

*Behold*  
i make all things new  
- Revelation 21:5

# The Echoes Emanuel Lutheran Church August 2015

**FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, DECLARES THE LORD**

**ABOUT US**

## Greetings from Pastor Lyn

Emanuel is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Website:  
[www.emanuellutheran.org](http://www.emanuellutheran.org)

Church Office:  
Phone: 209-523-4531  
Fax: 209-523-3643

Church Office Hours:  
Monday through Thursday:  
8 am – 12 pm  
Friday Closed

Paula Braxton, Secretary  
209-523-4531  
[secretary@emanuellutheran.org](mailto:secretary@emanuellutheran.org)

Laura Marquez, Day Care Director  
209-549-0672  
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Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As moving day approaches I have spent a lot of time among boxes, paper and tape – miles of tape! And, I've had ample opportunity to spend time with friends, family and neighbors sharing stories about the past and wondering what the future holds. In all of the busyness, with a "to-do" list a mile long, the ways in which God has worked is humbling indeed, as the tasks systematically were checked off the list. God is working a new thing – in bringing us together a new chapter in our collective faith journey begins – and it is beyond exciting!



The Lectionary provides a significant theme for this exciting new beginning. Much of the month of August will be spent in the Gospel of John, specifically the 6th chapter of John. The focus on the 6th chapter begins at the end of July and runs for 5 weeks. Why so much time in one chapter, seemingly centered on food? The image that bread provides typically assumes one of physical nourishment in that bread/wheat provides strength for living. Bread is after all, the staff

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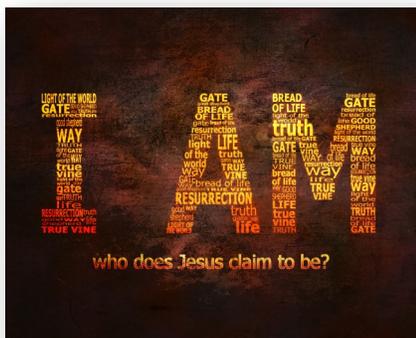


**Servant of the Month:**  
**Pat Norquist**

# From Pastor Lyn, continued

of life. However, as you know, this chapter is not about satisfying physical hunger - it is about discovering Jesus – the Bread of Life.

The question "WHO IS JESUS?" is set before us these first weeks of our ministry. I think this is a powerful question and one that continues to intrigue and perhaps even bother us as we grow in faith over the course of our lives. John's gospel stories tell exactly who Jesus is and it is in the particularity of these stories that our own needs, our hopes and dreams, our experience of Jesus and our interpretation of those



experiences are brought to light. "Egō eimi" I AM – a simple reassurance that, indeed, Jesus the Christ is present, bringing us light and life and moving us forward in faith. See you soon!

In Christ,  
Pastor Lyn

## Servant of the Month

Pat Norquist is our August Servant of the Month. Pat has been working on her health recently, but despite that, she continues to serve us faithfully. The list that follows represent only the tip of the iceberg of the many hours Pat has dedicated in service of God.

Pat has sung in the choir and more recently performed a beautiful duet with Dick. She selected the paint that is now on our church walls. She served as Church Financial Secretary for years. She created and helped maintain the rose garden. She has been a member of the Altar Care Team. She participates in WELCA Circles and has served as treasurer and various other leadership positions

in WELCA. She opens her home for church gatherings and fundraisers, large and small. She and Dick donated the Eucharistic banner that we display all through Pentecost. Together, they continue to actively support Emanuel in many ways.



### OUR MISSION

Sharing Christ's transforming grace with everyone.

### OUR VISION

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.

# Farewell from Pastor Bill

Gracias. Muchísimas gracias.  
Gracias a Ustedes y gracias a Dios.

Thanks. Many thanks. Thanks to  
you and thanks be to God.



