

The Image

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



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK – MAY 2022



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We often think the curse began with God's pronouncements in Genesis. You may recall how they play out. First, God spoke to the Father of Lies: "...*cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field...*" Next, to the woman He said: "*I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.*" Of course, this curse is all too visible around us to this day. And finally, He turns to the man and says: "*By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*"¹

Indeed, these curses drench our lives in so much strife and misery. But in a sense, they are derivative. They are the product—the outgrowth—of the true curse. Their ultimate source was not God but that Ancient Serpent. God was not imposing these curses but pronouncing—explaining—the curse which Satan, with our cooperation, wrought. The root—the source—of our cursed lives is this phrase: "*Did God actually say...?*"² These words are the cause—the terrible river—from whence our sorrows flow. They are the curse.

Every good blessing with which the Lord has blessed us is now tainted by these words. "*Did God really say...?*" "He didn't mean that." "He wouldn't say that today." These, and many others, are phrases we too often use to bear witness that we are indeed captive to this terrible curse. These phrases, all branches of the dreadful question posed by the evil one, have resulted in the world we have made for ourselves with its myriad of sorrows. And sadly, this has become our starting point as we face the Word of God. It is our default way of thinking. We accuse the Truth of lying to us, and we use our own lies to establish whatever we think the truth should be. And the result? A disaster. Like our forebears, who in fear covered themselves with fig leaves, we shroud ourselves in a thin veil of lies. We dress ourselves in the clothing the Father of Lies happily provides for us.

¹ See Genesis 3:14-19 for the full text of this sad episode.

² From Genesis 3:1.

Let me provide an example. You formulate an opinion about what the faith is and what the church should be—you decide what your truth should be. For example, you believe any type of relationship, any combination of people is good as long as it makes them happy. And this you call love—godly love, and you believe the church should be loving and bless everyone and every behavior. This opinion is formed from fragments of the truth—snippets of Scripture cut from their context and given a meaning the words don’t actually convey. Your opinion is influenced and informed by the popular media that is constantly invading our ears. And, most insidiously, you base your idea of the truth not on the Word, grammar, reason, or history but on your feelings. What we feel trumps the Truth—in matters of faith and in other matters. Disagree? Then think about men participating on women’s teams because they *feel* they’re not men. Isn’t the science settled on that? Hasn’t science been settled for quite some time on the biological, physiological, and behavioral differences between those who carry the Y chromosome and those who do not? Feelings and opinions don’t change the truth.

So, I, as a pastor, confront you on your thinking. I show you the texts, the contexts, the history of interpretation from the Apostles to this very day. I demonstrate that there is Truth that can be known and confessed and that your thinking is misguided and incorrect. Too often I’m told: “Yes, Pastor, I hear you, but I really feel...” Apparently, I am supposed to acknowledge that what you feel—what you believe as truth in your private interpretation—is, in fact, more valid than the actual Truth. Now, reading this, I hope you might recognize the folly of that. Indeed, you should. That type of thinking is an ancient heresy. It is the ugly child of that ancient curse. To call it by its name: Gnosticism.

Now, a simple definition of this heresy is this: Gnosticism is an esoteric belief or knowledge (that’s what the Greek word *gnosis* means). The twenty-dollar word, which is key, is the word esoteric. Esoteric indicates that the knowledge is *private*. It’s a privately held belief or an individually held interpretation of the truth. Granted, most of us don’t live our daily lives with words like Gnosticism or esoteric rattling around in our brains. We, however, are more gnostic than we often realize.

There are many byproducts of Gnosticism in our daily lives. These affect how we interact with each other, how we use our voices in our communities, how we think of government, but most important to our present discussion, how we think and act spiritually—what we think and how we act about religion and God.³ Press someone who uses the old, tired line of “I’m spiritual but not religious.” You will see his way of thinking and his actions are based on a privately held belief and not on the revealed Word, the history of that Word, and the application of that Word. That’s Gnosticism. And many churches—denominations—in our time have, knowingly or unknowingly, embraced it.

