



June 2021

Vol. 165, #6

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:

There've been a few times in my life—painfully few—when I have been on a good team. You know those teams. Sometimes they're on the playing field. Sometimes they're in the workplace. Always they are rare. Typically, these teams are hallmarked by a great leader who brings out the best in others. There is a high degree of closeness and comradery. And in those wonderful times, there is often a lingering thought: This too shall pass. And pass they do.

Yeah. Good teams are indeed fleeting. Like all things in this life, they too quickly come to an end. I've observed the most common cause is this: somebody leaves. We've all been there. That one person leaves. The chemistry of the team is changed. The mojo is gone. We've all seen our favorite team return to obscurity as one player moves on. We've all seen or experienced the workplace sink as that key figure retires or finds work elsewhere. And, sadly, we've had our families fall apart when the soul that held it all together was finally called from this life. Old hurts, rivalries, or just a simple lack of focus all rear their ugly little heads.

And then, when the team flounders, we try desperately to recreate the magic. We learn quickly, however, these attempts are futile.¹ Should one of us ever crack this mojo code, our teams would never fail again. But since we can't, they do.

Of course, this time in the Church year, having just celebrated the Ascension, I think about the "team" the Apostles found themselves a part of. It truly was a hand-picked team. Hand-picked by the Lord. For three years they lived with and learned at the feet of God—literally. And He was (and is) its head, substance, and glue that held (and holds) it all together. Then there were the miracles. They witnessed the "small" healings.² They witnessed the manipulation of the weather. They witnessed a man walking on waves. And, the ultimate miracle,

¹ I think this explains the existence of the Hallmark Channel. How else do we explain the longevity of predictable plots, poor acting, and the emotional manipulation that we readily subject ourselves to? It represents a hope and longing for those perfect teams. If we could figure this out in our lives, the reason for this channel would be gone. I'll add another observation here. I've noted that the people who don't grasp the meaning of Christmas try the hardest to capture the Christmas Spirit. Of course, such attempts end in failure, hence the explosion of depression after the holidays. It's another futile striving to create a situation—a team—that always reaches the top. Buy some more lights, a few more inflatable lawn ornaments that resemble the aftermath of a battlefield during those hours the power is off. But yes, that will do the trick. Or so we think. Ha!

² These miracles were small in the sense they involved one person, unlike a more spectacular miracle like the feeding of the five thousand. Yet, these were profoundly important miracles for the one person involved—the trajectory of a single life changed. This He does for you too in something as seemingly small as your Baptism. In that moment, you were healed too. That is a miracle.

they witnessed the Resurrection. They saw Him die. And then they saw and touched Him after He rose from the dead. This last miracle was so profound it changed the course of world history.

Yet, for the eleven that stood with Him through it all, their reward? He left. He ascended. In a cloud, He was gone. And the Apostles? They stood looking on. And they wondered. In the brief interlude between the Ascension and Pentecost, I can't help but think their thoughts often wandered into the region of "what now?" Their leader, the One, was gone. Yeah, He told them, prepared them, and even explained that it was good He go away. But still. This news filled them with sadness. Just like us.

We too, so often, forget what He said. He promised—God promised—He wouldn't cut them adrift. He wouldn't leave them, or us, as orphans. But we forget. And, in our forgetfulness, we desperately long for the team to be whole again. This gets us into trouble. We forget what we are. We forget that we have been called, chosen, picked to be on the team. And when things don't turn out as we expect—the "captain" of our team being the Son of God and all—we start asking the "what now?" questions. Yes, this gets us into trouble.

Okay, let me explain. But get your pillows ready, as we're going to have to spend a few minutes in the deep weeds... Ready? Let's first talk about the existential versus the experiential. You exist (existential). That existence is full of things you experience (the experiential, of course). Yet, these experiences do not typically change the fact that you exist.³ To put it *rather* simply: the existential focuses on what we are, and the experiential focus on the things that make us feel—our emotions.

With me so far? Let's think about this in the context of church. We come to church, and we are called into existence as Christians by His Word. Think of the wonderful hymn, *Thy Strong Word*.⁴ Here is the third stanza of this hymn:

*Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now we press toward glory,
and our lives our hopes confess.*

Franzmann, the hymnwriter, notes the existential aspect of our lives in Christ. We are bespoken righteous—saved—because God speaks it. He calls us into our lives—our existence—as Christians. He does this regardless of how we feel. You were saved, most of you, as infants, before you really felt or experienced anything. You are bespoken righteous when you're tired and distracted in church. You exist in Christ when you're sleeping or comatose and sedated on your deathbed. Why? He, in Christ, makes it so.

The problem is, as noted, we forget this. And we look for proof of our existence in Christ in the wrong places. We too often look for the experiences that manipulate our emotions. The thinking goes like this: If we feel, then we know. See the problem? Let's say that sentence negatively: If we don't feel it, we don't know it. See the problem now? You know and are certain of many things apart from any emotional experience. Plus, experiences are different for each of us. As are the things that trigger our emotions. Yet, when we forget what we are, instead of returning to the simplicity of what God says, we look elsewhere.⁵ And we ultimately, slowly, move away from Christ.

