

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 3300 – 24th St.  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod

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Volume 165, #11

## 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 – NOVEMBER 2021



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As the calendar page flipped to October, I was able to visit a family I've known for some time. Let me restate that: I was compelled to visit them. It was one of those events that often brings us together. So, I went. Arriving, I found the home filled with people. And like our houses, this home was filled with the pictures and memorabilia that we all accumulate to record our lives. This occasion focused on the life of one. Filing past the pictures, trophies, and favorite things, I waited to greet the family. And there they were—four of them standing, and the fifth, resting in that little bed. And a hymn came to mind.

The great hymn-writer, Martin Schalling penned the words of *Lord, Thee I Love With All My Heart*. Published first in 1571, the third stanza has these words:

*Lord, let at last Thine angels come,  
To Abram's bosom bear me home,  
That I may die unfearing;  
And in its narrow chamber keep  
My body safe in peaceful sleep  
Until Thy reappearing,  
And then from death awaken me,  
That these mine eyes with joy may see,*

*O Son of God, Thy glorious face,  
My Savior and my Fount of grace.  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
My prayer attend, my prayer attend,  
And I will praise Thee without end.<sup>1</sup>*

Schalling, writing in German, used the phrase “little bedroom” to describe what we, in English, call “narrow chamber.”<sup>2</sup> It was in this last little bedroom—little bed—where this family’s only son was found. The room was not his room, the home not his home. The home was the last home many of us will rest in. Waiting to greet this sweet family, I stood in line with many before and many behind. The home where I found myself was that last dread home we all come to know, where we will one day lie in our own little beds. I stood, surrounded by the pictures and keepsakes—a record now ended—in the funeral home.

I drive past a lot of funeral homes. So do you. I recall, as a small child, driving past the funeral home where a family member had been recently “waked”—to use the Chicago term. For most of those my age, that was our first encounter with the physical reality of death: The Funeral Home. I remember afterward driving by such places for weeks, and even years, with that sense of dread only death can bring. Even today, passing one such place raises those old feelings. For our culture it is the precipice of the pit, the entrance to Sheol.

As I stood in that home with that family, with their son sleeping in his casket, I could see it in the faces of his peers who had also felt compelled to come. For so many in their teenage years it would be their first bitter taste of the ugliness of Death. Death is an enemy without conscience who doesn’t honor our sense of fair play. The young man sleeping was just that—a young man poised and ready to explode onto the stage of life: college, marriage, children, Life! His parents stood, robbed of all those joyful hopes and expectations—all those daily conversations we share about our kids. No, we expect Death to take only those who’ve lived a long life and written their long stories onto the memories of their progeny. For many gathered there with me it was their first, and certainly not their last, brush with the harsh cruelty of Death. And we too often forget that fact: All death is cruel. It is the Curse from which we ourselves cannot escape.

So, I approached the family. Their countenances reflected the cold shock. The questioning. The irrevocable harsh and sudden change to their life together. It was an affect that the myriad of joyful pictures and tokens were powerless to change. And what to say to such people?<sup>3</sup> What do you say to a family when everything screams of a cosmic injustice, and almost everything brings painful reminders; while smiles and happiness and laughter (almost a blasphemous thought at the moment) seem so foreign and remote as to never have been possible or to never be again?

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Commented [LD2]: Reworded the ending here a bit

<sup>1</sup> *Lutheran Service Book* hymn number 708. Also, see the following link for a great discussion of the background of this hymn: <https://www.cuchicago.edu/globalassets/www-digital-team-media-files/documents-and-images/academics/centers-of-excellence/center-for-church-music/devotions/hymn-of-the-day-devotion---proper-21-series-c.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> The original German hymn text can be accessed here: [https://hymnary.org/text/herzlich\\_lieb\\_hab\\_ich\\_dich\\_o\\_herr](https://hymnary.org/text/herzlich_lieb_hab_ich_dich_o_herr).

<sup>3</sup> I beg you, Dear Reader, to not turn a family’s tragedy into some opportunity to “lighten the mood” which I see as a euphemism for refusing to face the reality of death. I have had to deal with some who want to “grab the microphone” and tell a joke or story as the casket is shut and the family weeps. Let them mourn. Our Lord mourned—He allows us to do so as well. As Americans, we find silence abhorrent, and, honestly, I don’t know why. Maybe it’s because we’re constantly surrounded by noise. But there is nothing wrong with silence. Your presence there, in those moments—and especially in the following days and weeks—is far more important than anything you might say.

But the faces of that sweet family... These are acid-etched in my mind. And there are many others. There are those who wear these faces because of some unforeseen tragedy: a terminal diagnosis at a young age, or a victim of some violent act. Then there are the faces of those who have been sinned against or destroyed their own lives by their own sinful choices. The face of the young mother whose husband has just abandoned her and their children. The faces of devout parents after the child comes out. The faces of a family that is now a pariah for refusing to give their blessing to a godless parody of marriage. The face of an addict that has destroyed every earthly relationship. The face of a convict looking at me through a wall of reinforced glass. These are the faces of war-torn refugees.

In the movie *Patton* (yes, it's old, but it is still an exceptionally good movie), as he surveys the massive allied armies slice across Sicily, the great general says, "Compared to war, all other forms of human endeavor shrink to insignificance."<sup>4</sup> Indeed they do. At that moment, in that funeral home, that is what I was witnessing. I was witnessing—in its ugly nakedness—the reality of war. The war with sin. The war with death. Here again, on the faces of its most recent casualties—as on the faces of those many others—the cost could be seen. Can anything be significant when looking at the lifeless body of your son?

Let me pause for just a moment to talk about my face. Dear Christian, perhaps during a conversation with me—and I'm thinking of those conversations of griping and grievance-airing—you've noticed my face change. Why? In my mind, in my heart, are those images and memories—many recent—of those war-torn faces. I recall those "refugees" who have born a high cost in this fallen world. As I think of them, as I think of the purpose of an outpost like Immanuel Lutheran Church, so many gripes and grievances simply shrink to insignificance. And, if you sit and think about it, I am almost certain you will agree.

So, at the funeral home I stood, finally working my way through the snaking receiving line. I neared the grief-stricken faces standing next to the peaceful face of their sleeping child and brother. My eyes could not help but be drawn to that young man's breathless body that looked so peaceful.

And above him? There hung a large wooden cross.

There was a time—in the grand scheme of things not long ago—another mother stood by the body of her son. She wept at his feet as many mothers so-robbed do. Yet this seeming act of weakness was the decisive battle. It was over. It was—is—finished. As the last breath of life emptied out of the dying man's lungs it voiced his last words: "*It is finished.*" And with this, the Father of the Son was well pleased. This was His will. In this apparent defeat, victory was grasped. The last enemy we all face, was taken captive. "*He took captivity captive.*"<sup>5</sup> Peace—warfare ended—was finally secured for all time by the Prince of Peace. It is no accident that we frequently sing these words at the Feast of the Resurrection and at funerals:

*Jesus lives!*

*The victory's won!*

*Death no longer can appall me;*

<sup>4</sup> *Patton*, released in 1970, was written by Francis Ford Coppola and Edmund H. North, directed by Franklin J. Schaffner, and released by Twentieth Century-Fox. The clip where Patton, played by George C. Scott, utters this line can be found at run time 1:08:30.

<sup>5</sup> Ephesians 4:8, KJV, quoting Psalm 68:18 (A Psalm of the Exodus). The phrase "he took captivity captive" is stark in both Hebrew and Greek. The KJV translates them properly, even if it sounds awkward to us.

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*Jesus lives!  
Death's reign is done!  
From the grave Christ will recall me.  
Brighter scenes will then commence;  
This shall be my confidence.<sup>6</sup>*

Many of our Easter hymns have that peculiar wording of warfare—warfare ended. A lasting peace executed, ratified, enforced by the blood of Christ as He hung and died on that cross.

So, in that room of that home with that family and that young man lying in his casket, over him hung the cross. It stood—and stands—as a symbol of victory. A bold slap in the face of death! In Christ, death has not the final word. This young man's life-story did not end in that place. The Cross of our Lord hung above him as a witness to that profound truth. The Lord, who claimed that child as His own in the water of Baptism, still claims him as His own in death. Death, which for us, is now merely sleep.

What to say to a family in such a moment? These are the words that came from my mouth amidst hugs and tears: “The Lord’s Peace be with you.” And, in retrospect, I hope those words conveyed what the wooden cross hovering as guard over the casket signified: Our Lord has made a lasting peace for us. He has destroyed death’s dread power over us. The enemy is vanquished. Dear friends, rest in that peace.

