

Church Office:

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 209-523-4531
 pastor@emanuellutheran.org

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 209-549-0672
 daycare@emanuellutheran.org

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 209-523-4531
 secretary@emanuellutheran.org

Church Office Hours

Monday 8am-1pm
 Tuesday 8am-11am
 Wednesday 8am-1pm
 Thursday 8am-11am
 Friday Closed

Emanuel is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

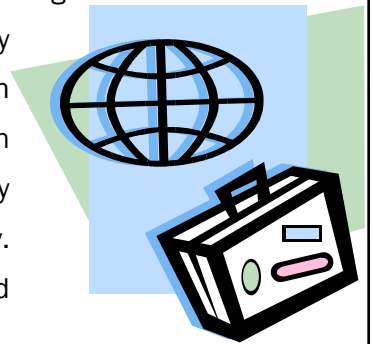
Emanuel Lutheran Church

324 College Avenue, Modesto, CA 95350

EMANUEL'S VISION: Sharing Christ's Transforming Grace With Everyone

EMANUEL'S MISSION

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.



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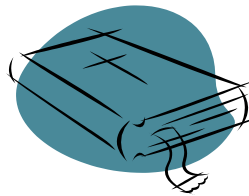
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Emanuel's Book of Faith Resolution



"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."

Family Promise

Family Promise guests return to Emanuel on

February 9th.

Your participation is essential in supporting these families as they work to establish more permanent housing and get their lives back on track. Please keep the program in prayer as

Emanuel members sign up to bring a meal, host an evening at Emanuel, spend the night or supply funds for supplies.

The volunteer sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Direct questions to David Holtz



email: davidholtz@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 209-578-0926).

Emanuel's Website: <http://www.emanuellutheran.org/>



Pastor Niemi on foot patrol near the tuffas

Militant atheism is on the rise. In recent years such authorities as Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris.... have produced a steady stream of books denigrating religious belief as dangerous foolishness.

Back cover

Books, Books, Books

pastor's page by Stan Niemi

I've been reading a few books suggested by a theologian in the magazine: "Christian Century" for those who are still seeking Jesus or may have questions and doubts about Christianity.

The first book I read was The Devil's Delusion by David Berlinski. Its other title is Atheism and Its Scientific Pretensions. It is written by a Mathematician who is Jewish but makes no claim to a faith in God. He as a

man of science does believe that science has overstated its theories. At the same time he delivers a defense of religious thought that at minimum allows the presentation of religious view as they intersect traditional scientific theory. His style of presentation is sarcastic in tone especially of the philosophers of scientific theory with their overstated arrogance. I liked the style. It was fun, engaging, and historically interesting. If you are one of those people who are of a scientific commu-

nity and/or are interested in the current theories this is an interesting read for you. It will give you some insight from a member of the science community poking fun at physicists. I've come to the conclusion that the only unified theory that will ultimately be discovered is God.

The second book is Angry Conversations with God: A Snarky but Authentic Spiritual Memoir by Susan E. Isaacs. At first I was not sure if this book warranted my attention but as I read the witty honest

conversations of a woman baring her soul's spiritual journey of a lifetime I became captivated and encouraged to examine my own spiritual journey. Susan started off as a Lutheran, then wandered through many permuta-

tions of Christian belief and practice. She wants to get a divorce from God and records conversations with her spiritual therapist.

In the end, she finally did make peace with God. Susan writes as an actress, writer and comedian and it is the comedian's voice that makes the story an engaging and seductive read.

Suspend judgment when you read this book and give yourself some time and opportunity to examine, judge and appreciate your own spiritual journey with Christ.

I specifically chose these books (and a few more in progress) to help me engage with many of the young people in our culture who have difficulties with the Christian faith. I want to read things that will challenge me to understand and give me insight in talking to others about the Lord I love and loves me, Jesus.

Happy but challenging reading.

Pastor Stan K. Niemi

**"A brilliantly funny, fearlessly honest, and deeply moving account of one woman's search for God and man."
Eric Metaxas**

Buildings and Grounds

Remember to look **DOWN!**



Some concrete renovation has been taking place around Emanuel's campus.

