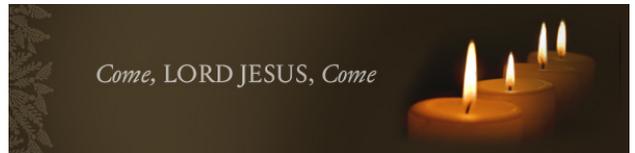




News for and through Immanuel  
 Lutheran Church & Student Center  
 (LCMS), Macomb, IL.

- Christmas Services at Immanuel CHURCH, 906 E Grant St:**
- ❖ 12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight at 7:00pm
  - ❖ 12/25 Christmas Day Holy Communion at 10:00am
  - ❖ 12/30 First Sunday of Christmas at 8:30am.



**Sunday School students, teachers, and parents:**  
**Thank you for helping us see the JOY of Advent and Christmas today!**

Jr. Confirmation class meets at 10:45 am at the church. We're studying Luther's Small Catechism on Baptism.



**7:30am Sundays on WGNX 96.7 FM ... sponsored by Immanuel December 23 "The King's Strength "**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler A true king's strength is seen, not in vaults and arsenals, but in the loyalty of his people. We celebrate the birth of the King who won the victory, not by taxing his subjects and killing his enemies, but by serving, loving and dying for them. By his resurrection, He destroyed the power of sin and lends us strength to become His loyal subjects. (Luke 1:26-56 ) & **December 30 "A Long Good-Bye"** Guest Speaker: Dr. Dean Nadasdy As the year come to a close, we likely have regrets and guilt. We can beat ourselves up over work left undone, but Jesus Christ has assured us that He is your hope. His grace is more than sufficient to take us into another year and give us peace. (Luke 2:27-32)

**Who is my neighbor?** One part of the answer is, "everyone who can be blessed by your help and Christian love." I've recently met a man in town named Vern who would like to reconnect with the Church. He was active in our campus ministry back in the 60s and 70s. He's now disabled, living alone. I'd like to connect one or two men, or a family, with Vern so that he can receive and give friendship. He would also appreciate a ride to worship. If helping him is something you would prayerfully consider, please speak with me. Thank you. - Pastor Burdick

Note: This Wednesday, December 19, the power will be off all day at our Student Center as linemen do work on a pole west of the sidewalk. Therefore, the offices will not be open at all that day. Cindy will be in the student center office Monday, Tuesday, Thursday morning, and Friday afternoon.



Thank you to all our members who provided the wonderful food and fellowship for Student Dinners on Wednesday evenings this semester. This ministry is truly enhancing our ministry to students! Special thanks to these families: France, Wenndt, Busse, Bear, Dranes, Standard, Strode, LaFountain, Burdick, Wolfmeyer, Quick, Abernathy, and Moll.

← Thanks to our Elders, who served the "Brinner" in Finals week. They cooked sausage, eggs, pancakes, french toast, and peanut-butter-n-banana-french-toast until everyone had their fill. Brinner was capped off with Evening Prayer and heart-felt goodbyes. It was a great evening.

Congratulations to Stephanie Bergland, our December grad!

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

<b>Sunday, December 16</b>		Simple Supper (C)	6:00 PM
Lutheran Hour (96.7 FM)	7:30 AM	Advent Vespers (C)	7:00 PM
Worship Service (C)	8:30 AM	<b>Sunday, December 23</b>	
Sunday School (C)	9:45 AM	Lutheran Hour (96.7 FM)	7:30 AM
Jr. Confirmation (SC)	10:45 AM	Worship Service (C)	8:30 AM

<b>Wednesday, December 19</b>		Bible Class (C)	9:45 AM
Power Off at SC	All Day	<i>SC=Student Center (303 N Clay) C=Church (906 E Grant)</i>	

*Those serving on December 23: Greeter: Mike Powell; Counters: Lynn & Mary Wolfmeyer; Altar Guild: Chris Standard & Amy Bear  
 Altar Flowers: Ethel Docherty*

The 2019 giving envelopes are in your mailboxes at church. If anyone did not receive one and would like a set, please contact me. Thank you. - Kathy Coats (309-221-2392), Financial Secretary

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: A Word of Gratitude from Taylorville, Illinois!

Thank you all for the prayers and the support given on our behalf in the Name of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We truly appreciate it. To those who offered assistance through monetary gifts or labor thank you. As I go throughout the city of Taylorville, I hear, "Tell those Lutherans, thank you. They did a wonderful job."

So, thank you to LERT and Lutheran Church Charities and all the volunteers that came last Saturday to help move debris to the curb side. One cannot underestimate the help given. What seemed to be an overwhelming task now seems manageable. God bless you all and may He reward you all a hundred fold for your generosity of time and service in His Name.

Sincerely in Christ  
 - Rev. Rodney Blomquist, Trinity Lutheran Church, Taylorville & The community of Taylorville

"We love children as they can remind us of the simple fact of love's openness and embrace of new life and communion of one person with another. Children can open up our hearts to this. That our society now treats children the way it does is a dark shame, another sign of its separation from God. Regardless, we confess that Jesus Christ, Son of God, has come in the flesh and preach these glad tidings to all." *James M. Kushiner, The Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

The Bible has many stunning, life-giving and life-changing passages about Christ taking on our human flesh to fulfill the Law, suffer in our stead, open heaven and give us eternal life. How I love Paul's comments in Philippians 2!

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped [as did Satan!] but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Phil. 2:5–8)

*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus ...*

You want to be a Christian? You believe in Jesus? Then be His disciple! So often I fail. I have negative thoughts when I am harassed by the world, or slandered and even lied about. It's hard to forgive and overlook even minor mistakes or perceived slights. Yet Jesus prayed from the cross over those who had crucified Him, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:24). All the wrong I've suffered is not but a speck on a speck compared to what Jesus suffered for me. Too often I sin against others in thought, word and deed and regard it as nothing. How shall I "have this mind?" Paul says, it "is yours in Christ Jesus." O Lord, slay me! O Lord, bring me to nothing! O Lord, look not upon my plethora of sins! The "mind" that I need is "yours in Christ Jesus." "I believe, Lord, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24). I plunge my sins into the depths of Your wounds!

*... who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped [as did Satan!] ...*

Christ did not say, "I'm the Son of God! Why should I take on the flesh of sinners! I'm co-eternal God, why should I be born to suffer? Why must I be placed in a lowly manger? Why should I be pursued by murderous Herod? Why must the Son of Man have no place to lay His head? Why the beatings? Why the crown of thorns? Why the ridicule? Why the nails? Why death?" He asked none of that.

*... but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.*

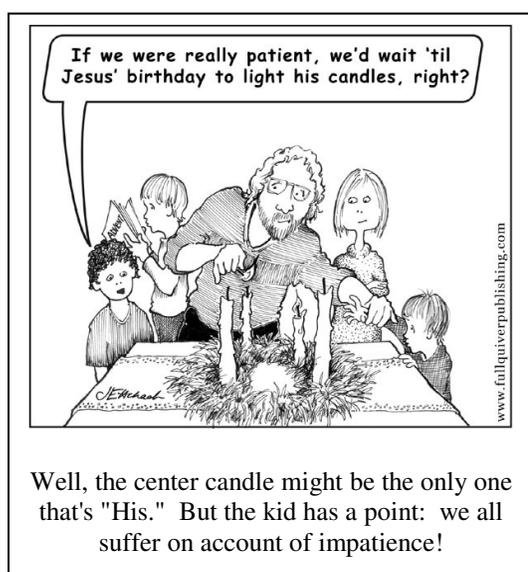
Jesus "for the joy set before him, endured the cross" (Heb. 12:2). While I have wasted so much effort to "be something," to "be someone," to "be recognized," my Savior made Himself nothing. He was born in my likeness, taking on the weakness of an embryo in the womb, born like any peasant — no, worse than a peasant. I want to "be something." Christ willed for my sake to "make himself nothing." I so like to be served. But Jesus took on the "form of a servant." I don't want to be anyone's servant. He is the servant incarnate.

*And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

Cradle to cross, Jesus "humbled himself." I find it hard to serve merely to the point of inconvenience. He serves me to the "point of death." "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). Forgive me, gracious babe of Bethlehem! Give me a heart of service after Your own! Help me overlook all sins against me, for I know I am such a sinner. Give me Your heart, O Jesus! I cling to Your cradle. I cling to Your Word. I cling to Your Baptism. I cling to Your Absolution. I cling to Your body and blood in the Sacrament. Give me your Christmas heart!

Luther preached: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior." ... Now, even though we are unable fully to grasp and comprehend this joy, we should at least partake of its fruit by becoming kinder, gentler people who bear our neighbor no grudge, yes, do good even to our enemies, remembering the role model that God himself became man ... Unto you is born a Savior. Whoever is not changed for the better by this word and made more godly, praising and thanking God; whoever does not relish this heavenly wine, nor have his heart warmed by this fire, to become kinder and gentler to his neighbor, him will the judge and hangman make more pious, for he's beyond reprieve. The fact that he's not set ablaze by this fire nor drawn by this heavenly wine — that Christ is our brother, yes, has become flesh and blood with us — plainly shows that he is a lost and condemned man. (*Sermons of Martin Luther: House Postils* [Baker, 1996], vol. 1, 118–19)

You have forgiven me, Jesus! Help me forgive! Change me for the better by Your Word! Make me to have Your mind! I praise and thank You! Make me kinder and gentler! I trust in You alone! — *Pastor Matthew Harrison. LCMS.org*



**EVERY  
ONE  
HIS WITNESS**  
LUTHERAN EVANGELISM™