

Eben Ezer Lutheran Church December 2018 Newsletter

Ministry Message:

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1-7 NRSV)

Christmas is upon us once again! It's a wonderful time of year with all the Christmas Carols, decorations, trees, family gatherings and gifts. All those things brighten up our winter and give us a sense of God's love for our lives. But all those things pale in comparison to the great gift which God has given to all of us in the birth of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

God has created all that exists. God sustains and nurtures all of God's creation. God loves all of God's creation. And God saves all of God's creation. As God's Son, Jesus Christ, was born into this world, God put into motion God's plans to bring about an end to sin and death. Through Jesus' death upon the cross and in his resurrection to new life again, Jesus defeats sin and death and brings new life to all of us and to all of God's creation. This is God's saving action by which all things are made new. This is the Gospel! The good news of the great gift of grace which God has given to us.

And that's why it is especially important to focus our Christmas celebrations on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. All the other things associated with Christmas, the gifts, the carols, the trees and decorations, the family gatherings may brighten our days and lift our spirits. But only God's gift of Jesus Christ can truly enliven us and bring peace and joy and hope to our lives and to the lives of all people, everywhere.

As you gather with your family and friends this Christmas season, I pray that you will make Christ the focus of all that you do. I pray that you will know God's presence with you and that you will find peace and hope and joy as you are lifted up by the Holy Spirit.

Peace, Pastor Ken

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND READING

We are in need of families or individuals to light the Advent Candles and read a short liturgy and prayer at the beginning of each worship service for the four Sundays of Advent, beginning on Sunday, Dec. 2nd. If you would like to participate, please contact Pastor Ken.

SECOND SATURDAY BREAKFAST AT IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, WIEDEVILLE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8th AT 8:00 AM

Everyone is invited to come out for a delicious breakfast and great fellowship at Immanuel Lutheran as they host their Second Saturday Breakfast on December 8th starting at 8:00 am. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex so that they will have enough food prepared. But if your plans change at the last minute and you can come but haven't signed up – please come out anyway.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 7:30 PM

Please join us for a Candlelight Worship Service as we celebrate the birth of Christ on December 24. We have moved the time of the service back ½ hour to 7:30 pm in order to allow Pastor Ken time to be at Immanuel Lutheran and then come here.

CHURCH COUNCIL POSITIONS FOR 2019

We have the following positions open on the church council for the coming year: Financial Secretary, Vice-Chairperson, Evangelism and Stewardship. We are seeking volunteers to serve. Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee if you would like to volunteer or need more information. They are: Dina Weiss, Debbie Knipstein, Jimmie Weiss, Michael Brister or Pastor Ken.

The Holy Helper
EBEN-EZER LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Oldest Lutheran Church in Washington County”

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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December 2018

November Church Council Meeting highlights/unapproved minutes:

OCTOBER 2018 MINISTRY REPORT

- Eben-Ezer Mileage: 318 miles
- Eben-Ezer Visitation: Home Communion: 4 visits, 14 people present
Hospital Visits: 2 at St. Joseph's Bryan
- Immanuel Mileage: 198 miles
- Immanuel Visitation: Home Communion: 5 visits, 17 people present
Hospital Visits: 6, 1 at Texas Children's Hospital Houston
5 at Medical Center College Station

Eben-Ezer Worship Attendance for October:

- Average Sunday Worship Attendance: 76
- Sunday Worship – Year-to-Date Average through October: 62

WORSHIP

- Graveside Service: Norma Moehlmann, October 29
- WELCA Thankoffering Worship Service: November 18
- Thanksgiving Worship Service: November 20
- Advent: Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23. Advent Wreath and Candles
- Baptism: Millie Rose Cole on December 9, parents Kailyn & Travis Cole
- Baptism: Carter Dean Vasquez on December 23, parents Lisa & David Vasquez
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship: December 24 at 7:30 pm

OTHER:

- Vacation: December 25-January 1. Out of worship on December 30 (5th Sunday – no communion)

TREASURER'S REPORT: General Fund: \$6,085.93 (as of Nov. 14) Building Fund: \$8,848.32
Parsonage Account: \$7,488.95 Discretionary Fund: \$244.26 Youth: \$77.03
Sunday School: \$409.96 Confirmation: \$0.02 CUNA Mutual Group-Mertz: \$6,140.64
Cemetery Fund: Edward Jones - \$5,436.55 and Industry Bank CDs - \$10,543.11 & \$10,427.38

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: 2019 offering envelopes are available for pick up.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: All is going well.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Sign-up sheet in Narthex for Christmas Program.

SOCIAL OUTREACH: Sponsoring two families with a complete Thanksgiving meal.

WORSHIP: Ella Rau will lead Dec. 30th service with Guest Speaker Travis Cole. Christmas dinner will be on December 2nd with Mary Zorn leading a sing-along.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Stew dinner raised \$3,106.50.
2. Shared Ministry renewal contract sent to the Synod for approval.
3. Looking at ways to reinvest money that is currently in the CDs.
4. Members were approved to serve on the Nominating, Finance, & Audit Committees.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Congregational meeting on January 20, 2019.
2. Considered the donation of a solid wooden cross.
3. Guidelines for use of Annex/Kitchen and Activity Building approved.

