

# The Image

## Immanuel Lent/Easter Schedule 2025



Wednesday, March 5  
Supper – 5:30-6:15 pm  
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – 6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 12  
Supper – 5:30-6:15 pm  
LENTEN MIDWEEK I – 6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 19  
Supper – 5:30-6:15 pm  
LENTEN MIDWEEK II – 6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 26  
Supper – 5:30-6:15 pm  
LENTEN MIDWEEK III – 6:30 pm

Wednesday, April 2  
Supper – 5:30-6:15 pm  
LENTEN MIDWEEK IV – 6:30 pm

Wednesday, April 9  
Supper – 5:30-6:15 pm  
LENTEN MIDWEEK V – 6:30 pm

Sunday, April 13  
PALM SUNDAY DIVINE SERVICE – 9:00 am



Thursday, April 17  
HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY – 6:30 pm

Friday, April 18  
GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE – 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 19  
THE VIGIL OF EASTER – 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 20  
EASTER SUNRISE – 6:30 am  
Breakfast Potluck – 7:30-8:30 am  
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD – 9:00 am





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Over the last few Lenten and Easter seasons, this picture and accompanying caption have made the rounds on social media. Of course, it's making an argument. And, so as not to mince words, the argument is garbage. (Note my eschewing of salty sailor language, which is what this deserves.) Before you continue, take a moment and read the caption and try to identify the very poor argument(s). You will have my admiration if you can do so.<sup>1</sup>

What I find interesting for our purposes is this: The caption argues that the only thing necessary for salvation is "believing." Now I'll certainly concede that "*one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.*"<sup>2</sup> But I add this question: What is "believing" or faith? The thief on the cross was in the presence of Christ in a way we cannot be. To his side was the Word made flesh. He could see God in Christ. He could hear, directly, the words Christ was saying, such as "*It is finished.*"<sup>3</sup> After the hanging thief asks our Lord to remember him, Christ could turn His head and look at this man and say those famous words, "*Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.*"<sup>4</sup> Seeing is believing.

But what about us? What about those who cannot see? In the ancient sermon we title simply as "Hebrews" we hear the following: "*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not*



*How does the thief on the cross fit into your theology? No baptism, no communion, no confirmation, no speaking in tongues, no mission trip, no volunteerism, no financial gifts, and no church clothes. He couldn't even bend his knees to pray. He didn't say the sinner's prayer and among other things, he was a thief. Jesus didn't take away his pain, heal his body, or smite his scoffers. Yet, it was a thief who walked into paradise the same day as Jesus simply by BELIEVING.*

*He had nothing more to offer other than his belief that Jesus was who He said He was. No spin from brilliant theologians. No ego or arrogance. No shiny lights, skinny jeans, or crafty words. No fog machine, donuts, or coffee in the lobby. Just a naked dying man on a cross unable to even fold his hands to pray. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever BELIEVES in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) That is good news, that is Gospel!*

<sup>1</sup> That admiration is good for one cup of coffee and a lamb on your Jesus Chart.

<sup>2</sup> Romans 3:28.

<sup>3</sup> John 19:30.

<sup>4</sup> Luke 23:43.

seen.”<sup>5</sup> That’s where Baptism, Communion, Holy Absolution, theology and doctrine enter in—the things dismissed in the caption. These are all gifts of Christ and His Word. Let me repeat that: these things are given to us by Scripture. And they are the things, the means, He gives us to create and sustain faith in us until that day we no longer need faith—that day when we finally see Him. Theology and doctrine—or dogma—are simply the truths given to us in the Word. We have theology and doctrine regarding Baptism and the Lord’s Supper since Christ speaks of these things—why we do them and what they are. We do these things, confess these things, cling to these things for so our Lord tells us. And if you’ll indulge me for a moment, I also want to add a bit about that word “assurance.” The word from which it is derived simply means to “stand under.” Luther favored using the phrase “sure confidence” to capture its meaning. I think that’s a little more concrete than assurance. We live in the sure confidence of hope of a life to come, that our death will not be the final word of our stories. Why? What is the source of this sure confidence? It is Christ. And He tells us. He gives us His Word. And from that Word, which is the history of our salvation in Christ, our confidence is sure as it rests on what He says, what He did. That’s the beginning and end of theology and doctrine: to uphold and hand over faithfully what He gives us. That is the essence of believing, or faith. It is to say “Amen” when the Lord speaks and to live our lives under those promises. This we do as we gather and hear His Word and receive His blessed sacraments each week.

You see then, the issue I have with the image and its caption is summarized in the phrase “your theology.” It’s not my theology but Christ’s. To dismiss that is to make myself lord over God’s Word. It’s this thought that lurks behind the picture’s caption. The writer of the caption has decided that his theology is correct. How nicely convenient. However, the issue is simply that the writer’s argument is not scriptural.

As noted above, what happened to the thief on the cross is not the situation in which we find ourselves. The point of that episode in the Church’s history is to demonstrate the amazing depth of God’s grace. It makes no dogmatic statement on how that grace is imparted to *you*. And I’ll add that to dismiss Baptism and the Lord’s Supper is immensely problematic. Christ our Lord commands these things. To dismiss them necessarily requires an authority greater than Christ. Good luck with that!

Now, it’s certainly true one may believe and not be baptized nor receive the Sacrament and still be saved. The difference is this: One may receive the Word yet not have the opportunity to be baptized or receive Holy Communion before his death. Think of the adult who, though formerly a pagan, comes and receives the Word with gladness each week and begins the process that leads to Baptism and the Sacrament. We call that Adult Catechesis. The Lord forbid, but if that person dies before Baptism, they would still be under the banner of God’s grace—like the thief on the cross. However, it is a much different situation when one rejects Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. And that is my issue with the picture’s caption.

I have noted throughout my years as a pastor, that many of us Lutherans have pitched our tents near the error of this caption. We Lutherans are so quick to defer. Instead of defending what we confess about Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, and theology and doctrine, we convince ourselves that these things don’t matter—which is exactly what this picture’s caption does. We remain silent—or worse, we applaud this type of teaching. Ask yourselves as you participate in functions of other confessions if they would defer to your confession. I have observed that the answer is no, they wouldn’t. I respect that. But we need to do the same. We must not convince ourselves that we all believe and confess the same things. We do not. And the differences are not so small.

Think about that caption again. Ultimately, the thinking it puts forward places the burden on you. How much belief saves? Do you believe enough? However, the focus of the actual event recorded by St. Luke is Christ—what He says. After the Lord speaks those words, there is no mention of the thief’s response. The focus is Christ, not us. How do you know you are saved? He tells you how. You are Baptized. And, according to what He says, it is Baptism that makes you a disciple. And that’s the issue. There is no inconsistency in what our Lord gives to us. Either Baptism saves or it doesn’t. Both positions cannot be true. This is where you can clearly see the difference in confessions. You can see it in how a particular confession speaks and teaches about the sacraments. You can see the difference in beliefs in how this question is answered: How do you know you are saved?

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<sup>5</sup> Hebrews 11:1.

I add that you do no service to your neighbor when you choose not to confess but instead defer to his or her confession. Remember, your friends are caught in a theology that has strayed from Scripture. They are caught in a theology that robs them of the comfort and peace Christ intends for them—a peace that is found in the words “*today you will be with me in paradise.*” I also remind you that you are the salt of the earth. You carry Christ with you wherever you go. And that also compels you to confess. When we decide to remain silent and reduce the faith to a caption, our Lord has something to say about that: “*Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.*”<sup>6</sup> You and I owe it to our neighbors—people we love—to speak the truth. We need to repent of so watering down our confession that we end up confessing nothing. And we need to stop deferring to other confessions. We have the Truth. They embrace error. Yes, that’s a bold and jarring statement. But it happens to be true.

And finally, remember what I wrote to you last month—we are called to be faithful to Christ. We are called to be faithful to Christ and, specifically, to His Word that reveals Him to us—all of it.

*And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”*<sup>7</sup>

I pray the Lord bless us with wisdom, strength, and a good measure of His Spirit in these dark and latter days.

In Christ,

Rev. L.A. Astrowski Jr., Pastor

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<sup>6</sup> Luke 14:34-35.

<sup>7</sup> Luke 9:23-26.



**Lent Suppers – A meal will be served in the cafeteria 5:30-6:15 pm on Wednesdays beginning Ash Wednesday and continuing through March 9th. A sign-up sheet is available on the table in the Narthex if you wish to sign up to provide a meal.**

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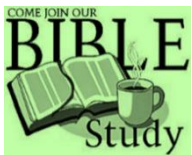


**The Chancel of our church will be decorated with Lilies on Easter Sunday – April 20<sup>th</sup>**

**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, and envelope number. Drop it in the offering plate at a service or mail it to the office.**

**The deadline for submitting names is Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**

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*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 Adult Bible class** – 10:30 am in the Luther Room.
  - **Sunday School** – 10:30 am in Peter and Mark rooms.
  - **Adult Bible Study** – Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am in Luther Room or on Zoom.
  - **Intergenerational Studies** – Tuesdays at 6:00 pm, Zoom only.
  - **For the older youth** – there is a Rock Island Circuit Youth Group. Watch for announcements on dates and times.
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**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).

***As a reminder – we are still recycling aluminum cans.*** There is a white barrel outside of the kitchen door – west side of the building. Please place your aluminum cans in the barrel and they will be taken to be recycled. The money is then used to purchase gas for the mower at the church. **Thank You.**



**THE 2025 FLOWER CHART and THE ETERNAL LIGHT CHART is** posted in the Narthex. The cost for Altar Flowers (two vases) is \$30.00 and for Eternal Light is \$10.00. If you sign up, please be sure to check the calendar periodically for the date(s) you signed to donate.



***\*\*PLEASE WRITE OUT ON THE FORM WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE PRINTED IN THE ANNOUNCEMENTS, OR EMAIL THE INFO TO OFFICEIMMANUELRI@GMAIL.COM. YOU CAN ALSO WRITE A NOTE AND LEAVE IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE FOR THE CHURCH OFFICE.***

### **Central Illinois District News: *Dollars for Missions***

Portions of brick are crumbling away, water is leaking in between the masonry frames and the windows, and mortar joints are opening in brick walls. The current Dollar for Missions project is \$25,000 for masonry work and repointing at University Lutheran Church in Champaign. These funds will help to correct masonry wear-and-tear on the 70-plus-year-old church and student center. University Lutheran Church has served many thousands of students with the Gospel of Christ over 70+ years. Please help to provide a space for another 70 years of distributing Christ's gifts!



**Immanuel LWML Officers for 2024/2025 are:**

- Janet Mau: President
- Laurie Astrowski: Vice President
- Helen Vogel: Secretary
- Karlene Campbell: Treasurer

The Lutheran Women in Missions (LWML) invites you to participate! Here is an update and a calendar of events. To grow in our faith and joy, Pastor will be providing a more in-depth Bible Study instead of a devotion on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month starting in October. We will have just three business meetings for the year and the election of officers in May.

To learn more about the missions our mites are going to, we will share a “Mission Minute” at each business meetings. You will see that we have two dates to serve at Christian Care Men’s shelter. If you have never served, I would love to see more people get the opportunity. It is a rewarding experience and reminds you how blessed you are. We have the fleece purchased for Phil’s Friends blankets and will again do that after Christmas.

Please come and join us. Our goal is to still to be respectful of your time. The meetings start at 6 pm with refreshments in the Luther Room. Our goal is to be done no later than 7:30. These dates are subject to change but is the plan!

**March 9 – Mite Box Sunday – Return Fleece Blankets**

**NEW DATE - March 13 – Bible Study and Dessert – Business Meeting**

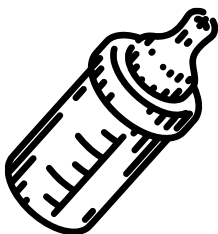
**March 20 – Serve at Christian Care**

**April 9 – Serve Lenten Dinner**

**April 20 - Easter**

**April 24 – Bible Study and Dessert**

**May 22 – Dinner Out and Election officers**



**PREGNANCY RESOURCES**

**BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG!**

- **Please remember to return your Baby Bottle if you haven’t already**
- **THANK YOU for your support of Pregnancy Resources!**



The 2025 Illinois March for Life is **Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>** in Springfield.

The rally begins at 1:00 pm and the March is at 2:00 pm.



## YOUTH GROUP UPCOMING EVENTS

### Regular Youth Meetings at Immanuel Rock Island

■ All Circuit youth are welcome to attend the regularly scheduled Youth Group meetings at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rock Island.

■ Meeting schedule - First hour: Pastor leads a Bible Study, Second hour: games and snacks.

■ Future meeting dates will be shared via email at the beginning of each month for your reference and monthly planning.

■ Please join us!

- **March – Circuit Bible Bowl – location and date to be determined**
  - **April – District Bible Bowl – location and date to be determined**
  - **Higher Things 2025**  
July 29 – August 1, Cedar Point, Sandusky Ohio
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## Youth Group Fundraiser - TRIVIA NIGHT

# THANK YOU

**THANK YOU to all who participated in the Trivia Night.**

**We raised over \$1700 to be used for the**

**Youth attending Higher Things 2025.**

**And a big THANK YOU to all who volunteered  
their time, talent, treasure, silent auction items,  
and baked goods.**

**A special THANKS to my committee members  
and members of the Youth Group  
who helped organize and run the event.**

- *Helen Vogel*



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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



2 <sup>nd</sup> – Mick Esparza	17 <sup>th</sup> - Alison Boisvert
5 <sup>th</sup> - Emily Hazen	Mayson Davis
7 <sup>th</sup> - Bevy Eckardt (12)	Rachel Spragg
9 <sup>th</sup> - Corbin Ayers	18 <sup>th</sup> - Mona Meyer
10 <sup>th</sup> - Jordan Stockwell	Samantha Peterson
11 <sup>th</sup> - Carrie Titus	19 <sup>th</sup> - AJ Cortez
Gretchen Gerard	23 <sup>rd</sup> - Mike DePaepe (7)
14 <sup>th</sup> - Bryan Cobert	24 <sup>th</sup> - Milo Boisvert (4)
Judy Klockau	Mikey Eckardt (8)
15 <sup>th</sup> - Hannah Allison	26 <sup>th</sup> - Doug Campbell
Melody Poole	29 <sup>th</sup> - Rob Henke
16 <sup>th</sup> - Alex Miller (13)	



March 25, 1983 – Mick & Margi Esparza

March 25, 2002 – Brett & Jennifer Long

March 27, 2010 – Andrew & Amanda Ferguson

- **\*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**

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**Membership Changes:** Death January 31, 2025 – Carolyn Holmgrain

**Changes to current directory:** Remove Carolyn Holmgrain

**Memorials Received in February:** In Memory of Carolyn Holmgrain

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Week of March 2, 2025 **Colossians 3:16**

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.

Week of March 9, 2025 **1 Corinthians 10:13**

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Week of March 16, 2025 **2 Corinthians 5:14–15**

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Week of March 23, 2025 **1 John 3:16**

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

Week of March 30, 2025 **1 Peter 3:18**

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.



Men’s Deodorant  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
13-gal Trash bags  
33 gal trash bags

39 gallon lawn and leaf trash bags  
Toilet paper  
Men’s disposable razors  
Napkins  
Deodorant

Please place items in the Christian Care box in the Narthex. Items will be taken to Christian Care.

## The Camp CILCA Lowdown - March 2025

217-487-7497 / [camp@cilca.org](mailto:camp@cilca.org)

4124 Camp Cilca Rd.

Cantrall, IL 62625



### SAVE THE DATE:

#### ❖ *Pancake Lunch: March 15*

- Absolutley FREE! 10am-1pm. This is a “thank you” from Camp CILCA to you, our wonderful community of campers, donors, and volunteers.

#### ❖ *Women's Retreat: March 28-29*

#### ❖ *Annual Banquet: March 30*

- Sunday, March 30, 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

**At Camp CILCA's Dining Hall!** Tickets are \$40 each. Call the camp office (217-487-7497) or email ([camp@cilca.org](mailto:camp@cilca.org)) to reserve your tickets today!

The Annual Banquet is an evening celebrating God's work of **Creation** and **Redemption**, especially as those works are enjoyed, proclaimed, and taught at Camp CILCA. Join us for an evening of music, food, great speakers, and friends.

This year, Executive Director at Camp Concordia, Pastor BJ Fouts will be our speaker. Special Music from 5:00-5:30pm.

*Camp CILCA exists to strengthen and foster faith in Jesus Christ and relationships with others in a unique outdoor setting.*

**2025 marks 75 years of outdoor ministry!** To celebrate this blessed anniversary, Camp CILCA will be offering every week of camp to all campers for just **\$75!** Registration will open November 1, so sign up early to secure your spot.

### **A REMINDER:**

**ALL Summer programs in 2025 are only \$75  
in honor of CILCA's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

**Registrations are coming in much faster than usual and space is limited,  
so you are encouraged to register soon.**

Camp CILCA Women's Retreat – March 28-29, 2025 - “Lean and Learn.”

Join us as we **lean** into God's Word, digging into what God says to us, and **learn** how we live it out in our daily vocation as women.

Two Retreat options:

1 – Join us overnight for \$100 and share a room with two other ladies in Camp CILCA's Christian Growth Center

2. Select the day-only option for \$75. Register online at [www.cilca.org/women's-retreat](http://www.cilca.org/women's-retreat). Questions: contact Lauren at [program@cilca.org](mailto:program@cilca.org)

# SUMMER PROGRAMS 2025

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.

## \*\*75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PRICING\*\*

In celebration of CILCA's 75th anniversary, all program sessions for summer 2025 will be available for \$75 if you register before April 1st. All registrations made after April 1st will cost \$100.

### JOYFUL HEARTS

Campers of all ages with developmental disabilities experience the joys of the outdoors during a 4- or 2-night stay. ~~\$360~~/~~\*\*\$150~~ \$75\*

- Full Week: **June 8-12**
- Half Week: **June 8-10\*** or **10-12\***

### BOLD SPIRITS

4th- thru 6th-grade campers experience 5 nights of Camp CILCA. ~~\$375~~ \$75\*

- Session I: **June 1-6**
- Session II: **July 13-18**

### DAUNTLESS SOULS

6th- thru 8th-grade campers gather for a screen-free week of life-changing outdoor adventure. ~~\$375~~ \$75\*

- Session I: **June 15-20**
- Session II: **July 6-11**

### DAY CAMP

Grades 1st-8th come for the day Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. A daily lunch is provided. ~~\$150/week~~. \$75\*/week

- Session: **Every week May 28-August 1**

## 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 8-12**
- J.C. Training - **May 27**

### GENERATIONS

Campers age 4 thru 4th grade are introduced to camp with a 1-night stay with a parent or other adult. ~~\$75~~ per person

- Session I: **June 20-21**
- Session II: **July 18-19**

### AQUA WEEK

4th- thru 6th-grade water-loving campers will enjoy a full week of water-based activities. ~~\$375~~ \$75\*

- Session: **July 13-18**

### SURVIVAL WEEK

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. ~~\$375~~ \$75\*

- Session: **June 22-27**

### INTREPID HEARTS

High school students enjoy the rejuvenation of God's creation through a week or half week of camp. ~~\$375/\$150\*~~ (half) \$75\*

- Full Week: **June 29-July 4**
- Half Week: **June 29-July 1 or 2-4\***

### PATHFINDERS

1st- thru 4th-grade campers break out on their own with a 2- or 3-night stay. ~~\$155~~/~~\*\*\$150~~ \$75\*

- Session I: **May 28-30**
- Session II: **July 23-25**
- Session III: **July 27-30\***

### NIGHT OWL

6th- thru 8th-graders experience camp while staying up all night and sleeping all day. Enough said! ~~\$375~~ \$75\*

- Session: **July 6-11**

### ART, DRAMA, & ATHLETICS

5th- thru 8th-grade campers choose one track—Art, Drama, or Athletics—for the week & are led by experienced instructors. ~~\$375~~ \$75\*

- Session: **June 15-20**

### FAMILY CAMP

Parents and children of any age are able to enjoy 3 days and 2 nights at camp with their family. \$400 for up to 5 family members + \$80 for each additional person. ~~\$375~~ +\$75

- Session: **July 20-22**

## REGISTER TODAY!

Find in-depth details on each camp & register on our website!  
Ages based on grade completed.

[WWW.CILCA.ORG](http://WWW.CILCA.ORG)



Find out more at [www.cilca.org](http://www.cilca.org)



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



MARCH 2025

A long time ago, a close Christian friend of mine told me this true story:

His church had a choir with many singers. Before each practice, the choral director invited a choir member to pray. Everybody was given the opportunity. Once he pointed to a lady who was active in the church, and asked her to pray. Everyone bowed their heads and closed their eyes waiting for her to pray. To everyone's surprise, she started to cry. The director asked if she was okay. The lady responded, "I don't know how to pray".

This is not an isolated case, because it's true that many Christians do not pray regularly. They do not understand that taking the time to pray to the Lord is one of the best ways to show our devotion, our trust and our dependability on God. Sadly, there are many Christians who say they are too busy to find the time to pray and show respect and gratitude to their Lord.

On the other hand, I'm sure that you have many stories of Christians who are grateful to the Lord for their many blessings. They find the time to pray, and you may even discover that they have been praying for you. When I worshiped at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in McAllen, TX., an old man approached me and said, "Pastor, my family prays for you and your ministry once a week".

When I was doing my hospital chaplain duties a few years ago, I visited a patient, and while having a nice visit with him, he asked me to pray for me.

It's very gratifying to hear that other people pray for you. Even Jesus prayed for us: **"I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message"**. (John 17:1)



The Apostle Paul exhorts us to pray: **"I urge, then, first, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people."** (1 Timothy 2:1)

Please start to pray; find the time and make prayer a regular part of your daily routine.



**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!*

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**  
**LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship) Newsletter Article**  
**March 2025**

**God’s Instruments, God’s Stewards**

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)

Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn’t stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren’t random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God’s greatest work: Jesus!

He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God’s grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God’s Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him

# MARCH 2025



**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
**Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**  
**3300 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island, IL 61201-6212**  
**Office: 309-786-3391 Website: Immanuelri.org**



						1
2 7:15 am Bd of Elders 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:30 am Bible Study/SS	3 7 am Matins 8-4 <i>RICC</i>  6 pm Book Club	4 9:30 am Bible Study  6 pm Intergen Bible St.	5 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 9-N – <i>CHALK</i>  5:30 – <b>Supper</b> 6:30 – <b>Ash Wed Service</b>	6 7 pm - RI Circuit Youth Group Planning Board 8 pm – Youth Group Programming Board	7	8
9 <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:30 am Bible Study/SS  MITE BOX SUNDAY	10 7 am Matins 8-4 <i>RICC</i>  6 pm Book Club	11 9:30 am Bible Study  6 pm Intergen Bible St.	12 9-N – <i>CHALK</i>  5:30 – <b>Supper</b> 6:30 – <b>Lent Midweek I</b>	13  6 – LWML Business Meeting & Dessert	14	15
16 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:30 am Bible Study/SS	17 7 am Matins 8-4 <i>RICC</i>  6 pm Book Club	18 9:30 am Bible Study  6 pm Intergen Bible St.	19 9-N - <i>CHALK</i>  5:30 – <b>Supper</b> 6:30 – <b>Lent Midweek II</b>	20  LWML Serve meal at Christian Care	21  <b>Deadline for submitting information for April IMAGE</b>	22
23 <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:30 am Bible Study/SS	24 7 am Matins 8-4 <i>RICC</i>  6 pm Book Club	25 9:30 am Bible Study  6 pm Intergen Bible St.	26 9-N – <i>CHALK</i>  5:30 – <b>Supper</b> 6:30 – <b>Lent Midweek III</b>	27  <i>Pregnancy Resources Banquet</i>	28	
30 <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:30 am Bible Study/SS	31 7 am Matins  6 pm Book Club				<i>RICC – Home School</i> <i>CC – Home School</i> <b>FUTBOL – M-Th 5-8 pm In the gym (days vary)</b>	



**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.***