

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 2023



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Last month I began a discussion of the Office of the Holy Ministry. This month, as noted then, I will continue that discussion. Once again, I will use the Rite of Ordination to guide this discussion.¹

You may recall that last month I discussed the opening address of the rite which summarizes the core tenets of ordination. Following that address and the Collect, those gathered are invited to hear what Scripture says about the ministry. Before we dive into one or two of them, I'll list them. I encourage you to take a few minutes and read them.

Concerning the institution of the Office of the Holy Ministry:

Matthew 28:18-20,

John 20:21-23.

Concerning the responsibilities of the Office:

John 21:15-17,

Luke 24:46-47,

1 Corinthians 11:23-25,

1 Timothy 4:14-16,

1 Corinthians 4:1-2,

2 Corinthians 3:4-5,

2 Corinthians 5:17-21,

¹ *Lutheran Service Book Agenda* page 160 and following.

2 Timothy 4:1-5,
1 Timothy 3:1-7,
Ephesians 4:11-21,
Acts 20:28,
1 Peter 5:2-4.

Concerning the strength and promise in the Office:

Matthew 5:13-16,
2 Corinthians 10:17-18,
2 Timothy 3:14-17.

The above list is typically read by the members of the clergy roster gathered there for the ordination. They are read by those who occupy the office to the man who soon will join them as a brother in ministry. Now let's examine a couple of the excerpts.

First, let's look at Matthew 28:18-20:

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'*²

Our Lord commands His church to go and disciple (it's just one word in the original Greek). And then He tells us how. We baptize and teach to guard, to observe, to hold close, all He commanded. This is the work of pastors. As a personal observation, I note that these are the things under attack the most: baptism and preaching. Regarding baptism, I encounter weekly for sure, and almost daily, people who can't or won't believe their baptism is the work of God. Of course, Satan and our own sin stand behind this. Satan wants nothing more than for you to turn from what God does for you in baptism and make it a work you do. That way you'll never be certain you are a disciple. When he has you there, he can really go to work on you, driving you into pride or despair. And the same can be said of the teaching—preaching. It is imperative that the pastor preach and teach Christ and Him crucified. Yet the most popular preaching—meaning that most popular among the hearers—is, more or less, pop psychology couched in churchly language.³ Yet people love it. It, however, is the pastor's vocation to protect you from that—preaching devoid of Christ and Him crucified. Therapy might be good, and even important at times in our lives, but it doesn't save anyone. Only Christ saves. Hence His command.

Now, let's look at a reading that speaks of the strengths and promises of the office, specifically, Matthew 5:13-16:13

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives

² This is from the New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible. A number of these texts are read from the NKJV due to its clarity of translation for those particular texts. Unless otherwise noted all other quotes are from the English Standard Version (ESV).

³ The technical term is "moralistic, therapeutic deism." This term was coined by Christian Smith. Smith is a world class sociologist and scholar currently teaching at the University of Notre Dame. Smith notes in his research that much of what passes for Christian preaching is simply therapy or moralism. For a very approachable discussion of this, see *Christless Christianity: The Alternative Gospel of the American Church*, by Michael Horton (Baker Books, 2012). We studied this in Book Club a few years ago, so I might have an extra copy. It's yours for the asking.

light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

This, of course, is from our Lord's Sermon on the Mount. There is a connection here between the words of this sermon and what our Lord says at the end of Matthew—the text quoted above. What are the salt and the light? They are the Word of Christ. They are what He gave to us. They are the Word and Sacraments—the mysteries of God of which pastors are stewards. The salt and light, which are His, and which we carry, are those things He tells us at the end of Matthew to keep, to guard. They are what we are called to teach. If I don't hand over to you what the Lord handed to the Apostles and what they then handed to us, then we are no longer salty. And we have no light. The text is a reminder that the gifts, the power, the promises, are not ours but the Lord's. And the point is this: if I am not faithful and I do not faithfully proclaim His Word, then I am of no use whatsoever. I may say clever things and be so very nice and charismatic, but I won't be giving you what you need. I won't be giving you the one thing that can actually change your life and lift you out of the depths of your sin and the consequences your sin has wrought. That one thing is Christ and Him crucified.

In this brief survey of these two texts, we see, as noted last month, what the man who occupies the Office of the Holy Ministry is called to do. It's easy to forget these things in our fallen world that constantly clamors for tangible results. It's easy to forget when we think of the church as a business and not something that only exists in Christ and is only brought into existence by the gifts—those mysteries—given by Christ. It's easy for the pastor to look and feel busy with so many things that have nothing to do with what he is actually called to do. It's easy for him to forget what he is here for. And it's easy for you to forget too. And that's just each of us dealing with our sin. We must add to this the constant attacks of the evil one who is pleased with us when we, the Lord's pastors, do anything except proclaim Christ and Him crucified.

There is a lot more to say, and I will spend one more month, Lord willing, examining some of the vows a man takes at his ordination. We will not be able to take the time to discuss the important topics of who may occupy the office, what are the qualifications, for what reasons might a pastor be removed, who—if anyone—might assist the pastor in the conduct of the church services, what is the relationship between elders and the office, to name a few. So, maybe I will teach that class...

Now I will close with a recollection from my personal experience. Of course, I do many visits, and of course, I'm quite busy. Sometimes I've not much time to devote to a visit. My visits, time permitting, typically consist of some time devoted to chatting and time devoted to the conducting of a brief service. I recall I felt rather bad, in the earliest days of my pastorate, for occasionally not spending time in conversation. I do enjoy that, as does the person I visit. I felt as if I weren't doing my job. You see how this is a trick of Satan? I was putting what I thought was important—conversation—above what was truly important—what I am called to do. I am called to deliver the gifts of Christ: absolution and the Holy Eucharist. Any member of the church can and should visit their brothers and sisters in Christ. I had to remind myself, and be reminded by my wiser brothers in office, what I was there to do. I was there as the pastor, the called and ordained servant of the Word, to proclaim Christ and Him crucified in Word and in Sacrament. That is the most important thing I do and is the one thing, ultimately, needed. Lord, help me always this to remember.

Until next month...

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Leonard A. Astrowski, Pastor

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

May Offerings - \$18,036.00	May Expenses - \$16,879.97
June Offerings - \$14,070.00	June Expenses - \$11,906.00
July Offerings - \$16,309.00	July Expenses - \$18,143.00



The date of the next council meeting will be Thursday, September 21st and the next Voter's Meeting to adopt a new budget for 2023/2024 will be Sunday, October 15th after church services.



THE VOTERS MEETING WAS HELD ON SUNDAY, JULY 30TH AFTER CHURCH SERVICES.

The Results of the meeting are as follows:

Electronic Outdoor Sign – Approved by the congregation to proceed with the purchase and installation at a cost of \$22,549.00. Work is expected to be completed by the end of September (approximately).

Sound System for Gym & Cafeteria – Approved by the congregation to proceed with the purchase and installation of the sound system by Finn AV/IT Solutions for \$26,408.83. Included in this cost will be the removal of the old system. Work is expected to be completed by the end of September (approximately).

Roster of Officers & Appointees for 8/1/2023 through 7/31/2024:

President:	Ron Mau
Corporate Secretary:	Amanda Eckardt
Treasurer/Chr. Bd. of Finance:	Jack Copeland
Board of Elders:	Mel Vogel (Chair), Alex Triage, John Campbell, Larry Wiebel, Todd Hazen, Tyler Werke
Board of Christian Education:	Burnie Eckardt (Chair), Kathy Welch, Leigh Ann Nixon, Carrie Werke
Board of Finance:	Scott Welch
Property Com. Chairman:	Clayton Weisenborn
Foundation Trustees:	Jim Boudro (Chair), Jane Copeland, Kevin Millen, Renee Hentrich, Linda Haake
Call Committee:	Alaina Carter, Linda Haake, Karlene Campbell
Controller:	Shelley Moeller
Financial Secretary:	Barb Soyke



NEWS FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

- On July 18th, the Church Council approved a bid for \$7,800 to have Midwest Complete Construction build a new entryway into the basement as the other one has fallen into disrepair. Clayton will follow up with MCC to begin construction job. We will keep you updated with the progress of this work.
- Stained glass window repair in the Sanctuary – “Glass Blast” was contacted and has inspected the windows in need of repair. No formal estimate was received by the date of the Council meeting. More information to follow.

Cemetery Clean-Up



The tree damage at the cemetery has been cleaned up. Included on the invoice, the tree company will come back in the Fall to trim the big oak tree. We will be checking into if any further clean-up needs to be done by volunteers.

Ron has contacted Jared at Chippianock regarding stone repairs. There will be a \$50/hour flat fee for the repairs. Ron will discuss this further with Jared at a later time.

If you have any questions or would be interested in assisting with clean-up, please contact Ron Mau – or you contact the office at 309-786-3391 or email ilchurch@mchsi.com.



Reminder... each time you enter the hospital, be sure to say you are a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rock Island so that the hospital can call the office. ***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. The hospitals do not regularly call the churches as they once did.***

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



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** – 10:15 am in the Luther Room 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 Rock Island Circuit Youth Group – **starts Sunday, September 10th.**
- **And of course for the younger ones, there is Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Sunday School will begin the Sunday after Labor Day (September 10th).**

Welcome New Members!!

- And



*You're cordially invited to a New Member Potluck and
"Back-to-Sunday-School" Kick-Off*

When: Sunday, September 10, 2023

Time: 11:30 a.m. (after Church and Bible Study)

Where: Immanuel Lutheran Church Cafeteria

- Please join us as we welcome new members (since 2020) and celebrate the beginning of the Sunday School Year 2023-2024!
- We will provide brats, burgers, dogs, condiments, chips and drinks. You may bring a dish to pass – sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.
- Please R.S.V.P. by phone call or email to Tammy in the office by Wednesday, September 6th if you are planning on attending so that we know how much food to purchase and prepare.

Membership Changes:

Additions: Sophie Agbayani – transfer from St. Matthew Lutheran, Milan
Cathy Langdon – transfer from St. John's Lutheran, Geneseo
Levi Dwayne Boisvert – Baptized August 13, 2023

Deletions: None this month

Changes/Additions to current directory:

Address Changes: Burnie and Amanda Eckardt
266 12th Street
Moline, IL 61265

Additions: Sophie Agbayani
427 Brady St Apt 4
Davenport, IA 52801-1526

Memorials Received in August: In Memory of Lois Fryxell Marsoun – by Kathy Nelson



Baptized Sunday, August 13, 2023

Levi Dwayne, child of Nick & Alison Boisvert. Godparents Bryan Saunders and Shawn Boisvert.

"You are a child of God, you are wonderfully made, dearly loved and precious in his sight."

Psalm 139

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



September 2 – Mike Kramer, Larry Wiebel

September 4 – Margaret Thompson

September 6 – Dianne Allison, Emily Bushá-Ruiz

September 7 – Sonia England

September 12 – Layne Cozadd (7)

September 19 – Lillian Cobert, Sarah Leeson

September 20 – Margi Esparza

September 22 – Janet Mau

September 25 – Tyler Werke

September 27 – Claire Mills (13)

*September 2, 1989 – Pastor Len & Laurie
Astrowski*

September 4, 2010 – Nick & Alison Boisvert

September 9, 1989 – Greg & Heidi Masias

September 16, 1978 – Brent & Wanda Titus



September 20, 2014 – Myron & Carla Hazen

September 24, 1994 – Doug & Dianne Allison

September 27, 1959 – Neil & Karen Burger

September 30, 2000 – Rod & Carolyn Fowler

****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!***



Pregnancy Resources Walk for Life 2023!

You are part of God's beautiful Mosaic! Help empower a mom or dad to make an informed decision regarding pregnancy when life hangs in the balance.

Here is the link to register for the 2023 Pregnancy Resources Walk For Life, which is being held on **September 9th**, between 8:30am and 10:30am at Ben Butterworth Parkway in Moline along the Mississippi River. It would really be wonderful if we could all register under the church's team, and hopefully walk together as a group to show Immanuel's support of life and families right here in the Quad Cities. If you can contribute financially yourself or via sponsorships to help in fundraising that would be fantastic, but even if you can't, please still come and walk with Immanuel to show our community we believe in the sanctity of life from the moment of conception.

This is a family friendly event. There will be live music, refreshments provided, and there are normally additional T-shirts available. Wear your walking shoes, bring your strollers, your kids, your friends, your neighbors, even your well behaved (leashed) dogs.

<https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrysync/event/website/Participate/Participate.php?eid=25525>

Make sure to fill in "Church Attending" and "Team." Both are listed under Immanuel Lutheran. Thank you so much!

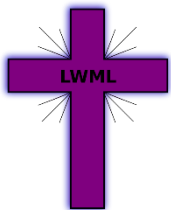
If anyone has questions, please see Alaina Carter, or contact: Liz Ryan with Pregnancy Resources at:

Liz@qcpregnancy.org

(309) 797-3636 x2



- Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) would like to invite all women from our congregation to our first meeting of 2023 on **Thursday September 28th**. Dessert will be provided by our officers: Karlene, Leigh Ann, Helen and Janet. Let's get the new season off to a great start with future planning about how we can make a difference in our church and community and the world.
- Our business meeting are every other month normally on the 4th Thursday at 6pm. If you are unable to attend in September, our next business meeting will be **Thursday, November 16th** or join us when we serve a meal at Christian Care. Watch the bulletin for details about opportunities to serve our neighbors.



The Rock Island Zone LWML Fall Rally

The 78th Rock Island Zone LWML Rally will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Moline, IL on **Tuesday, Sept 19th 2023**.

Abound in Love for One Another is the theme. Wayne Knolhoff will be the featured speaker about the Orphan Grain Train.

If you would like to attend, please see Janet Mau for a registration form and additional details by **September 6th**. The cost is \$12. ***Gifts From The Heart will be collected for Pregnancy Resources.*** Diapers on the larger size, clothes from 12 months to 3T, especially boys, receiving blankets, bottles, rattles, teethingers and anything else that would go in a baby gift bag. We will also collect little dresses, cloth diapers, Portals of Prayer and postage stamps.

The Fall Retreat at Camp Cilca will be on Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7. Please see Janet for more details.



Stamps For Missions is a project of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League at Immanuel.

The stamps collected are turned in to be further sorted to make sure they are ready for sale. The stamps are sold to stamp collectors all over the world. The proceeds support the Central Illinois District LWML Mission projects. Bring the stamps to a LWML meeting, to a church service, leave them in the church office, or give them to Sandy Kramer.

LWML ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT, SETS RECORD MISSION GOAL



Eden Keefe, newly elected LWML president, addresses the LWML convention on June 24 in Milwaukee. (LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford)

At the 40th Biennial Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Convention, held June 22–25 in Milwaukee's Baird Center under the theme "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations," the LWML set a mission goal of \$2.35 million — \$200,000 more than the last biennium and the LWML's highest mission goal ever. LWML voting members set the goal by electronic vote a month ago. During the convention, which had over 3,500 attendees, the voting assembly selected 31 mission grants to fund from a slate of 45 grant proposals.

The assembly also elected the next LWML president: Eden Keefe of Overland Park, Kan. Keefe has previously served the LWML as the Christian Living editor for *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and as vice-president of Christian Life. She will serve as LWML president for the next two bienniums.

Grant recipients for 2023–2025 include Orphan Grain Train, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Journeys Lutheran School, Lutheran Braille Workers and more. A full list of mission grant recipients can be found at lwml.org/mission-grants.

80 years of impact

The LWML celebrated 80 years in 2022. In that time, LWML mission grants totaling \$28.9 million have supported work in 83 countries.

Speaking to the convention, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Asia Regional Director Rev. Charles Ferry said, "Our partner churches ... know the LWML. I have lost track of how many times I have gone to visit our church partners, and we've heard directly from them that ... this program, this building, this operation is here because of the work of the LWML. Praise be to God. You are leaving a legacy behind you that is living and active because it is the Word of God."

"Thank you for your fidelity," said LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison in his address to the convention. "You are the rock rib of the Missouri Synod — you ladies who make it all happen, who keep those church basements hopping, the outreach going ... the Bible being studied, and all so much more. ... God bless you all and thank you, thank you, thank you."

Several organizations that received grants at the 2021 LWML convention thanked the women of the LWML from the main stage during "Mites in Action" presentations:

- The Rev. Dr. Steven Schave, executive director of the LCMS Recognized Service Organization (RSO) Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP), described how the grant enabled LAMP to extend its mission to more remote indigenous communities in Northern Canada. This year alone, 31 volunteer teams will reach 31 communities with the Gospel. "Sisters in Christ, you have been His witnesses to the ends of the earth through your support of LAMP ministries," said Schave.
- Phil Zielke, founder of the RSO Phil's Friends, described how the grant brought hope and the message of Christ to cancer patients across the country in the form of care packages containing a Bible, blanket, cards of encouragement and more. Phil's Friends will reach the 50,000 mark this year in total care packages delivered.

- The Rev. Doua Xiong, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Merced, Calif., described how the grant enabled Hmong materials and outreach in his community. The congregation saw nine Baptisms in 2022 and has already seen another five in 2023.

‘Never alone’

For convention attendees, the biennial gathering is an opportunity to see how their local congregations can make a significant impact as part of something larger than themselves.

“It’s very encouraging,” said Kris Brandorff of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Wichita, Kan. Brandorff has been a part of the LWML for over 40 years and attended two other national conventions. “You can see that there are more women like us all over the country. You’re never alone, even if you’re in a small town.”

“[The mission speakers show] what your money has done, what it has multiplied into, and the work that they’re doing with little bits of mites that we give every week,” said Karen Ard of Grace Lutheran Church in El Dorado, Kan.

Kathryn Kirby of Trinity Lutheran Church in Stewardson, Ill., has attended 17 other national LWML conventions. “It’s just amazing what our mites do,” Kirby said. “When you’re here, you really feel like, ‘Wow, I’m a part of this Synod.’”

“You figure out that with the thousands of people here, they’re representing 10 [or] 20 women back home that weren’t able to come,” said Ruth Mueller of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa, Wis. Mueller, alongside her husband, Gary, served as a host district volunteer at the convention.

‘A light to the nations’

In an apt display of the convention theme, the second full day of the convention began with a procession of flags representing the 83 nations in which LWML grants have supported mission work.

Nicole Boeder, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Springfield, Ill., and a former LCMS missionary teacher in South Africa who has also served on several short-term mission trips, helped carry the Kenya flag.

“I just love the verse in Revelation about all the peoples from every tribe and nation. We’re all going to be gathered together in heaven, and this is kind of a reminder of [that],” said Boeder, shortly after completing the procession.

During two morning Bible studies led from the main stage, LWML Nominating Committee Chairman Kaye Wolff unpacked the convention theme, based on Psalm 33:12–13. Wolff traced God’s saving work through the history of Israel and the person and work of Christ:

“God [gave Abraham and Sarah a child in their old age] so that, through them, God could bring salvation to the world through their descendant, the promised Savior of the world, our Jesus, the Christ. ... God established Israel to be a light to the nations ... so that God could draw all people to Himself, that all might know His salvation and be saved.”

20 years of Heart to Heart Sisters

The “Lord of the Nations” theme was also well suited to the 20th anniversary of the LWML’s Heart to Heart — Sisters of All Nations program, which was established in 2003 when 22 Hispanic and African American Lutheran women were invited to a seminar before that year’s LWML convention in Oklahoma City.

During each LWML convention since, the program has trained women to reach out to people in their communities with different ethnic or cultural backgrounds. Twenty-seven of these district facilitators were trained this year, including

Christina Henry, the great-granddaughter of one of the first native Lutheran pastors in India, who was baptized by German Lutheran missionaries in 1900. Henry, a native of India herself, now lives in Montana, where she and her husband are members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

"I've loved the training. Look at the variety," said Henry, gesturing around the room at the other trainees. "We all are sisters in Christ, and we are proving it."



LWML Young Women Representatives are recognized at the LWML convention in Milwaukee on June 23. (LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford)

50 years of Young Woman Reps

Also celebrating a milestone anniversary this year was the LWML's Young Woman Representatives (YWR) program, which was started 50 years ago when eight young women were specially invited to attend the convention.

This year, 75 Young Woman Representatives attended, and YWR pins could be seen adorning women of all ages who had been introduced to the LWML through the program.

"I've heard stories from my grandma about [LWML conventions], and I've never experienced it, so now to see what she experienced — it's just exciting to see it span the generations," said Kimberlyn Thomas, this year's YWR from the Indiana District.

"I never feel more loved than when I'm surrounded by LWML women," said Amanda Ballentine, a YWR from Iowa District West. "Someday we're going to be the ladies that will be up there [on stage]. ... We'll have been here for years, and [we will] ... see everybody we've met and ... all the things that LWML has done."

Engaged in mission

LWML attendees continued to support mission work even amid the convention, with three servant events on the convention's first day. Volunteers packed over 50,000 meals and 566 backpack school kits for Orphan Grain Train, assembled 1,167 Braille books and calendars for Lutheran Braille Workers, wrote hundreds of cards to LCMS missionaries and military personnel, made fleece blankets and cards for Phil's Friends to distribute to cancer patients, and more.

As the close of the convention, the Tee Up 4 Mites golf outing held on the convention's first day had raised over \$35,000 toward the LWML mission goal, and the Mission Walk held on the convention's last full day had raised over \$100,000.

In addition, offerings were collected each day. By the close of the convention, the first, which will go toward the 2023–2025 mission goal, had raised \$54,922, and three others supporting Lutheran mission organizations had raised \$52,269.

In the name of Christ

Attendees also took part in worship, prayer and song. Through the assistance of dozens of pastors from the host districts (North Wisconsin, South Wisconsin and Northern Illinois), the women received Holy Communion during the opening Divine Service.

“God had a plan to send His Son ... into the world ... so that we might have life. ... And so we joyfully proclaim with our lives, with our service, with our lips, that we are God’s people,” preached the Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, president of the LCMS North Wisconsin District, in his sermon during the service.

Attendees left Milwaukee with renewed energy to spread the Gospel to their communities.

“[After conventions] there is increased participation in Bible study ... in mission giving ... in servant activities [and] in [these women] working in their own communities and churches, because of the inspiration that they found [here],” said Debbie Larson, outgoing LWML president. “That’s to me the list of why we have our conventions. It is costly. It is time-consuming. And it is worth it.”

