



THOSE IN WHOM THE SPIRIT COMES TO LIVE ARE GOD'S NEW TEMPLE.

# The Echoes

## Emanuel Lutheran Church

June 2014

### ABOUT US

## From the President

by Suzanne Wilke, Council President

With great joy Council received the report from the call committee. The Bishop had presented them with a slate of candidates for call. How many? They are not allowed to say. Men or women? Too early to give any details.

But it definitely means that we have begun the next step in the process. Candidates have to be interviewed by Skype. The field has to be narrowed. In person interviews need to be conducted with the most promising. Finally, the call committee will come to Council and present their recommendation. Council will put together a financial package to present to the candidate.

If Council is prepared to issue a call to this person, he/she will be invited to a "Meet and Greet," so that the congregation has a chance to get to know this person. Hopefully, if all goes well, we will joyfully offer a call, and the pastor will accept.

How long will this take?  
Probably most of the summer.  
But we are getting closer.

I have been thinking about this whole situation. I thank God for all the wonderful pastors who have served as pulpit supply. We will still need to rely on them for a few more months. I thank God because He has certainly had the Holy Spirit working in our church. One only needs to see how happy everyone is to come to church.

I think going to one service has enhanced this joy. How many of you have met new people? Put faces to names? Enjoyed the choir? We have been averaging around 90 people each Sunday. Volunteerism is up. Even giving has increased. This is



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](mailto:secretary@emanuellutheran.org)

Laura Marquez, Day Care  
Director 209-549-0672  
[daycare@emanuellutheran.org](mailto:daycare@emanuellutheran.org)

surely the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

It occurred to me the other day that God must already have a wonderful pastor picked for us. He would not build this church up to tear it down. We have a beautiful campus, a full church on Sundays and a congregation of loving people. Let us all pray for that new pastor with the understanding that we must be open to new ideas, willing to adapt to change and ready to love and forgive the *human* that we will call to be our Pastor.

Finally, I again thank everyone who is serving God at Emanuel. We will soon elect a new Council. We have

two people willing to come on to Council, but there is room for two more. Is God calling you to serve in that way?

We have ministries that need volunteers. Is God calling you to serve in that way? We need ushers, worship assistants, choir members and providers of refreshments. Is God calling you to serve in that way? Pray about how you can use your talents.

Be patient through the summer with more pulpit supply pastors. Rejoice at all the wonderful ministers who have served us during this interim time. It is a pleasure to be a part of the Emanuel family.

## 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.

# Stewardship Ministry Message

**Submitted by** the Emanuel Stewardship Team

Have you found your place in the choir?

Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed!

God's promise to his people has been fulfilled. God has given his precious creatures a wonderful gift, His only son, Jesus. Jesus invites us to break bread, His body; drink wine, His blood; feel His presence; and become "Easter people".

Easter has changed our hearts and we are filled with joy! As a new "Easter creature" have you found your place at Emanuel or have time and talent to serve more at church?

Have you found your place in the choir? Emanuel has many opportunities for you to serve our Lord. If you haven't found your place or you have time and talent to serve

more, please consider the following:

- ➡ Worship
- ➡ Home Communion Minister
- ➡ Usher
- ➡ Altar Care
- ➡ Nursery Care
- ➡ Music
- ➡ Help our Youth Group with a meal, activity, or Bible Study
- ➡ Member of the Prayer Chain
- ➡ Serve at Gospel Mission or Family Promise, (cook a meal, host an evening, spend a night)
- ➡ Host Sunday Hospitality Table
- ➡ Funeral Luncheon Helper
- ➡ General Cleaning
- ➡ General Repairs
- ➡ Mowing Grass, Maintenance, Flower Planting
- ➡ Computer Tech Support

- ➡ Assist in Newsletter Mailing
- ➡ Assist with Mailing Prep (Stuff, Stamp, Address)
- ➡ Make and Receive Phone Calls
- ➡ Operate the Copy Machine
- ➡ Help with potlucks.



There's a place for all God's Creatures at Emanuel. Please speak to Suzanne Wilke or Debbie Van Diepen if you'd like to help at Emanuel.

- The Stewardship Team

# Call Committee Update

Submitted by the Emanuel Call Committee

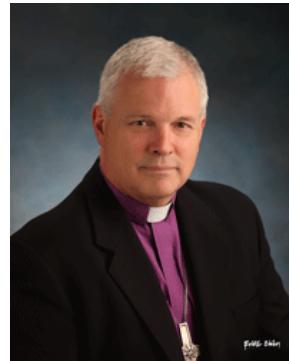
In May, the call committee met with Bishop Mark Holmerud of our Sierra Pacific Synod and received a list of candidates and information packets for each of them. The committee must hold this list in strict confidentiality to protect the privacy of candidates willing to be considered.

The call process now enters a new, exciting phase that leads directly to calling our new pastor. The next step for the call committee requires them to develop a set of interview questions. They may perform a practice interview with the assistance of the Bishop to hone the questions they developed.



The committee then interviews all the candidates by Skype. After the initial interview, the committee may eliminate one or more candidates from further consideration, but they have been instructed to be cautious about doing so prematurely. A candidate's qualities may become more apparent in the face-to-face interview than through a medium such as Skype.

Each remaining candidate will then be interviewed in person by the call committee. These interviews remain confidential. Hopefully, after the in-person interviews the call committee can recommend a single candidate



to the Council. However, in the event that they deem none of the candidates suitable, they would return to the Bishop and request a new list.

In the more likely case that the committee brings forward a suitable person, the Council must then develop a financial package to offer to the pastoral candidate. Next, the committee and the Council bring that candidate to the congregation as a whole. A congregational forum will introduce us to the details of the candidate, followed by a "Meet and Greet" social time that will enable everyone to meet our potential new pastor.

Following the "Meet and Greet", there will be a congregational meeting. A new pastor is called by a consenting vote of the congregation.



A 2/3 majority ballot vote is required to approve the call. Assuming that this vote is successful, there will be a second vote to approve the financial package offered to the candidate by a simple majority of those voting. Assuming both votes are positive, the candidate has 30 days to either accept or reject the call.

If the call from Emanuel is accepted, the candidate likely will need a few weeks before assuming full-time duties at Emanuel. That will give the Emanuel family time to prepare for the arrival of a new congregational shepherd and guide.



Needless to say, this is exciting news and we look forward to rapid closure and successfully concluding this long, careful process. As Sue pointed out, though, when we make our call we need to remember to be kind to our new pastor.



# June News

## Termite Update

We're on the home stretch now, but several tasks remain. Before tenting, we must remove all awnings, hand out flyers to neighbors, contact PG&E, remove all food stuffs, plan security during tenting and notify the alarm company. Some metal flashing still needs repair, but this can be done after tenting.



We will have a workday on Saturday June 28 to complete the last minute items before the building is tented the following week.

We do not expect any disruption of worship activities before or after the tenting, but the office and daycare will be closed that week.

As part of this activity, we will be moving our routine pest control agreement to Clarke, the company that has eradicated the termites.

## Congregational Meeting

We must hold a Congregational Meeting to elect our new Church Council members. **The date for this meeting is June 8.**



## Congregational Meeting

## Confirmation Sunday

On June 1, Pastor Roger Lee will confirm three members of his current class: Azaria Martinez, Elijah Niblett, and Brett Shank. They need your love and support that day and in the days to come.

## Thursday Morning Bible Study

Are you looking for a great Bible Study Group? If so, consider joining the Thursday Morning Adult Bible Study, which meets in Katie's Room at 9:30 every Thursday morning.



We are now studying the Book of 1 Thessalonians. Come and join us -- all are welcome.

## Women of the ELCA

Marsha Waggoner and Kristine Kraft will be attending the Ninth Triennial Gathering in NC on July 24-27. In-kind gifts are about relationships and partnerships. They are a way for all women to participate in the triennial gathering, whether attending the event or not. If you would like to contribute, Marsha and Kristine will take the following gifts to Charlotte:

- ➲ **Gift Cards:** Gift cards can be purchased in any amount, beginning with a minimum of \$10, from the following national retailers: Target, Walmart, and K-mart. Visa cards are also welcome.
- ➲ **Hygiene items:** Toothbrushes (in original packaging), dental floss, wide-toothed hair combs and brushes.
- ➲ **Clothing:** Socks in any size and color for women, teen girls and teen boys.

If you prefer to donate by check, please make your check to Emanuel's WELCA. Then we will write one check from Emanuel's WELCA to take to the Gathering.

Thank you for giving.

## Sunday Potluck

We'll have a potluck lunch on June 22 right after worship. The theme is "Good Old Summer Day". Debbie van Diepen is forming a committee to get this organized, so please offer her your help.

## Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Planning is under way for a family-oriented event this summer. Please reserve July 26 and 27 for this fun and educational opportunity. We plan to include meals both days and integrate Sunday morning worship into the program. If you would like to participate and contribute ideas or activities, please speak to Lois Owen or Paula Barton.

## PFLAG Pot Luck

On April 15th Emanuel Lutheran congregation had a wonderful Pot Luck dinner and visit with the PFLAG folks. PFLAG uses our facilities for their monthly meetings and also for a social time and game night.

Virginia Dall read a poem she had written to the group before dinner and everyone loved it. We had a great dinner, visited and then it was game time. Many gathered around tables to play cards while others just kept on visiting.

All too soon it was time to go. We enjoyed making new friends and talked about getting together again soon. Stay tuned.....

## 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 extend a hand to help keep 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, June 14, 2014
- ➡ 8:30 am to 10:30 am
- ➡ Meet at the playground, corner of Morris and Virginia.

See you there Emanuel Lutheran Congregation!

## Circle Meetings

Leah Circle meets Thursday, June 12 at 9:30 am at Linda Lowe's home.



Rebecca circle meets Thursday, June 19, 1:30 pm, in the home of Elaine Urch. Our study will be from the Gather Magazine: "Of Many Generations", Session 1 "Elizabeth and Mary".

Lydia Circle meets Monday, June 16, 7:30 pm at the home of Debbie Van Diepen.

Priscilla Circle will not be meeting again until Fall. We'll see you then!

## Youth Group Activities

We had a great time last month on our nature walk to Tuolumne River Park (thank you Chris Schmidt).

We have many events planned for the summer. If you are a youth or know a youth who would like to come, please join us.

Many thanks on behalf of the youth for all who have donated and helped with meals and activities.



# May Council Notes

Submitted by Mike Epting and Debbie van Diepen

## Call Committee Report

Kathleen Reuter updated the Council on the status of the call process. Her report is summarized in a separate article on Page 3.

## Termite Report Update

Bob Reuter summarized progress and future plans associated with our termite infestation. See the June news item on Page 4.

## Day Care Report

Plans to meet the state-mandated minimum wage changes have now been finalized. Wage increases will be effective July 1 and potentially again on January 1, 2015. Tuition increases to cover these increased costs are about \$40 per month per child, depending on the number of days and the age/potty training of the child.

Laura Marquez, the Day Care Director, will not receive a pay raise but will have the opportunity to receive an incentive cash bonus for the fiscal year ending July 15, 2015. The amount of this bonus is one-half of the annual net income of the center for that year. Current projections put that bonus at \$4000,

but that depends on maintaining the current excellent performance.

For April, Day Care reported a loss of about \$3,400 but this is entirely due to late payment by Stanislaus County. We expect them to be caught up by the end of May.

The current janitorial service is performing poorly and Day Care has requested that we replace them. Resource Ministry took the action to fix this problem.

Bill Reinheimer, who is completing his term on the Council, will begin serving on the Day Care Board.

## Facility Usage

A photography club has requested the use of our facility for bi-monthly meetings on a weekday evening. Council authorized Debbie to permit this use for our standard usage fee.

We have also received a request to use our facility for a classical guitar recital. Again, we authorized Debbie to follow up on this.

## FY 2015 Budget

Treasurer Bob Reuter presented a draft budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. He included

an excellent overview of our current financial situation with the budget. His package shows that our projected total income for the current FY, which ends June 30, 2014 falls well short of our budget for that period (\$200,189 projected vs. \$221,855 budget). However, our projected total expenses also fall well below our budget (\$165,681 projected vs. \$221,823 budget).

The current fiscal year's expenses do not include the administrator's salary and benefits since Roberta Wall resigned, nor the salary and benefits for Pastor Niemi since he resigned. When the congregation calls a new pastor this next fiscal year the salary and benefits will increase. As a consequence our proposed budget for next year assumes a modest increase in income and expenditures that result in a balanced budget with income and expenses of about \$204,189 for FY2015.



Council approved the draft budget and it will be submitted to the congregation as a whole at the meeting on June 8.

## April Financial Report

Again, results were positive, with the exception of the Day Care shortfall mentioned above. The small gain in the Building Fund is heartening, but we need to continue this trend because the account was nearly depleted.

	INCOME	EXPENSES	MONTHLY GAIN/LOSS
General Fund (operations only)	18,417	(11,899)	6,518
Building Fund (Including fundraisers)	7,680	(7,170)	510
Day Care (operations only)	18,278	(21,698)	(3,421)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>44,375</b>	<b>(40,767)</b>	<b>3,608</b>

# June Birthdays

Birthday Blessing Sunday is June 15

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



Drew Shank	Skip Hoover	Greg Schroeder	Jenna Ferriera	
June 2	June 8	June 15	June 21	
Stephanie McCready	Joanne Sample	Megan Armes	Nirul Wheeler-Castleberry	
June 3	June 8	June 16	June 23	
Pat Norquist	Rob Shank	Kailyn Knoll	Riley Kroeze	Zachary Crawford
June 3	June 11	June 16	June 25	June 29
Lisa Poston	Hank Retford	Jeri Johnson	Thomas Norquist	Vera Eden
June 3	June 14	June 20	June 26	June 29
Alicia Martinez	Harvey Hardel	Nancy Jones	Rebecca Owen	Emma Hoover
June 6	June 15	June 20	June 26	June 30

## June Prayer Requests

### New Prayer Requests:

- ⌚ Bill and Marcia Webb—healing (Reinheimers)
- ⌚ William Teaney—healing (broken hip)

### Our Members:

- ⌚ Drew Shank
- ⌚ Dee Woodbury
- ⌚ Dianne Santana
- ⌚ Ben Knoll
- ⌚ Susan Hayes
- ⌚ Alex Tisdel
- ⌚ Lori Knoll

### Our Homebound Members:

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

### 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)
- ⌚ Boyce and Norma Lutes (Teaney)
- ⌚ Julia Polillio (Silva)
- ⌚ Jason Odoms (Castleberry)
- ⌚ Tami Garza (J. Johnson)

- ⌚ Ali Moraitis (Watkins)
- ⌚ Jennifer Turner (P. Smith)
- ⌚ Giovanni King (Santana)
- ⌚ Bub Mayfield (Ixcot)
- ⌚ Jane Tisdel (Tisdel)
- ⌚ Harold Graff (Owen)

### Our Friends:

- ⌚ Devon (Fritts)
- ⌚ Marc Weiss & family (Reinheimer)
- ⌚ Jordan (K. Dailey)
- ⌚ Roger Warner (Schmidt)
- ⌚ Jennifer (Watkins)
- ⌚ Irene Whitmore (Rowland)
- ⌚ Barbara (Owen)
- ⌚ Donna Thayer (Peterson)
- ⌚ Karen & Michelle (Watkins)
- ⌚ Rosie Egesdal (Nelson)
- ⌚ Linda and Dave (Watkins)
- ⌚ Pam Forrette (Salonen)
- ⌚ Jeanne (Watkins)
- ⌚ Kent and Sarah Walton (Teaney)
- ⌚ Helen Deve (Crawford)
- ⌚ John Turner (Turner)
- ⌚ Wayne & Beverly Knox (Teaney)
- ⌚ Bonney Vincent (Norquist)
- ⌚ Tim O'Rourke (Murray)
- ⌚ Shawn Knutson (Wilke)
- ⌚ Scott Farrel (Crawford)
- ⌚ Bud Stone & family (Reinheimer)
- ⌚ Rev. Benny and Regina Bush

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

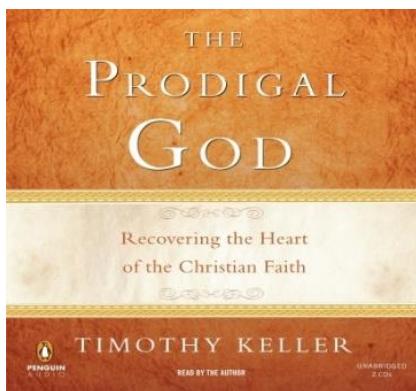
- ⌚ Ryan Dangerfield, USAF in Lakenheath Air Base, England and Joey Sabel, USMC in North Carolina (Marilyn & Chuck Rowland's grandson & grandson-in-law)
- ⌚ Timothy Kramer in Afghanistan (Megan Armes' brother)
- ⌚ Ryan Powell, USN, Connecticut (grandson of Yvonne Troedson)

# Epilogue

(You may safely skip this...)

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

Some of us have been meeting on Sunday mornings at 8:30 to discuss a book and videos: "The Prodigal God" by Timothy Keller. The topic focuses on the parable of the prodigal son as told by Luke in chapter 15.



This has long been my personal favorite parable, but I was shocked to discover how shallow my understanding of its purpose and meaning had been until now. I suspect I'm not alone in this, because the conventional name of this parable rather completely misses the point. As Keller points out, there are two sons in the story and both are lost to sin.

In our discussions, we generally agreed that the elder son actually has less chance for salvation than the younger son. The younger obviously sins and realizes that he needs to repent and change his ways. The elder, however, has lived his life in strict accordance with the rules and it is likely going to be very difficult for him to realize how lost he is.

Keller points out that neither son seems to love his father and both simply want his possessions. They take different approaches, however. The younger demands his share, regardless of the consequences to



the family, but the older brother attempts to earn his share through his good works. Sadly, he seems to have little respect for his father, however, and brings shame to him when the time comes for him to be supportive. He is oblivious to the love his father has for both brothers and doesn't recognize the graciousness of his behavior.



Our group wondered about the title of the book. It turns out that none of us knew the actual definition of "prodigal":

1. recklessly extravagant
2. having spent everything

These definitions apply as much to the father as to the younger son. The father essentially destroys his estate by his actions of profligate love. Keller reminds us that God's grace is, in fact, prodigal. We can't earn it by our works and we can't lose it by our shortcomings.

Jesus, when he told this story, was addressing both the "sinners" and

the Pharisees and teachers. The former would be expected to see themselves in the younger brother and the latter would angrily see that Jesus compares them to the elder brother. They obey the rules not out of love, but as a means of controlling God. They want to force God to give them what they want by extravagantly following the Law.

Jesus, as usual, does not propose a middle way, but rather a different way. He challenged his listeners to not only change their behavior but to change their hearts. Only by acting on the basis of love can we leave sin behind and behave in a way that pleases his Father.

Keller points out other examples of the younger son/elder son story. In "Amadeus", Salieri is the older son and Mozart is the younger. Horribly, when Salieri realizes that he has not controlled God by following His rules, he totally rejects God and is lost in bitterness, hate, and despair.

During one discussion Kristine Kraft brought up the "war" between the Anglicans and Episcopalians, but said she had forgotten who was which. I pointed out that the Episcopalians are the younger son and the Anglicans are the eldest son in the parable. Neither side seems to be acting out of love and both need to find a new way.

I suppose that in politics we might regard the Democrats as the younger son and the Republicans as the elder. Note again, that the middle way is likely not the right answer.

I highly recommend both the book and the DVD. Please talk to Lois Owen about borrowing either or both..

# Emanuel Calendar of Events June 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>CONFIRMATION</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b> 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Van Diepen	<b>3</b> 7:00 pm PFLAG Meeting- Healthy Transitions	<b>4</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm CANA	<b>5</b> 9:30 am Bible Study	<b>6</b> Office Closed 6:00 pm DAY CARE ART GALA	<b>7</b> 10:00 am Organ practice
<b>8</b> <b>PENTECOST</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Congregational Meeting 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Van Diepen	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Ministry Meeting	<b>12</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Leah Circle @ Lowe's	<b>13</b> Office Closed	<b>14</b> 8:30 am Virginia Corridor Clean Up (CANA) 10:00 am Organ practice
<b>15</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 7:30 pm Lydia Circle @ Van Diepen	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm PFLAG Social Evening	<b>18</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm CANA 7:00 pm Council Mtg.	<b>19</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 1:30 pm Rebecca Circle @ Urch's	<b>20</b> Office Closed	<b>21</b> 10:00 am Organ practice
<b>22</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Summertime Potluck @ Emanuel 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Van Diepen	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	<b>26</b> 9:30 am Bible Study	<b>27</b> Office Closed	<b>28</b> PREPARE KITCHEN FOR EXTERMINATOR 10:00 am Organ practice
<b>29</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b> <b>CHURCH BUILDINGS/GROUNDS CLOSED (MAINTENANCE)</b> 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Van Diepens					