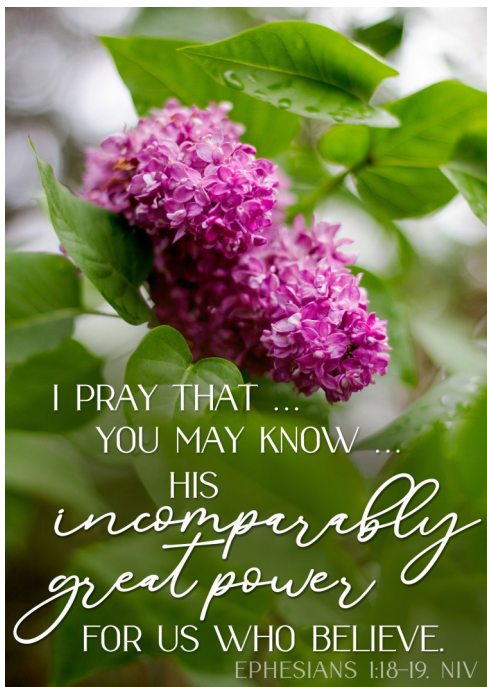


# The Good News

MONTHLY PUBLICATION MAY 2020 VOLUME 26 NUMBER 5



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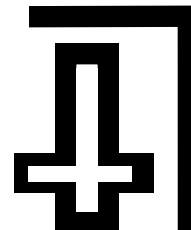
**DATED MATERIAL**  
Please Deliver by 2nd or  
3rd of the month.

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Traditional Worship Service**  
9:00 a.m.  
Praise Service  
10:45 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School:  
10:00 a.m.  
**PASTOR:**  
Catherine E. Luehr  
**VICAR:**  
Matt Polsdorfer  
**PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR:**  
Jonine Sadders

*Spanish Worship is offered at 2:30 pm by House of Faith.*  
E-mail: [churchinfo@elch.org](mailto:churchinfo@elch.org)  
Website: [www.elch.org](http://www.elch.org)

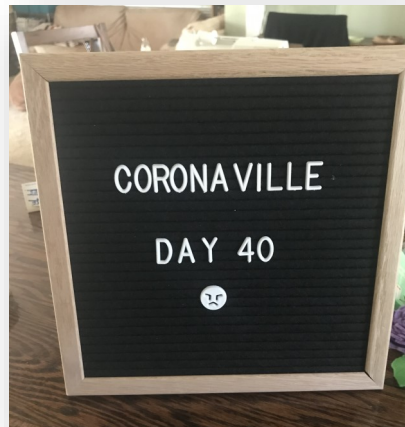


# Post It Notes from Pastor Luehr

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

## THE FULLNESS OF TIME

I am writing this article on April 22, and for my household this marks 40 days of living in the time of COVID-19 quarantine. I received a message board with moveable letters from my brother and sister-in-law for my birthday this year. Normally it sits in our entry way and contains messages of wit and witticism that delight all who read it (or at least gives me a chuckle), but for the last 40 days our message board has kept track of how long we have been in what my husband deemed “Coronaville.”



Today during our Wednesday morning Zoom Bible Study (all are welcome to attend, email [vicar@elch.org](mailto:vicar@elch.org) to get the link) we were looking at the story in the beginning of Matthew when Jesus is tempted in the wilderness for...40 days! I thought it was fitting that according to when I started my countdown calendar, today was also the 40th day of my time in the wilderness.

We discussed the different places in our scripture where 40 is used to mark the passage of time in days or years—Moses on Mt. Saini for 40 days, the Israelites wondering in the wilderness for 40 years looking for the promised land, and for the prophet Elijah on the run from queen Jezebel for 40 days and 40 nights. I told the class that in Biblical literature, the number forty doesn't necessarily mark 40 actual days or years but instead it is a number used to represent “the fullness of time.” In other words, the amount of time needed to be complete, or to be fulfilled. It's a little like saying “we'll be done when we are done.”

