

# 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 – MARCH 2022*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

*When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus cried (John 11-33-35).*

It is a rather common American thing. "How are you?" you ask. The answer is so typical it has become customary and *expected*. "I'm fine." This is so common it has become fodder for—apart from the Church—that great purveyor of truth: comedy. Even Christian comedians have mined this habit for a laugh or two. One particularly clever entertainer observes that the best way to bring a church "sharing" meeting—you know, those meetings orchestrated to allow us a time to open ourselves and reveal our deepest hurts—to a screeching halt is to *actually share* our deepest hurts. And we laugh as we do at all good comedy. We laugh with nodding heads for we know that it is true. Nothing ruins a meeting like telling the truth and honestly baring our souls. (Often, there's no time or place for that when we're together.)

So it goes. "I'm fine," you say. Yet your eyes tell another story.

We've become so used to refusing to see the suffering and sorrow around us that we feel isolated or even ashamed when we suffer, when we are sad. To disguise such truly human emotions in a fallen world, we have developed coping techniques. We hide behind trite diversions. We amuse ourselves with shallow things. We surround ourselves with trinkets, so much so that our homes resemble more the made-in-China aisles of Hobby Lobby than

our own God-given unique personalities. Think about that. We gladly swallow the Soma<sup>1</sup> dispensed and placed on our tongues. The result? We are simply distracted until it's too late. We are distracted until the fiery serpent inflicts the fatal strike to our ankles.

Of course, this spills over into the life of the church. We crave light and fluffy services. Services that require too much thought and reflection are not valued—they are downright eschewed. Think I'm wrong? Observe our little community. The most popular churches are those that avoid challenging you with doctrine and deep truths.<sup>2</sup> These churches excel in giving shareable memes and a little Dr. Phil couched in pseudo-Christian language. They are designed to make you feel good about yourself. And it sells. And they know it. So do we. So the pressure—often simmering just below the surface—is to water down our doctrine, to make it more palatable to our friends and neighbors. Have you noted how these churches often deride a strong confessional and doctrinal<sup>3</sup> stance? This isn't by accident. And it's attractive to us.

Now, I write as a decidedly middle-aged man. And I spend a lot of time thinking (and praying) about the generations that have followed mine. Those who populate these generations have come to be known to those of us who follow such trends as the “Nones.” They are called “Nones” since they choose to avoid association with churches that have formal membership policies (like us) and a clearly defined doctrinal stance (again, like us). On the various surveys distributed by those who study such things,<sup>4</sup> when asked to select a religious affiliation, these young adults frequently choose “none.” Thus the title. While there is much hand-wringing and finger-pointing over these “Nones” as we watch them abandon the church, we don't really take the time to reflect and think about why this is so.

If those who study such things in depth are correct,<sup>5</sup> then a large part of why our children leave the church is because of us—those who have come before them. We are decidedly post-modern in our thinking. We—if not in our minds, then surely in practice—have demonstrated to our children that all truths are essentially equal and valid (which is *not* so). We, in our relentless pursuit of things—material goods and even people—have taught them an outward appearance of success and happiness is the goal of human existence. And we fail to teach them that the world is fallen. Instead, we teach—again, if not explicitly, then implicitly—if you work a little harder then you will surely be rewarded. But life is hard. Suffering comes. So these “Nones” have no vocabulary, no framework for expressing and processing the harsh realities of life. This is why, I think, so many of our young adults are angry and angrily lashing out at the “establishment.”

These young men and women have learned from us that the only acceptable answer to life's profound hardships is “I'm fine.” Yet their eyes tell a different story.

I opened this newsletter outside the tomb of Lazarus, our Lord's friend. Outside the tomb, as He sees the other mourners weeping, He himself is moved to tears. He cries. Our Lord allows His eyes to display the sorrow that

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<sup>1</sup> Aldous Huxley, in his masterpiece *Brave New World*, published in 1932, presciently introduces this idea. In the book, Soma is the government-sanctioned and distributed drug meant to create a docile and shallowly happy people. I see it as a metaphor for the worst aspects of our modern American consumerism.

<sup>2</sup> So you know, Dear Reader, that I'm not speaking out-of-turn, I do spend time listening to sermons and reviewing the teachings of our neighboring churches—those churches that attract so many, like moths to a flame.

<sup>3</sup> Remember, doctrine is Scripture. We teach and confess no doctrine that is not clearly drawn from the Word of God. It's the same with our confession. From the Creeds to our Book of Concord, our confessions simply summarize the teaching of the Bible. You can find many examples of confessional statements in Scripture.

