

am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. 9 With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

10 Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." 11 For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. 12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. 13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. 14 I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147:12-20

12 Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.

14 He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.

15 He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.

16 He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

17 He hurls down hail like crumbs— who can stand before his cold?

18 He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

19 He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.

20 He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD!

Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14 this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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 John

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

[Sit]

Sermon

Silence is kept for reflection.

[Stand]

Hymn of the Day

"The Bells of Christmas"

ELW 298

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:

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

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

Merciful God,

it would have been enough for you to give us the fruit of the earth by which we live. But in this meal, by your promise, you also give us your self. Use what we have gathered here in feeding the hungry world with your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Pages 152-154

Thanksgiving and Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

Distribution Prayer

This prayer reminds us of our Lord's institution of Holy Communion. Pastor Abbott consecrated the bread and wine we are using today

at the service on Christmas morning. We believe that Christ is truly present in and under the bread and wine you will receive today.

Lord's Prayer
Lamb of God

Invitation to Communion
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

[Sit]

Communion

"Come and Fill Our Hearts" *ELW 528*
"The First Noel" *ELW 300*
"What Child Is This" *ELW 296*

[Stand]
Prayer after Communion

Radiant God,
with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

SENDING

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

Blessing

May Christ, born into time to bring endless peace,
guide your days and years in righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

Hymn **"Hark, The Herald Angels Sing"** *ELW 270*

[Sit]

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Ringing of the bell

Serving Us Today...

	St Matthew	Immanuel
Organists	Frances Scheffer	Allison Collins
Readers	Mark Niebuhr	Kaley Joswiak
Ushers	Billy Scheffer Brian Scheffer Stephen Scheffer Mark Niebuhr	Pauline Hodges Kim Hodde Wade Wellmann Cheyenne Ridings
Altar Flowers	Edwin and Carrie Scheffer in memory of James Scheffer	Shirley and Bubba Dreyer in honor of their 51 st Anniversary
Acolyte / Communion Assistant	Stanley Sommer	Colleen Bentke

Calendar & Upcoming Events...

Today - Worship w/ Holy Communion 8:30 am St Matthew
Sunday School at 9:30 am
Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:30 am Immanuel
Sat – Second Saturday Breakfast & Fellowship @ Immanuel @ 8 am
Sun Jan 10 – St Matthew choir practice 8:00 am
Worship 8:30 am St Matthew
Sunday Schools 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am Immanuel
Coop Confirmation @ 3 pm @ Zion, Zionsville

Guest Minister

We thank Katherine Weeks, Intern at Our Saviour's College Station leading us in worship today. She is a second career seminarian from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC, who has been blessed to have been assigned as intern to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in College Station. Previously, her education and work experience centered around Business Administration and Human Resource Management. She has lived in Charleston, SC, for the past 24 years where her children still reside. Todd, age 26, is a commercial fisherman, and Brianna, age 24, is a student. She considers it both an honor and a joy to have been asked to supply in Pastor Jim Abbott's absence, and is looking forward to the experience!

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 Ruth Kelling and Laura Fischer.

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. Thank you to Doug Maurer for hosting in January.

A signup sheet is in the parish hall for anyone interested in making/bringing breakfast in 2010.

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.

Immanuel Reports Due

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

Pastor Abbott on Vacation

Pastor Abbott will be away on vacation from December 28 through January 5. For help in an emergency while he is away call Pastor Charles Parnell, Salem Lutheran 836-9320.

Brenham Children's Chorus Presents Memories of Christmas

Monday January 11 7:00 pm
Brenham High School Auditorium
Tickets adults \$5 Children \$1
Call for tickets 979-277-6540 or e-mail
bccinfo@brenhamchildrenschorus.org

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

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 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 Don Goodwin
Bob Eccleston Carrie Scheffer

In our extended family...

The full prayer list is in the January 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

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
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
Frank Dickschat – uncle of Renee Lambert
Butch Kevorkian - Philip Kelling's biological father
Carson Leslie – friend of Bill & Dot Yawn
Bobbie Oberhoff – son of Anita Oberhoff

In Christian Sympathy to family and friends...

Ruth Koester