

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 – AUGUST 2022



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

So, just a few days before the calendar flipped to July, a historic decision was handed down by the Supreme Court. Unfortunately, the July newsletter had already gone to press, so no mention was made of it. It's now been a few weeks, and perhaps the reality of the decision has come to light.

Before I go any further, let me say this, and let me say it unequivocally: The Church, from day one, has stood against abortion, as it has against many of the social issues our culture now embraces. If you support abortion, you are not standing with the Church nor the Word of God. If this is you, our Lord commands you to repent. And I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, also beg you to repent.

Back to the Supreme Court... What the recent Dobbs decision did *not* do was abolish abortion. What it did do was point out that the 1973 decision, known as *Roe v. Wade*, was not constitutional. Simply put, the 1973 Court created a law establishing a constitutional right to abortion¹ The authority to makes laws is an authority granted by the U.S. Constitution, not to the courts, but to the legislature. What the 1973 Court did was identified, almost immediately, as just that—the Supreme Court acting as the legislative body of the Government. When the decision was made in 1973, many legal scholars also recognized that the *Roe v. Wade* decision was on a collision course with the Constitution. This was also the opinion of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Her criticisms of *Roe v. Wade*, even as a staunch advocate *for* abortion, are well known. It took almost fifty years, but the *Roe v. Wade* collision with the Constitution finally occurred under the Roberts Court and the resulting Dobbs decision. So, what the Supreme Court did in the Dobbs decision was to act regarding the Court's 1973 decision and return

¹ For a thorough, scholarly, and balanced treatment of this decision see the article by Romesh Ponnuru, published by *National Review* on November 11, 2021. The article, *The Corruption of History*, may be accessed here: <https://main-nationalreview-nationalreview.content.pugpig.com/2021/11/11/the-corruption-of-history/content.html>. The article was published in the *National Review* magazine dated November 29, 2021. That issue contains several articles devoted to this topic and is an excellent resource.

(remand) the issue of abortion to the states, to be deliberated in accordance with the Constitution. The issue will now be decided by the people through our elected state representatives.

If, like me, you live in the State of Illinois, you should know that abortion is still very legal in our state. In fact, Illinois now is advertising itself (along with California and New York—misery loves company) as “an abortion sanctuary.” Think about that word “sanctuary.” It is derived from the Latin word *sanctus*. This is a translation of the Greek word “hagios” (ἅγιος) and the Hebrew word “kadash” (קדש). We translate it as “holy.” Holy reflects the concept of God as completely “other.” He is other than us. He is God. He alone is Holy. We, as His people, are called to reflect His holiness in our lives. We are to be something “other” than what the fallen world would have us be. So, a sanctuary is a holy place. That is why we call the interior of our church, Immanuel, a sanctuary. It is a holy place where the Lord, the Holy God, comes to be among and bless His people. Do you see what evil does? It hijacks our words and symbols and attaches to them a meaning antithetical to what God reveals and what His people know to be the godly meaning and intention of those words and symbols—hence the new meanings attached also to the rainbow and to the word “love.” In that sense, Illinois would like to be known and advertises itself as a “holy” place where a child can be put to death. That is what evil does. It takes the abhorrent and paints it as good. It takes what is good and recasts it as evil. It is a picture of the evil powers and principalities working among us.

Now that the opportunity to argue and influence has been returned to us, we need to prepare to do just that. Truly, we should have been doing this all along. I suppose it has been too easy to throw up our hands. It has been too easy to look at the government and repeat the mantra: “It’s settled law.” This spills over into other aspects of our life in the Church as well. Think about evangelism. We have relegated evangelism to, at worst, the pastor alone, or, only slightly better, a committee. We have relieved ourselves of individual responsibility. Wouldn’t you agree that the most important and fruitful evangelism occurs at our kitchen tables and in those frequent conversations with our neighbors? Too often we remain sitting on our hands waiting for others to do the work intended for each of us. We have been given our intellect, abilities, and vocations to be used in service of our Lord and in service to our neighbor. And is there anything more important than life?

So yes, we need to be ready to argue. And don’t confuse arguing with quarrelling. Arguing, in its classic sense, means to use reason to persuade. It is usually quite a calm (yet still important) thing to argue in the classic sense. Quarrelling, by contrast, is akin to complaining. It is an airing of grievances with no goal in sight. It results in us not reasoning but rather screeching at each other in the public square—both the literal square and the figurative square of social media.

So how can we begin to prepare for the arguments to come? Did you know that *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod* provides a host of resources covering abortion and other topics? I will provide a link and a list of some of the titles in a note below. I encourage you to look these over and educate yourself on these issues.² I encourage you to be prepared.

Remember, even though they often do not know or do not think they need it, your neighbor (spouse, children, extended family, next-door neighbors, co-workers, and community) need the truth you carry within you. Christ is their only hope.

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil (1 Peter 3:13-17).

² Under the synod’s web page, [lcms.org](https://www.lcms.org), this tab will allow you to access a host of articles on a number of the social issues we face today: <https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/life-ministry/library>. A few titles under the Abortion menu are: *Three Ways to Talk About Life*, *Are the Unborn Human*, and *Lawmakers Lawbreakers*. Also, under the resources tab you will find the CTCR library. The CTCR (Committee for Theology and Church Relations) is often tasked by the synod to address social issues. Here’s the link to the CTCR Document Library: <https://www.lcms.org/about/leadership/commission-on-theology-and-church-relations/documents>. Writings regarding abortion can be found under the “Life Issues” tab. The document entitled *Abortion in Perspective* is a very good resource. I also have a hard copy of this (and all the CTCR documents) in my office that you may borrow.

Thankfully, finally, the “battle” is engaged here, in our towns, in our state. And we have an opportunity to use our voices as God gives us the ability. Pray for wisdom and strength, that God’s will be done among us and that we would remain faithful in these dark and latter days. To quote my younger friends, “It’s so on!” Indeed, it is.

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Leonard A. Astrowski Jr., Pastor

Election of Officers – June 26, 2022

NEW OFFICERS:

President – Ron Mau

Board of Elders – Todd Hazen and Zach Leeson

Board of Education – Burnie Eckardt (chairman), Kathy Welch, Leigh Ann Nixon, Carrie Werke

Board of Finance – Scott Welch

Immanuel Foundation – Renee Hentrich

Call Committee – Linda Haake, Alaina Carter, Karlene Campbell

Installation of Officers will be on Sunday, August 7, 2022.

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

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

April Offerings - \$12,148 April Expenses - \$15,471

May Offerings - \$13,692.20 May Expenses - \$15,911.45

June Offerings - \$10,509.00 June Expenses - \$19,856.00

SAVE THE DATE!

September 20, 2022 is the date of the LWML Fall Zone Rally.

More details to come!



Thank
You

On behalf of the family of Clinton L. England, I would like to express our thanks to all of those who performed services at my brother's funeral, visitation and luncheon. Our gratitude goes out to Pastor for his support throughout and the beautiful service at church and the cemetery. Many thanks go out to the team who provided the food and served the delicious meal at the luncheon. Thank you to all who attended and honored Clinton by sending cards, memorials and praying for us. Your words and kindness at our time of need will always be treasured by our family. Clinton loved his church and church family.

Sincerely,

Mary A Pedigo

Memorials:

In memory of Clinton L. England to the General Memorial Fund and to the Youth Fund.

In honor of Luray Kendall's 90th Birthday to the General Memorial Fund.

In loving memory of husband Harold to the General Memorial Fund – by Kathy Nelson.

thank you

A big heartfelt thanks to Luray Kendall for donating monies to purchase and install new carpeting in the educational wing. A portion of the carpet had been damaged and we received a check from insurance to replace the damaged portion. However, the check was not enough to cover the cost to replace the damaged carpet. Luray (Punky) agreed to pay for the entire carpet in the hall to be replaced. What a wonderful gift! Immanuel is truly blessed with her generosity.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK:



Reminder - The deadline for submitting items for *The Image* is the 15th of each month. You can email me at ilchurch@mchsi.com or submit a written note. This also applies to anything that needs to be added to the monthly calendar. If I don't know about it, it won't get on the calendar!