LWML Elects New Leaders to the Board of Directors

The newly elected officers for the 2023–2027 term are:

- President: Eden Keefe, LWML Kansas District
- Vice President of Organizational Resources: Arlene Naasz, LWML South Dakota District
- Vice President of Special Focus Ministries: Karol Selle, LWML North Wisconsin District
- Treasurer: Anita Werner, LWML Rocky Mountain District
- Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Mark Maas, LWML Wyoming District

The LWML Nominating Committee Was Elected for the 2023–2025 Biennium

The newly elected members of the Nominating Committee are:

- Chairman: Olajumoke Odedele, LWML New Jersey District
- Committee Member: Deaconess Betty Knapp, LWML North Wisconsin District
- Committee Member: Laura Stratman, LWML Central Illinois District
- Committee Member: Melissa Vance, LWML South Dakota District
- Committee Member: Roxanne Pieper, LWML Minnesota South District

The LWML Board of Directors Approved Appointed Officers

The newly Appointed Officers are:

- Strategic Plan Facilitator: Cheryl Mattil, LWML Texas District
- Meeting Manager: Leslie Colligan, LWML New England District
- Public Relations Director: Debbie Yocky, LWML Rocky Mountain District

Thank You for Your Generous Support

Convention offerings, the Mission Pledge Walk, and Tee Up for Mites donations are still being received. Final totals will be announced in an eNews article. Gifts from the Heart donation totals and recipients will also be provided.

About LWML

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) is the leading women’s organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, LWML has focused on affirming each woman’s relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries, and to support global missions. We’re a nonprofit organization that encourages women to joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and to honor God by serving others.



Stewardship in the First Commandment

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don’t have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But

we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect our belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God’s work.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



Dollar for Missions

Two Dollars For Missions Projects Completed It is with exceedingly great joy that Central Illinois District President Rev. Michael Mohr announces that not only has our current Dollars for Missions Project (the purchase of a 15- passenger van for University Lutheran Church in Champaign) been fully funded, but July contributions towards Dollars for Missions have been robust enough to fully fund the next project on the list – Augment pay for Prison Ministry at Lincoln and Logan Correctional Centers. Therefore, our current Dollars for Missions Project is to raise \$20k for stipends to pastors to begin visiting four new prisons or jails in 2024. Additional information regarding the Dollars for Missions Projects can be found on the district website at <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-a-dollar-for-missions.html>.

CID LLL Annual Retreat

God's Living Word Today

September 9, 2023

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Camp CILCA

4124 Camp Cilca Road, Cantrall, IL

Registration \$25.00 (includes lunch).

Guest Speaker is Rev. Timothy Scharr, Southern Illinois District President.

Register by Sept. 5th by sending the fee to Deloris Blessmann, 24204 CR 1850N Topeka, IL 61567, or emailing delorisblessman@yahoo.com.

Save the Dates

- **Camp CILCA Chicken Fry and Auction - September 3, 2023**

Fresh fried chicken and all the sides. Auction items up for bid. Preview all auction items at cilca.org/auction-items. Make a weekend of it and camp out with friends from across the state.

- **Small Church Summit** in CID on Saturday, February 3, 2024, or (if the weather is bad) on Saturday, February 10, 2024.
- **The Illinois March for Life** on March 19, 2024 in Springfield. Trinity Lutheran Church, across the street from the state capitol building, will again conduct a Matins service in the morning prior to the march.
- Next summer's **LCMS Institute on Liturgy, Preaching, and Church Music**, to be held July 9-12, 2024 at Concordia University, Nebraska.

Looking for additional information, visit <https://linktr.ee/cidlcms> or connect with the following items:

- † CID's GatePost (newsletter) Subscribe to the E-GatePost/*News You Can Use*. Stay connected with us on Facebook and Instagram --**Central Illinois District-LCMS**

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



Newsletter September 2023

“not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” Hebrews 10:25

Over the past few weeks, I have heard these responses from different people: “It’s very early, it’s too far from my house, or I feel embarrassed to go”.

I heard these excuses when I invited people to Cristo Rey to participate in our worship. I’m sure that you have heard excuses, too, haven’t you?

I remember very well when I participated as a volunteer with a nonprofit local agency a few years ago and an invitation was extended to the people to celebrate Las Posadas. The event was on a wintery, December Saturday afternoon. This particular night was so very cold, and it was snowing. I was amazed when entire families started to arrive at the location. There were parents with babies and toddlers. You can imagine how these people were talking about the bad weather, but it didn’t seem that important to them. They wanted to come and have a good time at this party even if their children might get sick. I even heard that some people traveled to Iowa City to hear a popular music group and enjoy a time of dancing. I’m not saying that I am opposed to parties or dances, but we need to determine priorities correctly.

