

WORSHIP NEWS

December 2009

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

- December 6 – Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Sunday Schools @ 9:30 am
- December 13 – Worship Service of Word and Prayer
Sunday Schools @ 9:30 am
- December 20 – Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Sunday Schools @ 9:30 am
St Matthew Children's Christmas program
during service
- December 24 - Immanuel Children's Christmas Program @
6pm
- December 25 - Christmas Day service 9:30 am St Matthew
- December 27 - Worship Service of Word and Prayer
No Sunday Schools

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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. Have a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

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. Still working on this.
- Nominating committee. They need people for outgoing council members: Rich, Jerry and Wade. There will be sheets put in the bulletin, so that members may suggest names, or even put their own name in for the committee to consider.
- Moving Sound System. Still working on this.
- Lay Visitors to deliver bulletins to shut-ins. Still working on this.
- All reports need to be in no later than Jan 10 for the General Meeting on Jan 24.
- Resolution for funding youth events/camp: Parents pay 25%. If they can't afford, we will give scholarship.
- Every member visitation for early 2010. Speaker Rev. Kerry Nelson will speak on Feb 14. Visitation dates Feb 14 & 21. Pastor will write letter to leave with visitors called on. There are about 80 families. Each council member needs to recruit a partner to attend the visits as a team.

New Business:

- A motion was made, seconded and passed to allow Cheyenne Ridings to be confirmed this spring.
- Talked about passing of peace and exit greeting during the remainder of the flu season. We decided to let everyone do what they want to.
- Open forum Nov 29 after service .
- General Meeting is Jan 24 followed by a potluck dinner.
- Don & Ann Koester have asked to be released at this time from membership.
- Larry Allen resigned from Church Council.



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

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
Frank Dickschat – uncle of Renee Lambert
Donald Carter – son of Barbara Hollis
Marie Wilson – sister-in-law of Ruth Kelling
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
Elmo Emshoff – brother-in-law of Oscar Fuelberg
Louses Teer – Aunt of Trochelle Ray
Bernice Heinsohn – mother of Clyde, a friend of Henry Al Ellermann
Joycine Hanath – Friend of Stanley Sommer
Levi Luvaas – father of Marlene Randermann
Wayman Bradley – brother of Don Bradley

Thanksgiving for Improvements...

Sandy Siegmund Suzanne Maxwell Trochelle Ray
Mildred Moehlmann Bob Eccleston
In Christian Sympathy to family and friends...
Johnie Schulte Jr.
Hortense Rhodes

Winter Devotional Guides

The Winter Devotion guides for January, February and March will be available to be picked up on Sunday, December 20 and Sunday, December 27 at church.

Large print Christ in Our Home

Available at church. Ask Pastor Abbott

Immanuel Offerings Envelopes

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

Volunteers Serving in the Community

Lay Visitors – Immanuel – Delivering bulletins

Please support these disciples and our shut-ins with your prayers. Erma Luetge is serving in December.

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.

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

Immanuel - Second Saturday

The Immanuel church council invites everyone to "Second Saturday" at 8:00 am Saturday, December 9
Breakfast provided.

We will have time for fellowship.

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



Breakfast

IMMANUEL WELCA BRUNCH

Join us for brunch after church on Sunday, December 13. The Women of the Church are hosting this brunch for the congregation . All are invited. Please come and help us celebrate this joyous season together.

Nursing Home Service

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

WELCA NEWS

St. Matthew

Dec. 13 - 9 :30 a.m. WELCA Bible Study - "Moved to a new Address" Romans 6 & 7 led by Corene Niemeyer

If you are willing to help deliver Christmas gifts to shut-ins, please volunteer to Edna Schroeder.

Immanuel WELCA Installation of Officers Sunday, December 13 During 8:30 am church service

President – Erma Luetge

Vice President – Virginia Tappe

Secretary/Treasurer – Elois Eickenhorst

Mission Growth – Shirley Dreyer

Mission Action – Sarah Circle

Cheer Chairman – Doris Kramer

Invitation to Sarah Circle of Immanuel

You and your husband, etc.
are invited to a Family Supper and Bible Study
at LeeRoy and Doris Kramer
Wednesday, Dec 9 at 6:30 pm

IMMANUEL

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR DECEMBER

Captain: Bill Yawn

- 6th – Eugene Bothe
- 13th – Larry Kieke, Stephen Joswiak
- 20th – Eugene Bothe, Rich Ahlers
- 27th – Eugene Bothe, Jerry Kieke, Brianna Hupe

SCRIPTURE READERS FOR DECEMBER

- 6th – Colleen Bentke
- 13th – Brianna Hupe
- 20th – Jana Ahlers
- 27th - Colleen Bentke

FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

- 6th – Virginia Tappe in memory of Harold Tappe, Sr
- 13th – Wesley and Carol Westerfeld
- 20th – Janie Hart and Amy Hodges
- 27th - Leeroy and Doris Kramer

