

# The Echoes

March 2019



Newly Elected  
Congregation  
Council  
Members  
Class of 2021

*Inside: Memorial Services*

*Mardi Gras Potluck and Bunco Night Photos*

*Articles by Sue Wilke and Kathleen Reuter*

*Servant of the Month: Kaete Loeffler*

# Emanuel Lutheran Church

*Our Mission: To share Christ's unconditional love with everyone.*

# Greetings from Pastor Lyn

When my kids were in elementary school the month of March promised the things of spring; spring break, spring skiing, kite flying, etc. More than ready to be done with freezing cold winter winds, we eagerly looked forward to March winds, to dig out the kites or to make a new one. We lived near the school soccer field which was a prime kite flying area due to its bowl shape (or so I was told). Their Scout leader was an expert kite maker and flyer; it was such fun to watch his extraordinary kites flying higher than all others. It's been a windy winter around here and while not as severe as in some places nonetheless trees have toppled and plenty of other damage done all over the central valley. Some of those days the wind has been too strong for kite flying, but it's got me thinking about wind – can you tell?



I love the wind – that hasn't always been the case, but I do now. I used to get really annoyed by the relentlessness of the wind, tired of messy hairdos and lost hats. But these days, the wind reminds me of the Holy Spirit's activity – in the same space occupied by you and me – it's a relentless and restless spirit ... God messing with us, encouraging us, pushing us to be visible disciples in our community.

Lent begins March 6th. The Holy Spirit will be urging us, during this season, toward repentance and some serious self-reflection. Welcome the opportunity – welcome the Spirit. Lent is usually pretty much the same year to year, which is fine, but I think the Holy Spirit Wind would appreciate some new stirrings as a way to encourage greater



Emanuel is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

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pastor@emanuellutheran.org

Website:  
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Church Office:  
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Church Office Hours:  
Monday through Thursday:  
8 am – 3 pm  
Friday 8 am – 2 pm

Paula Braxton, Administrative Asst.  
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## 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 people in all stages and circumstances of life.

We, as disciples of Christ, minister to our changing community in challenging cultural times.

God is calling us to joyfully follow the Holy Spirit in ministry to others.

## From Pastor Lyn, continued

engagement from us and the community. That said, the service schedule for Lent and Holy week is a bit different this year in an attempt to make attending easier especially for those who do not like to drive at night. Look for more in the weekly announcements, but here's a brief outline: Ash Wednesday – full service with ashes and communion at *NOON*. Imposition of ashes and contemplative prayer with communion at 7:00 pm. Lenten Soup Suppers – 5:30 pm every Wednesday with an activity followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm. Maundy Thursday – 7:00 pm traditional service. Good Friday – 3:00 pm full service followed by a Prayer Vigil from 4pm to 8pm. Easter Sunday – 9:30 Resurrection service! Easter Egg Hunt & brunch of course!

What happened to Holy Saturday and the Easter Vigil? Well, this year we are going to try something different. Recent research reveals that people who are looking for a church will visit a church website 6 to 8 times before ever entering the actual door and some will never physically visit a local church. What that means is that the Internet is fast becoming our front door! People are going to church via the internet and this phenomenon will continue to grow. We want to be accessible on the Internet and remain true to our theology. This year's Holy Saturday service will be a 5 minute worship experience using traditional pieces of the Vigil service in an online video. This service will be available on our web site and on You Tube. Stay tuned! What's this got to do with "kite-flying" wind? Perhaps it is to remind us that the Holy Spirit is active in every aspect of our lives and in our culture and that it is up to us to make that "wind" visible.

This Lent, there will be some things that remain the same and a few that are different. Celebrate and participate! The wind is restless, stirring, urging ... so, hold onto your kite and see the Holy Spirit move among us!

In Anticipation of a Spirit-filled Holy Season,

Pastor Lyn



## WELCA Spring Luncheon

*All women of Emanuel are invited to the WELCA Spring Luncheon. It will be held April 6, from 11:00 – 1:00. It will be a catered luncheon. Tickets are \$5. Pastor Lyn will present "Five Wishes." Come and bring a guest.*

## Celebrate!

**WELCA Spring Luncheon**  
April 6  
11:00 – 1:00  
Catered Lunch – \$5



## Planting Time by Kathleen Reuter

Early last summer, past the best time for planting seeds, I nonetheless picked up three packets from the garden store. In recent years my gardening has diminished to watching the growth of weeds and whatever I previously planted that still lives. That includes volunteer sunflowers that attract yellow finch, so it is not a totally hopeless situation. Because gophers have aggressively feasted on our most recent vegetable efforts, plantings have lately been limited to pots. So, with a

packet each of basil, chives and lavender, I carefully prepared an extra wide pot with new potting soil. I checked the seed depth and sprouting times for each and gave each a third of the pot. Then, I carefully misted daily – and I waited.



