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Who knew that a Keurig coffee maker could be so helpful? Well, God knew. One of our members gave one to the Student Center a couple of years ago, and it gets ample use. Among the users is one young man who comes to us as a seeker -- one seeking truth and grace. He's not a Christian. He does come often. Sometimes he reads in our library alone. Sometimes he sits in my study, asking questions and listening to the message of Jesus' grace and truth. Who knew? God knows. Use the resources He's placed in your life as tools for ministry. -- Pastor Burdick

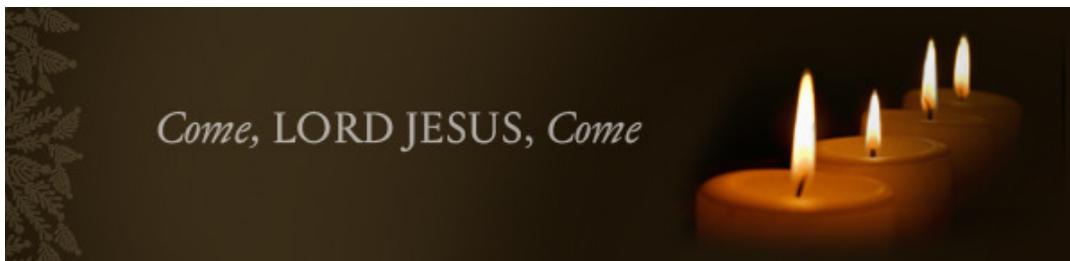
Ten years ago we hosted the Concordia Seminary Chorus, under the director of Kantor Henry Gerike. It was a wonderful night of worship and fellowship. Rev. Gerike is still blessing and helping us. Here's a note he recently sent. You may not use all his ideas, but they're good, and you might find most of them super helpful to you...

How to Be a Subversive Christian in a Deck-the-Halls World

With Advent and December we come to the evening of the year, when days shorten and the blankets of evening are pulled up around our ears. Ever since the 4th and 5th centuries, Christians have used the weeks before Christmas as a time of preparation for our Lord's return on the Last Day. During that same time Christians have struggled to be in the world without being of the world even as Christmas decorations crowd Halloween candy and costumes off the shelves to make room for toys and tinsel of the season. Perhaps it is time to look at Advent and Christmas seasons in light of Christ's coming and so enrich our lives and prepare our hearts for His return.

1. Advent is a time for watchful prayer and devotion around God's Word. At church ... Wednesdays at 7:00pm we provide the riches of God's Word and our response to that Word in prayer and song. What a joy and opportunity we have as we worship the Incarnate Christ, even when others don't keep Christ in Christmas (as if we could ever get Him out of Christmas), because He is our Savior and our Lord.
2. Advent is a good time to start a daily devotional Bible reading. Our hymnal, Lutheran Service Book, provides a daily schedule for reading the Bible called, Daily Lectionary for the Time of Christmas on page 303 of LSB.
3. Advent signals the beginning of the new Church Year and a cleaning of house as well as heart. With Advent we prepare to receive as guest at our dinner table our Lord Jesus as we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest." We might expect other guests that may prompt cleaning and scrubbing while we sing "Prepare the Royal Highway" (LSB 343). Cleaning out closets may provide clothing and toys that would benefit those who need them.
4. While some have had their decorations up since October (some since September), you can take your time, setting out a few decorations at a time, enjoying them and the memories they hold. When putting up the Nativity scene, leave out the Christ Child figure until Christmas Eve, when you can read the Christmas story from Luke's Gospel (2:1-20). By placing the Magi and camels in another room and move them closer to the crèche each day of the Twelve Days of Christmas, you can enrich your celebration of the Epiphany (January 6).
5. Use the Advent wreath as the main focus of the season. Wait (there's that Advent word again) until later for the Christmas tree, which you can decorate in stages. Wait until Christmas Eve to light the tree. (We don't light birthday cake candles three weeks before the birthday, do we?) You'll be amazed at how decorating in stages relieves some of the holiday pressure.
6. When putting up outdoor decorations, wait to light them until Christmas Eve and keep them lit through Epiphany (January 6) as a way to proclaim the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world.
7. Greet store clerks and others with a "Merry Christmas," or better yet with a "Blessed Advent" or a "Blessed Christmas"—that will start a conversation and be a pleasant surprise. Besides, those store clerks have worked some long, tiring hours and they could use a blessing.
8. Enjoy the season as you go through stores. Sing along and out loud some of the carols that are being played. You'll be ready to sing the carols in church on Christmas. Also, learn a new Advent hymn of anticipation and hope.
9. Use the Twelve Days of Christmas (December 25 through January 6) to distribute some homemade gifts within the family. It's a great way to reflect on God the great Giver who out-gives us all.
10. Above all, come home for Christmas, your church home, where Christ is waiting to feed you with His Word and His Body and Blood for your forgiveness. Invite your family to your church home and then to your home. Have a blessed Advent and Christmas. Come, Lord Jesus!

- Kantor Henry V.
Gerike



"Love Came Down At Christmas" is the theme for our Advent devotionals and our Midweek Evening Prayer Services. Pick up a devotional today in the narthex ... and give it to a neighbor. You'll be inviting them to come along with you in a quieter, more Christ-centered Advent Season. Refrain from celebrating Christmas too soon. Observe Advent with waiting and discipline. You'll be blessed.

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER: DEC 6, 13, 20 7:00PM AT CHURCH

Sign up to assist with one of the midweek Simple Suppers (Dec 6, 13, 20 at 6:00pm in the Church Fellowship Hall).

Also: sign up for one of the Wednesday Student Suppers at the Student Ctr, starting January 17, 2018. THANKS.



We had a great time with our neighbors at Prairieview Housing November 15. Thanks, everyone!



THE LUTHERAN HOUR

- ❖ December 3 **"Advent Adventure"** Guest Speaker: Dr. Dale A. Meyer Sometimes our faith gets weaker, sometimes it grows stronger. Let's take this Advent to heart, and "live by faith, and not by sight." (Mark 13:24-37)
- ❖ December 10 **"Prep Time"** Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus Preparing for Christmas is quite different than preparing for Christ. Today's Lutheran Hour message explores those differences. (Mark 1:1-3)

Save the Date -- Next Sunday, December 3 -- Potluck Dinner after 11:00 service at the Student Center to recognize Pastor and Kathy Burdick for 20 years of ministry to Immanuel Lutheran. The Church will provide the main course (chicken), dessert (cake), drinks, and table service. Please bring a salad, vegetable, or side dish to share.

Save the Dates:

- ✓ Sunday, December 24 at 8:30am will include the Children's Christmas Gospel program.
- ✓ Sunday, February 11 we will be having the 5 Alarm Chili Supper & Auction.

The "Sr. Angel Tree" display is up at Church. You can choose a name of a resident of The Elms, and bless them with gifts of love this Advent. This is our way of serving some residents who no longer have family members to visit and serve them. Our LWML is coordinating the effort, and will have a Christmas party for them in December. Thanks!

Women's Guild Christmas Dinner: Tuesday, December 5 at 6:00PM. Sign up at the Church today!

THE LORD WILLING, THIS WEEK THROUGH IMMANUEL ... IN THE NAME OF JESUS

Sunday, November 26

Lutheran Hour (96.7 FM) 7:30 AM
 Worship Service (C) 8:30 AM
 Bible Class (C) 9:45 AM

Wednesday, November 29

Student Supper (SC) 6:30 PM
 College Bible Study (SC) 7:30 PM

Friday, December 1

Preschool Chapel 10:45 AM

Saturday, Dec 2

Chapel Decorating (SC) 1:00 PM

Sunday, December 3

Lutheran Hour (96.7 FM) 7:30 AM
 Worship Service (C) 8:30 AM
 Bible Class (C) 9:45 AM
 Worship Service (SC) 11:00 AM
 20th Anniv. Dinner (SC) 12:00 PM

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

Those serving on December 3: Greeters – Lynn & Mary Wolfmeyer; Counters – Sally Powell & Diny Burnell; Altar Guild – Jenny Bosworth & Carrie Pedigo; Altar Flowers – Ethel Docherty.

The Church Christmas decorations need to be in place by Sunday morning, December 3. If you wish to serve and/or coordinate the effort, let pastor know. Thanks!

Mite Bites LWML – CID Mission Grant Articles – Each month, one of the LWML-CID mission grants will be featured. Our mission goal for 2017-2018 is \$90,000; \$67,500 for district grants, \$22,500 will be sent to LWML for national mission grant projects. Grants are paid in full in the order presented as funds become available. **LWML-CID is excited that the first mission project, \$30,000 for Student Aid for Church Workers, has been paid in full.** Updates are available at lwmlcid.org.

For November – LWML-CID Mission Grant #2: Fort Wayne & St. Louis Seminary Food Banks \$10,000. This grant will assist both seminary food banks in stocking their shelves with food, toiletries and other household items for seminary students and their families.

LWML-CID Mission Grant #3: Human Trafficking Education (\$3,350). Human trafficking is a modern term for slavery and is the fastest growing, and most lucrative, criminal activity in the world. This grant will help MOST Ministries develop, publish, and implement English to Spanish training materials and evangelism resources as MOST teams go to Central America to help combat this international crime.

Pray for these organizations as they demonstrate God's love!