

Spring 2019

# The Acorn

Quarterly Newsletter of Emanuel's Lutheran Church



## Singing Through Easter

BY PASTOR MARCUS

Lament. Joy. Prayer. Hope. Accompaniment. Blessing. These are but a few of the many words we could attribute to the descriptions of the Psalms. As a collective whole, the Psalms are songs, ancient hymns, centered on reflecting and celebrating the truths of a God that is not distant and uncaring but rather a God that is active, present, and willing to listen to the heartfelt, sometimes frustrated prayers, of creation. As the devotion's introduction reads, "During times of celebration as well as sufferings, loss, and lament, the psalm writers turn to God and remember God's promises – promises kept and promises still unfolding." ("Lasting Hope," pg. 3) Each of the 150 hymns provides a window through which we, as the journeyers in the faith, come to see that we are not alone in our struggles nor in our celebrations. A window to be reminded that by the grace and love of God, we are never forgotten amid life's ups and downs.

As the world turns with what seems to be even great speed with every passing day, being reminded, if but for a short time, of these simple yet profound truths can be living-changing and -giving. It is for this reason, and their boiled down simple beauty, that we will walk this Lent amid these prayers, hymns, and ancient songs. We will sing our way through the trials and tribulations of Christ's own Lenten journey to the cross and we will meet the empty tomb with exuberant songs of praise and thanksgiving. Beginning Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, we as a congregation will dive into the devotional series, "Lasting Hope, Devotions for Lent 2019." Prepared by six pastor and church leaders from across the ELCA, we will spend the sev-

en weeks of Lent reading, reflecting, and praying through these ten Psalms, 51, 91, 27, 63, 32, 126, 31, 116, 22, and 98. Each daily reflection focuses on a set of verses from each of the noted Psalms, provides a point to ponder, a small historical or theological reflection, and a prayer. You are encouraged to use these devotions daily. We will be using them throughout our Lenten worship services, both noonday and 7pm, our Tuesday morning Bible study sessions, and in various ways with our staff and Day School. It is my hope that you will be filled, continuously, with these songs of hope and praise as we sing together this Lent and prepare our hearts and minds for the renewed promises of Easter.

This Lent is certainly set to be one of great anticipation and hope. We return to our dual services each Wednesday throughout Lent, our 12:05-12:35pm service with a light meal to follow in the Women's Ministry Room, and our 7:00pm service with a light meal preceding it at 6:00pm in Women's Ministry Room. The noonday services will feature numerous musical meditations, prayers, songs, and instrumentalists, all centering around the appointed Psalm for the week, while our 7:00pm service will feature the *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy; a Lent favorite for many! In addition to these beautiful musical elements, spatial additions will also be used this year to aid in our Lenten reflections and, in new ways, utilize our beautiful sanctuary to tell the story of God's love in Jesus Christ. Our Lenten journey will culminate in a breathtaking week of worship services that I want to take just a moment to draw your attention to.

Continued on page 6

# PREPARING FOR EASTER

## AN INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT

From the early days of our faith, Christians have observed the remembrance of Christ's passion and resurrection with great reverence. It became the custom to prepare for that observance by a season of prayer and fasting, and the reconciliation of those who had been separated from the community of faith. By keeping the season of Lent, we take heart God's call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and practice in our daily lives the work of reconciliation. We are all invited, therefore, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. To make a right beginning to this season it is appropriate to receive the mark of ashes as reminder of our mortal nature and of God's invitation to receive Christ's redeeming work.



**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019**  
**Worship with Holy Communion** and Imposition of Ashes will be in the Sanctuary at both Noon and 7:00 PM.

**ASHES TO GO** will take place from Noon to 1:00 at the Habitat for Humanity parking lot on Court Street. Pastors will distribute ashes and give blessings to passers-by who may not have time to attend a traditional service. The Day School children will be there waving to busy

people stopping by on their lunch break.

Why "Ashes To Go"? Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence. From the Middle Ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The reminder that we are dust turns our attention to the creative power of God, and God's ability to heal the brokenness in our lives when we offer that brokenness to God. That turning to God is the work of Lent, preparation for the celebration of Easter.

We're offering ashes on the street corner because that reminder of need, humility, and healing shouldn't be confined to a church building. We probably need it more when we are in the middle of our daily business! The ashes we receive are to remind us throughout the day of our need for God, and of God's call to us. There is much more to the beginning of Lent than ashes alone, and we encourage everyone to make time for

worship, for the support of others, and for the great traditions of faith in our work of repentance and renewal. But God meets us not just in worship, but in the midst of life, and we offer the opportunity to remember our faith to those whose schedules make it hard to stop and pray with others.



**MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES** is a time of prayer, song, and food on our journey in these days before Easter. The series centers on the Psalms as explored in the text, "Lasting Hope: Devotions for Lent 2019." Join us each **Wednesday from Mar. 13 - Apr. 10.**

**Midday services** begin at 12:05 in the Sanctuary with a luncheon to follow in the Women's Ministry Room.

**Evening services** are at 7:00 in the Sanctuary. A light supper will be served in the Women's Ministry Room before at 6:00.



**SHROVE TUESDAY**  
**March 5th** is Shrove Tuesday this year. It signals the end of Epiphany on the church calendar and comes the day before Ash Wednesday.

Gathering for fun to eat pancakes and all things fattening on this day has been a Christian tradition since the 16th century. It combines repentance and preparing for the Lenten season with a festive spirit.

Join us in the Women's Ministry Room for fun games, good food, and fabulous friends. Crazy hats are encouraged! Great with flapjacks? Want to help? Give the church office a call.



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 14: 10:30 a.m.  
Maundy Thursday, April 18: 7:00 p.m.  
Good Friday, April 19: 7:00 p.m.  
Easter Vigil, April 20: 6:30 p.m.  
at Central Park Downtown

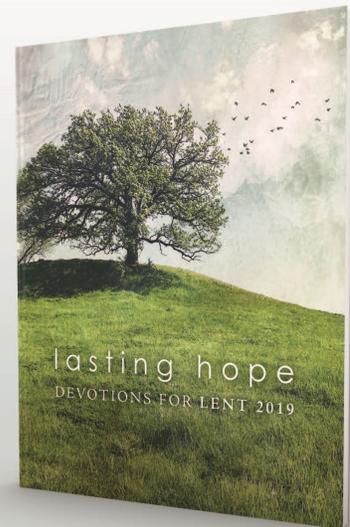
**Easter Sunday, April 21**  
**Sunrise Service at Central Park, 7:00 a.m**  
**Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.**  
**Worship with Communion, 10:30 a.m.**  
**Egg Hunt, 11:45 a.m.**

## lasting hope

DEVOTIONS FOR LENT 2019

This beautiful, full-color Lenten devotional explores the Psalms texts for Lent in year C of the Revised Common Lectionary with 40 entries, one for each day in Lent. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer. This accessible and colorful format makes it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into your Lenten journey.

**Available in the narthex and the church office.**  
**Large print copies also available.**



 AUGSBURG FORTRESS



## Volunteers Needed for Easter

EGG HUNT, BREAKFAST ... ALL THE GOOD THINGS!  
LOOK FOR SIGN UP SHEETS IN THE NARTHEX SOON

# SPOTLIGHT ON PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

The sculpture *God Among Us* was carved in Marika's studio in Seguin, Texas of cypress and cotton wood. The wood was acquired after a five month search from Troy Swift of Swift River Pecan in Fentress, Texas. Work on the towering sculpture was begun on March 13, 2018 and publicly unveiled at Emanuel's Lutheran Church on August 18, 2018. Installation was completed December 7, 2018. Artists who worked on the piece are Howard Crunk, Alan Schreiber, Jimmy Schmidt, Dennis Martin, and Marika Bordes. *God Among Us* was commissioned by Emanuel's Lutheran Church and funded by several generous sponsors. It is a lasting tribute to the artists, the people of Emanuel's, and the Spirit who moves within and around us all.

## God Among Us

Posted on [November 5, 2018](#) by [marikaarts](#)

In the beginning:



When asked me to write an artist statement for the sculpture, I said yes without blinking an eye. My understanding was, I would go through the genesis of the sculpture in explaining the experience of my journey while carving the flesh of the wood.

The reality we foresee this day is difficult to explain because the work is based on a strong feeling of faith. From the conception to the finished artwork, I tried to capture a moment in its eternity. The artist in me created something that she does not fully com-

prehend. The sculpture is the fruit of the changing seasons of my roots from soils of many cultures. It is also a strong belief in the divine rather than a proof in itself. I am just an instrument in His hands. This being said, I consider it is more important for the artwork to speak for itself without intervention or explanation.

Ideally, a two-way avenue of communication flows between the Creator and the viewer allowing his mind to wander in prayer. The visible is something different for everyone. While my explanation can be useful to the viewer for exploration and consideration, it can also limit or constrict the possible responses.

Progress:



Completion:



Photo courtesy of Matt Chase Photography

Unveiling:



Commissioning during worship with Bishop Tiemann and Pastor Marcus.

