

The Echoes

September 2022



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Piecemakers' Gifts

Servant of the Month: Pastor Lyn

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

From Pastor Lyn

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The first thing I'd like to do is to thank you for the lovely reception on August 7 honoring our 7th year of ministry together. Unfortunately, I had to celebrate from a distance due to testing positive for Covid. From what I heard later, everyone enjoyed the party, and the cake was delicious! Thank you for the many cards, the flowers and gifts, and the unexpected bonus! I was blown away, totally surprised and grateful beyond words. It has been a joy to be doing ministry with you and I look forward to all God has for us this next year.



Thank you also for the cards, emails, phone calls, and food while I was in quarantine during my bout of Covid. Some of you stopped by my house to say "hi" from the street – keeping a safe distance. Again, your prayer, sincere warmth and generous caring spirits sustained me and hastened my healing. I feel very blessed to have had a relatively mild case and in addition to all of you and your prayers, I'm thankful for good medicine! August 2022 will long be remembered for the challenges but mostly for the blessings! Thank you!

Exciting news for September is the start of Sunday School after a long hiatus. Rally Day will be September 11 at 10:45 in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome – no matter your age. There will be a place for you! There has been very good response from adults offering to help and from the kids who are excited to learn more about God and God's world. Chris Paulsen has graciously agreed to be the Director and has already accomplished a lot of planning. The plan is to keep Sunday School safe, fun, and purposeful. Please keep the volunteers and the children in your prayers this school year!

I'd promised to provide an update from the tri-annual Churchwide Assembly that occurred the week of August 8-12 in Columbus, Ohio. The best way to find out all that happened would be to go to elca.org/cwa-2022 and look for "Legislative

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

Paula Braxton,
Administrative Asst.
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Day Care Director
209-549-0672
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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.



2022 ELCA
CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY
August 8-12, 2022
Columbus, Ohio

Pastor Lyn, continued

Update.” All plenary sessions can be found on YouTube. Below are a few of the highlights. A few Summary hard copies will be available on Sept. 11.

- 1) A new Vice President was elected to a 6-year term. The Vice President is the highest office a non-ordained or lay person can hold in the ELCA. Our new V.P. is Imran Siddiqui. His complete vitae may be found on the synod webpage.
- 2) An official public apology was offered to Iglesia Luterana Santa Maria Peregrina. This is the Latina congregation from Lodi at the center of the controversy surrounding the former bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod.
- 3) Several Memorials were brought before the Assembly. Of particular interest were three: a) Restructure the governance of the ELCA b) Land back proposal (encourage transfer or sale of real property back to native tribes – see synopsis for full explanation and c) salary equity in the ELCA.
- 4) The triannual budget was passed: 2023 - \$68,814.00; 2024 - \$70,191.00; 2025 - \$71,594.00.



I encourage you to read the summary available at ELCA.org “Legislative update” particularly if you plan to attend the meeting with Bishop Burkat at Emanuel on November 5th. That meeting will be open to everyone in the conference. I hope Emanuel will have good representation at that gathering. Bring your questions for the Bishop. She is actually asking for them and wanting people to express their view points.

Now, back to the fun stuff – Sunday School! As mentioned earlier, everyone – no matter your age – is

welcome to attend. It will be approximately 45 minutes each week with singing, sharing, stories, crafts, games, videos, etc. There’s this mysterious thing about Holy Scripture and that is, no matter how many times you’ve heard or read a story or a book of the Bible, it will speak to you differently every time you engaged it. In other words, there is something new for us to learn every time we open the book! And it’s a double blessing when we can do that with young people. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Also, put Oktoberfest on your calendar! It is being planned for October 23rd!

Let’s enter the fall with renewed energy and passion for our collaborative ministry!

In Joy and Thanksgiving!

Pastor Lyn

Ice Cream Social & Talent Show

Submitted by Suzanne Wilke

Saturday, August 13 was the day of our WELCA-sponsored ice cream social event. These photos capture a summary of the good times. Leah Circle were hosts. Marty Strand did the centerpieces. The Lydia Circle Lulus, accompanied by Marilyn Rowland led a sing-a-long. Zane and Zoe Moraitis performed a dance. Zoe did a solo number. Kathi Reuter played a waltz by Edvard Grieg.



Outdoor Worship

Photos by Mike Epting

We worshiped outdoors in the courtyard on July 31. We will do that one more time this year on September 4, led by Dan Johnson while Pastor Lyn is away. Bring your lawn chairs!



