

Eben-Ezer Lutheran Church March 2019 Newsletter

Ministry Message: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (NRSV)

“So we are ambassadors for Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:20). This is our calling as the church. This is what we are to be about in all that we do. We are to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ – the good news – that Jesus Christ has died upon the cross and risen to new life again. He has done this so that our sins might be forgiven and so that we might have eternal life with God. This is, indeed, great good news for all of us and for the world.

And this is what we, as the church, are to be all about. We are to share this good news with all the world, in all that we say and do. As we enter this season of Lent, we are called to remember again the great sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And we are to be “ambassadors for Christ” as we go about our daily lives. We are to be kind, compassionate, loving, forgiving and generous – just as God has done all these things for us. And we are to help all people to know the love and forgiveness of Christ, for their lives, so that they, too, might be ambassadors for Christ. So that they, too, might be a “new creation” in Christ. This is God – working through the church – to reconcile the world through Christ.

Peace, Pastor Ken

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

We will have Ash Wednesday Worship Services at 12:10 Noon and 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 6 here at Eben-Ezer Lutheran. Both services will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. There will be a light luncheon served following the 12:10 Worship Service and an evening meal served at 6 PM prior to the 7 PM service. Everyone is invited to come out to worship with us. Invite others to come out also.

LENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR 2019

Included in your Newsletter is a schedule of the worship services, times and places for this year. Here it is briefly:

- We will have the 12:10 Noon service **EACH WEEK** here at Eben-Ezer Lutheran beginning on Ash Wednesday.
- We will have the 7 PM evening service here at Eben-Ezer Lutheran on Ash Wednesday.
- Then, we will **ALTERNATE** with Immanuel Lutheran of Wiedeville each week for the Wednesday evening services, beginning on Wednesday, March 13.

Please check the schedule provided in your Newsletter for the place of worship each week.

LENTEN MEALS

Each Wednesday in Lent we will have a Luncheon following the 12:10 Noon services EACH WEEK here at Eben-Ezer Lutheran. We will have an Evening Meal HERE at Eben-Ezer Lutheran on Wednesday, March 6 & 20 and April 3, served at 6:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to provide these meals. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or contact the church office. Thank You!

WEDNESDAY LENT SERMON SERIES FOR 2019

“Giving something up for Lent” is an old tradition in the church. During this time of reflection and repentance, we often “give something up” as a way of fasting from those things which may distract us from truly understanding and appreciating all that Jesus Christ has given up for us in his death on the cross. This year, we will use a reflection written by Pastor Matthew L. Kelley titled, “Giving It Up”, as the basis for our Wednesday sermon series. We will look at how Christ gave up his rightful place in heaven, popularity, expectations, enemies and his very life. And we will look at how we, too, are called to “give up” things in a similar manner as we are called to follow Christ. I hope that you will join us on Wednesdays in Lent as you consider giving something meaningful up for Lent, and all throughout the year, as you answer God’s call to follow him.

SECOND SATURDAY BREAKFAST AT IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, WIEDEVILLE SATURDAY, MARCH 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 March 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.

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!

Shared Ministry – Eben-Ezer and Immanuel Ash Wednesday – Easter Schedule 2019

12:10 Noon Lenten Worship at Eben-Ezer with Luncheon to follow

- **Each Wednesday in Lent beginning Ash Wednesday and also Maundy Thursday**

- **March 6: Ash Wednesday**

- 12:10 Noon Worship with Luncheon to follow at Eben-Ezer
- 6:00 pm Meal at Eben-Ezer
- 7:00 pm Worship at Eben-Ezer
 - Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at both services

- **March 13**

- 12:10 Noon Worship with Luncheon to follow at Eben-Ezer
- 6:00 pm Meal at Immanuel
- 7:00 pm Wednesday Lenten Service at Immanuel

- **March 20**

- 12:10 Noon Worship with Luncheon to follow at Eben-Ezer
- 6:00 pm Meal at Eben-Ezer
- 7:00 pm Wednesday Lenten Service at Eben-Ezer

- **March 27**

- 12:10 Noon Worship with Luncheon to follow at Eben-Ezer
- 6:00 pm Meal at Immanuel
- 7:00 pm Wednesday Lenten Service at Immanuel

- **April 3**

- 12:10 Noon Worship with Luncheon to follow at Eben-Ezer
- 6:00 pm Meal at Eben-Ezer
- 7:00 pm Wednesday Lenten Service at Eben-Ezer

- **April 10**

- 12:10 Noon Worship with Luncheon to follow at Eben-Ezer
- 6:00 pm Meal at Immanuel
- 7:00 pm Wednesday Lenten Service at Immanuel

- **April 18**

- Maundy Thursday
- 12:10 Noon Worship Service with Luncheon to follow at Eben-Ezer
- 6:00 pm Meal at Eben-Ezer
- 7:00 pm Worship Service
 - Holy Communion and Stripping of Altar at both services

- **April 19**

- Good Friday
- 2:00 pm Worship Service at Immanuel
 - After worship meal at Immanuel
- **6:00 pm** Worship Service at Eben-Ezer

- **April 21**

- Eben-Ezer - Easter Sunday – Sunrise Service: 6:30 am
- Eben-Ezer - Easter Breakfast: 7:30 am
- Eben-Ezer - Easter Service: 8:30 am
- Immanuel – 10:30 Easter Worship

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 Church Council Meeting highlights/unapproved minutes:

JANUARY 2019 MINISTRY REPORT

- Eben-Ezer Mileage: 254 miles
- Eben-Ezer Visitation: Home Communion: 2 visits, 4 people present, Joyce Ahrens made visits
Hospital Visits: 0
- Immanuel Mileage: 0 miles
- Immanuel Visitation: Home Communion: 4 visits, 8 people present, Jerri Maurer made visits
Hospital Visits: 0

Eben-Ezer Worship Attendance for January

- Average Sunday Worship Attendance in January: 63
- Sunday Worship – Year-to-Date Average through January: 63

WORSHIP

- Baptism: Reid Wilhelm Hegefeld: January 27. Parents: Kimberly & Ross Hegefeld
- Joyce Dittert Funeral: February 3. Graveside Service: February 5 in New Ulm
- 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.
- Vacation: July 8-14. Out of worship on July 14. Communion Sunday.

TREASURER'S REPORT: General Fund: \$2,097.75 (as of Feb. 9) Building Fund: \$10,428.88
Parsonage Account: \$10,488.95 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 Industry Bank CDs - \$10,543.11 & \$10,489.06

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: All is going well.

WORSHIP: Ella Rau reported that Rev. Chris Markert, Assistant to the Bishop, will deliver the sermon on March 17th.

YOUTH: Pastor Ken reported the Youth Group, together with Immanuel Youth, possibly trying to have some type of dinner.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discussion to sign a twelve month contract for Shared Ministry.
2. CD has been cashed and money sent to the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest.
3. Information will be available soon for the SMART PLANNING session to be held on March 31st.
4. Council members received a copy of their job description and asked to review/update.
5. Evangelism and Stewardship positions remain open on Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Eben-Ezer and Immanuel will be alternating Lent Services; a schedule will be in the Sunday bulletin and monthly newsletter.
2. Due to Lent Services at Immanuel, the Council Meeting for March 13th has been changed to March 20th and the April 10th meeting changed to April 17th.
3. Approved a time change for the Good Friday Worship Service from 7:00 to 6:00 p.m.
4. Discussed care and maintenance of the cemetery; in need of someone to coordinate and work with a group to regularly care for the cemetery.
5. A workday was scheduled for April 6; a spaghetti lunch will be served.
6. A Time & Talent Sheet and Member Record Form will be given to/sent out to members to complete and return.
7. Discussed the request from members to donate a live oak tree.

(end of report)

Thank You

To all the Thrivent Choice Participants

for choosing Eben-Ezer Lutheran Church! Based on member recommendations, Eben-Ezer received \$5,742 in 2018!

Since 2010, over \$414 million has been distributed to thousands of churches, schools, and other nonprofits through Thrivent Choice.

April 7, 2019

Campus Ministry Sunday at Eben-Ezer

Treehouse Ministry,

a ministry of the Lutheran Church (ELCA) at
Texas A&M and Blinn College, will be here.



To help with cleaning/maintenance of the cemetery and flowerbeds on a regular basis through-out the year.

The Church Council has scheduled a workday at the Church
April 6, 2019
beginning at 8:00 a.m.

A spaghetti lunch with sides and dessert will be served.

For more information, please contact
Lisa Grebe at 979-203-0082.

Thank You!

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

Lent



Ash Wednesday	March 6
Wednesday Lent Services	begin on March 13
Palm Sunday	April 14
Maundy Thursday	April 18
Good Friday	April 19
Holy Saturday	April 20
Easter Sunday	April 21

New this Lent Season: services will alternate being held at Eben-Ezer and Immanuel; please see the enclosed schedule.

If you would like to provide a meal and/or dessert for the services here at Eben-Ezer, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you may call the church office. Thank you.



EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

COST PER PLANT: \$10.00

DEADLINE: Sunday, April 14

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.

Sale sponsored by Women of the Church

MAKING A DIFFERENCE in LEAVING A SUSTAINED LUTHERAN LEGACY

Lizbeth Johnson

Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest

Gift Planner for the Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

Each ELCA Lutheran Church has a distinct mission for ministry and their own culture of giving. Yet each one of the 103 congregations contributes greatly to multiple ministries strengthening the vitality of faith and God's love extended in the Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod.

The same is true in examining motives to consider establishing a church endowment. While endowment planning extends God's work into the future, it also begins to build ministry with through financial sustainability when distribution (the interest earned) goes back to the local church to meet need. Congregations decide how best to shepherd the distributions for the purpose of ministry. The church council and congregation decide how to use the new funds. Once an endowment is established, a strong distribution back to the church through investment growth is not the only way the endowment grows. Endowments can grow exponentially through legacy gifts. A "Legacy gift" is any portion of a Will or Estate that an individual leaves behind for the church upon passing to be with the Lord in eternity.

Where do you envision Eben-Ezer Lutheran Church to be in ten years? In 20 years? Will Eben-Ezer be prepared to serve the next generation of Lutherans? If not financially strong, how will it be possible?

Stewardship is about our values and the way in which we use the resources provided to us. We are all familiar with a tithe on Sunday, a special gift or pledge to the capital campaign on occasion, but there are other ways to make a difference!

The gift planner offers education programs to suggest an option as Christians we do not often use---end-of-life stewardship planning with the Will and Estate of individual congregation members. Do you know that a tithe in your estate plan may make a big difference to the church's future?

Lutherans who consider the benefit to ministry of leaving a gift upon their own death, provide a testimony to an individual's values in life and desire for those they leave behind.

After naming children for inheritance and other typical beneficiaries, our thoughts should turn to the Lord who is the giver of all good things to return a portion. There is no better time that we will least need our resources or be in a better position to contribute to the Lord's work. Most plans explore the option of a bequest, gift annuity, personal endowment or trust as a last financial blessing and testimony.

Statistics tell us only 30% of Lutherans have an end-of-life plan in place. Are you one of the 70% without a plan? If so, now is not too soon to establish your own legacy---not only in life, but also in death. Leave a legacy that grows faith-based ministries for your family and brothers and sisters in Christ.

Stay after the worship service on Sunday, March 31 to learn more about SMART PLANNING that can benefit your family, your church and other ministries or non-profits. The educational session will give you some ideas to consider. The gift planner provides personal consultation at no cost or obligation. Contact your pastor or the gift planner directly at 713.775.1595 or email lcjohnson@lfsw.org. Consider arranging a private, confidential appointment for your family talking with Dr. Johnson after the presentation on Sunday, March 31.



Remember In Prayer

OUR MEMBERS

Cindy Beckendorf
Sheila Bradshaw
Michael Brister
Tracy Draehn
Denise Ebert
Woodville Felscher
Larry Grebe

Albert Green
Marta Green
Troy Grimm
Bernice Hanath
David Hohlt
Wanda Meier

Valeria Oevermann
Judy Smith
Cathie Steinfeld
Clarence Steinfeld
Debora Talamantez
Dorothy Vogler

FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION

Nelson Aschenbeck
Cookie Barnett
Eric Baranowski
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
Pat Gaskamp
Beryl Glessing
Arvin Gresham

Carol Haarmeyer
John Haarmeyer
Patrick Harper
Mattie Haynes
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
Marcie Loesch
Sarah Salazar Lopez
Cindy Lyles
Grant Milton
Shirley Moehlmann

Jennifer Moore
Arlin Naegeli
Kaitlyn Nienstedt
Eric Ortiz
Sue Perry
Mike Pope
Lana Powell
Macee Prause
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 Theille - daughter of Larry Grebe

We express our Sincere Sympathy to the Family and Friends of Joyce Dittert, who passed away on January 31st. Funeral services were held here at Eben-Ezer. Survivors include her husband Curtis, daughters & sons-in-law Sharon & John Dean and Kathy & Bill Palmer, grandchildren, and many other family members. God's Blessings to all who mourn.

March Celebrations and Special Occasions



1st Tim Hohlt
 2nd Anthony Talamantez
 6th Brooke Hynes
 6th Gary Koerth
 8th Franklin Goerlitz
 9th Donna Mills
 10th Harry Grimm
 12th Curtis Dittert
 12th Aiden Griffin
 12th Martha Weidner
 16th Katie Beckendorf
 19th Mitchell Danesi
 19th Catherine Ruemke
 21st AnNell Zwahr
 22nd Kaylynn Draehn
 23rd Carrie Little
 27th Mischelle Schwartz
 31st Brynlee Beckendorf
 31st Ashlea Schwartz
 31st David Schwartz

1st Speedy Stegent
 1st Lindsey Theile
 5th Sandy Delacroix
 5th Paisley Huston
 8th Joyce Ahrens
 8th Jody Naumann
 11th Jared Campbell
 11th Luther Gregor
 12th Jason Grimm
 15th Sawyer Beckendorf
 15th Amanda Grimm
 20th Kaitlyn Lewis
 20th Donna Mills
 21st Bryan Ruemke
 23rd Shelia Bradshaw
 23rd Dustin Schwartz
 26th Ellamae Cole
 26th Debbie Knipstein
 28th Allan Draehn
 28th Pat Gold
 28th Donna Griffin
 28th JoAnne Hynes
 29th Ethan Gessner
 30th Leroy Baron

Happy Anniversary



8th	Scott & Sara Gresham	5 years
16th	Robert & Connie Warmke	34 years
18th	Wesley & Rocio Warmke	2 years
29th	Charles & Angelie Franke	44 years