



# 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 – May 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Most Americans celebrate Christmas in one way or another. Trees, holiday music (mostly secular, which begins punishing our ears ever earlier each fall), and that syrupy, Hallmark Channel, fake-snow-colored-lights-cozy-crackling-fires, New England myth (granted, you have to applaud a channel devoted and developed to selling products and feelings to wealthy, middle-aged women who are searching for the Lost Atlantis of a Christmas that will never exist). And all of these bring voices that worm their way into our ears. And those voices teach.

On the heels of Christmas, come, in rapid succession, the feasts of Stephen, John, and the Holy Innocents. These martyrs (Stephen by confession and death, John by confession, and the Holy Innocents by death) and their feasts are almost unknown and uncelebrated in the American church. They remain unrecognized, except by a few “anachronistic” confessions, like us. Nothing kills the American evangelical joy buzz like the suffering of the saints. Silent voices also teach.

Then come the commemorations of Saints Valentine and Patrick. While the details of Valentine are lost in the mist of time, his impact on the faithful of his day was so profound that he was commemorated by the church very quickly after his death. This we know with certainty: Valentine was beheaded for the faith in the third century. His skull may be seen in a small church near the Coliseum. On those remains a withered wreath of flowers rests, along with a strip of parchment on which is written by ancient hands: “St. Valentine, Martyr.” Think of that next time you eat your heart-shaped chocolates and those chalky, pastel bits stamped with a trite “I ♥ U.” A rather reverent way to remember a martyred brother in Christ, don’tcha think? Candy teaches.

And Patrick...

I wonder if people—even church people—have any inkling of who St. Patrick actually was and what he accomplished.<sup>1</sup> His life had nothing to do with shamrocks and snakes. His was a life of profound suffering and sacrifice. And he wasn’t Irish. He was a Briton. Yet his faithfulness and sacrifice led to the conversion of an entire island. And that island became a safe repository for both sacred and secular writings, and much of western culture as the continent fell into the dark ages. McDonald’s and Mayor McCheese don’t tell you that story as they hand you a green, dye-laden shake. We rarely learn how this one man changed the course of a nation’s history (an island nation that, of late, has forgotten this). Instead, we are told of leprechauns and rainbows and

<sup>1</sup> You can read the memoirs of St. Patrick in his own words. He left for us his autobiography. You can find it at this link: [https://www.confessio.ie/etexts/confessio\\_english#](https://www.confessio.ie/etexts/confessio_english#).

handed glittery, green hats and clover-shaped glasses. And green beer—let the party get started. The culture teaches.

And then there are the myriad other confessions found lurking beneath the banner of Christendom. Mormons (also known as the Latter-Day Saints) are a very wealthy and numerically rich body who claim to be Christian, but they are not. And there are many others adding to or subtracting from the Gospel and the apostolic faith. Unfortunately, these groups are often handed the microphone in our community and nation—not because of what they teach, but because a book sells well or the church is growing and so appears successful. We love success—that teaches too.

Let's talk a little bit more about success. American Christianity is a sordid mess of competing voices. In our nation's early days, a trained clergy was dismissed for those who seemingly 'demonstrated' that the holy spirit (note the lower case) was among them because they were growing in numbers. Fidelity to Scripture (all of it) was cast aside for increasingly outrageous tactics to lure people into a preacher's tent. This has survived down to this very day. A church, far too often, is judged successful by how many people attend and how many clubs and activities it offers (I defy you to find a scriptural definition of a successful church apart from fidelity to the Word). Rarely is a church evaluated by what it teaches and if that teaching is faithful to the Word of God. Add to that our desire to be told what we want to hear. Much as he did for our first parents, Satan whispers in our ears, too: "Did God really say...?" All these competing voices teach too.

