



Emanuel's Lutheran Church
 206 North Travis Street
 Seguin, Texas 78155

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Emanuel's Mission Statement

To proclaim God's grace through Word and Sacrament, and to bear witness to God's Kingdom in our daily lives.

Get in touch with us!

Phone:
 (830) 379-5046

Fax:
 (830) 379-7518

E-mail:
info@emanuels-seguin.org

Catch us on the Web!
www.emanuels-seguin.org

Worship Services
 8:00 a.m.
 &
 10:30 a.m.

Congregational Leadership

Staff

Pastor	The Rev. Paul J. Zwarich
Pastoral Assistant	Willie Spreen
Hospital Visitation Pastor in San Antonio	The Rev. Darwin Huartson
Director of Music & Worship	Thomas Engler
Administrative Assistant	Jeannie Hall
Desktop Publisher/Secretary	Bonnie Cheatham
Day School Director	Burlene LeClair
Nursery Coordinator	Heidi Koepsel
Wedding Coordinator	Dee Dee Burns

Congregation Council

Natalie Alexander	Evelyn Dittmar (Secretary)
Deb Haug	Pat Hoppe (Vice-President)
Denise Hufnagl	Brian Jones
Roland Naumann	Ronald Naumann
Christa Nichols	Jeanne Palmer (Treasurer)
Dennis Sagebiel (President)	Keith Vinyard

Worship Services & Events

December 6, 2009	8:00 and 10:30 am Worship Service/ Holy Communion/Hunger Sunday 8:00 am Baptism 9:15 am Sunday School/Confirmation Class 11:30 am Sunday School Teachers meeting 2 yrs thru 6 th grade
December 13, 2009	8:00 and 10:30 am Worship Service /Holy Communion 9:15 am Sunday School/Confirmation Class/ Altar Guild Meeting 11:30 am Annual Congregational Meeting 3:00 pm Christmas Caroling
December 20, 2009	8:00 and 10:30 am Worship Service/ Holy Communion 9:15 am Sunday School/Confirmation Class 11:30 am Tree Decorating
December 24, 2009	12:00 pm Church Office Closed 2:30 pm Christmas Eve Service/Holy Communion 7:00 pm Candlelight Family Service/ Children's Christmas Program 11:00 pm Candlelight Service/ Holy Communion
December 25, 2009	9:30 am Christmas Day/ Holy Communion Church Office Closed
December 27, 2009	8:00 and 10:30 am Worship Service/ Holy Communion 9:15 am Sunday School/Confirmation Class 12:15 pm Singles Food Fun & Fellowship

From the Pastor

'Tis The Season At Emanuel's

“And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were so afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.’” Luke 2:9-14

I want to invite you and your family to join us this Christmas Season as we celebrate **Emanuel** (God with us). Christmas Eve services will be held at 2:30 pm, 7:00 pm & 11:00 pm. The 11:00 pm service will also be broadcast live on KWED radio and will be sponsored by American Bank of Texas. Our Christmas Day service will be held at 9:30 am. On behalf of Emanuel's Lutheran Church I want to wish you and your loved ones a Very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Pastor Paul

From Willie's Desk

I have just spent Friday evening and all day Saturday attending an Outreach Academy. You might ask 'what's that about'? Well, lets see..

We often refer to the last two verses in Matthew's Gospel as the “Great Commission”--to make disciples. How do you do that? First you have to develop relationships, and get to know the person you are with.. He or she needs to get to know you. Then, you tell your story. Your story is your faith story. If you are to be convincing, you have to show how your faith has had an impact on your life. That which God has done for you has had the effect on your life. Now you can tell your story. Psalm 40 verses 9 and 10 says that 'I've told the good news and held nothing back; I've not concealed God's love from the world.'

All of us need to review our lives and share God's message.

PRAY FOR OTHER CONGREGATIONS!

Each congregation in our San Antonio Conference is being asked to remember other congregations in prayer through the year, and all have been sent a schedule of weeks in which to pray for a specific congregation. We will be remembering these congregations in our prayers each Sunday, and you are asked to keep them in prayer through the week.

Those for whom we pray in December:

December 6	Amazing Grace, San Antonio
December 13	St. Andrew, Canyon Lake
December 20	Atonement, San Antonio
December 27	Zion, Castroville

Lectionary Readings for December 2009

Date	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Dec 6	Mal. 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Phil. 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
Dec 13	Zeph. 3:14-20	Isa. 12:2-6	Phil. 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Dec 20	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:46b-55	Heb. 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]
Dec 24	Isa. 9:2-7	Ps. 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]
Dec 25	Isa. 62:6-12	Ps. 97	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20
Dec 27	1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26	Ps. 148	Col. 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52

Pre-school and Elementary Sunday School



THE CHRISTMAS TABLEAU DURING THE 7:00 FAMILY SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE WILL INCLUDE CHILDREN IN THESE CLASSES. ANY REHEARSALS WILL BE HELD APART FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR. FAMILIES WILL BE RECEIVING A LETTER WITH MORE INFORMATION.

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR PRE-SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN ON THE TWO SUNDAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS - DECEMBER 27 AND JANUARY 3.

- In Sunday School we not only learn Bible songs and stories (and maybe even a few Bible memory verses), but we experience the joy of sharing through our offerings. **December monetary offering** for the children age 3 through second grade will be for a gift of an animal to a third-world family establishing a farm through ELCA Good Gifts.
- Our **3's and 4's** meet in Room 215A for songs, then enjoy their Bible story with Ms. Lynda Ploetz and Ms. Meredith Huser. During the month of December the children will be learning more about advent and the real meaning of Christmas through story time and videos. The children will celebrate Baby Jesus' birthday and make a special to gift to take home for their family.
- Children in **Kindergarten – Second Grade** also meet in Room 215A for singing. They then form a circle for a Godly Play story, which includes a time of wondering, inviting children into the story by their responses and questions. During December we will use Advent candles to establish a worshipful atmosphere as we prepare for Christmas. During the craft time children choose among story trays, puzzles, books, and art materials. A new center recently added provides materials for making a necklace or bracelet using beads which are the colors of the liturgical Church Year.
- Students in **Grades 3- 6** meet in downstairs Room 103 A,B with Cindy Schrank and Jane Foreman who plan great interactive lessons. December lessons will be Advent Adventures.

**You are invited to come....to bring children, grandchildren,
nieces and nephews, neighbors and friends.**



The Ladies Aid Quilters working on a "Briar Rose" quilt for their 2009 raffish.

EMANUEL'S LADIES AID QUILTERS are raffling a hand-quilted, Briar Rose quilt for their annual bazaar. The drawing will take place at their annual Christmas luncheon on Wednesday, December 2. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and are available from any of the quilting ladies or the church office.

2009 SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING

The gathering will be held at the Omni Hotel in Austin **December 28-30**. The theme this year is "**Change the World.**"

NOTICE

The Church Staff meets every Tuesday, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The phone will be set so that you can leave us a voice message, and we can respond when we are done.

DEADLINES

Information must be in the office by 8:00 am Tuesday, mornings for bulletins. Newsletter information must be in the office by the 15th of each month.

Financial News

Comparative Financial Report – October 31, 2009 Assets & Liabilities At October 31

Assets:	2008	2009
Money Market Funds	229,107	240,434
Less: Borrowings Against Money Market Funds to Support Operating Shortfalls	(80,289)	(90,445)
Net Remaining Money Market Funds *	148,817	149,989
Endowment Funds	369,896	367,244
Total Assets	518,713	517,233
Liabilities:		
Current Cash Deficit	6,380	15,741
Loan at Mission Plus for A/C & Heating Unit	-	-
Loan at Mission Plus for Alexander Property	-	-
Total Liabilities	6,380	15,741
Net Assets	\$ 512,332	\$ 501,491
Increase/Decrease in Net Assets		\$ (10,841)

Income Statement Through October 31

	2008	2009
Operating Income	383,241	407,265
Operating Expenses	396,091	435,903
Net Operating Loss	\$ (12,850)	\$ (28,638)

** Note - For clearer disclosure Money Market Funds used to finance church operations due to shortfalls in giving are shown netted against the original amount of Money Market Funds. Thus "Net Remaining Money Market Funds" are the actual amount of funds remaining on deposit with the bank as of that respective date.*

November, 2009

To Emanuel's Lutheran Congregation

It was with a heavy heart that I submitted my resignation as Congregation Life and Mission Coordinator. It has been an emotional decision-making process, but with much prayer and the support of my family and friends, I will be embarking on a new phase of my life. I hope that for the many of you that have become dear friends, we will continue to nurture those friendships. Thank you for all the words of encouragement, and I look forward to crossing paths with you in our daily journeys. God's continued blessings to all.

In His Name,
Jim Johnson

LADIES AID

Velma opened the meeting with a prayer and welcomed 20 members and Willie Spreen. The ladies made 66 visits to homebound and shut-ins.

Willie Spreen presented the bible study on Romans 6:11-“Hope does not disappoint.”

Ann recognized the birthday ladies and the group sang “Happy Birthday.” Beulah read the minutes and correspondence. Judy gave the treasurer’s report and committee reports were heard.

Everyone was encouraged to sign up for the Christmas luncheon on Wednesday, December 2, 2009.

Bazaar plans and committees were finalized for November 10, 2009 starting at 9:00 am Velma encouraged all members to bring items for the various booths. Again, if anyone wants to help with the bazaar, please check with Velma or the office.

Velma thanked Willie Spreen, pianist Frances Vinyard, the hostesses and the property stewards.

Velma announced that starting in January the hostesses would provide a door prize for the meeting. Also our meetings will close with God Be with you until we meet again.

President

Velma Huebner

Ladies Aid Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at 12:00 PM

Hostesses: Officers of Ladies Aid

Faith Circle

will meet on

Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 7:00 PM

Hostess: Virginia Balter

130 Lone Oak St. Seguin

Bible Study Leader: Elin Oelke

Dorcas Circle

will meet on

Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 2:00 PM

Hostesses: Annabelle Koehler, Mary Margaret Bobo

Bible Study Leader: Mary Margaret Bobo

Joy Circle

will meet on

Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 9:30AM

Hostess: Elaine Giesber

223 Lake Ridge Dr. Seguin

Bible Study Leader: Pat Hoppe

WELCA

The Human Rights Celebration sponsored by Church Women United will be held on Friday, December 4, at 2:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Elizabeth Jandt and Barbara Effenberger from Emanuel’s Lutheran Church will be among the persons honored for their services and contributions to promoting the Human Rights of children and seniors in our community. Officers for 2009 will be installed. Christian women of all faiths are invited to attend.

December 6 will be “Gifts for the King” Sunday. This annual event is held to collect items to be given to those in need. Family Protective Services can use items in serving the children who come into their care, many of whom are living with grandparents on limited income. Suggested donations are disposable diapers...all sizes, including Pull-ups; baby wipes; cleaning and laundry supplies, i.e. Pine Sol, buckets, mops, detergents; baby “onesies” and socks; children’s winter clothes; new toys, books, games (for Christmas); Wal-Mart gift cards in any amount. When something that they don’t have on hand is needed for a child, they use the gift card to purchase what is needed, such as clothes, school supplies, etc. You may bring donations to services on Sunday and leave them in the baskets provided or at the church office earlier. Contact Barbara Effenberger for more information (379-5290).

Thank you,

Barbara Effenberger

Some members of Women of ELCA would like to begin implementation of the CHERISH THE CHILDREN program by asking a member of Emanuel’s to pray daily for a specific child of our congregation. Willing members will draw a child’s name and age from a basket and begin praying for that child daily. The program will begin in January. If you as a parent have questions about this ministry or do not want your child to be a part of this “prayed for” group, please call Barbara Effenberger (379-5290) or Elaine Giesber (557-6658).

Altar Guild Meeting

Sunday, December 13 at 9:15 am in the Hospitality Room

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

Of the four services that Emanuel's offers on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, which one should be your choice to attend? How about ALL of them? Oh, well, you know that I'm half kidding! Over my 31 years of service to Emanuel's, I have had ample opportunity to just sit back and enjoy the beauty that is in the eye of the beholder within our walls during the Advent/Christmas cycle, and it made me think about writing this little piece for you today.

Nature provides, free of charge, the gift of natural light which fills the nave from all four compass directions and which has a profound effect on the appearance on objects within. It creates a kaleidoscope of shapes and hues that I will attempt to share with you now.

The first Christmas Eve service at two-thirty finds the outside light streaming mostly from the west, for even though it is an early hour, we are only three days past the shortest day of the year, and the shadows are long. This angled position of the sun's rays as they penetrate the west window and somewhat from the south windows cause the dominant colors in the nave to be rich and sumptuous – the red of the poinsettias, the rich green of the Christmas tree and the beautiful blues in the south windows, not to mention the reds and oranges that comprise the stained glass in the west window. This mid-afternoon gift from God is such a quietly lovely sight. Let go of the hustle and bustle for about an hour and commune with God surrounded by family, friends and visitors.

The evening services at seven and at eleven are dependent upon artificial light until the time of the candlelighting service. The natural lights are extinguished for several minutes as we hum, and then sing, the dear, familiar strains of "Silent Night." Our hearts are gently and firmly warmed as the candleglow grows from the front of the nave to the back. If only we could just bask in its beauty for a longer time. God through Nature is showering us with us his love.

Christmas morning! Now there's a special time. At the nine-thirty hour, the light of God's glorious Sun is streaming in the north and south windows as well as somewhat from the east window, even though it has to compete with the giant oak and the organ.

And then there are the poinsettias! Affected by this flood of morning light, the redness of the leaves, which we take so for granted, is infused with fire, as, perhaps, from the Holy Spirit. itself. What a marvelous sight! I don't think it is my imagination, but the whole

atmosphere seems cleaner and fresher on Christmas morning.

Maybe these are just the ramblings of a middle-aged bachelor who has nothing else to do. Maybe there's more to it than that. I trust that there is Merry Christmas in advance!

Tom Engler, Director of Music

Stained Glass Windows of Emanuel's Lutheran Church



THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. The Burning Torch: The capture and Arrest in Gethsemane. John 18:3.</p> <p>2. The Great Cross: Good Fridays Emblem of "suffering and shame."</p> | <p>3. The Chalice: The Institution of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.</p> <p>4. The Column: Symbolic of the scourging of our Lord after His trial before Pilate in the Judgement hall.</p> |
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The Symbols of the Passion Window are shrouded in the colors of the Passion Season.

'TIS THE SEASON AT EMANUEL'S

Sunday Services

Sunday, December 6, 2009

*The Second Sunday of Advent
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.*

*Worship Services with Holy Communion
Gifts for the King Sunday*

Sunday, December 13, 2009

*The Third Sunday of Advent
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.*

*Worship Services with Holy Communion
3:00 p.m. Caroling and Refreshments*

Sunday, December 20, 2009

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.*

*Worship Services with Holy Communion.
After Service: Decking the Halls Fellowship
Activity - Join us for a potluck luncheon
and decorating party*

Sunday, December 27, 2009

*The First Sunday after Christmas
Nine Readings & Carols
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.*

Worship Service with Holy Communion



Midweek Advent Services

Thursday, December 3, 2009

12:05-12:35 p.m. Advent Service followed by lunch

Thursday, December 10, 2009

*10:00 a.m. Guadalupe Valley Nursing Center
11:30 a.m. Senior Service*

12:05-12:35 p.m. Advent Service followed by lunch

Thursday, December 17, 2009

*10:30 Nesbit Nursing Home
12:05 p.m. Advent Service followed by lunch*



Christmas Services

Thursday, December 24, 2009

2:30 p.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion

Light refreshments to follow

*7:00 p.m. Family Christmas Service
Children's Christmas Program
and Candlelighting*

*11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of
Holy Communion with Candlelighting*

Friday, December 25, 2009

*9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Service with
Holy Communion*

THANK YOU!

I would like to thank all who came by to see me while I was laid up. Also for all who prayed for me.
In Christ Our Savoir
A. J. Johnson

*We want to thank the congregation for all the prayers, cards, concerns, phone calls, memorials, flowers, food, and well wishes for Roy Hairr. Also thank you Katherine for coordinating the reception. We appreciate the food that was brought by the ladies.
Everything was very nice.
Lorene Schraub and Roy Hairr's family*

**THANK YOU FOR HANDWORK
THANK YOU LADIES WHO STAY
SO BUSY EMBROIDERING DISH
TOWELS FOR THE LADIES AID
BAZAAR. WE HAD SO MANY
COMPLIMENTS ON THE
BEAUTIFUL WORK. THANKS
AGAIN
HANDWORK CHAIRMAN
LORENE SCHRAUB**

Social Concerns

Once again this year the Social Concerns Committee will offer the option of honoring or remembering a loved one by supporting the Lutheran World Relief Critters-Cow Project and/or by purchasing a poinsettia to decorate the altar at Christmas. Below you will find a form to specify your preferences this Christmas. Please fill out the form, enclose it in an envelope, and drop it in the offering plate along with payment or send it to:

Emanuel's Lutheran Church
206 North Travis Street
Seguin, Texas 78155

Cost of Poinsettias is \$10.00. You may donate any amount you wish to the Critters-Cow Project.
Deadline to ensure poinsettias for Christmas is Wednesday, December 9, 2009.

I WOULD LIKE TO
DECORATE THE ALTAR
WITH POINSETTIAS



Given in MEMORY of: _____

Or

Given in HONOR of: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

of Poinsettias Ordered: _____



I WOULD LIKE TO
SUPPORT THE
Lutheran World Relief
Critters-Cow Project

Given in MEMORY of: _____

Or

Given in HONOR of: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

Amount of Donation: _____

"Working Wednesdays"

December 2, 2009	6:15 pm	Executive Council
December 9, 2009	6:15 pm	Congregation Council
December 16, 2009	6:30 pm	All Committee Night

STRENGTHENING OUR FAITH THROUGH FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP

Singles Group will meet at the home of
Carolyn Ehler Blumberg
Sunday, December 27, at 12:15 p.m.

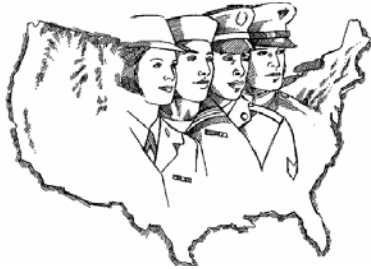
Our Congregation



The Families of

Malford Ackerman
(Beverly Jobe's father)
Herman "Cowboy" Schulz
Roy Hairr
Albina Schroeder
(Marsha Schroeder
mother-in-law)
Viola Greiner

Our Family and Friends in the Military



Jarett Carroll, Darrell McCall, Ben Russell,
Stephanie Tovar, Michael Sullivan and Derek Schulz

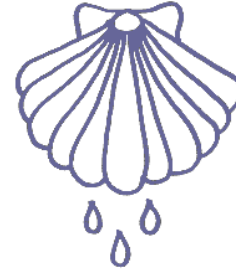
Prayers requested Members

Kathleen Boeder, Harold Brodt, Ann Erxleben, Kenneth Haas,
Lucy Hill, Elizabeth Jandt, Albert Lindemann, Laura Merz,
Lenora Mielke, Marian Strey

Friends & Family

Joy Baker, Jim Beard, Mac Clopton, Darren Dunn, Donna Ethridge,
Lorrayne Giese, Robert Hawkins, Melvin Jentsch, Johnnie Jordan Sr.,
Jim Light, Aline Lindemann, Bonnie Long, Marisa Lopez, Linda
Mosley, Misty Miller, Lettie Morgan, Leatrice Nipper, Karen Olson,
Kathy Price, Audrey Roth, Jessica Stephens, Debbie Shepard, Lillian
Sadowski, David Van Houten, Jolene Wagenfuehr, Marvin Wilke,
Judy & Neil Wright,

Welcome Holy Baptism



Dawson Tres Schutter
November 8, 2009
and
Paxson Tate Legore
November 29, 2009
and
Megan Rae Medellin
November 29, 2009

Donations needed for tables

Donations are being accepted to purchase additional lightweight tables for the Fellowship Hall. Each six foot table costs approximately \$50. It has also been suggested that a few round tables be added to the inventory at a cost of approximately \$100

Emanuel's Lutheran Church



Annual Congregational Meeting
is set for
Sunday, December 13, 2009
at 11:30 a.m.

New Members Welcome

Jason Harrison
1771 Settlers Way
Seguin, TX 78155
830-386-0688

Denise Hild
6911 Elm Creek Rd
Seguin, TX 78155
830-303-2006



If you need to reach the church Sunday mornings during worship service, please call the church phone number (830) 379-5046 and after the recording please dial extension 214. This phone will ring in the usher's room in the Narthex.