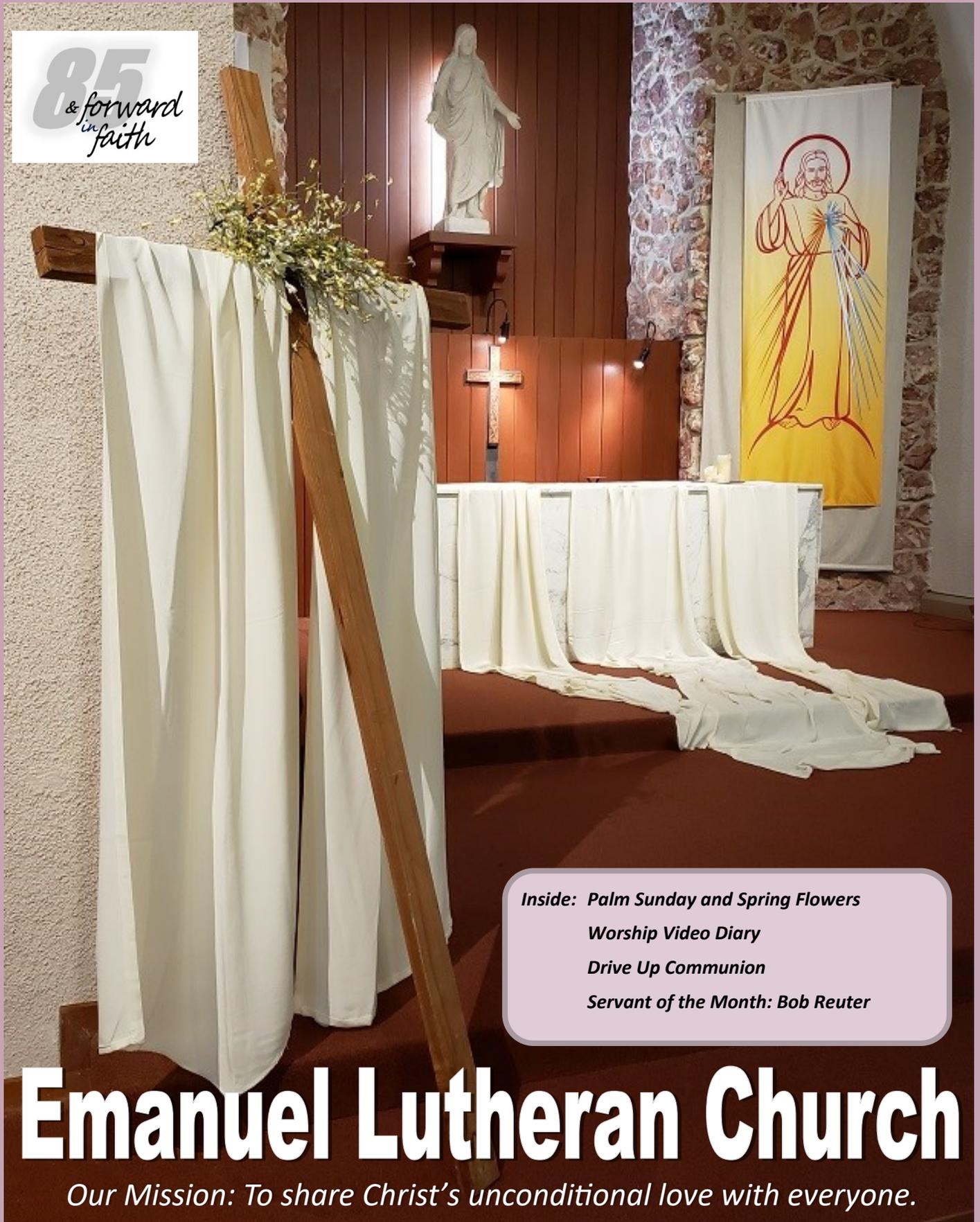


The Echoes

May 2020

85
*& forward
in faith*



*Inside: Palm Sunday and Spring Flowers
Worship Video Diary
Drive Up Communion
Servant of the Month: Bob Reuter*

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

From Pastor Lyn

Happy Easter Season everyone!

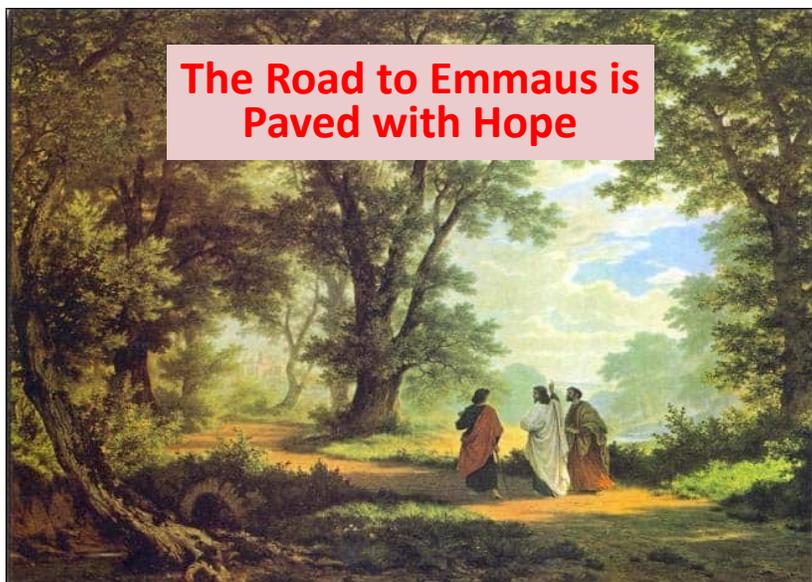
Back on March 8 we didn't shake hands at the close of service because we were hearing news about a new virus making people sick all over the world. At that time, it seemed inconceivable to me that there would be no public Easter service at Emanuel. Later that week, the decision to cancel services for a couple of weeks was difficult, canceling for more than a month (at that time) seemed surreal, yet here we are two months in and it's looking like the road ahead is anything but straight. We don't know when we will be able to gather more than 10 people safely; perhaps not until the fall. I had hoped for June.



I had hoped. The Gospel lesson for April 26th, the 3rd Sunday of Easter, is the Road to Emmaus story and in it Luke reports that the two disciples on the road say to Jesus, "we had hoped....." They had hoped for a better outcome with Jesus as the leader of the new movement. They had high hopes that Jesus would be the great liberator, the one to make things right and bring life back to the "way it used to be."

I had hoped – we had hoped, that the virus was just another strain of the flu and we hoped to be back to doing church the way it used to be, within a very short time.

We had hoped...is a phrase not uncommon before the virus. We had hoped for a better diagnosis. We had hoped addiction rehab



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.

Pastor Lyn, continued

would work this time. We had hoped for a better return on investments. We had hoped homelessness and hunger in our community would be eradicated by now. We had hoped (insert your hope here) but again, we were/are disappointed. Yet, Easter is what makes hope possible even in disappointing and trying times.

The Season of Easter is a time to proclaim with boldness that all hoping is found in resurrection promise. The things of this world, to which we typically pin our hopes, end up being false narratives. Our hope, we know, lies only in Jesus. The Road to Emmaus and all of the Easter lessons help us navigate through the false hope culture we live in, enabling us to emerge confidently proclaiming Pentecost joy.

The Epistle readings for Easter come from the Book of I Peter where in 1:3 we read, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead....” I Peter is a wonderful short letter and I would encourage you to read it using a couple of different translations. The Message is particularly good. Our hopes are pinned on Jesus – a living hope that casts out all fear and false narratives, particularly poignant at this time.

We hope – I hope – we can begin public worship as soon as it is feasibly safe. You may not feel ready to come out even then and that’s fine – come when you are ready. Things will never be as they were. The disciples came to understand that in those first days after the resurrection. We too, will come to understand as we begin to move down the road because our Lord Jesus Christ is going ahead of us, like he always does. Thanks be to God!

Beloved of God, stay safe and remain hope-filled,

Pastor Lyn



HOPE WILL
NOT BE
CANCELLED.

Paycheck Protection Program

Submitted by Bob Reuter

Earlier this month, the federal government enacted the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to help small businesses survive during the restrictions imposed on all activities during the Covid-19 epidemic. Emanuel Lutheran Church (ELC) qualified for the program, both the general operations and the daycare center. A joint application was submitted to F&M Bank as soon as applications were available, on April 3. The bank’s representative who specializes in small business loans at F & M Bank was immensely helpful throughout this process. The application was finally approved and funded on April 24, 2020.

The funds are to be used to help meet Emanuel Lutheran Church Day Care and Emanuel Lutheran Church operations payroll expenses. This will be greatly beneficial to the Emanuel Day Care employees and to the financial health of the Day Care program. It will also provide financial stability to the operations and ongoing support for the benevolent programs of Emanuel Lutheran Church.

