



# The Red Door

April 2012

## April Showers

You know the rhyme, April showers bring May flowers. Many of you have learned it since early age from your parents, grandparents or teachers. You get to hear it a lot, well, around April. Springtime is definitely here and it seems like everybody loves it, except maybe, for allergy sufferers for whom spring usually means runny noses, watery eyes and big headaches. Nonetheless, children like to repeat the rhyme over and over as they look forward to the fun stuff associated with this time of the year. Longer days, warmer temperatures, spring break, report cards... (oh well, there's that too!). As simple as it sounds, there's actually a lot of science behind this rhyme. The increased level of moisture in the soil help plants grow faster and healthier. Temperature is also a factor, as plants are genetically hard-wired to grow when days get warmer. And then there are also insects—although you may not care for those—which are essential for the pollination of plants, flowers, and trees. You see, meteorology, botany, zoology; it all conspires together to make this a reality!

And then there's also theology. Yep, even the "study of divine things" has to do with our understanding of creation and all the beauty that comes around this time of the year. The resurgence of life associated with springtime is a major theme celebrated by Christianity and many other world religions. Many of our teachings about God and how God relates to humanity have to do with spring. Since spring brings showers and showers bring life, the connection is very obvious. We celebrate water and its many blessings because water is at the core of life. Without water life simply cannot exist. It is no coincidence then that baptism is a sacrament of water. With water our thirst is quenched. In water our sins are cleansed. Through water we are born to a new life. Just like the flowers of the earth need water to bloom, so the children of God need water for their lives to be renewed.

But nowhere else can we find a better way to connect the coming back of life in spring with Christianity than in the resurrection of Jesus. Certainly April is a good time to celebrate the arrival of the season in which we see life sprouting everywhere. And it is also in April (this year anyway) that we celebrate the event in which God proclaims the victory of life over death by raising Jesus from the tomb. Either way you slice it, God is still doing the same thing. Through the beauty of creation and through the resurrection of Christ, God shows how abundant and prevalent life is. Life that cannot be held back; Life that can't be contained. Life that fills us up with joy; Life that strengthen us with faith. Life that blooms from underneath the earth; Life that comes out of the tomb. Life comes back; Jesus lives again!

So, as the season of Easter approaches, in this month of April we celebrate water and life. Which reminds us that there are still millions of people around the world suffer water scarcity. Life in those places is hard. We should not only be mindful of the ways in which we use the resources of the earth, but also grateful for the blessing of rain and clean water that sustain our lives. Let us pray that water may always be plentiful and that life may always be preserved. May indeed the April showers bring us flowers, and the resurrection of Christ brings us life. Let it rain, let it rain, let it rain. Amen.

***The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and good news refreshes the body. Proverbs 15:30***

**Emanuel Lutheran Church  
Church Council Minutes**

**March 5, 2012**

Members present: Pastor Julio Cruz, Roger Knipp, Barry McDonald, Tim Barcus, Cindy Seamens, Julia Hernandez, and Karen Roberts. Also present: Bob Moody, Treasurer, and Cathy Zwernemann.

Pastor opened with a prayer.

Bob presented the Treasurer's report. Some concern was expressed because our income is \$4,207 under budget and \$3,367 less than the expenses year to date. No reason for the decrease in income was identified. The council will review the finances again next month.

Cathy Zwernemann presented information on a new program from the Synod. Cathy presented the 3 points of the Disciple Life Alive project. These are Center for Mission at Briarwood, the NT-NL Disciple Life Leadership Endowment and Jubilee Center-Sierra Leon, West Africa. The proposal is that Emanuel have on special Sunday for offerings for the project as well as encouraging individual offerings from the congregation. The council agreed to have a specific day of offerings and make the congregation aware of the opportunity to give to the project. A specific date will be identified later.

Church Improvement: the council discussed ways to improve the church. The new liturgy is being used in the English service. The council agreed to introduce and dedicate the new hymnals on the Sunday after Easter. The council agreed on a form for dedications for the hymnals. Cindy agreed to work with Ken on the up-date of the website. Roger will work on the post card project. Council agreed to shorten the financial report for "The Red Door", but include the current council minutes. Pastor will translate his report into Spanish. Julia agreed to assist with translation of the council minutes and newsletter into Spanish. The council also discussed a summer schedule for worship.

The council approved the minutes for the February meeting.

Pastor presented his report. He highlighted the Youth Gathering, Food Pantry and ECC partnerships. Pastor will be on vacation March 10-17. Pastor Mel Hammer will preside over worship.

Youth Report: Julia reported on the progress toward the youth gathering in New Orleans. Scott Redman from Christ Lutheran is assisting with transportation. The group raised over \$700, including the Thrivent match from the brunch served by the youth. Julia asked for the scholarship fund to assist with the \$35 cost per youth for a mission event connected with the Synod Assembly. Friday night, April 27, 50 youth will spend the night at Emanuel. A Lock-In for the confirmation class is scheduled for April 13 & 14.

Roger and Pastor Julio have begun work on the policy for use of the facility and will present it next month.

ECC report: The ECC received \$2,000 from the Mission Endowment Fund for the Summer Reading Program. Members of the ECC are looking at the way several other food banks are operated.

Basement water leakage: Cowboy Concrete began work this week. Barry and Roger are monitoring. Tim will also assist.

Pastor received the application from Jackie Carlson and Julia Hernandez who plan to represent Emanuel at the synod assembly. Total cost of the congregation for member participation and various fees is about \$1,000. This amount was approved in the church budget.

Other business: Roger will be spending more time out of town this summer than expected.

Next meetings: April 16 and May 7.

For the Good of the Church: Cathy & Steve Zwernemann for all they do for the church and the synod. Steve and Nancy Johnson for their quick willingness to volunteer. Al and Judy Kline for agreeing to help with transporting food in Al's new truck. Don Jose for all he does around the church.

The council closed with a prayer and passing of the peace.

## CALENDAR OF ECC CLASSES 2012

### APRIL

|                    |          |                      |            |
|--------------------|----------|----------------------|------------|
| Family Hair Care   | Mondays  | 2 & 30 <sup>th</sup> | 12-1:30 PM |
| Creation of Hearts | Fridays  | 13, 20 & 27          | 9:30-12 PM |
| ESL                | Tuesdays | 10, 17 & 24          | 6-8 PM     |

### MAY

|                    |           |                               |                |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Family Hair Care   | Mondays   | 7, 14, 21, 28? (Memorial Day) | 12- to 1:30 pm |
| Creation of Hearts | Fridays   | 4, 11, 18 & 25                | 9:30-12 PM     |
| ESL                | Tuesday s | 1, 8, 15, 22                  | 6-8 PM         |

### JUNE

|                    |         |                     |            |
|--------------------|---------|---------------------|------------|
| Family Hair Care   | Mondays | 4 & 11              | 12-1:30 PM |
| Creation of Hearts | Fridays | 22 & 29             | 9:30-12 PM |
| SRP                | Mon-Fri | 18-29 <sup>th</sup> | 9-noon     |

### JULY

|                  |            |                                  |            |
|------------------|------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| SRP              | Mon-Fri    | 2-6 (no SRP on 4 <sup>th</sup> ) | 9-noon     |
| Family Hair Care | Mondays    | 16, 23 & 30                      | noon-1:30  |
| Food Matters     | Wednesdays | 11,18 & 22                       | 12:30-2:30 |

### AUGUST

|              |           |           |            |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Food Matters | Wednesday | 1, 8 & 15 | 12:30-2:30 |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|

**CARNIVAL** Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>



Youth Group: We have a group of seven youth for the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans but we received three more scholarships so we now have a wonderful group of 10 youth. For the next few months they will take a few classes of Spiritual Preparation for the trip. Please keep them in your prayers.

## ECC

The ECC board has been blessed with a \$2000 grant from Mission Endowment Fund through the efforts of Pastor Julio and Pastor Susan Rodriguez. The board is deeply grateful for this money.

Currently we are in the process of planning our Summer Reading Program. Mimi Hutchison has offered to lead this program and be the director for 2012. Mark has called our church partners to help with lunches. The response has been favorable with commitments from Faith, Preston Meadow and Greenland Hills. We are looking into expanding the program by utilizing space in the church house.

ECC Food Pantry Program has formed a focus group to visit other food pantries to get a better understanding how other food pantries operate. This will give us an opportunity to reevaluate our own program as to whether we need to make changes or if there are other areas of opportunities to seek out. These efforts have been led by Pastor Blair Thompson, Intern Minister of Greenland Hills, UMC.

Currently programs like ESL, Family Hair Care and Creation of Hearts are meeting on a regular basis. These programs provide new opportunities and skills that are needed in our community.

Connie arranged a visit from the Aberg Center for Literacy as possibly using Erickson Hall for some of their classes as they are running out of space.

The planning committee for the carnival met on meeting March 24<sup>th</sup>. Tim Barcus has been leading this effort. The carnival is scheduled for August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

*Pat McDonald*

*ECC Assistant Secretary*

*Emanuel Community Center Treasurer's Report*

**March, 2012**

INCOME-EXPENSE STATEMENT

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$20,457.67 |
| Income            | 6,533.80    |
| Expense           | 5,256.10    |
| Ending Balance    | 21,735.37   |

Notes

We had another good month as income exceeded expenses by over \$1,200.00. Our checkbook balance is well over \$21,000.00, with all bills paid. One question that I have not resolved is whether about \$925.00 included in our March check from Emanuel LC and marked "Lenten Offering – Food Pantry," is to be shared with World Hunger. I'm also not sure how much will ultimately be collected during the Lenten Offering/Food Pantry/World Hunger drive, and thus how much we will receive from the Thrivent ½ matching grant for this event. The \$2,000.00 grant for the Summer Reading Program, from the Mission Endowment Fund, was presented to the congregation at a March Sunday morning service. Thanks again to Pastors Julio and Susan for their work on the grant application. Finally, we received the March quarterly check from Emanuel LC which included a number of generous individual contributions, mostly for the food pantry. The bottom line is that at the end of the first quarter, instead of having an almost \$300.00 budgeted deficit, we are showing a surplus of almost \$2,000.00.

