

The Echoes

Emanuel Lutheran Church

September 2017

THE LAST WILL BE FIRST, AND THE FIRST WILL BE LAST

Greetings from Pastor Lyn

Dear Friends in Christ,

*"By all these lovely tokens
September days are here*

*With summer's best of weather
and autumn's best of cheer."*

unknown

Just for kicks I did a Google search on "fun September facts" and found out stuff unique to the first month of Fall. Some of it is probably even true! One thing for sure, September has become a busy time for families, for communities, and for churches. It was a bit ironic to find amid all of the events and happenings (past and present) having to do with September that an old pop song

was plopped right in the middle suggesting what September used to be or, at least, what the ideal of September was. Remember this?

*"Try to remember the kind of
September*

*When life was slow and oh so
mellow*

*Try to remember the kind of
September*

*When grass was green and grain so
yellow*

*Try to remember the kind of
September*

*When you were a young and a
callow fellow*

*Try to remember and if you
remember*

Then follow--follow, oh-oh."

Tom Jones & Harvey Schmidt

If you remember – then follow.

ABOUT US

Emanuel is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Pastor Lyn Crase:
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pastor@emanuellutheran.org

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Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday:
8 am – 12 pm
Friday Closed

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Servant of the Month:
Sheri Delvin



from Pastor Lyn, continued

Who? Into what? To where? How and when? These are questions we ask frequently in the church. Oh, we know WHO we follow of course – Jesus! But the water gets a bit murky as the church struggles with other questions of identity and purpose. As faithful people, we will continue to wrestle with identity and purpose as we seek to be the church in today's world this September and well beyond. In the meantime, let's have some fun!

September 10th & 11th are BIG days: On the 10th, the annual Stewardship emphasis begins with a Ministry fair. The 10th is also *God's Work Our Hands* Day in the ELCA and this year we will be blessing quilts made by the quilting group; they will take them to Modesto Police. Another project for *God's Work Our Hands* is to kick off Emanuel's Care Cupboard in collaboration with MJC on the 11th! This counts as a project too! September 17th at 3 pm will be an Ecumenical Service of Unity in the courtyard. Interfaith ministry partners and their congregations are invited. Please plan to attend! Light refreshments will follow. And....drum roll please..... September 23rd is the REFORMATION FAIRE! This is a collaborated event between Redeemer Lutheran in Livingston and Emanuel. See other announcements for details but

come for fun, fellowship, food, animals, etc. Attend and celebrate all things "Lutheran" and help bring awareness to this authentically bi-lingual worshiping congregation in our conference. Their ministry is vitally important – let's help them grow and flourish!

In October there will additional activities to help us remember the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Oktoberfest on October 7 and a Sacred Music Concert the afternoon of Reformation Sunday, October 29. While we have many opportunities to remember who we are and whose we are, let us also remember that we are called to be a reforming church – in every time and age, one that looks to the future; honors the past (and lets it be the past), celebrates the present, and eagerly anticipates what is to come!

Thanks be to our good and gracious God, the One who remembers us!

In Christ,

Pastor Lyn

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 Christian maturity in order to minister more effectively to a changing community in challenging cultural times.

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.



Servant of the Month

When Sheri Delvin joined us, she initially hid her lamp under a bushel, or perhaps flew under the radar. Recently though, she has become much more visible and revealed that she is a "retired" ELCA pastor. She filled in for Pastor Lyn on her recent "Sunday off" and preached a marvelous sermon. Those of us who attend Tuesday Text Study were not at all surprised because she regularly shares her knowledge and wisdom at that forum.

Sheri helps with Sunday School, giving Debbie Van Diepen a respite,

and she and Lois Owen lead a children's Yoga class at our preschool.

We didn't see Sheri too much in July because she was serving Saron Lutheran Church in Escalon while they were searching for an interim pastor.

Sheri has lead the charge to create a new "Sanctuary Arts" sub-committee, as reported in last month's Echoes. This group will use sacred and decorative arts in worship and congregational life to



inspire, deepen and enliven our life in faith.