It feels so very appropriate to begin my last Echoes Article with the word **gracias**, from the Latin word **gracia**, meaning **grace**, a very Lutheran word indeed. Grace is the unmerited love God showers on us freely every day. In the Latino culture, **gracias** is an attitude, a way of life. It is a perpetual state of thankfulness in appreciation of God's love in all aspects of life. Susan and I have truly been blessed by your expressions of grace toward us. You welcomed us into your family and opened your hearts and shared your lives with us. You went "above and beyond" in honoring us at our farewell congregational brunch filled with an abundance of good food and well wishes and gifts. You even topped it off with a blessing for Godspeed on my last Sunday serving as your pastor. We are so very grateful for everything.

During my three years of retirement after serving as a full-time pastor for



38 years, I felt like a *baseball player on the bench waiting for the coach to put me in the game*. I was truly waiting for God's direction. You took a chance on me even though I had not been trained to be an interim pastor. Thanks to Sue Wilke's leadership and the trust of the church council (plus the added perk of Sue's incentive of molasses and chocolate chip cookies) we began a very special relationship.

You have been patient with me as I dusted off the cobwebs. Kathleen Reuter, Debbie Van Diepen, Barbara Vukich, and Marilyn Rowland faithfully helped plan each worship experience and so many of you participated in so many ways. Even though I led worship each Sunday, I was continually fed by all the planning that showed a deep understanding that worship prepares us for serving others. I discovered how many, many of you *stepped up and took a turn at the plate to hit it out of the park*.

*Spring training has ended. The season begins now as you welcome*

*your new coach, Pastor Lyn. First pitch will be Sunday, August 2. May that team spirit that we experienced and that sustained you during the long season of preparation encourage and support each and every one of you and lead you to a bright future. There is no one better than all of you. Remember that there is no "I" in "TEAM".*

We will always be your biggest fans!

Bill and Susan



# Farewell Potluck for Bill and Susan



July 19, 2015

# Using Your Spiritual Gifts

## (Gift Definitions Continued)

Submitted by Stewardship Ministry Team

### Music — Vocal:

*The gift that gives a believer the capability and opportunity to present personal witness and inspiration to others through singing.*



The call to praise the Lord with singing is found in Psalm 96:1-9. Psalm 100:1-2 tells us: "Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the lands! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!" Psalm 149:1-2 tells us: "Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful!"

**We are so fortunate to have our dedicated choir to help us worship. Our choir would be really thrilled to have additional members to help witness on Sunday mornings with a joyful noise at Emanuel. Please give this ministry some thought and prayer.**

### Pastoring (Shepherding):

*The gift that gives a believer the confidence, capability and compassion to provide spiritual leadership and direction for individuals or groups of believers. .*

Paul instructs Timothy on faithful service in I Timothy 4:12-16. "Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in



speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; hold to that, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers."

### Service (Helps):

*The gift that enables a believer to work gladly behind the scenes in order that God's work is fulfilled.*

In Luke 23:50-54, Luke tells us: "Now there was a man named Joseph from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their purpose and deed, and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning."

In Romans 16:1-16, Paul sends commendations to the many Christians, behind the scenes, who are involved with service, fellowship, opening of homes for



meetings, and missionary work in Rome. Paul encourages fellow Christians to "greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you." In Philippians 2:19-23 Paul tells them that he hopes to send Timothy. In verse 22, "But you know how Timothy has proved himself by working with me on behalf of the Good News like a son helping his father."

**Joseph saw a need on Good Friday, put his fears aside, and asked Pilate for Jesus' body. Timothy helped Paul with his missionary work and continued Paul's work when Paul was in prison. (Sounds like what Emanuel's been doing.) Maybe you see an area that needs help at Emanuel. According to scripture, we need to step up to the plate and help. So many are needed behind the scenes in order to fulfill God's work.**

**Thank you to all of the many helpers and their dedication at Emanuel! You make our worship experience better and make Emanuel run smoother! We can't sit back now that we have a Pastor coming. We'll need lots of helpers in all the ministries to help Pastor Lyn Crase with her shepherding of Emanuel. She'll only be as successful as we are at assisting her with Emanuel's programs.**

# August News

## Pastor Crase's Arrival

Pastor Lyn will be in Modesto before you read this issue of The Echoes. Her first Sunday service will be on August 2. We will formally install her as our pastor at 3 p.m. on Sunday, August 9. All are welcome to attend that event.

## Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, August 23 at 10:45 we will hold Emanuel's Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Part 2. We will elect the Nomination Committee for next year's Council. We will review ministry and officer annual reports. Also, we still need a male delegate for the next Synod Assembly and Conference.

## E-Waste Fundraiser

Don't forget the e-waste recycling fundraiser on Sept. 26 from 9 am to 1 pm. Emanuel and Girl Scout Troop 724, in conjunction with the San Joaquin Regional Conservation Corps (SJRCC), will collect and recycle all of the collected E-Waste.



**We will accept:** Cans, bottles, and plastic. Also, monitors, televisions, desktop and notebook PC's, VCR's, stereo equipment, CD's, speakers, keyboards, mice, PDA's, digital cameras, zip drives, telephones, cell phones, printers, copiers, laser and multifunction scanners and fax machines, and small household appliances such as toasters, mixers, microwaves and blenders. Vacuum cleaners with the dust bag removed, curling irons and lamps.

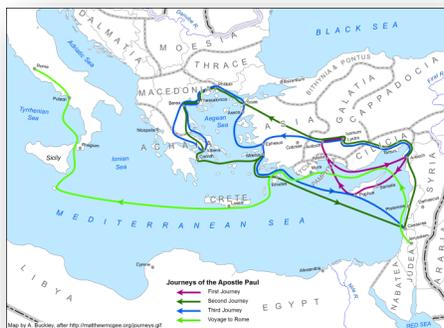
**We will not accept:** Large household appliances (i.e., refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc.). Furniture, hazardous household waste including batteries, car batteries, paint, pesticides, used oil, cleaning supplies, fluorescent light bulbs, water heaters, or tires.

## Thursday Bible Study

**There will be no Thursday Bible Study during August!**

## Paul's Pilgrimage

The Pilgrimage event on August 29 and 30 will enable us to learn more about how the early church developed, to understand the particular struggles that Paul and new Christians faced, and to compare these struggles to what we as modern-day Christians face.



Our hope is that this is a moving, "grown-up" VBS event. Sign-ups are welcomed and encouraged. If you have questions, contact Lois Owen, Paula Barton or Karen and Roger Lee.

## Hearing Aids

Our Sanctuary hearing aids have been misplaced. If you have seen them or know where they are located, please contact Debbie Van Diepen. Thank you!

## College Avenue Diet

The *Modesto Bee* recently reported that the city council has approved the diet program for College Avenue, which will reduce the number of automobile lanes, but add bicycle lanes and turn lanes. This project is intended to improve safety and traffic flow.

According to the *Bee*:

"The council voted 6-1 to award a \$1.49 million contract to VSS International ... for improvements to Ninth Street and College Avenue, including the road diet..."

The diet is slated for 1.6 miles on College from Needham Street to Briggsmore Avenue...

The contract also calls for VSS to slurry seal that section of College as well as Ninth Street from Carpenter to Tully roads – a distance of about 1.5 miles – and adding a bike path along Ninth to connect Modesto Junior College's east and west campuses.

City officials have said the road work should begin in early August. The contract gives VSS International 80 working days to complete the project."

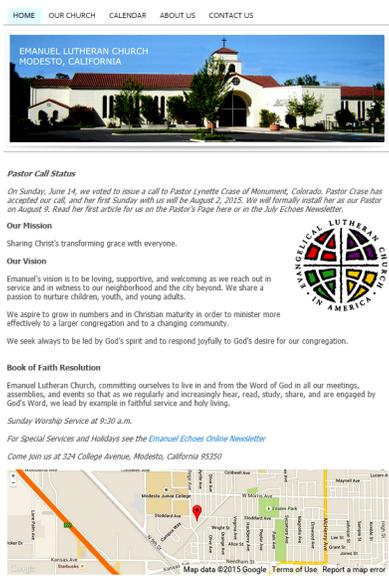
# Emanuel Online

Submitted by Social Media Ministry Team

We hope you are aware that Emanuel has an active presence on the world-wide-web and on Facebook. You may not, however, be aware of the scope of our activity. Our Social Media Ministry Team hopes to enhance Emanuel's visibility in the community and demonstrate that we are a vital congregation, well-worth visiting.

To that end, we try to make our online products appealing to visitors, but we also want to provide useful resources for all of our members. For example, our Facebook page contains a growing collection of photos that you can view, share, and download to your own computer or mobile device. The website, [www.emanuellutheran.org](http://www.emanuellutheran.org), also offers several photo albums.

Our website and Facebook page display properly on both computer displays and mobile devices. Here is our homepage displayed on a PC:



Here's how the homepage looks on a smartphone (you will need to scroll to view all the content on the smaller screen):

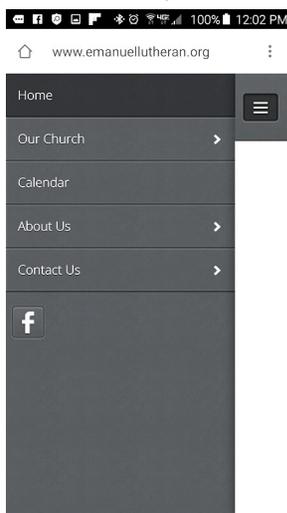


**Pastor Call Status**

*On Sunday, June 14, we voted to issue a call to Pastor Lynette Crase of Monument, Colorado. Pastor Crase has accepted our call, and her first Sunday with us will be August 2, 2015. We will formally install her as our Pastor on August 9. Read her first article for us on the Pastor's Page here or in the July Echoes Newsletter.*



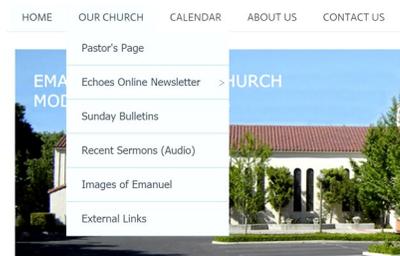
The major functional difference is the appearance of the menus, which provide the means to access all the content. On a phone, touching the three horizontal lines at the top left (the menu icon) yields this:



Touching one of the listed items, such as "Our Church" will bring up a

list of submenu items.

On a PC, hovering a mouse pointer over one of the items on the top menu bar will show you this:



You see that this item, "Our Church", leads to a rich set of items. For example, you can immediately view or download any bulletin from the past year. You can listen to many recorded sermons, thanks to the efforts of Brett Owen. You can view or download any issue of The Echoes, going back to January 2014. You can also read the Pastor's message from the most recent Echoes and an online set of highlights from that issue.

Another important feature of the website is immediate access to the church calendar. Debbie Van Diepen and Bob Dailey maintain this calendar and attempt to keep it current. You may view it as a chronological list of events, or as a weekly or monthly view.

There are several ways to access our Facebook page. One simple one is to click the stylized "f" shown at left on the mobile device menu. The PC page has a similar "f" (not shown) at the top right, which, when clicked,

# Emanuel Online, continued

takes you straight to our Facebook home.

On a computer, our Facebook home currently looks like this (but it will change from day to day as we post new items):



On a mobile device, most of us use a Facebook app rather than accessing it from the world wide web in a browser. Here's a sample of the page in a Facebook app:



At the bottom of this sample, you will see a new feature: recorded sermons. We only began to post these recently, so you will find only a few, but we plan to regularly share them here to make them more widely available. They will continue to be playable on our website as well. If you are visiting homebound members, you may wish to share the previous week's sermon with them, as well as showing them photos of recent events.

Finding our homepage in a Facebook app should be simple, but you may need to be aware that there are two homepages, only one of which is current. At the top right of the screen, you see a magnifying glass icon, which represents Facebook search. Touch that icon and type "Emanuel Lutheran Modesto". The top search result should be us. Just touch it and you should go directly to our home page, as shown to the left.

Since we are an organization and not a person, Facebook does not enable you to "friend" us, but rather you may wish to "like" us. There is a "thumb's up" icon that enables you to do that. After you "like" us, the app will automatically notify you of new posts and they will also show up on your "Newsfeed", albeit briefly as Facebook automatically updates the newsfeed content based upon some inscrutable logic.

Here's a Facebook photo from the farewell potluck for Bill and Susan

Ruth. If you touch that photo, it should display full screen on your smartphone. If you then touch the menu icon (three vertical dots), you find an option for "external share". Touching that brings up a set of ways to share the photo. This includes email, multi-media text message, and Facebook (shared on your personal timeline).



Not all of us have smartphones or computers, but nearly everyone has friends or relatives who do. We hope this article will help you to spread the word about the contents of our online activity. Remember, this Echoes issue is only a few clicks away on our website: [www.emanuellutheran.org](http://www.emanuellutheran.org), which we hope that by now you have bookmarked!

# A Letter from Presiding Bishop Eaton



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The hard but undeniable fact of deeply embedded racism in American society has come to the fore in painful ways this past year through high-profile occurrences of racial discrimination, hatred and violence – including racially motivated killings. As Lutheran Christians, what should be our response and witness? As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, how are we called to confront the sin of racism?

We need to talk and we need to listen, but we also need to act. As one important step in this process, I invite you to join me and **William B. Horne II**, an ELCA lay leader and member of the ELCA Church Council, for a [live webcast conversation](#) on the complexity and implications of racism on Thursday, **Aug. 6, at 8 p.m.** (CDT).

Through our church's social statement – “Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture” – the ELCA collectively has expressed its calling to confront racism and advocate for justice and fairness for all people. You can read this social statement [here](#). In addition, I have made several public statements on behalf of the church recently on this subject. Those statements are available [here](#).

God's intention for all humanity is that we see the intrinsic worth, dignity and value of all people. Racism undermines the promise of community and fractures authentic relationships with one another. As Christians, though, we live in the conviction that the church has been gathered together in the joyful freedom of the reign of God announced by and embodied in Jesus. That reign has not come in its fullness, but the message of God's “yes” to the world breaks down all dividing walls as we live into that promise.

I urge you to deepen your involvement in and commitment to this important work to which we all are called. I believe our [live webcast](#) on this topic on **Aug. 6** is one useful way for us to pursue this together, and I hope you will view and take part in it.

You may read more about this webcast at [www.ELCA.org/webcast](http://www.ELCA.org/webcast), where a link to the live webcast will be embedded. A live stream also will be available at [www.Facebook.com/Lutherans](http://www.Facebook.com/Lutherans). Twitter hashtag is **#ELCAConfrontRacism**. If you would like to submit a question to be considered during the live webcast, please send it to [livinglutheran@elca.org](mailto:livinglutheran@elca.org) and provide your name and your congregation's name, city and state.

Join me for this important conversation.

Your Sister in Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop

**Editor's note: The Bishop's message contains links that cannot be used in the printed version of this issue. However, you can get to all the information that Bishop Eaton references by visiting [www.ELCA.org/webcast](http://www.ELCA.org/webcast).**

# July Council Notes

Submitted by Debbie Van Diepen

David Holtz opened the meeting for the first time as President. Pastor Bill led us in devotions for the last time as our interim pastor. He read from Revelations, the passage describing John’s vision of a new city. He encouraged us to welcome our new pastor.

## Call Committee Update

Pastor Crase has begun her moving process. Emanuel will pay to move a pod of belongings and refund driving expenses for her trip to Modesto.

## Day Care

Lois Owen reported that Day Care had record revenues this fiscal year, totaling \$277,961. The Stanislaus County Welfare to Work program has been slow to pay for some clients and it may become necessary to turn some charges over to a collection agency. Laura is working diligently to address this situation sensitively. Expenses for June included an annual one-time disbursement of the director’s bonus, based on net proceeds, so the net loss for the month is misleading. Laura’s bonus is richly deserved and only partially compensates for her modest salary.

Day Care continues to identify and plan some facility improvements. Council agreed in principal with these plans but we need assurance that all work will be accomplished within building code regulations.

The current custodial service is doing a good job, but there is a potential problem with child labor.

A child from Day Care will be baptized during the July 26 service.

## Resource

Bob Reuter presented June financials that represent final fiscal year numbers. These will be presented at the Congregational Meeting in August. While our overall financial picture is acceptable, we fell short on the Building Fund by \$2,395 for the year.

The Endowment Fund net balance as of June 30 was \$154,635. We disburse earnings from this fund to the synod, to our Capital Maintenance fund, and to our Ministry Reserve Fund. We are blessed to have this fund for long-term congregational support. Gifts to the endowment are designated and separate from regular tithing and giving.



## Stewardship

Jim Barton reported that his team plans to kick off this year’s campaign on the last Sunday of September so that we can conclude it before the Christmas holidays.

## Outreach

The team is working on a presentation on scam prevention. They agreed to take on the task of sending a welcoming letter to all Day Care families, assuring them that they are welcome to attend our worship activities.

## Property

The gate on College Avenue has been repaired. Water will be increased for the children’s playground area to ensure that we have healthy grass there. The team will do some minor repair to the pastor’s office.

## Fellowship

In addition to the Farewell to Bill and Susan, the team is beginning to plan for the reception at Pastor Lyn’s installation on August 9.

## Social Media

Sue Wilke has joined the team and has already infused new energy. We are considering new activities, such as Instagram, while stepping up our web and Facebook presence.

	JUNE INCOME	JUNE EXPENSES	MONTHLY GAIN/LOSS
<b>General Fund</b>	16,917	(11,854)	5,064
<b>Building Fund</b>	7,076	(7,170)	(94)
<b>Day Care</b>	20,848	(35,021)	(14,173)
<b>TOTALS</b>	44,841	(54,045)	(9,204)

# August Birthdays

## Birthday Blessing Sunday is August 16

All those celebrating their births during the month of August will receive a Birthday Blessing Prayer from their Emanuel Family. Don't miss out!



8/1 Christine Paulsen	8/9 Gretchen Lile		
8/4 Jeanine Clarke	8/10 Joyce Bachmann		
8/5 Janis Decker	8/10 Barbara Norquist	8/16 Emily Cline	8/23 David Cline
8/5 Meridith Yeoman	8/12 Susan Hayes	8/16 Tim Wheeler	8/23 Jaycen Salonen
8/6 Debby Dailey	8/13 Ila Reinheimer	8/19 David Salonen	8/28 Derek Salonen
8/7 Roger Lee	8/14 David Kraft	8/21 Jeanne Hardin	8/29 Susan McCready
8/8 Peter Kroeze	8/15 Nevaeh Aguilar	8/22 Mildred Golding	8/30 Karen Retford

# August Prayer Requests



## New Prayer Requests:

- ◆ Jean Marie Griffin — comfort and strength for the sudden loss of her daughter (Reinheimer)
- ◆ RG Crawford — healing (Crawford)
- ◆ Nathan Wilke — healing and well-being (Wilke)
- ◆ Gary Knoll — healing, health and well-being

