

# The Echoes

October 2020

85  
& forward  
in faith



*Inside: God's Work, Our Hands*

*Outreach activities*

*WELCA update*

*Servant of the Month: Debbie Van Diepen*

# Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

## From Pastor Lyn

Dear People of Emanuel,

October is a beautiful month for a multitude of reasons. Spend a moment thinking about what makes October special for you. The harvest is one that holds special memories for me, having grown up in farm country. The color of the sky, the sounds, the smells and the annual canning of garden produce in grandmother's kitchens. Pheasant hunting in corn fields recently reduced to stubble. Or gazing at mid-century harvest murals painted on the interior walls of town halls and post offices - once discovered, always appreciated. Artists painting murals in public spaces was once a common practice and helped preserve a historical record of the founding of mountain towns and prairie villages. These and other examples, elicit warm memories of a simpler time.



Another warm memory: Stewardship time in the church! Stewardship drives almost always occur during the Fall harvest. It's an intentional focus, by the church, on giving thanks for the end result of hard work and the trust the steward has placed in the Creator to provide a good harvest. Today we still practice gratitude in this way, no matter how we earn a living, by the contribution of our time, talents and treasure in support and advancement of the ministry begun by Jesus. The challenge is to get to the goal of proportionately sharing our bounty as a response, in thankfulness, for God's provision. An added bonus comes from the lectionary writers who always accommodate Stewardship time with appropriate weekly lessons.

The Bible is full of images of agriculture; of sowing, growing and reaping. From Genesis to Revelation we can find a multitude of examples. Genesis and Revelation bookend God's story and it is God's story that is intended to keep you and I in seasons comparable to nature's, all of our lives. Just after the flood in Genesis 8, God made a promise to Noah to never destroy the earth again saying, "as long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." (v.22) Revelation 14:15 states, "for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." In other words, we who claim the Bible as our spiritual, moral and ethical guide expect to always be in a season of growth that includes the ups and downs of living. Our challenge is to remain grateful through all of our growing seasons. At the end of the book God says "behold! I

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

am making all things new!” (21:5) God does not intend to start over, as the story of Noah indicates. God intends to make all things new – better in fact. Giving us the very best, most bountiful, beautifully green and growing life imaginable, a life beyond our imaginations.

You will be receiving as an attachment to Echoes and in the body of my weekly letters for the next few weeks, a 2021 pledge card. Dear people of Emanuel, you have been extraordinarily faithful during the pandemic in maintaining your pledges. Thank you from me and the Council! We are grateful and convinced that 2021 will be extraordinary in its own way. The new year will hold multiple opportunities for sharing God’s message of love and acceptance. We are hopeful of being able to worship as a community before January but at least early in the new year. We pray for a successful vaccine and an end to the isolation the pandemic has imposed. Please prayerfully consider how you will respond to how we will be carrying on Christ’s mission to the world as the church in our community.

When you receive the email either print the card at home or you can pick one up in the office and return to the church by mail or in person as soon as possible (preferably by mid-October). If you cannot print at home and do not want to come to the church, please let Paula know so one can be mailed to you. The Council will be working on the 2021 budget beginning at the October 11th meeting. We’d like to have the pledge drive wrapped up before December.

Emanuel will be 86 years old in 2021. We didn’t get to celebrate the 85th anniversary as much as we’d planned. But with renewed strength, in faithful determination and refocused purpose, we will move Forward Anew in 2021. With God’s leading and our following - imagine all God will do with us, all God has planned for us as we emerge from this season in our lives.

In Christ,  
Pastor Lyn

**2021 Stewardship Commitment Form**

*By faith, we see the world called into existence by God's work, what we see created by what we don't see.*

*Hebrews 11:3 The Message*

**FORWARD ANEW**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Stewardship Commitment Form 2021**

**Allocation of pledge: Please mark one of the following:**

\_\_\_\_ I/We will increase my/our pledge by \_\_\_\_\_ % for 2021

\_\_\_\_ In honor of 86 years of faithful ministry, I/we will give an additional \$86.00 to my/our General Fund pledge:

a) Yearly \_\_\_\_\_

b) Monthly \_\_\_\_\_

c) Weekly \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I/We will pledge for the first time to move Forward Anew.

a) One-time \_\_\_\_\_

b) Monthly \_\_\_\_\_

c) Weekly \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Please allocate my/our pledge as follows:

**General Fund**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per quarter

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ annually

**Building Fund**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per quarter

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ annually

\_\_\_\_ As a spiritual discipline, I/We pledge to give as often as I/we can to support the ministries of Emanuel Lutheran Church.

\*Appreciated stock to donate: speak to Bob Reuter.

## Family Promise Halloween Outreach

Submitted by Sue Wilke

The Outreach Ministry recently decided that since it is highly unlikely that we will be able to have Trunk or Treat this year, we would offer the children of Family Promise a Do-it-yourself Halloween Party. We are asking the congregation to donate individually wrapped candies, popcorn, Dollar Store games and Halloween masks. There will be a box for your donations available on Sundays or in Luther Hall during the week. Your donation will help make these children’s Halloween a little more fun this year and be deeply appreciated by their families .



## Sprinkler Repairs

Submitted by Dick Norquist

The Day Care boys wanted to help the Johnson & Sons crew in the irrigation repair work. As the boys were brought to Day Care by their Moms, they insisted on going over to the crew to ask what they were digging for and if they needed any help. They were the cheer leaders for the crew! I guess boys will always be boys.

The project was successful and we have no more leaks. Some areas that had been without water recently are now growing more healthy.



## WELCA Update / Walnuts

Submitted by Barbara Crawford, WELCA President and Kristine Kraft

Our WELCA Steering Committee got together to discuss our schedule and finances. During the COVID 19 times Emanuel's donations have fallen. WELCA knows there is a real need to support Emanuel. We have \$2000 in our current WELCA fund and are donating \$750 to our Building Fund and \$750 to Emanuel's Operations, leaving \$500 in our fund.

We will be picking up walnuts on October 17 at the Kraft's. Alora Skustad will be donating her portion to an outreach program that she is developing. The other walnut proceeds will be going to our quilting "PieceMakers" to support their mailing and supplies.

We ask our Circles to continue supporting WELCA with your monthly Circle offerings.



### Mark your Calendars!!! Alora's Fund Raiser: Saturday, October 17

Everything is different with COVID-19 this year, but walnuts still need to be picked up. Alora Skustad still wants to help cancer patients and would appreciate help picking walnuts. So, Saturday, October 17 has been set for walnut picking at Dave & Kristine Kraft's, 350 Roscoe Rd, Modesto. Anyone and everyone can help pick walnuts for Alora's Chemo Kits fund raiser. Walnuts picked on the 17th will be available at church for a donation. You'll also be helping Dave & Kristine, by removing lots of organic walnuts. We'll pick from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Pastor and the Kraft's are encouraging you to bring your lunch and we'll social distance for lunch.

Anyone from Emanuel who would like to pick walnuts for your own use or to give away are invited to call Kristine (526-3760) to arrange a time and date. Kristine and Dave would love to find many takers for walnuts.



# God's Work, Our Hands, Part 1

by Suzanne Wilke

On Sunday, August 30, Pastor Lyn told us to hold up our hands and look at them. She then challenged us to come up with a project that we could do during the pandemic for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. I have chosen to make a quilt top from a scraps kit that I picked up in the Piecemakers room.



When I got home, I laid the fabric out on the table to see what I had to work with. Interesting. There were five panels with words. Actually, two of the word panels were alike, and one was different. There was fabric in two shades of green, one in a mottled brown and a whole lot of coppery orange fabric.



I decided to try to lay it out and get a glimmer of what I might want. This looked like a good idea. Because I had so much of the coppery orange, I planned to use it for a border.



Obviously, the word panels would go down the middle. I only had a couple of strips of the darker green, so I decided to separate the word panels with the strips. I would use the lighter green and the mottled brown on the sides of the word panels. That worked out fairly well.



Putting the border panels on was quite a different story. I struggled to get the measurements right, forgetting to count the inches that would be part of the seam. I confess that ripping them apart was necessary.



Finally, it all came together. Luci, the Quality Control Supervisor gave it her seal of approval.

## God's Work, Our Hands, Part 2

Submitted by Elaine Ixcot

In these unpredictable times of COVID-19, the wild fires and so many changes, I would like to take a moment to thank the people of Emanuel Lutheran Church here in Modesto. A lot of things have changed and closed, but not the hearts of our Emanuel Congregation! Thank you to all of you for your support of our Emanuel Outreach Ministry and our projects!

You have provided food for people in need through Interfaith Ministry, school supplies and gift cards for the families of Family Promise and material for our Piecemakers to make the many quilts for Modesto Police Department and World Relief. Thank you! Our projects would not become realities without you.

