

The Echoes Emanuel Lutheran Church

July 2014

THE MEANING OF LIFE IS DISCOVERED IN THE EXPERIENCE.

ABOUT US

From the President

by Suzanne Wilke, Council President

I can't believe another month has gone by. Here we are at the end of June. We have continued with pulpit supply as we await the Call Committee to complete the interview phase. Hopefully, we will receive word soon that they have found a candidate to present to the Council.

We held our Annual Meeting, Part 1, this month. At this meeting we elected four people to Council: Jim Barton, Mike Epting, Lois Owen and Karl Williams. We thanked out-going members Bob Dailey, Kelly Dailey and Bill Reinheimer for their service on Council. We also passed the budget for 2014-2015. Many thanks to Bob Reuter, Treasurer and Robin Swearinger, Bookkeeper, for their diligence in creating this budget. Marilyn Rowland and Paula Kroeze reported on the Synod Conference. Thanks to these ladies and to Chuck Rowland for serving as our representatives to the Conference.



The Council selected the following as officers for the coming year: Suzanne Wilke, President; David Holtz, Vice President; Bob Reuter, Treasurer; Debbie VanDiepen, Secretary. It will be an honor to serve with these officers and our Council members as we prepare to work with a new pastor.

Finally, I continue to marvel that we, as lay members, have managed not only to hold the church together, but to move forward as one congregation. It occurred to me, as I returned last Sunday after a week in Mexico, that when I was not there to do my job, others stepped up and did it for me. This tells me that the work

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

of the church does not fall on one person, but on all of us. Whenever there is a gap, others fill in, so that the work continues. Thank you all for being amazing people.

Sue Ruth, Pastor Bill's wife, made the remark to me as we visited

during the potluck last Sunday that whoever accepts the call to our church will truly be blessed by working with our congregation. I took that as the highest compliment anyone could pay our congregation.

OUR MISSION

Sharing Christ's transforming grace with everyone.

Stewardship Ministry Message

Submitted by the Emanuel Stewardship Team

"Summertime, and the livin' is easy. Fish are jumpin'... Vacation time is here. The mountains, lakes, ocean, and God's country is calling. But don't leave home without your Emanuel's Survival Kit:

- ➔ Prayer Requests List (Found in your weekly bulletin or monthly Echoes)
- ➔ Our Daily Bread devotional (Found in the hymn rack of each pew in church. They are placed there by Emanuel's WELCA for your taking.)

Pray for God's desire for our congregation and Emanuel's calling. Reflection and prayer can happen any time and any place.

"What a privilege we have to fellowship with God in prayer and to wait for the answer in the fullness of His time.

—Anne Cetas

"Pray on! Pray on! Cease not to pray, And should the answer tarry, wait; Thy God will come, will surely come, And He can never come too late."

—Chisholm

"Pray all the time."

—1 Thessalonians 5:17

Don't forget your pledges to Emanuel before you go on vacation.

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.



The Un-VBS: Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Submitted by Paula Barton

Experience the power of “walking where Jesus walked.” Discover connections between the Holy Land and many of the features of our church and our practices. We’re currently taking reservations for a “pilgrimage” to the Holy Land. This unique opportunity is intended for all members and friends of Emanuel of all ages, including families, couples and singles.



meal in the Upper Room, and a feast beside the Sea of Galilee are just a few of the many excursions scheduled on the tour.



Travelers will have a rare opportunity to experience kibbutz-style living, as they share the tasks of cooking, serving, and clean-up during the trip. Departure time is noon, July 26th. We’ll return to Modesto at noon on July 27th.

Prayers at the Wailing Wall, a Seder



For more information about this once in a lifetime congregational event, and to reserve your ticket, check the travel poster in the Narthex, or contact one of our travel agents who are waiting to assist you: Lois Owen, Paula Barton, or Karen Lee.



