

The Image

"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."



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK – SEPTEMBER 2021



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I begin this month with the words of our Lord's first sermon recorded in Matthew:

You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:43-48).

Of course, this quote is from our Lord's Sermon on the Mount. In this sermon He is teaching us who He is and what we are in Him. He, by His holy passion and resurrection, has recreated us as His people. Ours is the Kingdom of Heaven. With the recreation comes the gift, the guarantee, the seal of what we are. We are, in part, people who love. It is this that I wish to ponder. What, as people who find their identity in Christ, does it mean to love?

If you spend any time around me, you know I like to point out that Ancient Greek (as opposed to Biblical, or Koine, Greek—the language used to record the New Testament) has three words for love. These words are *eros*, *philia* (this is the source of the name Philadelphia), and *agape*. *Eros*, is the most common word for love and generally means to desire—love defined by self-satisfaction. I find it interesting that this general meaning for *eros* is still, more or less, the same today. As is the meaning of *philia*—the love categorized most often by deep friendships. The final word,

agape, has the general connotation of the high (God) reaching down and for the benefit of the low (us).¹ It is this word, *agape*, that is found by far most frequently in the New Testament, that we translate as love. In the New Testament, *eros* is never used, and there is only a small sprinkling of *philia*. It is the word *agape* that Christ uses in His sermon quoted above.

The way we are to understand love, then, begins with a correct understanding of *agape*, and our concept of it must start with God's action—or His love—toward us. We see this in the well-known passage from the Holy Gospel according to St. John: “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life*” (John 3:16). He sacrifices. He dies for His enemies—us. God does everything so we might live in Him and with Him forever. And this is the love He expects us to exhibit in our lives—among our neighbors. Martin Luther, in his great treatise of 1520 puts it like this:

A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.

A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.²

By His sacrifice, Christ has freed us. This freedom is to be used in the service of our neighbors. He, by His sacrifice, has called us to do the same. We are to sacrifice ourselves for our neighbor. This is how we love.

With this in mind, you might grasp how the world gets this all backwards. When the culture chants “Love Wins!” it doesn’t mean *agape*, it means *eros*. Think about this. Our culture demands we accept its definition of love—often calling it godly. Yet it is not godly. This idea of love is simply about satisfying personal desires *without* regard for the neighbor. I am free to harm my neighbor—often my family—in my pursuit of love. There is no regard for how this wrong—evil—idea of love might (and often does) harm the neighbor. It pays no heed to how one’s actions might be destructive to a neighbor’s life or his body. Note the absence of this in our discussions about love. We rarely, if ever, talk about the consequences of our selfish ideas of love: abortion, adultery and divorce, euthanasia, or the horrible psychological and physical effects of sodomy.³ Is this the love Christ speaks of? You, if you are a parent,

¹ Here’s a discussion of this lifted from one of my favorite Greek dictionaries: “Ἐρως [eros] is a general love of the world seeking satisfaction wherever it can. Ἀγαπᾶν [agapan, or agape] is a love which makes distinctions, choosing and keeping to its object. Ἐρως is determined by a more or less indefinite impulsion towards its object. Ἀγαπᾶν is a free and decisive act determined by its subject. Ἐρᾶν in its highest sense is used for the upward impulsion of man, for his love for the divine. Ἀγαπᾶν relates for the most part to the love of God, to the love of the higher lifting up the lower, elevating the lower above others. Ἐρᾶν seeks in others the fulfilment of its own life’s hunger. Ἀγαπᾶν must often be translated “to show love”; it is a giving, active love on the other’s behalf. Quell, G., & Stauffer, E. (1964–). ἀγαπάω, ἀγάπη, ἀγαπητός” G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 1, p. 37). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

² Luther, M. (1999). Luther’s works, vol. 31: Career of the Reformer I. (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald, & H. T. Lehmann, Eds.) (Vol. 31, p. 344). Philadelphia: Fortress Press. I have a number of copies of this excellent treatise. I’ll share a copy with you, if you would like. It’s well worth your time to read. And I add that Luther is highly readable.

³ Even the increasingly politicized Center for Disease Control (CDC) has numerous articles highlighting the risk of this behavior. A list of these articles may be found here: <https://search.cdc.gov/search/index.html?query=anal+sex&sitelimit=&utf8=%E2%9C%93&affiliate=cdc-main>.

I ask you, is this godly love: exposing the neighbor to actual harm in their body? Sadly, we are more than willing to take this stand for CoVid, but not for these other well-documented risks. It seems we’re not so willing to follow the science when it comes to satisfying our own desires.

perhaps understand this. Loving your children doesn't mean letting them do whatever they want. It means often saying "No!" because we want the best for them. And, in love, we suffer the arguments and the anger. We sacrifice a good night's sleep to do what we are supposed to do as God's people—or we should.

