



# 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 – February 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

*"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth" 2 Timothy 2:15.*

St. Paul here gives the young pastor Timothy guidance on how to proclaim and apply the Word of God. With Timothy in the midst of those who desired to prattle on about the Word of God without actually learning what it means, Paul offers this advice. Timothy, and by extension the church, is to ground his life and work and teaching in the Word. This, of course, carries on today as the church finds itself in a community not unlike that of Timothy's day. We are immersed in a culture that desires to talk about God without actually knowing what God actually says. It's just as important now to clearly proclaim and live out—to handle rightly—the Word of Truth.

Lent will arrive in short order, and that is a time for us to reflect and repent. I will spend the next few paragraphs focusing on repentance and our handling of the Word of Truth. Specifically, I will explore this in relation to funerals.

Funerals—Christian funerals—are a difficult subject. These situations are so emotionally charged that often our thinking is clouded. And while we are sympathetic to the hurts people experience when loved ones are lost to the curse, we must, of first importance, ensure we are clear in our proclamation and actions. We must rightly handle the Word of Truth in these situations.

Perhaps you have noticed my frequent use of "we" instead of "me." While I am the pastor, and in a sense the buck stops with me, these remain issues of the church. We are all called—not just the pastor—to handle God's word correctly in what we say and do. So, this is an issue that concerns all of us.

Now, before I go any further, I wish to set a few parameters. First, this is not an exploration of who is and who is not in heaven. None of us know another's thoughts and heart. Those deep places are known only to God. And the "sorting" of who is and who is not in heaven (and the life to come) our Lord reserves for Himself. We, however, can observe people's actions and hear their words—or lack thereof. And if we can observe these, so can the community. We can easily see if they have gathered with us in church to receive Christ in His Word, in Baptism, and in the Lord's Supper. And we remember that Christ gives and commands these things for us—for

faith in Him to be created and nurtured. Nor am I speaking of those people on the “fringes” of the church, who perhaps have lived their lives apart from the day-to-day life of the church, yet, as death nears, I am called in to proclaim to them the Gospel. Deathbed confessions and conversions are true conversions—such is the power of the Gospel. Once again, I note that this is not a discussion about who is saved and who is not. Although, we do well to remember that not everyone will be saved. What is of concern to us here is the church’s witness in the community. What is of concern here is our right handling of the Word of Truth by not just what we say, but also what we do in the community.

There are some common scenarios that occur in our little plot of fly-over country. A few times a year, a local funeral director calls and asks me to preside at a funeral. Often this is because a family member of the deceased has recently heard me preach at a church funeral—even though they have no connection to the church or me. Sometimes it’s one of our members that asks me to preside for a deceased person with whom I (and the church too) have had no relationship. Sadly, if I peruse the little directory we publish every few months, I must confess that a significant number of those people remain completely unknown to me. That means in the eleven years that I’ve been called here I’ve not seen those people gather with us. You may protest that the elders and I are not doing enough to remedy that. Maybe that’s fair. But here are some things to think about: Most people no longer answer their phones when the caller is unrecognized or the conversation unwanted. And there are a goodly number of people who we minister to regularly—visiting, teaching, youth group, etc. Plus, consider the time required for sermon prep, personal study, meetings and the like. That leaves little time to track these souls down. On the other side of that same coin is their own personal responsibility—these are adults who make their own choices. And I hope the families and friends who do know those people are having conversations about salvation and church, etc. I know many of you do. I’ll also add that when someone dies people are looking for closure and comfort—even though that changes nothing about the state of the dead. The dead’s lives are closed books that cannot be edited or amended. The living are perhaps grasping for any source of hope they can find. As an observation, I have sadly attended a few funerals for people that have lived a life apart from the church. While there might be a passing mention of our Lord, the service is typically a long litany of eulogies—testimonies of why the person was good. And, implicitly or explicitly, we are led to believe that’s why the person is in heaven.

I want to unpack this last point a little more. Everybody who dies is good. At least that’s what the culture thinks. How good do you have to be? The answer to that is often not drawn from God’s Word, but from the whims of the community. However, what the culture decides is good is highly subjective, and as a result, it sets the bar quite low. Sometimes that bar seems so low that simply the act of dying qualifies the deceased for heaven. Maybe, from our point of view, the deceased was a good person. I, over the years, have had people—church people—tell me that they cannot believe in a God that wouldn’t let such a person into heaven. Unfortunately, it really doesn’t matter what we believe apart from the Word of God. And our Lord says quite clearly and succinctly *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”* (John 14:6). Christ saves you. You cannot save yourself. That’s the heart of it, and it’s that simple.

With all this in mind, we do well to remember that we are commanded to be faithful to Christ—specifically to how He has revealed Himself in His Word. That’s all He gave us. We are called to be faithful in our words and deeds to what He has revealed. So I ask you, if I preside at the funeral of a person who as far as we may discern died apart from Christ, what do my actions confess? Am I rightly handling the Word of Truth? You may object and wish to justify my presence by noting that the living will at least hear of Christ. But if I do that, in order to rightly handle the Word—to be faithful—I have to look the living in the eye and say that I don’t know. I don’t know about the eternal state of the deceased. When I have said that to the survivors—usually before the funeral

is planned—predictably another preacher (or even the funeral director) is procured. They shop around to find a warm body to say what they want to hear. Just as St. Paul forewarned.

Ultimately too, mishandling the Word, which is often easy and comfortable, results in confusion and a belief that “all roads lead to Rome.” The right handling, however, while often hard and painful, will at least get people to think about the Truth. That’s the narrow and difficult road we are called to walk.

In these dark and latter days of confusion, may we repent of our failures to be faithful and pray for strength to rightly handle the Word of Truth. Even though our loved ones, friends, and neighbors may not know it, they need us to do exactly that.

*For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry (2 Timothy 4:3-5).*

In Christ’s most holy name,

Rev. Leonard A. Astrowski Jr., Pastor



---

### **Pregnancy Resources Baby Bottle Boomerang**

*Help continue Pregnancy Resources’ Legacy of Life*

***“Fill the Bottle 2026”***

Grab a bottle and fill it up!

Please return filled bottles by the end of February. Thank you!



---

### ***NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY!***

**Katherin Cobert of Cobert Photography will be taking photos of members after church on February 15, March 1 and March 15.**

**There will be sign up sheets on the table in the Narthex and on the church’s website ([immanuelri.org](http://immanuelri.org)) under Upcoming Events on the News tab.**



**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 contact the office when someone is hospitalized or homebound. The church office phone number is **309-786-3391**; email address is [officeimmanuelri@gmail.com](mailto:officeimmanuelri@gmail.com).

---

There will be a regular **Voters Meeting** on **Sunday, February 15** after church in the cafeteria.

---

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & BAPTISMS**

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



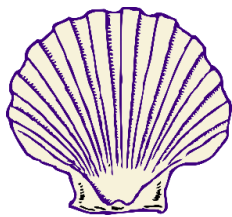
3 - Tom Klockau  
JoAnn Taube

4 - Janice Roti  
10 - Brian Luebbe  
Klaus Mark  
11 - Samantha Titus  
12 - Daniel Tiece  
16 - Lailey Herrera  
17 - Luca Fiedler

19 - Haley Cruner  
Debbie Rusk  
22 - Pam Saunders  
25 - Carolyn Fowler  
26 - Leigh Ayers  
27 - Deanna Wilson



February 2, 1994 – Jeff & Deborah Rusk



### **Baptism Birthdays**

1 - Laurie Astrowski  
6 - Claire Mills  
8 - Stacy Biscontine  
Kevin Millen  
Payton Mills  
11 - Pam Saunders  
12 - Klaus Mark  
13 - Katherine Cobert

14 - Jordan Copeland  
17 - Michael Depaepe  
20 - Hayley Fiedler  
Elizabeth Hazen  
24 - Nan Hasenberg  
26 - Janice Roti  
28 - JoAnn Taube

*\*NOTE – Birthdays, anniversaries and baptisms are listed according to our records.  
If you find a mistake or any missing information, please notify the office. Thank You.*

---

## **MEMBERSHIP AND DIRECTORY CHANGES / MEMORIALS - DECEMBER REPORT:**

**Membership** – **Additions** – none to report.

**Deletions** – none to report.

**NEW Membership Directories are available on the table in the Narthex.**

**Memorials** – To General Memorial, given in memory of Rodger Kramer.

---



### **Building Upkeep**

Thank you to those who have signed up to clean a room/area monthly. We really appreciate the help. If you are interested, there are several areas that haven't been claimed yet. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex.

