Immanuel Lutheran Church, 3300 – 24th St. Rock Island, IL 61201 Member of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

January 2025 Volume 169, #1



"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 – January 2025



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

A gap of less than one inch is all that separates the hand of God from the hand of man. God's outstretched finger is pointed and poised with purpose. Man's hand is almost lifeless as his body reclines, turned from God. Only their eyes meet. Eyes filled with power meet eyes of longing.

What I am describing, of course, is perhaps the most recognizable piece of artwork in the western world. Michelangelo's fresco of the creation of man, painted on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, stands as a testament to the creative talents of the human mind.¹ Yet, it's not quite right.

The creation of man is recorded twice in the beginning chapters of the book of Genesis. The second account offers an expanded description of the creation of man: "then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature."² In this mysterious passage, we learn that our God breathes life into the man, and the man becomes a living soul. What's interesting about this for our purposes here is the discrepancy between Michelangelo's painting and what's recorded for us in Scripture. It's interesting that the artist does not record the breathing of life into the dust that God fashioned into Adam. Art historians—who also notice the discrepancy—note that this was a typical representation of the creation event. I suppose communicating via paint our God breathing His life into a man would be difficult. Certainly, as noted, Michelangelo would have been aware of this "error," as would those who watched over and approved his designs—including Pope Leo. But I like to think there's something more at work in this piece of art.

¹ You may take a virtual tour of the Sistine Chapel by accessing the following link:

https://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei/cappella-sistina.html. ² Genesis 2:7.

I will acknowledge that I have no idea what was in Michelangelo's mind as he designed and painted that ceiling, so what follows is me reading my thoughts into this painting. I suppose that's what true art does. It invites us to see beyond the pigment and plaster to the truth we all share—whether we know it or not. And I suppose my reading of this painting is also based on my twenty-plus years as a pastor, living among God's people—people created in His image.

When I look at that artwork and see the face of Adam, I see a face of longing. I see a face that longs to touch the One who created him. There, in Adam's eyes is a sad desire to bridge that gap between his flesh and the Source of life. Yet, just like the images of those fingertips forever frozen in paint, Adam can never bridge that gap. Adam's downturned hand seemingly indicates that he can never span that small gap—less than one inch. It might as well be a thousand miles. A great chasm. Or an eternity.

Michelangelo, in the face of Adam, I think, depicts where we find ourselves. So often I have seen that look on the face of God's people I live and breathe among, as I have seen in my own reflection—that look of longing. It's a look that reflects lives wracked and wrecked by sin. Faces that reflect lives of profoundly bad and selfish choices. Faces that shed tears for the unspeakable things they have done, witnessed, and endured. These are faces that look for God who seems so far away. We seek desperately to find our way across that gap. We seek the way home to where we truly belong. We feel so lost. So alone.

But then, as in that beautiful piece of art, our eyes are drawn to our Creator. With purpose and power, He reaches out to us. Below that profound scene painted on the ceiling of a medieval chapel, a medieval church, sits the altar. The altar where God comes to be with His people. The altar where God's people eat of the Fruit of the new creation. There God comes to us. He bridges the gap. He touches us. In Christ we are a new creation. "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.*"³ It is the Christ, the Son of God, who by His incarnation, by His death, and by His resurrection, bridges the gap. And it is He who brings us home. He brings us to our true home and restores us to that perfect fellowship with God, our Creator.

It is in Christ's church where our longing souls find rest—where we hear of our worth and how the Creator of all loves us and longs for us. Where we receive complete forgiveness. It is in His church where we learn of Christ and His sacrifice for us. We learn of what He accomplished—what He did to answer our longing eyes and restless hearts. It is that place where Christ is manifest to us—not by a star, but through the light of His blessed Word—the Gospel—and Holy Sacraments. And it is in church where He breathes this new life into us. It is no accident that the word we translate as Spirit is the same word for breath. "Pneuma" (think "pneumonia" and "pneumatology") is the Greek word the ancient New Testament uses, and we translate as spirit. The Spirit is the very breath of God. And in Christ's church the Spirit breathes new life into you. He does this through the proclamation of the Word of God and through the gift of the Sacraments. And so, the gap is bridged. The great church father, Augustine, teaches us this: "O Lord, my faith calls on Thee—that faith which Thou hast imparted to me, which Thou hast breathed into me through the incarnation of Thy Son, through the ministry of Thy preacher."⁴ And so you are no longer part of this old and tired world. You are part of the world that has been recreated in Christ. Even when you wonder, hurt, suffer, doubt, and cry out, that truth, ratified by the blood of Christ, remains. God in Christ has touched you. And you are His—a child of God awaiting the life to come.