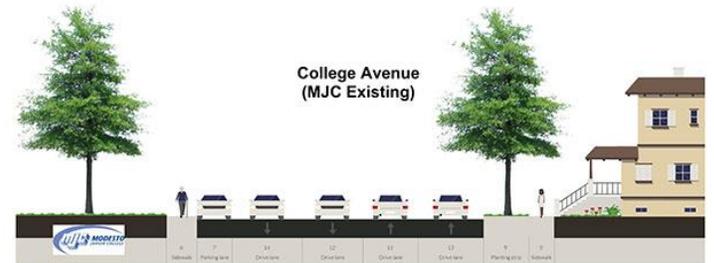
Road Changes on College Avenue

From CANA Newsletter

Big changes are being considered for College Ave. Recently the City of Modesto compiled some ideas on how to make the street safer and easier to use. Before any changes are made, they want input from those who live in the neighborhood.

The alternate option for College Ave., shown in the figure, is to include bike lanes on both sides, single two way lanes (down from two), and a parking lane.

College Area Neighborhood Alliance will hold a discussion meeting here at Emanuel on Wednesday July 16 at 6 pm. City representatives will be joining our safety meeting to explain their ideas and answer questions. If you want us to pass along your questions, email them to



info@canamodesto.org, and we will provide them to the city.

See you at the meeting. Bring your neighbor!

Reflections on Synod Assembly

Submitted by Paula Kroeze

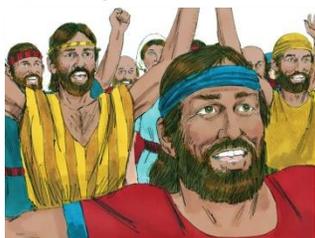
Thank you to the members of Emanuel for sending me to this year's Synod Assembly. At our Congregational Meeting, Marilyn Rowland presented an excellent report on the business of the assembly. I offer here some reflections.

My favorite parts are always the worship, keynote speaker, and Bible study. Why? Because the leaders are always the best of the best. Listening to the keynote and also the Bible study leader I could not help hearing the message in relation to my role as a member of the call committee. So, while reading this, think of the future of Emanuel, think of calling a new pastor.

The one line that stands out from the keynote address is, "Resurrection is not resuscitation." After Christ's resurrection he was not recognized. The women at the tomb on Easter morning thought he was the gardener. The disciples on the road thought he was another traveler. The disciples fishing thought he was someone on the shore telling them how to fish. I'm thinking about Emanuel. We are going through a resurrection of sorts. What will we look like? What does God want us to look like? What is going to happen?



Dr. Steed Davidson led the Bible studies. The first session focused on 1 Samuel 8:1-9. Here Samuel was an old man. The people of Israel were calling for a king. Samuel kept saying no. He said kings are bad. But, God told Samuel, "Listen to the people. Hear what they are saying." God accepted their rejection. (Being God he probably understood it and was expecting it.)



Dr. Davidson pointed out that this change to a having a king took many, many generations. Years of trial and error before the right time had come. But the time had come. Why? Because the nations around Israel had changed. The Israelites needed a king to be a better and stronger Israel. The point is that having a king wasn't the problem; what the king did was the issue. Would the king lead the people into God's covenant or would the king set up a hierarchy of power and wealth ruling over less powerful and poor?

Change just happens. It is unstoppable. It is mostly slow, it doesn't happen overnight, but its time will come. Change shouldn't be the problem. Will there be a leader to take us into the future or a

manager to manage the status quo? Resurrection or resuscitation?

Dr. Davidson's second lesson was on Acts 16:1-5. Dr. Davidson's theme here was that God creates newness by pushing and pulling, stretching. There was a lot of pushing and pulling in the early church. Here Paul finds Timothy. Timothy is the perfect person at the perfect time. His mother is Jewish, his father is Greek. He was uncircumcised which means he was probably not brought up in a Jewish household. Also, it was a huge issue at the time. Read Acts 15:1-21. Timothy represents the future of the church. He has no boundaries, no set ideology. He represents Grace in an unlikely body.



Paul and Timothy are spreading the message to everyone they meet. The book of Acts is calling the church to that vision. No limits, no boundaries. Will we be like Timothy? The perfect people at the perfect time? Bringing our Faith into the future? No limits, no boundaries? Will there be a leader keeping us grounded in our faith while leading us past limitations and boundaries? Resurrection or resuscitation?

In both of these lessons the timing had to be right to be successful. We cannot push it forward or push it back. Emanuel lives in the present, not in the future or the past; there really isn't a choice about it. But still the question remains, resurrection or resuscitation? Has anyone heard of "Lutheran Church of the Resuscitation?"

July News

A Gift from your Synod Resource Center

The Bible Tutor

This award-winning interactive study tool takes you on an engaging, comprehensive journey through the Bible. This online software allows you to jump directly to the information you seek and to move at your own pace. It also links you directly to various versions of the Bible on the Internet. You can even test your knowledge as you go with Bible Tutor's self-test.



This blending of ancient text and modern technology is designed to expand your knowledge of the Bible. Bible Tutor, developed at Luther Seminary, allows you to follow a planned course of study or tailor your studies according to your own interests or schedule.

The Synod Resource Center has purchased the license for this program for one year. You are invited to use this and to share the password. Contact the Resource Center to get the password and other related material. Call: 559 345-2725, or email: rspselca@pacbell.net

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Are you looking for a great Bible Study Group? If so, consider joining the Thursday Morning Adult Bible Study, which usually meets in Katie's

Room at 9:30 every Thursday morning.

However, we are taking the month of July off because of vacations in our group. We will be back to our Bible Study on August 7th. Please plan on joining us!

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 gifts to Charlotte.

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.



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, July 5, 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 7 pm at Mary Murray's home.

Lydia Circle meets Monday, July 21, 7:30 pm at the home of Suzanne Wilke.



Rebecca Circle will not be meeting in the months July and August. We'll be back with lots of energy in September. Stay tuned for where we will be meeting.

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

Sierra Pacific Synod WELCA Fall Retreat

The Fall retreat will be October 11 from 10 am to 3:30 pm at Good Shepherd in Concord, CA. This will be a service project retreat, with opportunities to work on several projects. The retreat will include a speaker and lunch will be provided. The July Cross Currents Newsletter will have more retreat information and registration materials. Cost will be minimal.

Please see Debbie if you don't currently subscribe to Cross Currents.

June Council Notes

Submitted by Mike Epting and Debbie van Diepen

Church Council Officers

Council voted to retain the current officers for another year:

- **President: Suzanne Wilke**
- **Vice President: David Holtz**
- **Secretary: Debbie Van Diepen**
- **Treasurers: Robert Reuter**

Call Committee Status

The Call Committee had no specific updates for us. They are currently interviewing candidates.

Termite Report Update

Brian Skustad summarized the status of our termite infestation. The only large remaining task is tenting and eradication. A workday on June 28 will complete preparations for tenting and some cleanup work will follow. The actual tenting will be on Monday, June 30 and the facility can be used again beginning on Thursday, July 3.

Day Care Report

Daycare had another good month. Enrollment has been steady despite

May Financial Report

Our monthly income again fell below budget. Because we are not currently paying a pastor's salary and benefits, our expenses were even more below budget. As a result, we were able to achieve a positive change in funds for the month. The Building Fund reversed its recent positive performance and our balance is again just slightly more than one month's loan payment. That loan now shows a principal balance of \$827,764; we have been steadily paying this down. Daycare showed a small negative for the month but is still showing a healthy gain for the year.

	INCOME	EXPENSES	MONTHLY GAIN/LOSS
General Fund (operations only)	15,743	(10,905)	4,838
Building Fund (Including fundraisers)	6,392	(7,170)	(778)
Day Care (operations only)	17,801	(18,451)	(650)
TOTALS	39,936	(36,526)	3,410

the normal summer slowdown. Financials for May were good, but would be better if the county had paid their obligation more promptly. Janitorial service has been satisfactory following a commitment from the service's owners.

Facility Usage

A Girl Scout group has asked to use our facility for a monthly training meeting. We informed them that they could use one of the youth rooms, but not Luther Hall. We also informed the CANA organization that they could continue to meet at Emanuel, but would need to use a youth room. We agreed that we would make an exception for July, because of the potential large interest in that meeting.

Keys and keycode lists are now under control and new codes will be assigned soon.

Administration Policies

We are in the process of reviewing and updating our specific policies. Several policies have been modified



slightly to bring them in line with current practices. Council has drafts for review and plans to approve the changes at our July meeting. These include:

- **Memorial Fund Policy**
- **Kitchen Use Policy**
- **Policy on Reimbursements and Charges**

Worship

Two Sundays in August are currently open, but our guest pastors have uniformly enjoyed their experience at Emanuel. The positive response to the single service suggests that we may wish to continue this schedule after we call a new pastor.

Prayer Chain

Debbie issued an up-to-date prayer chain that enables rapid communication of critical prayer needs.

July Birthdays

Birthday Blessing Sunday is July 20

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

Connie Petersen	Linda Nelson	John Wilson	Barbara Vukich
Bob Koehler	Arie Kroeze	Barbara Bauman	Tera Lynn Glandon-Yarnel
Debra Van Diepen	Yvonne Troedson	Patricia Smith	Michael Epting
Janice Watkins	Alice Hoaglund	Karryn Salonen	William Reinheimer



Elena Wilson
Tamera Gierhan

July Prayer Requests

New Prayer Requests:

- Daphne—healing (Owen)
- Marlissa Ferreira and family as they provide comfort and support to her ailing father, Marvin Ferreira
- Comfort and peace for the family & friends of Lou Diehl as they care for her through her final days (Hoaglund)

Our Members:

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

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)
- Marsha Schlipman (Nelson)
- Jack Peterson (Peterson)
- Geraldine Walton (Hollmann)
- Boyce and Norma Lutes (Teaney)
- Julia Polillio (Silva)
- Tami Garza (J. Johnson)
- Ali Moraitis (Watkins)
- Jennifer Turner (P. Smith)
- Giovanni King (Santana)
- Jane Tisdel (Tisdel)
- Harold Graff (Owen)
- George Reinheimer and family (Reinheimer)

Our Friends:

- Devon (Fritts)
- Roger Warner (Schmidt)
- Barbara (Owen)
- Rosie Equesdal (Nelson)
- Jeanne (Watkins)
- John Turner (Turner)
- Tim O'Roerk (Murray)
- Bud Stone & family (Reinheimer)
- 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
- Jordan (K. Dailey)
- Irene Whitmore (Rowland)
- Karen & Michelle (Watkins)
- Pam Forrette (Salonen)
- Bonney Vincent (Norquist)
- Scott Farrel (Crawford)
- Bill and Marcia Webb (Reinheimers)

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

A couple of Wednesdays ago, Tom Hardin mentioned that the bishop had decreed that we should keep the Pentecost banners up for a couple of extra weeks this year. I say, "Three cheers for our bishop!" Those banners are gorgeous and significant.



We've heard a lot about Pentecost lately, but in case you missed some of it:

Pentecost comes from the Greek *Pentēkostē*, "the fiftieth [day]" and we Christians celebrate it 7 weeks (49 days) after Easter. The disciples were gathered that day to celebrate the Hebrew festival of Shavuot, on the 50th day after the Passover. At this feast, they celebrated the giving of the Law on Sinai.