We are fortunate that Sheri chose us and are thankful for her service.

From the Armes Family

from Megan Armes

Nine years ago when we moved to Modesto, Jonathan and I knew no one. After a month or so of searching for the (Lutheran) church that felt right I ended up at Emanuel. The church (the people are the church) was eager to welcome us and encouraged us to become involved. I had the honor of serving on Church Council early on during our time here. Through the past nine years we've made lifelong friends at Emanuel. Friends, who have mourned with us, prayed for



us, celebrated with us, and supported us. Emanuel has become the local family we didn't have when we arrived here.

Job opportunities and life closer to family have us moving north to Shelton, Washington. New and exciting things are happening for us. We are eager, but will miss our Emanuel family immensely. Thank you for being our village in Modesto as we raise these crazy boys. Thank you for letting me know (often) that their baby, toddler, and preschooler noises (though not always joyful) are more than welcome during worship. Thank you for remembering Alexander with us every year. Thank you for being the model of what a Christian church should be: welcoming, supporting, actively being involved in the community, not afraid to change, and always looking for new ways to grow and



become more Christ like.

In Christ's love,

The Armes Family (Megan, Jonathan, Oliver, and Kaladin)



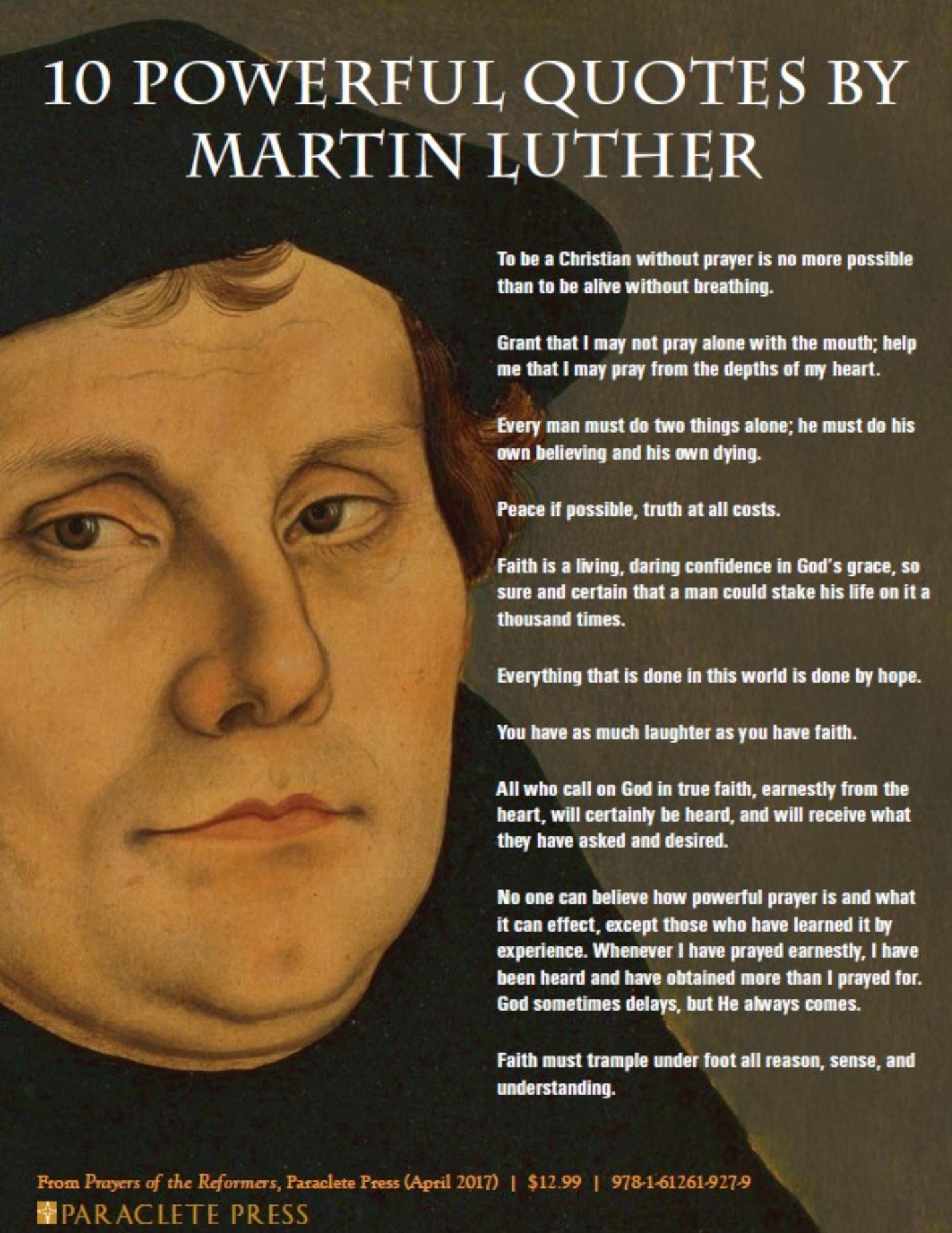
Two Years with Pastor Lyn!

Photos by Mike Clarke

On July 30, we celebrated Pastor Lyn's second anniversary with us at Emanuel. We wished to show our appreciation for all she has done for this congregation in the last two years and to tell her that we hope she will continue to serve our congregation for many more years to come.



10 POWERFUL QUOTES BY MARTIN LUTHER

A close-up portrait of Martin Luther, showing his face and hair. He has a serious expression and is wearing a dark cap.

To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.

Grant that I may not pray alone with the mouth; help me that I may pray from the depths of my heart.

Every man must do two things alone; he must do his own believing and his own dying.

Peace if possible, truth at all costs.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.

Everything that is done in this world is done by hope.

You have as much laughter as you have faith.

All who call on God in true faith, earnestly from the heart, will certainly be heard, and will receive what they have asked and desired.

No one can believe how powerful prayer is and what it can effect, except those who have learned it by experience. Whenever I have prayed earnestly, I have been heard and have obtained more than I prayed for. God sometimes delays, but He always comes.

Faith must trample under foot all reason, sense, and understanding.

Celebrate the Doves!

by Marsha Waggoner

Celebrating 36 years of Emanuel Doves Women's Softball

Join players, coaches, scorekeepers and fans
of the Emanuel Doves Softball teams
who participated in The Church Softball League or
The Modesto City Women's Softball League
during the years 1976-2012

Sunday, October 1, 2017

1-3 pm

Emanuel Lutheran Church

Luther Hall

Light Refreshments will be served

Unveiling of the Emanuel Doves tee shirt quilt
commemorating the years of playing softball,
building friendships and glorifying God on the field of play.



Care Cupboard Update

by Rose Epting

Our joint ministry with MJC, the Emanuel Care Cupboard, will begin giving food to students on Monday Sept. 11 from 1 to 4 pm and continue every 2nd and 4th Monday after that. We are collecting and organizing donations that you have generously brought for this ministry.

We still need tuna, peanut butter, granola bars and water. We would like to now add juices, Spam, canned meat, dried fruit and any other non-perishable foods you think of. Please continue to bring

these items as you are able. Starting Oct. 1, the 1st Sunday of each month will be designated as Care Cupboard Sunday. Thank you all for your generous support.



August Council Notes

President Suzanne Wilke called the meeting to order. Pastor Lyn led a devotional based on Matthew 4 and 5. It's a good time to be people of God!

Pastors Report

Pastor Lyn pointed out that, while August is sometimes called "dog days", there has been an extraordinary amount of activity at Emanuel. She set a tentative date for a council retreat called "Adaptive Adventuring" on September 30. She will use some of the information she gained from her recent continuing education course in St. Paul.

There will be a Ministry Fair on September 10 as part of our annual Stewardship kickoff. Our AED is nearly paid for; training will be offered on October 27 from 4-6 pm.

President's Report

Sue reported on Oktoberfest planning. She also told us some details about the family in Waterford that we provided emergency support. Their former church in the Bay Area reached out to us on their behalf and their need was great. We assisted them financially and personally. They are hard workers but have been hit by injury problems.

Day Care Report

Day Care continues to do well. 10 children advanced to kindergarten so we currently have a few openings. We still have no final

"approval" of our submitted operations plan for an After-School program. We now hope to get started in September.

Resource Ministry

Bob Reuter reported that we had a very good financial month of July with all accounts showing a net positive, including the General Fund, the Building Fund, and Day Care.

Council received the Audit committee report, which was overall positive. In response to an item in the report, Sue Wilke volunteered to write down a procedure for counting money received via cash or check donations. The committee noted that Day Care finances also should be audited.

The Property team is working towards developing a needed site evacuation plan.

Worship Ministry

A Sanctuary Arts sub-committee has formed, facilitated by Sheri Delvin. A Statement of Purpose has been written. Our first Saturday evening service was successful. For the last few weeks, the Psalms have been presented creatively and this will continue through the summer.

Pastor reported that we will try to get notice of the September 17 Ecumenical service into the Modesto Bee.

Family and Youth



Ministry

Pastor requested that Fellowship, Youth & Family, Worship and Education need to have a combined meeting to discuss mutual interests.

Youth were forced to cancel the "Escape Modesto" event because we lacked sign-ups. They are now planning a November 5 Go-Cart event. For the October 1 Blessing of Animals, youth will set up and clean up and serve root beer floats and popcorn. They also plan a "Don't Forget the Carol" event during the Christmas season and a New Year's Eve event.

Social Media ministry

Mike and Rick pointed out that our Facebook and website visitor statistics are impressive, as mentioned in our Annual Report.

Secretary's Report

Mike will provide proposed constitution changes for next month's meeting. These minor changes bring us into alignment with the current ELCA constitution.

	JULY INCOME	JULY EXPENSES	JULY GAIN/LOSS
General Fund	19,757	(18,222)	1,535
Building Fund	9,220	(6,929)	2,291
Day Care	23,948	(20,809)	3,139
TOTALS	52,925	(45,960)	6,965

September News

Please remember to check the bulletin each week for more news and announcements. You can always find it at:

[http://www.emanuellutheran.org/
sunday-bulletins.html](http://www.emanuellutheran.org/sunday-bulletins.html)

Women's Circles

Rebecca's Circle



will meet Thursday, September 21 at 1:30 pm. Virginia Dall will be our hostess and we will meet in Katie's room at Emanuel. This month's study will be from the Sept. Gather Magazine **The Apostles' Creed Session one: We believe in God.** See you there!

Lydia Circle will be held on Monday, September 18 at 7 pm at Debbie Van Diepen's home.

Leah's Circle meets on September 14 at 7 pm at Sue Wilke's home, hosted by Janice Watkins.

Bible Studies

Text Study meets Tuesdays at noon in Katie's Room. All are welcome. Bring a sack lunch if you wish.



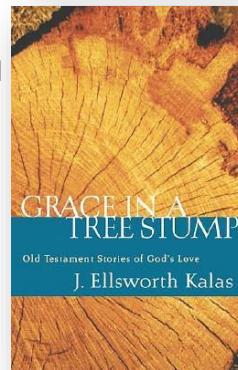
Monday Night Bible Study meets Monday evenings September 11 and 25 at 7 pm at Pat Smith's home.

Sunday Evening Adult Education is taking the summer off. We'll begin again in the Fall with a new study.

Thursday Morning Bible Studies will be back on Thursday, Sept 7 at 9:30 am. This being the

first Thursday of the month we will meet at Casa de Modesto. All other Thursday mornings we meet in Katie's Room. Our study will begin from the book "Grace

in a Tree Stump" by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Paperback editions will be available for \$12 ordered by Pastor Lyn or you can download it on your Kindle for \$11.68 at Amazon. All are welcome, come join us on Thursdays for an interesting morning!



Reformation 500

On Saturday, September 23, we will gather from 1 – 4 pm for food and fellowship around Reformation themed activities: petting zoo, face painting, games for children, craft activities, silent auction items and opportunity drawing items.

Proceeds from activities will go to our sister congregation in Livingston and on-going ministries of Emanuel.

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED WHEN THE REFORMATION BEGAN? For answers to this question, attend the performance of *You Were There - The Reformation, A Play in the style of Early Radio*, an original play written by Mike Clarke in which we hear from the people who knew Martin Luther and their experiences during the beginning of the Reformation. This presentation starts at 2:30 pm.

Okttoberfest

Celebrate with us and learn more about the world-changing events of 500 years ago — also known as the Reformation. On Saturday, October 7, from 4 - 7 pm, we will gather for bratwursts and beer and other food items.



Fellowship will focus around Reformation themed activities – including folk dancing, face painting, lawn bowling, etc. Opportunity drawing items will be on display, with proceeds going to benefit on-going ministries at Emanuel. This quilt will be among the drawing items:



Opportunity Drawing Items

Our two Reformation events above will each include an opportunity drawing. Please think about what you could donate for these events. One suggestion: you may have artwork that you no longer use, but might be something another person would like. You can bring your donations to church and give them to Suzanne Wilke, Rose Epting, or Marti Strand. We will store them until the events. Thank you.

September News, continued

The Reformation planning team is also requesting pop-up tents or large umbrellas that the church can borrow for our upcoming Reformation events.

Lost and Found

Found: Electronic keyboard with stand. If this belongs to you please let Pr. Lyn or Barbara Vukich know and either reclaim it or offer it up for use in someone else's home. If it is not "claimed" by September 15, it will be offered a new home either within the congregation (are you interested?) or to a community music organization who wants it and will put it to good use.

Saturday Evening Service

Don't forget "**A new thing!**", a Saturday evening worship every 1st Saturday of the month at 5:30 pm.

An informal & interactive worship experience.

CPR/AED Training

CPR/AED Training will be held on October 27 from 4-6 pm in Katie's room. Sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex or let Pastor Lyn know if you are interested. The cost is \$45.00 per person.

Fall Women's Retreat

Experience fellowship and spiritual renewal in the beauty of God's creation at Mount Cross Ministries, 7955 State Route 9, Ben Lomond. Lodging and accommodations are first-come-first-served, so be sure to register early. Activities include worship, campfires, devotions, food, recreation and more. Pr. Kerstin Weidmann of Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church (ELCA) in San Francisco will be the Guest Speaker

and will share recent experiences in Germany. She will engage women's voices and experiences in church and society from the Reformation period and now.

This event will be September 22-24 (Friday – Sunday). General Registration ends September 15, and the cost for the weekend is \$150 (Includes lodging, 4 meals, snacks, and all programming) or for Saturday Only \$100 (Includes lunch and dinner).

Late Registration goes until September 22 and the cost goes up to \$175 for the weekend or \$115 for Saturday Only.

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September Lectionary

The September Gospel readings are about fairness and forgiveness. In each, we hear a variation on the theme of God's unlimited forgiveness and how we should be willing to do the same. We also hear about sacrifice; when we forgive, we also sacrifice something of ourselves. (The painting on the front cover is Van Gogh's "*Workers in the Red Vineyard*" — see Matthew 20).

September 3 Pentecost 13	September 10 Pentecost 14	September 17 Pentecost 15	September 24 Pentecost 16
Jeremiah 15:15-21	Ezekiel 33:7-11	Genesis 50:15-21	Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 26:1-8	Psalm 119:33-40	Psalm 103:1-13	Psalm 145:1-8
Romans 12:9-21	Romans 13:8-14	Romans 14:1-12	Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 16:21-28	Matthew 18:15-20	Matthew 18:21-35	Matthew 20:1-16

September Prayer Requests



New Prayer Requests:

Janet Barkley (Melody Deutsch's sister) - healing and hope

Teri Scott—well-being, health & healing (Scott)

Ryan Powell — recently out of the Navy and planning his future (Troedson)

Our Members:

Linda Nelson; Laurie Spinuzzi; Pat Smith; Sherm Petersen; Marilyn Rowland; Vera Eden; Millie Golding; Dr. Van Allen; Chuck Rowland & family

Our Homebound Members:

Florence Broden, Shelda Fritts, Alice Hine; Marj Sample

Our Family:

Joyce & Manuel Dillard (Scott); Horton (Crawford); Suzanne Stiver Lie (Reinheimer); Ian McKenzie (Schmidt); Megan Clarke (Clarke); Jane Tisdel (Tisdel); Donald Murray (Murray); Patsy Natvig (Hoover); Michelle Lee (Crawford); Barbara Pino (Pino); David Massingill (Reuter); Ingrid & Olof Bergstrom (Poston); Joe Cordiero (Nelson); Pastor Roger Lee and family; Jason Smith (Smith)

Our Friends:

JoLyn Johnson (Crawford); Lois (Allen); Roger Warner (Schmidt); Art Ludke (Norquist); Jennifer Turner (Dieterich); Margaret Bustos, Priscilla Pino & family (Ixcot)

We Pray for Peace in the Middle East, and for all those serving in our armed forces:

T/Sgt. Ryan Dangerfield, USAF at Ramstein AB, Germany and SSgt. Joey Sabel, USMC at Camp Lejeune, NC (Marilyn & Chuck Rowland's grandson & grandson-in-law).

c

September Birthdays

Birthday Blessing Sunday is September 18

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

9/1 Robert Barton

9/18 Gary Knoll

9/7 Chuck Rowland

9/20 Jan Lutterman

9/8 Marjorie Sample

9/21 Brian Skustad

9/15 Jakob Knoll

9/22 Lori Knoll



9/23 Jillian Klenz

9/24 Connor Skustad

Epilogue

(You may safely skip this...)

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

I often enjoy books that are purportedly written for teenage readers. Last month I read one such book: "The School for Good and Evil." (Soon to be a Major Motion Picture). The plot bordered on silly — which side of that border it fell on might be a matter of opinion.

The heroes are teen girls. Sophie is pretty and dreams of becoming a princess. The other, Agatha, is a loner who lives in a cottage in the cemetery and has no friends. A mythical person called The School Master raids their village once every four years and grabs up a pair of teens. The kids are supposedly taken to the also mythical School for Good and Evil.

Sophie believes that the myth is real and wants desperately to be taken to the School for Good. In order to appear as good as possible, she befriends Agatha. Agatha suspects her friendship is phony, but she has no other companions, so she tolerates Sophie.

The myth becomes real and the two young women are spirited away, but to their shock, Sophie is deposited in the School for Evil and Agatha in the School for Good. They both feel completely out of place, but the teachers and the rest of the students believe that the School Master never makes a mistake. Each, however, is shunned by her classmates because she is different.

A teacher explains that nobody is completely Good or completely Evil, but the students have been selected

because they match the ideals of their type far closer than most people. The are all told that to survive they must obey the Five Rules:

1. *The Evil attack. The Good defend.*
2. *The Evil punish. The Good forgive.*
3. *The Evil hurt. The Good help.*
4. *The Evil take. The Good give.*
5. *The Evil hate. The Good love.*

As the plot unfolds, we learn that most of the Good students are selfish, superficial brats, who only appear to be Good. The Evil students are mostly pitiful losers who lash out because they feel inferior. Near the end of the book, the Good students mount a sneak attack on the Evil students. We are made to see that this is not because they break the first rule, but rather because they forget who they are supposed to be.

I won't ruin any more of the plot, but at the end of the book, there is an Afterword that asks the question: "Which School is yours?" and contains a quiz for the School Master to judge your Goodness and Evilness. Here are a few of the questions:

1. During a test, you notice your teacher's answer key lying on the desk in front of you. You:
 - a. correct all your answers without guilt, since it's the teacher's fault that the key was left there.
 - b. check all your answers but don't correct the wrong ones.
 - c. pretend it's not there and do your test on your own.
 - d. alert the teacher that the



One Witch Girl. One Princess.
One Happily Never After.

answers are out in plain view."

The next one hit home with me because I experienced a very similar quandary in real life:

"2. On the first day of school, the most unpopular villain in the entire school asks if he can sit with you at lunch. Then you see the villains at the "cool table" waving you over to sit with them. You:

- a. turn them down and sit with the unpopular kid.
- b. bring the unpopular kid over with you, even though they might turn you both away.
- c. leave the unpopular kid and sit with the cool villains.
- d. tell the unpopular kid you can hang out in secret but not when there are other people around."

Here's a subtle one:

"9. Which would you choose as a place to live? An island where:

- a. you have infinite wealth and freedom but no close friends.
- b. you are poor and homeless, but have all your best friends.
- c. you have only your true love and no one else.
- d. you are immortal but are the only person there."

Mostly Good or mostly Evil??? It's not easy to be sure, is it?

Emanuel Calendar of Events

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office Closed	2 10:00 am Organ practice 4:00 pm Biblical Art Journaling 5:30 pm SAT. EVENING WORSHIP
3 9:30 am Worship Service	4 LABOR DAY Office Closed 4:00 pm Youth Symphony Chorus Rehearsal	5 10:30 am Day Care Yoga Class 12:00 pm Text Study	6 7am Men's Bible Study @ Mimi's 10:00 am Weekly Staff Meeting	7 9:30 am Adult Bible Study- Casa de Modesto	8 Office Closed	9 10:00 am Organ practice 11:00 am Linda Brantley Memorial Service
10 GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS HEALING PRAYER SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Stewardship KO & Ministry Fair	11 1:00 pm CARE CUPBOARD 4:00 pm Youth Symphony Chorus Rehearsal 6:00 pm Girl Scout Leader's Mtg. 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study - Smith's	12 10:30 am Day Care Yoga Class 12:00 pm Text Study	13 7am Men's Bible Study @ Mimi's 10:00 am Weekly Staff Meeting 11:30 am Multi Faith Leadership MINISTRY MTG. 7:00 pm	14 7:00 pm LEAH CIRCLE	15 Office Closed 6:30 pm ELDC Back to School Night and Art Gala	16 10:00 am Organ practice 11:00 am Corridor 99 / Merced
17 BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship Service 2:00 pm ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE 5:30 pm Adult Ed Movie Nite	18 4:00 pm Youth Symphony Chorus Rehearsal 7:00 pm LYDIA CIRCLE - Van Diepens	19 10:30 am Day Care Yoga Class 12:00 pm Text Study 1:30 pm Spiritual Growth/Adult Ed Mtg.	20 7am Men's Bible Study @ Mimi's 10:00 am Weekly Staff Meeting 11:30 pm Day Care Board COUNCIL Mtg.	21 1:30 pm REBECCA CIRCLE	22 Office Closed	23 10:00 am Organ practice 12:00 pm Reformation Fair
24 INTER-FAITH SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship Service 5:30 pm Adult Ed	25 1:00 pm CARE CUPBOARD 4:00 pm Youth Symphony Chorus Rehearsal 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study - Smith's	26 10:30 am Day Care Yoga Class 12:00 pm Text Study 3:00 pm FOCUS ON PREVENTION (Luther Hall)	27 7am Men's Bible Study @ Mimi's 10:00 am Weekly Staff Meeting	28 Adult Bible Study	29 Office Closed	30 9:00 am Council Retreat 10:00 am Organ practice