

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 – OCTOBER 2022



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

"Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21).

These words of our Lord are well known. Maybe too well known. More on that in a moment. But first, another quote:

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God" (Romans 13:1).

These passages are well known within the church. As Lutherans we are especially keen on the separation of Church and State, and these passages are the seats of that doctrine.¹ This was a key issue at the time of the Reformation. The Papacy had claimed to be the singular voice of authority in both the spiritual and civic realms. To use the language of our Confessions,² the sword of the Spirit is given to the Church, and the sword of the State, of course, belongs to the government. At that time, the Papacy claimed both swords. It claimed an authority that had not been given it. So, it became an important area of contention for the reformers.

¹ The technical term for this is the Latin phrase *sedes doctrinae* translated as "seat of doctrine." This is not to be confused with proof-texting. The former is always drawn from and linked directly to Christ. The latter is used to win arguments without regard to how the texts relate to the larger context in which they are found. They often are used without any regard to their relationship to our Lord, Jesus Christ—who is, after all, the content of Scripture. Here is a simple exercise you might try: Think of a "proof text" somebody has used in an argument to make a point. Then look it up. Does the context in which the quote is found support their argument? If not, it is *not* a *sedes doctrinae*.

² The word "Confessions" or title "Lutheran Confessions" refers to the *Book of Concord*. All pastors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are asked to *unconditionally* subscribe to the *Book of Concord* as a faithful exposition of what Scripture teaches. Of course, we are only asked to do this after we have completed a thorough study of God's Word and the Confessions. See the *Lutheran Service Book Agenda*, pages 157 and following, where you will find the exact wording of the vows your pastor took upon his Ordination.

What we as Lutherans understand is that, while the sword of the Spirit belongs to the Church, the sword of the State belongs to the government.³ With the above Scripture and our Confessions in mind, we know that God is working in both realms. And we trust that God's will be done, regardless of who is in political power. This is a simple summary, but of course, there is more.

Sometimes I think we use this doctrine—the doctrine of the Two Kingdoms—to justify our un-involvement in the political process. We confine our Christian thoughts to within the walls of the church. But this isn't correct. Yes, the government has been established by God, but that same government, in our blessed nation, is a government of the people. Those who govern do so at the consent of the governed. That means, by the Lord's ordaining (see Romans 13, quoted above), we are given a voice in our government. Perhaps this is something we have forgotten. Something else we have perhaps forgotten is that we are Christians in all areas of our lives.

One aspect of loving our neighbor (and there are many) is using our intellect and our voice in the political sphere. We should frequently communicate with our representatives—at the local, state, and federal levels. With the advent of the internet, answering machines, email, and on-line access, this has become exceptionally easy. And we have the great privilege and duty to select who it is that represents us. We, if nothing else, can and should vote. And it shouldn't be done from a purely "what's in it for me" attitude. Voting should be done using our Christian worldview. We should cast our vote with our neighbor in mind. What's best for my neighbor?

I understand this is a difficult task. How do we sort the various needs of our neighbors? Which needs take priority? How do we sort through the needs of those neighbors closest to us—our families—and those in our community, our state, our nation? Well, for starters, we pray. We pray for discernment and that the will of God would be done through us and among us. This is where our familiarity with the Word of God is so important. It is in the Word of God that we see, as far as He chooses to reveal it to us, His will. It's where we learn true wisdom. And it's where we learn to trust in Him. The Word has a lot to say about the hot-button social issues of our day. A good distillation of what the Bible teaches on these issues, and what we as God's people must support, can be found at our synodical website, lcms.org. Even then, it remains a difficult task.

We should, along with a healthy familiarity with God's Word, have a good and reasonable understanding of the issues at stake as we vote, and the positions of those standing for election. Yes, this takes work. You need to find good sources (almost none of which are found on television or in your social media feeds). You need to understand the biases of those writing and reporting (we all have them—mine being an historical Christian worldview). Biases are not necessarily bad. I'm not ashamed of, nor generally compromising on, my Christian worldview. I happen to think this worldview is a blessing to our neighbors—you know, the salt and the light being what we are in Christ. And again, you need to know what the Church of Christ has confessed and fought for throughout its long history. It's also important to remember that, while the government is an instrument in God's hand, it is not God; nor is it yours or anyone else's savior. Our, and the world's, Savior is and remains only our Lord Jesus Christ.

With next month's election, I fear there is a lot at stake. So, study God's Word and what that Word says about the political issues before us. Trust in that Word to do what it promises. Pray!⁴ Pray for wisdom, for God-pleasing outcomes, for repentance—yours, mine, and our nation's. And speak the truth! Speak it in love.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Rev. Leonard A. Astrowski Jr., Pastor

³ A thorough treatment of this topic is found in our *Book of Concord* in both the Augsburg Confession and the Apology, Articles XVI and XXVII, and in the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope.

⁴ I will, barring unforeseen events, conduct a prayer service before the election next month.

Membership Changes:

Deletions:

William “Willy” Mau, Jr. – by death 8/3/2022
Lucille J. (Johnson) Marquardt – by death
8/5/2022
Jacqueline Rose (Boetje) Nesseler – by death
8/11/2022
Mary Hoffman – by death 9/2/2022

Changes/Additions to current directory:

Address Changes:

Pat Mueller

C/O Avonlea Cottage
2021 East 1st Street - #5 Bldg 2
Milan, IL 61264-3402

Amanda Ferguson

5121 7th Ave.
Moline, IL 61265-2710

Deletions:

Willy Mau; Lucille Marquardt; Jackie Nesseler;
Mary Hoffman



Asleep in Jesus ... Mary Hoffman was called to her eternal rest on September 3, 2022 at the age of 91. Her funeral service was held at Rafferty Funeral Home on Thursday, September 8, 2022 with burial at Greenview Memorial Gardens in East Moline. May God comfort the survivors with the sure hope that those who die in the Lord are with Him in Heaven.

Memorials:

In memory of Willy Mau to the General Memorial Fund.

In Memory of Lucille Marquardt to the General Memorial Fund.

In Memory of Jackie Nesseler to the General Memorial Fund.

*~ We thank those who have contributed to Immanuel Lutheran Church in memory of loved ones.
Finance Committee*

*Thank
You!*

I wish to thank my fellow members of Immanuel for your messages of comfort after Lucille's death and for memorials, as well as hosting the reception for my family after the funeral service.

May God Bless!

~Leonard Marquardt



I just want to say thanks to everyone at the church for being here for me and my family when our loved one Clint went to lay in rest and someday be with God.

Bless You All.

In God's name ~ Amen

Sonia England & Family

VOTERS' MEETING

On Sunday, October 16, 2022 after church services, there will be a Voter's Meeting. The 2023 Annual Budget will be one item on the agenda. All communicant members over the age of 18 are encouraged to attend. An agenda will be mailed out the beginning of October and will also be printed in the announcements in October.



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

October 2 – Tammy Robinson
October 3 – Gabe Cozadd (9); Dawn Schumaker
October 6 – Carol Cain
October 8 – Sharri Millen
October 9 – Andy Nixon; Steve Saunders
October 11 – Justin Henke; Paul Welch
October 12 – Ashley Ayers
October 13 – Ron Mau; Aurora Raymond
October 15 – Amanda DePaepe
October 16 – Jane Copeland
October 17 – Joanne Soyke; Kathy Wolfe

October 18 – Jassaniah Leeson
October 19 – Morgan Boore
October 20 – Mitch Bull; Alex Tiece
October 22 – John Campbell; Todd Hazen; Clayton Weisenborn
October 23 – John Klockau
October 25 – Amanda Ferguson; Abby Leeson; Izzy Leeson
October 26 – MacKenzie Heriford
October 29 – Paul Lunneberg



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

John & Karlene Campbell – October 10, 1998
Mel & Kathy Woolfolk – October 10, 1975
Mel & Helen Vogel – October 11, 1997
Charles & Hayley Fiedler – October 18, 2020
Clayton & Brenda Weisenborn – October 18, 1975
Donald & Kathy Wolfe – October 24, 1997
Ardo & Carolyn Holmgren – October 26, 1956
Sam & Wendy Davis – October 29, 1993

****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!***



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Celebrating 80 Years 1942-2022

Since 1942 The LWML has been encouraging women to use their God given talents to serve the Lord with Gladness and to support global missions.

- LWML Sunday is on October 2, 2022. We will be collecting our mites for missions. Please pick up a bookmark on the LWML table at the back of the church that lists the missions that LWML mites will go toward.
- The LWML will be serving a meal on Thursday, October 6th at the Christian Care Center. Sign up will be on the LWML table at the back of the church for volunteers and for food. We will plan to serve approximately 40 people.

Calendar of Events for October:

October 2, Sunday LWML Sunday

October 6, Thursday Serving at Christian Care Center

October 7 & 8, Fri/Sat Fall Retreat Camp CILCA, Springfield IL

October 22, Saturday Ladies Tea Trinity Coal Valley (See below)

*Trinity Lutheran Church In Coal Valley Cordially Invites All Rock Island Zone Ladies
To A Tea Party Brunch In Our Fellowship Hall.*



Join us for brunch and beverages

Saturday, October 22, 2002 at 10:00 AM

Please R.S.V.P. Bonnie Engstrom by October 9th at 309-799-5278

Do you have a favorite teacup with a story behind it you're willing to tell?

Please bring it along!

There will be plenty of extra teacups on hand for those who don't have one.

We ask that you please wear a hat and gloves.

We are looking forward to a day of fellowship and fond memories.

Your friends from Trinity Lutheran





Immanuel Youth Group News – Rock Island Circuit Youth Group

October 2022

Mark your calendars - regular meetings resumed on Sunday, [September 11th](#). All youth (7th grade thru High School) from all churches in the Rock Island Circuit are welcome to attend.

Meetings are every [Sunday](#) from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 3300 24th Street, Rock Island.

First hour - youth meet with Pastor Astrowski for a devotion followed by a discussion on Apologetics (learning to defend the faith). Second hour - youth gather in the fellowship hall and gymnasium with our Youth Leaders for activities, games and snacks. Make sure to bring your friends. Remember to wear comfortable clothes and shoes and for the activity hour.

Please park and enter the church building on the west side. Continue to watch the newsletter and bulletin for upcoming fall events. For any questions, please contact Kathy Welch at [309-714-5491](tel:309-714-5491).



The Elders invite you to Immanuel's Trunk-or-Treat on **Saturday, October 22 from 2-4 p.m.** Decorate your trunk, go crazy with your costume, and enjoy fellowship with your church family! This is also a great

opportunity to invite community members to visit our church. The Elders will grill up some delicious food and will serve at 3 p.m. In case of bad weather, the event will be moved from the parking lot to the gymnasium. Please contact an Elder if you have any questions.



Blessed For Life
"... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies." Psalm 41:2

SAVE THE DATE!

2022 Lutherans For Life National Conference

October 21-22 | All day Friday until Saturday at noon.

Rock Island, Illinois (Quad Cities)

Conference Registration

LFL Members: \$125 | Non-Members: \$150

Students: \$25 | Children 12 and under: FREE

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=e6jfwdwab&oeidk=a07ej6hxb8iaabcbc3c>



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.

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.

“We Are All Beggars”

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. Before that happened, the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words: “We are all beggars. This is true.” And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free.

Irony, isn't it? In order to be free, you must be a beggar. You must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas present when we haven't gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don't like being in someone's debt like that.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. And we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

If we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything. Forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This isn't because of any worthiness or merit in us. It is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace. On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the lifeblood of the Christian Church. God justifies us and declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This isn't because of our works but because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther pointed us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled “We are all beggars. This is true.” We are beggars, but we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us and who doesn't pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – still in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace. The riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism, and in Holy Communion – are so inexhaustible that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are inexhaustibly satisfied, and we have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.– 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

October 2022



SEPTEMBER 2022

Rom 10:9,10 says *"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."*

I know a man named Luis. He knows that I am a Christian and that I am the pastor of Cristo Rey Lutheran Church. I've shared the Gospel and visited him several times in his home along with his family. He works for a company in the Quad Cities area.

One day I invited my wife to eat at a Mexican restaurant. There in that restaurant was the daughter of Luis. She was the cashier. When I paid the bill, I asked about her father. She told me that he was working on Saturdays and Sundays as an electrician. "I didn't know that your father was an electrician?", I said. She answered me, "My father studied and worked as an electrician in Mexico before coming to this country. It is the best thing he can do."

Although I have known Luis for over 10 years, I never imagined that he was an electrician, because he never told me that.

On the last page of a church bulletin there was this phrase with large, underlined words:

"If you love Christ Jesus... join Him in His mission and share the Good News".

The people that know you, do they see that you believe in Jesus?

Do you share the Gospel with your coworkers, neighbors and friends?

As responsible Christians, we must tell those around us that Christ is our Savior and speak His message of love and salvation which is offered to all.

St. Paul says in Rom. 1:16 *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes"*

Today, I encourage you to speak of Christ to everybody. Opportunities are always there.

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

We thank God every day for you!



Aug. 27 Guadalupe Alvarado, a CR church member and Dave Gutknecht were united in Holy Matrimony. Ceremony was conducted by Pastor Hagen and me. Mr. Gutknecht is very faithful in attending our services in Spanish, and is a potential prospect for catechism classes. Also, he helps with mowing the church lawn, always accompanied by Guadalupe.

This month I ordered the Spanish Lutheran Hymnal from Lutheran Heritage Foundation. As soon as I received it, a Holy Cross, Moline member said it was her intention to buy 20 hymnals! LHF offers this hymnal at \$10.00 each. When Pastor Hagen, Circuit Visitor was at CR, I talked about this new hymnal. He said he would encourage the pastors of the RI Circuit to donate 20 of them to CR.

Update: At the winkel held on September 12, the RI Circuit Pastors approved the buying of 30 Spanish Lutheran Hymnals. The check was presented to CR. Thank you all around!



Recently, a sealant was applied by CR members to one part of the church's front parking lot.

They will finish the project soon.

Update: After worship, on September 4, sealant was installed by church members. Women and men worked hard on this for a several hours.

Three fourths of the parking is now complete. Lunch and beverages were provided by CR. On Wednesday, September 7, the work was completed. The painting of yellow stripes is pending, maybe Saturday September 10th. Concordia's servant group will provide the paint. Muchas gracias!

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

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



2022

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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

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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