

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 – FEBRUARY 2022



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

“Picky!” “Quibblers over things that do not matter.” This is how I am—and you are—oft regarded. “Just a bunch of people who sit around straining at gnats.” I also suspect that is how we often appear. Even within our church body, there are those who label us with these epithets. The assumption is that those who strain at gnats will soon be dead. Our culture demands a welcoming attitude toward all ideas—hence the *seeming*¹ success of so-called non-denominational churches. All these things, the epitaphs and cultural demands, forget one thing: Some things are worth fighting for. The Truth is worth fighting for.

Did you ever wonder how the Creeds were born? They have been around in one form or another for a very, very long time. There was ancient Israel’s simple, powerful, and exclusive creed (the great Shema): “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one” (Deuteronomy 6:4). In that brief creed, exclusivity of truth is proclaimed. There is ONE God, identified and expressed in the holy name “LORD.” Yahweh (LORD), the Great I AM, is our God; Yahweh is one. God is identified by a particular name—and no other. To lose this confession, to water it down, is to lose God. Then for us, there are also the three Ecumenical Creeds: The Apostles’ (First and Second Century), the Nicene (Fourth Century), and the Athanasian (Fifth Century). The Creeds, like the Shema, are just that: simple and powerful statements of what the Church confesses.

¹ I use the word “seeming” because the non-denominational churches often have only the appearance of success. Many of the “new” members that move from one of the main-line denominations to a church of this type would either be required to be rebaptized or to make a decision for Christ, and, in so doing, are considered “converts.” We do not—understanding that there is only one Baptism. Therefore the “statistic” that we track is Adult Baptisms. People who join us from other confessions would not fit this category, and so would not be considered a convert. You, even though you are Baptized, would be considered a new convert (akin to an Adult Baptism) in a non-denominational church, thus the oft-inflated numbers. If you would like to read and study more about the well-documented effect (and failure) of non-denominational approaches to “doing” church, please ask me. I have many resources and it remains one of my favorite reading subjects.

If you've ever studied these creeds, you realize they are not saying anything new. One simply builds upon the other. One defends another. All are drawn from and confess Scripture itself. Each defends the Truth. The framers of the creeds—the great Church councils of old —knew the Truth was worth fighting for. Sometimes the battles were bloody, people were sent into exile, emperors and empires were moved to action. The great battle of the Nicene Creed was over one little letter, one iota (the Greek letter i). The addition of this tiny letter to one word in the Creed would change the phrase “One substance with the Father” to “Like substance with the Father.” It seems like no big deal—until you realize where that one iota takes you. It takes you away from the confession of Christ Himself that “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30). The addition of the iota results in a confession of a Christ who is not God, but only like God. The Eternally Begotten is reduced to creature by one little letter. The result: Christ is no longer Savior who saves you by His work, but instead He becomes an example to follow so you can perhaps save yourself (that would be the essential teaching of the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons, or Latter-Day Saints as they now like to be called).

The Truth was worth fighting for. The fighting over one little letter was worth it. Why? The stakes were high. The stakes are high.

So we fight. So we teach. So we learn. So we argue over little things, since quite literally, the devil *is* in the details. Are you saved by God alone (are you a passive recipient in and of salvation)? Do you cooperate in your salvation? Do you receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ in and with the bread and wine? The answers to these questions have profound implications for how one views the work and person of Christ and what the life of a Christian looks like.² The answer to these questions have profound implications on how one views salvation—especially when neck deep in sin. It is our fight to remain orthodox. It is our fight and duty to hold fast, to guard, all that our Lord has commanded us.

So, we remain picky quibblers. We strain at gnats. We strain knowing the gnat we miss might be the gnat on which we choke.

Dear Lord, bless us with strength for the battle!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Rev. Leonard Astrowski, Pastor

² If you do not readily know the answers to these questions—which are quite important—I encourage you to submit to a little more education. Read your catechism, come to Bible study, and most importantly, read and study the Bible!



***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:

February 2: Angela Anders

February 15: Elijah Reese, Kaylee Schelfaut

*February 3: Mackenzie Corwin, Tom Klockau,
JoAnn Taube*

February 17: Cindy Rigg

February 4: Ardo Holmgrain, Janice Roti

February 19: Haley Gruner, Debbie Rusk

February 8: Sandra Eagle

February 21: Judy Bateman, Dorothy Luebbe

February 10: Brian Luebbe, Klaus Mark

*February 22: Brandon Heriford, Pam Saunders,
Steve Walker*

February 11: Samantha Titus

February 25: Carolyn Fowler

February 12: Daniel Triage

February 26: Leigh Ayers

February 13: Tom Esparza

February 27: Deanna Wilson

February 14: Travis Leeson

Happy Anniversary

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

February 2: Jeff & Deborah Rusk

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



If you missed picking up your offering envelopes for 2022 they are now located in the church office. Please contact the office for pickup. Financial statements have also been available for pick up. Any remaining statements after the **January 23rd** service will be mailed to the address on file. Please contact Barb Soyke if you have any questions regarding your financial statement.

Below are the total offering and expenses for the last quarter of 2021. We thank you for your continued generosity through this difficult time.

