



## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH - STEGER, IL

24 WEST 34TH PLACE

STEGER, IL. 60475

(708) 754-2345

WEBSITE: [www.ilcsteger.org](http://www.ilcsteger.org)



# Twin Spires

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2019 A+ D



## The Christian Home

*“And going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” Matthew 2:11 ESV*

In both Hebrew and Greek, the Bible’s original languages, the word for “house” and “temple” are the same. It seems it’s simply context that determines when it’s translated one or the other. But the implications of this fact are rather profound for how we typically think of our homes and the structures in which we dwell.

Allow me to state the obvious for a moment. The whole point of having walls and a roof around us is to keep some things out and some things in. We keep certain things out so we can live and grow. Enclosed surroundings help us concentrate on who and what’s in our realm of interest or duty. Where this happens, skills and relationships can deepen. Many things outside can hinder and threaten that from taking place. Windows, doorways, and thresholds are border locations where transfers can happen. Sometimes much needed things that support and sustain life can be brought in. Likewise, what is good within our homes can go out and help others. But so can bad things be brought in, which in turn infect what’s inside.

We see in the Bible even before God’s people received the Law (*Torah*) through Moses at Mt. Sinai, there was a sense that one’s house was special confines, to be used for special purposes, and certain other things and people were kept out or removed. After Sinai with the Tabernacle and then when the Temple was built there were specific rules about who or what could be brought in to these houses of God. Likewise, there were more definitive laws about who and what God’s people could bring into their houses. Neither were Jews to go into gentile homes. The idea was that homes were special, even holy. As they were to be places for teaching God’s word and for God-given duties they were like extensions of God’s temple.

From the Temple and the things therein the Lord promised forgiveness, blessing, and answered prayers. As it was kept sacred and its “boundaries” were respected, His people benefitted in these ways, and the Lord made His glory and salvation known. Although it wasn’t fully clear, salvation by the Messiah’s sacrifice was being pre-figured. Conversely, if the temple was profaned by unlawful actions or went unused, not heeding His word and the promises He attached to the things of the temple, they didn’t benefit and often ended up suffering tragedies and foreign attack.

It was likewise with their homes. 2 Samuel 6:11 is an interesting passage in this regard: “And the ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months, and the Lord blessed Obed-Edom and all his household.” Obed-Edom’s home wasn’t blessed because the ark was a “good luck charm.” Obed-Edom believed what God said about it, and used it accordingly in faith. No doubt the family would have been using God’s word all the more at this time, too. The incident recorded right before this in 2 Samuel, however, shows an inappropriate handling of the ark, where God’s word was disregarded, and it led to someone’s immediate death.

In the New Testament times, we Christians still set aside and consecrate places and buildings for worship purposes. But it’s more common for people in our day to think one space is no different from another. “What’s difference is it if someone cusses in this house versus outside of the house, or in any other building?! It’s the person and their words and actions that matter. It has no effect on the building and location itself. We could easily pull these walls down and it wouldn’t be much different from any other!” Right? Well, yes and no. To be sure, the wood, steel, glass, and asphalt in which we live isn’t divine and doesn’t have any special power. Assembled together, it’s a work of human hands that isn’t to be worshiped. Being in the structure itself it can’t make something holy or cursed.

But it does make a difference for us psychologically and socially. Remember why we have homes and enclosed spaces in the first place — to keep some things out and some things in. Ever hear or say something like, “Don’t you dare bring that under this roof!” “You should never use that word in church!” Of course, it’s sinful to curse outside of church, too. But a curse word in church - a designated space set aside for God’s Name and His word - has a greater effect on our psyche, conscience, and other people present.

The whole point is that just as we set aside church as a special place for God’s name and His word, we should also think of our homes as special places for us to live and grow as His people. Our houses keep things that hinder faith out, but that allow us to live and grow in faith by His word inside, as well as to conduct our vocational duties as members of the priesthood of believers. We can think of them as extensions of our church.

Accordingly, we need to be discerning and filtering what we allow inside through the air waves, cables and our devices. These can be unsuspected conduits for temptations, hollow philosophies, and false doctrine. If these have more “air-time” than God’s word and our duties, what is that saying about our houses as temples? But indeed, where the Lord reigns by His word, the home and family will be blessed.

In light of Matthew 2:11 (above), Christians in older times especially used this time of year for house blessings. Perhaps you’ve seen a sign at your grandparents’ house that read, “Bless this house.” Well, here’s the origin. Traditionally, the family gets together, and pastor might come over. He leads prayers and speaks blessings interspersed with hymns as everyone goes from room to room (see especially LSB 862). It’s also good excuse to have a party, perhaps inviting relatives! Is it necessary? No. But it is beneficial. It certainly keeps us aware that our homes are sacred places to be used for nurture in God’s word, and protection in body and soul. And the Lord will bless us according to His promises.