And then there are the voices of celebrity. We award a hearing to those who have success in the entertainment industry. I argue here that entertainers are different than artists. While great art comments on—questions the world around us—and speaks truth to power, even if what it produces is unpopular (hence the reason artists are frequently starving), entertainers and the industry that employs them are driven by material success. Records sold and box office receipts are the only markers the industry values. They must produce a product that the consumer wishes to purchase. I think (opinion here) that entertainers often begin to see themselves as the characters they portray. Yet, they know, at least from what I can glean, little of theology, philosophy, history and its intricacies, economics, and the dynamics of the political process.<sup>2</sup> Yet, because of their success in industry, we hand them the microphone and uncritically take their words as gospel. And both the entertainer and consumer also think that material success is an instant qualification for speaking on any and all topics. (Beware of this yourself. It is not wrong, and it's very right, to say "I don't know" when you don't.) Celebrity teaches.

Add to all of this our pride. Our culture has taught us that all *opinions* are equally valid as truth. I have discovered that this makes people almost—almost—impervious to well-reasoned arguments. The facts, however interesting, remain irrelevant. I've been told many times by parishioners that "I can't believe that" or "I disagree with that." Yet these folks offer no rationale for this disbelief and disagreement, apart from what they choose to believe. They have spent their entire lives in a culture that upholds moral relativism and moral individualism as gospel truth. They have no vocabulary, no tools, to analyze competing and contradictory concepts. (What more is to be expected from a culture that can no longer define what a woman is?) I've also observed that, when presented with well-reasoned arguments, those without critical thinking skills retreat to name-calling, screeching, and even violence. Dangerous is the cornered dog. And our pride supports all of this.

Pride wants us to think that our voice is the voice that needs to be heard. And we get angry when we discover, borrowing from C.S. Lewis here, "We're not the biggest noise at the party." That's what our pride wants us to be. It refuses to cede authority to anyone or anything besides itself. It certainly does not want to submit to its Creator. Pride teaches.

So, what's the point of all this?

Our Lord has so ordained things that He has not left us orphans to be tossed to and fro by all these voices. He knew, and knows, that we would be surrounded by many voices tempting us and pulling us away from His

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<sup>2</sup> Bono, lead singer of the highly successful Irish band U2, in his 2022 autobiography (*Surrender*, Random House), admits this. After pressuring the United States administration to provide aid in the way *he* demanded, he reveals (much later in the book) that the actions he pushed, with the backing of millions of adoring fans, ended in the increased suffering of those he was hoping to aid. His failure to understand complex geopolitical issues, and his failure to submit to those called to sort out these things, resulted in great suffering.

truth. To protect us from these voices—and ourselves—our Lord has given us the church. It is into the life of His church that Christ ascends. And what is the church? As we confess, the church is that place where the Gospel is *purely* proclaimed and the Sacraments are administered *according to* Christ’s institution. And He has established the preaching office. The church is the ark in which Christ places us, so we are not tossed about and not led astray.<sup>3</sup> We are called to gather in the place Christ has established to hear His truth.

As we prepare to celebrate the Ascension (another feast, as important as it is, that too often falls by the wayside—ask yourself why this is so), we are faced with the questions of: Where is Christ now? and How do I know that I am a Christian—that I am saved? To answer these questions, He gives you the church, where He calls a man to preach His word and to give you the gifts. Through these gifts you are made a Christian and kept in the one true faith. And you will be taught, by His voice, what the truth is. There is a truth. And it can be known. Stop listening to those other voices. Hear your Shepherd’s voice. And be blessed.

*I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.<sup>4</sup>*

I pray the Lord grant us strength in these dark and latter days.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Rev. L.A. Astrowski Jr., Pastor

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## MEMBERSHIP AND DIRECTORY CHANGES / MEMORIALS - APRIL REPORT:

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

**Deletions** – Janice Roti, died April 26, 2026.

**Changes** – Irene Christofferson, address change to **Apt. #316**.

– Wayne Scherer, new phone number: **309-230-2126**.

**Memorials** – none to report.

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## VBS will be held June 29-July 3, 2026

Theme: Teach Us To Pray

Please prayerfully consider being a VBS volunteer and help share God’s Word.

A volunteer sign up sheet is on the table in the Narthex.