October Offerings - \$17,136 October Expenses - \$57,091*

***Note – Special expenses in October include:**

- Parking Lot Asphalt - \$32,000
 - Cemetery Roadwork & Tree Removal - \$11,150
- November Offerings - \$11,571 November Expenses - \$17,696

December Offerings - \$20,379.36 December Expenses - \$21,649.54



There will be a Voters' Meeting on Sunday, February 20, 2022 following the church service. An agenda will be sent out to all voting members of the church prior to this meeting. Please plan to attend.

IMAGE DEADLINE for the **March 2022 issue** is **1:00 PM Wednesday, February 16th.** Have all items to the office, in writing, by that date. Thank You!



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. If internet is not available, please write it out on a piece of paper and leave it for the Elders to take to the church office.



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 • Website address – 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

February 2021

The Rock Island Circuit Youth Group is going strong and continues to grow!!! We are blessed to have youth attending regularly and youth who come whenever their schedule allows. Youth are coming from our local community and from surrounding areas including Sherrard, Taylor Ridge, Geneseo, Davenport and Kewanee.

Here is what the youth have been doing since [September 2021](#):

- [Sunday](#) meetings with a topic discussion on Apologetics and activities
- [Saturday](#) Workday of yard work followed by pizza
- Movie night and snacks
- Hosted and served an Advent dinner and raised \$300 for the Higher Things Youth Conference
- Bowling event in Milan

Here is what we are planning for 2022:

- Spring, Summer and Fall service events
- Fundraisers for Higher Things
- Group outings and activities
- [Sunday](#) meetings and activities - 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Thanks for your participation! Bring a friend.

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

THANK YOU to all the youth and the leaders who are making this youth group happen each week. Please continue to pray for this youth group that it may continue to grow and be a blessing to all.

The Rock Island Circuit Youth Board:

Pastor Astrowski

Brian and Katherine Cobert

Burnie and Amanda Eckardt

Sara Leeson

Sara Miller

Kathy Welch



LWML Mission Grant 17 – Spiritual and Physical Food for Children of Peru — PAID!

LWML's 2021-2023 Mission Grant #17, Spiritual and Physical Food for Children of Peru — La Mision Luterana del Peru, in the amount of \$56,750 has been paid in full. The presentation of the grant check was made as a part of the [Sunday](#) worship service at Messiah Lutheran Church in Hays, Kansas. Messiah-Hays supports the Castillo Fuerte (Mighty Fortress) Mercy House, which is the mercy arm of the Lutheran mission in Peru.

The people of Lima will now be able to fully finance the work of the Mercy House and its missionaries who feed souls with the Word of God and show the love of Christ by providing meals to the parents and children.

LWML Treasurer for the group at Messiah-Hays Lutheran Church, Betty Stark, and Rev. Dr. Rocco Mallardi, accepted the check with gratitude. Pastor Mallardi has traveled to Peru several times encouraging and supporting the missionaries in the field. He currently serves as the Senior Pastoral Counselor of the LWML Kansas District. Honored to present the check and extend greetings from LWML was Recording Secretary Brenda Piester. To God be the glory!

“Celebrate the Lord of the Nations” — 2023 LWML Biennial Convention in Milwaukee

The LWML Board of Directors has chosen “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations” as the theme for the 2023 Biennial Convention, [June 22-25, 2023!](#) The convention will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the Wilson Convention Center in downtown Milwaukee.

The theme is based on the Scripture verse: *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man* (Psalm 33:12–13). The convention goal is: “As His children, we celebrate the Lord of the nations.”

Mark your calendars and make plans to join thousands of women and men from across the nation as we all “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations”. Watch for additional information about worship leaders, mites in action speakers, and special guests coming soon.

***Thank You for your generous support of the Wind River Lutheran Mission!
Together we raised \$360 for the Wyoming District to specifically help support
their mission work among the people of the Wind River Indian Reservation.***

***The next Immanuel Lutheran Church LWML meeting will be held on
Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 6:00 pm in the Luther Room. Please be sure to
join us!***



March 2, 2022	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Ash Wednesday
March 6, 2022	Sunday	9:00 AM	First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2022	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek I
March 13, 2022	Sunday	9:00 AM	Second Sunday in Lent
March 16, 2022	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek II
March 20, 2022	Sunday	9:00 AM	Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2022	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek III
March 27, 2022	Sunday	9:00 AM	Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2022	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek IV
April 3, 2022	Sunday	9:00 AM	Fifth Sunday in Lent
April 6, 2022	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek V
April 10, 2022	Sunday	9:00 AM	Palm Sunday
April 14, 2022	Thursday	6:30 PM	Holy (Maundy) Thursday
April 15, 2022	Friday	12:00 PM 7:00 PM	Good Friday Chief Service Good Friday, Tenebrae
April 16, 2022	Saturday	7:00 PM	The Vigil of Easter
April 17, 2022	Sunday	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Easter Sunday Sunrise The Resurrection of Our Lord

CHRISTIAN CARE

DONATION UPDATE

At this time we are only accepting donations of *food, cleaning supplies & garbage bags (33 & 39 gallon)*. We regret at this time we cannot accept donations of clothing for the Mission or Martha's House.

