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Do you have an Advent Wreath? In two weeks you'll start using it to help you slow down, focus on God's Word, and to **observe Advent** so that you have a more *Christmas*. The wreath is a tradition of lighting a candle each week and then prayerfully meditating on Scripture texts pointing you to Christ, the coming King. This Advent (November 29-December 23), you will be aided by our "**Fear Not!**" devotions. Pick up a devotional booklet today after Service, and share one with a friend. You can also sign up to receive daily devotions by email or text message through the Lutheran Hour Ministries website ([www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)).



However you do it, exercise restraint and observe Advent. You'll be so glad you did when you arrive at Christmas on December 24!

You can make a simple Advent wreath using votive candles (or LED candle-lights if you're living in the dorms). Look for ideas on the web. It's easy ... and helpful!



**Prairieview Homes Thanksgiving Dinner with our neighbors! - Working with our friends of St. George's Anglican Church, supported by a Thrivent Action Team grant...**

Wednesday, Nov 18

- Set up at Prairieview Community Room (East Wheeler Street, on the east side of the Prairieview homes Complex) at 3:30pm
- Some will drive to St. George's Church (231 E Carroll) at approx 4pm to pick up the food.
- Serving at 5:00pm. Eat with, and get to know, our Prairieview neighbors.
- Cleanup by 6:00pm.

Decorating for Advent & Christmas:

- at the Student Center: Saturday, December 5, at 1:00pm
- at the Church: tba (any suggestions?) Thanks!



 Today is our final "Honey Sunday." The Ladies of the LWML are supporting the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch with your donations.

**Trinity Academy** in Industry would like to invite any family interested in a Christ-centered, classical education to attend the Trinity Academy Open house on Tuesday, November 17. Trinity Academy seeks to partner with families and churches to instruct and nurture the hearts, minds, and souls of our students. See the flyer in the narthex for more information! If you'd like to know a little more about Trinity Academy, you can ask Kathy Burdick -- she teaches the kindergarten class there.



The ladies of our LWML are doing a different sort of "Angel Tree" this Advent. It will be a loving outreach project to some of the residents of area nursing homes ... folks who have little or no family in our area to visit and help them in preparation for Christmas. Watch for the Sr. Angel Tree to go up at the Church, with tags for senior citizens who need love and gifts. Thanks! Karen Burtch is coordinator for this loving work. Thanks!

Advent Midweek Services and Simple Suppers will begin in a few weeks. We'll be focusing on some of the Old Testament prophecies that point to Christ our coming King. 6:00pm Simple Supper in the CHURCH fellowship hall and 7:00pm Vespers in the Church Sanctuary. Invite a friend! December 2, 9, and 16! SUTAWASSS (Sign up to assist with a Simple Supper soon).

The Preschool playground equipment was pushed around a lot this week by Wednesday's wind storm. Wow! Thanks to Tom Burtch for assessing the damage. We can also see that there's some general maintenance needed on the playground -- the net needs to be removed from the playhouse (numerous screws to remove), small holes need to be filled in, and weeds need to be treated in preparation for next summer. Keeping our playground in great shape helps make our preschool and neighborhood outreach top-notch. Thanks!

THANKS to the few students who came out and helped around the Student Ctr last Saturday for our Work party. Lots of work was done, but there is more. Always more! If you have some time to give, please rake, pick up sticks and debris, and do necessary jobs you can spot to make our curb appeal even better. Thanks!

**7:30am Sundays on WGNX 96.7 FM, sponsored by Immanuel!**



November 22: "Our Heart-Song of Thanks"

Heart-songs of praise are sung by those who realize the Lord loves the unlovable and saves those who thought they were beyond saving. (Ephesians 5:18b-21)

November 29: "Are You Ready?"

Advent looks forward to Christmas and that final day when Christ will return. Are you ready? (Luke 21:34-36)

*"Not one stone will remain upon another..."* -- Jesus



### Doing God's Perfect Will

In Romans 12:1 the Apostle Paul tells us ". . . to offer [our] bodies as living sacrifices . . ." Christ sacrificed Himself for our sins, but, as He rose from the dead, so we Christians shall never die. We are living sacrifices who serve others in response to the grace that has been shown to us. We seek opportunities to be useful and to be God's representatives here on earth. In 2 Corinthians 5:20, Paul calls us "Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us." We do not have to have extraordinary abilities or spheres of influence, because we know that God is not limited by our flaws or by circumstances. We just need to make ourselves available, because God has chosen to make His appeal through us. By looking at Christian stewards, others see what Christ is like.

FYI, here are our worship opportunities in the next two months. Let us worship together in joy!

- |                    |                |                        |                |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| • Sun, November 22 | 8:30 only      | • Sun, December 20     | 8:30am only    |
| • Wed, November 25 | 7:00pm         | • Thu, December 24     | 7:00pm         |
| • Sun, November 29 | 8:30 & 11:00am | • Fri, December 25     | 9:00am         |
| • Wed, December 2  | 7:00pm         | • Sun, December 27     | 8:30am only    |
| • Sun, December 6  | 8:30 & 11:00am | • Sun, January 3, 2016 | 8:30am only    |
| • Wed, December 9  | 7:00pm         | • Sun, January 10      | 8:30am only    |
| • Sun, December 13 | 8:30 & 11:00am | • Sun, January 17      | 8:30 & 11:00am |
| • Wed, December 16 | 7:00pm         |                        |                |

*All Services are at Immanuel CHURCH, except the 11:00am Services held at our Student Center.*

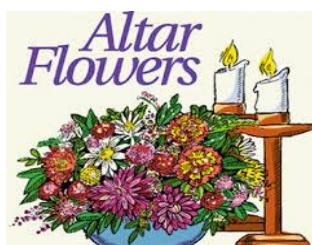
Here's part of my report to our Church Council from this past Monday night's meeting - Pastor B

It's obvious that discouragement is a common malady for lots of people these days, maybe even more so for those in the Church. The times are difficult. Even evil. Immanuel has its weaknesses and losses, to be sure. So, what is encouraging? This:

- We have God's truth and grace in Jesus Christ, a peace that the world cannot give, and the certainty of "the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."
- Our forefathers in the Synod -- and for 59 years in Immanuel's local ministry -- have given us a heritage of true doctrinal content and loving action for people's bodies, minds, and souls.
- A 60th Anniversary to celebrate next year, and a 500th Anniversary for the next year. These are opportunities!
- Financial health.
- Campus Ministry as a mission field in our own backyard, bringing the future of the Church -- no, the Church! -- to us in a way that many congregations would love to have with them.
- The support of the Central Illinois District for missions and mercy action.
- Local volunteers who have done excellently with Loaves & Fishes, the neighborhood Wiener Roast, Trunk-r-Treat, quilts and school/health kits, and the Thanksgiving meal with our Prairieview neighbors. And more.
- But chief among all reasons to be encouraged in these grey and latter days is the joyful certainty that we know God is driving the bus. All things are moving in the direction of His gracious plan for the day of resurrection. No matter what, He is with and for us. We are His. I am confident in Christ the Lord. I rejoice that you are, too, and we're in this bus together.

### SAVE THE DATE!!

Chili Supper and Five Alarm Auction - Sunday, February 7, 2016  
Remember if you have things to store you can put them in the "bunker" at the Student Center.



### ALTAR FLOWERS

It's time to sign up for altar flowers to enhance our worship at Immanuel for 2016. The cost is \$25.00 to provide flowers for two Sundays. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board at Immanuel. If you have questions, contact Miriam Satern at 837-2808 or MN-Satern@wiu.edu.