

The Echoes

November 2020



*Inside: Return to the Sanctuary
More Outreach activities
Family Promise Encounter
Servant of the Month: Dennis Strand*

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

From Pastor Lyn

Dear People,

This morning as I sat in front of the computer and wondered what this space in Echoes would say this month an old hymn popped into my head. I opened the ELW and there it was, ELW #843 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness and I thought “perfect.” The music was composed by J. Wyeth in 1813 for the text (Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing) written by Robert



Robinson in the late 18th century. Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing is #807 in the ELW. The words of both hymns reflect solid Lutheran theology and in fact, the words for Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (#843) were written by a Lutheran. (Yes, we use hymns written by people other than Lutheran!) So there’s a brief hymnody lesson; although it’s pretty interesting to research hymns and old songs. If you are looking for a winter project – there you go!

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness 843

1) Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib-er-ating light;
 2) Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word;
 Praise the one true love in our name: Christ, who suf-fered in our place;

praise the One who frees the pris'on-ers, turn-ing blind-ness in-to sight,
 praise the One who drove out de-mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword.
 He - has done and more for man - y than we may know: God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the gos-pel, heal-ing ev-ry de-erl dis-ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa-ter to the de-sert's burn-ing sand.
 Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.

calm-ing storms and feed-ing thou-sands with the ver-y bread of peace,
 from this well comes liv-ing wa-ter - re-fresh-ing those in ev-ry land.
 Praise the one re-deem-ing glo-ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness seems to fit the current state of “pandemic fatigue” not to mention (and I rarely do or will) political fatigue both of which are compounding what seems to be a pervading “gloominess” over the world, not only this country. The words of this hymn remind us to not get caught up in the gloom and doom but to be purposefully, intentionally, passionately engaged in PRAISE for the one who does indeed, break the darkness. Here is the text:

- 1) Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light; praise the One who frees the pris’ners, turning blindness into sight. Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing every dread disease, calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.
- 2) Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word; praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert’s burning sand; from this well comes living water quenching thirst in every land.
- 3) Praise the One true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our

Emanuel is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

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 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

place; Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done. Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

Amen

Many, if not most of us, have been yearning for 2020 to be over, but life teaches us that January 1st isn't usually all that different from December 31st. Yet, we remain hope-filled people with a strong sense of a positive future because God is in control of all things; visible and invisible. We are blessed, we have so much to be thankful for and we know it. Sing loudly this Thanksgiving but praise loudly every day until then and past the official day of thanks-giving.



In thankfulness and praise to the One who breaks the darkness, the One who brought us together and the One who keeps us in a perpetual state of blessedness.

Pastor Lyn

Humor, Clarke Style

Submitted by Mike Clarke

Mike Clarke announces exciting news: Scripture scholars discover a new Biblical verse!

[Real or not, this is also the watchword for attending our indoor services. Also, be sure to sign in when you enter. We pray that it never happens, but we would need attendance information in the event that contract tracing is required.]



We Return to the Sanctuary

Photos by Elaine Ixcot and Mike Epting

On Reformation Sunday, October 25, we worshipped together in our Sanctuary for the first time since March. There is a video of this service on our YouTube Channel. If you have not subscribed, you can get to a list of our videos by clicking the “YouTube” button on the homepage of our website. It was great to see the beautifully-decorated sanctuary in person.



Living Room Church

Submitted by Suzanne Wilke

Some of us are still more comfortable worshipping at home. That doesn't mean we don't try our best to celebrate as we used to. Rue Knoll and I celebrated Reformation by having breakfast and then watching the service on YouTube on the big screen TV. Our "altar" had red paraments and a red glass candle holder. Both of us wore red. If you look closely under the altar, you will see that we had another visitor on Sunday. Actually, Luci, the cat is very spiritual and rarely misses a virtual church service or Zoom meeting.



Leah Circle on Zoom

Submitted by Sue Wilke

Leah Circle has been meeting on Zoom for several months. We have just started a new book entitled, *Healing our Broken Humanity*. We still meet on the second Thursday at 7:00. Sadly, a couple of our ladies don't have the technology to join us. On a brighter note, Mary Murray, who moved to Carmel Valley a while ago, has been able to reconnect with her Leah sisters.

