

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1400 North Texas Blvd, Alice, Texas 78332

9:00 A.M. Traditional Worship

10:10 A.M. Sunday School for all ages - 11:10 A.M. Contemporary Worship

Website: www.ILCFamily.org Email: ilc@ilcfamily.org 361-664-6691(O) 361-664-0919 (F)

The Rev. Kathleen G. Kasper, Pastor

Glad Tidings - January 2012

Know Christ Live Christ Share Christ

The Gospel of John...A Sermon Series for 2012

In 2012, we are going to do something a little different. We are going to use the entire Gospel of John as the basis for our Gospel readings throughout the year. The lectionary (the readings each week) that is traditionally used has a year for Matthew, a year for Mark, a year for Luke, but the Gospel of John doesn't have its own "year." Typically, the Gospel of John has been used to supplement the readings during the year when the Gospel of Mark is used. The reason for this is that Mark is a much shorter Gospel than Matthew and Luke.

Why we do not have an entire year for the Gospel of John on a regular, cyclical basis is unknown to me. The lectionary system we have been using was developed by an organization called the Consultation on Common Texts. This ecumenical organization is made up of representatives from several church bodies in North America. When I was younger, I thought that the use of the lectionary was a guaranteed way to hear the entire Bible each year. I learned in seminary that my assumption was wrong. In actuality, in a three-year lectionary series, only a little more than 15% of the Bible is heard. Naturally this leaves us with much more to read and study either on our own or in other Bible Study groups.

The Gospel of John is a very special Gospel to me. Most certainly the Apostle John was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write what he did. John's Gospel gives us a much different look at Jesus. We get to hear how Jesus did the work he did. We also know by reading the first fourteen verses of John's Gospel not only who Jesus is but that by receiving him we have the right to become "children of God."

It would be wonderful to begin with John 1:1 and go verse by verse straight through John's Gospel. Continuity and keeping the texts in their context has great value and as much as possible, we will keep sections of this Gospel in tact and in order. We will, however, change course for Lent and Easter, but then return to where we leave off before Lent.

I pray that you will be greatly blessed by John's Gospel.

Pastor Kathleen

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

QUARTERLY, CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - January 29, 2012

PLEASE NOTE: One (1) Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting will be held in ILC Parish Hall.

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

The Constitution Committee will have an open meeting between the two worship services on January 8th. The purpose of this meeting is to allow the congregation to ask questions and to have input into the proposed ILC Constitution. If you need a copy of the proposed Constitution, contact Bill Botard.

FROM the CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on DECEMBER 4, 2011

The congregation, at its December 4, 2011, meeting, passed a motion to fund all designated and memorial accounts with the Mission Investment Fund located in Chicago. The general fund operating expenses for Immanuel will continue to be funded with the local bank account.

Beginning January 1, 2012, contributions or payments to designated and/or memorial funds must be made by a separate check and not included in general fund offerings.

One check for designated & memorial funds.

One check for general fund offerings. Questions? Call the church office.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for **2012** are on the table in the narthex at the back of the sanctuary.

If you would like to use offering envelopes, but find that none are assigned to you, please contact the church office. Likewise, if offering envelopes are currently assigned to you, but you no longer wish to use them, please contact the church office.

2012 BENEVOLENCE

Blue envelopes have been placed in the pew racks for those wishing to give donations to benevolence. **January/February benevolence is designated for Cross Trails Ministries (the Lutheran camping program that offers summer camps for children and brings Day Camp to Immanuel).**

DAY CAMP - June 4-7, 2012

Because of the high demand for this program in our community, **we will again offer enrollment to 60 children.** The camp is open to children who are currently in kindergarten through fifth grade. Registration for children and grandchildren of Immanuel members will begin in February. A \$5 donation per child is due at the time of registration.



On Sunday, February 5, 2012, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join our youth as well as youth from around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. The youth of our church will be holding soup pots at the church doors on Super Bowl Sunday to collect your monetary donations or donations of canned goods as you leave worship. We appreciate your support. Please note: You may start donating food and money now if you choose. (All donations will be given to the Alice Food Pantry.)

City-Wide Prayer Services

The Alice Area Alliance of Christian Churches (AAACC) invite you to join together weekly in prayer. We meet on **TUESDAYS AT 6:00 P.M.** The **host congregations** for each week are listed below. Everyone is invited to come and unite in prayer for our city, state, nation, and as the Lord leads us. The schedule is:

January 3, 2012 -Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1400 N. Texas Blvd. - Pastor Kathleen Kasper
January 10, 2012 -Praise Fellowship Church, 3376 Hwy 44 - Pastor George Franco
January 17, 2012 -Agape House Fellowship, 3526 Hwy. 281 N. - Pastor Richard Musser
January 24, 2012 -El Mesias Methodist, 1014 S Cameron St. - Pastor Juanita Garcia
January 31, 2012 -Templo De Liberacion, 104 Schley Ave. - Pastor Domingo Vela
February 7, 2012 -Agape House Fellowship, 3526 Hwy. 281 N. - Pastor Richard Musser
February 14, 2012 -Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1400 N. Texas Blvd. - Pastor Kathleen Kasper

Come and Share in the Unity God is Working Among Us in Alice, TX

The **FLOWER/CANDLE/COMMUNION CALENDAR** is on the sign-up table at the back of the sanctuary. Stop by the church and sign up, or just call the church office and the secretary will sign you up. Altar Flowers \$20 per Sunday; Candles \$20 per month; Holy Communion Elements \$20 per Sunday. When signing up, please write the information as you want it stated in the worship guide. Thank you!

CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

Confirmation Class will meet all Wednesdays in January from 6:30 to 7:30P.

THANK YOU NOTES:

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Brush Country CASA volunteers and board members and the numerous children that we serve, I would like to thank the members of the congregation of the Immanuel Lutheran Church for their most generous gifts of \$730 and \$100.00. We are most delighted to be considered in your church's giving.

Brush Country CASA's focus is the right of a child to grow up in a safe and loving home and our goal is to have a CASA volunteer for every child in foster care. Thank you for helping us achieve this by your most generous donations. Thank you so much for the church's trust and belief in the work that our Brush Country CASA volunteers provide.

God Bless You

Sedna Towler, Executive Director

To the people of Immanuel Lutheran,

Thank you for your cards, gifts, and the cash gift we received on Christmas Day. It is truly a pleasure to serve among you. May our wonderful God bless us as we continue to serve Him in this place and wherever He would choose to lead us. *Pastor Kathleen, Helen, and David*

Kudos to my Immanuelite friends,

When we "thank God for his indescribable gift" – 'Jesus' – we soon realize that He is the one who prompts our giving. Christian hearts always find joy in giving and your monetary gift of love to me is deeply appreciated and humbly received with sincere gratitude. May each one of us experience the deep peace of contentment and the boundless love of God's "Jesus gift" – now and always.

In grateful appreciation,

Jean Menking

PRAYER

PRAYER CHOIR (Intercessory Prayer)

The group meets every Wednesday at 1:45 p.m. in the Conference Room. You are invited to come be part of this wonderful ministry.

PASTORAL CARE

If you or a family member is ill, hospitalized, or in need of pastoral care, please notify the church office (361-664-6691), or Pastor Kathleen Kasper (361-664-3905).

PRAYER CONCERNS:

We pray especially for Vicki Bottenfield; Bert Buegeler; Bill Mann; Maria Garcia; Ruben Resendez; Barbara Deaver; Harry Rychetsky; Mike Pena; Jeanie Holmgreen; Sharon Swisher Daniels; Gary DeReese (cancer); Leona Owen; Barbara Cornelius; Ramon Salinas; Haiden Zablocky; Bobby; Chris Manka; Sterling Maresch; Scott Wallace; Doug/Robbie Cornelius; Herrell Elsik; Armando Pena; David Gonzalez; James Navarro; Ramona Alvarado; Gary/Pam Buegeler; Eric Lindquist; Pat/George Fischer; Nicole Hayzlett; Frankie/Angie Lerma; Carolyn Hunter; Carol Zak; Roel C. Saenz; David Bowen; Allen; Norberto Garcia; Ernie Meyer; Charles Taylor; Chet; Cassie & Caylee Hammock; Mauro Vela; Rachel/Ramiro; Carey Woods; Amy, Adam; Addison; Ciara, Dawn, Mark, Michelle; Marissa, Bianca, George; Manuel; the families of Bill Meyer and Art Meyer. Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

