

## From Pastor Lyn

Submitted by Rev. Lynnette Crase

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart."*

Jeremiah 29:11-13 NRSV

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Emanuel,

First, I want you to know how absolutely delighted I am to have been called to Emanuel Lutheran and eagerly anticipate the start of our ministry partnership! I look forward to being your pastor and walking with you through life's journey. It is exciting to wonder what God has planned for us as a Christian presence in Modesto and to consider how God will use each and every one of us in the community and the world. I believe it is a good time to be the church

and I have great faith in the future of the church! Exploring together what "the church" can and will be today and in the years ahead will be filled with exciting opportunity and abundant blessing! It is with that conviction of purpose I share with you a piece of Scripture that has deep meaning for me.

When I began to discern God's call to ministry, years ago, the above passage from the 29th chapter of Jeremiah became a close companion and continues to guide my thinking, prayer life, and all manner of discernment including this new call to Emanuel. I believe the "plans, future, and hope" God has for us are now intertwined so that as we intentionally keep God at the center of our lives everything we do will always and only honor God.

I am grateful for the work the call committee has put into the call process. I understand it has been long and arduous. I am grateful for the council (past and present) and



for all of you, the congregation, for your determined approach during this time of transition, ensuring a healthy place for a new pastor to step into. And, I am particularly grateful to Pastor Bill for the spiritual and practical leadership he has provided during his time with you.

As I pack and prepare to move to California my heart is full - praising and thanking God - the One who brought us together and who is giving us a future and a hope.

In Christ, Pastor Lyn



**Inside: Pastor Lyn's 5th Anniversary**

**Quilts to MPD / Food for Faith**

**A Little Visitor / a Little Leak**

**Servants of the Month: Paula and Maria**

# Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

## From Pastor Lyn

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Friends of Emanuel,

I hope all is well with everyone! It's a tenuous time yet most seem to be doing their best to remain optimistic. This is a venture to which we have been called that has no clear ending – paths as yet untrodden – to borrow from Martin Luther. It is becoming clearer, with each passing week, that we will not be gathering as a whole body anytime very soon. Keeping connected – however we can do that – will increase in importance as the weeks/months go by.



Some food for thought for the month ahead: The month of August is approximately the middle of the Season of Pentecost and the lectionary provides many familiar Jesus stories; feeding the 5000, walking on water, a new perspective on healing, his true identity and the ultimate purpose of his ministry. Good old stories to be sure. Stories we need to hear over and over again. I invite you to put yourself into the narrative of each of these stories; discover where you are located.

The first one about Jesus' greatest miracle speaks to what the world is going through right now. The lesson begins with the news about John the Baptist. John had been brutally killed by Herod (14:1-12). Grieving for his friend, Jesus quietly slipped away from the disciples and the crowds looking for a bit of alone-time. His solitude didn't last long. Turns out people cannot do without Jesus for very long. Compassion drove him back to the crowds and "he healed their sick."

The disciples, big strapping guys, were motivated by their physical need for food and rest. Hungry, as evening approached, they decided to call it a day and send people home to refuel. Jesus – who neither considers his own personal comfort nor that of committed disciples (comfort is not the name of the game) would have none of

their plan to dismiss the crowd and find the nearest café.

"You feed them"  
Jesus told the disciples and immediately these



Emanuel is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Pastor Lyn Crase:  
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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.

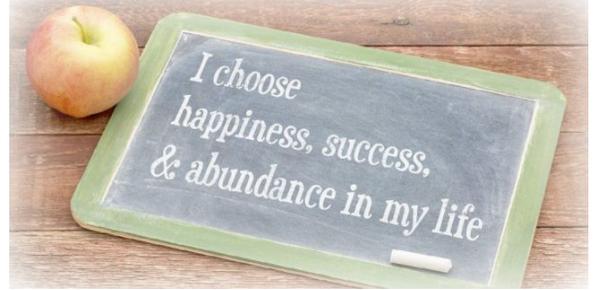
We share a passion to nurture people in all stages and circumstances of life.

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

faithful people fell back into old habits; that is, they fell back into the trap of scarcity thinking. And isn't that the way of the world when the going gets tough? When abundance isn't obvious or easily obtained, humanity falls back into thinking there is not enough ... of anything. This scarcity thinking sometimes includes God as in, "where is God or why isn't God doing something about disease and hate (for example)? God's presence – God's activity – seems scarce. There doesn't seem to be enough of God to go around or enough of God's activity visibly moving in the world – at least that's what some in culture are saying.



Perhaps you aren't prone to scarcity thinking but have you heard someone say "I have enough to keep me busy but not enough will or energy to do anything" or "I/we worry about the future of our community with so many businesses at risk" or "what if the virus never is conquered?" A few examples of what I have heard expressed – what have you heard? And of course, implied within the concern is the question of the church having "enough" to get through. The reality is there is cause for concern but to focus solely on a "lack-of" rather than on an "abundance-of" – misses the point of Jesus' story. Where are you located in this story?

We do have enough spirit. In the form of persistence, dedication and strength that combined with the Holy Spirit quells those particular fears. Yet, abundance thinking is a habit that takes practice. Even if you are normally good at thinking abundantly, perhaps what is scarce is the application or the practice of "noticeable" abundant living. I'm sure you realize I do not mean collecting more stuff or accumulating great wealth in order to impress the neighbors or anything like that. The abundance thinking/living I'm talking about is the abundance of God's presence in our lives and making that noticeable to the neighbor, the friend, the stranger. Where are you located in this story?

Use the readings from Matthew this August to provide the GPS needed to discover your location. I'll be doing the same.

Peace to you – stay well, stay focused, stay safe.

Pastor Lyn

## Worshipping at Home...

Submitted by Mike and Jeanine Clarke

Mike provided this photo, which probably represents many of us! (Are you dressing up for video church?)



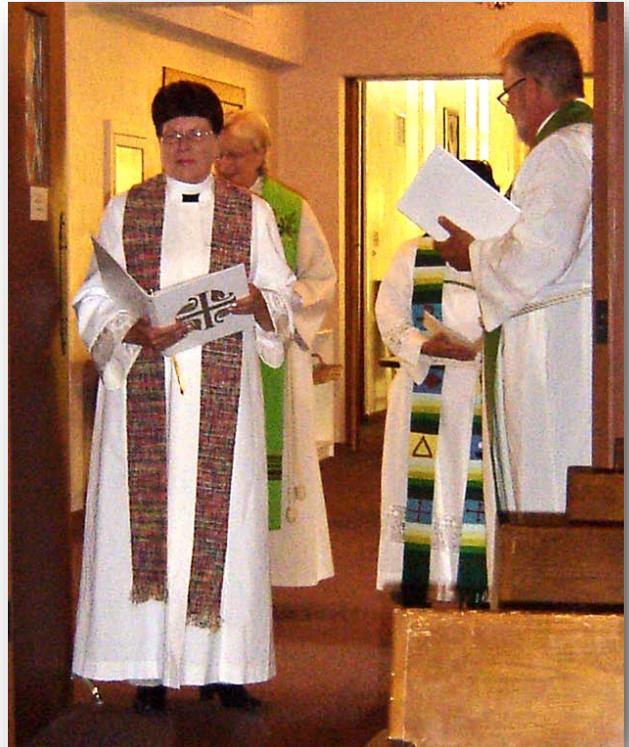
## Pastor Lyn's 5th Anniversary At Emanuel

Submitted by Mike Epting

The cover of this issue is a copy of a page from the July, 2015 Echoes with Pastor Lyn's first-ever monthly column for us. She has not missed a month in the following 5 years. That first column was written from Colorado. Her first regular Sunday at Emanuel was August 2, 2015. The photos below are from her formal installation as our Pastor on August 9, 2015.

The five years have flown by for most of us. It seems like yesterday when she arrived and yet it seems like she has always been with us. Her energy level and her caring spirit have not abated. We are in the midst of trying times for all churches and we must be thankful for Pastor Lyn's grace and drive. She is working harder than ever and shows no sign of slowing down. Under her leadership we will survive and thrive. She embodies the abundance mindset, always pointing out what we have and seeking to make us all believe that we have enough.

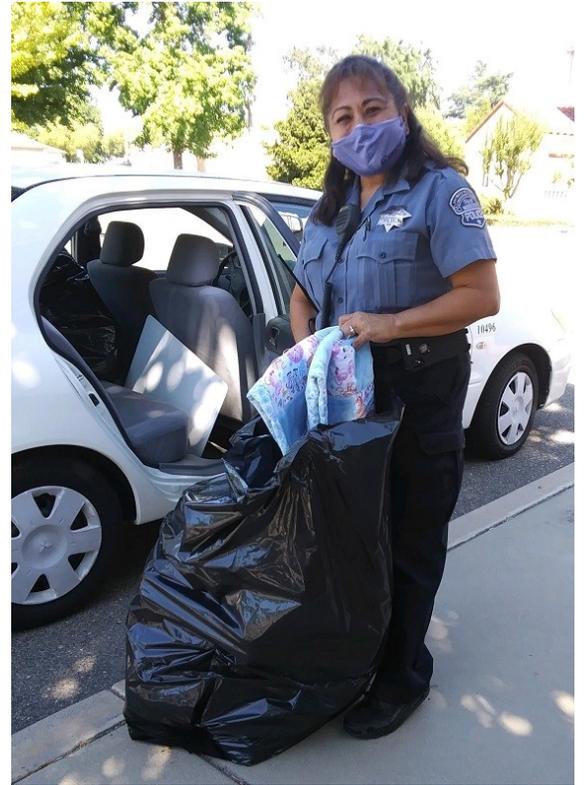
Pastor Lyn, we are all looking forward to our abundant future with you.



## Quilts to MPD

Photos by Elaine Ixcot

Rosie Garcia, a representative of Modesto Police Department, met the Piecemakers at Emanuel on July 7 to receive about 45 children's quilts.



## Food for Faith

Photos and facts by Elaine Ixcot

Outreach Ministry has started a new project: “Food For Faith”, a once per month collection of food for the Interfaith Ministry’s Food Pantry. Their pantry is open and available to the community, Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 11 am. The Outreach Team will collect non-perishable food items on the 1st Sunday of the month at our Sunday Morning Worship in our Emanuel parking lot. *Our first collection date will be Sunday, August 2.* An Outreach member’s trunk (or trunks if needed) will be available for those food donations. We will deliver them directly to Interfaith Ministry.

Because of precautions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that groceries, even if already in a shopping bag, be put into a plastic trash bag before the Sunday drop off.

The Care Cupboard is closed for now and Outreach “seeded the field” by donating much of its current contents to this new project, as shown here.



## Little Visitor

Photos by Elaine Ixcot

Laura Marquez found this little fellow in the courtyard on Monday July 13. He seemed chipper and friendly but he had a hurt wing. Laura took him to Stanislaus Wildlife Care Center in Hughson, where they discovered the wing was fractured. They took good care of him and report that he is nearly ready to return to nature. Laura also checked our security camera recordings and found him happily playing in our sprinklers two days earlier, on Saturday. She also saw a trash can tumble over and saw our little friend tumble out of it.



## Servants of the Month

Submitted by Bob Reuter

For the month of August, we are recognizing two of our employees, Administrative Assistant Paula Braxton and Bookkeeper Maria Ojeda. They have been very faithful in accomplishing their respective responsibilities for Emanuel during this time of pandemic and local crisis.

Paula was hired in March 2013 as receptionist/secretary. She was promoted to administrative assistant in January 2018. Her duties include many activities necessary to maintaining the operations of Emanuel, such as ordering supplies, publishing the worship bulletin every week, mailing the Echoes to members each month, and being available as our always kind and helpful receptionist.

Even though our sanctuary has been silent throughout this pandemic time, Paula's responsibilities have remained as she continues to support the work of Pastor Lyn and our congregation, and she supports the administration of Emanuel Day Care.

Maria was hired as bookkeeper in 2013. In addition to keeping records of all donations, other income, and all expenses of Emanuel's operations, Maria is responsible for the payroll and tracking all financial income and expenses of Emanuel Day Care. Maria provides up-to-date statements to the council for their monthly meetings to help council members understand the current financial status of our church. She also sends individual donation summaries to all members each quarter.

Maria was instrumental in helping Emanuel acquire the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. She provided all necessary records for F&M Bank so that the loan was approved for both the payroll of day care and church operations. Now Maria will provide the bank all records documenting how the PPP loan money was spent so that we will receive a full forgiveness of the loan.

Emanuel Lutheran Church is blessed to have Paula and Maria as dedicated employees.

Thank you, Paula!

Thank you, Maria!

Treasurer, Robert Reuter



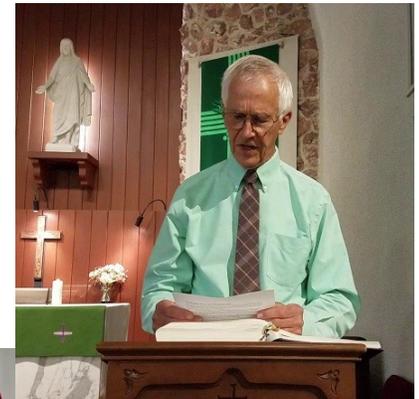
# Video Readers

Photos by Mike Epting

If you have watched our Sunday online worship videos, I'm sure you have noticed that Pastor Lyn has developed a superb camera presence. Doesn't it feel as if she is talking to you, looking at you straight through the camera? That's not easy, and few could do it as well as she has.

There are others, too, who have become video stars — our readers. These folks have gone out of their way to dress the part and come to Emanuel on Thursday afternoons. They contribute a vital component of our efforts to make "church" continue through this troubled time.

If you would like to join their ranks and be immortalized on YouTube, just give Pastor Lyn a call or email and she'll assign you a date.



First Reading  
Acts 7:55-60  
Read by Kathleen Reuter



The Second Reading:  
Romans 6:1b-11



The First Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4a  
Read by Pat Smith



The First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8  
Read by Lois Owen



The First Reading: Acts 2:1-21  
Read by Paula Barton from The Message



The First Reading: Acts 1:1-14  
Read by Susan McCreedy



The First Reading  
Acts 17:22-31  
Read by Suzanne Wilke

## We Have a Leak...

Submitted by Mike Epting

If you have been attending our outdoor or indoor Sunday services, you have seen this unhappy sight. Our property team, which these days is Dennis Strand and Dick Norquist, discovered a leak in our watering system. All the excavation work is theirs. They found and fixed one leak, but there is another, probably somewhere under the concrete or asphalt. The portion of the system that no longer functions correctly should be providing water for the ivy that is planted in the parking lot "islands". Dick assured me that the remainder of our landscaping still gets water.

Dennis and Dick consulted with a leak detection specialist and learned that their techniques will not work with this part of our irrigation system. They plan to bring in one or more other specialists to get estimates for trouble-shooting and fixing the problem.

Meanwhile, please pray for the back muscles of these two mighty men.



## July Council Notes



Council met via Zoom on July 12. Pastor Lyn asked whether we should create a “faith mentor” program to facilitate conversation regarding the presence of God in our lives.

There was discussion of copyright licenses that we need to continue “broadcasting” hymns and other material from ELW. The current permissions are scheduled to end by August.

There will be no Synod Assembly this year. Sierra Pacific synod is hoping to hold a “virtual” event and needs a church host. Meanwhile, Bishop Mark will remain in office until a proper election can be accomplished.

Day Care enrollment is down a little because of the current economic disruption.

Bob Reuter reported both Day Care and the church are experiencing income shortfalls. Also, two of our brokerage funds have dropped in value but continue to return dividends. As our stewardship campaign kicks off, Josh Hollinger will be requesting Temple Talk volunteers.

Dennis reported that we have drawings from our architect for ADA compliant ramps for the parking lot project and can now proceed to obtain construction bids.

Outreach reported on Piecemakers and Food for Faith.

Sue Wilke is actively maintaining our Facebook presence, including many items provided by our Synod.

	May Income	May Expenses	May Gain/Loss
<b>General Fund</b>	18,248	(21,381)	(3,133)
<b>Building Fund</b>	6,055	(5,123)	932
<b>Day Care</b>	17,643	(32,712)	(15,069)
<b>TOTALS</b>	41,946	(59,216)	(17,270)

## August Birthdays

### Birthday Blessing Sunday is August 19

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

- |                       |                       |                     |                    |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 8/1 Christine Paulsen | 8/10 Joyce Bachmann   | 8/19 David Salonen  |                    |
| 8/4 Jeanine Clarke    | 8/10 Barbara Norquist | 8/20 Xander Gireth  |                    |
| 8/5 Meridith Yeoman   | 8/12 Susan Hayes      | 8/23 Jaycen Salonen |                    |
| 8/5 Janis Decker      | 8/13 Ila Reinheimer   | 8/23 David Cline    |                    |
| 8/7 Roger Lee         | 8/14 David Kraft      | 8/28 Derek Salonen  | 8/30 Amanda Hayes  |
| 8/9 Thomas Watkins    | 8/16 Emily Cline      | 8/29 Susan McCready | 8/30 Karen Retford |



## Epilogue

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

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

A couple of weeks ago I saw a headline that chilled me. It said of a Lutheran Church in Los Angeles: **“A Black woman sat on the grass outside an L.A. church. The cold welcome she recorded speaks volumes”**. As I opened the article I was praying “please, God, make this not an ELCA church.” My prayer was granted, but the story was still not too thrilling.

A young woman sat beneath a tree in the lawn of North Hollywood’s St. Paul’s First Lutheran Church. While working on a laptop computer, she saw people peeking through windows. About 15 minutes later a couple of security guards showed up and told her she was on private property. She pointed out that it was a church lawn with no fence or warning signage. They informed her that if she didn’t leave the police would be called.

Soon, two men appeared and proceeded to attach a “No Trespassing” sign directly above her head. The young woman, who is an actress and stuntwoman and has lived in the neighborhood for years, captured the encounter on video. The man was terse and clearly upset and nervous. The woman

was calm and respectful throughout, but wondered aloud about the hostile attitude of the church people. She asked why she was not welcome there. The man replied “All lives matter.”

Huh?

All of this was posted on Facebook and caused a bit of an uproar and trouble for the church. The church responded with an apology on their own Facebook page and asked to meet the young woman.

She ended up meeting the church school director and a church member who was extremely upset about the matter.

She writes: “They admitted to a prevalence of racist white supremacist views within their congregation, across several diocese, and across Christianity as a whole. That was an extremely courageous admission on their part and I commend them for their honesty. ... I reminded the church leadership that to be labelled a racist does not have to be a condemnation. It is an opportunity for self assessment.”

She recognized that fear seemed to be the real force behind the church members’ extreme reaction to her presence on the lawn. She knew about the growing homeless population in the area, including the adjacent



park. But she hoped the church in the future would stop barricading itself out of fear and instead reach out more to those in need in the community out of compassion.

This is a cautionary tale. The truth is that we all, including the young woman who told this story, carry “deep unconscious biases favoring racism.”

I think there is a big difference in our response to similar problems at Emanuel. Our volunteers have engaged our “trespassers” directly. I know that Pastor, Sue, Dick, Arie, and others have spoken with compassion and honesty to people who have been guilty of improperly using our property. That is a huge plus for us and I am glad they look out for our interests ethically and morally.

# Emanuel Calendar of Events

# August 2020

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