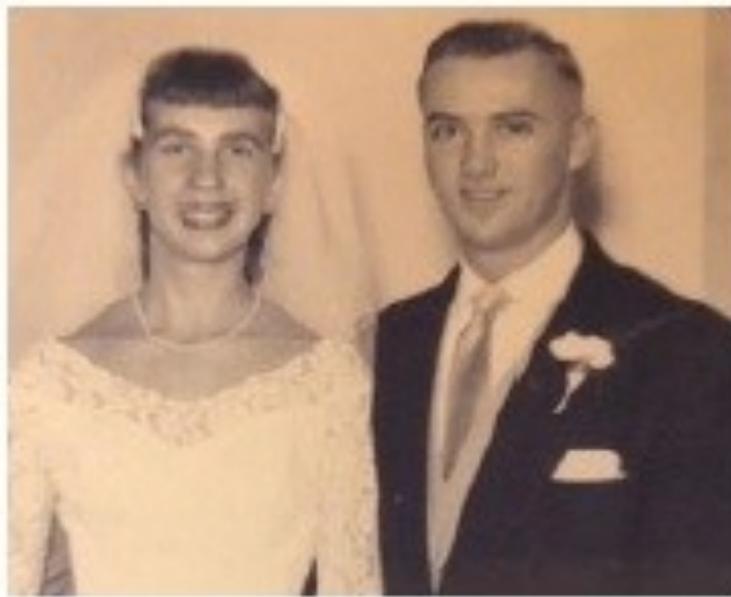


Chuck and Marilyn — 65 Years Together

Submitted by Marsha Waggoner

Published in the Modesto Bee on October 4, 2020:

Celebrating our anniversary on Oct.1, 2020. We were married in Chicago at St. Mark's English Evangelical Lutheran Church on Oct. 1, 1955, and honey-mooned in Wisconsin where Chuck was stationed with the Air Force. We have 3 daughters, 3 grandchildren and 3 great- grandchildren. We have traveled extensively on every continent except Antarctica. We are both retired teachers, and members of the Fortnightly Book Club. We are blessed with good health and life is very good.



Place an ad at: www.modbee.com/celebrations or (209) 578-2326

CELEBRATIONS

Life's Memorable Moments

Anniversary

65 Years!

CHARLES (CHUCK) AND MARILYN ROWLAND

Celebrating our anniversary on Oct.1,2020. We were married in Chicago at St. Mark's English Evangelical Lutheran Church on Oct. 1, 1955 and honey-mooned in Wisconsin where Chuck was stationed with the Air Force. We have 3 daughters, 3 grandchildren and 3 great- grandchildren. We have traveled extensively on every continent except Antarctica. We are both retired teachers, and members of the Fortnightly Book Club.

Family Promise Encounter

Submitted by Marsha Waggoner

Do you ever wonder what impact Emanuel has on the families that we serve through the Family Promise program? We have many to thank for getting Emanuel involved in the program, but Connie Petersen and presently David Holtz come to my mind. This is only one story and it started as a chance encounter.

I needed to go to the grocery store for my daughter. I had previously looked for children's books to include in the Halloween Party items we were collecting for the Family Promise families. I had not found any, but when I entered the grocery store I happened to see a table with books on it. I looked through them and selected some that I thought were appropriate for children. After getting the items I needed, I was ready to check out. The cashier took the books and set them aside, checked out my other items and then casually said, "Is there a book drive being done by an organization?" I told her what I was going to do with the books and she said, "That is a really good program, (referring to Family Promise). I was in it and I am so grateful for the experience." I told her I was pleased that she was helped by it and congratulated her for now experiencing more stability in her family's life.

As I left the store, I had a smile on my face (behind my mask) and a sense of pride for the small part the Emanuel family plays in the program that, at least for this one family, had helped get back on their feet.

