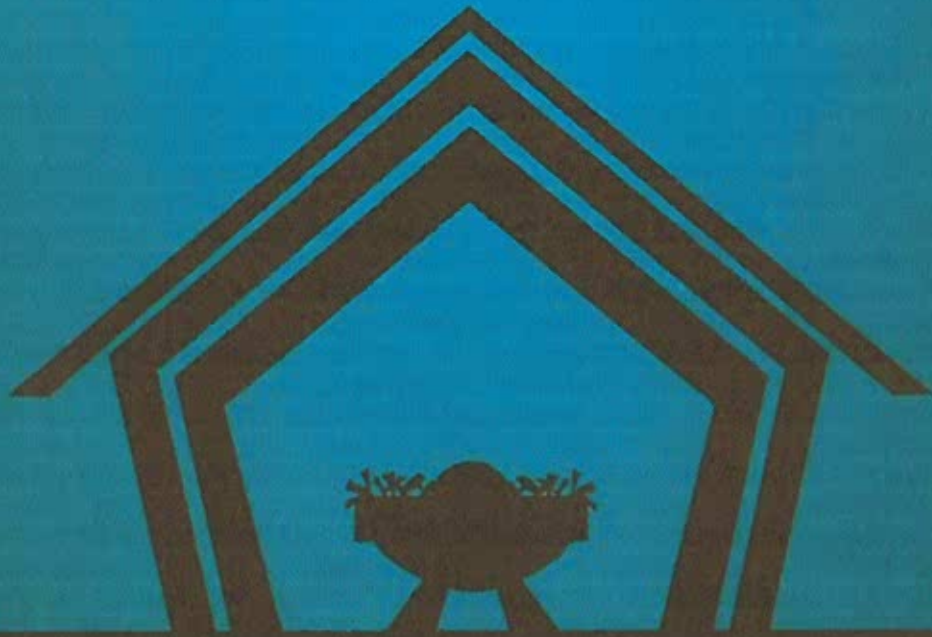


La Vernia, Texas

December 2023

Immanuel



Unto
us a *Child*
is born

December

Birthdays

- 4 Troy Wilson
- 6 Betty Bauwens
Layla Harper
- 7 Jackie Hill
- 8 Trevor Baumann
Kelly Miller
- 9 Kase Morrison
- 10 Rebecca Galvan
- 11 Lilia Miletta
- 12 Hayven Wilson
- 13 Bradly Bales
Judy Billington
Gloria Kipp
- 14 Ronnie Haug
- 15 Jolie Baker
Karaline Dorman
Garrett Hass
- 17 Gemma Corbin
- 18 Kinley Tripp
Kahmilla Zaiontz
- 19 Phyllis Stensgaard
- 21 Calvin Dieckow
- 22 Grace Gann
- 23 Tim Ferguson
- 24 Jack Gawlik
- 25 Karisha Kandis-Spencer
- 27 Sharon Bunton
- 28 Deborah Bauer
- 29 Kathi Hancock
Kristel Lambeck
Tabitha Pruski

Anniversaries

- 2 Bryan & Amy Badders
- 11 Harold & Billie Schroeder
- 15 Chris & Anzlie Sodrock
- 23 Malcolm & Gerry Morgenroth
- 26 Jimmy & Ana Norwood
- 28 Amanda & Dusty Korzekwa
- 29 David & Paige Haass

Christmas Market

The Christmas Market is rapidly approaching, & December 2 is right around the corner! There are sign-up sheets in the narthex for volunteers to help with set-up on Friday, December 1 & Saturday, December 2; volunteers to bring baked goods for the country store; volunteers to bring canned goods, homemade goods & Christmas items for the country store; volunteers to work in the country store & volunteers to help with clean up at 2 pm on Saturday at the conclusion of the Market. If you have questions about any of these volunteer opportunities, feel free to call or text me.

Thank you,
Darla Buccigrossi



Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

- Dec 3 Altar Needed
- Dec 10 Altar Heather Bales in honor of Bradley Bales B-Day
- Dec 17 Altar Malcolm & Gerry Morgenroth in honor of 55th Anniversary
- Dec 24 Altar Needed
- Dec 31 Altar Laura Baumann in Honor of Kristel Lambeck, Spencer Lambeck & Trevor Baumann's B-Days

YARD WORK SCHEDULE

- Dec 11 - 16 Mark
Buccigrossi &
Ronnie Haug
- Dec 26-30 Pat Meyer

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Join us for our Christmas Cantata, it will be held on Dec. 9 at 7 p.m., and Dec. 10 at 9:30 a.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting
October 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm. Members present were Chrystal Coble, Rebe Penshorn, Wendie Roser, Ronnie Coleman, Jacy Reeves, Mark Buccigrossi. Jana Clarke, Gloria Kipp. Absent was Becca Reeve and Pastor Eric. The opening devotion was done by Chrystal Coble.

Public and Parishioners to be Heard

Darla Buccigrossi had 3 items of concern. First was with the office items not getting in newsletter and bulletins, Lay ministers not getting notified of the meetings, and items being left out of Pastors binder for Sundays. Second, request to remind coffee hosts of their duties. Third, If council would look into replacing the lighting in church and the sound system or invest in another wireless mic for Pastor.

Correspondence: Received donation requests from Wounded Warriors, flyer from Conrad Schmitt Studios, Thrivent Magazine, Water mission flyer, SOLO flyer, Billy Graham newsletter, Lutheran Military Veterans newsletter and City of LaVernia notice of rezoning in the area.

Secretary Report: Motion to accept the Secretary report by Ronnie and seconded by Wendie. Motion passed. minutes accepted to records.

Treasurers Report: After reviewing the report, a motion was made by Rebe to accept the report and seconded by Jana. Motion passed. Treasurers report accepted to records.

Pastors Report: Everything is going well. Mentioned that he has been hearing chatter about information going out. Would like newsletter info to go to him directly.

Presidents Report: Met with 6 contractors this past month. Two of them have said no, one interested at first then backed out last minute. One bid has come in already, one to come in tomorrow, and the last one next week. We are closing the bidding process. Travis will remain on as head of the building committee. Frontier to come out and reroute wires for the internet to new office when building is completed. Digital calendar should be completed soon and given to those needing it. Several members had contracted upset that the Special Call meeting we held on the same day as the St Anns Festival and the removal of the media space off the agenda. She informed them that this was a Council decision. Also some parishioners wanted to know if we were going to place the no parking signs. They were also informed that that area was TXDot ROW and we were unable to place signage there.

Program Reports / Financial Team: Payroll audit report for wages has been completed. Also informed Council that they received the appraisal on the church property. The 2.168 acres for \$173,670 and the 2.61 Acrea (church and parish hall) \$2,710,120.00. **Men of Immanuel:** Informed council that the Men of Immanuel plan on building an outdoor patio with BBQ facilities, sink and power and this would be paid by the Men of Immanuel. **Women of Faith:** WOF wanted to inform Council that the Love offering will be donated to the New Building Fund.

Old Business

- **Sanctuary Repairs Update:** Repairs are on schedule and budget per contractor. No concerns. To start interior Nov 13. Contractor to loosen pews that day so they can be moved for painters. Painting should take 2 weeks.
- **Parrish Hall Update:** Refer to Presidents report. Will also need to purge items in storage that are no longer needed, and to move all items so that we can make room for the pews while Sanctuary is being painted.

Executive Session: Council went into executive session at 7:23 pm. Out of executive session at 8:21 pm.

