

# 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 – JANUARY 2022*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As you read this we will have just come through Advent, celebrated the Nativity of our Lord, and are just a few days from the Feast of the Epiphany. The focus of Advent and Christmastide is the Incarnation.

During Advent, we focus on the necessity of the Incarnation. We think about our sad plight, but then we hear the promises culminating in the Annunciation (which we also celebrate on March 25—nine months before Christmas Day). The morning before we celebrate with candles the birth of the Christ, the Church celebrates and reads these words:

*Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:18-21).*

As Advent prepares us, we learn of a Son conceived in Mary's womb. Like you and me, our Lord was conceived. He became a son.

As we turn to the Nativity, we then hear these words: "*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth*" (John 1:14). On Christmas morning we learn that the Word—God—became flesh. And then He, in the flesh, dwelt among us. God came to us! He came to us as us!

I often let my thoughts wander as I think about that. I'm fairly certain I've preached on those wanderings once or twice. What was it like on the night He was born? Did wolves howl and shooting stars dance? Did Creation react to its time of rescue finally dawning? I wonder, did a person's hair stand up, or a chill run down the spine as He bumped into you on the street? Imagine that: the creature having a casual chance encounter with its Creator on a bustling, dusty, Galilean street. That alone is a theological point I could opine on at some length, but I will restrain myself except for this: The God of the Universe saw fit to walk and live among us as one of us.

You see, Advent prepares us for God to be among us, and Christmas presents us with the gift we have been prepared to receive. And this is such very good news. God came to us as us.

Christ, fully God and fully man. As an enfleshed—that is incarnate—human being, your God and mine knows by first-hand experience exactly what you experience in your life. All your emotions, temptations, and simple human things like tiredness and hunger—all these are not only known by our Lord, but they were experienced by Him too. Your life, indeed all life, was that valuable and precious to Him.

There's a point worth pondering. Christ experienced *all* aspects of humanity. He was conceived. He, in His own conception, sanctified life in the womb. He lived as a baby in the womb of His mother. We would do well to remember that. As He lived as yet unborn, He declared that phase of our lives holy. Life in the womb is holy. We too need regard it as such.

Life is not to be thrown away willy-nilly to satisfy our cravings, our expectations, and our desires. It is to be cherished, upheld, and defended. Life, in all its stages has been held so worthy by God that He would experience in His body all of it. We should too. And this, of course, goes beyond the womb. We are surrounded by those who our culture deems less worthy of life. The horrible argument moves along these lines: they are destined to a life of (the possibility) of poverty, (the possibility) of crime, so let's kill them before they can ever taste the air outside the womb. Those who offer such arguments would do well to remember that our Lord often had no place to rest His head and was not found living a life of ease and comfort. No, He was born to a decidedly humble family and lived the life of a nomad—often chased from one town to the next. All this while completing the work of redeeming ALL life. All life was and is worthy of redemption. This remains true even if it doesn't live up to our "standards."

The Incarnation is about so much more than presents under our trees. It's about the very nature and worth of all of our lives. All life was redeemed by Christ. All life was sanctified in His body, in His life. All life is a gift. And all life is deemed so precious by our Creator that He would endure all of it—from conception to death. And beyond—to our resurrections.

Advent, Christmas, and the Epiphany teach us this as we creatures receive the Christ. And so we sing with *all* the heavenly host:

*"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

--Luke 2:14.

A blessed Christmastide and Epiphany to all of you!

Rev. Leonard Astrowski, Pastor

**Official Acts/Membership Changes for 2021:**

<b>NAME:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>OFFICIAL ACT:</b>
Jack Millen	1/4/2021	Death (Funeral 1/8/2021)
Paul & Nancy Soyke	2/7/2021	Transfer Out
Dave, Sandy, Dawn Schumaker	2/7/2021	Transfer In
John, Karlene, Eric Campbell	2/7/2021	Transfer In
Martha "Marty" Menke	4/5/2021	Death (Funeral 4/8/2021)
Milo Lane Boisvert	4/18/2021	Baptism
Sara Britton Miller	4/18/2021	Adult Confirmation
Eleanor Roets	4/19/2021	Death (Funeral 4/21/2021)
Tamara Robinson	4/29/2021	Transfer In
Phillip "Neil" & Karen Burger	4/29/2021	Transfer In
Edna Vance	5/10/2021	Death
Gladys Hawkins	5/15/2021	Death (Service 5/24/2021)
Jonathan Patrick Hearn, Jr.	5/22/2021	Baptism
Mackenzie Cathleen Corwin	7/24/2021	Baptism
Alaina Carter	8/11/2021	Transfer In
Mel & Kathy Woolfolk	8/18/2021	Transfer In
Olga Scherer	8/31/2021	Death (Funeral 9/10/2021)
Dennis & Janice Rusk	10/1/2021	Transfer In
Emily Bushá-Ruiz & Antoinio Ruiz	10/1/2021	Transfer In
Jack & Sharee Hoegerl	10/14/2021	Transfer Out
Kamdyn Blake Fiedler	10/17/2021	Baptism
Robert & Jenni Berry	12/5/2021	Transfer Out



**\*NOTE – Birthdays and Anniversaries are listed to the best of our records. If you find a mistake or any missing information, please notify the office. Thank You!**

***We ask God for His blessing upon all our members, especially those who celebrate birthdays this month including:***

**January 1:** Pat Mueller, Tina Taylor

**January 2:** Shawn Gingry, Chase Spragg, Brent Titus

**January 3:** Kim Willits

**January 4:** Mark Muske

**January 6:** Alaina Carter

**January 8:** David Cobert

**January 9:** Michael DePaepe

**January 10:** Renee Hentrich

**January 12:** Kris Hazen, Brett Long, Jennifer Long

**January 13:** Mikayla Draper

**January 14:** Irene Christofferson, Katherine Cobert

**January 16:** Moriah Masias

**January 17:** Laurie Astrowski

**January 18:** Travis Eygabroad

**January 21:** Willy Mau

**January 23:** Ellen Campbell

**January 26:** Hayley Fiedler

**January 29:** Karen Burger

**January 30:** Wanda Titus

**January 31:** Marcus Ayers, Kevin Mueller, Mel Vogel

*Happy Anniversary*

***We ask God for His blessing upon all our members, especially those who celebrate anniversaries including:***

**January 2:** Todd & Kris Hazen

**January 20:** Bill & Cathy Wiebel

**January 16:** Jim & Christine Boudro

**January 21:** Andy & Kelly Cortez

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)

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**Offering envelopes for 2022** are available for pick up **now**. If you do not find your set, please contact Tammy at the office (786-3391). — Board of Finance


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**IMAGE DEADLINE** for the **February 2022 issue** is **1:00 PM Friday, January 14th**. Have all items to the office, in writing, by that date. Thank You!

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**THE 2022 FLOWER CHART** and **THE ETERNAL LIGHT CHART** is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Cost for Altar Flowers (two vases) is \$30.00 and for Eternal Light is \$10.00. Please be sure to check the calendar periodically for the date(s) you signed to donate. If you have email access, please send the information for the bulletin to [ilchurch@mchsi.com](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.

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We're still planning on going digital in 2022! We haven't forgotten!  
Plans are to start a "beta" test in March so that we can work  
out the kinks and hopefully be able to go fully digital by  
summer. Keep watching for more information!

Thank You for your patience!

# *Many Hands Make Light Work*

Please join us on Saturday, January 8th at 9:00 a.m. to help take down the Christmas decorations.

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## POINSETTIAS ON THE ALTAR THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON 2021:



- In memory of Grant O. and Elvina Roti and Aunt Elverna Mueller - by Janice Roti and Grant C. & Linda Roti & family.
- In memory of Loved Ones - by the Allison's, the Fowlers, and Maxine.
- In loving memory of Tom Ayers, forever in our hearts and greatly missed - by Leigh Ayers and family.
- In loving memory of Arthur and Joe Williamson - by Nancy Williamson.
- For God's unending love - by Dennis & Janice Rusk.
- In memory of Phillip G. Kendall - by Luray Kendall.
- In memory of my husband, Dwain Christofferson - by Irene Christofferson.
- In thanks to God for all of the hard-working volunteers we have at Immanuel Lutheran Church.



and a little child  
shall lead them.

Isaiah 11:6

## **Thank you to all who helped with the Children's Program on December 22<sup>nd</sup>!**

The young adult readers, the Sunday School children who practiced so hard, Alex T. for helping with rehearsal, Chris and Katherine for teaching the bells, Emily for helping with the costumes – your time and effort made it a success and was very much appreciated.

**~Helen V. – Sunday School Teacher**

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Thank  
you

*The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone who donated this year for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets. The food costs were almost 50% higher this year compared to last year so ALL of the monetary donations were very appreciated!! We passed out 37 Christmas Baskets on Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, thank you, and thank you again!*

*Thank You also to all of the volunteers who shopped, delivered, unloaded, sorted, packed and assisted recipients to their cars with their baskets. Your assistance was very much appreciated and did not go unnoticed!!*

**~ The Social Ministry Committee**



*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.

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## 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.





## Immanuel Youth Group News

December 2021

It's been great!

Our group is off to a great start, thank the Lord. And thank you to you, and your parents for making the commitment to be here and get you here.

Thank you too to those who joined us for our first Service Project. The sister in Christ we served was very thankful for all we did.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions please call or text Pastor at 989-326-0199.

### **Mark your Calendars**

1. The Youth Group served supper for our mid-week Advent meal on Wednesday, December 22, 2021. We raised over \$300.00 which will be used to defray the costs of our upcoming trip to the Higher-Things Youth Conference.
2. Registration is now open for the Higher Things Youth Conference. The dates of the conference are July 19-22, 2022. Travel days will also be necessary. We will be traveling to Bozeman, Montana.
3. There will be NO Youth Group the Sunday after Christmas, December 26, 2021. We will meet on January 2, 2022.
4. January 16, A.D. 2022 is the date for our circuit-wide youth event. Details to follow.

### **What we're planning**

1. Bett-Plex outing.
2. Winter and Spring Service Events.
3. Winter Fund raiser.
4. Higher Things for a Day local youth retreat.

**Thanks for your participation! Bring a friend.**



## IMMEDIATE NEEDS

GARGABE BAGS (13, 33 & 39 GALLON)  
FULL SIZE BOTTLES OF SHAMPOO  
LAUNDRY SOAP (LIQUID ONLY)  
RAZORS

We are also in need of new or slightly used winter coats for our men at the mission as well as top and bottom thermals. Residents often work jobs that require them to be outside or walk back and forth to work and providing them with what they need to stay warm is essential. Sizes large and extra large.

*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.*



QC Haven of Hope was a vision formed over 15 years ago with the purpose of offering shelter for women and children facing a period of homelessness. This vision evolved into the organization it is today. The support from staff, community organizations and resources, as well as camaraderie from women within the house, helped foster empowerment and potential. This success has revealed itself in important ways; safe shelter, a stable job, a home for a child to return to after school, food on the table, not worrying that utilities will be turned off, access to healthcare, opportunities for education, and rebuilding of self-confidence and self-respect. Over the course of time, QC Haven of Hope has transitioned through a rebranding, expanded connections within the community, and made changes to increase our capacity for housing homeless women and children. Sprouted from absolute need within our community, this mission has persevered over the span of years thanks to the engagement of our organizational leaders, our volunteers, our devoted supporters and a caring community. As we focus on the future and ways to enhance and expand homeless services, another change is underway. **QC Haven of Hope is excited to announce its women and children's shelter will become a part of Christian Care. Christian Care is a not-for-profit organization located in Rock Island which has served our homeless community for more than 105 years. They, and we, are extremely proud that they will be able to continue serving the local community with the addition of a women and children's shelter. Under the direction of Christian Care's Executive Director, Frank Roe and his Board of Directors, this new team will continue serving the critical needs of homeless women and children.**



## LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – January 2022

### 'Tis More Blessed to Give Than to Receive

**“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ” (Acts 20:35)**

And indeed, it is. Does this not strike a chord that resonates in us all? Which of us can't recall the look of surprise and thanks for the Christmas gifts that we labored to give to those whom we love? And the joy written on their face when that gift is received with thanksgiving means more than all the gifts we have received. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our Lord knew this because He practiced it. He gave of Himself – sparing not even His life in death – in order to give us back to our Father in heaven. He knew that in giving you get more because joy is multiplied in giving. The one who receives and the one who gives both rejoice in what is given and received. And, what is more, the one who receives only wants to give back to the one who gave so generously in thanksgiving.

So it is with our tithes and offerings in church. We want to give because we have received from God all that we are and all that we have. Our giving does not originate in what we must do to earn God's favor. We have God's favor because of His gift of His Son, given through Word and Sacrament. Thus, we are made free from the compulsion of giving so that our tithes and offering are freely given in thanksgiving for what God has so generously given to us.

Why then does the church struggle to make budgets? Why does the church always seem stretched so thin when it is the place where God continually gives us His forgiveness of sins? Why does the church struggle when God, out of love for us, generously pours out His grace and mercy?

It is because we are sinners. Our fallen nature makes us selfish and miserly. It leads us to believe that we can have our cake and eat it, too. Because of sin, we want God's grace and mercy; we want His blessings of body and soul. But we don't want to share it with those around us. We want to remain comfortable in our own self-contained, neat, and tidy lives – without the headaches of loving those around us by helping them in their time of need.

“Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ” Remember that God has placed you in a church, not only to receive His grace and mercy, but to press His eternal and temporal blessings into service to your neighbor.

Your tithes and offerings ensure that those around you have a pastor to preach the life-saving and life-giving Word of God. They ensure that the lights, heat, and air-conditioning are working. They ensure there is water for Holy Baptism as well as bread and wine for Holy Communion. They even ensure that your pastor has food and clothing and presents for his own family. The gifts of God are immeasurable. They multiply and redound to everyone’s good as the fish and loaves in the feeding of the five thousand.

So, remember the words of the Lord Jesus: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” And remember the joy that attended the gifts you gave at Christmas. This same joy attends your gifts to the church.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://www.lcms.org/stewardship)



## Christ the King (Cristo Rey) 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



### January 2022

Christmas and the year 2021 are over. Now, the New Year 2022 is here!

In the Hispanic culture there is a profound and popular custom to predict the future. On mass media TV shows “specialized people” are invited “to predict the future”. People like to know their future because, they think that if they know it, they will be ready to confront any situation that is coming, bad or good. They think they are able to manipulate the future. Several Bible texts condemn practices such as astrology, talking with spirits, palm reading, astral letters, etc. (Lev. 19:26, 20:27, Deut. 18:10). All these practices are false, contrary to God’s Word.

Do you really want to know your future?

The future of your life depends on your relationship with God. Ezekiel 18:21-22 says: *“But if a wicked person turns away from all the sins they have committed and keeps all my decrees and does what is just and right, that person will surely live; they will not die. None of the offenses they have committed will be remembered against them. Because of the righteous things they have done, they will live.”*

All human beings are sinners, right? But God gives us the opportunity of reconciliation by sending His own Son to die for us. Rom. 5:8 says, *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* If we confess and repent our sins to God and if we have a close relationship with Him while we live, our present and future is secure and guaranteed, thanks to our Lord Christ Jesus. If we have close communion with Jesus in this world, we’ll have eternal communion with Him in Paradise.

Maybe 2021 was hard for you with many difficulties and much sadness. You can probably name particular issues. But the Lord knows what happened to you and best of all, your future is in His hands. When you dismay or when your strength is gone, He promises to help you and never leave your side.

My prayer for each one of you is that 2022 will find you in the presence of God with Christ in your heart and in the hearts of your loved ones.

**Cristo Rey extends a sincere thank you to all who helped in any way in 2021 to further the Gospel ministry to the Hispanics here in the Quad Cities!**

**Please continue to pray in 2022 that God’s Word will go forth from this church and accomplish that which He desires; the saving of many.**



On Nov. 6 Concordia's Mission Committee, Geneseo, came to CR and installed metal shelves in the garage. Work pending for next year: paint yellow stripes in main parking lot. ***Thank You for your effort and excellent work!***

On the same day volunteers from CR helped to do maintenance around the facility.

On Nov. 9 Winkel, Immanuel, Davenport, IA. The R.I. Circuit and the Iowa East Circuit held a joint meeting. Guest presenter was Rev. Brad Saunders, President of the Iowa East District. Later that same day I went to the East Moline Correctional Center for a TB test which is a requirement for me to be able to return and conduct Spanish Bible studies. On Nov. 18 a Spanish Bible study was held at the EMCC.



# January

# 2022

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
<i>Youth Group meets every Sunday night from 6:30-8:30 PM.</i>						<b>1</b> <i>Happy New Year</i>
<b>2</b> 7:15 am Bd of Elders 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	<b>3</b> <b>6 pm Book Club</b>  ~ Tammy Out of Office ~	<b>4</b> 9:30am Bible Study 4 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Interg. Studies  ~ Tammy Out of Office ~	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <i>The Epiphany of Our Lord</i>  6:30 pm Service w/HC	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00 am Take down the Christmas Decorations
<b>9</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	<b>10</b> 8 am – 4 pm RICC <b>6 pm Book Club</b>	<b>11</b> 9:30am Bible Study 4 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Interg. Studies	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>Deadline for items in The February Image</i>	<b>15</b> 
<b>16</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	<b>17</b> 8 am – 4 pm RICC <b>6 pm Book Club</b>	<b>18</b> 9:30am Bible Study 4 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Interg. Studies	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23 &amp; 30</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	<b>24 &amp; 31</b> 8 am – 4 pm RICC <b>6 pm Book Club</b>	<b>25</b> 9:30am Bible Study 4 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Interg. Studies	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 	<b>29</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**

**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

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