



The Echoes Emanuel Lutheran Church

August 2014

HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FRUITLESS DEEDS OF DARKNESS...

ABOUT US

From the President

by Suzanne Wilke, Council President

When I first received the news from the Call Committee that they had decided none of the available candidates were a match for our congregation, I was extremely disappointed. My first thought was, "Oh, no. How much longer can this go on?" Then I realized what courage it took for them to make that decision, knowing how anxiously we all await the day when we will have our new Pastor. Truly it does not make sense to settle. I have faith that there is a Pastor out there who will be a good fit for us. If we have to wait a few more weeks, we can do it.

We have had the opportunity to experience a variety of wonderful Pastors in the last six months. After each service, there have been many positive comments about the sermon we have just heard. We have some new Pastors and Pastors-to-be

coming in the next few weeks that I am sure we will also find inspiring. On August 10, we will have the opportunity to worship with Pr. Marvin Abrahamson who will present a program after the service about his work with Food for the Poor. In following weeks, we have the unique opportunity to give the experience of presiding and preaching to a couple of seminary students. I thank God for these blessings.

In the meantime, I assure you that the work of the church continues thanks to the many volunteer hours that our members contribute. We have the Annual Meeting, Part 2, on August 17. Please make every effort to stay after the service for that meeting. The Council reports will be



Emanuel is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday Worship:
9:30 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
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made available, and we will elect representatives to the Synod Conventions for next year. We will also elect the Nominating Committee whose duty it will be to present a slate of members to serve on Council. Please pray about serving in either of these capacities.

Thanks to everyone who was involved in the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It's always fun to try new ideas, and I know a lot of time and effort by a lot of people went in to the planning and executing of this event.

Call Committee Report

Submitted by Kathleen Reuter

The Call Committee has requested a second list of candidates from Bishop Mark Holmerud. After interviewing all candidates in the first list, some were no longer available due to reasons unrelated to Emanuel. After prayerfully considering the remaining candidates, the committee agreed to request a new list from Bishop Holmerud, a process that will take several weeks.

This is not where the committee had hoped to be at this point, nor is it what we had anticipated, but we remain confident that we are allowing the Spirit to guide us in this journey. All members of the Call Committee are dedicated to finding the candidate that we can joyously recommend for call. We trust that

the care and time taken now will be a benefit to the congregation in the years to come. We are convinced that the call process is in the hands of God; it will proceed in God's time and according to God's plan. As soon as we receive the new candidate profiles from the Bishop's office, the committee will move with all haste to evaluate and interview each one.

As all wait upon the work of the Call Committee, we ask that you continue to pray for Paula Barton, Elaine Ixcot, Jeri Johnson, Paula Kroeze, Kathleen Reuter, Connor Skustad, and William Teaney, the members of the committee. Pray that they will be led by the Holy Spirit to discern the next pastor God is calling to Emanuel Lutheran Church.



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.

Stewardship Ministry Message: Support and Strengthen Emanuel's Future

Submitted by the Emanuel Stewardship Team

Are we helping to build Emanuel's Future congregation? Our Emanuel congregation has been blessed with many volunteers since we've been without a Pastor. During worship, Emanuel's families have a Children's Time (occasionally a children's song) and a Children's Church with Debbie and Mary. For the older children there is a Youth Group run by parents and volunteers. We also have a great campus and a giving congregation.

Jesus loves each of us (John 3:16) and God is Love (1 John 4:8). The Love of God calls us to service. Paul invested his time with the next generation of believers. The children of Emanuel are our future! In Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children

come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

Proverbs 22:6 says: Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray. Emanuel's children need to be in church on Sundays.

Are we encouraging Emanuel's parents and their children? The May issue of The Lutheran addressed this topic. It suggested some ways to support families and children in worship:

- ➔ **Smile and greet families. Thank the parents for bringing their children to worship. Learn the children's names, greet them at their level, and tell them how happy you are to see them in church.**



- ➔ **Know where the worship bags for children are and encourage families to use them. Children learn about worship by being in church.**

So then, as we have opportunity let us do good to everyone and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10: Blessed be those who bring children to worship. Our children are one of Emanuel's resources. Are you being a good steward with our resources? How can you help? Let's pray for the future of Emanuel and God's direction.