ACOLYTES FOR DECEMBER

- 6th – Gracie Westerfeld
- 13th – Colleen Bentke
- 20th – Cheyenne Ridings
- 27th - Spencer Flynn

ST MATTHEW

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR DECEMBER

Stanley Sommer, Captain (836-8116)

- Mark Niebuhr
- Bubba Brewton
- Mark Niebuhr – Communion Assistant
- Justin Dana – Dec 13
- Roger Ellermann – Dec 25

SCRIPTURE READERS FOR DECEMBER

- 6th – Dayton Wodrich
- 13th – Corene Niemeyer
- 20th - Justin Dana
- 25th - Pastor Abbott
- 27th - Louise Abbott

FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

- 6th – Sandra and Dayton Wodrich
- 13th – Billy and Frances Scheffer
- 20th – Bonnie Scheffer
- 25th - Poinsettias
- 27th - Mike and Vicki Muegge

ACOLYTES FOR DECEMBER

- 6th – Justin Dana

Fill cups for Communion: Corene Niemeyer and Wauldeen
Schwarze

Wash Communion ware: Susan Busby and Peggy Ward

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
December Baptisms



| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Bonnie Scheffer | 1 |
| Joshua Busby | 8 |
| Ryan Kettler | 8 |
| Amy Schwarze | 9 |
| Courtney Andersen | 10 |
| Tyler Gajeske | 12 |
| LaVerne Weiss | 14 |
| Dorothy Schulte | 25 |
| Marilyn Sommer | 25 |
| Sharon Eccleston | 26 |

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
December Birthdays



| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Gary Randermann | 2 |
| Daniel Muegge | 3 |
| Carol Westerfeld | 4 |
| Henry Ellermann | 5 |
| Freddie Moehlmann | 5 |
| Corene Niemeyer | 6 |
| Dustin Buro | 13 |
| Wauldeen Schwarze | 13 |
| Edwin Studhalter | 13 |
| Andrew Heckmann | 14 |
| Jacob Heckmann | 14 |
| Eloise Wehring | 14 |
| Mason Lampe | 18 |
| Edward Scheffer | 18 |
| Mark Niebuhr | 22 |
| Weldon Finke | 23 |
| Kim Mueller | 23 |
| Florence Schwartz | 25 |
| Frances Dana | 28 |
| Matthew Kelm | 28 |
| Mark Schulte | 29 |
| Jennifer Long | 30 |

Immanuel Lutheran Church
December Baptisms



| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Deborah Hupe | 5 |
| Krystal Wellmann | 5 |
| Jennifer Zuehlke | 13 |
| Burt Wellmann | 16 |
| Tanya Hupe | 18 |
| Anthony Wellmann | 22 |
| Evelyn Maurer | 23 |
| W.F. Zuehlke | 24 |
| Benjamin Eickenhorst | 27 |
| Justin McCord | 27 |
| Rollin McCord | 27 |
| Eedann McCord | 27 |
| Jones Moehlmann | 27 |

Immanuel Lutheran Church
December Birthdays



| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Corrine Estrada | 3 |
| Misty Hodde | 4 |
| Brianna Hupe | 4 |
| Misty Maynard | 4 |
| Carol Westerfeld | 4 |
| Michael Steinfield | 5 |
| Evelyn Maurer | 7 |
| Donald Loomis | 10 |
| Edna Weiss | 10 |
| Dee Allen | 12 |
| Janie Wellmann | 12 |
| Annie Loomis | 17 |
| Wm. Henry Peters | 18 |
| Amber Westerfeld | 18 |
| Alfred Gaskamp | 20 |
| John Thiel | 21 |
| Janice McClendon | 25 |
| Diana Wellmann | 26 |
| Tiffany Kolden | 29 |
| Glenda Sommerfield | 30 |

Immanuel Sunday School

In November we decorated a box with our handprints and made turkeys to collect canned goods for Faith Mission

Christmas Program Practice

Dec 6, 13, 20 @ 9:30 am

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 6 - Christmas Caroling at the Nursing homes and Decorating The Church for Christmas – Sunday School, youth and parents are invited

We will begin caroling at 3:00 pm and will follow with decorating the church around 5 pm. We will have pizza after caroling. This is a service project for the Confirmation class.

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.

December 24 - Christmas Program

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

December 28 - No Sunday School

St Matthew Sunday School

Decorate the Christmas Tree

Nov. 29 after service

Christmas Program Practice

Dec 6, 13, @ 9:30 am during Sunday School

Please try to have your children here each Sunday, so that we can have a successful Christmas Program!

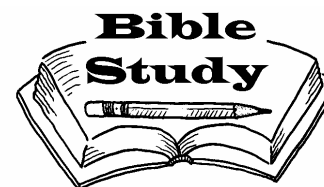
December 20 - Christmas Program

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

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.