If you have ever grown basil, you know its sprouts are easily recognizable. Sure enough, fat bright green little sprout leaves started showing right on schedule. Usually it is easy to see which sprouts are from the seeds you planted, as opposed to neighborhood weeds, because there will be so many good sprouts that look the same, all the same age. I knew that chives, like all onion-like seeds, are slow to germinate, so I figured that in another week or so I would start to see them

too. Not so – it was over a month before a single spike of youthful chive emerged. Gradually, by the end of summer there were four or five thin strands emerging. By then the basil was a part of our daily diet. Now, in late winter, I can count two dozen tiny chive plants.

With the slow emergence of the chives, it seemed that I should just be patient and keep waiting for the lavender. They were all in the same pot; all were being cared for whether they emerged or not. Summer came to an end without any sign of a lavender sprout. And then, there it was. One possible lavender sprout. I grew them from seed 15 years ago, and this one sprout looked vaguely familiar. A short time later there was a second. Ever so slowly the first set of true leaves emerged on the first sprout and that too looked promising. Disappointment came a few days later when the youngest sprout vanished. The pot had been visited by bunches of little birds, including those yellow finches. I propped a small drape of silk organza over the pot to keep birds out but still let sun and water in. Now, as winter is about to give way to spring, I count over half a dozen new possible lavender sprouts, but there is still only one with a set of true leaves. The others are still emerging, waiting to take off when the sun brings warmer days.

Are these sprouts really lavender? It is still too early to tell, but I already know the virtue of patience. How many times in other ventures have I given up too soon? We prepare the soil, plant the seed, gently water, and wait. How long, oh Lord? Keep watering. Keep praying. It will soon be planting time again.

## The Ixthus by Sue Wilke

A few weeks ago, the Council met in what is to become the new Katie's Room. The original Katie's Room is now being used by the Day Care and has very small-sized furniture. The old youth room is now being used for Ministry and Council meetings. On the wall, above the window, is a wooden plaque that once identified the youth facility before the new buildings were constructed. It was called the Ixthus, a Greek word that was used to identify Christians in the first century. The letters were an anachronym for the Greek words that are translated Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior.

Those of you who have attended Emanuel for many years will remember the little building that once sat in what is now the courtyard that was used as the meeting place for our youth. When we expanded our campus and built the office wing and the Day Care wing, we sold the buildings that were used for Sunday School and for the youth. The old Sunday School building is on Roseburg, just west of College. The Ixthus now sits in a field on Claribel, just west of Langworth Rd. The owners have painted it, added a cupola and a couple of extensions. For those of us that go "way back," it's nice to see that it still has a purpose. I hope the family that lives there will enjoy it for many years to come.



Today



1999

# My Life in a Box

With horrendous fires, floods and hurricanes going on in our country, this simple emergency plan is vital as you prepare yourself and your family.

My Life in a Box is an introduction to the personal emergency preparedness program that Laurie Ecklund Long developed after surviving personal losses and watching what happened to close friends after natural and man-made disasters. For over a decade, she has introduced this simple preparedness concept throughout the United States and Canada.

The basic foundation of My Life in a Box focuses on four questions:

- 1) In case of a fire or disaster, can you leave your home in five minutes, with everything you will need to rebuild your life?
- 2) In case of an accident does a family member or friend know where to locate your personal, legal, and financial documents?'
- 3) Does anyone know your end-of-life wishes?
- 4) Do you have enough food, water, tools and supplies to shelter in your home for up to a week if the power goes off?

