

# The Echoes

September 2020

**85**  
*& forward  
in faith*



***Inside: Property ministry projects***

***Food for Faith / Family Promise***

***Parking Lot worship***

***Servants of the Month: Barbara Vukich***

# Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

## From Pastor Lyn

Dear People of Emanuel,

September always used to signal the end of summer and the excitement of another school year. I like September for other promises such as brisk morning walks and recipes for soup that start to pop up again. I've been thinking about past Septembers and how dissimilar this one feels as we remain in the grip of a world-wide pandemic. Gus-the-dog and I go for a long walk early every morning. This morning was already a little brisk and an old song began to float through my head. It's from a 1960 era off-Broadway musical *The Fantasticks* (not to be confused with the *Fantastics*); music by Harvey Schmidt and lyrics by Tom Jones. It tells an allegorical story, loosely based on the 1894 play *The Romancers* (*Les Romanesques*) by Edmond Rostand, concerning two neighboring fathers who trick their children, Luisa and Matt, into falling in love by pretending to feud. The song: *Try to Remember* (the Kind or Days of September). It begins: Try to remember the kind of September - When life was slow and oh, so mellow. Honestly, I wonder in the midst of stay-at-home isolation orders still largely in effect, how much more "slow and mellow" one can tolerate!



September was, and in many places still is, time for church fall programming to begin again. But this year at Emanuel the summer schedule will continue for at least several more weeks and some things will remain unchanged for the foreseeable future. Online worship for example, will continue in perpetuity. Parking lot worship will continue until the rains and cooler morning temps push us inside. I don't mind standing in the rain but the amplifier and microphone will not tolerate water well. Flexibility remains our operative word. When it comes time for a change I'll let you know through the weekly letter and *Echoes*.

September with its promise of new schedules, new classes, new

friends etc. is entered into differently this year. Those promises still hold but creative thinking will be needed to live into all that new-



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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### 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

newness. For the church, for Emanuel, newness will be present in things like a change of liturgy that represents a change of season. We'll hear more "old" parables from Jesus that describe new life with God. We'll hear again that God's ways are not our ways. We'll hear God challenge us anew and God will also surprise us again and again with good news. New Bible studies are beginning. Zoom meetings on-going. All is well amid all the new.

September/fall/autumn also means we can expect a stewardship theme to start popping up. For 2020 the theme was "85 & Forward in Faith" but we didn't get to celebrate in the ways we had hoped and planned. This year, in anticipation of Emanuel's 86th year of ministry (most definitely – still moving forward in faith) and hopeful anticipation of the end of the pandemic, the theme will be "Forward Anew." It will be focused on new birth, rebirth, renewal, and revival but differently than when I first imagined this theme and expected to be back to normal worship by fall. Nevertheless, Temple talks will start to appear at the beginning of each online worship service September 13th. Thank you to those who have already pre-recorded their Temple Talk.

It is a season of fresh starts and new beginnings. I think we will be "in" that season for some time; not a slow and mellow time, but a new and vital time.

Thanks be to God for you, beloved of God. Thanks be to God, for Septembers.

In Christ,  
Pastor Lyn

September:  
new birth  
rebirth  
renewal  
revival



## Joyce is 95!

Submitted by Joyce Bachmann

We weren't able to celebrate August birthdays with the usual shared cake, but many of you did remember Joyce's special day with cards and phone calls. Joyce asked to thank you all for expressing your love.



## Eagle Scout Landscaping Project

Submitted by Dennis Strand

Last May you may have noticed that the large tree on the Stoddard side of the church was cut down leaving a large bare un-landscaped area. A few weeks ago, Rob Shank, who has been involved with the Boy Scouts for many years, met with the Property Ministry Team and said he is aware of one or two scouts who are looking for Eagle Scout Projects and would Emanuel be interested in offering this site for a project.

The council discussed this opportunity at their August 9 meeting and is in favor of supporting a potential Eagle Scout project. Rob said the scout is responsible for creating a plan, fund raising and coordinating the implementation. We could contribute to the fund raising effort if desired. We would provide input as to the desired parameters, such as being compatible with the mission style of the church, creating an inviting look to the Stoddard entrance, grass vs. no grass, drought tolerant plants, acceptable tree and plant types or alternate design concepts.

We would also be responsible for having the tree stump ground and replacing the concrete that the tree roots have lifted. The Property Team would appreciate your input, so please pass your comments on to Dennis Strand, Dick Norquist or Arie Kroeze.



# Views of the Church

Photos by Chris Schmidt

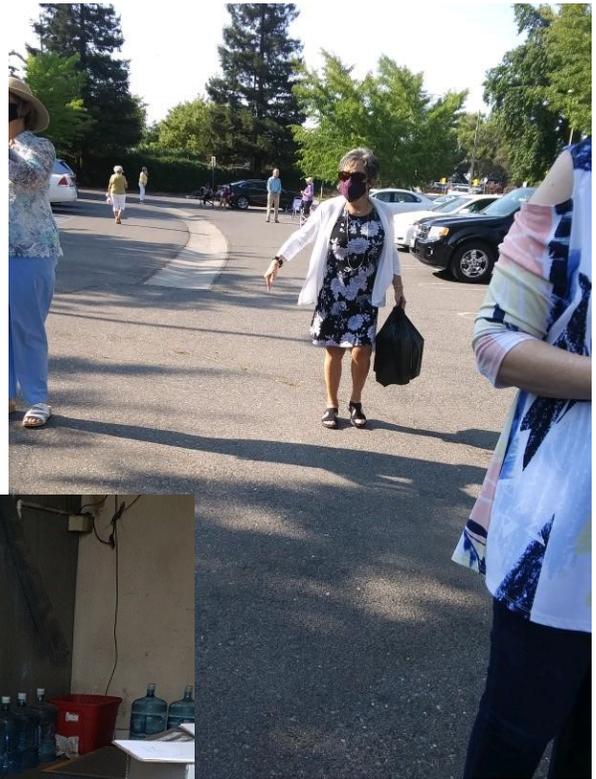
Chris Schmidt has an excellent eye and took these photos of the church from various locations and angles. You may have seen these during the prelude of the online service video for August 23, but they went by quickly, so here's a longer look.



## Food for Faith

Photos and facts by Elaine Ixcot and Mike Epting

My goodness, you are all so generous. With very little advance notice, we collected non-perishable food items for our new Food for Faith outreach project on August 2. Rose and Mike Epting delivered a van full of groceries to Interfaith Ministry the next day. We plan to do the same on the first Sunday of each month before and after the parking lot service. Because of precautions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that you put groceries into a plastic trash bag before the Sunday drop off.



## Parking Lot Renovation Project

Submitted by Dennis Strand

Work has begun on the renovation of our parking lot. The project has several elements including storm drain cleaning, asphalt crack repair, asphalt seal coating, restriping and handicap ramp improvements.

The first step, which was completed on August 24, was to have our storm drainage system cleaned so that the system does not become plugged. All of our storm water is captured underground onsite until it seeps into the earth. There are two large French drains in the parking lot and 6 rock wells along the redwood tree line. All of the sumps and connecting lines were cleaned in this process so that the system remains functional.



The second aspect is sealing the cracks and sealing the asphalt to prolong the life of the parking lot. If this is not done, rain water will seep through the cracks and undermine the asphalt, leading to potholes and asphalt failure.

A third aspect of the project is to replace the noncompliant asphalt ramps from the handicap parking stalls to the sidewalk since the regulations have changed over the years. This involves modifying the concrete sidewalks to incorporate the appropriate ADA slopes.

When all of this is completed, probably in September or early October, we will have added many years of service to our storm drainage system and our parking lot. To fund the project, Bob Reuter has worked with Mission Investment to obtain a 10 year loan of \$28,000 which results in a monthly payment a little over \$300 per month. This is more than offset however by the refinancing of our building loan which reduced our monthly payment by \$1,800 and was effective June. Thank you Bob for your diligent and effective work on these loans.



## Servant of the Month

The pandemic has changed all of our roles at Emanuel, but Barbara Vukich has adapted to a greater degree than most. For the time being, she has no choir to direct and her job is more solitary than it was. Through it all, she has remained positive and diligent. She practices as much or more than ever and is a star of our weekly online worship videos. Every week, she plays five pieces with skill and enthusiasm. The rest of us have been treated to not just sound, as we were every Sunday in church, but also the visual excitement of watching her perform. Seeing her play is always interesting. On August 23, for example, you may have noticed that the first part of the prelude did not involve the visible keyboards, but was played entirely with her feet! On other Sundays, the video focuses on her hands and her amazing dexterity.

Barbara has also supported the 10 am service with piano music. She plans to play a portable keyboard to provide music for the outside service while David and his guitar are away.

Barbara, thank you so much for helping us all get through these trying times. Your service to Emanuel is indeed special and vital.



## Family Promise

Photos and facts by Elaine Ixcot

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way Family Promise is able to help families that are homeless and in need. Families are being housed in motels but need options with regard to getting food. Gift cards to fast food restaurants and other places they can purchase food would help them a lot. If you purchase a gift card or have a monetary donation, drop it by the office and Outreach will get them to Family Promise. In the future they may ask churches to make individual boxed meals for families but as of now, they are not set up to handle the details involved. They will let us know if we are needed in that way.

Family Promise is also helping children and families get set up for online classes and are in need of supplies. Our Outreach Team is spearheading an effort to get school supplies to the children in this program. Please take advantage of the sales on school supplies! Backpacks, paper, pencils, pens, crayons, you name it! Let's help the kids of Family Promise have a good school experience.



Elaine made our first delivery of gift cards and supplies on August 17.

## We're Out of Our Cars

Submitted by Mike Epting

When we started meeting in the parking lot, most of us stayed in our cars. Now, most of our are out of the cars and on lawn chairs. We are social distancing (somewhat extreme, in some cases) and we are wearing our masks. Still, we are communing and seeing each other. If you feel safe about leaving your house, join us Sundays at 9 or 10.

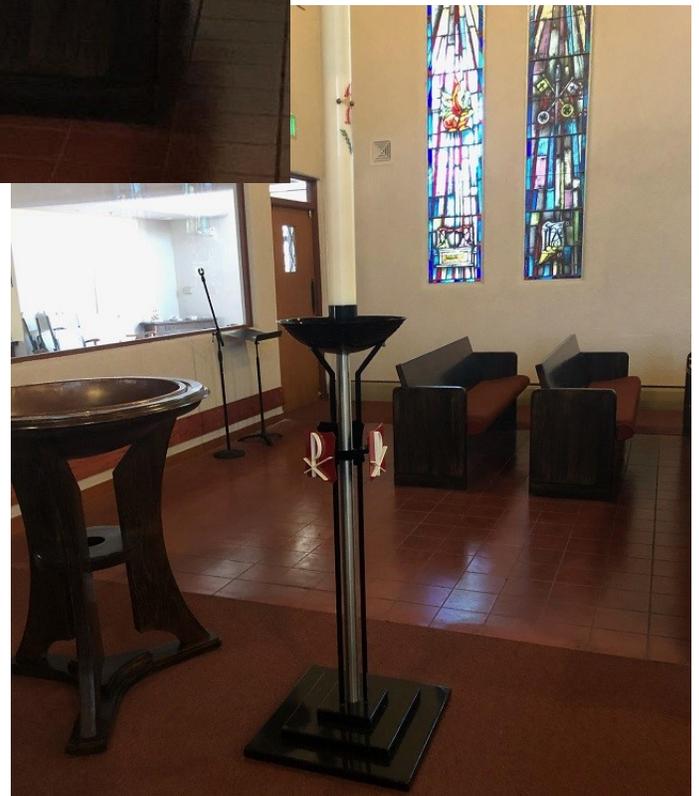


## New (Old) Pews

Photo by Sue Wilke

Skip Hoover has completed a massive project that has refreshed the appearance and “feel” of our sanctuary. He began by removing four pews and opening up the entry. Then, he constructed a pedestal for our new baptismal font using wood from those pews. Finally, he built four new smaller pews, again using material from the originals. These new pews are not only marvelously constructed, but also beautifully finished.

If you can construct an excuse to enter the church, please take a look. And don't forget to thank Skip for his labor and the gifts of his talents.



## August Council Notes



Council met via Zoom on August 9. Pastor Lyn led a devotion on “leftovers” and what we can do with them. The county Interfaith Council is holding a series of online meetings about issues of common concern, starting with “place of worship” security.

Day Care is receiving more students and starting to again achieve a positive cash flow. Maria is looking into the application process for a county program to fund daycares. Emanuel is staying ahead of salaries thanks to the PPP program.

Josh Hollinger has lined up “temple talk” speakers who will appear in the online worship videos.

Dennis reported that our sprinkler system leak needs professional repair; council approved a \$1500 expenditure for this. Council also approved the two projects highlighted in this issue.

Outreach reported on successful Food for Faith and Piecemaker activities. Fellowship announced that they will support Outreach on these and other projects. Care Cupboard and Katie’s Kitchen have now donated most of their unused food items. Interfaith also needs dog food.

Sue Wilke reports that Social Media continues to be very active with Facebook posts, Zoom meetings, and video services.

	July Income	July Expenses	July Gain/Loss
<b>General Fund</b>	14,229	(19,086)	(4,857)
<b>Building Fund</b>	4,488	(5,123)	(635)
<b>Day Care</b>	32,963	(28,228)	(4,735)
<b>TOTALS</b>	51,680	(52,437)	(757)

## September Birthdays

### Birthday Blessing Sunday is September 20

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



- 9/4 Karen Harris
- 9/6 Ruben Haro
- 9/7 Chuck Rowland

- 9/15 Bill Beasley
- 9/15 Jakob Knoll
- 9/21 Brian Skustad

- 9/22 Lori Knoll
- 9/23 Jillian Klenz
- 9/24 Connor Skustad

## Epilogue

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

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

Do you wonder about Heaven? When our text study group encounters a difficult passage, Kathleen Reuter sometimes reminds us that she has a little box in her mind where she stows things that are currently unknowable. There's no point in fretting about them now and we will know the details by and by.

I agree with her, especially since I have bought into the "saved by grace" concept. There's little point in becoming anxious about what happens after we die. But, despite that, I do read a lot of fantasy about Heaven and Hell and observe that most authors are much more interested in Hell than in Heaven. Heaven is simply too difficult a concept for most of us.

When I stumbled across an article by N.T. Wright titled "The New Testament Doesn't Say What Most People Think It Does About Heaven" I was immediately curious. Wright is a British Professor and respected theologian who specializes in studying the New Testament through the eyes of the people who were alive when it was written.

In this article, Wright says that the earliest Christians did not

have the same vision of heaven that is espoused by our current culture and most modern churches. Preachers often tell family at a funeral that their loved one is in heaven right now; Wright says that view is not supported by New Testament scripture.

This week's Gospel (NRSV) has the bit where Jesus tells the disciples that "there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom". Wright explains that with the resurrection of Jesus the new creation already had been launched. His followers believed that God would bring heaven (God's space) and earth (our space) together as one. "The point was not for us to 'go to heaven', but for the life of heaven to arrive on earth".

If this sounds vaguely heretical, consider the words Jesus taught us to say: "Your kingdom come ... on earth as it is in heaven." Wright also points out that Revelation ends with the "holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God". The chosen don't "go to heaven", heaven comes to them.

Wright, in the article, goes on to point out the advantages of this alternate worldview. If our purpose is simply to "save" people so they can get into heaven, why do we need to make



this world better? If, on the other hand, heaven is coming to earth, then we need to make earth as right as possible. We need to work on healing, justice, and beauty right here where we live.

Wright closes by saying: "Care for the poor and the planet then becomes central, not peripheral, for those who intend to live in faith and hope, by the Spirit, between the resurrection of Jesus and the coming renewal of all things."

By the way, Amazon has Wright's magnum opus, the summary of all his life's work at just under 1000 pages: "The New Testament in Its World: An Introduction to the History, Literature, and Theology of the First Christians". It's \$48.62 in hardcover and \$40.99 for Kindle readers. However, you'll likely also want the accompanying workbook and videos. They bundle the three for \$98.70. I'm guessing that Wright is a fairly well-to-do theologian.

# Emanuel Calendar of Events

# September 2020

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