stay and 5 meals
  - Saturday evening worship service
  - Space is limited. Contact the camp office and reserve your spot today!
- **HELP NEEDED!** Camp CILCA is seeking to fill 2 positions year-round:
  - **Assistant Cook:** \$14/hr, part-time
  - **Maintenance:** \$12/hr, part-time
  - For more information contact the camp office today!



**Summer Camp Registration is OPEN!**

**Find out more on-line at [www.cilca.org](http://www.cilca.org)**

**Email [camp@cilca.org](mailto:camp@cilca.org)**

**Call 217-487-7497**



**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
LCMS Stewardship Ministry**

**Newsletter article – April 2021**

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first fruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father, so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him. He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood.

As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word. By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10). How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that, in so doing, you will never lack.

A common counterpoint is: “But that’s from the Old Testament!” Our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents: “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:10–13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings. It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace and His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages do in fact say

what they say! It's not the Old Testament's problem. It's ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need" (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don't give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. As St. Paul wrote in Rom. 8:32: "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

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## *News From the CID:*

### **Basic LERT Training**

BASIC LERT (Lutheran Emergency Responses Training) TRAINING will be conducted at St. John, 1450 30<sup>th</sup> Ave., East Moline, on Saturday, April 24, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Check-in will be at 8:30 a.m. Participants are asked to register online in advance and also pay a \$35 training fee which includes the cost of lunch. For registration, visit <https://form.jotform.com/81215292634959> use the training code:0082.

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### **Central Illinois District Youth Bible Bowl**

#### **(April 18th @ 2:00pm)**

CID's Youth Bible Bowl: *The Exodus*. Exodus (chapters 1-20, 24, 32-34, & 40). This year we are having an "online" Bible Bowl. No team is too small to participate in the Online Bible Bowl. Contact Pastor Mark Eddy at [zionlcms@juno.com](mailto:zionlcms@juno.com) if your congregation's youth might participate in this year's Bible Bowl.

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### **ARK ENCOUNTER & CREATION MUSEUM TRIP**

Immanuel, Springfield is hosting a trip see the Ark and Creation Museum in Kentucky. Dates are April 26-29...roundtrip motorcoach, 3 night stay in Cincinnati area, breakfast and dinner 3 days, admissions, baggage handling...all for \$450.00 per person (double occupancy). Call Pastor Stuenkel at 217-622-7266 (cell) or the church office at 217-528-5232 for details and sign-up.





**Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Cristo Rey**  
**Christ the King Lutheran Church**  
1301-19<sup>th</sup> Street, East Moline, IL 61244  
E-mail: [cristorey-em@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cristorey-em@sbcglobal.net)  
Ph. (309) 738-6124  
Rev. Pablo G. Domínguez



APRIL-2021



A few years ago after the Easter, I had a chiropractic appointment. During the time I have been visiting this chiropractor, the nurse and I have talked about our church affiliations and our responsibility to be witnesses to our neighbors. She always asks me about the Bible texts I use for my sermons, and I usually share a short message with her. She is always kind and happy. But this time she was different. I noticed it in her facial expression. She was sad. She had been asking a patient about her Easter celebration, but the patient didn't believe in the Resurrection. The patient said to her that Easter Sunday was just a

regular Sunday, like any other Sunday with nothing to celebrate. The nurse had thought that this person believed in Jesus' Resurrection, but she was wrong. This person was nice and kind, but didn't believe in Jesus. Discovering this about her friend discouraged this Christian nurse. I tried to encourage her and give her comfort.

**The tomb is empty! Christ is risen! Yes, indeed!**

This is a familiar situation among unbelievers, isn't it? Do you feel sad when a relative or friend tells you that he doesn't believe in Jesus? Are you really sad or do you just brush it aside and say, "It's okay!"?

\*God gave the command to all Christians to be His witnesses in a world which doesn't believe in Him. We need to share the Good News. With His help, we can bring people to Jesus' feet and thus change their eternal destination.

\* We can give our support, help and prayers to pastors, missionaries, evangelists and fellow church members who share the Gospel with unbelievers in order that the Holy Spirit can open their hearts and minds so that they will trust in God. This includes our relatives and friends. We don't want condemnation for them.

\* As Christians, we know where our hope is. It's Jesus! By God's grace, we have been transformed, and we are His children. We celebrate Easter, because our Savior is alive. We join with Peter and say, "*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice*". (1 Peter 1:3-6a)

Comments

Cristo Rey ladies held their first meeting after several months due to the pandemic, and they decided to have an Enchilada Sale Fundraiser on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. A Big Thanks to all the people who bought enchiladas! Proceeds will go to the LWML.



On Sunday Feb. 21st, Adriel, 5, and Elias Thiago, 1 month, were baptized and became children of God. The Lord showered His love upon them, and we give all thanks to God the Holy Spirit for calling these children to be His own. We congratulate their parents, Ruben and Mayra and sponsors Laura and Jose Nunez.

I was baptized, happy day  
All my sins were washed away,  
God looked down on me and smiled,  
I became His own dear child.



**Choice Dollars.** We are pleased to inform you that Christ the King Lutheran Church (Cristo Rey) has been approved and enrolled as a participating organization in Thrivent Choice which is a charitable grant program of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. You are able to direct your Choice Dollars now to our Hispanic mission. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALREADY DONATED.**

***Our ministry would not be possible without your support and prayers.  
We thank God every day for you!***





# April 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
				<b>1</b>  6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service	<b>2 Good Friday</b>  12 pm Chief Service 7 pm Tenebrae Service	<b>3</b>  7 pm Vigil of Easter
<b>4</b> 6:30 am Sunrise Service 7:15 am Easter Breakfast 9:00 am The Resurrection of Our Lord	<b>5</b>  6:00pm Book Club	<b>6</b> 9:30am Bible Study  6:00 pm Intergenerational Bible Study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Confirmation 3-4 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Special Voters Mtg	<b>12</b>  6:00pm Book Club	<b>13</b> 9:30am Bible Study  6:00pm Intergenerational Bible Study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Confirmation 3-4 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	<b>19</b>  6:00pm Book Club	<b>20</b> 9:30am Bible Study  6:00pm Intergenerational Bible Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Confirmation 3-4 pm <b>LWML Monthly Mtg –            6pm, ILC Cafe</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	<b>26</b>  6:00pm Book Club	<b>27</b> 9:30am Bible Study  6:00 pm Intergenerational Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Confirmation 3-4 pm	<b>30</b>	



**THE IMAGE** is the monthly newsletter published for members and friends of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 3300 24<sup>th</sup> 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](http://Immanuelri.org)

**Church Office Phone:** 309-786-3391

**Pastor Astrowski's Phone:** 989-326-0199

### **Email addresses:**

Pastor Astrowski: [pastrowski@gmail.com](mailto:pastrowski@gmail.com)

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