Approximately 485 square feet of concrete walks were removed because of cracking and heaving leaving the walkways dangerous to pedestrians. The areas were then filled with fresh concrete to complete the project of smooth and safe walkways on Emanuel's campus.

Dick Norquist oversaw the work on behalf of the Building and Grounds Committee

Emanuel Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Report

In December, the Emanuel Lutheran Endowment Fund received generous and much appreciated gifts from Wes and Joanne Trana and Memorial donations in memory of Margaret Holtz. What a great Christmas gift these donations are, and what a wonderful way to insure the future of Emanuel and to honor God!

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to provide income from the dividends and interest generated by the fund. The fund has been designed to provide funds in perpetuity for the categories shown in the chart below. The principal of the fund cannot be used for ordinary operating expenses, except in extreme emergencies. If you would like to make a donation to the Endowment Fund or would like more information, please contact a team member: Pat Norquist, Bill Reinheimer, Bob Reuter (Chairman), or Rob Shank.

Endowment Fund Report for 2013

Fund Balance, December 31, 2013 \$187,595

2013 Endowment Fund Earnings

January	888.00
February	1,672.38
March	1,875.43
April	791.21
May	3,372.70
June	-
July	826.10
August	4,087.24
September	-
October	730.71
November	3,891.72
December	249.12

Total Fund Earnings \$18,384.61



The Endowment Fund charter requires that the dividend and interest income earned by the Endowment Fund be distributed as shown below.

			Already Transferred	Bal. Left to be Transferred
Capital Expense	60%	11,030.77	3,150.00	7,880.77
Ministry Reserve	20%	3,676.92	0.00	3,676.92
Synod	10%	1,838.46	350.00	1,488.46
Reinvest	10%	1,838.46	1,838.46	0.00
Total	100%	\$18,384.61	\$5,338.46	\$13,046.15

GOSPEL IN LIFE - SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION

**“The gospel in life adult study may be the most important time spent in the life of Emanuel this year”
Stan Niemi**

Gospel in Life is an eight-week course on the gospel and how it is lived out in all of life, first in our hearts, then in community and out into the world.

Course material is written by Rev. Timothy Keller, author of *Reason for God*.

Class sessions will be led by Pastor Stan Niemi

Time:
Sundays
9:45 am – 10:45 am

Session Titles

January

1. **City:**

The World That Is
2. **Heart:**
Three Ways to Live
3. **Idolatry:**
The Sin Beneath The Sin
4. **Community:**
The Context for Change

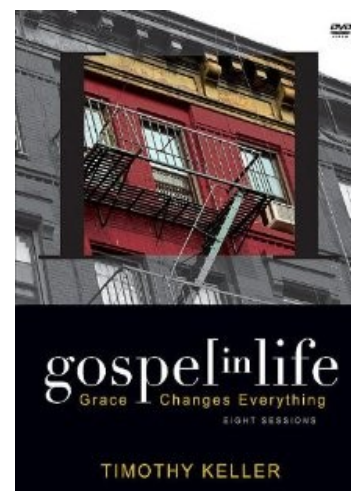
February

5. **Witness:** 2-2
An Alternate City
6. **Work:** 2-9
Cultivating the Garden

7. **Justice:** 2-16
A People For Others

8. **Eternity:** 2-23
The World That Is To Come

Meets in Luther Hall



Come and join the challenge and discussion that could change your life and the course of Emanuel Lutheran Churches' Mission

Emanuel's Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA do not have a Facilitator / President or Publicity / Communications Coordinator for 2014. So, the Steering Committee has decided to have minimal activities for 2014 and

have each circle take turns facilitating and coordinating. Many of us are busy putting our efforts into helping with Emanuel's future right now. We don't want to see our circles come to an

end. So, hopefully, this will only be for a short time. If you feel called to fulfill either of these positions, please let Kristine Kraft know. Our next General Meeting will be on Sunday, March 2 at 9:45



Worship Leader Schedule for February 2014

	Assisting Minister	Lector	Cantor	Communion Assistant	Acolyte	Ushers
Feb. 2	8:30 Dianne Santana			Sue Wilke	Kailyn Knoll	Smith/Knoll
	11:00 Sergio Alvarado	Beth Rokaitis	Paula Barton	Lois Owen		Owen Family
Feb. 9	8:30 Bob Dailey			Bill Reinheimer	Riley Kroeze	Connie Peterson
	11:00 Garry Hayes	Susan McCready		Mary Dieterich		Dieterich/Reuter

Note: If you are unable to perform your duties as scheduled, please contact another listed person to arrange a substitute. Also, please notify the church office of the changes by email to Secretary@EmanuelLutheran.org or by phone to 523-4531.

ALTAR CARE 2014

	8:30	11:00
JANUARY	Norquist/Van Diepen	Owen - 5th, 12th Silva - 19th, 26th
FEBRUARY	Knoll/Waggoner	Johnson - 2nd, 9th Silva - 16th, 23th
MARCH	Rudolf/Bauman	Obermeyer - 2nd, 9th, 16th Silva - 23rd, 30th
APRIL	Norquist	Tisdell - 6th, 13th Silva - 20th, 27th
MAY	Van Diepen	Owen - 4th, 11th, 18th Silva - 25th
JUNE	Knoll/Waggoner	Johnson - 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd Silva - 29th
JULY	Rudolf/Bauman	Obermeyer - 6th, 13th, 20th Silva - 27th
AUGUST	Norquist	Tisdell - 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th Silva - 31st
SEPTEMBER	Van Diepen	Owen - 7th, 14th, 21st Silva - 28th
OCTOBER	Knoll/Waggoner	Johnson - 5th, 12th, 19th Silva 26th
NOVEMBER	Rudolf/Bauman	Obermeyer - 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd Silva - 30th
DECEMBER	Norquist/Van Diepen	Tisdell - 7th, 14th, 21st Silva - 28th

PAT NORQUIST 522-1533

LOIS SILVA 523-9051

BARBARA BAUMAN 522-3049

DEBBIE VAN DIEPEN 526-8468

LOIS/BRET OWEN 577-8868

KATHY OBERMEYER 521-5995

MARCY RUDOLF 845-9151

RUE KNOLL 526-2432

JERI JOHNSON 543-7899



Bible discussion and food. Sounds like paradise!

WIRED WORD POTLUCK

<p>SAVE A DATE! Wired Word Potlucks are returning the first week of February. Marsha Waggoner will host one potluck at her home on</p>	<p>Tuesday, February 4th at 6:00 P.M. Jim and Paula Barton will host the other potluck at their home on Friday, February 7th at 6:00 P.M.</p>	<p>Sign-up for one or the other in the Narthex. See you there!</p>
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EVERYBODY'S BIRTHDAY BASH

<p>FEBRUARY 21, 2014, 7:00 PM Join your Emanuel family to celebrate Everybody's Birthday Bash. There</p>	<p>will be games and prizes, birthday cake and fun for all ages. Special recognition will be given to the</p>	<p>oldest and the youngest present. Don't miss out on the evening of fellowship.</p>
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First Communion Classes

<p>First communion classes will begin Sunday, March 9th. Children in the 3rd grade (8 years old) and older are invited to attend. Please contact Kristine Kraft</p>	<p>at home in the evenings at 526-3760. You may also contact Pastor Stan Niemi in the church office or his cell phone (916-712-8902) with your questions.</p>	
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Sierra Pacific Synod, Stewardship Discipling Team Devotions
Growing in faithfulness: Luke 2:22-38

captured from the sierra pacific website 1-28-14

Righteous and devout, Simeon knew from the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen Christ. So, when baby Jesus is presented at the temple, Simeon blesses God. Now, he could depart in peace, for his eyes had seen God's salvation.

Likewise, the prophet Anna, in her early 80's, had been fasting and praying for just this day when God's Christ would appear. Now, here Christ was – a baby in their temple.

While we may feel at times like we, too, are waiting for Christ to make an appearance in our congregations, know that Jesus is already among you. In fact, when we gather in Jesus' name, we are a Body of Christ, complete, yet growing. Out of our many hearts gathered, Christ is revealed, with a particular mission for this place, at this time. Our God in Christ has given us everything we need for what God is calling us to do.

Discussion Questions:

1. As congregational leaders, what are your hopes for mission and ministry in this new year?

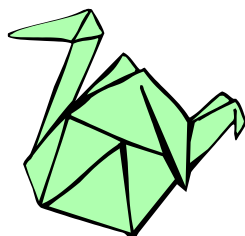
2. Who are the devout prophets, like Anna, in your congregation? How does your congregation lift up their faithfulness, while also celebrating the faithfulness of younger generations (eg. through social media)?

3. What are the particular gifts God has given to your church community?

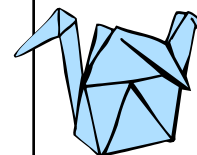
4. As you find ways as church leaders to give God thanks for the abundance of gifts in your congregation this year, how will you create space for the

Origami Cranes Wanted

Its time to start folding more cranes for our inspiring crane mobile, created last year by Margaret and David Holtz.



Place your birds in the basket by the bulletin board in the narthex.



Organ Concert by Christoph Bull

On Friday, February 28, at 7:30 PM Christoph Bull will present an organ concert at the Modesto Christian Reformed Church in Modesto. Christoph has inspired audiences at major venues such as the Walt Disney Concert Hall in LA and the Lincoln Center in New York. An international performer, he has even performed in diverse locations such as Moscow, Salzburg, and Taiwan. The program will feature an eclectic mix of music sure to appeal to a broad audience. All ages are invited.

Tickets are \$20 at the door or see Barbara Vuckich for advance complimentary tickets.



FEBRUARY 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p><u>Sunday Worship Meets</u> in the Main Sanctuary</p>	<p><u>Gospel in Life</u> Adult Bible Class meets in Luther Hall</p>		<p>FAMILY PROMISE</p> <p>Families stay overnight using kitchen and Luther Hall</p>	<p>Schedule your Church calendar events with Paula Braxton, secretary in the office</p>		<p>1 9-Noon Barb V. in Sanctuary 4-11pm Kmer Youth of Modesto in Luther Hall & Kitch.</p>
<p>2 8:30 Worship 9:45 Gospel In Life Adult Bible 11:00 Worship</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 6-7pm Ps. Stan Confirmation 6pm Wired Word Potluck, M. Waggoner Home</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 6 pm Wired Word Potluck Barton Home</p>	<p>8 9-Noon Barb V. in Sanctuary</p>
<p>9 8:30 Worship 9:45 Gospel In Life Adult Bible 11:00 Worship FAMILY PROMISE</p>	<p>10 FAMILY PROMISE</p>	<p>11 6-7pm Ps. Stan Confirmation Classrooms FAMILY PROMISE</p>	<p>12 7-8pm Ministries Mtg. Classrooms FAMILY PROMISE</p>	<p>13 FAMILY PROMISE</p>	<p>14 Valentine's Day FAMILY PROMISE</p>	<p>15 9-Noon Barb V. in Sanctuary FAMILY PROMISE</p>
<p>16 8:30 Worship 9:45 Gospel In Life Adult Bible 11:00 Worship</p>	<p>17 President's Day</p>	<p>18 6-7pm Ps. Stan Confirmation Classrooms</p>	<p>19 7-9pm Church Council Classrooms</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 7pm Everyone's Birthday Bash</p>	<p>22 9-Noon Barb V. in Sanctuary 2-6 pm Barb V. in Sanctuary, Luther Hall & Kitchen</p>
<p>23 8:30 Worship 9:45 Gospel In Life Adult Bible 11:00 Worship</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 6-7pm Ps. Stan Confirmation Classrooms</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 7:30 pm Christoph Bull Organ Concert Reformed Church, Modesto</p>	