



BUT ASK THE ANIMALS, AND THEY WILL TEACH YOU

From the President

by Suzanne Wilke, Council President

Here we are at the end of September — I can't believe the summer is over.

Each day brings us closer to calling a Pastor, but there are still important steps left to do. By the time you read this message, the Call Committee will have interviewed the two candidates they feel are the best fit for Emanuel. I am praying that one will stand out as The One, and we will soon have a chance to meet this person and perhaps his/her family.

We, as a congregation, will have the final say. We will approve or disapprove the recommendation. If we approve, then the candidate will have to decide if Emanuel is the church for him/her. If all goes well, I'm hoping to have a Pastor by the start of Advent. Wouldn't that be a wonderful way to go into the holidays?

If you missed the Blessing of the Animals, it was a great chance to meet together in a less formal way. Most of the beasties were on their best behavior. Pr. Roger sprinkled water on the pet and the owner as he blessed them. We sang some songs. Thanks to David Holtz for accompanying us on his guitar. The event ended with the youth serving root beer floats. Thanks to all who participated in this event.

Our Stewardship drive is in full swing. I encourage you to pledge so that a budget can be created. This will help our Treasurer and Bookkeeper plan for the fiscal year. If you do not already take advantage of automatic withdrawal, please consider this way of giving. This way your gift comes in regularly, even if you cannot make it to church.



The Echoes

Emanuel Lutheran Church

October 2014

ABOUT US

Emanuel is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Website:
www.emanuellutheran.org

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

Servant of the Month:

Debbie Van Diepen

However you decide, remember that the most important gift you can give to God is your heart.

Finally, I again want to thank all of you who are working so hard to

keep Emanuel going. This is definitely a team effort. Continue to pray for the Call Committee as they finish up the task that we gave them almost two years ago.

OUR MISSION

Sharing Christ's transforming grace with everyone.

Servant of the Month

by Mike Epting

I hope you noticed the small box on the lower right-hand corner of the first page. Here's the story behind that:

A few weeks ago, during announcements Sue Wilke said some kind words about me and this newsletter. Her words were followed by applause from many of you, which caused me to smile and blush behind my beard.

At coffee, Alice Hoaglund also offered kind words and said "It's nice to be appreciated, isn't it?" She went on to point out that many people do great work that is not noticed.

I immediately resolved to begin noticing and to implement that noticing with a monthly first-page mention. I realize that this idea is basically unfair because it will take years to acknowledge everyone whose work goes unnoticed, but let's begin this journey with a single step.

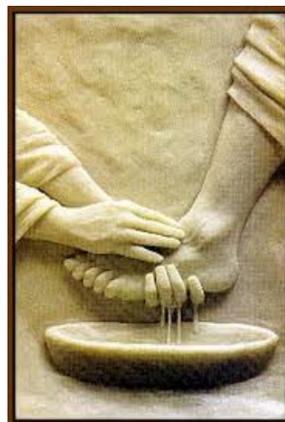
I'll need your help identifying servants who keep Emanuel alive and moving forward through their gifts of labor and time. Please, when you see an opportunity, tell

me about a person whose efforts we need to recognize.

Many of you will agree that this first month's choice is a no-brainer. There is no one at Emanuel who can match Debbie Van Diepen's energy and dedication. She does jobs that nobody else wants and she does them cheerfully.

Sunday school is one of our most critical functions and it is also one of our most difficult. Debbie leads from 2 to 13 busy little folks out of the sanctuary every Sunday and the rest of us enjoy the sermon in a cocoon of blissful non-commotion. She does have helpers, but Debbie's faithfulness is unmatched.

As you also know, our budget is tight and Debbie has stepped into the role of administrator, asking for no pay. She maintains the calendar and stays on top of the myriad details that keep us



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.

running smoothly, even with no regular pastor. I may edit the Echoes, but much of the content and all of the distribution is Debbie's work.

Please remember to tell Debbie how much you appreciate what she does for us.

Reading the Word

by Pastor Roger Lee

As many of you know, Kathleen Reuter and I recently led a Training Workshop for Lectors (Worship Scripture Readers). Fourteen lectors attended and worked to improve their reading skills.