New Business

- **Discuss Capital Campaign Goals:** Chrystal and Lilia Milette have a draft and will move forward for 50K to help grow church to go into next year and keep us financially secure.
- **Discuss Security Team Request:** Chrystal made motion to table for next month, Mark seconded. Motion passed.
- **Carpet and Tile samples:** After viewing samples of carpet and tile, Wendie made motion to go with Rock City(PC685)for the carpet and Medium Walnut(73315CBK) for the tile. Seconded by Gloria. Motion passed.

Executive Session: Council went into executive session at 8:47 pm. Out of executive session at 8:59

Mark will lead the next devotion at the meeting on Monday, November 20, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

Motion made by Ronnie to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Rebe. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebe Penshorn

Immanuel

Find the 41 **bold** words from Matthew 1:18-23 (ESV)

C F X H S Y Z E B F K P D G B
F O K R U L F E B D L I H C D
D U N E N I A K E H V Q M N B
S N I S W R E H T O M L A I G
B D L O I S P I R I T B R G E
E E E L L D W C O L S T Y R M
K R G V L E E D T U H L C I A
B A N E I I J R H H O B H V H
N E A D N E F T E H P O R P S
Z P M T G H C L D D A E I S U
N P E I M M A N U E L N S P S
Y A F D A V I D O F H O T O E
Q U I E T L Y P R C W S H K J
Z Z R S A V E K H O U U O E R
E D N P Z R F R Q J L M Y N B

Now the **birth** of **Jesus Christ** took place in this way. When his **mother Mary** had been **betrothed** to **Joseph**, before they came together she was **found** to be **with child** from the **Holy Spirit**. And her **husband** Joseph, being a **just man** and **unwilling** to put her to **shame**, **resolved** to **divorce** her **quietly**. But as he **considered** these things, **behold**, an **angel** of the Lord **appeared** to him in a **dream**, saying, “Joseph, son of **David**, do not fear to take **Mary** as your **wife**, for that which is **conceived** in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will **bear** a **son**, and you shall call his **name** **Jesus**, for he will **save** his people from their **sins**.” All this took place to **fulfill** what the **Lord** had **spoken** by the **prophet**: “Behold, the **virgin** shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name **Immanuel**” (which means, God with us).

A Priest Forever

Find the 41 **bold** words from Psalm 110:1-4 (ESV)

H G Z R M U I B Y Q K R E N W
D T A F E B P Z P E E P P H Y
I T U R Y L O H D D O T I L R
P N W O M T A E R F I S E Z I
P R Z R Y E Z O F S R E R I G
D O I K E I N E F S R H F O H
N W B E H V R T C F Y I X N T
I S B C S U E E S C H A N G E
M P L M C T P R L X R E W O P
G E F O O T S T O O L N M S Y
M H C V E W G A U F I E M N T
S N A R G N I N R O M M N M H
D A Y N D A U U O R W I O L G
L O R D D E L K W C T E T V I
U Y H F A E W P W C Q S B U M

The **LORD** says to my Lord: “**Sit at my right hand**, until I make your **enemies** your **footstool**.” The **LORD** sends forth from **Zion** your **mighty scepter**. **Rule** in the midst of your enemies! Your people will **offer** themselves **freely** on the **day** of your **power**, in **holy garments**; from the **womb** of the **morning**, the **dew** of your **youth** will be yours. The **LORD** has **sworn** and will **not change his mind**, “You are a **priest forever** after the **order** of **Melchizedek**.”

women OF faith™

Greetings to everyone during this busy holiday season!

Our most significant event of the year is happening on December 2! The ILC Christmas Market is our largest fundraiser, with all profits going to the Building Fund. On Friday, December 1, we will be setting up from 9 am -noon. Please bring all of your donations during this time. We need to price our baked goods, canned goods, and other items that we will sell at our Country Store, set up tables for our indoor vendors in the Parish Hall, and mark off spaces in the parking lot for our outdoor vendors. We welcome any helpers on Saturday morning, December 2, beginning at 6 am, as we set up the Country Store's food booth and assist our vendors as they set up. We will also accept any volunteer help after the Market to tear down the Country Store, the food booths, and the vendor tables in the Parish Hall. If you have questions about how to help, contact me by phone or text!

We are not yet sure when the Hanging of the Greens will occur. When the sanctuary is completed, be ready for a text to come and help decorate!

Our subsequent get-together will take place on January 21, 2024. We will have a potluck dinner after the second service, and Wendie Roser will be helping us paint a beautiful cross. We'll need a count to get the correct number of supplies, so if you're interested, look for the sign-up in the narthex.

Please continue to contribute to our final service project of the year. The Frank Tejada VA Home in Floresville was so appreciative of the snack foods that we delivered! The donation box is in the Parish Hall for the snack food items (chips, cookies, candies, crackers, etc.) that you wish to donate.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

Blessings to you and yours this Christmas,

Darla Baccigrossi

Men of Immanuel Lutheran Church

If you are a man and are either a member, a visitor, or a friend of ILC, do not miss our meetings;

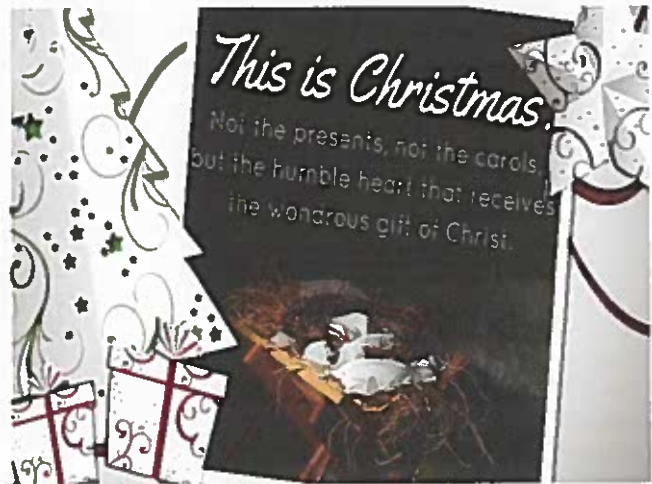
Where: At the Parsonage Building at Immanuel Lutheran Church Complex
When: Second Saturday of every month at 8:30 am
What we do: Breakfast together / Study the Bible / Prepare and Plan how to support our church

The Christmas that Makes Us Whole

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."
Phillippians 2:5-7

For centuries, these verses have caught the attention of theologians and exegetes. The main reason for this Christian amazed feeling is the word "kenosis" (ἐκένωσεν). This word marks the "self-emptiness" of God to become a "human servant." We all have some awareness of the incarnation doctrine. God himself came to us in a human form just because of love. He left his glory in heaven and decided to love us until the last consequences "took up our pain and bore our suffering" (Isaiah 53:4). But what does it mean that God emptied himself?

We could make a Christological interpretation of the text regarding divine knowledge. At times in the Bible, Christ is limited in his knowledge of the Parousia (second coming), like in Matthew 24:36 or its parallel in Mark 13:32. This is the Jesus Christ that could be amazed (Matthew 8:10) that could be tempted (Hebrew 4:15) or that have a human learning curve (Luke 2:52). This is undoubtedly the Christ of the Hypostatic Union; 100% man and at the same time 100% God.



We can also see the "kenosis" as the radical abandonment of God in his human form, not because of forgiveness or punishment, but because of love. Yes, this is the omnipotent God that, by his choice, takes the risk not just to diminish himself but to leave his glory behind in a supreme lesson of humility because of us, because of you. This is what we celebrate at Christmas: the God who loves so much that he becomes a servant (doulos is the Greek word that means enslaved person). This perspective is the Christian understanding of God, who took the incomprehensible road of transforming himself into a "slave of love" toward you and me in his supreme freedom and unlimited power. His decision to come into the world as a vulnerable infant (the real gift of Christmas) burst humanity with underserving salvation and imputed righteousness. As he made himself empty, he filled us with hope and joy. The proper celebration of Christ-Mass makes us whole!

Thanks be to God.

Pastor Eric M. Millett

DECEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	Thurs	FRI	SAT
					1	2 <i>Christmas Market 9:00 - 2:00</i>
3 First Sunday of Advent 8:00 Worship & HC 9:15 Coffee Fellowship Adult Bible Study Youth Sunday Experience 10:30 Worship & HC	4 <i>6:30 YACHT Club Meeting</i>	5 6:00 Handbell Practice 7:00 Cantata Practice	6 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Adult Meal & Bible Study <i>6:30 Youth Night & Confirmation</i>	7 <i>10:45 Golden Age Bible Study</i> 7:00 Ladies Bible Study	8	9 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:30 HEB Christmas Caroling <i>7:00 Cantata</i>
10 Second Sunday of Advent 8:00 Worship & HC 9:15 Coffee Fellowship Adult Bible Study Youth Sunday Experience <i>10:30 am Cantata</i>	11	12 <i>Sewing Circle 9:00 – 12:00</i> 6:00 Handbell Practice	13 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Adult Meal & Bible Study <i>6:30 Youth Night & Confirmation</i>	14 <i>10:45 Golden Age Bible Study</i> 7:00 Ladies Bible Study	15	16
17 Third Sunday of Advent 8:00 Worship & HC 9:15 Coffee Fellowship Adult Bible Study Youth Sunday Experience 10:30 Worship & HC	18 <i>6:30 YACHT Club Meeting</i>	19 6:00 Handbell Practice 6:00 Council Mtg	20 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Adult Meal & Bible Study	21 <i>10:45 Golden Age Bible Study</i> <i>7:00 Lay Ministers Meeting</i>	22	23
24 Nativity of Our Lord <i>Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 & 11:00</i>	25 Nativity of Our Lord <i>Christmas Service at 9:00</i>	26 6:00 Handbell Practice	27 6:00 Adult Meal & Bible Study	28 <i>10:45 Golden Age Bible Study</i>	29	30
31 First Sunday After Christmas 8:00 Worship & HC 9:15 Coffee Fellowship Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship & HC						

DECEMBER 2023 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

December 3	8:00	10:30	
Ushers	Ronnie Coleman Mark Buccigrossi	Gloria Kipp Patrice Goodman	
Readers	Colleen Piehl	Heather Bales	
Acolytes	Kase Morrison	Abigail Clarke	
Altar Guild	Paige Haass Joyce Miller	Jeanette Bailey JoElla Heinsohn Jana Clarke	
Facebook Live			
Multimedia	n/a	n/a	
Tellers	Ronnie Coleman and Shirley O'Neal		
December 10	8:00	10:30 (Christmas Cantata)	
Ushers	Darla Buccigrossi Joyce Miller	Travis Wayne Mabry Laura Baumann	
Readers	Joyce Miller	Esther DeHaven and Suzan Ferguson	
Acolytes	Kimber Hild	Henry Scull	
Altar Guild	Chrystal Cobel Amy Wagner	Troy Stork Caitlin Feller Bill Roser	
Facebook Live			
Multimedia	n/a	n/a	
Tellers	Rebecca Reeves and Darla Buccigrossi		
December 17	8:00	10:30	
Ushers	Kathy Volkmann Randall Richter	Tim Ferguson Lillian Kosub	
Readers	Billy Bunton	Charles Stork	
Acolytes	Katelyn Tripp	Lillie Faglie	
Altar Guild	Karen Campbell Toni Smith	Charles Stork Candy Stork Suzan Ferguson	
Facebook Live		Adriana Willeford	
Multimedia	Brent Recker		
Tellers	Wendie Roser and Brenda Willeford		
December 24	9:00	5:00	11:00
Ushers	Chrystal Cobel Amy Wagner	Bill Roser/Charles Stork Mark B./Travis Mabry	Volunteers
Readers	Bill Roser	Esther DeHaven	Chrystal Cobel
Acolytes	n/a	n/a	n/a
Altar Guild	Shirley O'Neal Brenda Willeford	Darla Buccigrossi Rebe Peshorn	Chrystal Cobel
Facebook Live	Shirley Stanush	n/a	
Multimedia	David Haass	Karen Campbell	
Tellers	Jacy Reeves and Gloria Kipp		
December 31	8:00	10:30	
Ushers	Markk Buccigrossi Kathy Volkmann	Jeanie Walpole Gary and Yvonne Beran	
Readers	Mark Buccigrossi	Gloria Kipp	
Acolytes	n/a	n/a	
Altar Guild	Darla Buccigrossi	Laura Baumann/Patrice Goodman	
Facebook Live		Shirley Stanush	
Multimedia	Karen Campbell	Patrice Goodman	
Tellers	Mark Buccigrossi and Shirley Stanush		