## A Sculptural Prayer

*Do not gaze at it  
But sink into it through your eyes, and  
Feel its intensity under your skin.  
Do not just think about it, instead,  
Meditate on it  
Let it carry you to the unknown  
Fast, Far and Forever  
To a whole universe ...  
To embrace the glory of creation and  
The Creator*

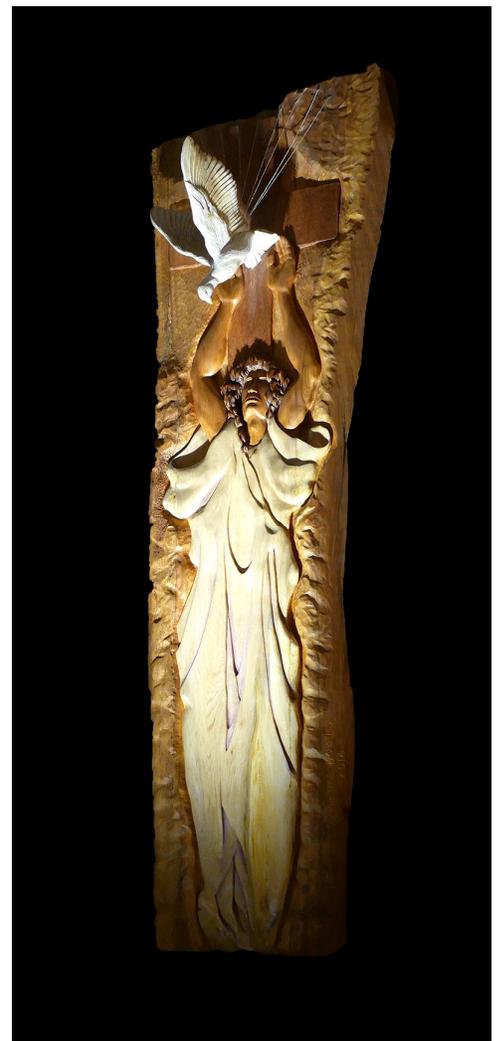


Photo courtesy of Douglas Manger

Palm Sunday will be Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, beginning on the steps of the Narthex with palm branches, the reading of Luke's Gospel. We will enter the sanctuary with choir anthems and in palm-laden procession as we join with the ancient church remembering Christ's entrance into Jerusalem. This special Sunday will also be the day we join together in blessing and sending the LWR quilts to people, places, and homes around the world. The pews, altar furniture, and balcony will be decorated with these beautiful masterpieces of love and accompaniment. Thursday, or Maundy Thursday, we will join for worship as Jesus invited his own disciples into his meal of life-giving bread and wine. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Communion students, along with their families, will celebrate this milestone as a part of this evening's worship as we gather, family-style, at large tables with handmade bread from our Communion students. Friday, or Good Friday, will again be a time and place that we come together with Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church 7:00pm for one of my favorite services of the entire year. Gathering in silence and in the slow-coming darkness of the cross, we will hear the words of palmist's lament and reflect together on this seeming abandonment at the cross. We end as the bell tolls and the light of Christ journey's down the center aisle in silence. Leaving this worship service, we gather again on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, with St. Andrew's Episcopal and Spirit of Joy, down at Central Park, for an Easter Vigil. As the *ELW* notes, "[This] service includes strong signs: new fire in darkness, light spreading from the light of Christ, the water and Word of baptism, the first resurrection meal. And powerful words: the great saving stories of Hebrew scriptures and the first Easter gospel." (*ELW*, pg. 225) It will be simply beautiful, and I hope you will make this service a new or renewed part of your Lent and Easter journey.

This Lent and Easter journey will be filled with so many opportunities to worship, to pray, and to be God's people in ancient and renewed ways. It is my hope that you will join Pastor Kelsie and I, as well as with our colleagues in ministry here in Seguin, in worship as often as you can. We are set to learn new things from each other, experience the Gospel of Jesus Christ in life-changing ways, and sing our way through Easter. Please watch all of our bulletin boards, worship bulletins, Facebook events and posts, and the weekly email to keep tabs on all that is happening with our youth, summer programming, church picnic, and so much more. Things are hap-

pening beloved family in God, and I don't want you to miss a single piece of it!

In God's grip,  
Pastor Marcus

## Council Report

BY MARSHA SCHROEDER, PRESIDENT

Greetings from your new Council President,

This is an exciting time to be involved in the ministry of Emanuel's. Key members of the prior Council had reached their term limits; we will miss you Karen Weinstein, Dennis Sagebiel, and Cindy Pique. But we have three new members to help us pick up where we left off. The new Council officers are me, Marsha Schroeder as President, Hazel Dalton as Vice President, Debby Richardson as Secretary, and Susan Yeatts, Treasurer. The rest of the Council members are Steve Anderson, Allan Bode, Aaron Jenke, Sarah Kent, Doug Parker, Ron Schneider, Levi Stalsworth, and Keith Vinyard. I know I speak for all of us when I say we welcome your input and feedback. We represent each of you.

Helping to feed the excitement and positive energy, Emanuel's is blessed with new members and programs, and we have a new Associate Pastor to work with us – welcome, Pastor Kelsie!

Countless hours of background work by the Property Stewards and Facilities Task Force are paying off. Within the next few weeks, you will finally see THE RAMP! Bids have been accepted and paperwork signed to build a ramp to facilitate access to the Fellowship Hall. The existing elevator near the Mountain Street entrance will be used to access the bottom floor. The big storage closet room in the Fellowship Hall will be renovated and the ramp will be built in that space. It will go through the wall where the old lift was and wind through that area, coming out at the level of the Fellowship Hall floor. This is a two-stage project. First the asbestos tile in that area has to be removed and the area "abated." Then the actual construction can begin. Once they get started, it is anticipated that it will only take a few weeks to complete the project.

Another major issue has been the roof leak in the area of the air conditioning compressor on the roof. A bid has been accepted and contract signed to have that

repaired also. The hallways on the 3rd floor will no longer be “decorated” with empty tubs to catch water dripping in. My apologies to the ladies who quilt up there – you will have to design another obstacle of course. 😊

We thank you for your support and may God continue to richly bless this body of believers called Emanuel’s. God is truly with us.

## Stewardship Corner

### Possessions: Proverbs 3:9-10

“Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.”

We live in a world that is full of stuff. Stuff of all kinds; big stuff, expensive stuff, shiny stuff, all varieties of stuff. But of those possessions, what are the most essential? What could you not live without if today you had to make that decision? For some, that might be incredibly easy, while others might struggle immensely. The writer of Proverbs asks of the reader to be mindful of what they have, while being ever-mindful of what they give to others and specifically God. Is God getting the “first fruits” of our works and treasures or what is left fermenting on the bottom? Being challenged to give when we have first received, instead of a what can be done for oneself, is difficult to say the least. But when we make these actions a part of our spiritual disciplines, when why we give is more than a passing thought of, “Oh I guess I could give them something,” then we stand to be filled to overflowing in body, mind, and soul by our benevolent and life-giving God.

#### **TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER**

Emanuel’s Stewardship Pledge 2019



This year it is easier than ever to submit your Emanuel’s Stewardship Pledge that includes Time & Talent as well as financial gifts. Look for an online survey email the first of March. This should take all of 10 minutes to complete. For those who prefer a hard copy, don’t fret. Paper Stewardship Pledge forms will be available in the Narthex and the church office. We can even mail you one!

## How to Get to Know Your Pastor

Ripped from *The Lutheran Handbook*

Pastors play an important role in the daily life of your congregation and the community. Despite their churchly profession, fancy robes, and knowledge of Greek, pastors experience the same kinds of ups and downs as everyone else. They value member efforts to meet, connect with, and support them.

1. Connect with your pastor after worship. After the worship service, join others in line to shake the pastor's hand. Sharing a comment about the sermon, readings, or hymns lets the pastor know that his or her worship planning time is appreciated. If your congregation doesn't practice a dismissal line, find other ways to make that personal connection.
2. Pray daily for your pastor, because he or she doesn't just work on Sunday. Your pastor has many responsibilities, like visiting members in the hospital, writing sermons, and figuring out who can help drain the flooded church basement. In your prayers, ask God to grant your pastor health, strength, and wisdom to face the many challenges of leading a congregation.
3. Ask your pastor to share with you why he or she entered ordained ministry. There are many reasons why a pastor may have enrolled in seminary to become an ordained minister. Be prepared for a story that may surprise you.
4. Stop by your pastor's office to talk, or consider making an appointment to get to know him or her. Pastors welcome the opportunity to connect with church members at times other than worship. As you would with any drop-in visit, be sensitive to the fact that your pastor may be quite busy. A scheduled appointment just to chat could provide a welcome break in your pastor's day.





## SPOTLIGHT ON EMANUEL'S MINISTRY

### Emanuel's Lutheran Day School *Celebration of our Past and Dreams of our Future*

Emanuel's Day School is blessed to have been providing a well-recognized, faith-based education to the Seguin community for almost seventy years. Emanuel's Lutheran Church opened its doors to the first kindergarten in Seguin in 1949 and even housed the public school classrooms in their formative years. There is no wonder Emanuel's Lutheran Church is often referred to as "The Education Church" in Seguin. Pictured below on the Parish Hall steps is the Emanuel's graduating class of 1950!

Marie Vogel, long-time member of our congregation, taught here from 1963-1973. Marie also told me that at one time, the school included a first grade. Corrine Dube taught in the 'fifties while Clarice Ullrich taught at Emanuel's in the 'sixties. Pat Hoppe arrived in the early 'seventies and went on to teach and direct our celebrated Montessori School from 1978 until retiring in 2002. Lucy Hill joined our team in 1986 and taught until 1998. Burlene LeClaire joined us in the fall of 2003 and directed the school until retiring in 2014. Heidi Ulrich taught during her tenure as a TLU student

in 2010, while TLU students and sisters Angelyn May Rodriguez and Allison May served 2014-2016. I have served as Director since July, 2014.

