



# The Red Door

July 2013

Working Out

I recently purchased an Xbox 360—an electronic gaming console in case you have no idea what I’m talking about. So, you may wonder, what the heck is the pastor doing with such a thing? Isn’t that “devil’s box” (it’s been called that) where they play games killing people and destroying property? Well yeah, but in my defense my interest is not so much into playing “Grand Theft Auto” or “Halo”—again those “kill ‘em all games.” My idea is a bit more sophisticated than that. What I actually wanted to do is to work out and lose weight. You see, with the right attachment and software, the Xbox gives you the option of doing daily exercise routines much in the style of the Jane Fonda’s videos of the 80’s—minus the big hairdos and leotards. It’s quite fun, I must say. The thing can actually “see” you by means of a camera and it keeps track of your progress. You even get feedback from your “personal trainer” as you lose weight and get stronger. As our friend Cathy Zwernemann says, “Groovy!”

Well, that is if you follow your routine. I confess that I’m one of those who has been on-the-wagon, off-the-wagon many times. I’ve done just about everything: Walking with friends, personal training classes, YMCA membership, and what not. Diets have also been part of it. Again, I’ve run the gamut of options: Slim Fast, low-carbs, Weight Watchers (by the way, it works). I’ve done it all in the name of becoming healthier and to live longer. But regardless of my good intentions, I’ve not been able to stay consistent for more than 6 months at a time. So, what do you do? Do you give up? Should you stop trying? Don’t bother and just do whatever you want? Nah, you keep doing it. You keep at it. I mean, think about it, the alternative is worse. It’s better to keep working on your goals, whatever they may be, and perhaps try to do a little bit better next time. If it’s worth it and you really want, eventually you’ll get there.

The same happens with the church. We have all these concerns and questions about the church now and the church of the future. Dwindling numbers, decreasing relevance, smaller membership... And we have done every single program out there to better the church but it would seem that nothing works. So, again, what do we do? Do we just stop? I’m sure that’s pretty close to what the disciples wanted to do when Jesus was crucified and they were afraid behind locked doors (John 20:19). There would be no church today if they had decided that it was all finished. So instead of letting it die out, they went out. Comforted by Jesus’ peace and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, they were commissioned to preach and teach to all the nations and what looked like the end of the road became the Christian Church.

Emanuel Lutheran Church gives me that sense. A community which has seen its share of lean times but one that has decided to keep pushing forward. In the midst of times of uncertainty, we want to continue doing ministry and being a missional church. The idea is not to ignore whatever challenges we may have, but to continue doing what we assert in our mission statement: “Emanuel Lutheran Church exists to proclaim the Word of God in Jesus Christ.” That’s the one thing we can’t stop doing, because otherwise we just stop being a church. I feel a great deal of joy and enthusiasm to see so many people who just won’t hunker down. Instead, they gather a fresh portion of the breath of the Holy Spirit and just go on, always looking for more and newer opportunities for ministry in our neighborhood and beyond. You know, I may or may not lose weight (I’m already down a few pounds!). It’s also true that there is just the “slight” possibility (I’m hopeful here) that I may gain it back later on. But this much is for sure, I’ll keep working at it. And so should the church. Right on!

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

# Emanuel Community Center Treasurer's Report

May, 2013

## INCOME-EXPENSE STATEMENT

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$22,305.50 |
| Income            | 27.00       |
| Expense           | 2,377.83    |
| Ending Balance    | \$19,954.67 |

### Notes

We had an operating deficit of about \$2,350.00. Although we had practically no cash income, Feather Crest Farms gave us 450 dozen assorted eggs worth \$1,470.00, Preston Meadow LC provided 40 hygiene gift bags worth \$200.00 and an individual provided toiletries.

Finally, I sent an e-mail to our insurance agent regarding several insurance coverage issues, including whether we needed our "professional liability" insurance. He is reviewing my e-mail and our coverage and will get back to me.

### ECC Board Meeting Minutes May 7, 2013

Present: Ted Brown, Miles Schulze, Amanda Quicksall, Pat McDonald, Nancy Johnson, Mary Tomas, Blanca Illades, Connie McClouth

Guests: Claudia Torres-Cano (potential board member), Karen Roberts (President of Church Board)

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

#### GUESTS

- Claudia talked about the many programs that she is working with in the community for Latinas. There have been many educational events and seminars.