³ 2 Corinthians 5:17.

⁴ Saint Augustine. *The Complete Works of St. Augustine: Cross-linked to the Bible and with in-line footnotes*, page 104. Kindle Edition.

This is the truth in which we now live as we look forward. We look forward to what is to come—to the life to come. This is what the Nativity—Christmas—has done for you. This is what the Epiphany, which we are about to celebrate, does for you. This what the Passion of our Lord and His resurrection has accomplished for you.

God comes to you. He touches you. He breathes life into your lifeless soul. And He leads you home.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. ⁵

A blessed Epiphany be unto each of you.

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Leonard A. Astrowski, Jr., Pastor

⁵ Psalm 23:1-6.



In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hop through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. ECCLESIASTES 3:11

Tuesday, December 31st

New Year's Eve

Service at 6:30 pm



Monday, January 6th

Feast of the Epiphany

Service at 6:30 pm

FROM IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE:



Thank you to all who helped with donations, with the gathering of basket items, and with the distribution of the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets.



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.



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.

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.

POINSETTIAS – Thank you to who donated the poinsettias for the Chancel:

- In memory of Loved Ones by Wayne Scherer
- In memory of Frankie Ford and Virginia Novak by Jon Ford
- In memory of Vi Goodrich by Jon Ford
- In memory of Marcia Carter and Mark Donner by John & Karlene Campbell
- In memory of Randy Shrake, and George & Edna Randall by Pamela Shrake
- In memory of Loved Ones by Steve & Kathy Daack
- In memory of Grant O. & Elvina Roti, brother Grant C., and Aunt Elverna Mueller by Janice Roti and Linda Roti & family

If you haven't picked up your envelopes, please check the table in the Narthex. If you do not find your box set, please contact the Church Office (309-786-3391).

.....





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 4th 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!

NO MEETING JANUARY February 16th – 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



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.



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!
 - January 19, 2025 Circuit Wide
 - "Movie Night"
 L00 7:00 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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY

TRIVIA NIGHT

to benefit the Youth attending Higher Things

Saturday, February 22, 2025

More details will be forthcoming

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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



- 1st Tina Taylor
- 2nd Shawn Gingry Chase Spragg Brent Titus
- 3rd Kim Willits
- 4th Mark Muske
- 6th Alaina Carter
- 8th Lance Ahlgrim David Cobert
- 9th Michael Depaepe
- 10th Renee Hentrich
- 12th Kris Hazen Jennifer Long Brett Long

- 13th Mikayla Draper
- 14th Irene Christofferson Katherine Cobert
- 16th Moriah Masias
- 17th Laurie Astrowski
- 18th Travis Eygabroad
- 23rd Ellen Campbell
- 26th Hayley Fiedler
- 29th Karen Burger
- 30th Wanda Titus
- 31st Marcus Ayers Kevin Mueller Mel Vogel

January 2nd – Todd & Kris Hazen January 16th – Jim & Christine Boudro January 20th – Bill & Cathy Wiebel

- *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

<u>Membership Changes:</u> (none) <u>Changes to current directory</u>: (none) <u>Memorials Received in December</u>: (none)



Week of January 5, 2025

Joel 2:32

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

Week of January 12, 2025

Titus 3:4–6

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Week of January 19, 2025

Colossians 2:8–9

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.

Week of January 26, 2025

Ephesians 5:25b–27

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.



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 - January, 2025

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



SAVE THE DATE:

* Act Like Men Woodcutters: Feb 28-March 1

O Cutting trees, splitting wood, fellowship with other men, good food, and time in God's Word are all great ways to get started in this endeavor. You do not have to be skilled in using a chainsaw, hammer, or tractor to come to this event. Strong backs and eager hands are just as helpful. The study sessions will cover topics relevant to men navigating life in the modern age.

