



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 – September 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As some of you know, I've spent a good chunk of June, almost all of July, and half of August on the road. Youth group trips, family vacations, the national convention in toasty-warm Phoenix, a reunion with a very dear fellow submariner and shipmate, and driving/camping/hiking/backpacking down and up the spine of our continent. I camped and hiked in one-hundred-degree heat, and in the northern regions, woke to forty-degree morning temps. It is truly a large and majestic land our Lord has given us to steward. During these travels, driving and camping my way up the western slopes of the Rockies, I also passed through the heart of Mormon country.¹

Mormon country, or at least the heart of it, radiates out from Salt Lake City and the great pagan temple that rises in its midst. Now, I'm not a closet Pentecostal-mystic, but I can feel it—I can feel, maybe sense is a better word, that I'm in an area that is in the grips of the evil one. Sound harsh? Too bad. It happens to be the truth. We're about the work of sharing the Truth. We are not about the business of avoiding conflict and convincing ourselves that all roads lead to Rome—a fact that Satan is all too happy to have us forget. From the southwest corner of Utah—starting with St. George, a pretty town that has remained a haven for polygamists—every town and hamlet I passed through had at its center a gleaming-white towering temple. Each temple I passed had beautiful fences, arched gates, and perfectly manicured lawns and landscaping. It's a far cry from our weedy and poorly maintained church yards where the Truth truly resides. Don't judge a book by its cover. And yes, that's another trick of Satan. Remember, that deadly fruit was pleasing to the eyes of our first parents.² Those temples called to mind Sauron and his towering watchful eye. They rise, ever present, reminding those residing in those hamlets that they are ever under the watchful eye of their overseers.

Now I don't watch much television; however, I do consume media that is curated by me or sources I trust. Like many people, I haven't "tuned into" any local newscast in years. One upside: I'm thankfully shielded from advertisements. I recall, though, the long-term advertising campaigns of the Mormons (I suspect they're

¹ For many years that non-Christian, anti-Trinitarian group referred to themselves as Mormons. As time went by, they perceived that the name was a hinderance for them, so the name was changed to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (or simply LDS). This was done to be better perceived as included under the greater banner of Christendom. Regardless of what they call themselves, however, they ARE NOT a Christian Church. I will use the name Mormon so as not to contribute to the confusion.

² For a closer example of what I'm speaking about, venture to Nauvoo, Illinois. However, pray before you go—you will be entering the enemy's camp. There you will find a scrubbed-clean town and a gleaming white (and rather creepy) temple. The temple resides high on the bluff and is easily seen from the other side of the river. If you ever go, pay attention to what you sense. I am rather certain that you will sense that you are, dear Christian and bearer of the Truth, not welcome.

probably still run). Commercials bathed in the golden-glow of evening light, showing pillow fights, family fun—the things we all desire. Missing from said advertisements: the ugliness of sin. No broken families nor the destructive effects of substance abuse, no mention of the effects of our obsession with sex. It's not that sin doesn't exist in those Mormon lands (they break the speed limit there too). The effects of sin are quickly swept under the rug. And the sinner? Often shunned. But those ads... Clean, happy, loving families laughing their way to oblivion. Not a word hinted of those horrors of the fallen world. And the result is a compelling ad that plays upon our hope for a better world. And they were quite successful (and probably still are). Who doesn't want a perfect world?

I've written about this before, but I will briefly repeat myself—as I am oft wont to do. In the political realm, progressivism finds its roots in Christendom, specifically Calvinism. Calvinism, with its emphasis on the Law (God's Law), would seek to implement and enforce God's Law by civic force, if necessary. You might think of the Puritans of our American History. The very name confesses what that offshoot of the Faith was seeking to accomplish—a pure society. Nathaniel Hawthorne was a keen observer, and he wrote eloquently of the hypocrisy that resided in these movements. In the same puritanical way, progressivism recognizes that the world is amiss, and it seeks correction via means of political force. These confessions swallowed, hook, line, and sinker, the un-biblical teaching that man can be perfected (meaning sinless) *in this life*. And it was those churches that would birth the eugenics movement in our country.³ Mormonism falls into this same trap.

We all want a perfect world, yes. But we, as orthodox Christians, know that, while Christ is victorious over the evil one and has put sin to death in His death and has also destroyed death's hold on us, the full realization of this victory is not yet manifest. Yes, Christianity—Christ—has changed the course of human history for the better, but sin remains, as does Satan and his hopes to turn us from Christ. We Christians know this all too well. Each day we struggle, and often fail in that struggle, with sin. It's one of the tensions we live in. Read Romans chapter seven. Even though we are freed from sin, forgiven, and heirs to everlasting life, our daily struggle with sin doesn't end until we shuffle off this mortal coil. Sadly, too many forget this, or fail to come to grips with this mystery of the faith, and return, like a dog to its vomit, to the Law.

The Law will not save you. We know this—it's Christianity 101. Knowing that, why are so many compelled to leave grace behind and run back into the arms of the Law? I suspect it's because we can't come to grips (unless we actually read and hear God's Word) with the ugliness of the world and our own hearts. We want people to stop hurting each other, being hurt, and hurting ourselves. We want the golden glow, and we want it now (Hallmark knows this, those great theologians that they are). But we think that if we try harder, we will get it right. And those who bring temptation to us? We blame them, not our rotten hearts. If they go away, we will finally be fine. Life will be good. So we ignore what our Lord says about our own hearts and seek to eradicate the sources that expose our weakness.

Of course, that is a great misreading and a horrific misunderstanding of the Gospel of our Lord. We are saved by His grace, His love for us. And there is no salvation apart from Christ. Period. Full stop.

And that's really the great success of Satan in those areas I've described above (and even in our neck of the woods). He dangles before us that deadly yet beautiful fruit: perfect families and happy children (perfect families don't exist, nor do perfect children or perfect parents). Yes, it's very attractive, but these lies of Satan replace the true Christ for a false one. If you go to the Mormon website (please don't), you must dig very deep to find out what they actually teach and believe. They quote the Christian Bible (our Bible) to lull the reader into

³ This is a large and frightening topic that merits an essay of its own. If you're interested in learning more about this, I refer you to Christine Rosen's book, *Preaching Eugenics: Religious Leaders and the American Eugenics Movement*, Oxford University Press, 2004. I've known a woman (now sainted) who was forcibly sterilized as a child. Why? Her brother was born with Down Syndrome. To see the arguments supporting modern eugenics (abortion), I refer you to the horrible and oft rebuffed work, *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*—which still remains highly influential regardless of the well-documented poverty of its scholarship.

a false sense of security. It's only after deep digging (or when they've lured you into their fellowship) that the truth begins to emerge. And that truth has nothing in common with Christianity.

My point with all of this is that we are on enemy ground and surrounded by those who seek to destroy us. Don't be lured away by what you see and feel (not a year goes by when we don't lose someone because of these things). What does God actually say? We know because He had it written for us. He has established His Church here and has called men (trained and certified) to proclaim that Word to you in its proper context, using the rules of grammar to faithfully hand over His truth to you. Christ has ordained all of this to protect you from Satan, who, as we know, prowls like a lion looking for someone to devour. He, the father of lies, does this by twisting and distorting the Truth just a little. He uses people called "pastor," who are very nice and sweet—but who will tell you what you want to hear, and leave out what you need.

Please, be on your guard!

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

In Christ's most Holy Name,

Rev. L.A. Astrowski Jr, Pastor



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.



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.



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****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.**

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 the Peter and Mark rooms beginning September 13.
- **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 beginning September 8.
- **For the older youth** – there is a Rock Island Circuit Youth Group. Watch for announcements on dates and times – see below.



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.
 - Annual Circuit Youth Group Picnic will be Sunday, September 13 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm at Zion, Taylor Ridge. Zion will provide pulled chicken and drinks. Please bring a side dish to share.
- Please pray that our Circuit Youth Group will continue to be a source of fellowship, fun and sharing God's Word with our youth.*

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.**



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

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 areas that haven't been claimed yet. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex.



MEMBERSHIP AND DIRECTORY CHANGES / MEMORIALS - AUGUST REPORT:

Membership – **Additions** – Joshua W, by baptism, 8/23/2026.

Deletions – Nancy Farrar, by death, 8/23/2026.

Changes – Mary A Pedigo new address: 122 166 Avenue, Milan, IL 61264.

Memorials – Given in memory of Nancy Soyke to the Immanuel Foundation Cemetery Fund.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & BAPTISMS

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



- 2 - Mike Kramer
- Larry Wiebel
- 4 - Margaret Thompson

- 5 - Pat Matheny
- 6 - Dianne Allison
- 7 - Sophie Agbayani
- Sonia England
- Dennis Langdon
- 8 - Hannah Rusk
- 11 - Braydyn Draper
- 12 - Layne Cozadd

- 19 - Sarah Leeson
- 22 - Janet Mau
- 24 - Alexander Spragg
- 25 - Tyler Werke
- 27 - Claire Mills
- 28 - Gregory Masias
- 29 - Logan Lowry



Pastor & Laurie Astrowski – September 2, 1989
Nick & Alison Boisvert – September 4, 2010
Greg & Heidi Masias – September 9, 1989
Brent & Wanda Titus – September 16, 1978
Doug & Dianne Allison – September 24, 1994
Neil & Karen Burger – September 27, 1959
Rod & Carolyn Fowler – September 30, 2000



This Photo by Unknown Author is

Baptism Birthdays

- 2 - Haley Walker
- 3 - Eric Campbell
- 5 - Irene Christofferson
- 7 - Kylie Cortez
- Dennis Langdon
- 9 - Angelyn Campbell

- 10 - Hanna Rusk
- Cole Rusk
- Kaylee Schelfaut
- 11 - Duane Tschappat
- 12 - Sarah Swift
- 14 - Jon Ford
- 16 - Alexander Diaz
- 17 - Alexander Heriford
- Lailey Herrera
- 18 - Jameson Ayers
- Malakai Gore
- William Wiebel

- 19 - Sydney Biscontine
- 20 - Kelly Cortez
- Heidi Masias
- 21 - Mona Meyer
- 29 - Nancy Herman
- Kathleen Nelson
- 30 - Joshua Duburg
- Sephiroth Kuhn
- Lucien Kuhn
- Penny Spragg
- Larry Wiebel

**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.

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).



LWML NEWS

The first meeting of the Immanuel LWML will be Thursday, September 17th at 6 p.m. Come join us for a short devotional led by Pastor Astrowski, a look at our upcoming year and fellowship. All ladies of the congregation are welcome.

Helen Vogel, President

The LWML Fall Rally will be held this year at Zion Lutheran Church, Thursday, September 10th. Please contact Helen if you are interested in going and she will help you get registered.



INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP AT IMMANUEL? Classes leading to Baptism (for the unbaptized) and participation in Holy Communion are available for you (or a friend and family member). These classes are typically done on a one-on-one basis and adjusted to fit the needs of the catechumen. These classes cover the basics of the Faith, and what it means to be a communicant member of our church. If you would like more information contact Pastor Astrowski at 989-326-0199.

PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION are available for you by appointment with the pastor. Contact the pastor privately via his personal mobile phone at 989-326-0199 if you would like to schedule an appointment.



COMING SOON!

2027 is the 120th Anniversary of CID and the first 5 Circuits (ours being the Peoria-Rock Island Circuit). It is also the 70th year since the Rock Island Circuit branched off its own.

The Rock Island Circuit office administrators are currently working on creating a beautiful wall calendar that will highlight the 12 churches in our Rock Island Circuit. This October, each of the 12 sister congregations will have a copy to view and begin taking orders. We are aiming for a delivery date of December 1. All additional proceeds will be given to our very own Cristo Rey Lutheran Church.

CID LLL District Annual Fall Retreat: The topic is "Life Issues." We will have the Biblical Perspective, CID LCMS Perspective, and the Illinois Right to Life Perspective. We will be discussing the preborn issues, as well as end of life issues. This will be Saturday, September 12th, at Camp Cilca with doors opening at 8:30. Retreat will be from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Registration is \$25.00 which includes lunch; deadline is September 7th. Mail registration to: Deloris Blessman, 24204 CR 1850N, Topeka, IL 61567. For more information contact Deloris at delorisblessman@yahoo.com or 309-361-1461.

From Pregnancy Resources: We're so thankful for your faithful partnership! The **Waymaker Baby Bottle Boomerang** has come to a close, and your church's generosity is already making a meaningful difference. Your support brings hope and clarity to moms and dads facing difficult pregnancy decisions, helping them see a way forward and choose LIFE.

Your church's 2026 Baby Bottle giving totaled **\$272.06**. Thank you for making every bottle count!

Your faithful support helps moms and dads move from uncertainty to hope, giving them the information, care and encouragement they need to see that there is another way. Thank you for standing with Pregnancy Resources and for being a Waymaker for local moms, dads, and babies. Together, we are making a difference – one family, one decision, and one LIFE at a time.

SEPTEMBER 2026 MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

Week of September 6, 2026 – Jude 24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Week of September 13, 2026 – Psalm 143:8

Let me hear in the morning of Your steadfast love, for in You I trust.
Make me know the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul.

Week of September 20, 2026 – Nahum 1:7

The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; He knows those who take refuge in Him.

Week of September 27, 2026 – Psalm 91:11-12

For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.



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 Seminarian families. If you wish to help with their support, you can place your gift in an envelope with “**Seminarians**” 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. Please see the letter from the Camp family in this issue.



Jerry said to his friend Paul, “I just came from the doctor. I don’t like conversations at the doctor’s office. I get so tongue tied. I forget about what I wanted to ask the doctor. I’m trying to think about what certain words mean and before I know it, I’m being ushered out of the office without talking about everything I needed to discuss.”

Paul replied, “I know what you are talking about. It’s the same reason that I have not been getting my estate plan updated. When I get around legal people, I hear words like codicils, per stirpes and in vivo. I get so stressed about keeping it all straight that I put it all off for another year.”

Legal terms and carefully crafted documents all have very important purposes in our estate plans. Sometimes, the difference between a contested estate and non-contested estate may come down to the proper use of these words. In truth, that may be stressful for you. That’s why it is important to start talking about your goals, thinking and praying, before facing that stress head on. That is where working collaboratively with an LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help. Your counselor is a fellow believer who wants to stand alongside you, to assist and encourage you in expressing your wishes clearly. Once that is achieved, the counselor will assist in sharing that with your attorney so you can be confident that all your desires are known. In the process, you can gain a new friend, sharing life in Jesus. To get started, contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or scott.radden@lfnd.org.



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

August 2026

News You Can Use

Celebrate Deaf Ministry

Our Synod's Gospel outreach to deaf and hard of hearing people in Jacksonville began in 1901. Some 125 years later, Deaf Ministry in our midst continues via a District-wide deaf parish, Central Illinois Lutheran Deaf Outreach.

CID's 2025 convention encouraged our congregations to celebrate this Deaf Ministry anniversary on August 23. The one-year Gospel that day is the story of Jesus healing a deaf man with His Word "be opened" (*ephphatha*).

In a larger sense, sinners are born deaf to God's Good News. He opens our ears by His Word. The three-year series A Gospel for the same day recounts Jesus telling Peter that none less than the Father had revealed to him that Jesus is the Christ.

Lord, open now my heart to hear, and through Your Word to me draw near.

Let me your Word e'er pure retain; let me Your child and heir remain.

Ken Schurb, CID staff

Pray for Our Central Illinois District Missions, supported by your church's regular contributions to the District.

Please remember in your prayers our District's mission work in central Illinois prisons. Pastors David Dunlop, Pablo Dominguez, Paul Weber, Rodney Blomquist (District Prison Ministry Coordinator), and others eagerly tell the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who are incarcerated. And pray for more people to help in Prison Ministry!

