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

NOVEMBER 2026

Volume 170, #11

The Image

"The MISSION of Immanuel is to glorify God, build the Christian Church, foster Christian fellowship and concern, and join in the worldwide work of winning souls for Christ."

From the Pastor's Desk – November 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I spend a lot of time looking through a windshield. There are the pastoral-related trips to various hospitals and members' homes and residences dotted around our community. Then there are jaunts with family and friends, often taken to visit other family and other friends. Finally, there are the treks—crisscrossing this great land, stopping wherever the sun, finally exhausted from its own journey, slips below the western horizon.

It is a great and varied landscape—our land. Oceans, deserts, mountains, the vastness of the Great Plains, the unexpected beauty of the Great Lakes, and the endless fertile fields of the Midwest—all can be found within our borders. I encourage you to experience it. Eat at dusty restaurants known only to locals. Sit with people you do not know and strike up a conversation. You will depart their company knowing a bit about them and the place they call home—you might even have a new friend or two. And you will learn something about yourself. Drive the vast, endless highways and divert yourself onto those less-traveled local, sometimes dirt and gravel (or even rock), byways. Our land is something to behold. And the ability to traverse it so freely is a rare gift.

However, as I travel, I observe many things that are found everywhere—in every corner and even in the smallest of hamlets. There are, of course, the ubiquitous and often obnoxious chains of predictable and flat foods and coffees. Adventure, by its very nature, is never found in the predictable but in the unplanned and unexpected. An unknown road that leads to an unknown place (oft I've heard the words "I would have turned around a long time ago.") But still, even in the adventure, there are things to be seen that dwell in every corner—every little hamlet and every large town in our land.

Silently, patiently, everywhere you travel a destination awaits. It needs no neon signs or highway markers. Often, it's unnoticed by our travelling eyes. But it waits patiently, silently for your arrival. Time it has—all the time it needs. And it will always be ready for your arrival.

Remember how short my time is;

For what futility have You created all the children of men?

What man can live and not see death?

Can he deliver his life from the power of the grave?[1]

[1] Psalm 89:47-48.

The dirt is patient. And it patiently waits for your arrival—your return. Everywhere in this land—on this earth—in mountain caves, on the slopes of Everest, in the depth of the oceans, often nestled next to the remotest of churches, and just down the street, there waits our final destination. You may not notice it. But it notices you. The stones and markers of those who have already arrived stand as silent sentinels waiting for you to join their ranks in a little room of your own.

Graveyards throughout the world await their next guests.

As Christians, we indeed know this awaits us—as it does everyone. So common are these places where the bones of past travelers reside and so lasting that many remain long after any living trace of the communities that cleared and dug them have vanished from memory. I suppose that will someday be true for our resting places. Our history also lost in the mist of time and changing political fortunes. Maybe. But whatever happens to those yards where are bones will rest, this is not the end of our story.

Often, when a person is baptized into the Name of Christ, we sing the following:

Death, you cannot end my gladness:
I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness
To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes
Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine
To make life immortal mine.[2]

We, as Christians, know that the grave is not the final word. And so, we sing. Christ is the final Word, and He is the one who has defeated death: "*Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death*."[3] Thus the words from His own resurrected mouth. And so, we sing!

I might also add that we do not follow myths and legends. Our hope in the promise of the life to come is grounded in history. God, Himself, walked among us. He died for us and broke open our tombs. Those little cemeteries we pass as we travel are not places of dread and fear. They are places of rest. There, the faithful sleep, as soon will we, awaiting the resurrection. We will await that time—as do the saints that have gone before us—when He who holds the keys of death and hell will say the words He spoke to Lazurus so long ago: "*Come out!*"

Death is never the final word of the story for those who die in Christ. So, again, we sing:

There is nothing worth comparing

To this lifelong comfort sure!

Open-eyed my grave is staring:

Even there I'll sleep secure.

Though my flesh awaits its raising,

Still my soul continues praising:

I am baptized into Christ;

I'm a child of paradise![4]

[2] *Lutheran Service Book*, Hymn 594, "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It," stanza 4.
[3] Revelation 1:17-18.
[4] "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It," stanza 5.

We mindlessly travel past those places where the earth waits patiently. It waits to enact its final claim on us—to dust we shall return. But for us, the grave has become our little bed where our flesh rests as it awaits its raising. And once again, on All Saints' Day, we remember those who have gone before us—whose souls continue their endless praise of the Lamb of God. We, like they, are baptized into Christ.

And remember, each Sunday as we gather to receive Christ's gifts of forgiveness and life, we are pointed forward to our life to come. At the Table of the Lord, where heaven meets earth, we know we are joined with those now resting in the arms of our Lord. As we pray those ancient prayers, we acknowledge that we are gathered there with "angels, archangels, and *all the company of heaven…*" In that sense, each celebration of the Blessed Sacrament is a celebration of All Saints' Day—for those who have gone before us and for us.

> *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*[5]

A blessed All Saints' Day! See you in church, along with all the saints of time immemorial.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Rev. L.A. Astrowski Jr., Pastor

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.



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.

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[5] Revelation 7:9-10.



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.
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.
- **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.



IMMANUEL AND CIRCUIT YOUTH GROUP
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, November 1 – Circuit Youth Group service project in Galesburg benefitting Cristo Rey.
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.**



MEMBERSHIP AND DIRECTORY CHANGES / MEMORIALS - OCTOBER REPORT:

Membership – **Additions** – none to report.
Deletions – none to report.
Changes – Address change: Karen Burger, 1209 21st Ave., Silver Cross Room 267, Rock Island, IL 61201
Address change: Mitch Bull, 11310 16th St. Apt. 2, Milan, IL 61264

Memorials – None to report.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & BAPTISMS

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

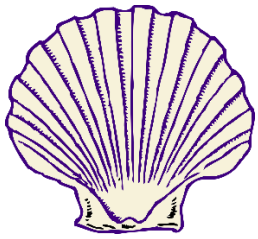


1 - Ben Elder
2 - Myckenzie Raymond
5 - Sherry Duburg
Kenny Wilson
Caleb (4)
6 - Andrew Atkins
7 - Remy Cozadd
Benjamin Triece (4)
10 - Andy Klockau
12 - Linda Haake
Cole Rusk
14 - Wendy Davis
17 - Pastor Len Astrowski
18 - Asher Fiedler (1)
Avery Fiedler (1)
19 - Judy Moore
Julia Settles
20 - Doug Allison
Karlene Campbell
23 - Riley Nixon
24 - Cathy Langdon
Greg Masias
27 - Sandy Schumaker
28 - Kathryn England
29 - Mel Woolfolk



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

Baptism Birthdays



1 - Bryan Cobert
Jane Copeland
2 - Danielle Stevens
5 - Mitch Bull
7 - Patricia Matheny
Kate Weinstein
12 - Joanne Soyke
13 - Benjamin Triece
20 - Sophie Agbayani
21 - Remy Cozadd
Judy Moore
22 - Haley Gruner
23 - Justin Henke
24 - Riley Nixon
25 - Mindy Diaz
26 - Cathy Langdon
27 - MacKenzie Heriford
29 - Nathan Leeson
Isabel Leeson
Abagail Leeson
Paul Lunneberg
30 - Gabriel Cozadd

**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 Immanuel Lutheran Apparel Store is open! A flyer with a QR code is available on the table in the narthex for ordering.

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).

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.

Names and address if you wish to send a card of encouragement, etc.:
Josh Camp – Vicarage appointment
Josh & Catherine Camp (and Gideon & Baby)
1126 4th St. N.E.
Hampton, IA 50441

NOVEMBER 2026 MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

Week of November 1, 2026 - **Revelation 21:4**
He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

Week of November 8, 2026 - **1 Peter 1:24–25**
The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.

Week of November 15, 2026 - **Proverbs 18:10**
The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

Week of November 22, 2026 - **Colossians 4:2**
Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Week of November 29, 2026 - **Jeremiah 23:5–6**
Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch. … In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which He will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

CHRISTIAN CARE
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	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.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

Originally Published November 2023

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received *from* God *to* Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

MUSIC FOR MISSIONS **–** St. John's Lutheran Church in Pekin is once again hosting a Sacred Music Concert and Hymn Sing, this year in support of University Lutheran Church, our LC-MS Central Illinois District Campus Ministry at the University of Illinois in Champaign, on Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

We will join together in singing some hymns, and in listening to sacred organ, choir, vocal solo, and hand bell music, all under the theme, "Oh, Give Thanks to the Lord." Featured musicians will include guest organist Samuel Bishop, vocalist Allison Harley and the combined choirs and hand bell ensembles of St. John's and Trinity, Pekin.

