

The Good News

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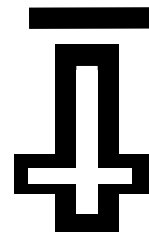
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Holiday Worship Schedule

- ◆ **December 16:**
 9:00 AM Lessons & Carols
 10:45 AM Children's Christmas Musical
- ◆ **December 24: Christmas Eve Worship**
 7:00 PM and 11:00 PM
- ◆ **December 30: 10:00 AM Combined
 Worship Service**

address label here

Sunday, December 30 ♦ 10:00 AM
 Combined Worship Service



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
 150 North Palm Street, La Habra, California 90631 (562) 691-0656
 Preschool: (562) 694-5316

Traditional Worship Service
 Praise Service
 Children's Sunday School:
 PASTOR:
 VICAR:
 PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

9:00 a.m.
 10:45 a.m.
 10:00 a.m.
 Catherine E. Luehr
 Maria Markman
 JoInne Sadders

E-mail: churchinfo@elch.org
 Website: www.elch.org
 Spanish Worship is offered at 2:30 pm by House of Faith.

DATED MATERIAL
 Please Deliver by 2nd or
 3rd of the month.

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 U.S. POSTAGE
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 WHITTIER, CA

Post It Notes from Pastor Luehr



A blessed Advent Season to you all! This December at Emanuel we will be spending our Advent midweek services looking at what the word “Emanuel” really means. If you have been around this place for even a day you probably know it means “God with us.” But what does that mean for our lives of faith? During our Advent midweek services, we will be using the familiar hymn *O Come, O Come Emanuel* and will be taking time to do some interactive work to explore that question.

Our Midweek Advent service will be about 30-minutes long and include singing, scripture, a brief homily and time for reflection. Each person attending will receive a booklet with blank pages to write, draw, doodle, journal and create whatever it is that they like. Our hope is that during this worship, you will both take in the word of God and breath it out in your creative form.

The theme “God with Us” will be the focus for the three midweek services. The first week we will focus on “God,” the second week “Us,” and finally on the third week “God with us.” If this kind of creative time is not up your ally, we ask that you join and try for the first week. Perhaps having an intentional time for quiet meditation will allow you to look at familiar scripture and song in a new way.

We will be having two weekly services; a morning service on Wednesdays from 10:15-10:45 AM, and an evening service on Thursdays from 7:00-7:30 PM. Our hope is that those who are already here on Thursdays for Seekers, Confirmation and choir will be able to join us at this time. Parents, since you are already arriving at 7:00 PM to pick up your child from Seekers or Confirmation, consider bringing them over to our interactive midweek service and spend 30 minutes creating faith with your child. We pray that everyone who attends will be blessed by this time.

All services will be held in the Fireside room.

Week 1 — “*GOD*”: Wednesday, Dec. 5, 10:15 AM & Thursday, Dec. 6, 7:00 PM

Week 2 — “*US*”: Wednesday, Dec. 12, 10:15 AM & Thursday, Dec. 13, 7:00 PM

Week 3 — “*GOD WITH US*”: Wednesday, Dec. 19, 10:15 AM & Thursday, Dec. 20, 7:00 PM

Pastor Cate Luehr



The Christmas season is upon us! That time of year when we hear the greatest story ever told. The one about God's greatest gift to us, wrapped not in shiny wrapping, but in swaddling clothes. The one about God with us: Emanuel!



This is a part of our story too! Just like how the Gospel writers shared their experience of Christ in the writing down of their story, and like Paul who traveled the world to tell about his experience of God in Christ Jesus, as Christians we are called to tell our stories too! Don't let your story go unheard. Over the course of the next year, 2019, as my internship project, I plan to collect 52 stories from all of you and share them each Sunday of the year in worship. Stories of the difference Jesus Christ has made in your life through the ministry and mission of Emanuel Lutheran Church. I would like stories from members of all walks of life. Think of how full our lives would be if we started sharing these transformational stories with each other. Stories that answer and reflect these questions:

- How has your life been changed through Emanuel Lutheran Church?
- How has Christ through Emanuel changed your life?
- Why Emanuel Lutheran Church?

Heidi Choate, a beloved sister in Christ who died recently, reflected on her life. Heidi left us with a eulogy, the story of her life. I would like to share a part of it with you all here. This passage is Heidi's story of what difference Jesus Christ made in her life, especially through her family here at Emanuel Lutheran Church:

We came to Emanuel Lutheran Church in 1974 and it became our church home for the rest of our lives. The congregation has been like a second family to us throughout these years.

After our children were in school, I returned to teaching in La Habra School District and remained for 17 years. I retired in 1985 and Lee in 1986 so we had leisure time to travel and to follow other interests. Our son Rick had also become an engineer; Karen was a graphic artist, both very successful in their chosen vocations.

Our son's sudden death from a heart attack in 1998 came as a shock. We never fully recovered from our loss. Lee had developed macular degeneration and his health declined during the next years. He passed away in 2004.

It was after Lee's service that Karen told me that she had breast cancer. We were so grateful when it went into remission. Karen and I made a trip to Norway in 2000, met many family members and decided to return in 2006. This time we rented a car to revisit people and places. Unfortunately Karen's cancer returned in 2007. On March 25, 2009 she was freed from the pain and struggle.

I am so grateful to you, my friends, who helped me through my losses. Thank you for being a part of my Wonderful Life! As I look back at that life, I know that it wasn't an "accident" that I so often was in the right place at the right time. It was Divine Guidance.

Now I look forward to being united with my loved ones. I want to say to you all -"Aloha"- with all of its meanings: Greetings! Farewell! And Love!

Do not be surprised if I ask to meet with you and ask to hear your story! Everyone has a story to tell. As our stories emerge we will get to experience together how our lives have been changed because of Jesus Christ through the mission and ministry of Emanuel Lutheran Church.

I cannot wait to hear your stories.

Vicar Maria



Heart And Hands Outreach Sharing the Good News!

“Feed My Sheep” – John 21

COMMUNITY SHARING AND CARING OUTREACH:

PATRIOTS & PAWS: Wow! In 2017, Emanuel collected and donated 47 holiday dinner bags. We were challenged to do 50 in 2018 . . . BUT we blew right past that to a total of 69 bags, plus one bag of treats for the PAWS! What a generous example of “provoking one another to love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24). You fed 69 veterans and their families and enabled them to have a wonderful Thanksgiving.



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE: A special offering was given by Emanuel members to assist those who suffered losses in the California fires. The offering was given through Lutheran Disaster Response, an arm of the ELCA, which sends almost 100% of the offerings directly to those in need.

FRISTERS: For their Christmas gift this year, each Frister mom will receive a copy of the *True Images for Teen Girls Bible*. Emanuel has contributed \$200 to help purchase Bibles for them, as well as providing Bibles for our third graders and preschool students. We are so blessed to be able to share the Good News in this way.

In addition, we will have a box for new, unwrapped toys for Kidster children ages 0-5 near the Angel Tree and we will be purchasing copies of *Miss Bindergarten Goes to Kindergarten* early in 2019.

WINGS: Christmas is right around the corner and with that our opportunity to provide special gifts for those who may not have a celebration without us. In recent years, we have provided gifts for family members through WINGS and will do so again this year. The need is great. There will be a special Christmas story message sent with each gift.

TIMELINE FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO FRISTERS AND WINGS

- December 2 & 9: Bring your toys for children 0-5 to FRISTERS box in Moerer Hall
- December 2 & 9: Take tags from Angel Tree for WINGS family members. Don't forget to put your name and phone number on the master sheet for the tags you take in case there is a question)
- December 13: Deliver toys to FRISTERS
- December 16: Return all Angel Tree gifts to Emanuel
- December 18: Deliver Angel Tree gifts to WINGS



Merry Christmas from the HAHO Ministry Team!

EVANGELISM:

Did you know that we have business cards with a picture of our stained glass window, our service times, and Pastor Cate's name on it? They are quite beautiful. Take a couple and keep them in your wallet. You never know when you might have the opportunity to share the GOOD NEWS which we proclaim at Emanuel.

