



The Echoes Emanuel Lutheran Church

April 2014

EASTER SAYS YOU CAN PUT TRUTH IN A GRAVE, BUT IT WON'T STAY THERE

ABOUT US

How Can I Help?

by Suzanne Wilke, Council President

Again we find Emanuel Lutheran Church being challenged. With the resignation of Pastor Stan, we are, once more, without a pastor and without an administrator. This means that Council has the responsibility to see that things run smoothly while we await a new pastor being called. With God's help and your prayers, your Council will be able to do this. The Bishop informed us that there are no Interim Pastors available at this time. We will use pulpit supply pastors for a few months while the call process continues toward the goal of calling a pastor.

This is really a wonderful opportunity for us to meet and be inspired by a variety of pastors and lay leaders. Our beloved Pastor Roger Lee will be on hand to provide emergency pastoral care. He will also take over teaching the confirmation class. In

the upcoming Sundays, our services will be led by Pr. Lee Heim, Pr. Bill Ruth and Pr. Wendy Warner. The most exciting news is that our own Pr. Will Kroeze, son of Arie and Paula Kroeze, will officiate at the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services.

Debbie Van Diepen will continue to assume many of the administrator's duties. We thank her profusely.

I challenge you to use the next few months to step up and say, "How can I help?" There is much to be done to get ready for a new pastor. Let's make Emanuel a place where he or she will be excited to serve.

Yours, in Christ,
Suzanne Wilke, Council President



Emanuel is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday Worship:
9:30 am

Sunday Adult Bible Study:
8:30 am

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

Church Office Hours:
Monday 8am-1pm
Tuesday 8am-11am
Wednesday 8am-1pm
Thursday 8am-11am
Friday Closed

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

Laura Marquez, Day Care
Director 209-549-0672
daycare@emanuellutheran.org

Termites!

by Resource Ministry

Barbara recently spotted debris in the choir/organ loft and we followed up by calling on experts to perform a thorough inspection. Unfortunately, they determined that the main church building has both dry wood and subterranean termites. The building requires professional treatment, including tenting and tunnel destruction, to prevent further damage.



Your Property team obtained three estimates for the eradication work and has tentatively selected the company that offered the best value. Council voted to approve their plan and enable them to proceed. The termite treatment will cost approximately \$16,000 and can be partially funded by earnings of the Capital Maintenance endowment fund. However, if you could make an earmarked contribution for preserving our beautiful building, that would help tremendously.

In addition to eradication, we have a substantial amount of work to do. We must prepare for the process by cutting back all landscape bushes and trees to allow efficient tenting and by removing all food products from the kitchen. Also, we must repair existing termite and water damage, including minor structural work. We need to fix or replace



damaged thresholds, door jambs, window sills, and wall sheathing. We will replace a few roof tiles, flashings and downspouts. The Property ministry will schedule these activities and needs volunteers, so please call Arie Kroeze or Dick Norquist.

We plan to execute the termite eradication June 30 through July 3. We will need to close the Day Care facility and the church office that week for the safety of the children and staff. We will also need to shut down electricity and gas and disable the security service. We may need site surveillance while the alarms are shut off. Sunday worship should not be disrupted.

The company that tents the building offers a one-year warranty, but also an extended warranty (at additional cost) for at least 3 years, including a complete re-inspection during the third year with retreatment in the event of any reoccurrence.

Recovery from our infestation will entail considerable effort and unplanned expense, but we have a responsibility to preserve and improve our excellent facility. We hope that everyone will support our plans and joyfully donate time, energy, and money to this project.

(P.S.: All of us owe the Property team a big "Thank You" for their hard work to solve this problem.)

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.

March Council Notes

Submitted by Debbie Van Diepen, Council Secretary

Council Membership Changes

Kelly Dailey resigned from her Council membership, citing pressures from her college studies. We applaud her selection of priorities and accepted her resignation with regret.

Mike Epting, a current member of the Technology Ministry, which Kelly also leaves, was approved by the Council to fill the remainder of Kelly's term. Debbie Van Diepen, a current Council member was elected Secretary to replace Kelly in that position.

Termite Report

Arie Kroeze briefed the Council on the Property Committee's report on the termite situation. He explained all aspects of the current plan for eradicating the pests and repairing their damage. Council then voted to approve the plan and authorize the committee to proceed.

Call Committee Status

Emanuel's Ministry Site Profile (MSP) has been submitted to the Synod and they will soon begin the process of screening candidates for us. The MSP is available on the website www.emanuellutheran.org. If you would like to see it and cannot view it from the website please contact a member of the call committee, Kathleen Reuter, Paula Barton, William Teaney, Jerry Johnson, Elaine Ixcot, or Paula Kroeze. This document tells who we are as a congregation, what we see as our ministry and what gifts and talents we have. Also, it describes what we see is important in our new pastor. The call committee spent many, many hours collecting

information from the congregation, compiling it and putting it in the document. We hope you read it and give us your comments.

Alcohol Policy

Council reviewed and approved a formal Alcohol Policy Statement. Briefly, this policy states that legal alcoholic beverages may be served at individual social, fundraising, or celebratory functions only with prior Church Council approval. Beverages may be served indoors or outdoors, but not in the sanctuary or on the lawn or parking areas adjacent to Stoddard and College Avenues.

Daycare Report

Enrollment is now at a 40 student full-time equivalent level and the facility now has a waiting list. While Daycare's financial situation remains strong, required staff pay raises have caused expenses to rise. It is likely that every daycare in Modesto faces a similar situation, so all either will or have already raised rates accordingly.

Marilyn Rowland's snack food drive has been successful, but please continue to donate.

Financial

Council reviewed Treasurer Bob Reuter's monthly report. Total contributions for this fiscal year are about \$2,500 below budget. Expenses have been about \$10,000 below contributions, which is good, but we have not had a paid administrator and Pastor Stan's leave of absence, followed by his resignation, reduced our expenses. Therefore, this surplus forms a false picture of our financial health.



Building Fund donations for February were less than the monthly mortgage payment. The reserve balance in this fund is currently only one month's payment.

Endowment

The Endowment Fund current balance as of February 28 was \$197,428. Earnings of this fund so far in 2014 are \$5248.

Worship

The changeover to a single service has gone smoothly. Kathleen Reuter must be commended for her efforts in scheduling volunteers for the Worship Ministry's support of Sunday Worship. Sue Wilke reported that she has been able to identify Pastors for all services through April. We will have special services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

Congregational Meeting

We must hold a Congregational Meeting in May to elect new Church Council members. The tentative date for this meeting is May 18.

Outreach

David Holtz reported that we have nearly all the volunteer slots filled for the March Family Promise. He also reported on a new opportunity to serve by providing Saturday lunches to Habitat for Humanity workers.

April News

Women of the ELCA

Emanuel Women of the ELCA held a General Meeting on Sunday, March 2 to discuss the future of WELCA at Emanuel. They decided to limit the number of separate programs and instead focus their time and energy on youth programs and the church as a whole. They are determined that nothing will fall by the wayside during our time without a Pastor.

Emanuel's youth sang and danced, delighting the attendees. Our women will support their trip to the Detroit convention in 2015.

Women of the ELCA will celebrate their Triennial Convention July 24-27. Charlotte, N.C. welcomes all women of faith to their convention center. Features include bringing voices for song, the "Quilt Challenge", a vision of Prayer Shawls, ears to hear the pastor of the historic Madison Ave. Baptist Church in N.Y., a pastor/professor of theology in Brazil, and the director of the Book of Faith Initiative for the ELCA. Kristine Kraft and Marsha Waggoner will represent us at the Convention, but speak to Kristine if you would also like to attend.



Stewardship

The Stewardship Team asks you to take some time for reflection during this Lenten season. This is the time of the year that we reflect upon

God's love for us. Remembering John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

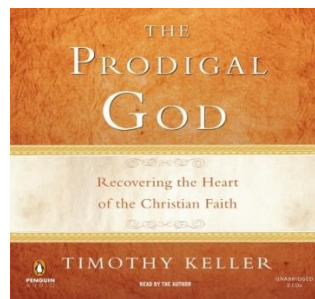
This Lenten season, let's reflect on God's gift to us, which is Salvation!

Adult Bible Study

Please join us Sunday mornings at 8:30 in Luther Hall for Adult Bible Study. We'll use studies created by the Wired Word for the next few weeks, taking a break on Easter Sunday.



Then, on April 27th, we'll begin a six week study of Tim Keller's book, "The Prodigal God: Finding Your Place at the Table". This short but insightful book deals with the parable of the Prodigal Son. Most of us think we already know the moral of that well-known story, but Keller invites us to take a fresh look at it, and in the process we discover that Jesus had something entirely different in mind when he first shared it with the Pharisees.



"There are two ways to be your own Savior and Lord," says Keller. "One is by breaking all the moral laws and setting your own course, and one is by keeping all the moral laws and being very, very good."

"Jesus' purpose in this parable "was not to warm our hearts, but to shatter our categories." ~ Tim Keller

Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you'll be joining us in this study so we can order a book for you.

College Area Neighborhood Alliance (CANA)

The Emanuel Lutheran Outreach Ministry would like to reach out to the community around us and to those who share space in our church. The College Area Neighborhood Alliance (CANA) is one of those groups.



CANA works hard to make our neighborhood a safer, friendlier and cleaner area in which to live, to work and to worship.

Your ELC Outreach Ministry would like to start by extending a hand of keeping our neighborhood clean. Please come and help if you can. Bring gloves, CANA will provide bags to put trash and trimmings into.

CANA Virginia Corridor Clean-Up

- ➔ **Saturday, April 12, 2014**
- ➔ **9:00 am to 11:00 am**
- ➔ **Meet at the playground,**
- ➔ **corner of Morris and Virginia.**

See you there Emanuel Lutheran Congregation!

Help Our Youth



Emanuel's youth have been without a youth director for a long time. Our youth, the future of Emanuel, need our help. Pastor Stan's article in February's Echoes asked us: "What is God calling us to do? Do you have a gift to share?"

Maybe you can help by providing a light meal, leading a Bible study, organizing an activity, or leading a Youth Choir. These roles can be shared by several members and be very fulfilling for all involved.

Let's pray for God's direction for Emanuel's Youth, who meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 5 pm in the Youth Room (unless an activity takes them someplace else!).

Please speak to Lori Skustad if you can help.

PFLAG Social Night

This event, originally scheduled in March, has been rescheduled on Tuesday, April 15. PFLAG has extended an invitation to Emanuel to join them for this Crockpot Potluck and game night. This is a great opportunity for Emanuel to become more familiar with PFLAG members and mission as well as have a good time and a good meal.



The outreach ministry team encourages you to sign up in the narthex and join this outreach activity.

Love Modesto River Cleanups

West Modesto River Clean Up:
Saturday, April 5, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm
Help clean the Tuolumne River and its surroundings near River Rd and 9th Street. Bring some love and tender care back to this area in West Modesto. Volunteers will pick up garbage along the river and give some TLC to the natural areas in this potential riverside park.

If you would like to help, be sure to see the details at www.tuolumne.org (follow the link under "What's New"). This site also has a ton of information about other fun and helpful programs.



Circle Meetings

Rebecca circle meets Thursday, April 10, 1:30 pm, in the home of Joyce Riddick. Our study will be from the Gather Magazine "In Good Company: Stories of Biblical Women", Session 8 "Rizpah, A Vigilant Mourner".

Leah Circle meets April 10, 7 pm at Gretchen Lile 's home.

Lydia Circle meets Monday, April 21, 7:30 pm at Jeanne Hardin's home.

Priscella Circle meets Thursday, April 24 at 7 pm.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is an organization of individuals, mostly volunteers, that build homes for low income families. Their largest volunteer day is Saturday each week. They are looking for individuals or

groups who would be willing and able to provide lunch for these Saturday construction crews. Are you interested in providing lunch one-time or on a regular basis? Better yet, are you interested in organizing a group of Emanuel volunteers for this task of providing lunch? If you say "yes" to either of these questions, contact Cecelia at Habitat (575-4585) for details.



April Birthdays

Birthday Blessing Sunday is April 20

Peter Van Diepen April 1	Ashlee Knoll April 13	Sarah Moraitis April 19
Larry Decker April 2	Matthew Rokaitis April 15	Jim Rokaitis April 21
Marsha Waggoner April 2	Megan Jordan April 19	Michael Clarke April 26
Paul Owen April 9		Benjamin Cline April 28



April Prayer Requests

New Prayer Requests:

- Lynn Ferrini, for health (Crawford)
- Eitelgeorge and Combs families, for strength and healing for the loss of Randy Combs
- Joyce Bachmann, for continued healing (Waggoner)
- Dee Woodbury, for healing (Waggoner)
- Julia Polillio (Silva)

Our Members:

- Drew Shank
- Ben Knoll
- Lori Knoll
- Bob Dailey
- Louise Thurston
- Joyce Bachmann

Our Homebound Members:

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

Our Family:

- Steve & Nancy Jeske (B. Norquist)
- Melody Saldivar (Saldivar)
- Joyce Shockley (Nelson)
- Sharon (Owen)
- Sarah Robertson (Murray)
- James Sullivan (Hollmann)
- John Smith (P. Smith)
- Marsha Schlipman (Nelson)
- Jack Peterson (Peterson)
- Geraldine Walton (Hollmann)
- Ian McKenzie (Schmidt)
- Boyce and Norma Lutes (Teaney)

Our Friends:

- Devon (Fritts)
- Roger Warner (Schmidt)
- Barbara (Owen)
- Rosie Eqsedal (Nelson)
- Jeanne (Watkins)
- John Turner (Turner)
- Nancy (L. Owen)
- Tim O'Roerk (Murray)
- Diane O'Roerk (Murray)
- Bud Stone & family (Reinheimer)
- Marc Weiss & family (Reinheimer)
- Keith & Lenny (Schmidt)
- Jennifer (Watkins)
- Donna Thayer (Peterson)
- Linda and Dave (Watkins)
- Kent and Sarah Walton (Teaney)
- Wayne & Beverly Knox (Teaney)
- Shawn Knutson (Wilke)
- Rev. Benny and Regina Bush
- Lynn Ferrini (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 North Carolina (Marilyn & Chuck Rowland's grandson & grandson-in-law)
- Timothy Kramer in Afghanistan (Megan Armes' brother)
- Ryan Powell (grandson of Yvonne Troedson) USN, Connecticut.

Epilogue

(You may safely skip this...)

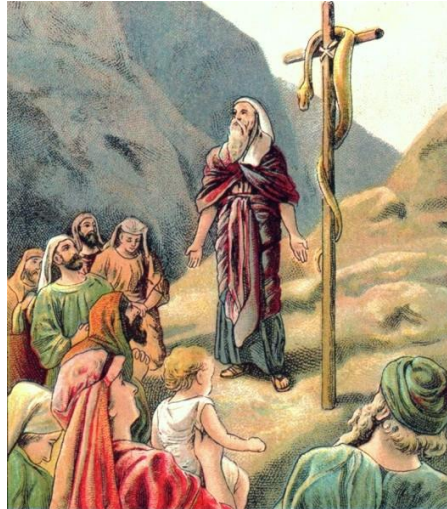
by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

One recent Sunday while I was kneeling at the rail for Communion, my attention was grabbed by the lectern scarf:



With Rose, whose fear of snakes borders on lunacy, at my side, I was sensitized to respond to the imagery with intense curiosity. "Why is that snake wrapped around the Cross???" Later, as is my wont, I Googled. As usual, I found a range of answers, some plausible and other clearly crackpot.

To my surprise, a few weeks later Pastor Heim's sermon addressed this very topic. He read John 3:14: "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up". Jesus is teaching Nicodemus the Pharisee how to be born again and refers here to Numbers 21:9: "So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived."



Pastor Heim spoke of the ancient symbols that replicated this image: the Rod of Asclepius, which had a single snake and symbolized healing, and the Caduceus Staff of Mercury, which had two snakes and did not. He went on to point out that the U.S. Army Medical Corps in 1902 erred and chose the Caduceus instead of the more appropriate Rod of Asclepius, which led to the AMA also going wrong. Oh, well...

After the service, I thanked Pastor Heim for his sermon and asked if he had noticed the hanging before he

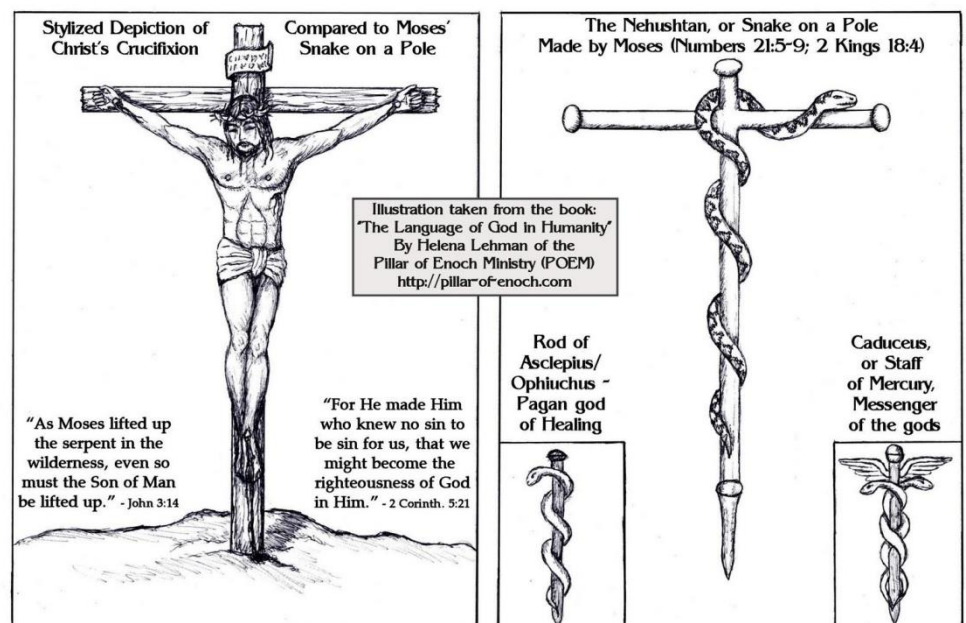
preached. His blank expression told the story, so I dragged him back to the front of the church and pointed it out to him. He was delighted and went on to explain the rest of the symbols to me.

The Cross is a variant based on the Greek letters Chi and Rho, which are the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ. Technically, it should look like this (but that's OK):



The Crown of Thorns, of course, represents the crucifixion of Jesus.

So there we have it, a complete set of symbols for Easter, focused on healing. Still, the snake is a bit scary, isn't it?



Emanuel Calendar of Events April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 pm PFLAG Meeting	2 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	3 9:30 am Bible Study	4 Office Closed	5 10:00 am Organ practice
6 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal	7 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Harden	8	9 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Ministry Meeting	10 9:30 am Bible Study 1:30 pm Rebecca @ Riddick 7:00 pm Leah Circle @ Lile	11 Office Closed	12 8:00 am Girl Scout CPR 10:00 am Organ practice
13 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm Youth	14 No Confirmation Class 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Harden	15 5:00 pm PFLAG Crock Pot Potluck	16 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Council Mtg.	17 Holy Thursday 9:30 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Worship	18 Good Friday Office Closed 7:00 pm Worship	19 10:00 am Organ practice
20 Easter Sunday - Birthday Blessings 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Pancake Breakfast 11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt	21 No Confirmation Class 7:30 pm Lydia Circle @ Harden	22	23 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	24 9:30 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Priscilla Circle	25 Office Closed	26 10:00 am Organ practice
27 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal	28 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Harden	29	30 7:00 am Men's Bible Study			