A free will offering will be gathered to help support our University Lutheran Church in Champaign, which is served by Pastor Michael Schuermann. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Please set aside the time to participate in and enjoy the music program, and to support our Central Illinois District mission work. The church is located at 711 Court Street in Pekin. For more information you may contact the church office at 309-347-2136.



THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Wednesday, November 25th, 6:30 PM

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

There will be no service on Thanksgiving Day.



November 1, 2026

We remember the faithful departed:

December 18, 2025	*Rodger Kramer*
April 26, 2026	*Janice Roti*
June 30, 2026	*Leonard Marquardt*
August 23, 2026	*Nancy Farrar*
September 19, 2026	*Phillip Neil Burger*

ORDER YOUR 2027 ROCK ISLAND CIRCUIT CALENDAR NOW! Celebrate the **120th anniversary of the Central Illinois District and its original five circuits** with this beautiful 2027 calendar featuring all **12 sister congregations of the Rock Island Circuit!**
Order one for yourself and extras to give as gifts!
Orders will be taken and payments need to be made by **Sunday, November 8**. **$20.00 each.** All proceeds go to Cristo Rey Lutheran Church. A sign up sheet and sample calendar pages are on a table in the narthex.



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE: We are reaching out to our congregations to ask for assistance for families in our area who have recently been affected by the closing of Tyson Food Plant. The unexpected loss of employment has placed a number of families in a difficult situation, and **Cristo Rey Food Pantry** is working to help meet their immediate needs.
Cristo Rey Food Pantry is in need of **food donations, grocery and gas gift cards, and monetary donations** to help support these families as they navigate the sudden loss of their jobs and income.
We are asking our congregations to prayerfully consider how they might help. Donations of nonperishable food items can help keep families' pantries stocked, while grocery and gas gift cards can provide some flexibility for immediate necessities. Monetary donations can also help Cristo Rey Food Pantry respond to the needs of the families they are serving.
This is an opportunity for our congregations to come together and show Christ's love and compassion to our neighbors during a time of uncertainty. Whether your congregation is able to organize a food collection, collect gift cards, provide a monetary donation, or simply share this request with your members, every contribution can make a difference.
Please also keep the employees and their families in your prayers as they seek new employment and adjust to the challenges this closure has created. Thank you for your generosity and willingness to serve those in need in our communities.
Items Requested for the Hispanic Food Pantry at Cristo Rey: Knorr Tomato Bouillon, Canned Chicken Soup, Rice, Sugar, Pinto Beans (Dry and Canned), Cooking Oil Bath, Tortillas (any kind), Canned Tuna, Canned Sardines, Canned Fruits, Cereals, Eggs, Chorizo, Bacon, Fresh Cheese, Milk, Cookies, Crackers (any kind), Potatoes, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Shampoo, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Soap. Note: Cristo Rey has both a refrigerator and chest freezer for the perishable food items.

There is a table in the narthex for donated items.

Walmart gift cards are also being requested to help families purchase children's Christmas gifts.

LCMS Foundation
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Frank lamented to his buddy Zach that he fears his estate may owe taxes when the Lord calls him home. That could include Federal Estate Tax (if his estate is over $15 Million), state estate or inheritance tax (depending on the state) and income tax related to annuities and tax-deferred retirement assets (like IRA's, 401(k)'s, and 403(b's). Taxes can be a real issue. Zach advised his friend to gift $19,000 each year to each of his four children (the Federal limit for gifts before taxes begin to happen), reducing his estate by almost $80,000 per year. "After 10 years, that could be a big deal," Zach shared.

Zach is not completely wrong. But what he failed to do before offering personal advice was to find out what Frank really wants to do. Frank loves his Church. He knows that his Church is about to expand their school building and he wants to supply a sizable gift for that campaign. In addition, all four of Frank's children are highly paid professionals, making "seven figures" each year. Frank will provide some inheritance, to reflect the grace of God. But he is much more motivated by expanding the impact of ministry sharing Jesus.

Frank spoke with his LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor. Together they discovered that Frank has a large portfolio of highly appreciated stock that would make a perfect asset to use for the building campaign at Church, eliminating capital gains tax, receiving charitable deductions which he will be able to use for five years to offset his current income tax. In addition, they talk about Frank using some of his retirement assets to endow his offerings until the Lord returns, so that there are funds to support the ministry taking place in the new building. Frank also learned that he still will be able to provide support for his grandchildren by funding a sizable Charitable Remainder Trust when the Lord calls him home, using the remainder of his retirement assets, so that family is not hit with a lump sum income tax bill on these assets. Frank was ecstatic. This fit his plan perfectly. (Zach called him silly for not following his advice.)

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you to begin discovering your plan. Contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or scott.radden@lfnd.org.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Saints of Immanuel,

Thank you so much for all of the support that you gave to my family and I throughout my seminary journey and for this surprise check! We couldn't have done what we did without you and the whole body of Christ. It is hard to believe that my schooling is over and I'm a pastor. Things are going well at Hill Country. If you are ever driving through Viroqua, WI, stop by. May God continue to bless and preserve you though our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Pastor Joshua Bieri

From the Social Ministry Group:



This year we will again be distributing **Thanksgiving AND Christmas Food Baskets** to those in need.

We will be having Thanksgiving basket pick up on Monday, November 23, 2026. Names must be submitted by Monday, November 9, 2026 for the Thanksgiving baskets.

Christmas basket pick up will be Monday, December 21, 2026. Names must be submitted by Monday, December 7, 2026, or names can be added when signing up for Thanksgiving baskets.

This is a great mission that the Immanuel Social Ministry team has been carrying down through the years and the recipients of the baskets have been very appreciative! Thank you everyone for your continued support.

Please join us on

Saturday, November 28th at 9:00 a.m.

to help decorate the church for Advent/Christmas.
We will need many hands to make the church beautiful!
Thank you for helping adorn the church for Advent.



Holiday Service Schedule 2026

November 25	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Thanksgiving Eve
November 29	Sunday	9:00 AM	First Sunday in Advent
December 2	Wednesday	5:30/6:30 PM	Supper/Advent I
December 9	Wednesday	5:30/6:30 PM	Supper/Advent II
December 16	Wednesday	5:30/6:30 PM	Supper/Advent III – Children's Program
December 24	Thursday	2:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
		6:30 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight w/HC
December 25	Friday	9:00 AM	Christmas Day – The Feast of the Nativity
December 27	Sunday	9:00 AM	The First Sunday After Christmas
December 31	Thursday	6:30 pm	New Year's Eve Service

Wednesday Evening Supper and Advent Worship



We are continuing our tradition of inviting our members and the public to join us for a light supper prior to our mid-week Advent Worship Services. Supper will be served at 5:30-6:15 pm in the cafeteria. Our worship service begins at 6:30 PM.

The meals may be soup, sandwiches, veggies, and a dessert. Coffee, tea, milk, lemonade, etc. are provided. The host may keep the free-will offering to cover expenses or donate it to the general benefit of the church.

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

Wednesday, December 2nd – Board of Elders
Wednesday, December 9th
Wednesday, December 16th



Building Upkeep

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



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Mexican Dinner and Talent Show

Saturday, November 14

5:00 – 7:30 pm (doors open at 4:30)

Dinner at 5:00 pm · Talent Show follows

Immanuel Lutheran Church Cafeteria

3300 24th Street, Rock Island

RSVP for dinner by November 1st with number attending – call/text 309-781-9627

Mexican Dinner

Enchiladas (chicken or chorizo and potato)
Chips and salsa
Rice & Beans
Drinks
Dessert
Pinata fun for the kids
Free will offering

Talent Show

Family friendly
All entries approved by Pastor

Contact Helen Vogel if you want to participate (call/text 309-781-9627)

Dinner will be served by members of Cristo Rey and proceeds will benefit members of the congregation who were affected by the closure of the Tyson plant.

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

NOVEMBER 2026







Do You believe this?

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

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

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

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

How the Day of the Dead parade in Mexico began?

The Mexico City Day of the Dead Parade began in 2016, directly inspired by a fictional scene in the James Bond film *Spectre* (released in 2015), which featured a colorful, massive parade that had not previously existed i Mexican tradition.

• Origin of the idea: The film, shot in Mexico City's Historic Center, included an opening sequence featuring giant *Catrinas*, skulls, and music.

• Bringing it to life: Upon seeing the impact and tourism interest generated by the film, the Mexico City government decided to turn the fiction into a real-life tradition.

• The first edition: The inaugural official parade took place on October 29, 2016, drawing hundreds of thousands of spectators.

• Prior tradition: Before 2016, Day of the Dead in Mexico was celebrated privately within the home— featuring offerings, altars, and visits to cemeteries— without street parades of this magnitude.



Baptism. The joy and peace Christ gives came to the Nunez when his son Amadeus Jeronimo received the saving waters of Holy Baptism and became a child of God on October 4th , 2026. With the help of the Lord, his parents, Jose and Laura, Amadeus will receive Christian support and guidance. Welcome, Amadeus, to God's family!



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

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

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

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

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

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

Please pray to God in every situation!

Happy Thanksgiving Day to you and your family!

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

Nov 1	Deut. 34:1-12	Matt. 21:1-22
Nov 2	Jer. 1:1-19	Matt. 21:23-46
Nov 3	Jer. 3:6-4:2	Matt. 22:1-22
Nov 4	Jer. 5:1-19	Matt. 22:23-46
Nov 5	Jer. 7:1-29	Matt. 23:1-12
Nov 6	Jer. 8:18-9:12	Matt. 23:13-39
Nov 7	Jer. 11:1-23	Matt. 24:1-28
	Jer. 12:1-19:15	
Nov 8	Jer. 20:1-18	Matt. 24:29-51
Nov 9	Jer. 22:1-23	Matt. 25:1-13
Nov 10	Jer. 23:1-20	Matt. 25:14-30
Nov 11	Jer. 23:21-40	Matt. 25:31-46
Nov 12	Jer. 25:1-18	Matt. 26:1-19
Nov 13	Jer. 26:1-19	Matt. 26:20-35
		Rev. 13:1-18
Nov 14	Jer. 29:1-19	Matt. 26:36-56
		Rev. 14:1-20
Nov 15	Jer. 30:1-24	Matt. 26:57-75
		Rev. 15:1-8
Nov 16	Jer. 31:1-17, 23-24	Matt. 27:1-10
		Rev. 16:1-21
Nov 17	Jer. 33:1-22	Matt. 27:11-32
	Jer. 34:1-36:32; 45:1-51:64	
Nov 18	Jer. 37:1-21	Matt. 27:33-56
		Rev. 17:1-18
Nov 19	Jer. 38:1-28	Matt. 27:57-66
	Jer. 39:1-44:30	
Nov 20	Dan. 1:1-21	Matt. 28:1-20
Nov 21	Dan. 2:1-23	Rev. 18:1-24
Nov 22	Dan. 2:24-49	Rev. 19:1-21
Nov 23	Dan. 3:1-30	Rev. 20:1-15
Nov 24	Dan. 4:1-37	Rev. 21:1-8
Nov 25	Dan. 5:1-30	Rev. 21:9-27
	Dan. 7:1-8:27	
Nov 26	Dan. 6:1-28	Rev. 22:1-21
	Dan. 9:1-27	
Nov 27	Is. 1:1-28	1 Peter 1:1-12
Nov 28	Is. 2:1-22	1 Peter 1:13-25
	Is. 3:1-4:6	
Nov 29	Is. 5:1-25	1 Peter 2:1-12
	Amos 1:1-9:15	
Nov 30	Is. 6:1-7:9	1 Peter 2:13-25

NOVEMBER 2026 Immanuel Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 ***Daylight Saving Time Ends*** 7:15 Board of Elders 9 Worship w/HC 10:30 Bible Study and Sunday School	**2** 6 Book Club	**3** ***POLLING PLACE*** 9:30 Bible Study 6 Intergen. Bible Study	**4** 9-1 CHALK	**5** 7 Youth Group Program Board	**6**	**7**
8 9 Worship w/HC 10:30 Bible Study and Sunday School	**9** 6 Book Club	**10** 9:30 Bible Study 6 Intergen. Bible Study	**11** 9-1 CHALK	**12**	**13**	**14** 5 Mexican Dinner & Talent Show
15 9 Worship w/HC 10:30 Bible Study and Sunday School	**16** 6 Book Club	**17** 9:30 Bible Study 6 Intergen. Bible Study	**18** 9-1 CHALK	**19** *THE IMAGE Item Submission Deadline*	**20**	**21**
22 9 Worship w/HC 10:30 Bible Study and Sunday School	**23** 6 Book Club	**24** 9:30 Bible Study 6 Intergen. Bible Study	**25** **6:30 Thanksgiving Eve Service**	**26** **Thanksgiving** *Office Closed*	**27** *Office Closed*	**28**
29 9 Worship w/HC 10:30 Bible Study and Sunday School	**30** 6 Book Club					

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_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.