* Pancake Lunch: March 15

O 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

O 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) 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 75th 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 <u>www.cilca.org/women's-retreat</u>. Questions: contact Lauren at program@cilca.org



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/*\$180 \$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/\$180* (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/*\$180 \$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. \$490 for up to 5 family members + \$80 for each additional person. \$375 +\$75

· Session: July 20-22





Find out more at <u>www.cilca.org</u>



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



JANUARY 2025

The Christmas season is over; presents were opened, and delicious foods were eaten. We are ready to say welcome to the New Year, 2025. Some people may express that 2024 was a wonderful year because the mortgage on their house was paid off, a son graduated from the university, employment began on a new job, perhaps a new family member arrived.

On the other hand, some may say that 2024 was a hard year because tears were shed over a relative that died, or a marriage was dissolved by a divorce, a job was lost resulting in unemployment, and children were irresponsible and disobedient, and on and on.

Only you and God really know how the year 2024 went, right?

In the Old Testament the prophet Isaiah reminds the people that God is still their God even when they abandon His teachings and follow false gods.

'I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which He is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us—yes, the many good things he has done for Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses. (Isaiah 63:7)

These words are true for us today as well, as we look back on 2024 and think about the difficult events as well as the happy events which occurred. Whatever the situation encountered, God's love for us was ever present in our lives. He has brought us to this point and sustained us simply because He loves us. Daily, He shows His mercy and compassion to all especially to those who believe in His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

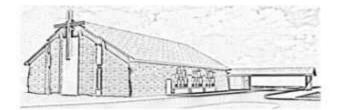
As His chosen people, we often fail to do His will. Our faith is weak, and we doubt His Word and sometimes even His very existence. Our failures are too numerous to count, but yet God loves us! Romans. 5:8 says: 'But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." and Ephesians 2:4-5 says: 'But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."

These words bring us so much happiness, hope, and joy because even though we are so undeserving God showers His love upon us. Many thanks are due Him for sending His only, begotten Son into this wicked world. And thanks be to Jesus who suffered, died, and rose again so that all the sinners who believe in Him may obtain forgiveness and everlasting life.

In this New Year 2024 we can have all confidence that whatever situations may arise for us, God will be at our side with His great power and love. Once again Isaiah says in chapter 41, verse 10, 'Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

And dear friends of Cristo Rey, we thank YOU for your continued support whether it was offered prayers, monetary donations, gifts of clothing, furniture or food, or volunteer labor. You truly are our partners in taking the Gospel to the Hispanic community of the Quad Cities area. May God grant you all a blessed and joyous 2025!

January 2025		Immanuel Lutheran Church Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod 3300 24 th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201-6212 Office: 309-786-3391 Website: Immanuelri.org				
RICC – Home School CC – Home School			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 7 pm – Circuit Youth Group Programming Board	3	4
5 7:15 am Bd of Elders 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:30 am Bible Study/SS	6 EPIPHANY 7 am Matins 8-4 RICC 6:30 – Feast of the Epiphany	7 9:30 am Bible Study 6 pm Intergen Bible St.	8 7 – RI Circuit LCMS Youth Group Planning	9	10	11
12 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:30 am Bible Study/SS	13 7 am Matins <i>8-4 RICC</i> 6 pm Book Club	14 9:30 am Bible Study 6 pm Intergen Bible St.	15	16	17	18
19 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:30 am Bible Study/SS	20 7 am Matins 8-4 RICC	21 9:30 am Bible Study	22	23	24	25
4 – Circuit Youth Group Movie Night	6 pm Book Club	6 pm Intergen Bible St.				
26 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:30 am Bible Study/SS	27 7 am Matins 8-4 RICC	28 9:30 am Bible Study	29	30	31	
	6 pm Book Club	6 pm Intergen Bible St.				



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 – <u>pastrowski@gmail.com</u> Church Office – <u>officeimmanuelri@gmail.com</u>

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: <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWLcoXZtMq13HOqRo_uifqg/featured?view_as=subscriber</u>.

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.