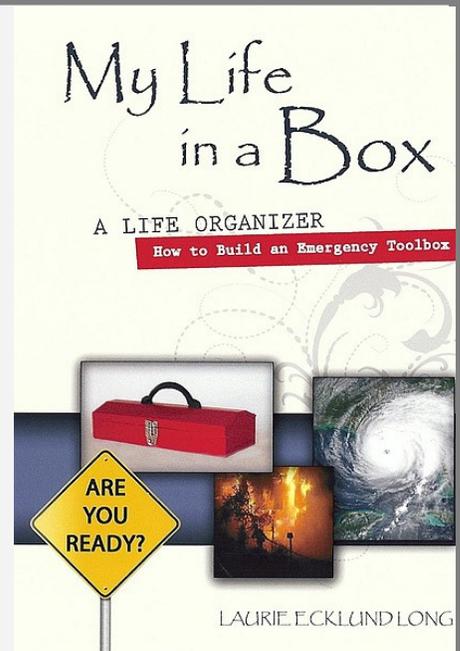
My Life in a Box is about building an emergency tool box to help you survive just about anything! If only the people in the recent hurricanes and wild fires and floods had their documents, their lives would be so much better. Tragedies like those are not easy in any way, but now they are facing months and possibly a year of trying to rebuild their lives with no personal, legal or financial documents easily accessible.

The goal of My Life in a Box ... is to show you how to:

- Store and archive your personal, legal and financial documents in case of a family emergency, personal loss, or natural, or man-made disaster.
- Prepare a "Get Away Bag" for every family member (and pets) so that they can walk (or run) away from your home and take your life with you.
- Build a shelter in place kit on a budget. This provides a 7-day supply of food, water, first aid supplies and tools that are needed in case the power goes off in their community.

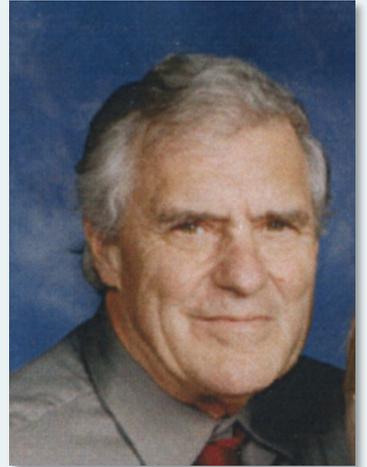
If you are a procrastinator, like most of us are, set your kitchen timer for 15 minutes a day and get started! By using the information found in this book you can also help your family and friends be prepared. Also check out the Blogs on my website for more detailed instructions at [www.mylifeinabox.com](http://www.mylifeinabox.com).

**Kristine Kraft, Marsha Waggoner, and Sue McCreedy have prepared this unique and interesting activity for Lent. "My Life in a Box" will follow Lenten soup suppers in March and April; 4 sessions will take place Wednesdays. 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, and 4/3. Each session will last about 45 minutes and they will present a step-by-step guide for developing your own emergency preparedness plan.**



# Endowment Fund Report

The Emanuel Lutheran Church Endowment Fund was organized at a time when Emanuel received a large bequest with the understanding that it would be used to begin an endowment fund. After it was established, a few members donated to the fund with memorials and another bequest. A brokerage account was opened at Charles Schwab with these funds. The brokerage account also includes shares purchased with Emanuel Day Care and Emanuel operations reserve funds.



The endowment fund earned \$16,000 in 2017 and \$15,400 in 2018 from dividends and interest. These annual earnings, since the fund was established, have helped finance needed repairs from two termite attacks, a water break and other minor repairs. Recently, the security door project was accomplished with help from the endowment fund proceeds.

The brokerage account can receive gifts of stocks. This is a very important function for those who have stocks that have appreciated. A gift of stocks can be made to Emanuel that will allow the donor to claim a donation amount equal to the value of the stock at the time the stock is received by Emanuel, without paying any capital gains tax. To qualify, the stock must be transferred directly from the donors' brokerage account into the Emanuel Lutheran Church brokerage account. The donor can specify where the proceeds of the stock should be credited.

The endowment fund is always willing to accept donations, bequests, and memorials. The principal is to remain in the fund; only earnings are used for capital expenses, ministries, reinvestments, and tithing to the synod. Managing the fund in this manner will enable us to maintain and improve our campus and facilities for years to come.

Please contact me if you are interested in donating, making a bequest or memorial to the endowment fund, or if you want more information about making a direct stock donation.

