

The Echoes

September 2019



What's next for Emanuel?

85 & Forward!

Inside: Pastor Lyn looks back & ahead

K-LOVE Interview

God's Work. Our Hands.

Servant of the Month:

Paula Braxton

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

Greetings from Pastor Lyn

Sisters & Brothers at Emanuel,

Summer is all but over and even now, the end of August, mornings are crisp reminding us that fall is right around the corner. I'm wondering what this new season holds for Emanuel.

August 1st began my 5th year at Emanuel. It seems like only yesterday! Thank you to everyone for the lovely reception, flowers, cards and many thoughtful notes! It has been an extraordinary four years and I look forward to year five being equally, if not more, full and purposeful.

What will the next year look like or the next five? For starters, 2020 marks Emanuel's 85th year of being a congregation! That's an enormous milestone and one we will celebrate with activities throughout the year. Practically everything we do in 2020 will be connected in some way to this year's Stewardship emphasis, "**85 & Forward.**" In 2020, we will immerse ourselves in our Baptismal identity as later this year a new baptismal font will be dedicated. Also, I am in conversation with the SPS about potentially doing some revitalization work that would tie in perfectly with a significant anniversary year. God is active in the world and in our community; God is active in our congregation — a new season is upon us both meteorologically and theologically!

God only knows what the next five years will be like for us or for any congregation but I am confident God has plenty for us to do in the community. I believe also God expects us to grow in faith because, of course, we know we are not saved by the work we do in the community or anywhere.

In First Corinthians, Paul writes regarding God's wisdom — a deeper wisdom than any human can achieve. Paraphrasing Isaiah 64:4 he states:

"But, as it is written, no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him."

We love our Lord no doubt about that! Let us embrace "**85 and Forward**" and all else God has planned wholeheartedly!

In Christ, Pastor Lyn

P.S. The annual stewardship emphasis begins October 6!



Emanuel is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Pastor Lyn Crase:
209-523-4531
pastor@emanuellutheran.org

Website:
www.emanuellutheran.org

Church Office:
Phone: 209-523-4531
Fax: 209-523-3643

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

Paula Braxton, Administrative Asst.
209-523-4531
secretary@emanuellutheran.org

Laura Marquez, Day Care Director
209-549-0672
daycare@emanuellutheran.org

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.

Emanuel on K-LOVE

Elaine Ixcot, team leader for Outreach Ministries, was recently interviewed by Kindra Ponzi, Regional Public Affairs Manager for K-LOVE radio, which is a nation-wide network of Christian radio stations. Ms. Ponzi heard about Emanuel's Care Cupboard from Kelli Ott, Director of Modesto's Shower Shuttle. Ms. Ott recently spoke at Emanuel as part of our summer stewardship emphasis on ways we use our time and talents. Elaine gave her a tour of the Care Cupboard and told her about how it got started. Ms. Ponzi arranged to meet Elaine at Emanuel August 15. She recorded an interview of approximately 24 minutes for play on K-LOVE as part of the station's series on local food pantries. We were told the interview will be part of a Sunday evening program on 90.5 FM in about a month when other interviews are completed and everything is edited. Watch and listen for more information!



God's Work. Our Hands.



"God's work.
Our hands."
Sunday

SEPTEMBER
2019 **8**

God's work.
Our hands.

Sunday, September 8, 2019: This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

We are one of over 9,100 congregations who participate in this day of service. This year our project is to welcome and thank Modesto Police Department and Rank Security for all the times they have responded to a need on Emanuel's campus. We will bless completed quilts in worship, enjoy brunch together, and work on assembling additional quilts. Finished quilts will be given to the MPD officers for crisis care use. Let us all join in thanking MPD and Rank Security!

Ice Cream Social

Photo by Rich Unruh; Poster by Janice Watkins



We filled 8 tables. There were ice cream cups and cones with a variety of toppings and cookies to eat.

Talent included David leading us in song, Barbara and Marilyn playing a duet on the piano, Marsha giving us a math problem to solve, Matthew and Rebeca demonstrating karate and gymnastics, Teri and Sue reading original poems, Chris doing "hand" magic, and Margarita's nephew singing a song.



Norway's Stave Churches

Submitted by Mike Epting

Wooden churches were built in large numbers throughout Norway right after Christianity arrived on the scene in about 1000 CE. Rose and I visited this one near Bergen on our recent vacation. It built in 1150 and was moved in 1883 from a nearby village which was about to demolish it. It was destroyed by arson in 1992 but has been lovingly reconstructed to duplicate the original. The church is made of interlocking wood posts and staves, using no iron nails. The interior is shockingly small considering the size of the exterior, holding only about a dozen worshippers.

Note the dragons on the roof; apparently the ancient Norse were not above hedging their bets when they converted. The inside is distinctly Roman Catholic, though, with the stone font and the confessional window. After the reformation when most of Scandinavia became Lutheran, all new wooden churches were constructed of logs, not staves.



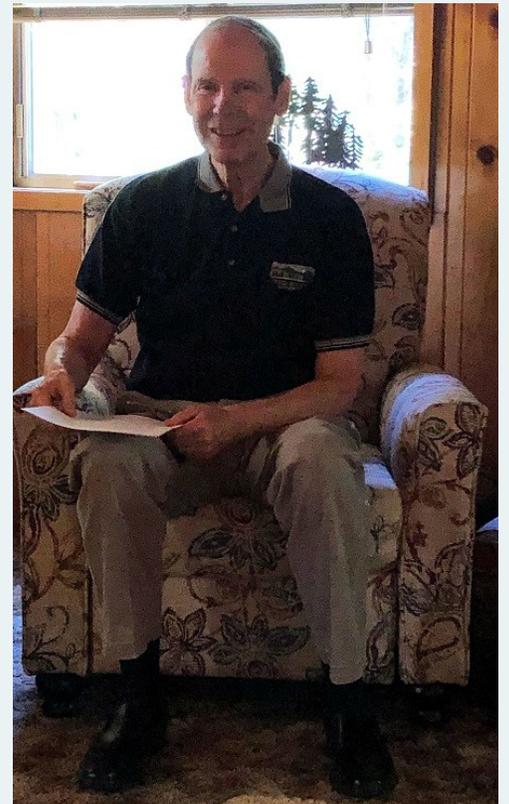
Council Retreat

Photos by Sue Wilke, Text by Pastor Lyn

On Saturday August 24 the Council met for a half-day retreat at Debbie Van Diepen's cabin in Twain Harte. Surrounded by quiet beauty we enjoyed wonderful fellowship and an inspirational workshop. Mr. Bill Oehlschlager, Executive Director for Lutheran Lay Renewal led the morning's activity titled "*7 Lessons for Living the Spiritual Life.*" Mr. Oehlschlager shared that same material with me to use as Emanuel enters into the 2020 Stewardship emphasis and begins to plan for the 85th Anniversary celebration in 2020. 2020 also holds an opportunity to enter into a time of intentional visioning and goal setting (you will hear more about that in the October edition of Echoes as well as in church!).

I have said many times that it is a good time to be the church when we are open to where God is leading.

Pastor Lyn



August Council Notes



Council met on August 11 at 11 am. Pastor Lyn opened a discussion by sharing her observations of and feelings about behavior exhibited at a recent city council meeting. We shared how we might respond to people who hold very different beliefs than we do. We need to be mindful of what we say and do. Let love cover all.

Paula Kroeze for the Sanctuary Arts Team reported that a 30 inch copper handmade bowl has been ordered. Skip Hoover believes that it will work well with the baptismal font he is building. The chancel walls and doors will be painted "Youthful Grey" (the redwood will not be touched). The team is now looking at wall hangings.

Pastor discussed the Council Retreat and how to use the AED (defibrillator).

Pat Smith reported that Day Care would have liked to have been involved in a Vacation Bible School. After a mix up and poor communication, we agreed that conversation about future VBS programs will be clear and planned for well in advance. Meanwhile, Pat has been spending extra time with the children at a twice-monthly Chapel.

Bob Reuter reported that we continue to have a shortfall of income vs expense. Our giving is nearly on track, but we have lost some members. In June the Loan Fund received a large donation and we also received a generous stock donation. Jim Barton will soon be planning our stewardship campaign.

Outreach is thinking about a church business card to hand out at various community events. Care Cupboard and Katie's Kitchen are taking a one week break between summer and fall terms. Fellowship is planning the Ice Cream Social, God's Work Our Hands (9/8), and Blessing of the Animals (early October), and 85th Anniversary January 2020.

Rick Unruh and Brett Owen video recorded and posted the sermons while Mike Epting was away on vacation. Counsel thanked them. We also voted to acknowledge Skip Hoover's work for us.

	July Income	July Expenses	July Gain/Loss
General Fund	14,968	(22,605)	(7,907)
Building Fund	3,445	(6,929)	(3,484)
Day Care	29,756	(31,030)	(1,274)
TOTALS	47,899	(60,564)	(12,665)

September Birthdays

Birthday Blessing Sunday is September 15

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

9/15 Bill Beasley

9/4 Karen Harris

9/15 Jakob Knoll

9/6 Ruben Haro

9/21 Brian Skustad

9/6 Raymond Martinez

9/22 Lori Knoll

9/7 Chuck Rowland

9/23 Jillian Klenz

9/24 Anita Martinez

9/24 Connor Skustad

9/27 Nancy Holtz



Servant of the Month

Paula Braxton was “promoted” to administrative assistant in January 2018 and she has enriched our lives in many ways since then. We are blessed that she said “yes” to increased hours and responsibilities. Her commitment to us is remarkable and her cheerfulness makes our office a pleasant place.

Paula keeps our office organized and stays on top of everything that goes on at Emanuel. She prepares our weekly bulletins and initiated the Announcements Page. These are as complete and accurate as you will ever see — other churches could only dream of matching them.

I suspect none of us fully understands everything Paula does for us. She isn't simply an employee, but truly a Servant of God, working for us. Thank her!



Worship Note

Emanuel is setting in motion a new opportunity for kids and youth that we hope will enrich their worship experience and encourage them to actively participate in the life of the congregation. On September 22nd we will launch a bi-monthly service called “*All Together Worshiping Jesus*”. This service will be led by children and youth ages 3 to 18. They will be the worship leaders and assistants that day as well as participate in the sermon time. These young Lutherans will learn what the liturgy means and provide a refresher for older Lutherans, doing it in a way that is fun and interesting. For example, why is the Confession at the beginning of worship, who is it for, how does confession work, what does it mean, etc.? Often even life-long Lutherans don't realize the liturgy comes right out of the Bible. Practice for our first service will be at 9 am Sept. 15 and again at 9 am Sept. 22 prior to the service. Bring your best voice and most earnest heart as our children lead our worship! HINT: “some things will be up-in-the-air!” Please direct questions and comments to Pastor Lyn.

Epilogue

(You may safely skip this...)

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

I want to share some personal good news. I've tried not to whine about it too much, but about a year and a half ago I realized that I was sick. I've been feeling better for several months and now I feel that my condition is in nearly full remission. My disease is not curable, but I'm very, very fortunate.

In April of 2018, I began to develop a strange cough and symptoms that resembled Rose's rheumatoid arthritis. The worst symptom was a total lack of energy; I had lost my *joie de vivre* and fell asleep whenever I sat down. It took all my willpower to do anything productive. Even non-productive time-wasters were tough!

I had trouble communicating my symptoms to my doctor and it took a couple of months to get to see a couple of specialists who ordered a CAT scan and then because of what they saw in the first, a second one.

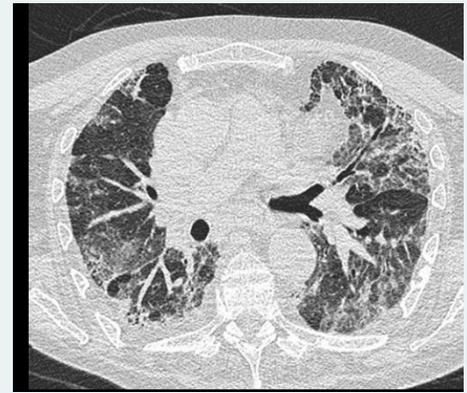
When I got the radiologist's report, it was full of jargon and essentially meaningless to me. It came in an evening email so I resorted to Google to attempt to understand what it said. The second sentence was "Findings are consistent with possible UIP diagnosis", so I started with "UIP" and learned that this condition (Usual Interstitial Pneumonia) had a typical life expectancy of 2-4 years.

At that point I turned off my tablet and went to bed. As you might imagine, I didn't sleep too well and

got up very early the next morning to decipher the rest of the report. What I then learned was that there are two sorts of Interstitial Lung Disease and that the other type, NSIP, has a much better prognosis. Both diseases are much different from COPD in that my airways remain clear, but the resulting tissue damage interferes with oxygen transfer to the bloodstream.

There are many causes of these conditions and the best treatment depends on many factors. The initial CAT scans did not clearly indicate which condition I had, nor the rate at which it was progressing. My rheumatologist, who ended up being my go-to doctor, ordered a bazillion tests. She began treatment immediately, before getting a complete diagnosis and I saw improvement in most symptoms. After a month or two, she announced that I have "antisynthetase syndrome", a rare autoimmune disorder of unknown cause. She theorized that I had a viral infection that caused my immune system to go into battle mode, but when it had destroyed the attacker it became confused and began attacking healthy tissue, including my lungs. This syndrome is so rare that there is no fixed protocol for treatment and there is little work being done to find one.

Dr. Chu, once she had a diagnosis, added an immune-suppressant to my treatment. Unfortunately this drug made me extremely ill. It multiplied all my symptoms and really alarmed Rose. She was the one who noticed the correlation between the time I took the pills



and the time of maximum misery. When I informed Dr. Chu, she told me to stop taking this one and immediately prescribed a different drug. I felt much better within 24 hours. In fact, I had no symptoms except shortness of breath and cracking and thickening of the skin on my fingertips. However, my routine blood tests still showed signs of serious infection, indicating that my immune system remained out of whack.

A second set of CAT scans showed continued lung damage, but with only two data points it was impossible to tell whether the new medication was working. Dr. Chu, based on this and blood tests, added another drug and then ultimately a third via infusion. I've been feeling absolutely fine since the infusions.

Last week I had another series of blood tests and they came back normal, with no indication of infection. Dr. Chu is now going to begin weaning me off prednisone, a steroid with serious long-term side effects. I cannot tell you how grateful and happy I am at this point. I feel like I have been given the greatest gift. I'm even thinking that this whole experience has been good for me. Praise God!

Emanuel Calendar of Events

September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am 10:00 am CARE CUPBOARD SUNDAY Worship Service Back to School Blessing	2 4:30 pm OFFICE/ELDC CLOSED - Labor Day Holiday No MSYC Rehearsal - Labor Day	3 7:00 am 12:00 pm Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study	4 7:00 am 10:00 am 7:00 pm Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting Council meets w/SPS	5 9:30 am The Joyful Singers Adult Bible Study	6	7 10:00 am 2:00 pm 5:30 pm Organ practice Memorial Service - G. Walton SAT. EVENING WORSHIP
8 9:30 am God's Work, Our Hands Sunday HEALING PRAYER SUNDAY Worship Service	9 10:00 am 1:00 pm 3:00 pm 4:30 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm Sanctuary Arts Project Day Care Chapel Care Cupboard Open Lydia Circle MSYC Rehearsal Girl Scout Leader Mtg. Women's Bible Study	10 7:00 am 12:00 pm Sanctuary Arts Project Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study	11 7:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am Sanctuary Arts Project Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting Multi Faith Leadership Mtg.	12 9:30 am 1:30 pm 4:00 pm 7:00 pm Sanctuary Arts Project Adult Bible Study Rebecca Circle Day Care Board Mtg. LEAH CIRCLE	13 6:30 pm Day Care Back to School Night & Art Gala	14 10:00 am Organ practice
15 9:30 am 11:00 am 11:30 am BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS SUNDAY Worship Service Ministry Mtg. COUNCIL Mtg.	16 4:30 pm 7:00 pm MSYC Rehearsal Women's Bible Study	17 7:00 am 12:00 pm Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study	18 7:00 am 10:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting	19 9:30 am Adult Bible Study	20	21 10:00 am Organ practice
22 9:30 am 11:00 am All Together Worshipping Jesus INTER-FAITH SUNDAY Worship Service Choir rehearsals resume	23 10:00 am 1:00 pm 4:30 pm 7:00 pm Echoes Deadline Day Care Chapel Care Cupboard Open MSYC Rehearsal Women's Bible Study	24 7:00 am 12:00 pm Day Care Picture Day Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study	25 7:00 am 10:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting	26 9:30 am Adult Bible Study	27	28 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am Quilting Bee Organ practice WELCA Luncheon
29 9:30 am Worship Service	30 4:30 pm 7:00 pm MSYC Rehearsal Women's Bible Study					