The word denomination is a French word. It means something that is named. Each denomination is also body that has its own unique confession. Therefore, I prefer the word confession to denomination—it helps clarify that point. We are Lutheran. That is the name of our confession. Lutherans have a clearly defined and documented body of doctrine, or dogma. It is an anchored life we live as Lutherans. Our lives together are anchored in the unchanging Word of God—the Word of Christ. Our confession—our denomination—stands on the historic teaching of the Apostles and those who came after them and defended the Faith throughout the centuries. And when we stray, it is that doctrine, dogma, Word of God that calls us back. Therefore, our doctrine and our practice, which is inextricably linked to our doctrine, don’t change quickly and don’t change much at all. And so, we confess each Sunday our belief in the one holy Christian and *apostolic* Church. Our confession—our belief—is rooted in the words of Scripture, the grammar of those words, and the history of the life of Christ and His Church recorded in those

³ For an excellent, albeit dense, discussion of how Gnosticism affects, deeply, our lives as modern Americans, see Rev. Peter M. Burfeind’s book *Gnostic America: A Reading of Contemporary American Culture & Religion According to Christianity’s Oldest Heresy* (2014, Pax Domini Press). Rev. Burfeind is a fellow Pastor in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

words. But in our day, there is a new kid on the block. Let me rephrase that. It's an old kid— ancient—that hopes to lead us astray by looking new. That new kid is the modern phenomenon of the non-denominational church.

Think about that name: non-denominational. By intention, these churches refuse to be named. One of the hallmarks of these churches is the downplaying of denominational differences. They often adopt catchy slogans that demonstrate that downplaying. They use slogans like “When you're ready for a relationship instead of religion.” Now, there are some logical fallacies in that statement from which I will spare you. The point of concern here, remember, is this thing called Gnosticism, and this statement falls right into that “ism.” Unpack the slogan, and you'll see it's communicating an importance (priority) of personal (esoteric) belief over doctrine. The Word, the grammar of that Word, the history of that Word, the defense of that Word throughout the Church's long story—you know, doctrine—are secondary. In these churches a person who believes in the real presence of Christ in the Holy Sacrament sits next to—communes with—those who confess it is merely symbolic. The same holds for those who confess the efficacy of Baptism and those who do not.⁴ Also, note that many of these churches are non-creedal. They reject corporate statements of belief, such as the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, confessing that nothing like a manmade summary of Scripture should come between the individual and his or her interaction with Scripture. That, of course, is a bold gnostic statement. The personal belief trumps everything else.

I've had *far too many* conversations with this way of thinking lurking in the background. I know you have too. People leave our confession for any number of reasons, yet, when I ask them about the significant disparity in the understanding and practice of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, they typically respond along these lines: “I'm still Lutheran in my heart, and I still believe what you believe.” So, do you recognize that? They cling to their personal (esoteric!) belief in the midst of another confession. And what, if we're naming things, do we call that? We call it Gnosticism. So, you see, we are far more gnostic than we recognize.

In the midst of all this, what are we to do?

In a word, repent. But how?

First, recognize that some of your personally held beliefs might just be wrong (gnostic). I haven't always been Lutheran. I changed confessions (denominations) because I was taught the Truth by faithful pastors. I was encouraged by those faithful people the Lord placed in my life to study and listen. Was it jarring? Of course! I left not just a church but a community. And it was (and still is) painful. But it was necessarily the right thing to do. And I am better for it. I had to realize that some of the things I was taught in my youth, or simply believed based on no other authority than my own arrogance, were wrong and were not in accord with the Word of God.

