

CONTENTS

Modesto – A Regional Overview

- Modesto – City and Region..... 3
- Regional Economic Pressures 4

Emanuel – Programs and Mission

- Mission Statement 7
- Book of Faith Resolution 7
- Emanuel Programs for Mission and Ministry..... 7
- Emanuel Day Care..... 7
- Natural Church Development Project..... 8

Emanuel Lutheran Church – Yesterday and Today

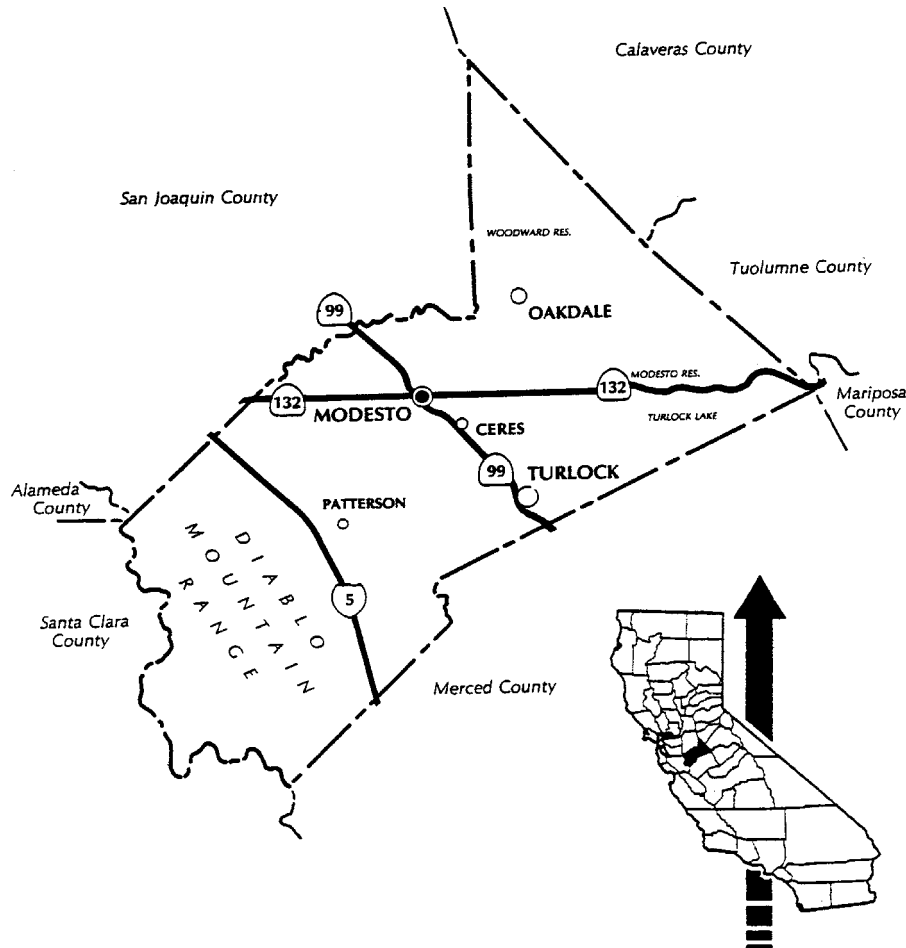
- A Brief History 9
- A Time of Historical Review..... 10
- Member’s Memories of Emanuel Lutheran Church 10

Clergy Job Description 13

Clippings 17

Links..... 25

MODESTO – A REGIONAL OVERVIEW



Modesto – city and region

Emanuel Lutheran Church is located in Modesto, California, the largest city and the governmental center of Stanislaus County. Modesto is in the northern San Joaquin Valley, 90 miles east of San Francisco, 310 miles north of Los Angeles, and 75 miles south of Sacramento.

Modesto has the benefit of two major north-south highways (Interstate 5 and Highway 99) and two east-west highways (State Routes 108 and 132). Freight service is available from numerous truck lines and contract carriers, rail lines, and air transport. The Modesto City/County airport is in southeast Modesto, just north of Ceres. AMTRAK offers passenger rail service at two locations in the county – one at the eastern edge of Modesto on Parker Road and one in Denair, approximately 15 miles south of Modesto.

Stanislaus County is a designated Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) by the Census Bureau. Figures provided by the California Department of Finance indicate Stanislaus County had an estimated population of 517,685 as of January 1, 2011. The estimated population for the City of Modesto on January 1, 2011 was 202,290. This was a 0.6% increase over the January 2010 population estimate.

Profile Addenda: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Modesto

Economic forecasters project that the Central Valley will continue to grow faster than most other areas in the state. Land is available for future expansion of existing enterprises, the region enjoys relatively low cost of housing when compared with the high-priced residential properties nearer the coast. Based on available information, an anticipated annual growth rate of 1.0% to 1.5% is considered reasonable.

The primary economic base of Stanislaus County is agriculture. Agriculturally related industries, particularly food processing, wholesale trade, and transportation have historically played a central role in the county's economy. Food processing is the primary manufacturing activity in the area. Much of the balance of the region's industries provides support for agriculture and food processing.

The chart below shows the top five non-manufacturing and manufacturing employers in Stanislaus County. While the economic base has become more diverse over the past 10 to 15 years, agribusiness and distribution continues to be the economic mainstay of the community. However, like many Central Valley communities, job growth has been shifting from agriculture and industry to the retail and service sectors.

Non-Manufacturing			Manufacturing		
Employer	Industry	Employee Count	Employer	Industry	Employee Count
Stanislaus County	Government	4,642	E & J Gallo Winery	Wine	3,250
Modesto City Schools	Education	3,231	Seneca Foods	Food Processing	2,100
Memorial Medical	Healthcare	3,071	Del Monte Foods	Fruit Products	2,000
Turlock Unified	Education	2,275	Foster Farms	Poultry Processing	1,647
Doctors Medical	Health Care	2,000	Stanislaus Food	Tomato Products	1,600
Ceres Unified	Education	1,768	ConAgra	Food Processing	1,437

Source: The Alliance of Stanislaus (an Economic Development Corporation)