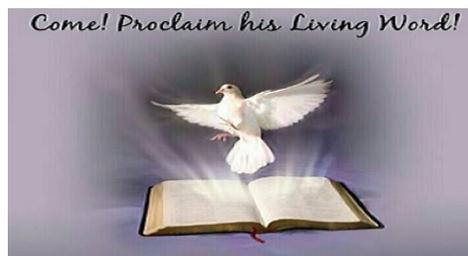
A guiding principal for lectors is to respond to the work of the Holy Spirit. All who attended this workshop agreed to be guided by the Holy Spirit in the preparation and delivery of Holy Scripture. We take this very seriously because a person who needs to hear that word might be led by the Spirit to worship at Emanuel Lutheran that day. A vital relationship may happen during this reading of the Word. Each lector needs to ask if he or she has prepared in prayer, study, and practice well enough to fulfill the responsibility of feeding and

nourishing that special person.

This is asking a lot from our lectors. Can the same be asked of you who are members of Emanuel? If the Holy Spirit puts it into your heart to come and hear the Word today, how will you respond? How might the Holy Spirit put this into your heart? Might it be a family member, possibly a child, who asks you to go to church? The Holy Spirit will try to find a way!

When the "Faith-Relationship-Circle" is complete, when the lector lovingly and faithfully prepares and reads the Word and the member responds in faithful attendance and attention to the hearing of the Word, God's will is done. This is the Spirit-driven, Faith-driven church life we all seek.

Each church member is asked to do



several things to prepare for Sunday worship. Look at the list of lessons for the upcoming Sunday and read them beforehand to get a head start on the Word for the day. Pray for the lector for that Sunday during the week, as the lector prepares for Sunday. Pray for anyone who needs to hear that Word so that the Holy Spirit calls them to worship. Pray for the preacher as he or she prepares and preaches God's Holy Word.

Thank you for your faith commitment to the worship life of Emanuel. The more we participate in the Circle of the Word, the more our church will grow in Spirit and in numbers.

ELC Fitness & Social Club (AKA: Yard Crew)

by David Holtz

The ELC Yard Crew was formed many years ago by a forward thinking member as a way to address several needs. Primary among those needs was that of saving money by caring for our own lawn and gardens. The plan was well organized and executed to keep the grounds looking very nice while not overworking any one of the many members of the crew.

The Yard Crew still exists but its membership has diminished to a

minimal number. Those who remain can only manage to cut the grass weekly and, very rarely, trim bushes or edge walks.

Can you help? Here's what is needed. Select just one of the items below and take it on as your responsibility (no signups are needed):

- ◆ Edge walks every other week
- ◆ Trim bushes every other month



- ◆ Trim parking lot ground covers twice per year
- ◆ Weed one or more flower beds as needed
- ◆ Clean up the flower bed behind day care building
- ◆ Rake leaves this fall as needed

Emanuel Youth Activities

by Lori Skustad

The youth group has had a great summer!



Thanks to the Kroeze's for the great pottery and pool party — we had a great time.



We had a great adventure rafting down the Stanislaus river. It was great fun in the sun.

The next youth group meeting will be on Saturday October 4 at a time to be announced.

Thank you to everyone one who has helped with youth group activities.



Stewardship 2014

by Jeanne Hardin

Please prayerfully consider signing up for a ministry in your pledge forms.

Monetary gifts are not the only gift that members can give to the church. Time and talents are a big part of Stewardship. Here are some examples how you can give to the church using your time and talents.

Do you like to garden?

You can join the property team who maintains the church grounds. Whether you like to mow, plant,

paint or weed, you can use your talents to help.



Do you like to sing or enjoy music?

Join the worship team to help with the order of worship.



Do you enjoy serving others and putting a smile on their face?

Sign up to serve at the Gospel Mission. Volunteers are always needed and much appreciated by those in need.



Do you enjoy baking?

Join the Fellowship team. Bake your favorite recipe for a potluck or bake a cake or your favorite dessert for a Family Promise Night. Our guests love dessert!



Are you wanting to join a group to learn more about the Bible?

Join either the Men's Bible Study Group or one of the WELCA

Women's Circle and get involved!



Do you enjoy office work?

Volunteer to work in the office, folding the newsletter or helping out with office duties.



Do you like to clean or do housekeeping duties?

You can come to the church and dust the pews. The property team can always use someone for small inside duties.



Do you enjoy seeing the church altar decorated for a special season or church event?

Join the altar guild and help with the altar cloths.



Are you a good reader who enjoys reading?

Sign up for Sunday service bible readings. There is always room for more volunteers.



As you can see, there are many things we enjoy doing that can be done for the church. Time and talents are a big part of Stewardship that can build the church into a stronger and more independent congregation that results in success. Be a strong part of your church body and sign up for a ministry!

