



Knowing Christ

Living Christ

Sharing Christ

1400 North Texas Blvd, Alice, Texas 78332

Office 361-664-6691 email: ilc@ilcfamily.org www.ilcfamily.org

Glad Tidings – December 2024

Fellow Christians,

Embracing New Beginnings: Changes in Our Church Leadership and Structure

As we step into a new year, we are reminded of the promise and hope that each new beginning brings. This year, we are blessed with changes that will guide our church towards a brighter future.

New Governing Board

We are excited to welcome the new members of our governing board. Their fresh perspectives and dedication will undoubtedly bring a renewed spirit to our leadership.

Proverbs 11:14 (NIV): "For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers."

Our new board members bring diverse experiences and a shared commitment to our mission.

Considering New Personnel

It is time to look at new personnel joining our church. Each individual brings unique gifts and talents that will enrich our community.

During the September Congregational Meeting and in the October Newsletter, I introduced the thought of two new part time positions for the Immanuel Lutheran, a Church Administrator and a Church Facilities Coordinator.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NIV): "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work."

We believe that these new additions to our team will help us grow and serve more effectively.

Restructuring for Growth

To better serve our congregation and community, we have undertaken a restructuring of our church's organizational framework. This new structure is designed to streamline our efforts and maximize our impact. (attached)

Isaiah 43:19 (NIV): "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

This restructuring reflects our commitment to being adaptable and forward-thinking, ensuring that we are well-equipped to fulfill our mission in the coming years.

Looking Ahead to the New Year

As we consider these changes, we are filled with anticipation for what the new year will bring. Let us step forward in faith, trusting that God is guiding our every step.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV): "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

May this new year be a time of growth, unity, and abundant blessings for our Immanuel community.

In Christ,

Amy B. Koening

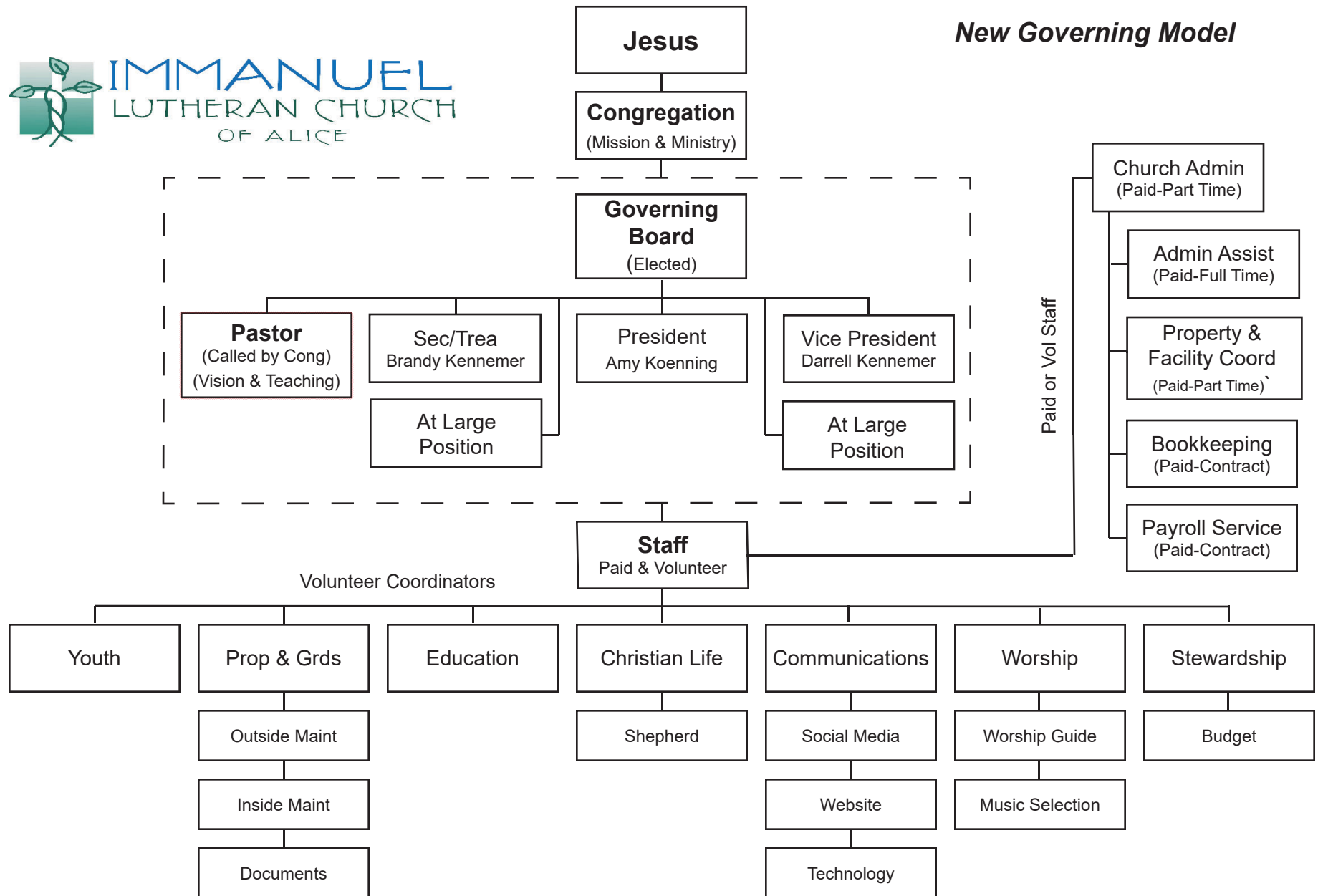
Amy B. Koening, Governing Board President

