

I trust that each of you had a great Thanksgiving and spent some time giving thanks to the Lord for all the blessings He has given to us. The best gift that has ever been given is the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. As we enter into this Christmas season, our culture views this time as a time to exchange gifts. Begin now to think about who you can share this great gift with. One way to help share this gift is to invite someone to church with you where they will hear about Jesus and what He has done for us. In fact, let me *challenge* each of you to bring a friend with you during this Christmas season. In an article I read, it was stated that 80% of people who did not go to church would come if they were invited by a friend, family member or coworker. We even have two extra opportunities to invite someone this month with the Christmas music program by our choir on December 15th and the Christmas Eve service. So, who will you invite to church during the Christmas season? Take an action and invite them!

Hannah Gunnels



Hey Church Family!

Thank you to **EVERYONE** who helped make our fall festival a success! It was a great turn out with over 250 people coming through and most heard the gospel shared. This could not have happened without YOU! Thank you so much!

The children (PreK - 6th grade) will be singing a few Christmas songs in the morning service on December 22. We will be practicing in the Children's wing on Sunday mornings at 9 am.

Christmas

CAROLING

and Soup Supper

Wednesday, Dec. 18 - 5:00 PM



Emmanuel Baptist Church
1200 Farmerville Hwy.
Ruston, LA 71270

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 163
Ruston, LA 71270

EMMANUEL
BAPTIST

RUSTON, LOUISIANA
www.ebcruston.org

The Lighthouse

December, 2019

Time flies...

It is hard to believe that 2019 will soon come to an end. I have found that the year seems to get away from me in the Fall and moves progressively faster as the end of the year approaches. Holiday celebrations, special programs, and family gatherings are great opportunities for witnessing and building relationships, but it is so easy to get stressed and overwhelmed. I want to encourage you to carve out times in your days for moments of stillness, devotion and prayer. This will not happen, especially during December, if you are not willing to plan for it and give this time priority in your daily routine. Take some time to read the Christmas story in Matthew and Luke. Spend some time praying and thanking your Lord Jesus Christ for His humble Advent. Let the Holy Spirit help you identify with Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, and Zechariah. Spend some time thinking on the struggle of faith each of these had as they received the news of miraculous births and how their own lives would be changed forever.

If we were honest, most of us would admit that our holiday gatherings emphasize presents, food, or some other activity. Why not make a concerted effort to make sure they emphasize the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ this year? The lives of Christians should be directed by the Holy Spirit and informed by the Word of God and I believe our gatherings can be as well. This can be accomplished easily through the place we give to the public reading of the Christmas story in our gatherings and the priority we give to prayer. Let’s ask the Lord to help us make time personally to seek Him this December and to guide us to help us honor Him corporately in all our church & family celebrations.

Join us for
worship...

Sundays

9:00 a.m. Bible Study
10:15 a.m.
Morning Worship

Wednesdays

5:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal
6 p.m. Recharge Service
Youth Bible Study
Mission Organizations
Adult Choir Practice
6:45 p.m. College
“Explore”

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

& Ordinance of the Lord's Supper

December 24 - 5 PM

Emmanuel needs to replace one of our buses. Both of our larger buses are in need of some very costly repairs and have experienced a great deal of wear and tear.

The Transportation Committee believes the needs of the preschool and the church would be best served by replacing one of these buses with another 15 passenger van. The upkeep and operation of a van is much less than the conversion buses. There is a special fund set up for the purchase of the new van. Please prayerfully consider donating to this fund. We currently have about 25% of the funds needed.

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Joint SS 9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal @ FBC Arcadia—4:30 pm WOM 5 p.m.—A7	2 <i>Ladies Prayer Group—10:30 am</i>	3 Men's Prayer Group—8:00 a.m. JOY B & B LWL B. Study 5:30 p.m.-CTR	4 WN Meal—5 p.m. WNR—6 p.m. Deacons 7 p.m.	5 JOY Christmas Party @ FLC 5:30 p.m.	6 Adult 5 Christmas Party @ FLC 6 p.m. Daycare to Ballet 8:30 a.m.	7 College Group to Natchitoches
Week of Prayer for Int'l Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Dec. 1-8						
8 Ruston Nursing & Rehab.—2:30 p.m. Daycare Christmas Program—4 p.m. Sanctuary Choir musical @ FBC, Arcadia 6 p.m. (reh. @ 4:15 p.m.)	9 <i>Ladies Prayer Group—10:30 am</i> <div>Group to OCC in Dallas</div>	10 MPG—8:00 a.m. Ex. Bd. Mt. @ Rock Comer BC-11 a.m. LBS 5:30 pm-Oasis Pres. XMAS Party	11 WN Meal—5 p.m. WNR & Qrtly. Bus. Mtg.—6 p.m.	12 Adult 6 Christmas Party @ FLC 6 p.m.	13	14 <i>(CTR reserved)</i> Youth Christmas Party @ FLC 7 p.m.
15 Sanctuary Choir musical 6 p.m. (choir @ 4:15 p.m.)	16 <i>Ladies Prayer Group—10:30 am</i>	17 Men's Prayer Group—8:00 a.m. Ladies Weight Loss Bible Study 5:30 p.m.-CTR	18 Soup Supper 5 p.m. Caroling to Shut-ins	19	20	21
22 AM— Children's Choir to sing	23	24 Christmas Candlelight Lord's Supper 5 p.m. <i>Church Office Closed</i>	25 Christmas <i>Church Office Closed</i>	26	27	28
29	30	31 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	<div>Wednesday Night Kid's Schedule: 6:00 P.M. RA's, GA's, Mission Kids (FLC Gym) Youth Bible Study (7-12 gr.) (youth room)</div>			



Dear Emmanuel Baptist Church Family,

Thank you for your cards, visits, & expressions of kindness on the occasion of my 107th birthday.

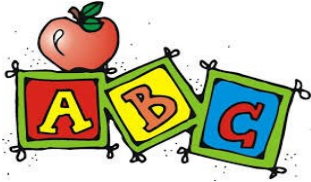
God's Blessings, Mary McCorkle

Thank you for all the love and prayers given and shown to me. May the Lord continue to bless all of ya'll.

Love, Fran Tucker

Thank you so much to the ladies of Adult 7 Sunday School class that gave me a birthday party! It was very lovely!

Ginette Butitta



Preschool News

Kathy Mitchell

Oh my goodness our children are cute! Just ask their grandparents. I am sure that anyone of the 150 that showed up for our grandparents celebration will agree with me. As our students sung their song and recited their Bible verse I saw smiles of delight on each face.

Our Thanksgiving Feast was a wonderful time where our Indians and Pilgrims enjoyed a feast similar to what the brave men and women of the Mayflower might have eaten. The children love dressing up like Pilgrims and Indians and learn the truth about the history of this great country we live in.

As of this second I am in full Christmas mode! I want to take this opportunity to invite you to our annual **Christmas and Children's Program** on **December 8th at 4:00 p.m.** You will love experiencing the joy of Christmas through the eyes of our preschoolers. It is a wonderful way to get your Christmas season started. I am going to need help with the reception after the program. I will send a signup sheet around and if you can help please put your name and telephone number on the sheet. We will have a lot of parents, grandparents and friends here that evening and I would love for some of our wonderful church family members to get to know them so please make plans now to attend.

On **December 17th** we will have our happy birthday Jesus party in each of our preschool classrooms. It will be a great time and if you would like to join us please give me a call as you are always welcome. It is very important to me that each child knows we celebrate Christmas because of the gift God gave us and not because of the wrapped gifts we receive.

At our house no one opens a gift until the Christmas Story has been read. My husband or I have read it for many years and now my grandchildren read it to us...how did that happen? It is a precious story and the memories of reading it together are some of the best I have. I hope that as this season comes around, you and your family find special ways to celebrate the birth of our Savior. May we remember: **When Christ was born so was our hope (Lucado).**

