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On Thursday of this week I met with the Macomb Area Christian Ministerial Association, and I spoke about prayer -- because, in the wake of Wednesday's murderous attack in California, there were many who were mocking Christians who pray.

That same day, Dr. Dale Meyer wrote this:

"God isn't fixing this" blares the headline in today's New York Daily News. After each terrible incident, people in places high and low encourage us to pray, and we do, praying for those devastated by the violence and praying for peace. Now, in the wake of the shootings in San Bernardino, people are tweeting, posting and publishing that prayer is useless, "God isn't fixing this."

Of course God isn't fixing this! God is saying, "See how your life goes, America, if you don't live in true fear of Me." Read what Paul said about the worldly wise

people of his day. "Although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks for him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools. ... Since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind..." and then follows a catalog of the sins that plague our lives today (Rom. 1:21, 22, 28-32).

God is giving us over to our self-willed ways. Do you think gun control is the solution? Or the opposite, every citizen armed? Both solutions are superficial because they presume humanity is OK, ignoring that these horrific crimes are symptoms of a problem between us and God. As long we imagine we can fix it, God will keep giving us over to ourselves.

My first professor of theology was the late Dr. John F. Johnson. To this day, 50 years later, I remember him saying the first rule of theology is "We don't know." A lot of people are asserting a lot of things. They don't know. Everything will stay imprisoned under sin (Gal. 3:22) until America shudders in fear before God. God isn't fixing this because a fix wouldn't lead us to true repentance.

"Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins..." (Collect for the First Sunday in Advent). We don't know. Therefore we pray. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

President, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Dear students, members, and friends of Immanuel: **keep praying.** God isn't fixing, He's calling this whole world to Himself through repentance and forgiveness for the sake of His Son. It's a still a blessed Advent season. Fear not.





Are you looking for the booklet on depression that pastor referenced last Sunday? You'll find "I Trust When Dark My Road" in the carousel in the Church narthex. Free for all.



Jr. & Sr. High Youth Bible Class is held in the Youth room at 9:45am, led by Pastor B. Marc Troxel is leading the "Martin Luther" study in the Fellowship Hall.



Attention All Ladies: LWML would like to invite you to our annual Christmas dinner and get together on: *Thursday December 10th at Magnolia's at 5:30pm* Following the dinner we will go to Sally Powell's house at *222 S. College* for dessert and devotions. Please sign up at the church or student center if you plan on attending.



- Welcome back! We hope your break was good and the remainder of the semester is blessed with godly learning, good relationships, and witnessing to the Christian hope that is in you.!
- Need pastoral care? Contact Pastor Burdick anytime at 309-255-5580.
- Thanks to those who decorated the Student Ctr for Advent and Christmas.
- Our LSF Advent/Christmas Party will be this Saturday, December 12 at the parsonage. In addition to good food, we'll have good fun with our "White Elephant" gift exchange. Bring a wrapped, fun gift of \$5 or less. Have fun! FYI:

stealing will be allowed! 1:00pm at the Burdicks' (1191 Stacy Lane)!

Monday, December 14: "BRINNER!" Breakfast For Dinner. 6:00pm on the first Monday in Finals Week. RSVP and we'll have plenty of French Toast, pancakes, eggs, juice, coffee and fruit. We may even break out the colossal Brinner Beast (a peanut butter and banana sandwich fried like french toast!). Students: bring a friend! In the Student Center basement.

Advent Midweek Services and Simple Suppers are December 9 and 16. Here's the agenda: 6:00pm Simple Supper in the CHURCH fellowship hall and 7:00pm Vespers in the Church Sanctuary. Invite a friend! College Bible Study is moved to 8:00pm at the Student Center.



The Church Council will meet Monday, December 14, to prepare the 2016 Budget for the Lord's Work through Immanuel. The meeting is at 7:00pm at the Student Center. *Next Quarterly Voters Meeting: Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 9:45am at Immanuel CHURCH.*

We have purchased red poinsettias from Hy Vee florist for both the Church and Student Center to place around the altar areas during the Advent and Christmas seasons. If you would like to help defray the cost for the flowers, please donate \$7 to Miriam Satern. If you choose to pay by check, please write the check to Immanuel Lutheran Church and indicate on the memo line that your check is for "flowers."



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



December 13: "The Lord is Near"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

God's message is simple and straightforward: Jesus is near-put your trust in Him! (Philippians 4:4-7)

December 20: "The Gift in the Manger" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

From the manger to the cross to resurrection life, God is in the giving business for all of us to receive and believe. (Luke 2:8-12)

Regarding Fearfulness: "Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:28 ESV) When the world starts to fall apart, when things go badly, when nation rises against nation – Jesus tells us to lift up our heads because redemption is nigh. What a wonderful reminder that we Christians really do have nothing to fear! Jesus has conquered and He will deliver the full victory to us in His Second Advent. Therefore we are free to live godly, generous, faithful lives here and now: for we have nothing to be afraid of.

Here are our worship opportunities in the coming weeks... Let us worship together in joy!

• Wed, December 9 7:00pm

• Sun, December 13 8:30 & 11:00am

• Wed, December 16 7:00pm

Sun, December 20 8:30am only

• Thu, December 24 7:00pm

Fri, December 25 9:00am

• Sun, December 27 8:30am only

Sun, January 3, 2016 8:30am onlySun, January 10 8:30am only

• Sun, January 17 8:30 & 11:00am

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

On Christmas Day we will dedicate our new white paraments at the Lord's Altar at the Church!