

The Echoes

November 2019

85
& forward
in faith



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Servant of the Month:

Marilyn Rowland

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

Greetings from Pastor Lyn

November Blessings Sisters & Brothers,
 “Now the Lord said to Abram, *“Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.”* So begins Abraham’s call as recorded in Genesis 12:1-9.

Genesis 12:1-9 is the Scripture text I gave to the Stanislaus County Interfaith Council. The planning committee for the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration requested, from each congregation that participates, that we submit a section of Scripture that describes a guiding principle for discipleship. Just as Abraham trusted in faith to leave everything he knew and to travel into the great unknown, so it is for us, as Christian disciples – we often are asked to venture into areas unknown, in faith and in trust.

This beloved community tradition has been happening in Modesto for 23 years and this year it is happening at Emanuel! Yes, we will be hosting this event which in the past has drawn up to 300 people from the surrounding community. People of all faith traditions will gather in our space chosen because our facility represents a “calm spirit.” A spirit that is much needed in our community, in the country and in the world right now. It is an honor to be chosen and I hope you will make time to attend.

This gathering is a time for honoring our neighbor’s faith in a visible and tangible way. No matter what faith tradition one adheres to or professes, no matter what name we have for God or the Divine, we all have “skin in the same game” when it comes to the health and well-being of our community. With thankful hearts let us gather together with brothers and sisters from all over our county on November 25th at 6:45 pm at EMANUEL! This is a free event but if you come consider bringing a donation of canned or non-perishable food for Interfaith Ministries Modesto.

With thankfulness for who you are, dear sisters & brothers,

Pastor Lyn



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
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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
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Laura Marquez, Day Care Director
 209-549-0672
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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.



MJC Care Cupboard
Thanksgiving Food Drive
 November 1 – November 12
 Help make Thanksgiving Special
 For our students in need

Items Needed:

Turkey-frozen	Gravy Mix
Ham	Canned Yams
Boxed Potatoes	Sugar
Canned Fruit	Canned Vegetables
Broth	Stuffing Mix
Canned Pumpkin	

Items can be dropped off at the church

Emanuel Lutheran Outreach Ministry
 Care Cupboard




Blessing of the Quilts

After Pastor Lyn blessed them on October 13, Arie and Paula Kroese delivered these quilts to Advent Lutheran Church in Morgan Hill. From there, they will go around the world, via Lutheran World Relief.

First Communion



Jack & Charlie Klenz received their first communion on Oct. 6, which was World Communion Sunday. Jaycen Salonen & Dane Booth (cousins) received their first communion on Oct. 13. We celebrate this milestone with these young men and look forward to supporting & nurturing their faith journey.



WELCA Convention

Submitted by Kristine Kraft

Barbara Crawford writes:

2019 Convention of the Sierra Pacific Women of the ELCA

It was held September 18-20 at Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg, CA. The theme was "Come to me, All you who are weary and burdened, And I will give you rest. Rev. Kendrah Fredricksen's sermon reflected on "Life never gives us more than we can handle when we have the help of God and others. Attending the convention were Barbara Crawford, Susan McCready, Kristine Kraft, Mary Dieterich, Pat Smith, and Debbie Van Diepen. Our Purpose Statement emphasizes the verbs: created, called, empowered, grow, affirm, support, engage and promote. We'll be sharing some thoughts from the speakers who emphasized these verbs.



Kristine Kraft writes:

Linda Post Bushkofsky, the director of the Women of the ELCA, was in attendance. She wants us to remember the history of the Women of the ELCA. Lutheran women in the US have been gathering in mission since the 1800's. We owe much to our foremothers who responded to God's call and created a place in the church for women. (Who had all the control of our church then?) These women, empowered by the Holy Spirit, lived out a purpose when women had no voice in the church. There would be no funds available, so the women raised the money and got the job done. Linda asked us, "What will our legacy be?" Linda pointed out the following: decline in membership, Woman Bishop, Change is ok

What can we do?

WELCA Convention, continued

Mary Lou Dieterich writes:

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the retreat. We had great joy.