The people of Emanuel have joined together in prayer and determination to keep our important work going through this difficult time. The current period of restrictions will, in time, come to an end. On that happy day Emanuel Lutheran Church and Daycare will be able to continue to contribute to the well being of our members and our community thanks to the generosity of those who have continued their giving through the shut-down and to the Paycheck Protection Program.

Palm Sunday Greenery

Submitted by Suzanne Wilke

Palm Sunday did not begin with a scripture reading in the narthex, followed by a procession with everyone waving palms, singing “All Glory, Laud and Honor.” No, instead it was a prerecorded service listened to in our homes. Maybe some of us were still in our pajamas. Many probably were drinking a cup of coffee while they listened.

During our Zoom Text Study, Marsha mentioned that she had seen the idea of putting any kind of greenery on our front doors to proclaim that it was Palm Sunday. I think some others saw that suggestion on social media, too. Here are some pictures of “Emanuel” doors:



Gary and Susan Hayes



Jack and Pat Smith



Marsha Waggoner



Brian and Lori Skustad

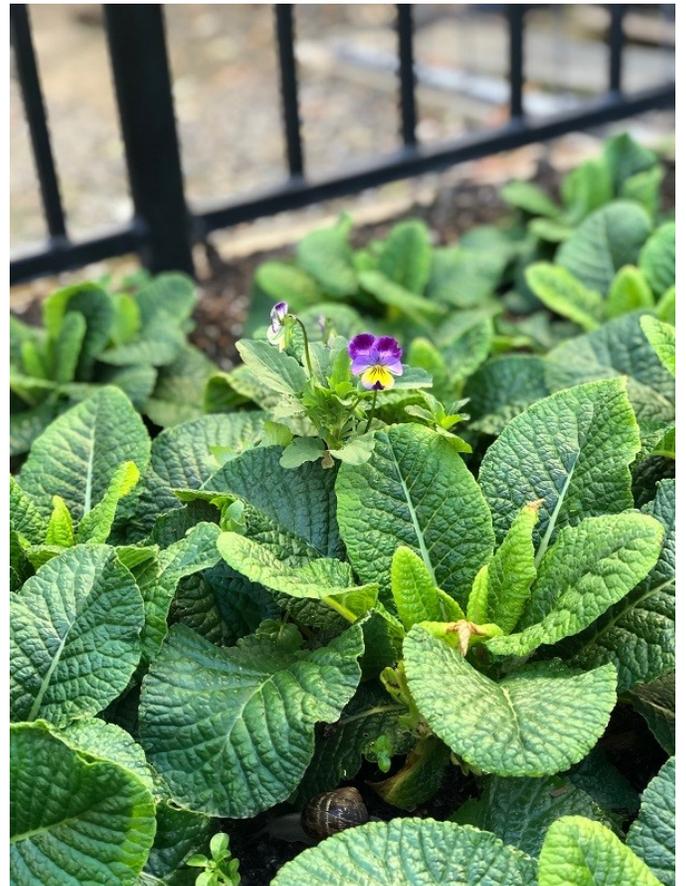


Suzanne Wilke

Spring Flowers

Submitted by Suzanne Wilke

Spring has arrived at Emanuel. The roses are in full bloom. They are pruned, maintained and loved by Tom Watkins. The amaryllis along the backside of the Day Care building are also in bloom. This flower bed was several years ago the Eagle Scout project of Sam Gierhan. By the back door of Luther Hall, you will find a flower bed, filled with primroses. This area is lovingly planted and maintained by Barbara Vukich. Thank you to all of these members for helping make our campus so beautiful.



