

Eben Ezer Lutheran Church January 2019 Newsletter

Ministry Message:

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. (Matthew 2:7-12 NRSV)

Happy New Year! The year 2019 is upon us and I pray that it is a great year for all of you! May you all know God's peace for your life and understand just how much God loves each of you. As we begin this New Year it is fitting that we remember the coming of the Wise Men to worship the baby Jesus, born in a stable, who is God's own Son, the Messiah.

January 6th is the Epiphany of Our Lord Sunday. The day traditionally set aside to remember the coming of the Wise Men. It is a day to celebrate the enlightenment of the world with the good news that Christ was born to bring the knowledge of God's great love and salvation to all nations and to all people. The word "Epiphany" means "a moment of enlightenment". And this is exactly what happened for the Wise Men as they were enlightened to the appearance of God in the flesh. The light of the star led them to the light of God's presence at Bethlehem. And the world has been enlightened with the light of the good news of God's presence and love and salvation ever since.

I pray that you will know that light of the Gospel for your life. I pray that your life is illuminated by the good news that God's own Son, Jesus Christ has come to this earth, to die on the cross and to rise to new life again. In that death and in that resurrection, Christ brings life to you. This is the great good news which illuminates all the world and which brings light to you individually. God loves you and God has acted for your salvation! There is no greater gift that we can ever receive than this great gift of God's light coming into our lives.

As you look to the New Year, remember God's presence with you, lighting your way. Know that God's love is real and near to you as you make plans for all that the New Year will bring. And be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit so that you may be a light of God's love shining out in a dark world that is in such desperate need of the illumination which only God's love can bring. God is calling you to be a beacon of light, shining in the darkness, so that all may know God's love for their life.

Peace, Pastor Ken

CHURCH COUNCIL POSITIONS FOR 2019

We have the following positions open on the church council for the coming year: Financial Secretary, 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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: SUNDAY, JANUARY 20 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

All members of Eben-Ezer Lutheran are encouraged to be in worship on January 20 and to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting to follow. We will be electing new church council members and approving a budget for 2019. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS – SUNDAY, JANUARY 27 IN WORSHIP.

Church Council Members will be installed during worship on Sunday, January 27. All current, outgoing and incoming Council Members are encouraged to be in worship.

SECOND SATURDAY BREAKFAST AT IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, WIEDEVILLE SATURDAY, JANUARY 12th 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 January 12th 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.

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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January 2019 Happy New Year!

December Church Council Meeting highlights/unapproved minutes:

NOVEMBER 2018 MINISTRY REPORT

- Eben-Ezer Mileage: 122 miles
- Eben-Ezer Visitation
 - Home Communion: 3 visits, 9 people present
 - Hospital Visits: 1 at S&W College Station
- Immanuel Mileage: 12 miles
- Immanuel Visitation:
 - Home Communion: 4 visits, 12 people present
 - Hospital Visits: 0

Eben-Ezer Worship Attendance for November

- Average Sunday Worship Attendance in November: 57
- Sunday Worship – Year-to-Date Average through November: 62

WORSHIP

- Baptism: Carter Dean Vasquez, parents Lisa & David Vasquez: December 23
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship: December 24 at 7:30 pm

OTHER

- Vacation: December 25-January 1. Out of worship on Sunday, Dec. 30 (5th Sunday – no communion) Pastor Jim Abbott will cover.
- Tri-Synodical Theological Conference, January 28-30, Galveston

TREASURER'S REPORT: General Fund: \$3,553.17 (as of Dec. 12) Building Fund: \$9,059.62
Parsonage Account: \$8,488.95 Discretionary Fund: \$354.26 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: Contributions made to the budget should not be listed separately on the Offering Report form; all are General Fund.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: All is going well.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Practice on Saturday with the Christmas Program on Sunday.

SOCIAL OUTREACH: Christmas gifts delivered to family and looking at gifts for the couple.

PROPERTY: Front doors repaired but may need to be replaced due to rotten wood.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Scott will check with Synod on the progress of the approval for the Shared Ministry contract; possibly consider year-long contract.
2. Approved to invest the Cemetery Fund money with Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approved accounts to receive funds from donations totaling \$2,000.
2. Installation of Council Members and dinner on January 27.
3. Approval given for neighbor to connect to electrical pole.

(end of report)

Council Members and Treasurers:
Annual/Year-End Reports are due in the Church Office on or
before January 6, 2019.



2019 Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up.



2019 Flower Chart is up in the Narthex.



HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

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



together..... we make a difference

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

2019 Happy New Year! As I look forward to what God has planned for Eben-Ezer in this New Year, I give thanks for 2018 and all that God has Blessed Our Congregation with. Thank You to Everyone for your continued prayers, love, and support shown to me and my Family.



Mary



Remember In Prayer

OUR MEMBERS

Cindy Beckendorf
Daniel Borchgardt
Sheila Bradshaw
Kailyn Cole
Joyce Dittert
Tracy Draehn
Denise Ebert
Woodville Felscher
Larry Grebe

Albert Green
Marta Green
Troy Grimm
Bernice Hanath
David Hohlt
Kay 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
Anita Beach
Pastor Sue Beall
Jeri Bentke
Marchel Brennan
Susan Broesche
Nichole Carr
Judi Cole
Sheila Grimm Cordray
Sterling Crabtree
A'vahlynn Cuellar
Barbara Day
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
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
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

January Celebrations and Special Occasions



2nd Jamie Haws
3rd Nicole Borgstedte
3rd Clyde Vierus
6th Alyssa Talamantez
9th Albert Green
10th Sheila Bradshaw
10th Payton Farmer
10th Diane Fischer
10th Kaitlyn Lewis
13th Herman Ahrens
13th Allan Draehn
15th Amanda Grimm
15th Roy Hubert
16th Shannon Meyer
18th Jason Grimm
19th Sara Gresham
20th Jake Jacobs
20th Janice Steinfeld
22nd Alex Shell
24th Cindy Beckendorf
25th Jared Campbell
29th Ida Mae Weidner
30th Brady Griffin
31st Joyce Ahrens
31st Kathy Weiss

1st Brenda Kapchinski
1st Jerry Schwartz
7th Cory Steinfeld
12th De Wise
16th Jamie Haws
26th David Roehling

Welcome to New Members:

Millie Rose Cole
Randy & Cathie Steinfeld
Carter Dean Vasquez

Happy Anniversary



10th Luther & Ora Lee Gregor 59 years
13th Clifton & Marta Green 12 years