GROW: How do we grow our faith?

Grow in Christ through His word, with the help of resources:

Daily Devotions such as: Our Bible, "Christ in Our Home", "Our Daily Bread", "The Upper Room", "Daily Guideposts", "Words of Jesus for Women", "Jesus calling", "Bedside Blessings"

Online, such as: Daily Grace at welca.org/dailygrace, www.facebook.com/WomenoftheELCA, twitter.com/WomenoftheELCA, pinterest.com/WomenoftheELCA, Café at boldcafe.org (young adult women)

Don't forget our monthly magazine: gather at www.gathermagazine.org or write to PO Box 336 Congers, NY 10920 -9902 or call 1-844-409-0576.

Lastly, don't underestimate the gift of our friends who inspire, support, and encourage us along the way! Thank you for your gift of friendship.



Susan McCready writes:

AFFIRM OUR GIFTS - Thank offerings are an opportunity for us to affirm and give thanks for the blessings we have received. The Thankoffering tradition among Lutheran women dates back to the early 1800's, when women banded together to raise money in support of church projects, women's ministry, and foreign missionaries. The tradition continues today as women place Thankoffering boxes in their homes as ongoing visual reminders of blessings received throughout the year. Daily small events. One example given at the retreat was a woman who gave an offerings thanks for her son's safe return from travel. Making a thank offering gift is gratitude in action. This year's Thankoffering service will be Nov. 17. Offerings go towards the support of the churchwide women's organization.

WELCA Convention, continued

Pat Smith writes:

We are called to **SUPPORT** one another by supporting our ministries. There are several: Helping with Sunday Service, Piece Maker Quilting Group, Alora Project, Shower Shuttle, Choir, Katie's Kitchen, Care Cupboard, Council, Text Study, Adult Bible Study, and WELCA Bible Studies. Plenty of things to **SUPPORT** by participation or contributions. No one is too young or too old. If we **ENGAGE** in ministry and action, we can **PROMOTE** healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.



Debbie Van Diepen writes:

WELCA: Our purpose to **ENGAGE** in **MINISTRY** and **ACTION** is evident in the creation and sustaining of various outreach programs and the on-going care and love of Emanuel's church-family. Singing of hope, joy and peace to the incarcerated and quilts sewn for warmth and comfort are distributed through our local police department and church wide. Cooking breakfast, having a clothes-closet, and an open food cupboard for home use, are being provided for MJC students in need. Women of Emanuel also give monetary support to other charities. We are God's hands, sharing our many gifts in music, sewing, cooking, hospitality, love and caring to our church family and throughout the community.

Pet Blessing



Walnuts, 2019

Submitted by Kristine Kraft

We had a record-breaking number of 21 helpers or volunteers. We picked a record-breaking number of walnuts, 27 grocery bags. The proceeds will go to Alora's Chemo Kits, as she announced in church. Each bag is a donation of \$13 (or whatever). Thank you all of the volunteers for coming and making this a huge success!



WELCA Luncheon

Photos by Sue Wilke

The WELCA Fall Luncheon was on Saturday September 28. It was well-attended, as you see. Pastor Lyn led a study and those who attended the convention reported.



October Council Notes



Council met on October 13 at 11:15 am. Pastor Lyn introduced a short version of a church Vitality Survey. Each council member filled out a copy; Pastor Lyn will compile the results and we will discuss them in November.

We learned that the Girl Scout leaders have outgrown our available meeting spaces and will find a new place to meet. Maria, our bookkeeper has provided data and forms for developing next year’s budgets. Bob Reuter and Pastor Lyn will work on a proposed budget. Several Council terms will end this year and a nominating committee has been formed to seek out replacements. Pastor Lyn’s written report included an item about an excellent symposium for clergy at Community Hospice. She learned that Karryn Solonen was one of the sponsors and that she had done so “on behalf of Emanuel”.

Bob Reuter reported that spending exceeded income in September. Bob is opening a new brokerage account which will allow him to separate our endowment fund from other investments and simplify status and record-keeping. Jim Barton announced that our Stewardship campaign had begun with good energy.

