

# Immanuel Evangelical Church March, 2026



EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION



## Children's Sunday School, not the Sunday School of yesteryear



Kids who attend our children's Rotation Sunday School got a real treat in the month of February. On February 1 the kids got to make camel marionettes as a hold over learning center from January's "Three Wise Men" month long exploration of Matthew 2:1-12 that was delayed by the winter storm at the end of January. In the Art learning center, kids learned about how camels were used as transportation on long trips, like the trip the Wise Men took to find the Christ Child. The camel marionettes not only help kids focus on that part of the story, but also gave kids a keepsake to treasure for years to come.

On February 22 kids enjoyed creating and video taping a blacklight performance of the hymn "Here I Am, Lord" as part of the February month long lesson set on the boy Samuel hearing God's voice, based on 1 Samuel chapter 3.

These creative Bible lesson experiences are reflective of the types of classes our kids have engaged in for the past 6 years as part of the Workshop Rotation Model Sunday School.

In Rotation Sunday School kids explore one Bible story in different ways over a month long period through rotating learning centers like Video, Art, Computers, Cooking, Science, Bible Games, etc. No two weeks or months are ever the same.

Marla Sebesta was often said, that because of Rotation Sunday School, she's noticed that kids are retaining more from the Bible stories learned than they did in "traditional" Sunday School of years past when kids were taught a new lesson each week.

If your kids or grandkids aren't attending Rotation Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am they are missing out on a lot of fun and hands-on, creative Bible learning.

Also, Rotation Model Sunday School is more fun to teach because teachers are able to select leading learning centers that they feel most comfortable with or enjoy teaching the most (like art, cooking, video, Bible games, computers, etc.)

The Christian Education Committee is always looking for more volunteers to are willing to teach a learning center within specific month's. Teachers only need to prepare and teach their lesson once or twice a month depending on the number of kids enrolled. So, if you're looking for a ministry that meets your flexible schedule, teaching children's Sunday School is the right ministry for you. Contact Deanna Shifley or Melissa Kostelnik for more information.

**Rev. Ron Shifley**  
Senior Pastor  
Office 979-793-6282  
Pastoral Emergencies  
Cell 419-905-9844

**Deanna Shifley**  
Interim Youth Director  
Office 979-793-6283  
Cell 567-242-4490  
Email: youth@jecneedville.org

**Samantha Sebesta**  
Leaps & Bounds Director  
Office 979-553-3357

**Jackie Moody**  
Organist/Pianist

**Church Secretary**  
Church Office 979-793-6125  
Email office@jecneedville.org  
Mon-Fri 9:00 am -- 1:00 pm

# Ron's Ramblings

## Welcoming Jesus the King!

I remember the excitement when the Needville Little League championship team rolled into town after their World Series appearance a couple of years ago. Folks literally painted the town to share words of celebration. Crowds gathered along the streets to cheer on our young athletes. It was a joyous occasion indeed.

These recent celebrations in Needville remind me of a similar welcoming celebration that happened on the road to Jerusalem nearly 2,000 years ago. At that time, the crowds came out, cheering loudly, as they waved palm branches, and threw their cloaks on the road to greet the one whom they thought would be their champion of the day: Jesus of Nazareth.

Matthew 21:8-9 depicts the scene: "A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' 'Hosanna in the highest heaven!'"

The frenzy outside of the city caught the attention of those inside. Matthew notes, "When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, 'Who is this?' The crowds answered, 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.'" (Matthew 21:10-11)

Jesus was greeted like a rock star, or like the gold medal winning USA men's hockey team at the recent State of the Union speech in Washington DC. Jesus was greeted with thunderous applause. I think it would have been really cool to have seen Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday.



Today, Palm Sunday observances around the world still echo that joyous celebration.

News reports from Iraq broadcast on April 14, 2025 featured thousands of Christians celebrating in the streets on Palm Sunday. The crowds waved palm branches and flags, sang psalms, and paraded through the streets to commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem so many years ago. Yet, for these Iraqi Christians in Qaraqosh, Iraq, the celebration wasn't just some rote tradition. It was a public proclamation that the Christian faith was back in Iraq after ISIS had sought to extinguish all remnants of Christianity through brutal persecution.

