

Eben-Ezer Lutheran Church February 2019 Newsletter

Ministry Message: Luke 6:27-38

[Jesus said:] ²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, 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.” (NRSV)

Whew! Those are some tough words from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! “Love your enemies . . . do not condemn . . . be merciful . . . forgive . . . do not judge . . . do not condemn . . . bless . . . pray . . . give . . . do good to those who hate you . . . do to others as you would have them do to you.” Those are tough words and so hard to follow. But – so necessary in our world today.

We live in a world of hatred, condemnation, accusations, name-calling, finger-pointing. You see it and hear it everywhere. And we wonder – where will it all stop? How will it all ever end? Who can do anything about it? But – the answer is – that we must stop it. We must follow Christ’s commands to love – just as God loves us. To forgive – just as God forgives us. To seek the best for all people – just as God seeks the best for us.

Those are not easy things to do but if there is to be any healing or wholeness in our world, we must try our best to love just as God loves us. We must listen to the other person and try to understand their position. And we must seek reconciliation and healing so that all may come to live in God’s love.

This is not optional for us. Christ commands us to love one another. To seek the best for all. To work for the good of all people. We are to live our lives doing to others as we would have them do to us. This is what it means to follow Christ. This is what it means to live as children of God. This is how there will be healing and wholeness in this broken and hurting world.

Pray for God’s guidance. Pray for patience and good listening skills. Pray for those who hold opposing views. Pray for our world as we try to live together in love. And as you go about your day – think before you repost that hateful message on Facebook. Pray before putting someone down for their views or actions. Look for the good in all people and in all situations. Treat others as you would want them to treat you. And when you encounter hateful messages or angry actions in others, remember that Christ calls you to a higher standard. Christ calls you to love and forgive. To be merciful and to seek the best for all people.

How can the world ever be changed for the better? By calling on the Holy Spirit to guide us and empower us to live according to God’s plans and will for our lives. And then – by following the leading of the Holy Spirit – and living in love for all people.

Peace, Pastor Ken

CHURCH COUNCIL POSITIONS FOR 2019

We have the following positions open on the church council for the coming year: Evangelism and Stewardship. We are seeking volunteers to serve. Please contact a member of the Church Council if you would like to volunteer or need more information. Thank You!

SECOND SATURDAY BREAKFAST AT IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, WIEDEVILLE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH 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 February 9th 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

356 S Berlin Rd, Brenham TX 77833

Pastor Ken Weiss: home: 979-836-4653 cell: 979-451-1142

Email: kww Weiss@gmail.com

Church Office: 979-836-6706 Email: ebenezerbtx@hotmail.com

Website: www.ebenezerbrenham.com



February 2019

January Church Council Meeting highlights/unapproved minutes:

DECEMBER 2018 MINISTRY REPORT

- Eben-Ezer Mileage: 499 miles
- Eben-Ezer Visitation
 - Home Communion: 3 visits, 9 people present Joyce Ahrens made visits
 - Hospital Visits: 4 1 Med Center, College Station; 1 MD Anderson, Houston;
1 St. Josephs Rehab, Bryan; 1 Memorial Hermann, Woodlands
- Immanuel Mileage: 92 miles
- Immanuel Visitation
 - Home Communion: 4 visits, 9 people present Jerri Maurer made visits
 - Hospital Visits: 3 at St. Josephs Rehab, Bryan

EBEN-EZER WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR DECEMBER

- Christmas Program: 82
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship: 91
- Average Sunday Worship Attendance in December: 58
- Sunday Worship – Year-to-Date Average through December: 61

WORSHIP

- Baptism: Reid Wilhelm Hegefeld: January 27. Parents: Kimberly & Ross Hegefeld
- Ash Wednesday, March 6
- Easter Sunday, April 21

OTHER

- Tri-Synodical Theological Conference, January 28-30, Galveston
- Vacation: March 11-17. Out of worship on March 17, non-communion Sunday.

TREASURER'S REPORT: General Fund: \$10,358.10 (as of Dec. 31) Building Fund: \$10,240.26
Parsonage Account: \$9,488.95 Discretionary Fund: \$154.26 Youth: \$507.03
Sunday School: \$434.96 Confirmation: \$500.02 CUNA Mutual Group-Mertz: \$6,140.64
Cemetery Fund: Edward Jones - \$5,460.49 and Industry Bank CDs - \$10,543.11 & \$10,427.38

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: All is going well.

SOCIAL OUTREACH: Looking into possibly helping a family year round.