MATTHEW
14:22-33

YACHT CLUB

Young Adults Church Team

OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE

Friday, December 1st
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Christmas Market Setup

Saturday, December 2nd
Christmas Market
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 9th
HEB Christmas Caroling
1:30 p.m.

SUNDAY EXPERIENCE

December 3rd, 10th & 17th
9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

OUTING

Ice Skating/Big Lous

MEETING DATES

Monday, December 4th
Monday, December 18th
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Church Parsonage

meal served

If you have any questions, please contact Tina Homeyer, Director of YACHT, @ (210) 857-5572.



To my Immanuel church family,

I want to express my deepest gratitude for the fundraiser and all the hard work everyone put into it. Your prayers, visits, and recent good wishes following my surgery are greatly appreciated. I am so blessed to have friends like you, who I consider to be family to me.

God bless you all, Willie Jean Boeck.

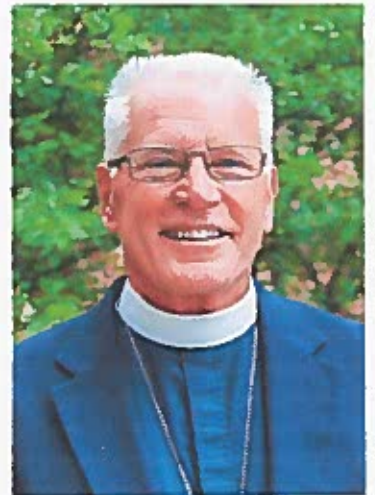


Bishop Emeritus John Bradosky Joins NALC Staff

Effective this month, Bishop Emeritus John Bradosky has accepted a part-time position on the NALC Staff as the Director of Area Support and Development. In this position, he will work with our Area Assistants to the Bishop, Call Process Coordinator, Interim Ministry Coordinators, and the Director of Discipleship to develop, coordinate, and provide support for NALC Pastors, Deans, and congregations.

He will also be involved in our ecumenical consultations and will support congregations that desire to join our fellowship. As we work to address the challenges and opportunities we face as a growing denomination, this position will help keep the ministry we do as a *Mission-Driven and Congregationally Focused* church body.

"I am excited about implementing this new position and encouraged that Bishop John is willing to serve in this role," said Bishop Dan Selbo. "His wisdom and experience will be a strong asset to our collective efforts to support our churches and to deepen our commitment to making disciples of Jesus, as well as a welcomed support for the work I do in my role."



Join Our Bible Studies!



Sundays

9:15 am **Adults & Young Adults**

Wednesdays

10:00 am **Women**

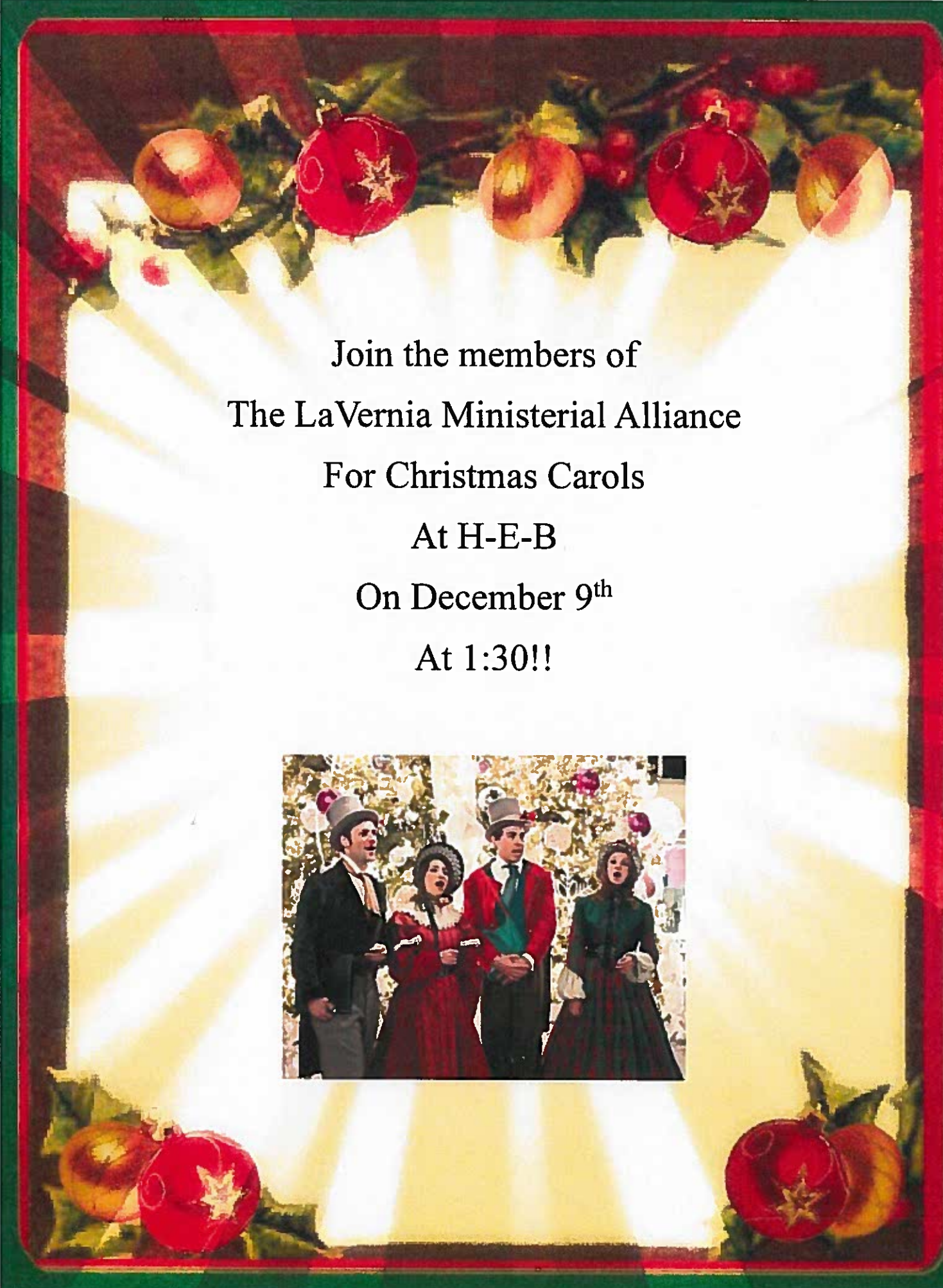
6:30 pm **Families**

Thursdays

10:45 am **Golden Age**

7:00 pm **Women**

Everyone is welcome!



Join the members of
The LaVernia Ministerial Alliance
For Christmas Carols
At H-E-B
On December 9th
At 1:30!!