Similar video news reports from Syria also portray joyous Palm Sunday celebrations as Christians take their faith into the streets to not only celebrate Jesus and the start of Holy Week, but to show the world that war and Islamic extremist

persecution was not able to snuff out the Christian faith.

Throughout the world, observances of Palm Sunday are often joyous celebrations that continue to stir "the whole city."

This brings us to Palm Sunday 2026 in Needville, Texas. Holy Week is just a few weeks away. Are you ready to welcome Jesus into our town like Iraqi and Syrian Christians? Is the remembrance of Jesus' triumphal entry a joyous day for you? Or is it just a rote tradition that we have to go through just to get to Easter?

Here's the truth: Jesus is more than a rock star.

He's better than an Olympic champion. He's more than what the crowds of Jerusalem thought he was back then. He's our living Savior, Lord, and King. He deserves our praise, joyful public praise. So how will you greet him this Palm Sunday?



# A full menu of classes for all ages

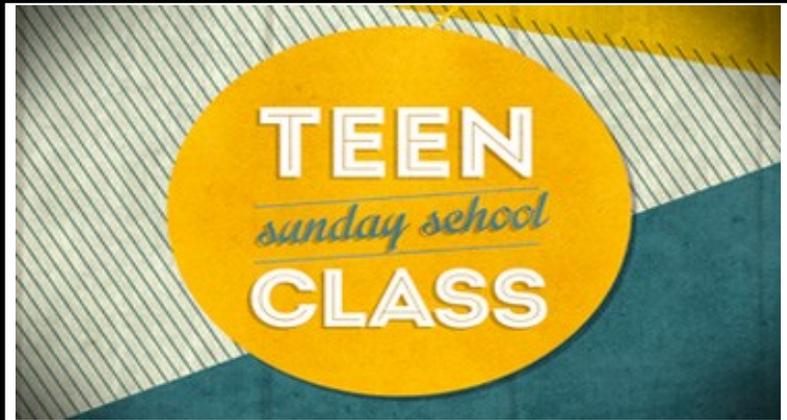
# Lenten season begins



**Children's Rotation Sunday School**  
 Sundays 9:00 am  
 February Adventure: "The Lost Is Found"  
 Grades: preschool to grade 6



The 2026 Lenten season began on February 18 with the observance of Ash Wednesday. Melissa Kostelnik assisted Pastor Ron in the imposition of ashes during the 7:00 pm worship service that also featured the celebration of Holy Communion.



**Teen Sunday School Class**  
 Sundays at 9:00 am Food Pantry Classroom  
 Teens grades 7 to 12 invited!

## Church Office staff in transition

During their February 19, 2026 meeting, the Consistory divided the position of Office Manager into two positions: Financial Clerk and Church Secretary.



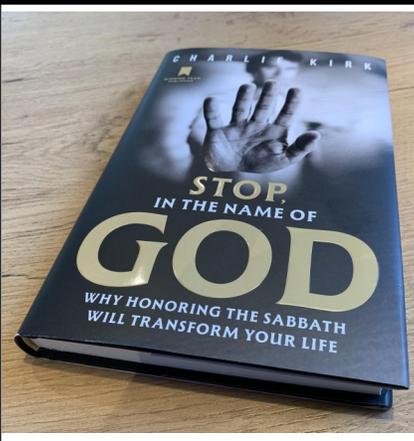
**Kim March**  
 Financial Clerk



**Deanna Shifley**  
 Fill-in Church Secretary

Consistory has appointed Kim March to the position of Financial Clerk. She will work after hours as needed.

Deanna Shifley has been appointed temporary Church Secretary. Deanna's office hours will be 9:00 am-1:00 pm Monday thru Friday.