My point is this: we too often let the culture coopt our Biblical language and redefine it as something completely different. We allow it to be emptied of its true meaning. This is something we must repent of. We need to understand the language—the words—God chose to communicate with us. And we need to submit to these words as He, not we, intends. Listen to how the culture uses these words. Be ready to defend the true meaning and know it yourself. Let's remember how the Lord loves us. And let us be always ready to love and live in the same way.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Rev. Leonard Astrowski, Pastor

ROSTER OF ELECTED OFFICERS & APPOINTEES FOR 8/1/2021 THROUGH 7/31/2022

President:	Rick Moeller
Corporate Secretary:	Christine Roth
Treasurer/Ch. Bd. Of Finance:	Jack Copeland
Board of Elders:	Todd Hazen, Kenny Wilson, Mel Vogel, Alex Triece, Corbin Ayers, Tyler Werke, Clinton England – Chairman
Board of Christian Education:	Renee Henrich, Sarah Leeson, Bryan Cobert – Chairman
Board of Finance:	Scott Welch, Sheila Kiddoo, Amanda DePaepe
Property Com. Chairman:	Clayton Weisenborn
Foundation Trustees:	Jane Copeland, Kevin Millen, Jim Boudro, Myron Hazen, Larry Wiebel – Chairman
Call Committee:	Sharri Millen, Linda Haake, Kathy Nelson plus Board of Elders Rep. and Board of Christian Education Rep.
Controller (Appointed):	Shelley Moeller
Financial Secretary (Appointed):	Barb Soyke

PREGNANCY RESOURCES WALK FOR LIFE

Join Pregnancy Resources & Walk for Life to Journey with a new Mom or Dad as they navigate pregnancy and LIFE decisions. Your support is vital! When you become a Pledge-Raising Walker or when you support your favorite Walker, you make sure Pregnancy Resources is able to continue to provide, high-quality, life-affirming care to the Quad Cities and beyond.

REGISTER FOR WALK HERE:

<https://secure.ministrysync.com/ministrysync/event/website/home/?e=16806>

- Walk4Life will again be at one location this year: Empire Park in Hampton, IL
- Walk Check-In will open at 8:30 and you can grab a bagel, hot coffee and walk the route anytime from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Pre-Register online and reserve your FREE Walk for LIFE Journey T-shirt.

(Limited Sizes and Quantities)

Your support helps to grow and develop our Nurses Team so on-site medical care is available when the centers are open! You help add Mobile Medical Unit Locations to expand ministry reach. Plus you can help expand ministry impact for abortion-vulnerable moms and dads with the Moline Center open on Saturdays for all services. One small step at a time can make a huge difference the lives of families around the Quad Cities and Beyond!



WALK THE JOURNEY

Pregnancy Resources
Walk for Life 2021

Saturday, September 11, 2021
Empire Park - Hampton, IL
Check-in begins at 8:30 am
Walk anytime between
9:00 & 11:00 am

September 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:

Margaret Thompson – September 4th

Happy Anniversary ... We ask God for His blessing upon all our members, especially those who celebrate anniversaries (especially 30+ this month) including:

Pastor Len & Laurie Astrowski – September 2nd

Greg & Heidi Masias – September 9th

Brent & Wanda Titus – September 16th

Neil & Karen Burger – September 27th

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 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 Ihmin@lhm.org

Membership Changes This Month:

Alaina Carter – transfer in from St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Milan

Mel & Kathy Woolfolk – transfer in from Trinity Lutheran, Davenport



Our volunteers who do the yard work are still collecting cans for recycling. The cash received is for yard expenses. You may leave bags by the door, but we suggest bringing them during office hours, 9am-1pm Monday thru Friday, leaving them outside the door of the educational wing (by the kitchen). **We are no longer collecting plastic bottles.** Thanks for your continued support and your donations.

COUNCIL

There will be a Church Council meeting on September 23 at 6:30. There will also be a Voters Meeting on October 11. The 2022 church budget will be among the items discussed and voted on.

IMAGE DEADLINE for the **October 2021 issue** is **1:00 PM Friday, September 17th**. Have all items to the office, in writing, by that date. Thank You!

ARE YOU MOVING? HAVE YOU MOVED?

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU INFORM THE CHURCH OFFICE OF YOUR NEW ADDRESS! CALL TAMMY AT 309-786-3391, EMAIL TO ILCHURCH@MCHSI.COM, OR WRITE IT ON YOUR ATTENDANCE CARD WITH YOUR UPDATED INFORMATION.

EACH TIME UNDELIVERABLE MAIL IS RETURNED BECAUSE OF AN INVALID ADDRESS, THE CHURCH IS CHARGED 63 CENTS. THANKS!!

LWML News- Zone and District

The Rock Island LWML Fall Rally will be held at St. John's, Geneseo, on Tuesday, September 21, 9:00 am. All ladies are invited to come. The speaker is the administrator at Camp CILCA and we will have Bible study led by some of our Rock Island Circuit pastors. Lunch will be served. There is also an ingathering for Christian Care. If you would like to bring items, the collection is for men's jeans (30-38), underwear (s, m, l), t-shirts (lg to xxxlg) and tennis shoes (6-10). Monetary donations will also be accepted. Registration is \$12.00. See Janet Mau or Tammy in the office for registration form which must be turned in by September 13th.

District Retreat- will be at CILCA coming up in early October. For more information read the Clarion (our District Newsletter), ask one of the board members, or check the website <http://lwmlcid.org/>

“Rooted in Him”



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Welcome to a new year of Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). If you have been a part of the Lutheran Church for years like I have, you probably think of this group as just another ladies group that gets together at church to socialize and support each other and that gathers mites for projects around the world.

Yes, that is an enjoyable part of our meeting but we are women with a purpose and our purpose is to support the missions of our Lord in our congregation, our community, our zone, our state, our nation and the world.

Each of our meetings starts with a short devotion from Pastor, followed by a brief business and planning meeting where we conduct the meeting efficiently respecting everyone's time and enjoying a special treat prepared by one of our hostesses. We also collect cancelled postage stamps, empty medicine bottles and of course your mites at our meeting. We conclude the meeting with prayer for the needs that our brought to our attention. If you need to go, you may feel free, but if you stay you can visit or assist with a mission project.

At our **September 23** meeting we will be preparing the packets of fleece blankets for the congregation to take home and assemble to be given to Phil's friends. This is a Thrivent sponsored project and a mission very close to our heart.

We do not have a business meeting in October but we will be serving a meal at Christian Care Men's Shelter on October 12. Would you like to volunteer to serve the meal or make something to be served? Watch the October Image for more details and a sign up at the back of the church.

November 18th will be the date of our meeting since the 4th Thursday falls on Thanksgiving. After our business meeting we will be assembling a gift plate to be sold at the LWML sponsored Advent meal, date to be determined. All funds raised will go to help seminary students.

December is our Christmas potluck and a wonderful time with great food and fellowship.

There will not be a meeting in January but after the first of the year the plan is to assemble cards to share with our congregation to brighten someone's day. You do not have to be "crafty" there are those among us who design and set it up and assist.

More to come, but if you have an idea for a Mission Project reach out to one of our officers.

If you have never been to a meeting of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). We would love to see you! Do you need a ride? It is always more fun to go with someone else! Let me know.

Officers this year are:

President, Janet Mau; VP, Helen Vogel; Treasurer, Carrie Werke; Secretary, Shelley Moeller

Rooted in Him,

Janet Mau



2021-2022

The LWML CID is overjoyed to announce our mission goal for 2021-2022 of \$105,000 with \$78,750 for district grants and the remaining funds to national mission grants. As funds become available throughout the year, the mission grants will be paid in the following order. Updates will be available at www.lwmlcid.org. Praise the Lord for His blessings!

1. Student Aid for Church Workers - \$30,000
2. Food Banks at St. Louis & Ft. Wayne Seminaries - \$10,000 total
3. Expanding Access at Camp CILCA - \$16,000
4. Filling Haitian Tummies – Trinity HOPE - \$5,000
5. Resourcing and Restructuring CID Prison Ministry - \$10,000
6. Our Savior Lutheran Church and School in Uganda – partial funding of \$7,750

September & October 2021 LWML CID Mission Grant #3 –

Expanding Access at Camp CILCA - \$16,000 Camp CILCA reinforces the work of pastors and congregations in teaching the faith to young people, adults, and families. These funds will be used to purchase materials and labor for heating and cooling in two large cabins at the camp. These updated cabins will attract more campers and families to Camp CILCA to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and enjoy God's creation throughout the whole year. How can I help? Pray that God uses Camp CILCA to spread the gospel to all who attend or participate in the camp activities. Support this grant by donating to your church's LWML group mite fund.

Thank you from the ladies of the LWML



IMMEDIATE NEEDS

We are currently in need of new men's underwear (M-XXL boxers or boxer briefs), men's shorts and t-shirts and shower shoes (flip-flops).

Please bring all items to Christian Care at 2209 3rd Avenue in Rock Island between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Food can be dropped anytime.

BRING AND SERVE PROGRAM

Our *Bring and Serve Program* offers the opportunity to serve the community and help Christian Care at the same time! Sign up to cook and serve a meal for our residents and the community. You can cook in your own kitchen or use ours! Contact Brandy Sivels, our Kitchen Coordinator for more details!

(309) 558-0735



ROCK ISLAND FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLE FREE DISTRIBUTION

Friday September 24

12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.

Broadway Presbyterian Church at 710 23rd Street in Rock Island

For everyone who has a need or can deliver to someone in need. Drive through or walk-up.



LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – September 2021

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, ‘Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.’ Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child’s present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129).”

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers – stewards – acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deut. 8:17–18) but also all that we are in this life (1 Cor. 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability. For the Lord said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b). And from this comes blessing and reward: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master” (Matt. 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God’s fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands. On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours – not as stewards but as sons (Gal. 4:1–7). Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.



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



Newsletter September 2021

The Liberty in Christ.



July 4th in the United States is Independence Day, and I am sure you celebrate it. Mexico has an Independence Day also.

The citizens of Mexico wherever they may live remember the night of September 15th, 1810, when a parish priest, Miguel Hidalgo, called on his townspeople to take arms against the Spaniards who had been ruling Mexico since the days of the Conquest in 1521.

El Grito (The Shout), every 16th of September is the Mexican Fiesta par excellence! Streets, houses, buildings and cars are decorated everywhere in the country. On every street corner there are vendors selling flags, balloons, and hats, all with green, white and red, the national colors. Flags wave from practically every house and building.

It is customary for the current President to deliver the Grito at the National Palace in Mexico City. The original bell rung by Hidalgo is the bell that is rung every 16th of September. The ceremony reaches the high point when the crowd joins in proudly shouting out the names of the heroes of Independence and ends with the exciting: Viva Mexico!

When the Grito ceremony ends, the sky lights up with multicolored fireworks that shower the hearts with the pride of knowing that Mexico is free and independent nation.

Why I am talking about liberty? Just read Galatians 5:1 “*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*”

We have the true liberty in Christ for these reasons:

Because of His love, He died on the cross for us; Through His Gospel, we are now His Children; He gave us reconciliation and His peace; Even though we are sinners, we received His forgiveness; Because gave us faith, we confess that we receive salvation.

Nations may celebrate their Independence Day, but for Children of God, liberty is constant! Every day in Christ we have true liberty; sin's liberty, death's and hell's liberty granted by Jesus. We do not proclaim liberty for just one day, but for an eternal liberty when we believe in His promises.



On July 17, a Quinceañera (a celebration for a young woman turning 15) was held at CR. Miss. Katie Patricio was received into society with a special worship service. Katie is the daughter of Erick and Gislea Patricio. Erick is CR's congregational president

During this month various individuals came to CR with donations: a new vacuum for one! What a wonderful gift since one of our vacuums was not working. Another person came with men's and women's clothing. We really appreciate all these gifts. We also continue receiving food items from Holy Cross, Moline.

As I told you in my last report, I had been contacted by Mrs. Blessman, who is the LLL booth coordinator at the Illinois State Fair. She gave CR the date of Saturday, August 21 from 2-5pm for church members to come and interact with fair goers and hand out both English and Spanish Christian materials. The invitation to church members has been extended but, we don't know yet how many will participate. **UPDATE: Fair Booth Mission was canceled this year due to the increases of Covid.**

This month, CR members realized that one of the church's A/C units was not working correctly. I contacted our service provider, and he came to check the problem. This company gave us two different ways to solve the problem and an estimate for each. Both were sent to the Rock Island Circuit Hispanic Council and Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb for their review and attention. We are waiting for the answer on how to proceed.

On Saturday, July 24th church members responded to my invitation to come and clean the church and its surroundings. Once again, the people responded favorably. Even the outside cross was painted!

Beardstown Ministry.
On Saturday, July 31, I had the opportunity to travel and conduct a Spanish service with people who came to listen to the Word of God at. On this occasion I met St. John's new pastor, Rev. Brian Homman.





September 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	4
5 7:15 am Elders Mtg. 8 am Bible Study 9 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	6 Labor Day – Office Closed	7 9:30am Bible Study 6:00 pm Intergrl. Studies	8 9 – Noon CHALK Home School Group	9	10	11 Walk For Life 9-11 AM
12 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/S.S. 6:30-8:30 pm YOUTH Group	13 8 am – 4 pm RICC Home School Group 6 pm Book Club	14 9:30am Bible Study 6:00 pm Intergrl. Studies	15 9 – Noon CHALK Home School Group	16	17 Deadline for items in The Image	18
19 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/S.S. 6:30-8:30 pm YOUTH Group	20 8 am – 4 pm RICC Home School Group 6 pm Book Club	21 LWML Zone Rally – St. John's Geneseo 9 AM 9:30am Bible Study 6:00 pm Intergrl. Studies	22 9 – Noon CHALK Home School Group	23 6:00 PM – LWML Mtg. ILC Cafeteria 6:30 PM Council Mtg.	24	25
26 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/S.S. 6:30-8:30 pm YOUTH Group	27 8 am – 4 pm RICC Home School Group 6 pm Book Club	28 9:30am Bible Study 6:00 pm Intergrl. Studies	29 9 – Noon CHALK Home School Group	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.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

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