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<sup>3</sup> See articles V and VII of the Augsburg Confession. Our church’s cornerstone has engraved on it “U.A.C.” That engraving, chiseled in the stone, indicates that we are the church of the Augsburg Confession. If you don’t know what that is, you should. You can read the Augsburg Confession, and the entire Book of Concord, by accessing it through the following link: <https://bookofconcord.cph.org/>.

<sup>4</sup> Revelation 2:2-7.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & BAPTISMS

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



- 1 - Jacie Umlandt
- 2 - Jerry Poole
- 6 - Linnea Triece

- 8 - Mayson Davis  
Judy Muske
- 9 - Jake Nixon
- 10 - Leigh Ann Nixon
- 12 - Kevin Klavon
- 13 - Sam Davis
- 16 - Taylor Schelfaut (17)
- 17 - Dani Stevens  
Jeff Umlandt

- 24 - Eric Campbell  
Kathy Peterson
- 25 - Ronald Schultz
- 26 - Samantha Davis  
Matthew Kramer
- 28 - Kathy Daack  
Mary Ann Pedigo
- 31 - Dylan Mills (11)  
Brayden Ripple (14)  
Haylen Walker



- May 4, 1991 – Jack & Jane Copeland
- May 8, 1971 – Steve & Kathy Daack
- May 8, 1993 – Greg & Penny Spragg
- May 9, 2015 – Alex & Jordan Stockwell
- May 12, 2001 – Jeffrey & Jacie Umlandt
- May 16, 2015 – Alex & Linnea Triece
- May 17, 2015 – Rob & Christy Henke
- May 21, 2016 – Andy & Jessica Klockau
- May 28, 1994 – Wayne & Linda Haake
- May 29, 1971 – Dave & Sandy Schumaker

### Baptism Birthdays

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 - Karen Esparza</li> <li>4 - Robert Henke</li> <li>5 - Judith Muske<br/>Mikayla Draper<br/>Braydyn Draper<br/>Benjamin Elder</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 - Kimberly Willits</li> <li>8 - Kirsten Byerly-Davis</li> <li>11 - Carolyn Fowler<br/>Alaina Carter</li> <li>12 - Chery Heriford<br/>Gretchen Gerard</li> <li>13 - Samuel Davis</li> <li>18 - Janette Brewer</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19 - Everett Ayers</li> <li>23 - Donald Wolfe</li> <li>24 - Samantha Peterson</li> <li>26 - Scott Welch</li> <li>28 - Kathy Daack<br/>Christopher Anselmi</li> <li>29 - Angela Mills</li> <li>30 - Alina Diaz</li> </ul> |
|--|--|---|

*\*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.*

*We care about your privacy. If you would like your name and birthday and/or anniversary excluded from the newsletter list, please contact the church office. Thank you.*

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**MOWERS NEEDED:** If you are willing and able to help with the church lawn mowing this Spring and Summer, please sign up on the schedule sheet on the table in the Narthex. Thank you for your help!

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## VOTERS MEETING

There will be a Voters Meeting Sunday, May 17 after church. An agenda will be mailed out.

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**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.**

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**Reminder... each time you enter the hospital**, be sure to say you are a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rock Island so that the hospital can inform the church. ***If you would like Pastor to know immediately, please have a family member or friend call the office and/or Pastor—otherwise we may not be aware of your hospitalization.*** The hospitals do not regularly call the churches as they once did. Please 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).

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### ***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.**



## 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.

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*All adults and youth are invited to participate in any or all Bible studies offered at Immanuel. We are thankful we can gather around God's Word. You are welcome to attend anytime.*



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

**Call Day 2026** was held in Kramer Chapel as Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne celebrated students’ placements and assignments into their respective fields of service.

On Tuesday, April 28, second year students received their vicarage and deaconess internship assignments. **Josh Camp’s** vicarage assignment is Trinity Lutheran Church, Hampton, IA.

On Wednesday, April 29, graduating pastoral ministry students learned where they have been called to serve as pastors. **Josh Bieri** was placed as a Church Planter at the LCMS South Wisconsin District in Milwaukee, WI.