In order to celebrate seventy years of teaching, nurturing and worship, we are very interested in learning more about our history as a school. Do you recognize students or teachers in the photo above? Do you know other teachers in our school who were also members of the Emanuel's Lutheran Church congregation? We want to recognize those who devoted their time in service to the education and care of young children in our community through school ministry in the name of Emanuel's Lutheran Church. If you have further information on our school history, please contact me at (830)372-0332 or [dayschool@emanuels-seguin.org](mailto:dayschool@emanuels-seguin.org). I would love to hear from you!

Emanuel's Day School continues to offer our community a unique educational and caring environment for families. The combined experience in teaching and administration for our current four lead teachers and director is one hundred forty-six years of ser-

vice in education! Emanuel's continues to grow and thrive, blessed with an excellent reputation for learning and care. A community gardening program, the Garden of Eatin', has been added to our curriculum along with a Literacy Skills program working with children on reading- and writing-readiness skills in preparation for kindergarten. Music and movement instruction is also included in our school day, thanks to dedicated volunteers from our church. Chapel remains an integral part of our faith-based experience conducted by our church's Pastor with our new Associate Pastor joining him.

Our Seguin community is growing and changing. Embracing that growth and change, Emanuel's Day School is moving forward into the next fifty years and gaining momentum with future goals of expand-

ing in order to reach an even more diverse group of families. We envision learning programs and opportunities that could not be offered in the past due to our limited facility space – after-school programs for school-age children, infant care, greater safety measures, dance, sports, art and several new amenities families want their children to experience in a well-rounded education. The sky is the limit in what Emanuel's Lutheran Church and Day School can provide families as we reach out into our community together with this unique ministry.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you all as we strive onward in our mission "to be the church God is calling us to be by declaring God's love, serving others and embracing all".

-By Deb Haug



## SECOND QUARTER YEAR C 2019 CHURCH YEAR CALENDAR

DATE	SEASON	1st READING	PSALM	2nd READING	GOSPEL
Mar 3	Transfiguration	Exod 34:29-35	Ps99	2 or 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36
Mar 6	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Ps 51:1-17	2 Cor 5:20b-6:10	Matt 6:1-6, 16-21
Mar 10	1 Lent	Deut 26:1-11	Ps 91:1-2,9-16	Rom 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
Mar 17	2 Lent	Gen 15:1-12, 17-18	Ps 27	Phil 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35
Mar 24	3 Lent	Isa 55:1-9	Ps 63:1-8	1 Cor 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
Mar 31	4 Lent	Josh 5:9-12	Ps 32	2 Cor 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Apr 7	5 Lent	Isa 43:16-21	Ps 126	Phil 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
Apr 14	Palm Sunday	Isa 50:4-9a	Ps 31:9-16	Phil 2:5-11	Luke 22:14-23:56
Apr 18	Maundy Thursday	Exod 12:1-4, 11-14	Ps 116:1-2,12-19	1Cor 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Apr 19	Good Friday	Isa 52:13-53:12	Ps 22	Heb 10:16-25	John 18:1-19:42
Apr 21	Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43	Ps 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Cor 15:19-26	Luke 24:1-12
Apr 28	2 Easter	Acts 5:27-32	Ps 118:14-29	Rev 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
May 5	3 Easter	Acts 9:1-6	Ps 30	Rev 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
May 12	4 Easter	Acts 9:36-43	Ps 23	Rev 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
May 19	5 Easter	Acts 11:1-18	Ps 148	Rev 21:1-6	John 14:23-29
May 26	6 Easter	Acts 16:9-15	Ps 67	Rev 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29

## ‘Ruhe in Frieden’

*Abandoned family burial site relocated to San Geronimo Cemetery*

Valerie Bustamante *The Seguin Gazette* pp. A1,8 Tuesday, February 19, 2019



**E**mmanuel’s Lutheran Church senior pastor Marcus Bigott and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church deacon Nick Carrillo blessed five burial boxes as members of the Guadalupe County Historical Commission and San Geronimo Cemetery Association paid their respects and placed a white flower on top of them.

The boxes contained skeletal remains that were interred in a family cemetery more than 100 years ago. On Friday, they were disinterred from their resting place in the abandoned cemetery and re-interred into San Geronimo Cemetery during a special ceremony on Friday.

Originally buried in a family cemetery on a property off Elley Lane near State Highway 46 in Clear Springs — the remains were relocated at the current property owner’s

request, Guadalupe County assistant county attorney Robert Etlinger said. “I’m assuming that the owner of this property wants to do some kind of development with it,” he said. “Nobody has ever taken care of this cemetery as far as anybody knows. There is a procedure for the owner of the property to have the remains located in an abandoned cemetery disinterred and then relocated to a new location. The owner of this property filed a petition in district court because you have to get a district court order to do this.”

Left unkept for several years, the cemetery was surrounded by only a rusted and deteriorated fence.

The burial site had only two identifying markers. One of the headstones — still in one piece — had the name Friederich Voges etched into it with a birthdate of Jan. 19, 1820 and a

death year of 1899.