I don’t know when or if, in this life, that family, like so many of the “refugees,” will find a full expression of their joy, or when they will ever find laughter again. But I do know—as do they, and as that hanging cross bore witness—that they will have their tears wiped from their eyes by God Himself. And as they stand before the throne of Christ, with inexpressible joy they will find themselves standing next to their son—and all the saints who have gone before them.

My Brothers and Sisters, we never know when we will find the look of a “refugee” upon our own faces. But preparing for that moment **is** the “business” we are about in this place we call Immanuel: We resolve to know nothing among us except Christ and Him crucified. What else could we possibly need? We live in the Lord’s Peace. We lived rescued and freed from all that sin does to us. And we, by the Prince of Peace, live victorious over death—our death.

In Christ’s most Holy Name,

Rev. Leonard A. Astrowski Jr., Pastor

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<sup>6</sup> *Lutheran Service Book* hymn number 490, stanza 1.



***On Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> - be sure to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed.***

## ***November 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:

***Julia Settles – November 19      Ruth Harkey – November 30***

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

***Scott & Kathy Welch – November 21***

***Rick & Shelley Moeller – November 25***

## **Membership Changes:**

### **Additions:**

*Welcome to Kamdyn Blake Fiedler, daughter of Haley & Charles Fiedler – by Baptism on October 17, 2021. Born on August 27, 2021 in Silvis, IL.  
Godmother – Emily Hazen.*

*Welcome to Dennis & Janice Rusk who have transferred back to Immanuel from Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Sarasota, Florida.*

*Welcome to new members Emily Bushá-Ruiz and son Antoinio Ruiz – daughter and grandson of Renée Hentrich who have transferred from Grace Lutheran Church in Muncie, Indiana.*

### **Deletions:**

*Jack & Sharee Hoegerl – transferred out.*

## Holiday Service Schedule 2021

Nov 24	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Thanksgiving Eve
Dec. 1	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Advent
Dec. 8	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Advent
Dec. 15	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Advent
Dec. 22	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Advent
Dec. 24	Friday	6:30 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight w/HC
Dec. 25	Saturday	9:00 AM	Christmas Day
Dec. 31	Friday	6:30 PM	New Year's Eve

Our **Thanksgiving Eve Service** will be **Wednesday, Nov. 24th at 6:30 PM**. Everyone is invited to join us as we take time to give God thanks and praise for all the blessings we have received from Him. There will be no service on Thanksgiving Day.



## Wednesday Evening Supper and Advent Worship ...



We are continuing our tradition of inviting our members and the public to join us for a light supper prior to our mid-week Advent Worship Services. Supper will be served at 5:30 PM in the cafeteria. Our worship service begins at 6:30 PM.

The meals may be soup, sandwiches, veggies, and a dessert. Coffee, tea, milk, lemonade, etc. are provided. The host may keep the free will offering to cover expenses or donate it to the general benefit of the church.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the Elders. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

**Wed., Dec. 1st--Board of Elders**

**We need people to sign up for the following dates: Dec. 8th, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**ALTAR GUILD CLEANING DAY** on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00. Please join us as we clean and polish all the altar ware. Bring cleaning rags if you have any available. Contact Linda Haake at 781-7789 with any questions.



The Board of Education is looking for someone to help with **Sunday School**. Teaching duties could be shared as team approach or divided by age. We have a great curriculum that is easy to follow. Please prayerfully consider. Contact Helen Vogel at [308-781-9627](tel:308-781-9627) with any questions.

**THE 2022 FLOWER CHART** and **THE ETERNAL LIGHT CHART** will be posted on the bulletin board the beginning of December 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](mailto: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 2022** will be available for pick up **beginning Sunday, Dec. 12th**. 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 2022 envelopes are received before the end of 2021, they will be held till January 1st. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. — Board of Finance

**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 **December 2021 issue** is **1:00 PM Monday, November 15th**. Have all items to the office, in writing, by that date. Thank You!

**The Lutheran Hour** can be heard each Sunday on the following Stations at the listed times:

WGEN Kewanee, IL 1500 AM 5:30 am

WKEI Kewanee, IL 1450 AM 5:00 am

KCLN Clinton, IL 1390 AM 9:30 am

WMT Cedar Rapids, IA 600 AM 6:30 am

You can receive Daily Devotions to your computer, Go to [lhmin@lhm.org](mailto:lhmin@lhm.org)



*All adults and youth are invited to participate in any or all Bible studies offered at Immanuel. We are thankful we can gather together around God's Word. You are welcome to attend anytime.*

- **Sunday morning Adult Bible class** – 8:00 am and 10:15 am in the Library or on Zoom.
- **Adult Bible study** – Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am in the Library or on Zoom.
- **Intergenerational Studies:** 6 pm each Tuesday evening.
- **For the older youth**, there is a Youth Group meeting on Sunday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Meetings are held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rock Island. The first hour includes an opening, devotion and education time with Pastor Astrowski. He will be discussing Apologetics (learning how to defend our faith). The second hour includes activities and snacks with the Youth Leaders in the fellowship hall and gymnasium. On the **last Sunday** of each month, Pastor Astrowski will offer a special discussion time for parents during the second hour. He will review topics recently covered with the youth to prepare parents for additional discussion with their young adults.
- And of course for the younger ones, there is Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings.



## CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

- Please call the office when someone is ill, hospitalized, or homebound (309-786-3391).
- Please use this email to contact the office: [ilchurch@mchsi.com](mailto:ilchurch@mchsi.com) • Website address – [www.immanuelri.org](http://www.immanuelri.org)
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Immanuel-Lutheran-Church-Rock-Island-IL-LCMS-179175395513226/> All Sunday services are 'Live' streamed at 9 am and posted to our church's YouTube channel (the link is available on the church's website).

**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 Social Ministry Committee has, for many years, provided food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas for those in need. Many of those who received them last year were very appreciative. Calls have been coming into the office for them again this year. We prepared 36 baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas last year and expect about the same amount this year.

We will be shopping thru Hy-Vee. We will need to turn in orders approximately two weeks ahead of when the baskets are distributed. In order to be a good steward, we ask that you do not bring any food items for the Christmas baskets.

We ask for your help by giving a monetary donation for the Christmas food baskets. Place your check or cash in an envelope and mark it for "Food Baskets" and drop it in the offering plate, drop it in the mail, or at the office. Be sure to include your offering envelope number so that we may give you credit.

***For those requesting a Thanksgiving food basket for themselves, a family member or a friend, the deadline to turn in names is Tuesday, November 10th. Contact the church office.***

***The Thanksgiving food baskets will be assembled on Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 AM. Our recipients will pick them up between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM.***

Any questions, contact Tammy at the office (786-3391).

### ***WE'RE GOING DIGITAL!***

In 2022 we are going digital with *The Image*! We currently have the capability, through our membership database system, to send *The Image* via email with little to no additional cost involved. This will save us upwards of \$200.00 per month! Of course, those of you who do not have an e-mail address will still be able to receive the newsletter via U.S. mail.

***Watch for more information in the weekly announcements or on the Immanuel Lutheran Church's website or Facebook page!***



**November 18<sup>th</sup>** will be the date of our LWML meeting since the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

*Plans to take the fleece blankets up to Phil's Friends for cancer patients are in the works. If you took a Take and Make Kit to tie, many thanks to you!*



#### **November 2021 LWML CID Mission Grant #4 - Filling Haitian Tummies – Trinity HOPE - \$5,000**

**Trinity HOPE** is a feeding program in Haiti to assist Haitian Lutheran Churches in spreading the Gospel to the hungry children who attend their Christian schools by more adequately meeting their physical needs through providing a daily nutritious meal. Their programs help make the children healthier, increase their energy, and enable them to be more receptive to the Word of the Lord. These funds will be sufficient to provide a noon to approximately 110 hungry children for an entire school year. How can I help? Pray that God feeds the bodies and the souls of the Haitian children. Support this grant by donating to your church's LWML group mite fund.



The next time you are in the store, or if you are doing your annual closet clean out, would you keep us in mind? We need the following items.

#### Men's Clothing:

- Coats (L, XL, XXL, XXXL)
- Hats
- Gloves
- New Underwear (all sizes BUT ESPECIALLY Medium size)
- Men's Undershirts (Sizes XL and larger)
- Men's Jeans (Sizes 30-38)
- Men's Tennis Shoes (Sizes 6-10)

- Sweat Shirts (All Sizes)
- Sweat Pants (All Sizes)

#### For our Community Meal Site:

- Large Cans of Vegetables
- Condiments
- Sugar
- Coffee Creamer
- Brown Sugar

#### Supplies:

- Personal Hygiene Products—ESPECIALLY DEODORANT but also toothpaste, & shave cream.
- NEW PILLOWS
- Paper Products—Toilet Paper & Paper Towels, Napkins
- Cleaning Products - Bathroom Cleaner, Window Cleaner, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Aerosol Spray, Fabuloso, & Pine Sol

Please bring all items to Christian Care (Monday through Saturday) at

2209 3rd Ave., Rock Island, IL 61201



### LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – November 2021

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or wherever than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like and how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like it certainly means we ought to face it. So, here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. That means that we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and then give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else. We don't pay for all the stuff we need – and stuff we think we need – and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of "sacrificial."

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10%? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so that they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: “Make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19). And we are still to have a full-time ministry: “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel” (1 Cor 9:14). So if 10% is what it took in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord’s work to be done on less than a tithe?

By first-fruits, sacrificial, and generous giving – that’s how. We shouldn’t fool ourselves into thinking that we’ve outgiven God’s goodness or that we’ve given plenty. We might be tempted to think that way, but consider that no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

St. Paul brought the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord’s work in the Church when he wrote: “I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It’s Law, and the Law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance. The Law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the Law. So if first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that’s the point.

In Mark’s account of the feeding of the 4,000, Jesus took the disciples’ seven loaves and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing. Mark doesn’t say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible that some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn’t stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing. He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn’t need their bread.

But they need to give it. And what they give – however little it might be and however grudgingly they do so – He blesses. He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them – the givers. He blesses the givers not just in that they wind up with a basketful for each loaf, but they are blessed by learning to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly, or He asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord. He does all things well, and He works all things together for good. The disciples don’t give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, because they love Him, and because they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.



Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Cristo Rey  
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Rev. Pablo G. Domínguez



### ***NOVEMBER 2021***

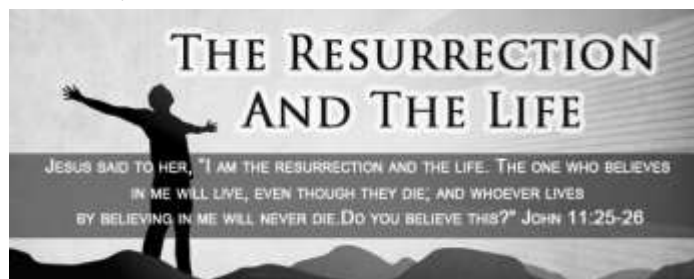
#### **Do You Believe This?**

One ancient tradition which is growing stronger little by little among the Hispanics is the belief that dead people return to earth to visit people. There is a special day to mark this tradition. It is called The Day of the Dead (Día de Muertos), and it's held on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Many people believe that this great, ancient and historic tradition was started by the Indians before Spain's conquest. Actually, families decorate a special place in their home. This is called the Altar, where their dead love ones' pictures are displayed with candles, colorful papers, their favorite meals and beverages, skull candies, and bread (Death bread). They believe that their relatives return from the dead to enjoy these items. The media contribute to this with live coverage from homes and even cemeteries, where people spend entire nights decorating with flowers and candles. Do you find some similarities to Halloween?



Hispanics who live in the U. S. want to preserve this tradition, even right here in the QC. As Christians we must reject this false tradition. Please read 1 John 3: 1b-3 *"The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure."*

What true and amazing words we find in the Holy Scriptures! These words become a great comfort to all as we come to believe in Jesus Christ. The unbelievers may not believe at first what the words say, but Christians need to continue sharing and proclaiming the Good News in Christ. We're confident and we stand on what He says:



***We continue to thank God for your faithful prayers and loving support of this Hispanic ministry!***

### Always give thanks!

In the past weeks I have seen the faces of many people which exhibit confusion, loneliness, bitterness, sadness, anguish, and desperation motivated by family troubles, divorce, sickness, death of a loved one, lack of or loss of work, and Covid 19. Words are not necessary when body language tells me that they are living through a difficult period in their life. Some of them have called and asked me to visit them in their homes. Others have come to the church office. They want to talk about their present situation and receive spiritual advice. They want a quick solution without any pain or suffering in their lives. I can't help but wonder if they will have a pleasant and happy Thanksgiving dinner?