God’s blessings to them and their families!



### **Immanuel Ladies, You’re Invited to a Tea Party!**

The LWML is hosting a tea party on Sunday, May 17 at 2pm in the church cafeteria. Hats and gloves are encouraged, but come as you are comfortable! Please feel free to invite the women and girls in your life to join us as well. RSVP by signing up on the sheet on the table in the Narthex if you plan to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Werke.



**Confirmation is Sunday, May 3, 2026. God’s blessings to our new confirmands:**

**Millie Eckardt**, daughter of Burnie & Amanda Eckardt

**Owen Miller**, son of Sara Miller

**Grace Mills**, daughter of David & Angie Mills



### **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.
- 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.*



## Items Needed:

Men's Deodorant	13-gal Trash bags	Toilet paper
Shampoo	33 gal trash bags	Men's disposable razors
Conditioner	39 gal lawn & leaf trash bags	Napkins

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

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## OFFICERS NEEDED

If you are interested in becoming an officer or member of a committee at Immanuel, there are positions that will be open, including but not limited to: Foundation (1), Board of Christian Education (4).

Some positions require attendance to the Council meetings which are *generally* held on the 3rd Thursday of every other month. The date of the next Council meeting has not yet been determined but at that time a nomination list will be put together for the next Voter Assembly to elect the new officers. ***If you are interested, please contact Mel Vogel, Scott Welch, or call the church office at 309-786-3391.***

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## MAY 2026 MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

### Week of May 3, 2026 - Romans 12:12

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

### Week of May 10, 2026 - Philippians 1:6

I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

### Week of May 17, 2026 - John 1:12

To all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.

### Week of May 24, 2026 - Colossians 3:12

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

### Week of May 31, 2026 - Galatians 3:26

In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

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## LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Follow Him in Generosity

*Originally published in May 2023*

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you" (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus' generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: "The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity" (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

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**LCMS Foundation**  
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Rene said to her good friend Cheryl, “I really don’t like the idea of sharing much about my personal life with other people. I am very private. That’s why I haven’t moved forward with my estate plan revisions after Peter died. I just don’t want to tell everyone what I am thinking about, and what I am planning to do.

Cheryl responded, “Didn’t you go to the doctor last month, to deal with your fear that you might have cancer?” “Well yes, I did. What is your point?”

“My point is that you openly shared your fears with your doctor, talked about some very personal symptoms and allowed the doctor to run tests. I am so thankful you got a good report. Seeking the help of someone who will care about you, who understands how to get you organized, who can keep you on track and who can share a wealth of information about how to achieve your goals, is the same thing. It’s good to be assisted by someone who has compassion and experience. I worked with the LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor after a presentation they did at Church. They were very helpful. I had some work to do but because of the counselor we dug in, I made some decisions, I completed work with my attorney and now I have peace of mind knowing I have a good plan in place.”

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you as well with their care, organizational skill and charitable gift planning expertise. To get started, contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or [scott.radden@lfnd.org](mailto:scott.radden@lfnd.org).

## APRIL FINANCIAL REPORT

April Income = \$20,885.61  
April Expenses = \$23,668.31 (extra expense for JL Brady – repairs to boiler)

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**The Rock Island Circuit is looking for applicants for a Parish Nurse to serve its churches.** Requirements include: RN and Online District Parish Nurse certification. Interested parties may contact the church office (309-786-3391) or Mel Vogel (309-781-9624).

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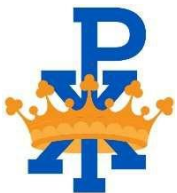
### CIRCUIT MOVIE OUTING, Thursday, May 7 at 3pm

*The Story of Everything* is a cinematic exploration of the cosmos that reveals the hidden hand behind our universe. The film provides an evidence-based answer to the ultimate mystery of the universe: how did we get here? And it reveals a stunning conclusion: scientific evidence supports not just the existence of an intelligent designer of some kind — but the existence of a personal God. The scientific rediscovery of God provides hope of purpose and meaning to human existence, contrary to the claims of atheist scientists who assert that human life lacks any ultimate significance.

- Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex by Sunday, May 3rd, or RSVP directly to Holy Cross Lutheran Church at [office@holycrossmoline-lcms.org](mailto:office@holycrossmoline-lcms.org), 309-764-9720
- Tickets are \$8.00 each (bring cash or a check written to Holy Cross to the movie)
- We will have reserved a theater at VIP Moline (near Lowes and Applebees)
- Holy Cross, Moline will be inviting the rest of the Rock Island Circuit as well.
- Invite a friend to join us!

You can watch *The Story of Everything*, Official Trailer on You Tube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwL3ZKlwEoc>

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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



### MAY 2026



I recently recalled a story from a few years ago. The Monday after Easter I had a chiropractic appointment. While at the office, I visited with the doctor and the office nurse. I have talked with them before about our respective church affiliations and our responsibility to be witnesses to our neighbors. She always asks me about the Bible texts I use for my sermons, and I usually share a short message with her. She is always kind and happy, but that day she was different. I noticed it in her facial expression. She was sad. She had asked a patient about her Easter celebration, but the patient didn't believe in the Resurrection. The patient told her that Easter Sunday was just a regular Sunday, like any other Sunday, with nothing special to celebrate. The nurse had thought that this person believed in Jesus' Resurrection. She was wrong. This person was nice and kind but didn't believe in Jesus. Discovering this about her friend discouraged this Christian nurse. I tried to encourage her and give her comfort.

This is a familiar situation among unbelievers, isn't it? Do you feel sad when a relative or friend tells you that he doesn't believe in Jesus? Are you really sad or do you just brush it aside and say, "It's okay!"?

- God gave the command to all Christians to be His witnesses in a world which doesn't believe in Him. We need to share the Good News. With His help, we can bring people to Jesus' feet and thus change their eternal destination.
- We can give our support, help and prayers to pastors, missionaries, church workers and fellow church members who share the Gospel with unbelievers in order that the Holy Spirit can open their hearts and minds so that they will trust in God. This includes our relatives and friends. We don't want condemnation for them.
- As Christians, we know where our hope is, in Jesus. By God's grace, we have been transformed and we are His children. We celebrate Easter, because our Savior is alive. We join with Peter and say, " Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice ". (1Peter 1:3-6a)

*The tomb is empty! Christ is risen! Yes, indeed!*

In Mexico, Mothers' Day is always celebrated on May 10th. It is the most beloved and important festival of the year for the family. It is a tradition that the children sing songs to their mothers on this day.

We call it "serenata". A serenata consists of songs sung in the early morning with live music. Some hire a group of musicians with acoustic guitars. Others employ "The Mariachi", (a group of musicians who play traditional folk music with guitars, trumpets, and violins), or friends with acoustic guitars may form a group and travel to their mothers' houses and sing two or three songs. Upon finishing the songs, the mother must leave the house and thank the children personally, with a hug and a kiss.



*Happy  
Mother's  
Day!* 

On this day, the mothers also receive gifts: flowers, hugs, kisses and a lot of love from their children in appreciation. It is also a custom to observe festivals for the mothers in the elementary schools, where the students carry out dance numbers, interpret songs and perform recitations like poems for mothers. Mothers are so pleased when they see their children doing something for them. In many schools the students make crafts, like a decoration for the houses for their mothers. Children give it to them on Mother's Day, May 10.

Many families are accustomed to being together to celebrate with their moms. They bring a special meal or plates of food while others make reservations in a restaurant. The idea is to

spend major time with their moms in order to honor them on their special day. This year at Cristo Rey we are going to celebrate Mothers' Day and give gifts on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.