Also, a big thank you to the members of the Outreach Ministry for all of their behind the scenes work. These projects would not become realities without you either.

### Food for Faith:



## God's Work, Our Hands, Part 2, continued

### Family Promise:



## God's Work, Our Hands, Part 2, continued

**Quilts:** (A quick update from Paul Kroeze) There are 29 scrap quilt kits put together. That accounts for a little over half the scraps we have. I am working on the instructions to put in the scrap quilt kits and sent them to our expert quilters for any suggestions and changes before I print them and put them in the kits. We are waiting for some of the squares to be finished and returned and once they are all in, the kits can be assembled for Lutheran World Relief and Modesto Police Department kid's quilts. I cannot imagine how many quilt top kits there are going to be!



## God's Work, Our Hands, Part 3

Submitted by Elaine Ixcot

On God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, Elaine and her grandkids took dinner to the firemen at Stations 1 and 11, thanking them for all they do for us and our community. The firemen were thankful and grateful. They gave them a grand tour of both stations. Their great personalities and their humor made a great time for all!



## God's Work, Our Hands, Part 4

Submitted by Marsha Waggoner

On God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, Debbie Van Diepen and Marsha Waggoner did some deep cleaning for Joyce Bachmann.



## Alora Skustad Recognition

Found on Facebook

### 2019-2020 EDDIE AWARD WINNERS

#### GREGORI HIGH SCHOOL



**Alora S.**

**Alora represents the best of Gregori. She has amazing leadership skills, and epitomizes respect, responsibility, and kindness. Alora always comes to school with excitement, positivity and school spirit. She is genuine to who she is and has a confidence not seen in students her age. Alora is successful in school and athletics, but what truly makes her a standout is her character.**

## Servant of the Month

Debbie Van Diepen was the first named Servant of the Month when this Echoes feature started back in October, 2014. Back then, the article included this:

*“Many of you will agree that this first month’s choice is a no-brainer. There is no one at Emanuel who can match Debbie Van Diepen’s energy and dedication. She does jobs that nobody else wants and she does them cheerfully.”*

During the period when we had no pastor, Debbie radically stepped up her level of service to us. She quite possibly may have “worked herself sick”, but she did it so cheerfully that we didn’t know.



It is now fitting that we acknowledge her again. Pastor’s letter for the week of September 15 included these words:

*“A note of thanks to Debbie Van Diepen who recently turned over Altar Care duties to Kathy Obermeyer. For years, Debbie has quietly and faithfully kept the “little kitchen in back” – the Sacristy – operating smoothly. She has arranged teams of people to set the table for communion and clean up after services. She had made sure candles and other supplies were on hand. And she always, always had – has – a ready smile and encouraging word. Thank you Debbie for all you have done and I look forward to seeing what God is calling you to next!”*

Just to be clear, in case you thought Debbie was “retiring”, see “God’s Work, Our Hands, Part 4,” in this issue. It appears that Debbie will continue to be a good and faithful servant. She doesn’t seem to be able to stop. From the bottom of our hearts, Debbie, thank you!

## God’s Work, Our Hands, part 5

Some mysterious “pumpkin fairy” delivered these to doorsteps. There was some discussion in the Thursday Bible Study group, but nobody could identify the secret craftsperson.



## September Council Notes



Council again met via Zoom on September 13. President Dennis Strand opened the meeting and Pastor Lyn, reflecting on a verse from Isaiah, led a discussion on stewardship, revival, renewal, and new birth. The executive committee reported that they had completed Pastor Lyn’s annual review, which included a positive discussion of all her ministry involvements.

Day Care applied for, and received , a COVID-10 grant through the Stanislaus County Office of Education, which allowed them to report a positive cash flow for August.

Bob Reuter reported that we received over \$14,000 in pledges for August, but we still remain behind for the full year. Expenses are down because of the reduction in usage of our facilities. We completed the loan application for the parking lot improvement project. Dennis reported on the completion of the preparatory work for this project. Leaks in sprinkler lines have been fixed and storm drains have been cleaned in the parking lot. We have selected a contractor for the renovation and he is fitting us into his (busy) schedule. We are also getting a bid to remove buckled concrete.

Sanctuary Arts reported that Lois Owen is joining the team. They will be redecorating Luther Hall and the sanctuary to a Fall theme and also for Reformation Sunday.

Outreach continues to be very busy, with monthly Food for Faith collections and the school supply collection for Family Promise. All food collected for Care Cupboard and Katie’s Kitchen has now been donated. Quilt kits are being assembled and will soon be available in the Narthex.

	August Income	August Expenses	August Gain/Loss
<b>General Fund</b>	22,891	(21,382)	1,509
<b>Building Fund</b>	6,888	(5,123)	1,765
<b>Day Care</b>	34,165	(30,732)	3,433
<b>TOTALS</b>	63,944	(57,237)	6,707

## October Birthdays

### Birthday Blessing Sunday is October 18

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



- |       |                 |       |                   |       |                |
|-------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|----------------|
| 10/1  | Olga Layne      | 10/18 | Daniel Johnson    | 10/29 | Gregory Taylor |
| 10/7  | Barry Schroeder | 10/21 | Lois Owen         | 10/29 | Bob Reuter     |
| 10/9  | Paula Kroeze    | 10/22 | Matthew Owen      | 10/29 | Oscar Wilson   |
| 10/13 | Tina Layne      | 10/23 | Alexandra Tisdell | 10/31 | Carol Hollmann |

## Epilogue

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

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

Of course we knew it was bound to happen — we've been living on borrowed time, so to speak. In our new home, Rose and I have been living in a quasi-bubble, but we recognized that it was not an air-tight bubble. We finally have our first case of COVID-19 at The Park.

We don't know the details, except that it is just one unnamed person and the person is no longer here in the building. Staff did contact-tracing and asked the 4 people who had close and continuing contact with this person to self-quarantine. Since neither Rose nor I was asked to quarantine, we must have had no more than incidental contact.

Management acted quickly and decisively; they closed the dining room immediately and began delivering meals to us in our apartments. Room service is not really much of a hardship! Not being able to play bridge with our friends is a bit worse, but Rose still plays online with her Oakdale friends once a week.

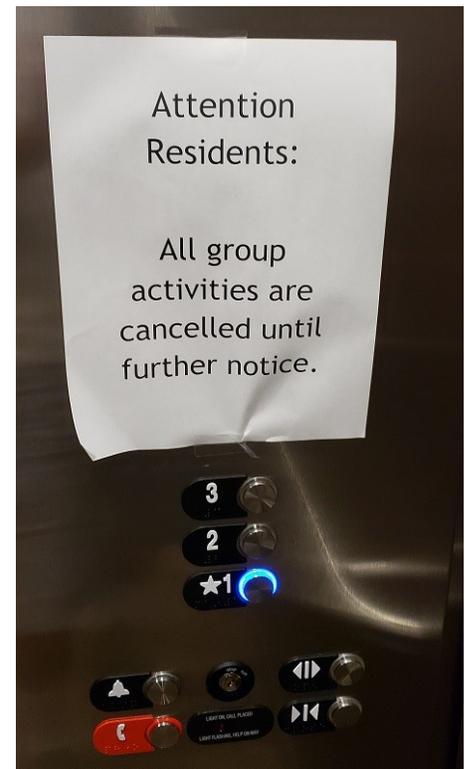
I don't know whether the person with the virus is in misery or not; I pray that he/she is OK. For the rest of us, though, this event that we have been dreading has turned out to be easily endured.

If we can go 14 days with no more cases, we will go back to the new normal and resume our group activities, including dining.

I do not attend the Thursday morning Zoom Bible study, but Rose does and I can't help hearing some of the discussion. This is a lively, upbeat group of ladies and it is great fun to be an innocent bystander. I recently heard them talking about good things that have happened during the "shutdown". Several said they have enjoyed the time to think. Some said they liked the fact that they could watch the online service whenever they wished. Rose said that she finds that she pays closer attention when she watches without distraction.

Someone pointed out that by focusing on the good things that remain rather than what we are missing, we can experience a lot of joy. Others said that they seem to be paying more attention to the welfare of others, reaching out purposefully, with cards and phone calls.

I had a brief discussion with Bob Ruehle in the parking lot Sunday. He claimed that he used to sometimes feel useless, but he has had the opportunity to do some really good things for other people during these times. In short, he is experiencing the rewards that come from making



a difference in other people's lives.

Some televangelists have speculated that God brought the virus to punish us for our sinful ways. Maybe they need to look around and notice that God is still here with us and bringing new opportunities for us to discover our place in the kingdom. After we have survived and thrived in 2020, we should all be pretty much fearless and grateful for the new experiences of God's grace.

I hope we can carry forward some of the things we have learned when we "reboot" to the new, new normal.

# Emanuel Calendar of Events

# October 2020

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