Road Diet for College Avenue (Update)

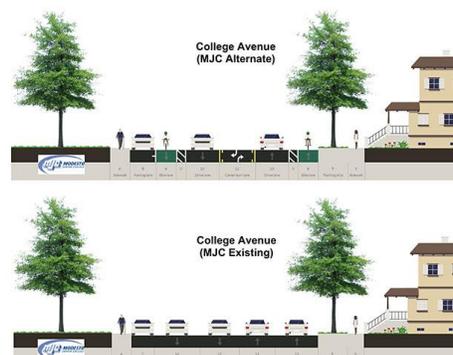
From CANA Newsletter

Last month, the City of Modesto met with College Area Neighborhood Alliance (CANA) residents and MJC administrators to discuss proposed changes to make College Avenue safer and easier to use. While the proposal was generally well-received there were a few specific concerns.

The "diet" consists of changing the lane markings so there would be one lane in each direction for cars and a center lane for left turns. The city would use the space from reducing four traffic lanes to three to create more room for cars parked along the

street, a 6-foot-wide bike lane on each side of the street, and a 2 ½ or 3-foot buffer between the bike lanes and traffic.

Details of the proposal are presented on the CANA website



(www.canamodesto.org). CANA will hold a follow-up meeting here at Emanuel on Wednesday August 13 at 6 pm. City representatives will further explain their ideas and answer questions. If residents are in favor of this proposed "diet" and the city council approves, the project could take place this fall or early spring in conjunction with resurfacing that stretch of College Avenue.

See you at the meeting. Bring your neighbor!

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Submitted by Lois Owen

Photos by Suzanne Wilke

On July 26th, thirty-three pilgrims met at Emanuel to visit the Holy Land. The beginning of the trip found them among the five thousand by the Sea of Galilee where five loaves and two fishes became a delicious lunch of fish stick sandwiches, fruit salad, and Haagen Dazs Ice Cream.



From there, they visited many religious sites in Israel, learning how they relate to our own holy place, Emanuel. Our olive trees became the Mount of Olives where Jesus ascended to Heaven.



Pilgrims left prayers at our own Wailing Wall in the Sanctuary, and learned about the significance of the iconic images in our beautiful stained glass windows.



Next, they visited the Dome of the Rock, where Abraham offered his son, Isaac as a sacrifice to God.



They shared a Seder Meal with Jesus and the disciples in the Upper Room,



and visited the tomb where Jesus was laid.



They walked along the Via Delorosa, and visited the Kidron Valley, the anticipated site of the second coming of the Messiah.

Many pilgrims made Lutheran Rosaries and painted their own

beautiful mosaic tiles, mementoes of their visit to the Dome of the Rock.



For dinner they enjoyed a yummy authentic Israeli meal.



The evening found them back in the Sanctuary for a Taize service, where the altar was lit with ancient oil lamps and pilgrims served each other Holy Communion using matzo and grapes.





The day ended with a campfire in the courtyard where they sang and feasted on S'mores.



Sunday morning the pilgrims returned for a delicious hearty breakfast before church.

Our thanks go out to the many volunteers who contributed time, talent, and effort to make this journey a success!



Youth News

Submitted by Lori Skustad

The youth group had a fun time trying to make clay oil lamps and enjoying pizza for our June meeting. Thanks to the Bartons and Paula Kroeze.

Our July youth group get together was a wonderful pool party and BBQ enjoyed by all. Thank you so much to Tami Geirhan and the Petersen's for putting this together.

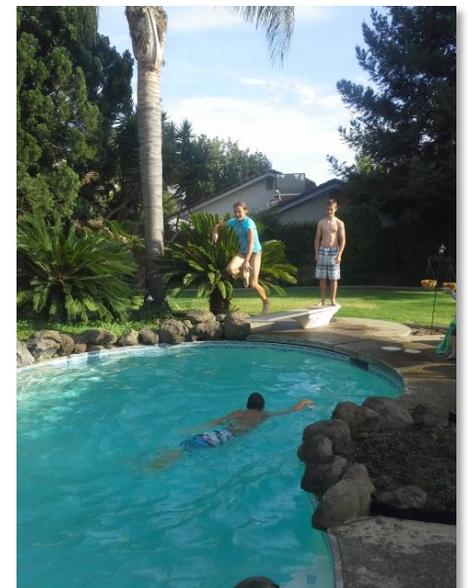


The Youth Group would also like to thank the congregation for their continued support of our recycle program. Last month we took two pickup loads to the recycle center and made over \$200 dollars.