YOUTH: Youth from Wiedeville has been invited to join with Eben-Ezer Youth. Valentines Dinner scheduled; tickets and more information coming soon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Approved to move from a 6-month to a one-year contract with Immanuel Wiedeville.
2. Paperwork completed to invest Cemetery Fund money with Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest. Dr. Liz Johnson will be available after church service on March 31 for SMART PLANNING session.
3. Nominating committee still looking to fill position for Stewardship and Evangelism.
4. Audit committee will meet on January 19th.
5. Council luncheon will be January 27th.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Budget was presented by Charly Ruemke and approved.
2. Prepared the agenda for the Annual Congregational meeting.
3. Accepted De and Gary Koerth's transfer of membership to Eben-Ezer.

(end of report)

January 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting highlights/unapproved minutes:

Voting members present for quorum: 68

The 2018 Annual Report packets were handed out to the voting members; along with annual reports it also included the minutes from the 2018 Semi-Annual Meeting, Treasurer's Report, and proposed 2019 Budget.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Activity Building remodel is complete.
2. Church painting is complete; the final bill was \$9700, and \$7709 was received in donations.
3. A contractor has been contacted to repair wood trim around stain glass window.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2019 Budget was approved.
2. New council members were accepted as presented by the Nominating Committee.
3. Committee and Treasurer Reports were reviewed.
4. Audit Committee reported that books were reviewed, no discrepancies were found.
5. All is going well with Shared Ministry and a one year contract will be signed soon.
6. Cemetery Fund CD will be invested with Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest to earn a minimum of 4.25%.
7. Congregational members are needed to help maintain the flowerbeds.
8. 2018 Giving Statements are ready to be picked up.

(end of report)

Thank You

"Thank You" to the member who gave me, and all homebound members, a poinsettia at Christmas. I am very appreciative for the gift.

Sincerely,
Valeria Oevermann



New
Offering
Envelopes

If you have not done so, please pick up your 2019 Offering Envelopes. And if you are able, pick up and deliver the envelopes for other members who have not yet picked up theirs.



The 2019 Flower Chart is up in the Narthex. Please sign-up for your Floral Offering in Honor/Memory of Someone Special or a Special Occasion.



HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

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



One of the Greatest Gifts you can give is Your Time.



Remember In Prayer

OUR MEMBERS

Leroy Baron
Cindy Beckendorf
Daniel Borchardt
Sheila Bradshaw
Michael Brister
Joyce Dittert
Tracy Draehn
Denise Ebert
Woodville Felscher
Larry Grebe

Albert Green
Marta Green
Scott Gresham
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

Cookie Barnett
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
Pastor Bill Derrick
Elaine Duron
Sam Engman
Carol Fenton
Laura Fiesler
Archie Gandy
Beryl Glessing
Arvin Gresham
Patrick Harper

Carol Haarmeyer
John Haarmeyer
Gene Hermann
Jeremy Higgs
Betty Hohlt
Dorothy Jean Hohlt
Weldon Hohlt
Lena Jacks
Billy Jo Jasinski
Leslie Kelm
Harris Kubos
Ora Nell Kuretsch
Harold Lanford
McKenzie Lasagna
Sarah Salazar Lopez
Cindy Lyles
Ruth Maass
Grant Milton
Shirley Moehlmann
Jennifer Moore
Arlin Naegeli

Kaitlyn Nienstedt
Eric Ortiz
Sue Perry
Mike Pope
Lana Powell
Macee Prause
Sharon Preuss
Joyce Schaefer
Annie Schulze
Amanda Sebastian
Kyree Koehne Shaver
Pastor Roger Semmler
Bobby Smith
Hannah Smith
Carol Sorelle
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

February Celebrations and Special Occasions



1st Randy Steinfeld
 6th Lindsey Luten
 8th Georgiane Gessner
 10th Debra Kraft
 10th Clint Lampe
 12th Sandy Delacroix
 13th Tammy Burnett
 15th Jean Baron
 15th Cody Neutzler
 16th Taylor Farmer
 20th Linda Koonce
 21st Joy Felscher
 23rd Bryan Ruemke
 24th David Hohlt
 26th Lisa Vasquez
 27th Luke Grimm



1st Kevin Luten
 6th Alyssa Talamantez
 9th Ida Mae Weidner
 10th Wayne Hegefelf
 10th Robert Wayne Preuss
 16th Jordan Flores
 21st Erin Shell
 22nd Kristin Hawkins
 22nd Stephanie Post
 22nd Linda Preuss
 22nd Stacey Preuss
 22nd Dina Weiss
 25th Clyde Vierus
 26th Sara Gresham
 27th Crystal Hicks
 27th Dorothy Hohlt
 27th Ricky Kapchinski
 27th Wendi Kapchinski

Congratulations to Ross & Kimberly Hegefelf on the Baptism of their son Reid Wilhelm Hegefelf. Reid is the Grandson of Roy & Lavonne Hegefelf and Great-Grandson of Laura Fieseler.



Happy Anniversary



10th	Ricky & Brenda Kapchinski	29 years
22nd	Bill & Rose Warmke	23 years
22nd	Mike & De Wise	16 years