

The Echoes

June 2020

85
*& forward
in faith*



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Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

From Pastor Lyn

Dear People of Emanuel,

Back-in-the-day, in the place where I grew up, the summers were carefree and easy going, even in the church. Every Sunday evening, June through August, the churches in my small town would come together to hold ecumenical lakeside services. The city park was located near the lake for which the town was named. (Norden, a Scandinavian name that means “the North.”) Families brought their own portable chairs but the children had better seats in the limbs of big old cottonwood trees. Sound came from a portable PA system that squeaked and squawked. The pastors rotated the preaching and the people sang acapella in three-part harmony. Offerings were donated to local causes. And of course, lots of fellowship.

Our parking lot services are not quite the same – but there are similarities. I heard someone say doing church this way “feels like camp.” Many of you probably have wonderful Bible camp memories such as singing Bible songs around a camp fire or gathering for morning chapel in an outdoor sanctuary. We’ve not



had a camp fire, but we’ve had singing and praying, peace-passing and communion in the parking lot. It feels like worship – it is worship. “Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there I am also.” Matthew 18:20. Fellowship is different but it is happening – at a distance.

We know “church” is not a building. Yes, we miss being in the building and all the things that usually occur in our building but worship and those other things can happen and are happening in places not imagined 6 months ago. It is a new world but those things we value from the “old” world, especially the people and worship elements important to us remain.

We have been granted permission to open the church slowly. Some

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
secretary@emanuellutheran.org

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.

Pastor Lyn, continued

of you have been waiting for this and others of you would rather wait. I understand and respect both positions. For those of you who want to wait, the online service will continue to be available. For those of you who like parking lot church that will remain an option through the summer. And for those of you who want an inside service, one will be offered beginning May 31. The weekly letter I send out will be the best place to find the most current information with regard to everything that happens regarding worship and the other things we do as a congregation. One important detail to remember: PARKING LOT WORSHIP IS AT 9:00 AM (a change from 9:30) and INSIDE WORSHIP WILL BE AT 10:00 AM. Both of these options will be shorter in length than a usual service. The entire service will be found online.

Stay safe and do what we do best; sing – pray – commune – share peace until we meet again.

Shalom,

Pastor Lyn



The Big Tree is Gone!

Submitted by Dennis Strand

The photos below show the side of Emanuel's main building from Stoddard Avenue early on May 21 and later that same day. What a difference! Dick Norquist has worked with the city for several years to get this tree removed since it was damaging the sidewalk, growing around the power lines and growing over our roof. There are no immediate plans for re-landscaping but our property ministry team has discussed not having lawn but perhaps drought tolerant plants and gravel or crushed granite.



Shelter in Place Activities

Submitted by Suzanne Wilke, Mike Clarke, and Marsha Waggoner

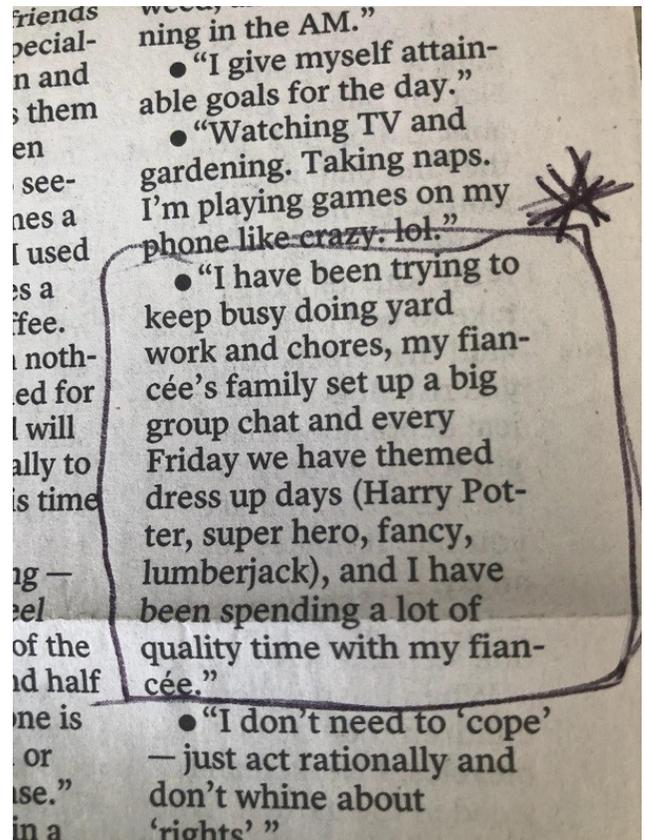
A few of you sent some hints for what to do when we cannot be our normal social selves. Here's a sample:



Organize and finish a massive jigsaw puzzle.



Prune the flowers



Write the newspaper and tell them what you have been doing!

Lutherans in Cars

Submitted by Mike Epting

I accosted Everyone who came to “Parking Lot Church” on May 10 and ordered them to smile and wave. All of you were splendid. You can see the composite video during the postlude of the online service for Easter 6, May 17. Here are photos from that video — what a memory from the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020!



Marilyn and Chuck Rowland



Connie Petersen



Dennis and Martha Strand



Dick and Pat Norquist



Elaine Ixcot



Jack and Pat Smith

More Lutherans in Cars



Jeri Johnson



Karen Harris



Joyce Bachmann



Kathy Obermeyer



Linda Nelson



Lois Owen

Still More Lutherans in Cars

Lois Silva-Tollefson and Laurie Spinuzzi



Mary Dieterich



Nirul Castleberry



Rose Epting



Paula and Arie Kroeze



Misty Kroeze



Yet Still More Lutherans in Cars



Rue Knoll



Sue McCready



Sue Wilke



Dawn Wagner



Marlissa Ferreira and Kim Petersen



Wes and Joanne Trana

Graduations

Submitted by Friends and Relatives

We congratulate and honor those who achieved an educational milestone this year. These are the ones we have been told about.

Paula Kroeze's granddaughter, Riley Kroeze, graduated from Beyer High School, Modesto.

Elaine Ixcot's Great Nephew, her sister Dawn's grandson, Ricky Harrison Belletto graduated from Enoch High School. He is a great scholar and a football player since Jr. High School.

Yvonne Troedson's grandson Ryan S. Powell earned an AA degree from MJC. Ryan spent 6 years in the Navy and was attached to a Nuclear Sub for 5 years. He is taking advantage of finishing what he started in education before he went into the service.

Lois Silva reports that Rosie Polillio graduated from a NJ college with a Bachelor's degree and Randy Polillio graduated from high school in Denville, NJ.

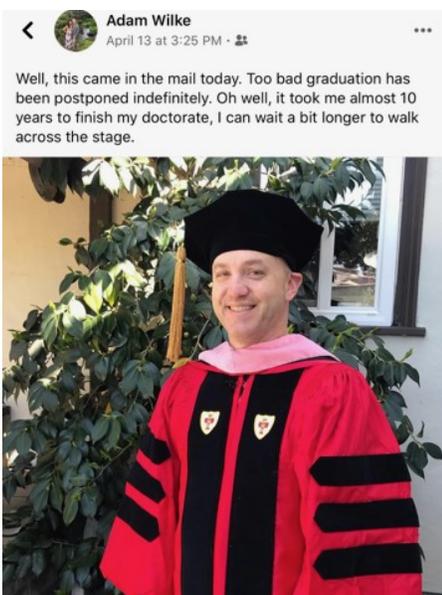
Bob & Andrea Olson's granddaughter, Elizabeth Jean Olson graduated from Enochs High School. She is an honor student with life membership in CSS. She will attend UC Davis in the fall.

Connor Skustad graduated with honors from Stanislaus state department of Criminal justice and is working towards a job in law enforcement.

Marsha Waggoner's grandson Carson Pratt graduated from Somerset Middle School I.

Sue Wilke's son Adam Wilke earned his PhD in Music Education from Boston University. Her granddaughter Vanessa Wilke earned her BA in Psychology from CSU San Francisco.

Alora Skustad graduated from Gregori high school with CSF honors and was awarded the Modesto city school district "Eddies" award. She will attend California State Monterey Bay. She was accepted to the department of marine science and will run track for them in the spring.



Servant of the Month

Servant of the Month for June is the person who has helped to keep worship alive and well at Emanuel during the pandemic – Mike Epting. Words cannot express how grateful I am and I'm certain all of you are, for the unwavering commitment and work Mike has put into posting an online service week after week. Mike has been posting the sermon online for quite some time but this crisis took his efforts to a new level. From the start, Mike stepped up production, moving from recording only the sermon to recording the entire service. Every week, Mike gets more creative with the video. For example, the seemingly small things (e.g. adding pictures) actually take a considerable amount of time and precise editing. Mike accomplishes all of this - always - with good humor and patience. I hope all of you, people of Emanuel, will find a way to express your appreciation and thanks to Mike for his technological expertise, grace and commitment to keeping this ministry alive and in the public view.



Mike completed his term on Council in January and before he handed off the baton to his successor he commented that he would miss knowing all that goes on behind the scenes in the church. The pandemic has perhaps not quite replaced all of that but Mike's knowledge of how the church operates has been a plus. This knowledge adds to the quality of what we are able to produce. Mike has been supportive of this ministry in many other ways of course, but his commitment to producing a quality online worship service has been extraordinary.

Thank you Mike!

Pastor Lyn and a grateful congregation

June Birthdays

Birthday Blessing Sunday is June 21

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

6/2 Andrew Shank	6/13 Joshua Hollinger	6/20 Nancy Jones
6/3 Patricia Norquist	6/13 Jennaca Hollinger	6/20 Kaete Loeffler
6/3 Lisa Poston	6/14 Hank Retford	6/23 Nirul Wheeler-Castleberry
6/8 Skip Hoover	6/15 Greg Schroeder	6/26 Thomas Norquist
6/8 Joanne Sample	6/16 Gabie Layne	6/26 Rebeca Owen
6/11 Robert Shank II	6/20 Jeri Johnson	6/30 Emma Hoover



March Council Notes



Council met via Zoom on May 10 at 11 am. Pastor Lyn reported that this year’s Synod Assembly will be done via Zoom and that Bishop Mark will delay his retirement for a few months. She also reported on proposed guidelines for resuming inside church services.

Day Care is near full capacity and not taking new students for now. They are practicing good hygiene and working in small groups. Property reported that we have replaced the water heater and will trim hedges and bushes on 5/15 and 5/16. Many church activities have continued online, including Bible Studies and discussion groups. Worship/Spiritual Growth and Youth are planning celebrations when church resumes. Outreach met via email and may keep Katie’s Kitchen and Care Cupboard closed through Fall. Piece Makers are still active with quilts. Social Media has stepped up their activities during the pandemic. 1200 people have reacted to Facebook posts including the videos.

Bob Reuter reported that our finances are good, considering the situation. The large positive balances are due to the PPP monies we received (big thanks to Maria and Bob). The money received in April must be used within eight weeks of receipt. It is to be used for ELC and Day Care staff wages (primarily) and for some additional expenses such as utilities and mortgage interest. It is a loan, but if it is used for qualified expenditures, it will be forgiven. We are being diligent about proper use of the PPP money and recordkeeping, so that we should not need to repay any of it.

	April Income	April Expenses	April Gain/Loss
General Fund	93,047	(19,529)	73,518
Building Fund	7,121	(6,929)	192
Day Care	42,208	(31,786)	10,422
TOTALS	142,376	(58,244)	84,132

Parking Lot Church



Epilogue

(You may safely skip this...)

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

Pastor Lyn absolutely insisted that I be this month's designated Servant. I knew there was no point in arguing, but I made the condition that I was not going to brag about myself — someone else would need to do the write-up. So Pastor did it herself.

One thing she wrote was questionable; the bit about "always with good humor and patience" (just ask Rose!). My poor computer has heard some major bad humor at times. Pastor Lyn is right in saying that the video production has become more complex week by week. It's now to the point where I must change my workflow and treat it not as one big project, but as a series of smaller projects that I combine into the final video. I imagine that this is the way real movies are done.

I want you to know that I did not need the Servant of the Month recognition because so many of you have been so generous in your kind words to me. I certainly feel appreciated. Rose has to keep squeezing my head to keep it from swelling too massively.

The really important way you can thank me is by watching these videos. You likely can't

read the text in the picture above, but there has been a radical increase in YouTube views since our shutdown. Facebook views are also up sharply.

These videos have been a labor of love, not just by me, but by all the participants. Consider that Pastor Lyn is now committed to three services per week, one before the camera, one in the parking lot, and one inside the church building. Barbara Vukich practices as much or more than ever and provides truly remarkable performances every week. The readers prepare and get dressed up just like a Sunday, but it is Thursday afternoon! Paula Braxton provides the "shooting script" (the bulletin) early so that we have it by noon on Thursday.

Another thank you must go to the developers and supporters of the free video editor called Shotcut. This is an amazing tool with a very steep learning curve. I would never have been able to

make these videos without the efforts of an army of people who wrote the code, produced tutorials, and provided answers to the questions of a host of users like myself. And none of them asked for a penny in return — like mine, theirs is a labor of love. Using Free Software like Shotcut restores one's faith in the better aspects of mankind.

I also want to thank all of you for participating in the Zoom meetings and reading all the emails. I've tried to keep the bulk emails to a minimum; initially I set up that email account just for sending out the Echoes, but it has been very useful during these strange times, allowing Pastor Lyn to reach you all very quickly with timely news.

I think we can all pat ourselves on the back for responding to these recent trials with such good humor and positivity. We have all been deserving of Servant of the Month, IMHO.

Emanuel Calendar of Events

June 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1		2 12:00 pm Text Study - via Zoom	3	4 9:30 am Thursday Bible Study - via Zoom	5	6 10:00 am Organ practice
7 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship service in Luther Hall 12:00 pm Sunday Discussion - via Zoom	8	9 12:00 pm Text Study - via Zoom	10	11 9:30 am Thursday Bible Study - via Zoom 4:00 pm Day Care Board Mtg. - via email	12	13 10:00 am Organ practice
14 HEALING PRAYER SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship service in Luther Hall 11:00 am COUNCIL Mtg. - via Zoom 12:00 pm Sunday Discussion - via Zoom	15	16 12:00 pm Text Study - via Zoom	17	18	19	20 10:00 am Organ practice
21 BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS SUNDAY Father's Day 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship service in Luther Hall 12:00 pm Sunday Discussion - via Zoom	22 Echoes Deadline	23 12:00 pm Text Study - via Zoom	24	25	26	27 10:00 am Organ practice
28 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship service in Luther Hall 12:00 pm Sunday Discussion - via Zoom	29	30 12:00 pm Text Study - via Zoom				