---



**THE 2026 FLOWER CHART** and **THE ETERNAL LIGHT CHART** are 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](mailto:OFFICEIMMANUELRI@GMAIL.COM). YOU CAN ALSO WRITE A NOTE AND LEAVE IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE FOR THE CHURCH OFFICE.**



Social Ministry would like to compile a list of people to contact for help in the kitchen for funeral luncheons. If you would be willing to help, please contact Tammy Robinson via email ([ilcriacctg@gmail.com](mailto:ilcriacctg@gmail.com)).

**Another part of our Social Ministry** includes helping support two Seminarian families. If you wish to help with their support, you can place your gift in an envelope with “**Seminarrians**” and your envelope number written on it, and place it in the offering plate or bring to the church office. These gifts will be recorded on your Financial Statement and checks will be sent to them quarterly.

### **Names and addresses if you wish to send a card of encouragement, etc.:**

Josh Bieri – Vicarage appointment to  
Faith Lutheran Church  
1407 Main St  
La Crosse, WI 54601

Josh Camp - 2<sup>nd</sup> year at CTSFW  
Josh & Catherine Camp  
7630 Coldsprings Blvd  
Fort Wayne IN 46825

*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 online via Zoom.
- **For the older youth** – there is a Rock Island Circuit Youth Group. Watch for announcements on dates and times.



By providing safe shelter, support, and resources, Christian Care empowers the homeless to make positive changes in every aspect of their lives.

### **Items Needed:**

Men’s Deodorant  
Shampoo  
Conditioner

13-gal Trash bags  
33 gal trash bags  
39 gal lawn & leaf trash bags

Toilet paper  
Men’s disposable razors  
Napkins

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

### LWML UPCOMING EVENT

The February LWML meeting will be Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 6 pm. Pastor Astrowski will lead us in a devotion and Karen Wilson, administrator at the Davenport Lutheran Home, will be our special guest. We will be gathering the following items for the Lutheran Home residents: books, adult coloring books, puzzles, lotion, nail polish. All ladies are welcome!



**Immanuel LWML will be gathering items for the Davenport Lutheran Home. Items include: books, adult coloring books, puzzles, lotion, fingernail polish. Items can be brought to church through February 15, 2026. Thank you for your generosity!**



### January and February 2026 LWML CID Mission Grant #5 – Just for Moms - \$3,544

Almost 4 out of 10 women who receive services from Pregnancy Resources in Moline, IL have no faith background or are of non-Christian faith. Along with this, of professing Christian clients, 48 are at risk for abortion. Pregnancy Resources “Just for Moms” bags help provide a new mom with a holistic wellness approach that considers a person’s physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual aspects. Each bag offers a Lutherans for Life devotional for mothers, a journal to track emotional needs, post-natal vitamins, and more help to prepare her for the birth and delivery of her baby.

*How can I help? Pray that God uses the materials distributed by Pregnancy Resources to bring lost souls to Christ. Support this grant by donating to your church’s LWML group mite fund.*

