

The Echoes

Emanuel Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
The Reverend Stanley K. Niemi, Pastor

Emanuel's
MISSION

January 2014

Sharing Christ's Transforming Grace With Everyone

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.

Emanuel's 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."



It's the new year and here are some resolution tweets that come from Homiletics Online, a preaching journal that I subscribe to. I believe the tweets will help us as we enter a new year. The tweets are based on Hebrews 2:10-18. Pastor Stan

Tweet One: *“God, for whom and through whom all things exist” (v. 10).*

Okay, most of us can go with “through whom.” But “for whom” — now that gets a bit personal. Although God is gracious and kind, we need to remember that we exist for God, not God for us. Our lives are intended to be spiritual acts of worship (Romans 12:2). Everything we do is supposed to be for God’s glory (1 Corinthians 10:31). Even nonhuman creation — stars, seas, mountains, trees, animals — all praise God by their very existence (Psalm 148).

When all other motivations fail, this can be a powerful way to resist temptation. We exist for God’s desires before our own. Although that’s a great top priority, it can also be the bottom line that keeps us in line.

New Year’s Tweet: I exist for the glory of God.

Tweet Two: *[God] “should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings” (v. 10).*

What a beautiful word picture. Jesus Christ is the pioneer of our salvation. The captain. The author. He took the lead, forged out into new spiritual territory and wrote the example we are to follow.

Jesus was made perfect through suffering. We might say he was confirmed or proven perfect through suffering as he remained without sin. A broken world makes suffering unavoidable. But the work of Christ made suffering honorable and even helpful.

When (not “if”) we suffer, we need to remember it has a transformative end. Few people have the maturity to praise God for pain in the moment, but can’t we at least trust that he’s working it toward our good? (Romans 8:28). In dark hours, we can cling to the belief that we are being perfected just as our Pioneer was.

New Year’s Tweet: God is at work in my life, even through pain.

Tweet Three: *“Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters” (v. 11).*

This is a scriptural promise and a statement of our identity in Christ. Few Christians stop to grasp the power of this reality.

Jesus looks at us — with all our imperfections, insecurities and ignorance of him — and cries, “They’re with me. I love my family. They make me proud.”

Human families have black sheep. But Jesus feels no shame about anyone in his family. He claims us. He wants us.

This idea doesn't depend on us, whether we deserve it, believe it or feel it. It depends only on Christ and his choice of love.

New Year's Tweet: I am a member of God's family.

Tweet Four: *"Through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death" (vv. 14-15).*

Let's be clear about whose we are. Christ has ransomed us and set us free from the power of the devil. This means temptation is promoting an option, not a mandate. A Christian can never believe that "the devil made me do it." It's simply impossible. Christ stripped Satan of any power over God's followers.

We should also take an honest self-assessment: Do we have any fear of death? If so, why? Death is a painful experience for those who survive a loved one. But what stands in the way of us viewing our own death as pure glory?

New Year's Tweet: I need not fear death.

Tweet Five: *"Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested" (v. 18).*

In verse 10, Christ informs our suffering. But here he impacts our testing. Our trial. Our temptation. Jesus labored under the same life of testing that we do, and this means he can help us during our own tests. How?

- Jesus is relatable, as someone else who battled the same desires we face. We aren't alone and should feel comfort.
- Jesus made it through unscathed; so can we. After Edmund Hillary climbed Everest, others knew they could, as well.
- Jesus provides tangible ways out of temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13). Our role is to look for them in the moment.
- Jesus continues to battle Satan on our behalf (Revelation 12).

Suffering under trial and temptation is part of the Christian life, but it doesn't define it. So are there ways we need to change the way we endure? We can examine the most common tests in our lives and find Christ's help in them.

New Year's Tweet: Jesus is my example when I face temptation.

NEWS OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

“DREW’s NEWS”

Drew Shank is home for Christmas! For those without computer access, here are the last Journal entries Sarah made on www.caringbridge.org (enter drewshank in the site box). It’s been a trying, tiring, scary time for the Shank family. We are so thankful that they are home to share this time together.

- **Vroom! Vroom! Written Dec 18, 2013 11:39am**



We found Sparkly Red Fred in his own personal racing car today! He is ready to race out of here and so are we. We have been given the "go ahead", we just have to stay here past noon to take Drew's last antibiotic, and then we are free! Yippee!

Yahoo! Thank you for all the help, support, and well wishes we have received even at the busiest time of the year. We are so thankful for all of you, but even more thankful to be headed home for Christmas!

- **Our world is Bright! Written Dec 18, 2013 10:33pm**

We made it home safe and sound this afternoon to a very well lit home! Thanks to Enslin elementary our playroom is filled with lights! Each student at Enslin made a christmas light wishing Drew well and they are lighting up our home! What an awesome homecoming! Thank you Enslin and Merry Christmas!



DAY CARE BOARD NEWS

- Enrollment for November was approximately 38 children
- Financial – all obligations were paid. For accounting purposes, Council M/S/C to “write-off” approx. \$1700 in aged accounts receivable which have been sent to collection.
- Needs - Outdoor storage box is needed for toys (\$ donations will be asked of congregation)
New vacuum (to be purchased by Property team using Day Care funds).

CALL COMMITTEE NEWS

Call Committee: Paula Barton, Elaine Ixcot, Jeri Johnson, Paula Kroeze, Kathleen Reuter, Conner Skustad, and William Teaney.

- A draft of the Church Profile has been forwarded to the Council.
- The Council has approved the the final revision of Job Description for Pastor.

NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT NEWS (NCD)

- An informational update for the congregation is scheduled for Sunday January 26 at 9:45.

TECHONOLGY NEWS

Member’s pictures on our website. From time to time pictures of church events may be posted on our website and facebook. Please let our web manager know if you do not want your photo or photos of your family members to appear on the website.

THIS AND THAT

Remember the **Oktoberfest** aka Fall Festival we enjoyed in October? Close to \$1700 was raised and placed in the Youth account. GOOD JOB FEASTING!!

Offering envelopes will not arrive until the beginning of February.

ECHOES Editor Needed

As Debbie concludes her 6 month commitment to maintain the ECHOES, it’s time to “shake the bushes” for a replacement. Pastor Stan is comfortable with the layout and text chosen by the editor. He only stresses that it be completely ready for print. Secretary Paula B. is able to assist with printing but lacks time for proof-reading or formatting. Please contact Debbie.

MINISTRIES

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Bill Reinheimer, Kathleen Reuter, Marilyn Rowland, Barbara Vukich

The Worship Ministry is looking for ideas to improve attendance at Wednesday night Lenten services. Council “brainstormed” the following:

Ash Wednesday remains as observed in past years

Wednesday evening services may be:

Wired Word

Movie night, i.e. Reel Theology films

Play/drama with related discussion

What would encourage you to attend? Let Worship Ministry members know!

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY / SPIRITUAL LIFE

Anita Martinez, Mary Murray

A recommendation was accepted by Council that Spiritual Life return as a separate Ministry. The Council Nomination Committee has been notified that 3 rather than 2 Council positions will need to be filled at the June Congregational Meeting. (Out-going members are Bob Dailey-Outreach and Bill Reinheimer-Worship).

Weekday Bible Study Classes

- ❖ Monday – **Women’s** Bible Study, 7:30 pm at Suzanne Wilke’s home
- ❖ Wednesday - **Men’s** Bible Study, 7:00 am at Mimi’s Restaurant
studying the weekly Lectionary and Gospel lessons
- ❖ Thursday - Bible Study, resumes January 9 at 9:30 am in Katie’s Room

Children’s Church – (Pre-K to 6th)

Children’s Church begins the new year on Sunday, January 6. Children will be excused following Children’s Time at the 8:30 service to attend class in Luther Hall. They will return to commune with their families.

During the fall semester the children traveled to Bethlehem, visiting people and places as written in the Old Testament. This semester we’ll follow Jesus as he gathers his disciples, teaches, and performs miracles. Any older kids or adults who may be interested in being involved in this 20 minute ministry please contact Debbie Van Diepen.

Sunday Morning Adult Education

GOSPEL IN LIFE

January & February

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*. Led by Pastor Stan

Session Titles:

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
5. **Witness:** An Alternate City
6. **Work:** Cultivating the Garden
7. **Justice:** A People For Others
8. **Eternity:** The World That Is To Come

Class Dates: January: 5, 12, 19, 26 and February: 2, 9, 16, 2

Time: 9:45 am – 10:45 am in Luther Hall

Sign Up in the Church Narthex

RESOURCE

Finance and Property

Bob Reuter, Dick Norquist, Brian Skustad

Finance

General Fund - Pledged giving was low; however non-pledged giving and monthly savings, in the area of office staffing, and administration, afforded a positive balance of \$5,746.

Building fund - \$300 short

Endowment Fund – Council M/S/C the election of Rob Shank to Committee.

Pending transfers to Endowment Fund are: Undesignated Memorial Funds, recent memorial receipts, and recent donations.

Stewardship – 2014

General Fund - 55 written pledges received (10 addl. pending).

In 2013 fifty-six (56) were received

Building Fund (3-yr. commitment) - 48 written received (8 addl. pending)

In 2013 fifty-one (51) were received

Property – It's brighter through-out the campus now that the **Retro-fit** has been completed. And we're saving money, too! Thanks, Dick Norquist for seeing this project from beginning right up till the final bulb was done. And thanks to donors who helped off-set the \$1,500 expense by \$380. If you can spare a dime or two, mark the envelope or check "**retro-fit**".

Church Security (alarms & keys) is under review by Dick Norquist, Tom Hardin, and Arie Kroeze. Please check with Tom if you have a church key that you no longer need.

Work Day – January 18 (remove Christmas décor)



Mark your calendar

OUTREACH

Council Members Bob Dailey / David Holtz

Study Room

The Spring Semester will be starting soon at MJC. Emanuel Lutheran provides a study room for MJC students which has been very much appreciated.

We would like your help to staff the study room.

The study room will be open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We would like to have two people for each shift. Shifts would be 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. It may become extended to 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. if enough volunteers are found.

We also provide tutoring and we need volunteers to help in this area. You can set up hours you are available or hours can be arranged between you and the students.

If you have any questions, or you just can't wait to get your name on the sign up sheet, contact member of the Outreach Team:

Bob Dailey 209 491-2072 redailey@abcglobal.net
David Holtz 578-0926 davidholtz@sbcglobal.net



Ladies, you are welcome to attend a Circle meeting that is convenient for you.

CIRCLE MEETINGS & STUDIES

Leah	2 nd Thursday	7:00 p.m.	<u>Gather Magazine</u>
Lydia	3 rd Monday	7:30 p.m.	at Suzanne Wilke's home
Rebecca	3 rd Thursday	1:30-2:30 p.m.	<u>Gather Magazine</u>
Priscilla	TBA		

WELCA General Meeting & Elections – Will be held March 2, 2014 @ 9:45 a.m. rather than January this year.

Rebecca Circle

Rebecca Circle meets Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 1:30 in the afternoon in the home of Mary Lou Dieterich. The Circle will be using the study printed in the Jan/Feb issue of the Gather Magazine. Session 5: Abigail, A Calm Strategist.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

This month's BIRTHDAYS

Keith Thurston
January 2nd

Esther Kastner
January 10th

Peter Cline
January 11th

Julia Poston
January 12th

Bill Fox
January 14th

Carolyn Crenwelge
January 15th

Rita O'Hare
January 17th

Eric Obermeyer
January 17th

Jim Woodbury
January 17th

Mary Lou Dieterich
January 20th

Carole Maylen
January 20th

Hannah Ngo
January 20th

Henry Yeoman
January 20th

Joyce Riddick
January 23rd

Sebastian Thompson
January 24th

Jim Wall
January 27th

Matthew Yeoman
January 30th

Birthday Blessing Sunday, January 19

Worship Leader Schedule for December 2013-January 2014

Service	Assisting Minister	Lector/CA	Cantor	Communion Assistant	Acolyte	Usher /Greeter	Altar Care	Children Church
Dec 24	5:00 PM	Sue Wilke	Mary Dieterich	Bill Reinheimer		Clarke Family	Marsha Waggoner	
	11:00 AM	Paula Barton	Kathleen Reuter	Beth Rokaitis		Reuter /Owen	Marsha Waggoner	
	PM							
Dec 29	9:30 AM	Kathleen Reuter		Chris Schmidt		Clarke Family	Rudolf /Baumann	No Child. Church
Jan 05	8:30	Bob Dailey		Bill Reinheimer	Riley Kroeze	Connie Peterson	Pat Norquist	Debbie Van Diepen
	11:00	Garry Hayes	Susan McCready	Kathleen Reuter		Owen Family	Owen Family	
Jan 12	8:30	Bill Reinheimer		Marilyn Rowland	Allie Shank	Shank/Skustad	Pat Norquist	Debbie Van Diepen
	11:00	Sergio Alvarado	Lois Owen	William Teaney	Susan McCready	Dieterich /Reuter	Owen Family	
Jan 19	8:30	Sue Wilke		Bob Dailey	Emily Cline	Holtz /Salonen	Debbie Van Diepen	Debbie Van Diepen
	11:00	Paula Barton	Kathleen Reuter	Dave Henke		Marquez Family	Owen Family	
Jan 26	8:30	Marilyn Rowland		Lori Skustad	Alora Skustad	Clarke Family	Debbie Van Diepen	Debbie Van Diepen
	11:00	Eric Obermeyer	William Teaney	Kathleen Reuter	Kathleen Reuter	Fox Family	Kathy Obermeyer	

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.

Prayer

REQUESTS



New Prayer Requests: Elena Wilson—health; Erin—health and well-being (Clarke); Judy Crowe—health (Waggoner); Bud Stone & family, Marc Weiss & family—
healing (Reinheimer)

Our Members: Drew Shank; Ben Knoll; Lori Knoll; Lee Santana

Our Homebound Members: Harvey Hardel, Florence Brodin, Kay Altmas

Our Family: Nellie Thomas (Ixcot); Steve & Nancy Jeske (B. Norquist); Melody Saldivar (Saldivar); Joyce Shockley (Nelson); Robert Dieterich, Jr. (Dieterich); Sharon (Owen); Sarah Robertson (Murray); James Sullivan (Hollmann); John Smith (P. Smith); Carlene Russell (Troedson); Marsha Schlipman (Nelson); Albert Liberini (Crawford);

Our Friends: Devon (Fritts); Jim Theaker and family (Allen); Roger Warner (Schmidt); Barbara (Owen); Diane O’Roerk (Murray); Rosie Egesdal (Nelson); Jeanne (Watkins); John Turner (Turner); Nancy (L. Owen); Tim O’Roerk (Murray)

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** (grandson of Yvonne Troedson) USN, Connecticut.