

WORSHIP NEWS

January 2010

St Matthew Worship at 8:30 Immanuel Worship at 10:30

- January 3 – Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Sunday Schools @ 9:30 am
- January 10 – Worship Service of Word and Prayer
Sunday Schools @ 9:30 am
- January 17 – Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Sunday Schools @ 9:30 am
- January 24 - Worship Service of Word and Prayer
Sunday Schools @ 9:30 am
Immanuel General Meeting after service
Pot Luck meal to following meeting
- January 31 - Worship Service of Word and Prayer
Sunday Schools @ 9:30 am

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Choir Notes St Matthew January 2010

St Matthew choir will not practice on Jan 3, but will practice and sing on Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31.

St Matthew Flower Chart

Please sign up to bring flowers to enrich our worship experience in 2010. Chart is in the entry at St Matthew.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Highlights

Old Business

- Constitution Committee. Pastor gave everyone a sheet detailing how several other churches conduct their business and their committees.
- Nominating committee. They have about 14 names that were turned in to discuss. Thank you to all who turned names in.
- Moving Sound System. This will be put in the back of the church. Will get a new cabinet and Mike Brinkmeyer will do the rest. This will be done after Christmas and in January.
- Lay Visitors to deliver bulletins to shut-ins. Have 6 or 7 signed up, but still need a few more. If you want to do this please sign up on the sheet in the parish hall.
- Every member visitation in Feb 2010. Speaker Rev. Kerry Nelson will speak on Feb 14. Visitation dates Feb 14 & 21. Rev. Kerry Nelson will come to council meeting to help with ideas for conversation starters.

New Business:

- 2010 Proposed Budget was presented. A motion was made, seconded and passed to present the proposed budget to the congregation.
- Planned meals for Lenten Services.
Ladies will do the Feb 24th meal
Council will do the March 10th meal
Confirmation class will serve baked potatoes on March 24th
- Will have inside church cleanup day on Feb 13



Members in Nursing Homes or shut in...

Margaret Heideman Lorena Randermann
Louise Bell Loesch Ruth Koester Mary Helen Cade
Bob Eccleston Alfred Gaskamp Nelda Gaskamp
Martha Clough

Those seeing doctors, continuing treatments and/or recovering from surgery...

Trenton Stewart Barbara Hollis Don Bolenbarr
Raleigh Wellmann Jerry Watson Tim Wellmann
Mike Hodges Betty Watson

In our extended family...

Evelyn Wodrich
Lily Vines & Ruby McLain– Aunts to Barbara Kramer & Dorothy Schulte
Ollie Newmann – Roxanne Buro's aunt
Henry Roese – Roxanne Buro's father
Robert Terrian – son-in-law of Ed & Sylvia Dannhaus
Lauren Davis – friend of many
David Ryan Fuller – friend of Pam Schroeder
Doris Jankowiak – friend of many
Shawn Presnell – Barbara Hollis' daughter
Ray Goehring – Barbara Hollis's brother
Leroy Boenker – cousin of Renee Lambert
Gregory Rybarski – brother of Christie Schroeder
Michael Danford – nephew of Doris and Bob Burk
Levi Luvaas – father of Marlene Randermann
Frank Dickschat – uncle of Renee Lambert
Donald Carter – son of Barbara Hollis
Ruby McLain - Aunt of Barbara Kramer & Dorothy Schulte
Jenny Sebastian – Amanda (Wellmann) Sebastian's sister in law
Katherine Kenjura - Edna Schroeder's niece
Bonnie Benkowski – friend of many
Louese Teer – Aunt of Trochelle Ray
Bernice Heinsohn – mother of Clyde, a friend of Henry Al Ellermann
Jocine Hanath – Friend of Stanley Sommer
Wayman Bradley – brother of Don Bradley
Jimbo Hardin – nephew of Pauline Hodges
Nora Watts – Mother of Sandra Wodrich
Butch Kevorkian - Philip Kelling's biological father

Thanksgiving for Improvements or Good News...

Elmo Emshoff Mildred Moehlmann Renee Lambert
Carrie Scheffer Don Bradley Chris Strong
In Christian Sympathy to family and friends...
Marie Wilson Charlie Buerger

Volunteers Serving in the Community

Lay Visitors – Immanuel – Delivering bulletins

Please support these disciples and our shut-ins with your prayers. Nadine Rau is serving in January.

Senior Meals - Those delivering meals for Washington County Healthy Living Association from both Immanuel and St Matthew are Pastor Abbott and Louise, Virginia Tappe and Esther Dahmann, Edna Schroeder and Alice Petty, and Ruth Kelling and Laura Fischer.

Immanuel Lay Visitors

For two years now, 2 person teams of volunteers from Immanuel have visited our members who are not able to come to worship. There will be training and some aides available. The visitors leave a worship bulletin and have a chance to chat. These visits are a blessing to our members who can no longer get out on their own.

One visit a month is a great source of comfort to the people we visit.

As of the newsletter deadline, the following months are taken: March, June and August. Nadine Rau needs a partner for Jan. and Ruth Kelling needs a partner for Oct. All of the other months are available. Please consider signing up for the important ministry.

Immanuel - Second Saturday

The Immanuel church council invites everyone to "Second Saturday" at 8:00 am Saturday, January 9
Breakfast provided.
We will have time for fellowship.

A signup sheet is in the parish hall for anyone interested in making/bringing breakfast

Immanuel Reports Due

Reports for the General Meeting are due to the Office by January 10. No exceptions! Proposed 2010 budget available.

Immanuel General Meeting

**Sunday, January 24 after service
Pot Luck Meal to follow**

Everyone is encouraged to come.

Immanuel Quilting

The Women of Immanuel Lutheran will be quilting for Lutheran World Relief on January 12 from 9-12 am at Church. Please join us.

Immanuel WELCA General Meeting

January 24
1pm

Nursing Home Service

Join Pastor on Thursday, January 14 at 10:30 am for the service at Brenham Rest Home.

ST. MATTHEW WOMEN

- January 24

For the month of January we will do something different: Instead of our regular Bible Study on the second Sunday we will combine our Bible Study with quilting in order to have Pastor Abbott lead the study. We will use Romans 7 & 8, a combination of the Dec. & Jan. Bible Studies in LUTHERAN WOMAN TODAY. Read your January study in preparation. Pastor Abbott will lead us in a discussion of law and gospel.

We will quilt from 9 - 11 and then take a break for a light lunch with our study.

After our study we will decide if we'd like to use a different study February - August on the 2nd Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.: LESSONS FOR TODAY'S DISCIPLES. Come and enjoy fellowship and growth

URGENT NEED FOR LWR HEALTH KITS

Eight countries are currently on a waiting list to receive health kits. These are sent by LWR to areas where disaster relief is being provided.

Health Kits

- 6 band-aids
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 hand towel
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 comb
- 1 bar soap (new bath size)
- 1 nail file or small clipper with file

St Matthew Reports Due

Reports for the General Meeting are due to the Office by January 19

St Matthew General Meeting

**Sunday, February 7 after service
Meal to follow**

Everyone is encouraged to come.

IMMANUEL

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY

Captain: Pauline Hodges

- 3rd – Kim Hodde, Wade Wellmann, Cheyenne Ridings
- 10th – Chase Coghlan, Colton Coghlan
- 17th – Kim Hodde, Colleen Bentke, Corey Bentke
- 24th – Kim Hodde, Wade Wellmann
- 31st - Larry Kieke, Stephen Joswiak

SCRIPTURE READERS FOR JANUARY

- 3rd – Kelcie Maurer
- 10th – Chase Coghlan
- 17th – Waylon Maxwell
- 24th - Elois Eickenhorst
- 31st - Cheyenne Ridings

FLOWERS FOR JANUARY

- 3rd – Shirley & Bubba Dreyer – 51st Anniversary
- 10th – Lorena Randermann, Janice McClendon & Charlie Schroeder
- 17th – Bill & Karen Winkelmann
- 24th - Jon & Kim Hodde
- 31st - Mark & Jackie Eickenhorst

ACOLYTES FOR JANUARY

- 3rd – Colleen Bentke
- 10th – Alexis Chaudron
- 17th – Cheyenne Ridings
- 24th - Raleigh Wellmann
- 31st - Gracie Westerfeld

ST MATTHEW

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY

Billy Scheffer, Captain (836-9675)

- Brian Scheffer
- Stephen Scheffer
- Mark Niebuhr

Stanley Sommer – Communion Assistant

SCRIPTURE READERS FOR JANUARY

- 3rd – Mark Niebuhr
- 10th – Ruth Kelling
- 17th - Stanley Sommer
- 24th - Michelle Lampe
- 31st - Justin Dana

FLOWERS FOR JANUARY

- 3rd – Edwin & Carrie Scheffer in memory of James
- 10th – Ruth Kelling
- 17th – Mark, Shannon, Addie & Tanner Schwartz
- 24th - Johnnie, Debbie & Trevor Eckert in honor of Michael & Marian's First Anniversary
- 31st - Patsy Schroeder

Fill cups for Communion:

Wash Communion ware: Carol Koch and Annie Mae Studhalter

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
January Baptisms



Ruth Duch	1
Henry Ellermann	1
Matt Lampe	4
Marlene Randermann	5
Kathy Lehmann	8
Allen Gajeske	9
Sophie Schroeder	11
Zeb Heckmann	15
Mark Lehmann	15
Gary Randermann	17
Daniel Muegge	19
Shannon Schwartz	25
Carol Westerfeld	27

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
January Birthdays



Harold Schwarze	1
Shirley Gajeske	3
Tyler Norsworthy	8
Kailey Studhalter	9
Ruth Kelling	10
Michelle Lampe	10
Shannon Schwartz	11
Carrie Scheffer	12
Trevor Eckert	14
Addie Schwartz	14
Melissa Guttenberger	15
Keith Mahlmann	15
Michael Muegge	15
Billy Scheffer	17
Alice Petty	18
Larry Koch	19
Sterling Scheffer	20
Mary Helen Cade	24
Justin Dana	24
Billy Ward	26
Jonathan Ward	26
Rachel Buro	31
Patsy Schroeder	31

Immanuel Lutheran Church
January Baptisms



Jackie Eickenhorst	1
Dale Steinfeld	8
J.R. Sommerfield	10
Joyce Sommerfield	10
Mark Eickenhorst	11
Misty Hodde	12
Bradley Kohring	12
Misty Maynard	12
Wm. Henry Peters	14
Kenleigh Wellmann	14
Janie Wellmann	15
Anne Bosse	18
Sabra Jasinski	21
Alfred Gaskamp	22
Carol Westerfeld	27

Immanuel Lutheran Church
January Birthdays



Bernice Sommerfield	4
Anne Bosse	5
Billy Bender	7
Elois Eickenhorst	8
Lenora Wellmann	9
Ruth Kelling	10
Leon Wellmann	11
Neil Maurer	13
Anna Rogers	15
Shannon Winkelmann	16
Chase Coghlan	20
Janie Hart	20
Jon Hodde	20
Shawn Bolenbarr	21
Nelda Gaskamp	21
Dot Yawn	24
Cheryl Joswiak	26
Christy Burleson	28
Jeanie Haevischer	28
Virginia Tappe	28
Betty Wellmann	29
Glenn Wellmann	31



Thank you to Immanuel WELCA for a wonderful brunch following the services on Dec. 13.

Thank you to St Matthew Council Members who agreed to serve another term

Kathy Lehmann---Financial Secretary
Sherry Mahlmann---Education Secretary
Debbie Brown--- Secretary

Thank you to outgoing Council Members who served Immanuel Lutheran Church faithfully:

Rich Ahlers - Chairman
Jerry Kieke – Financial Secretary
Wade Wellmann – Trustee
Larry Allen - Trustee

From Pastor Abbott and Louise to the ladies of Immanuel for their generous Christmas gift.

Thanks to the people who have served in 2009 as Thrivent Coordinators. They make sure the matching funds got here, and that the other things Thrivent does for congregations are not forgotten. Thanks to Thrivent Financial and to these members for their work on our behalf.

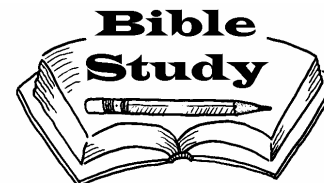
Immanuel -- Doug Maurer, Jerry Kieke, and Nadine Rau
St Matthew - Edna Schroeder, Ruth Kelling, and Corene Niemeyer

Pastor Abbott on Vacation

Pastor Abbott will be away on vacation from December 27 through January 5. For help in an emergency while he is away call Pastor Charles Parnell, Salem Lutheran 836-9320.

Guest Minister

On Jan. 3 Katherine Weeks, Intern at Our Saviour's College Station will be our guest minister.



BIBLE STUDY RESTART!

JANUARY 11 - MONDAY 1:00 pm AT IMMANUEL 7:00pm at CLINT & WINNIE BORIACK

Bible Study in January will pick up where we left off in the Book of ACTS. I want to encourage you to come, even if you have not been to bible study in a while. Each lesson stands on its own - and is just a few pages long.

As we read about the growth and work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the apostles we see how that same Spirit is at work in our lives.

Our first lesson is Acts 13:1-12 "Mission and Magic."

Keeping in Touch

Pastor Abbott:

Call - 251-4992 - Pastor Abbott's cell phone –

E-Mail pastorabbott@earthlink.net – for Pastor Abbott

St Matthew: Call - 836-8894 – the office @ St Matthew

E-mail - Smichurch @hotmail.com

Website – stmatthewbrenham.org

Immanuel: Call - 836-6780 – the office @ Immanuel.

E-mail - Smichurch @hotmail.com



"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many."

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

January is a time when many people make new year's resolutions. For millions of Americans, and for many at Immanuel and St Matthew, those resolutions will be about losing weight. God made us physical beings, with all the joys and sorrows, ups and downs that come with having a body.

Thinking back to Christmas, we are reminded that God showed up in the flesh. In Jesus, God became a real physical, embodied human being. Among Paul's most common metaphors for Christian community is his use of "body talk." Living human beings coming together from all walks and stations in life around the promises and presence of God. This is the Church. It is the only church we will know this side of the grave. We are a body. The Body of Christ.

Like our individual bodies, the church, the body of Christ is real, physical, and prone to ups and downs. To be a "member" of a Christian community is to be a living, breathing, human being who is actively engaged in a growing life as a disciple of Jesus.

Healthy "body talk" will challenge us to reconsider what health looks like in terms of our "membership" in our congregations.

A healthy congregation will be like a healthy person - here are some clues for health in our congregations:

- **Heart** - that beats steady with the message of God's love. That is both strengthened and rested by the basic disciples of Christian discipleship – worship, prayer, reading scripture, fellowship, and stewardship.

Hands - that reach out to others in the congregation and into the community to help, heal, and lift up. Hands extended in friendship to all.

Legs that carry us to gather in worship, and then out into the community to serve.

Mouth - that "speaks" in our worship, in our advertising, web sites, and by our individual conversations that build up rather than tear down.

Brain that takes in new ways of bringing the message of the Good News. That is growing in knowledge and faith.

Bones - the many behind the scenes people and practices that keep the church going day to day. They need to be nourished, and strengthened -- (see the practices of discipleship under HEART). Leadership is part of the bones of the church, people who can plan, do, and review - to see what is working. The bones of the church, and especially our leaders need to grow constantly, or the congregational "body" will never get beyond childhood.

In the coming year, I invite you to tell me, or a council member how we can grow toward health, as individuals and as congregations.

Peace,

Jim

Thanks to Pastor Kerry Nelson' "Mission Possible" letter for parts of this letter.

Immanuel Sunday School

December has been an exciting month for the Youth at Immanuel Lutheran.

Thanks to Sunday School and confirmation kids who went to sing Christmas Carols at Brenham Rest Home, Bluebonnet Hills Care Center, and Gazebo Terrace. We visited Lorene Randermann, Louise Bell Loesch, Ruth Koester, Alfred and Nelda Gaskamp, See the picture page for the group who sang and brought Christmas cheer to residents. The group came back to church for pizza and decorating the church and Christmas tree.

Alexis Chaudron, Gracie Westerfeld, Spencer Flynn, and Cheyenne Ridings received their first communion on December 6. Congratulations to them - as they continue the journey of faith begun at baptism and look forward to confirmation and a life of discipleship.

The Children have all been practicing very hard for the Christmas Eve program and are very excited for the whole congregation, friends and family to see them!

LOST IN THE MEDICARE MAZE? DON'T KNOW WHERE TO TURN FOR HELP?

CARE CONNECT is a program that offers case management for seniors and their families to make sure they get the care and help they need. There is a Care Connect case manager working out of Christ Lutheran one day a week now and we are working on expanding this service to other congregations.

Grants from Lutheran organizations like Wheat Ridge Ministries help fund this program that serves seniors and family members caring for seniors. Ask Pastor Abbott for more details.

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Filled with Expectation

When Hollywood advertises its latest film release, short clips or "teasers" give us previews of the upcoming action. But how many times have you gone to that new movie, teased into anticipation, lured by false promises, only to walk out of the theater disappointed by the actual product?

In today's gospel, the people know the Messiah is coming. The preview of the Messiah comes not through a thirty-second promotion but through the provocative teacher John the Baptist. John has been stirring the crowds with his words, inviting them to repent and be baptized, leading them to wonder whether *John* is the Messiah they've been expecting. John answers the crowds' questioning with a solid No, saying that while he prepares the way for the Messiah, he is not the one: "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals" (Luke 3:16).

Unlike some movie teasers, the Savior's preview in John the Baptist is not a series of false promises, but a building up of expectations leading to tangible hope, a true prophet whose message has substance. Jesus--the man with the sandals--is baptized by John. Jesus prays and heaven is opened, the Holy Spirit descends in bodily form like a dove, and a voice from heaven speaks clear words: "You are my Son, the Beloved" (Luke 2:22).

The real thing is better than the previews. Today Jesus' baptism story invites you to be baptized, to remember your baptism, to hear that voice call your name, to share with Jesus the title of beloved child of God. A movie shows an imagined story to entertain us, but Jesus invites us to real water splashed in the name of God. This is a true story to leave us filled with expectation.

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We will celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord on Jan 10, 2010