³ Of course, there is one thing that will change the fact that you exist: death. But that only happens once.

⁴ This hymn is number 578 in our hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*. The text was written by Martin H. Franzmann, and the tune, *Ebenezer*, was composed by Thomas J. Williams with the setting by Richard W. Hillert. This is one of those great hymns that sticks with you throughout the week.

⁵ This has given rise to ever-changing church-service formats structured to make you feel—to manipulate your emotions. There has even been a rise of the shock-jock vulgarity laced sermons designed to shock and jar you—to make you feel. Another personal observation is that people gravitate towards a funny pastor. Why? It's the same problem.

You see, Christ didn't abandon the team. He simply moved into a different way of leading it. When He ascended, sure, He ascended to the right hand of the Father—that in itself is deeply profound. He took *our* humanity and seated it on a throne next to the Father. It is—we are, in Christ, seated on the throne. Think about that the next time you feel worthless or distant from God. Recall where He has placed you. But there's more. When the Lord ascended, He ascended into the life of His church—His Word, Baptism, and the Holy Eucharist. The “team captain” is now everywhere these gifts are. Hidden, yes, but there—here—He is. And you know this because He tells you.

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Behold, He says, I am *with you always!* See! When we gather, there He is. You are what you are, Dear Christian, because He *makes* it so. Even if you cannot see Him—even as He, for a time, remains hidden. And you know this because He tells you.

One final point. When you think that your church “team” is falling apart, or you're no longer on that winning team for whatever reason, think about the long, great history of the Church. The great Church Fathers: Ambrose, Augustine, Chrysostom, Luther, Walther, and your favorite Pastor have all gone away. The great Christian emperors, like Constantine, and powerful and faithful political leaders have come and gone. Your childhood church structure has been razed and replaced by a strip-mall. Yet here we are. Through it all, as promised by God Himself, the Church—His Church—goes on. He has promised the gates of Hell will not prevail against it. He makes it so. You are the proof that He is faithful—whether you feel it or not. The “team” —or better said, the Church— is as it strong as it's Lord. It always will be.

The Lord be with us all.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Rev. Leonard Astrowki, Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The board of elders is continually monitoring the ever-changing Covid protocol with what the CDC, the State of Illinois, Rock Island County and other local Illinois LCMS churches are doing. We are in a transition period and with some proper incremental changes in the near future some changes will be made. Until then the elders are restating what our position is in conjunction from our previous statement. So please be patient and considerate of your neighbors concerns in a Christian way.

Thank you

The Board of Elders takes the mission of Immanuel – to glorify God, build the Christian Church, foster Christian fellowship and concern, and join in the worldwide work of winning souls for Christ – very seriously.

Unfortunately, we cannot resolve every issue facing our congregation.

With that in view, the Elders recommend the continued wearing of a face mask (or other type of face covering over the mouth and nose) when attending in-person services. This is a recommendation, not a mandate, but we ask that you consider the recommendation seriously and prayerfully.

If you are feeling discomfort because someone is not wearing a face covering, we encourage you talk with your brother or sister in gentleness to reach an agreeable solution. If you do not feel comfortable approaching your brother or sister, please inform an Elder, and we will discuss the issue with you and work toward a resolution.

Whatever your thoughts on COVID, face coverings, and our recommendation, keep the love of your neighbor in the forefront of your mind as we are called to do. Continue to pray and repent of your sins. And rejoice in the gifts the God gives to us every time we partake in the divine service with all our brothers and sisters.



There will be a Voters' Meeting on Sunday, June 13, 2021 following the church service. An agenda will be sent out to all voting members of the church prior to this meeting. This will include the election of officers for the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year, beginning in August.

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

***Neil Burger – June 6th Leonard Marquardt – June 9th Luray Kendall – June 24th
Ruth Cheek – June 26th***

Happy Anniversary ... We ask God for His blessing upon all our members, especially those who celebrate anniversaries (especially 50+ this month) including:

***Rodger & Sandra Kramer – June 16 John & Judith Klockau – June 22
Len & Lucille Marquardt – June 25***

And a special belated Happy 50th Anniversary to Dave & Sandy Schumaker on May 29th

Asleep in Jesus :



Edna Vance was called to her eternal rest on May 10, 2021 at the age of 84. A private funeral service was held with burial at Greenview Memorial Gardens in East Moline. May God comfort the survivors with the sure hope that those who die in the Lord are with Him in Heaven.

Gladys Hawkins was called to her eternal rest on May 15, 2021 at the age of 91. A Private Burial Service was held at Greenview Memorial Gardens in East Moline on May 24th. May God comfort the survivors with the sure hope that those who die in the Lord are with Him in Heaven.