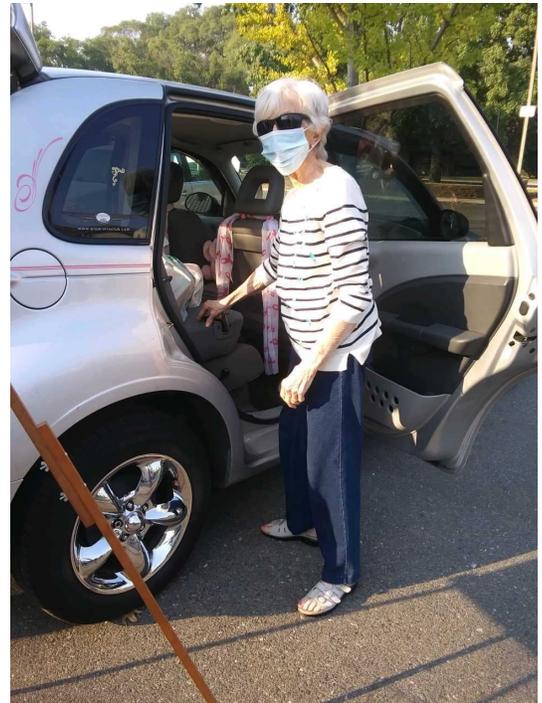


Elaine Ixcot reports that we recently delivered \$240 worth of donated gift cards to Family Promise.

Food for Faith

Photos by Elaine Ixcot

Once more, we filled a car with food items for Interfaith Ministries to give to those in great need. Elaine delivered them on October 15.



Halloween Party Packs

submitted by Elaine Ixcot

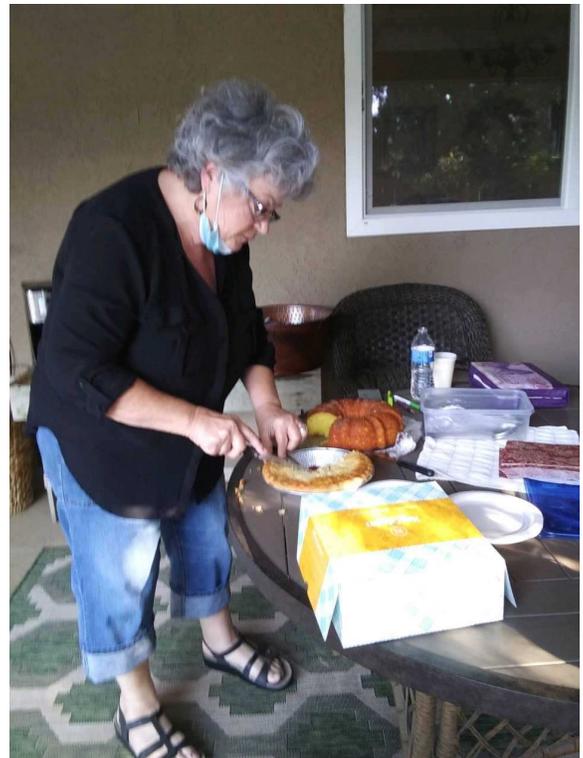
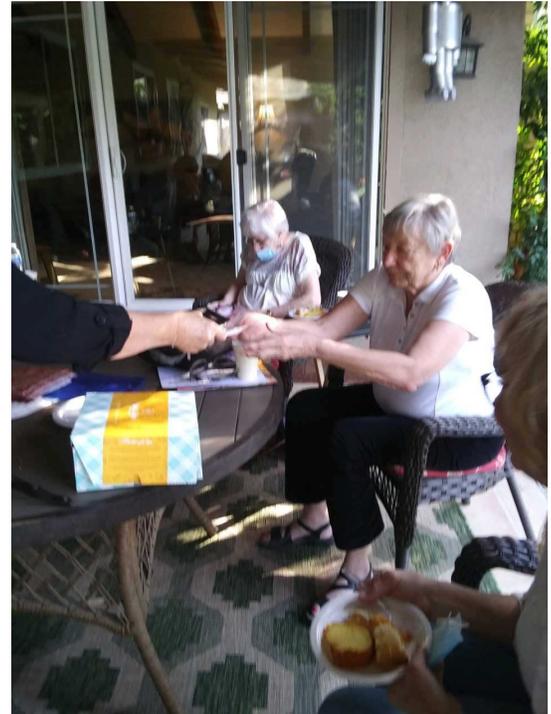
Our Outreach Team used your donations to put together Halloween Party Packs for Family Promise Families. We had lots of fun putting the packs together for the children and their families. COVID-19 can't take Halloween away from us completely. They were delivered on October 27. Thanks to the generosity of our Emanuel congregation, we had more than we needed after party packs could hold no more. We donated the overflow to our Day Care for their Halloween Parties.



Rebecca Circle

Submitted by Elaine Ixcot

Here are pictures from our Rebecca Circle meeting and Bible study on Thursday, October 15. We had a great, safe distance afternoon in the beautiful back yard of the Strand's home.