#### FINANCES

Treasurer's Report

Insurance update

- Insurance company will perform background checks for \$9.95 which is less expensive than the Volunteer Center of North Texas. Connie wants to know how in depth the insurance company's background checks are through their system. Miles will get this info for next meeting.

#### PROGRAMS

Board Vacancies

- Today several board members had lunch with our banker from Comerica, Suzie Estrada. The consensus was that the board really liked her and is hopeful that she will want to join the board.
- There was also interest in Claudia Torres-Cano becoming a board member as well.

### Food Pantry

- Ted requests to get a new cart for the food we have for our clients who are homeless. The cost is \$129. The board unanimously agreed to purchase.

### Advanced Hair Class

- Very successful and planning an event for the back to school carnival and hold a cut-a-thon. Pat also suggested that the volunteers will receive hair care tools at the end of the class.

### Summer Reading Program

- Ted and Amanda met with Jennifer Pleitgen, a first grade teacher from Lakewood Elementary. She is also a reading specialist. She had many great ideas about SRP and ways to utilize volunteers. She did not feel that the program needed an assistant.
- The idea of an extended day was brought up and the board was in agreement.
- Amanda began to register kids today during the food pantry.
- Amanda will get background check for Jennifer Pleitgen, make flyer and contact Mimi about the food that was used last summer.
- Faith Lutheran in Flower Mound and Preston Meadow in Plano have been the main source of volunteers in the past.
- Board agreed to extend an offer to Jennifer Pleitgen \$2000.
- Karen brought up the idea of getting White Rock Lake Weekly to put an announcement in their calendar for announcing SRP.

### ESL Classes

- May 21<sup>st</sup> is the last day of classes. Pat suggested giving Kelly (the director) her going away gift at that time. This will be Kelly's last day.

### Back to School Carnival

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### Financial Empowerment Class

- These classes have been very successful when held in Spanish, but not many folks have attended the English classes.

### Tax Benefit Class

- Was very successful and we had many participants.

### Creation of the Hearts

- Would like money for a baby sitter because they have up to 40 women sometimes and several children are present.
- The board had discussion about how to meet this need. We discussed hiring someone or having the participants take turns.
- Blanca presented the idea of having the youth assist with this in the summer time.
- Director of the Creations of the Hearts would like to get gas money for her trips to the group meetings. The board did not feel this would be a good precedent to set for other volunteers.
- Board to make a commitment to showing up on a Friday morning and show appreciation and excitement about the program.
- Donation jar for Creations of the Heart to assist with supporting the group.

### Hygiene Bags

- Preston Meadow church made hygiene bags for our clients who are homeless and passed them out last week.

Next Board Meeting June 4, 2013

## July 2013 Church Calendar

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday                      | Thursday           | Friday                           | Saturday            |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
|  | 1 SRP Week 3<br>8:30 am – 1 pm<br>Council Meeting – 6 p.m.           | 2 SRP Week 3<br>8:30 am – 1 pm                     | 3 SRP Week 3<br>8:30 am – 1 pm | 4 Independence Day | 5 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.  | 6 Youth Garage Sale |
| 7 English service – 10<br>Spanish service – 11:30  | 8 Concilio 9 – 11<br>FHC/Arts & Crafts 1 – 2:30                      | 9 Food Pantry – 8 a.m.<br>ECC Board Meeting 7 p.m. | 10 Cooking Matters 10 - 12     | 11                 | 12 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m. | 13                  |
| 14 English service – 10<br>Spanish service – 11:30 | 15 Concilio 9 – 11<br>FHC/Arts & Crafts 1 – 2:30                     | 16 Food Pantry – 8 a.m.                            | 17 Cooking Matters 10 - 12     | 18                 | 19 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m. | 20                  |
| 21 English service – 10<br>Spanish service – 11:30 | 22 Concilio 9 – 11<br>FHC/Arts & Crafts 1 – 2:30                     | 23 Food Pantry – 8 a.m.                            | 24 Cooking Matters 10 - 12     | 25                 | 26 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m. | 27                  |
| 28 English service – 10<br>Spanish service – 11:30 | 29 Concilio 9 – 11<br>FHC/Arts & Crafts 1 – 2:30<br>Youth trip to TN | 30 Food Pantry – 8 a.m.                            | 31                             |                    |                                  |                     |