I have been thinking about this concept a lot today. We are people driven by our calendars and schedules and knowing when something starts and how long it will take. But we are now in a time when the future schedule is unknown. When will life return to normal? When can we come back? When will this all be over? I think we will be in a quarantined life, a slowed down life, a distanced life for the fullness of time. I do not know how many days, weeks or months that will be, but if the Biblical stories have taught me anything, it's that when God's people are led through a time of trial, they will persevere. They might not be the same, we might not be the same. But having lived through the “fullness of time” that our quarantine will take, we too are living out part of our Biblical story as people who have been tested, who trusted in God's guidance, and people who continue to radiate the light of Christ into dark places.

Pastor Cate Luehr

# Matt's *Motivational* Minute



I don't know about you, but recently I haven't felt too motivated. I know, I know, maybe Matt's motivational minute may not have been the best title for my newsletter articles, but who knew what would happen? I find myself going through the 5 stages of grief (denial, anger, bargaining, depression & acceptance) with what is happening with our "new normal" and sometimes these 5 stages all are happening at once. I'm finding Biblical stories jumping off the page during this time. Stories about being exiled or isolated have never been more relatable or spoken to me as much as during this time. I also have always wondered about the various Psalms. In most Psalms (or at least to me) it feels like they go through a lot of emotions while talking to God. One moment they are upset and angry with God, but a line later they are talking about the reassurance they have in God and how they know that their God has always been there. It never made sense to me, but during this "new normal" time I am realizing I am in company with the Psalmists. One moment I am angry at God and wanting to just leave my house or be able to do something, and other moments I am so thankful for everything God's given to me.

One of the questions we often ask our children is "how is your heart feeling"? I don't know how your heart is feeling right now, maybe you are like me and go from angry to thankfulness, maybe you are super happy or maybe you are super sad or maybe somewhere in between. Whatever is going on in your life and whatever you are feeling, please know that God is there to listen to you. You are also in great company because there are several stories in the Bible with various people and various emotions. We often hear about the ones where people go from upset to happy with God, but there is the full range of emotions in the Bible. I think of the book of Lamentations where there is so much sorrow and pondering of the age-old question, "What is the point of life"?

Whatever you are going through, please know that you are not alone. As Bishop Taylor was talking about in his sermon the Sunday after Easter, Jesus is with you in whatever is going on in your life. Also, please know that Pastor Cate and I are here for you. We have been making calls to contact every member household. One of the things we've been asking each household is if there is anything you would like us to pray for. We are here for you and we are glad to pray for you and any specific requests you have. In the middle of all the chaos in life, please know that we are taking time to pray for you all.

God's peace,  
Vicar Matt



## Heart And Hands Outreach Sharing the Good News!

*"Feed My Sheep" – John 21*

### **COMMUNITY SHARING AND CARING OUTREACH:**

**STOREHOUSE MINISTRIES:** Thank you, Emanuel! Despite this unprecedented pandemic of the Novel Coronavirus, you continue to love and reach out to our neighbors. We can share through our online ministry on the website ([www.elclh.org](http://www.elclh.org)), as well as through providing essential items.

Continuing through Easter time, we gathered food protein sources and other necessities for Storehouse Ministries, a foodbank in our community hosted by Rise Church. Thanks to Vicar Matt who gathered up and delivered all of these items on our behalf.

Since we were not able to hold our Preschool Appreciation event on March 29, we have asked Thrivent and they have approved for us to repurpose the gift card they provided. As a result, we will purchase more food for Storehouse Ministries with that card.



**PATRIOTS AND PAWS:** Patriots and Paws continues to provide essential services in caring for our active duty and returning veterans through providing the household items they need. The warehouse is still open to receive new and gently used items from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Please check the website at [www.patriotsandpaws.org](http://www.patriotsandpaws.org) if you have questions about what is needed. The fundraising events of the open house and the golf tournament have been postponed due to the Coronavirus restrictions.

**REACHING OUT IN OTHER WAYS:** Since we are not able at this time to manage our regular support of community groups, rather than the items we would purchase for them perhaps a monetary gift would help, either to HAHO at Emanuel or directly to any of those groups who continue to function.

Many of us have received a payment from the government to assist in this difficult time. If you would like to continue your generous support and can do so, it would be wonderful to share some portion of that gift with our neighbors in need.

**EVANGELISM:** Wow! How many people have tuned in and watched our online worship? What a wonderful way to share the Gospel and our Emanuel story!

God bless all of you for your generosity.

Jeanette Parr



## FROM THE BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION

### Hi Sunday School Kids!

Our Sunday School teachers send greetings and we hope you had a Happy Easter. It was fun delivering the Easter bags to our Sunday School kids. We hope you had fun putting together some of the projects and doing the Spring papers.



Although we are not meeting each Sunday, we will be bringing a Sunday School lesson to you in a different way. Be checking social media when the lesson about “Doubting Thomas” (John 20:19-31) will be posted. When you aren’t sure something someone is telling you is true, you might say you doubt their story. In our Bible story, one disciple doubts what the other disciples tell him happened. He can’t believe it might really be true. Stay tuned as we discover what happened to Thomas.

Thanks for donating food for our food drive for the Storehouse Ministries. The cans were packed in the decorated bags that you made during Sunday School and Vicar Matt delivered them last week. Our contributions will help so many people especially at this time. We love helping others as Jesus would want us to do.

We want to wish all the kids who had birthdays in March, April and May a very special greeting as we sing our song that we sing when we have a birthday.



*“Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you  
May the Lord bless and keep you another year through.”*



We will have lots of pennies to drop in our “Birthday Church” when we all return to church. What a festive time it will be!

Blessings from all your Sunday School Teachers.

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### Dear Seeker Kids,

We haven’t been able to meet on Thursdays, but we want you to know that Francis and I are always thinking and praying for you. We miss you very much. As you can probably guess, we will not be having a Spring play this June. We’ll look forward to performing our next play at Christmas time.

Although we haven’t added a scripture verse in your special booklets for awhile, I am including the verse that was the next verse we were going to attach and illustrate.

*“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us.” 1 John 5:14*

This is a perfect verse for us at this time with the virus that is going on. Always remember that God hears all our prayers even when everyone may be praying all at the same time. At our last Seeker class we learned “How can God listen to everyone at the same time?” We can’t explain how God hears so much at once, but we know it’s true because the Bible tells us it is. As we have said before, always remember to give all your worries and cares to God because He cares about you. Pray often. Can you think of ways you can help someone?

We are praying for you and your family.

God Bless,

Francis Cunyo and Mary Ann Carlson



## CONFIRMATION

As an update on our Confirmation/Mentor program, we met on Thursday, April 16, for an online Zoom get together. Many thanks to every student and mentor for making it a priority as we had perfect attendance. Many thanks to Vicar Matt for his expertise in getting us all together with Pastor Cate, Janine Ward and himself for a few minutes to chat and pray before breaking off each team for some much needed catching up. We are so thankful for our Vicar's training in Zoom due to his seminary training with this program. Once again we see God's wisdom and plan prior to this strange situation in which we find ourselves.

Although Affirmation of Baptism will not be held in May as previously planned, there will be a big Emanuel celebration for our students when it is safe for all. We continue to thank God for each of these young adult women who make up this year's class. We also thank each dedicated mentor for their devotion to this important work. We thank God for each of you!

## EMANUEL LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL Safety Closure



The preschool has been silent of little voices and the sounds of laughter since March 20th when the heart breaking decision of closure due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) was made to protect students, staff, and families. The move to follow the surrounding school districts and the guidelines set by the California Department of Public Health was not easy, knowing how many people would be affected and how this temporary closure would change many plans for our entire preschool community. We are praying for the health and safety of our preschool families while we navigate this time of changing requirements in the world.

Our staff misses our students every day as we eagerly wait to hear when it will be safe to return. Our plan is to reopen when we can safely do so without extreme guidelines that would prohibit students from playing and learning freely. Feel free to leave a message or email us at [emanuelpreschoollahabra@hotmail.com](mailto:emanuelpreschoollahabra@hotmail.com) with any questions you may have.

May you and your family stay safe and healthy until our doors open again soon.

## STEWARDSHIP

As mentioned during our online worship services, we are so thankful for your continuing faithful giving to the ministry at Emanuel.

As many have or will be receiving stimulus checks, a few thoughts come to mind. If they are needed, remember to thank God for our abundant blessings. If per chance you don't need the money and are looking to help others, here are some thoughts:

1. Offer to help out a neighbor, friend or family member in need.
2. As collections of specific goods and items aren't practical at this time, consider giving to one of your favorite recipients of Emanuel's HAHO outreach:
  - **Patriots and Paws** ([www.patriotsandpaws.org](http://www.patriotsandpaws.org))
  - **HIS House** ([hishouseoc.org/shelter](http://hishouseoc.org/shelter))
  - **Storehouse Ministries** - checks payable to and mailed to CRCC (350 Hillcrest St., La Habra, CA 90631) with "Storehouse Ministries" noted in the memo line.
  - **Daniel Alvarez Center** - checks payable to Emanuel Lutheran Church with "Daniel Alvarez" noted in the memo line.
3. If you or your child have enjoyed time at camp, consider giving to **Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences** ([www.lrcchome.com/giving](http://www.lrcchome.com/giving)).

Additionally, we are happy to forward any monetary donations to our ministry partners. Simply make your check out to Emanuel Lutheran Church and indicate on the memo line the name of the ministry partner and we will make sure they receive your blessings.

Again, thank you for your beautiful generous giving hearts.

Your Stewardship Committee



## SCHOPPA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Elroy Schoppa Scholarship Fund is provided by Emanuel Lutheran Church for members of Emanuel who are, or will be, attending an accredited college or vocational school in the next academic year. Students must attend 50% of Sunday Worship services and scheduled Youth meetings for at least 2 years within 4 years of applying. They must also maintain a 2.5 minimum GPA. Current recipients are Jessica Mora (third year) and Amanda Zambrano (first year). Contact Warren Parr, Wolfgang Hessel or Dwight Carey for more information.

## A PRAYER FOR TEACHING

Dearest Lord,

*Today we lift up all who are involved in the teaching of children. May you grant teachers wisdom in preparing, and encouragement through the love and acceptance of students. May God increase your love for each one of them, and joy in knowing you are molding their beautiful minds.*

*We lift up students of all ages and all abilities that they desire to learn, concentrate in spite of all the distractions, and be able to get the help and encouragement they each need. And for parents, may God grant you an extra measure of patience, understanding and time for each child you love and desire to help. Please manipulate work and school schedules that collide and bring true joy in extra time spent with children.*

*We place every trial, frustration, and challenge in your hands dear Lord, knowing that nothing is out of your control.*

*In Jesus name we pray,*

AMEN





The Vigil of Easter + 11 April 2020

Emanuel Lutheran Church  
150 North Palm Street,  
La Habra, California 90631

Dear Members of Emanuel Lutheran Church and Pastor Cate,

Christ is risen indeed! Thank you, thank you, thank you for your most amazing generosity and gift! This donation extends care, support, and concern to pastors and seminarians who are called to Federal Chaplaincy positions, as well as to the people with whom they serve in our nation and church. Your gift of \$8,139.00 to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship Endowment Fund was received earlier this month. It is one of the most generous contributions to this fund to date, and we are so very thankful! Added into the established chaplaincy endowment fund, the earnings of this donation will be used for the years to come to provide trained and experienced chaplains for our Armed Forces, Veteran Administration Hospitals, US Department of Defense and Federal Prisons.

Donations to this fund are establishing scholarships in perpetuity that will specifically assist ELCA seminary students interested in becoming ELCA Federal Chaplains. The scholarships will be a substantial blessing to seminary students who otherwise may become burdened with significant student loan debt while answering the call of God. This wonderful generosity helps to bring the Gospel of the Living Christ Jesus into critical places and to people often in the most challenging circumstances.

On behalf of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Bureau of Federal Chaplaincy Ministries, we offer our personal gratitude for your decision to support this fund in these important times. God bless you all for this gift of grace and generosity! May your celebrations of Resurrection joy, in the midst of these difficult days, be filled with holy hope and thanksgiving!

In Christ's service,

*Murray D. Finck*

The Rev. Murray D. Finck, on behalf of the  
ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Ministries Scholarship Endowment Fund Development Team:  
The Revs. Chaplains Paul Baker, Jeffrey Jacobson, Scottie Lloyd, Christopher Otten, Howard Stendahl, Eric Wester, Ms. Ruth Allen and Mr. William Elmstrom

**ELCA  
FEDERAL  
CHAPLAINCY  
MINISTRIES  
SCHOLARSHIP  
ENDOWMENT  
FUND  
DEVELOPMENT  
TEAM**

Paul Baker  
Bill Elmstrom  
Jeff Jacobson  
Scottie Lloyd  
Howard Stendahl  
Eric Wester  
Murray Finck-Convener

**ADVISORY**  
Christopher Otten  
Mark Olsen

**ADMINISTRATIVE**  
Ruth Allen



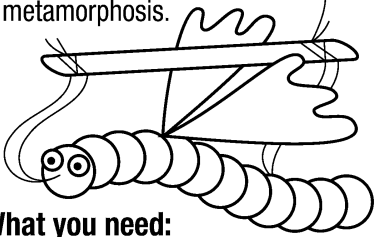
Saint Paul wrote of the generosity of the Macedonian churches, "...they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means..." II Corinthians 8:3.

Thank you for your over and above gift of support!

# Kid's Korner

## CHANGED!

Make this cute puppet to show and tell the amazing story of metamorphosis.

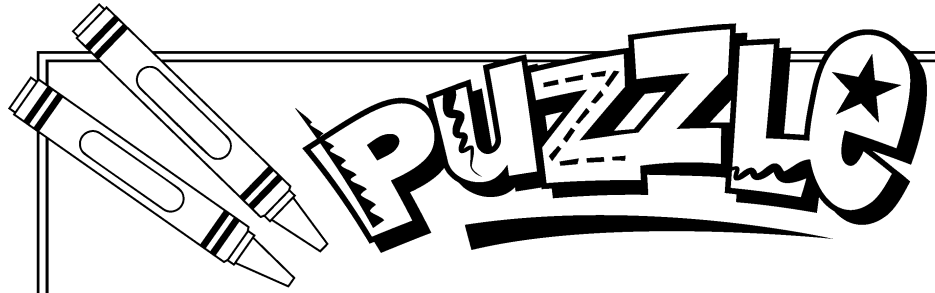


### What you need:

- Needle and string
- 12 small pom-poms
- Wooden craft stick
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Coffee filter
- Markers

### What you do:

1. Sew pom-poms together to make a caterpillar body. Tie off that string.
2. Thread another string up through the first pom-pom, leaving 12 inches to dangle. Repeat with the ninth pom-pom, leaving two dangling strings.
3. Wrap those strings around opposite ends of the stick, adjusting their length to about 6 inches. Tie in place.
4. Glue on eyes.
5. Flatten the coffee filter and draw a symmetrical design on it. Pleat in the center to create wings.
6. Move the caterpillar puppet by holding the stick. Glue on the wings as you describe the transformation into a butterfly.



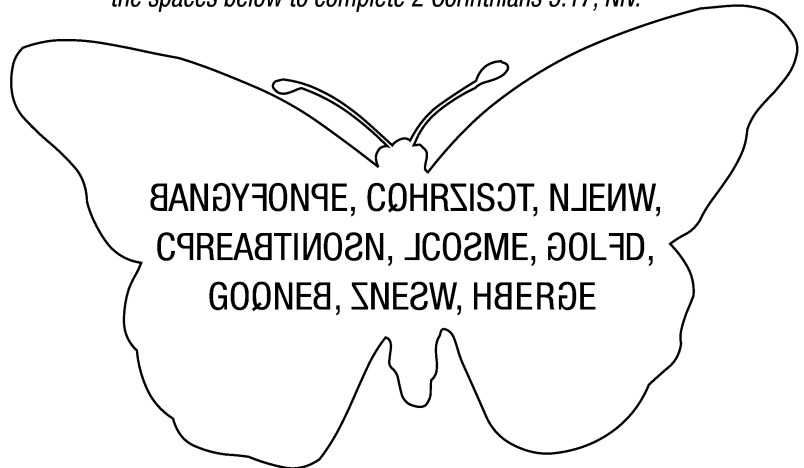
## Transformation POWER



Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly,  
God transforms us from old to new.



*Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.*



Therefore, if \_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_,  
the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_:

The \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_,  
the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: anyone, Christ, new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here