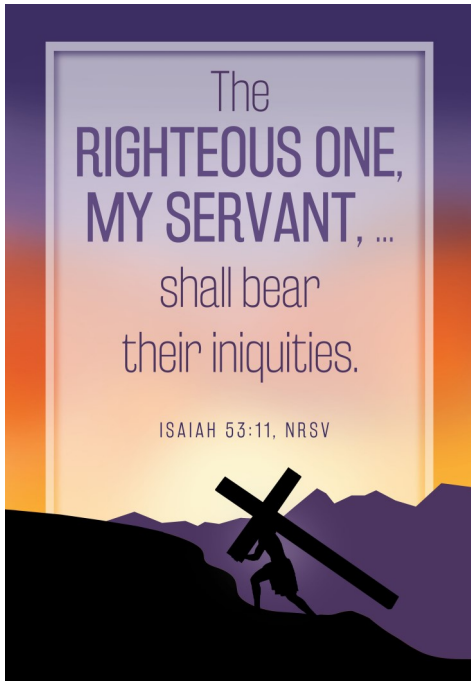


The Good News

MONTHLY PUBLICATION MARCH 2021 VOLUME 27 NUMBER 3



IN THIS ISSUE

From Pastor Luehr	Pg. 2
Matt's Motivational Minute	Pg. 3
Offering Envelopes	Pg. 3
Heart And Hands Outreach	Pg. 4
Parish Education.....	Pg. 5
Tree Trimming	Pg. 6
In-Person Gathering	Pg. 6
Lent 2021.....	Pg. 7
Palm Branches & Flowers Needed	Pg. 7
Joy Circle	Pg. 8
Virtual Book Club	Pg. 8
Individual Communion	Pg. 8
Blood Drive	Pg. 9
COVID-19 Vaccine Help	Pg. 9
Free Shred Event.....	Pg. 9
Children's Activities Page	Pg. 11

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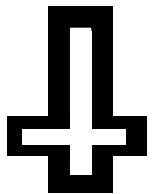
DATED MATERIAL
Please Deliver by 2nd or
3rd of the month.

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
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:
Jonine Sadders
Spanish Worship is offered at 2:30 pm by House of Faith.

E-mail: churchinfo@elch.org
Website: www.elch.org



Post It Notes from Pastor Luehr



I normally love the season of Lent, but this year is going to be a little harder than normal. I normally love the season of Lent for a few reasons. First, we get a chance to hold extra midweek worship services where, as a preacher and worship leader, we get to think outside the box and explore a little. These worship services also serve as an extra pausing point in our otherwise busy weeks for myself and the people of Emanuel. It's a time to stop, refocus on what God is up to, and prepare ourselves for the ministry and life ahead of us. And most years it included a meal together!

The other reason I usually love Lent is that it can serve as a time of deep reflection and introspection. Specifically, it can be a time to look at our mortality and ask the tough questions of life. Honestly, under normal circumstances, we don't look at those things very much. But as Vicar Matt Polsdofer mentioned in his Ash Wednesday sermon, this past year has been one where we have all been astutely aware of our mortality. So, after a year of nearly 500,000 COVID-19 related deaths in our country alone, do we really need a liturgical season that reminds us that we are dust and to dust we shall return?

Also, we are not able to gather in person for midweek worship this year. I am excited about the collaboration we are doing for online Lenten worship with several of our ELCA sister congregations. At the same time, I am missing the meal we had a little over a year ago when fifty people of all ages gathered in Moerer Hall for sandwiches, song and stimulating conversation. So, at a time when the hustle and bustle of "normal life" seems distant, what is there really to take a break from?

I realized Lent has a different feel this year, a different purpose. It's a purpose that has always been there but is perhaps more pronounced this year. Lent 2021 is the season that propels us forward in Hope. This Lent, for me, is not about pausing and reflecting and ceasing from busy schedules. This Lent, for me, is not about reflecting on the brevity of our earthly lives in the scope of our promised eternal life. This Lent is about walking through the darkness, walking toward the cross, moving forward because we are propelled by the hope of the empty tomb on the other side of this long and dark Lenten journey. So that is what I will hold on to this Lent, and what I pray you are able to focus on too. Perhaps this is not the year to spend time in deep contemplation about the sins in our lives, but perhaps this year we acknowledge the hurt and darkness around us—and then fix our eyes on the light of Christ, our Risen Lord.

Pastor Cate Luehr

Matt's *Motivational* Minute



“Zacchaeus was a wee little man and a wee little man was he.”

When thinking of Zacchaeus, the first thing that always comes to my mind is this song that I learned when I was a child. It is a song that plays in my mind anytime I hear about Zacchaeus. In this past January term, I was in a course called “Gospel According to Luke.” The story of Zacchaeus is only found in the Gospel of Luke in chapter 19. For an assignment, I had to research and write a paper about Zacchaeus, which at first glance feels like an obvious and easy paper to write about because it is such a familiar text! However, diving into the text there was a lot that I learned and that stood out to me. For those familiar with the story the ending is that Zacchaeus is changed from a wicked tax collector and he is able to see where he has wronged people. He declares that he will give half of his possessions to the poor and pay back anyone he cheated **FOUR TIMES** the amount. Jesus then declares that, “Today, salvation has come to this house.”

Have you ever wondered what made Zacchaeus change his mind and his way of life? When I read this story, I was wondering what great motivational speech Jesus gave to get Zacchaeus to change. All Jesus does is see Zacchaeus up in a tree and then Jesus invites himself over to Zacchaeus’ house. This is not really a life changing speech to me. However, in reading and learning I now understand why this was so important. For some reason Zacchaeus is eager to see Jesus and I am assuming he is finding something lacking in his life. He is so eager to see Jesus that he climbs a sycamore tree. A sycamore tree that has low branches because he is short so he can climb up and see Jesus. By doing this Zacchaeus would have totally **HUMILATED** himself by climbing this tree. Yet, Zacchaeus climbs the tree and is seen by Jesus. The articles I read talked about that what was so life-giving and changing for Zacchaeus is that Jesus **SEES** him and this allows Zacchaeus to reflect on who he really has been. He sees that he has cheated many people and changes his ways. Jesus allows Zacchaeus to be seen and then allows a space for Zacchaeus to see who he really is. When we see others and others see us, we are able to reflect on who we really are and who we are made to be. Zacchaeus changes his ways because he is also able to see who he is made to be. I hope that we, as a community, can allow each other to see who we are made to be and share this gift with the world.

God’s peace,

Vicar Matt Polsdofer

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Thank you all for your continued financial support of Emanuel Lutheran Church. A number of you regularly mail in your offering using your provided offering envelopes. We have the 2021 envelopes at Emanuel and would like to provide them to those of you who would like them. You can pick them up, or we are happy to drop them off at your home with contactless delivery. Additionally, if you are someone who gives your regular offering online, the boxes contain additional envelopes to use for Second Mile giving and special offerings. If you do not use your envelopes, please let the office know and we can update our list for next year.



HEART AND HANDS OUTREACH SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!

“Feed My Sheep” – John 21

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!

In 2020, we were unable to continue many of the ministries with whom we have faithfully partnered over the last few years. Through all of this we have continued to support the La Habra Community Resource Care Center with needed food for distribution. You are encouraged to continue these food gifts.

What an extraordinary outpouring of love from Emanuel for our neighbors! We have received **SIXTY-TWO gift cards** to share with 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



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

- Since February 2013, we have been praying for friends, family, our leaders, and the world. The number of miracles experienced is awesome. If you would like to pray with others, we are on Zoom at 8:30 AM each Saturday. Email me at parr3@roadrunner.com to get the link. Don't have internet access? You can call in.
- Send a short note in the 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

FROM THE BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION



Greetings to all Emanuel Youth and Parents!

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 Jesus.

1. In February, our lesson “Make Weak Hands Strong” was from Isaiah 35:3. “Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way.” We all have times when we’re hurt or weak and need help. God wants us to watch out for one another and help them when needed.
2. In the lesson “Crutches” we learned that through the Holy Spirit, God makes us strong. He holds us up and keeps us from falling. This lesson came from Romans 8:26 where it says the Holy Spirit intercedes for us with deep feelings that words cannot explain.
3. “If Jesus Came to Your House” was a lesson from the story of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42). In the story, Jesus wants to tell us how much God loves us. He wants us to listen to His Word and love one another. He cares so much about us and wants us to share this love with others.
4. In the book “Maybe God Is Like That Too?” we discovered that we see God over and over again whenever we see love, joy, peace and wherever there is patience, kindness and goodness. When we see faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control we see God’s spirit at work!

We look forward to the time when we will once again meet together. Don’t forget to search to find out what your name means as Pastor Cate mentioned in one of her Children’s sermons. It will be fun to hear what you find out.

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.

TREES TRIMMED

Our very large avocado tree in the corner of the north parking lot was recently trimmed to remove the dead branches and to keep it from being a nuisance to our neighbors. The two smaller avocado trees were also recently trimmed. They are all now alive and healthy thanks to our great landscape team!




IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESUMES SUNDAY, MARCH 7

The church council met on Tuesday, February 16 and determined it to be reasonably safe for Emanuel to resume outdoor parking lot worship on Sunday, March 7 at 10:00 AM. We will follow the previous format with people seated outdoors in chairs for a short in-person service of prayer, music, scripture, and homily. We will be practicing the usual safety protocols and are asking attendees to park in the lower lot by the classrooms and then walk to the registration table on the patio to check in. Then please continue to the upper parking lot where an usher will direct you and assist with a chair if needed. You are encouraged to bring your own chair or you may use one of the folding chairs from the church. If you would like to attend but wish to stay in your car, drive into the upper lot and an usher will direct you to a space designated for cars. Also, if you would like to sit in a chair but walking from the lower lot is a challenge, there will be limited parking in the upper lot available.

While we know this is still not “back to normal” we hope having a short time of worshipping together again will strengthen you for the days ahead.

LENT MIDWEEK ONLINE WORSHIP

For our Midweek Lenten Worship we will be collaborating with other churches from around the Pacifica Synod as we create online worship that will be available every Wednesday on all of our digital platforms. We have partnered with other ELCA churches from around our Synod to provide the Good News of Jesus centered around our theme *"Created for Community."* Join us online for worship February 24, March 3, 10, 17 and 24.



My heart has heard you say
"Come and talk with me"
Psalm 27:8a

2021
Lenten Worship

Virtual Lenten Worship
Available online every Wednesday in Lent

Bethlehem/ Los Alamitos
Emanuel/La Habra
First & The Table/ Fullerton
Whittier Pres & Salem/Whittier
St. Paul/Fullerton
Hope/Palm Springs

Created for Community

In community with
Creation...

In community with
All Saints...

In community with
Our Neighbors...

In community with
those in the margins...

In community with
Christ...

The Creator who fashions us together with
all things, the Christ who leads us into a
new beloved community, the Spirit who
holds us in the communion of saints, One
God, bless you now and always.

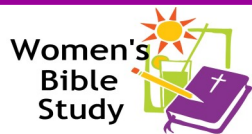


PALM BRANCHES & FLOWERS NEEDED

Palm Sunday is March 28. Traditionally we decorate the sanctuary with palms in honor of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week. This year we will be decorating just the outside area with palm branches. If you plan to trim your palm trees during the week before Palm Sunday or know someone who is, please contact the church office and let us know. Palm branches can be delivered to Emanuel by Friday, March 26 or Saturday, March 27. You can also bring your own palm branches to wave at worship on Palm Sunday if you like.

We will also be decorating the outside cross on Saturday, April 3, in preparation for Easter. If you have garden flowers to share with Emanuel, we welcome them and ask that you bring them to Emanuel by 8:30 AM that Saturday morning and they will be incorporated into the beauty of our cross.



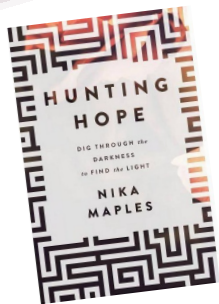


JOY CIRCLE ON ZOOM TUESDAY, MARCH 16 AT 9:30 AM

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, March 16 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." Through April 2021, the Rev. Christa von Zychlin will present a 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@elclh.org by Sunday, March 14 and she will get the lesson and Zoom link to you.



VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

After great success with our last two books, we will be hosting another virtual book club starting this Thursday, February 25, at 10:00 AM. We are thankful to Linnita Licano for again facilitating this group.

The new book is called "Hunting Hope" by Nika Maples and it is also available on Kindle. If you would like to join, contact the church office and we will send you the weekly Zoom link.

INDIVIDUAL COMMUNION



We know that many of you are missing many parts of meeting in person, especially communion. If you would like communion, please let the office know and Pr. Cate or Vicar Matt will make it available to you. We can come to your home and celebrate communion on your front steps, or you can schedule a time to come to the church office and we can celebrate communion at a safe distance like Jill Drummond and Char Ponzio chose to do recently.



GIVE BLOOD, SAVE A LIFE

Thank you for another great turnout at our February 15 blood drive. Emanuel will hold another blood drive in Moerer Hall from 12:00 to 6:00 PM **on Wednesday, March 31**. To create an account or to schedule your donation, go to www.redcrossblood.org. 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**."

Give blood, save a life. We know you've got it in you!



COVID-19 VACCINE HELP

Need help registering for a COVID-19 vaccine? We know that many of our members who are 65 or older have been getting their COVID-19 vaccine and we are very thankful to God for the science community who used their gifts to create a vaccine that will help us along.

If you are someone who needs help navigating the online or phone appointments, please contact the church and we will link you up with someone who can help you get an appointment with the right place.

FREE SHRED EVENT / FOOD DRIVE SATURDAY, APRIL 17 FROM 8-11:30 AM



Please join Rob Burns and Matthew Burns of Thrivent for a FREE Shred Day on Saturday, April 17 from 8:00am-11:30am at Christ Lutheran Church & School parking lot (820 W Imperial Hwy, Brea). They are asking for non-perishable food donations that will be donated to local non-profits in the immediate area. There is a 10 box maximum for shredding.



Due to COVID-19, please remain in your car and place all shred documents and food donations in the trunk of your car to be removed by shred staff.

If you have questions, please call Katie Anderson of Thrivent at 714-525-4360. Also, for those who have occasion to go to Thrivent's office, they have recently moved to 203 N. Brea Blvd. #201, Brea CA 92821.

Kid's Korner

FOR THE BIRDS

Display this recycled craft to care for feathered friends.



What you need:

- Peanut butter or vegetable shortening
- Plastic knife
- Empty toilet paper tube
- Bird seed
- A plate
- String

What you do:

1. Spread peanut butter or vegetable shortening on the tube, covering the entire outside surface.
2. Pour bird seed on a plate and roll the tube in the seeds.
3. Thread string through the tube and tie it to make a loop.
4. Hang the bird feeder outside. When seeds are eaten, coat the roll again.

PUZZLE



BIRDS IN THE WORD

The Bible mentions many kinds of birds. How many have you seen?

Directions: Unscramble the bird names, using the Bible references and pictures as clues. Then insert the final unscrambled bird name to complete the passage below.



VDEO

_____ (Genesis 8:8)



LWO

_____ (Psalm 102:6)



GEELA

_____ (Isaiah 40:31)



TOKRS

_____ (Jeremiah 8:7)



APROSWRS

“Are not five _____ sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ... Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many _____.”

LUKE 12:6-7, NIV

Answer: dove, owl, eagle, stork, sparrows

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