BUDGET vs ACTUAL INCOME/EXPENSE

(1/4 of the year's budget)

|        | <u>Budget</u> |                |                | <u>Actual</u> |                |                |
|--------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
|        | <u>Income</u> | <u>Expense</u> | <u>In-kind</u> | <u>Income</u> | <u>Expense</u> | <u>In-kind</u> |
| Totals | \$10,385      | \$10,635       | \$ 4,475       | \$10,514      | \$ 8,580       | \$ 1,151       |

## April 2012 Church Calendar

| Sunday  | Monday            | Tuesday                      | Wednesday | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|
| 1   | 2<br>Food Pantry  | 3<br>6:30 pm -<br>ESL Class  | 4         | 5<br>7 pm –<br>Maundy-<br>Thursday<br>Service<br>(Bilingual) | 6<br>9:30 am -<br>Creations of<br>the Heart<br><br>7 pm – Good<br>Friday<br>Service<br>(Bilingual) | 7  |
| 8<br>Easter –<br>10:30 am –<br>Bilingual<br>Service | 9<br>Food Pantry  | 10<br>6:30 pm -<br>ESL Class | 11        | 12   | 13 9:30 am -<br>Creations of<br>the Heart<br><br>5:30 pm –<br>Confirmation<br>Lock-In              | 14   |
| 15  | 16<br>Food Pantry | 17<br>6:30 pm -<br>ESL Class | 18        | 19   | 20 9:30 am -<br>Creations of<br>the Heart  | 21   |
| 22  | 23<br>Food Pantry | 24<br>6:30 pm -<br>ESL Class | 25        | 26   | 27 9:30 am -<br>Creations of<br>the Heart  | 28 Emanuel<br>Ladies Who<br>Lunch –<br>12:30 p.m. @<br>The<br>Chocolate<br>Angel |
| 29 Pastor @<br>Assembly                             | 30<br>Food Pantry |                              |           |  |  |  |

## New Things To Come for “The Red Door”

Pastor Julio and I had a chat about some changes that we would like to implement in “The Red Door”. We both would like to involve the Spanish congregation more and have a newsletter for them. Julia Hernandez offered to translate the newsletter. Sandy Duvall also offered to help with translation.

Next month I plan to start a new monthly column called “Get To Know. . .” (a member of the congregation). If you want to volunteer to be interviewed, let me know. We would like someone from both services to be interviewed. I would like to include a photo of the person and a short paragraph or two about their life.

If you have any suggestions or comments for “The Red Door”, please let me know.

Linda Moody  
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941-539-9068 – cell  
[LAM14@att.net](mailto:LAM14@att.net)



Eve Stephens – April 2  
Linda Soto – April 5  
Connie McLouth – April 5  
Al Kline – April 5  
Alex Rayo – April 6  
Beatriz Jasso – April 7  
Gregorio Carrillo – April 8  
Barry McDonald – April 10  
Zach Alexander Torres – April 13  
John Anthony Ruiz – April 13  
Sammy Trevino – April 15  
Sheri Bengtson – April 15  
Gretchen Zelle – April 17  
Scott Goodno – April 18  
Sophia Dorward – April 18  
Crystal Kittisopikul – April 18  
Ciro Suarez, Jr. - April 21  
Melora Miller – April 22  
Ernie Stephens – April 22  
Michael Rayo – April 26  
Sandy Duvall – April 2  
C.J. Carlson – April 27  
Dean Parsons – April 28  
Sofia Yvett Hernandez – April 29



## A n n o u n c e m e n t s

**Feed the Hungry** – During Lent we collect a special offering to benefit world hunger and our food pantry program. Thrivent matches 50 cents for every dollar given which makes our offerings go even further. Please, mark your donation for this purpose or put them in a separate envelope. Also, the Lenten coin collectors will go to this fundraiser. Remember to bring them back by Easter Sunday.

**Good Friday Walk** – Friday, April 6, 10:00 a.m. gather at 10:00 a.m. at the corner of Harwood and Young downtown Dallas. The walk includes reflections along the way. Ends between 10:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on the plaza at City Hall, 1500 Marilla Street at Young. Call Karen Roberts for information.

**New ELW Hymnals** – If you would like to make a donation for one or more of the hymnals, the cost is \$25. Mark your check accordingly.

**Flower Offering** – Remember to bring your favorite flowers to put on the cross on Easter Sunday as a symbol of the new life gained through Christ's resurrection. You are also invited to bring Easter lilies to adorn around the sanctuary. Also, please check out the flower offering chart on the bulletin board in Erickson Hall. There are plenty of dates available for you to sign up for a date or two to bring flowers for our altar.



### HEALTH TIP!!

As the pastor said in his message in this newsletter, April is the month for ALLERGIES! Did you know that there is a website that offers information on the pollen count? It is FREE to sign up and you receive an email every day that tells you the amount of pollen in the air that day and also what is blooming. Visit <http://www.pollen.com/allergy-weather-forecast.asp>