Please remember in your prayers all our CID campus ministries, especially Pastor Chris Hull and Immanuel Lutheran Church & Student Center in Macomb, serving students, faculty, and staff at Western Illinois University. And pray for the "Keeping Christ on Campus" campaign, building endowments to help CID support our campus ministries.

CID Youth Event – Save the Date:

Date: November 7th

Location: Camp CILCA

More information and registration will be released later this month

Dollar for Mission Program

Apply for Dollar for Mission (Due Date: September 1st each year)

DFM funds are to be used for well-conceived projects in the following order of priority:

- **New church starts** – A new church start is a) an intentionally organized gathering b) meeting on a regular basis for church services and/or Bible study c) that is prayerfully intended eventually to become a congregation of the LCMS;

- **Mission-focused augmentations to existing ministries** (e.g., adding a new ethnic ministry to a present congregation);
- **Established CID missions** (e.g., Ministry in Spanish, Campus Ministry, Deaf Ministry, Prison Ministry)

Forms to apply for DFM funds are available on the District website under the Ministry tab or <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-apply.html>

For additional information or questions, please reach out to Rev. Patrick Gumz at 217-793-1802 or pgumz@cidlcms.org

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church 50th anniversary

Sunday, November 1st, 2026

Come celebrate with us! Communion Service at 9:00 am at Our Redeemer - 405 Massey Lane, Jacksonville. Following the service, a feast at Hamilton's Fireside Room (110 N. East St., Jacksonville)

RSVP by October 1 at sec1975orlc@yahoo.com (Cost \$30 per adult and \$15 per kid (age 6-12); under 5 are free.

Payments by check to the church office by October 1st or pay online at <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/UMVURENVXJY94>

CAMP CILCA Fall Events

Work Day- Saturday, November 7, 2026

FALL Work Day at Camp CILCA will be on Saturday, November 7, 2026. On that day, we will turn the water off and prepare the camp for the winter by doing many chores, including raking leaves, cleaning buildings, moving picnic tables, and moving other items into storage, such as fire extinguishers. We will begin the day at 8:30 am. You are welcome to come anytime. Lunch is provided. Typically, we are finished working after lunch. We hope to see you there!

Email director@cilca.org to let us know you are coming.

Scrapbooking Retreat hosted by Camp Cilca- November 13-15, 2026.

Cost is \$100 for your shared room and meals. (Private rooms are available upon request for \$130.)

More information at <https://www.cilca.org/home>



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.

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.***

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Stewardship in the First Commandment

Originally published in September 2023

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect this belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.

TO: ALL SUPPORTERS OF GHANA HARVEST

FROM: STEVE SCHADE, GHANA HARVEST BOARD MEMBER

SUBJECT: CLEAN WATER WELLS FOR PASTOR SALIFU AND HIS PEOPLE

DATE: JULY 10, 2026

Blessings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As you may or may not be aware, Pastor Nicholas Salifu was recently in the states for several weeks. In those weeks, he visited seven states, preached sermons at multiple churches, made multiple presentations on Ghana Harvest, had the opportunity to visit with his daughter, and received over 700 pairs of eyeglasses to take back for his people. It was an awesome blessing to visit with him and hear about current events with him, his staff and with his people.

I had the pleasure of driving him to Iowa for a presentation at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Webster City, Iowa. We had many hours of drive time and how blessed I am for having this time together. Pastor Salifu is doing amazing things in the name of Jesus!!! I ask that you continue to keep him and his staff in your thoughts and prayers.

On the drive home following his presentation, I asked Pastor if there was one thing he could provide for his people, what would it be? His immediate response was, "water, clean water." I know that I speak for many when I say we take clean water for granted, but in Pastor's villages, most water available is contaminated and not suitable for drinking and daily use.

Here is the good news...there is a means of securing safe, clean drinking water!!! Boreholes can be dug very deep to reach this safe clean water, sometimes in depths over 200 feet. The cost of each borehole is \$4,000. There currently are two borehole wells in Pastor's villages. I asked him if we could raise the additional funds, how many additional wells would he need to provide this safe clean water to all of the people within reach of him and his staff. His answer was five, and by and through the power of the Holy Spirit, I immediately committed to Pastor that within as quick as duration as possible, we at Ghana Harvest would provide for this need by raising the necessary \$20,000.

This is where each supporter comes into play; by supporting our fund drive in one of two ways: 1) pray for the success of Ghana Harvest in raising these dollars and 2) prayerfully consider a financial contribution to this cause and all donations are tax deductible. If you decide to make a financial contribution and write a check, a self-addressed envelope is included (*in the church office*) for your convenience. Be sure to note "WELLS" in the memo line so we can track the progress.

Please note other tax savings options are available such as a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA account or a direct transfer of an appreciated stock(s). For additional information on these options, please contact Tim Herberts at 618-691-9741 or Wayne Gillespie at 618-580-4990.

We are so very blessed in this country and take so many things for granted such as clean water. So the next time you turn on the faucet, think of our brothers and sisters in Ghana, and take the time to think of their way of life and pray for God to bless them abundantly.

In the service of our Lord,

Steve Schade, Ghana Harvest Board member

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD, ALL THE LANDS! SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS! COME INTO HIS PRESENCE WITH SINGING! PSALM 100:1-2

GHANA HARVEST, PO BOX 555, COLLINSVILLE, IL 62234

Greetings in Christ,

We have finally made it to Hampton, Iowa for Josh's vicarage assignment! The congregation has been very welcoming and kind and the house they provided for us is a perfect fit for our family. We had a lot of help moving in and lots of family came into town to help and to visit for Josh's installation. He has started preparing a Bible study for Sunday and has gone with his supervisor, Pastor Bollhagen, on a visit or two. He is already learning a lot. He also will be a guest on his supervisor's podcast, *Clerical Errors*, which will be a fun experience for him and hopefully for the listeners!

Gideon got his first haircut and looks so much older now! He is running all over the place and starting to copy words that we say. What a joy! The move was a big adjustment for him but we are so grateful to finally be settling in. He also got his first set of molars- phew!

Catherine is about 29 weeks along now and is getting more excited as we make preparations for our second son. We have decided that a homebirth with a midwife would best suit our needs for Catherine's labor, birth, and postpartum experience. However, our homebirth midwife is not covered by insurance so we will be paying out of pocket to cover her fees. Other than that, she has had a lot of fun moving in and organizing our stuff in our new home, and in exploring Hampton and the surrounding cities!

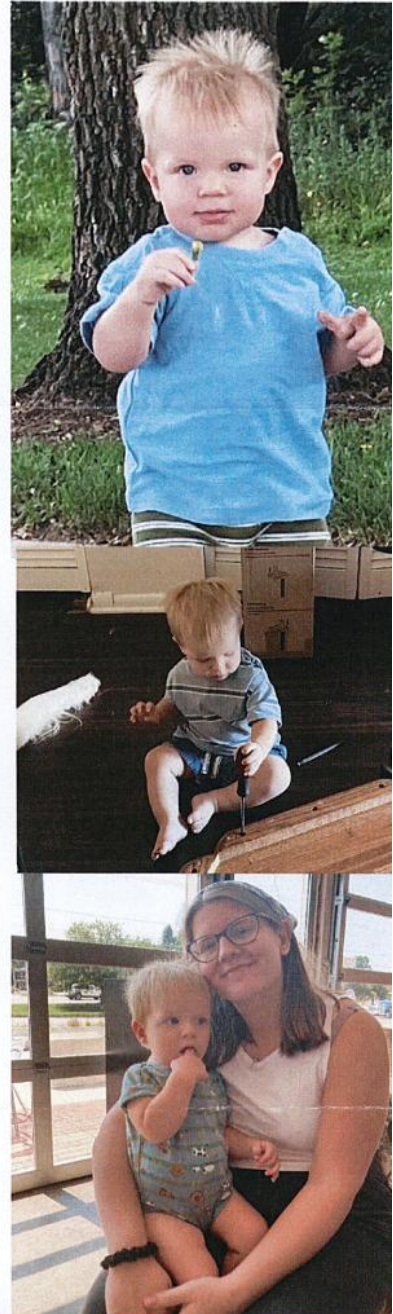
We thank God for your continued prayers and financial support, especially as we get closer to our second child's birth. Your support will help us pay Catherine's midwife and homebirth fees. We pray that you all enjoy the rest of the summer warmth and sunshine.