Regional economic pressures

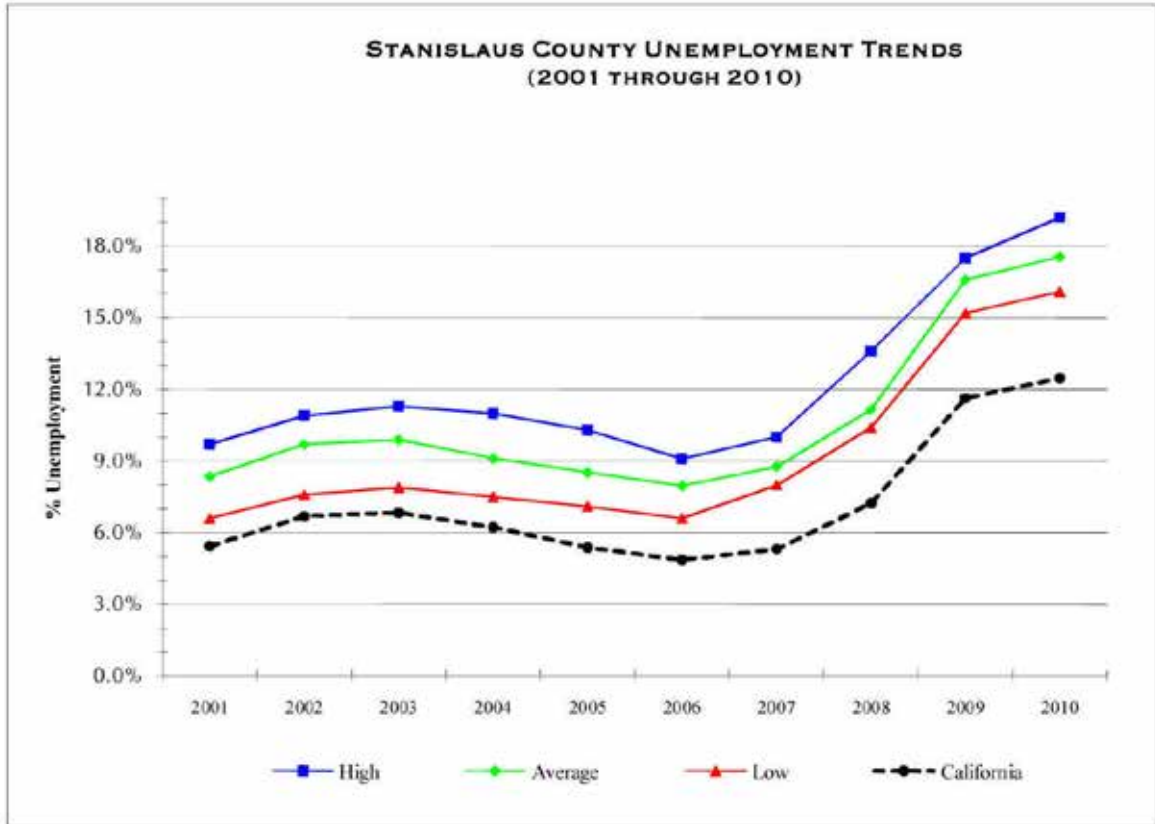
The graph below shows countywide High-Average-Low annual unemployment rates compared to state rates for the years 2001 through 2010. While unemployment figures in Stanislaus County are typically higher than the state as a whole, the recession has definitely had a very negative effect on the job pool for this county. It is reasonable to believe that unemployment will decline when the building industries begin to show signs of recovery.

In times of economic recession, agriculture continues to be the driving force of the economy. When the economy improves, the non-agriculture sectors of manufacturing, services, retail trade, and government will once again continue to grow. In light of the traditional cost difference between the Bay Area and the Central Valley, when the economy rebounds and homes are being built once again, Stanislaus County is expected to continue to grow as individuals and companies seek to relocate and expand their facilities. However, in the short term, growth will likely be at a much slower rate than that seen from 1999 to late 2005.

Like most of the communities in the Central Valley of California, real estate values in Stanislaus County escalated from 1996 through 2005. Home prices in Stanislaus County peaked around December 2005, when the median sales price reached \$399,648.

In the early to mid-2000s, a high percentage of refinancing and new home sales were financed with sub-prime, variable-rate loans with little or no down payment. When the variable rates increased above the "teaser" rate used to qualify the borrowers, many homeowners could not afford the increased mortgage payment. San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Merced counties saw an

Profile Addenda: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Modesto



increasing number of homes go into foreclosure. By October 2008, foreclosed homes (REO for real estate owned) comprised 81% of all home sales in Stanislaus County.

In late 2008 the national economy went into a tailspin. The collapse of the U.S. housing market caused the values of securities tied to U.S. real estate to plummet. When the residential real estate balloon burst, the local office sector was the first commercial property type to be affected. Mortgage brokers left town. Stanislaus County lost three title companies. Real estate offices closed satellite locations and jobs in these sectors became scarce.

Many of the homeowners who faced foreclosure were commuters who worked outside Stanislaus County. When they lost their homes and had to rent, many chose to rent closer to their jobs in the Bay Area. Another effect of the recession was increasing unemployment throughout the country. Average annual unemployment in the county rose from 8.0% in 2006 to 17.5% in 2010. High unemployment and the weak economy led to several large retailers closing their doors in their Modesto locations, including Mervyn's, Gottschalks, Circuit City, Linen 'n Things, and Borders Books.

California has experienced seven economic downturns since 1970, three in the last 20 years. The 1990 recession lasted 34 months, from July 1990 to May 1993. The 2001 recession started in March 2001 and lasted 28 months until July 2003. The current recession, beginning in California in July 2007, has been more persistent nationally and locally. The long-term persistence of the present economic downturn has strained local and state governments as tax receipts have fallen and no help anticipated from federal sources. With a populace suffering financial constraints, Modesto area churches and other non-profit organizations depending on donations for support have struggled to maintain financial viability.

EMANUEL – PROGRAMS AND MISSION

Mission statement

The Emanuel Mission Statement: *Sharing Christ's Transforming Grace with Everyone*

Emanuel's vision is to be loving, supportive, and welcoming as we reach out in service and in witness to our neighborhood and the city beyond. We share a passion to nurture children, youth and young adults. We aspire to grow in numbers and in Christian maturity in order to minister more effectively to a larger congregation and to a changing community. We seek always to be led by God's Spirit and to respond joyfully to God's desire for our congregation.

Book of Faith resolution

Emanuel Lutheran Church, committing ourselves to live in and from the Word of God in all our meetings, assemblies and events so that as we regularly and increasingly hear, read, study, share and are engaged by God's Word, we lead by example in faithful service and holy living.

Programs for mission and ministry

Family Promise: We are part of a group of local congregations that take turns housing and feeding homeless families. We provide a place to sleep, eat and rest at the end of the day. Members of Emanuel supply and share dinner and interact with the parents and children. The Family Promise organization helps to find work and a new home for the guests.

Modesto Junior College Study Room: Each day when Modesto Junior College is in session we offer a place for students to study with Wi-Fi connectivity. We open our fellowship hall to them and offer coffee and snacks. We also provide tutoring.

Day Care/preschool: In 1999 Emanuel built a state-licensed daycare facility. Since its opening it has been providing care and learning for infants and toddlers up to children who graduate to attend kindergarten.

Home Communion: Lay members are trained to take communion to homebound or members of the congregation who are too ill to attend services.

Bible Studies: We have a men's Bible study, a Monday evening Bible study for women, a Thursday morning Bible study, and several WELCA circles that meet once a month.

Gospel Mission: On the 5th Tuesday of the month, when it occurs, a group from Emanuel prepare and serve dinner at the Gospel Mission.

Emanuel Day Care

Emanuel Lutheran Day Care is a full-service, state-licensed private daycare program operated under the auspices of Emanuel Lutheran Church. The program is governed by a board that is appointed by and answerable to the ELC council, and monitored by the ELC finance committee. The daycare staff includes a full-time director and eight other employees.

All staff members have had background checks administered by the FBI and the Department of Justice. Further, all staff members are certified for CPR and First Aid. The daycare facility is open from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Security includes a keycard entry system for staff and parents.

Profile Addenda: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Modesto

The program is Christ-centered, and pastor provides a brief weekly daycare ministry. The staff is bi-lingual (English and Spanish), and there is a low staff-to-child ratio. The current census is about 40 children from all age groups. California state requirements allow up to 50 children in the facility at one time.

Natural Church Development project

Two years ago the Emanuel Church Council and pastor were looking for ways to invigorate and revitalize the church. After some study, they decided to begin the Natural Church Development (NCD) process. NCD was recommended by the ELCA as a most effective tool in growing the health of congregations for the sake of God's mission. It is a process that is Biblically grounded, congregationally based, and well researched. Our Synod Coaching Coordinator is Pastor Sharon Lubkemon of Christ Lutheran Church, El Cerrito. The NCD team of five Emanuel members was selected to plan and guide the process.

The first step, in October 2012, was to administer the NCD survey designed to measure the health of our congregation and to help identify opportunities and challenges in the following areas: leadership, ministry, spirituality, structures, worship, small groups, evangelism, and relationships. Thirty church members, representing a cross section of Emanuel, were selected to fill out a questionnaire. The results were sent away to be scored and analyzed. They indicated "Inspiring Worship" should be our first and most important area of focus. Shortly after this, our pastor resigned and NCD was put on hold. By April 2013 the NCD team was ready to proceed with a congregational meeting to share the results of the October survey. At this well-attended gathering, the congregation was asked to submit, in writing, ideas as to how we could best enhance our existing worship services. Many excellent suggestions were submitted and later compiled and tabulated as to their relevance and feasibility. The three areas of major importance determined by congregational suggestions were: work within the existing services to encourage meaningful worship and create more opportunities for member participation; work to provide quality music of all styles as an important aspect of the service; work out ideas to make Emanuel an even more inviting and visitor-friendly church. A series of meetings then followed with the NCD and Worship teams.

Since then, the Worship team has enriched the music program by adding more organ music at the 8:30 service and adding cantors to the 11:00 service, as well as having more choral and special music events. In order to involve more people, a worship leadership training program was held, and additional training for ushers and greeters is planned. Over several months *The Voices of Emanuel* provided an opportunity for members to share their faith walks with the congregation during the Sunday services with the assistance of a skilled interviewer. Members have also participated in the services from time to time with dramatic presentations. The sanctuary has been beautified with seasonal displays hung from the ceiling. They have included a colorful mobile of origami cranes of peace made by members, a lovely design of sheer panels woven through the rafters, and large Christmas stars in shades of blue and white made by the youth of Emanuel. All of these have greatly enhanced the worship experience and the general sense of participation.

Other plans include, increasing the number of opportunities for youth involvement in worship.

The NCD team recognizes the importance of communicating with the congregation with regard to all future planning efforts as well as celebrating the progress. This will be done often through temple talks on Sundays and in the *Echoes* newsletter. We shall continue to offer opportunities for the congregation to meet in informal gatherings to make suggestions, ask questions and share thoughts. In order to increase awareness and encourage more involvement, an informational Ministry Faire was held between services this fall with all council committee teams represented.

EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – YESTERDAY AND TODAY

A brief history

Emanuel Lutheran Church was began as a mission church in 1933, and was formally organized in 1935. The first property was purchased in 1939 and construction began in 1941. The existing sanctuary was built in 1961 and a wonderful pipe organ was installed in 1978. In the 1990s the church began purchasing the adjacent properties, and in 1999 new buildings were added to house a new day care/preschool, Sunday School/Youth rooms, and offices.

The original members of Emanuel were Swedish immigrant families. As Modesto grew and changed so did Emanuel. It is now home to members from a variety of ethnic backgrounds who share the common religious vision embodied by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Emanuel has experienced a lifetime of ups and downs. There have been years of high membership with the sanctuary and Sunday school full to capacity on Sunday mornings. And, as with many churches, there have since been years of declining membership. The causes are many and varied: fewer people identify with organized religion; family schedules prevent members attending; and there have been a host of other issues. Over the years the congregation has experienced conflicts over the issue of homosexuality, worship style, and choice of music. During these times membership has declined.

Through the years members have participated in professionally-led conflict resolution seminars and fellowship events, and as a result the congregation has grown stronger. Through the unity of faith in Christ the people of Emanuel are united in a desire to be a strong congregation that spread's Christ's love throughout the community.

Following is a description of a historical review session conducted in 2013. With that is the *Analysis of History Chart*. The chart briefly summarizes the comments of the day's participants, estimated to be about 30. The chart reflects the observations and opinions of these participants.

Profile Addenda: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Modesto

A time of historical review

A time of historical review was planned for the people of Emanuel Lutheran Church. The object was to include as many as possible and to allow time for the Emanuel family to recall its history. The event was held at the church on Saturday, March 16, 2013, from 10 am to 1 pm with the program below. The results of the event are summarized on the following pages, first listing memories of pastoral epochs, and concluding with a chart of participants' observations. The *Analysis of History Chart* below lists the number of participants who agreed with the listed statements.

Schedule of the Day

- ✓ **Opening Prayer** (WISDOM, HUMILITY AND SPIRIT OF CHARITY)
- ✓ **Part I Reviewing our History** 120 minutes
 - It is impossible to understand the present without understanding the past
 - Mapping the behavior of key players in the congregation's past sheds light on congregation behaviors of the present.
 - Every congregation has myths about itself, as well as history composed of positive and negative experiences. *Myth: an explanation of why things are the way they are. Myths shape the way we perceive reality.*
 - It is only when we come to terms with the past that we can move freely into the future.
- ✓ **Part II Dining Together** 30 minutes
 - We will spend time together in conversation and enjoying the food prepared by the fellowship committee
- ✓ **Part III Develop Meaning Statements** 30 minutes
Examples:
 - Whenever we engage in a building program, we seem to get a new spurt of energy.
 - There never seems to have been a time when we were not fussing over something. It almost seems as if we get our energy from our little internal squabbles.
 - We have always shied away from conflict. It feels as if conflict-avoidance behavior is a main source of difficulty.
- ✓ **Vote**
 - Choose the three meaning statements you think are most important in describing why we are as we are.

Closing Prayer: We will thank the Lord for our blessings in history and pray for help to forgive and let go of those troubling times. Lastly, we will ask for guidance and vision for the future.

Members' memories of Emanuel Lutheran Church

From 1956-1984, Pastor Robert Segerhammar led Emanuel Lutheran and the congregation boasted over 1,000 members at its peak during the 1970s. During the later years of his call, the husband and wife pastoral team of Pastors Reg and Peg Schultz-Akerson were called to assist Pastor Segerhammar. During this time there was a growing tension over worship styles, adjusting to having more than one pastor on staff, and the hardship of fulfilling the needs of a larger congregation that was accustomed to having direct contact with Pastor Segerhammar. Pastor Segerhammar left Emanuel for a call to his home state of Kansas. With his move, as well as the removal of inactive members from the rolls, Emanuel experienced a decline in membership.

From 1984-1988 Pastor Robert Brohm became pastor. It is not unusual for a pastor who is called after the long tenure of a former pastor to have a challenging call. Pastor Brohm faced the difficult task of filling the shoes of his predecessor, Pastor Segerhammar. During this time the wife of a beloved music director committed suicide, and the congregation was deeply affected by the loss. The current music director, Barbara Vukich, was hired at this time. Pastor Brohm accepted a new call in 1988.

Profile Addenda: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Modesto

During the 1990s, the congregation began to expand the church property in preparation for expansion of the campus and a building project. The congregation was led by Pastor Scott Hewes with Pastor Alan Schoonover serving as an associate. In 1996, the senior pastor was asked to leave after he began exhibiting bad judgment. The synod assisted in resolving the situation. The associate pastor was asked to resign as well, in keeping with common practice at the time for associates upon termination of a senior pastor.