December 27 - No Sunday School



Bible Study

Monday- December 7 will be the last Bible Study of "**Acts for Everyone**" by N. T. Wright. - 1:00 pm at Immanuel & at the home of Dayton and Sandra Wodrickat 7:00 pm.

This finishes the first half of Acts -- We will start up again Monday, January 11. I will have books for you on Sunday, January 10.

LIVING BY FAITH – AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS CONGREGATION

This is Corene Niemeyer's story – "When we studied "God, Money and Me" in June at Bible School at Wiedeville, I started again giving 10% of my income, and I've been blessed in many ways. A person can't understand or explain how this happens, but that's the way God works. Whatever you give, it will be multiplied. It says in the Bible, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Count your many blessings and see what God has done. You cannot outgive God.

This is our story at St. Matthew and Immanuel – As congregations we need to live by Jesus' words – not necessarily by "smart" business practices. Study I Kings 17- the story of Elijah and the jar of meal and jug of oil that did not run out that we heard in worship a few weeks ago. Or read Luke 6:38- "give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." , Malachi 3:10 - "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing" Now, when things look grim is the time to talk and act in faith.

– Ruth Kelling



I want to thank everyone who came to see me in the hospital. I appreciate the phone calls, cards, and visits and especially all of the prayers. A special thanks to Pastor Abbott, Ruth Kelling, and Corene Niemeyer.

Love, Renee

POINSETTIA GIVEN IMMANUEL LUTHERAN



IN MEMORY OF

FROM

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Our Parents | Don & Fay Goodwin |
| Cleburne Rau | Nadine Rau |
| Keith Eickenhorst, Sr. | Johnnie & Elois Eickenhorst |
| Carlos F. Sagliardi Keefer | Ed & Sylvia Dannhaus |
| Lillian Dannhaus | Ed & Sylvia Dannhaus |
| Hede Keefer | Ed & Sylvia Dannhaus |
| Joan Dannhaus | Ed & Sylvia Dannhaus |
| Melvin Maurer | Evelyn Maurer |
| Tanya & Darren Carter | Barbara & Richard Hollis |
| LeRoy Prigge | Erma Luetge |
| Dennis Luetge | Erma Luetge |
| Dolly Krause | Erma Luetge |
| Lawrence A. Clough | Jim & Louise Abbott |
| James A. Abbott | Jim & Louise Abbott |
| Mr. & Mrs. Fred W. Fischer | Robert & Frances Meyer |
| Nick Bilski, Sr. | Robert & Frances Meyer |
| Harold Tappe, Sr | Virginia Tappe |

IN HONOR OF

FROM

Trinity Hart..we are blessed to have you John & Janie Hart
Corrine Estrada...we are blessed to have you John & Janie Hart

Doris Mellor
LeeRoy & Doris Kramer
Charles & Deborah Hupe

St. Matthew Semi-annual meeting highlights:

A. Adopted a 2010 budget proposal as recommended by the Church Council

B. The Council recommended the following be Placed into Motion:

In the November 8, 2009 meeting, the Church Council passed the following proposal. "To determine the amount to budget to benevolence in 2010, the Church Council recommends the following.

The Congregation evaluates its financial situation at the end of the second quarter 2010, and, at that time, in a specially called Congregational Meeting in July, makes a decision about the 2010 benevolence budget. For that July meeting, the Church Council will have a recommendation prepared to offer as a motion to open discussion on the 2010 benevolence budget."

C. Elected the following to serve on the Church Council from January 2010 thru January 2012:

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

D. Passed unanimously to have joint services with Immanuel on a trial basis for the months of June & July in 2010, pending approval by Immanuel at their January Annual Meeting.



In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: (Luke 2:8-10a)

Do not be afraid - these four simple words, are of course familiar to us all. Even now, two thousand and nine years later, fear is still with us and we need to hear them again.

As the weeks of Advent roll by, they remind us of a world then and now that was in turmoil. A world of change and challenge. A world that will not be tomorrow, exactly as it was today. And change is frightening, was then, is now.

Cast your eyes up – to the words from Luke's Gospel - to the heavens above and hear again what the angels said. **DO NOT BE AFRAID.** Not a suggestion - a command.

For God brought good news, then and now to all who are afraid. The Good News that God has sent a messiah, one who will overcome the world, so that we no longer need to be afraid but joyful.

Live in Peace and Joy

Jim

-1-

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.

OPEN FORUMS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Immanuel, Wiedeville | St Matthew, Sandy Hill |
| Sunday December 6 | Sunday November 29 |
| Following Worship | Following Worship |
| Please Gather in the Parish Hall. | Please Gather in the Parish Hall. |

An open forum is an opportunity to ask questions and discuss concerns.