God's Blessings to you all,

Josh, Catherine, Gideon, and Baby Camp

Our NEW address!

1126 4th St. NE
Hampton, IA 50441



— Rev. Bill Wrede —

THE WORK OF CHRIST IN THE MIDST OF TRAGEDY

— 25th Anniversary of 9/11 —

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Havana, IL
welcomes Pastor Wrede as he recounts
serving at Ground Zero on September 11,
2001 and ministering to victims and first
responders at the World Trade Center.



September 17
2026



6:30 PM



St. Paul's
227 E Market St
Havana, IL 62644



Saturday, September 12, 2026

Check in anytime from 8:30 to 10:00 am

Walk Rally at 9:00 am

Walk anytime from 9:15 to 10:30 am

Held at Ben Butterworth Park - East Shelter

5420 Old River Dr., Moline, IL 61265 (55th St. and Old River Drive)



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER!

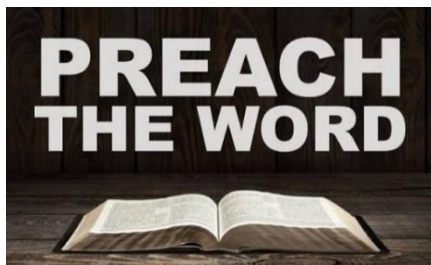
Call 309-797-3636 ext.2 for questions or visit qcpregnancypartners.org/walk/



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



SEPTEMBER 2026



During his missionary journeys, Saint Paul established a Christian congregation in the city of Ephesus and, upon his departure, entrusted the pastoral ministry to a young man named Timothy. Paul wrote him two letters to assist him in his pastoral work. In his Second Letter to Timothy (Chapter 4:1-2), Paul tells him: *In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.*

Paul offers several instructions to Pastor Timothy regarding his ministry. The first is this: preach the Word and be ready in season and out of season. We know that when Paul preached in certain places—with the help of the Holy Spirit—many embraced the Christian faith and a new congregation was established; yet in other places where he preached, he was nearly stoned to death.

Among the various instructions Paul gives Timothy—and the focus of this meditation—is the command to "preach the Word."

For me, preaching God's Word is an undeserved honor and privilege. Whenever I share the Word with others—whether acquaintances or strangers—I often do more than simply tell beautiful Bible stories. As a Lutheran pastor, I must prepare sermons that address both Law and Gospel.

Often, the preaching is well received, though at other times many dislike it, especially when they hear the reality of the Law. The Law is painful and uncomfortable; it does not make us happy. It clearly states that we are sinners deserving of eternal condemnation. Yet, hearing the Gospel of salvation in Jesus fills us with joy and gladness. Knowing that Jesus died to rescue us from condemnation and reconcile us with God encourages us, assuring us that we rest in the loving, protective arms of our Savior.

If I am here at Cristo Rey, it is to preach the message of Christ. I have no power or authority to change or transform people; I simply follow Paul's example: "Preach the Word." It is the Holy Spirit who, in His own time and way, will open people's minds and hearts so that they may become part of the Kingdom of God—both in this world and in the world to come. If we want to possess a strong and well-nourished faith, we must remain steadfast in the Word of God.

In conclusion, Paul exhorts Timothy in verse 5: *"But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry."*

According to Paul, God not only desires that we stand firm in His Word but also that we remain steadfast in the work of evangelism. Here at Cristo Rey, that is precisely what we will continue to do until the Lord returns a second time.

Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

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

Sep 1	1 Kings 18:1-19	Eph. 1:1-23
Sep 2	1 Kings 19:20-40	Eph. 2:1-22
Sep 3	1 Kings 19:1-21 <i>1 Kings 20:1-22:53</i>	Eph. 3:1-21
Sep 4	2 Kings 2:1-18	Eph 4:1-24
Sep 5	2 Kings 2:19-25; 4:1-7	Eph. 4:25-5:14
Sep 6	2 Kings 4:8-22, 32-37	Eph. 5:15-33
Sep 7	2 Kings 4:38-5:8	Eph. 6:1-24
Sep 8	2 Kings 5:9-27	Phil. 1:1-20
Sep 9	2 Kings 6:1-23	Phil. 1:21-2:11 <i>2 Kings 6:24-8:29</i>
Sep 10	2 Kings 9:1-13; 10:18-29	Phil. 2:12-30 <i>2 Kings 13:1-18:8</i>
Sep 11	2 Chron. 29:1-24	Phil. 3:1-21
Sep 12	2 Chron. 31:1-21	Phil. 4:1-23
Sep 13	2 Chron. 32:1-22 <i>Hos 1:1-14:9</i>	Col. 1:1-23
Sep 14	2 Chron. 33:1-25 <i>Jonah 1:1-4:11</i>	Col. 1:24-2:7
Sep 15	2 Chron. 34:1-4, 8-11, 14-33 <i>Nah. 1:1-3:19</i>	Col. 2:8-23
Sep 16	2 Chron. 35:1-7, 16-25 <i>Zeph. 1:1-3:20</i>	Col. 3:1-25
Sep 17	2 Chron. 36:1-23 <i>Philemon 1-25</i>	Col. 4:1-18
Sep 18	Neh. 1:1-2:10 <i>Hag. 1:1-2:23</i>	1 Tim. 1:1-20
Sep 19	Neh. 2:11-20; 4:1-6	1 Tim. 2:1-15
Sep 20	Neh. 4:7-23	1 Tim. 3:1-16
Sep 21	Neh. 5:1-16; 6:1-9, 15-16	1 Tim. 4:1-16
Sep 22	Neh. 7:1-4; 8:1-18 <i>Ezra 1:1-10:19</i>	1 Tim. 5:1-16
Sep 23	Neh. 9:1-21	1 Tim. 5:17-6:2
Sep 24	Neh. 9:22-38 <i>Neh. 10:1-13:31</i>	1 Tim. 6:3-21
Sep 25	Mal. 1:1-14	Matt. 3:1-17
Sep 26	Mal. 2:1-3:5	Matt. 4:1-11
Sep 27	Mal. 3:6-4:6	Matt. 4:12-25
Sep 28	Deut. 1:1-18	Matt. 5:1-20
Sep 29	Deut. 1:19-36	Matt. 5:21-48
Sep 30	Deut. 1:37-2:15	Matt. 6:1-15

SEPTEMBER 2026 Immanuel Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9:30 Bible Study	2	3 7 Youth Group Program Board	4	5
6 7:15 Board of Elders 9 Worship w/HC 10:30 Bible Study	7 LABOR DAY <i>Office Closed</i>	8 9:30 Bible Study 6 Intergen Bible Study - Online	9 9-1 CHALK	10 8:30 LWML Fall Rally at Zion, Taylor Ridge	11	12 Pregnancy Resources Walk for Life
13 9 Worship w/HC 10:30 Bible Study and Sunday School	14 6 Book Club	15 9:30 Bible Study 6 Intergen Bible Study - Online	16 9-1 CHALK	17 6 LWML meeting	18	19
20 9 Worship w/HC 10:30 Bible Study and Sunday School	21 6 Book Club	22 9:30 Bible Study 6 Intergen Bible Study - Online	23 9-1 CHALK <i>THE IMAGE</i> <i>Item Submission</i> <i>Deadline</i>	24	25	26
27 9 Worship w/HC 10:30 Bible Study and Sunday School	28 6 Book Club	29 9:30 Bible Study 6 Intergen Bible Study - Online	30 9-1 CHALK			

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 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 10:30 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

Church Office Phone: 309-786-3391

Pastor Astrowski's Phone: 989-326-0199

Email Addresses: Pastor Astrowski – pastrowski@gmail.com

Church Office – 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_uifgg/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.