

IMMANUEL TIDINGS

FEBRUARY 2012

From Tyranny to Freedom

“He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” ***Colossians 1:13-14***

On April 23, 1891, in Philadelphia, a 24-page hand-written book was purchased at a public auction. Records do not show the price paid, but it was valued because of its author. The tiny volume was entitled *The Daily Sacrifice*. A book of prayers, it contained petitions for morning and evening of each day of the week. Here are some of its pleas: “Pardon, I beseech Thee, my sins. Remove them from Thy presence as far as the East is from the West, and accept me for the merits of Thy Son, Jesus Christ.” Another says “Remit my transgressions, and cover them with the absolute obedience of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, offered upon the cross for me.” One more? “I humbly beseech Thee to be merciful to me in the free pardon of my sins, for the sake of Thy dear Son, my only Savior, Jesus Christ, who came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Who wrote these reverent prayers? Was it some great preacher? No, these prayers were written by none other than George Washington...at age 20, an age at which way too many of our young people find little time for communication with God. They reveal Washington’s personal faith in Jesus as his Savior, and his gratitude for the grace of God that brought him into God’s kingdom. As we are in this year coming up on a presidential election and, as President’s Day comes up on the 20th of this month, I’ve often wondered if George Washington could be elected in our day and age if someone were to discover something deep and dark like this in his past (tongue in cheek). I digress, of course.

When people become citizens of the United States they renounce loyalty to the lands of their birth and swear allegiance to the Stars and Stripes. From what I can understand that can be an emotional experience. In some cases it means a dramatic move from tyranny and dictatorship to the assurance of rights and freedoms experienced in this land of the free. They are happy to be a part of what makes the USA what it is.

We are proud to call George Washington the Father of our Country. We are thankful for all his effort and sacrifice in leading the colonies to independence and into their first years as the United States of America. He might serve as an example to all in his dedication to the principles that have made our country great. I hope and pray that you pray that our country might keep the principles that made us great. It’s not something we can take for granted any more.

On the basis of his book of prayers and other indications, Washington was dedicated not only to our country but also to his relationship with God through Jesus Christ. He had renounced sin and self and had given his allegiance to God’s kingdom of grace, an allegiance that we promised in our Baptism. Most important is that God makes a promise of allegiance to us. The biggest difference for us is that God He keeps His promise! We tend to struggle a bit.

St. Paul, grateful for his own release from sin, wrote that he was “...giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has **delivered** us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son” (*Colossians 1:12-13*). The Greek word for *delivered* indicates an exercise of strength which makes one sweat and become exhausted. It points to the cost to God’s Son of our delivery. With Ash Wednesday coming on February 22nd, it’s not a bad idea for us to remember that. Our political freedoms and our spiritual freedom in Christ did not come easily. As we value them we will use them responsibly and protect and promote them for the benefit of all.

Hey!

God bless and give you....

Peace!

Pastor Patrick Sparling

IMMANUEL'S CAMP LUTHER BENEFIT FEATURING THE PANCAKE MAN will be held on Friday,

February 3rd from 4:30-7p.m. in the Family Life Center. Adults are \$5.50, children 10 & under are \$3, and under 4 is free.



CAN HELP COMMITTEE. The Board of Elders is forming a "can help committee" and will help members with odd jobs like cleaning gutters, changing light bulbs, hooking up TV or computer, replacing furnace filters, hauling recycled paper, cleaning dryer vents. NO mowing, major repairs, painting, or tree trimming. Please call the church office M-F a week in advance if you need some help with an odd job.

JUNIOR HIGH VS. SENIOR HIGH DODGE BALL NIGHT

SUN., FEB. 12TH 5:00-8:00 P.M.

All 6th-12th grade youth are invited to the Immanuel Lutheran School gym for an evening of dodge ball and other fun festivities. *Bring a friend and let the games begin!!!*

FREE Pizza & Pop!!!



"Set Your Minds On Things Above"
Colossians 3:2

Praise the Lord for such wonderful weather so far this winter, and all the blessings He daily grants us.