The Youth Group is planning to attend the Sierra Pacific Synod youth gathering for high school age in October and for Middle school age in November. We are planning a river

float trip from Knight's Ferry to Orange Blossom, tentatively on Aug. 31. Anyone who would like to join us is welcome.



August News

All God's Creatures

Pastor Roger will kick off our Stewardship season with a "Blessing of the Animals" on Saturday, September 20 at 5:30 pm. This is a special time for members and friends of all ages to bring any or all of the animals in your household. Even if you're not bringing an animal, come for the fellowship. Emanuel's Youth will be serving root beer floats. Mark your calendar so you won't miss it.



Women of the ELCA

Marsha Waggoner and Kristine Kraft attended the Ninth Triennial Gathering in NC on July 24-27. Here's proof:



Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Thursday Morning Adult Bible Study meets in Katie's Room at 9:30 every Thursday morning.

We took the month of July off because of vacations in our group. We will be back to our Bible Study on

August 7 and will be studying in 1 Timothy. Please plan on joining us!

You Have the Words of Eternal Life

Yes, YOU!

Peter said it about Jesus. But now Jesus says it about you. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:19-20) These are the words with which our Lord commissions all of his disciples. When we read the words of scripture during the service on Sunday we are sharing the words of eternal life. The redeemed life. The new life in Christ. The life that lasts—eternally.



It is no small task. While it may be true that anybody can read, not every reading is riveting. But we might also agree that the words of eternal life ought to, need to, and certainly can engage our imaginations, help us understand the law's demands, and assure us of God's grace.

We will provide a workshop at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 9 in which we will explore many ways and means to improve our reading of scripture aloud in worship. If you are currently serving as a reader or assistant minister, or if you are interested in exploring this opportunity to serve, this one's for

you. Come find out how you can make a difference!

After all, we have the words of eternal life to share, and we want to sound like it!

God Pause Daily Devotions

Looking for spiritual refreshment? God Pause email devotions are short, meaningful reflections on the following Sunday's lessons and gospel delivered directly to your email box. By Sunday, you'll be ready for an extra meaningful worship experience.

The devotion writers are Luther Seminary alumni. Their reflections are a gift to you and to the church. Subscribe at:
<http://www.luthersem.edu/godpause>

College Area Neighborhood Alliance (CANA)



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, August 9, 2014
- 8:30 am to 10:30 am
- Meet at the playground, corner of Morris and Virginia.

Circle Meetings

Leah Circle is taking August off and will resume in September.

Lydia Circle meets Monday, Aug. 18, 7:30 pm at the Schroeder home.

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

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

Church Keys

The Church campus key inventory has been completed.

New and veteran key holders, please see Debbie if you want to do a "practice run" with your key and code number. Plus you will need to know the church password, should the alarm go off by accident. Debbie

will see that you are comfortable and confident with the procedure. Catch her after church or give her a call to set a time to meet.

Confirmation Class

Pastor Lee will be starting Confirmation Classes again this fall. Please see him or call the office if you are interested.

July Council Notes

Submitted by Mike Epting and Debbie Van Diepen

Church Council Officers

Council voted to remove Anita Martinez from council membership due to her current inactive status.

Termite Report Update

Tenting and treatment went per plan and we are now free of termites. Nearly all of the related repair work has also been completed.

Day Care Report

There has been a small enrollment dip, which is the normal summer slowdown. The closure due to termite tenting went smoothly. Fall enrollment signups look very good, and there may be a surplus of

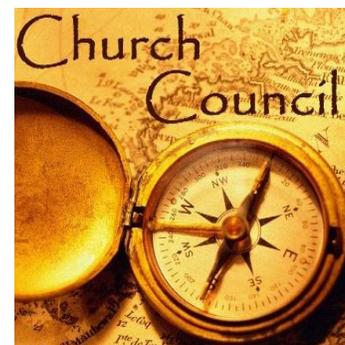
toddlers. Financials showed a small loss, again due to the county's slow payments. Janitorial service is again unsatisfactory and the resource committee is looking at alternatives.

Stewardship

This year's campaign will kick off on Sep. 28 and end by Thanksgiving. We'll have no committee fair this time.

Facility Usage

Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale of St. Mark's in San Francisco asked to use our facilities to host a small meeting on Saturday Aug. 23 from 10 am to 4



pm. Council approved the request and agreed to charge no fee.

Administration Policies

Council approved small changes in these policies:

- Mission Endowment Fund
- Special Needs Savings Account
- Memorial Fund
- Kitchen Use
- Reimbursements and Charges
- Disposition of Gifts

June and Year End Financial Report

Our monthly financials for June are summarized below. Although pledges again fell short of budget, non-pledged offering exceeded our budgeted amount and net income was slightly better than planned. For the year, however, income fell more than \$15,000 short of the planned value. We'll need to do better when we begin paying a pastor's salary and benefits.

	JUNE INCOME	JUNE EXPENSES	MONTHLY GAIN/LOSS
General Fund	19,489	(14,034)	5,455
Building Fund	5,181	(7,170)	(1,989)
Day Care	17,020	(21,131)	(4,111)
TOTALS	41,690	(42,335)	(645)

August Birthdays

Birthday Blessing Sunday is August 17

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

Christine Paulsen 8/1	Gretchen Lile 8/9	Tim Wheeler 8/16
Jeanine Clarke 8/4	Joyce Bachmann 8/10	David Salonen 8/19
Janis Decker 8/5	Barbara Norquist 8/10	Xander Gireth 8/20
Meridith Yeoman 8/5	Susan Hayes 8/12	Jeanne Hardin 8/21
Debby Dailey 8/6	Ila Reinheimer 8/13	Mildred Golding 8/22
Roger Lee 8/7	David Kraft 8/14	David Cline 8/23
Peter Kroeze 8/8	Emily Cline 8/16	Jaycen Salonen 8/23



Derek Salonen 8/28
Susan McCreedy 8/29

August Prayer Requests

New Prayer Requests:

- ➔ Robert Warner: Surgery on 8/26 (Schmidt)
- ➔ Stan Schmidt: Health and peace of mind.

Our Members:

- ➔ Drew Shank
- ➔ Ben Knoll
- ➔ Lori Knoll
- ➔ Susan Hayes
- ➔ Dianne Santana
- ➔ Carolyn Crenwelge
- ➔ Marilyn Rowland

Our Homebound Members:

- ➔ Harvey Hardel
- ➔ Florence Broden
- ➔ Kay Altmas
- ➔ Shelda Fritts
- ➔ Alma Johnson
- ➔ Betty Mason

Our Family:

- ➔ Steve & Nancy Jeske (B. Norquist)
- ➔ Melody Saldivar (Saldivar)
- ➔ Joyce Shockley (Nelson)
- ➔ Sharon (Owen)
- ➔ Sarah Robertson (Murray)
- ➔ James Sullivan (Hollmann)
- ➔ Marsha Schlipman (Nelson)
- ➔ Geraldine Walton (Hollmann)
- ➔ Boyce and Norma Lutes (Teaney)
- ➔ Julia Polillio (Silva)
- ➔ Tami Garza (J. Johnson)
- ➔ Ali Moraitis (Watkins)
- ➔ Jennifer Turner (P. Smith)
- ➔ Harold Graff (Owen)
- ➔ Doug Gilbert (Jones)
- ➔ Jim Peterson (Silva)

Our Friends:

- ➔ Devon (Fritts)
- ➔ Roger Warner (Schmidt)
- ➔ Barbara (Owen)
- ➔ Rosie Egesdal (Nelson)
- ➔ Jeanne (Watkins)
- ➔ John Turner (Turner)
- ➔ Tim O'Roerk (Murray)
- ➔ Bud Stone & family (Reinheimer)
- ➔ Jennifer (Watkins)
- ➔ Donna Thayer (Peterson)
- ➔ Linda and Dave (Watkins)
- ➔ Shawn Knutson (Wilke)
- ➔ Rev. Benny and Regina Bush
- ➔ Jordan (K. Dailey)
- ➔ Irene Whitmore (Rowland)
- ➔ Karen & Michelle (Watkins)
- ➔ Bonney Vincent (Norquist)
- ➔ Scott Farrel (Crawford)
- ➔ Bill and Marcia Webb (Reinheimers)
- ➔ Kevin Davis (Hollmann)
- ➔ Donna Roninger (Wilke)
- ➔ Richard Anderson (Jones)
- ➔ Nita Hinrichsen (P. Norquist)

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

July was a month for parables. We heard the Parables of the Sower, the Weeds, the Mustard Seed, the Yeast, the Hidden Treasure, the Pearl, and the Net (with the gnashing teeth! Thanks, Pastor Lee, you've ruined that one for me). Our Sunday morning study group just finished an extensive study of the Parable of the Prodigal Son, which I wrote about a couple of months ago.