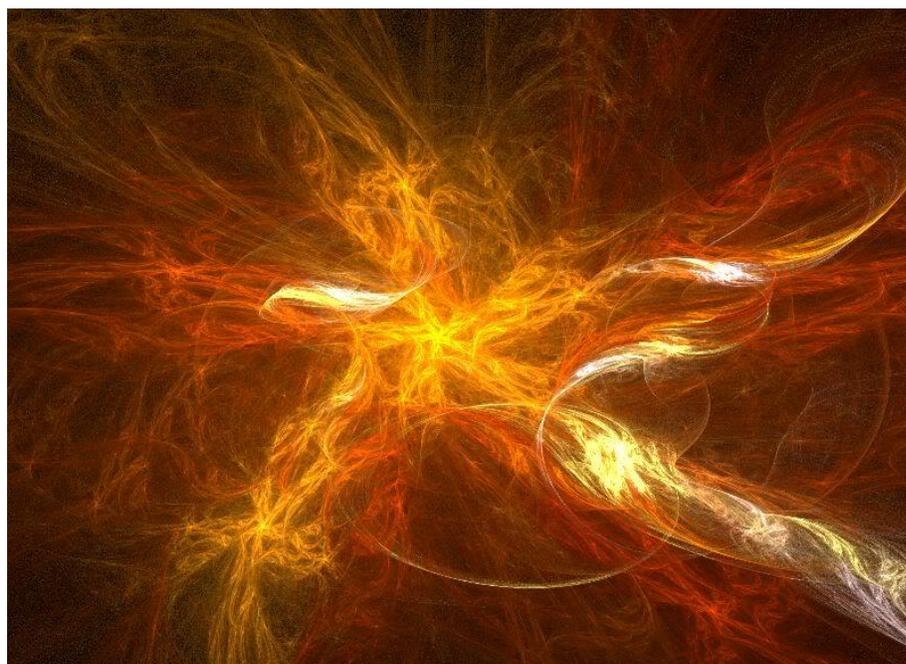
For us, though, it's a celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the gathered disciples, as described in Acts 2:1-6:

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled

all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

You'll note that the dove is missing from this description and the wind is missing from the banners. The latter is probably because it's hard to make a picture of the wind. The dove isn't there in Acts, but all four Gospels mention the dove representing the Holy Spirit at Jesus's baptism.

Here's a picture that manages to capture all three aspects of the Holy Spirit:



I'm not always a big fan of abstract art, but this one nails it for me.

I was pleased about the bishop's announcement because after Pentecost comes the dreaded "Season after Pentecost". This season is also commonly called "Ordinary Time". It is by far the longest season of the church calendar, stretching from Pentecost to Advent. Personally, I prefer "Extraordinary Time", which, believe it or not, is the rest of the calendar, encompassing Advent, Christmas,

Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. So if the bishop wants to stretch extraordinary a little bit, I'm good with that.

To be fair, "ordinary" doesn't really mean "boring". During "Ordinary Time", rather than moving from season to season, we simply move from Sunday to Sunday. Each Sunday is individually counted as the Xth (ordinal number, for those who remember some math) Sunday after Pentecost. During this season we are called to live out the Gospel day by day, one day at a time, not only in the notable experiences of life, but also in the mundane.

The first part of the Christian Year (extraordinary time) corresponds to the Gospel story. This second part of the year (ordinary time) celebrates the continuing story of Jesus as seen in Acts, and as we continue to experience it today.

Well, that's pretty extraordinary, too, so when Tom finally takes those Pentecost banners down, let's all get on with living the rest of the story.

Emanuel Calendar of Events July 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 CHURCH BUILDINGS/ GROUNDS CLOSED (MAINTENANCE) 7:00 pm PFLAG Meeting	2 CHURCH BUILDINGS/ GROUNDS CLOSED (MAINTENANCE) 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	3 CHURCH BUILDINGS/ GROUNDS CLOSED (MAINTENANCE)	4 Office Closed	5 10:00 am Organ practice
6 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal	7 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Wilke	8	9 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Ministry Meeting	10 7:00 pm Leah Circle	11 Office Closed	12 Youth at Norquist Cabin 10:00 am Organ practice
13 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal	14 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Wilke	15 7:00 pm 7p PFLAG Social Evening	16 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Council Mtg.	17	18 Office Closed	19 10:00 am Organ practice
20 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal	21 7:30 pm Lydia Circle @ Wilke	22	23 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	24	25 Office Closed	26 Pilgrimage to The Holy Land 10:00 am Organ practice
27 Pilgrimage to The Holy Land 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal	28 Echoes Deadline 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Wilke	29	30 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	31		