"Take It To The Lord In Prayer" — prayers for our church, our pastor, our world, and any special needs, in the Chapel or wherever you are at 8:30 on Saturday mornings. We now have eight people praying every week. Join us. We are hoping to run out of space in the Chapel and move to a larger prayer space. If you have a prayer request, please let the Pastor or Vicar know and it will be lifted up. We have met and prayed weekly for nearly six years and we continue to see miracles.

Thank you for your generous Hearts and Hands! Our next HAHO meeting will be on January 5, 2019 at 10:00 AM in the Library. Please join us.

Jeanette Parr
Facilitator





From the Board of Parish Education

Sunday School Class Schedule: Sunday School classes are held weekly. Join us on Sunday mornings for classes for all age groups starting at age three. Visitors are always welcome!

- ***Classes for Preschool to 5th grade*** meet at 10:00 AM in Moerer Hall. We are learning about the miracle which took place in Bethlehem the night Jesus was born. We will discover how God has a perfect time for everything, and His Son would grow up to redeem us and die for us.
- ***Middle School / Sr. High:*** This class meets in the Youth Room at 10:00 AM with Janine Ward and Denise Witcher. It's never too late to join the class because we are moving all around the Bible this year. Our discussions lead to more questions as we learn about God's Word.

Offerings: Our December offerings will be used to purchase gifts for children from the Wings Shelter. A boy and a girl will be chosen from the Angel Tree. The students can see how their offering can help others in this special way. What a way to brighten a child's Christmas!

Seekers: IT'S PLAY TIME! Seekers are preparing for the Christmas musical "Straight Outta Bethlehem" which will take place on December 16 at 10:45 AM with a potluck following the performance. All children are welcome to join us.



Please continue to pray for the spiritual growth of the youth and adults.

Board of Parish Education



IT'S TIME TO DIG OUT YOUR YARD SIGN

As you get out your holiday decorations this year, remember to take out your invitation sign and place it in your front yard. **PLEASE DO SO BEGINNING DECEMBER 1st.**

If you returned your sign to the office, or did not receive one, you may pick one up in the narthex beginning December 2nd. The signs will be available right up until Christmas Eve. Please place one in your yard and take the opportunity to invite your neighbors to join us in worship. You may get a chance to start up a conversation with someone you didn't know was looking for a place to celebrate the birth of our wonderful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What an awesome thought! Thank you in advance for your willingness.



ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS

As the year is drawing to a close, this is a friendly reminder to check on the availability of any Thrivent Choice Dollars you may have for distribution. Choice Dollars are monies earned over and above delivering services that are set aside for direction to approved charitable causes.

As an example, Emanuel Lutheran Church, Lutheran Disaster Relief, and Lutheran World Relief are a few of the approved charitable causes. If you have questions about availability of funds, please check online at thrivent.com or call the local office at (714) 525-4360.

Our local Thrivent representative Rob Burns will be at Emanuel on in early January to answer any questions and give us some information on ways to live generously with what we have been given.

Janine Ward
Congregational Advocate

ELFFF's
Emanuel Lutheran FOOD~FUN~FELLOWSHIP

Who: Any adults who enjoy the above! Everyone welcome!

Where: Emanuel Lutheran Church – Moerer Hall

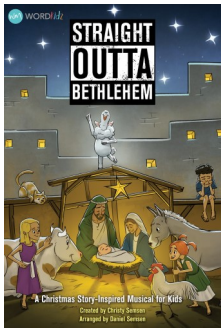
When: Saturday, December 8, 2018, at 5:00 PM

Menu: Yummy (Hearty) Hors d'oeuvres & Dessert

Cost: Bring an Hors d'oeuvre OR Dessert for 8-10 people.
Bring a wrapped “white elephant” gift (each of you).

Please let us know if you're coming so we can plan
RSVP by Wednesday, December 5
Ricki @ rickifehr@yahoo.com (714-718-6127) OR
Jeanette @ parr3@roadrunner.com (562-761-9488)

Merry Christmas!



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL DECEMBER 16, 2018

We invite all children to be a part of our holiday musical "Straight Outta Bethlehem" published by Word Music. Practices are on Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:00 PM.

The musical will be presented at the 10:45 Praise Service followed by a potluck luncheon in Moerer Hall immediately after the service. The play takes place in Bethlehem the night Jesus was born with a group of orphans who live and serve at the inn. They discover that none of us are alone because God adopts us into His family. See how we learn that God loves each of us individually and He doesn't forget us or not have time for us. We are ALL part of the family of God. If you have any questions or know a child who would like to participate, please contact Mary Ann Carlson at (562) 619-0532.