Servant of the Month

Of course Pastor Lynette Crase is our Servant every month, but In honor of the completion of her seventh year with us, let's make a big deal about it. Seven is a mystical year in the Bible and last year should have been a Jubilee Year for her, but instead, she worked harder than ever. She has been a masterful shepherd for us, leading us skillfully through the trials and tribulations of the modern church. Covid, budget problems, clashes of ideas and beliefs, dwindling numbers — all of these have troubled the Church at large and the church on the corner of Stoddard and College. Pastor Lyn has steered us through these storm waters with determination, courage, and steadfast faith.



Our heartfelt prayer is that Pastor Lyn will bless us with her continued leadership for a few more years. We pray that when she does leave, it is to a well-earned retirement. We pledge to be her steadfast supporters and faithful followers in the future and to make her servanthood rewarding and satisfying. She has blessed us, let us also bless her.

Roger Lee Visit

Photos by Mike Epting

On August 14, we were honored with a visit by Pastor Roger and several family members. It was a delight to see him again and get reacquainted with his charm and sunny outlook on life.



A Letter from Bob Ruehle

Submitted by Bob

Editor's Note: This letter is a response from Bob that gives his viewpoint on the Epilogue in last month's Echoes. As a real physicist, his opinion on the data from the Webb telescope should far outweigh mine!

Dear Mike,

Like a burning in my bones I must speak! Most people, especially the Talking Heads on TV, have missed the point of the James Webb pictures:

We Were Right!

For all of humanity's existence we have speculated/theorized about the structure of space. This picture looks exactly as we expected, showing that our models of the universe now are correct.

I don't believe in miracles. I believe God is much more clever. I believe that 13.8 billion years ago when God made two Kaluza-Klein 10-dimensional Space-Time membranes bump (the Big Bang), God invented the laws of physics, so that later the laws of Geology made an earthquake and the laws of Astronomy made an eclipse together at just the right time for the Crucifixion; the same for other events/miracles.

Glory to God! Eat, drink, and be merry!

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Joyce Bachman Birthday

Submitted by Barbara Crawford

Joyce celebrated her 97th birthday with great gusto! She asked me to please tell everyone at Emanuel thank you for all that you do for her.



Our WELCA Works

Submitted by Marsha Waggoner

Lydia Circle meets often in homes and often at church. Currently, we are meeting in Luther Hall. Our WELCA theme for the month of August is BEE PROACTIVE. We use the GATHER magazine for our Bible study and during the summer months the theme of the Bible studies has been the art of quilting and its relationship to our faith. Do you wonder what this has to do with being PROACTIVE? In John 15:16 it states: "You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last."

Our discussion of what this meant to us as Christian, Lutheran women centered on the ability to see a situation where some action was needed and to do whatever we could to be that help. I personally have always loved the Man of LaMancha song, "The Unreachable Star". Many times each of us is faced with our own unreachable star and if we do as John suggests in the verse, we are commanded to reach and do what we can. Many times that "star" is not reached completely, but often it is reached and even gone beyond.

When we think of how each of us and all of Emanuel's congregation has been proactive, it is comforting to know we have been PROACTIVE in many areas. I can think of some and I am sure you can also. For example, the need for warmth for those in our community and around the world with the Piecemakers quilts; feeding those in need- Katie's Kitchen; giving showers to those who do not have access to them by supporting the Shower Shuttle; collecting food for the Food Initiative of Stanislaus County; showing the community our skills - alright that could be questionable- in the game of softball through the many years of Dove's softball teams, (and the men's league when it was in existence)- I am sure many of you can think of other ways you show your faith by seeing a job that needs doing and getting it done. So the next time you consider the theme of BEE PROACTIVE, don't underestimate the many little ways each of us can do it and when done in concert with others, we truly can make a difference.

Lydia Circle performing at the Ice Cream Social/Talent Show.



Piecemakers' Gifts

Submitted by Kristine Kraft

The Piecemakers want to thank all of the many helpers that attend workdays on the 2nd Monday of each month from 10-12. Thank you to all who have helped in the past. If you can tie a knot, come join us. We also want to thank the many ladies who have sewn pieces together. The Piecemakers' box is now full and replenished. Everyone who can sew is invited to take a kit home and sew the squares together.

Thank you to the women who have taken quilts home to tie. There are several quilts that are ready to be tied.

We thank the many volunteers who have taken quilts home to bind. Currently we have 3 large LWR (Lutheran World Relief) and several small quilts that need binding. You'll find them labeled on a table next to the Piecemakers' Room.

Lastly, we thank those who have donated material or have helped buy fabric or batting with our Piecemakers Funds. Everyone is encouraged to donate new or slightly used bed sheets, and unused fabric (that can be cut into squares).

Why do we do this? LWR (Lutheran World Relief) sends 60" x 80" quilts to all parts of the world where there's a need. Many quilts, after being prayed over and blessed, have been given to members of our own Emanuel family. Outreach has decided that the smaller quilts will be given to a Foster Agency. Volunteers and helpers are always welcome!



Piecemakers' Gifts, continued

The Piecemakers gave a special quilt to Chris Schmidt in memory of Jean Salazar. It was suggested to make the quilt out of Jean's favorite blouses. Chris picked some out and Kristine Kraft took on the job of cutting the fabric and piecing them together with a rabbit (from a vest that Chris had made for Jean) in the middle. The backing was Jean's special blanket of red and black. The Piecemakers tied and bound the quilt. At the Outreach meeting, Pastor Lyn blessed it with the ladies placing their hands on the quilt. When several of Lydia's Circle Group stayed at the Norquist cabin in July, they presented the quilt to Chris. The trees and mountains made a lovely background. Chris hung the quilt from the balcony for the remainder of the outing.



July Outreach Activity

Submitted by Elaine Ixcot

The Kroeze's were the Emanuel Outreach Trunk Masters for August. The trunk was full before Sunday was over and then was delivered to Interfaith Ministries (FIGS) during the week. Thanks to all who filled up that trunk!



Sunday School Rally Day!

Submitted by Chris Paulsen

On September 11, 2022, at 10:45 a.m. please come and celebrate our start of Sunday School. All are invited to join us in the Sanctuary. We will have classes for Grades K-6 and Confirmation starting September 18, 2022. We'll meet each Sunday from 10:45 to 11:30 a.m.



God's Work Our Hands

Submitted by Chris Paulsen

Sunday, September 11, 2022

We will assemble hygiene bags for the homeless and those in need in Luther Hall after the Sunday School Rally. Everyone is welcome to join us at the Rally and to then help assemble items.

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

We will meet at James Marshall Park, 515 Sutter Ave. at 4:45 p.m. to serve the homeless and those in need. Come out and see the wonderful ministry of Grace is the Key. We will help pass out perishables, serve a pizza dinner, pass out items that we take out there, and visit with those in the park. Please come and experience some of what Grace is the Key does every Wednesday evening to serve the homeless and those in need.

James Marshall Park is near the intersection of Chicago and Sutter Avenues near the firehouse. There is some parking behind the firehouse. There are no chairs out there. Please bring one if you think you will need it.

We hope to see many from our congregation out at the park. Any questions please contact Chris Paulsen.



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

God's work.
Our hands.

Outreach Fund Raiser

Submitted by Kristine Kraft

Mark your Calendars! Emanuel's Outreach Fund Raiser will be on Saturday, October 22.

Emanuel's Outreach Fund Raiser will be held at Dave & Kristine Kraft's, 350 Roscoe Rd, Modesto. Anyone who wants to pick walnuts for themselves or for Outreach can join us. They will also be helping Dave & Kristine by hopefully removing many organic walnuts. Please come around 9 a.m. and stay for lunch (Taco Soup).

Anyone from Emanuel who would like to pick walnuts for your use or to give away but can't come on the 22nd, are invited to come on the 15th or arrange another day and time with Kristine. Kristine and Dave would love to find many takers for walnuts.



August Council Notes



Council met on August 14. Pastor reported that Bishop Burkat will meet with our Conference on November 5. It will be important for us to participate. Bishop Burkat has already met with the Hispanic church in Stockton.

Pastor also reported on the ELCA assembly. There is much to consider going forward.

Bob Reuter reported that pledge giving continues to fall short of expectations. Non-pledged giving is above expectations, but not enough to make up the overall shortfall. Our brokerage accounts are stable despite the overall stock market performance. We have not been reinvesting earning recently, so earned funds are available if needed. Bob also foresees about a 5% increase in expenses due to inflation that will need to be addressed in next year’s budget.

Day Care finances are better this month, with income exceeding expenses. Day Care received the back payment for their “Program” children.

	July Income	July Expenses	July Gain/Loss
General Fund	25,971	(22,184)	3,787
Building Fund	8,492	(5,011)	3,481
Day Care	35,217	(33,105)	2,112
TOTALS	69,680	(60,300)	9,380

September Birthdays

Birthday Blessing Sunday is September 18

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



9/3 Ronald Harris
 9/4 Karen Harris
 9/6 Ruben Haro

9/6 Raymond Martinez
 9/7 Chuck Rowland
 9/21 Brian Skustad

9/24 Anita Martinez
 9/24 Connor Skustad

Epilogue

(You may safely skip this...)

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

Last month was unofficial Joint Replacement Month at Emanuel.

Bill Reinheimer kicked things off with a new hip on July 26. Yvonne Troedson got herself a second new knee. Lois Owen had her first knee replacement and the next day Paula Kroeze got a replacement hip. We had several joint replacements already in 2022, but four in less than 30 days seems like a record that we didn't really want to set.

All four surgeries have apparently gone well and each recipient seems to be on the road to complete recovery. There is a common theme, though, of severe pain in the days immediately following surgery. I think all of them were a little shocked at the level of pain they experienced. Maybe when we were praying for recovery, healing, and well-being, we forgot to ask for relief from pain. It's also possible that such a request would have been asking for too much. Yvonne, in particular was caught off-guard because she recovered so quickly from her first knee replacement — she didn't expect the second one to be worse than the first.

Modern surgical techniques have sped up the recovery process. Lois, believe it or not, came home with her new knee only a few hours after the surgery. The others all spent a single night in the hospital, coming home the next day. All of them reported very little pain in the hours after surgery, thanks to great pain relief drugs. Within 24 hours of returning home all four changed their tunes. None of them wanted to take opioid-based pain killers, so they have attempted to control their pain with safer drugs. Yvonne told me to call her the "Queen of Tylenol". She admitted that she was using a Tylenol-codeine combo in the early days. All of our patients now understand the importance of "getting ahead of the pain", not waiting until it has hit 8 on a 1 to 10 scale, when



it is too late to get quick relief.

In addition to our joint repairs, other members and friends have medical problems that need our prayers and attention. The Bulletin lists prayer requests on or near the last page and it is updated weekly, so those listed do need our prayerful support. Most of them are pleased to receive phone calls — if you don't have a church family directory, you can generally call the office for their numbers. Many of the people on the list have other needs, such as transportation, so perhaps we can offer direct help in addition to prayer and moral support.

I think we do a pretty good job of taking care of each other, but I'm also sure that when you are in pain, it's easy to feel alone and deserted. The nights are really long when no one else is near and you are hurting. Let's all remember to reach out and do what we can to remind everyone that we care about them.

Emanuel Calendar of Events

September 2022

Emanuel Lutheran, Holidays in United States

Sep 2022 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				OPEN	OPEN	10am - Organ practice @
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
FOOD FOR FAITH 9:30am - ELC Outdoor 3pm - RadCov Leadership 5pm - RADCOV Worship	Labor Day Office & Day Care Closed	12pm - Text Study 6:30pm - RADCOV Music	11:30am - Day Care	3pm - RadCov 48-Hour Prayer Vigil 9:30am - Outreach - Set		10am - Organ practice @
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
ELC Sunday School Rally 9:30am - ELC Worship 11am - Council Mtg. 11am - God's Work Our 3pm - RadCov Leadership 5pm - RADCOV Worship	10am - Piecemakers 10:30am - Outreach 1pm - Lydia Circle	12pm - Text Study 6:30pm - RADCOV Music	1:30pm - Wednesday 5pm - GWOHO/Outreach	First Day of Hispanic 1:30pm - REBECCA	OPEN	10am - Organ practice @
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS 9:30am - ELC Worship 10:45am - ELC Sunday 3pm - RadCov Leadership 5pm - RADCOV Worship	1pm - Leah Circle	12pm - Text Study 6:30pm - RADCOV Music	1:30pm - Wednesday	OPEN	OPEN	10am - Organ practice @
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
9:30am - ELC Worship 10:45am - ELC Sunday 3pm - RadCov Leadership 5pm - RADCOV Worship	Echoes Deadline	12pm - Text Study 6:30pm - RADCOV Music	1:30pm - Wednesday	OPEN	OPEN	