Stewardship Packets are ready to be picked up on the back table in the narthex. (They will be in alphabetical order.) Please pick up your packet and prayerfully consider filling out your Time, Talent, and Treasure (Giving) Sheet. Please return them as soon as possible in the offering plate or you can return it to The Stewardship Team (Jim, Jeanne, and Kristine).

October News

Circle Meetings

Leah Circle meets 7 pm Thursday Oct. 9 at Paula Barton's home and will be studying "Bad Girls of the Bible".



Lydia Circle meets Monday, Oct. 20, 7:30 pm at a location to be announced in a future bulletin.

Rebecca Circle meets Thursday, Oct. 16 at 1:30 pm in the home of Joyce Riddick. Our bible study will be from the October 2014 'Gather Magazine' Bible Study Session 2, "Transforming Life and Faith". Looking forward to seeing you there!

College Area Neighborhood Alliance (CANA)

This month's CANA Virginia Corridor Clean-Up is Saturday, Oct. 11 from 8:30 to 10:30 am. Meet at the playground, corner of Morris and Virginia.



Thursday Bible Study

This group meets in Katie's Room at 9:30 am every Thursday morning. We are studying 2 Timothy and all are welcome to join us.

Thanks Be to God

Bishop Mark Holmerud of our Sierra Pacific Synod has initiated a new initiative that he calls "Thanks Be To God". You should have received a flyer about this topic as an attachment with this Echoes. If you

did not, or if you want even more information, you can visit the synod website: <http://www.spselca.org/>.

One of the items on the website is a letter from the Bishop to pastors in the synod. That letter begins as follows:

"As we prepare for the Special Synod Assembly on October 11, I am moved again and again to give thanks to God for the good work you are doing through your church and in your community. During the last six years of ministry together, many congregations have re-imagined and brought new life to their ministry, and some have made the faithful and difficult decision to close. Colleagues have been called to our synod, and colleagues have been called away. Congregations have joined the ELCA, and congregations have departed. The constant in my time as Bishop — and for the whole history of the Church — is change. But we know that God is at work in each of your congregations, and I am blessed each day when I hear the stories of the good work you continue to do across the Sierra Pacific Synod — all in the name of Jesus Christ. **Thanks Be to God!**

One of the best-kept secrets in the ELCA hides in our terminology. Did you know that the word "synod" actually means "a way together?" Because of this, and my hopes for



AUTUMN 2014 | SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD

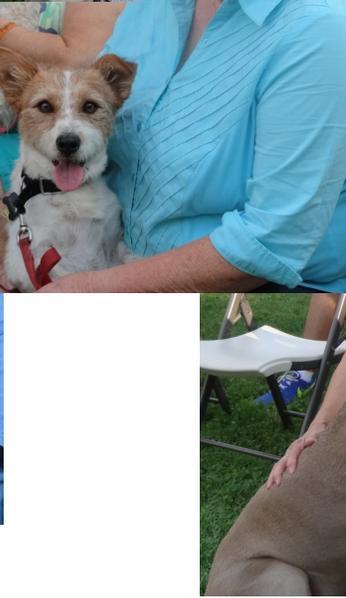
HOW DO CONGREGATIONS SUPPORT THE SYNOD?

our life and work together, I have been surprised by the sometimes fractured nature of life in the Sierra Pacific Synod — a state which grieves and troubles me. Perhaps I was naïve when I came into this office. I truly believed (and believe) that our witness, outreach, and service as a synod is vitally linked to a calling to love and serve one another as we seek to love and serve others. We have a tremendous call: to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with both grace and joy. This call binds us together. It reminds us to live as Sisters and Brothers in Christ. And here we are in a Synod as diverse and as beautiful as anywhere in God's creation — yet we struggle to walk together.

I cannot change that alone. But I am devoting the next six years to bringing the Sierra Pacific Synod together with a single purpose: to tell the story of Jesus. Focused on following Jesus, we can and will find a way together. No mission statement, strategic plan, or program will help us do that if we aren't focused on our true calling as followers of Jesus who are committed to sharing the difference Jesus has made/is making in our lives."

Blessing of the Animals

Photos by Sue Wilke



Pastor Roger blessed a surrogate horse, a snake, lots of dogs and cats, and a couple of turtles. Dogs and people happily greeted new and old friends. Dave led us in singing some favorites.

September Council Notes

Submitted by Debbie Van Diepen

Correspondence

We received a Thank You note from "Food For The Poor". "Life Screening" has requested use of facility. Their use will not be approved if they are a commercial enterprise. Sue Wilke will follow-up to determine this.

Call Committee Update

Two of the five candidates have been invited to a second interview (in person) to take place next week.

Daycare Report

Additional staff may be needed soon as enrollment continues to grow. Art Gala raised \$400 and Tote Bag Sale raised \$600. Candles will be sold in October and a raffle will be held at the Thanksgiving Feast. Outreach Ministry confirmed that new toys for Day Care will be collected during the Christmas season.

Resource and Finance

Bob Reuter distributed August's budget report.

General Fund: Income exceeded anticipated amount by \$912; Expenses were under the budgeted amount due primarily to the absence of a pastor and the elimination of the administrator position.

Building Loan Fund: \$7,170 is payable monthly. This is extremely alarming as we continue to scramble to make the payment each month. More income is needed; shifting percentage of giving will not improve the situation as we would

then be short in General funds which has monthly payroll obligations. Fundraisers may be required.

Property

The use of a candle using liquid wax which lasts 30 days is still being looked into for Eternal Light.

Yard Work Day: September 27, from 8 am-noon.

The idea was brought forward to ask folks to commit to just one area of routine yard work, i.e. edging, pruning. This would be a major help as a regular "yard crew" no longer exists. (See David Holtz's article).

Stewardship

Stewardship packets have been prepared and are ready to distribute.

Worship

Pastors have been lined up through October. We may have a Sunday in November when no communion will be offered as several on the pulpit supply list have not been ordained to do so.

Outreach

Planning for holiday-giving is in progress. Karl Williams will spearhead a Council potluck and gift exchange to take place during the holiday time.

Fellowship

October 5 Bake Sale proceeds will go toward the purchase of a new large coffee pot. Fellowship continues to make sure coffee and refreshments are offered following the service.



Family/Youth

Children's Church continues. The attendance fluctuates from 1 to 12 each week, primarily preschool age. Mary Murray has prepared project kits for the children. Name badges for the children will be made to help members greet them.

Spiritual Life/Adult

Pilgrimage 2015: First meeting to plan next year's pilgrimage is Sep. 23 at Roger & Karen Lee's home.

Sunday Morning Bible Study "Animate Series" attendance is better than expected.

Wired Word Dinners have been postponed to possibly February. Busy schedules will have slowed down and this would give the new pastor an opportunity to meet members in small settings.

Administrative report:

Copies of the newly reviewed and updated Church Policies were distributed.

Our Prospective Member list has 22 to 24 people. This represents 14 additional giving units. Pastor Lee is holding a class on personal spirituality which could lead to an invitation to join the church. Attendance number is unknown at this time.

October Birthdays

Birthday Blessing Sunday is October 19

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



10/2	Julia Glandon-Yarnell	10/13	Alma Johnson	10/28	Roland Loeffler
10/4	Johnathon Sample-Cruz	10/14	Pauline Cummings	10/29	Dan Langhoff
10/7	Barry Schroeder	10/21	Lois Owen	10/29	Bob Reuter
10/8	Dee Woodbury	10/22	Matthew Owen	10/29	Oscar Wilson
10/9	Paula Kroeze	10/23	Alexandra Tisdell	10/31	Carol Hollmann
10/12	Carol Fox	10/27	Ton Ngo		

October Prayer Requests

New Prayer Requests:

- ◆ Trevor Jeske (Steve's son)—health, healing and well-being (B. Norquist)

Our Members:

- ◆ Drew Shank
- ◆ Ben Knoll
- ◆ Lori Knoll
- ◆ Susan Hayes
- ◆ Dianne Santana
- ◆ Carolyn Crenwelge
- ◆ Bob Dailey
- ◆ Roland Loeffler
- ◆ Elaine Urch

Our Homebound Members:

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

Our Family:

- ◆ Angela (Dieterich)
- ◆ Sharon & Harold (Owen)
- ◆ Meghan Ewald (Smith)
- ◆ Torri & Nathan (Teaney)
- ◆ Marsha Schlipman (Nelson)
- ◆ Benjamin Santana (Santana)
- ◆ Stan Schmidt (Schmidt)
- ◆ Geraldine Walton (Hollmann)
- ◆ Steve Jeske (B. Norquist)
- ◆ Helen Deve (Crawford)
- ◆ Ian McKenzie & Marian McKenzie (Schmidt)
- ◆ Don Harlow (Virginia Dall's son-in-law)
- ◆ Carlene Russell (sister to Yvonne Troedson)

Our Friends:

- ◆ Lorena Loftis (P. Norquist)
- ◆ Dawn, Keith and Ed (Dieterich)
- ◆ Doyle Williams, Gene Loftis (Teaney)
- ◆ Nancy (Owen)
- ◆ Lisa Nixon (Ixcot)
- ◆ Donna (Waggoner)
- ◆ Roger Warner (Schmidt)

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...)

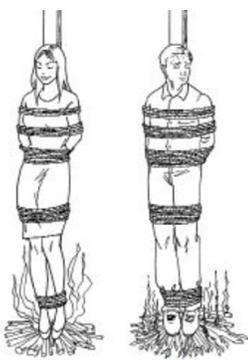
by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

Every month, this column causes me more anxiety than all the rest of "The Echoes". I'm in no way qualified to expound on most of the topics I've addressed this year. I worry that I'm being pretentious or silly or both.

Pastor Lee's "New Member" class, however, provided me with a tool that took away nearly all of my concerns. I suspect that nearly everybody else at Emanuel already knows about it, but it's new to me: "The Lutheran Handbook". What a wonderful book! It's funny and informative and "official", since it's published by the Augsburg Fortress, ELCA's publishing arm.

It's full of facts and tons of advice. For example, if I were to, through my ignorance, say something heretical in this column, the Handbook includes "How to Avoid Getting Burned At the Stake". The author admits that heretics are no longer commonly burned, but he suggests that it is good to be prepared.

If getting burned at the stake is unavoidable, request dry wood.



Fast-burning dry wood

Slow-burning green wood

If accused of heresy, the Handbook says you should demand an immediate public trial. It makes it clear that you'll almost certainly lose, but the attempt is worth a shot. If you do lose, it says "... consider recanting. You could be wrong." I think that's generally pretty sound advice in all matters.

It also suggests wearing flame-retardant material and requesting dry wood and plenty of dry kindling. I feel much better knowing I have options in case I say something really stupid here.

The Handbook doesn't directly address pretentiousness. However, I'm much too uninformed to possibly be "know-it-all". Generally, I've learned something new each month and I'm excited about sharing it with anybody who ignores the cautionary note beneath the column's title. Seriously, I'm very unlikely to ever say anything here that you really need to know.

Regarding silliness, I don't see how I could possibly be more silly than the Handbook.

My major discovery this month, besides "The Lutheran Handbook", is "The Lutheran Handbook II". You might not have known about this one, but it's just as good as the first. It includes two "Winking Luthers" on its cover, to distinguish itself from the original, which had only one. It's somewhat less humorous, but it expands the topics and could enable you to win a rousing game of Lutheran Trivial Pursuit. The somewhat irreverent humor of the



original Handbook might be off-putting to some. Handbook II might be better for them. There is very little overlap of material though, so I strongly recommend that you find a way to get both.

I bought ebook versions of both Handbooks — Augsburg Fortress has made them available at all of the major vendors. I love the fact that I nearly always have both of them in my pocket. However, books like these benefit from some of the advantages of paper. For example there are several multi-page tables that don't work particularly well in ebook format. Also, it's easier to thumb through a paper book and these handbooks cry out for browsing.

The biggest epiphany for me in these two books was the rediscovery of how wonderful it is to be a member of ELCA. These books describe the amazing history and the sound teachings of our church. More importantly, they make sure that we remain humble about our gift of grace. They also remind us that we are a product of reformation and that reformation is a process that continues today.

Emanuel Calendar of Events

October 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	2 9:30 am Bible Study	3 Office Closed	4 10:00 am Organ practice
5 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Bake Sale 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal 10:45 am WELCA Steering	6 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study	7 Confirmation Class 7:00 pm PFLAG Meeting	8 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Ministry Meeting	9 9:30 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Leah Circle @ P. Barton	10 Office Closed	11 SPS Mtg. 10:00 am Organ practice
12 YOUTH at Kraft's (wainuts/M.Luther plau) 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal	13 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study	14 Confirmation Class	15 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm CANA 7:00 pm Council Mtg.	16 9:30 am Bible Study 1:30 pm Rebecca Circle	17 Office Closed	18 10:00 am Organ practice
19 BIRTHDAY BLESSING Fellowship-Priscella 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal	20 Echoes Deadline 7:30 pm Lydia Circle	21 Confirmation Class 7:00 pm 7p PFLAG Social Evening	22 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	23 9:30 am Bible Study	24 Office Closed	25 8:00 am Girl Scouts-Luther Hall 10:00 am Organ practice
26 PLEDGE SUNDAY REFORMATION DAY 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Choir Rehearsal	27 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study	28 Confirmation Class	29 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	30 9:30 am Bible Study	31 Office Closed 6:30 pm TRUNK OR TREAT	