ADULT LAY-LED BIBLE STUDY 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 4:30 PM Hope Center Classroom

At Emanuel, we have an Adult Lay Bible Study led by a member of the congregation. They meet the first and third Thursdays of each month at 4:30 PM in the Hope Center Classroom. **They will not be meeting in December, but will resume on January 17 and 31**, where they will continue their study of Hebrews using Shepherd's Notes. They enjoy learning together about the Word of the Lord and hope you will feel led to join them. Both men and women are welcome! For more information, contact Mischelle Uhlman.

JOY CIRCLE



The Joy Circle Bible Study will meet on **Monday, December 17, from 9:30-11:00 AM.** The Joy Circle is a women's group that gathers on the third Monday of each month in the Hope Center Library for fellowship and treats and to participate together in a Bible study taken from *Gather Magazine*, the magazine published by Women of the ELCA.

We will be wrapping up our 4-month study focusing on repentance and turning to God. We will start a new 3-month series in January. If you have never participated in the Joy Circle before, consider trying one or more of the 3 or 4 month sessions. Extra copies of this Bible study will be available that morning.

Women's Retreat ~ Save the Date!

The date for the **Fourth Annual Emanuel Women's Retreat** has been set for May 3-5, 2019 at the Murrieta Hot Springs Christian Conference Center. Cost is \$200. Those who attended last year had a great time! We hope you are able to join us this year. Talk with Pr. Cate for more information.





BOOK FAIR IN MOERER HALL NOVEMBER 25 — DECEMBER 6



OUR CHURCH IS HAVING A BOOK FAIR! On Sunday, November 25 through Thursday, December 6, Emanuel will be hosting a Book Fair. It will feature books from Sparkhouse, the ELCA children's book distributor.

The Sparkhouse collection is a wonderful bunch of books for children and young readers. Children's Bibles, picture books, board books for toddlers, and activity books are all designed to share the love of Jesus with children. These books are also being offered at a discounted rate and 20% of all proceeds will go back into the children's ministry at Emanuel.

Stop by the display in Moerer Hall on **Sunday, November 25 & Sunday, December 2 between 10-10:45 and/or following the Praise Service.** During the week **November 26 thru December 6** the books and order forms will be available in Moerer Hall and upstairs in the office near the Study Buddies room. You can contact the church office if you would like to place your order during the week. **Books WILL be delivered to Emanuel no later than December 21, just in time for Christmas!**



Study Buddies now has 10 students (Mia, Luke, Sadie, Alex, Morgan, Ari, Lorenzo, Jack, Dylan, and Maggie) and we are still growing!



Thank you to all of the wonderful people who helped make Trunk-or-Treat a success this year! We believe this was the largest turnout in years with lots of first time guests!





Lessons & Carols

*Sunday, December 16
9:00 AM
Traditional Worship Service*

Come hear the
Christmas Story

As told through scripture and song during Lessons & Carols.

Emanuel's Chancel Choir will lead a beautiful service marking the Season of Advent. Don't miss the chance to worship and sing your favorite Christmas Carols!



SAVE THE DATES

- ◆ Our **Emanuel Christmas Party** will be held on **Saturday, December 8, beginning at 5:30 PM** in Moerer Hall.
- ◆ **"Hanging of the Greens"** (decorating the church for Christmas) will be on **Friday, December 14, starting at 5:00 PM** in the Sanctuary. Christmas music will be playing and treats served — join us!



MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES

We will be celebrating the time of preparation for the coming of our Lord at our midweek Advent services. We will explore the central theme: God with us, through prayer, scripture, song, and a creative and reflective process.

We will meet in the Fireside room in Moerer Hall on either
Wednesday Dec 5, 12, and 19
at 10:15 a.m.
OR Thursday Dec 6, 13, and 20
at 7:00 p.m. following Seekers and Confirmation!

We hope children and adults alike will be able to join us as we use our many gifts to imagine the fullness of God with us that we experience with the Birth of Jesus Christ.

