

Immanuel Lutheran News

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Visit our web site at www.immanuelaltamont.org

February 2012

Drop Your Weapons? Never!

I went into a gun store some years ago. I spied a 1903 Springfield rifle, the type my grandfather probably carried in France during World War I. I wanted to hold it, just to see how heavy it was. The guy at the counter said, "Show me your F.O.I.D. card." What? I didn't know you needed an I.D. card just to look at a gun. It's wasn't loaded or anything. That week I went out and applied for the card.

Because a few people have gone homicidal with guns and because of gangs, gun regulations increase. I don't think everyone should have a gun, but if you have no criminal record and haven't ever threatened anyone you should be allowed to purchase a weapon for hunting and self defense. I suspect most people in Illinois agree.

God supplies us with divine weapons to defeat evil and find peace. These weapons include Holy Scripture, prayer, truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control (Eph. 6:10-18; Gal. 5:22-23). Some people think these weapons are feeble and useless when dealing with "real" problems. Yet these are the very weapons Jesus used to defeat Satan and to conquer the world (e.g., Matt. 4:1-11; 11:28-30; John 14:15-17). Since Jesus chose to use these weapons instead of resorting to worldly weapons, we should do the same.

What weapons do you tend to use in a conflict? When we finally decide to reconcile with an enemy, we sometimes approach them with an attitude of "dropping our weapons". But Jesus never calls us to be unarmed or passive among our enemies. To the contrary, he calls us to lay down our ineffective worldly weapons (like defensiveness, anger, self-justification, and gossip) in order to take up the really heavy artillery (like love, peace,

patience, kindness, and self-control). Take time today to read Romans 12:14-21 and resolve to take up again the weapons for which the Lord sacrificed so much to equip you.

Lent begins on February 22, a season where we consider the weapons Jesus used to destroy our spiritual enemies. This year we consider the spiritual weapons provided in "THE HYMNS OF LENT." Area Lutheran churches will share pastors at these Wednesday services beginning at 6:30 PM. A meal will follow services, assisting Immanuel Youth Fellowship to attend the servant event "Riches in Richmond" at Richmond, Virginia this June.

Pastor Jim Wright

Lent Service Schedule,

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Feb. 22, Ash Wed.	Rev. Wright
	"Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"
Feb. 29	Rev. Vail
	"Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing"
Mar. 7	Rev. Emrick
	"O, Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken"
Mar. 14	Rev. Hoehler
	"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
Mar. 21	Rev. Milash
	"Go to Dark Gethsemane"
Mar. 28	Rev. Meyer
	"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

Parish Hall Celebration - We will celebrate the Parish Hall building addition with a mortgage burning and potluck meal on Sunday, February 5, at noon. All are invited. Sign up in the narthex and bring a dish or two to share. Chicken, drinks, and tableware are provided.

Committed Fund Projects: The following projects have been approved by the congregation. If you would like to give a special or memorial gift to the Lord through Immanuel, consider one of these projects.

- Bell Controller—Replace the time clock that controls the ringing of our church bell.
- Landscaping—Replace the shrubs around the original church building. The bushes are forty years old.
- Church Signage—Rework the outdoor "billboards" and add an electronic sign beneath the bell tower on the ground level.
- Acolyte Robes—Replace the acolyte robes and confirmation robes.
- Computer—Purchase a new laptop computer for slide presentations in the Parish Hall.
- CD/DVD Duplicator—To make multiple copies quickly of worship services, funerals, and weddings.
- Dominican Republic Mission—For materials to help with a new church for our missionary, Rev. Ted Krey.

Envelopes marked "Committed Fund" are provided at the church. Please specify what project you would like to sponsor.

Worship for Shut-Ins. Please tune in to Immanuel's weekly worship service broadcast on Mediacom Cable TV, Sunday nights at 7:00 on channel 22. If you don't have cable TV, you can watch LCMS Lutheran services from Indiana on the internet at www.worshipforshutins.org and click "Online Worship." Or on DIRECTTV Satellite, Sundays at 10:30 on channel 377.

From Camp C.I.L.C.A. (Central Illinois Lutheran Camp Association) Cantral, IL. Men's Retreat February 24-26--Cutting trees, fixing buildings, and splitting wood are the main focus of our men's retreat. You do not have to be skilled in using a chainsaw, hammer, or a tractor to come to this event. Here at Camp CILCA we are asking for all able bodied men (18 years and older), who have a desire to serve Christ with their own sweat. The cost for this event is \$25.00 and this will help pay for the materials needed to accomplish our goals. Camp CILCA's men's retreat also serves as a wonderful opportunity to explore God's word as we will have morning

and evening devotions/Bible studies and conclude with a Sunday worship service in the morning. To register or ask questions email at camp@cilca.org

Summer is coming quickly!!! The new summer program is available for Camp CILCA on our website at www.cilca.org. Take advantage of our early bird discounts and our new simple store online. Registration is much easier this year. Hope to see you this summer for another great adventure as we explore "Logos" God's word to all people. Any questions feel free to call Rev. Johnson at 217-416-1833. Thanks!—Rev. Chuck Johnson, Camp CILCA

Daily Managers are needed for the Immanuel Food Stand at the Effingham County Fair. See Ken Mercier for more information.

Let Us Pray:

Under medical care: Armond Goers, Viola Kirchhoff, Eloise McGuire, Whitney Roedl, Nolan and Reagan Winter, Gary Wright, Marshall Buhrke; Richard Hankins, Curly Stuemke, John Ruholl, Dee Schuman, Beth Speers, Rich Voelker.

- For the unemployed
- For good government
- For our church staff and ALIS staff
- For our missionary, Rev. Ted, Rebecca, Esther and Matthias Krey in the Dominican Republic
- For Synod and District LCMS Leaders

If you are hospitalized or need pastoral care please notify the church office or Pastor.

Thank you so much for all the food, cards and prayers for our family during this difficult time in our lives. Clint loved being a part of Immanuel and we are blessed to have all of you as friends. God bless you! *Emilie and Bailee Merkel*

Thank you for the cards, calls and visits. The ankle is tender, but healing. Thanks so much to Pastor Wright for his visits and prayers. God's blessings to all of you. *Norm Miller*

Thank you so much for cards, visits, prayers and support while Kenny was a patient in St. Johns, Springfield and since his return home. A special thank you to Pastor Wright for visiting. We ask for your continued prayers for Kenny. God's blessings to all. *Kenny & Judy Oldham*

**SR. LYF
SPONSORING
PROM DRESS SALE**

The Senior Lutheran Youth Fellowship of Immanuel is sponsoring a prom dress sale on Saturday, February 25th, from 9 - 11:30 am in the parish hall. Admission to the sale is \$1.00 per person.

The cost to register each dress for sale is \$3, and \$1 per accessory, due at the time of drop off. Dresses and accessories may be dropped off at the parish hall on Friday, February 24th from 4 to 6 pm., or on Saturday, the 25th, from 8 to 9 am. Unsold dresses, accessories and individual proceeds from the sale may be picked up at the parish hall from noon to 12:30 pm that Saturday.

All the money earned from this event will help to cover expenses for the LYF's trip to the National Youth Gathering held in San Antonio in 2013.

For more information about the sale, contact Lisa Wright (881- 4011) or Emma Verdeyen (483-6943), or you can check the church website at www.immanuelaltamont.org to get your form to sell your dress.

Scrip Order dates for 2012:

Turn in @ School	Turn in @ church	Orders delivered
Feb 3rd	Feb 5th	Feb 10th
Feb 17th	Feb 19th	Feb 23rd
Mar 2nd	Mar 4th	Mar 9th
Mar 16th	Mar 18th	Mar 23rd
Mar 30th	April 1st	Apr 5th
Apr 13th	Apr 15th	Apr 20th
Apr 27th	Apr 29th	May 4th
May 11th	May 13rd	May 18th

Ladies Aid meeting Thursday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m. Devotion by Helen Zeigler; topic by Margaret Fritcher. Hostesses are Freda Beccue and Margaret Miller.

Luke 18:16

¹⁶But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

December Perfect Attendance

- 3 yr olds**
 - Brayden Elam
 - Brayden Schnarre
 - Adam Wolff
 - Cameron Roedl
 - Calvin Voelker
- 4 yr olds**
 - Andrew Maske
 - *Kylie Osteen
 - Alex Walker
- Kindergarten**
 - Riley Berg
 - Claire Boehm
 - Dillan Elam
 - *Peyton Osteen
 - Ethan Robbins
 - Garrett Schultz
 - *Nathan Stuemke
 - Abigail Weishaar
- 1st**
 - *Matthew Becker
 - Avery Jahraus
 - Mason Robinson
 - Adam Weishaar
 - Jared Will
- 2nd**
 - Cole Jennings
 - Jade Latta
 - Joel Miller
 - Tyler Robbins
 - Lauren Walker
 - Noah Klimpel
- 3rd**
 - Olivia Eckhardt
 - Kalen Reardon
 - Kendyl Schultz
 - *Emma Simmons
 - Tyler Stuckemeyer
 - *Brayden Stuemke
- 4th**
 - Aidan Jahraus
- 5th**
 - Katelynn Grimsley
 - Dawn Pagel
 - Jacob Robbins
 - JoAnna Schultz
 - Grace Simmons
- 6th**
 - *Emily Becker
 - Jacob Will
 - Kaitlyn Hoene
- 7th**
 - Mackenzie Hoene
 - Josh Miller
 - Corey Vail
 - Gabby Wharton
- 8th**
 - none

* Perfect for Year

MUSIC BOX

THIS IS A GOOD TIME!

This is a good time to give the Mixed Choir a try. We will soon be preparing for Holy Week and the great Easter Celebration. We meet from 6:30-7:30pm on Wednesdays. In Lent, we will rehearse after the worship service on Wednesday. The Lord God has given you a gift. Come serve the Lord with gladness. You need not contact us. Just show up. We welcome you.

Contact us if you would like to serve as an instrumentalist so we can schedule you and/or share our plans for the upcoming rehearsals. (Judy Burrow, Vern Spilker, or Marlene Krenzke).

Mixed Choir will sing at the 8:30am service on February 5, 12, and 19.

Save cancelled stamps with ¼" of the envelope left around each stamp to be used for missions. Also, save Portals of Prayer to be recycled for use in further ministry to others. There is a red collection box on the Parish Hall shelf for both.

Treasurers of organizations turn in your books to the church office for auditing by Tuesday, Jan 31.

Use **Parish Hall Envelopes** now as committed funds envelopes. They are deposited in a different bank than general funds.

Rural King cash register receipts dated Feb. 12-18. Church members may purchase items at Rural King that week, and Immanuel will receive 5% of any receipts turned into the church office by **Feb. 26.**

Confirmation Parent's meeting is Wed., Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Found - Lens from eyeglasses in south section of church pews. It is in the church office.

Sr. LYF TogetherTime resumes Wednesday, February 1st from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. A "supper provider" family is needed each week. Supper is at 5:45 to accommodate LYF members in Bell Choir and Mixed Choir. Gameroom and homework time is available. Sr. LYF members are encouraged to attend. 5-8 youth have been attending. Sr. LYF members are welcome to sing in the Mixed Choir or possibly begin a Jr./Sr. LYF singing group. Let Vern know if interested.

Teams are currently being formed! The **Altamont Circuit Bible Bowl** is Sun., Mar. 11th, at 2 p.m. here at Immanuel. There will be a **Jr. High** {gr 7-8} and a **Sr. High** {gr. 9-12} division, with either three or four members on a team. A fifth member can be an alternate. The topic is the book of Acts. We can have more than one team in each division. Let Vern know that you would like to participate, or let him know that you are putting your own team together. **CID Bible Bowl** is Sun. March 25 at Luther High in Springfield.

Planning is underway for the **Sr. LYF Lock IN** tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 17th 9:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m. Check the Immanuel website and bulletins for upcoming details.

ALIS PTL Dinner Auction, Sunday, Feb. 19th with **Childcare by Sr. LYF** from the 4 LCMS churches. See page 5.

Jr. and Sr. LYF families will again be serving light **Lenten Suppers** beginning Ash Wednesday February 22nd. All LYF families are encouraged to participate, but especially those who did not assist with the Advent suppers. Dates are Feb. 22, 29, Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28. To offer, let Vern know what date you want.

Immanuel **Pork Dinner**, Sunday, Mar. 4, **Jr. & Sr. LYF Workers** will be needed.

Commentary:

LYF families are strongly encouraged to take part in as many LYF activities as possible. To be most effective in spiritual growth, Christian fellowship, accomplishing goals, having a positive impact in the community and so on..., everyone should be willing to be supportive in whatever way they can.

Regular weekly worship, weekly Bible study through Bible classes, ChristCare and Sunday School should be first priority.

"Hanging out" with fellow Christian friends can also provide the proper guidance and direction in teens' lives to keep them from giving in to the temptations of Satan.

The example, guidance, and instruction of parents continues to be the number one factor in determining the behavior of teens. If parents slack off in worship, Bible study, and church activity participation, most likely children will lose interest also.

Some of the events coming up serve as fundraisers for both Jr. and Sr. LYF. Many LYF families working together will help to benefit in "cost sharing" of upcoming trips and gatherings as well as charitable projects with which Jr. and Sr. LYF are involved. *Vern*

Immanuel CEFS Meal deliveries continue through Feb 3.

Altar & Flower Committee lists for 2012 are on the table in the narthex in alphabetical order.

Braille workers sign the chart in the narthex if you are able to help Tues. Feb. 14.

St. Paul (Blue Point) Men's Club Pancake & Sausage Supper is Sunday, January 29 starting at 4:00 p.m.

ALIS ANNUAL DINNER AUCTION **FEBRUARY 19TH**

Everyone is invited!! The ALIS 18th Annual Dinner Auction will be held on Sunday, February 19 in the ALIS gym. A catered meal from Deb's Catering of Fried Chicken, Smoked Ham, Beef & Noodles, Corn, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy & Salad will be served from 4 - 6 pm. Desserts will be provided by the Cookie Jar from Altamont. The live and silent auction will begin at 6:30 pm, kicking off with a "Specialty Pie/Dessert Auction" made by the ALIS Staff. Auctioneering the event will be Trent Schmid & Doug Stuckemeyer. Babysitting will be provided for children 2yrs up to 6th grade. The Sr. LYF members from the four churches will be asked to help.

Ticket prices are: Adult \$8.00; 3 yrs - 8th grade \$6.00; two and under are free. Tickets are available from any ALIS student or the school office or Immanuel church office. All tickets must be purchased in advance. The last day to purchase your tickets will be Wed. February 15th.

Anyone wishing to donate an item for the auction can take it to the school as early as possible so they can be displayed for several days prior to the auction. These items can be brought to the school during regular school hours. If you will be bringing your item the day of the auction please call Karen Whitt (618-292-3451) in advance to have it listed in the program booklet.

If you have any questions or need tickets you can contact Nanci Wolff or Emilie Merkel. Please check the Rocket Review for more information. Hope to see you all there!