(end of report)



SOCIAL OUTREACH



For Thanksgiving, we are sponsoring a family of two adults and two children (ages 3 & 5) and a home-bound elderly couple. A complete holiday meal will be delivered to them. For Christmas, our hope is to provide gifts and a meal and/or gift card to purchase food. To make a donation, please place in the offering plate or the basket in the Narthex. Contact Olivia Borgstedte for more information.



HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

Please remember to bring canned goods for Bread Partners of Washington County.



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Please consider volunteering to help take care of the church flower beds and the cemetery. Contact Scott Gresham for more info. Thank You!



Sunday, December 2nd ~ 5:30 p.m.

WELCA Christmas Dinner

“Sing Along with Mary Zorn”

The Women of the Church will provide Roast Beef, drinks, and dinnerware. If you are attending, please bring a salad or vegetable and a dessert.



Sunday, December 16th ~ 6:00 p.m.

Program practice will be on December 2nd, 9th, & 16th at 9:45 a.m.
Dress Rehearsal with ornament exchange and refreshments will be on December 15th at 10:00 a.m.



Monday, December 24th ~ 7:30 p.m.

Candlelight Service



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Sunday, January 20, 2019



2019 Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up.



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM



COST PER PLANT: \$10.00

Last Day to Order: Sunday, December 16

Name _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Number of Plants: _____

Amount: \$ _____

Place order form in offering plate OR mail or bring to church office OR call church office @ 836-6706.

Sponsored by Women of the Church

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6



Remember In Prayer

OUR MEMBERS

Daniel Borchgardt
Sheila Bradshaw
Tracy Draehn
Denise Ebert
Woodville Felscher
Albert Green
Marta Green

Troy Grimm
Bernice Hanath
David Hohlt
Wanda Meier
Annell Meyer
Valeria Oevermann
Judy Smith

Cathie Steinfeld
Clarence Steinfeld
Debora Talamantez
Lindsey Theile
Joe Turner
Dorothy Vogler
Connie Warmke
Annell Zwahr

FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION

Eric Baranowski
Pastor Sue Beall
Jeri Bentke
Marchel Brennan
Pat Brister
Susan Broesche
Nichole Carr
Judi Cole
Sheila Grimm Cordray
Sterling Crabtree
A'vahlynn Cuellar
Pastor Bill Derrick
Elaine Duron
Sam Engman
Carol Fenton
Laura Fiesler
Archie Gandy
Beryl Glessing
Arvin Gresham
Patrick Harper

Carol Haarmeyer
John Haarmeyer
Mattie Haynes
Ryan Hegefeld
Gene Hermann
Jeremy Higgs
Betty Hohlt
Weldon Hohlt
Lena Jacks
Billy Jo Jasinski
Leslie Kelm
Ora Nell Kuretsch
Harold Lanford
McKenzie Lasagna
Sarah Salazar Lopez
Cindy Lyles
Grant Milton
Shirley Moehlmann
Jennifer Moore
Arlin Naegeli

Eric Ortiz
Sue Perry
Mike Pope
Lana Powell
Macee Prause
Sharon Preuss
David Reimer
Annie Schulze
Amanda Sebastian
Kyree Koehne Shaver
Pastor Roger Semmler
Bobby Smith
Hannah Smith
Carol Sorelle
Jim Sorelle
Sherri Stegent
Connie Talamantez
Gene Urban
Krystal Weatherly
Mary Winkelmann
Glenda Wise

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Stacey Burgoon - niece of Scott & Sara Gresham
Steven Burgoon - nephew of Scott & Sara Gresham
Justin Hawkins - husband of Kristin Hawkins and son-in-law of Linda Koonce
Lindsey Theile - daughter of Larry Grebe

December Celebrations and Special Occasions



1st Stacey Preuss
 2nd Cory Steinfeld
 3rd Joyce Hohlt
 4th Mackenzie Smith
 5th Kevin Luten
 7th Pauline Bradshaw
 7th Ellamae Cole
 7th Marta Green
 12th Dan Borchgardt
 13th Scott Hicks
 14th Kenny Farmer
 14th David Roehling
 16th Lindsey Theile
 17th Jody Naumann
 17th Erin Shell
 19th Anthony Venegas
 20th Wayne Hegefeld
 21st Sawyer Beckendorf
 22nd Martin Gessner
 23rd Julia Green
 23rd Clarence Steinfeld
 24th Jerry Schwartz
 24th Dina Weiss
 26th Luther Gregor
 31st Kyle Neutzler

1st Kevin Burnett
 1st Tracy Draehn
 1st Mark Knipstein
 1st Courtney Wiesepape
 4th Harold Weidner
 5th Brandul Warmke
 6th Shayna Hohlt
 7th Kay Hohlt
 10th Courtney Andersen
 12th Troy Draehn
 14th Doris Roehling
 15th Carter Burnett
 18th Robert Warmke
 21st Ella Rau
 22nd Malissa Hubert
 22nd Matthew Hubert
 27th Valeria Oevermann



Millie Rose Cole

Congratulations to
 Parents Kailyn and Travis,
 Big Sister Ellamae, and
 Grandparents De & Gary Koerth
 and Judi & Pat Cole.

Happy Anniversary



12th	Randy & Cathie Steinfeld	37 years
24th	Mike & Hope Ruemke	34 years
29th	Greg & Pat Gold	28 years
29th	David & Tammy Schwartz	39 years