In 1998 to 1999 the building project and its associated financial burden were coming to fruition. Emanuel's new state-licensed daycare/preschool was also opened upon completion of the new classroom and office buildings. In 1998 Pastor Paul Bodin accepted a call at Emanuel. With the new construction and new pastor the congregation enjoyed a time of new enthusiasm. During this time there were additional pressures with the departure of the full-time administrator who had been there for over 20 years. Pastor Bodin, who was known for his biblical, scholarly style, encouraged the internship and eventual calling of Pastor Barbara Caine to help with the increasing workload and to bring staff up to the level of membership. However, the congregation struggled to meet the financial requirements of the increased staff and the building loan. Pastor Caine accepted a call to another congregation after it became clear that the congregation was not able to financially support two ordained positions. In 2006, Pastor Bodin accepted a call to a congregation in the Pacific Northwest to be closer to his ailing parents.

In 2008 Pastor Jo Ann Neal was called to Emanuel. She was noted as building close personal connections and to be invitational to both members and visitors alike. She provided good pastoral care and participated in WELCA events, and she had a strong sense of outreach. In 2012 the congregation celebrated its 75th anniversary. In the last four years of Pastor Neal's call there was a decline in volunteers to run and participate in most of the ministries of Emanuel. Members of the congregation seemed to be finding less unity of purpose and activity. There was a further decline in membership. Financial pressures began again to play a major role in decisions made to bring expenditures in line with giving. Pastor Neal left Emanuel in 2013. The membership of Emanuel has taken on the extra tasks to keep the ministry of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Modesto alive and thriving as we prepare to call our new pastor.

Analysis of History Chart

Comment	"Agrees"
1. Instead of dealing directly, we deal indirectly.	13
2. We don't know how to compromise.	12
3. Whenever significant conflict occurs, someone has to go.	11
4. We appreciate spouse (pastor's) support.	10
5. We look at our self-interests first.	8
6. Don't know constitutional steps to follow.	7
7. When people are committed to church, they participate even during controversy.	7
8. We have trouble with society in dealing and understanding.	5
9. We step up during interim time and down under called pastor time.	3
10. We are a polarized congregation.	3
11. We don't know how to get our children involved.	1

EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
324 College Avenue, Modesto, CA 95350

Clergy Job Description

POSITION TITLE: Pastor

IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR: Executive Committee

POSITION SUMMARY:

The Pastor of Emanuel Lutheran Church shall be called to the ministry of Word and Sacrament and have primary responsibility for the pastoral ministry at Emanuel, including the overall pastoral care of members. Emanuel Lutheran Church is committed to a partnership in its ministry among pastor, staff, and the congregation. The Pastor will, by God's grace, provide the leadership necessary to further the effectiveness of the congregation's ministry.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

I. General Oversight: Administration and Leadership

The Pastor is responsible for over-all administration and leadership. However, there is a sharing of administration and leadership in specific areas for which the Pastor and other staff are responsible. The following comments refer primarily to the Pastor.

- A. The Pastor is to provide leadership as an administrator and shall oversee the affairs of the congregation and its associated daycare enterprise. The Pastor shall work with staff, council, ministries, teams, and volunteers to insure that the congregation and daycare maintain an effective, coordinated Christian ministry. The Pastor is to provide leadership in the following areas:
1. **Theological Grounding:** Teaching, advising, leading, inspiring and admonishing members and leaders of the congregation based on sound biblical principles and the historic teaching and confessions of the Lutheran Church.
 2. **Innovation:** Envisioning and implementing new approaches, activities, and projects.
 3. **Planning:** Identifying tasks, mapping out objectives, planning an overall organizational strategy, and designing programs.
 4. **Effective Communication:** Speaking effectively before groups to inform, motivate and persuade, as well as writing and editing high-quality printed materials for congregational needs.
 5. **Christian Community:** Establishing and maintaining an inter-personal climate which exhibits and inspires a spirit of Christian community.
 6. **Shared Leadership:** working collegially with council, congregation and staff.
 7. **Leader Recruitment:** Enlisting, equipping, and motivating leaders to carry out the work of the congregation.

8. **Conflict Resolution:** Understanding and using effective conflict-resolution techniques and taking advantage of them to strengthen congregational life.
9. **Parochial Records:** Ensuring accurate parochial records of the congregation are maintained.
10. **Commitment:** We expect the Pastor to love the congregation.

- B. The Pastor shall supervise all staff and volunteers.
- C. The Pastor will convene and lead regular staff meetings.

II. Worship Ministry

The Pastor has primary responsibility for the worship life of Emanuel.

- A. The conduct of pastoral acts (baptisms, weddings, funerals) shall be the responsibility of the Pastor. This includes counseling that accompanies such acts.
- B. The Pastor shall supervise staff and volunteers involved in worship.
- C. The Pastor shall provide for the training of worship assistants: assisting ministers, communion assistants, ushers, acolytes, and other worship service volunteers.
- D. The Pastor shall meet regularly with the lay leadership teams related to the Worship Ministry of this congregation, for the planning and the oversight of worship.

III. Spiritual Life Ministry

The Pastor will provide primary leadership and oversight in ministries of spiritual support, growth and renewal in the congregation, including:

- A. **Adult Education:** The Pastor shall work with teams established by the Spiritual Life Ministry to provide and encourage a wide variety of adult education opportunities for members of the congregation.
- B. **Educational Outreach:** The Pastor shall work with teams established by the Spiritual Life Ministry to arrange educational events at Emanuel that serve the larger Christian community in Modesto, such as lectures series, workshops, academies and lay schools.
- C. **Spiritual Growth:** The Pastor shall work with teams established by the Spiritual Life Ministry to arrange opportunities for spiritual enrichment and renewal, including education regarding matters of Christian spirituality, retreats, counseling, mentoring and small groups.

IV. Outreach Ministry

- A. **Evangelism:** The Pastor shall oversee the effective ministry of invitation and hospitality to the community of Modesto. The Pastor is responsible for developing effective means of attracting and following up with visitors, guests, and building users. These means might include, but not be restricted to:
 1. Developing advertising and publicity resources to be used with media.
 2. Working with appropriate congregational leadership teams, or starting new teams, to create a hospitable climate for visitors such as developing greeter corps and other visitor follow-up processes.

Profile Addenda: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Modesto

3. Providing training and encouragement for members of this congregation to become comfortable about sharing their faith and inviting others to visit our church.

- B. **Disciple Development:** The Pastor oversees the effective ministry of assimilating new members and developing disciples within the congregation. The goal of this ministry is to deepen both new and current members' relationship with God and the Christian community, and to equip parishioners for ministry in the world where they live and work.
- C. **Service:** The Pastor and staff will work with the Outreach Team to encourage awareness of social needs and to provide opportunities to participate in social service. The Pastor will provide guidance for those with responsibility for the use of the special needs fund.

V. Pastoral Care

- A. The Pastor will have responsibility and oversight for counseling, emergency, homebound visitation and coordination of home communion.
- B. The Pastor will participate in parish visitation, including calling on elderly, inactive and other members.

VI. Stewardship

The Pastor has responsibility in area of stewardship by:

- A. Providing counsel and assistance in planning and implementation of stewardship campaigns.
- B. Assisting in the promotion of stewardship through the pulpit and teaching opportunities, as appropriate.

VII. Children, Youth and Family Ministries

The Pastor has responsibility for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, including Sunday school, confirmation instruction, youth education, parent education, children's ministries, youth ministries and small group ministries.

VIII. General Education

The Pastor, in consultation with relevant lay leaders, shall establish a schedule of teaching responsibilities. This may include adult forums, adult information series, Vacation Bible School, confirmation, and participation in the education of all age levels.

IX. Property and Finance

The Pastor has primary responsibility for property and finance with the Property Ministry Team's co-operation and advice.

Amazon centers in Patterson, Tracy begin shipments

By Patty Guerra, *The Modesto Bee*, October 16, 2013

PATTERSON — A curtain rod set left Patterson this week, the most important curtain rod set in the area's history. Bound for a customer in Florida, it was the first item sent from Amazon's distribution center, according to a news release from the Internet retail giant.

The 1 million-square-foot distribution center, built in the Keystone Business Park, employs more than 300 people and is looking to hire more for the holidays, officials said.

Amazon officials said they also have opened their distribution center in Tracy, which hired 400 people. The first item shipped there: the book "Raising the Bar," headed to a recipient in Menlo Park.

The facilities join 87 other distribution centers Amazon operates around the world. And they hit the ground running, as the busy holiday season is quickly approaching.

Amazon spokeswoman Kelly Cheeseman said a grand-opening celebration will be planned after the holidays.

Companywide, Amazon is hiring 70,000 people for the holiday season. Of those, 1,000 jobs will land in Patterson and Tracy.

"These are full-time jobs and could lead to long-term roles in our sites," Cheeseman said in an email.

She said Amazon does not release information on how many people are hired from specific regions, but added, "I can tell you we have been so impressed by the talented individuals we have found in the local community."

Originally identifying the Amazon center only as the rather mysterious "Project X," city staff wrote in a City Council report in early 2012 that the effort could bring as many as 1,500 jobs. That speculation was based on Amazon distribution centers in other areas; until Wednesday, the official word from the company was only that "hundreds" would be hired.



The 1,000,000-square-foot Amazon distribution center in Patterson has begun to put employees to work as seen by the large number of vehicles in the center's parking lot Friday afternoon (10-04-13). ELIAS FUNEZ

Patterson Mayor Luis Molina praised the opening as a "shot in the arm we're excited for," pointing out that 300 employees need to eat, get haircuts and access other services that will have a broader impact on the region as a whole. He gave credit to earlier City Councils for planning that attracted distribution centers including Kohl's, CVS Caremark and Grainger Industrial Supply, and now Amazon.

"We have noticed many employee cars in the Amazon parking lot seven days a week, and we know that they are gearing up for a big holiday shopping season," City Manager Rod Butler said in an email. "Amazon's arrival in Patterson has brought new employment opportunities, new customers for our local businesses, new residents and great exposure for our city as we seek to diversify our economy."

City officials hope Amazon is just the beginning. They have said other companies are expressing interest in locating in the area as well, with its enviable easy access to Interstate 5.

"This is what we should be doing," Molina said. "It's a very exciting time."

Information on seasonal and other jobs at Amazon is available at www.amazonfulfillmentcareers.com.

Source: <http://www.modbee.com/2013/10/16/2977818/amazon-centers-in-patterson-tracy.html#storylink=cpy>

Survey shows drop in Stanislaus poverty

By J.N. Sbranti, *The Modesto Bee*, September 18, 2013

STANISLAUS COUNTY — A just-released demographic snapshot of Stanislaus County shows poverty rates fell in 2012 as income levels stabilized. But county residents continue to lag far behind others

in California and nationwide when it comes to earnings and educational attainment.

The U.S. Census Bureau's annual American

Profile Addenda: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Modesto

Community Survey provides thousands of statistics about cities, counties and states. It tracks population trends, including ethnic shifts, economic details and household characteristics.

The best news in the data: Stanislaus' poverty rate fell to 20.3 percent in 2012, down from 2011's worst-in-history 23.8 percent. Poverty rates in Modesto (21 percent) and Turlock (16.1 percent) also edged lower last year. (Click here to see 2012 Stanislaus County poverty rates.)

Merced County had rates fall, too, although nearly one-quarter of the population there continued to live in poverty in 2012. That was one of the highest poverty levels in California.

Family incomes, however, rose significantly in Merced County last year, according to the Census Bureau. Its statistics showed a more than 15 percent boost in family incomes, though that didn't seem logical. Family incomes within the city of Merced, for instance, fell by 6 percent during 2012, census figures show.

Unlike the once-a-decade census that contacts virtually everyone, the American Community Survey gathers information from a sampling of residents. Last year, for example, 1,323 Merced County households were surveyed. Their answers were used to provide estimates of what was happening countywide, and there's always a margin of error.

Income statistics for Stanislaus did not change much from 2011 to 2012. Family incomes reportedly rose by only \$2 last year, to \$50,686.

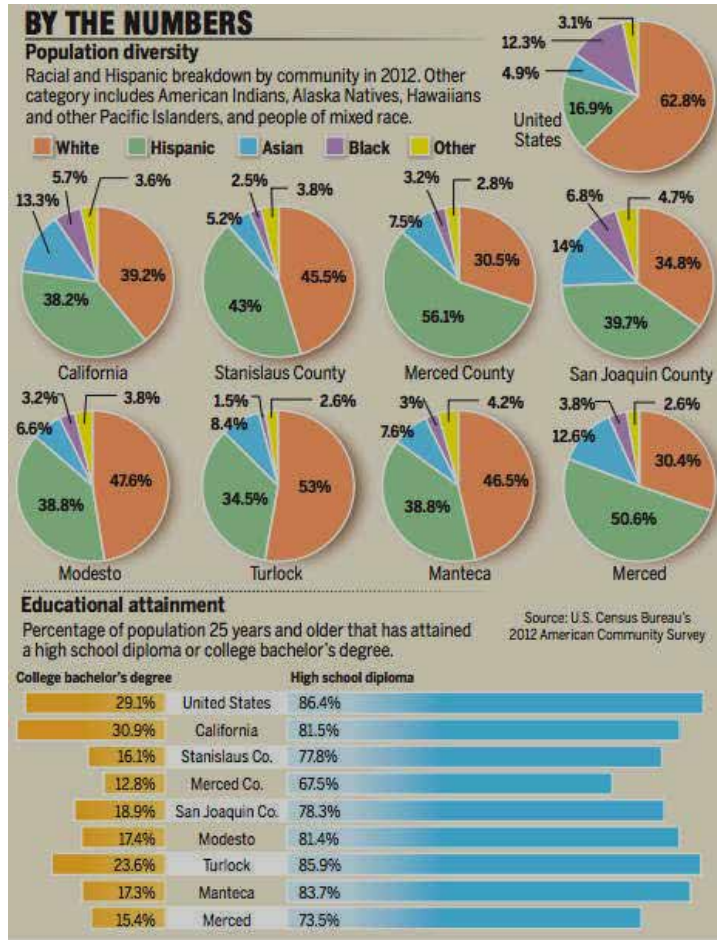
Families in Modesto fared better. The survey calculated that Modesto family incomes rose 6 percent, jumping \$2,941 to a median \$51,593.

"Things are looking up a little. It's not great, but it's better than it was," said Jeff Rowe, the interim CEO of the Stanislaus Economic Development & Workforce Alliance and director of Alliance Worknet.

Rowe said Stanislaus' economy has improved even more this year, as employment rates and wages have increased. Rowe said 3,800 more Stanislaus residents were working this July than in July 2012, which was nearly a 2 percent increase.

Wages also have increased, at least for those Stanislaus Worknet has helped get a job. In 2011, Rowe said the average starting wage was \$13.41 an hour, and now it's up to an average of \$14.74.

"There're still plenty who are struggling and looking for work," Rowe said. But hundreds of Stanislaus residents will start jobs soon at the new Amazon distribution centers in Patterson and Tracy. "That



should have an impact on our employment rate."

Not everyone is convinced the economy has improved much.

"I still see a lot of foreclosures and just as many people applying for job openings," said Rene Hill, a Modesto school employee. She said there continue to be 80 to 100 applicants for every job where she works.

"And I still see businesses going under, like Fresh & Easy in Modesto," Hill said. "Whenever I drive through downtown, it seems like another business is out."

For some on the low economic rung, like Nathan McCall of Modesto, statistical improvements don't seem real.

"I think the homeless population is increasing. I see a lot more homeless wandering around Modesto," said McCall, who is in a sober living program and searching for a job. "There's still hardly any jobs here."

The owner of Brighter Side sandwich shop, however, is convinced the economy has turned the corner. "Business is much better than it was in 2008, when everything went down like a rock," Modesto restaurateur Larry Cary said.

Profile Addenda: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Modesto

Retiree William Pickel, who lives in Ralston Towers, also believes “the economy mostly is good.” Pickel has a positive outlook on life in general.

“I don’t put up with much negative talk,” said Pickel, who has lived in Modesto 30 years. “Always have a good attitude. That’s the most important thing you can have. I’ve seen a bad attitude defeat a good person.”

But some of the new census statistics are pretty depressing. They show the Northern San Joaquin Valley’s education attainment levels lagging far off rates in the state and nation, especially when it comes to college graduates.

Only 16.1 percent of Stanislaus County’s adult population in 2012 had earned a bachelor’s degree, compared with 30.9 percent for California as a whole. That educational attainment gap has widened in recent years, with the percent of college grads declining in Stanislaus and increasing most everywhere else.

It’s a serious and complex problem for the county, said Joseph Sheley, president of California State University, Stanislaus. He said too many of the bright

young residents who grew up here went away to college, got their degrees and didn’t return “because the economy wasn’t hospitable here.”

“The brain drain is always a worry for counties like ours,” Sheley lamented. He said the county needs to diversify its economy enough to enable college graduates who grew up here to stay here, get good jobs and become productive.

But even for his university in Turlock, Sheley said placing graduates in jobs “has grown increasingly difficult.”

It’s also getting tougher for local residents to afford college, Sheley said, as education costs rise. He said CSU Stanislaus, nevertheless, has more applicants than it can accommodate: “Our demand is over our capacity.”

Sheley said more than half of the university’s freshman class this year is Hispanic.

That makes sense, considering Hispanics are the region’s fastest-growing ethnic group. In 2012, they edged up to 43 percent of Stanislaus’ population and more than 56 percent of Merced County’s population, the new demographic statistics show.

Source: <http://www.modbee.com/2013/09/18/2928791/stanislaus-county-survey-shows.html#storylink=cpy>

Home prices jumped \$6,000 in Stanislaus County last month

By J.N. Sbranti, *The Modesto Bee*, September 16, 2013

MODESTO — Stanislaus County home prices continued soaring in August, jumping \$6,000 during the month. The median-priced home sold for \$186,000, which was \$46,000 above what houses were going for a year ago.

That 33percent price boost is among the highest in California, according to the real estate analysis firm DataQuick.

San Joaquin County prices are rising even faster. The median-priced home there sold for \$233,000 last month, up more than 41percent since August 2012.

While California’s real estate market is recovering from the foreclosure crisis and the Great Recession, not all communities are faring equally.

For example, median prices in Tuolumne County’s seat, Sonora, fell to \$186,500, a nearly 5percent drop compared with a year ago.

Lagging behind in Stanislaus County is Newman, where homes sold for \$132,500 last month. That was just 1.5percent more than last year.

Riverbank home prices, however, skyrocketed to \$240,000, a 60percent increase. Riverbank homes last

month sold for more than those in Modesto, Oakdale, Patterson, Waterford and Ceres. Only Denair and Hughson homes garnered higher prices in the county.

Ripon homes, which once regularly sold for more than about anywhere else in the region, aren’t fetching top dollar anymore. The median-priced Ripon home last month went for \$294,750, which was only about 18percent above August 2012.

Surpassing that price point were homes in southern Manteca – those in the 95337 ZIP code – which sold for a median \$329,500. That was up 56percent in one year.

Homes throughout the Northern San Joaquin Valley continue to be bargains compared with those elsewhere in California.

The statewide median home price last month was \$361,000, which was up 28.5percent from August 2012.

For truly pricey homes, look to San Francisco, where the median home sold for \$825,000 last month. San Francisco buyers instead could have purchased six houses in Newman, with money to spare.

Source: <http://www.modbee.com/2013/09/16/2924559/home-prices-jumped-6000-in-stanislaus.html#storylink=cpy>

Unemployment rate dips to five-year low

By Marijke Rowland, *The Modesto Bee*, September 20, 2013

Unemployment in Stanislaus County dipped to a five-year low in August.

The jobless rate fell to 11.9 percent for the month – the first time since September 2008 it has fallen under 12 percent. It's an improvement of a full percentage point from July, when it sat at 12.9 percent, and two percentage points from a year ago, when it was at 14.2 percent. The rate is also the lowest of the year so far.

The dip follows seasonal trends, as late-summer harvests and manufacturing kick in, driven by the area's agricultural industry. But the decline also is further evidence of the continued slow yet steady improvement in the Central Valley economy since the Great Recession.

The new California and Metro Forecast for 2013-17 from the University of the Pacific School of Business shows solid, if not sensational, growth in employment in the Modesto metropolitan area over the next few years.

"It's better. It's improved growth over what we've been experiencing through the recovery," said Jeff Michael, director of the university's Business Forecasting Center, which put out the report. "It's not massively improved. But better."

Employment in the Modesto area is expected to grow by 1.4 percent this year and 2.2 percent in 2014. Growth is expected to remain around 2 percent each year through 2017. Also, for the first time in a forecast since the recession started, Michael said he sees unemployment dropping into the single digits in the future. While that isn't expected to come until 2017, it's a marked improvement over recent years when the jobless rate ballooned to almost 20 percent.

"The growth is certainly more broad-based. We expect some growth in all areas. Some of it is attributed to the housing recovery, which will fuel the beginning of recovery in construction activity in Modesto," Michael said.

Construction continues to be one of the hardest-hit industries in the area. The field lost half of its jobs since the housing and mortgage crash, going from about 13,000 jobs to around 6,000 now.

"There's still virtually no residential construction going on in Stanislaus County," Michael said. "But the other construction growth is notable because it's finally doing something."

Construction is expected to grow by 4 percent in 2014. The service sector also is expected to improve in the coming year, increasing by 6.1 percent, followed closely by professional and business services at 5.1 percent. The only industries not expected to see moderate upticks in the forecast are information and government.

Yet the area continues to lag behind other regions in recovery – both in construction and overall economic indicators. Stanislaus County consistently has higher unemployment than both the state and national rates. California's unemployment rate for August was 8.9 percent, and the national rate was 7.3 percent.

The population slowdown into the Central Valley is one of the reasons for the stunted recovery. Population in Modesto is forecast to increase by only 1 percent in 2014.

"(Modesto) has had a big slowdown in population growth and migration," Michael said. "That affects home building, service sectors and retail sectors. That's led to slower growth and slower recovery."

Read more here: <http://www.modbee.com/2013/09/20/2932056/unemployment-rate-dips-to-five.html#storylink=cpy>

Modesto bakery looks to add employees

By Kevin Valine, *The Modesto Bee*, October 22, 2013

MODESTO — Those Sara Lee rolls and hot dog and hamburger buns sold at the grocery store have been made right here in Modesto for the past few months. In fact, Flowers Baking Co. of Modesto produces every Sara Lee roll and bun sold in California. Its nearly 100 employees can produce 800 buns per minute and are working three shifts a day to meet demand.

Now, Flowers Baking Co. is working to add a second production line, which is expected to open in February. The expansion eventually could double the number of Flowers employees at its Mariposa Avenue

bakery and help its parent company, Georgia-based Flowers Foods, continue to make inroads in California.

"We're excited about bringing Flowers Baking Co. into California and our brands that have been very successful to give consumers another option with bread and roll products," Flowers Baking Co. of Modesto President Tom Wilson said.

Flowers Foods is the second-largest baker in the United States, with 45 bakeries in 15 states and sales of more than \$3 billion, according to Keith Hancock,

Profile Addenda: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Modesto

the firm's managing director of communications. The Modesto plant is its only California bakery, though some of its products sold in California are produced at two Arizona bakeries.

Hancock said Flowers Foods acquired the assets of Fresh Start Bakeries in Modesto from Aryzta. Hancock said Flowers was looking for production capacity in the state after it acquired the California distribution rights for Sara Lee breads, buns and rolls. Most of Flowers' workers are former Fresh Start workers.

Wilson said the Modesto bakery is ideal because Fresh Start's production methods were similar to Flowers' and Modesto is centrally located for distributing goods throughout the state.

Hancock and Wilson declined to say what would be produced on the second production line, saying they did not want to provide that information to competitors.

Flowers Foods also has acquired the California distribution rights for Hostess Brands' Wonder Bread and Nature's Pride. Flowers Foods also has its own bread line called Nature's Own. He said Nature's Own has been sold in Southern California for several

years and was introduced in Northern California in July.

Wilson said how quickly and how many employees the bakery adds for the second production line depends upon consumer demand. "We could double the number (of employees)," he said. "That's a possibility depending upon market demand."

He declined to provide specifics but said Flowers Foods provides a competitive wage and benefits package for its employees. Those interested in applying for jobs for the second production line should not call or visit the bakery. Instead, they should check for job announcements on the company's website, flowersfoods.com.

Flowers Baking Co. of Modesto is using a city program that will let it buy the additional wastewater capacity it needs for \$160,255, about a \$50,000 savings. Flowers will pay monthly charges for its wastewater use.

The City Council approved the sale of the additional wastewater capacity at its Tuesday meeting. Modesto, Stanislaus County and the Stanislaus Economic Development and Workforce Alliance worked with Flowers Baking Co. of Modesto on its expansion.

Source: <http://www.modbee.com/2013/10/22/2988699/modesto-bakery-looks-to-add-employees.html#storylink=cpy>

California winemakers raising a glass to Smithsonian

By Michael Doyle, *The Modesto Bee*, October 22, 2013

WASHINGTON — Christine Wenté began organizing her family's winemaking lore even before the Smithsonian curators came calling.

This week, with the federal government finally back in business, Wenté and other California winemakers are serving up some of their stories at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. Fair warning, though: Even with a topic as potentially juicy as winemaking during Prohibition, the focus remains on the up-and-up.

"I've come to realize that one reason we are a successful family business is that we don't have skeletons in the closet," Wenté said Tuesday.

The 37-year-old graduate of Princeton and Stanford Business School is a board member of Wenté Family Estates, based in the Livermore Valley. Her business card also identifies her as a "fifth generation winegrower" whose great-great-grandfather founded the Wenté business 130 years ago. That legacy has already lured the Smithsonian curators, who've undertaken an American Food and Wine History Project since 1996. The specialized collection, a tiny part of the museum's overall stock, which comprises more than 3 million items, so far boasts a 1973 Stag's Leap cabernet sauvignon and 1973 Château Montelena chardonnay, which prevailed in a famous



A wine taster fills up on Cupcake Vineyards' Cocobon California wine during the Riverbank Cheese and Wine Exposition 2013 Saturday evening (10-12-13) in downtown Riverbank.

1976 Paris tasting.

Then there are the more mundane food and wine mementos, such as a 1954 Swanson's TV dinner tray.

Profile Addenda: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Modesto

“It’s a different lens through which we can examine history,” noted Valeska M. Hilbig, a representative of the American history museum.

The famed museum’s work, in turn, has drawn more California winemakers into its orbit.

On Tuesday night, Gina Gallo from E&J Gallo Winery joined Christine Wenté’s aunt, Carolyn Wenté, and others among the viticultural headliners at a fundraising dinner at the Smithsonian Castle. The dinner was arranged around a Prohibition theme by Darrell F. Corti, of the Corti Brothers, a gourmet food and wine business in Sacramento.

Money raised from the \$500-per-head dinner will support the food and wine history project, whose curators have been soliciting archival documents and artifacts from winemakers such as Gallo, Wenté and Gundlach Bundschu.

“We have a tremendous history, and we are always happy to talk about it,” Christine Wenté said. “We think it’s important to contribute.”

She said the Smithsonian curators had shown “particular interest” in the company’s business documents, but she indicated that no decisions had been made about what might be donated to the museum. John Segale, a spokesman for Gallo and the Gallo-owned Louis M. Martini Winery, said Tuesday that both wineries would donate wines and artifacts. Martini, for instance, is donating the identification plate from an early 14,000-gallon steel fermenter.

A Smithsonian curator pressed her luck Tuesday afternoon, asking Gina Gallo – the granddaughter of winery co-founder Julio Gallo – about donating two

old University of California winemaking pamphlets that the company’s founders obtained from the Modesto library to learn their new trade.

“I’ll definitely get back to you on that,” Gallo said.

At Wenté Family Estates offices in Livermore, business and family records fill 120 boxes, Christine Wenté said. The materials include everything from what she described as “some amazing menus” to documents concerning a local chapter of the Anti-Saloon League, which lobbied for Prohibition. In response, the old records show, the Wenté family backed a competing group called the Grape Protection League.

The Anti-Saloon League won the battle for a time, as Prohibition was enacted to ban the sale of most alcoholic beverages from 1920 to 1933. The privately held Wenté business survived by selling wine for sacramental purposes, as well as by branching into cattle ranching and olive farming.

“Most wineries, if they were creative, got involved in other things,” Christine Wenté said. “There was quite a bit of demand from the Catholic Church at the time. There were maybe two to three Masses a day.”

A public dialogue among California winemakers Tuesday afternoon also focused on California wineries coping during Prohibition, which formally ended on Dec. 5, 1933. The event Tuesday coincided, Gallo noted, with the 80th anniversary of the Gallo winery getting bonded and thus ready to take off once Prohibition ended.

“We’re young ’uns, compared to the Wenté family,” Gallo said.

Source: <http://www.modbee.com/2013/10/22/2988508/california-winemakers-raise-a.html#storylink=cpy>

Most valley, foothills hospitals score high for safety

The Modesto Bee, October 23, 2013

MODESTO — Most hospitals in the Northern San Joaquin Valley and foothills received A’s for patient safety from a nonprofit group.

The Leapfrog Group released Wednesday its fall 2013 update to its hospital safety scores for more than 2,500 U.S. hospitals. The facilities were assigned grades of A through F. About a third of the hospitals received A’s, about a quarter B’s and fewer than a tenth C’s. Fewer than 1percent received F’s.

Doctors Hospital of Manteca, the Kaiser hospitals in Manteca and Modesto, Memorial Medical Center in Modesto, Mercy Medical Center in Merced and Sutter Tracy Community Hospital received A’s. Doctors Medical Center in Modesto, Sonora Regional Medical Center and St. Joseph’s Medical Center in Stockton received B’s. Emanuel



Doctors Medical Center in Modesto earned a B in Leapfrog’s report on hospital patient safety. Other Valley hospitals earned grades from A to C in the nonprofit group’s report.

Profile Addenda: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Modesto

Medical Center in Turlock and San Joaquin General Hospital in French Camp received C's. An Emanuel official said its grade does not accurately reflect the hospital's safety record.

"Emanuel measures the quality of its patient care through mandated programs including the Hospital Inpatient and Outpatient Quality Reporting Program mandated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and is accredited by the Joint Commission," wrote Pennie Rorex, the hospital's assistant vice president of corporate communication. "Therefore, we do not participate in the voluntary Leapfrog

survey; thus, the survey results for Emanuel are incomplete."

The American Hospital Association has claimed there are shortcomings in Leapfrog's hospital safety survey and said an unfair bias is shown to facilities that respond to the voluntary survey.

Research shows that as many as 440,000 U.S. patients die annually from preventable hospital errors, according to a Leapfrog news release. This puts medical errors as the third-leading cause of death in the United States, according to the release.

Source: <http://www.modbee.com/2013/10/23/2990332/most-valley-foothills-hospital.html#storylink=cpy>

Modesto hospitals do well in survey

By Ken Carlson, *The Modesto Bee*, and Carol Reiter, *Merced Sun-Star*, February 8, 2010

Stanislaus County is almost always low on the lists of "best places to live," but Consumer Reports says it's a fairly good place to spend time in the hospital.

Modesto hospitals received strong overall patient scores in the magazine's hospital ratings released last week. Consumer Reports compiled information from a handful of sources, including patient satisfaction surveys sent to patients of all ages by Medicare.

Out of a possible score of 100 points, Stanislaus Surgical Hospital rated 91, Memorial Medical Center 78, and Doctors Medical Center 71. No rating was available for Kaiser Modesto Medical Center, which is in its second year of operation.

The scores for Oak Valley Hospital of Oakdale and Emanuel Medical Center of Turlock were 67 and 57, respectively.

The overall ratings are an average of the percentage of patients who said they would "definitely" recommend the hospital and the percentage of people who rated the hospital at 9 or 10 on a scale of zero to 10.

The consumer service did not show how hospitals rank in different geographic areas of the United States. But consumers can compare hospitals in cities, counties or states by going to www.ConsumerReportsHealth.org. A subscription is required to look at the ratings.

Stanislaus Surgical, a short-stay surgical facility, was given high marks in categories such as doctor communication, cleanliness, attentiveness of staff, pain control and quietness.

Hospitals also were rated on how well they follow procedures for preventing infection and their approach to caring for life-threatening chronic diseases.

Memorial spokeswoman Catherine Larsen said the ratings are part of the growing amount of health care



The Memorial Medical Center on Coffee Rd. (District 5) in Modesto, on Wednesday, September 2, 2009.

information available to consumers.

"It is valuable feedback," she said. "We take this kind of information and process it and look at how we can improve the patient experience."

Memorial and Doctors regularly have surveys done to get feedback from patients.

Doctors spokeswoman Carin Sarkis said the hospital's overall score in Consumer Reports was slightly lower than the results of its own surveys. The hospital monitors patient feedback on a monthly and yearly basis, she said.

Fighting noise

Consumer Reports gave Doctors a below-average score for noise, a complaint the hospital has heard before.

"That can prove to be a challenge because the work doesn't stop in the hospital," Sarkis said. "Staff are working 24 hours a day, delivering charts, answering phones and working in the unit."

The hospital has put glass barriers around nurses' stations to reduce noise. Sweet dreams kits, with ear

Profile Addenda: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Modesto

plugs and sleep masks, are offered to patients in their rooms, Sarkis said.

Despite a low rating by Consumer Reports, Mercy Medical Center Merced claims its patient satisfaction is higher than reported by the magazine.

Out of a possible 100 points, Mercy rated 49 points in its overall patient rating.

"Patient satisfaction is very important to us," said Dr. Robert Streeter, vice president of medical affairs at Mercy. "We take surveys very seriously."

The hospital did fairly well in most areas that were ranked by Consumer Reports.

Doctor communication was ranked at 93, nurse communication at 92 and pain control at 89.

However, the hospital ranked lower in areas such as communication about medications with a 73, and quietness with a 71.

"We are pretty picky about ratings at Consumer Reports," said Nancy Metcalf, senior program editor for the magazine. "We are not printing things unless we are really convinced they tell something about the

quality of the hospital and how well people do at that hospital."

Metcalf said a hospital that's consistently ranked low may show that the hospital isn't well organized.

"This is the enemy of good patient care," she said. "Hospitals are busy, complicated places, and good patient care is important."

While Metcalf said online ratings can be used by consumers to compare hospitals, Streeter suggested that patients look to a source that is usually more knowledgeable about the local hospital.

What does your doctor say?

"I think people should discuss the hospital with their doctors," Streeter said. "Their personal physician is in the best position to gauge if the person can be safely and adequately treated at this facility."

He added: "I think these reports are excellent at getting discussions started. I treat my patients as if they were a member of my family, and we want every patient to feel that way."

Source: <http://www.modbee.com/2010/02/08/1039801/modesto-hospitals-do-well-in-survey.html#storylink=cpy>

Profile Addenda: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Modesto

LINKS

The following are some links to local organizations that reflect the unique personality of Modesto.

- **City of Modesto:** <http://www.modestogov.com/>
(local government offices)
- **Gallo Center for the Arts:** <http://www.galloarts.org/>
(live theater and musical performances)
- **Graffiti Night:** <http://www.americangraffiti festival.com>
(annual community event)
- **Moband:** <http://www.moband.org>
(annual weekly concerts in the park through summer)
- **Modesto Bee:** <http://www.modbee.com>
(Modesto's daily newspaper, published by the McClatchy company)
- **Modesto Certified Farmers' Market:** <http://modestocfm.com>
(weekly locations in Modesto in season)
- **Modesto Chamber of Commerce:** <http://www.modchamber.org/>
- **Modesto Concert Association:** <http://modestoconcert.org>
- **Modesto International Architectural Festival:** <http://www.modestoarchfest.com>
(annual event)
- **Modesto Symphony Orchestra Association:** <http://modestosymphony.org/>
- **Modesto View:** <http://www.modestoview.com/the-magazine/>
(this magazine does a pretty comprehensive job of covering area events of all sorts)
- **Modesto Visitor's Bureau:** <http://www.visitmodesto.com/>
- **Sierra Repertoire Theater:** <http://www.sierrarep.org>
(live theater productions, located in Sonora)
- **State Theater:** <http://www.thestate.org>
(restored historic movie theater)
- **App:** AroundMe
(finds places of interest in region of a ZIP code)