So many of the social evils shredding our society are facilitated because there are homes that don’t live in and teach God’s word. Where there’s discord here, all relationships will suffer, everything will suffer. But where homes are kept as sacred space and God’s word is faithfully taught, the family can prosper. As such, they can also be a refuge for the lost and a light for our communities.., much like our church.

Pastor Meissner



### **LSB 402 "The Only Son From Heaven"**

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|--|---|
| <p>1. The only Son from heaven,<br/>Foretold by ancient seers,<br/>By God the Father given,<br/>In human form appears.<br/>No sphere His light confining,<br/>No star so brightly shining<br/>As He, our Morning Star.</p> | <p>2. O time of God appointed,<br/>O bright and holy morn!<br/>He comes, the king anointed,<br/>The Christ, the virgin-born,<br/>Grim death to vanquish for us,<br/>To open heav’n before us<br/>And bring us life again.</p> |
|--|---|

3. O Lord, our hearts awaken  
To know and love You more,  
faith to stand unshaken, In spirit to adore,  
That we, through this world moving,  
Each glimpse of heaven proving,  
May reap its fullness there.

4. O Father, here before You  
With God the Holy Ghost  
And Jesus, we adore You,  
O pride of angel host:  
Before You mortals lowly  
Cry, "Holy, holy, holy,  
O blessed Trinity!"

This text was written by Elizabeth Cruciger. She was born in Poland and her family moved to Wittenberg after experiencing persecution. She married a university student, who became a pastor then came back to the University of Wittenberg to teach. Elizabeth was a pious, devoted wife and mother and a friend of Katie Luther.

This tune (HERR CHRIST, DER EINIG GOTTS SOHN) was chosen by Elizabeth Cruciger to be sung with her text. This is known because it was published with her text in the Erfurt Enchiridia in 1524. It was a mix of a folk tune and a love song.

### **LSB 823 "May God Bestow on Us His Grace"**

1. May God bestow on us His grace,  
With blessings rich provide us;  
And may the brightness of His face  
To life eternal guide us,  
That we His saving health may know,  
His gracious will and pleasure,  
And also to the nations show  
Christ's riches without measure  
And unto God convert them.

2. Thine over all shall be the praise  
And thanks of ev'ry nation;  
And all the world with joy shall raise  
The voice of exultation.  
For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,  
Nor suffer sin to flourish;  
Thy people's pasture is Thy Word  
Their souls to feed and nourish,  
In righteous paths to keep them.

3. O let the people praise Thy worth,  
In all good works increasing;  
The land shall plenteous fruit bring forth,  
Thy Word is rich in blessing.  
May God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit bless us!  
Let all the world praise Him alone,  
Let solemn awe possess us.  
Now let our beans say, "Amen!"

Luther penned this text to be sung as a Benediction in the Mass. It is based on Psalm 67. This hymn is the first Luther hymn to have a "go and tell all nations" message.

The ES WOLLE GOTT UNS GNADIG SEIN (May God be merciful to us) tune was a German tune sung to the Virgin Mary. It was printed with the above text in 1524 in Madgeburg.



**Happy January Birthdays**

Billy Merrell  
Donna Blankenberger  
Donna Rokicki  
Eva Platopoulos  
Gayle Baine  
George Newquist  
Jacob Cryan  
Mary Stachulak  
Pat Hart  
Robbin Jaworowski  
Travis Baine

**Happy February Birthdays**

Bette Crim  
Brooklyn Klomes  
Donald Blankenberger  
Greg Paul  
Greta Meissner  
Jean Smart  
Jeremy Roberts  
Kimberley Adair  
Lois Listak

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**SUNDAY DAY SCHOOL**



The children would like to thank everyone who helped to make their Holiday Food Drive a **SUCCESS!**. We collected a trunk full of groceries that were delivered to the Crete Pantry. As we said at the beginning of this collections, the need doesn't stop when Christmas is over. We'd like to remind you that we will continue to collect on the first Sunday of each month through May. We will be happy to accept any donations brought in on other Sundays as well! Again, thank you so much!

The Christmas program was well received. The children worked hard to present a program that tells the story of our Lord's birth. A big thank you to everyone who attended.

We look forward to the new year and learning more about out

God. God's blessings to all of you.  
Candy Pfeifer



## 2018 OFFICIAL ACTS

There were numerous official acts conducted throughout the year. They included Transfers In or New Members, children being baptized as well as First Communion, and also funerals. For privacy reasons they will not be listed or included here.

**Please contact the church office for more details.**

### **Immanuel Lutheran Church**

#### **Voter's Assembly meeting – November 18, 2018**

Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer.

Tom Roberts asked if there were any new members; there were none. Tom asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes from the last meeting. A motion to accept the minutes as written was given by Paul Sengstock; seconded by Lois Genova and approved unanimously.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Bill McCarthy gave the Treasurer's report. We want to strive for a balanced budget. Our total income for this period is \$XXX and our total expenses are \$XXX, leaving a deficit of \$XXX. The recent repairs totaled \$XXX and we collected \$XXX from the door collection. The difference, \$XXX, came out of our general fund. Paul Sengstock made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Greg Paul seconded.

Motion was accepted unanimously.

#### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor had one funeral service, that of Jack Sharman. The youth catechesis class consists of MaKayla and Savannah. The adults in catechesis are Terry and Michelle, and Randy and Lisa. Pastor will take one day off this week and will be out Sunday the 25th as well as Sunday December 30th. Every year Pastor has to declare his housing allowance. He would like to declare \$XXX for housing allowance for taxes. Paul Sengstock made a motion that Pastor declares \$XXX for housing allowance; seconded by Greg Paul and passed unanimously. Pastor is District Life Coordinator and will be going to Washington D.C. for the LCMS Life Conference January 17th through the 19th. Pastor was nominated for a number of Synodical offices and accepted with approval of the Elders. On January 8th we host the Circuit meeting at our church for approximately 8 pastors and the host church serves lunch.

#### **Board Reports**

Paul Sengstock gave the Elder's report. The Veteran's breakfast went well with more people attending this time. He thanked everyone for their help. Advent services start Sunday December 2nd with Wednesday midweek prayer services starting Wednesday December 5th at 7 p.m. There will be no Thursday Divine Service during that time, and normally the midweek Divine service starts again after Christmas but since no one plans to attend in the winter, there will be no midweek service until after Lent. Thanksgiving service is Wednesday, 11/21/18, at 7 p.m. Christmas Eve candlelight service will be at 10 p.m. with Christmas Day Divine Service at 10 a.m. The Men's Club will probably meet sometime in January and Pastor and Paul are working on significantly updating the church's website.

The Trustees report was given by Greg Paul. The piano was tuned and we will be getting a new copier for the office costing an additional \$13.70 a month. The elevator was fixed which was an electrical incident with ComEd, but we had to pay a service charge. He thanked Sue Paul and Doreen Meyer for heading the coat drive and taking the items to the Steger Community Closet. Sue read the thank you letter that was received.

The Board of Education report was given by Candy Pfeifer. Last Sunday they had a Thankfulness party with pizza and games where thankfulness was stressed. This goes along with their food drive. The Christmas program will be December 23rd with a potluck after church and then the program. Some of the children's moms have asked if church and Sunday school time could be switched. It is hard for parents to keep their children quiet in church after an hour in Sunday school. They asked that this be brought up and considered.

The Board of Stewardship report was given by Lois. Everything is on hold until the new year and there will be some reorganization. Pastor would like to encourage everyone to use good faithful stewardship.

Paul made a motion to approve the Board reports; seconded by Greg and passed unanimously.

**Committees Reports**

The Altar Guild report was given by Lois Genova. Beverly Myhre and Becky Mann are taking care of Christmas with help from volunteers. They plan on having a meeting in January.

**Old Business**

None to report.

**New Business**

Regarding switching Sunday school time with church time, this can be put in the bulletin for a couple of weeks, and then a survey could go out. It wouldn't be voted on until at least January and wouldn't be implemented until March.

Pastor asked if anyone could host the Circuit meeting in January. Terri Yoder, Mary and John Stachulak, and Carol Risley volunteered. According to Pastor it could be in December.

Tom received a letter of solicitation from the Illinois District asking for a financial commitment for the year. They are asking for either a percentage or a fixed dollar amount. We budgeted \$XXX, however, we haven't sent them anything since June of 2015. Pastor added that this money goes to the District and part to the Synod and it is a statement of who we are. Christine Meyer suggested having a door donation to supplement the District donation we send them and Greg suggested we send it quarterly instead of one lump sum. Paul made a motion to give the District \$XXX, seconded by Christine Meyer and passed unanimously. Christine also wanted to thank Dennis' sister and brother-in-law for donating a new snow blower. If anyone uses it, it requires mixed gas.

There being no other business, Paul made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Greg seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Theresa Yoder

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The Carol Metzger family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and monetary gifts in her honor. Her church family meant a lot to her and all of us.

Richard Metzger & family

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Thanks to my church family and friends who were praying for me after my recent surgery.

I truly appreciated all the cards, prayers, well wishes from all of you. How can one person be so blessed to have such a wonderful church family.



Yours in Christ,  
Terri Yoder

# Elders Report

As we begin a new year, it is common and even appropriate that we both look back at what was accomplished the previous year as well as look forward for what we want to do in the coming year.

This past year there were several important tasks completed that addressed the care of our church building. We had work completed on the soffit, the parking lot resurfaced, the west entrance door was replaced, the basement bathrooms were refurbished, and the basement ceiling lights were replaced with LED lighting. There were other less significant things done too, and several individuals stepped up to get all these important tasks done for which we are truly thankful.

During the past year, we had some new faces join us and become members of our congregation. We always look forward to that. In addition, we have had more people become Trustees, more people assisting the Altar Guild, and more people teaching Sunday School.

These are all good (very good) things. The human instinct might be to feel proud, but as Christians we feel thankful and blessed for the opportunities we are given.

Going forward, we cannot stand still to ponder accomplishments (that are actually the result of God's wonderful grace and blessings). We need to look at what more we can do. For some of us it means giving more so the church can avoid financial problems. For others it may mean helping or volunteering more (which helps the church in various ways). Whatever it may be, we each have the opportunity as well as the obligation to do what we can, whenever and wherever we can. Whether you realize it or not, each of us has so, so much to offer. Let us all take advantage of the blessings we have to give back and serve God. Praise the Lord !!!

Respectfully Submitted  
The Board of Elders

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

11-4	11-11	11-18	11-21	11-25	12-2	12-5	12-9	12-12	12-16	12-19	12-23	12-24	12-25
73/59	62/50	63/51	14	63/56	52/47	8	96/62	13	66/56	16	71/61	35/32	36/27





## LENTEN SERVICES

**ASH WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 PM: MARCH 6**

**Divine Service w/Corporate Confession & Absolution**

**Evening Prayer @ 7:00 PM: March 13, 20, 27, APRIL 3, 10**

**PALM SUNDAY APRIL 14**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY: APRIL 18**

**GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 19**

**EASTER APRIL 21**

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**NOTE: Some portions of the Twin Spires  
(online version only) were modified and / or  
removed for security privacy reasons.**

**Please contact the church office or  
webmaster with any questions.**

### SCHEDULE:

[September - May: (Winter Schedule)]

#### **Sunday:**

9:00 A.M. DIVINE SERVICE

10:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASS

#### **Thursday:**

**Mon.-Thurs:** 8:30

A.M. MATINS

**Saturday:** 8:30

A.M. MATINS

### LENTEN SERVICES

ASH WEDNESDAY (Mar 6): 7pm Divine Service  
(Corporate Confession & Absolution)

Lenten Services will be held on Wednesdays on  
March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10 at 7pm

# January 2019

**PLEASE NOTE JANUARY 27th  
VOTERS ASSEMBLY MEETING**

IMMANUEL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
24 West 34th Place  
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:15am Matins	2 8:15am Matins	3 8:15am Matins 9:30am Bd. Of Ed.	4	5 8:15am Matins
6 8:10-8:40am PC&A** 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Class 10:00am Divine Service	7 8:15am Matins 9:30am Bible Class 7:00pm Bd. of Trustees	8 8:15am Matins	9 8:15am Matins	10 8:15am Matins 9:30am Br. Of Education 6:45 Men's Get-Together at the LOFT in Crete (above	11	12 8:15am Matins
13 8:10-8:40am PC&A** 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Class 10:00am Divine Service	14 8:15am Matins 9:30am Bible Class	15 8:15am Matins	16 8:15am Matins 7:00pm Bd. of Elders	17 <i>LCMS Life Conference Washington, DC</i>	18 <i>LCMS Life Conference Washington, DC</i>	19 <i>LCMS Life Conference Washington, DC</i>
20 8:10-8:40am PC&A** 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Class 10:00am Divine Service	21 8:15am Matins 9:30am Bible Class 7:00pm Plan & Coord.	22 8:15am Matins	23 8:15am Matins	24 8:15am Matins	25	26 8:15am Matins
27 8:10-8:40am PC&A** 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Class 10:00am Divine Service <b>VOTERS ASSEMBLY</b>	28 8:15am Matins 9:30am Bible Class	29 8:15am Matins	30 8:15am Matins	31 8:15am Matins		

**\*\* Private Confession & Absolution**

**ELDERS**

Tom Roberts

**USHERS**

Joan Kraus / Voluteer

# February 2019

IMMANUEL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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## **\*\* Private Confession & Absolution**

### **ELDERS**

Paul Sengstock / John Stachulak

### **USHERS**

Erwin Hanck