

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 – March 2024



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Before we were ever called Christians, we were known as those who belonged to the Way.¹ This title links us directly to the words of Christ as He says *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*² There is only one Way. There is only one Name under heaven by which any of us can be saved. And that name is Jesus Christ. I also think of the Sermon on the Mount. In that sermon, spoken by the Son of God, we hear: *"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."*³ And of course, The Old Testament is rife with descriptions of us as sojourners, people—wherever we might find ourselves in this life—who are in a sense strangers journeying toward our true home, the life to come. So, it is good to think about ourselves, God's people, as those who belong to a way of life, a way of being, as those who live under the headship of Christ our Lord. He alone is the Way—the Author of our salvation.

So, what happens when we depart from the Way? How does that happen?

In his letter to the church in Galatia, St. Paul writes the following well-known verses: *"But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed."*⁴ The word used twice and translated as "accursed" is also rendered "anathema" (a transliteration of the Greek word), or as "devoted to destruction." That last rendering, I think, comes closest to the meaning of the word. Its roots are found deep in the Old Testament.⁵ A thing that is anathema, or devoted to destruction, is something used in the worship of pagan gods. By that thing's very nature, it is nothing other than a dead thing.

¹ See Acts 9:2. Also see Acts 11:26, which records that in Antioch we were first called Christians.

² John 14:6. This is a verse, for good reason, we often read at funerals.

³ Matthew 7:13-14.

⁴ Galatians 1:8-9.

⁵ See, for example, Deuteronomy 13:17-18 (verses 18 and 19 in the Hebrew text).

What, after all, is a pagan god? It is a thing with no life at all. A lifeless statue. Lifeless words. Lifeless rituals. To worship dead things is to walk in the way of death. The path is indeed a dead end. It is destruction.

The issue for St. Paul was not those who were coming into the church and saying all of it was just a bunch of hooey so, here, worship this alabaster toad. Not at all. The teaching that was infecting the church in Galatia was a *distortion* of the gospel. It wasn't Christ or this, but rather Christ *and* this. And the things that can be the "this" seem to be unlimited. And lest we forget, the devil hates the Gospel. He loves to add a little here, distort a little there. He desires to set our feet upon a slightly divergent path. That is all it takes. A slight step off the true path, and with the passage of time, we find (if we dare look) that the path we walk—the way—has led us into the wilderness, with the Way nowhere in sight. Think about the errors that have crept into the church—both ancient and modern. There's praying to the saints and the emptying of the blessed sacraments of meaning and power.

The Sacraments, for many, are confessed as things they do to demonstrate their obedience to God. They have, for a sad many, become symbols with no power to do what the Word says they actually do—what Scripture says they do. Baptism becomes merely a dedication that looks forward to a future faith. Holy Communion is for too many (the number should be zero!) merely bread and wine (or juice) and a simple remembrance. These are just a couple distortions of the Gospel that demonstrate a different way. These are not what that church has confessed from its earliest days (and what we still confess). And so far from the true Way have many strayed that many confess that the wayward path they trod is the only path. Proof? Just read this paragraph to someone who confesses these two erroneous things. You'll experience them digging in and becoming quite defensive. And these things, I beg you to note, found their beginnings within the church. Instead of "Christ alone," it is "Christ *and*" the church began to tolerate. I'll add that, so popular have these distortions become in our culture, the confessions that tolerate these things often appear highly successful from our point of view.⁶ That's another item to remember. Not only does the father of lies distort the Gospel but he often shrouds that distortion under the appearance of success. And, for us, that is often quite disheartening.

Success is a word I have come to loathe. Now, there is nothing wrong with being successful in the typical ways we Americans think about being successful. There's nothing wrong with wealth and enjoying the comforts with which we are blessed. What I'm thinking about here is the church. Rarely does a week pass when, in conversation with a well-meaning acquaintance, I am asked if "my" church is growing. Now, it most assuredly is my daily prayer that the church would grow. I'm sure that's your prayer too. We all live in the midst of unbelievers and people—often people we love—that have strayed from the faith. But what if the church doesn't grow? What if we increasingly see a church full of graying heads and few, if any, children? (That thought fills me with so much sadness.) Is a small or shrinking church a failure? Of course, these are the questions that arise when we convince ourselves the church is a business. Businesses, of course, are driven by the bottom line, and that bottom line is driven by the whims of the culture and the consumer.⁸ In order to remain successful, that is to keep the churches full and the cash flowing in, churches who adopt business and marketing practices must follow the culture. This explains why so many of the mega churches, in order to stay relevant to the consumer, change their doctrine. In the past few months, both Andy Stanley of Atlanta and Rick Warren of Southern California—two of the most "successful" and therefore influential pastors on the

⁶ There are several reasons for this, but the main reasons are a failure to submit to Scripture's teaching about the totality of our fall. Add to this a placing of reason above the Word of God. We use the gift of reason in submission to the Word of God. For instance, when the Word says the "Baptism...now saves you..." (1 Peter 3:21). To that, we simply say, "Amen."

⁷ We would all do well to remember that this church is neither yours nor mine. It is Christ's church.

⁸ An excellent resource for exploring consumerism in the church is Vincent Miller's 2005 work *Consuming Religion: Christian Faith and Practice in a Consumer Culture* (Continuum, 2005). It is Miller who notes that churches that are driven by consumerism necessarily follow the lead of the culture.

American Evangelical scene—are changing their stance on long-standing (and Scriptural!) doctrines. Why? Scriptural doctrine is bad for business. It's really that simple. I pray that would never be us!

But what does the Word of God say about such things? Plenty! Our Lord says to those who remain good stewards of His gifts, “*Well done, good and faithful servant.*”⁹ Note that He does not say, “Well done, good and successful servant.” Add to that the frequent admonitions of St. Paul to the pastors Timothy and Titus to remain faithful to the Word they have been given. By contrast, in the vision John receives and records in Revelation, the Lord notes both the faithfulness and lack of faithfulness in the seven churches singled out in the first chapters of the vision. Of note here is what our Lord says to the church in Sardis: “*I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent.*”¹⁰ Yes, a church can look alive and actually be dead. Again, I pray that would never be us. It is a far better thing to be small than dead.

You see, this is the task, especially as we face the truth of the demographics of our community. We may be tempted (actually, we are tempted) to let our eyes and the church's bank account define our “success.” But if there is a measure of success, let it be this: that looking back, we can see that we have clung, tightly, to the Word of God. That we have repented when we discovered we had not. And that we always know that, no matter how large or small our church may be, Christ, in His entirety, is among us. I pray this would always be us! I pray our feet never depart from the Way.

In Christ's most Holy Name,

Rev. Leonard Astrowski, Pastor

⁹ See Matthew 25:14 and following.

¹⁰ Revelation 3:1-3.

Total offering and expenses for December and 2023

We thank you for your continued generosity!

Dec. Offerings: \$35,486.31 Dec. Expenses (Budgeted): \$30,348.00

Dec. Expenses (Actual): \$34,903.00

2023 Offerings: \$222,948.51 2023 Expenses (Budgeted): \$268,043.55

2023 Expenses (Actual): \$328,310.43



PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF OUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:

officeimmanuelri@gmail.com

You may start using this email immediately.

Thanks!

If you haven't picked up your offering envelopes for 2024, they are now in the office. The Financial Statements for 2023 have been mailed out or are in the office. If you have not picked up your set or received your statement, please contact Tammy in the office (309-786-3391).



— **Board of Finance**



THE 2024 FLOWER CHART and **THE ETERNAL LIGHT CHART** is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. The 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.

(Note: There will be no flowers on the altar during Lent, but you may sign up for the Eternal Light.)



****PLEASE WRITE OUT ON THE CHART WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE PRINTED IN THE ANNOUNCEMENTS, OR EMAIL THE INFO TO ILCHURCH@MCHSI.COM. YOU CAN ALSO WRITE A NOTE AND LEAVE IT FOR TAMMY IN THE OFFERING PLATE.**



Immanuel Lutheran Church will again be a polling place for the General Primary coming up on March 19, 2024. The polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. for voting. For those of you who live in the area, please check to see where your voting precinct is – it may well be here. The next election to take place will be the General Election on November 5, 2024.



NEWS FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

- **Stained glass window repair in the Sanctuary** – “Glass Blast” has started work on the windows. This work will be done in stages with the first stage of work having already been completed. There are three windows left and one will be repaired each of the next three quarters. Memorial Funds have recently been distributed toward this project.
- **A new kitchen door will be installed soon.** Please watch the announcements for when that work will be completed.
- **Audio/Visual System for Gym & Cafeteria** – Approved by the congregation to proceed with the purchase and installation of the sound system by Finn AV/IT Solutions. ***Most of the work has been completed on this project with just a few “tweaks” left to go.***
- **There has been a lot of electrical work going on around here as well.** We don’t yet have a timeline for when this work will be completed except to say that it has been an ongoing process for a while now! Thank you to Bryan Williamson of Williamson Electric for all of the work he’s done in the last couple of years!
- **We made the switch over to Metronet from Mediacom in mid-February.** We have a new email address for the church. It is active now and it is: officeimmanuelri@gmail.com. You may now start using this new email address.

The Big Spring-Cleaning Project



Immanuel Lutheran Church will be hosting the LWML District Convention in April 2024. Many of the rooms in the Education wing have been “de-cluttered” but will still need deep cleaning as well as the kitchen and bathrooms. There will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex – one for each room needing cleaned – and ***we’d like to have a “team” of at least two people to “adopt-a-room” and come in at your convenience*** to clean the room that you’ve adopted. Christine Roth will be putting together a list of everything that needs done in each room, basically a good, deep clean (windows, walls, any furniture, etc.) Cleaning supplies will be available and we have plenty of cleaning rags! There will be no heavy lifting, just deep cleaning! We would like to have this work completed by April 13th. All hands on deck! Thanks!

*****A big thank-you to those of you who have already signed up to help clean!!!*****



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 inform the church. *If you would like 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: officeimmanuelri@gmail.com.



All adults and youth are invited to participate in any or all Bible studies offered at Immanuel. We are thankful we can gather 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 Luther Room or on Zoom.
- **Intergenerational Studies** – 6 pm each Tuesday evening.
- **For the older youth** – there is a Rock Island Circuit Youth Group. Watch for announcements on dates and times.
- **And of course, for the younger ones, there is Sunday School at 10:15 am on Sunday mornings.**



YOUTH GROUP UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- ❖ **Sunday, March 17** – Youth Group Meeting @ Immanuel, Rock Island
- ❖ **Wednesday, March 20** – Serving Lenten Meal

OFFICERS NEEDED

If you are interested in becoming an officer or member of a committee at Immanuel, there are several positions that will be open including but not limited to: Congregation President (1); Chairman, Board of Education (1); Foundation (1); Call Committee (3); Board of Elders (1); Board of Finance (1). This requires attending the council meetings which are *generally* held on the 3rd Thursday of every other month. The date of the next council meeting has not yet been determined but at that time a nomination list will be put together for the June Voter's Meeting to elect new officers. If you are interested, please contact Mel Vogel, Ron Mau or call the church office at 309-786-3391.



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



March 2: Mick Esparza

March 5: Emily Hazen

March 7: Bevy Eckardt (11)

March 9: Corbin Ayers

March 11: Carrie Titus

March 14: Bryan Cobert

March 16: Alex Miller (12)

March 17: Alison Boisvert

March 18: Mona Meyer, Samantha Peterson

March 19: AJ Cortez

March 23: Mike DePaepe (6)

March 24: Milo Boisvert (3);

Mikey Eckardt (7)

March 26: Doug Campbell

March 29: Rob Henke



Mick & Margi Esparza – March 25, 1983

****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!

Membership Changes:

Additions: None this month.

Deletions: None this month.

Changes/Additions to current directory:

Address Changes:

Additions:

Deletions:

Memorials Received in February:

To Social Ministry for food baskets and for Joshua Bieri; To Stained Glass Windows; To handicap bathrooms

Lenten Schedules

March 3, 2024	Sunday	9:00 AM	Third Sunday in Lent
March 6, 2024	Wednesday	5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek Supper Lenten Midweek III
March 10, 2024	Sunday	9:00 AM	Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 13, 2024	Wednesday	5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek Supper Lenten Midweek IV
March 17, 2024	Sunday	9:00 AM	Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 20, 2024	Wednesday	5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek Supper Lenten Midweek V
March 24, 2024	Sunday	9:00 AM	Palm Sunday
March 28, 2024	Thursday	6:30 PM	Holy (Maundy) Thursday
March 29, 2024	Friday	12:00 PM 7:00 PM	Good Friday Chief Service Good Friday, Tenebrae
March 30, 2024	Saturday	7:00 PM	The Vigil of Easter
March 31, 2024	Sunday	6:30 AM 7:30 am 9:00 AM	Easter Sunday Sunrise Easter Potluck Breakfast The Resurrection of Our Lord



A meal will be served in the cafeteria at 5:30 pm each Wednesday prior to the midweek services.

Join us for a potluck breakfast on Easter morning after the Sunrise Service. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for items to bring and/or set up and clean-up duties.



The Chancel of our church will be decorated with Lilies on Easter Sunday, March 31st.

We invite you to donate towards the cost of the Lilies. There will be a form available in the Narthex for you to fill out with the information that you want printed in the announcements on Easter Sunday. Place your slip and monetary donation in an envelope with "Lilies" written on it along with your name, amount, & envelope number. Drop it in the offering plate at a service or mail it to the office – officeimmanuelri@gmail.com.

The deadline for the names is Monday, March 25th.



Website: <http://www.lwmlcid.org/>
District President: Laura Stratman
Contact this District: lwml@lwml.org

2024 DISTRICT CONVENTION

April 24–27, 2024
Immanuel Lutheran Church
3300 24th Street
Rock Island, IL
Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling
Luke 10:2
[Visit the district website for more information.](http://www.lwmlcid.org)
[Lwmlcid.org](http://www.lwmlcid.org)



Our theme for this year is “Lord of the Nations” 2024

Our meetings begin at **6:00 p.m. in the Luther Room** on the 4th Thursday of the month with Bible Study, followed by a brief business meeting and then Mission Work and Fellowship.

Sunday, March 3 – Mighty Mite Sunday

March 7, 5:30 pm - Serve Meal at Christian Care Meal Site, Rock Island

March 13, 5:30 pm – Provide Lenten Meal preceding Service

(TBD) – Preparations for April Convention

March 21 – Pregnancy Resources Dinner

April 11, 6:00 pm – Business meeting and final Convention preparations

April 24, 6:00 pm – Table and Room set-up for Convention

April 26 – 27 - LWML District Convention – “Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling”

May – Dinner Out and Election of Officers

LWML Information for Upcoming Events:

- Mite Box **Sunday, March 3** is an opportunity for all members of Immanuel to join with other congregations around the world to gather their mites to support missions here locally in the US and around the world. Phil's friends receives not only our blanket gifts but mites from LWML nationally.
- At the back of the church anyone in the congregation can pick up and take home a tie blanket kit to return by **April 5th**. We will then have ladies from our congregation deliver to Phil's friends later in April. If you and your family are doing the quilt together, could you snap a picture and send it to the church office to possibly be used on our bulletin board?
- Phil's Friends and approved LWML mission grant recipient includes these tie blankets in care boxes to those affected by Cancer. Their moto is **Cancer is Strong, Hope is Stronger**. Phil's friends is a Christ centered

support and hope organization. In each care package are things like fuzzy socks, blanket, lip balm, journal, Bible, toothbrush, unscented travel size lotion. Once someone receives a box, they also receive cards of encouragement monthly.

- Would you like to adopt a bulletin board? We would like to spruce up the bulletin boards in the hallway. If you have pictures of events at Immanuel this past year, would you share those with Tammy and send to the church office?
- Thank you in advance to all who are willing to donate their time to spruce up our Church home for our guests from across the Central Illinois District in April. LWML is planning a “work day” for Saturday, April 20th starting at 9 a.m. Come whenever you want and stay as long as you can! Please let Tammy in the church office if you have any questions. Thank you.

2023–2025 LWML MISSION GRANT #5

DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, TYLER, TX — \$50,000 – PAID IN FULL

About This Mission Grant

Trinity Lutheran Church Disaster Response Team (TLC DRT) in Tyler, Texas, answers the call to serve our neighbors in need by ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of people affected by severe storms such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. The team is comprised totally of volunteer workers who set up base camps in areas that have been affected by natural disasters. They listen compassionately to the stories of people who have been affected by storms and share Christ’s love with them in Word and action.

TLC DRT's equipment and trailers are also used by volunteers from other teams, causing additional wear and tear on equipment. This grant will allow repair and replacement of necessary equipment so the team can continue to be Christ’s hands and feet and share God’s love to people affected by disasters.

2023–2025 LWML MISSION GRANT #6

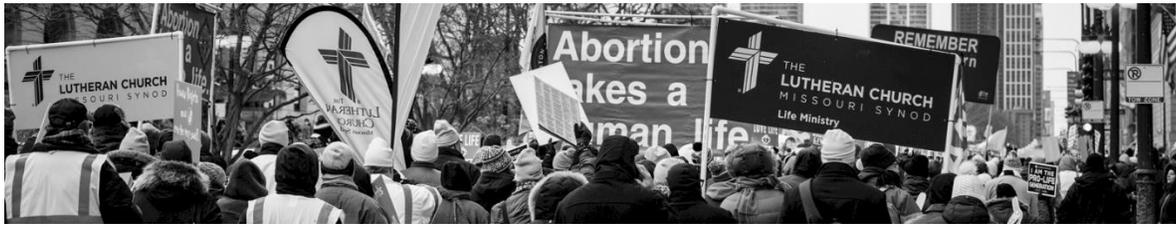
MOBILE KITCHEN

FORGED BY FIRE SERVICES, GULF COAST REGION, U.S. — \$85,000 – PAID IN FULL

About This Mission Grant

Forged by Fire Services strives to actively make known the love of Jesus Christ through its actions and words by providing warm meals, bottled water, and spiritual care to people in times of need following a disaster or economic downturn. They pray with those in need and offer resources such as devotionals and Bibles.

This grant will allow the purchase of a mobile, self-contained kitchen trailer unit to provide meals in communities affected by disaster. Over 130,000 meals have been served in the Gulf Coast region. The mobile kitchen will benefit smaller communities in need that are often overlooked by larger organizations. When serving, Forged by Fire Services strives to connect local LCMS congregations within the communities and shares the mercy and grace of Christ, one plate of food at a time.



2024 ILLINOIS MARCH FOR LIFE IN SPRINGFIELD

The 2024 Illinois March for Life is **Wednesday, April 17th** in Springfield. The rally begins at 11:00 am and the March is at 12:00 pm. Check back for additional details about a worship service that day and the starting location of the March.

Marriage Enrichment Class

Immanuel Lutheran Church

3300 24th Street

Rock Island, IL 61201

Many think that doing what comes naturally is certainly the best way to go about being married. But since we are sinners by nature, having a good and strong marriage does not come naturally. We need to give our marriage good and constant attention and receive guidance for it from our Savior God.

Please plan to join us for classes on Saturday mornings from 10am-Noon on the following dates:

- **February 17**
- **February 24**
- **March 2**
- **March 9**
- **March 16**

Our discussion will be from the “You Can Do It” books series by LCMS Pastor Ron Garwood. This study will cover “5 Things You Can Do to Strengthen Your Marriage”.

This class will equip you to:

1. Remember God’s will for you in His institution of marriage
2. Be in prayer
3. Communicate with each other
4. Love one another
5. Forgive one another

Please contact the church office at 309-786-3391 or via email at officeimmanuelri@gmail.com to pre-register. Childcare will be provided.

The Camp CILCA Lowdown

March, 2024



217-487-7497 / camp@cilca.org
4124 Camp Cilca Rd.
Cantrall, IL 62625

Camp CILCA Schedule

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- November 4, 2023 Fall Work Day
- December 8-9, 2023 Joyful Hearts Christmas
- February 23-24 ACT LIKE MEN WOODCUTTERS' RETREAT
- March 2 Free Pancake Dinner
- March 30 Spring Work Day
- April 14 Annual Banquet
Held at Camp CILCA's Dining Hall. Contact the camp office to reserve your tickets.
- TBD Spring Women's Scrapbooking Retreat
- May 26 Annual Hog Roast
- May 28 Junior Counselor Training (10am-2pm)
- May 29-July 27 SUMMER PROGRAM
- July 27 Homecoming - Food, music, games, more!
- September 1 Grilled Chicken Dinner & Auction
- September 13 Whippoorwill Golf Outing
- September 21 ACT LIKE MEN Shooting Retreat
(Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult)
- October 5 GRIT Run!
- November 2 ACT LIKE MEN Work Day

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**

Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.



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 March 2024

Lent.



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. On this day, as forgiven sinners, we receive ashes in the sign of a cross on our foreheads as the pastor says: *"for dust you are and to dust you will return."* (Genesis 3:19)

Do you ponder Jesus' sacrifice and death during Lent? Jesus knew His mission to save the human race from their sins was drawing closer and closer. He can see the punishment, suffering, and death He will experience. It was not easy for Him, but He willingly obeyed His Heavenly Father. He spent time in meditation and prayer as He prepared for this imminent event.

Usually when we talk about death, people, even Christians, become frightened. It's not easy when your doctor tells you bad news like "you have: diabetes, cancer, heart disease, etc." It's not easy to assimilate. How long will I live? Will I suffer a lot? These are just a few questions that come into our minds. It is not easy for us to deal with the fact that someday we will leave this world. It takes time for reflection.

To us, as Christians, Lent is a time of spiritual preparation and prayer. In this season, we need to look, in a serious and respectful way, at the act of Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross. We need to realize that it is our sins that nailed Him to the cross. It is a penitential season of the church year. He hangs there suffering on our behalf. And He does it all out of love for us miserable sinners. And we also ask God to help us accept our own inevitable death trusting that He will deliver our souls into His presence where we will await with hope our resurrection on the Last Day.

Realizing all that Jesus has done for us we can sing or say the words of this beautiful Lenten hymn:

Christ the life of all the living,
Christ the death of death our foe,
Christ Yourself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe
Through Your suffering, death and merit
Life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
Dearest Jesus unto You. Amen and Amen!

Lord have mercy upon us! Christ have mercy upon us! Lord have mercy upon us!



Liberty. *“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery”* Galatians 5:1

One day, Steve, a Lutheran pastor from Texas visited our church in Monterrey, Mexico. He didn’t speak Spanish well, but he really worked hard on it. I invited him to eat delicious tacos with me in a famous restaurant there in Monterrey. It was Holy Week so there were not many people in the restaurant. While eating the last taco, as a joke, I asked him, “Do you know that the majority of Mexicans do not eat meat on Holy Friday?”. He smiled and with the fajita taco in his hand and ready to eat it, he said, “It is so good what Christ did. He gave me liberty”!

Christ’s liberty is delicious! Right?

Comments:

On Jan. 7, CR new Board of Elders was installed. Ruben Dominguez, President; Guadalupe Gutknecht, Secretary; Laura Nunez, Treasury; and Gisela Arellano, Treasury Assistant

The New Ladies Board of Directors was elected in December. Guadalupe Gutknecht, President; Laura Nunez, Treasury; Ana Salgado, Secretary

Prison Ministry. Now the number of attendees has grown from 16 to 20 people every Thursday. They also have access to LHM brochures published in Spanish. Every Thursday I give the opportunity to a person to guide us with an opening prayer. (Some get nervous, because they are barely taking the first steps in the knowledge of God and the Holy Scriptures)

Before and after the Bible Study, we use the songs used in CR, supported by the talent of the musicians who are also in prison.



Choice Dollars. Christ the King Lutheran Church (Cristo Rey) participates in Thrivent Choice which is a charitable grant program of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Did you know you are now able to direct your Choice Dollars to our Hispanic mission?

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

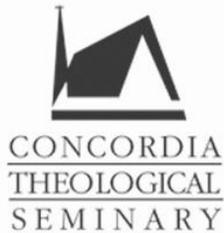


IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

There are still plans to help with special needs throughout the year as needed when requested via the Elders or Pastor.

If there is anyone in the congregation who knows of a family member or friend/neighbor in need of an Easter Dinner Basket, please let us know by March 18th. You can contact any of the folks listed below.

If you have any questions, contact Tammy at the church office (786-3391), Mel Vogel (309-781-9624), or any other member of the Social Ministry Committee.



Also this year, the Social Ministry Committee will be providing a first-year Seminarian at Fort Wayne, assistance with school related expenses. Funds will be sent directly to Concordia Ft. Wayne in his name. His name is Joshua Bieri and he was previously the Youth Director at Zion Lutheran Church in Taylor Ridge. Please include Joshua and his family (wife Chrystal and three sons) in your prayers during his tenure at Seminary). If anyone would like to send them a card or note of encouragement, their address is:

Joshua & Chrystal Bieri
2219 Abbey Dr. Apt. 5
Fort Wayne, IN 46835



March 2024



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
3 7:15 am Bd. Of Elders Mtg 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	4 7 am Matins 8 am – 4 pm RICC 6 pm Book Club	5 9:30am Bible Study 6:00 pm Interg. Studies 7:30 pm Confirmation	6 9-Noon CHALK 5:30 pm Lenten Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Midweek III	7 7 pm Youth Group Programming Board	1	2 10-Noon: Marriage Enrichment Class (2 nd & 9 th)
10 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	11 7 am Matins 8 am – 4 pm RICC 6 pm Book Club	12 9:30am Bible Study 6:00 pm Interg. Studies 7:30 pm Confirmation	13 9-Noon CHALK 5:30 pm Lenten Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Midweek IV	14 	15	16 10-Noon: Marriage Enrichment
17 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS 5:30 pm Youth Group	18 7 am Matins 8 am – 4 pm RICC 6 pm Book Club	19 General Primary 9:30am Bible Study 6:00 pm Interg. Studies 7:30 pm Confirmation	20 9-Noon CHALK 5:30 pm Lenten Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Midweek V	21	22	23 Calendar subject to change. Any changes will be listed in weekly announcements.
24 Palm Sunday 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	25 7 am Matins 8 am – 4 pm RICC	26 	27 9-Noon CHALK	28 Maundy Thurs. 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service w/HC	29 Good Friday 12 pm Chief Service 7 pm Tenebrae Vesper Service	30 7 pm The Vigil of Easter w/HC
31 Easter Sunday 6:30 am Easter Sunrise Matins 7:30 am Breakfast 9:00 am The Resurrection of Our Lord – w/HC						



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 – officeimmanuelri@gmail.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.