KNOWING CHRIST, LIVING CHRIST, and SHARING CHRIST!





New Governing Model





Texas District

Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



HARVEST
WORKERS

Cheering on a Comeback

Like most sports fans, I love a good comeback! There's nothing quite like when a team mounts a comeback after falling hopelessly behind. It is thrilling to experience how the players, coaches, and fans rally to support one another and celebrate each step along the way just to get back into a position to potentially be victorious!

Recently, my wife and I came back: After a six-month absence from the church we attend when in town, we were finally able to come back to worship on a Sunday morning this month. Life and ministry commitments had us on the road since Easter and we truly missed the church that had become family to us. But the comeback we experienced was not personally thrilling for me. Instead, I sheepishly walked through those doors, wondering what people were thinking of us after all this time. I even found myself saying "the prodigals have returned" to one of my friends.

As I began to process it, my experience really bothered me. Why did I feel this way? No one was judgmental at all. Not one person asked, "where have you been?" Many greeted us with joyous expressions of welcome. So why did I, a minister of the Gospel who should definitely know better, feel such guilt and shame? And if I had this intense struggle, for how many others might similar feelings be an obstacle to coming back to church?

As we approach Advent and Christmas, we are more likely to encounter people who may not be in the pattern of attending church regularly. Many may be struggling with intense feelings of guilt and shame even thinking about returning to worship. Some of these feelings may get projected onto other church members, like my thinking we would be judged or looked down on. Other feelings might be more of an internal spiritual battle. Regardless, it is mission-critical for the church to cheer on the comeback.

If you haven't been active in church lately, I want my experience to be an encouragement for you. While the devil will use every trick he can to keep you away from the life-giving experience of a faith community gathered around word and sacrament, trust that God desires your presence and participation. I am confident that you will encounter a loving, welcoming reception by your church family who will celebrate your presence.

If you are a regular worshipper, please enthusiastically support and encourage any and all comebacks! Begin to pray daily for the Holy Spirit to gather those whom the Lord calls to come back to worship. Pray for God to bring to mind specific people to pray for and encourage. Perhaps God is leading you to reach out to someone. Be mindful to not inadvertently contribute to any feelings of guilt or shame. Instead, take an interest in them out of genuine love. Offer to meet for coffee or lunch. Find out what's going on in their lives and how you can pray for them. Consider inviting them to a special event, small group, or service project that gives the opportunity for casual, relational connection. And most importantly, when you see someone new or that you haven't seen for some time, warmly welcome them and simply let them know you are so happy to see them. These simple actions can make a difference as we cheer on a comeback!

Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at www.harvestworkers.net). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Please contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or bryce@lcmctexas.org.

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December 2024

WINTER RETREAT

One Another

February 2-4 or 5-7, 2025
Concan, Texas

\$120 - early bird pricing
*includes meals and lodging

Choose from 2 tracks:
Leadership or Devotional

*"A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another."*

John 13:34

Same great Texas District Winter Retreat with all
the benefits of the LCMC LeaderCare initiative.



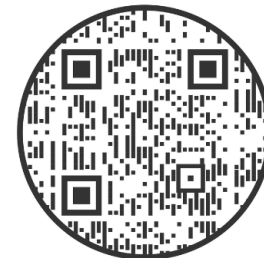
Scan for more info
and registration.

www.lcmctexas.org/winter-retreat

GIVING TUESDAY

December 3, 2024

Double your donation!



Scan the code or visit the link to give.

www.lcmctexas.org/giving-tuesday

ALTAR GUILD - Given to the glory of God . . .

ALTAR & ETERNAL CANDLES:

December – Given by Virginia Menking, in loving memory of Bruce Menking’s birthday on the 7th.

WINDOW CANDLES:

December – Given by Ruben & Cristina Soliz in honor of their grandchildren

COMMUNION ELEMENTS:

December 1 – Given by Amy Koenning, in honor of Logan Blanchard’s 18th birthday.

December 15 – Given by Virginia Menking in loving memory of her & Bruce’s wedding anniversary on the 19th.

December 29 – Given by Amy Koenning wishing all a Happy New Year!!

ALTAR & STANDING VASE FLOWERS

December 1 – Given by Jack & Renee McMonagle in honor of Leona Owen & Guy McMonagle’s birthdays.

December 6 – Given by Evelyn Hutchinson in honor of Inez Zulauf’s birthday on the 8th, and for everyone else who celebrates a birthday in December.

December 15 – Given by Virginia Menking in loving memory of Bruce’s birthday on the 7th, and their wedding anniversary on the 19th.

December 22 – Given by Rey & Karen Zepeda in honor of Nelda Boerm’s 90th birthday on the 23rd.

December 24 – Given by Ruben & Cristina Soliz to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

December 29 – Given by Darrell & Brandy Kennemer in honor of Austin’s 24th birthday, and a Happy New Year to all.

<u>Birthdays</u>		
12/01 Logan Blanchard 12/05 Karen Crawford 12/08 Inez Zulauf 12/08 Leona Owen	12/11 Vince Titzman 12/15 Audrey Benson 12/17 Delores Titzman 12/21 Mary Jan Jenkins	12/23 Nelda Boerm 12/24 Austin Kennemer 12/26 Bert Buegeler, III 12/30 Abbigail Chavarria
<u>Baptism Birthdays</u>		
12/01 Jamie Colle 12/01 Stephen Pearson 12/16 Karen Crawford	12/16 Vince Titzman 12/19 Jennifer Gonzalez 12/23 Grace Slaughter	
<u>Wedding Anniversaries</u>		
12/04 James & Mary Jochen	12/26 Ruben & Cristina Soliz	
Council Reports/Agenda <u>Always Due 2nd Monday</u> of each month by 5:00P	Newsletter Information <u>Always Due 3rd Monday</u> of each month by 5:00P	<u>Church Council Mtg</u> December 15, 2024 12:00 p.m. Conference Rm
Pastor: Open President: Amy Koenning Vice Pres: Darrell Kennemer Secretary: Brandy Kennemer		Christian Life: Open Communications: Billy Scoggins Education: Open Property/Grounds: Bill Botard Stewardship: Melba Andersen Worship: Alicia Carlisle Youth: Open



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF ALICE

Knowing Christ Living Christ Sharing Christ

1400 North Texas Blvd, Alice, Texas 78332

Office (361) 664-6691 email: ilc@ilcfamily.org www.ilcfamily.org

December 2, 2024

Re: Staff Christmas Gift

Dear Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church:

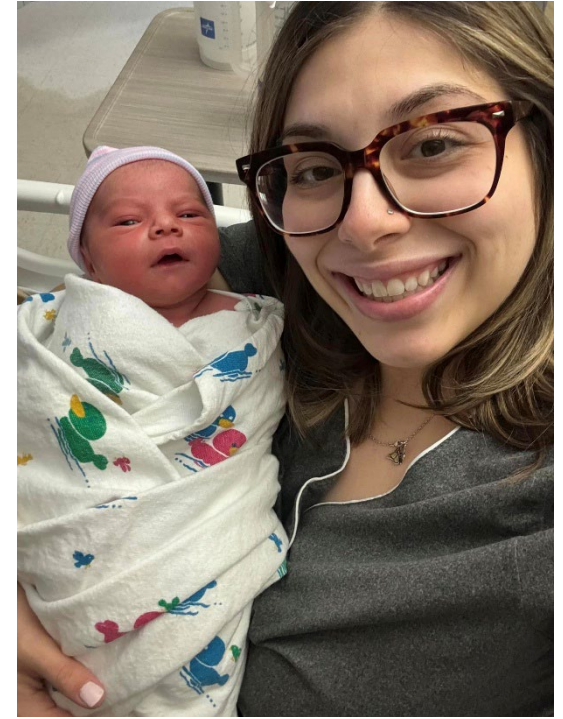
Two thousand years ago a child was born to Mary and Joseph in a lowly manger. His name was Jesus, and we know Him as our Savior. We celebrate His birth at Christmas time; it is our hope that as you are preparing for the holiday season, you will put Him foremost in your preparations and remember the reason for celebrating Christmas.

We at Immanuel have a rich tradition of remembering our staff with a little something extra, monetarily or otherwise, at Christmas. If you have been blessed by the service of these individuals, please feel free to share according to the Lord's leading. For those who are new to Immanuel, our paid staff consists of: Tessie Colle – Administrative Assistant.

Please make your gift directly to the staff person as it will be given directly to them. This will help in reducing the processing through the church office.

May the joy of Christmas bring happiness and peace to you and your family. May God bless each one of us during this time of year and throughout the year to come.

In His Service,
The Governing Board



Oh, Baby!!!!

I'D WOULD LIKE TO
CONGRATULATE

Orly & Jennifer Gonzalez
On the birth of their son,
Caden Mates, who made his
entrance on November 2, 2024!

Dear Family & Friends,

CHRISTMAS 2024

May God bless you with His loving grace and peace in this festive season! We cherish each year and each day as a gift from above, grateful for the protection, providence, and guidance we receive.

We have moved! After 8 wonderful years in Littlefield, we sold our house and purchased a 2/2/2 townhome in Wolfforth, just outside of Lubbock city limits, to be closer to doctors and our son Mike. Maintaining the 1/3-acre yard became increasingly challenging for our creaky old bones. The new place has a tiny, cemented backyard and Astroturf in the front, enabling us to part with our lawn mower, with a great sigh of relief. Just in time, as both of us are facing some health issues.

Julie celebrated a major milestone in her life – 80th Birthday. Our plans of celebrating it with a trip to Santa Fe, NM had to be postponed due to Stan's sprained ankle, but Paul and Mike came over to make the celebration especially joyful. Paul is now stationed in San Antonio, "only" a 6-hour drive, by Texas standards.

In June, Stan's newly published book "40 Sandwich-Size Devotions" appeared on Amazon and some other websites. He wishes to remain useful in the ministry of encouragement, sharing spiritual nutrition to strengthen our faith and lead our hearts closer to Jesus.

The first week in August, after Paul and Mike came back from visiting 12 countries in Europe, we ventured together to Cascade, Idaho area to continue our new annual family tradition of roaming the beautiful forest and picking huckleberries. Unfortunately, after we left, a huge fire ravaged 33K acres of the forest, so we might have to go a bit further north the next time.

Albert was deployed to the Middle East for over six months. Thank God, he and the team of airmen returned safely back to Mountain Home AFB, ID in October. Many thanks to all of you who kept Albert and his team in your prayers!

Our grandkids are all doing well. Gideon (20) is a sophomore at Bradley University in Peoria, IL, Eden (14) a high school freshman in Olathe, KS. Lirael (11) is in 6th Grade and Dexter (8) in 2nd Grade in Lexington, KY. We are very proud of them, miss them all, and appreciate every opportunity to stay in touch.

We wish y'all a Blessed Christmas celebration and a happy, healthy, and safe New Year 2025!

Stan and Julie

New Address:

1114 N 7th Street
Wolfforth, TX 79382

sjsimonik@gmail.com
(806) 500-3514



Emmanuel Baptist Church of Alice

(FORMERLY LA PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA MEXICANA)
PRESENTS...

100 YEAR Celebration Service

God's Faithfulness Through the Ages.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

10:00am - Noon,
Followed by a fellowship luncheon.

Location: 701 Hickey St. Alice, Tx 78332
Please RSVP by Friday, January 3, 2025 at 361-664-6007
(more details on back)

You can also **RSVP** online at:

<https://subspla.sh/3jmf8j>

Or email Pastor Craig Blakeslee at:

pastor.ebcalice@gmail.com

Or scan &
register
with your
phone



Please Note:

- Nursery will be available for 2 years and under, but please RSVP.
- There will be a special worship time for kids ages 3 to 9 during the celebration service.

We serve a mighty, faithful God!

From its unofficial beginning on the ranches of Concepción Franco and Guadalupe Torres, in 1921, worshipping under an old Palo Blanco tree, to the official establishment of La Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana of Alice on January 11, 1925, and to being renamed "Emmanuel Baptist Church of Alice, Texas" in 2007, our church has seen God's immense faithfulness in countless ways through the past 100 years! God has empowered this community of Christ followers to accomplish much!

It will be a tremendous joy to celebrate the past 100 years with you, and to consider how the Lord will be leading us for the next 100! We hope you can join us as we praise and thank God, reflecting on the past and looking forward with excitement to the future.

Hebrews 10:23

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."

- If you have any photos (or even videos) that you would like to share with us, please let us know.
- Or if you're unable to attend, but you would like to share something (written or through a short video), please don't hesitate to contact us.

God bless you!

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>1st Sunday of Advent 10am Worship/HC</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5pm Bulletin Info Due</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6pm Doing for the Least</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6pm Grief Share Counseling</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Fellowship Hall Reserved for Bazaar Set-up</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00am-3:00pm Winter Bazaar & Blood Drive</p>
<p>8</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Advent 9am Men in Mission Devotional Discussion 10am Worship Service Erect Manger Scene 5:30pm Lydia Circle Xmas Party</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5pm Bulletin Info Due 5pm Council Meeting Info Due</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6pm Doing for the Least</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Advent 10am Worship/HC 12pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5pm Bulletin Info Due 5pm Newsletter Info Due</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6pm Doing for the Least</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30-8:00pm Live Nativity</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30-8:00pm Live Nativity w/Chilli Dinner</p>
<p>22</p> <p>4th Sunday of Advent 9am Men in Mission Devotional Discussion 10am Worship Service</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5pm Bulletin Info Due</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00pm Candlelight Svc w/Family Blessings Office Closed ½ Day</p>	<p>25</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10am Worship/HC</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5pm Bulletin Info Due</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Years Eve Office Closed ½ Day</p>				<p>Updated 2024-11-15 by Tessie Colle Rev 3</p>

December 2024

Christmas Eve-PM
December 24, 2024

	December 1, 2024	December 8, 2024	December 15, 2024	December 22, 2024	December 24, 2024
Assisting Ministers Minister	Ann Menking Amy Koenning	Kloe Fox Alicia Carlisle	Phillip Flanders Alicia Carlisle	Olivia Carlisle Kloe Fox	Ann Menking Alicia Carlisle
Communion Assistants	Laurie Buegeler Jerri Schulte		Susie Yocum Amy Calvez		
Ushers	Bill Botard Ernie Meyer	Bill Botard Ernie Meyer	Bill Botard Bert Buegeler	Bert Buegeler Ernie Meyer	Bert Buegeler Ernie Meyer
Acolytes	Wiley Fox	Logan Blanchard	Wiley Fox	Logan Blanchard	Logan Blanchard
Lector	Tessie Colle	Karen Zepeda	George Chaney	Logan Blanchard	Ann Menking
Greeters	Gracie Barrett	Jimmie Shoup	Laurie Buegeler	Melba Andersen	Karen Zepeda
Coffee Makers	Laurie Buegeler	Amy Koenning	Melba Andersen	Brandy Kennemer	
Sound Tech	Cooper Kennemer	Cooper Kennemer	Cooper Kennemer	Cooper Kennemer	Cooper Kennemer
Camera/Streaming Tech	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer
Presentation Tech	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox	Brian Menking
Deacons	Allan Schulte 389-3860	Allan Schulte 389-3860	Darrell Kennemer 361-318-5758	Darrell Kennemer 361-318-5758	Darrell Kennemer 361-318-5758

December	<u>Communion</u> Susie Yocum	<u>Candles</u> Melba Andersen	<u>Flowers</u> Laurie Buegeler	<u>Paraments</u> Susie Yocum
January	Laurie Buegeler	Melba Andersen	Brandy Kennemer	Susie Yocum

Emergency Contact Numbers:

Pastor:

President:

Amy Koenning
361-215-5007

December 2024

December 29, 2024

page 2

Assisting Ministers Minister	Susie Yocum Mallori Calvez				
Communion Assistants	Ann Menking Laurie Buegeler				
Ushers	Darrell Kennemer Bert Buegeler				
Acolytes	Wiley Fox				
Lector	Gracie Barrett				
Greeters	Susie Spaniel				
Coffee Makers	Gaby Cantu				
Sound Tech	Cooper Kennemer				
Camera/Streaming Tech	Brandy Kennemer				
Presentation Tech	Kandace Fox				
Deacons	Bill Botard 830-460-1595				

December	<u>Communion</u> Susie Yocum	<u>Candles</u> Melba Andersen	<u>Flowers</u> Laurie Buegeler	<u>Paraments</u> Susie Yocum
January	Laurie Buegeler	Melba Andersen	Brandy Kennemer	Susie Yocum

Emergency Contact Numbers:

Pastor:

President:

Amy Koenning
361-215-5007

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day - OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4
5 10am Worship/HC <i>Take down Xmas Decorations after Worship Svc.</i>	6 5pm Bulletin Info Due <i>Day of Epiphany</i> <i>(Possible Schallert Luncheon)</i>	7 6pm Doing for the Least	8 5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study	9	10	11
12 9:15am Men in Mission Devotional Discussion 10am Worship Service <i>Take down Manger Scene & store after Worship Svc.</i>	13 5pm Bulletin Info Due 5pm Council Meeting Info Due	14 6pm Doing for the Least	15 5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study	16	17	18
19 9:15am Men in Mission Devotional Discussion 10am Worship/HC 12pm Council Meeting	20 5pm Bulletin Info Due 5pm Newsletter Info Due	21 6pm Doing for the Least	22 5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study	23	24	25
26 9:15am Men in Mission Devotional Discussion 10am Worship Service	27 5pm Bulletin Info Due 6pm Women's Bible Study	28 6pm Doing for the Least	29 5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study	30	31	Updated 2024-11-21 by Tessie Colle Rev 0

January 2025

	January 5, 2025	January 12, 2025	January 19, 2025	January 26, 2025
Assisting Ministers	Philip Flanders	Kloe Fox	Alicia Carlisle?????????	Susie Yocum
Minister	Alicia Carlisle	Mary Jackson	Alicia Carlisle	Pstr Bryce Formwalt
Communion Assistants	Amy Calvez Ann Menking		Laurie Buegeler Jerri Schulte	
Ushers	Ernie Meyer Bert Buegeler	Ernie Meyer Bert Buegeler	Ernie Meyer Bert Buegeler	Allan Schulte Bill Botard
Acolytes	Logan Blanchard	Logan Blanchard	Wiley Fox	Wiley Fox
Lector	Darrell Kennemer	Bridget Gentry	Amy Calvez	Gracie Barrett
Greeters	Jimmie Shoup	Melba Andersen	Jerri Schulte	Bert Buegeler
Coffee Maker	Gaby Cantu	Jerri/Allan Schulte	Brandy Kennemer	Laurie Buegeler
Sound Tech	George Chaney	George Chaney	George Chaney	George Chaney
Camera/Streaming Tech	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer
Presentation Tech	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox
Deacon	Bill Botard 830-460-1595	Bill Botard 830-460-1595	Darrell Kennemer 361-318-5758	Darrell Kennemer 361-318-5758

	<u>COMMUNION</u>	<u>CANDLES</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	<u>PARAMENTS</u>
January	Laurie Buegeler	Melba Andersen	Brandy Kennemer	Susie Yocum
February	Susie Yocum	Melba Andersen	Kandace Fox	Susie Yocum

Emergency Contact Numbers:

Pastor:

President:

Amy Koenning
361-215-5007

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

We are limited to a total of 20 poinsettias. \$12.00 each

DEADLINE to ORDER is Monday, December 16th, 2024, by 5:00pm.

Please use this form for ordering. ***Payment is due with order form.***

Form and payment may be placed in the offering plate, put in the Drop-box outside the Church office or may be mailed to the church office at:
ILC 1400 N. Texas Blvd., Alice, Texas 78332.

****When paying for poinsettias with a check, please write a check separate from your General Fund offering.****

Name: _____

Number of poinsettias ordered: _____

In Honor of:

In Memory of:

