



# The Red Door

June 2013

A Response to Suffering

With Spring on full swing, we all do what we can to enjoy the beautiful weather. It is the time to be outside walking, riding your bike, going to the park and all the other stuff associated with this time of the year. I like Spring—and the Fall for the same reason—because for a few short weeks the weather is just so: not too cold, not too hot. So go ahead and do it now because before you know it, it will be too hot to enjoy your favorite outdoor activities. And yet, Spring is also a time that for many is not associated with fun but with devastation. After a relatively quiet early part of the season, in the last few weeks we've seen terrible tornadoes causing havoc, destruction and death. We've all been saddened by the tragic loss of life in Granbury, TX and to our north in Moore, OK. Our prayers for comfort and peace are especially needed by those families that have lost their children recently.

At times like this, the ever present question of suffering in a world created by a good God comes up. How come God allows things like this to happen? If God is all powerful, why God doesn't stop suffering? Where is God in my suffering? And as before, there are no easy answers. Our usual response of "God is there, suffering with you" may be able to bring a bit of comfort, but it does not fix the situation; it does not stop the suffering from happening.

Needless to say, there's no way to keep all forms of suffering from happening. Some situations of suffering are brought by human behavior, so that much could perhaps be prevented. But still, accidents will happen, the power of nature cannot be controlled, and some people are still intended on doing evil. So, what can we do? What do we tell those that, hard as they try, cannot make sense of their pain? Companionship in mourning and silence are good responses. Often enough, you don't have to say anything; you just need to be there. Our prayers and the assurance of God's solidarity are also appropriate. We do well to continue to talk and preach about God's never-ending love. The promises found in the Gospel of resurrection and eternal life are also helpful for the soul that looks for answers. All that is good and necessary, not to fix the problem of suffering, but to assure that it doesn't have the last word.

And then, there are the actual, practical things we can do. We all have talents; God given talents that we can use for healing and restoration. Use what you have, whatever it may be, to not only say that God is here but to say that **you** are here. Volunteer your time, send a care card, call someone, organize a food drive, gather supplies, make a quilt.... We all can do simple things that make big differences. Not only in Granbury, or Moore, or Boston, or West; to name just a few places where tragedy has struck lately. You can do it in your neighborhood, or your place of work, or even in your own family. You see, we are not trying to fix suffering; we are trying to heal it. To ease the pain, to restore the fallen, to comfort the bereaved. Scars don't go away, but they get better.

Oh, and I should not fail to say, you can also donate money. Material resources are needed to fix material losses. Support your favorite charity: Red Cross, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response.... If we can't make suffering go away, perhaps we can make it a little bit better.

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

## Emanuel Community Center Treasurer's Report

April, 2013

### INCOME-EXPENSE STATEMENT

Beginning Balance	\$23,679.04
Income	740.00
Expense	2,113.54
Ending Balance	\$22,305.50

#### Notes

We had an operating deficit of about \$1,374.00. This was mostly due to our income of only \$740.00, which came from one contribution and the Unidos Podemos rent. Feather Crest Farms gave us 330 dozen large organic eggs worth \$1,320.00, making a total of over \$3,600.00 worth of eggs they have given us during the past two months. They continue to be one of our biggest supporters.

I also submitted a “renewal application” form for all of our liability insurance policies. I met with Attorney David White on April 9, and he told me that we had “good” liability coverage and that our directors and officers coverage was “broader than usual.” He also had some other suggestions which I will detail at our meeting.

### Emanuel Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report

Emanuel's Council has asked that I begin providing financial reports to the congregation via The Red Door each month. Our income and expense through the end of April is shown below. Our expenses have exceeded our income by \$7,138.

We have been able to keep expenses below our budget. However, our income is even farther below budget. We would have had only a small deficit if we had achieved our budgeted income.

Emanuel has been able to pay all its bills and expenses through without a problem this year. But, we may have to access our reserve funds in the future if the income trends continue.

### Income and Expense Year to Date as of April 30, 2013

Item	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Regular Offerings	50,579	58,667	(8,088)
Total Income	55,845	62,400	(6,555)
Expenses	62,984	66,265	(3,281)
Excess/(Deficit)	(7,138)	(3,865)	(3,273)

This chart shows the funds that Emanuel had in various accounts as of April 30.

**Account Balances  
As of April 30, 2013**

Regular Checking	7,909.30
NCP Checking	6,973.95
MIF – NCP	512.41
MIF - ELCA Fund	14,236.03
MIF -Olga Nord Fund	2,961.73
Emanuel Community Fund	<u>69,674.79</u>
Total	<u>102,268.21</u>

I'll be happy to answer any questions or provide the complete financial statements if anyone would like to have them. You can email me at [treasurer@emanueldallas.org](mailto:treasurer@emanueldallas.org).

Bob Moody  
Treasurer

**A Note from Zwernemann's –**

Mailing Address  
PO Box 90039  
Austin, TX 78709-0039

Our physical address is only temporary (we hope) so there is no point in confusing people with it.

Our email will remain the same as will our cell phones.  
Cathy 972-672-8893  
Steve 972-672-4560

*Cathy Z*

## June 2013 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 English service – 10  Spanish service – 11:30	3 Hair Class – 1 p.m.  6:30 Council Meeting	4 Food Pantry – 8 a.m.		6	7 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	8
9 English service – 10  Spanish service – 11:30		11 Food Pantry – 8 a.m.		13	14 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	15
16 English service – 10  Spanish service – 11:30	17	18 Food Pantry – 8 a.m.		20	21 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	22
17 English service – 10  Spanish service – 11:30	24	25 Food Pantry – 8 a.m.	26	27	28	29
30 English service – 10  Spanish service – 11:30	31					

# ★ HAPPY ★ BIRTHDAY!

## Birthdays for the Month of June:

June 7 - Jose Alberto Hernandez	June 18 – Steve Zwernemann
June 10 – Alicia Trevino Marisol Tomas	June 19 – Sanford Hofer Susan McKinney Dorward
June 12 – Alma D. Cruz	June 20 – Brianna Brault-Jordan
June 13 – Leonel Suarez Gladis Torres	June 21 – Alberto Tomas
June 14 – Elvia Trevino Maribel S. Villafana	June 26 – Maren Sundgaard
June 15 – Elan Painter Aaron Booth	June 27 – James Adrian
June 16 – Dale Dietert	June 28 – Irene Lagunas Jonah Michael Caldwell
June 17 – Heather Frybarger	June 30 – Shelly Thorp



The choir is taking a summer break but will be back practicing the first week of August. Thanks. *Donna*

## ESL NEWS

The 2012/2013 ESL program ended on May 21 with an end-of-year dinner. We ended the year with 8 students, 2 in Basic and 6 in Intermediate. At least 4 in Intermediate will move to the Advanced class next year. Hats off to our instructors Jason and Victoria. They did a great job, were reliable, and their students gave them both terrific reviews. The students in both classes came to class consistently, which shows what a great job Jason and Victoria did. Both Jason and Victoria plan to teach again next year. Kelly is resigning as the director of the program to pursue her master's degree in the fall. If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer as the ESL director please contact any of the ECC board members. If you'd like to know more about what the position entails, feel free to contact Kelly at 214-315-9338 or [kelly.m.archie@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.m.archie@gmail.com). Thanks to everyone who supported the program this year.



## Announcements

**Summer Reading Program** starts June 17<sup>th</sup> thru July 5<sup>th</sup>. Hours are 8:30-1PM. Children ages 5 to 12 years old are welcome. If anyone is interested in volunteering for this great program please call the church, 214 824 8613. There will be a volunteer orientation on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM.

**Summer Schedule** – Beginning on Sunday, June 2, we change over to the summer hours for our services. English service remains the same at 10 a.m., but the Spanish service changes to 11:30 a.m. There is no Sunday School in between services.

**Thank You Teachers!!** – Many, many thanks to all the teachers of our Sunday school program for another year of great work. We especially appreciate Barbara for the many faithful years to leading our Sunday school.

## Pentacost Sunday – May 19, 2013

