



**God's Work. Our Hands.**

*Inside: God's Work. Our Hands.*

*All Together Worshiping Jesus!*

*Healing Prayers*

*Servant of the Month:*

*Maria Ojeda*

# Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

# Greetings from Pastor Lyn

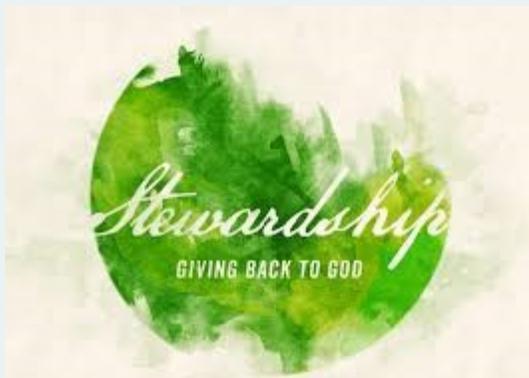
Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Today is the first official day of fall (9/23) and even though temperatures will be in the high 90's yet this week, the promise of cooler air, colorful leaves, shorter days and longer nights is right around the corner.

Fall is one of my favorite seasons (I have 3 other favorites). Each season holds its own lure, its own opportunity, its own challenge. In the church, the first Sunday in October will mark the beginning of the annual Stewardship emphasis. Stewardship seems to perpetually signal more challenge than opportunity in the church because most think the church is simply after more of one's time and money. But I know you are aware that Stewardship means much more than time or money. Stewardship is the management of every aspect of our lives from eating and exercise to bills and investments; from the health and well-being of our bodies to the health and well-being of all creation.

Toward the end of I Chronicles King David offers praise to God as he recounts his life and reign as king. I Chronicles 29: 14-19: *"But me—who am I, and who are these my people, that we should presume to be giving something to you? Everything comes from you; all we're doing is giving back what we've been given from your generous hand. As far as you're concerned, we're homeless, shiftless wanderers like our ancestors, our lives mere shadows, hardly anything to us. God, our God, all these materials—these piles of stuff for building a house of worship for you, honoring your Holy Name—it all came from you! It was all yours in the first place! I know, dear God, that you care nothing for the surface—you want us, our true selves—and so I have given from the heart, honestly and happily. And now see all these people doing the same, giving freely, willingly—what a joy! O*

*God, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, keep this generous spirit alive forever in these people always, keep their hearts set firmly in you. And give my son Solomon an uncluttered and focused heart so that he can obey*



Emanuel is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Pastor Lyn Crase:  
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Website:  
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Church Office:  
Phone: 209-523-4531  
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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  
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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.

## Pastor Lyn, continued

*what you command, live by your directions and counsel, and carry through with building The Temple for which I have provided.” The Message.*

Stewardship is a joyful thing – a unique opportunity to give back in significant ways. The theme for 2020 will be **85 & Forward in Faith**. Emanuel will celebrate 85 years of faithful ministry. We want to celebrate that event but also we want to dream big about what God has planned for the next decade and beyond. You will receive a giving card the first week of October with a few new options. You’ll see that the additional options all have to do with the 85th anniversary year and we hope these will encourage you to personally move forward in faith in accepting one or more of the listed opportunities. For your pondering in anticipation of receiving a card the options are:

- 1) Increase your pledge by 8.5%.
- 2) Give an additional \$85.00 a year, a month, or weekly.
- 3) If you typically do not pledge, but give regularly, consider pledging for the first time or pledge to increase your non-pledge by \$85.00. If you pledge for the first time the council has established a 1:1 match.
- 4) The last new option is to pledge to give something regularly. Even \$8.50 a week or a month establishes a meaningful spiritual discipline.

God is good and God is faithful. We know that and we trust that, whatever God has planned for Emanuel, God wants us to be fully engaged in that plan and eager in our support of it as we move Forward in Faith.

In Christ,  
Pastor Lyn

# 85 & Forward in Faith!

### News from Katie’s Kitchen

Due to low attendance of MJC students this summer, we were able to feed some of the neighborhood homeless people. However, now that the new semester at MJC has begun, we are currently serving 40-45 students on Tuesdays and 60-70 students on Wednesdays. We are now only feeding MJC students and staff. We are happy to share with our Day Care staff and, of course, any member of the church. Thank you for your continued support, and thank you to our volunteers.



By the time the closing hymn ends, the monthly birthday cake is sliced, so you never get to see how beautiful it is! Here’s the September cake before Greg Schroeder sliced it for you.

# God's Work. Our Hands.



While we donated a bunch of quilts to the Modesto Police Department (which were received joyfully!), we worked on additional new ones.



# All Together Worshiping Jesus!

September 22, 2019

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Our young members were part of every aspect of our worship experience. It was a great day for all of us!



# All Together, continued

Photos by Mike Epting



# Healing Prayers

Submitted by Kathleen Reuter

Since sometime late last year I have been feeling “off”. There was a bad cold, a trip that was more than usually tiring, various obscure complaints. Things got worse after the holidays, but still it was nothing I could clearly identify as a problem, just fatigue, neck pain, headache, loss of appetite, sore neck and jaw glands. Finally, when I realized the stiff neck and headache were permanent residents, I sought medical advice which led to a helpful chiropractor. By then I had put myself on the Emanuel prayer list. A few friends inquired about my health as a result, but my answers were mostly “I don’t know”. The chiropractor sessions, and his suggestions for better health, were effective in conquering the neck and head pain, but I still had no answer to the issue of fatigue or general malaise. Although my appetite returned, by June I was experiencing unreasonable muscle pain and stiffness, again with no understanding as to why. By August I was growing increasingly concerned that an upcoming trip at the end of the month would be difficult. The pains were nearly constant and all activities were becoming problematic, particularly earlier in the day. By evening it seemed possible that I was “improving” only to find that getting out of bed the next morning still had to be a carefully managed maneuver.

One Sunday, shortly before my trip, I saw that it was the week when healing prayers are offered. Should I? What’s to ask for when I don’t even know what is wrong? No matter; as I left the communion rail, I wordlessly stopped at the healing prayer station and received Pastor Lyn’s touch and her prayer for my health and well-being. No, I did not return to my seat pain-free, but the next day I contacted my doctor to explain my situation. She replied that it was good that I was already cleared to see a rheumatologist, the specialist for the symptoms I described. I had declined to see that specialist months earlier as I did not believe a rheumatologist would address my head and neck pain or fatigue issues! With this new information, I researched rheumatic system problems to see what the connection to my current situation might be. And there it was: out of some 200 possible conditions, near the bottom of the list I found one that matched on every “might experience” point, as well as on general demography (over 70, female, Scandinavian heritage). It was something I had never heard of, polymyalgia rheumatica, but in talking with others it seems to be quite common. My physical therapist daughter has had many patients with the condition, although she didn’t connect it with my complaints when she visited a week earlier.



Armed with this new information and knowing I would be leaving in a few days on a two-week journey, I again contacted my doctor to share what I found and to also ask for her help in getting an appointment with the rheumatologist. She quickly answered with all that I needed: I have an appointment to see the rheumatologist in a month and meanwhile my doctor gave me a prescription for the only drug known to help with polymyalgia rheumatica, prednisone. Amazingly, the relief from pain, stiffness AND fatigue was complete within 12 hours! With great relief I traveled unimpeded by pain or any evidence of illness. There will be more to learn about this condition – apparently it is permanent – and I will need to manage the dosage of prednisone so that it is as low as possible, or perhaps after a time unneeded. But oh, what a relief to know the reason for my elusive complaints, and to know there is help!

Do healing prayers work? I believe so. God was calling me to take action on my own behalf. I finally listened and did so. With great relief I can report that I have been helped. Thanks be to God!

# Grandparents' Day

Pat Smith, with your help, has again created a terrific bulletin board display.



# Walnuts

Mark your Calendars!!!

Emanuel Service Project / Fund Raiser

Saturday, October 19

An Emanuel Service Project will be held at Dave & Kristine Kraft's, 350 Roscoe Rd, Modesto. We will pick walnuts for an annual fund raiser. Pickers will also be helping Dave & Kristine by removing many organic walnuts. All money earned this year will be for Alora's Chemo Kits. Youth and adults are invited to come from 9:00 AM-12:30 PM and / or 1:30 PM-4:30 PM. A Hot Dog and Taco Soup Lunch will be from 12:30-1:30. Parents and all other adults are welcome to come, help pick walnuts for the Service Project, and eat.

Anyone else from Emanuel who would like to pick walnuts for your use or to give away are invited to come on Saturday from 12:30 PM-4:30 PM or arrange another day and time with Kristine. Kristine and Dave would love to find many takers for walnuts.



# September Council Notes



Council met on September 15 at 11 am. Much of the meeting time was spent discussing a previous meeting with Pastor Tita Valeriano, the Director for Evangelical Mission of the Sierra Pacific Synod. At that meeting, which took place on Wednesday, September 4, Pastor Tita outlined a process for revitalizing Emanuel. Council members aired their opinions of that meeting and also for the possibility of proceeding with a process of some sort. All agreed that we need to find ways to renew our energy as a church community. As a group, we were not completely confident that the "pilot" project proposed by Pastor Tita would help us achieve our goals. We agreed with Pastor Lyn that we need to perform a "vitality assessment" before the start of 2020 so that we can better establish our specific goals for "85 & Forward in Faith".

Our finances for August showed that our General Fund broke even, but we continue to have a Year-to-Date shortfall, which we have made up from our reserve account. We also learned that Day Care has now repaid the funds that paid for the work accomplished toward enhancing the after school program. That expansion program is still waiting for state approval, which has somewhat held back the Day Care financials.

We discussed our stewardship drive that will begin on the 1st Sunday in October. We will have 5 weeks of Temple Talks by various ministry leaders. We will also have a pledge challenge tied to the "85 & Forward in Faith" celebration.

Dennis Strand reported for Property that we will need to reseal the parking lot by next spring and should consider ADA-compliant ramp updates at that time.

Pastor Lyn reported that Stanislaus County Interfaith Council was considering our facility for the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.

	July Income	July Expenses	July Gain/Loss
<b>General Fund</b>	19,724	(19,148)	576
<b>Building Fund</b>	6,078	(6,929)	(851)
<b>Day Care</b>	26,601	(28,047)	(1,446)
<b>TOTALS</b>	52,403	(54,124)	(1,721)

## October Birthdays

### Birthday Blessing Sunday is October 15

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



10/1	Olga Layne	10/13	Tina Layne	10/29	Gregory Taylor
10/4	Johnathon Sample-Cruz	10/18	Daniel Johnson	10/29	Bob Reuter
10/7	Barry Schroeder	10/22	Matthew Owen	10/29	Oscar Wilson
10/9	Paula Kroeze	10/23	Alexandra Tisdell	10/31	Carol Hollmann
10/12	Carol Fox	10/29	Dan Langhoff		

## Servant of the Month

Maria Ojeda is Emanuel's bookkeeper. In that role she is our employee, but in the larger view, she is working as God's servant on our behalf.

Maria does so much more than keep our financial records and those of our Day Care. She pays our bills, tracks our income, and provides reports to our Treasurer, Bob Reuter, and to Pastor Lyn and the Council. She also provides the data that allows us to report our donations on our tax returns!

While all this may seem pretty secular, you know that without all her efforts we would be unable to continue to serve God's purposes at Emanuel.

Maria does all these things competently and cheerfully. We are blessed to have her with us and it would be good to tell her so!



## Thank You!

The changes are subtle and some of you may not have noticed, but the altar area has been refurbished. The walls have been painted, the redwood finish renewed, and the pulpit moved to storage. We thank the Sanctuary Arts Team and the Property Ministry for getting all this accomplished.



The area at the entry of the sanctuary entry has also been prepared for a new Baptismal Font.



# Epilogue

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

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

This page is usually text-focused, but Rose and I just returned from visiting Norway and Iceland. How can I talk about what we learned there without photos?

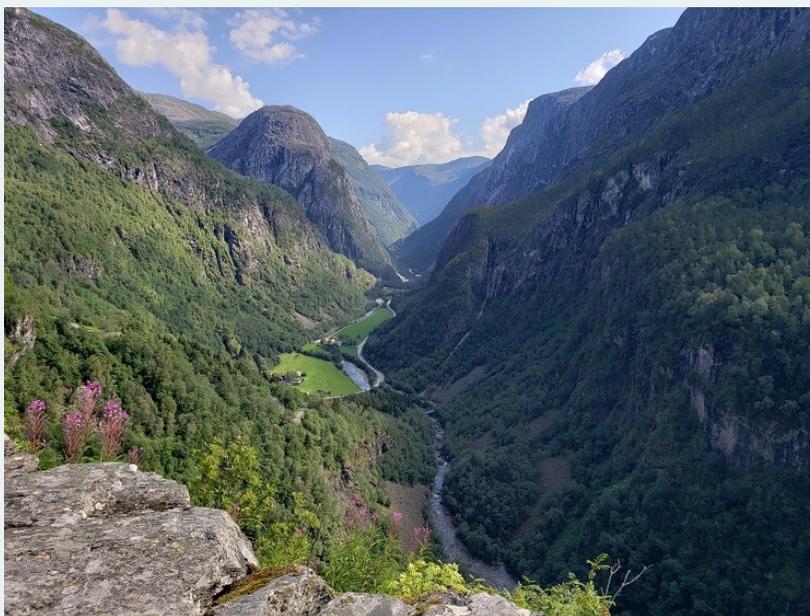
In both countries, the Lutheran Church is the official state church and is taxpayer-supported. The bad news is that the church is poorly-attended. Several tour guides said they go to church only on Christmas and Easter. I'm not sure whether they count visiting Pulpit Rock as going to church.



The Norwegians and Icelanders both seem to regard Lutheran pastors as civil servants, rather than spiritual leaders. They call on them to officiate weddings and funerals, but not for help in understanding God's role in their lives.

So, what do they worship in these two places? In Norway, they freely admit that they love and worship Nature. You can see why, perhaps, in the top right photo.

In Iceland we were told with a straight face that they believe in elves, trolls, and pixies. One tour



guide was anxious to point out an actual troll in a lava field that we visited. The bleak Icelandic countryside may also contribute to their belief in mischievous spirits.

The bottom shot is my photo of Godafoss Falls. In AD 1000, Icelandic Law Speaker and pagan Thorgeir Thorkelsson proposed "one law and one religion", after

which baptism and conversion to Christianity became compulsory. After the "Althing" (congress?) at which this was decided, he returned home, gathered up all his pagan symbols and threw them into God's Waterfall to proclaim his conversion.

God's beauty is everywhere!



# Emanuel Calendar of Events

# October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 12:00 pm Text Study	<b>2</b> 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 10:00 am Weekly Staff Meeting	<b>3</b> 9:30 am The Joyful Singers Adult Bible Study	<b>4</b> 9:00 am Quilting	<b>5</b> 10:00 am Organ practice	
<b>6</b> Blessing of the Animals CARE CUPBOARD SUNDAY Stewardship Kickoff 9:30 am First Communion 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am Ministry Mtg.	<b>7</b> 10:00 am Day Care Chapel 1:00 pm Care Cupboard 3:00 pm Lydia Circle 4:30 pm MSYC Rehearsal 6:00 pm Girl Scout Leader Mtg.	<b>8</b> 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 12:00 pm Text Study	<b>9</b> 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 10:00 am Weekly Staff Meeting 11:30 am Multi Faith Leadership Meeting	<b>10</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm LEAH CIRCLE	<b>11</b> 10:00 am Organ practice	<b>12</b> 10:00 am Organ practice
<b>13</b> HEALING PRAYER SUNDAY 9:30 am First Communion 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am COUNCIL Mtg.	<b>14</b> 4:30 pm MSYC Rehearsal 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>15</b> 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 12:00 pm Text Study	<b>16</b> 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 10:00 am Weekly Staff Meeting	<b>17</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 1:30 pm REBECCA CIRCLE 4:00 pm Day Care Board Mtg.	<b>18</b> 9:00 am Quilting	<b>19</b> 10:00 am Organ practice
<b>20</b> BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS SUNDAY 9:30 am All Together Worshiping Jesus 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am Confirmation Class	<b>21</b> 10:00 am Day Care Chapel 1:00 pm Care Cupboard 4:30 pm MSYC Rehearsal 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>22</b> 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 12:00 pm Text Study	<b>23</b> 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 10:00 am Weekly Staff Meeting	<b>24</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study	<b>25</b> 10:00 am Organ practice	<b>26</b> Family Promise Set Up 10:00 am Organ practice
<b>27</b> Family Promise INTER-FAITH SUNDAY Reformation Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service	<b>28</b> Echoes Deadline Family Promise 4:30 pm MSYC Rehearsal 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>29</b> 7:00 am Family Promise Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 12:00 pm Text Study 7:30 pm Gospel Mission Ministry	<b>30</b> 7:00 am Family Promise Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 10:00 am Weekly Staff Meeting 6:00 pm CPR/AED Training & Certification	<b>31</b> 9:30 am Family Promise Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Trunk or Treat		