### Birthdays for the Month of July:

|                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| July 1 Martin Lopez         | July 21 Cecilia Hernandez  |
| July 4 Maria Hernandez      | Emily Russell              |
| Alexander Langston          | July 23 Apolinar Cerda     |
| Velia Hernandez             | July 25 Martin Arrendondo  |
| July 6 Antonia Martinez     | Angelica Bolte             |
| July 7 Trudy Harper-Knipp   | July 26 Jennifer Lopez     |
| July 8 Steve Patterson      | July 29 Ilsa Marie Dorward |
| July 11 Fiona Grace Dorward | July 31 Clara Rupert       |
| July 14 Francisco Hernandez | Luis A. Hernandez          |
| July 16 David Painter       | Allison Carey              |
| July 17 Valerie Meyer       |                            |
| Karl Zelle                  |                            |

### July Anniversary - 30 – Dean & Alice Parsons



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

### Sunday School

I would like to thank our Sunday School teachers and youth leaders for a wonderful 2012-2013 school year. I hope that you are all enjoying the summer and having a chance to slow down and relax! I appreciated your enthusiasm and dedication throughout the year. Our teachers, youth leaders, and children's choir director included Carol Duncan, Iris, Martin, and Sonia Arredondo, Barb Brault-Jordan, Cathy and Steve Zwernemann, Will Dorward, Tim Barcus, Julia Hernandez, and Donna Miller. And, thanks to Melody and Leland Jones for being willing to substitute and to help as needed. In addition to our class teachers, many of our parents have helped by contributing their time and energy to the various youth activities throughout the year. Thank you... you are so appreciated! As I am writing this article, our youth leaders and youth are still working, having a car wash in the hot sun! Cheers to you all, you are such a blessing to all of us at Emanuel!

Have a wonderful and blessed summer, Barb



## **Hello to all,**

This Summer, from July 29 through August 3, Roger and Trudy invited us to have a Retreat in Tennessee. They will take care of housing, food, and activities; we just need pay for transportation and gas for the trip. We have 12 youths registered and three adults will go with them. We think that this will have a cost of \$ 1,500.00. The Brunch in Pentecost raised \$450.00 and Financial Thrivent will match \$100.00, so we have \$550.00 yet to raise. The Youth Group are still having Fundraising Activities for the rest of the money for this Trip. On June 29th and June 30th we will have a Car

Wash starting at 8:30 am till 1:00 pm. And the Saturday July 6, we will have a Garage Sale. We ask for your support. We will be accepting donations for the Garage Sale starting this coming Sunday June 23rd, through Friday July 5, if you need, we can go to pick up any and all donations. Thank you very much for all you support at Youth Group.

Pasa la Paz  
Julia Hernández  
cel 214-429-7404

**We were blessed with a great SRP Director, Jennifer Pleitgen. Thanks to all of the volunteers!!**







## Announcements

**Summer Reading Program** started 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. We have had good attendance from the children and we have had a wonderful group of volunteers. Thank you! If you still want to help, you have one more week to do so.

**Garage Sale** – Next Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, the youth will have another fund raiser. If you still have items to donate for sale, contact Julia Hernandez at 214-429-7404. We already have a big lot of good, fashionable novelty items donated for sale. You DO want to take a look at some of the stuff available! First Come, First Served! We begin at 8:30 a.m. The youth are raising money to pay for their trip to Tennessee where Roger and Trudy will be hosting a week long retreat/fun-at-the-lake event. Please make a donation if you can't get to the garage sale.

**Newsletter** – We want to make sure that our monthly newsletter is reaching everybody. Blanca has agreed to build up a new list of recipients with their correct/current addresses. If you have not been receiving the newsletter regularly, please get in touch with Blanca at 214-854-9523 or at her email address [pattyillades@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:pattyillades@yahoo.com.mx).

### Youth Group's Report

June 2013

The youth group ended the month of June with a successful fundraising of \$404 for their trip to Tennessee, after having a car wash on the 29th and 30th. Four adults and thirteen youths participated on this fundraiser. The youth group and their leaders would like to thank the congregation for their constant support.

### Photos from the Advanced Family Hair Class





**Art Classes for the Children of the Members of the Hair Class**





