



The Echoes

Emanuel Lutheran Church

September 2015

BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

Greetings from Pastor Lyn

Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Assimilation: The process by which a person or persons acquire the social and psychological characteristics of a group.

(This is the first definition that popped up in a Google search of the word "assimilation.")

As I write this article, it is almost one month ago that I arrived in Modesto and began the process of assimilation; "acquiring the social and psychological characteristics" of living in the Central Valley of California. Thanks be to God, it has gone relatively smoothly! Thank you, people of Emanuel! You have been extraordinarily warm and welcoming. It is a joy to join you in ministry and I'm excited to imagine where God will be leading us together, as a faith community.

The adjustment to Modesto has also been fairly easy as I find the community to be friendly, inviting



and helpful. There remains a lot to learn about both the church and the city but I feel as if I am at home. Thank you for welcoming my mother so warmly as well! We are both enjoying getting to know you and exploring the community and in this regard "assimilating" well!

And now, I'm looking forward to imagining with you how we might be the church, a visible and vital community to whom the larger

ABOUT US

Emanuel is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Pastor Lyn Crase:
209-523-4531
pastor@emanuellutheran.org

Website:
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Church Office:
Phone: 209-523-4531
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Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday:
8 am – 12 pm
Friday Closed

Paula Braxton, Secretary
209-523-4531
secretary@emanuellutheran.org

Laura Marquez, Day Care Director
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Servant of the Month:

Joyce Bachmann

From Pastor Lyn, continued

community of Modesto might look for encouragement and inspiration. I think that what we are, or will be, up to is more than simple assimilation as this ministry enjoys a rich history and valued reputation in the community. You have made a mark upon this city in your 80 years. It is exciting to see that there is also great potential, unique and inviting opportunity particularly as ELC is situated on a wonderfully visible corner where multitudes pass each day.

The writer of Hebrews says "let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hb. 13:1-2) This letter was written for the long-haul of congregational life, to



encourage folks through the ups and the downs that surely happen in the church and to remind us that it is love — God's love that saves us and love of neighbor that sustains us. In this world, where we are asked or required to assimilate culturally, it is indeed Christ's love that will always define us.

In Christ,
Pastor Lyn

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.

Servant of the Month

Joyce Bachmann, this month's Servant of the Month, recently celebrated her goth birthday. Joyce is an incredibly faithful and active member of Emanuel and her energy and devotion are an example for the rest of us. Joyce's attire and general appearance epitomize proper preparation for Sunday worship. There's no mistaking the fact that church is important to Joyce!

Joyce always greets newcomers with love and attention. She can also be counted on to spend time with people who come to church



rarely or are back in town for a visit. Her welcoming style is

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.

genuine and heartfelt.

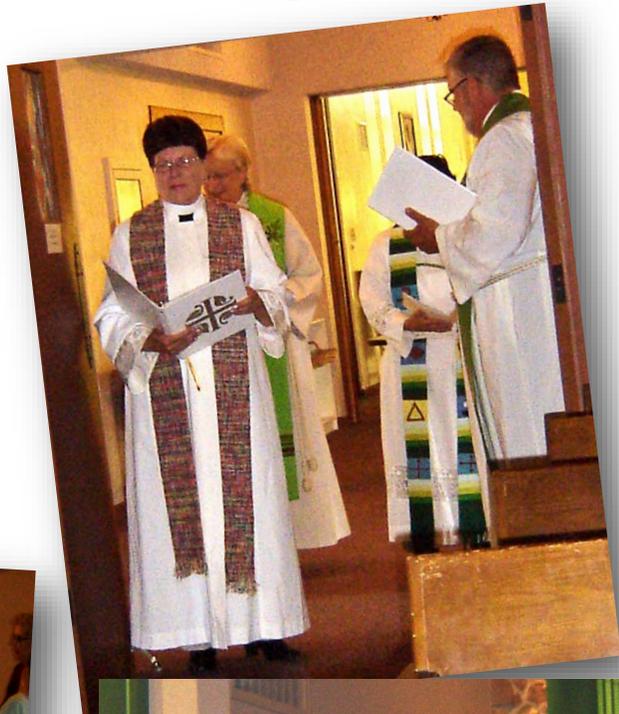
(Editor's aside: When Rose and I first came to Emanuel, Joyce was one of the first to greet us and help us make the easy decision to join this church. Thank you, Joyce, for making us feel at home.)