Second, trust that Word. Heed the Word of Christ. Hear Him when He says, “...*observe* [cling to, keep, hold fast] *to all that I have commanded you*” (Matthew 28:20). Truth is not defined by what you think or feel. Truth is the Truth. And it can be known. And most of us would agree with this until it lands in our lap—until we are forced to choose between what we think and feel and the Truth. That's where it gets tough. But still, your salvation is based on what the Lord declares, not on how you feel. Soon, in the Sundays after Easter, we will hear about the life of the ancient Church recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. Listen and reflect on those passages. You will hear and learn how our forebears trusted in the Word of Christ. Think of those baptized people in your life who can't make it to church and, as a result, don't feel so close to God. This is not because of laziness or

⁴ Here I must add that those who confess the efficacy of Baptism and were baptized as infants, will at some time be required to be rebaptized, and more importantly, accept Jesus as their *personal* Lord and Savior in such churches.

This indicates that perhaps they have a doctrinal stance too, however much they choose to downplay it.

misguided priorities, but because of life's circumstances, or age, or infirmity. Are they not saved? Of course they are. And you know this because the Lord *says* so.

Also, avail yourselves of opportunities to study good things, deep things, old things. As you study, you will see the striving for that oneness of confession throughout the ages. And you will see a vigorous defense of the same.

Finally, strive for that oneness of confession both publicly and privately. You'll find you're not alone. Submit to the living and active Word of Christ. And you will see through the thin veil of lies Satan constantly seeks to cast over your eyes. You will find peace—lasting peace. It is a peace which is born from and flows from our Lord. And regardless of what you feel, He will constantly remind you that you are His and you are saved.

I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world (John 17:20-24).

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Len Astrowski, Pastor

FROM THE ELDERS:

- The elders have been continuously monitoring the COVID-19 infection numbers within our area and surrounding areas. Starting on Easter Sunday, we will begin passing the collection plate during service.

Additionally, we will be scaling back on the number of large-print bulletins that are printed and going back to using the hymnals starting April 24th. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with one of the elders.

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- Please take the time to fill out an attendance card each week. The Synod uses our attendance numbers for various purposes, so accurate reporting is important. Thank you!

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- If you are interested in becoming an officer or member of a committee at Immanuel, we have several positions open including President, Board of Christian Education Committee, Board of Finance Committee, Elders, Foundation and Call Committee. This requires attending the council meetings which are *generally* held on the 3rd Thursday of every other month. ***The next council meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2022. A nomination list will be presented by the Board of Elders for the June Voter's Meeting to elect new officers.*** If you are interested, please contact Clinton England, Rick Moeller or call the church office at 309-786-3391.



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

May 1: Jacie Umlandt
May 2: Jerry Poole
May 5: Devin McCallister
May 6: Linnea Triage
May 8: Judy Muske
May 9: Jake Nixon (14)
May 10: Leigh Ann Nixon
May 12: Kevin Klavon
May 13: Sam Davis, Lucille Marquardt
May 15: Betty Farrier
May 16: Taylor Schelfaut (13)

May 17: Dani Stevens, Jeff Umlandt
May 20: Will Smith
May 24: Eric Campbell, Kathy Peterson,
Tony Ruiz (18)
May 25: Ronald Schultz
May 26: Samantha Davis, Matthew
Kramer
May 28: Kathy Daack, Mary Ann Pedigo
May 30: Jackie Nesseler
May 31: Dylan Mills (7), Brayden Ripple
(10), Haley Walker



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

Jack & Jane Copeland – May 4, 1991
Steve & Kathy Daack – May 8, 1971
Gregory & Penny Spragg – May 8, 1993
Alex & Jordan Stockwell – May 9, 2015
Jeffrey & Jacie Umlandt – May 12, 2001

Alex & Linnea Triage – May 16, 2015
Rob & Christy Henke – May 17, 2015
Andy & Jessica Klockau – May 21, 2015
Wayne & Linda Haake – May 28, 1994
Dave & Sandy Schumaker – May 29, 1971

****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!***

Below are the total offering and expenses for the last three months.

We thank you for your continued generosity through this difficult time.

January Offerings	\$13,584	January Expenses	\$19,287
February Offerings -	\$20,234.00	February Expenses -	\$28,631.00 **
March Offerings -	\$13,633	March Expenses -	\$22,236.78**

*****Insurances for the year - \$9,950 Utility bills for February & March – were over \$5,000.***



Jake David Nixon and Kylie Sierra Cortez were confirmed in Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rock Island, Illinois on May 1, 2022



Easter Lilies... We thank the members and friends who have donated the Easter Lilies that decorated our Chancel on Easter Sunday.

- In memory of parents Elvina and Grant O. Roti and Aunt Elverna Mueller by Janice Roti and Grant C. Roti and family.
- In memory of loved ones by the Allisons, the Fowlers and Maxine.
- Christ the Lord is risen, Alleluia! – by Dennis and Janice Rusk.
- In memory of Phillip Kendall – by Laura Kendall.
- In memory of our loved ones – by Kathy Daack
- In memory of Randy Shrake, George & Edna Randall, Roy & Onie Shrake – by Pam Shrake
- In loving memory of Thomas G. Ayers. Forever in our hearts. – by Leigh Ayers and family.
- In memory of our best friend, Vi Goodrich – by Nan and Jon
- In memory of my mom, Frankie Ford and grandma, Virginia Nowak – by Jon Ford.
- In memory of loved ones – by the Titus Family
- In Loving Memory of Arthur and Joe Williamson – by Nancy Williamson families and Sheila Kiddoo.



Did you grab one of these pins on Easter Sunday? If not, there are still a few left on the LWM table in the Narthex.

These came to us courtesy of Cindy Leonard and friends from St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Milan!

MOWERS NEEDED....

We are looking for volunteers to help mow the church property for this mowing season. If you are willing and able to assist, please contact the church office at 309-786-3391 or see Clayton Weisenborn or Rick Moeller.



We need members – will you join us?



We're looking for people who would like to become members of this ministry of reaching out to the community and to our own congregation.

In the past, this committee has given food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas to folks who need assistance. The last couple of years have been tough and we would like to see about expanding, or just changing up how we distribute our funds throughout the year. ***We will be having a meeting after church and Bible Study on May 15th so look for more details to come.*** Please prayerfully consider becoming a member of this wonderful ministry! If you have any questions, please contact Mel Vogel, Kathy Nelson or Tammy Robinson.



Concordia Geneseo Shoe Drive

BRING US YOUR SHOES!

Concordia Lutheran Church in Geneseo is raising funds for a Classical Lutheran school and is participating in fundraiser where there is nothing to buy or sell. All that is needed is your support and your old shoes. We are asking that members in churches in the Rock Island Circuit help support the school by collecting gently worn, used, and new shoes and bringing them to the shoe collection box placed at your church. Start in your family's closets and gather pairs of shoes that are out grown, out of style, or out of season— any size or type of shoe: work boots, high heels, children's shoes, athletic shoes, even flip flops. You can help even more by challenging yourself to collect 25 pairs of shoes, and then challenging your friends and family to do the same. At the end of the collection period, the shoes will be picked up and sent to developing countries to create job opportunities. Shoe drive fundraisers provide inventory to 4,000 micro-entrepreneurs who sell the shoes to support their families. Thank you for your help.

There is a donation box in the Narthex to place your donations in!

For more information please contact:

Lynn Klavon [309-507-2817](tel:309-507-2817) – or Diane Ouart [309-525-8558](tel:309-525-8558)



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.

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 • Website address – 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.



Immanuel Youth Group News – Rock Island Circuit Youth Group

May 2021

Upcoming Events:

Trivia Night - hosted by the LWML

Saturday, May 14th

Fundraiser for Higher Things

Mini Golfing

Tentative Date: Sunday, May 22nd

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the youth group!

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.



LWML Trivia Night at Immanuel Lutheran

(To Benefit the Immanuel Youth)

Saturday, May 14th

6:00 pm (doors open at 5:30)



- The night will feature 10 rounds of trivia, a fabulous Silent Auction and Door Prizes!!
\$80 a table/8 persons per table (If you don't have your own table, we will find you a space!)
- Reserve a table by calling the church office at [309-786-3391](tel:309-786-3391), by text at [309-781-9627](tel:309-781-9627) (Helen Vogel) or email at Helen.vogel.66@gmail.com
- *Child Care will be available on a limited basis.*
- *1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Prizes*
- *Bring your own snacks/beverages, but baked goods will be available for sale.*
- **No Alcohol Permitted**
- *Mulligans and Doublers will be sold that night.*



LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – May 2022

Living Sacrifices

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area then we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game that we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way.

This is why our Lord warns: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23) We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have.

And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that and think that we have done what God has required. Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us. Not one for the other but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God. And, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9–13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection. Through this, we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



The Camp CILCA Lowdown - May, 2022

217-487-7497 / camp@cilca.org
4124 Camp Cilca Rd.
Cantrall, IL 62625

Great CID Campout: May 27-30, 2022

Join fellow campers from across central Illinois for a weekend of relaxation, fellowship, and fun. Camp in a tent, RV, cabin, or hotel room. Swim at the beach, fish in the lake, hike the trails, and enjoy the delicious hog roast on Sunday. There will be daily campfire devotions, Sunday morning Matins, and other activities scheduled throughout the weekend.

❖ **Saturday, May 28: Men's Field Day**

- Men from across the state will gather at 10am to test their strength and skill against one another. Winners receive bragging rights and a Camp CILCA baseball cap. Call or email the camp office to register.

❖ **Sunday, May 29: Hog Roast**

- Delicious pulled pork sandwiches, sides, and desserts will be on sale from 11:30-2:30. Adults: \$8. Children 4 and up: \$5.
- The beach and Trading Post will be open. Tours of the main camp will also be available.

❖ **June 1: Summer program begins!**

Summer Program Registration is open now. Register today at
www.cilca.org/summer-camp!

There is a Basic LERT Training being held on:

** Saturday, May 21, 2022*

** Registration begins at 8:30 am and training is from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm*

** Trinity Lutheran Church*

1201 West Jackson Street

Auburn, Illinois

** The fee is \$35, which covers a light breakfast, lunch, LERT manual, disaster vest, and I.D. badge.*

If you are already LERT certified, there is no fee as this will be considered continuing education.

Click on link below to complete registration. If you need assistance when completing the registration or have any questions, please contact Stephen Born at [217.220.0162](tel:217.220.0162) or bornstephen@yahoo.com.

LINK:

https://www.lcms-lert.org/need/detail/?need_id=668961



DONATIONS

We are currently accepting the following items:

Children's Hygiene:

Baby Powder, Soap, Lotion, Body Wash; Underwear of all sizes for children.

Men's & Women's Underwear - all sizes



Have Some Fun while Walking This Spring

Make a Gospel-motivated Difference!

Step Up 4 Life 2022

Registration opens April 25th. Tracking steps begins May 1- June 20!

Participate as an individual, team, or congregation in our Lutherans For Life Step Up 4Life event! Give yourselves a team name and start asking people to sponsor you – and help make a Gospel-motivated difference in the lives of many.

Cost is \$30 for an individual or \$25 per person for teams of two or more.

Want to do even more? Sponsorship levels are available for individuals, teams, and congregations who wish to donate \$250 or more.

Visit www.charityfootprints.com/stepup4life/sponsor.