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.



The Camp CILCA
Lowdown

February, 2022

217-487-7497/

camp@cilca.org

4124 Camp Cilca Rd.

Cantrall, IL 62625



February 25- 26 - Act Like Men Woodcutter's Retreat
• Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult •

March 20 - Annual Banquet
Held at Camp CILCA's Dining Hall.
Contact the Camp Office to reserve your tickets.

April 29-May 1 - Women's Scrapbooking Retreat

May 28 - Act Like Men Field Day Competition

May 29 - Annual Hog Roast
10:30 AM: Worship
11:30-2:30 PM: Hog Roast Dinner

May 31 - Junior Counselor Training
10 AM-2 PM at Camp

June 1-July 29 - Summer Camp Program

July 30 - Homecoming
Food, music, games, more!

July 31-August 5 - Act Like Men Camp
• For any man who has completed high school •

September 4 - Chicken Fry & Auction
10:30 AM: Worship
11:30-2:30 PM: Chicken Fry Dinner
1 PM: Live Auction Begins

September 17 - Act Like Men Shooting Retreat
• Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult •

September 23 - Whippoorwill Golf Outing

October 1 - GRIT Run

CAMP CILCA SCHEDULE 2022

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

new

ACT LIKE MEN EVENTS

For men of all ages to make connections across generations, learn and sharpen new skills, and grow strong in the Lord.

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."
- 1 Corinthians 16:13

Photo Credit: Erik M. Lunsford
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Call today to reserve your tickets for the Annual Banquet on March 20! Tickets are \$40 each.



LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – February 2022

God in Man Made Manifest

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus really is who He said He was. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts but also to trust in God in word and deed. As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God's grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools. (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God's power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor – in church, in the family, and society – with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



Christ the King (Cristo Rey) Lutheran Church

1301-19th Street, East Moline, IL 61244

E-mail: cristorey-em@sbcglobal.net

Ph. (309) 738-6124

Rev. Pablo G. Domínguez



February 2022



Several years ago, during winter, I made an appointment with a car shop because my car needed some repairs. My wife offered to come with me in her car and give me a ride home. I declined and decided to walk the three miles, because I thought that I could make it without any problems. ***Big mistake and bad decision!***

I had many difficulties walking home. You can image! I arrived home tired, wet, and so cold. Having lived in a warm climate most of my life I had never experienced anything like that.

Does this sound familiar, like when we make wrong decisions? This can happen frequently when we decide to follow our will and push God's will aside? How many times have we thought that we are making the right decisions, but aren't?

Daily, Christians are tempted by the devil to abandon God and follow our own pathways. We may decide to follow pathways which can take us far away from God. We surrender to too many temptations and to our own sinful human nature. We do what we want to do. It's true that our sins separate us from God, and the consequences of those sins are not good.

But are you ready to hear something marvelous? God knows our sinful condition perfectly and He even knows how attractive sin is to us. God sent His beloved Son to be the Lamb, without sin, who shed His blood for us on the cross rescuing us from sin, death and the devil. The doors of heaven are open to us! God is still telling us today that our salvation is only possible through Jesus Christ. Our only strength to turn from sin is also only possible through His Son. The psalmist says: *“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.”* (Psalm 103:8-11)

We need to praise God with every breath we take for His abundant love and merciful grace, and ask Him daily to help us to walk with Him every step of the way.

CRISTO REY ENDOWMENT

In the near future Cristo Rey will be establishing an endowment with Lutheran Legacy located in Paris, Illinois. This is planning for the future of Cristo Rey. It will give individuals, congregations, and organizations the opportunity to support the work of Cristo Rey for years to come. As plans progress, more information will be shared with you. This is an exciting time, and we thank God for providing us with the means to do this. “Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.”

Once again, thank you, dear friends, for your faithful support.

Souls are being saved and the church is growing! Thanks be to God!

With your prayers and financial support, you are working right beside us in taking the Gospel to the Hispanic community!

What wonderful and faithful friends you are!

¡Muchas Gracias Amigos de Cristo Rey!



February 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
		1 9:30am Bible Study 6:30 pm Interg. Studies	2 10 am – Noon CHALK	3 4 pm Confirmation	4	5 
6 7:15 am Bd of Elders 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	7 6 pm Book Club	8 9:30am Bible Study 6:30 pm Interg. Studies	9 10 am – Noon CHALK	10 4 pm Confirmation	11	12
13 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	14 8 am – 4 pm RICC 6 pm Book Club	15 9:30am Bible Study 6:30 pm Interg. Studies	16 10 am – Noon CHALK Deadline for items in The February Image	17 4 pm Confirmation	18	19 
20 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Voters Mtg.	21 Office Closed – President's Day 8 am – 4 pm RICC 6 pm Book Club	22 9:30am Bible Study 6:30 pm Interg. Studies	23 10 am – Noon CHALK	24 4 pm Confirmation 6 pm LWML Mtg.	25	26
27 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	28 8 am – 4 pm RICC 6 pm Book Club					



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

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Pastor Astrowski: pastrowski@gmail.com

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