Worship Video Diary

by Mike Epting

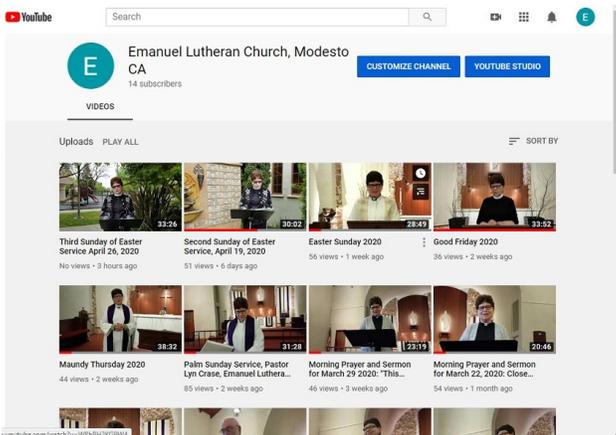
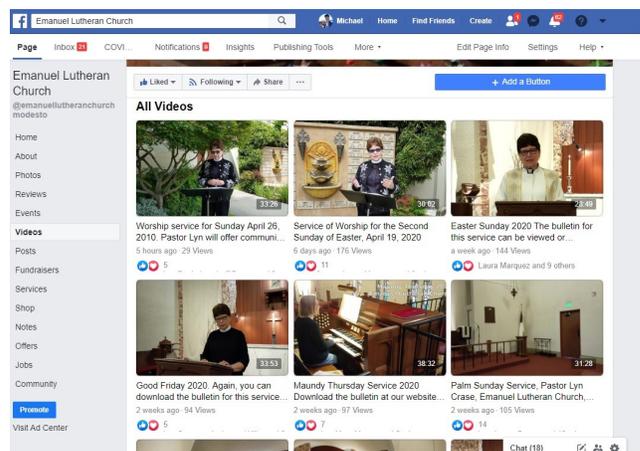
We've been producing enhanced videos for remote Sunday worship since mid-March. Previously our process was simply to record the sermon portion of the service and post it on Facebook, unedited, immediately after the service concluded. This required a fairly minimal investment of time and energy from me, Rick Unruh, and Brett Owen. After all, we were going to be there and listen to the sermon anyway!

When Pastor Lyn realized that we were not going to be able to continue to worship together at church on Sunday, she immediately made plans to record sermons ahead of time so that they could be available for Sunday morning viewing by any

of us with internet access. She wrote her sermon a little early that first week and she and I met at Emanuel on Thursday March 12 and recorded our first "empty church" sermon. It was a somewhat eerie experience. I brought the "recorder" (a cell phone) home and did some minimal editing, adding titles and giving you some close-ups just to vary the look. I also posted the video on YouTube to make it easier to view on a large screen TV.

Pastor Lyn and I next met on March 19. She had prepared two sermons and a morning prayer service to use for two weeks. We recorded six separate video segments that day. I then assembled these into two complete services with sermons and scripture readings by Pastor Lyn. Again, hers was a solo role. I wonder if any of you noticed that portions of those two recordings were identical?

Saturday, March 21, before I had uploaded the two previous efforts, Barbara Vukich joined us and we recorded music to accompany the Palm Sunday and Easter services. (I hope you enjoyed seeing Barbara perform; I certainly did!). Pastor not only wrote two sermons, but also provided scripts for these services. That day I recorded 14 separate video segments and

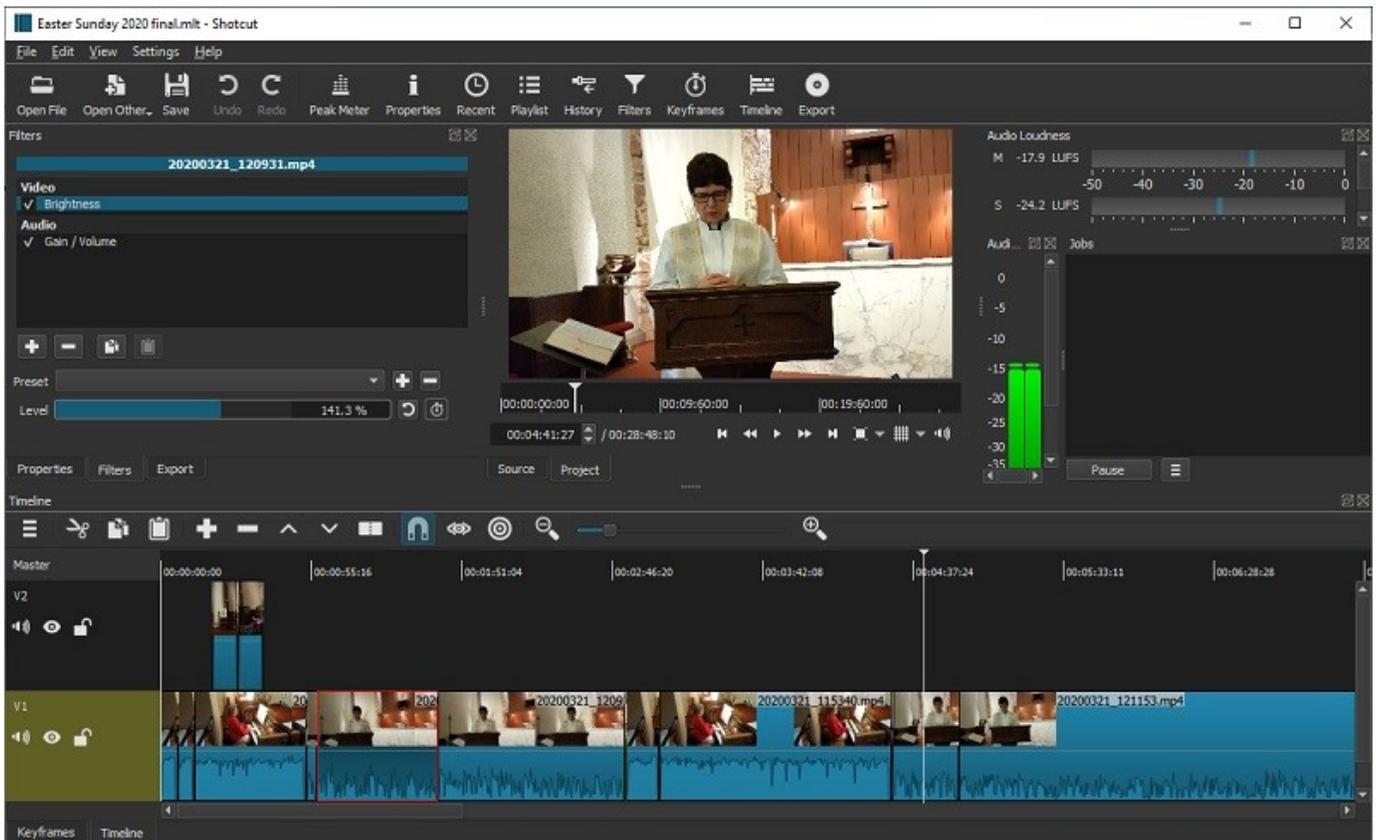


Worship Video Diary, continued

On April 18, we added one more wrinkle. Pastor decided to record portions of the April 17 and 26 services outside. I agreed that would be great, but I was worried about wind and traffic noise. I had never considered the possibility that a bird would be so enthusiastic about the sermon!



Pastor Lyn and I hope that we can soon return to “normal” and replace these online services with the real thing, Live and In-Person. When we do, I’ll gratefully cut back on my new career of movie editing. We’ll post the sermons, but there is simply no substitute for worshipping together in our beautiful sanctuary.



Drive Up Communion

Submitted by Suzanne Wilke

Sunday April 26 marked a first for Emanuel, as Pastor Lyn offered communion in the parking lot. The elements were in sterile sealed containers for safety and Pastor Lyn practiced safe social distancing. Chuck and Marilyn chose to make this a “ride up” rather than a “drive up” service.



Mighty Fine Lesson

Submitted by Marsha Waggoner

A visiting pastor attended a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area of the country. The group asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast.

"Lord, I hate buttermilk", the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going. The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was growing concerned.

Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour". The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen."

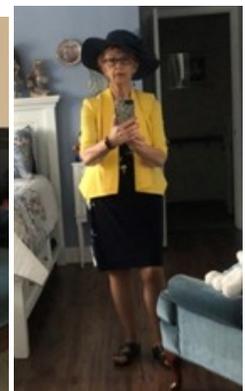
Within that prayer there is great wisdom for all when it comes to complicated situations like we are experiencing in the world today. Stay strong, my friends, because our LORD is mixing several things that we don't really care for, but something even better is going to come when HE is done with it. AMEN!



Easter 2020

Submitted by Suzanne Wilke and Mike Clarke

Easter didn't look the same this year. Like the tomb on the first Easter, the church was empty. Instead, we had our Easter services in our homes. Maybe you were in your kitchen, or your living room, or even in your bedroom. Maybe communion was bread and wine or a cracker and juice. Maybe you fixed up your table, or used the kitchen counter, or even a TV tray. Maybe you were in pajamas, or sweats, or did you get dressed up? I decided a couple of weeks ago that church in my pajamas was getting very comfortable, so I was determined that no Coronavirus was going to steal Easter from me. I mentioned to Joyce Bachmann that I was dressing up for Easter. She agreed that just because we were home, we didn't have to be casual.



March Council Notes



Council met via Zoom on April 19 at 10:35 am and reviewed various Ministry descriptions. Pastor Lyn discussed plans for resuming church services. Two services will be required to meet the less than 50 people congregating standard for phase 2 of county COVID-19 restrictions.