Immanuel Lent/Easter Schedule 2026	
Wednesday, February 18	Supper – 5:30-6:15 pm ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – 6:30 pm
Wednesday, February 25	Supper – 5:30-6:15 pm LENTEN MIDWEEK I – 6:30 pm
Wednesday, March 4	Supper – 5:30-6:15 pm LENTEN MIDWEEK II – 6:30 pm
Wednesday, March 11	Supper – 5:30-6:15 pm LENTEN MIDWEEK III – 6:30 pm
Wednesday, March 18	Supper – 5:30-6:15 pm LENTEN MIDWEEK IV – 6:30 pm
Wednesday, March 25	Supper – 5:30-6:15 pm LENTEN MIDWEEK V – 6:30 pm
Sunday, March 29	PALM SUNDAY DIVINE SERVICE – 9:00 am
Thursday, April 2	HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY – 6:30 pm
Friday, April 3	GOOD FRIDAY CHIEF SERVICE – Noon GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE – 7:00 pm
Saturday, April 4	THE VIGIL OF EASTER – 7:00 pm
Sunday, April 5	EASTER SUNRISE – 6:30 am Breakfast Potluck – 7:30-8:30 am THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD – 9:00 am

### ***Remember – we continue to recycle 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.**



## **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.
- Sunday, February 22, 4pm: Circuit Youth Group Olympics at Immanuel
- Higher Things in St. Louis June 23-26, 2026

*Please pray that our Circuit Youth Group will continue to be a source of fellowship, fun and sharing God's Word with our youth.*



### **Concordia University Nebraska (CUNE) Chamber Choir**

Free concert with freewill offering

**Friday, February 20th @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Our Savior Lutheran Church, 3775 Middle Rd, Bettendorf, IA**

### **LCMS Health Ministry**

January is usually the month when people devote themselves to forming new habits or revisiting old ones that have gone by the wayside during the busyness of the holiday season. But New Year's resolutions, if we're being honest with ourselves, rarely get "resolved" with the start of a new year. By February, it's easy to lose our zeal. That's because we are prone to have a "sprint" mentality when the reality is that the Christian life is more akin to a long-distance race. Paul says this in Philippians 3:14: "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Godliness is waking up every day remembering your baptism and walking throughout the day in baptismal grace. Godliness is self-control of body and discipline of spirit for the sake of God's name and for the good of neighbor. Godliness is having hope in the life to come while living faithfully and joyfully in the life we live now. Follow the ways and rhythms that Christ has set for His people in worship, in prayer, in community, in feasting and celebrating, and your year will be filled with the richness of Christ's good gifts. Visit [lcms.org/health](http://lcms.org/health).

**The Book of Concord** is available online for **FREE** from CPH (Concordia Publishing House). CPH offers the text of the Book of Concord for free on its brand-new website, **[bookofconcord.cph.org](http://bookofconcord.cph.org)**. This easy-to-use resource lets you navigate through all the major documents of the Book of Concord.



## ***Called to Serve Event***

**Trinity Lutheran Church - Davenport, Iowa**

**6:30-8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026**

*We invite you to join Rev. Jesse Kueker, director of Enrollment, for light appetizers, a presentation on the doctrine of vocation and an update on enrollment at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.*

All interested in helping to recruit the next generation of church workers and those exploring or interested in pursuing pastoral ministry are welcome to attend!

**There is no cost to attend, but space is limited. Please register by calling 314-505-7225.**

---

## **LCMS Stewardship Ministry**

### **Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool**

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!

But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for "various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities." Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a "how-to" tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God's direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards.

The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a "me and Jesus thing!" In fact, it ends with these words: "Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare." This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities and the church at large.

---





### **Pray For Our Central Illinois District Missions, supported by your church's Mission Dollars to the District.**

Dear Father, we pray Thee, give us Thy Word, that the Gospel may be sincerely preached throughout the world and that it may be received by faith and may work and live in us. So we pray that Thy kingdom may prevail among us through the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit,

that the devil's kingdom may be overthrown and he may have no right or power over us, until finally the devil's kingdom shall be utterly destroyed and sin, death, and hell exterminated, and that we may live forever in perfect righteousness and blessedness (from Luther's Large Catechism).

### **Items of Interest to Share**

#### **Invest at 3.75% for 11 Months & Help Finance Churches and Schools!**

The Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF) Board of Trustees has extended the opportunity to invest in our special 11-month investment at 3.75%. This is a high interest rate for this length of term and won't be around much longer, so please take advantage of this opportunity to assist our churches and schools in financing the expansion of their ministries while you receive the added blessing of a great interest rate!