Dennis Strand has been working on parking lot maintenance. Council agreed that Day Care should be asked to contribute to this necessary expense. The Sanctuary Arts team continues to be very busy, working on a fabric background for banners to hang behind the altar and also on selecting new paraments. They are preparing for the upcoming church seasons.

Outreach, with help from Paula Braxton, has prepared Emanuel Calling Cards, which will be available to all of us to give out when appropriate. Piecemakers is now meeting every Friday at 9 am to work on quilts. Katie’s Kitchen needs donations to stay in business. They are now serving 40 to 70 people on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Fellowship is forming a planning group for the 85th anniversary celebration on Jan. 19, 2020.

Social media has analyzed recent sermon postings on Facebook and underscored the importance of “sharing” with positive comments to increase the reach of these posts.

	September Income	September Expenses	September Gain/Loss
General Fund	16,626	(20,295)	(3,669)
Building Fund	4,644	(6,929)	(2,285)
Day Care	31,132	(30,392)	740
TOTALS	52,402	(57,616)	(5,214)

November Birthdays

Birthday Blessing Sunday is November 17

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

- | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|----------------|
| 11/6 | Angelica Martinez | 11/13 | Bob Ruehle | | |
| 11/7 | Florence Broden | 11/14 | Bob Olson | | |
| 11/7 | Gavin Layne | 11/16 | Martha Strand | 11/24 | Rue Knoll |
| 11/10 | Andrea Olson | 11/20 | Wanda Paulsen | 11/29 | Elaine Ixcot |
| 11/13 | Kim Keen | 11/23 | Joan Simon | 11/30 | Kristine Kraft |



Servant of the Month

Marilyn Rowland has served us faithfully for many years. During Sunday announcements, she lets us know when we need to help and is always gracious about thanking us when we do.

She and Chuck have been the face of Emanuel at the Gospel Mission, serving dinners there and bringing back information when there are special needs. (Note: they could use some help!)

They also have brought us together with the Modesto Shower Shuttle. Marilyn reminds us when their supplies are low and she and Chuck deliver the toiletries and “undies” to the ministry.

Marilyn is one of our faithful readers and communion assistants. She is also active in Bible Studies.

Please thank Marilyn for serving us and God.



Thank You!

The Sanctuary Arts Team with the assistance of our Property Team, continues to work on improving the appearance of our sanctuary. Recently, the bowl for our new Baptismal Font arrived. Dennis and Arie report that the shipping container weighed 100 pounds! Thanks for risking your backs for us!

Skip Hoover is in the process of converting some of the lumber from the recently removed pews into the structure that will hold this bowl. Thank you, Skip for undertaking this project.

Here's the bowl:



Epilogue

(You may safely skip this...)

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

When I delivered the “sermon” on September 29, I was treated to many compliments. Some of you asked if I had ever considered being a pastor and you might have been surprised at the vehemence with which I answered “**NO!**” Pat Smith even posted on Facebook: “He missed his calling”. Pat, I assure you that I did not; my job fit me like a glove. I gave hundreds of presentations during my working life — what you got on the 29th was just that: a presentation, not a sermon.

But, let’s just say that I do OK at presentations and that you are also OK with getting presentations in lieu of sermons. Does that imply that I could be a decent pastor? Of course not. You and I know that a good pastor is more than a preacher, but is our shepherd — our spiritual leader. I fervently believe that Pastor Lyn is an excellent shepherd and that I would have been a disaster had I ever followed up on such a silly notion.

Our Executive Committee recently did our annual review of Pastor Lyn’s job performance. Those present enthusiastically approved of her execution of her duties. She, in turn, reported that she is happy with us, her congregation.

At that review, I asked our pastor whether she felt overworked. She answered “no”, but added that was partially because she had no family here in town.

October was Pastor Appreciation Month; we kind of let it slip by because we had recently thanked Pastor Lyn on the fourth anniversary of her time with us. We need no excuse to tell her that we appreciate her and what she does for us. You and I may not fully understand what she does, so I asked her about her job:

Q: What are your top three job-related tasks, in terms of time spent?

**A: 1. Preaching,
2. Administration,
3. Visitation**

She added that she enjoys each of these tasks, by the way.

Q: What are your top three job-related tasks, in terms of energy required?

**A: 1. Youth revitalization,
2. Synod,
3. Conflict resolution**

She added that the most “draining” part of her job relates to the “numbers” expectation, people and money. She said that this expectation is largely unspoken but definitely exists.

I also asked about tasks that require special skills. Her answer was “counseling” and “navigating the synodical waters”.

We sometimes forget that Pastor Lyn, in addition to working for God and for us, also works for the Bishop and the greater ELCA.

I found more commentary about being a pastor:

“Ministry is an amazing call, full of great joys and significant moments in people’s lives: officiating



weddings, presiding over funerals, seeing first-hand how lives are changed for Christ. But it’s also full of tension: intense conflict, unrealistic expectations, relational strain, and, at times, soul-aching loneliness.”

Dan Johnson joined us at text study recently and updated us on his progress. You haven’t seen him lately because he is a full-time seminary student and has been assigned to Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livermore as a student/intern. Dan reports that seminary is extremely challenging. He is determined to complete the course, but still has a long way to go.

Seminary is a training ground, but also a sieve that separates out those who are most likely to succeed. I pray that Dan meets the challenges of both pastoral training and pastoral duties. I know I could not do it, but Dan is a strong person and I think it is within his abilities.

Let’s face it, being a pastor is probably one of the most difficult and challenging jobs in the world. I thank God that I was **NOT** called to ministry. I greatly admire those who were called and succeeded.

Let’s make every month Pastor Appreciation Month and make sure that our pastor knows that we recognize all that she does. Thank you, Pastor Lyn.

Emanuel Calendar of Events

November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 All Saints Sunday CARE CUPBOARD SUNDAY Daylight Savings Time Ends 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am Ministry Mtg. 4:00 pm Bible Study - Acts	4 Day Care Chapel Care Cupboard Lydia Circle MSYC Rehearsal 10:00 am 1:00 pm 3:00 pm 4:30 pm	5 Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study 7:00 am 12:00 pm	6 Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting 7:00 am 10:00 am	7 The Joyful Singers Adult Bible Study SCIC Mtg. 9:30 am 4:00 pm	8 9:00 am Quilting	9 10:00 am Organ practice
10 HEALING PRAYER SUNDAY All Together Worshiping Jesus Worship Service COUNCIL Mtg. Bible Study - Acts 9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am 4:00 pm	11 OFFICE CLOSED - VETERAN'S DAY MSYC Rehearsal Women's Bible Study 4:30 pm 7:00 pm	12 Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study 7:00 am 12:00 pm	13 Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting Multi-Faith Leadership Meeting 7:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	14 Adult Bible Study Day Care Board Mtg. LEAH CIRCLE 9:30 am 4:00 pm 7:00 pm	15 9:00 am Quilting	16 10:00 am Organ practice
17 BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS SUNDAY WELCA Thankoffering Sunday Worship Service Confirmation Class Bible Study - Acts 9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am 4:00 pm	18 Day Care Chapel Care Cupboard MSYC Rehearsal Women's Bible Study 10:00 am 1:00 pm 4:30 pm 7:00 pm	19 Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study 7:00 am 12:00 pm	20 Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting 7:00 am 10:00 am	21 Adult Bible Study REBECCA CIRCLE 9:30 am 1:30 pm	22 9:00 am Quilting	23 10:00 am Organ practice
24 Christ the King Sunday INTER-FAITH SUNDAY Worship Service Advent Bible Study 9:30 am 5:00 pm	25 Echoes Deadline MSYC Rehearsal Thanksgiving Eve Service at ELC Women's Bible Study 4:30 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	26 Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study 7:00 am 12:00 pm	27 Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting 7:00 am 10:00 am	28 Office & Day Care Closed 9:00 am	29 Office & Day Care Closed Quilting 9:00 am	30 10:00 am Organ practice