**Adult Sunday School Class**  
 Sundays at 9:00 am Library Classroom  
 Adults of all ages invited!



**Purim Supper**  
 Sunday, March 1  
 6:30 pm  
 Senior Citizens Room  
**Menu:** roast beef, mashed potatoes & gravy, peas & carrots, dinner roll and dessert

# IEC YOUTH

Deanna Shifley, Interim Youth Director  
Email: Deanna.shifley@gmail.com  
Cell: 567-242-4490  
Office: 979-793-6283

## Catacombs breaks attendance record again in February

Our Friday night teen outreach ministry called Catacombs broke a new attendance record on February 20th with 51 teens in attendance that night. Average attendance in February was 42 teens.



The Catacombs ministry also wants to welcome three new volunteer chaperones: Brad Brown, Kathy Brown, and Mark Paweleck. Welcome to the team!



Please continue to pray for this ministry (for both teens who attend and chaperones).

## Music Camp 2026 theme



June 22-26 | 9:00-2:00 pm  
Musical performance: Fri. June 26 at 6:30

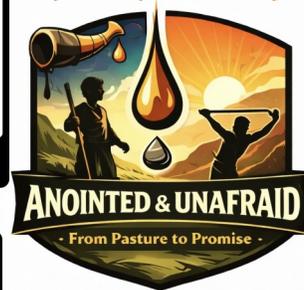
Register at: <https://immanuelevangelicalchurch.org/music-camp>

## 2026 EA Summer Camps

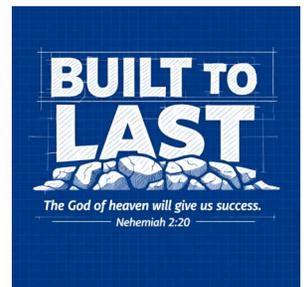
**Youth Mission Trip (grades 9-12)**  
Sunday to Thursday June 14-18  
Location: TBA Cost: \$250.00 per person

**Youth Camp (grades 6+)**  
Sunday to Wednesday July 12-15  
Location: Camp Lost Pines, Warda, TX  
Cost: \$175.00 per person  
Register at: [evangelicalassociation.org/texasyouthcamp](http://evangelicalassociation.org/texasyouthcamp)

**Kids Camp (grades 2-5)**  
Thursday to Friday July 16-17  
Location: Camp Lost Pines, Ward, TX  
Cost: \$75.00 per person  
Register at: [evangelicalassociation.org/texaskidscamp](http://evangelicalassociation.org/texaskidscamp)



"my God turns my darkness into light."  
— PSALM 18:28 —



# March Missions/Outreach

## March Missions: Lion of Judah Academy in Tanzania

Our Missions Committee has chosen the Lion of Judah Academy in Tanzania as our wider missions focus for the month of March.

The Lion of Judah Academy is a private Christian primary and secondary school located in Bulima, Tanzania, East Africa. Its main goal is to provide an excellent but affordable education to the children of Tanzanian pastors, church workers and Bible college students, as well as to orphans and other disadvantaged children.

The school is a rich and vibrant academic and Christian community with over 750 students and 100 teachers and support staff. It is one of the outstanding schools, public or private, in the nation of Tanzania. It is a "city set on a hill."

Most Tanzanian pastors and church workers are not salaried and receive only modest stipends for their work. As a result nearly 80% of Lion of Judah Academy students come from situations where their families are unable to afford the cost of the education they are receiving. The Student Sponsorship program is of vital importance to our students. God is working miracles and changing lives through The Lion of Judah Academy...we welcome your help in this great adventure.

The motto of The Lion of Judah Academy is: "Training Leaders in Knowledge, Wisdom and Godly Character." Accomplishing that goal is what The Lion of Judah Academy strives to do every day.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000 for Lion of Judah Academy in the month of March via the special mission envelopes located in the pews. You can learn more about the Lion of Judah Academy by viewing the Digital Missions Display in the main lobby of the church or by going online to [www.evangelicalassociation.org](http://www.evangelicalassociation.org).



*"Bop Til' You Drop at a Sock Hop!"*

Join the Women's Guild for a delightful luncheon with lots of laughter and conversation as we step back in time...