<sup>4</sup> For example, see the works of Christian Smith, noted sociologist and professor at the University of Notre Dame. One of Dr. Smith's most eye-opening works is *Lost in Transition: The Dark Side of Emerging Adulthood*, 2011, Oxford University Press.

<sup>5</sup> Again, I refer you to the exhaustive and long-term research of Christian Smith.

He feels—the sorrow over what we have done to ourselves. He knows. He knows you. He knows your hurts and sorrows and sufferings.

As a pastor called by that same Christ, I've learned how to look at people. I've learned to see what a person's eyes are truly communicating. I've learned to listen beyond the "I'm fine." And what do I see? I see what the fallen world causes. I see the pain, the sorrow, the suffering. And I see people too often trying to bear it all alone.

My vocation in all of this? To tell, to demonstrate that they (you) are not alone. Yes, of course our Lord is with them (you). And so are we. Or at least we should be. God Himself took the time to live among us as one of us. He knows. Even as He hung on the cross, He took the time to ensure His mother was cared for:

*...but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home (John 19:25-27).*

There are two things that these words teach us. We should be prepared to fully care for our neighbor—to sacrifice for them. This is, of course, a bit frightening. We are asked, as our Lord did, to share the hurts of our neighbors. We are to bind the wounds as ours have been bound by the Lord. And then for those of us in the midst of suffering, we are given to find another word other than "fine." Say how you feel. Truly. This also is frightening, for it is an openness that is foreign to us. But we will allow our "meeting" to be stopped. And we will help you. We will together re-learn the language of sorrow and suffering. And, as we do, Christ will be there.

Do you see how, when we open ourselves both to being honest and to sacrificing ourselves as our Lord would have us, we learn to deal with the tragedies of this life? We learn, trust, and sometimes see that God himself is working in these things. As He once used the tragedy of the cross to work salvation for all, so He will use your sorrows and sufferings to bring about His good will. So, it is the great triumph of God to take the bad and turn it into good. And, in Christ, we are given to see that.

And then, as we see clearly, we begin to crave the deep things. The hard things. We learn to speak of our own failures and hurts. And we embrace a church that is not afraid to face the frailty of its people. The trite amusements will be tossed in the old toy box where they belong with all our other childish ways.

And in Him, our eyes will tell another story beyond the sadness and pain.

In Him, our eyes will truly shine.

A blessed Lent to each of you.

Rev. Leonard A. Astrowski Jr., Pastor



***We ask God for His blessing upon all our members, especially those who celebrate birthdays this month including:***

<i>March 2:</i>	<i>Mick Esparza, Ruth Pugh</i>	<i>March 17:</i>	<i>Alison Boisvert, Rachel Spragg, Mayson Davis, Jr. (4)</i>
<i>March 4:</i>	<i>Rob Mau</i>	<i>March 18:</i>	<i>Mona Meyer, Samantha Peterson</i>
<i>March 5:</i>	<i>Emily Hazen</i>	<i>March 19:</i>	<i>AJ Cortez (8)</i>
<i>March 7:</i>	<i>Bevy Eckardt (9)</i>	<i>March 23:</i>	<i>Mikey DePaepe (4)</i>
<i>March 9:</i>	<i>Corbin Ayers</i>	<i>March 24:</i>	<i>Milo Boisvert (1), Mikey Eckardt (5)</i>
<i>March 10:</i>	<i>Jordan Stockwell</i>	<i>March 26:</i>	<i>Doug Campbell</i>
<i>March 11:</i>	<i>Gretchen Gerard, Carrie Titus</i>	<i>March 28:</i>	<i>Joe Heriford</i>
<i>March 14:</i>	<i>Bryan Cobert, Judy Klockau</i>	<i>March 29:</i>	<i>Rob Henke</i>
<i>March 15:</i>	<i>Hannah Allison, Melody Poole, Karen Soeken</i>		



***We ask God for His blessing upon all our members, especially those who celebrate anniversaries including:***

*Clinton & Sonia England – March 22, 1980*

*Mick & March Esparza – March 25, 1983*

*Brett & Jennifer Long – March 25, 2002*

*Andrew & Amanda Ferguson – March 27, 2010*

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

## Membership Changes

**Deletions:** *Pamela Caldwell, by death – January 25, 2022*

### **Changes to current directory:**

**Neil & Karen Burger – New Address:**

1209 – 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. A122

Rock Island, IL 61201-7907

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### *Asleep in Jesus :*



*Pamela Caldwell* was called to her eternal rest on January 25, 2022 at the age of 72. A Graveside Service was held on Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at Greenview Memorial Gardens' Mausoleum. May God comfort the survivors with the sure hope that those who die in the Lord are with Him in Heaven.

**Below are the total offering and expenses for the last three months.** We thank you for your continued generosity through this difficult time.

November Offerings - \$11,571	November Expenses - \$17,696
December Offerings - \$20,379.36	December Expenses - \$21,649.54
January Offerings \$13,584	January Expenses \$19,287

**IMAGE DEADLINE** for the **April 2022 issue** is **1:00 PM Wednesday, March 16th**. Have all items to the office, in writing, by that date. Thank You!

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**TIME CHANGES**... on Saturday night, March 12th — set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed!



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

- **Sunday morning Adult Bible class** – 8:00 am and 10:15 am in the Library or on Zoom.
- **Adult Bible study** – Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am in the Library or on Zoom.
- **Intergenerational Studies:** 6 pm each Tuesday evening.
- **For the older youth**, there is a Youth Group meeting on Sunday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Meetings are held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rock Island. The first hour includes an opening, devotion and education time with Pastor Astrowski. He will be discussing Apologetics (learning how to defend our faith). The second hour includes activities and snacks with the Youth Leaders in the fellowship hall and gymnasium. On the **last Sunday** of each month, Pastor Astrowski will offer a special discussion time for parents during the second hour. He will review topics recently covered with the youth to prepare parents for additional discussion with their young adults.
- And of course for the younger ones, there is Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

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## CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION



- Please call the office when someone is ill, hospitalized, or homebound (309-786-3391).

- Please use this email to contact the office: [ilchurch@mchsi.com](mailto:ilchurch@mchsi.com) • Website address – [www.immanuelri.org](http://www.immanuelri.org)

- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Immanuel-Lutheran-Church-Rock-Island-IL-LCMS-179175395513226/> All Sunday services are 'Live' streamed

at 9 am and posted to our church's YouTube channel (the link is available on the church's website).

**Reminder... each time you enter the hospital**, be sure to say you are a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rock Island. According to the laws, the hospital needs to ask each time you come for a procedure. If you would like the 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. Also, unless requested otherwise, members of the church will be prayed for using their first and last names.



## Rock Island Circuit Youth Group News

March 2021

The Rock Island Circuit Youth Group is going strong and continues to grow!!! We are blessed to have youth attending regularly and youth who come whenever their schedule allows. Youth are coming from our local community and from surrounding areas including Sherrard, Taylor Ridge, Geneseo, Davenport and Kewanee.

Here is what is coming up:

### **CIRCUIT OUTING – HIKING AT MAQUOKETA CAVES - Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

We will meet at church at 1:30 p.m. and carpool to the caves.

We plan to hike and explore for @ 2 hours and return to church @ 6 p.m.

*Please be prepared to get dirty!*

*Bring and wear the following:*

*Headlamps*

*Warm and Old Clothes*

*Hiking Shoes*

*Knee Pads*

*Towels*

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Welch at [309-714-5491](tel:309-714-5491).

Thank you!

### **FUND RAISER FOR HIGHER THINGS:**

Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> -- Youth will Host/Serve the Lenten Supper

### **WORKDAY – SERVANT EVENT:**

Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> -- More details coming soon!

**Thanks for your participation! Bring a friend.**

**As always, if you have any questions or suggestions please call or text Pastor at 989-326-0199.**

**THANK YOU** to all the youth and the leaders who are making this youth group happen each week. Please continue to pray for this youth group that it may continue to grow and be a blessing to all.

### ***The Rock Island Circuit Youth Board:***

Pastor Astrowski  
Brian and Katherine Cobert  
Burnie and Amanda Eckardt

Sara Leeson  
Sara Miller  
Kathy Welch



THE NEXT IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LWML MEETING WILL BE HELD  
ON THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022 AT 6:00 PM IN THE LUTHER ROOM.

PLEASE BE SURE TO JOIN US!

## “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations” — 2023 LWML Biennial Convention in Milwaukee

The LWML Board of Directors has chosen “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations” as the theme for the 2023 Biennial Convention, **June 22-25, 2023!** The convention will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the Wilson Convention Center in downtown Milwaukee.

The theme is based on the Scripture verse: *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man* (Psalm 33:12–13). The convention goal is: “As His children, we celebrate the Lord of the nations.”

Mark your calendars and make plans to join thousands of women and men from across the nation as we all “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations”. Watch for additional information about worship leaders, mites in action speakers, and special guests coming soon.

## LWML Nominations Open

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) Nominating Committee has asked for nominations to be considered for election at the 2023 LWML Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Offices to be filled are:

- President
- Vice President of Organizational Resources
- Vice President of Special Focus Ministries
- Treasurer
- Nominating Committee (5)

The LWML Bylaws state that the Nominating Committee shall submit the names of at least two (2) candidates, if possible, for each elective office to be filled and nine (9) candidates for the next biennium’s Nominating Committee. Any member of the LWML may suggest a name to be considered for nomination. Please assist the Nominating Committee by publicizing this request for nominees. District presidents, please share this information with your board of directors, executive committees, and in your district newsletters. **The deadline for nominations is August 15, 2022.**

Links to the nominating process are below and at [lwml.org/nominations](http://lwml.org/nominations).  
[Nomination Form for Officers and Nominating Committee](#)  
[Guidelines for Selection of Nominees](#)

Nominees should review the *LWML Handbook* (Bylaws, Article VI — sections 1, 5, 6, & 8 and Article VII) and the *LWML Procedures Manual* (Section II, Elected and Appointed Officers and Section V, Nominating Committee-Elected). Both documents can be found on the LWML [website](#).

# LENTEN Schedule

Date:	Supper Host:	Supper Time:	Service Time:	
March 2, 2022	Elders	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Ash Wednesday w/HC
March 9, 2022		5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek I
March 16, 2022	Youth	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek II
March 23, 2022		5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek III
March 30, 2022	LWML	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek IV
April 6, 2022		5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek V
April 10, 2022			9:00 AM	Palm Sunday
April 14, 2022			6:30 PM	Holy (Maundy) Thursday
April 15, 2022			12:00 PM 7:00 PM	Good Friday Chief Service Good Friday, Tenebrae
April 16, 2022			7:00 PM	The Vigil of Easter
April 17, 2022	<b>Easter Breakfast Pot Luck</b>	<b>7:30 AM – 8:30 AM</b>	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Easter Sunday Sunrise The Resurrection of Our Lord

**\*\*PLEASE SEE SIGN-UP SHEET ON BULLETIN BOARD TO SERVE  
LENTEN SUPPERS & FOR EASTER BREAKFAST POT LUCK\*\***



**The Chancel of our church will be decorated with lilies on Easter  
Sunday, April 17th.**

We invite you to donate towards the cost of the lilies. Your name and what you would like to have written (as a memorial, in thanks to God for something, in honor of someone, etc.) will be in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. Call Tammy at the office (786-3391) or e-mail the information to [ilchurch@mchsi.com](mailto:ilchurch@mchsi.com). Place your donation in an envelope with "lilies" written on it along with your name, amount, & envelope number. Drop it in the offering plate at a service or mail it to the office.

***The deadline for the names is Tuesday, April 5th.***

## Spring Greetings from Lutheran East Side Mission



We look forward to warmer weather with spring rains to renew our land; it is quite amazing that our creator supplies his children with endless seasonal beauty and all that is needed to sustain our lives as we flourish amidst his creation. However, with spring families often experience endless challenges. Many of us live life in a hurry, not allowing us a moment to enjoy our God given gifts or to share our blessings. Embrace all that the Lord can do in your life and find security in Christ Jesus. When we come to the realization that God is in control, we know all is well in His time.

We appreciate a few minutes of your time as you read our quarterly newsletter, it is important that you know how thankful we are for your prayers and support in this ministry. Ladies' Bible study meets twice a month, dates and times vary, please call in advance if you would like to join us for a meal, bible study and an easy make and take craft. The After school program is Tuesday – Thursday 3 to 5, we follow the Davenport School schedule which includes early outs allowing us extra time for field trips, craft days, and more time to focus on devotions. The children's Summer Program runs through June & July; and Youth Group plans to meet during warmer weather; we welcome visitors and look forward to what the Lord has planned for the Mission and all who grace our doors. What a wonderful opportunity we have to encourage the children to spend time with God while growing in faith together.

If you are too busy to volunteer at the Mission but would like to help in some way, our food pantry and is stocked mostly through donations; we also humbly accept toiletries, soaps and paper products. If you would like to designate your monetary gifts to the food panty we can shop for you to help stock the panty. The Mission families often are in need of household items, beds and furniture, we gladly pick up from your home and donate to our families; your donations are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated. After your garage sale, no need to take donations to Goodwill; we pick up and deliver to the Mission families.

**As Thrivent members** you can direct **Choice Dollars** to the Mission by contacting Thrivent at 800-847-4836; it only takes a few minutes with no cost to you. **Thrivent Members** can also work with Mission staff and volunteers taking very little of your time to promote an **Action Team** which provides the Mission with **\$250 to help with the children's programs and project updates to the Mission**. Children and families are never asked to pay to attend Mission programs; we cover all expenses for program costs, admissions and field trips. Please prayerfully consider helping with our costs by directing your **Choice Dollars** or signing up for an **Action Team**. Thank you to the Thrivent members who have directed Choice Dollars to the Mission and or helped with an **Action Team**.

Contact the Mission at 563-323-6812 to learn more about giving to the Mission through **Thrivent**.

The Mission Board of Directors is scheduled to meet the first Thursday every other month at 6:30 at the Mission. Due to schedules and weather please contact us in advance if you would like to attend a meeting, or wish to be scheduled for time on the agenda. If you have questions about the Mission or would like to know how you can help please call the Mission office or you can email [ESMDAV@gmail.com](mailto:ESMDAV@gmail.com). We are prayerful that there would be council representation from all the Davenport Circuit Churches. Your voice is needed and your prayers are appreciated. If you are interested in serving on the Board and currently are a member of LCMS Church, we have one qualification, "that you have a heart for Missions."

We invite you to visit us at the Mission or stop by to see what God is doing in the lives of the children attending the after-school program. Summer of 2020 the Mission was closed due to the Pandemic which left children in the neighborhood at a loss for faith-based activities. Summer 2021 volunteers from Trinity Lutheran Davenport joined our program to share their love of Jesus, think about what God has planned for your summer, embrace all that God is prepared for you in just one precious day of your life, don't be surprised with new things on the horizon you may be led to mentor a child at the Mission. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17".

We are making plans to host a Spring Rally at the Mission and are inviting you to help with the plans, children's activities or stop in and visit to learn what we do at Lutheran East Side Mission, the only Mission of this type in Iowa.

**Praying God's Grace blesses you today and always**



# CAMP CILCA SCHEDULE 2022

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

*new*  
**ACT LIKE MEN EVENTS**

For men of all ages to make connections across generations, learn and sharpen new skills, and grow strong in the Lord.

**“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.”  
- I Corinthians 16:13**

Photo Credit: Erik M. Lunsford  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

**February 25- 26 - Act Like Men Woodcutter's Retreat**  
• Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult •

**March 20 - Annual Banquet**  
Held at Camp CILCA's Dining Hall.  
Contact the Camp Office to reserve your tickets.

**April 29-May 1 - Women's Scrapbooking Retreat**

**May 28 - Act Like Men Field Day Competition**

**May 29 - Annual Hog Roast**  
10:30 AM: Worship  
11:30-2:30 PM: Hog Roast Dinner

**May 31 - Junior Counselor Training**  
10 AM-2 PM at Camp

**June 1-July 29 - Summer Camp Program**

**July 30 - Homecoming**  
Food, music, games, more!

**July 31-August 5 - Act Like Men Camp**  
• For any man who has completed high school •

**September 4 - Chicken Fry & Auction**  
10:30 AM: Worship  
11:30-2:30 PM: Chicken Fry Dinner  
1 PM: Live Auction Begins

**September 17 - Act Like Men Shooting Retreat**  
• Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult •

**September 23 - Whippoowill Golf Outing**

**October 1 - GRIT Run**



## God's Providential Care

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves, that we could not exist without those who have gone before us and are alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know that God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers of all sorts so that we can eat. But more than that God created and gave us all the things that those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things, properties for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste and their nutritional value, we would not exist.

He gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments. Again, he gave us all things that go into making those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties that can be utilized for that purpose. Without God creating and instilling those healing properties into those things, and without God creating the ability within man to find this out and press it into service of our medical needs, we would not enjoy the kind of health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands: "Then Moses said to the people of Israel, 'See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.' " (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands. And attached to those hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds in order to make those arms and hands move to accomplish the work set before us. And He has given us reason and senses. That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every

situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes as well as the accomplishments of others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us. So that everything we have AND everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual well-being. That He sent His son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. That He delivers that justification through the Means of Grace (Baptism, preaching, the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper). And to give you those Means of Grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Again, this could be expanded and expounded upon. So that literally everything that we have and everything that we are – in this life and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about – giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts. It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church. "For all this is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him" (*Luther's Small Catechism*, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gift – for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not in word only but also in deed. – LCMS Stewardship Ministry:  
[lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)

# 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



## Lent.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. On this day, as forgiven sinners, we receive ashes in the sign of a cross on our foreheads as the pastor says: *"for dust you are and to dust you will return."* (Genesis 3:19)



Do you ponder Jesus' sacrifice and death during Lent? We can imagine that Jesus knew His mission to save the human race was drawing closer and closer. He can see the punishment, suffering, and death He will experience. It was not easy for Him, but He willingly obeyed His Heavenly Father. He spent time in meditation and prayer for this imminent event.

Usually when we talk about death, people, even Christians, become frightened. It's not easy when your doctor tells you bad news like "you have diabetes, cancer, heart disease, etc." It's not easy to assimilate. How long will I live? Will I suffer a lot? These are just a few questions that come into our minds. It is not easy for us to deal with the fact that someday we will leave this world. It takes time for reflection.

To us, as a Christians, Lent is a time of spiritual preparation and prayer. In this season, we need to look, in a seriously and respectful way, at the act of Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross. We need to realize that it is our sins that nailed Him to the cross. It is a penitential season of the church year. He hangs there suffering on our behalf. And He does it all out of love for us miserable sinners. And we also pray to God asking Him to help us accept our own inevitable death trusting that He will deliver our souls into His presence where we will await with hope our resurrection on the Last Day.

Realizing all that Jesus has done for us we can sing or say the words of this beautiful Lenten hymn:

Christ the life of all the living,  
Christ the death of death our foe,  
Christ Yourself for me once giving  
To the darkest depths of woe  
Through Your suffering, death and merit  
Life eternal I inherit.  
**Thousand, thousand thanks are due,  
Dearest Jesus unto You. Amen and Amen!**

Lord have mercy upon us! Christ have mercy upon us! Lord have mercy upon us!



**Choice Dollars.** Christ the King Lutheran Church (Cristo Rey) participates in Thrivent Choice which is a charitable grant program of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Did you know you are now able to direct your Choice Dollars to our Hispanic mission?

***We continue to thank God for your faithful prayers and loving support of this Hispanic ministry!***



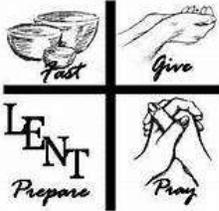
# MARCH 2022

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

3300 24th St. Rock Island, IL 61201-6212

Office Phone: (309) 786-3391

Website: Immanuelri.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9:30am Bible Study 6:30 pm Interg. Studies	<b>2</b> 10 am – Noon CHALK <b>6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service w/HC</b>	<b>3</b> 4 pm Confirmation	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>9-10 am Prayer Hour</b>
<b>6</b> <b>7:15 am Bd of Elders</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	<b>7</b> 8 am – 4 pm RICC <b>6 pm Book Club</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30am Bible Study 6:30 pm Interg. Studies	<b>9</b> 10 am – Noon CHALK <b>6:30 pm Lenten Midweek I</b>	<b>10</b> 4 pm Confirmation	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>9-10 am Prayer Hour</b>
<b>13</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	<b>14</b> <b>6 pm Book Club</b>	<b>15</b> 9:30am Bible Study 6:30 pm Interg. Studies	<b>16</b> 10 am – Noon CHALK <b>Deadline for items in The April Image</b> <b>6:30 pm Lenten Midweek II</b>	<b>17</b> 4 pm Confirmation 	<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b> <b>9-10 am Prayer Hour</b>
<b>20</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 Bible Study/SS	<b>21</b> 8 am – 4 pm RICC <b>6 pm Book Club</b>	<b>22</b> 9:30am Bible Study 6:30 pm Interg. Studies	<b>23</b> 10 am – Noon CHALK <b>6:30 pm Lenten Midweek III</b>	<b>24</b> 4 pm Confirmation <b>6 pm LWML Mtg.</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>9-10 am Prayer Hour</b>
<b>27</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	<b>28</b> 8 am – 4 pm RICC <b>6 pm Book Club</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10 am – Noon CHALK <b>6:30 pm Lenten Midweek IV</b>	<b>31</b>		



**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**

Bible Study at 8:00 AM  
Worship Service with Holy Communion at 9:00 AM  
Bible Study at 10:15 AM  
Sunday School at 10:15 AM

We invite you to join us for worship and Bible Study and the fellowship of Christians who share in the joy of salvation in our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Pastor: Rev. Leonard A. Astrowski, Jr.**  
**Organists: Christine Roth and Katherine Cobert**

**Church Office Hours:** Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

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