MEMORIALS: ***In Memory of Eleanor Roets*** – by Luray Kendall, Barbara Soyke, Vicki Bull, Colleen & Chuck Bestian, David & Polly Oetting, Cindy & Gerald DeWitte, John & Karleen Gault, Barbara & John Sanchez, Joan D. Roets, Dennis & Beverly Buranek, Cheryl Powell, Paula Paaske, Tami & Richard Peters, John & Lynn Guhin; Mike & Kathy Daley; George Collins; Rich & Kathleen McClimon; Randy Van Meenan; Ruth Ann Hirtz

Membership Changes:

Additions - *Tammy Robinson – by transfer from St. Matthew Lutheran, Milan; Neil & Karen Burger by transfer from St. Paul Lutheran, California, Missouri; Jonathan Patrick Hearn, Jr. by Baptism (child of Samantha Titus).*

Deletions – *Edna Vance by death on May 10, 2021; Gladys Hawkins by death on May 15, 2021.*

Changes to current directory:

Additions:

*Sara Britton Miller and sons Alexander & Matthew Miller: 5931 Oregon Dr. Bettendorf, IA 52722
Tammy Robinson: 408 4th Ave., P.O. Box 682, Matherville, IL 61263
Neil & Karen Burger: 290 - 20th Ave. W, Apt. 102, Milan, IL 61264
Karen Soeken (new address as of June 7th): 1004 Main St., Condo D, Alton, IL 62002*

Deletions:

Edna Vance; Gladys Hawkins

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

Michael Williamson

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 **July 2021 issue** is **1:00 PM Friday, June 18th**. Have all items to the office, in writing, by that date. Thank You!

God Makes You a Beau-Tea



Come and fellowship
with girls of all ages
Hats and Gloves encouraged

Date: Sunday, June 13th • 1-3 pm

Location:

Immanuel Lutheran Church's Gym
(3300 - 24th Street, Rock Island)

There will be food, tea,
activities and decorations.

Open to all girls
(young and young at heart)
in our church
and surrounding churches.

RSVP will be required
by calling 309-786-3391
or emailing ilchurch@mchsi.com
by Tuesday, June 1.

Sponsored by the Immanuel LWML

Pregnancy
Resources

GIVEAWAY!

DRIVE UP, GRAB YOUR ITEMS, AND GO!

Diapers
Summer Clothes
Blankets
Books
While Supplies Last

2706 W. Central Park Ave
Davenport, IA 52804

AND

3825 16th St.
Moline, IL 61265

June 7, 2021
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Thank you from the ladies of the LWML



BIRDIES FOR CHARITY

“Chip in for your chance to win” – When you chip in to help area charities, you can win some great prizes. But your favorite charity will be the real winner. That’s because participating charities receive **100% of the donations** pledged to them in this program, plus a bonus from the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund which is a **guaranteed 5% match**.

Here’s how it works – simply make a one-time flat donation and mail with payment to the Birdies for Charity office at 15623 Coaltown Rd., East Moline, IL 61244. To enter the contest, guess the number of birdies that will actually be made by PGA Tour Pros during the tournament, Wednesday through Sunday. A grand prize will be given to one person who guesses the correct number. In case of ties, winners will be randomly selected.

PICK UP A BROCHURE CONTAINING THE PLEDGE SHEET IN THE NARTHEX. It will also be included in the June issue of The Image.



The Camp CILCA Lowdown May, 2021

217-487-7497 / camp@cilca.org / 4124 Camp Cilca Rd, Cantrall, IL 62625

- **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!
- **May 29th – Junior Counselor Training**
 - 10 AM to 2 PM at Camp
- **Sunday, May 30th – Annual Hog Roast**
 - 10:30 AM: Worship
 - 11:30-2:30 PM: Hog Roast Dinner
- **June 2 – July 27th – Summer Camp Program**

Summer Camp Registration is OPEN!

Find out more on-line at www.cilca.org

Email camp@cilca.org

Call 217-487-7497



LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – June 2021

“There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse.” Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let’s explore this topic.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord’s Supper. And so, He doesn’t just do it for us but gives it to us. He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that “it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:24) “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.



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



ENCHILADA SALE FUNDRAISER! \$15 PER DOZEN

2 Flavors: Chicken or Beef

**SATURDAY JUNE 26TH, 2021
PICK UP FOOD TO GO: 1-2PM**

**CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
1301 19TH ST. EAST MOLINE, IL**

**60 dozens available
Jose Nunez (309) 373-1788**

Proceeds: Christ the King Lutheran Church



June 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 9:30am Bible Study	2	3	4	5
6 7:15 am Bd. Of Elders Mtg 8 am Bible Study 9 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	7	8 9:30am Bible Study	9	10	11	12
13 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Voters Mtg. Café 1-3 pm – Ladies Tea Party – ILC Gym	14 	15 9:30am Bible Study	16	17	18 <i>Deadline for items in The Image</i>	19 
20 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	21	22 9:30am Bible Study	23	24	25	26
27 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	28	29 9:30am Bible Study	30			



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

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