Immanuel Fellowship Hall  
Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 11-1

**RSVP By April 1st**

Sandra Zacek 281-785-4297  
Becky Oberhoff 281-684-3547  
Sharon Hedt 832-595-5824  
Roxy Graeber 281-239-4223  
Sheila Elster 281-455-5002

### PREVENTATIVE LIFE

We offer patients an affordable, accessible way to detect potential health issues early - often before any symptoms appear. Early detection means earlier treatment and better outcomes.

**8 ULTRASOUNDS OFFERED:**

- ▶ CAROTID ARTERY
- ▶ THYROID
- ▶ ABDOMINAL AORTA
- ▶ LIVER
- ▶ SPLEEN
- ▶ GALLBLADDER
- ▶ LEFT KIDNEY
- ▶ RIGHT KIDNEY

**CONTACT US TO BRING THIS VALUABLE SERVICE TO YOUR:**

- ▶ BUSINESS / CORPORATION
- ▶ SCHOOL DISTRICT
- ▶ CHURCH
- ▶ COMMUNITY



Full Screening Package  
**\$199.00**

All 8 areas of the body and the 4-page report from the radiologist

Images (all pictures)  
Electronic (Email) - \$30.00  
USB (Mail USPO) - \$45.00



Internal Organs

Individual Screenings  
**\$99.00** each

EKG Now Available for \$49.00  
Gain deeper insight into your heart's rhythm and function

Scan QR code to book



SCAN ME TO BOOK

Immanuel Evangelical Church  
Saturday, March 28, 2026  
9018 Church St.,  
Needville, TX 77461  
The screenings will be performed in the Parish Hall

(713) 568-8331 | Call Today to Schedule Your Screening | Appointments Are Required.

You Do Not need to obtain a prescription from your doctor to participate in this screening opportunity. Our board-certified radiology team will provide this at No additional charge once your appointment is scheduled. Prescriptions are for our office use only.



### Offering by Credit or Debit

To give by debit or credit card, you can scan this QR code. It will take you directly to an app to make your donation.

Thank you for your support!

			
<b>Palm Sunday</b> March 29	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> April 2	<b>Good Friday</b> April 3	<b>Easter Sunday</b> April 5
10:15 am Worship	6:00 pm Passover Feast in Fellowship Hall  7:30 pm Last Supper Drama with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary	8:00 pm Good Friday Drama Sponsored by Jr. & Sr. High Youth	6:45 am Community Easter Sunrise Service at Harvest Park  8:00 am Easter Breakfast  9:00 am Easter Egg Hunt  10:15 am Easter Worship with Holy Communion

**Journey to the Cross**  
A free daily online Lenten Devotional Guide  
www.d365.org

pause listen think pray go

Journey to the cross during the 40 days of Lent with daily devotions, including Scripture, music, meditation and prayer.



Scan the QR code to experience this Lenten devotional online.

Get the **d365 Daily Devotional** app on your Apple app store.



**IMMANUEL ANNUAL BROTHERHOOD EASTER BBQ SALE PRESALE ONLY**



Let the Brotherhood cook your Easter BBQ meal. Again this year, we are cooking whole beef shoulder and selling it by the pound. You can buy anywhere from 1 to 100 pounds. Pork and beef sausage (from Cernoch's) will also be available for purchase, by the link.

**Pickup time will be Saturday, April 4th, 11-1:30pm (@BBQ pit)**

Prices:  
BBQ Beef Shoulder \$20 per pound  
Link of Sausage \$10 per link

Use the order form below and turn in by **April 1st at 12pm** to Immanuel Church Office (9018 Church St)

**ORDER FORM:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ pounds of BBQ Beef Shoulder  
\_\_\_\_\_ links of Sausage

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to : IEC Brotherhood

**Help Wanted!**

We are looking for volunteers to help run our worship projection system including Media Shout and Live Streaming. A class will be forming soon, please text Deanna at 567-242-4490 if you are interested.



**NEW!!!! I.E.C. PROPERTY INSURANCE FUND**

The purpose of this fund is to be our back-up should we ever need repairs to our facilities due to wind/storm/hurricane damage. We began this fund with the proceeds from our I.E.C. Endowment and monthly deposits will be made into the fund from the general account, like an 'insurance payment'. Additional ways to build this fund are through your gifts, memorials, portions of your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, etc. Thank you to those members who have already started contributing to this fund. When writing a check, please write the check to the general account, but note in the 'memo' that it is for the Property Insurance Fund.

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

Open Marketplace will be October 11, 2026 at the Columbus Club Hall in Needville. Please put this date on your family's calendar now so that you will avoid scheduling other activities on this date. We will need everyone's support at the fundraiser to make it a success.



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2 <i>Purim</i>	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am  <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am  <i>Purim Supper</i> 6:30 pm		<i>L&amp;B</i> 8:30-2:30 pm  <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6:30 pm	<i>Children's Fellowship</i> 4:00-5:30 pm  <i>Bell Choir</i> 5:30-6:00 pm  <i>Youth Fellowship</i> 6:00-8:00 pm	<i>L&amp;B</i> 8:30-2:30 pm  <i>Christian Education Committee</i> 6:30 pm	<i>Sr. Citizens Lunch</i> 11:30 am  <i>Catacombs</i> 8:00-11:00 pm	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am  <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am			<i>Food Pantry</i> 9:30-12:00 pm	<i>Missions Committee</i> 6:00 pm  <i>Worship Committee</i> 6:30 pm  <i>Cub Scouts</i> 6:30 pm	<i>Sr. Citizens Lunch</i> 11:30 am	<i>Fellowship Hall rental</i>
15	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19	20	21
<i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am  <i>What Does the EA Believe?</i> 9:00 am  <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am		<i>L&amp;B</i> 8:30-2:30 pm  <i>Brotherhood</i> 6:30 pm  <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6:30 pm	<i>Children's Fellowship</i> 4:00-5:30 pm  <i>Bell Choir</i> 5:30-6:00 pm  <i>Youth Fellowship</i> 6:00-8:00 pm	<i>L&amp;B</i> 8:30-2:30 pm  <i>Consistory</i> 7:00 pm	<i>Sr. Citizens Lunch</i> 11:30 am  <i>Catacombs</i> 8:00-11:00 pm	<i>Fellowship Hall rental</i>  2:00 pm <i>Steve Britt Internment at IEC Cemetery</i>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<i>Bell Choir</i> 8:30 am  <i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am  <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am		<i>L&amp;B</i> 8:30-2:30 pm  <i>EA Church Camp</i> 1:00 pm  <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6:30 pm	<i>Food Pantry</i> 9:30-12:00 pm  <i>Children's Fellowship</i> 4:00-5:30 pm  <i>Bell Choir</i> 5:30-6:00 pm  <i>Youth Fellowship</i> 6:00-8:00 pm	<i>L&amp;B</i> 8:30-2:30 pm  <i>NMA Clergy</i> 4:00 pm  <i>Cub Scouts</i> 6:30 pm	<i>Sr. Citizens Lunch</i> 11:30 am  <i>Women's Guild</i> 2:00 pm  <i>Catacombs</i> 8:00-11:00 pm	<i>Elite Medical Image Screening</i>
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	30	31				
<i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am  <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am		<i>L&amp;B</i> 8:30-2:30 pm				

# PRAYER LIST

Mark Paweleck  
Tommy Lovel  
Keith Warncke  
Brandon Beck  
Cindy Schulze  
Sue Hurta  
Cecil Tielke

Cecelia Blinka  
John Spears  
Harvey Mager  
Joyce Christ  
Barbara Sims  
Barbara Schroeder  
Erna Thielemann

Clarence Thielemann  
Nathan Gaskamp  
Robert Hallgren  
Ellvina Loehr  
Carolyn Kaluza  
Waymond Schulze  
Becky Tabler

Jo Ann Conrad  
Paul Flessener  
Glynn & Bernice Schmidt  
Sharon Hedt  
Barbara James  
Norma Freund  
Debbie Palmer

## OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES



Donald Gene Lindemann went to be with the Lord on January 31, 2026.