Walnuts

Submitted by Kristine Kraft

A small, but mighty crew picked 21 bags of walnuts on Saturday, October 17. Some stayed for lunch and socially distanced. Kristine and Dave were grateful for the help and Alora Skustad is looking forward to donating the earnings to her several charitable activities. There are bags that you can purchase in the narthex. Kris reports that there are till more nuts to pick. If you are interested please call her and arrange to come out and collect some.

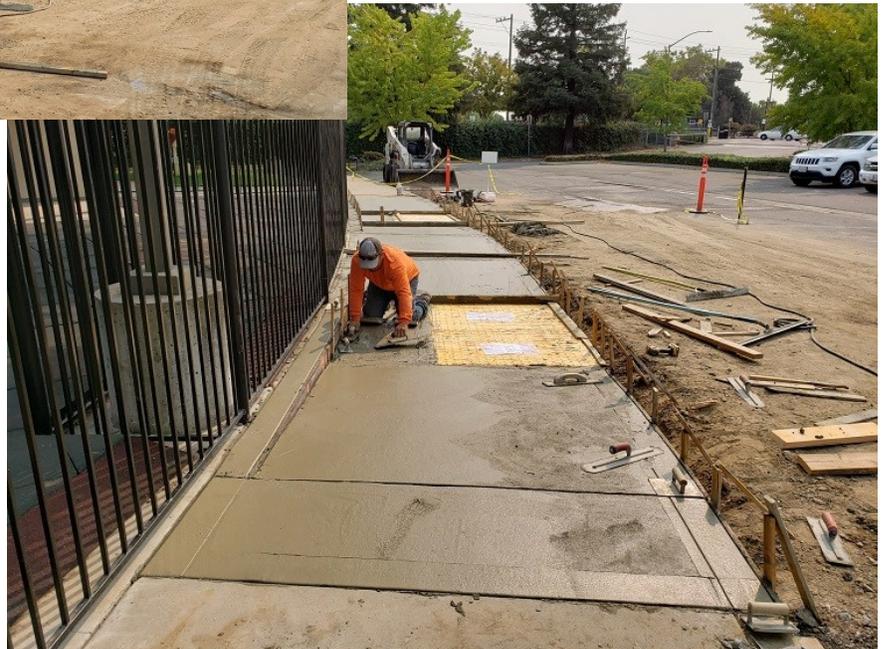


Servant of the Month

Pastor Lyn reports that Dennis Strand has been spending a large part of each day at Emanuel recently. He has been the spearhead for all the parking lot-related projects. He also has coordinated several other Property Ministry efforts this summer. Virtually every issue of the Echoes has included photos of his team's activities (and let's not forget to thank Dick Norquist and Arie Kroeze also). They have fixed leaks and generally repaired our watering system, removed the huge old tree on Stoddard Ave., and worked extensively to keep the parking lot repair and upgrade project on track.

Dennis is also the President of our Council and has lead the meetings via Zoom for most of the year. As President, he is Pastor Lyn's right-hand man in making decisions about Emanuel's present and future.

Dennis, we cannot thank you enough for all you have done for us in this most difficult year.



Alex's Memorial to her father, Kenneth Tisdel

Submitted by Alexandra Tisdel

Grace/Peace to you from our Lord and our savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

I am saddened and shocked to hear that my Dad passed away earlier this month, 10-04-20, in Moreno Valley, CA of natural causes at the age of 93. I heard he was in slow decline the past several months, not eating food, and in hospice care, but even with the warnings the suddenness and quickness of his death was a shock.

My Dad was a great man and he and I shared many common things and interests, such as music and camping. He took me to San Francisco to see a great performance of Mozart's Don Giovanni with the San Francisco Opera, and he and I went on a camping trip alone together through the Sierras and the high desert of Nevada.

My most memorable time with my Dad was when I visited him and his wife Nenita for a week or two when they lived in Washington state near Seattle. He took me to a nature museum with exhibits of live wild animals native to the region, where I had close encounters with wolverines, weasel-like animals with beautiful thick rich brown coats and adorable faces. He took me to see Mt. Rainier and Olympic National Parks, where we went hiking in both places.

Also, his wife Nenita and her mother cooked traditional Filipino food dishes, such as Panzit and Adobos, which inspired me to get a Filipino cookbook and try some of their traditional recipes myself. I reciprocated and cooked dinner for them one day during my visit, in which I cooked my Pork Loin with Blueberry Sauce (one of my best pork recipes, and a fine example of traditional northern Italian cuisine).

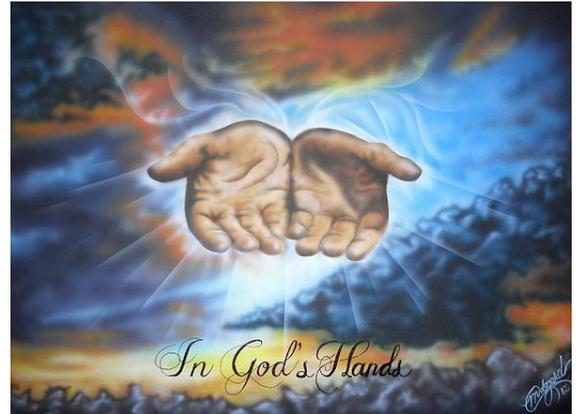


My Dad was a great man of many talents who really loved his family. Even though I was not particularly interested in jazz music, I greatly appreciated his music when I heard him play the piano, and his talents as a Spanish language teacher helped to inspire me to learn some Spanish when I was learning Spanish songs by Enrique Granados and Manuel de Falla while I was studying voice.



Alex's Memorial, continued

I believe there is no such thing as death. According to science, all living things, whether human, animal or plant, never cease to exist in the universe, they just rise to a higher level of existence somewhere else in the universe. When my Dad died, he just decided to get himself up and go for a good long walk, and instead of returning home to his wife Nenita, he decided to keep walking home to a place of unsurpassed beauty and love we call heaven where God reigns supreme. My Dad is in good hands and all taken care of there. Even though he is no longer with us physically in person, he is still with us in spirit.



We should all not mourn Dad's death but instead go and celebrate his life with us. I know we are limited as to what we can do to celebrate during the Covid 19 pandemic, but there are some things we can do, like cooking/baking decadent things and watching operas online. For those that don't know, the Met (Metropolitan Opera in New York City) has live streamed its performances from



past seasons on the internet for free. If you are interested and have internet access at home, type in Met Opera, click on Nightly Met Opera Streams, go to upcoming opera week's schedule, click on current day's opera, click on full screen and click on opening credits to play.

We should all not be afraid when we die because it is a natural course of life, and we will all take that same walk to heaven when it is our time to go, to do and be much greater things, because God is love, pure love, the greatest force there is, and he loves and cares for us all. Welcome home to God, Dad! Amen.

The people the Lord has freed will return and enter Jerusalem with joy. Their happiness will last forever. They will have joy and gladness, and all sadness and sorrow will be gone far away. Amen.

October Council Notes



Council again met via Zoom on October 11. President Dennis Strand opened the meeting. Pastor Lyn reported on a plan to move the services indoors beginning on November 1. Sermons will still be posted online.

Day Care continues to have good attendance numbers. Bob Reuter reported that Maria sent out the proposed budget for next year. The air conditioning maintenance line item may need to be increased. The PPP program has allowed the church to come out ahead for the year. PPP loan forgiveness paperwork has been submitted and we await approval. Council will vote to approve next year’s budget at November’s council meeting. Josh Hollinger reported that our Pledge drive finished at the end of October. He will reach out to members regarding giving.

Dennis Strand reported that the cut stump on Stoddard Drive has been ground. The proposed Eagle Scout project has collected comments from members and a meeting will be held regarding what comes next. Work to update the parking lot began on October 6. The office door lock has been repaired and the pilot flame in the kitchen has been fixed.

Reformation Sunday colors will be done to coincide with Addison Hoover’s confirmation. Prayer circle is meeting on Wednesday at 1:30 at the Strand’s home. Text studies and circles continue to meet, half via Zoom, half in person if the group is small and there is a place to meet .

Outreach delivered a 3rd Food for Faith collection and donated \$240 in gift cards to Family Promise for meals. Halloween Family party packs are still being collected and will be assembled on October 19. Piecemakers requested money to mail quilts to World Relief.

	September Income	September Expenses	September Gain/Loss
General Fund	14,392	(21,058)	(6,666)
Building Fund	4,619	(5,123)	(504)
Day Care	29,139	(32,328)	(3,189)
TOTALS	48,150	(58,509)	(10,359)

November Birthdays

Birthday Blessing Sunday is November 17

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

- 11/7 Florence Broden
- 11/7 Gavin Layne
- 11/10 Andrea Olson
- 11/13 Bob Ruehle
- 11/14 Keith Schneider

- 11/14 Bob Olson
- 11/16 Martha Strand
- 11/21 David Yeoman
- 11/23 Joan Simon
- 11/24 Rue Knoll

- 11/29 Elaine Ixcot
- 11/30 Joanne Trana
- 11/30 Kristine Kraft



Epilogue

(You may safely skip this...)

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

One of the privileges I have derived from assembling the online worship videos this summer is getting to do a deep dive into the hymns. I've been there as Barbara performed them and experienced them close up. I hope I have captured some of that experience in the videos, but that depends on the qualities of your speakers and video.

The copies of the hymnal pages that we put in the bulletin do not enable me to "cut and paste" so that the lyrics appear on your video screen. Sometimes I have to retype them from scratch but usually I can find them on the Internet. When I do, though, they are almost always slightly different than what we sing. It seems that we Lutherans cannot abide doing things like everyone else. Many of the differences are punctuation, changing "thou" to "you", using lowercase for words like "Son/son", and changing "He" to a gender-neutral pronoun. Sometimes the changes are more interesting, altering the theology implied by the words to something more aligned with Martin Luther's.

A prime example of this is when the old, standard lyrics imply that we must earn our way into heaven (or hell). In those hymns,

the Lutheran version tweaks the words to recognize the fact that we won't get there that way. We need Grace.

On Reformation Sunday, maybe the last time I'll engage in this exercise, I was struck by the quality of the hymns. It felt like a "greatest hits" day to me. Unfortunately, in church we omitted the one that is my clear favorite, my number one hit of all time: "Amazing Grace". This time we did not change the words. What we did was select from a large number of verses to get down to "only" five.

I don't know about you, but this song has always felt like a spiritual to me. There's good reason for that, but the original words were written by a white Englishman in 1772. John Newton, a former slave trader, wrote the words from personal experience. I'm sure you have heard the term "swears like a sailor". In his youth, Newton swore so obscenely that he shocked his fellow sailors. His captain imprisoned him for disobedience. He began his songwriting career by creating obscene songs about the captain. During a terrible storm at sea, Newton had himself tied to a pump and worked for several hours there. After a brief rest, he returned to the deck to steer for eleven more hours.

After that, Newton began to ask



himself if he was redeemable. Apparently this was not a "road to Damascus" experience but rather the start of a gradual change, which ultimately led to him becoming the curate of a church in England. Even later, he became an anti-slavery activist. In 1788, 16 years after writing "Amazing Grace", he wrote "Thoughts Upon the Slave Trade" and sent copies to every member of Parliament. He lived to see the final abolition of the trade in 1807.

Another tidbit about the song is that our verse 5, which begins "When we've been there ten thousand years" was not written by Newton. Rather, it was recorded by Harriet Beecher Stowe in her book "Uncle Tom's Cabin", where Tom sings two verses and adds this one. Thus, the song did become a "spiritual" and symbolic of all-inclusive Christianity.

"'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home!"

Emanuel Calendar of Events

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am FOOD FOR FAITH Worship Service - All Saint's Sunday	2 10:30 am Outreach Committee Mtg. - via Zoom	3 12:00 pm Text Study - via Zoom	4	5	6	7 10:00 am Organ practice
8 9:30 am HEALING PRAYER SUNDAY Worship Service	9	10 12:00 pm Text Study - via Zoom	11	12 4:00 pm Day Care Board Mtg. - via email 7:00 pm Leah Circle via Zoom	13	14 10:00 am Organ practice
15 9:30 am BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS SUNDAY Worship Service	16	17 12:00 pm Text Study - via Zoom	18	19 1:30 pm REBECCA CIRCLE	20	21 10:00 am Organ practice
22 9:30 am Worship Service	23 Echoes Deadline	24 12:00 pm Text Study - via Zoom	25	26 OFFICE AND DAYCARE CLOSED	27 OFFICE AND DAYCARE CLOSED	28 10:00 am Organ practice
29 9:30 am Worship Service	30					