

First Reading Zephaniah 3: 14-20

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! 15 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. 17 The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing 18 as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. 19 I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. 20 At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 12:2-6

2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.
3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
4 And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.
5 Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.
6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading Philippians 4:4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

[stand]

Gospel Acclamation



The holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd Chapter
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Luke 3:7-18

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” 10 And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” 11 In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” 13

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The God of hope strengthen your hearts
as you await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
with all the saints.

Almighty God,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Hymn **“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”** *ELW 244*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God!

Ringing of the bell
[sit]

Announcements

Serving Us Today...

	St Matthew	Immanuel
Organists	Frances Scheffer	Lois Holle
Readers	Corene Niemeyer	Brianna Hupe
Ushers	Stanley Sommer Mark Niebuhr Bubba Brewton Justin Dana	Bill Yawn Larry Kieke Stephen Joswiak
Altar Flowers	Billy & Frances Scheffer	Carol & Wesley Westerfeld
Acolyte		Colleen Bentke

Immanuel & St Matthew Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes are available to be picked up at Church.

Continuing Education

Pastor Abbott will be taking two days of Continuing Education on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 15 and 16. If there are any emergencies please call 251-4992.

Calendar & Upcoming Events...

Today - Choir Practice @ Immanuel 8:00am
Worship 8:30 am Immanuel
Brunch following service for the entire congregation
hosted by Immanuel Welca
Sunday Schools @ 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am St Matthew
Coop Congregation 3 pm @ Immanuel

Tues - Pastor Abbott taking 2 days off for continuing education

Wed - Constitution planning meeting @ Immanuel @ 6:00 pm
Immanuel Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm

Thurs – Newsletter deadline

Sun Dec 20 – Choir Practice @ Immanuel 8:00am
Worship 8:30 am w/ Holy Communion Immanuel
Sunday Schools @ 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am w/ Holy Communion St Matthew
St Matthew Children's Christmas program during
service
Pot Luck meal following service
Live Nativity Scene in Independence 6-8 pm

Choir Notes Immanuel December 2009

The choir will meet and practice at 8 AM and sing on December 6, 13, and 20th. We will sing songs of the season. We welcome all singers! We will not practice or sing on December 27th.

St Matthew Choir 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.

Newsletter deadline is Thursday

Volunteers Serving in the Community

Lay Visitors – Immanuel – Delivering bulletins
Erma Luetge is serving in December.

Sign up sheet for 2010 is in parish hall.

Senior Meals - Those delivering meals for Washington County Healthy Living Association from both Immanuel and St Matthew this week are Virginia Tappe and Esther Dahmann.

Sunday Schools

St Matthew Sunday School

December 20 - Christmas Program
Program will be during the church service @ 8:30am
A pot luck meal will follow the service

Immanuel Sunday School

Dec 22 dress rehearsal at 5:30 pm. Food for supper will be provided.

Please try to have your children here each Sunday and on the 22nd so that we can have a successful Christmas Program!

December 24 - Christmas Program

Program will begin at 6:00 pm
Parents have children at church at 5:30 pm

December 20, 21, and 22

We will participate in the Live Nativity Scene in Independence 6pm-8pm. There will be a hayride available to take you through the tour if you don't choose to walk. It begins at the Rose Emporium, where attendees can also park their vehicles.

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

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 Renee Lambert Carrie Scheffer
Jerry Watson Tim Wellmann Mike Hodges
Betty Watson Don Bradley

In our extended family...

The full prayer list is in the December newsletter. Those listed below have been added or updated in the last few weeks. If you want someone added or wish to report their improvements, please let Pastor Abbott know, 251-4992
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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
Butch Kevorkian - Philip Kelling's biological father
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
Chris Strong – friend of Kim Hodde
Jimbo Hardin – nephew of Pauline Hodges

Thanksgiving for Improvements or Good News...

Mildred Moehlmann