#### **Current Dollar For Mission Project**

**Project:** Replace original kitchen equipment in the sexton's apartment at Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb

*Immanuel Lutheran Student Center in Macomb was dedicated in 1969, but some kitchen equipment in the apartment for the live-in student who cares for the student center (the sexton) has not been replaced since then. DFM funds would be used to replace the original kitchen equipment. **Amount to be funded: \$11,000.00***

**Dollars for Mission Online** – New this year, you can now support Dollars for Mission through online giving. Many people no longer carry cash but still want to support the Central Illinois District's mission work. One-time and recurring donations are now available online at <https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/LCMSCentralIllinoisDistrict/D4M> or by using the QR code.



**All new recurring gifts will be matched by a special one-time gift, up to \$20,000.**

#### **2026 Youth Bible Bowl**

**Date:** March 2026 (working on March 21-22)

**Location:** Camp CILCA

**Topic:** "The Gospel According to St. Matthew"

The Gospel according to St. Matthew summarizes what we need to know to receive salvation from sin, the devil, and death. The Gospel of St. Matthew records the most important teachings of Jesus and the key events in Jesus' life. Plan to study "the Gospel according to St. Matthew" with youth (junior and senior high [grades 6-12]) as thoroughly as you can, to prepare them to answer questions in your Circuit and at the District Bible Bowl in the spring, and (most importantly) so that by God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit they grow in their faith that Jesus truly is the Son of God and our Savior.

Contact Rev Mark Eddy ([zionlcms@juno.com](mailto:zionlcms@juno.com)) for additional information.

**The Small Church Summit** for Winter, 2026, will feature a presentation by SID President Heath Curtis titled "The Small Town Lutheran Church." Sectionals will be on "Shepherding our Strays," technology in small churches, and safety standards.

**St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1076 E Chatham Street, Lexington**

**Feb.21** or (if weather is bad) Feb. 28

Sign-in will be at 9:30 a.m., opening devotion will commence at 10:00, and closing prayer will be at 2:30 p.m. Register by February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at <https://forms.gle/eujwE5hmRC48wF7MA>

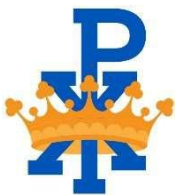
**If you think your church is small, YOU are invited. And everyone is welcome!**

“I have a question for you. Have you ever read through all the paragraphs in your will? I did recently on a rainy afternoon when there was nothing else to do and I had no idea I ever signed a document that addressed so many topics.”

Those words were shared with Rita by her friend Rene. Rita responded, “I find legal documents and estate issues so complicated. I’m glad I can have someone else lead me through that challenge.”

Sometimes we may think that an estate plan is simply a will, a trust and a couple of POA documents and that the fees an attorney charges for that stack of papers is too expensive. However, an estate plan is more than just a stack of yellowing papers. The plan comes out of discussion, prayer, and thinking, discerning how God wants you to distribute the things He has entrusted to your care once He calls you home to Jesus. The real value of the estate plan is found in the plan, not just in some documents. It takes some work to create that plan.

Many don’t know where to get started in creating their first plan or reviewing an old plan, so they take no action at all. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you get started. It begins with organizing your pertinent information. It continues with honing the goals you have, not just for family inheritance but support of ministry as well. Then clear information can be shared with your attorney, so they can draft documents that take into consideration legal concerns, making sure your goals are on paper and will be respected and accomplished someday. To get started in this faith journey, contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or [scott.radden@lfnd.org](mailto:scott.radden@lfnd.org).



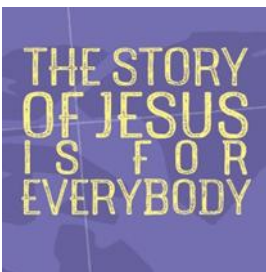
## Christ the King (Cristo Rey) Lutheran Church

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

**February 2026**



I assume that most of the readers of this newsletter speak the Good News to people in English, their mother tongue, but I’m wondering how many have ever tried to speak the Gospel with a foreigner who doesn’t speak their language?

Rev. Robert Yount, a faithful LCMS pastor who was called home to glory just before Christmas, told me this true story about something that happened when he was a pastor in California. He said that he had had a memorable and wonderful experience when he conducted a home Bible study with a Vietnamese family who spoke only Vietnamese and French. How did he share the Gospel with this family? Well, it wasn’t

hard. Pastor Yount invited a Christian Lutheran Vietnamese person who spoke English, Vietnamese and French to come to the Bible study. Pastor would explain a Bible text to his friend in English, and his friend repeated the same verse in Vietnamese or French. Can you imagine this scene? This scenario reminds me of Philippians 2:11 “and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Sometimes, when I visit patients in a local hospital, I meet people from different countries. Some speak fluent English, others don’t. Some come from Africa, or Asia. Two weeks ago, there was the name of a lady on my list of patients to visit. The lady did not speak one word of English. I tried to explain that a Christian chaplain prays to the One True God, but the lady just looked at me and smiled. No words. Okay, I thought, how can I communicate with this lady? It would have been so easy to step back, wave my hand and say, “Good Bye”. I had my wooden cross so I showed it to her. She opened her eyes and said “Jesus”. Great! I pointed to the cross and said to her “I believe in Jesus”, and she just started to say “Jesus, Jesus”. Even though she didn’t understand my English words, with reverence we prayed to Jesus.

Yes, brothers and sisters, even though we sometimes don’t understand people who speak a different language, we can all believe in the same Triune God. Heb. 13:8 says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever”. He understands and speaks all languages. Do not forget to share Jesus. Don’t let a language barrier stop you. Ask Jesus to show you a way.

*(This article was taken from the February 2017 newsletter)*

→

Our ministry would not be possible without your support and prayers.  
We thank God every day because of you!

## MUCHAS GRACIAS AMIGOS DE CRISTO REY

.....

September 30, 2025

Dear Friends of Cristo Rey,

Lutheran Legacy Foundation was started by The Clara & Spencer Werner Foundation. The mission of the Lutheran Legacy Foundation is to help provide for the future of Lutheranism. Lutheran Legacy Foundation seeks to nurture Christian faith and values for future generations. This foundation seeks to make endowing the future easier for individuals, churches and organizations.

Since its founding in 1953, The Clara and Spencer Werner Foundation has given more than 30 million dollars for Lutheran causes. The Werner Foundation is now a donor-advised fund inside Lutheran Legacy Foundation. The Werner Fund's primary giving emphasis is targeted at helping Lutheran churches, schools and organizations start their own endowment.

Lutheran Legacy Foundation specializes in "endowment funds," also called 'permanent funds,' because the principal (corpus) remains permanently invested while the earnings provide a stream of revenue. Lutheran Legacy Foundation seeks to incentivize churches and organizations to establish these funds by offering matching grants.

Cristo Rey has, by the Grace of God, established an endowment fund with the Lutheran Legacy Foundation in August 2025. The fund's name is the **"Cristo Rey Endowment Fund"** for Christ the King Lutheran Church. The purpose of this endowment fund is to support the mission, ministry, outreach, and facilities of Christ the King Lutheran Church (Cristo Rey), East Moline for as long as, by God's grace, this congregation continues to plant the Gospel's seed in the Quad Cities, or until our Lord returns.

Because you are a friend of Cristo Rey and Hispanic Ministry we are asking for your help (in building the corpus (principal amount) of Cristo Rey's Endowment Fund. Lutheran Legacy will strengthen your donation with a 20% match. This matching offer is available until the fund's corpus reaches \$500,000 or the fund reaches its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday whichever comes first. It takes approximately one year from the time an endowment fund is established with Lutheran Legacy for the first payout to be received.

This link provides information on the Lutheran Legacy Foundation, Cristo Rey's Endowment Fund, making a donation and FAQs:

<https://lutheranlegacyfoundation.org/fund/cristo:-rey-endowment-fund/>

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. *Galatians 6:2*

*Peace be with you,*

  
Pastor, Christ the King, LCMS

  
President, Rock Island Circuit Hispanic Council

## FEBRUARY 2026 MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

Week of February 1, 2026 - **2 Timothy 2:13**

If we are faithless, He remains faithful — for He cannot deny Himself.

Week of February 8, 2026 - **James 4:17**

So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Week of February 15, 2026 - **1 John 1:8**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Week of February 22, 2026 - **Romans 5:8**

God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### **Daily Readings for FEBRUARY from the Lutheran Service Book, pages 299-304**

Feb 1	Zech. 11:4-17	2 Tim. 4:1-18
Feb 2	Zech. 12:1-13:9	Titus 1:1-2:6
Feb 3	Zech. 14:1-21	Titus 2:7-3:15
Feb 4	Job 1:1-22	John 1:1-18
Feb 5	Job 2:1-3:10	John 1:19-34
Feb 6	Job 3:11-26	John 1:35-51
Feb 7	Job 4:1-21	John 2:1-12
Feb 8	Job 5:1-27	John 2:13-25
Feb 9	Job 6:1-13	John 3:1-21
Feb 10	Job 6:14-30	John 3:22-4:6
Feb 11	Job 7:1-21	John 4:7-26
Feb 12	Job 8:1-22	John 4:27-45
Feb 13	Job 9:1-35	John 4:46-54
Feb 14	Job 10:1-22	John 5:1-18
Feb 15	Job 11:1-20	John 5:19-29
Feb 16	Job 12:1-6, 12-25	John 5:30-47
Feb 17	Job 13:1-12	John 6:1-21
<b>Ash Wed</b>	Gen. 1:1-19	Mark 1:1-13
Thursday	Gen. 1:20-2:3	Mark 1:14-28
Friday	Gen. 2:4-25	Mark 1:29-45
Saturday	Gen 3:1-24	Mark 2:1-17
 <b>Lent 1</b>	 Gen. 4:1-26	 Mark 2:18-28
Monday	Gen. 6:1-7:5	Mark 3:1-19
Tuesday	Gen. 7:11-8:12	Mark 3:20-35
Wednesday	Gen. 8:13-9:17	Mark 4:1-20
	<i>Gen. 9:18-11:26</i>	
Thursday	Gen. 11:27-12:20	Mark 4:21-41
Friday	Gen. 13:1-18	Mark 5:1-20
	<i>Gen. 14:1-24</i>	
Saturday	Gen. 15:1-21	Mark 5:21-43

# FEBRUARY 2026

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 7:15 Bd of Elders 9 Worship w/HC 10:30 Bible Study/ Sunday School	<b>2</b>  6 Book Club	<b>3</b> 7 Matins 9:30 Bible Study  6 Intergen. Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  7 Youth Group Programming Bd	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9 Worship w/HC 10:30 Bible Study/ Sunday School	<b>9</b>  6 Book Club	<b>10</b> 7 Matins 9:30 Bible Study  6 Intergen. Bible Study	<b>11</b> 9-12 CHALK	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9 Worship w/HC <i><b>Photos after church</b></i> <b>Voters' Meeting after church</b> 10:30 Bible Study/ Sunday School	<b>16</b> <b>Presidents' Day [Office Closed]</b>  6 Book Club	<b>17</b> 7 Matins 9:30 Bible Study  6 Intergen. Bible Study	<b>18 ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 9-12 CHALK  5:30 Supper 6:30 ASH WED. SERVICE	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  <i>Deadline for submitting items for THE IMAGE</i>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9 Worship w/HC 10:30 Bible Study/ Sunday School 4 Circuit Youth Group Olympics	<b>23</b>  6 Book Club	<b>24</b> 7 Matins 9:30 Bible Study  6 Intergen. Bible Study	<b>25</b> 9-12 CHALK  5:30 Supper 6:30 Lenten Midweek Svc.	<b>26</b>  6 LWML	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

*Calendar is subject to change. Any changes will be listed in the weekly announcements.*

**Please note: Additional photo sessions will be held March 1 & 15 for the pictorial directory.**

**Don't forget to turn in your Pregnancy Resources baby bottle by the end of the month!**



**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 10:30 AM – Sunday School at 10:30 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 – Thursday, 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.***