His funeral was held on February 6, 2026 at the church.

Please continue to pray for Deborah and his family during this time of mourning.

Cynthia "Cindy" Maresh Herrin went home to be with the Lord on February 12, 2026.

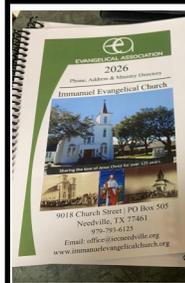
Her funeral was held on February 20, 2026 at the church.

Please continue to pray for her family during this time of mourning.



Steve Britt's Internment will be held Saturday, March 21st at 2:00 pm at the IEC Cemetery

His family would like to invite any members of the church to attend.



The **2026 Church Directory** has been published.

Pick up a copy for your family after worship today.

It is available at the Welcome Center table.

### What do churches in the EA believe?

A new YouTube video explores the beliefs of the EA.

We'll show the video on Sunday, March 15 at 9:00 am.

The video can also be viewed on our Digital Missions Display in the



youtube.com

The Evangelical Association: The Conservative Answer to the United Church of Christ

church lobby or online on the EA website: [evangelicalassociation.org](http://evangelicalassociation.org) or on YouTube.



- 7 Quentin & Marla Sebesta
- 7 Clay & Samantha Sebesta
- 10 Christopher & Marisa Bienek
- 15 Ray & Cherie Oberhoff
- 16 David & Dana Hawkins
- 24 Garren & Shelly Schmidt
- 26 Randy & Julie Halbert



- 1 Whitney Anderson
- 1 Brian Sebesta
- 2 Meggie Duncan
- 2 Michelle Faas
- 2 Rita Hedt
- 3 Greg Antrich
- 3 Keegan March
- 3 Michelle McClellan
- 5 Carrie Alteche
- 5 Jeremy Simmons
- 7 Carissa Zatopek
- 8 Ryan Stembridge
- 8 Travis Stembridge
- 9 Alex Schmidt
- 10 Sandra Zacek
- 14 Mitchell Wendt
- 14 Judy Kveton
- 15 Hallie Bienek
- 17 Amy Bosse
- 18 Abigail Fletcher
- 21 Delores Wittneben
- 23 Helen Altimore
- 23 Cash Raska
- 24 Cole McClellan
- 26 Mark Bosse
- 26 Shelley Fletcher
- 28 Karen Gadway
- 29 Rodney Elster

## IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL CHURCH

979-793-6125 E-mail address—office@iecneedville.org

P.O. BOX 505

9018 CHURCH STREET

NEEDVILLE, TEXAS 77461-0505

www.immanuelevangelicalchurch.org

Find us on Facebook @ Immanuel Evangelical Church Needville Texas



## EASTER LILY ORDER

The IEC Women's Guild is offering you the opportunity to help us beautify our sanctuary on April 5 by placing an order for an Easter lily plant for our Easter morning worship service. These plants may be placed in honor or in memory of your loved one. Recognition will be printed as part of the Easter Sunday worship bulletin.

There are 42 Easter lilies available for purchase. Please place your order early and remember to pick up your plant after the Easter worship service.

The cost per plant is \$15.00 (cash or check). If paying online, the cost is \$16.00 (includes online service fee). The vendor for our plants is Brookwood Community.

**Please make checks to: IEC Women's Guild | Deadline: March 22, 2026**

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor Of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory Of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER OF PLANTS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **AMOUNT PAID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*CASH/CHECK/ONLINE PAY (circle)**

**Please give your order and payment to Roxy Graeber or Sharon Roberson.** You may also put your order in one of the envelopes marked 'Lily Order' (on the lobby table), and place it in the large manilla envelope in the Guild mailbox which is located near Pastor Ron's office door. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR ORDER IN THE CHURCH OFFICE. Contact: Roxy Graeber 281-239-4223 or Sharon Roberson 281-750-1291**