

The Echoes

July 2020



85
*& forward
in faith*

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50 Years of Ordained Women
Servant of the Month: Laura Marquez

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

From Pastor Lyn

Happy July!

Summer is well underway and while not a typical summer by any means it appears to me that everyone is doing their best to make good creative memories.

I've been writing a weekly letter since the pandemic began and I will continue to do that as long as we are not able to gather as a community. The letter is one way to communicate announcements, prayer requests, and musings. That said, I'll use this space this month to think ahead a bit about the summer Lectionary readings and in particular the Epistle or second lesson. We have this year, a journey of sorts through the Book of Romans that began June 14th and will continue through Sept. 13th. In other words, Romans is our companion for the summer. First, some background.

The Apostle Paul wrote Romans probably around 56/58 CE. Paul did not found the church in Rome and although he hoped to eventually make Rome his base of operation for his mission to Spain, he never actually visited there. In this letter Paul directly addresses an invitation to comment on concerns the church in Rome was facing; a church that included both Jewish and Gentile Christians.

Our summer trip through the Book of Romans takes us from Chapter 5 through the middle of Chapter 14, an all-encompassing look at God's righteousness. Paul had several goals in mind in writing this letter, particularly to heal divisions between Christians



who are Jewish and those who are not and to resolve misunderstanding concerning the Gospel message of salvation. In June we heard from Romans that even though we are sinners, Christ died for us so that we are no longer under the law but live under the power of grace. In July we'll hear about the struggles people have with "the self;" how to



Emanuel is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

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

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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

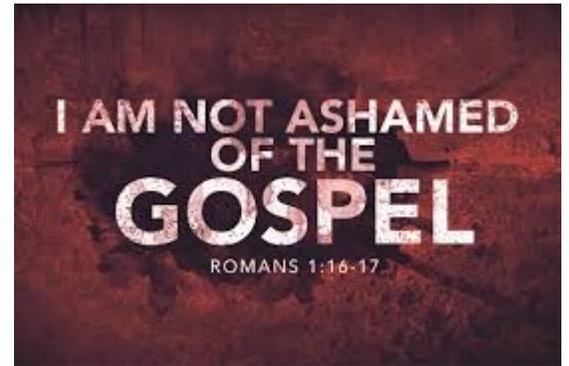
live according to the Spirit; what it means to live as a child of God and the reminder that nothing can separate us from God's love. In August we'll hear about God's faithfulness and mercy; living as one Body and the plea to live in harmony. The two sections ending our trip in September speak to what it means to live honorably and non-judgmentally.

That's a lot and so I invite you to read the Book of Romans this summer. The message contained in Romans was pivotal for Martin Luther. In his Preface to Romans Luther writes, "this Epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament, and is truly the purest gospel...it is a bright light, almost sufficient to illuminate the entire Holy Scriptures." (M. Luther's Basic Theological Writings, 2nd ed.)

The thesis of Romans is found in Chapter 1:16-17. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, 'the one who is righteous will live by faith'."

Live by faith, dear people of Emanuel, this most unique and memorable summer.

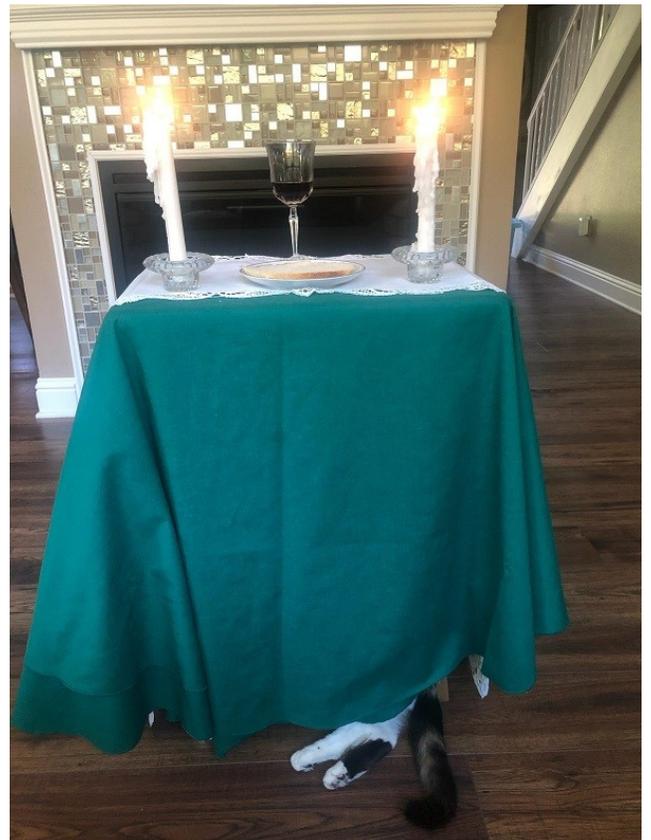
Pastor Lyn



Worshiping at Home...

Submitted by Sue Wilke

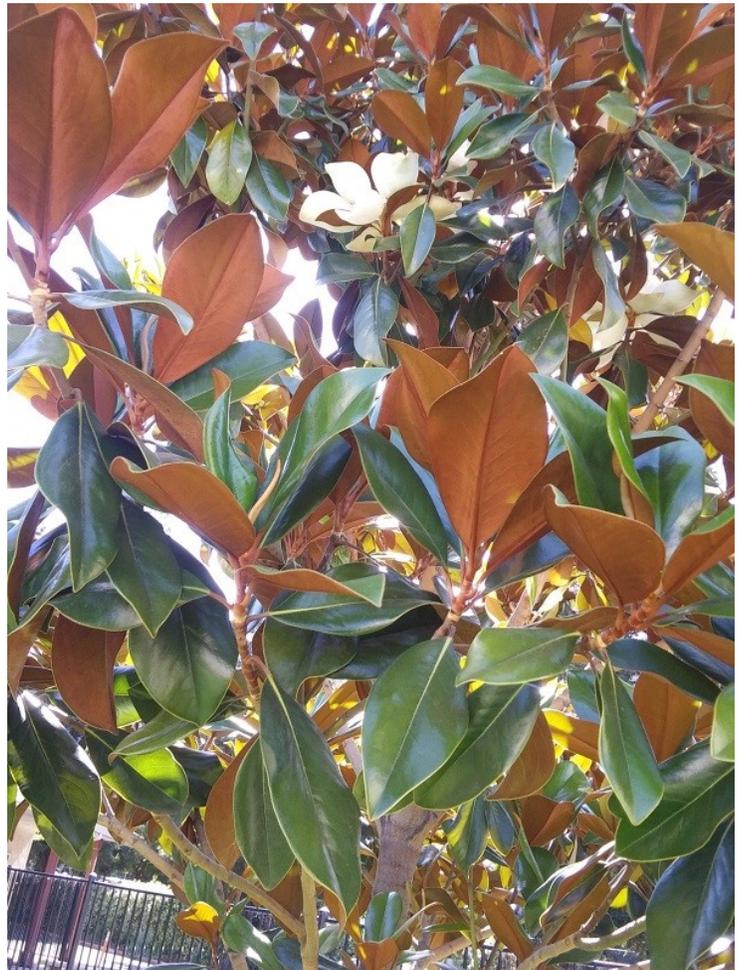
Worshiping at home may mean there is a kitty under the altar!



Margaret's Tree

Photos by Elaine Ixcot

Margaret Holtz left us in November 2013 and shortly after that we planted a magnolia tree in her honor. Recently Elaine Ixcot noticed that it had blossomed for the first time. She shared some photos of that event. Take a look next time you are on campus.



We Are Still Church

In the parking lot and in Luther Hall, we are worshipping together again. We take the beauty of our sanctuary wherever we worship. We are being safe and we are being faithful.

There's TV, too.



Still Church, continued



Still Church, continued



Servant of the Month

Submitted by Pastor Lyn

June 12 marked Laura Marquez' 20th anniversary with Emanuel Lutheran Day Care! Had we been holding regular worship services the congregation would have recognized this milestone and celebrated with cake!

Recently, Laura and I reflected a bit about the last 20 years. Laura has many wonderful stories and tons of good memories mostly centered around the children and families that have trusted ELDC over the years. "Having a committed and reliable staff is a true blessing and makes the work environment pleasant." she stated. Many teachers and aides have been with the school for more than 10 years. Elena Wilson will celebrate her 20 years with ELDC in October.