MILITARY PRAYER LIST:

We pray for our nation, its leaders, and all the men and women serving in our armed forces and their families. We pray especially for Clint Barrett; Heather Carter; Clinton Hammock; Sherry Sutherland Brown; Kurt O. Koenig; Scott Dougherty; William Fullington; Domingo Benavides; Gary Weber, Jr.; Brett Williams; J.C. Tiller; Jonathan Birnbaum; Robert Fox; Caton Hammock; Charles D. Nesloney; Evan Elliot; Noel Cantu; Justin Hunter; Clint Alanis; Toney McDowell; Jimmy Hebert; Adam Owens; Jennifer Barrett Farmer; Robbie Farmer; and Kevin Brown. Abba God, we thank you for how you continue to protect our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. We pray especially for Jeremy Martinez and his troop; they have been hit multiple times by the enemy. We continue to pray for their protection. We thank you for all of the men and women who have returned home safely. For all those who have come home with injuries, especially Ronnie Sullivan, we ask that you restore their bodies and their emotions. Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO:

Shirley Meyer and family at the death of husband, father, grandfather, William 'Bill' Meyer, on Tuesday, December 26, 2011. Our sympathy also goes out to Irene Grisham, sister to Bill Meyer. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 29, 2011, at Holmgreen Chapel with The Rev. John Wiley Fox officiating. Burial at Alice Cemetery.

Ernie Meyer and family at the death of husband, father, and grandfather, Arthur 'Art' Meyer, on December 27, 2011. Art was 83 years of age, being born on September 11, 1928. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Ernie Meyer; his son, Stan Meyer of DeFuniak Springs, Florida; his daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Mike Emery, and his grandson, Gregory Emery all of Rowlett, Texas. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 7, 2012, at:

Our Savior Lutheran Church
3003 Horizon Road
Rockwall, Texas 75032

Ernie can receive mail at the following address:

Royse City Rehabilitation Center
Mrs. Ernie Meyer – Rm 410-A
901 W I30
Royse City, TX 75119

ILCW NOTES

(Immanuel Lutheran Church Women)

“Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief.” [Mark 9:24]

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY: “CONFESSING CHRIST” — Mark 8-9

“In this session we reach the mid-point in reading Mark’s Gospel. If it feels like you are being drawn deeply into the heart of the text, you are experiencing Mark’s gift as a narrator. The story is no longer just about others; it is a narrative directed at us, too. We will explore what it means to make our own confession of faith as disciples.” (Gather) Hymn: ‘Will You Come and Follow Me’ (ELW) This is the study for Dorcas/Priscilla Circle—from GATHER magazine.

The Lydia Circle uses the Women of Faith Study Series; 1st Tuesday, “A Life of Worship”

GATHER. . . YOU MUST CONSIDER THIS. . . There are informative, inspiring stories in this double issue. . . January/February. “Belief and Unbelief” tells how these two live alongside one another. In “Tough Questions”, the struggle we face in the midst of tragedy and the hardest question as ‘Where is God?’ God is with us, even and especially in our deepest need. Another topic near us. “Being Good Water Stewards”, offers ideas to what should be done to conserve water. Water is a powerful symbol in our Christian faith; water stories run through our holy texts like a silver thread. Be good stewards of God’s creation! There a few extra copies of this GATHER magazine at Women’s Ministry room, or in the hall by it.

QUILTING!.. Five quilts were added to our LWR project when the Dorcas/Priscilla Circle and friends met in December. Almost all of the gang were on hand, and had a great time. Thanks to All!! Get ready! This year’s sewing days will begin with February 9!! We hope to have a lot of you come on in to see what goes !!

MAY GOD’S BLESSINGS BE YOURS IN 2012!!!

+ + +

Applying Bible Principles

Describing the Macedonian Christians, Paul wrote, “Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability” (2 Cor. 8:2-3).

What does it mean to give beyond our ability? In some ways, it means to discard our treasured calculators and push our giving to the point where the numbers don’t add up. It means to give when the proverbial bottom line indicates we shouldn’t give. It might also mean to give away not just the luxuries, but also some of life’s necessities.

