

## TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 21, 2014



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### CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT IMMANUEL CHURCH (906 E GRANT):

7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight 9:00am Christmas Day Holy Communion

Sunday, December 28, 8:30am Communion Service with hymn/carol requests from the congregation

(Note: there will not be a Service held at the Student Center on December 28, January 4, and January 11)

### From Our Pastor

Perhaps you have read the article I wrote for *The Lutheran Witness* this month. The aim of it was that we'd appreciate the connection between Christmas and Communion. The Lord's Supper brings Jesus close to us -- even into us. His same body and blood carried by Mary, laid in the manger, and resurrected from the tomb is here, with us, this week.

Three times this week we'll celebrate Holy Communion at Immanuel. Three times we prepare with true repentance and rejoice that He cleans the home of our hearts and minds.

Hebrews 12 says "let us cast off the sin that so easily entangles...and keep our eyes on Jesus." That's repentance. It's as crucial as breathing, if we want to go on living in freedom.

Something -- or someone -- in our life is missing this Christmas. Nothing is perfect. Something's missing. But not God. The Lord's Supper brings Him here. Now. By the power of His Word, not by the faith of our hearts, By His power. Merry Advent and Christmas, dear friends. I'll see you at the Table.

*Pastor Mike Burdick*

NOW TO GOD WHO IS ABLE TO STRENGTHEN YOU  
ACCORDING TO THE PROCLAMATION OF JESUS  
CHRIST, THE MYSTERY THAT WAS KEPT SECRET  
FOR LONG AGES BUT IS NOW DISCLOSED,  
TO THE ONLY WISE GOD,  
BE THE GLORY FOR EVER! AMEN.

WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG



ROMANS 16:25-27

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Our Preschool is small right now. But powerful. The three students we had this semester put together a beautiful telling of the Christmas Gospel on Wednesday. Rather, we should say, our teacher, Cindy Lueck, helped them put it together! Thank God for this little mission. And thank Him that two more students will be joining the School January 5, 2015!

Jr. Confirmation Classes will be held January 4, 11, and 18. Our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students will be studying the Bible and Catechism concerning the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. If you were "confirmed" (maybe we should say "I confirmed the faith as my own" ?), do you still think about these questions and answers?

**What is Baptism?** Answer: Baptism is not simple water only, but it is the water included in God's command and connected with God's Word.

**Which is that Word of God?** Answer: Christ, our Lord, says in the last chapter of Matthew, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" [Matthew 28:19].

**What does Baptism give or profit?** Answer: It works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

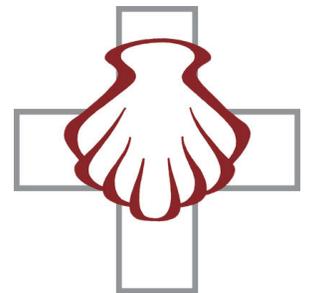
**Which are these words and promises of God?** Answer: Christ, our Lord, says in the last chapter of Mark, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" [Mark 16:16].

**How can water do such great things?** Answer: It is not the water indeed that does them, but the Word of God, which is in and with the water, and faith, which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without the Word of God the water is simple water and no Baptism. But with the Word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit. As St. Paul says in Titus chapter three, "He saved us ... by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy".

**What does such baptizing with water signify?** Answer: It signifies that the old Adam in us should, by daily contrition and repentance, be drowned and die with all sins and evil lusts. And also it shows that a new man should daily come forth and arise, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

**Where is this written?** Answer: St. Paul says in Romans chapter 6, "We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life".

Concordia : The Lutheran Confessions. 2005 (Edited by Paul Timothy McCain) (339). St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House.



Members and Students: Our **Spring Break Servant Trip** will be for the congregation and the campus ministry ... in St. Louis, MO. March 13-18 (Fri-Wed), 2015, serving with Pastor Bell's EPIC Ministries, rehabbing an old home and working on a church property of an urban LCMS church seeking to serve their neighbors. Put it on your calendar!

Thank you ... to Marc Troxel, April Wilcoxon, and Marcia Moll who helped PB provide "Brinner" (breakfast for dinner) on Monday night at the student center. We had over 20 students come to enjoy the friendship and food.

The **2015 Offering envelopes** are ready for pick-up in the mailboxes at the Church (as well as a letter from our elders). I apologize if I have forgotten anyone with an offering box. Just please let me or Diny know and I will make sure to get you a box. Thanks! - Kathy Coats

Next Week on The Lutheran Hour ... 7:30AM at 96.7FM **"Monsters in Our Tomorrows"** Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus Unknown monsters lurk in the shadows of the new year but Christ will carry us through. (Romans 8:37-39)

*Next Quarterly Voters Meeting: Sunday, January 11, 2015 at 9:45am at Immanuel CHURCH.*

Today our 9:45am Fellowship Hall Bible Class will share information on the Lutheran Church Charities "Comfort Dog Ministry." Come learn what these dogs help congregations do ... and what doors could be opened up for us. A packet of info is also attached to the bulletin boards at the church and student center. Learn more at [www.lutheranchurchcharities.org](http://www.lutheranchurchcharities.org)

**THE LORD WILLING, THIS WEEK THROUGH IMMANUEL & Today's Light Bible Readings**

<b>Sunday</b> December 21		<b>Thursday</b> December 25	<i>Proverbs 28:1-29:27</i>
Lutheran Hour (96.7 FM)	7:30 AM	Christmas Day Communion Service (C)	9:00am
Worship Service (C)	8:30 AM	<b>Friday</b> December 26	<i>Proverbs 30:1-31:31</i>
Christian Education (C)	9:45 AM	<i>Office Closed</i>	
Worship Service (SC)	11:00 AM	<b>Saturday</b> December 27	<i>Ecclesiastes 1:1-2:26</i>
<b>Monday</b> December 22	<i>Proverbs 22:1-23:35</i>	<b>Sunday</b> December 28	
<b>Tuesday</b> December 23	<i>Proverbs 24:1-25:28</i>	Lutheran Hour (96.7 FM)	7:30 AM
<b>Wednesday</b> December 24	<i>Proverbs 26:1-27:27</i>	Worship Service (C)	8:30 AM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship (C)	7:00 PM	Christian Education (C)	9:45 AM

SC = Student Center (303 N. Clay) C = Church (906 E. Grant)

***We manage what God owns ... in the Light***

Are you waiting for something that seems to be too long in coming? Maybe it's a job promotion or a raise. Maybe it's just employment of any kind! Perhaps you've been praying for someone's salvation, and you don't see any sign of God's working in that person. It's difficult to wait. People in Jesus' day were waiting for a Messiah. It seemed to many that His coming was long overdue, but Paul writes in Galatians 4:4-5, "When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons." Our waiting is over! The Light has come into the world!



Simeon was one who knew that "the time had fully come," and "moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts" (Luke 2:27). There he saw the Child Whose parents brought him there to fulfill what the Law required of them. Simeon knew Jesus was the light. He proclaimed, "For my eyes have seen Your salvation . . . a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel" (Luke 2:30, 32).

Unfortunately, not all who were waiting for the Messiah recognized Him when He came. In John 1:4-5 we read, "In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." Still today the darkness misunderstands the Light. Yet He continues to shine, and, as He shines, He dispels darkness.

And He calls upon us to shine also. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, described a lamp that is put on a stand so that it lights up the whole house. Then He said, "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

The only way to dispel darkness is to fill it with light. As stewards, it is our joyous task to be reflections of Christ's light. So we are "prepared in season and out of season: [we] correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction" (2 Timothy 4:2). We are always prepared "to give an answer to everyone who ask [us] to give the reason for the hope that [we] have. And we do so "with gentleness and respect keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against [our] good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander" (1 Peter 3:15-15). In this way we proclaim that the waiting is over! **Jesus, the Light, has come into the world!**



Thank the Lord that Joseph followed God's Word, not merely his dreams.  
It makes for a **Merry Christmas!**