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



MAY 2022

After the resurrection of Jesus, not everyone believed the words of the women who went to the grave to continue the preparation of His body for burial. As they arrived at the tomb, the women were amazed to hear angels tell them: *“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!”* (Luke 24:5, 6)



They went to tell the disciples this amazing news,” *But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense”.* (Luke 24:11). Later that same day, Jesus approached other disciples on the road to Emmaus, but they didn’t recognize him. These disciples were sad as they discussed the events of the last few days. They did not understand. They had lost all hope. They thought that their Master was dead, and they didn’t understand the stories the women were telling about Him having being raised to life again. *He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?”* And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he

explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” (Luke 24:25-32)

- It is true that we cannot believe in Jesus by our own reason or strength. Belief comes only through the Holy Spirit who opens the eyes of our mind and heart so that we are able to see the truth which is revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures concerning Jesus. Then and only then are we able to become His followers.
- The President of the Synod of Mexico once visited the Monterrey congregation, where my father was pastor. He was invited to preach. His sermon was based on the resurrection of our Lord. He preached on the Biblical account of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus and how they invited Jesus to stay with them. He explained that when Jesus blessed the bread at the meal they enjoyed together, the eyes of the disciples were opened, and their unbelief vanished. Jesus had returned to revive their faith, restore their hope, and grant them the firm understanding that He had indeed risen from the dead. Pastor then taught us a short hymn where we also asked Jesus to *“Stay with us”*. I can still remember the great joy and gratitude in my heart as I sang this hymn with other believers that day. It is true, my friends, Jesus is with us and all those who believe in his name! We have His promise in Matthew, *“I am with **YOU** always, even to the end of the age”*. Thank you, dear Jesus!

In Mexico Mothers' Day is always celebrated on May 10th. It is the most beloved and important festival of the year for the family. It is a tradition that the children sing songs to their mothers on this day. We call it "serenata". A serenata consists of songs sung in the early morning with live music. Some hire a group of musicians with acoustic guitars. Others employ "The Mariachi", (a group of musicians who play traditional folk music with guitars, trumpets, and violins), or friends with acoustic guitars may form a group and travel to their mothers' houses and sing two or three songs. Upon finishing the songs, the mother must leave the house and thank the children personally with a hug and a kiss.



On this day, the mothers also receive gifts: flowers, hugs, kisses and a lot of love from their children in appreciation. It is also a custom to observe festivals for the mothers in the elementary schools, where the students carry out dance numbers, interpret some songs and perform some recitations like poems for mothers. Mothers are so pleased when they see their children doing things for them. In many schools the students do some handcrafts, like a decoration for the house, for their mothers. Children give it to their mothers on Mother's Day. CR will celebrate mothers on May 8th, 2022

Comments:

On Palm Sunday, April 10, we received a visit from Dr. Schurb and Mr. Rodgers, executives from the Central Illinois District. Photographs were taken and a video was made to be edited later and then shown at the 60th District Convention, July 17-19, 2022, in Springfield, IL

Easter Celebration. We had a wonderful Easter celebration on April 17 with church families and even new families attending our Easter Worship. How we praise God for bringing these new people to His church! After worship, the children had an Easter egg hunt and piñatas.

**Our ministry would not be possible without your support
and prayers.**

We thank God every day because of you!






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
1 7:15 am Bd of Elders 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC Confirmation Sunday 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	2 8 am – 4 pm RICC 6 pm Book Club	3 9:30am Bible Study 6:30 pm Interg. Studies	4 10 am – Noon CHALK	5	6	7 
8 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS Happy Mother's Day	9 8 am – 4 pm RICC 6 pm Book Club	10 9:30am Bible Study 6:30 pm Interg. Studies	11 10 am – Noon CHALK	12	13	14  LWML Trivia Night – 6 PM
15 8:00 Bible Study 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	16 6 pm Book Club	17 9:30am Bible Study 6:30 pm Interg. Studies	18 10 am – Noon CHALK	19 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg. - Cafeteria	20	21
22 8:00 Bible Study 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	23 6 pm Book Club	24 9:30am Bible Study 6:30 pm Interg. Studies	25 10 am – Noon CHALK	26 6:30 pm – The Ascension of Our Lord Service	27	28
29 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	30 Memorial Day – Office Closed	31 9:30am Bible Study	 Memorial Day	Youth Group meets every Sunday night from 6:30-8:30 PM.		



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

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

Our Website: Immanuelri.org

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