Sharing the Peace and communion will need to be conducted differently. Pat Smith reported that Day Care is still operating for first responder families. Teachers are alternating taking time off and we are doing extra cleaning to improve safety of staff and children. Bob Reuter reported that many members are still donating even without on-site church services. Some property projects have been delayed due to the virus. Other ministries also reported delays in programs. Outreach reported that perishable food items were shared with Modesto Gospel Mission and Day Care. Janice Watkins, representing Fellowship, proposed a “buddy system” where members check in with each other. Social media reported an uptick in Facebook engagements.

	March Income	March Expenses	Mawrch Gain/Loss
General Fund	18,135	(23,282)	(5,147)
Building Fund	5,097	(6,929)	(1,832)
Day Care	44,118	(42,944)	1,174
TOTALS	67,350	(73,155)	(5,805)

Servant of the Month

This is another first — we’ve never had a person named twice, but Bob Reuter was our Servant of the Month exactly 5 years ago, in May 2015. This month, we must select him again for his extraordinary service to us. Bob, as you can read in his article, applied for and received a loan/grant under the federal Payroll Protection Program. The money we received has allowed us to pay our staff and that of our Day Care program during the Covid-19 crisis. Without Bob’s effort we might have had to lay off staff or dangerously damage our financial condition. Thank you, Bob, we are all extremely grateful.



May Birthdays

Birthday Blessing Sunday is May 17

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

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5/1 David Fauskin | 5/9 Rose Epting | 5/29 Michael Clarke |
| 5/1 Sheri Delvin | 5/10 William Castleberry | 5/30 Lois Tollefson-Silva |
| 5/4 Sue Allen | 5/16 Michael Rokaitis | 5/31 Kathleen Obermeyer |
| 5/4 Azaria Martinez | 5/23 Kim Peterson | |
| 5/4 Ray Simon | 5/26 Jack Smith | |



Epilogue

(You may safely skip this...)

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

I think you have heard just about enough from me this month! So instead of getting the last word, as usual, I think I'll share some photos from others...



Pastor Lyn speaks for Gus: "We've already been on 3 walks today - I'm staying here."



Pat Smith says: "This is what I have been doing, getting rid of stuff I don't wear anymore."



Mary Lou Dietrich says: This is my 1956 Sewmor sewing

machine! I just had a new belt put on the bobbin rewind!!



Sue Wilke says: "Hosting a '50's party for one tonight."



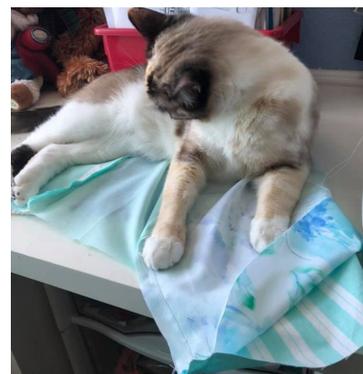
Paula Barton says: "Safe at home. Virtual cocktails with grown offspring. Prepping to celebrate 33 years with this guy"



Brett Owen says: "I gave Squirt a haircut today. It is still a work in progress but he seems pleased with the results."



Dennis Strand presided over the April Council meeting on Zoom.



Sue Wilke had plenty of help with her quilting project.



Ziva says: "Gus, I'm always ready for another walk!
(OK, I kinda did get the last word...)"

Emanuel Calendar of Events

May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 10:00 am Organ practice
3 Worship service (details to be determined)	4	5 12:00 pm Text Study via Zoom	6	7 9:30 am Adult Bible Study - via Zoom	8	9 10:00 am Organ practice
10 Mother's Day Worship service (details to be determined)	11	12 12:00 pm Text Study via Zoom	13	14 9:30 am Adult Bible Study - via Zoom	15 6:00 pm Wired Word (Zoom meeting)	16 10:00 am Organ practice
17 BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS SUNDAY COUNCIL Mtg. - via Zoom Worship service (details to be determined)	18	19 12:00 pm Text Study via Zoom	20	21 9:30 am Adult Bible Study - via Zoom	22	23 10:00 am Organ practice
24 Worship service (details to be determined)	25 Echoes Deadline Memorial Day	26 12:00 pm Text Study via Zoom	27	28 9:30 am Adult Bible Study - via Zoom	29	30 10:00 am Organ practice
31 Worship service (details to be determined)						