Praying for God's continued guidance,

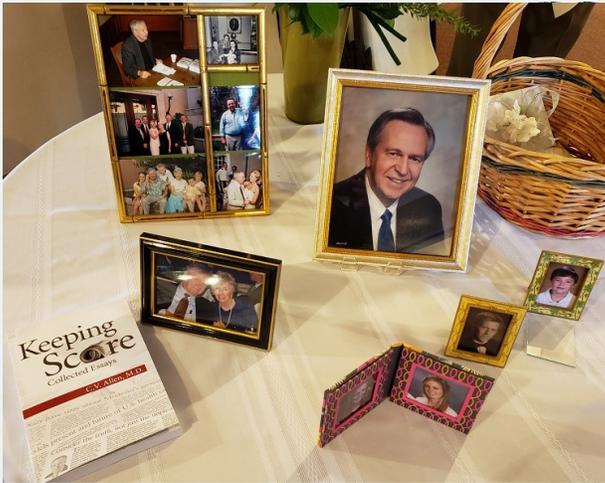
Robert Reuter

Emanuel Lutheran Church Treasurer

# Dr. Charles Van Nuys Allen Memorial Service



We celebrated the life of our beloved Van Allen on Saturday February 2, 2019. His family and friends turned out in large numbers and we can be proud of our service as hosts of this event.



# Donald Bernard Lee Memorial Service



**Don, brother of Pastor Roger Lee, passed away on December 17 in Stockton, CA at St. Joseph's Medical Center at the age of 80. He was born in Alhambra, CA to Clifford and Myrtle Lee. Emanuel hosted a celebration of his life on February 16, 2019.**

**The Lee family, which included twins Robert and Roger, moved to Modesto in 1954. They became members of Emanuel Lutheran Church, Modesto. Don was a devoted father to Robyn and Mike, and deceased children Greg, Linda and Shannan. He loved his many grand and great-grandchildren. Don married his beloved wife, Jan, in 1976. He treasured his relationship with her two sons, Bill and Bob Shroyer, and their families. Jan passed away in 2011.**

**Don worked for many years in the Life Insurance business in Santa Rosa, CA. After he retired, he moved to Lodi, CA in 2014. He joined Emanuel Lutheran Church where he was active in the choir. Due to a bad fall and injuries, he spent the past two years in a nursing home in Stockton. Everyone that knew Don enjoyed his sense of humor and teasing personality. He made friends wherever he was. He will be greatly missed by many.**

# Bunco Night



If you missed this event, you missed a really fun time. We all won! Hopefully we'll do it again — when we do, make sure you get your tickets early.



# Mardi Gras Potluck



We had a ton of great food and a nice group of people to share this special meal on February 24, thanks to our Fellowship Ministry and all of you who joined us and/or brought food.

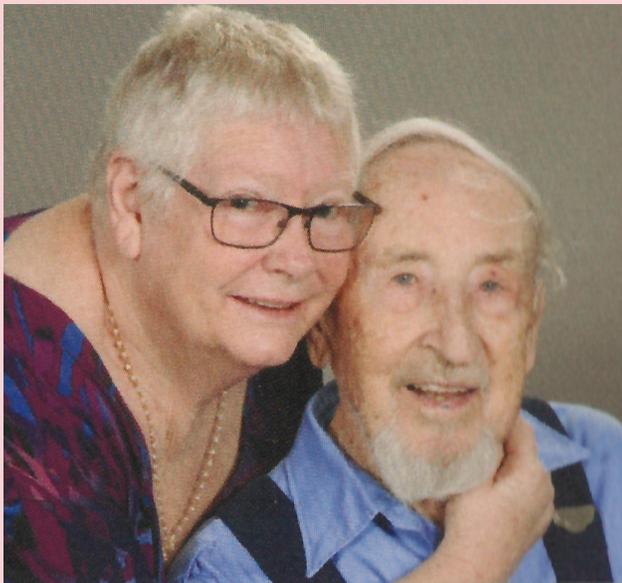


## Servant of the Month

This month, we honor Kaete Loeffler for her service to us. She is perhaps the most faithful giver to our Care Cupboard and Katie's Kitchen. Nearly every week she brings a large load of items for us to give to MJC students who need them badly.

Kaete and her Dad, Roland have been members of Emanuel for many, many years and have been regulars on Sunday mornings. Lately, however, Roland has been feeling the effects of his 99 years. His physical and mental stamina have made it very difficult for him to attend and for Kaete to leave him. Her dedication to taking care of Roland has been remarkable and certainly must sometimes be very difficult for her. Despite this, she keeps smiling and keeps serving.

