

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 – January 2024



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We have just celebrated the Feast of the Nativity, and very soon will celebrate the great and ancient Feast of the Epiphany. In the Church's long history, the celebration of the Epiphany predates our celebration of Christmas—at least the way we celebrate it now. Epiphany, when we at the Astrowski homestead box up our Christmas tree and accompanying ornamentation for another year, was one of the great celebrations of the ancient church. It was so beloved as a feast as it meant those who for so long looked in from the outside were now welcomed inside. It was the feast that reminded the ancients that God's gift of love manifest in Christ was for everyone. It was (and still is) for you, me, and every single person you see each and every day.

Imagine what it was like to work so hard in a vain attempt to please a god that didn't even exist. Imagine, then, what it was like to be told that you cannot please God so as to earn your way into His good graces, but that He came to you and for you. Imagine! The burden's lifted. A God who comes to you—not when you've earned it and proved your worthiness (which is not possible), but a God who comes to you when you are His enemy. You, squarely encamped with deep roots on the enemy's home turf. You, living (so you thought) among the dead. To you, the Author of Life comes and pulls you out.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation (Romans 5:6-11).

These words of St. Paul remind us of that truth. That truly is the Christmas gift. Enemies are reconciled, and not just reconciled, but through the blood of Christ are welcomed in as fellow heirs to the kingdom of God. So yes, the Feast of the Epiphany was *very* important to the ancients. And it's important for us as well. This is why we keep it, always, at the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas—Christmastide. And why we keep our trees up and lit and continue to sing Christmas hymns throughout. We sing as others have put out their candy hearts and have fallen into the post-holiday doldrums.

I do find that interesting—the phenomenon known as post-holiday depression. (I use the word holiday here, as even though most houses are decorated with lights and trees and inflatables, many of the occupants probably have little more than a passing knowledge of what Christmas actually is.) This depression, I think, flows from a lack of understanding about Christmas and the God who is the author of the feast. There's little understanding of the Incarnation—that the Son of God walked among us. And there's little knowledge of the fact that He came not as a life coach or family therapist, but He came to save us from our sins—from ourselves. Those who fail to see this fall easy prey to the consumerist (gaudy, gross, cheap, fleeting as it is) culture. What they know, somehow, is there's a deep meaning to Christmas that eludes them. And as the holiday passes, they are left empty, devoid of the deep meaning.

We, however, are just beginning our celebration. Christmas, so close to the beginning of the new church year, directs us forward to the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord. We are reminded, in the weeks after Christmas, exactly why the birth of God in our flesh was necessary. And we see exactly how we, former outsiders, are loved by God.

So yes, we will joyfully keep the Epiphany, as a curious culture (and often our fellow Protestant Christian friends) looks on in puzzled wonder.

And as we gather that day, this is what we will hear:

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born,*

*to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this (Isaiah 9:2-7).*

A blessed Christmastide and Epiphany to you all.

In Christ,

Rev. Leonard Astrowski, Pastor

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

We thank you for your continued generosity through these financially trying times.

August Offerings - \$10,474.00	August Expenses - \$15,400.00
Sep. Offerings - \$15,514.00	Sep. Expenses - \$20,235.97
October Offerings - \$24,156.00	October Expenses - \$22,423.00

Offering envelopes for 2024 – If you haven't picked up your envelopes, please check the table in the Narthex. If you do not find your set, please contact Tammy in the office (309-786-3391). REMEMBER – do not use them until January 1, 2024. If any 2024 envelopes are received before the end of 2023, they will be held until January 1st. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. — **Board of Finance**



REMINDER – December 31, 2023 – all contributions for the year 2023 must be turned in to the office or at the service on the 31st to be credited for this year. Any donations received after December 31st will be credited to the 2024 Financial Statements. We thank you for your continued support of Immanuel Lutheran Church.



THE 2024 FLOWER CHART and **THE ETERNAL LIGHT CHART** are posted on the Narthex bulletin board. The cost for Altar Flowers (two vases) is \$30.00 and for Eternal Light is \$10.00. Please be sure to check the calendar periodically for the date(s) you signed to donate.



****PLEASE WRITE OUT ON THE CHART WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE PRINTED IN THE ANNOUNCEMENTS, OR EMAIL THE INFO TO ILCHURCH@MCHSI.COM. YOU CAN ALSO WRITE A NOTE AND PLACE IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE.**

POINSETTIAS :



We thank those who donated the poinsettias for the Chancel



- *In memory of Grant O. and Elvina Roti and Aunt Elverna Mueller* - by Janice Roti and Grant C. & Linda Roti & family.
- *In memory of Loved Ones* - by the Allisons, the Fowlers, and Maxine.
- *To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Arthur and Joe Williamson* - by Nancy Williamson, Sheila Kiddoo and families.
- *In loving memory of Agnes Wiebel and Marvin Wiebel and Sue Wiebel* – by Larry Wiebel
- *In loving memory of my parents and brother, Fred and Johanna Benson and Fred Benson, Jr.* – by Kathy Nelson
 - *In memory of loved ones* – by Steve & Kathy Daack



Reminder... each time you enter the hospital, be sure to say you are a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rock Island so that the hospital can inform the church. ***If you would like Pastor to know immediately, please have a family member or friend call the office and/or Pastor—otherwise we may not be aware of your hospitalization. The hospitals do not regularly call the churches as they once did.***

Please 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)



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

- **Sunday morning Adult Bible class** – 10:15 am in the Luther Room or on Zoom.
- **Adult Bible study** – Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am in the Luther Room or on Zoom.
- **Intergenerational Studies** – 6 pm each Tuesday evening.
- **For the older youth** – there is a Rock Island Circuit Youth Group. Watch for announcements on dates and times.
- ***And of course, for the younger ones, there is Sunday School at 10:15 am on Sunday mornings.***



YOUTH GROUP UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- ❖ **Watch for announcements on upcoming group events**

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



January 2 – Brent Titus

January 14 – Irene Christofferson, Katherine Cobert

January 6 – Alaina Carter

January 17 – Laurie Astrowski

January 8 – Lance Ahlgrim,
David Cobert

January 23 – Ellen Campbell

January 9 – Michael DePaepe

January 26 – Hayley Fiedler

January 10 – Renee Hentrich

January 29 – Karen Burger

January 12 – Kris Hazen

January 30 – Wanda Titus

January 31 – Marcus Ayers, Kevin Mueller, Mel Vogel

Todd & Kris Hazen – January 2, 1999

Bill & Cathy Wiebel – January 10, 1990

Andy & Kelly Cortez – January 21, 2011



****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:

Additions: *None this month*

Deletions: *Betty Farrier – by death*

Changes/Additions to current directory:

Address Changes:

Additions:

Deletions: *Betty Farrier*

Memorials Received in December: *To the Social Ministry Group – thank you for your generous donations!*



Asleep in Jesus ... Betty Jane Farrier was called to her eternal rest on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at the age of 93. Per Betty's wishes, there were no services. ***May God comfort the survivors with the sure hope that those who die in the Lord are with Him in Heaven.***



Our theme for this year is “Lord of the Nations”

2024

Our meetings begin at **6:00 p.m. in the Luther Room** on the 4th Thursday of the month with Bible Study, followed by a brief business meeting and then Mission Work and Fellowship.

January 2024 – No meeting

Thursday, February 2024 – Serve Meal at Christian Care Men’s Shelter – Date to be Determined.

Thursday, February 22, 2024 – Blankets for Phil’s Friends

Sunday, March 3, 2024– Mite Box Sunday

March 2024 – Lenten Meal

April 23 – 24, 2024 - LWML District Convention at Immanuel – “Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling”

May 2024 – Dinner Out and Election of Officers



Stamps For Missions is a project of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League at Immanuel. The stamps collected are turned in to be further sorted to make sure they are ready for sale. The stamps are sold to stamp collectors all over the world. The proceeds support the Central Illinois District LWML Mission projects. Bring the stamps to an LWML meeting, to a church service, leave them in the church office, or give them to Sandy Kramer.



NEWS FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

- **Stained glass window repair in the Sanctuary** – “Glass Blast” was contacted and has inspected the windows in need of repair. They began repairs on October 2nd and have ordered parts for which they are awaiting delivery. This work will be done in stages with the first stage of work having already been completed. There are three windows left and one will be repaired each of the next three quarters.
- **Sound System for Gym & Cafeteria** – *Work began on November 8th. The work is now complete!*
- **We will be switching over to Metronet from Mediacom sometime in January.** We will have a new email address for the church. This is the new email which will be active soon (we will let you know): ilchurchRI@outlook.com. Please watch the weekly announcements for the date that we will go “live” with the new internet provider. In the meantime, you may start using this new email address.



Save the Dates

- **Small Church Summit** in CID on Saturday, February 3, 2024, or (if the weather is bad) on Saturday, February 10, 2024.
- **The Illinois March for Life** on March 19, 2024, in Springfield. Trinity Lutheran Church, across the street from the state capitol building, will again conduct a Matins service in the morning prior to the march.
- **LCMS Institute on Liturgy, Preaching, and Church Music**, to be held next summer, July 9-12, 2024, at Concordia University, Nebraska.

Looking for additional information, visit <https://linktr.ee/cidlcms> or connect with the following items:

- † CID's GatePost (newsletter) Subscribe to the E-GatePost/*News You Can Use*. Stay connected with us on Facebook and Instagram --**Central Illinois District-LCMS**



The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of “you shall not murder”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.



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



Newsletter January 2024

The Christmas season is over; presents were opened, and delicious foods were eaten. We are ready to say welcome to the New Year, 2024. Some people may express that 2023 was a wonderful year because the mortgage on their house was paid off, a son graduated from the university, employment began on a new job, perhaps a new family member arrived.

On the other hand, some may say that 2023 was a hard year because tears were shed over a relative that died, or a marriage was dissolved by a divorce, a job was lost resulting in unemployment, and children were irresponsible and disobedient, and on and on.

Only you and God really know how the year 2023 went, right?

In the Old Testament the prophet Isaiah reminds the people that God is still their God even when they abandon His teachings and follow false gods.

"I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which He is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us—yes, the many good things he has done for Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses. (Isaiah 63:7)

These words are true for us today as well, as we look back on 2023 and think about the difficult events as well as the happy events which occurred. Whatever the situation encountered, God's love for us was ever present in our lives. He has brought us to this point and sustained us simply because He loves us. Daily, He shows His mercy and compassion to all especially to those who believe in His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

As His chosen people, we often fail to do His will. Our faith is weak, and we doubt His Word and sometimes even His very existence. Our failures are too numerous to count, but yet God loves us! Romans. 5:8 says: *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* and Ephesians 2:4-5 says: *"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."*

These words bring us so much happiness, hope, and joy because even though we are so undeserving God showers His love upon us. Many thanks are due Him for sending His only, begotten Son into this wicked world. And thanks be to Jesus who suffered, died, and rose again so that all the sinners who believe in Him may obtain forgiveness and everlasting life.

In this New Year 2024 we can have all confidence that whatever situations may arise for us, God will be at our side with His great power and love. Once again Isaiah says in chapter 41, verse 10, *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*



Baptism. The parents of Jose Eleazar Nunez, Jose and Laura observed the command of God when their child was baptized in the waters of Holy Baptism on November 12th. Cristo Rey joins with his parents and relatives in their happiness, and especially because God's Kingdom is growing!

Jojo is my daughter's son.

And dear friends of Cristo Rey, we thank YOU for your continued support in 2023 whether it was offered prayers, monetary donations, gifts of clothing, furniture or food, or volunteer labor.

You truly are our partners in taking the Gospel to the Hispanic community of the Quad Cities area.

May God grant you all a blessed and joyous 2024!

A vibrant, cartoon-style illustration of a gift box. The box is yellow with a green smiley face and white polka dots. It is overflowing with various sweets: a large green lollipop, a red bowl filled with small candies, a purple box with a yellow bow, and several other colorful lollipops and chocolates. The background is white with faint, colorful star-like patterns.

We still ask for your help by giving a monetary donation for the “Gift Baskets”. Place your check or cash in an envelope and mark it for “Social Ministry” and drop it in the offering plate, drop it in the mail, or at the office. Be sure to include your offering envelope number so that we may give you credit. Please note that the 2024 offering

This year, we are going to be providing Easter Food/Gift baskets. Watch the announcements and *The Image* for information regarding Easter. We hope to be able to do this again for Thanksgiving/Christmas 2024. We also have plans to help with special needs throughout the year as needed when requested. If you or someone else is in need of assistance with heating or other utility bills, groceries, rent, etc., please contact Pastor or one of the Elders. Your name will be kept anonymous.



Joshua & Chrystal Bieri

2219 Abbey Dr. Apt. 5

Fort Wayne, IN 46835








January 2024



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 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 	3	4 7 pm Youth Group Programming Board	5	6 6:30 pm The Feast of the Epiphany Service w/HC
7 7:15 am Bd. Of Elders Mtg 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	8 8 am – 4 pm RICC 7 am Matins 6 pm Book Club	9 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Interg. Studies 7:30 pm Confirmation	10	11	12	13 
14 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	15 8 am – 4 pm RICC 7 am Matins 9 am WINKEL 6 pm Book Club	16 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Interg. Studies 7:30 pm Confirmation	17	18	19	20
21 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	22 8 am – 4 pm RICC 7 am Matins 6 pm Book Club	23 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Interg. Studies 7:30 pm Confirmation	24 	25	26	27 <i>Calendar subject to change. Any changes will be listed in weekly announcements.</i>
28 9:00 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am Bible Study/SS	29 8 am – 4 pm RICC 7 am Matins 6 pm Book Club	30 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Interg. Studies 7:30 pm Confirmation	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

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: www.Immanuelri.org

Church Office Phone: 309-786-3391

Pastor Astrowski's Phone: 989-326-0199

Email Addresses: Pastor Astrowski – pastrowski@gmail.com Church Office – ilchurch@mchsi.com

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Immanuel-Lutheran-Church-RockIsland-IL-LCMS-179175395513326/>

All Sunday services are “live” streamed on Facebook at 9 am Sundays and posted to the church’s YouTube channel at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWLcoXZtMq13HOqRo_uifqg/featured?view_as=subscriber.

Additionally, you can tune in to Pastor’s nightly devotion each evening at 9 pm “live” on Facebook or find it on the church’s YouTube page later.