For people who do not attend worship, it’s so easy to reject the invitation to come to church, right? People who used to go to church but aren’t faithful in attendance, might say, “Maybe next week or when I have a certain feeling in my heart”. I’m sure that you can add even more excuses that you have heard.

According to God’s Word, if we go to church, it’s because the Holy Spirit put that desire in our hearts. We remember that we aren’t perfect or better than the people who don’t attend. As sinners we come to church to receive God’s forgiveness. As I recently told one of my contacts; “I’m in front of you as the first sinner to arrive at church and the last forgiven one to leave because I have the key to unlock the church building and then lock it again”.

Let’s go to church and worship our merciful Lord and receive that spiritual rest that only He can give!

“I was glad when they said to me, let us go into the house of the Lord” Psalm 122:1



CR participated on July 4th Parade, East Moline.: Volunteers including children, youth, and adults distributed Arch books to the children along the parade route as well as church and activities information to the adults. We participated with the KALA Radio station team. This radio station is where CR has a live program every Saturday from 7-8 am proclaiming the Gospel to Hispanic listeners.



On July 6th an inmate at the East Moline Correctional Center was baptized and received into the Christian church after taking classes with Rev. Paul Weber, who is both the Center's Chaplain as well pastor, at Faith, Kewanee, IL.

Beardstown Latino Ministry: An attendance of 10 people. I ask for your prayers for the families that attended.

On Jul 30 a Quinceañera (a celebration for a young woman turning 15) was held at CR. Miss Alexia Saavedra was received into society with a special worship service.



Thank you so very much, dear friends, for your loyal support of the Hispanic ministry at Cristo Rey with prayers, donations, and monetary gifts!



September 2023





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 Calendar subject to change. Any changes will be listed in weekly announcements.
3 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study	4 Labor Day – Office Closed	5 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 Intergen. Study Hour	6 9-11 AM CHALK H.S. 7 pm RI Circuit LCMS Youth Group Plng Mtg	7 7 pm Youth Group Programming Board	8	9 8:30-10:30 a.m. Pregnancy Resources Walk for Life Ben Butterworth Pkwy
10 7:15 am Bd. of Elders 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS 11:30 am – Picnic/Potluck 5:30 pm Youth Group	11 8-4 RICC Home School 6 pm Book Club	12 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 Intergen. Study Hour	13 9-11 AM CHALK Homeschool	14 	15	16
17 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	18 8-4 RICC Home School 6 pm Book Club	19 8:30 am RI Zone LWML Fall Rally – Holy Cross, Moline 6:30 Intergen. Study Hour	20 9-11 AM CHALK Homeschool	21 6 pm Council Mtg.	22	23 
24 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	25 8-4 RICC Home School 6 pm Book Club	26 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 Intergen. Study Hour	27 9-11 AM CHALK Homeschool	28 6 pm LWML Mtg.	29	30



THE IMAGE is the monthly newsletter published for members and friends of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 3300 24th St., Rock Island, Illinois. Immanuel is a member of The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod.

Sunday Schedule

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: www.immanuelri.org

Church Office Phone: 309-786-3391

Pastor Astrowski's Phone: 989-326-0199

Email Addresses: Pastor Astrowski – pastrowski@gmail.com Church Office – ilchurch@mchsi.com

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Immanuel-Lutheran-Church-RockIsland-IL-LCMS-179175395513326/>

All Sunday services are “live” streamed on Facebook at 9 am Sundays and posted to the church’s YouTube channel at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWLcoXZtMq13HOqRo_uifqg/featured?view_as=subscriber.

Additionally, you can tune in to Pastor’s nightly devotion each evening at 9 pm “live” on Facebook or find it on the church’s YouTube page later.