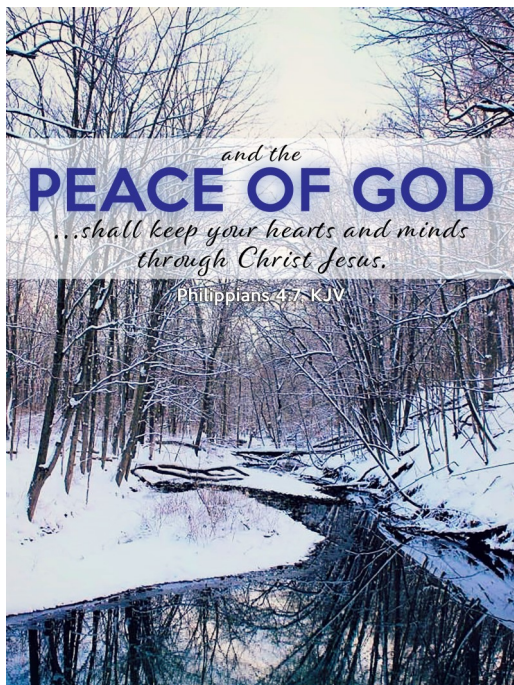


# The Good News

MONTHLY PUBLICATION JANUARY 2021 VOLUME 27 NUMBER 1



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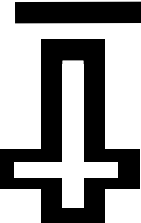
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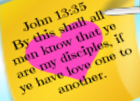


Traditional Worship Service  
Praise Service  
Children's Sunday School:  
9:00 a.m.  
10:45 a.m.  
1:45 a.m.  
PASTOR:  
VICAR:  
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:  
Catherine E. Luehr  
Matt Polsdorfer  
Jonine Sadders

*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.

## NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!

Ok folks, here comes the New Year. If ever there was a January to look forward to, this is the year. If ever we were able to jump out of one year and into the next it would be most of us running from 2020 into 2021. This has been a tough year and not one that any of us could have predicted. While we know that things for our world won't magically turn around on January 1, 2021, from recent conversations I've had it appears that people are looking optimistically to the new year.

We have hope as the first vaccines for the Coronavirus begin to be distributed that soon health care workers will be able to get control on the pandemic. Soon we will be able to visit with people we love, soon we will be able to hug people, soon we will be able to come back to worship in person, soon, things will get back to "normal."

But we also have to remember that we are not just "going back," but that we are also being made new in the new year. And as people of faith, we believe that in Jesus Christ we are also always being made new. The following verse from the book of Revelation talks about what the *new life* in Christ may look like:

*<sup>21:1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them."*

So while we get ready to embrace the new year with hope that things can go back to the way they were, my prayer for you is that you will leave room for the Holy Spirit to create new life in you. New Life—New You—New in Christ.

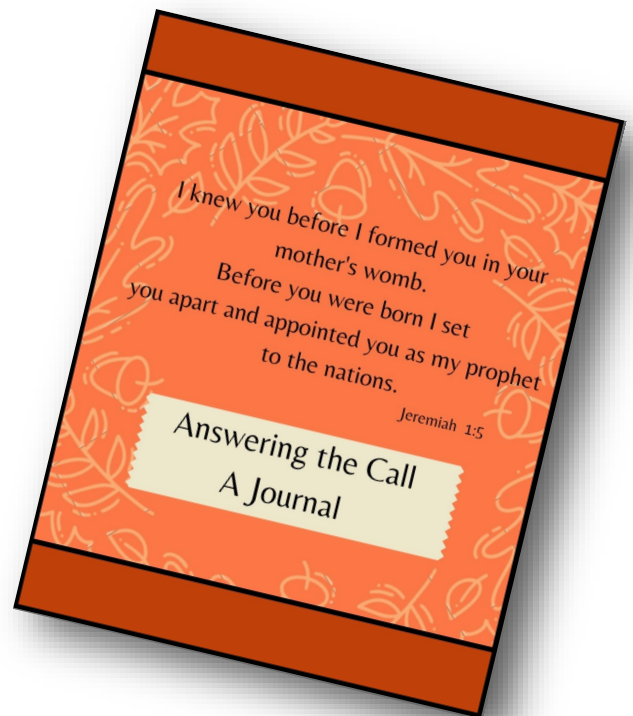
Pastor Cate Luehr

# Matt's *Motivational* Minute



*“There is no greater gift you can give or receive than to honor your calling. It’s why you were born. And how you become most truly alive.” —Oprah Winfrey*

My internship project will have just started by the time you read this. It is beginning on Wednesday, December 30, and will conclude on Ash Wednesday. It is an opportunity for us to look at how we talk about our calling and vocations. There will be an introduction video with myself and Pastor Cate. Then I interviewed six different people in different areas on their calling, and then conclude on Ash Wednesday. As with anything in life these days, you will clearly see the impact that COVID-19 has had on my project. This project originally was going to be a retreat weekend at Luther Glen Farm and Retreats. However, we have shifted to a weekly online video format. One of the amazing benefits for me with this is that it literally opened up the world to me where I could interview anyone in the world because geography was no longer an issue since we were using Zoom. I have worked with Pastor Cate on this quite a bit and we are both excited for the potential of the project! I want to thank Jill Drummond for helping to design/create the cover page of the journal. I would also like to thank Lorrie Freeman for putting the journals together for me. Finally, I would also like to thank my internship committee for their insights and support throughout not only me working on my project but my time at Emanuel. I hope this journey is an opportunity for you to reflect on your own calling and vocation. We have a journal that is accompanying the video series and this is an opportunity for you to think about what God is calling you to now, and also an invitation for you to reflect on what God might be calling you to. This journal will be linked to Sunday worship bulletins for you to print at home, or you can contact the church office to pick one up or have it mailed to you. For me personally it is always great to hear other’s stories because it helps me reflect on my own story and my own calling. I hope this project is as life-giving to you as it has been for me.



God’s peace,

Vicar Matt Polsdofer



## HEART AND HANDS OUTREACH SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!

*"Feed My Sheep" – John 21*

### **SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!**

People at Emanuel give! What an amazing congregation. Happy New Year!

It's now January 2021 with the hope that comes from starting a new year fresh. In 2020, we were unable to continue many of the ministries with whom we have faithfully partnered over the last few years. In past Christmases, we were overwhelmed with the outpouring of gifts and love through the Angel Tree and the toy gift boxes. Many people love to give at Christmas and do so. Through all of this we have continued to support the La Habra Community Resource Center with needed food for distribution. You are encouraged to continue these food gifts.

We also have another opportunity for you to consider. During the month of January, when many are unable to help their neighbors, we offer you the following from our partners in ministry who are totally focused on hunger and homelessness:

- WINGS Shelter For Victims of Domestic Violence
- HIS House For Families in Transition From Homelessness to Homes
- MAMA's Hill House For Women and Children in Need

Would you consider giving grocery cards of \$20 or \$25 from any chain store to help them get through this difficult time? We will distribute them to these ministries at the end of January. You can drop off or send the cards to the Church office. You can designate a specific ministry or let the Spirit guide us in which ones are in the most need.

If you can't share food, money, or time with others because you are "staying in," how about the things you CAN do?

- Pray for friends, family, our leaders, and the world. If you would like to pray with others, we are on Zoom at 8:30 AM each Saturday. Email me at [parr3@roadrunner.com](mailto:parr3@roadrunner.com) to get the link. Don't have internet access? You can call in.
- Send a short note via regular mail, email someone, or make a phone call and leave a message. Let others know they are being cared about. If you would like the name of someone who could especially use a greeting, contact Pr. Cate and she can provide you with a name.
- Think about ways to share Emanuel and your faith with others and what you will continue to do when we meet again in person.

God bless all of you for your generous Hearts and Hands reaching out to others.

Jeanette Parr  
Facilitator

# FROM THE BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION



## Greetings to all Emanuel Youth and Parents!

It's a NEW YEAR with NEW OPPORTUNITIES!!! Try a new activity such as a book club, a circle meeting or prayer group that you have never tried before. Zoom is the way to go!

Thank you for having your kids join us for our online Sunday School lessons each week. This past month we have learned so much about God's love.

1. In our lesson "The Good Story" we saw that gossip can spread stories that may or may not be true. However, we can tell others the stories about the miracles of Jesus and the news about how much Jesus loves us and wants us to be with Him in heaven someday.
2. "Tears" was a lesson where we saw that we cry for different reasons. There are things that make us sad, and it's okay to cry. Jesus even cried. Remember, God will always be there to wipe our tears away.
3. The lesson "Through Dark Glasses" taught us that God wants us to be honest with one another. God showed us His love and care by sending Jesus, and He invites us to love and care for one another.
4. On our Advent Sundays, we journeyed the road all the way to Jesus' birth beginning with learning about the birth of John the Baptist. This month we will see how far the wise men traveled to see Jesus, and finally why Mary, Joseph, and Jesus needed to escape to Egypt.

Wow! We have learned all about the events leading up to Christ's birth and what happened next.

A special thank you goes to Ricki Fehr as she is editing our weekly Sunday School lessons and getting them ready for online viewing.

Thank you for encouraging your child on our virtual journey together.

Please pray for our youth and parents as the school year continues with distance learning and/or a hybrid model for some students.

Prayers are lifted for the spiritual growth of our youth and adults.

Blessings from all your Sunday School Teachers.





## PARKING LOT WORSHIP POSTPONED

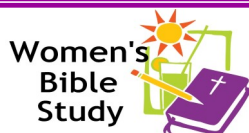
Emanuel's church council has decided, with heavy hearts, to postpone in-person worship until at least mid-to-late January when we will revisit the safety of in-person worship based on the current state of the pandemic. We thank you for your understanding and flexibility during this time when it seems things are changing by the hour. We know that just because we are not gathering together on Sunday mornings, it does not mean that we stop being the church that Christ has called us to be.

We will continue to post online worship and a Children's Sunday School lesson each Sunday, and we are available to bring communion and prayer to your porch if desired. In the new year we will be trying out a Zoom-based worship in addition to our regular online worship.

We know that Christ cannot be contained and He is sending His message and mission out into the world even when we are restricted to home.

## FOOD DONATIONS

Thank you all for your continued giving of food to the La Habra Community Resource Center. Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer even came by to drop off some donations. This is a great way to continue to bless all of our hungry neighbors who are struggling to feed themselves and their families during this pandemic. Remember that we are collecting \$25 grocery gift cards during this month to assist with purchasing fresh food for our families as well.



## JOY CIRCLE ON ZOOM TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 AT 9:30 AM

The Joy Circle is a women's group that meets monthly for a time of discussion and fellowship. We will continue our VIRTUAL JOY CIRCLE via Zoom on Tuesday, January 19 at 9:30 AM. Our studies come out of the *Gather Magazine*, a magazine from the Women of the ELCA. If you do not have a subscription to this magazine, we can email you a digital copy of the lesson.

Angels are not a major focus of holy Scripture, nor are they ever mentioned in our Christian creeds. Yet they show up with frequency and at pivotal moments in both Old and New Testaments. Church reformer Martin Luther is quoted as saying, "If you picture the Bible to be a mighty tree and every word a little branch, I have shaken every one of these branches because I wanted to know what it was and what it meant." From January through April 2021, the Rev. Christa von Zychlin will present the four-part study "Journeys with Angels" in which we will shake those biblical branches, watch for angels and listen for God's call to action.

If you have not previously participated in the Joy Circle but would like to give it a try, please email Pastor Cate at [pastorcate@elch.org](mailto:pastorcate@elch.org) by Sunday, January 17 and she will get the lesson and Zoom link to you.



## GIVE BLOOD, SAVE A LIFE

Emanuel will hold blood drives in Moerer Hall from 12:00 to 6:00 PM on **Monday, January 4; Monday, February 15; and Wednesday, March 31.** Go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule your donation or to create an account. For more information regarding precautions being taken by the blood drive staff, you can click on **DONATE BLOOD**, then go to the right and click on **COVID-19 AND BLOOD DONATION**.

*If you've got a pint to spare, schedule an appointment!  
Give blood, save a life. We know you've got it in you!*



## TAKE IT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER

Our Saturday morning prayer group has gone digital! For the past seven years, each Saturday morning at 8:30 AM a group of people from Emanuel met in our prayer chapel to spend time in intentional prayer for our church, our community, and our world. Since we are not able to meet in person, the *Take It to the Lord in Prayer* group is now online! If you would like to join this group on any given week, please contact Jeanette Parr ([parr3@roadrunner.com](mailto:parr3@roadrunner.com)) to receive the Zoom link.



## DIGITAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us each week as we post a new children's Sunday School class lead by Mary Ann Carlson. We will continue through the stories of Jesus and hear them retold in our SPARK Bible. Look for the Sunday School Class on all the platforms you find worship ([elch.org](http://elch.org), Facebook, and YouTube).

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer is one part of our ministry that we continue to do strongly. If you have any prayer requests you would like included in Sunday Worship, please contact the church office by Wednesday and we will be able to include them in our filming.



# Kid's Korner

## A COLORFUL body

Melt crayons to show how the body of Christ works together.



### What you need:

- Crayons
- Metal baking sheet
- Adult help
- Metal gingerbread man cookie cutter

### What you do:

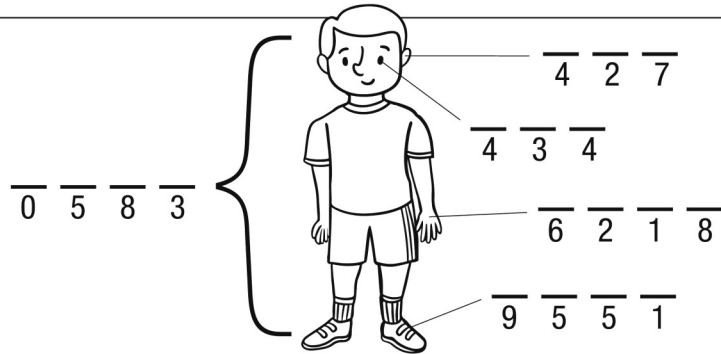
1. Remove labels and break crayons into 1-inch pieces.
2. Scatter pieces on the baking sheet, about two layers thick.
3. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees until melted. Allow to cool 15 minutes.
4. When melted crayons are the consistency of playdough, press the cookie cutter through them (while still on pan).
5. Cool the pan in freezer for 15 minutes until crayons are hardened.
6. Remove from pan and break apart the shapes.

## PUZZLE

## WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church – the body of Christ – is to work together for God's purposes.

*Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part's number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.*



Now if the  $\frac{\quad}{20}$  should say, "Because I am not a  $\frac{\quad}{17}$ , I do not belong to the  $\frac{\quad}{16}$ ," ... And if the  $\frac{\quad}{13}$  should say, "Because I am not an  $\frac{\quad}{11}$ , I do not belong to the  $\frac{\quad}{16}$ ," it would not for that reason stop being part of the  $\frac{\quad}{16}$ . If the whole  $\frac{\quad}{16}$  were an  $\frac{\quad}{11}$ , where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole  $\frac{\quad}{16}$  were an  $\frac{\quad}{13}$ , where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one  $\frac{\quad}{16}$ .

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV

Answer: body = 16, eye = 11, ear = 11, hand = 13, foot = 17, foot = 20

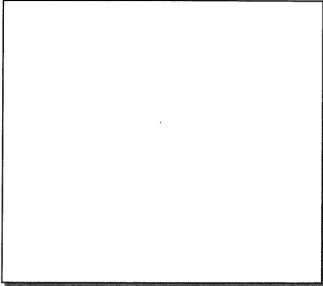


EMANUEL LUTHERAN WOULD LIKE TO THANK THESE BUSINESSES FOR MAKING OUR NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE

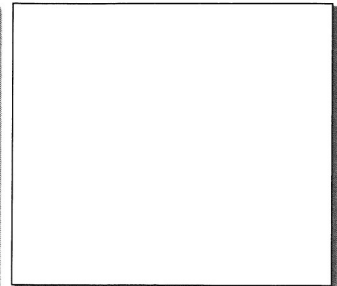
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