Please remember to thank her.



# THANK YOU!

Celebration of Life is an Emanuel Ministry that helps families who are bereaved when a family member has passed and lets them know that Emanuel cares for them. We take care of so many things in preparation for a beautiful service. Our "Giving Angels", provide food and are willing to serve and work when called upon. Words cannot express how grateful we are for all of the "Angels" who participate. Recently, we had three of these Celebrations of Life for members of Emanuel, all within a three week period. Many worked diligently to provide all that was needed. If you would like to join this wonderful group of "Giving Angels", please find one of our "Angels" and they will direct you to the Celebration of Life committee.



# February Council Notes

Council met at 11 am on Sunday February 10. We had perfect attendance, with all new and returning members present. Pastor led off by reading from Luke 9: "Master, it is good for us to be here". She alerted us that, as disciples, we might need to do some new things in the coming year.

### Election of President and Vice President

Using a procedure called an "ecclesiastic ballot", council elected Sue Wilke to a second term as President and Dennis Strand as Vice President. By unanimous voice vote, Rob Reuter was elected Treasurer and Mike Epting was elected Secretary.

### New Business

Some ministries were reorganized.

Youth/Family and Day Care were merged and Pat Smith will represent both on council. Worship and Spiritual Growth were similarly combined and Marty Strand and Sue Wilke will represent the new ministry. The latter will also incorporate the Sanctuary Arts Team. Also, the Outreach Team will also include Katie's Kitchen.

### Various Reports

Fellowship is organizing a Mardi Gras Potluck for February 24. Social Media is working on a video for Easter Vigil. Our grounds maintenance equipment has been refurbished or replaced thanks to Arie Kroese and a memorial donation for Sherm Petersen. Day Care enrollment remains steady and there is now a



waiting list for all age groups.

### Financial Summary

Bob Reuter reported January income was under budget and expenses were slightly over budget. The Building Fund also had a shortfall, but Day Care was nearly balanced. Jim Barton commented on the national trend towards fewer pledges, especially among younger church members.

	January Income	January Expenses	January Gain/Loss
<b>General Fund</b>	13,364	(20,493)	(7,129)
<b>Building Fund</b>	4,768	(6,929)	(2,161)
<b>Day Care</b>	30,335	(30,604)	(269)
<b>TOTALS</b>	48,467	(58,026)	(9,559)

# March Birthdays

## Birthday Blessing Sunday is March 17

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

- |      |                  |      |                 |      |                |
|------|------------------|------|-----------------|------|----------------|
| 3/1  | Dennis Crenwelge | 3/13 | Jim Barton      |      |                |
| 3/11 | Sarah Shank      | 3/13 | Anna Hooper     |      |                |
| 3/12 | Garry Hayes      | 3/13 | Beth Rokaitis   |      |                |
| 3/12 | Charlie Klenz    | 3/18 | Jane Espland    | 3/21 | Addison Hoover |
| 3/12 | Jack Klenz       | 3/19 | Marilyn Rowland | 3/21 | Rick Unruh     |
| 3/12 | Jerry Lutterman  | 3/20 | David Holtz     | 3/23 | Russ Klenz     |
|      |                  |      |                 | 3/25 | Cecelia Olives |
|      |                  |      |                 | 3/28 | Sheri Hoover   |
|      |                  |      |                 | 3/28 | Dennis Strand  |



# Epilogue

*(You may safely skip this...)*

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

One of our February scripture readings was from Isaiah and mentioned a Seraph. Like me, you may have thought that had something to do with fonts, but again like me, you would have been wrong (that one is “serif”, of course).

According to some websites, Ezekiel’s Seraph might have looked like this:



Isaiah described them: “each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.”

The Bible also mentions Cherubim, another sort of angel. In Genesis 3:24 after Adam and Eve are driven out of the Garden, God placed Cherubim to guard the way to the tree of life. Later, representations of Cherubim are placed on the Ark of the Covenant, apparently to symbolize the protection of its contents by God’s servants.

The Bible is relatively light on facts about angels, but there is a huge body of specific beliefs based on hints in the Bible and other sources. Medieval theologians described a

detailed hierarchy of the “Heavenly Host”. Seraphim and Cherubim are at the top and they serve God directly, as described in John’s Revelation. Lower orders do God’s bidding and sort of manage the world and the universe on a day-to-day basis. The lower orders interact with mankind directly, either from time-to-time or all the time. Scripture is quite vague about this.

The lowest order of angels, just below Archangels, is, strangely, Angels. That is, all the Host are angels, but some of them are Angels, or “plain angels”. They are most concerned with the affairs of

men. Some are messengers and some are guardians. The Old Testament has several examples of messengers and guides, such as Moses’ burning bush. Jesus speaks of Angels as guardians in Matthew 18:10, when he hints that all children are assigned an Angel.

Guardian Angels are a Christian concept that resonates with many of us. I know that several people in our Emanuel family believe that they have personal Angels. Others believe that they have encountered such Angels several times in their lives, when they really needed them.

Most of the time, when Angels are seen in the Old Testament, they are

not immediately recognized as such. That may be the case for us, too, as we may become aware of an Angelic presence only after the fact.

There are some specific examples, however, of Angels being quite overt. The obvious one is Gabriel, who appeared to Mary, Zacharias, and Elizabeth (and, although unnamed, probably to Joseph also).

Another interesting one is the Angel who freed Peter from prison in Acts 12. Here’s Raphael’s rendering of that scene:



Although Angels have been represented as men and women, conventional theology holds that they are neither. It’s interesting that both of the illustrations on this page show them as feminine. It may be that we are more comforted and less threatened by female (motherly?) Angels.

I guess I’d sum up my study of Angels this way: the Bible doesn’t have much detail, but most churches preach that Angels are real and there is a general agreement that we might have personal Guardians. We all need one.

# Emanuel Calendar of Events

# March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> 9:30 am 11:00 am <b>CARE CUPBOARD COLLECTION</b> Worship Service Ministry Mtg.	<b>4</b> 10:00 am 5:00 pm 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study MSYC Rehearsal Girl Scout Leader Mtg.	<b>5</b> 7:00 am 12:00 pm Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study	<b>6 Ash Wednesday</b> 7:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm 7:00 pm Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Day Care Yoga Ash Wednesday Service Meditation Time	<b>7</b> 9:30 am 5:00 pm Adult Bible Study @ Emanuel Day Care Board Mtg.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10:00 am 5:30 pm Organ practice SAT. EVENING WORSHIP
<b>10</b> 9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b> <b>HEALING PRAYER SUNDAY</b> Mitchell Baptism Worship Service COUNCIL Mtg.	<b>11</b> 10:00 am 1:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm <b>Day Care Spring Fund Raiser Begins</b> Day Care Chapel Care Cupboard MSYC Rehearsal Women's Bible Study	<b>12</b> 7:00 am 12:00 pm <b>Day Care Picture Day</b> Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study	<b>13</b> 7:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting Day Care Yoga Multi-Faith Leadership Meeting Lenten Activities	<b>14</b> 9:30 am 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study @ Emanuel LEAH CIRCLE	<b>15</b> 6:00 pm Wired Word Potluck	<b>16</b> 10:00 am 6:00 pm <b>Opera Modesto Event - Facility use</b> Organ practice Wired Word Potluck
<b>17</b> 9:30 am 6:00 pm <b>BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS SUNDAY</b> Worship Service Wired Word Potluck	<b>18</b> 5:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm MSYC Rehearsal LYDIA CIRCLE Women's Bible Study	<b>19</b> 7:00 am 12:00 pm Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study	<b>20</b> 7:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting Day Care Yoga Lenten Activities	<b>21</b> 9:30 am 1:30 pm Adult Bible Study @ Emanuel REBECCA CIRCLE- Alice Hoagland's	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00 am Organ practice
<b>24</b> 9:30 am <b>INTER-FAITH SUNDAY</b> Worship Service	<b>25</b> 10:00 am 1:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm <b>Echoes Deadline</b> Day Care Chapel Care Cupboard MSYC Rehearsal Women's Bible Study	<b>26</b> 7:00 am 12:00 pm Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study	<b>27</b> 7:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting Day Care Yoga Lenten Activities	<b>28</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study @ Emanuel	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 am 10:00 am Quilting Bee Organ practice
<b>31</b> 9:30 am Worship Service						