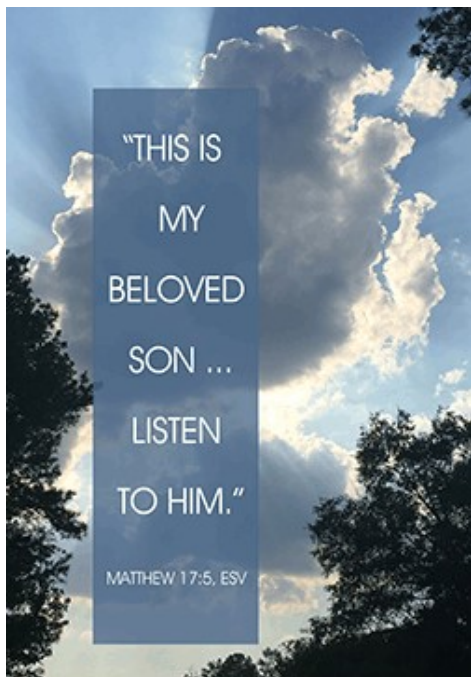


The Good News

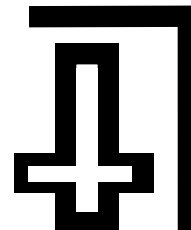
MONTHLY PUBLICATION MARCH 2020 VOLUME 26 NUMBER 3



IN THIS ISSUE

From Pastor Luehr	Pg. 2
Matt's Motivational Minute	Pg. 3
Shred Event.....	Pg. 3
Heart And Hands Outreach	Pg. 4
Parish Education	Pg. 5
Palm Branches & Flowers Needed.....	Pg. 6
Lenten Gathering.....	Pg. 6
Holy Week.....	Pg. 7
Easter Breakfast.....	Pg. 7
Easter Egg Hunt.....	Pg. 7
Middle School Youth Retreat.....	Pg. 8
Study Buddies	Pg. 8
Preschool Appreciation Sunday	Pg. 9
Joy Circle.....	Pg. 9
Lay Bible Study	Pg. 9
Children's Activities Page.....	Pg. 10

address label here



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

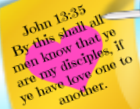
Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
 150 North Palm Street, La Habra, California 90631 (562) 691-0656
 Preschool: (562) 694-5316

Traditional Worship Service
 Praise Service
 Children's Sunday School:
 PASTOR:
 VICAR:
 PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:
 Spanish Worship is offered at 2:30 pm by House of Faith.
 E-mail: churchinfo@elch.org
 Website: www.elch.org

9:00 a.m.
 10:45 a.m.
 10:00 a.m.
 Catherine E. Luehr
 Matt Polsdorfer
 Jonine Sadders

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

Post It Notes from Pastor Luehr



John 13:35
By this shall all
men know that ye
are my disciples, if
ye have love one to
another.

“WHY I LOVE LENT”

A LIST OF FAVORITES BY PASTOR LUEHR

I have always enjoyed the church season of Lent and here are a few reasons why:

MIDWEEK WORSHIP—At my home church growing up, we did not have Midweek worship during Advent. Only during the Lenten Season did we gather together on Wednesday nights for a time of worship. I especially remember a time during my grade school years when I had basketball practice at the school across from my church. At 6:15 pm, my friend Alyssa and I would leave practice early to join our families for Midweek worship. Even as a fourth grader, I could tell that something was different about this time our congregation shared together. The sanctuary looked different at night, the congregation was smaller than at Sunday services, and as a 10-year-old in a basketball uniform, I realized the importance of a community gathering at a time out of the ordinary, to give thanks to God and receive Christ’s blessing.

40 SPECIAL DAYS—Being able to set aside these 40 days of Lent is truly a blessing. While we may revere our vacations or time off from work as a special or distinctive time, Lent offers us this idea of special time, even in the midst of our busy lives. The Season of Lent says you don’t need to go away or have a mountaintop experience to create a vibrant place for the Holy Spirit to work. Instead, use these 40 days with all of the regular hustle and bustle of life, and seek to create space for God in your daily comings and goings.

MOVING TOWARDS HOLY WEEK—While Lent is often a contemplative time with a somber introspective feel, there is also a sense of anticipation. All of this time, the midweek services, the fasting and praying, the intentionality of Lent is slowly moving us towards Holy Week. Holy Week, beginning with Jesus’ triumphant entrance as a revered King, to his simple task of sharing a meal with his disciples, to his death on a cross and his eventual resurrection from the dead, Lent is moving and preparing us for these events to unfold in our lives. Though we go through them every year, the magnitude of Christ’s final week on earth is so miraculous that it is important to take 40 days of contemplation, prayer and preparation for the astonishing promise made to us in Christ’s death and resurrection.

Pastor Cate Luehr



THRIVENT MEMBERS

Please designate your **Choice Dollars** to Emanuel Lutheran Church or your favorite non-profit. The Choice dollars must be designated prior to March 31st. Any questions, please call Rob Burns or Jay Huckabone at 714-525-4360 or your Thrivent representative.

Matt's Motivational Minute



MISSION MADNESS!

"I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."
—Michael Jordan

Mission Madness! Okay, the correct term for the month is March Madness! It is a time for college basketball fans and sports fans to get excited about the college basketball tournaments. It is an exciting month of basketball because in the tournament each team is guaranteed just their opening game. Each game is an elimination game and it is win and move on or lose and you are done.

This month with basketball got me thinking of the greatest basketball player to play the game and for me it is Michael Jordan. I watched him growing up and he was amazing. There was nothing MJ couldn't do! We are now about 17 years away from when Michael Jordan last played basketball and we often forget his mistakes when talking about his career and focus on all the amazing things he has accomplished. A few months ago, Pastor Cate handed out the little silver crosses as she talked about ways we can evangelize. Pastor Cate and I recently also attended a conference for lay members and pastors where we talked about evangelism. One of the things that stood out to me is that we do not evangelize because we are afraid, whether it is fear of rejection or what the person will think of us. This was not just a sentiment of the lay people, but also the pastors and church leaders. We are afraid of taking a shot and missing it! But as this quote from Michael Jordan points out, even the greats miss shots!

During Pastor Cate's sermon when she handed out crosses, she pointed out that even Jesus (YES JESUS!) did not shoot 100% and get everyone to convert. Jesus took chances and sometimes the other person rejected him. This March, I pray that not only you the reader take a chance to share Christ's love, but that I too find my strength in Christ and take an opportunity to share Christ's love with others. You do not have to do a big sermon or share all your Biblical knowledge with someone. It can be as simple as telling someone Jesus loves them. Let's have some Mission Madness this March!!

In Christ,
Vicar Matt



FREE SHRED EVENT & FOOD DRIVE

Shred your documents and share your gifts! This event serves two purposes — you have the opportunity to shred unwanted documents plus provide your neighbors with needed nutrition. Bring a nonperishable food item to help support families in our community. There is a 10-box limit for shredding. This event is sponsored by Rob Burns and Jay Huckabone of Thrivent Financial and will be held on **Saturday, April 18, from 8-11:30 AM at Christ Lutheran Church, 820 W. Imperial Highway in Brea** (corner of Imperial Highway and Arovista). For more information call 714-525-4360 or email katie.anderson@thrivent.com.





Heart And Hands Outreach Sharing the Good News!

“Feed My Sheep” – John 21

COMMUNITY SHARING AND CARING OUTREACH:

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 26 thru Sunday, March 29, we will gather food protein sources for *Storehouse Ministries*, a foodbank in our community hosted by Rise Church.

Please bring your PEANUT BUTTER, TUNA, OR CANNED MEAT which will be distributed in April by our confirmands and others. Contact Vicar Matt or Janine Ward if you would like to help with distribution.

Remember SOUPER BOWL SUNDAYS AND TUNA TUESDAYS with our thousands of cans to help feed our neighbors? **Let’s do it again!**

Below is our planned Opportunity Calendar for 2020. We welcome your input and thank you for your generosity.

March:	As part of our Lenten Discipline, we will be collecting, delivering, and helping to distribute food to our local food bank.
March 29:	Preschool Appreciation Worship & Luncheon (with Parish Ed & Preschool)
April:	Specific household items for Patriots & Paws
May:	WINGS Support for Moms (specific needs to be determined)
June:	Daniel Alvarez Center — household maintenance items and socks
June/July:	Support VBS and Parish Ed.
August:	School Supplies for Study Buddies and Mama’s Hill House
September:	Eyeglasses for donation to Lion’s
October:	Bibles for Preschool
November:	Holiday Dinner Bags for Patriots & Paws
December:	Angel Tree & His House Toys

THESE MINISTRIES ARE OFFERED AS **OPTIONS** FOR YOU. PLEASE DO NOT FEEL OBLIGATED TO PARTICIPATE. DO ONLY WHAT **GOD** CALLS **YOU** TO DO.

THE BLUE SHOPPING BAGS ARE BACK! PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.

NEXT HAHO MEETING IS SATURDAY, MARCH 14 AT 10:00 AM. PLEASE JOIN US!

Jeanette Parr
Facilitator



FROM THE BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION

Sunday School Classes are held weekly for Preschool through 5th Grade. Visitors are always welcome! Classes for Preschool to 5th grade meet at 10:00 AM in Moerer Hall. Join us as we learn about “Jesus Feeding the 5,000” (John 6:1-14). We will discover that God provides more than we need.

Offerings: Our offering will go to purchase canned goods for a food drive for *Storehouse Ministries*. Students may bring canned goods or money for this special service project. Our Confirmation students will deliver the cans to *Storehouse Ministries* and help distribute them to the families that come there.

Seekers: Seekers meet each Thursday from 6:00-7:00 PM.

Study Buddies: Our Study Buddies program is going strong. They meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 5:00 PM. If you would like to tutor on either of these days, please talk to Jill Drummond or Char Ponzio for details. Come join the fun. **Please note there will be no Study Buddies on March 24 or March 26 due to Spring Break.**

Preschool Appreciation Sunday: The preschool children will sing on Sunday, March 29 at our 10:45 AM Praise Service. Lunch will be served after the service.

High School Youth Retreat: Seven youth headed up to Luther Glen Camp and Farm outside of Oak Glen for their winter retreat. Thank you Kerry Ospital for going with them for the February 15-17 weekend.

Museum of Tolerance: The Confirmation youth toured the Museum of Tolerance last month. One highlight was hearing a survivor of the Holocaust speak. He shared that after the war he was holding on to anger. He realized that he needed to let go of his anger and come to forgiveness because holding on to the anger was only hurting himself.

Middle School Youth Retreat: This winter retreat will be the weekend of March 6-8 at Luther Glen Camp and Farm. The theme is **Under Construction** — “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10).



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

Board of Parish Education



PALM BRANCHES NEEDED

Palm Sunday is April 5. Our tradition includes decorating the sanctuary with palms in honor of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week. If you plan to trim your palm trees during the week prior to Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, or know someone who is, please contact the church office. Thank you very much!

FLOWERS NEEDED

Each year we decorate the Sanctuary and the outside patio cross on the Saturday before Easter. We are asking for flower donations for our *OUTSIDE* cross. If you would like to share your garden flowers with Emanuel, we would appreciate them. Just bring them to the church on **Saturday morning, April 11, by 9:00 AM**, and we will be sure that they are incorporated into the beauty of our outside cross.



Sanctuary decorating will begin at 8:00 AM, and the outside cross decorating will begin at 9:00 AM. At 9:30 AM, the Hall will be decorated for Easter Breakfast—all are welcome to help!



LENTEN GATHERING

This year for Lent we will be trying an intergenerational meal and interactive worship centering around the theme *God With Us*. We will use music, scripture, activities, and discussions to explore the following questions:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| March 5: | Is God with us? |
| March 12: | How is God with us? |
| March 19: | Where is God with us? |
| March 26: | When is God with us? |
| April 2: | Why is God with us? |

We will meet in Moerer Hall from 6:00-6:30 PM for a simple dinner. Then our intergenerational gathering will continue from 6:30-7:15 PM.

We strongly recommend that families participate together—children and parents, grandparents and grandkids, couples, friends and people of all ages.

Because we will be ordering dinner we ask that you RSVP by the preceding Sunday so that we know how much food to order. You can do so by indicating on your attendance slip, calling the church office at (562) 691-0656, or emailing churchinfo@elclh.org.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Planning Ahead for our Holy Week Celebrations!

Be thinking about who you could invite!

- ◆ **Palm Sunday, April 5**
Procession with Palms, 9:00 am & 10:45 am
- ◆ **Maundy Thursday, April 9**
Last Supper, 7:00 pm
- ◆ **Good Friday, April 10**
The Crucifixion, 7:00 pm
- ◆ **Easter Sunday, April 12**
The Resurrection of our Lord! ALLELUIA!

Sunrise Service: 6:30 am
Traditional Service: 9:00 am
Praise Service: 10:45 am

Easter Morning Breakfast



Once again being sponsored by Emanuel's Youth!

Sunday, April 12
8:00 am — 10:30 am

Enjoy a great breakfast of Breakfast Burritos, Rolls, Muffins, OJ, Coffee

AND...

WONDERFUL FELLOWSHIP
With your Emanuel Family!

Plan to come and support our youth (donations graciously accepted).

Have your Easter Breakfast at Emanuel!
Bring a Friend!



Easter Egg Hunt

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held between services on Easter Sunday, April 12, at 10:20 AM. Donations of plastic filled Easter eggs with candies and/or toys would be greatly appreciated. Please bring your donations to the Sunday school room or church office by Sunday, April 9.

Thank you in advance for your support.



UNDER
CONSTRUCTION
Ephesians 2:10



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH RETREAT

The weekend of **March 6-8**, we will be heading up to Luther Glen Camp and Farm outside of Oak Glen for our winter retreat. We will be able to play with the farm animals, worship, join in great camp activities, learn with other youth from around the area, and generally have a great time! Thank you Amanda Zambrano for joining Vicar Matt as a chaperone!

Through generous donations made to the youth program, the cost of this weekend will only be \$75 per student. Students are able to pay their cost anytime before we leave and can even bring the funds that day. If you write a check, please make it out to "Emanuel Lutheran Church" with "Youth Retreat" in the memo. *If this cost is prohibitive, please speak with Pr. Cate Luehr or Vicar Matt Polsdofer and we will make funds available for you to attend.*

This year's theme is ... **UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." —Ephesians 2:10



Please note there will be no Study Buddies on the following dates due to Spring Break and Maundy Thursday:

- Tuesday, March 24
- Thursday, March 26
- Thursday, April 9

Please contact Jill Drummond at (714) 403-0956 for more information.



PRESCHOOL INVITED TO CHURCH!

A special invitation has been extended to Emanuel Lutheran Preschool to join us for worship on **Sunday, March 29, at the 10:45 AM** worship service. We want to thank the Preschool families for sharing their children with us and we want to take this time to share the love of Jesus with our preschoolers. The students will be invited to come and sing a few songs during worship and then join us for lunch and games afterwards. A very excited group of members is coordinating a meal and a bunch of fun activities for the students and their families. We would also like to invite **all of our children** from Emanuel to this special service. If you would like to help out on this day or would like to join us for lunch please contact the church office.



ADULT LAY-LED BIBLE STUDY Hope Center Library

At Emanuel, we have an Adult Lay Bible Study led by a member of the congregation. They normally meet the first and third Thursdays of each month at 4:30 PM in the Hope Center Classroom across from the Library. **This month they will meet on March 5 and March 19.** They are using Dr. Charles Stanley's monthly Bible study lessons along with *The Lost Books of the Bible*. They enjoy learning together about the Word of the Lord and hope you will feel led to join them. All are welcome to join! For more information, contact Mischelle Uhlman.

JOY CIRCLE



The Joy Circle Bible Study will meet on **Monday, March 16, from 9:30-11:00 AM.** The Joy Circle is a women's group that normally 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.

In January we began a 4-month study titled "We are Called." Each Bible study we will explore what it means to be called by God and to what ministries and vocations our Lord calls each and everyone of us. 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.

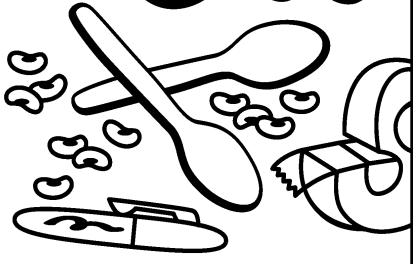
YARD SIGN

It is now time to place your invitation yard sign in your front yard. If you returned your sign or did not receive one, you may pick one up in the narthex. 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 who is looking for a place to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. What an awesome thought! Thank you in advance for your willingness.



Kid's Korner

Joyful noise



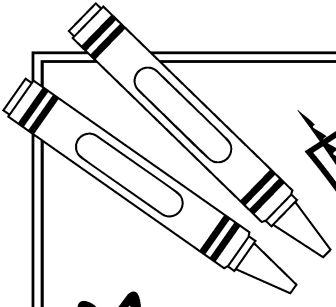
Use your voice and this hand-crafted percussion instrument to make joyful noises to the Lord.

What you need:

- Dry beans (about one Tbsp)
- Plastic Easter egg
- 2 plastic spoons
- Masking tape
- Markers and stickers

What you do:

1. Place the beans inside the egg and snap it closed.
2. Set the egg in a spoon and cover it with the second spoon so the spoons are holding the egg.
3. Tape the spoons to the egg. Also wrap tape around the spoons from top to bottom to make a shaker handle.
4. Decorate your shaker and use it as you sing praises to God.
5. Experiment with sounds by filling other eggs with coins, rice, and so on.

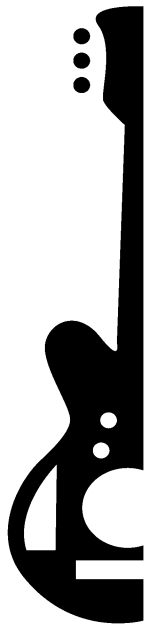


PUZZLE

MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD

People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.

Directions: Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.



- A type of horn MURTEPT
- Played by King David PRHA
- Plucked to make sound IGSNSTR
- Similar to a tambourine MRBELIT
- A type of harp ELRY
- Blown through to make sound EPPI
- A percussion instrument YBLACMS

Le_ everyt_ing tha_ has _r_ath
_raise the _ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, cymbals; Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV