

# 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 – November 2024**



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

*Precious in the sight of the LORD*

*is the death of his saints* (Psalm 116:5).

Easter. Such a joyous day. A Feast. A Feast of life. Death is defeated—destroyed. Easter. The great Feast of the Resurrection. It all seems, however, a bit remote. All that happened there, then. We hear and think of that event as we do other reports. It's one news item amid many. And with a detracted interest we ponder. And then return to the actions and events of the day in our little lives. But then, just about halfway between the past and future celebrations of Easter, we observe another great feast of the Christian Church. On or very near the first day of November, we celebrate All Saints' Day. And we are reminded, taught, blessed...

It's been almost a decade. *That ol' clock, it never stop.* My siblings, an in-law or two, Mom, and a small shell of a once robust man layered in heavy socks, long johns, sweatshirt, flannel overshirt, and a knit wool cap gathered in the bright, sanitary room. The small man, Dad, sat on the paper-covered table, the layers of clothing simply hung on him. A child dressed in adult clothes. Dad never shied away from dressing for the occasion or the occasional neighborhood party—sometimes to the deep chagrin of his children. (We recall, with some redness of face, the outlet, plug, and lightbulb incident.) Had this been one of those times, there would have been laughter. But this was not one of those occasions.

Several months earlier news arrived of a recurrence. It was back, and the news was grim. In that news, the voice of the curse was heard. “In my beginning, is my end,”<sup>1</sup> T.S. Eliot would write. And indeed it is. In the very first breath of the newborn, there hides the death rattle waiting for its moment. Waiting to claim its prize. And there we were standing around the man seated on the examination table—a man who sat huddled for warmth under the weight of many yet insufficient layers of cloth. And we waited. The man, the room, cold lighting: harbingers of what was to come.

Entering, the doctor prepared to state aloud the news our eyes could already read. There was nothing left to be done. The doctor sat at dad’s feet on that little stool with wheels found in every examination room. Rare was the time we gathered without laughter filling the spaces between words and glances. Now, only silence. And an unnatural coldness that seemed to come from within. Icy white light chilled the room from above and gave its testimony to the moment. A light from which no illness or age can hide. Two men faced each other. The words came in a British accent: “Palliative care.” A sanitary way in a sanitary room of proclaiming death was imminent. The beginning would, in a few days, meet its end.

The tears, the first of many that would be shed, flowed—but not from dad. He, the smile—Dad’s smile—still gracing his hollow face, with disease-thinned hands clasped the doctor’s face. Lifting his face until their eyes met, he simply said, “It’s okay.”

For those of you who fret over always having the right words to give proper witness, there is *the* witness. A lifetime of receiving the gift of Christ each Lord’s Day prepared that man, my father, with two words to powerfully witness to the hope within him. Christ saw to it that my father’s story did not end with his last breath a few days later. He, like all the saints in Christ who had gone before him, now rests in the arms of the Lord. He now awaits the resurrection—his resurrection—awaking from that little bed that rests beneath a few feet of soil on the southwest side of Chicago.

Death is always lurking. For many, it’s a long, slow slide down into its gaping maw. For others it’s a trap that’s sprung—jumping upon the victim unsuspecting and sometimes ill-prepared. But All Saints’ Day... This great feast day takes the gift of Easter and places it right in our laps. We will read names on that day—the names of those we love who sat among us receiving the Gifts each Sunday. And the bell will toll. It will toll, not as a doleful note of death but as a herald of life—everlasting life. You see, All Saints’ Day reminds us in a very tangible and personal way that Easter—the Resurrection of our Lord—is for us. Here. Now. It reminds us with promises. It reminds us with promises spoken by the Lord, lived by the Lord. It reminds us that sin and the curse of death have been put to death, and that the promises are fulfilled in the risen Christ. And the promise of that day is that those dear departed loved ones will again see our faces. It is a reminder that our parting is temporary. It is Easter lived among us. It is a bold, in-your-face, “O Death where is your victory?” reminder that the Christ’s victory over death is our victory over death. His resurrection is our resurrection. His life, our life.

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<sup>1</sup> T.S. Eliot, “East Coker,” found in *T.S. Eliot, The Complete Poems and Plays, 1909-1950*, Harcourt Brace & Company, New York, copyright renewed 1980, page 123.

This is the work we are about in this place we call Immanuel. And actually, we celebrate Easter, All Saints' Day, and Christmas each and every Sunday. We participate in, partake of the God in Christ who was born into our flesh. We celebrate, participate in, partake of His resurrected body as we celebrate the Holy Eucharist. And as we gather for that feast, we are reminded that those who have gone before us—died in the Faith—are seated at the unending Marriage Feast of the Lamb. For a moment, their voices are mingled with ours as we sing those God-given words—canticles—that we know are also sung by them. “Holy, Holy, Holy...” and “Glory be to God on high.” Those words sung by the heavenly host—Dad. And one day soon our voices will join that unending chorus.

T.S. Eliot would end his poem *East Coker* by reversing the words with which he began. Six simple words that so sublimely capture the gift that is ours in Christ: “In my end is my beginning.”<sup>2</sup> All Saints Day reminds us, in a way that’s so tangible, that death is not the final word. In that end is the beginning of a new, eternal life, where the Lord Himself will wipe the tears from our eyes. I like to think about that. Our Creator and Redeemer removing our tears then, perhaps, with a sweet smile, He directs our attention to those standing around us. And the joyous reunion will get underway—a reunion that never need be repeated. And if there remain there any tears, they will only be tears of joy.

*You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;  
you have loosed my sackcloth  
and clothed me with gladness,  
that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.  
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!* (Psalm 30:11-12).

In Christ,

Rev. Leonard Astrowski Jr., Pastor

P.S. What follows are the words I wrote on the day of my father’s death, February 7, A.D. 2015. See you soon, Dad.

About two thousand years ago a particular and peculiar Man did something that this day affected my life in a profound way. Because of Him I have peace and hope: Peace because I am forgiven and the hope of a joyful reunion with those called from me in this sorrow-filled life. Today I give thanks for this Man (who also happened to be God) as almost two thousand years ago He defeated what would come to my family this day: death. Because of Christ, today of all days, we have peace. Today of all days we have hope. Thanks be to God through Christ our Lord for His victory over death and the grave. Thank you, Lord, for calling my father through the water of Your Holy Baptism to this victory. I look forward to the day when, by His Grace, I will again stand alongside my dad proclaiming the glorious victory of Christ our Lord. *"Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades"* (Revelation 1:17-18).

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<sup>2</sup> See again T.S. Eliot, “East Coker,” found in *T.S. Eliot, The Complete Poems and Plays, 1909-1950*, Harcourt Brace & Company, New York, copyright renewed 1980, page 129.



**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!

**November 21 – Bible Study and Dessert – Business Meeting Follows**

**December 11<sup>th</sup> – LWML Serve Advent Meal**

**December 12 – Christmas Party**

**NO MEETING JANUARY**

**February 16<sup>th</sup> – Fleece Blankets Available**

**February 27 – Bible Study and Dessert**

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

**March 20 – Serve at Christian Care**

**March 27 – Bible Study and Dessert – Business Meeting**

**April 2 – Serve Lenten Dinner**

**April 20 - Easter**

**April 24 – Bible Study and Dessert**

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



*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** – 10:15 am in the Cafeteria.
- **Sunday School** – 10:15 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.

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE



This year again, due to funding and other constraints, we will only be taking names from the congregation for family members or friends who are in need this holiday season. We will purchase Thanksgiving items to be ready to distribute on Monday, 11/25. Christmas Baskets will be distributed on Friday, 12/20.

We still ask for your help by giving a monetary donation for the “Gift Baskets”. Place your check or cash in an envelope and mark it for “Social Ministry” and drop it in the offering plate, drop it in the mail, or at the office. Be sure to include your offering envelope number so that we may give you credit. Please note that the 2024 (and 2025) offering envelopes include two envelopes for *Social Ministry*.

We also hope to be able to do this again for Thanksgiving/Christmas next year. There are also plans to help with special needs throughout the year as needed when requested.

If you have any questions, contact our Social Ministry contacts - Tammy (309-737-9248), Mel Vogel (309-781-9624).



**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.**



### Total offering and expenses for September

We thank you for your continued generosity!

Income: \$20,370.00

Expenses: \$16,189.09



## 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!

- **Circuit Wide Service Project and Potluck**

- November 10 – 5:00 – 7:30 pm

- **Higher Things 2025**

- July 29 – August 1, Cedar Point, Sandusky Ohio
  - \$100 reservation fee per attendee
  - Early Bird Rate
  - Five (5) youth per adult of the same gender

## CIRCUIT-WIDE YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT



THE CIRCUIT YOUTH ARE COLLECTING DONATIONS OF VARIOUS ITEMS THROUGHOUT THE CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT. AS PART OF THIS PROJECT, THE YOUTH AT IMMANUEL ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP IN COLLECTING DONATIONS OF CANNED VEGETABLES AND CANNED FRUIT WHICH WILL BE DONATED TO CHRISTIAN CARE IN ROCK ISLAND.

PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATIONS IN THE DESIGNATED BOX IN THE NARTHEX.



**ITEMS NEED TO BE DONATED BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>.**

**THANK YOU** FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR YOUTH IN THIS SERVICE PROJECT.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2025 will be available for pick-up beginning Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you do not find your set, please contact the office (786-3391).



REMEMBER – DO NOT USE 2025 ENVELOPES UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2025. If any 2025 envelopes are received before the end of 2024, they will be held until January 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for your cooperation. – *Board of Finance*

## November BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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



5 <sup>th</sup> - Kenny Wilson	20 <sup>th</sup> - Doug Allison
6 <sup>th</sup> - Andrew Atkins	Karlene Campbell
7 <sup>th</sup> - Remy Cozadd	23 <sup>rd</sup> - Riley Nixon
Benjamin Triage	24 <sup>th</sup> - Cathy Langdon
10 <sup>th</sup> - Andy Klockau	Greg Masias
12 <sup>th</sup> - Linda Haake	27 <sup>th</sup> - Sandy Schumaker
Cole Rusk	28 <sup>th</sup> - Kathryn England
17 <sup>th</sup> - Pastor Len Astrowski	29 <sup>th</sup> - Mel Woolfolk
19 <sup>th</sup> - Judy Moore	
Julia Settles	



November 9, 1996 – Tom & Stacy Biscontine  
November 13, 2019 - Mel & Nancy Herman  
November 21, 1987 – Scott & Kathy Welch  
November 25, 1978 – Rick & Shelley Moeller

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### **Membership Changes:**

Transferred to St. Matthew LCMS, Milan IL – Lillian Cobert; Orion Stambaugh on 10/10/2024

### **Changes to current directory:**

Remove from Directory: Lillian Cobert, Orion Stambaugh

### **Memorials Received in October:**

Kathy Nelson to her mom

#### **BIRDIES FOR CHARITY**

Birdies for Charity from the John Deere Classic golf tournament raised over 16 million dollars for Quad City charities this year. The money people donate goes into a huge fund and comes back to whatever Charity's name in which it was given, plus a bonus from John Deere. This year raised over a million dollars more than last year and that produced an 8% bonus.

Immanuel received a check for \$270.00 from this fund raiser which we use for Youth Group activities.

**THANK YOU to all who participated in this event.**

*See Laurie Astrowski if you have any question  
or would like to manage this event for our church in the future.*

Week of November 3, 2024

**1 Corinthians 15:22**

- For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Week of November 10, 2024

**Romans 4:24–25**

- It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Week of November 17, 2024

**1 Thessalonians 4:13–14**

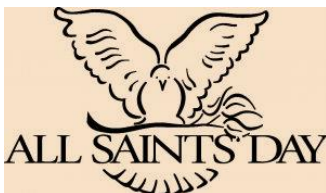
- But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Week of November 24, 2024

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

**CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK & CRAFTS SALE**  
**Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 am – Noon at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Milan**



**NOVEMBER 3**  
**(Observed)**

*Give thanks to the saints who have gone before us. Ask Him to empower Christians to follow their example of faith and good works.*

- |                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>December 6, 2023</i> | <i>Betty Farrier</i>          |
| <i>July 7, 2024</i>     | <i>Ardo Holmgrain</i>         |
| <i>June 20, 2024</i>    | <i>Luray “Punkie” Kendall</i> |
| <i>August 21, 2024</i>  | <i>Jamie Lynn McConnell</i>   |





Immanuel Lutheran Church will again be a polling place for the General Election on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Polls will be open from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm for voting.

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**LWML will be collecting gift cards  
to send to  
Concordia Theological Seminary,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana  
through November 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Suggested vendors: gas (BP, Shell, Speedway); restaurants (Taco Bell, Subway, McDonalds, Burger King, Texas Roadhouse, Outback Steakhouse, Olive Garden); groceries (Target, Wal-Mart); or VISA cards.

**Please write amount on card and give to Laurie Astrowski or church office.**

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**THANKSGIVING EVE**

**Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Everyone is invited to join us as we take time to  
give God thanks and praise for all the blessings we  
have received from Him.**

**There will be no service on Thanksgiving Day.**



# The Camp CILCA Lowdown November, 2024

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

## SAVE THE DATE:

### ❖ Summer Camp registration opens: November 1

- In celebration of CILCA's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, all program sessions for summer 2025 will be available for **\$75** if you register before April 1.

### ❖ Act Like Men Field Training: November 2, 6:30-7:15am

- A brisk hike for men through the 235 acres of Camp CILCA. No cost. Meet at the pine trees by the entrance.

### ❖ Work Day: November 2, 8:30-11:30am

- Raking leaves, closing down cabins, and revamping the Dining Hall kitchen awning are all on the docket. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers.

### ❖ Young Adult Game Night: November 9

- Camp CILCA is hosting a game night for young adults (21+). There is no cost, just bring a friend, any games you want to play, snacks or sides to share. 3-6pm.

### ❖ Women's Scrapbook Retreat: November 15-17

- Cost is \$90 for your shared room and meals. (Private rooms are available upon request for \$120.) Register at [cilca.org/womens-scrapbooking-retreat](http://cilca.org/womens-scrapbooking-retreat)

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

## 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.

<p><b>JOYFUL HEARTS</b> Campers of all ages with developmental disabilities experience the joys of the outdoors during a 4- or 2-night stay. <b>\$360/*\$180 \$75*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Week: <b>June 8-12</b></li> <li>• Half Week: <b>June 8-10* or 10-12*</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>GENERATIONS</b> Campers age 4 thru 4th grade are introduced to camp with a 1-night stay with a parent or other adult. <b>\$75 per person</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session I: <b>June 20-21</b></li> <li>• Session II: <b>July 18-19</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>PATHFINDERS</b> 1st- thru 4th-grade campers break out on their own with a 2- or 3-night stay. <b>\$155/*\$180 \$75*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session I: <b>May 28-30</b></li> <li>• Session II: <b>July 23-25</b></li> <li>• Session III: <b>July 27-30*</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>BOLD SPIRITS</b> 4th- thru 6th-grade campers experience 5 nights of Camp CILCA. <b>\$375 \$75*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session I: <b>June 1-6</b></li> <li>• Session II: <b>July 13-18</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>AQUA WEEK</b> 4th- thru 6th-grade water-loving campers will enjoy a full week of water-based activities. <b>\$375 \$75*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session: <b>July 13-18</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>NIGHT OWL</b> 6th- thru 8th-graders experience camp while staying up all night and sleeping all day. Enough said! <b>\$375 \$75*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session: <b>July 6-11</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>DAUNTLESS SOULS</b> 6th- thru 8th-grade campers gather for a screen-free week of life-changing outdoor adventure. <b>\$375 \$75*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session I: <b>June 15-20</b></li> <li>• Session II: <b>July 6-11</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>SURVIVAL WEEK</b> 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. <b>\$375 \$75*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session: <b>June 22-27</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>ART, DRAMA, &amp; ATHLETICS</b> 5th- thru 8th-grade campers choose one track—Art, Drama, or Athletics—for the week &amp; are led by experienced instructors. <b>\$375 \$75*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session: <b>June 15-20</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>DAY CAMP</b> Grades 1st-8th come for the day Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. A daily lunch is provided. <b>\$150/week. \$75*/week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session: <b>Every week May 28-August 1</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>INTREPID HEARTS</b> High school students enjoy the rejuvenation of God's creation through a week or half week of camp. <b>\$375/\$180* (half) \$75*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Week: <b>June 29-July 4</b></li> <li>• Half Week: <b>June 29-July 1 or 2-4*</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>FAMILY CAMP</b> Parents and children of any age are able to enjoy 3 days and 2 nights at camp with their family. <b>\$400</b> for up to 5 family members + <b>\$80</b> for each additional person. <b>\$375 +\$75</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session: <b>July 20-22</b></li> </ul>

**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**

**REGISTER TODAY!**

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

**WWW.CILCA.ORG**



## The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

### The consequences of shallow thankfulness

Can you imagine a Thanksgiving dinner without turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie? I know I can't! To not have these on the menu, or worse, to run out of them with the family around the table, would be a culinary sin of epic proportions. An attempt to serve bratwurst and hamburgers in place of the standard fare would ring hollow and seem totally inappropriate and out of place. It isn't that the food would be bad; brats and burgers are pretty tasty. But not for Thanksgiving — they just don't go together!

This month, as we continue to walk through the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788), we turn our attention to verse three. Here, William Watkins Reid, Sr., the man who penned this text, draws attention to some things that do not go along with faithful, thankful stewardship.

*Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise ...*

We see this often with small children. They greedily snatch the candy out of a grandparent's hand, savagely destroy the wrapper, and attempt to stuff the entire delicacy in their mouth in one bite, only to have a parent say, "Tell grandma thank you." This is followed by the pro forma thanks that is uttered between chocolate chews. It isn't really thankfulness; it is simply checking a box to keep mom or dad off their backs.

We never really outgrow this either. Our shallow thankfulness takes the form of feigned humility when praise is being offered. We are thankful that our admirers noticed and called us out: "Look at me! Aren't I special?" No thought at all is given to the fact that the Lord was the One who gave us the ability and opportunity for accomplishment. Our false blush is really only masking our selfish, credit-seeking gain. Once again, we find ourselves idolatrously thanking ourselves.

*For words that speak at variance with deeds ...*

What carries more weight: words or action? The steward who gives voice to the Gospel in the Divine Service but then lives like a pagan in the world does great damage, not only to others but to the Gospel itself! This is the consequence of failed stewardship. It is idolatry that separates the steward from the Lord.

Worse yet, it also impacts others negatively. When the failed steward is the reference point outside the Christian community, there are those who want no part of being Christian or

following the Christ they claim. We see this play out in the impact of overt political activity among Christians based on governing policy as opposed to fidelity to the Word of God. When our lips and our lives are out of sync, like what used to happen with old movie projectors, the impact isn't funny — it obscures the Gospel!

*Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways unmindful of a broken brother's need ...*

Our creature comforts often become an obstacle to faithful stewardship. This is true of both individual and corporate stewardship. Financial stewardship is often limited by our desire to be comfortable and have the latest toys and gadgets. Congregational stewardship is often limited by the desire to focus on what is best for the congregation as opposed to how resources might be best stewarded to reach the community with the Gospel.

When we see someone in need, or broken by the world, we often look at them as freeloaders. We admonish them to get a job. We insist that they learn our language, learn our customs, and make them their own. But this gets in the way of seeing every human being the way that Jesus sees them. Remember, that broken person is one for whom Jesus went to the cross to die and rise. When we are unmindful of these needs, our shallow thankfulness also stands in the way of the Gospel.

This stanza reminds us of the challenge we face. Our hearts are master idol-makers. Our shallow thankfulness threatens our souls and hinders others from seeing Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Stewardship is serious business. It is a task for which we were created. In our sinful failings, we are never relieved of these duties. In our Baptism, we are restored to be stewards of the Gospel. Our faithful stewardship is all about that Gospel.

Forgive us when our thanks are shallow, O Lord! In this month of Thanksgiving, grant us the grace to offer heaping helpings of this stewardship so that others may see Jesus!

## Holiday Service Schedule 2024

November 27	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Thanksgiving Eve
December 1	Sunday	9:00 AM	First Sunday in Advent
December 4	Wednesday	5:30/6:30 PM	Supper/Advent I
December 11	Wednesday	5:30/6:30 PM	Supper/Advent II
December 18	Wednesday	5:30/6:30 PM	Supper/Advent III – Children’s Program
December 24	Tuesday	2:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
		6:30 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight w/HC
December 25	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Christmas Day – The Feast of the Nativity
December 29	Sunday	9:00 AM	The First Sunday After Christmas
December 31	Tuesday	6:30 pm	New Year’s Eve Service

### ***Wednesday Evening Supper and Advent Worship***



We are continuing our tradition of inviting our members and the public to join us for a light supper prior to our mid-week Advent Worship Services. Supper will be served at 5:30-6:15 pm in the cafeteria. Our worship service begins at 6:30 PM. The meals may be soup, sandwiches, veggies, and a dessert. Coffee, tea, milk, lemonade, etc. are provided. The host may keep the free-will offering to cover expenses or donate it to the general benefit of the church.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the Elders.

**Wednesday, December 4th – Board of Elders**

**Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – LWML**

**Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – Youth Group**



*Please join us on **Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** to help decorate the church for Advent/Christmas. We will need many hands to make the church beautiful!*

*Thank you for helping adorn the church for Advent.*



# 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

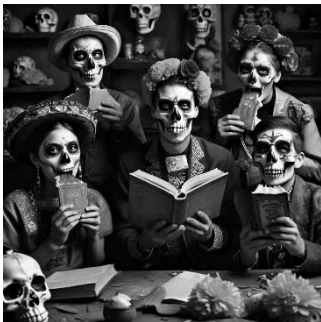


Rev. Pablo G. Domínguez



## DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?

One ancient tradition which is growing stronger little by little among the Hispanics is the belief that dead people return to earth to visit people. There is a special day to mark this tradition. It is called The Day of the Dead (Día de Muertos), and it's held on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Many people believe that this great, ancient and historic tradition was started by the Indians before Spain's conquest. Actually, families decorate a special place in their home. This is called the Altar, where their dead love ones' pictures are displayed with candles, colorful papers, their favorite meals and beverages, skull candies, and bread (Death bread). They believe that their relatives return from the dead to enjoy these items. The media contribute to this with live coverage from homes and even cemeteries, where people spend entire nights decorating with flowers and candles. Do you find some similarities to Halloween?

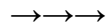


Hispanics who live in the U. S. want to preserve this tradition, even right here in the United States. As Christians we must reject this false tradition. Please read 1 John 3: 1b-3 *"The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure."*



What true and amazing words we find in the Holy Scriptures! These words become a great comfort to all as we come to believe in Jesus Christ. The unbelievers may not believe at first what the words say, but Christians need to continue sharing and proclaiming the Good News in Christ. We're confident and we stand on what He says:

**"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"**





## BAPTISM:

NOAH ALEJANDRO VELAZQUEZ RECEIVED THE SAVING WATERS OF HOLY BAPTISM AND BECAME A CHILD OF GOD ON OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, ST. JOHN'S HISPANIC MINISTRY, BEARDSTOWN, IL. WITH THE HELP OF THE LORD, HIS PARENTS, MIGUEL AND ERICKA, NOAH WILL RECEIVE CHRISTIAN SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE. WELCOME TO GOD'S FAMILY, NOAH!

ALWAYS GIVE THANKS!

In the last weeks I have seen many faces of people which exhibit confusion, loneliness, bitterness, sadness, anguish, and desperation motivated by family troubles, divorce, sickness, death of a loved one, lack of or loss of work, etc. Words are not necessary when body language informs me that they are living through a difficult period in their life. Some of them have called and asked me to visit them in their homes or they have come to the church office. They want to talk about their present situation and receive spiritual advice. They want a quick solution without any hurt or damage to their lives. Will they have a pleasant and happy Thanksgiving dinner?

Once I heard this: "It's so good that you don't have any troubles. I'm sure, all of your family is so happy, because, as Christians, God takes care of you". Well, you and I know that this is not true at all. Believers in Christ have all kinds of troubles and we all suffer at one time or another. We have a long list of troubles, right? So, can we as Christians give thanks to God when we are going through a difficult time?

I'm going to share this true story. It's a story my grandma used to tell. In a very small town, there lived a faithful Christian man. Every day before the sun began to shine, he prayed. He prayed aloud, and everyone in the town was able to hear him. My Grandma said he never failed to pray. It didn't matter what kind of day it was, sunny or rainy, cold, or hot. He prayed with gratitude and thanksgiving. My grandma said that he never complained even though he worked hard as a farmer. He always gave thanks to God for all the gifts he received.

I'm happy when I see joyful, loving families. Their faces tell me that God has been blessing them and showing me how He protects them in their daily lives. They know God is with them in all the circumstances of life. I'm pretty sure these believers in Jesus will have a pleasant and happy Thanksgiving dinner.

What about you? Are you worried? Do you have troubles? Do you feel as though no one listens or cares about you? Think about what Saint Paul tells us in Philippians 4:6,7

***"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."***

Please pray to God in every situation! Happy Thanksgiving Day to you and your family!



# November 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
CHALK – home school group RICC – home school group		<i>Calendar subject to change. Any changes will be listed in weekly announcements.</i>			<b>1</b>	<b>2 DST ENDS Tonight</b>  [12N-8pm – Cafeteria reserved/Guzman]
<b>3 ALL SAINTS (Obs.)</b> 7:15 am Bd. Of Elders Mtg 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:30 am Bible Study/SS	<b>4</b> 7:00 am Matins 8-4 - RICC  6:00 pm – Book Club	<b>5 ELECTION DAY</b> [Polling Place – all day] 9:30 am Bible Study  6 pm – Intergen Bible St.	<b>6</b> CHALK 9-N	<b>7</b>  7 – Youth Group Programming Board	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  9 – Elder Training
<b>10</b> 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:30 am Sunday School <b>10:30 am – VOTERS MTG</b>	<b>11</b> 7:00 am Matins 8-4 - RICC  6:00 pm – Book Club	<b>12</b> 9:30 am - Bible Study  6 pm – Intergen Bible St.	<b>11</b> CHALK 9-N	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  [12N-8pm – Cafeteria reserved/Robinson]
<b>17</b> 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:30 am Bible Study/SS	<b>18</b> 7:00 am Matins 8-4 - RICC  6:00 pm – Book Club	<b>19</b> 9:30am Bible Study  6 pm – Intergen Bible St.	<b>20</b> CHALK 9-N	<b>21</b>  6:00 pm – LWML Bible Study/Dessert	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:30 am Bible Study/SS	<b>25</b> 7:-00 am Matins 8-4 – RICC Make-up day  6:00 pm – Book Club	<b>26</b> 9:30am Bible Study  6 pm – Intergen Bible St.	<b>27</b>  <b>6:30 pm – THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> <b>Office closed</b>	<b>29</b>  <b>Office closed</b>	<b>30</b>  9:00 am – Hanging of The Greens



**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 – [ilchurch@mchsi.com](mailto:ilchurch@mchsi.com)

**Facebook Page:**

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

**All Sunday services are “live” streamed on Facebook at 9 am Sundays and posted to the church’s YouTube channel at:** [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWLcoXZtMq13HOqRo\\_uifgq/featured?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWLcoXZtMq13HOqRo_uifgq/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.***