

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 – July 2024



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

You are free.

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:34-36).

The Son, indeed, has set you free. He has taken your sin and put it to death. Think about that. Your sin, on the cross of our Lord and Savior, has been put to death. Dead men tell no tales. Sin, dead as it is, can no longer accuse you. You, because of the Christ, are free. You now can stand before God with a good conscience. Did you ever think about what that means? What does it mean to be able to stand before God with a good conscience? Both St. Peter and St. Paul speak in this way. The record of our sins, the charges that stand against us have been cancelled—nailed to the cross.

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him (Colossians 2:13-15).

Who is now able to accuse you? Now that the record of your sin is gone. What accusation can be made against you? As you stand before God, sins dead and buried beneath the perfect righteousness of Christ, you need not fear any accusation, however true, or the memories that haunt you. This is what it means to have a good conscience.

You, indeed, are free.

But, to lapse into cliché, freedom isn't free.

Have you ever lied to anyone? This is a letter, and it is not a format for asking questions and receiving responses. But that's okay. I already know the answer. Somewhere in your past, a lie lurks. You, at some point, prevaricated. You fibbed to a friend (or ex-friend). You lied to someone you love. You have tried to lie to God—good luck with that one. And you have lied to yourself. There was a sad time in my life when I told myself it was okay to *not* go to church—thoughtful study of the Word of God wasn't a remote possibility or desire in my thoughts. I convinced myself that I was a good person. Of course, that was a lie. When we try to justify ourselves and our actions, we set the bar very, very low. We compare ourselves, not to what the Lord gives us, but to our neighbor. And we conveniently forget our own selfishness and pride. We refuse to recall the hurts we caused. In short, we lie to ourselves. Yet, God knows. You have no secrets before Him. Those “little” things you work to keep buried within yourself. Those are never kept from Him. As we pastors preach His Word to you, that is one of the fundamental tasks: to proclaim the Word in such a way that you see yourself as you truly are. That you see yourself as God sees you. I think this is why a church such as ours will always remain unpopular in our culture. Nobody likes to stand naked in front of a mirror like that. No one wants to stand naked before others and especially before our God—fig leaves anyone? That's why, I think, people gravitate towards churches that don't preach as we do. People like to be told they're basically good (a decidedly unscriptural notion) and just need a little push here and a nudge there—a few steps of self-help will do quite nicely, thank you. We like to be told we look good in fig.

Perhaps one reason for this is that the cross seems so remote. That again is another task of the preacher. In a sense, another part of the preaching task is to take the historical event of the crucifixion of our Lord and place you there. We, if you will, need to help you see that this horribly good event is your event. It was done for you. It was necessary for you. This is how the Son sets you free. We are tasked with helping you see (as the Spirit works through our words) that the freedom you enjoy in Christ cost something. Somebody did something for you that makes joy, peace, and hope not just possible but a reality. This is why St. Paul writes, “*For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified*” (1 Corinthians 2:2). We pastors are to remind you, as we preach in our apostolic church, that your freedom came at a terrible cost. Blood was spilled. Spilled for you. Hopefully, as we all hear those words of Christ's sacrifice, we don't take our freedom for granted, but use it to serve the Lord as we sacrifice ourselves for our neighbors.

As we turn the calendar and celebrate another year of independence—another year of freedom—I think about these things. I was born into a nation, and a world, that has been blessed with relative peace. Wars that have occurred in my lifetime have, thankfully, been remote. I enjoyed a wonderful childhood, romping about neighborhoods, slogging through ponds, enduring the joys and heartbreaks of childhood romances. I have been able to roam about a vast nation, and even the planet, exploring its various cultures, foods, and beauty. Yet, the ability to do such things didn't just happen. It was made possible by the sacrifice of others. So remote, however, are those actions that it fails to register.

This June just passed we noted as a nation that it has been eighty years since thousands of young men stormed a once quiet coast in France. For so many, that was their last taste of saltwater and the feel of sand. No opportunity to say goodbye and grasp the hand of someone dearly loved as the last of life bled from their bodies. Yet, they did it. And those who survived and climbed from that beach went on to confront other horrors. Camps filled with people also created in the image of God, waiting to be exterminated. Perhaps, even after enduring unspeakable terrors, they finally understood, in a way we can only thank them

for now, that if there was ever a war that needed to be fought and won it was that one. The War. It ended. And it ended, at least for a time, a thought that a fellow human being—a neighbor—should be exterminated. Those who fought handed to us in the West what has become known as the Great Peace. We have, most of us, grown up under the banner of that peace. Yet, we, as time has passed, seem to have forgotten what that peace cost.

So it seems to be with our salvation. We seem to have forgotten our freedom—freedom from death, freedom from the wrath we deserve—came at such a great cost. We should return—repent—and count up the cost. A cost borne by another. And as we think about the cost of this gift, we need look to our neighbor. This is what our Lord would have us do with our freedom. We use it to serve others as He served us. We sacrifice ourselves for others as He sacrificed Himself for us. Our Lord uses us to be the salt and the light amongst the neighbors where we are placed—where we live our little lives. In this we will find the crosses we are to bear. And we will fail. Fear will often overcome us. We will be afraid to lose our station and comfort within a community and family. But bear them we must. Our neighbors and communities need the gift of Christ we carry. We remember that our freedom in Christ is used not for our gratification but to help and benefit those around us. Yet, each week He gathers us to shower us, once again, with His grace and forgiveness. And He feeds and strengthens us for the week ahead. And, once again, out we go.

Perhaps we're overwhelmed. What can we do? Who among God's people is able to stand against such a tidal wave of evil and lawlessness. What can one do? Yet, remember, God is with us, working through us according to His good and gracious will. Thy will be done! Even in your little corner of the world, God is working—even in your failures. And not just you but countless saints are used by Him across place and time to be instruments of that divine will. Yes, in you, for one neighbor at a time, God is working to bring about His freedom for all.

The battle which has already been won, from our point of view, rages on. But don't lose heart. He is victorious. And you are free. Truly!

In Christ,

Rev. L.A. Astrowski Jr, Pastor

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.***



Asleep in Jesus ... Ardo C. Holmgrain was called to his eternal rest on Friday, June 7, 2024 at the age of 96. Private burial was held on June 12, 2024 at Chippiannock Cemetery, Rock Island, where military honors were presented. ***May God comfort the survivors with the sure hope that those who die in the Lord are with Him in Heaven.***

Asleep in Jesus ... Luray "Punkie" Kendall was called to her eternal rest on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at the age of 91. Her funeral service was held on Friday, June 28, 2024 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rock Island. ***May God comfort the survivors with the sure hope that those who die in the Lord are with Him in Heaven.***



Steven Michael Woods was confirmed on Sunday, June 9, 2024. Please welcome Steven to the Immanuel Lutheran Church family.



Total offering and expenses for March & April 2024

We thank you for your continued generosity!

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

May Offerings: \$21,507.00 May Expenses: \$18,972.00



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 Cafeteria.
- **Adult Bible study** – Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am in the Luther Room or on Zoom.
- **Intergenerational Studies** – September – May at 6pm on Tuesdays. Does not meet during the summer.
- **For the older youth** – there is a Rock Island Circuit Youth Group. Watch for announcements on dates and times.
- **No Sunday School during the summer. Meets September – May at 10:30 am Sunday morning.**



YOUTH GROUP UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Pool Party at the Millers**
 - 14-JUL-2024
 - 18-AUG-2024
- **Fall Activity**
 - Sunday, September 8th at 2:00 PM
 - Outing at the Taylor Ridge Church
 - Lock-In potential in the Fall
 - Bring your favorite family meal/item



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024 NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our VBS theme is "Diving into the Ten Commandments" and will be held Monday July 29th - Friday August 2nd from 5:00 pm - 7:45 pm. We will have Bible stories, Catechism class, singing, crafts, games and more! Please continue to pray that our VBS will be a blessing to the children and adults who will attend. ***Registration sheets are located in the Narthex. Please return to Kathy by July 12, 2024.***

VBS Food Donations Needed

Please consider helping out with VBS by making a food donation. ***See the sign-up sheet in the narthex listing both perishable and non-perishable food items needed for the light meals served each night of VBS.*** Please note – non-perishable food items may be dropped off in the church kitchen any time before Sunday July 28th. However - perishable food items should be dropped off **ONLY** ON Saturday July 27th from 10am-1pm or Sunday July 28th during the worship service.

Thank you!! Kathy Welch, VBS Coordinator

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

July 1 – Keith Hentrich

July 2 – Carla Hazen

July 3 – Joyce Heald (85)

July 4 – Barb Soyke, Ashley Wilson

*July 5 – Sydney Biscontine, Carolyn Holmgrain (90),
Rick Moeller*

July 6 – Tamme Schaefer-Hoss

July 7 – Dennis Rusk, Kathy Woolfolk

July 8 – Samuel Triage (9)



July 11 – Levi Boisvert (1)

July 12 – Carter Fiedler (6)

July 13 – Alan Bamsey

July 18 – Donna Dettmann

July 22 – Wayne Scherer (90)

July 23 – Vicki Bull

July 27 – Christine Roth

July 31 – Sandy Kramer



Andy & Leigh Ann Nixon – July 1, 1995

Bryan & Katherine Cobert – July 11, 2003

Burnie & Amanda Eckardt – July 31, 2010

****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: Steven Woods, by Confirmation on June 9, 2024

Deletions: Ardo Holmgrain, by death on June 7, 2024; Luray “Punkie” Kendall, by death on June 20, 2024

Changes to current directory:

Add: Steven Woods

Delete: Ardo Holmgrain; Luray Kendall

Change: Maryann Hentrich – Country Manor Memory Care, 900 W 46th St., Davenport, Iowa 52806

Memorials Received in June:

To General Memorials - in memory of John Strieter by Tom & Young Jackson; in memory of Ardo Holmgrain by Nancy & Kent Cornish and Paul & Nancy Soyke; In memory of Luray Kendall by Ellen Boeye and by Joan Mueller.



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.

Election of officers was held on May 23rd 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

Meetings will resume in September.

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 26th.** **Otherwise, all pledges must be returned to the Birdies office by July 7th.** Any pledges received after July 7th 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

June 2024

News You Can Use

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22). This is life in the world after the Flood. When it is too hot in the summer, we long for the cool of fall. When it is too cold in the winter, we crave the warm days of spring. Such a back-and-forth seems to be quite natural, but, ultimately, life thrives all the more in warmth.

In these warm, summer months, the newly planted crops are bursting with life and rushing with growth. In this teaching half of the Church year, you and I are blessed to do the same. Having heard again the words of Christ’s birth and life, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we are blessed to receive the teachings of our Lord in the light and warmth of his work for our salvation. God bless you in these summer months as you grow in faith in the Word of Christ! As Jesus said, “Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear...As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty” (Matthew 13:16, 23).

Pastor Jeff Caithamer-- St. John, Champaign

Stay Connected with Your District

Items of Interest to Share

Something New Coming to the CID-CEF!

We’re excited to tell you about some changes coming to the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF)! We’re converting to a new software system! While that hardly seems exciting (especially for us since a lot of work will be required), the new software is specifically designed for church extension funds. It is already used by our other district-based LCMS church extension funds.

With this new software, we can provide you with a better experience and more efficient service. What is exciting for you is that you will soon be able to view your account and transactions from your computer and your phone!!! While we are not allowing transactions to be processed online to protect your investments from cybersecurity concerns, better, you will be able to view and print information on your account at any time from your computer or phone!

We’ve already begun converting to the new software, so please be patient with us as we become more familiar with it. In the next month or two, we should be rolling out online computer and phone access. STAY TUNED.

Apply for Dollar for Mission funds in 2025: All CID congregations are invited to submit proposals for projects to be funded with 2025 Dollar for Mission funds. Well-conceived projects will be considered in the following order of priority: first, brand-new church plants; second, mission-focused augmentations to existing ministries (e.g., adding a new ethnic ministry to a present congregation); third, established CID missions (e.g., Ministry in Spanish, Campus Ministry, Deaf Ministry, Prison Ministry). The application deadline is Sept. 1, 2024. For more information, see <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-apply.html>

CID BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEW REPORT 05/28/24

Rev. Burdick provided an evangelism-themed devotion from Mark 5

- Rev. David Dunlop gave his Mission Presentation on prison ministry at Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln, IL. He spoke personally of the despair and loneliness that inmates face. Rev. Dunlop wants to be a “broken record” of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, repeating the Gospel all the time. Rev. Dunlop is thankful for CID's support of the prison ministry, saying, “When I go to the prison, everyone in CID is going with me.”
- Rev. Mohr gave his president's report with gratitude for congregations having received candidates from both seminaries to fill a portion of the vacancies in CID.
- The 2025 CID Convention is scheduled for July 13-15 at Crown Plaza, Springfield. Planning is underway.
- President Mohr is also planning a joint meeting with the Board of Directors and Circuit Visitors when Synod officials visit CID in September.
- Church Extension Fund actively supports our congregations and CID members with loans, investments, and grants. In April, CEF approved two Ministry Outreach Grant requests to help with Evangelism efforts.
- Dr. Schurb displayed statistical maps showing CID potential by county for New Church Starts.
- It was noted that only 1/6th of CID congregations have participated in Dollars for Missions. Consider discussing this and your congregation's Mission Offerings to CID, to continue to support all the ongoing work of the LCMS in our district.

The next CID Board of Directors meeting was set for Sept. 24th, 2024.

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](#)

LCMS MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

Verses for weeks July 7, 2024, through July 28, 2024

Week of July 7, 2024

Colossians 3:16–17

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Week of July 14, 2024

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Week of July 21, 2024

Psalms 96:2

Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Week of July 28, 2024

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE OF ILLINOIS

Life Event

At Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

698 Reagan Drive, Eureka, IL 61530

August 24, 2024 from 9:00—2:00

Events for the Day:

Registration and ingathering for Living Alternatives of Pekin

Welcome and Opening Devotion

Keynote Address, by Rev. Michael Mohr, President Central Illinois District, LCMS

Break to visit ministries and snack

Illinois Jr. High Life Essay Winner, Ally Packer, shares her essay

Panel Discussion, shining Life in our congregations and communities

Illinois Life Affirming Ministries You’ll Want to Know

Lunch and visit Ministries

Prayer Projects for Life in Illinois

Closing

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” - John 8:12

Items for Ingathering to benefit Living Alternatives, Pekin, Illinois:

Baby Wash

Baby Lotion

Diaper Rash Cream

“Infamil Gentle Ease” formula (comes in a purple container)

Diaper Wipes

Disposable Baby Diapers (sizes 5, 6, and 7)



The Camp CILCA Lowdown

July, 2024

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

- Camp CILCA has been blessed with a new head cook! There is still a need, however, for assistant cooks to fill in gaps and be extra hands around the kitchen. If you or anyone you know would be interested in making some extra money and helping in the kitchen in the summer, fall, and spring, please contact Pastor Joshua Theilen at director@cilca.org or 217-487-7497.
- Celebrate the close of the 2024 camp season at Homecoming on Saturday, July 27 from 10am-2pm at Camp CILCA. There will be craft and food vendors, live music performed by Lloyd Garrelts, games, balloons, face painting, and more. There is no cost for the event. Just pay for your food and drinks. Come and enjoy one more summer day at Camp CILCA.
- Calling all men! Act Like Men Field Training takes place every Saturday morning in the Camp CILCA athletic fields at 6:30 sharp. There is 30 minutes of exercise, 10 minutes of status update from each man, and 5 minutes of prayer. There is no equipment to buy and no price to attend. Let iron sharpen iron as we push one another physically and spiritually. See you there.

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

Camper 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**

GENERATIONS

Camper 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**

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**

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 Rewards of Godliness

It's no secret that you can't bribe your way into heaven. No amount of good works will impress God enough to open heaven's door for their sake. "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23) and the person who "keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it" (James 2:10). Rather, salvation is "the free gift of God ... in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:23).

So, your good works won't earn you the reward of heaven. But does that mean that there are no rewards at all? Consider what the Small Catechism says in the "Close of the Commandments":

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Ex. 20:5–6)

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands. (SC II)

God promises to bless you in keeping His commandments. What might these blessings be? Well, consider what Paul says about keeping the Fourth Commandment: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land'" (Eph. 6:1–3).

And think about what your life would be like if you went around stealing (breaking the Seventh Commandment), telling lies about people (breaking the Eighth Commandment), and generally being cruel to those around you (breaking all the commandments!). That is obviously not a blessed way to live. In fact, you'd be miserable living that way.

And Jesus says more about what is in store for those who make sacrifices for His sake: "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for My name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life'" (Matt. 19:28–29).

So don't grow impatient in doing good. Follow the Lord who has freely given you everlasting life.



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 JULY 2024

Liberty in Christ.

July 4th is Independence Day for the United States of America, and I am sure you celebrate it. Mexico has an Independence Day, also.



The citizens of Mexico all over the world relive the night of September 15th, 1810 when the parish priest, Miguel Hidalgo, called on his townspeople to take arms against the Spaniards who had been ruling Mexico since the days of the Conquest in 1521.

El Grito (The Shout), every 16th of September is the Mexican Fiesta par excellence! Streets, houses, buildings and cars are decorated everywhere in the country. On every street corner there are vendors selling flags, balloons, and hats, all with green, white and red, the national colors. Flags wave from practically every house and building.

It is customary for the current President to deliver The Grito at the National Palace in Mexico City. The original bell rung by Hidalgo is the bell that is rung every 16th of September. The ceremony reaches the high point when the crowd joins in proudly shouting out the names of the heroes of Independence and ends with the exciting: Viva Mexico!

When The Grito ceremony ends, the sky lights up with multicolored fireworks that shower hearts with the pride of knowing that Mexico is a free and independent nation.

Why I am talking about liberty? Just read Galatians 5:1 “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.”

We have the true liberty in Christ for these reasons:

Because of His love for us, He suffered and died on the cross. Because of this we are now His children. His suffering, death and resurrection have reconciled us with God, our sins having been forgiven; and we now are filled with His peace. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us thus securing forgiveness for our sins and eternal salvation. It is by grace through faith in Christ’s redeeming work that we obtain this salvation.

Nations may celebrate their Independence Day on a determined day, but for the children of God, liberty is constant! Every day in Christ we have real liberty from our sins, eternal death and hell. This liberty is ours

because of Jesus. When we believe His promises, we do not proclaim liberty for just one special day, but for all eternity.

Prison Ministry. During the study of the book, 100 Bible stories, the gentlemen are very attentive and filled with joy. Sometimes they even ask questions about infant baptism, sin, salvation by works, keeping the Sabbath, etc.

I have seen the need to answer them as clearly as possible and in a way that they can assimilate. Let us remember that many of them grew up in the Roman Catholic Church where they learned very little about the Bible and even less about the true teachings of God's Word.

It should be added that there are also gentlemen in the group who have Pentecostal beliefs and so it is with them that I spend more time showing the correct interpretation of Scripture, always showing Christian love without falling into doctrinal controversy.

The LWML CID has provided additional 100 Bible Stories books which will be given to a gentleman when he is released from the correctional center. Chaplain Weber will do this. With the donated book comes information about LCMS Hispanic ministries in the Chicago area and surrounding communities. Some of the gentlemen have the option of purchasing a radio and listening to the program on KALA, which I do on Saturdays from 7-8 am.

After different estimates, which are very expensive, CR church members have decided to cancel the asphalt project in the garage and rear parking lot areas. During the summer season members plan to do the work themselves doing it the same way they did on the front parking lot two years ago. This involves using buckets of sealers.

Be assured that our Almighty God is at work at Cristo Rey!

He is saving souls and building His church!

All praise be to Him!



July 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
	1 7 am Matins	2 9:30am Bible Study	3	4 Independence Day – Office Closed	5	6
7 7:15 am Bd. Of Elders Mtg 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	8 7 am Matins	9 9:30am Bible Study	10		12	13 <i>Calendar subject to change. Any changes will be listed in weekly announcements.</i>
14 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	15 7 am Matins	16 9:30am Bible Study	17 7 pm Youth Group Planning Mtg.	18	19	20
21 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	22 7 am Matins	23 9:30am Bible Study	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	29 7 am Matins 5 pm – Vacation Bible School	30 9:30am Bible Study 5 pm – Vacation Bible School	31 5 pm – Vacation Bible School	Aug. 1 5 pm – Vacation Bible School	Aug. 2 5 pm – Vacation Bible School	



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.