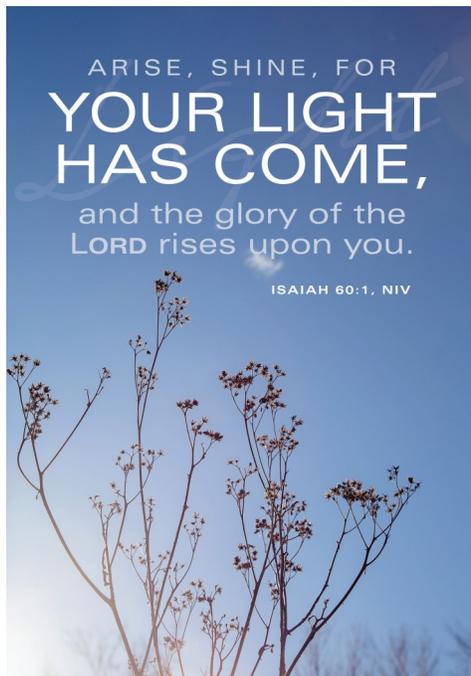


# The Good News

MONTHLY PUBLICATION JANUARY 2019 VOLUME 25 NUMBER 1



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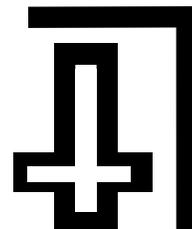
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 Website: [www.elch.org](http://www.elch.org)  
 E-mail: [churchinfo@elch.org](mailto:churchinfo@elch.org)

9:00 a.m.  
 10:45 a.m.  
 10:00 a.m.  
 Catherine E. Luehr  
 Maria Markman  
 JoInne Sodders  
*Spanish Worship is offered at 2:30 pm by House of Faith.*

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

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## Post It Notes from Pastor Luehr



# שוב

**(English Pronunciation) shov or shob – Verb meaning to turn, return, repent**

This is one of my favorite words in the Hebrew Bible, what we call the Old Testament. The word “shov” means more than just the physical turning around (though it is also used in that way). It can be used to talk about a turn of heart, a turning away from God or a returning to God, or in some cases a repentance for past sins and turning towards new life.

The Joy Circle is a Women’s Bible Study at Emanuel that meets each month and we normally follow a three or four month Bible Study written by a theologian or scholar in *Gather Magazine*, a publication of the Women of the ELCA. This fall we worked through a four-month study focusing on the idea of repenting and turning. We looked at how famous Biblical characters might have a turn of heart or repent for a wrong-doing. We also took time to find places in scripture where it appeared that God turned from a previous decision of judgment and instead showed mercy to humanity. Finally, we looked at what it means to be people who repent and ask for forgiveness.

I think this point is at the core of who we are as people of Jesus Christ. People who know that we are imperfect, who know that the world is imperfect, who know that the church is imperfect and in need of a Savior; there is brokenness in our world and in our hearts, but we do not have a God who keeps score or tallies our faults or the faults of our forebearers. We mercifully have a Lord who invites us to turn toward Him, to return to the one who loves us even in our sin, to repent knowing that we are already forgiven in Jesus Christ.

As we enter a new year, many people will look to this as a time to “turn a new leaf.” My prayer is that as people of God we would “shov”— turn, return, repent to the Lord God of all forgiveness and mercy. Praise be to God whose mercy endures forever.

Pastor Cate Luehr



Repeat the sounding joy!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Vicar Maria!

My tag-line this Christmas season has been “repeat the sounding joy.” I took it from the very popular Christmas hymn *Joy to the World*. I thought it was fun and joyful. Now as we approach the new year, I feel as though I have a foot stuck in Christmas. Like a song stuck on repeat except I like it! Truth be told, the twelve days of Christmas do not begin until Christmas and so if you are reading this in the first week of January, we are, in fact still in the season of Christmas! And we should still be repeating the joys of Christmas, a time when themes of special celebrations with loved ones, acts of service, and care for a hurting world are central.

Often times in churchy circles we call ourselves “Easter” people or “resurrection” people, and although that is true and very important, we are also always “Christmas” people! Remembering we are reflections of Christ to the world, let us continue in the Christmas spirit all year through. “Repeat the sounding joy” and be the light of Christ to your neighbors and to strangers this year!

I am so excited for this new year to begin. I am excited for the chance to experience the church year with Emanuel Lutheran Church and together “repeat the sounding joy” through our mission and ministry together!

Vicar Maria



## Heart And Hands Outreach Sharing the Good News!

*“Feed My Sheep” – John 21*

An excerpt from “Helping Those Who Hurt” by H. Norman Wright:

*“In one small European village was a town square that held a special statue. This statue was the pride and joy of the small town, but World War II arrived and soon the bombs began falling on the town. One day the statue was hit and blown to pieces. The residents collected all the shattered pieces and slowly did what they could to re-create it. When they finished the reconstruction of their beloved statue of Jesus, they noticed that the only pieces missing were the hands. So they placed a plaque at the base of the statue with the words ‘Now we are the only hands that Jesus has’.”*

This is what the **Heart and Hands Outreach** Ministry team is about...being Jesus’s hands in the world.

One more thing...we are so grateful to Pastor Cate who works with us and helps to support us in ministry. Only with her leadership are we able to reach out in this way. Thank you, Pastor Cate!

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

**FRISTERS:** Dozens of toys for the Kidsters and \$200 for Bibles for Fristers...delivered by the “Elves” Janine Ward, and Warren and Jeanette Parr.



We will also be purchasing copies of Miss Bindergarten Goes to Kindergarten early in 2019.

WINGS and MAMA HILLS HOUSE: Mischelle Uhlman, Janine Ward, Jean Arata, and Marge Dalby...you are AWESOME...leading this event is a true gift. More sharing of God's love with those in need brings joy to us as well .



Mama Hill's House



Visiting with Mama and Guests



Warm Clothing, Toys and Bicycles



John & Mischelle's Car —  
Overflowing with gifts and love.

Emanuel members, you have loaded up the Angel Tree once again to bring joy to families in need. We served 7 families in the Wings Shelter for Domestic Violence, and 3 families received support from Mama Hill's Help, a non-profit organization to support the local community.

Thanks to every person who contributed in any way. A special thanks to the Sunday School children who took two names and made special individual gifts for the children. We serve the Lord together, joyfully.

*“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.”  
(Proverbs 19:17)*



### **EVANGELISM:**

Did you know that we have business cards with a picture of our stained glass window, our service times, and Pastor Cate's name on it? They are quite beautiful. Take a couple and keep them in your wallet. You never know when you might have the opportunity to share the GOOD NEWS which we proclaim at Emanuel.

**“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 nearly six years and we continue to see miracles.

Thank you for your generous Hearts and Hands! Our next HAHO meeting will be on January 5, 2019 at 10:00 AM in the Library. Please join us.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR HAHO MINISTRY TEAM!

Jeanette Parr  
Facilitator



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### 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 are learning the Bible story about Lydia (Acts 16:11-15). Lydia was a leader and told many others about Jesus and invited more of Jesus' followers to stay in her home.
- **Middle School / Sr. High:** Welcome back after our Christmas schedule. Come join us on Sunday mornings as we study God's Word. This class meets in the Youth Room at 10:00 AM with Janine Ward and Denise Whitcher.

**Offerings:** Gifts were purchased for an 8-year-old girl and a 5-year-old boy whose names were on the Angel Tree. Our weekly offerings helped to buy these gifts. Our students are discovering that when we give offerings it goes to help others, even kids their own ages.

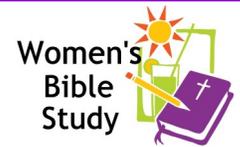
**Seekers:** Seekers will return on Thursday, January 10th. We thank all our students who participated in our musical play "Straight OUTTA Bethlehem." They did a great job and we learned all about our Savior's birth and that we are all part of God's family. It was delightful having kids from our Confirmation class help with the play. We also want to thank Denyelle Villicano and Francis Cuyno for helping with our play rehearsals. Many thanks for Lee Reitzel, Brooke Diaz, and Ana Zelaya who helped with our costumes.



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

Board of Parish Education

## JOY CIRCLE



The Joy Circle Bible Study will meet on **Monday, January 14, from 9:30-11:00 AM.**  
**Please note this is the second Monday of January, one week earlier than normal.**

The Joy Circle is a women's group that normally 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.

In January we will be starting a new four-month Bible study looking at the Gospel of John. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus engages people in honest and sometimes difficult conversations that lead to faith, renewal and transformation. Over the course of this four-session study by Rev. Julie A. Kanarr, we will meet Jesus through his interactions with various characters within the gospel. Their conversations beckon us to explore and grow in faith. We hope you will consider joining us!



## ADULT LAY-LED BIBLE STUDY

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

At Emanuel, we have an Adult Lay Bible Study led by a member of the congregation. They normally meet the first and third Thursdays of each month at 4:30 PM in the Hope Center Classroom. **In January they will meet on January 17 and 31,** 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 Uhlman.

## ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS



On Sunday, January 20, Rob Burns from Thrivent Financial will be at Emanuel to talk about Thrivent Choice Dollars and ways to give back to your church and community.

## Women's Retreat ~ Save the Date!

The date for the **Fifth Annual Emanuel Women's Retreat** has been set for May 3-5, 2019 at the Murrieta Hot Springs Christian Conference Center. Cost is \$200. Those who attended last year had a great time! We hope you are able to join us this year. Talk with Pr. Cate for more information.



## CONFIRMATION YOUTH RETREAT!!

The weekend of **January 18-20 (MLK Weekend)**, we will be heading up to Luther Glen Camp and Farm outside of Oak Glen for our winter retreat. Registration is due to the church by **Thursday January 3**. We will be able to play with the farm animals, worship, join in great camp activities, learn with other confirmation students from around the area, and generally have a great time!

Through generous donations made to the youth program, the cost of this weekend will only be \$75 per student. Students are able to pay their cost anytime before we leave and can even bring the funds that day. If you write a check, please make it out to "Emanuel Lutheran Church" with "Youth Retreat" in the memo. *If this cost is prohibitive, please speak with Pr. Cate Luehr and we will make funds available for you to attend.*



## NEW MEMBER CLASS SATURDAY, JANUARY 26 AT 10:00 AM

Anyone interested in becoming a new member of Emanuel or interested in finding out more about the church, is welcome to attend the new member class in the Library in Hope Center on Saturday, January 26, at 10:00 AM. We will talk about our church, our denomination, our mission and what it means to be a member of this congregation. If you are interested in becoming a member, but are not able to make the meeting, please speak with Pr. Cate Luehr or Vicar Maria Markman to set up an alternative time.



# 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?



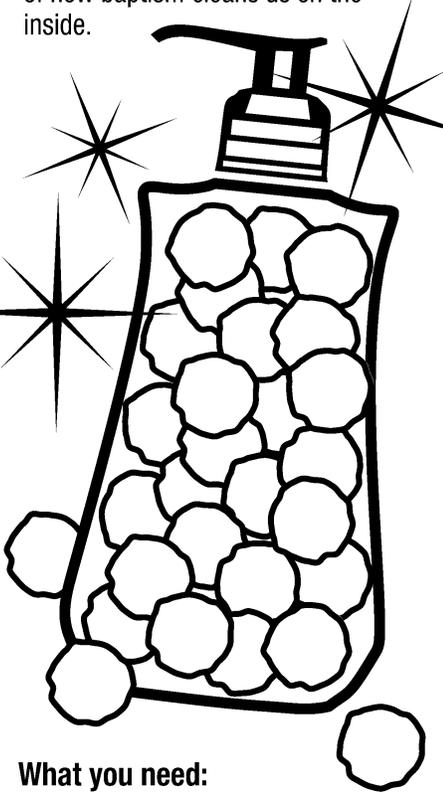
NEED/WANT SOMEONE TO CHECK IN WITH  
YOU OCCASIONALLY?

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

# Kid's Korner

## Washed Clean

Decorate a soap bottle as a reminder of how baptism cleans us on the inside.



### What you need:

- Bottle of clear liquid hand soap
- Small craft pompoms (different colors)
- Wooden skewer

### What you do:

1. Remove the bottle label and unscrew the lid.
2. Using the skewer, push pompoms down into the soap one at a time.
3. Replace the lid and put the dispenser in a bathroom or kitchen.



## A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

*Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.*

We were therefore buried with him  
through baptism into death in order that,  
just as Christ was raised from the dead  
through the glory of the Father,

we too may live a \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 6:4, NIV

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\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: f i e l e w n; new life