



## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading Micah 5:2-5

2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. 4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; 5 and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;**

for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

**His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.**

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

**He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;**

he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

**He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”**

Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

7 Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).” 8 When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), 9 then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. 10 And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

[Stand]

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel

The holy gospel according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Luke 1:39-45

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this

happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

[Sit]

*Sunday School Program* “Who was There on Christmas Night?”

Narrator – Justin Dana  
Mary – Mattie Niebuhr  
Joseph – Grant Mahlmann  
Inn Keeper - Dallas Mahlmann  
Angels – Megan Lampe  
Sadie Schaub  
Mary J Schaub  
Shepherds – Anthony Hernandez  
Andrew Heckmann  
Jacob Heckmann  
Wise Men – Colton Buro  
Mason Lampe  
Andrew Hernandez

*Hymn* “O Come, All Ye Faithful” *ELW 283*

Narrator, Mary, Joseph

*Hymn* “O Little Town of Bethlehem” *ELW 279*

Narrator

*Hymn* “Silent Night, Holy Night!” *ELW 281*

Narrator, Angels

*Hymn* “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” *ELW 275*

Narrator, Shepherds, Wise Men

Sunday School sings ...”Away in a Manger”

“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”

“O How I Love Jesus”

All Partipants - Christmas greeting

[Stand]

*Nicene Creed*

Inside front cover of hymnal

*Prayers of Intercession*

Each portion of the prayer ends with:

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

The prayers end with:

Alert and on guard for the coming of the Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting all things to your never-failing love in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

*Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Share a sign of peace with fellow worshipers*

[Sit]

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*Offering*

[Stand]

*Offering Song* “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful” *ELW 184*

*Offering Prayer*

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. From all that you have given us, receive these gifts, signs of our thanksgiving and praise. Fill us with good things at your table that we may come to the help of all in need; through Jesus Christ, our redeemer.

**Amen.**

*Great Thanksgiving*

*Pages 152-154*

**Thanksgiving and Preface**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Words of Institution**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Lamb of God**

*Invitation to Communion*

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*[Sit]*

*Communion*

***“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”***

*ELW 282*

***“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”***

*ELW 288*

***“Let All Together Praise Our God”***

*ELW 287*

*[Stand]*

*Prayer after Communion*

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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*            ***“Joy to the World”***

*ELW 267*

*Sit*

*Announcements*

*Stand*

*Dismissal*

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Ringing of the bell*

## **Sunday Schools**

**St Matthew Sunday School**

**December 20 - Christmas Program**

**Program will be during the church service @ 10:30am**

**A pot luck meal will follow the service**

**December 27 - No Sunday School**

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 27 – No Sunday School**

## **Bethlehem In Independence**

**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. choir people needed---anyone who wants to sing in the choir meet at 5:30 each evening at the chapel at the rose emporium.

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES**

**December 25, 2009**

**AT St Matthew**

**AT 9:30 AM**

## Serving Us Today...

	St Matthew	Immanuel
<b>Organists</b>	Frances Scheffer	Lois Holle
<b>Readers</b>	Justin Dana Renee Lambert	Cheyenne Ridings Jana Ahlers
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Stanley Sommer</b> Mark Niebuhr Bubba Brewton	<b>Bill Yawn</b> Eugene Bothe Rich Ahlers
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	Bonnie Scheffer	Janie Hart and Amy Hodges
<b>Acolyte / Communion Assistant</b>	Mark Niebuhr	Cheyenne Ridings

## Calendar & Upcoming Events...

**Today** - Immanuel choir practice 8:00 am  
 Worship w/ Holy Communion 8:30 am Immanuel  
 Sunday School at 9:30 am  
 Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:30 am St Matthew  
 St Matthew Children's Christmas Program during service  
 Pot Luck meal to follow service @ St Matthew  
 Live Nativity Scene in Independence 6-8 pm  
**Mon** - Live Nativity Scene in Independence 6-8 pm  
**Tues** - Live Nativity Scene in Independence 6-8 pm  
 Dress rehearsal for Immanuel Children's Christmas Program 5:30 pm..meal for supper to be served  
**Thurs** - Immanuel Children's Christmas Program 6 pm  
**Fri** - Christmas Day service @ St Matthew @ 9:30 am  
**Sun Nov 27** - Worship 8:30 am Immanuel  
 No Sunday Schools  
 Worship 10:30 am St Matthew

## Pastor Abbott on Vacation

Pastor Abbott will be on vacation from December 28 through January 5. For Pastoral Care call Rev. Charles Parnell, Salem Lutheran 836-9320

## Choir Notes Immanuel December 2009

The choir will meet and practice at 8 AM today. We will sing songs of the season. We welcome all singers! We will not practice or sing on December 27<sup>th</sup>.

## 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.

## 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 Edna Schroeder and Alice Petty.

## Immanuel Reports Due

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

## 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 Jerry Watson Tim Wellmann  
Mike Hodges Betty Watson

**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  
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...**

Carrie Scheffer Don Bradley Chris Strong  
Renee Lambert

**In Christian Sympathy to the family and friends...**

Charlie Buerger