On the other side of that marker was the name Friedericka Voges with a



*Photos by Valerie Bustamante*



of Tres Hewell Mortuary, who organized the burial ceremony.

“We tried to do this in the most dignified way that we could,” he said during the ceremony. “You don’t see caskets because I didn’t feel that we needed to put skeletal remains back in a casket to enclose them, but rather than to return them to the earth. We thought this was the most peaceful and less disruptive way.”

Bigott and Carrillo each gave their blessings before the remains were lowered to the ground.

“Voges sounds like a German name and there’s German spelling — we felt like in the mid-1800s these families were either German Catholic or they were German Lutheran,” Hewell said. “Both will bless the graves in a way that they need to be blessed on those traditions.”

birthday of Oct. 30, 1819, and death date of Oct. 10, 1911.

The second marker, which was broken and scattered into pieces had the name Louis Voges, born Aug. 19, 1856, and died 1876. The marker also had inscribed the German phrase, “Ruhe in Frieden” on it — meaning “Rest in Peace.”

With the markers in different spots, it could not be determined which remains belonged to whom. It took Palmer Cemetery Services more than five hours to open up a total of 15 graves on Friday.

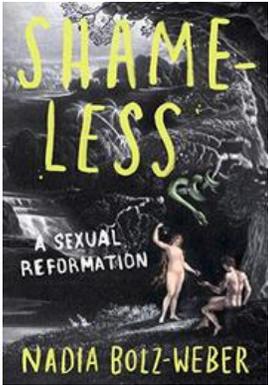
“We had four remains total. The heads were intact and everything,” Guadalupe County Historical Commission board member Jesse Roy Hart said. “One appeared to have been shot. It was a woman and she was probably about 90 years old — not quite 100.”

The Guadalupe County Historical Commission was present during the disinterment to ensure the relocation was done properly, Hart said. All the remains were placed in four individual boxes for burial. Some small pieces of wood, which are believed to have been part of a child’s

casket, were found and placed in a small white box for burial as well. Each grave will have a temporary marker until their tombstones are finished. There are also plans to place a monument near the five graves to show that it was relocated from another site, said Tres Hewell,

**The Southwestern Texas Synod  
announces the installation of  
The Rev. Kelsie Theiss  
called to serve as  
Associate Pastor  
by  
The Rev. Mike Widner Cibolo Creek Conference Dean  
Installation to be held  
Sunday, March 17, 2019  
at 3:00 p.m.  
at  
Emanuel’s Lutheran Church  
206 N. Travis St.  
Seguin, TX 78155  
Rostered persons & Synodically authorized  
ministers are invited to vest and be a part of the service.  
Color of the day is purple  
Reception following the Installation  
All are welcome!**

# BOOK REVIEW



## SHAMELESS

A Sexual Reformation  
by Nadia Bolz-Weber

KIRKUS REVIEW Dec. 11, 2018

The whip-smart pastor and author of *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People* (2015) channels Martin Luther and calls for the church to reform its approach to sex.

Too many of Bolz-Weber's congregants have been hurt by Christian teachings about sex: couples who marry as virgins only to find they can't "flip a switch" to suddenly approach "sex as joyful and natural and God-given"; or middle-aged women who can't bring themselves to wear a V-neck because they are haunted by teachings about modesty they learned as teens. The author, who is now divorced, insists that the church should not be more faithful to abstract principles than to people. "If the teachings of the church are harming the bodies and spirits of people," she writes, "we should rethink those teachings." Indeed, a healthy attitude toward sex might be more faithful to the Bible's teachings anyway. In the Creation story, notes Bolz-Weber, Adam and Eve were told to be fruitful and multiply—"the very first blessing was sex." Among many other issues, the author, a recovering alcoholic and former comic, addresses pornography, abortion, and debates about transgender bathroom use. Consistent with the title, Bolz-Weber wants readers to feel unashamed about their bodies even as she invites them to grieve the moments in their sexual histories where they have been hurt or caused hurt. She also writes straightforwardly about desire: "I know that when I see my lover, something within me uncoils...a wildness, part velvet, part forest fire." Not exactly the usual stuff of Christian sex books—and that's a good thing. Throughout, the author's voice is inviting, as is the narrative layout: Homiletical reflections on scriptural themes are set in clearly separated boxes, and illustrations—e.g., a risible page from a Christian workbook that details the kinds of cosmetics and speech that increase femininity—make the book an easy, enjoyable read.

Sure to be helpful to many readers and just as sure to be controversial.

## 40 IDEAS FOR KEEPING A HOLY LENT

From Nadia Bolz-Weber's blog *Sarcastic Lutheran* during her time at House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, an urban liturgical community with a progressive yet deeply rooted theological imagination.