Let’s face it — most Christians (including most of us) do not give beyond our ability. Most of us do not give out of proportion to our income. In effect, we claim 1 Corinthians 16:2 as our life’s verse concerning giving, where we are admonished to give as God has prospered us or in direct proportion to our income. Make no mistake about it — that’s a good pattern for giving, a pattern that every child of God should be following. But sometimes, God calls us to give out of proportion to our income. He calls us to give sacrificially in order that His kingdom might advance and prosper.

Such giving is unguarded, spontaneous, and uncalculated. This type of giving refuses to count the cost of giving, but instead, counts only the joy of fully obeying how God has directed in our lives. Such giving is frequently lavish and represents an act of love and discipleship. Such giving is exemplified by the widow who gave all that she had (Mark 12) and by the Macedonian Christians.

David Livingston, pioneer missionary to Africa almost two centuries ago, was described as having “sacrificed” his life in service for Christ on that continent. His response is highly relevant to our living and our giving:

Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paid back as a small part of the great debt owing to our God which we can never repay? Is that a sacrifice which brings its own reward of healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter? It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say rather it is a privilege . . . when we remember the great sacrifice which He made who left His Father’s throne on high to give Himself for us.

As you consider your giving, are you giving less than your ability, according to your ability, or beyond your ability?

ALTAR GUILD

ALTAR & ETERNAL CANDLES:

OPEN - Call the church office to get signed up.

COMMUNION ELEMENTS:

Jan. 8 - OPEN - Call the church office to get signed up.

Jan. 15 - OPEN - Call the church office to get signed up.

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Jan. 1 - Laskowski Family - In honor of the Christ Child.

Jan. 8 - Cindy/Willie Gonzales - In honor of Cash's birthday.

Jan. 15 - OPEN - Call the church office to get signed up.

Jan. 22 - Deborah and Ryan Dohoney - In honor of Frank's birthday.

Jan. 29 - OPEN - Call the church office to get signed up.

2012 ALTAR FLOWERS/CANDLES/COMMUNION

The sign-up sheets for Flowers/Candles and Holy Communion for 2012 are on the sign-up table. When signing up, please list your occasion or event on the sheet.

BIRTHDAYS

1/1 Courtney Fuhrken

1/1 Susie Spaniel

1/2 Amy Davis

1/3 Cash Gonzales

1/4 Clarence Buendel, Jr.

1/4 Laura Delgado

1/4 John Wallgren

1/5 Carlo Manriques

1/5 Ernestina Maresch

1/6 Pauline Buendel

1/6 Leah Rea

1/7 Alenora Striedel

1/8 Jennifer Chiles

1/9 Eric Carnes

1/11 Clay Brieger

1/12 Lori Steindorf

1/15 Katherine Botard

1/15 Kristen Franki

1/15 Amanda Harris

1/18 Sterling Maresch

1/19 Randi Cornelius

1/20 Deyanira Palacios

1/22 Steven Buendel

1/22 Hayley Cornelius

1/24 Norman DeReese

1/24 Frank Dohoney

1/24 Katherine Goldapp

1/25 Carol Swisher

1/26 Silvia Randall

1/28 Aaron Richter

1/28 Waldean Richter

1/29 Trevor Fuhrken

1/30 Sebastian Valverde

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

1/1 James Barrett

1/1 Katherine Botard

1/1 Sharie Brandt

1/1 Michael Ermis

1/1 Ann Fox

1/1 Cathy Glover

1/1 Gary Glover

1/1 Katherine Goldapp

1/1 Penny Gordon

1/1 Thomas Hayslip

1/1 Sterling Marech

1/1 Richard Myers

1/1 Waldyne Nesloney

1/1 Jeri Schulte

1/1 Carol Swisher

1/1 Carolyn Woods

1/2 Ruth Bartlett

1/3 Gracie Barrett

1/10 Robert Frank

1/10 Joseph Randall, Jr.

1/14 Ruth Brower

1/15 Michelle Glover

1/16 Hunter McDowell

1/16 Toney McDowell

1/17 Eric Andersen

1/18 Kevin Myers

1/19 Hillary Martin

1/22 Jennifer Chiles

1/22 Whitney Crahen

1/23 Dustin Buegeler

1/23 Nicole Hayzlett

1/24 Callie Andersen

1/24 Tammy Andersen

1/26 Clifton Boerm

1/26 Amy Carnes

1/27 Mardella Laskowski

1/30 Ryan Ermis

1/30 Will Swisher

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1/1 John/Ann Fox

1/1 Ruben/Mary Sue Lassmann

1/2 Clint/Tessie Colle

1/5 Eric/Tammy Andersen

1/5 Melvin/Shirley Menzel

1/8 Roy/Sharie Brandt

1/9 Eric/Melba Andersen

1/12 John/Donna Cornelius

1/24 Tim/Delmira Brown

1/25 Jack/Sandy Rose

1/31 Roy/Kathleen Steindorf

CHURCH COUNCIL

Executive Board Mtg Monday, Jan. 2, 2012 7:00 p.m. Conference Rm	Council Reports/Agenda All Newsletter Information <u>Always Due</u> 2nd Monday of each month	Church Council Mtg Monday, January 16, 2012 7:00 p.m. Conference Rm
---	---	--

QUARTERLY, CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - January 29, 2012
PLEASE NOTE: One (1) Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. (Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.)
Meeting will be held in ILC Parish Hall.

Council Offices

President Sheryl Wallgren
 Vice President Bill Botard
 Secretary Sylvia Work
 Treasurer Nettie Cornelius

Standing Committees

Education Gale Keen
 Evangelism Waldyne Nesloney
 Fellowship Gaynell Franki
 Prop/Grds Allan Schulte
 Social Concerns Cristina Soliz
 Stewardship Steve Maresch
 Worship Rosie Lindquist
 Youth Ann Menking

COUNCIL MEETING

November 14, 2011 at 7 p.m.
(Minutes summarized)

Call to Order: Sheryl Wallgren - **Prayer by:** Pastor Kathleen

Minutes: Motion was made by Bill Botard to accept the minutes of the October 17, 2011 Council Meeting and the October 24, 2011 Called Council Meeting by Telephone, seconded by Allen Schulte, carried.

Treasurer's Report: Nettie Cornelius - Filed for audit.

Pastor's Report: Four Bible study groups now; **Standing Committee Reports:** Reports filed.

Unfinished Business:

Constitution Committee: -Open meetings to review the constitution will be held between our two (2) Sunday services on 12/11/2011, 12/18/2011, and January 8, 2012. Executive Board will review the constitution at the meeting on January 2, 2012 and Council will again review the constitution on January 16, 2012

* Barbara Cornelius sent a letter requesting release to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Marble Falls, Texas. Bill Botard made the motion to accept Ms. Cornelius request for release, Waldyne Nesloney 2nd, carried.

New Business:

* Property and Grounds update: Cristina Rosales made the motion to take the request to pay CAW \$732.99 (for work on water leak under the foundation in the kitchen area) to the congregation at the December 4, 2011 Quarterly, Congregational Meeting, 2nd by Nettie Cornelius, carried.

* Allan Schulte made the motion to change insurance companies to Church Mutual as soon as possible, 2nd by Sylvia Work, carried.

*Allan Schulte made the motion to have a 80/20 coverage plan with Church Mutual, Nettie Cornelius seconded, carried.

* Bill Botard made the motion to recommend the proposed budget to the congregation as presented by the Stewardship Committee, 2nd by Waldyne Nesloney, carried.

*Steve Maresch made the motion to recommend to the congregation that the designated and memorial accounts be moved to the Mission Investment Fund account in Chicago and to un-restrict the Mission Investment Fund account. Seconded by Ann Menking, one (1) abstain, carried.

* Ann Menking made the motion to pay payroll and use the funds out of the \$5,000 from Mission Investment Fund (Special Ministries); 2nd by Nettie Cornelius, carried.

Adjourned with a closing prayer and the Lord's Prayer led by Sheryl Wallgren.

Attending: Pastor Kathleen, Steve Maresch, Sylvia Work, Rosie Lindquist, Allen Schulte, Nettie Cornelius, Ann Menking, Bill Botard, Gale Keen, Cristina Rosales Soliz, Waldyne Nesloney; Employee: Helen Grant; Visitors: Brian Menking, Bruce Menking, Jean Menking, Carol Stanley

Summary of minutes submitted by church secretary, Helen Grant. Official minutes on file at church office.