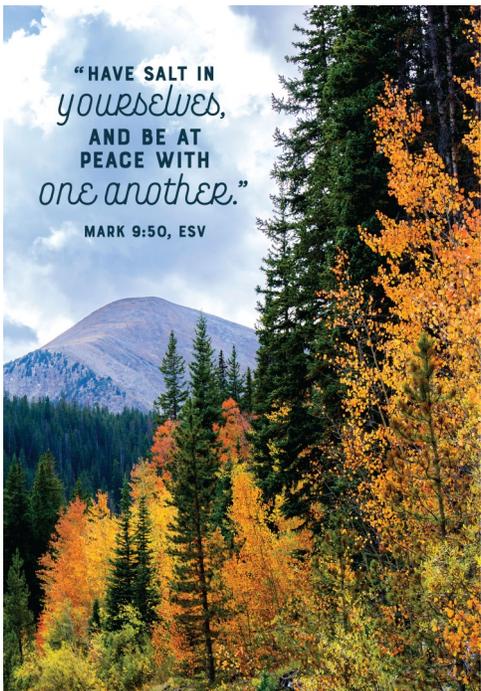


The Good News

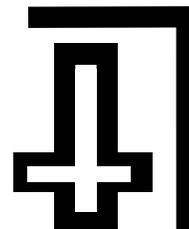
MONTHLY PUBLICATION SEPTEMBER 2018 VOLUME 24 NUMBER 09



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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
 Maria Markman
 JoIne Sodders

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

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Post It Notes from Pastor Luehr



The Joy Circle is a monthly Bible Study and fellowship time for women. Our time together centers around discussion on that month's Bible Study. June's study focused on prayer as the time in which we reconnect and evaluate our relationship with God. That includes evaluating what we put ahead of God. The following is an excerpt from the study written by Dr. Anna Marsden for the June issue of Gather, the magazine of the Women of the ELCA.

1 Samuel 12:18-23

¹⁸Then Samuel called on the LORD, and that same day the LORD sent thunder and rain. So all the people stood in awe of the LORD and of Samuel.

¹⁹The people all said to Samuel, "Pray to the LORD your God for your servants so that we will not die, for we have added to all our other sins the evil of asking for a king."

²⁰"Do not be afraid," Samuel replied. "You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. ²¹Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless. ²²For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own. ²³As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right.

It's not coincidental that the First Commandment of the Ten is, "You shall have no other gods than me." That is, God knew that there are options. Anything we consider to be most important—even in a passing moment—is our god; it's the thing or the person to which we give our loyalty and our allegiance. So when God said, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me," God was doing two things: identifying who God is by way of a history of liberation, and acknowledging that even the saving event of the Exodus wouldn't be sufficiently impressive to convince God's people of unswerving loyalty; they would be (and are) chronically tempted by other gods.

Martin Luther defined a god as that in which or in whom we place our ultimate trust, namely the thing that in any given moment is most important to us. It's not always so easy to tell what is what and who is who, though. False gods can be sneaky. That is, it's easy to identify malignant gods, things that can obviously destroy us: money, security, fame, addictions and so forth. However, sometimes even benign things can become our gods: people who are key to us, for example, like children, partners or parents can become more important to us than anything else in the world. Regardless of whether they are sneaky or obvious, a god demands loyalty or receives it from us whether it wants it or not. For example, if status becomes most important to us, then we sacrifice all of our identity to be defined by it: our clothes, our house, our car all become expressions of our ultimate trust. Sometimes these gods become ours without our consciously realizing it.

We often hear that God answers prayers. However, that doesn't mean that God always answers our prayers as we want or as we expect. That said, these passages suggest that sometimes God does answer our prayers exactly as we frame them, even when God disagrees with our petition. There seems to be a relationship between our requests, the motivation for our requests and our willingness and ability to hear and respond to God's response. Perhaps this passage invites us to consider the basis of our prayer requests, our receptivity to God's word in return to us and our trust that, as Samuel says, "...the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own." (1 Samuel 12:22)

Pastor Cate Luehr



The term overwhelmed usually has negative connotations. I wish there was a better term for being absolutely POSITIVELY overwhelmed because that is how I feel. Overwhelmed by Emanuel's generosity and hospitality, by Emanuel's mission to the least of these, by the abundance of ministry opportunities, and by Emanuel's ability to discern the Spirit. Maybe abundantly blessed is a better term for what I am feeling!

I have been showered with abundant blessings here! From the moment I arrived, it was apparent this place, and all of you, are those who God is calling me to serve with for the next year. Thank you to all those who gave generously for my arrival and to all who will continue to care for my well-being while I am here! Before coming to California, my mother was reading Emanuel's newsletter. She was so overwhelmed by your hospitality, she was moved to tears. She said to me, "Maria, they are just going to take such good care of you." And I agree!

Not only will you take good care of me, you take care of all around you. As I look at all the ministries you have started and all the ministry partners with whom you work, I am excited to start serving and learning together. But what amazes me most is your ability to seek the Spirit. As Matthew 18:20 states, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." The Spirit is in fact a Spirit, always moving, shifting, and guiding, bringing life and newness of life. And where the Spirit leads you follow, if that is with HAHO ministries, Study Buddies, Bible Study, or in the simplest ways of lending a hand to a sibling in Christ.

As I embark on this new learning opportunity, I want to live, learn, and grow in the Spirit. Internship is a chance for me to try new things and stretch myself. It is in the discomfort of trying new things that we breathe life into new opportunities for learning and growth. I am confident that you all will live into this year with me, discerning God's Spirit with me, allowing me to try new things, lifting me up and encouraging me when it goes well, and constructively discussing how to do things differently when they do not go as well. Together we will see where God is at work in me and in all of you.

Thank you all again for your generosity and hospitality in my first days and weeks here. I can only hope that through these blessings I can be a blessing to you all as well!

Love,
Maria



Heart And Hands Outreach Sharing the Good News!

"Feed My Sheep" – John 21

COMMUNITY SHARING AND CARING OUTREACH:

STUDY BUDDIES and MAMA HILL'S HOUSE MINISTRIES!

During July and August, we were inundated with school supplies for these ministries. Notebooks, pencils, markers, paper, crayons, staplers, glue, backpacks, and other necessities are now on hand for Study Buddies. Supplies were also taken to Mama Hill's House on August 19 by John and Mischelle Uhlman. What a wonderful outpouring of gifts for children to aid them in their education. Thank you to all at Emanuel who chose to support this ministry.

MATTHEW 25 GRANT:

We are collaborating with the La Habra Family Resource Center in making the best use of this grant to PREVENT older women from becoming homeless. Often someone may be managing from month-to-month, but an unexpected expense, such as a car repair or a medical bill, can make them unable to pay their housing cost. This will allow emergency grants for them to retain their home and not fall into the loss spiral. A total of \$965.84 was sent to the center and will be used specifically to prevent older women from becoming homeless. As the grant is dispensed, we will be notified how the money was used and how it has been leveraged. We will be applying for the grant again in October.

Your HAHO ministry team members have also committed personally to increasing these funds. Won't you join us? If you would like, you can make a contribution by using a pew envelope and marking it "Matthew 25 Grant."

Matthew 25:35-40 (English Standard Version/ESV)

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

FRISTERS:

Now that school is back in session, the FRISTERS will begin meeting weekly. FRISTERS is a Christian-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty and abuse within the teen parent population by providing education, access to resources, role models and support to teen mothers and their children. Fristers currently serves 700 mothers and children annually through six chapter locations throughout Orange County. Emanuel has supported this ministry for several years through the donation of children's books, diapers and wipes, and gifts for the children at Christmas. The current book title will be announced soon. At this time, due to very generous donations this past year, we have a large balance toward the costs of those books. If you would like to make a donation for books, that is wonderful. Otherwise, if you would like to share your gift with another ministry at this time, that would be also be much-appreciated.

EVANGELISM: “Take It To The Lord In Prayer” — prayers for our church, our pastor, our world, and any special needs, in the Chapel or wherever you are at 8:30 on Saturday mornings. We now have eight people praying every week. Join us. We are hoping to run out of space in the Chapel and move to a larger prayer space. If you have a prayer request, please let the Pastor or Vicar know and it will be lifted up. We have met and prayed weekly for over five years and we continue to see miracles.

Thank you for your generous Hearts and Hands!

Jeanette Parr
Facilitator



HAHO OPPORTUNITY CALENDAR

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

- September:** Matthew 25 Grant Support, FRISTERS/KIDSTERS Books
- October:** Bibles for Preschool & Third Graders
Collect unneeded eyeglasses for the Lion’s Club.
- November:** Veteran’s Outreach
- December:** Angel Tree(s)

Opportunities will be highlighted with more information in the “Good News” and the weekly bulletin.

*****Subject To Adjustment*****



From the Board of Parish Education

Sunday School Class Schedule: Sunday School classes are held weekly. Join us on Sunday mornings for classes for all age groups starting at age three. Visitors are always welcome!

- **Classes for Preschool to 5th grade** meet at 10:00 AM in Moerer Hall. We will begin the fall season learning about Jesus and His disciples (Luke 5:1-11, 8:1-3; Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9-13, 10:1-4). Please encourage your student to join us as we discover why these people decided to follow Jesus.
- **Middle School / Sr. High:** This class meets in the Youth Room at 10:00 AM with Janine Ward and Denise Whitcher. This class has begun a Bible study on little known or a bit more mature stories from the Bible. One story studied was John the Baptist, his beheading, and the relationship of Herodias, Herod and John. Come join the interesting discussions!

Offerings: We are collecting a “Noisy Offering” to support the homeless ministry in our area. We have a can where coins or dollars can be deposited. The students can see how their offering can help others in this special way.

Seekers: Seekers “kick-off” is Thursday, September 13 from 6:00-7:00 pm. This is “Crazy Sock Day!” Wear your mismatched socks and be ready for some mixed-up games to play. Come and join the fun and bring a friend!

Confirmation: Confirmation classes will begin Thursday, September 13, from 6:00-7:00 PM in Hope Center. Confirmation is open to all students from 7th grade up. This two-year faith formation program meets every Thursday night and participates in a mentor dinner night once a month. See Janine Ward or Pastor Cate if you know of someone who might be interested in Confirmation.

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

Board of Parish Education

Time for Seekers...
Crazy Sock Day!

Thurs. Sept. 13th
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Wear mismatched socks and be ready
to play some mixed up games.
Come join the fun and bring a friend!

(Grades K thru 6 welcome)

Emanuel Lutheran Church (562) 691-0656
150 North Palm Street, La Habra, CA 90631

EMANUEL PROPERTY CARE TEAM



The Property Care Team met on Saturday, August 18, to discuss repairs, maintenance and projects for our Emanuel Home.

There are many opportunities, some requiring minimal time and ability, others requiring more time or on-going care, and some requiring outside professional help. More than 25 items, large and small, were taken for implementation. Things like patching a hole, fixing a door stop, and disposing of old items will be fixed in short order. We have created a "Honey-Do" board which will be available in Moerer Hall. If you see something which needs attention, please put it on a post-it and stick it on the board. If you see something there you can do, please take the post-it and do it. This will greatly help in keeping our facility in tip-top shape at all times.

In addition, we are looking at repairs such as fixing the metal fence. If you have a welding machine and know how to use it, please contact Keith Kruse, Jack Ward, or the church office. Additionally, upgrading our restrooms in the sanctuary and Moerer Hall will provide a welcoming experience for our members and visitors. This will require new tile and paint. Let us know if you have an interest in helping in this area.

This is an exciting way for everyone to participate if they choose to do so. Thank you!

JOY CIRCLE



The Joy Circle Bible Study will resume on **Monday, September 17, from 9:30-11:00 AM.** The Joy Circle is a women's group that 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.

This fall we will begin a 3 month study focusing on repentance and turning to God. 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.



ADULT LAY-LED BIBLE STUDY

1st and 3rd Thursdays at 4:30 PM
Hope Center Library

At Emanuel, we have an Adult Lay Bible Study led by a member of the congregation. They meet the first and third Thursdays of each month at 4:30 PM in the Hope Center Library. After being off for the summer, they will resume on Thursday, October 4, where they will continue their study of Hebrews using Shepherd's Notes. They enjoy learning together about the Word of the Lord and hope you will feel led to join them. Both men and women are welcome! For more information, contact Mischelle Uhman.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Another year of Confirmation is starting this month. On **Thursday, September 13**, classes will resume for confirmation students. We will meet in the Hope Center Classroom from 6:00-7:00 PM. Confirmation is open to all students from 7th grade up. Confirmation classes alternate between a year of study on Luther's Small Catechism and a year of Bible Study. This year students will be focusing on the Luther's Small Catechism.

Confirmation mentors are also encouraged to attend the first class where Janine Ward, director of the Confirmation/Mentor program, will meet with mentors to answer questions about being a mentor and talk about this year's study.

For any questions you may have regarding Confirmation, please feel free to contact Pastor Luehr at the church office or Janine Ward (562-696-6573). We look forward to a wonderful year with our returning and new students.

FARM SUNDAY AT EMANUEL SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9



For the last few years the youth of Emanuel have been involved with Luther Glen Camp and Farm through their retreats and during summer service weekends. On **Sunday, September 9**, members of the camp staff will be visiting Emanuel during both of our morning worship services to tell us a little bit about the ministry they do and some of the work our youth have participated in. They will be bringing along a few goats and will have **farm fresh eggs and produce for sale on the patio!**



YOUTH FARM SERVICE WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 28-30 LUTHER GLEN CAMP AND FARM ~ YUCAIPA, CA

As we have done for the past few summers, our youth will again be going up to Luther Glen Camp and Farm for a weekend of service with the animals and crops. The camp staff of Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences (LRCC) will provide the program for this weekend and put us to work on farm

projects. We will also have a chance to spend some unique camp worship time and have a little fun along the way. Youth will head home after lunch on Sunday. Unlike the winter retreat, this is a time for just our church to go and really get to have time working on the farm. Friends are welcome to attend as well. Talk with the Pastor if you are interested in attending.

Please keep the youth and adults attending this weekend at the farm in your prayers.





STUDY BUDDIES KICK~OFF

Tuesday, September 25, marks the first day of Study Buddies, our new tutoring program here at Emanuel! Study Buddies will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 PM in Hope Center.

If you would like to leave the homework to us, fill out a registration form for each child and leave it in the church office or give it to Jill Drummond. Registration forms can be found in the narthex of the church or on the front counter of the church office. If you have questions, call Jill Drummond at (714) 403-0956.

Resuming this month:

- BSF "Welcome Night" — Tuesday, September 11
- Seekers & Confirmation — Thursday, September 13
- Handbell and Chancel Choirs — Thursday, September 13
- Joy Circle — Monday, September 17
- Lay Bible Study — October 4



Calling all Seniors . . .



NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH, TO A DOCTOR, TO A GROCERY STORE?

NEED A LITTLE ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE FOR YOU OR YOUR HOME?



NEED/WANT SOMEONE TO CHECK IN WITH YOU OCCASIONALLY?

Emanuel has some caring people who wish to provide you with a little independence support. If you have a need, just let Pastor Cate or Vicar Maria know and they will put you in touch with someone who can help.

Kid's Korner

Miracles happen!

Create this colorful reminder of God's wondrous works.

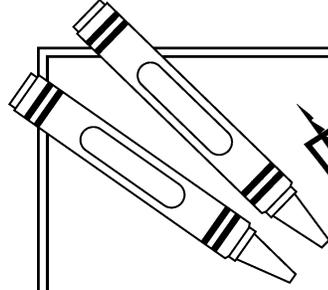


What you need:

- white cardstock
- white wax crayon
- paintbrush
- water
- watercolor paints

What you do:

1. Across the paper horizontally, write with the white crayon "Miracles happen!" (or a Bible verse such as Job 5:9; Psalm 77:14; Jeremiah 32:27; or Matthew 19:26).
2. Wet the paintbrush and paint over the words with different colors.
3. Let dry and then hang up.



PUZZLE

IT'S A MIRACLE!

Jesus performed many amazing miracles during his earthly ministry.

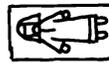
Directions: Match the words and pictures of different healings, from one column to the other. Then fit the word pairs in the blanks below to complete Matthew 11:5, NIV.



blind



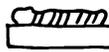
leprosy



lame



deaf



dead

hear



walk



raised



sight



cleansed



The _____ receive _____, the _____, those
 who have _____ are _____, the _____
 _____, the _____ are _____ ...

MATTHEW 11:5, NIV

Answer: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised ... Matthew 11:5, NIV