- Day 1: Pray for your enemies
- Day 2: Walk, carpool, bike or bus it.
- Day 3: Don't turn on the car radio
- Day 4: Give \$20 to a non-profit of your choosing
- Day 5: Take 5 minutes of silence at noon
- Day 6: Look out the window until you find something of beauty you had not noticed before
- Day 7: Give 5 items of clothing to Goodwill
- Day 8: No b\*tching day
- Day 9: Do someone else's chore
- Day 10: Buy a few \$5 fast food gift cards to give to homeless people you encounter
- Day 11: Call an old friend
- Day 12: Pray the Paper (pray for people and situations in today's news)
- Day 13: Read Psalm 139
- Day 14: Pay a few sincere compliments
- Day 15: Bring your own mug
- Day 16: Educate yourself about human trafficking
- Day 17: Forgive someone
- Day 18: Internet diet
- Day 19: Change one light in your house to a compact florescent
- Day 20: Check out morning and evening prayer at The Daily Office.
- Day 21: Ask for help
- Day 22: Tell someone what you are grateful for
- Day 23: Introduce yourself to a neighbor
- Day 24: Read Psalm 121
- Day 25: Bake a cake
- Day 26: No shopping day
- Day 27: Light a virtual candle
- Day 28: Light an actual candle
- Day 29: Write a thank you note to your favorite teacher
- Day 30: Invest in canvas shopping bags
- Day 31: Use Freecycle
- Day 32: Donate art supplies to your local school
- Day 33: Read John 8:1-11
- Day 34: Worship at a friend's mosque, synogogue or church and look for the beauty
- Day 35: Confess a secret
- Day 36: No sugar day – where else is there sweetness in your life?
- Day 37: Give \$20 to a local non-profit
- Day 38: Educate yourself about a saint
- Day 39: Pray for peace
- Day 40: Pray for your enemies (you probably have new ones by now) then decide which of these exercises you'll keep for good

# SPOTLIGHT ON TODAY & TOMORROW

## Learning to Fall:

Physical, emotional, and spiritual falling related to life experiences

- March 10 Overview of the book by Phillip Simmons, lead by Pastor Darwin L. Huartson
- March 17 "Falling Physically" taught by Dr. Tommy Raetzsch
- March 24 "Emotional Falling" taught by Dr. Nick Wilkens

Come learn with us during the  
Sunday School Hour  
9:15-10:15 in the Women's Ministry Room

Phillip Simmons was just 30 years old when he learned that he had ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease, and he was told that he had less than five years to live. As a young husband and father, and at the start of a promising literary career, he suddenly had to learn the art of dying. Nine years later he had succeeded against all the odds, in learning the art of living. He writes about his own journey in the book *Learn to Fall: The Blessings of an Imperfect Life*. As Phillip acknowledges his need to embrace his physical alterations, he must also face emotional, mental, and spiritual changes related to his journey. "Learning to Fall: The Blessings of an Imperfect Life" illuminates the journey we all must take, the work of learning how to live richly in the face of loss.



**1<sup>ST</sup> COMMUNION CLASSES** will be held every Sunday from March 24<sup>th</sup> through April 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:15-10:15am in the Women's Ministry Room. All 5<sup>th</sup> grader and older youth who have not participated in the class and are wishing to do so are invited. We will gather for study, fellowship, and during our last gathering, will bake the bread used for Holy Communion at the Maundy Thursday service. It will be at this service, Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, that 1<sup>st</sup> Communion students and their families will celebrate the Meal together. Please reach out to Pastor Marcus to get your youth on the list for this year's classes.





*Emanuel's Lutheran Church*  
**CHURCH PICNIC**  
*Worship - Fellowship - Games*  
**Sunday, March 31 at 10:30**  
**Nolte Island**

Dress comfortably.  
 Bring a favorite folding chair if you wish.

NO service at the church this day.  
 Transportation from Emanuel's available.

SIGN UP in the narthex to help.  
 Volunteers needed for transportation,  
 prep & packing, set-up, greeting, clean-  
 up and FOOD.



**2019 Relay for Life  
 Guadalupe County**

**Saturday, April 27, 2019**  
 at the El Fiesta Ballroom

You are invited to join our  
 Earth Angels team!

Contact the Church Office  
 to get in touch with  
 team coordinators.

*Earth  
 Angels*

**Add chicks to your Easter basket.**  
**Add bounty to a family's table.**



With your donations, Easter Lilies will grace the sanctuary of Emanuel's this Easter on April 21st and the gift of livestock will bless families around the world for years to come.

Talk about a transformation! A cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds, and agricultural training and support can help a family achieve a fresh start. With new tools and techniques, crops will grow stronger than ever. Eggs, milk and meat from the farm animals provide a lifetime of food to eat and sell on the market, helping a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty- for good.

You may honor or remember a loved one by supporting the ELCA Good Gifts Program (any dollar amount) and/or with an Easter Lily (\$10.00 each).

Forms and payments may be put in an envelope and placed in the offering plate or delivered to the church office. They will be available in mid- March.

The deadline to ensure Easter Lilies for Easter is Monday, April 8, 2019.



**THE LEGACY OF  
 DIETRICH  
 BONHOEFFER**  
*A VIEW FROM THE UNDERSIDE*

MARCH 25 | 7 P.M.  
 CHAPEL OF THE ABIDING PRESENCE

An intense portrayal of the life and  
 thoughts of Dietrich Bonhoeffer by  
 Pastor Al Staggs.



# LOCAL & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

## A WORD ABOUT MISSION OUTREACH

By Willie Spreen, Emanuel's Visitation Minister

Each month seven worship services are conducted at the care facilities here in Seguin with approximately 150 persons in attendance. These services are conducted by Tom Engler and Willie Spreen. This effort by Emanuel's has significant impact on the participants similar to our members who attend worship each month.

These services also utilize time and talent from a group of volunteers. Our musicians are Connie Meyer, Fran Vinyard, and Johnanna Clark. Communion Assistants are Karen Weinstein and Beulah Reiley. Other helpers are Bev and Walter Seidenschwarz, Mae Markgraf, Debbie Almquist, and Hughlene Micheli. The services conducted relate to the previous Sunday's service in the sanctuary including scripture, message, prayers, and hymns.

So you can see that Emanuel's and Seguin would not be the same without this outreach.



Save lives...build water wells in rural Ethiopia! The TLU chapter of **Water to Thrive** is organizing a Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction to raise funds for Water to Thrive, an Austin, faith-based organization that constructs water wells in rural Ethiopia. Knowing that 1 in 10 Ethiopian children die of water-borne illnesses, TLU students have set a goal of raising \$5,000 to complete their sixth well for a rural community. Please consider supporting the effort by attending this event, which will feature Ethiopian cuisine, on **Thursday, April 11, 2019** starting at 5:30pm at First United Methodist Church on North Austin Street. Tickets cost \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Info at 830.372.8160 or [dcasas@tlu.edu](mailto:dcasas@tlu.edu).

**PUB THEOLOGY** Is BACK! Gathering for brews and views at the Dalton Home on **Thursday, March 15** at 7:00. The church can help with directions (830-379-5046) but you will have to BYOB. (Bible? Bottle? Both good choices.)

## Special Services

Seguin Assisted Living	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	2:00 pm
GVNC	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs	10:30 am
Remarkable Health Care	4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	10:30 am
Argent Court	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	2:00 pm
Nesbit Nursing Home	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	10:30 am
Windsor Nursing Home	4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	2:30 pm
Hacienda Oaks	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	10:00 am

## QUICK QUILTERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Dear Friends of Emanuel's Lutheran Church,

Greetings from **Lutheran World Relief!** We're so thankful for your partnership, and for your energy and enthusiasm for this ministry.

I'm excited to be able to share some details about where some of your items traveled in the last year. You may already have spotted in your online Tracker record that your Mission Quilts have gone to Mauritania. Your donations departed our warehouse on November 23, 2018.

LWR's partner, Lutheran World Federation/World Service, has been working with 6 national NGOs through enhancing their institutional, managerial, and technical capacities to ensure sustainable development and advocacy in Mauritania. This shipment of Quilts and Kits is estimated to reach 60,000 individuals in various places, especially the Mbera Malian Refugee Camp on the periphery of Noakchott.

... Thank you so much for your partnership in bringing hope to our neighbors around the world. We thank God for you!

Continued blessings on your ministry!

Melanie W. Gibbons



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.



# EMANUEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

206 North Travis Street  
Seguin, Texas 78155-5635

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**The Acorn** is the Quarterly Newsletter of Emanuel's Lutheran Church. Each edition highlights who we are as a congregation yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Articles feature partners in ministry, stories from the archives, current events, and other news in a deeper, richer context to help continually define mission and ministry at Emanuel's. Please share your submissions/suggestions for *The Acorn* at [info@emanuels-seguin.org](mailto:info@emanuels-seguin.org).

**Weekly News** is an electronic e-blast of announcements taken from the weekly Sunday bulletin with enhanced graphics and hyperlinks for even more information. Not on the mailing list? Share your current email address at [info@emanuels-seguin.org](mailto:info@emanuels-seguin.org).

**[www.emanuelslutheranchurch.com](http://www.emanuelslutheranchurch.com)** is our website. Current events are featured on the home page- just click on the graphics for details. The Worship Leader Schedule, Church Calendar, Christian Education Offerings, and Staff Contacts are updated on this site.

**Bulletin Boards and Narthex Screen** also share information about events happening at Emanuel's. If you would like to post a flyer or have one created, check with the church office.

**Facebook** is another helpful communication platform. Look for our several small groups and posted events that are easy to share with friends.

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