I asked Laura "what's changed over the years, what were some challenges and what has been the most professionally fulfilling for you?" Laura was hired as assistant director and preschool teacher in 2000 but started in the infant room because that's where the children were at that time. ELDC was licensed as a preschool in October of 2000. In February 2001 (or thereabouts) she was named interim director when the former director left to take a position at a different school. Laura "tried on" the position for 3 months and the rest, as they say, is history.

Seeing the day care and preschool grow has been gratifying both personally and professionally for Laura. She keeps a rolling 5-year plan in place that provides for motivation, inspiration and accountability. A long term vision of ELDC was to eventually get to the point of being able to offer care for school age children. That vision was realized in 2019 after an arduous process of "hurry up and wait" with state licensing. One of the challenges, over the years, has been the constantly changing rules and regulations having to do with licensing. That has been especially true once the pandemic began earlier this year. Through it all, from leaky toilets to national pandemic, Laura has kept her sense of humor, quietly persisting in meeting and often exceeding all requirements. She asserts that all the joys and the challenges have been opportunities for growth both personally and professionally.

I asked Laura if the pandemic has presented the greatest challenge to providing services for children and families. She responded that while this situation has required intensive responses it was actually the terror attack on Sept. 11th 2001 that presented an even greater challenge to the school. Parents at that time were even more scared than now, but Laura and the staff lead them through that as they lead now through the pandemic.



Servant of the Month, continued

Laura is a member of ELC and over the years has contributed as a volunteer wherever help is needed. She is an expert poster-maker and equally creative when the word needs getting out regarding many ministry happenings. Vacation Bible School, youth groups, and outreach ministries in particular have and do benefit from her talents but also from her longevity within the congregation. What to know something or where something is? Ask Laura – she'll send you in the right direction!

As the pastor, I feel that I am and we are blessed to have a loyal and faithful servant such as Laura as co-worker with us in the Kingdom of God. Thank you Laura! Please take some time to thank Laura in person one day soon.

Building Fund

Submitted by Mike Epting

WELCA has been investigating possible donations for this year and asked about our own Building Fund. I hope all of you know that this fund is one of the two to which you can allocate a portion of your pledge. This fund is used exclusively for paying our mortgage; all other expenses, even including building maintenance, come from our General Fund, the other choice that appears on our pledge card. Every month, the financial summary table in the Council Notes section of this magazine includes the amount spent, which is always the monthly mortgage payment, and the amount donated to this fund. Unfortunately, there is generally a shortfall; Maria, our bookkeeper tells me that the average has been about \$500 per month.

Fortunately, we do have savings. Bob Reuter, our Treasurer, with the support of our Finance committee, has been carefully husbanding our Endowment Fund and has been using some of the earnings (interest and dividends) to make up the difference for the mortgage. Also, Bob renegotiated our mortgage to obtain funds for a parking lot repair, which reduced our monthly payment but added another 3 years to the payoff date. Our current mortgage balance is \$489,662 and the payment is \$6929/month.

Bob wrote an article in the May Echoes about the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan that he and Maria applied for and received for us. If we meet all the conditions this loan will be forgiven and we will not have to repay it. One of the conditions is that it can be used to pay mortgage interest and to this end it provided \$3,186 for May and June payments. Also there has been at least one large contribution to the Building Fund. Together these factors have made the numbers look very good the last couple of months. Nevertheless, for the long term, we need to try to reduce the Building Fund shortfall. If you are looking for a good cause to which to donate your government stimulus check, please consider our Building Fund. You can use GivePlus on our website or smartphone app — an old-fashioned check also works!

50 Years of Ordained Women

Submitted by Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop, ELCA

Dear church,

Words matter. Words matter in our Scripture, in our hymns, in our governing documents, and beyond. Fifty years ago, on June 29, 1970, the Lutheran Church in America voted to change the word “man” to “person” in its bylaws and opened the door for the ordination of women. The American Lutheran Church achieved the same thing by resolution a few months later. The church was led by the Spirit to change. At the time it was scary for some. Fifty years later, it is now part of our heritage.



**We Are Church,
We Are Called**

50•40•10

Fifty years later we celebrate the anniversary as a whole church. The influence of those decisions 50 years ago is not merely the impact on women. This is a celebration for the whole church, because the whole church has been strengthened by the gifts of ordained women in its leadership. We celebrate how these pastors have shared the Word, including with words of compassion, conviction, and curiosity. We also give thanks for the moments when there are no words, but they have offered their presence.

We also know that women who are pastors have struggled in ways men who are pastors have not. They deal with sexual harassment, disrespect, and often lower pay due to gender-based discrimination. The first women of color in our predecessor bodies weren't ordained until 1979. And it wasn't until 2009 that barriers to ordination were removed for LGBTQIA+ individuals in committed relationships. We know that racism and heterosexism complexify and intensify these problems. This discrimination is also part of our heritage, and something that we need to continue to work to eliminate.

In recognition of this 50th anniversary on June 29th, I invite you to express gratitude to a pastor who is a woman for how she has influenced your life. It could be by letter or email, or by other means.

Fifty years after 1970, we also live in a world beset by change. I am grateful for the Spirit who continues to lead us and for the women God has called to minister to us. I thank God for all of you who minister so faithfully.

In Christ,

Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus” Galatians 3:28

June Council Notes



Council met via Zoom on June 14. Pastor Lyn suggested adding additional copyright licenses from Augsburg that would allow us to continue to print, record, and play music and lyrics out of the hymnal, place them in the bulletin, and include them in our videos.

Daycare needs to provide new hand sanitizer stands. COVID-19 Restrictions might be relaxed after June 22. Insurance covers liability issues from Covid-19. Tuition income is down, due to fewer children attending, but three children are waiting to attend.

Bob Reuter reported that donations remain high. The PPP program will pay daycare and church employee salaries through June. Maria is working on paperwork for the loan to be forgiven. This needs to be submitted in 24 weeks, but we will send them as soon as possible. There was a large donation to the Building Fund. The property team has done a great deal of work on the grounds, trimming and pruning and caring for the sprinkler system.

Outreach reported that Katie’s Kitchen and Care Cupboard will be suspended for MJC’s fall semester. We have notified MPD that quilts are ready for pickup.

Fellowship sent out congratulation cards to all graduates on our list. Sue Wilke requested members to send church activity and related pictures to Sue for posting on Social Media. She also reminded us that every Sunday at noon there is a zoom meeting for members to discuss the Sunday services and other events of the week.

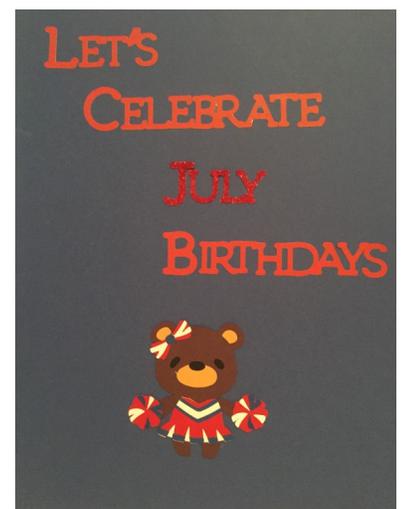
	May Income	May Expenses	May Gain/Loss
General Fund	17,732	(19,561)	(1,829)
Building Fund	12,860	(6,929)	5,931
Day Care	29,739	(38,034)	(8,295)
TOTALS	60,331	(64,331)	(4,193)

July Birthdays

Birthday Blessing Sunday is July 19

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

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|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 7/2 Connie Petersen | 7/13 Alice Hoaglund | 7/24 Barbara Vukich |
| 7/4 Mercy Maya | 7/14 John Wilson | 7/26 Michael Epting |
| 7/6 Debra Van Diepen | 7/16 Barbara Bauman | 7/27 William Reinheimer |
| 7/8 Janice Watkins | 7/19 Patricia Smith | 7/29 Elena Wilson |
| 7/10 Linda Nelson | 7/21 Karryn Salonen | 7/31 Tamera Gierhan |
| 7/12 Arie Kroeze | 7/22 John Turner | |
| 7/12 Yvonne Troedson | 7/23 Peter Cousins | |



Epilogue

(You may safely skip this...)

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

I love stories, especially stories that keep me awake thinking about them. I recently finished reading “Till We Have Faces” by C.S. Lewis. It was his last novel, published in 1956, and he declared it to be his best. It is a retelling of the myth of Psyche, a beautiful woman who was rescued and loved by Cupid, the god. Eventually he married her and enabled her to become a goddess. Lewis’s version of the story is told by Psyche’s sister, who proclaims herself to be as ugly as Psyche is beautiful.

I’d like to share with you a story within this story. This one made me laugh and left me puzzled.

Orual, the sister and narrator, tells of a journey relatively late in her life. She stumbles upon a small temple in the woods and enters. *“I thought it must belong to one of those small peaceful gods who are content with flowers and fruit for sacrifice. Then I saw it must be a goddess, for there was on the altar the image of a woman about two feet high carved in wood.”*

A priest enters and she makes a small offering and asks him about the goddess. He replies: *“Now I will tell you the sacred story. Once upon a time in a certain land there lived a king and a queen*

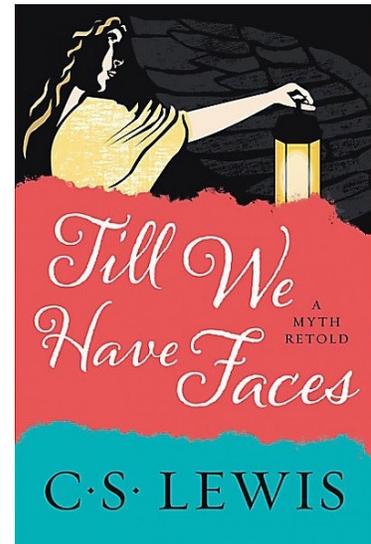
who had three daughters, and the youngest was the most beautiful princess in the whole world... And so he went on, as such priests do, all in a singsong voice, and using words which he clearly knew by heart.”

As the priest went on, Orual recognized this as the story of Psyche, her sister. The priest told of how she angered a god and was sacrificed to a brute on a mountain, and rescued by the most beautiful of the gods. He told of how that god visited her only in darkness and forbade her to see his face. Orual asked where he had learned all this. The priest replied *“It’s the sacred story”*, as if that answered her question.

As he went on, Orual heard many differences from the real events as she knew them, changes that seemed to alter the *“very meaning, the pith, the central knot, of the whole tale.”*

“And I saw all in a moment how the false story would grow and spread and be told all over the earth; and I wondered how many of the other sacred stories are just such twisted falsities as this.”

This is where I laughed, but then wondered. On the surface, it would seem that Lewis is mocking or at least questioning scripture. If it were another author, one more profane, I would have left it at that and gone on reading. But Lewis? No



way. Probably you are much smarter than me and saw through to another answer quickly, but it took me a couple of days.

We cannot, of course, know exactly what Lewis meant by including this story, but here’s my theory. I think he is mocking, not the scriptures, but those who read them from extreme positions. At one end of the spectrum of Bible readers are the Literalists and at the other end, the Nit-Pickers. The priest represents Literalists who say the scriptures are sacred and not to be questioned. Orual represented Nit-Pickers who say that one element of the story is wrong or not credible and therefore we must disbelieve the entirety.

My experience with Bible study at Emanuel is that most of us are in the middle, where we belong. We aren’t afraid to question Bible stories but we also are willing to search for the Truth at the core of the myth.

Emanuel Calendar of Events

July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 10:00 am Organ practice
5 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship service in Luther Hall 12:00 pm Sunday Discussion - via Zoom	6	7 12:00 pm Text Study - via Zoom	8	9 4:00 pm Day Care Board Mtg. - via email 7:00 pm Leah Circle (via Zoom)	10	11 10:00 am Organ practice
12 HEALING PRAYER SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship service in Luther Hall 10:30 am COUNCIL Mtg. - via Zoom 12:00 pm Sunday Discussion - via Zoom	13	14 12:00 pm Text Study - via Zoom	15	16 9:30 am Rebecca Circle	17	18 10:00 am Organ practice
19 BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship service in Luther Hall 12:00 pm Sunday Discussion - via Zoom	20	21 12:00 pm Text Study - via Zoom	22	23	24	25 10:00 am Organ practice
26 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship service in Luther Hall 12:00 pm Sunday Discussion - via Zoom	27 Echoes Deadline	28 12:00 pm Text Study - via Zoom	29	30	31	