Come if you have questions about

- Budget
 - Attendance
 - Youth
 - Mission
 - What's going on in the ELCA, and in Texas churches
 - Or anything else about your congregation that is on your mind
- Pastor Abbott will be there to answer questions.

Confirmation Notes

- Confirmation Activities in December

- Christmas Caroling Meet at Immanuel at 3:00 pm -
Will carpool to area nursing homes.
Back to Immanuel by 5:00 pm
Pizza and decorate the Christmas trees

Co-Op Confirmation Teaching December 14
3:00 pm at Immanuel
Topic Holy Communion
Parents - join us for congregation time at 5:00
REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER CAMP

AND YOUTHQUAKE DUE - NOW

Come prepared to sign up for spring
worship assistant dates 3 each Read,

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--If you want to send donations to families of those killed or injured at Fort Hood make the check payable to Chaplain' Fund and send to

Chaplain's Fund

c/o CH (MAJ) Oscar Arauco
Garrison Chaplain's Office
Bldg 44, 761st Tank Battalion Ave.
Fort Hood, TX 76544-5000

If you want to send a note or card of encouragement to the ELCA Chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Brunk - he is from our Synod. Send to Chaplain Brunk, he was an associate pastor at St Stephen's in Pearland before it merged to form New Life.

c/o CH (LTC) Richard Brunk
Garrison Chaplain's Office
Bldg 44, 761st Tank Battalion Ave.
Fort Hood, TX 76544-5000

St Matthew Lutheran

2010 BIDS DUE-----Anybody wanting to submit 2010 bids for
1. Mowing the church yard and cemetery
2. For cleaning of the inside of church, wing and parish hall should have them submitted to the congregational chairman by December 7, 2009.

Report on Fall Festival for our Youth at St. Matthew

A good time was had by all! Approximately 65 attended and enjoyed visiting, the cake walk, silent auction and chili lunch prepared by Mark Niebuhr, David Ray and Dwayne Brown. A special thank you to Sherry Mahlmann, Rachel Niebuhr, Michelle Lampe, and Frances Dana for their decorations and organization. Thanks to the many people who donated items to the silent auction and the cake walk. Thanks to Edna

Schroeder who prepared drinks. A total of \$1421 was received. The food was donated. Thrivent has verified matching funds of \$320.

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***POINSETTIA GIVEN
ST MATTHEW***



IN MEMORY OF

Lillian Dannhaus
Hede Keefer
Carlos F. Sagliardi Keefer
Joan Dannhaus
Rose Lambert
Our Parents & Billy Ellermann
Glifford Schroeder
Willie & Clara Wagner
Reinhardt & Edna Pohlmeier
Martin & Irene Tiemann
Edwin Kramer, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Kolwes
Tom Schulte
Bob Petty
James Scheffer
Floyd Sommer
James Scheffer
James Scheffer
Charlie & Hennie Scheffer
Theo & Clara Schramme
Mr. and Mrs. Gus Niemeyer
Fred L. Heckmann
Charlie Schroeder
Erich Oberhoff
Nina Ellermann

FROM

Ed & Sylvia Dannhaus
Ed & Sylvia Dannhaus
Ed & Sylvia Dannhaus
Ed & Sylvia Dannhaus
Renee Lambert
Elwood & Eloise Wehring
Irene Schroeder
Gladys Schwarze
Ron & Barbara Pohlmeier
Ron & Barbara Pohlmeier
Barbara Kramer
Barbara Kramer
Dorothy Schulte
Alice Petty
Billy & Frances Scheffer
Billy & Frances Scheffer
Bonnie Scheffer
Edward & Carrie Scheffer
Edward & Carrie Scheffer
Edward & Carrie Scheffer
Corene Niemeyer
Margie Heckmann
Edna Schroeder
Anita Oberhoff
Rudy & Franes Dana & Family

Floyd Sommer
Erma Walker

Marilyn Sommer
John & Mary Ulrich

***POINSETTIA GIVEN
St MATTHEW***



IN HONOR OF

Shirley Abbott
Martha Clough
Our 40th anniversary
Scott & Sunny's marriage
Our children:
Clayton & Kelli Collier
Clint Duch & Cindy Malinowski
John Schwarze
John & Minnie Schwarze

FROM

Jim & Louise Abbott
Jim & Louise Abbott
Bob & Sharon Eccleston
Bob & Sharon Eccleston
Roger & Sandra Duch
Gladys Schwarze
Gladys Schwarze

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. They 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. Even one visit a month is a great source of comfort to the people we visit.

If just 12 people sign up, that is enough to insure that our shut-ins get a visit every month and that you as a visitor would only go twice during the year.

Take a prayerful look at your commitment of time and talent to the work of God through this congregation and see if there is a way in which you could help.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the parish hall following services.

Thanks for your help.

Jim