Pastor Lyn's Installation—August 9, 2015

From Pastor Lyn:

Thank you, people of Emanuel for the wonderful Installation service and reception that followed! It was festive and fun - indicative of how you do events at Emanuel! I'm grateful to Pastor Victor Berg-Haglund and Pastor Sylvia Mueller (Conference Dean) for their parts in the service and appreciative of the many conference pastors who made time to attend. It is with a joyful heart and gratitude to our Lord for bringing us together that this partnership in ministry is off and running!

Blessings, Pastor Lyn



Using Your Spiritual Gifts (Concluding the Gift Definitions)

Submitted by Stewardship Ministry Team

Skilled Craft:

The gift that enables a believer to create, build, maintain or repair items used within the church.



In Exodus 30:1-6, God tells how to build an altar of incense. In Exodus 31:3-5 God tells Moses :“I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every craft.” Ezekiel 27:4-11 describes the fine workmanship of the Tyre’s ship.

Teaching:

The gift that enables a believer to communicate a personal understanding of the Bible and faith in such a way that it becomes clear and understood by others.



I Corinthians 12:28: “And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues.” In Matthew 5:1-

12 Jesus gives us the Beatitudes during his Sermon on the Mount. In Acts 18:24-28 Paul’s friends, Aquila and Priscilla, realize that Apollos’ message was incomplete, so they invited him home for further instruction.

Wisdom:

The gift that allows the believer to sort through opinions, facts and thoughts in order to determine what solution would be best for the individual believer or the community of believers.

In I Corinthians 2:6-13, Paul says that true wisdom, hidden in past ages and unrecognized by men of worldly power, has been revealed through the Spirit of God. In James 3:13-18, James asks, “Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good life let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This wisdom is not such as comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity. And the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by

those who make peace. In II Chronicles 1:7-11 God has a conversation with Solomon. Verse 11, “God answered Solomon, ‘Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked possessions,

wealth, honor, or the life of those who hate you, and have not even asked long life, but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may rule my

people over whom I have made you king, wisdom and knowledge are granted to you.”

The 2016 Stewardship Pledge forms will be distributed on Sunday, September 27. You will be asked to pledge your Time, Talent, and Treasures. Isn’t it wonderful to have Pastor Lyn at Emanuel? She needs our support, help, and prayer to shepherd us. Have you prayed and considered which ministry team or volunteer activities you’d like to help with in 2016? If you want to review all of the Spiritual Gifts, their definitions and biblical verses can be found in past Echoes beginning with March 2015, all available on the website.



September News

E-Waste Fundraiser

Don't forget the e-waste recycling fundraiser on September 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. See last month's Echoes for details.



Senior Scam Prevention Presentation

Scams are a disease of epidemic proportions, spreading nationwide. They often target one of our vulnerable populations: seniors. On October 18 after worship, Reva Damir of CareMore Health Plan will lead a Senior Scam Prevention Presentation to help us fortify our "immunity" and conquer this plague. Please plan to stay and participate.



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!

Rebecca Circle

Rebecca Circle meets Thursday, September 17 at 1:30 pm in the home of Virginia Dall. We will be studying from the September Gather Magazine,

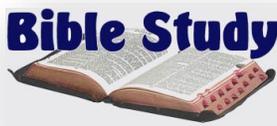


Session One: Slow Faith, Sabbath Keeping.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Beginning again in September Thursday Morning Bible Study will meet:

- First Thursday of each month at Casa de Modesto 9:30 am
- All other Thursdays in Katie's Room at Emanuel, 9:30 am



Pastor Lyn will be our guide through the Book of Genesis for approximately fifteen weeks beginning on September 3. We will then discuss with Pastor Lyn where we want to go from there.

Thrivent Choice

Over the last 5 years, eligible members have recommended that Thrivent Financial distribute more than \$225 million in charitable grant funds to more than 25,600 enrolled churches and organizations through Thrivent Choice®.

Congratulations! Emanuel Lutheran Church has received \$3,782 in Choice Dollars® grant funds since enrolling in the program.

Please speak to Bob Reuter about our participation in this program, sponsored by Thrivent Financial.



Monday Women's Bible Study

Monday Women's Bible Study will be at Marsha Waggoner's home during September.

Children's Sunday School

Debbie Van Diepen does a phenomenal job with our children on Sunday mornings. These photos show that she does have help, but she would benefit from having a team of available substitutes. If you find it in your heart to help, please tell Debbie and persuade her to let you help!



Letter from the Treasurer

Submitted by Bob Reuter

WELCOME: A NEW ERA

What a relief, our prayers have been answered; Pastor Lyn has joyfully joined us in ministry at Emanuel! But, now we must meet our financial obligations to make this ministry possible. We as a congregation made a commitment to support a full-time pastor through tithing, that is, through regular giving.

Emanuel's expenses continue week after week, whether you are here or not. During summer months the tithing has been below budget. The

reserve fund is used to meet the obligations of Emanuel during these months, but this is not a viable solution for an extended period.

If you have missed some weeks lately, and you are able, the finance team would appreciate receiving any make-up tithing.

Remember a while back Pastor Roger challenged all of us to give \$1.00 per gallon of gasoline purchased when prices had fallen? Well, prices have now fallen further; can you meet this challenge?



The finance team thanks all members who have been tithing, meeting their obligations made in a pledge, or just giving what they can afford. All gifts of Time, Talent, and Tithing are appreciated and gratefully accepted. We know that with the commitment and dedication of the people of Emanuel, our ministry shall thrive.

Praying for God's guidance,
Robert Reuter, Treasurer

Church from a Visitor's Point of View

Submitted by Suzanne Wilke

It isn't often that I walk into church and not know anyone. However, I had that unique experience when my cruise ship arrived in Ketchikan, AK, on Sunday morning at 8:00 AM. Opposite the dock was the First Lutheran Church. A quick check on Google informed me that the service was at 9:00.



I hurried to get ready and easily made it on time. I found it interesting that not a single person greeted me. Two people were blocking the table where the bulletins were. I had to ask if it was all right for me to take one. They moved aside, but did not inquire if I were visiting. As members began to arrive, they warmly greeted each

other. I could tell they really cared for each other, but were oblivious to visitors. Just before the service began, visitors were invited to introduce themselves and I did that.

The Passing of the Peace resembled ours in that they got out of their seats to make sure they again greeted each other. Whereas the peace was passed to me, no one from the church introduced himself/herself, nor welcomed me to the service. Surprisingly, the lecturer from the cruise ship had come in a little late and sat two rows in front of me. I greeted him by name, explaining that I was a passenger on the ship and had been attending his presentations. I was the only person to make an effort to greet him. At the conclusion of the service, one

lady did tell me she was glad I could join them.

The service was lively and uplifting, and I would go again if I ever found myself in Ketchikan, but I certainly got a heavy dose of what it is like to be a stranger in a church that is only focused on itself.

I always try to introduce myself to visitors at Emanuel. I know many of you do, too. Hopefully, no visitor ever goes away from Emanuel feeling that no one cares whether or not he/she returns.



August Council Notes

David Holtz opened the meeting. Pastor Lyn led devotions based on a book: "The Art of Possibility". She passed around report cards that gave each of us an "A" for together helping Emanuel to survive and thrive during the past year despite not having a full-time pastor. She instructed us to keep notes on the back of the cards that describe how we will maintain our "A's", based not on hypothetical plans, but on disciplined performance.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Lyn provided a written report describing her initial activities as our new pastor. In addition to getting to know us and leading our worship, she began meeting with other local pastors and religious leaders. She plans to be involved in community matters as well as congregational and synod activities. She will also meet with other leaders of the Corridor 99 Youth collaborative group to plan a September event to be held on September 19.

Day Care

Lois Owen reported that Day Care enrollment will be up slightly in September. Our property ministry met with the Day Care board to review needed facility

improvements. Their initial assessment is that most of the projects can meet building code regulations and they will continue to work towards implantation of feasible plans.

Resource

Bob Reuter was absent but provided July financials along with explanatory notes. We had a shortfall of about \$1,100 in July, but Bob pointed out that there were some modest one-time costs associated with Pastor Lyn's move to Modesto. The shortfall in the building fund presents a more serious problem, as this fund dropped another \$1,700 and had a current balance of only \$1,280. Our monthly mortgage payment is \$7,170, so we continue to go month-to-month on this fund.

Day Care also had a small loss for July, but this figure was much stronger than July 2014, reflecting the overall strong financial health of that ministry.

Council agreed to discuss a proposed policy that would allow our Mission Investment team to judiciously invest other funds that are not immediately needed.



Stewardship

Jim Barton reported that this year's campaign will sponsor a Pet Blessing on September 12 from 5 to 7 pm. The youth will provide ice cream floats at that event, Pastor Lyn will bless the animals, and Dave Holtz will lead singing.

Property

In addition to working on campus documentation, Property is working on a plan to refurbish our pews. They do not plan to completely refinish them, but rather find an efficient means of renewing their finish.

Worship

Reformation Sunday is October 24. We plan to have mid-week Advent services, probably on Wednesday evenings. We'll have a "favorite hymn" Sunday before Lent.

Outreach

The scam prevention presentation will be on October 18.

Fellowship

Council briefly discussed our informal policy of donating leftovers from potlucks to homeless people. We agree that this is a good thing to do, but we need to be sensitive to our effect on parks and neighborhoods.

	JULY INCOME	JULY EXPENSES	MONTHLY GAIN/LOSS
General Fund	13,391	(14,522)	(1,131)
Building Fund	5,407	(7,170)	(1,764)
Day Care	20,621	(21,055)	(433)
TOTALS	39,419	(42,746)	(3,328)

September Birthdays

Birthday Blessing Sunday is September 16

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



9/1	Robert Barton	9/17	Deanna Saldivar		
9/7	Chuck Rowland	9/18	Gary Knoll		
9/8	Marjorie Sample	9/20	Jan Lutterman	9/22	Lori Knoll
9/11	Oliver Armes	9/21	Brian Skustad	9/23	Jillian Klenz
9/15	Jakob Knoll	9/21	Elaine Urch	9/24	Connor Skustad

September Prayer Requests



New Prayer Requests:

- ◆ Geoga Butterfield—healing (Petersen)
- ◆ Joy and Michael Morgan—salvation (Scott)
- ◆ Keegan Lyons—healing/Leukemia (Turner)
- ◆ Rick Crawford—healing (Crawford)
- ◆ Stephen Thoresen (son of Alice Hoaglund)—successful surgery and recovery at Stanford Medical Center

Our Members:

- ◆ Drew Shank
- ◆ Ben Knoll
- ◆ Lori Knoll
- ◆ Susan Hayes
- ◆ Carolyn Crenwelge
- ◆ Bob Dailey
- ◆ Kelly Dailey
- ◆ Gary Knoll
- ◆ Pat & Jack Smith
- ◆ Kristine Kraft

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)
- ◆ Cameron Brown (Tina La Vornia)
- ◆ Boyce Lutes (Teaney)
- ◆ Sean Sizemore (Sizemore)

Our Friends:

- ◆ Lisa Nixon (Ixcot)
- ◆ Tom Aja (Crawford)
- ◆ Dr. Roger Vogelzang and family, Bethany & Jerry Metcalf, and Elizabeth & Kevin Duggan (Reinheimer)
- ◆ Jennifer Turner, Pam and Tom (Dieterich)
- ◆ Roger Warner (Schmidt)
- ◆ Darrell Meyer (Teaney)
- ◆ Helen Deve (Crawford)

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 Kaneohe Marine Corps Base, Hawaii (Marilyn & Chuck Rowland's grandson & grandson-in-law)
- ◆ **Capt. Timothy Kramer** in Kansas (Megan Armes' brother)
- ◆ **Ryan Powell**, USN, Connecticut (grandson of Yvonne Troedson)

Epilogue

(You may safely skip this...)

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

August was Holy Communion month, thanks to the lectionary and its focus on the 6th chapter of John. We thoroughly covered the Gospel foundations of our practice of communion. Coincidentally, perhaps, Presiding Bishop Eaton's column in the August "The Lutheran" magazine mentioned a semi-controversy about our ELCA range of practices for the invitation to receive communion (everyone, the baptized, or the confirmed). She proclaimed that we are not going to vote on this issue and pointed us to a document titled "The Use of the Means of Grace".

I obtained and read this tract. It's rather long, but nicely organized, offering reasons for its thoughtful description of ELCA practices. I found quite a few things that I didn't know or only "sorta knew".

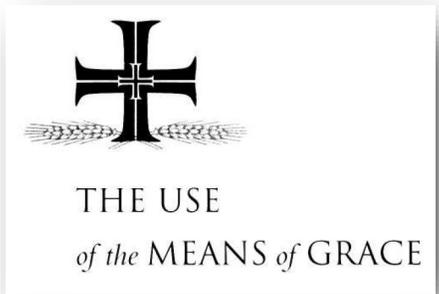
At Emanuel we offer communion to all baptized Christians. You probably notice that we don't ask for proof; we assume that if you come forward, you meet our criteria. I assure you that it isn't this way everywhere. Our Missouri Synod brethren assert that you may commune with them only if you also accept the "Real Presence" of Christ in the elements of the meal. Some churches insist that you meet with the pastor to declare your belief before you come to the altar. Some Wisconsin Synod churches pass out color-coded badges to assure that non-member visitors do not accidentally receive communion.

"...Means..." carefully defines the basis for our Church and its use of the Word in Christian assembly. It then sets out the practices of Baptism in considerable detail. Since Baptism is the basis for our invitation to communion, understanding its purpose and process is vital. In the ELCA, we perform "one baptism", unlike other denominations, which allow members to be baptized as many times as they desire. Also, we baptize in the name of the Triune God ("Father, Son, and Holy Spirit"). Some denominations baptize in the name of Jesus, only, disqualifying them in the Missouri Synod.

There isn't room here for a complete summary of communion issues described in "...Means...", so I'm going to cherry-pick a few that I found interesting.

First, "In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery." The mystery part underscores the inexplicability of the assertion and assures us that we would be wasting our time doing a chemical analysis of the sanctified bread, looking for Jesus's DNA.

"All of our congregations are encouraged to celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly, but not every service need be a Eucharist". I know that this seems like a recent practice to some of you, but I understand that this is the way Luther wanted it. In the early U.S., a shortage of pastors made it difficult for many new churches to have weekly communion, so less frequent communion became the norm for a long time. We now have returned to



the original practice. I rejoice in that; worship without communion is incomplete for Rose and me.

"Baptized children begin to commune on a regular basis at a time determined through mutual conversation...". This ELCA position does not require formal "first communion" classes for small children. They do say: "In all cases, participation in Holy Communion is accompanied by catechesis appropriate to the age of the communicant." I take this to mean that a 3-year old can take communion if the child has a 3-year old's level of understanding of what is happening.

The ELCA declares that, except in unusual circumstances, a pastor presides at communion and says the words of "The Great Thanksgiving". However, the pastor does not perform magic that transforms the bread into the Body of Christ. Rather, Christ himself does this miracle. Unlike the Episcopal church, we Lutherans do not insist that left-over elements be handled as if they contained magic. However, "any food that remains is best consumed...".

I'm out of room, but there's a lot more to this topic. I encourage you to read "The Use of the Means of Grace". If you've read it before, it's worth a revisit.

Emanuel Calendar of Events

September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1		2 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	3 9:30 am Adult Bible Study with Pr. Lyn	4 Office Closed	5 10:00 am Organ practice
6 9:30 am Worship Service	7 6:00 pm Girl Scouts-Katie's Rm 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Marsha's	8	9 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Ministry Meeting	10 9:30 am Adult Bible Study with Pr. Lyn 7:00 pm LEAH CIRCLE@Murray	11 Office Closed	12 10:00 am Organ practice
13 9:30 am Worship Service	14 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Marsha's	15	16 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Council Mtg.	17 9:30 am Adult Bible Study with Pr. Lyn 1:30 pm Rebecca Circle	18 Office Closed	19 10:00 am Organ practice
20 9:30 am Worship Service	21 6:00 pm CANA 7:30 pm LYDIA CIRCLE 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Marsha's	22	23 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	24 9:30 am Adult Bible Study with Pr. Lyn	25 Office Closed	26 9:00 am E-Waste Fundraiser 10:00 am Organ practice
27 9:30 am Worship Service	28 7:30 pm Echoes Deadline Women's Bible Study @ Marsha's	29	30 7:00 am Men's Bible Study			