Once I heard this: "It's so good that you don't have any troubles. I'm sure that your entire family is happy and content, because, as Christians, God takes care of you".

Well, you and I know that this is not true at all. Believers in Christ have all kinds of troubles and we all suffer at one time or another. We have a long list of troubles, right? So, can we as Christians give thanks to God when we are going through a difficult time?

I'm going to share this true story. It's a story my grandma used to tell. In a very small town, there lived a faithful Christian man. Every day before the sun began to shine, he

prayed. He prayed aloud, and everyone in the town was able to hear him. My Grandma said he never failed to pray. It didn't matter what kind of day it was, sunny or rainy, cold or hot. He prayed with gratitude and thanksgiving. My grandma said that he never complained even though he worked hard as a farmer. He always gave thanks to God for all the gifts he received.

I'm happy when I see joyful, loving families. Their faces tell me that they are trusting God for all their needs and offering up thanks and praise to Him in all situations. They know God is with them in all the circumstances of life offering help and blessings for their every need. I'm pretty sure these believers in Jesus will have a pleasant and happy Thanksgiving dinner.

What about you? Are you worried? Do you have troubles? Do you feel as though no one listens or cares about you? Think about what Saint Paul tells us in Philippians 4:6,7 ***"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."***

Please offer up thanks to God in every situation!  
*Happy Thanksgiving Day to you and your family!*

#### Comments:

CR received a wonderful gift from the estate of a member of one of our circuit congregations. This gift will be used to establish an endowment for Cristo Rey with Lutheran Legacy. When established, the endowment will be able to receive other gifts and serve as a benefit for CR for many years. We thank this generous fellow believer posthumously for interest in Hispanic outreach. What a marvelous gift!

Trinity, Coal Valley has a winter clothing ministry and for several years they have invited CR to come and take items for their families. CR ladies did indeed go and select clothing. In addition, Holy Cross, invited CR to come and select clothing when they had a sale. CR selected items and gave them to our contacts and fellow church members.

As you may already know, the church van needed repairs and new tires. Now the job has been completed for a fair price. We thank the lady from Holy Cross for giving us a donation towards the repairs and tires. Many thanks, dear friend in Christ!





## NOVEMBER 2021 - \*EDITED\*


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> 8 am – 4 pm RICC Home School Group <b>6 pm Book Club</b>	<b>2</b> 9:30am Bible Study 4 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Interger Studies	<b>3</b> 9 – Noon CHALK Home School Group	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 7:15 am Bd of Elders</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study <b>6:30-8:30 pm Youth Grp</b>	<b>8</b> 8 am – 4 pm RICC Home School Group <b>6 pm Book Club</b>	<b>9</b> 9:30am Bible Study 4 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Interg. Studies	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Veteran's Day – Office Closed</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study <b>6:30-8:30 pm Youth Grp</b>	<b>15</b> 8 am – 4 pm RICC Home School Group <b>6 pm Book Club</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30am Bible Study 4 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Interger Studies	<b>17</b> 9 – Noon CHALK Home School Group	<b>18</b> <b>6 pm LWML Mtg.</b> <b>ILC Cafeteria</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>9 AM Altar Cleaning</b>
<b>21</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study <b>6:30-8:30 pm Youth Grp</b>	<b>22</b> 8 am – 4 pm RICC Home School Group <b>6 pm Book Club</b>	<b>23</b> 9:30am Bible Study 4 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Interger Studies	<b>24</b> 9 – Noon CHALK Home School Group <b>6:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service</b>	<b>25</b> <b>THANKSGIVING – Office Closed</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b>

<b>28</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study <b>6:30-8:30 pm Youth Grp</b>	<b>29</b> 8 am – 4 pm RICC Home School Group <b>6 pm Book Club</b>	<b>30 – Giving Tuesday</b> 9:30am Bible Study 4 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm InterGenStudies		
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**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.

## 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](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)

Church Office (Tammy): [ilchurch@mchsi.com](mailto:ilchurch@mchsi.com)

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