Thanks - Tammy



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

August 2:	Payton Mills (14)	August 16:	Rodger Kramer
August 3:	Nancy Herman	August 19:	Millie Eckardt (8)
August 3:	Luke Kuhn (14)	August 21:	Stacy Biscontine
August 5:	Stacy Luebbe	August 23:	Elena Ayers
August 8:	Kylie Cortez (14)	August 24:	Jameson Ayers (6)
August 8:	Kelly Cortez	August 25:	Zane Ayers (9)
August 8:	Scott Welch	August 25:	Ryker Ayers (9)
August 9:	Bill Wiebel	August 26:	Myron Hazen
August 10:	Amanda Schelfaut	August 26:	Sarah Swift
August 11:	Jacob Long	August 27:	Kamdyn Fiedler (1)
August 14:	Kathy Nelson	August 27:	Brenda Weisenborn
August 16:	Jordan Copeland	August 30:	Jon Ford
August 16:	Kyle Willits	August 30:	Sheila Kiddoo



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

*Stephen & Pamela Saunders – August 11, 1973
Doug & Ellen Campbell – August 24, 1961
Tyler & Carrie Werke – August 31, 2013*

****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 – Joel Heriford – by self-exclusion; Pam Dahms – transfer to Trinity Lutheran in Coal Valley

Changes/Additions to current directory:

Deletions:

Joel Heriford; Pam Dahms



Immanuel Youth Group News – Rock Island Circuit Youth Group

July 2022

Rock Island Circuit Youth Group

Summer Schedule

Sunday August 14th

Pool Party

2:00 pm at Youth Leader's home Bettendorf

Regular Youth Group Schedule Resumes

Sunday September 11th

6:30 - 8:30 pm at Immanuel, RI

For additional information or any questions, please contact Kathy Welch at [309-714-5491](tel:309-714-5491) or via email at kathywelch1987@gmail.com.

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



Concordia Preparatory School is celebrating its 10th Anniversary in Bawku, Ghana, under the leadership of Pastor Nicholas Salifu. It has students from pre-school through 8th grade.

This summer, 10 students are ready to take the National Exam, which is a prerequisite for higher education .

Immanuel and the LWML have supported this project from its inception in 2012. Their needs continue, and

we pray for their continued support from our partners in mission. The school has been a witness to 1000 children and their families. To God be the Glory, Great things He has done! Please continue prayers for this mission!

~~JoAnn Taube



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.
 - **Note:** *The Sunday morning 8 am Bible Study and the Tuesday evening Bible Studies will resume in September.*
- **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. (***Youth Group Meetings will resume in September***). And of course for the younger ones, there is Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION



ChurchOffice

- 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/](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.



The Ceremony of the Offertory

Have you ever noticed the subtle ceremony involved in receiving the offerings during the Divine Service? After all the offerings have been collected, they are brought forward and given to the pastor or one of his assistants. The pastor then turns toward the altar, and as he slightly bows his head, the collection plates with the offerings in them are raised slightly to the Lord and then placed either on the altar or a table for the offerings. Why do we do have this ceremony? And what does it teach us? For that is what ceremony does; it teaches, as the Augsburg Confession tells us, what we need to know about Christ (AC XXIV, 1–3).

Originally, this ceremony included more than simply bringing forward what was collected in the offering plates. The elements for the Holy Communion—the bread and the wine—were brought forward along with the offering plates. As the offering plates and the elements were lifted toward the Lord, and placed upon the altar, the elements would be put in the center and the altar, now made a table, would be set for the Lord’s Supper.

These gifts brought to the altar came from the sweat of the people’s brow. It is the bread and wine, the fruits of the peoples’ labor in this fallen world. After six days of labor and toil, the people would bring a generous proportion for the Lord’s work. It was set upon the altar and offered to the Lord for Him to take up and press into His service for His gracious work in and among them.

For what they offered to the Lord from the sweat of their brow, the bread of anxious toil, came back to them as the bread of life, the bread come down from heaven that whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup would receive life through the forgiveness of their sins.

This is not unlike what the Lord did for His people in the Old Testament:

You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.

What a blessing! God provides for us in all things. He provides bread from the sweat of our brows, and He receives this from us in the first fruits offerings we give to Him in thanksgiving and praise. He receives and turns it into spiritual bread, heavenly bread, the bread of eternal life and gives it back to us so that we might have joy. So, the next time you are in the Divine Service, watch this ceremony in wonder, that the Lord gives back to us, what we have given to Him so that we may rejoice in the salvation He has won upon the cross and gives to us in His supper.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

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

AUGUST 2022



I have lived a life of continuous sin. Will God truly forgive me?

Have mercy on me,
O God,
Wash away all my
iniquity
and cleanse me
from my sin.

PSALM 51:1-2

During one of my chaplain duty days, I had the opportunity to meet a young patient. He thought that I was one of the hospital doctors. He told me his serious abdominal health troubles. He was in pain and bleeding. It was his second time in the hospital in less than two weeks. His doctors didn't know what was causing his bleeding. He looked tired, and very anxious. He thought that he was going to die. Finally, I introduced myself as a volunteer chaplain and offered to pray. He started to cry and said that his life was full of sin. He had offended God and his neighbor. "I have lived a life of continuous sin. Will God truly forgive me?" he asked. He was not sure that he was able to receive God's forgiveness. He was deeply repentant. I shared the Gospel of love and salvation offered in Christ Jesus with him. The next day I returned to visit him, but the room was empty. I'm certain that God has forgiven his sins and that Jesus will be with him always, in this world and in eternal life.

Will God truly forgive me? Perhaps at times we ask ourselves this question. Doubt is sown by the devil, but God's answer is always clear, faithful, and confident: *"though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool"* Isaiah 1:18

Comments:

I continue to visit and phone church families and contacts. I am well received, and I pray with them before I leave the residence. Some families assure me that they are going to come to worship, but then they don't.

I recently met a man who sells cars. he mentioned that at his church, attendance has also dropped considerably. He admitted that he is not attending himself.

It is true that there is not a large group at CR, but they are faithful in attendance. The faithful members and prospects have not missed Sunday service, and even better yet they stay for the Bible study that follows the worship service. Every Sunday I keep encouraging the faithful to invite a family member or friend to church.

Every day through CR and personal Facebook, Messenger and What's Up, I send "the Good Mornings" with Bible verses and brief meditations to members, contacts and friends and encourage them to share them.

CR members came together to help others by collecting used shoes for Concordia Lutheran Academy, Geneseo, and taking them to Immanuel, Rock Island for pickup.

FB Live on Mondays and Fridays at 4:00 pm.

CAMP CILCA
CHICKEN DINNER & AUCTION



ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER & AUCTION SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

Join us for Camp CILCA's 24rd Annual Chicken Dinner on September 4, 2022. The meal is served 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Meals are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 4-12. The menu includes fresh fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, a roll, homemade desserts, and drinks.

Campsites, cabins & hotel-style rooms still available. Call or email Camp CILCA to make your reservation. Come for the great food and fellowship time with other Camp CILCA friends, and to show support for your Lutheran camp!

The Day's Schedule:

Sunday

10:30am Worship service at the Outdoor Chapel

11:30am - 2:30pm - Chicken Dinner Served from the Dining Hall. You can find a spot to eat on camp (inside the dining hall or outside at a picnic table) or take your meal to-go!

LIVE AUCTION Begins at 12:30 pm!

1-4 p.m. Swimming & Boating (Weather permitting; No swimming without Camp CILCA lifeguard on duty)



*ACT LIKE MEN: Shooting Retreat
For men and men-in-training
Saturday, September 17, 2022*

Men, bring your sons, grandsons, nephews, or friends along with your firearms and some ammo to take aim at Camp CILCA. Shooting provides a perfect opportunity for talk to men, young and old, about responsibility, strength, and discipline. Bible study will also focus on what it means to be a man in an increasingly confused society.

A range officer will be on hand for safety. Lunch will be served between morning and afternoon sessions. Total cost is \$15 per person. Camp CILCA will have some safety glasses and ear protection, but feel free to bring your own. Contact the camp office for more information or to register. *217-487-7497 / camp@cilca.org*

Typical Schedule:

9am Welcome and Devotion

9:30 Safety and Rules

10:00 Shooting #1 (Rifles & Handguns)

12:00pm Lunch

12:30 Bible Study

1:30 Shooting #2 (Handguns & Shotguns w/ clay pigeons)

3:30 Closing Prayer

4pm Head Home



August

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	2	3	4	5	6
7 7:15 am Bd of Elders 9:00am Worship w/HC Installation of new Officers 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	8	9 9:30am Bible Study	10	11	12	13
14 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS 2:00 pm Youth Pool Party	15	16 9:30am Bible Study	17	18	19	20
21 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	22	23 9:30am Bible Study	24	25	26	27
28 9:00am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	29	30 9:30am Bible Study	31			



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

Church Office Phone: 309-786-3391

Pastor Astrowski's Phone: 989-326-0199

Email addresses:

Pastor Astrowski: pastrowski@gmail.com

Church Office (Tammy): ilchurch@mchsi.com