This is an important time for us at Immanuel School as we begin re-enrollment for next year. Exclusive enrollment for current students and church members is from February 1st to the 15th. After the 15th, enrollment is open to the community. We have an informational meeting called "Kindergarten Roundup" scheduled for Thursday, February 2nd for prospective kindergarteners and their parents.

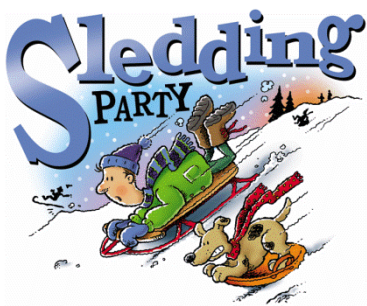
Of our 149 students currently in our kindergarten through 8th grades, 69 are Immanuel members, 43 are members of Peace, 19 are from Trinity Lutheran, and the remaining 18 are from the Columbus community. Our preschool serves about 100 member and community students.

One of our lower elementary grades is at capacity and a couple more are near our limit of 25 students. Please contact the school office before February 15th if you are interested in our school or preschool. Immanuel's preschool classes typical fill to capacity very early so it is important to enroll at your first opportunity.

One of my favorite things to do is show parents our school, so please call or just stop by for a visit

In Christ,
Jody Timm

"The Ministry of Immanuel Lutheran School is to share Christ by educating, nurturing, and equipping God's people for a life of Christian service."



Young Adult & Family Camp Luther Sledding (Feb. 19th 3:00-5:00 P.M.)

We hope February brings a little snow, so that you can bring the family out to Camp Luther for an afternoon of sledding. Bring a snack to share (i.e. chips, cookies, brownies). *****If there is no snow, we will try to go bowling instead.*****

HANDS-ON BIBLE PRESENTATION: 2nd & 3rd Graders and Parents

Go deeper into God's Word. Come learn more about this activity and devotion packed Bible resource!!!

Family Life Center Main Hall

Sun., February 26th -- 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Attend and receive your Bible for FREE!!!

IMMANUEL Has Gone GREEN.

In an effort to save paper and postage we would like to issue the monthly newsletter electronically to anyone that would like to receive it this way. So, please list your email in the friendship register to be added to the electronic newsletter list as well. If you want to receive the weather emails but you would prefer to receive the newsletter in the mail, please write "weather only" by your email address.



ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN TO BECOME A MONTHLY SERVICE PROJECT.

Mission Sowers LWML invite you to join them every 2nd Tuesday of the month to volunteer at the Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, NE. Volunteers will sort and pack boxes to be shipped to those in need. Meet at the church at 12:30 p.m. on February 14, and be back before 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions contact Marvel Sanders at 402-563-2157.



IMMANUEL IS HOSTING ITS 2ND ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH FROM 11:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

We need chefs willing to share their best recipes with a crowd of hungry people.

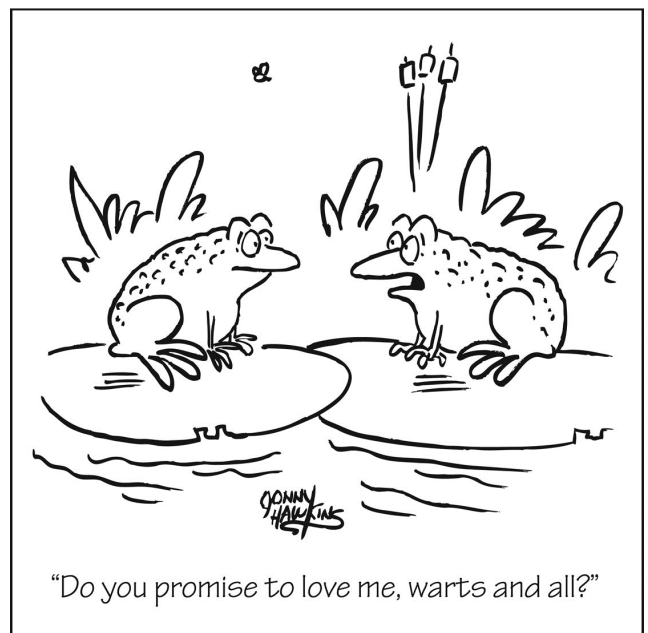
Challenge your friends, co-workers, and family. Mix all ingredients together, toss in friendly competition, and simmer all day for a great day of ladle to ladle competition, fellowship and fun.

Registration forms are available in the back of the church or church office, registration deadline is February 12th.

Proceeds this year will go to Columbus Habitat for Humanity!



LUTHERAN WITNESS. It is time to subscribe or renew your Lutheran Witness. Contact the church office at 564-0502 or e-mail office @immanuelweb.org to renew your Lutheran Witness by March 23, 2012. Cost is \$8.76 per year. *Please note that the June/July issue is a combined edition so there are only eleven magazines mailed.



FEBRUARY 2012

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Men of Praise 7:00 PM Sr. High Cross Training 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir 7:40 PM Sr. High Cross Training | 2 10:00 AM Thursday AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Kindergarten Round-Up 7:00 PM Altar Guild 7:00 PM Hand Bell Practice 7:00 PM Thursday Night Bible Study | 3 4:30 PM Camp Luther Pancake Feed - FLC | 4 8:00 AM Mens Bible Study 4:00 PM Messenger Practice 5:30 PM Contemporary Worship/ Communion |
| 5 8:00 AM Worship /Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School/Bible class 10:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Widows 7:00 PM TLC Card Club | 6 | 7 10:00 AM Lifelight 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study 2:00 PM Pastors Hour(Prairie Village) 7:00 PM Executive Board | 8 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Men of Praise 7:00 PM Sr. High Cross Training 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir | 9 10:00 AM Thursday AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Hand Bell Practice 7:00 PM Thursday Night Bible Study | 10 No School at ILS-Teacher Inservice 10:00 AM The Knotty Ladies (quilters) | 11 8:00 AM Mens Bible Study 4:00 PM Messenger Practice 5:30 PM Contemporary Worship |
| 12 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School/Bible class 10:30 AM Worship /Communion 5:00 PM Jr. High vs, Sr. High Dodgeball | 13 7:00 PM Mission Sowers | 14 10:00 AM Lifelight 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study 2:00 PM Pastors Hour (Mory's) | 15 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Men of Praise 7:00 PM Sr. High Cross Training 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir | 16 10:00 AM Thursday AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Messenger Practice 7:00 PM Hand Bell Practice 7:00 PM Thursday Night Bible Study | 17 10:00 AM The Knotty Ladies (quilters) | 18 8:00 AM Mens Bible Study 8:45 AM MYC (Mothers of Young Children) 4:00 PM Messenger Practice 5:30 PM Contemporary Worship/ Communion |
| 19 8:00 AM Worship /Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School/Bible class 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Chili Cook Off - FLC 3:00 PM Young Adult & Family Sledding at Camp Luther | 20 7:00 PM All Boards | 21 10:00 AM Lifelight 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study 2:00 PM Pastors Hour (Golden Living) 6:00 PM Loyal Club | 22 5:30 PM Lenten Meal 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Men of Praise 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Lenten Service 7:40 PM Sanctuary Choir 7:40 PM Sr. High Cross Training | 23 10:00 AM Thursday AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Messenger Practice 7:00 PM Hand Bell Practice 7:00 PM Thursday Night Bible Study | 24 | 25 8:00 AM Mens Bible Study 4:00 PM Messenger Practice 5:30 PM Contemporary Worship |
| 26 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Hands On Bible Presentation 9:15 AM Sunday School/Bible class 10:30 AM Worship /Communion | 27 1:30 PM Evening Guild 7:00 PM TLC Book Club | 28 10:00 AM Lifelight 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study | 29 5:30 PM Lenten Meal 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Men of Praise 7:00 PM Lenten Service 7:40 PM Sanctuary Choir 7:40 PM Sr. High Cross Training | 1 | 2 | |

