

# 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 – June 2024*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

For some time now I've been thinking about the sharing of the peace. At least that was what it was called in the church of my youth. In our churches it has morphed into a general greeting often done prior to the beginning of the service. So it was at Immanuel. At least until Covid. And we've not restarted it since. Maybe it's time. Maybe it's time to return to what was originally intended.

A number of people over the years, have shared with me their discomfort with the pre-service greeting. And I must confess, I'm in their camp. Now, some of this comes from my personal idiosyncrasies. To me, it seems a bit forced. It's like the bro-hug, or the gross over-use (in my humble opinion) of the word love. These things have become so commonplace as to be emptied of content. I like to think, or fool myself into thinking, that if a hug or the "I" word is offered, there is a genuine bond between us, or the context calls for and necessitates a natural and close expression of our bond as members of the Body of Christ. Still, I'll concede that this might be just my personal hang-up. But there's more.

As a pastor I pray, hope, teach, and in whatever ways I can act to build up the body of Christ. One of the things that piques my interest is related to the general greeting. If you are waiting or only reaching out to your brothers and sisters in our church during that short greeting period, I'm certain you're missing the point. There are ten thousand eighty minutes in a week. That's over ten thousand minutes (less the two or three slotted for a pre-service general greeting) for you to reach out to your brother or sister in Christ. Thankfully, many of you, if not most of you, do this. But I am aware of a few people, after sitting in a pew for a good number of years, who do not know the name of the person sitting next to them. Or perhaps, after a person's or family's extended absence, some might ask me if there is a problem. Are they okay? I hope (and I do pray) that they would know—that they would call, text, stop by and check on their brothers and sisters in Christ. It is my opinion that you and I checking on our brothers and sisters would go a long way toward the building up of the body of Christ at Immanuel. I encourage you—strongly—to get to know each other. And I am thankful that many of you do. Very thankful!

All this, however, is far from the intent of the greeting, or sharing of the peace, that may occur *within* the service. In Divine Service One<sup>1</sup> the following rubric is printed just after the Prayer of the Church: “Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘Peace be with you,’ as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).”<sup>2</sup> As this rubric notes, the greeting is a sign of reconciliation, and it is ancient. It indeed has as its source the very words spoken by the mouth of our Lord. In His Sermon on the Mount, He preaches the following:

*“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.”*<sup>3</sup>

You can see from these words, the roots of the greeting, that there is something much deeper than a simple hello. The point of the greeting *within* the service is to allow you the opportunity to ask for forgiveness and to grant forgiveness to your brother or sister in Christ. And it is serious business.

As people of God, redeemed and sanctified by the blood of Christ, we realize, or we should, how much we sin and are forgiven each day. Our Lord teaches us that we must extend this forgiveness to each other. The peace He made is for sharing. I realize that in a church, which is very much like a family, we will sin against each other. Forgiven we are, and, at the same time, sinners we are. We will do things and say things that hurt our neighbor. As a pastor I am keenly aware of this. Knowledge of what you say about me, even the critical and hurtful things, seems to find its way to me. Sinners we are. And all is forgiven. There is no file, no record. There is just forgiveness. Saints we are. Sinners we are. I am also aware at times of what you say about others. Sometimes you speak about things that happened long, long ago. If you are carrying these burdens, these grudges, it is time to forgive. And forget. Our Lord asks you to do so. Note the conditionality in the above quote. There is a warning about kneeling elbow to elbow with someone you choose not to forgive.

In the same sermon a short while later, again our Lord speaks of this and says to us: “*For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*”<sup>4</sup> Note the condition. If you do not forgive, you will not be forgiven. Yes, it is very serious business. And think about how the failure to forgive each other appears to those outside of the church. When your neighbors listen to you gripe about your brothers and sisters who are also redeemed by Christ, a very poor witness it is. It is a stumbling block. Hence the sharing of the peace.

Just before we approach the altar to receive the very body and blood that was shed to make us what we are, we are invited to let go of the baggage that drags our hearts through the graveyard of unforgiveness. We have an opportunity to greet each other and share the peace of Christ. That is the point of the greeting. And that’s what I would like to see us do.

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<sup>1</sup> *Lutheran Service Book* page 151 and following.

<sup>2</sup> *Lutheran Service Book: Pew Edition*, St. Louis, Concordia Publishing House, 2006. page 159.

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 5:21-26.

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 6:14-15.

I think sometimes we forget just how powerful words of forgiveness and the asking of forgiveness are. I'm certain Satan is aware of this and would love for us to not share those words and to nurse our grudges. That will not be us. We, after all, are Christians.

So please think about this in the days ahead as the Elders and I discuss this. In the meantime, if your conscience is nagging you about an unresolved issue, don't ignore it. Act on it. Reach out. Ask. Talk. You will joyfully find that we are people who rejoice in offering forgiveness. And as you receive those blessed words of freedom from your brothers and sisters in Christ, you will be freed. And you will be filled with joy—and peace.

The Peace of the Lord be with you all.

Rev. Leonard Astrowski, Pastor

**Total offering and expenses for March & April 2024**

We thank you for your continued generosity!

March Offerings: \$30,290.00    March Expenses: \$28,524.00

April Offerings: \$16,655.25    April Expenses: \$27,252.73

## 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.***



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### NEWS FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE:



***It's that time of year – mowers needed!***

*We are looking for people who are willing and able to help out this mowing season to mow the church property. **There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex! Thank you to those who have signed up to help mow!** We can always use more, even if you're only available to mow a couple of times. Please contact Clayton or call the office if you can help or if you have any questions.*



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

### NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

VBS will be Monday July 29 - Friday August 2, 2024 from 5:00 pm - 7:45 pm. We are looking forward to an exciting week together with Bible stories, catechism, singing, crafts, games and more! Each night we will be "Diving into the Ten Commandments" with the help of Pearl, Scuba and Fish in our undersea adventure. Please pray that our VBS will be a blessing to the children and adults who will attend. Please also prayerfully consider being a VBS volunteer. **We need volunteers to help with registration, teaching, crafts, group leader (escorting children to each activity), games and kitchen helpers. A sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex. Our first VBS staff meeting will be Thursday, June 6th at 6:30 pm** (more details to follow).

Thank you!!

Kathy Welch

VBS Coordinator



**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](mailto: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 Cafeteria.
- **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

- June 9, 2024: Higher Things Presentation at Mt. Calvary Lutheran, Galesburg. Pastor will visit Galesburg to hype up **Higher Things**.
- June 23, 2024 Circuit Wide Event – Fun Station at Eldridge
- July and August Events TBA – watch the announcements!

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



June 3:	Jay Cozadd (15), Shelley Moeller	June 12:	Sheila Ahlgrim
June 6:	Neil Burger, Owen Miller (10), Stephanie Moeller	June 22:	Gretchen Dayrell, Helen Vogel
June 7:	Kevin Millen	June 24:	Luray Kendall
June 9:	Samuel Ayers (11), Nathan Leeson (17), Len Marquardt	June 25:	Amanda Hoss, Danielle Smith
June 11:	Burnie Eckardt, Kathy Welch	June 26:	Malakai Gore (8)
		June 27:	Sephiroth Kuhn (17)
		June 30:	Anna Mau (8)

Keith & Renee Hentrich – June 2, 2019

Rob & Erin Mau – June 9, 2012

Michael & Amanda DePaepe – June 10, 2017

Corbin & Elena Ayers – June 15, 2012

Rodger & Sandra Kramer – June 16, 1963



Tim & Lauren Corwin – June 20, 2015

John & Judith Klockau – June 22, 1974 (50!)

David & Angie Mills – June 23, 2007

Ron & Janet Mau – June 27, 1976

**\*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: None This Month**

**Additions:**

**Deletions:**

**Changes/Additions to current directory: None This Month**

**Memorials Received in May: None**



## 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 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month with Bible Study, followed by a brief business meeting and then Mission Work and Fellowship.

**Election of officers was held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Immanuel LWML Officers for 2024/2025 are:**

- Janet Mau: President
- Laurie Astrowski: Vice President (newly elected)
- Helen Vogel: Secretary (re-elected)
- Karlene Campbell: Treasurer

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### BIRDIES FOR CHARITY



“Chip in for your chance to win” – When you chip in to help area charities, you can win some great prizes. But your favorite charity will be the real winner. That’s because participating charities receive **100% of the donations** pledged to them in this program, plus a bonus from the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund which is a **guaranteed 5% match**.

**Here’s how it works – simply make a one-time flat donation and mail with payment to the Birdies for Charity office at 15623 Coaltown Rd., East Moline, IL 61244.** To enter the contest, guess the number of birdies that will actually be made by PGA Tour Pros during the tournament, Wednesday through Sunday. A grand prize will be given to one person who guesses the correct number. In case of ties, winners will be randomly selected. **Pledge forms with guesses that wish to be entered must be received by the Birdies for Charity office by JUNE 26<sup>th</sup>.** **Otherwise, all pledges must be returned to the Birdies office by July 7<sup>th</sup>.** Any pledges received after July 7<sup>th</sup> may be applied the following year.

***PICK UP A BROCHURE CONTAINING THE PLEDGE SHEET IN THE NARTHEX. This year all donations collected will be directed to the Youth Group.***



**CENTRAL ILLINOIS  
DISTRICT**  
*of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

**May 2024**

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**Holy Communion Is a Living Communion with Christ**

What kind of body and blood do we receive in the Lord's Supper? Dead blood coagulates; it dries up with nothing more to give. We don't receive Jesus' dead blood on the old rugged cross, on a hill far away. We don't receive a transfusion from an inanimate corpse. We don't paint His blood on ourselves as if we were the doorposts of Goshen.

Christ is risen! Jesus' living blood flows and gives us His life. He, His Word, body, and blood are doing the doing. The risen Lamb of God takes away our sins today! Christ is the operator; you're the operated. Dr. Jesus donates His living body and blood outside of us under bread and wine, but for us Christians to eat and to drink. It's packed with Divine virility, and Jesus is a matching human universal donor for you (Heb. 9:14). You are a matching recipient by faith.

We call it the Sacrament of the Altar because Jesus actually does this at each of our altars. At His word, we receive the same body and blood that died on the cross but is now risen. We receive that life that cannot die. Jesus' living blood has everything to sustain us to live though we also die, and to await the resurrection of our bodies and the life everlasting. Jesus is alive and He pumps life into His church via His word and His body and blood. We live because He lives in Communion with us.

Reverend Marcus Manley - Bethlehem and Zion Evangelical Lutheran- Altamont

**Pray For Our Central Illinois District Missions supported by your church's Mission Dollars to the District. "Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored."**

Please remember in your prayers all our CID campus ministries, especially Rev. Michael Schuermann and University Lutheran Church in Champaign, serving students, faculty, and staff of the University of Illinois and other institutions. And pray for the "Keeping Christ on Campus" campaign, building endowments to help CID support our campus ministries.

**Stay Connected with your District**

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**

***Items of Interest to Share***

**2024 Institute on Liturgy Preaching and Church Music Scholarships**

**July 9-12, 2024**

**Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska**

Thanks to a generous grant from the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, 35 full scholarships (early bird registration fee) are available for church musicians. ***Deadline for registration and scholarship is MAY 17<sup>th</sup>***. For more information on the conference and application, see the CID website News and Events tab or visit the following link; <https://www.cidlcms.org/resources/gatepost/2024.GatePost.1.pdf>



## **Small Church Summit**

**Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Zion Lutheran Church 501 S. Broad Street- Carlinville, IL**

This year's summit will start earlier; opening is scheduled to start at **9:30 a.m. and finish at 2:30 p.m.** An ice cream social will follow. The special guest presenter will be Rev. Dan Galchutt, Executive Director of the Synod's Office of National Mission. A former parish pastor and Mission and Stewardship in the Kansas District, Rev. Galchutt has been in his current position for about a year. Rev. Galchutt's topic for the SCS is "Engaging Your Community . . . with Jesus." He will give answers to two questions that emerged last time SCS met: a.) How can a small congregation engage its community so as to "make a dent"? and b.) How to make sure we are not simply providing refreshments, fun, or food, but are also pointing people to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

In the afternoon, participants can choose two of the following three breakout sessions: 1. Continuing discussion with Rev. Galchutt

2. Walking Through Your Community's Demographics with Mr. Trip Rodgers of CID staff

3. Front Line Reflections on Forming a dual parish from a pastor who has just been through this process, Rev. Matthew Berndt of St. Paul and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Manito, Illinois

**To make sure demographic studies will be at hand for the congregations of all participants, the registration deadline is a little earlier this time: Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day).**

Each person attending should register. Start by clicking <https://forms.gle/pEuFuENrygSBDtWG6> There is no cost to attend SCS.

**Remember, if you think your church is small, YOU are invited**

### **National Youth Gathering – Summer 2025 – New Orleans**

Plans are already underway to bring your youth and adults a fantastic experience. The theme for this upcoming Gathering is Endure, based on Hebrews 12:1-3.

Jonathan Guse is the DCE from Bethel Morton, and Christy Malinowski is the DCE from Trinity Bloomington. They will be the District Coordinators for CID! Both have many years of experience not only leading a group but also as District Coordinators!

We wanted to make sure you are connected to the LCMS Youth Gathering website: <https://www.lcmsgathering.com>. There you can find information, FAQ, resources, zoom link sign-up for monthly meetings, and more.



Here is a link for anyone who would like to give to LCMS tornado relief in Greenfield, Iowa. This tornado occurred on Wednesday night, May 22, 2024.

<https://www.lcms.org/givenow/tornado>

If anyone is interested in volunteering in Greenfield, please contact Julie their District Disaster Response Coordinator in the Iowa West District office. 314-278-7040.

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**GREENFIELD, Iowa (FOX 9) - Survey teams have rated the tornado that ripped through a small Iowa city, leaving four people dead, as an EF-4 storm.**

**Officials say the tornado was on the ground for about 44 miles, with peak winds between 175 mph and 185 mph, tracking northeast, losing strength shortly after ripping through the City of Greenfield.**

**The National Weather Service says further "refinement" is possible, so the rating could increase. On Wednesday, crews said they had found evidence of at least EF-3 damage before upgrading the storm on Thursday.**

**On Wednesday night, officials said four people were killed and at least 35 were injured during the storm on Tuesday night.**

**The damage has left parts of the town in ruins, leveling houses, uprooting trees, and downing powerlines.**

**Greenfield is home to about 2,000 people. State officials have declared a disaster for the city and are applying for an expedited federal declaration.**



## The Camp CILCA Lowdown

June, 2024

217-487-7497 / [camp@cilca.org](mailto:camp@cilca.org)  
4124 Camp Cilca Rd. Cantrall, IL 62625

### HELP NEEDED!

Camp CILCA is looking for a head cook/food service manager to prepare meal plans, order food, and prepare meals for the summer camp program, outdoor education, and retreats. If you know someone interested in feeding God's children, have them contact Camp CILCA at 217-487-7497 or [director@cilca.org](mailto:director@cilca.org).

## Summer Programs 2024

The Central Illinois Lutheran Camp Association (CILCA) exists to foster and strengthen faith in Jesus Christ and fellowship with others in a unique outdoor setting. CILCA strives to reconnect Christians to Christ and Creation.

### JOYFUL HEARTS

Campers of all ages with developmental disabilities experience the joys of the outdoors during a 4- or 2-night stay. **\$360/\*\$180**

- Full Week: **June 2-6**
- Half Week: **June 2-4\* or 4-6\***

### BOLD SPIRITS

**4th- thru 6th-grade** campers experience 5 nights of Camp CILCA. **\$360**

- Session I: **June 9-14**
- Session II: **July 7-12**

### DAUNTLESS SOULS

**6th- thru 8th-grade** campers gather for a screen-free week of life-changing outdoor adventure. **\$360**

- Session I: **June 16-21**
- Session II: **July 14-19**

### FAMILY CAMP *New!*

Parents and children of any age are able to enjoy 4 days and 3 nights at camp with their family. **\$500** for up to 5 family members + **\$80** for each additional person.

- Session: **July 24-27**

### *We need you!*

9th-graders and up, serve as a Junior Counselor or Joyful Hearts volunteer and enjoy camp absolutely free!

- Joyful Hearts Volunteer - **June 2-6**
- J.C. Training - **May 28**

### GENERATIONS

Campers age **4 thru 4th grade** are introduced to camp with a 1-night stay with a parent or other adult. **\$70 per person**

- Session I: **June 14-15**
- Session II: **July 5-6**

### AQUA WEEK

**4th- thru 6th-grade** water-loving campers will enjoy a full week of water-based activities. **\$360**

- Session: **July 7-12**

### ART, DRAMA, ATHLETICS & SURVIVAL

**5th- thru 8th-grade** campers choose one track—**Art, Drama, Athletics, or Survival\***—for the week & are led by experienced instructors. **\$375**

- Session: **June 16-21**

### \*SURVIVAL WEEK *New!*

**Grades 6-8** learn fire starting, outdoor cooking, shelter building, sleeping under the stars, and more. Each day will teach and develop a new skill useful to surviving outdoors. Limited to 10 campers. **\$375**

- Session: **June 16-21**

### PATHFINDERS

**1st- thru 4th-grade** campers break out on their own with a 2- or 3-night stay. **\$155/\*\$180**

- Session I: **May 29-31**
- Session II: **June 30-July 3\***
- Session III: **July 21-23**

### NIGHT OWL

**6th- thru 8th-graders** experience camp while staying up all night and sleeping all day. Enough said! **\$360**

- Session: **July 14-19**

### INTREPID HEARTS

**High school students** enjoy the rejuvenation of God's creation through a week or half week of camp. **\$360/\$180\* (half)**

- Full Week: **June 23-28**
- Half Week: **June 26-28\***

### DAY CAMP *New!*

**Grades 1-8** come for the day Monday – Friday. A daily lunch is provided. **\$150/week**.

- Session: **Every week June 10-July 26**

### *Register Today!*

Find in-depth details on each camp & register\* at: **WWW.CILCA.ORG**

\*\$75 deposit due at time of registration  
Registration is according to the grade most recently completed.





## The Gift of Contentment

As children grow up, they often feel cramped by their parents' restrictions. Dad says to be home by 11. But why can't I say out 'til midnight? Mom says to clean your room on Saturday morning. But I want to sleep in late, then roll out of bed, hop in the car and go to my friend's house without delay. I want to do what I decide is best.

The older we get, and especially when we have kids of our own, we begin to see the truth. Mom and Dad were not cramping our style or trying to crush our personal freedom — they were looking out for us, providing for us and teaching us a better way of life.

If that's how it is with fallible human parents, how much more so with our Heavenly Father! We sinners often feel cramped by the Law of God. Our sinful flesh wants to go its own way, do its own thing and be in charge. But in our heart of hearts, we know how foolish this is. We know that God loves us, and therefore all of His commands are for our benefit. Each one of His commandments is meant to bless us. Consider the last two commandments:

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it. (SC II)

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty. (SC II)

The commandments against coveting are warning us against losing one of the greatest gifts we can possess: contentment. Being content and thankful with what God has provided for us is a necessary building block of living a happy life. Unthankful coveting of what we have not been given will only make us miserable, so God warns us against it.

God has proven His love for us in sending His only begotten Son to shed His blood for us, cleanse us of our sins and brings us back into His family. If He loves us this much, then when percentage of His commandments do you think are meant to harm us? Probably no more than one or two percent, right? Of course that's absurd. God means to bless us with everything He says to us. The Law of God simply describes what a truly happy life, lived in thankfulness to Christ, looks like: It's a generous, merciful, contented life that uses all of the resources God has given us for His purposes.



## Christ the King (Cristo Rey) Lutheran Church

1301-19<sup>th</sup> Street, East Moline, IL 61244

E-mail: [cristorey-em@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cristorey-em@sbcglobal.net)

Ph. (309) 738-6124

Rev. Pablo G. Domínguez



### Newsletter JUNE 2024

In almost all offices and workplaces, there are secretaries whose work is very important. When I worked in Monterrey, there was a secretary who was excellent at her job. When the boss asked for a special work report, she already had it for him, because she had prepared it in advance so it would be ready when he requested it. She was very efficient, although the person to whom the credit was given was often not her, but her boss.

In a sense, the work of the Holy Spirit is like that of an efficient and excellent secretary, only much better. The Holy Spirit works in anonymity, behind the scenes as such, but is perfectly efficient and excellent.

We speak much of God the Father, since we address many of our prayers to Him. We talk a lot about Jesus, the Son of God, and what He did for us on the cross, but when we don't often mention the Holy Spirit, it does not mean that He is inactive. Far from it! The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity and is always active, working in our hearts to lead us to Christ.



The Holy Spirit is like the beating heart in each one of us. We do not know how this vital organ works, nor do we know how many liters of blood pass through it. All we know is that the heart is there pumping all the blood that runs through the veins and arteries of our body and does this without us noticing it. It's the same with the Holy Spirit. His work is important and indispensable for our spiritual health and our salvation.

This year, on May 19th, the church celebrated Pentecost which is one of the most important Christian holidays. On this day we enter the season of the church year known as Pentecost. It is the day when a great change occurred in the life of the early Christian church. Many say that Pentecost is the birthday of the church. On this day, there was a tremendous change!

The change in the disciples. After the death of Jesus, the disciples were frightened. They felt that God had abandoned them. They hid together in one place, separated from the bustle of people who walked and celebrated in the streets. They were afraid of being persecuted and imprisoned. They also feared that their lives might end on the cross. That is why they were all hidden under one roof, full of fear of being seen in the light.

But Pentecost came, nonetheless. The disciples heard the wind coming from the sky, and tongues of fire perched on their heads. They felt the strengthening presence of the Holy Spirit which Jesus had promised them as recorded in Acts 1:8. He told them to wait for the Holy Spirit and that when He came, they would receive power and be the most vigorous witnesses of the Gospel to everyone.

And that's exactly what happened. The Holy Spirit encouraged them to take to the streets and start vigorously proclaiming the message of salvation in Jesus Christ. They would have nothing to fear anymore; God was in their hearts; God was in their words; God was in their bodies and minds. God Himself gave them the strength and

enabled them to speak without fear. And that was what they did! All left the place where they had been hiding and began to speak in foreign languages they had never learned. They talked about Jesus and what He had done.

The change in the crowd. Peter, standing, addressed the crowd and gave a wonderful and glorious sermon. Indeed, a change had occurred! The Lord touched and changed the hearts of the people, and that day 3000 people were added to the church.

Today God wants to make the same kind of change. There are still many who do not believe in Jesus. They do not know that there is a heaven that God offers for those who believe in His Son. There are still many Christians, who like the disciples are afraid, inactive and do not share the Gospel with their friends and family, because they are fearful or think that there will be no change.

The change is made only by God. The fire of the Holy Spirit is in us whenever we listen, read and meditate on the Word of God, and when we partake of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and remember our baptism.

May God the Holy Spirit help you to change, fill your heart and mind and encourage you to share Jesus without any fear. Amen.



Mother's Day. On May 12<sup>th</sup> CR celebrated Mother's Day with a special worship service. CR members invited family members.



The joy and peace Christ gives came to the Dominguez family when their grandson, Ruben Dario, was brought to the living waters of Holy Baptism on May 12, 2024. Welcome, Ruben, to God's family!

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



# June 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
						<b>1</b> <i>Calendar subject to change. Any changes will be listed in weekly announcements.</i>
<b>2</b> 7:15 am Bd. Of Elders Mtg 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	<b>3</b> 7 am Matins	<b>4</b> 9:30am Bible Study	<b>5</b> 7 pm RI Circuit LCMS Youth Group Png Mtg	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm VBS Staff Mtg. 7:00 pm Youth Group Prog. Bd Mtg.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	<b>10</b> 7 am Matins	<b>11</b> 9:30am Bible Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b> 
<b>16 Father's Day</b> 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	<b>17</b> 7 am Matins	<b>18</b> 9:30am Bible Study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS Youth Group @ Trampoline Pk	<b>24</b> 7 am Matins 8-4 – RICC Practicum	<b>25</b> 9:30am Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	<i>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10</i>					



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

### **Sunday Schedule**

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](http://www.immanuelri.org)

**Church Office Phone:** 309-786-3391

**Pastor Astrowski's Phone:** 989-326-0199

**Email Addresses:** Pastor Astrowski – [pastrowski@gmail.com](mailto:pastrowski@gmail.com) Church Office – [officeimmanuelri@gmail.com](mailto: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](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.***