## The Camp CILCA Lowdown May, 2026

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

4124 Camp Cilca Rd. Cantrall, IL 62625

### SAVE THE DATE: HOG ROAST & AUCTION

Sunday, May 24, 11:30am-1:30pm At Camp CILCA's Dining Hall

- ❖ **Get your tickets at the door.** This is Camp CILCA's largest annual fundraiser. Come support the work that the Lord is doing in the great outdoors!
- ❖ Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children ages 4-12, and free for children 3 and under.
- ❖ Auction begins at noon.
- ❖ Camp out for the weekend. Bring a tent or camper, or rent a cabin or CGC hotel room.
- ❖ Trading Post and beach will be open.
- ❖ Take a camp tour.
- ❖ Meet the staff.

*Summer Camp 2026 registration is OPEN!*

*Space is limited. Register today to save your spot!*

**\*TIERED PRICING\***

We believe every child should experience the joy of camp, regardless of finances. To keep camp affordable while maintaining quality, we offer tiered pricing—allowing families to choose what works best for them and, if able, help support the true cost of a Camp CILCA experience.

- Tier A prices reflect the TRUE COST of a camp experience.
- Tier B prices are partially subsidized by donors.
- Tier C prices are significantly subsidized by donors.

Prices below are listed Tier A/Tier B/Tier C

Register before **January 1, 2026** to receive a \$25 discount on your selected tier.  
Register before **April 1, 2026** to receive a \$10 discount on your selected tier.

## SUMMER PROGRAMS 2026

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.

<p><b>DAY CAMP</b></p> <p><b>Tiered Pricing: \$200/\$150/\$125</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 28 &amp; 29 - *S60* (1st-8th)</li> <li>• June 1-5 (1st-8th)</li> <li>• June 8-12 (1st-8th)</li> <li>• June 15-19 (1st-8th)</li> <li>• June 22-26 (1st-8th)</li> <li>• June 29-July 3 (1st-8th)</li> <li>• July 6-10 (1st-8th)</li> <li>• July 13-17 (1st-8th)</li> <li>• July 20-24 (1st-8th)</li> <li>• July 27-31 (1st-8th)</li> </ul>	<p><b>MINI WEEKS</b></p> <p><b>Tiered Pricing: \$200/\$150/\$125</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 27-29: <b>Pathfinders I</b> (1st-4th)</li> <li>• June 7-9 or 9-11: <b>Joyful Hearts</b> (13 years old &amp; older)</li> <li>• June 28-July 1 <b>Intrepid Hearts</b> (9th-12th)</li> <li>• July 1-3: <b>Intrepid Hearts</b> (9th-12th)</li> <li>• July 5-7: <b>Bold Spirits</b> (4th-6th)</li> <li>• July 8-10: <b>Dauntless Souls</b> (6th-8th)</li> <li>• July 26-29: <b>Pathfinders II*</b> (1st-4th) *\$225/\$175/\$150</li> </ul>	<p><b>FULL WEEKS</b></p> <p><b>Tiered Pricing: \$450/\$350/\$275</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 31-June 5: <b>Bold Spirits</b> (4th-6th)</li> <li>• June 7-11: <b>Joyful Hearts</b> (13 years old &amp; older)</li> <li>• June 14-19: <b>Dauntless Souls</b> (6th-8th)</li> <li>• June 14-19: <b>Art, Drama, Athletics</b> (5th-8th)</li> <li>• June 21-26: <b>Survival</b> (6th-8th)</li> <li>• June 28-July 3: <b>Intrepid Hearts</b> (9th-12th)</li> <li>• July 12-17: <b>Bold Spirits 2</b> (4th-6th)</li> <li>• July 12-17: <b>Aqua Week</b> (4th-6th)</li> <li>• July 19-24: <b>Dauntless Souls 2</b> (6th-8th)</li> <li>• July 19-24: <b>Night Owl</b> (6th-8th)</li> </ul>
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**GENERATIONAL CAMPS**

- June 5-6: **Generations I** (4 year & older)- \$75 per person
- June 21-23: **Family Camp** (all ages)- \$100 per person
- June 26-27: **Generations II** (4 year & older)- \$75 per person

**WE NEED YOU!**

9th-graders and up, serve as a Junior Counselor or Joyful Hearts Volunteer and make lifelong camp memories for free!

- Joyful Hearts Volunteer - June 7-11
- J.C. Training - May 17 or May 26

**REGISTER TODAY!**

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

[www.cilca.org](http://www.cilca.org)



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

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

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

Friday	Lev. 18:1-7, 20-19:8	Luke 11:1-13
Saturday	Lev. 19:9-18, 26-37	Luke 11:14-36
<b>Easter 5</b>	Lev. 20:1-16, 22-27	Luke 11:37-54
Monday	Lev. 21:1-24	Luke 12:1-12
Tuesday	Lev. 23:1-22	Luke 12:13-34
Wednesday	Lev. 23:23-44	Luke 12:35-53
Thursday	Lev. 24:1-23 <i>Lev. 25:1-55</i>	Luke 12:54-13:17
Friday	Lev. 26:1-20	Luke 13:18-35
Saturday	Lev. 26:21-33, 39-44 <i>Num. 1:1-2:34</i>	Luke 14:1-24
<b>Easter 6</b>	Num. 3:1-16, 39-48 <i>Num. 4:1-8:4</i>	Luke 14:25-15:10
Monday	Num. 8:5-26	Luke 15:11-32
Tuesday	Num. 9:1-23	Luke 16:1-18
Wednesday	Num. 10:11-36	Luke 16:19-31
Thurs./Ascension	Num. 11:1-23, 31-35	Luke 17:1-19
Friday	Num. 11:24-29; 12:1-16	Luke 17:20-37
Saturday	Num. 13:1-3, 17-33	Luke 18:1-17
<b>Easter 7</b>	Num. 14:1-25	Luke 18:18-34
Monday	Num. 14:26-45 <i>Num. 15:1-41</i>	Luke 18:35-19:10
Tuesday	Num. 16:1-22	Luke 19:11-28
Wednesday	Num. 16:23-40	Luke 19:29-48
Thursday	Num. 16:41-17:13 <i>Num. 18:1-19:22</i>	Luke 20:1-18
Friday	Num. 20:1-21	Luke 20:19-44
Saturday	Num. 20:22-21:9	Luke 20:45-21:19
<b>Pentecost Day</b>	Num. 21:10-35	Luke 21:20-38
Monday	Num. 22:1-20	Luke 22:1-23
Tuesday	Num. 22:21-23:3	Luke 22:24-46
Wednesday	Num. 23:4-28	Luke 22:47-71
Thursday	Num. 24:1-25	Luke 23:1-25
Friday	Num. 27:12-23	Luke 23:26-56
Saturday	Num. 32:1-6, 16-27	Luke 24:1-27

### The Time of the Church

<b>Holy Trinity</b>	Num. 35:9-30 <i>Acts 1:1-7:60</i>	Luke 24:28-53
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# MAY 2026

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 10 Funeral for Janice Roti	2
<b>3 Confirmation Sunday</b> 7:15 Board of Elders 9 Worship w/HC 10:30 Bible Study/ S. School	4  6 Book Club	5 9:30 Bible Study  6 Intergen. Bible Study	6 9-12 CHALK clean-up day?	7  7 Youth Group Programming	8	9
10 9 Worship w/HC 10:30 Bible Study/ Sunday School	11 9 Winkel  6 Book Club	12 9:30 Bible Study  6 Intergen. Bible Study	13	14  6:30 Ascension Service	15	16
17 9 Worship w/HC 10:30 Bible Study/ S. School & Voters Mtg. 2-4 LWML Tea Party - Cafeteria	18  6 Book Club	19 9:30 Bible Study  6 Intergen. Bible Study	20	21  <i>THE IMAGE Deadline</i>	22	23
24 9 Worship w/HC 10:30 Bible Study/ Sunday School	25 <b>Memorial Day Office Closed</b>	26 9:30 Bible Study  6 Intergen. Bible Study	27	28	29	30
31 9 Worship w/HC 10:30 Bible Study/ Sunday School						

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



**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.***