A parable is a type of analogy, used for teaching. As an engineer, I was trained to be cautious about using analogies, because they are not logically valid when used to extend our understanding of a subject. However, in the hands of a great teacher like Jesus, the parable brings the subject home in a manner that would not be possible with simple exposition.

For example, if I tell you that "although it's not an easy thing, getting into the Kingdom of Heaven is worth great sacrifice", you'll certainly understand. However, if you are a merchant and I tell you that "you should sell your entire stock and buy one single great pearl", you'll get an emotional kick in the stomach.



Since I'm not a merchant, that story may not have the desired visceral

effect on me. I'm a baseball fan, however, so Jesus might have said to me: "a General Manager learned that last year's MVP, a shortstop who won a Golden Glove and hit .325 with 45 home runs, might be available. He traded his entire starting infield, a backup catcher and two of his starting pitchers to get that player".



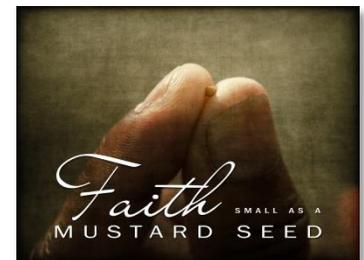
Wow, now I start to see the implications! Not only is it hard to obtain the kingdom, but we need to do things that would otherwise be considered idiotic. We will be subjected to ridicule. We will take risks that seem over the top extreme. That's a measure of importance that we don't get from just saying "it's worth a great sacrifice".

Another example of Jesus's teaching genius is the stories that tell us that not everyone will enter the kingdom. In the Sower, we learn about the various ways people can fail to hear the message. In the Weeds, we learn that the sorting will not occur until the end times. The story of the Net says the same thing, except that it was directed to fishermen rather than farmers.



If Jesus were speaking to a group of Silicon Valley engineers, he might have the chief engineer of a chip maker saying: "Fabricate the wafers as well as you can, then cut them up into chips. Test the chips and destroy the ones that don't function properly. Sell the good ones to Apple and Samsung in order to delight people with our products." OK, maybe you like the Weeds or the Net better, but this story makes it clear to me that the sorting cannot happen until the final days.

The Mustard Seed is a very simple story that says that good things may begin small and grow mighty. However, the fact that the mustard seed is near-microscopic adds a measure of emotional impact that hammers home the main point, that while the Kingdom may not seem too important to the World, it will someday be dominant.



I suppose that someone might come up with a more modern version of this parable that would appeal to non-farmers, but I think I've done enough damage for one day.

If you don't understand my earlier comment about the gnashing teeth, ask anybody who was in church on July 27. I guarantee that any such person will remember and explain! If you want to hear for yourself, go to www.emanuellutheran.org and click on "Our Church / Recent Sermons".

Emanuel Calendar of Events August 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office Closed	2 10:00 am Organ practice
3 9:30 am Baptism 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal	4 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Schroeder	5 7:00 pm PFLAG Meeting	6 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	7 9:30 am Bible Study	8 Office Closed	9 10:00 am Organ practice 3:00 pm International Students
10 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal 10:45 am Feed The Poor Presentation 5:00 pm Youth at Kroeze (ceramics/pool)	11 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Schroeder	12	13 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Ministry Meeting	14 9:30 am Bible Study	15 Office Closed	16 10:00 am Organ practice
17 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Bi-Annual Mtg. Part 2 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal	18 6:00 pm Girl Scout SUM 7:30 pm Lydia Circle @ Schroeder	19 6:30 pm PFLAG Social Evening	20 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Council Mtg.	21 9:30 am Bible Study	22 Office Closed	23 10:00 am ELCA Synod 25th Anniv. Meeting 10:00 am Organ practice
24 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal	25 Echoes Deadline 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ Schroeder	26	27 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	28 9:30 am Bible Study	29 Office Closed	30 10:00 am Organ practice
31 FAMILY PROMISE 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal						