

The Good News

MONTHLY PUBLICATION JULY 2021 VOLUME 27 NUMBER 7



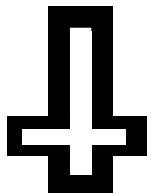
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address label here

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

INDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE
 10:00 AM
 INTERIM PASTOR:
 Sandy Bentz
 PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:
 Jonine Sodders
 Spanish Worship is offered at 1:00 pm by House of Faith.
 E-mail: churchinfo@elclh.org
 Website: www.elclh.org



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN WILLS

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's been a whirlwind couple of weeks since I sent Lorrie last month's newsletter article. I'm now settled in my apartment in Fullerton (kind of!) and in my study in Emanuel. As I shared with the Council at the end of my first day here . . . I couldn't be more grateful for all the ways Lorrie and Emanuel members have welcomed me and made me feel so at home. What a loving community of faith. I'm genuinely excited to share ministry with you!

At Wednesday morning's Bible study, I asked if anyone had questions for me. One of the first questions was, "So . . . *what are you going to do with us?*" Another way of asking that question could be, "*Where are you going to lead us?*" You might use different words, but I'm guessing that's a question others may be wondering about as well. The only way I know to answer that question is to say, "Only God knows!" And the good news in that answer is in Jeremiah 29:11: *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

As much as we all might wish for it, there is no step-by-step action plan that, if everyone follows it, will magically lead us to Emanuel's new settled pastor and the new future God intends. The truth is: this year of transition is about us spending time together discovering and exploring and trying new things and failing and learning from all of it! From walking to parenting to growing older (and hopefully wiser), isn't that how God helps all of us learn everything? Why would we think our learning as a community of faith would be any different?

...this year of transition is about us spending time together discovering and exploring and trying new things and failing and learning from all of it!

So how do we manage this "in-between-time"?

We keep our focus on God's loving presence and faithful providing! We live generously. We set aside our own agendas to discern God's. We encourage ourselves and one another to have open minds, open hearts and open wills. When we might feel anxious, instead of trying to replicate what was or what we think we remember was 'normal', let's commit to cultivating wonder and curiosity. When something feels a little (or a lot uncomfortable), instead of reacting, let's slow down and ask, "What new thing might God be doing in and through this experience?"

I look forward to all we're going to learn in this journey as we pray and work and listen together for God's leading and as we 'live into' God's plan for Emanuel's future,

Emanuel is God's church and, together, we ARE God's beloved children.

Together with you, in God's Gracious Grip,

Pastor Sandy Bentz

HEART AND HANDS OUTREACH SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!



“Feed My Sheep” – John 21

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!

Many of us have truly missed our community in-person outreach during the pandemic. Even so, we have provided food to Storehouse Ministries/LRCC and provided gift cards to HIS House, WINGS, and Mama Hill’s House to provide food and necessities.

We have had the wonderful opportunity to assist the Luther Glen Farm in their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Generous Emanuel members made a special offering of **\$935.00!**

The COVID-19 pandemic has allowed us to think and pray about our outreach ministries. Several will continue, and a few may be changed or added. One of the areas discussed was to increase our outreach from the local area to our brothers and sisters farther away. In the past, Emanuel has supported the Kulpahar Cristian School in India. There is an opportunity there now to reach out. There is also an opportunity in another country to help provide water facilities via a well. We are looking at those possibilities. In the short term, we will be supporting VBS, Study Buddies, collecting used eyeglasses through the Lions, providing Bibles for the preschool children, putting together the Thanksgiving bags for Patriots and Paws, and of course, the Angel Tree at Christmas for WINGS and His House.



The Blue Emanuel bags with our logo are back! If you need one for yourself or to share with a friend, they are available in Moerer Hall. We will also use them for other projects coming up. Stay tuned for all of the specific and exciting opportunities!

In addition to supporting our community ministries, let’s consider how else we can be good friends and neighbors. Hearts reach out too! Here are some thoughts on how to become a friend and nurture a good friendship.

BE KIND. This most basic behavior emphasized during childhood remains the core of successful adult relationships. Think of friendship as an emotional bank account. Every act of kindness and every expression of gratitude are deposits into this account, while criticism and negativity draw down the account.

- **Listen up.** Ask what’s going on in your friends’ lives. Let the other person know you are paying close attention through eye contact, body language, and occasional brief comments such as, “That sounds fun.” When friends share details of hard times or difficult experiences, be empathetic, but don’t give advice unless your friends ask for it.

(Continued on page 4)

- **Open up.** Build intimacy with your friends by opening up about yourself. Being willing to disclose personal experiences and concerns shows that your friend holds a special place in your life and deepens your connection.
- **Show that you can be trusted.** Being responsible, reliable and dependable is key to forming strong friendships. Keep your engagements and arrive on time. Follow through on commitments you've made to your friends. When your friends share confidential information, keep it private.
- **Make yourself available.** Building a close friendship takes time—together. Make an effort to see new friends regularly and to check in with them in between meet-ups. You may feel awkward the first few times you talk on the phone or get together, but this feeling is likely to pass as you get more comfortable with each other.

NOTE: HAHO WILL MEET IN PERSON ON SATURDAY, JULY 17 AT 10:00 A.M. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US.

Jeanette Parr
Facilitator



WELCOME PASTOR SANDY BENTZ!

Emanuel is excited and privileged to welcome the Reverend Sandra Bentz (“Pastor Sandy”) who began her ministry with Emanuel on June 15, 2021. Pastor Sandy will be with us for about a year as we move forward in ministry and toward our call of a new “settled” pastor.

During her time here, Pastor Sandy will be preaching and teaching the Word of God, presiding at worship and administering the sacraments, providing pastoral care as needed, giving leadership and support to the congregation’s organizations and ministries, and continuing the work of mission and ministry of the Church.

This interim ministry of transition for both Pastor Sandy and the congregation will address these five developmental tasks of Intentional Interim Ministry, as may be appropriate:

- Exploring the history of the congregation
- Discovering/strengthening our identity
- Managing shifts in lay leadership
- Strengthening denominational relationships
- Committing to new leadership and a new future

We look forward to the growth and possibilities to which God will lead us during this time.

FROM THE BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION



Greetings to all Emanuel Youth and Parents!

This past month we have learned so much about Jesus and the Bible.

1. “Why did God make the sky blue not green?” God could have picked any color for the sky and blue was just how God wanted it. God knew what he was doing when he made the flowers, fruits, trees, and everything. Psalm 19:1 says, “The heavens tell the glory of God, and the skies announce what his hands have made.” That is some colorful announcement!
2. “How can Jesus live in my heart?” As we grow learning about Jesus, he will help us to share his love with other people. Jesus says, “Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch cannot produce fruit alone but must remain in the vine. In the same way, you cannot produce fruit alone but must remain in me.” (John 15:4)
3. “Fishers of People: A Mime” Our guest during this lesson was Luke Ospital as Mr. Fisherman the Mime. Since some of Jesus’ first disciples were fishermen, Mr. Fisherman helped us learn more about fishing and how we can fish for people as the disciples did. After looking at all the bait items in his tackle box, there was only one bait that would help fish for people and that was the CROSS! God uses the cross to bring people to Jesus. God loves us so much that he sent his only Son to come to earth to teach us all about God. When we tell others that Jesus loves us they’ll want to get caught (learn more) and we’ll be fishers of people, too!
4. Finally, in the lesson “What does it mean when I’m supposed to turn the other cheek?” we discovered that Jesus said, “If someone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other cheek also.” (Matthew 5:39). Jesus said it’s more important to love and pray for our enemies and by doing so it’s like we are turning the other cheek. God will help us through tough situations. At church, we have put heart stickers on the “Kid’s Cart” in the Sanctuary for our kids to take one and remember to be kind even to people who don’t treat us well.

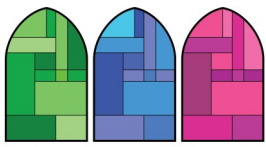
A special thank you goes to Ricki Fehr as she is editing our weekly Sunday School lessons and getting them ready for online viewing.

We are looking forward to seeing you in church for inside worship at 10:00 AM each Sunday!

Thank you for encouraging your child on our virtual journey together. As we continue to prepare digital Sunday School lessons we are encouraging our kids to take part in presenting a lesson. Thank you, Luke Ospital, Maggie Diaz and Sadie Diaz who eagerly have now become “You Tubers.”

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

Blessings from all your Sunday School Teachers.



Welcome to Worship

INDOOR WORSHIP HAS RESUMED ONE SERVICE ON SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

Emanuel has resumed worship in the sanctuary every Sunday at 10:00 AM. The church council has worked very hard to put together a plan that allows us to worship indoors safely. Here are a few items of note:

- Face Masks are required and social distancing will be implemented
- Waivers and contact information will be collected for contact tracing
- The congregation will be asked to refrain from singing indoors at this time
- Communion will be celebrated in pews through individual prepackaged elements

Please remember to arrive early enough to check-in and be seated. We will continue to offer online worship on all of our regular platforms for those who wish to worship in this manner.



FILMING WORSHIP

Volunteers are greatly needed to help record the Sunday Worship services. It really is as easy as taking a picture on a cell phone. If you would like to know more, or are willing to be in the rotation of people taking a turn recording, please contact Kerry Ospital (909-957-1139) or the church office (562) 691-0656. Thank you for again “stretching your ministry legs”.



CHRIST IN OUR HOME

Christ in Our Home is a quarterly devotional resource that encourages us to live out our faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day that follows the Revised Common Lectionary.

We have received our supply of *Christ in Our Home* devotional booklets for **July-August-September 2021**. You can pick one up in the narthex, or if you would like a copy mailed to you, please email us at churchinfo@elclh.org.



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 (elclh.org, Facebook, and YouTube).

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 (fourth year) and Amanda Zambrano (second year). Contact Warren Parr or Wolfgang Hessel for more information.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer is one part of our ministry that we continue to do strongly. If you have a prayer request you would like included in Sunday Worship, please contact the church office by Thursday and we will be able to include it in our service.



Thank you!

To My Emanuel Friends,

My many thanks and appreciation for all your prayers, phone calls, and the lovely flowers that I received during my recent knee surgery. The Lord has truly blessed me with caring church friends.

Marlene Myerly

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER ~ JULY 2021

*** Save this for reference throughout the month. ***

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:12

Special Focus for This Month

As summer begins and covid restrictions ease, we pray for more people to be vaccinated and a continued decrease in COVID-19 cases and deaths. We pray for God’s comfort for all grieving losses of all kinds. As restrictions ease, we pray for God’s peace for all feeling anxious and fearful after such a long time of isolation and separation from others. May God continue to help us put the well being of our neighbors, near and far, ahead of our own comfort.

Continuing Prayers

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| ~ Jean Cugini | ~ Warren Parr | ~ Jacob Toussaint |
| ~ Marge Dalby | ~ Shelley Reesman | ~ Mischelle Uhlman |
| ~ Sharon Frazier | ~ Jerry Schnakenberg | ~ Chip Whitcher |
| ~ Maiju Hessel | ~ Cathy Spangler | |
| ~ Chuck Holtzendorff | ~ Dan Toussaint | |

Assisted Living Centers/Homebound

- ~ Shirley Jordan – Park Vista
- ~ Betty Gould – Home
- ~ Lois Lundberg – St. Elizabeth
- ~ Eric Sessing – Posada Whittier
- ~ Margaret Roberts – Addie’s Cottage Anaheim

Friends and Family to Remember

- ~ Cherie Blair-Sandberg & David Sandberg – Greg Blair’s sister and brother-in-law
- ~ Peggy Toussaint-Vowel – sister of Daniel Toussaint
- ~ Susan Blackstock – cousin of Tammy Mora
- ~ Mike Rossoni – stepson of Doris Rossoni
- ~ Lori Sering – daughter of Shirley Jordan
- ~ Denise Timberlake – daughter of Sharon Frazier

Prayers of Thanksgiving

We give thanks for all the ways God continues to teach us resilience, flexibility and dependence on God’s loving presence and faithful providing. Thanks be to God for Emanuel’s Council, staff, ministry leaders and congregation who so generously support Emanuel’s ministry with their time, talents and finances.


If you have any items to add to Emanuel’s list, please contact the church office at (562) 691-0656. Once a month, names will be removed from the list that have been in print at least eight consecutive weeks (except those who request extended prayer). You are welcome to re-submit any names removed from the list, or you may remove a name at any time by contacting the church office. Thank you.



(Updated 6/22/2021)

JULY 2021

Printed 6/21/2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																																	
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Emanuel Lutheran Church: 150 No. Palm Street, La Habra, CA 90631 • Phone 562-691-0656, Fax 562-691-8897
 www.elch.org • **Preschool:** 562-694-5316
 Al-Anon meets in Moerer Hall Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm; AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) meets in Moerer Hall Mondays & Fridays @ 7:30 pm
Legend: C: Hope Center Classroom; CH: Chapel; F: Fireside Room; H: Moerer Hall; L: Hope Center Library; S: Sanctuary; Y: Youth

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