## Our Members:

- ◆ Drew Shank
- ◆ Ben Knoll
- ◆ Lori Knoll
- ◆ Susan Hayes
- ◆ Carolyn Crenwelge
- ◆ Bob Dailey
- ◆ Kelly Dailey
- ◆ Russ Klenz
- ◆ Alexandra Tisdel

## Our Homebound Members:

- ◆ Harvey Hardel
- ◆ Florence Broden
- ◆ Kay Altmas
- ◆ Shelda Fritts
- ◆ Alma Johnson
- ◆ Esther Johnson

## Our Family:

- ◆ Stephen Thoresen (Hoaglund)
- ◆ Sharon (Owen)
- ◆ Elisabeth Maddox and baby Julianne (Jones)
- ◆ Suzanne Stiver Lie (Reinheimer)
- ◆ Lisa Dieterich (Dieterich)
- ◆ Ian & Marian McKenzie (Schmidt)
- ◆ Marsha Schlipman (Nelson)
- ◆ Pastor Bill Ruth
- ◆ Cameron Brown (Tina La Vornia)
- ◆ Jean Salazar (Schmidt)
- ◆ Jane Tisdel

## Our Friends:

- ◆ Tom Aja (Crawford)
- ◆ Dr. Roger Vogelzang and family, Bethany & Jerry Metcalf, and Elizabeth & Kevin Duggan (Reinheimer)
- ◆ Jennifer Turner (Dieterich)
- ◆ Roger Warner (Schmidt)
- ◆ Pam and Tom (Dieterich)
- ◆ Priscilla Pino (Ixcot)

## We Pray for Peace in the Middle East, and for all those serving in our armed forces.

- ◆ **Ryan Dangerfield**, USAF in Lakenheath Air Base, England and **Joey Sabel**, USMC in Louisville, KY (Marilyn & Chuck Rowland's grandson & grandson-in-law)
- ◆ **Capt. Timothy Kramer** in Afghanistan (Megan Armes' brother)
- ◆ **Ryan Powell**, USN, Connecticut (grandson of Yvonne Troedson)

# Epilogue

(You may safely skip this...)

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

Rose and I recently attended a memorial service for a very dear man who became a part of our lives about 40 years ago. The Rev. Bob Hansen was an associate pastor at our church and his memorial service gave us an opportunity to reconnect with many old friends. The day was a celebration of Bob's life and the church was packed.

Two of Father Bob's grandchildren read a passage from "The Velveteen Rabbit", a book that he used as a centerpiece for his relatively infrequent sermons. In that story, a stuffed animal becomes alive and real through the love of a child. Father Bob used the story to illustrate his belief in the healing power of love, even to death.

This experience led me to wonder whether I had a "Velveteen Rabbit". It turns out that I do. My all-time favorite children's book is "Green Eggs and Ham", Dr. Seuss's masterpiece that used only 50 different words. My children and grandchildren have heard that book at least a dozen times each. I admit that part of the reason I loved to

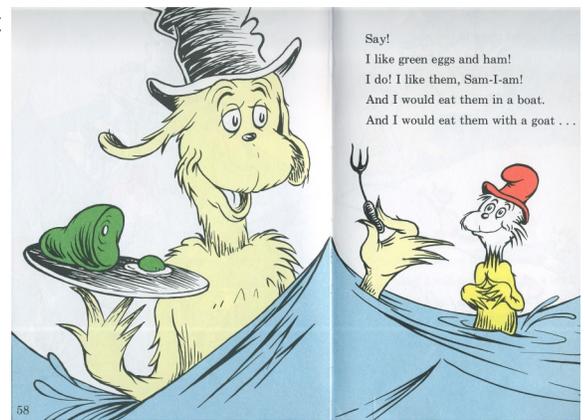
read it to them was because it was so fun to act it out. You need to grind your teeth and sound very angry when you read: "I do not like them Sam-I-am" and you must put on a huge smile and perhaps giggle a little when you read: "Say! I like green eggs and ham! I do! I like them, Sam-I-am!"

Beyond the fun of the rhythm and rhymes, however, lies the lesson the story imparts. Dr. Seuss helped me teach my kids and grandkids that we need to avoid judging too soon, before we have all the facts. The book also suggests that we can derive happiness from discovering and experiencing new things.

There may be a deeper, more important message in "Green Eggs...". Theodor Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, was raised Lutheran and his faith shines through in many of his books. I think it is no coincidence that "(Sam)-I-am", exhibits such God-like characteristics. It is also no coincidence that the protagonist is nameless in the story, because he is you and me. Seuss's "I-am" (God) persists with infinite patience and love despite the protagonist's (our) disdain and hatefulness.

Maybe we don't say it out loud, but as soon as "I-am" shows up and disturbs our self-absorbed lives, we think: "That Sam-I-am! I do not like that Sam-I-am!" Then, as we begin to perceive that we are being asked to actually do something new and different, our rejection is vehement: "I do not like them, Sam-I-am. I do not like green eggs and ham."

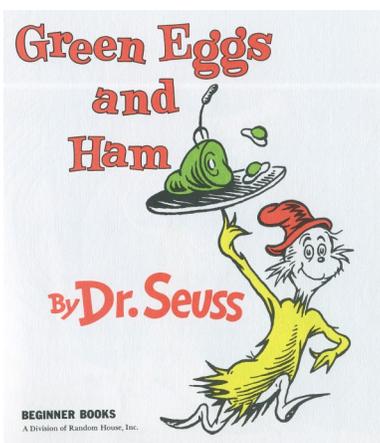
God's (Sam-I-am's) response to our rejection is to ignore it and continue



to call us to do his bidding. In Dr. Seuss's story, this continuation involves miraculous events that finally become so incredible that we can no longer ignore the requests. We see that I-am's patience is infinite and that we, in the end, must put aside our prejudices and do this new thing. "Sam! If you will let me be, I will try them. You will see."

We are then absolutely astonished to learn that God was not trying to punish us, but to bring us enlightenment. Our joy is overwhelming and we immediately perceive that we are about to begin a new, better life. "I-am", on the other hand, is pleased, but not at all surprised. He knew all along that we would come through for him. He knew how the story would end even before it began.

All the children who heard me read this book understood the simple lesson about trying new things, but I hope that they also absorbed the underlying, nearly subliminal message about God's love and how we should respond to His demands. Some days I think they did hear it and other days I think Dr. Seuss and I failed. In the end, though, it all comes down to patience and unconditional love that passes all understanding, just as Father Bob said.



# Emanuel Calendar of Events

# August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> FAMILY PROMISE 10:00 am Organ practice
<b>2</b> FAMILY PROMISE Pr. Grace in pulpit 9:30 am Worship Service	<b>3</b> 6:00 pm Girl Scouts-Katie's Rm 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Marilyn's	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	<b>6</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study	<b>7</b> Office Closed	<b>8</b> 10:00 am Organ practice
<b>9</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 3:00 pm Pr. Crase Installation/Recep.	<b>10</b> 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Debbie's	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Ministry Mtg.	<b>13</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study	<b>14</b> Office Closed	<b>15</b> 10:00 am Organ practice
<b>16</b> 9:30 am Worship Service	<b>17</b> 6:00 pm CANA 7:30 pm LYDIA Circle @ Marilyn's	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Council Mtg.	<b>20</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 1:30 pm REBECCA Circle	<b>21</b> Office Closed	<b>22</b> 10:00 am Organ practice
<b>23</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am CONGREGATION AL MTG. PART II	<b>24</b> 7:30 pm Echoes Deadline Women's Bible Study @ Marilyn's	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	<b>27</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study	<b>28</b> Office Closed	<b>29</b> Paul's Pilgrimage 10:00 am Organ practice
<b>30</b> 9:30 am Paul's Pilgrimage Worship Service	<b>31</b> 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Marilyn's					