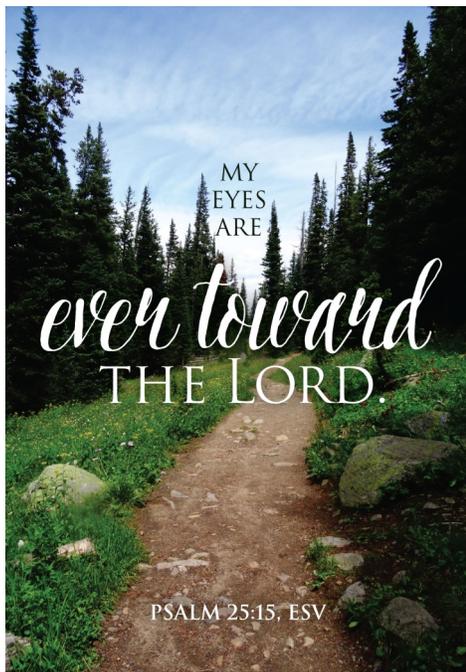


The Good News

MONTHLY PUBLICATION MAY 2019 VOLUME 25 NUMBER 5



IN THIS ISSUE

From Pastor Luehr Pg. 2
 Maria's Musings Pg. 3
 Heart And Hands Outreach..... Pg. 4
 Parish Education..... Pg. 6
 Property Care Team Pg. 7
 Confirmation Sunday Pg. 7
 Meet Vicar Matthew Polsdofer Pg. 8
 El Camino Pines Faith on the Fly..... Pg. 8
 Spring Variety Show Pg. 9
 Joy Circle Pg. 9
 Lay Bible Study Pg. 9
 Schoppa Scholarships Pg. 9
 Children's Activities Page..... Pg. 10

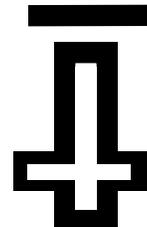
address label here

Sunday, May 19
 Confirmation Sunday Service
 10 AM Combined Worship Service



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

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Post It Notes from Pastor Luehr



On Sunday, April 12, in a special congregational meeting, the good people of Emanuel voted to amend our upcoming budget and welcome a seminary intern into our congregation. Having watched the way this congregation has welcomed, supported and formed Vicar Maria these past nine months makes me excited to see what we will do next as this ministry unfolds. Our new intern, Matt Polsdofer, will be moving out to California shortly and will be officially welcomed and commissioned at worship on Sunday, June 16. To read more about him and his family who will also be part of Emanuel, please read his welcome letter on page 8.

One notable difference between this internship and the previous ones Emanuel has been a part of is that Matt will be with us for two years. I explained this in some detail at the congregational meeting but for those who were unable to attend Matt is part of a new pilot program for Master's of Divinity Students at Luther Seminary called MDivX.

In July 2018, Luther Seminary received a large financial gift to fund a pilot program for an accelerated Master of Divinity program, MDivX. This program allows students who are gifted in areas of ministry to complete the full 30-course MDiv program from Luther Seminary in 24 months by participating in year-round classes and completing concurrent part-time ministry work at congregational sites like Emanuel. Luther Seminary has been looking to the future of education and for nearly a decade has put a strong focus on distributive learning so students are able to complete their class work via online classes, video group classes and intensive on-campus classes.

Matt will be with us from June 2019-2021 working as an intern at Emanuel, learning and leading as past interns have, on a half-time basis. The other half of his time he will be engaging in seminary classes, mostly online with occasional travel back to St. Paul, MN for intensive classes. Because of Matt's background in congregational ministry (see his welcome letter p.8) there are many skills and gifts for professional ministry that he will bring to Emanuel.

I am excited to see where we as a congregation will go in the coming two years and am thrilled to know that it will include the ministry to which God has called us, training future leaders of the church.

Pastor Cate Luehr



When I was in Confirmation, I remember preparing for Confirmation Sunday. In order to be confirmed, we needed to sign up for an appointment with one of the Pastors to have a conversation, a sort of defense for our faith. I remembered thinking that I needed to have all of the right answers. And I was nervous that if I said something wrong, my Pastors had the authority to not confirm me. Little did I know, it wasn't up to them if I was confirmed or not. It was up to me. Did I want to continue in a life of faith? In a life of questions about who God is and what God is doing in our world?

This month on May 19, we will be celebrating with five students who have completed two years in confirmation instruction. We will ask them to affirm the promises made to them in their baptisms and profess their faith. We mark this day by calling it Confirmation Sunday. And we celebrate the end of their two year faith formation coursework. Although it is an end, it is most certainly a beginning.

Throughout their two-year faith formation, these students have asked questions, read the Bible, learned about Lutheran history and tradition, and hopefully had a little fun. Together we have learned that faith is not something that is a 'one and done.' Rather, faith is a lifelong journey. It is a daily dying and rising in Christ. Which is where the Baptism or Affirmation of Baptism part comes in.

In Paul's letter to the Romans, he writes about baptism, "Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). In our hymnal the ELW, Affirmation of Baptism is defined like this:

Affirmation of Baptism may be used at many times in the life of a baptized Christian. It is especially appropriate as part of a process of formation in faith in youth or adulthood (confirmation), at the time of beginning one's participation in a community of faith, as a sign of renewed participation in the life of the church, or at the time of a significant life passage.

Namely, the Affirmation of Baptism, is a new life with a promise to continue asking questions of faith. It is a new life with a declaration to continue studying God's Word, and the world around us, asking questions and being in community with others. It is a new life with a vow to show up for your friends, family, and those in need here and throughout the world. It is a new life with a pledge to be a mirror to other Christians when we are not being Christ's light in the world.

Each day, we are **ALL** invited

- To proclaim our faith in the Triune God
- To renounce the forces of evil found in this world, the ways of sin that draw us away from relationship with God and with one another
- To ask questions and to wonder about the things of God
- To serve the world with humility and with our God given gifts

Confirmation is not one and done, but rather a way to live everyday strengthened by faith in the promises of God through Jesus Christ to live, empowered by the Holy Spirit to share God's love with the whole world!

Vicar Maria



Heart And Hands Outreach Sharing the Good News!

“Feed My Sheep” – John 21

COMMUNITY SHARING AND CARING OUTREACH:

BIG NEWS! HAHO member Janine Ward has worked with Thrivent to obtain a \$3,500 grant for community outreach! This grant will be used by Emanuel members working together to reach those in need. Currently the plan is to have a work party to put together the Thanksgiving bags for Patriots and Paws, with Emanuel members donating only the gift cards. The groceries would be included in the grant. We will also provide needed items for families in transition at HIS House, a ministry in Placentia that both Emanuel and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints recently collaborated on as Women of Faith where we made and donated 25 blankets. We are so excited for this opportunity. Thrivent is well aware of Emanuel’s ongoing outreach and approached us with this amazing grant to share.

FRISTERS: 3,218 Diapers and 6,452 Wipes were delivered to Fristers on April 4. This is an amazing gift that enables the caretakers to properly care for the children while the moms are meeting weekly. Thank you for your generous help! (See picture to the right.)

STUDY BUDDIES: Due to a generous grant of TWO Thrivent Action Team Cards, applied for by two Emanuel Thrivent members, Study Buddies has received a new laptop to assist the students with their online homework along with some snacks and rewards for the students. HAHO contributions help to support this process to encourage these young learners from our community. Proceeds from the Black Bear Fundraiser on April 29 will also go to the Study Buddies ministry.



WINGS & MAMA HILL'S HOUSE: For our annual focus on Mom’s in May, we will prepare special personal hygiene gift bags. We purchased and distributed the bags in April. If you wish to participate, fill the bag and return it to Emanuel no later than May 5, for delivery on May 7. Happy Mother’s Day to all the Mom’s who continue to care for their children under very difficult circumstances.

Items For the Bags:

- Comb
- Brush
- Mirror
- Lip Gloss
- Hand Lotion
- Hand Sanitizer
- Toothbrush & Paste
- Note Pad & Pen
- Mother’s day Card with personal Note

EVANGELISM:

Did you know we have business cards with a picture of our stained glass window, our church information, and our Pastor’s name on them? 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.

We are working on developing and making new yard signs for Christmas and next Easter. The new signs will include our street address.

“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 six years and we continue to see miracles.

Our next HAHO meeting will be on June 1, 2019 at 10:00 AM in the Library. Please join us.

Thank you for your generous Hearts and Hands!

Jeanette Parr
Facilitator



OPPORTUNITY CALENDAR

If you'd like to plan ahead for those ministries which are dearest to your heart, a 2019 calendar of scheduled opportunities is below. (You could post it on your refrigerator!)

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <i>May:</i> | WINGS and Mama Hill's House support for moms |
| <i>June:</i> | WINGS and Daniel Alvarez Center – household cleaning & maintenance items |
| <i>June/July/August:</i> | Support VBS and Parish Ed |
| <i>August/September:</i> | School supplies for Study Buddies and Mama's Hill House |
| <i>October:</i> | Bibles for Preschool & third graders as needed |
| <i>November:</i> | Veteran's Outreach – holiday bags |
| <i>December:</i> | Angel Tree(s) & Fristers/Kidsters Toys |

All opportunities will be highlighted with more information in the “Good News” and the weekly Bulletin.

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



Please note we will have a 10:00 AM COMBINED SERVICE on Sunday, May 19 for Confirmation Sunday with a potluck to follow.



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 be learning about Bible stories through art, games and science. Our focus will continue to be the Fruit of the Spirit as we prepare for our Spring play. We will see how the Fruit of the Spirit is vital in the life of a Christian and how the Holy Spirit guides us. Come and join us.
- **Middle School / Sr. High:** This class meets in the Youth Room at 10:00 AM with Janine Ward and Denise Witcher. All are welcome as we discover how God works in our lives. This class and Confirmation youth helped hide Easter eggs for the special egg hunt on Easter. They also helped prepare and serve the breakfast on Easter morning. A huge THANK YOU to the Hermann family for coordinating the Easter breakfast. It was wonderful!

Offerings: Our focus for our offerings will be to support a ministry that is out of the country.

Seekers: Seekers youth meet each Thursday from 5:30-7:00 PM. We have begun practicing for the Spring Musical. Come join the fun! We have stories, games and snacks.

It's Play Time!!! Come Thursdays from 5:30-7:00 PM as we begin rehearsing for our spring musical "The Agape League — a Superhero Adventure about the Fruits of the Spirit." The performance will be on Sunday, June 9, at 10:45 AM. We have already learned so much about the nine Fruits of the Spirit.



VBS: This year's VBS program will begin Sunday, June 23, and go through Thursday, June 27. Join our adventure with "Roar! Life Is Wild—God Is Good." We thank Kerry Ospital and Brooke Diaz for being the Co-directors of this amazing adventure.

Confirmation will be on Sunday, May 19 at 10:00 AM. This is a combined service and will be followed by a potluck in Moerer Hall. Mark your calendars.

Study Buddies: Our Study Buddies program is going strong and enrollment has been stable. They meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 PM. May 23 will be our last day of Study Buddies for this year. Next fall we will be looking to add a couple new tutors.

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

Board of Parish Education

THANKSGIVING IN MAY! BIG SHOUT-OUT TO OUR PROPERTY TEAM!

April at Emanuel was amazing and we are so thankful for all of the time and effort given to our Church home so it would be fully ready for Easter. Their efforts included:

- Patching the walls
- Painting the cry room, and touching up other areas
- Installing new baseboards in the cry room
- Cleaning toys
- Posting signs
- Cleaning the carpets
- Changing light bulbs and switches
- Adding doorstops
- Trimming and providing palm fronds
- Replacing the refrigerators in the office and the youth room

Just like our own homes, our church has ongoing needs for maintenance and repairs. If you see a need, post it on the Honey-Do List in Moerer Hall and we'll work on taking care of it.

*****Do you have an hour or two a month and some skill to share?
Let us know...we'd love to have your time and talent for God's House.*****

Special Thanks To:

*Mary Ann Carlson
James Crabb
Logan Crabb
Ricki Fehr
Nathan Hermann
Wolfgang Hessel
Keith Kruse
Pastor Cate Luehr
Vicar Maria Markman
Darrell Moyer*

*Patrick Olivier
Jeanette Parr
Cindy Reyes
Eric Stogner
Celeste Templeton
Jack Ward
Denise Witcher
Charles Williamson
Margaret Williamson*



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY May 19 at 10:00 AM Combined Service

Confirmation students will celebrate their Affirmation of Baptism and share their statements of faith during our combined 10:00 AM service on Sunday, May 19, with a congregational Potluck to follow. This year we will have five young people who will complete their 2-year confirmation studies. Please plan to attend this 10:00 AM worship service where our students and their mentors will talk about how they have grown in their faith during this two year program. Then join us in celebrating these young people at the church potluck. Look for a dish sign-up in Moerer Hall during the Month of May.

CONFIRMATION CARE BAGS

In the weeks leading up to Confirmation we will have small bags pinned to the bulletin board in the Narthex. Members are invited to leave encouraging notes, devotional items, or small treats in these bags. Please take time to share some kind words of encouragement and blessings with these students. We will give these well wishes and blessings to our Confirmands at the potluck following Confirmation Sunday.



MEET VICAR MATT POLSDOFER!

Hello Emanuel Family! We are excited to be joining you in just over a month! My name is Matt Polsdofer and I will be serving as your intern for the next two years. I will be joined by my wife Jenni, our children Ben (4 years old) and Ruby (2 years old), and our 90-pound black lab Jax.



We are getting ready to leave my hometown of Forest City, Iowa to come join you! I grew up in Forest City while Jenni grew up in Eastern Iowa. We met in college at Concordia University Chicago. After graduation in 2010 we moved back to Forest City and have been here since. It has been a great place for us to start our family. My dad (& stepmom) along with my brother (& sister-in-law & our nephew) reside in Forest City. I have been feeling this tug towards ministry since I was 15. It has been like a song that you can't get out of your head. It would ebb and flow out of my head, but the last few years it has been getting so loud that I can't ignore it! I have previously worked as an intern in college at a local church doing middle school youth along with being a camp counselor for 3 summers. I have loved each experience and thank God for the opportunities to serve Him.

When Jenni & I moved back to Forest City we began attending Immanuel Lutheran Church in Forest City. After about a month of attending we were asked to lead the middle school youth group. We did this part-time for 3 years, but after having our son Ben we decided to stop. After the first few months of Ben being born, we decided that we wanted one of us to stay at home with him full time. Our pastor learned this and asked me to work at Immanuel again part time doing middle school and high school youth which I've done the past 4 years. I have loved my role at home and at our church, but felt God calling me to a different role. I look forward to partnering with you and seeing where God takes us on this exciting adventure!

In Christ,

Matt Polsdofer

EL CAMINO PINES

- Faith -

ON THE FLY

TAKING YOUR FAITH WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO!

MAY 25-27

MEMORIAL DAY FAMILY CAMP

Get away for the long weekend with a family trip to El Camino Pines Memorial Day Family Camp!

www.LRCChome.com/memorialday

May 25-27

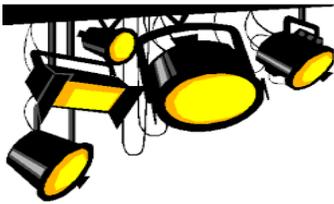
Come with your whole family,
or come alone and meet some new friends!

Children will have their own activities led by the LRCC staff, and adults will meet separately with a keynote speaker. Enjoy a weekend of family, fun and fellowship!

REGISTRATION INFO

Adults (12+):	\$105.00
Youth (4-11):	\$95.00
Children under 3:	Free
Family Max:	\$350.00

Registration is done online and is now open.
Visit www.LRCChome.com/memorialday.



SPRING VARIETY SHOW

**Saturday, May 25, 6:00 PM
Emanuel Lutheran Church**

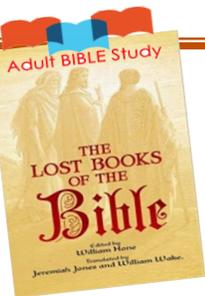
Emanuel's Music Ministry needs YOU to fill our variety show with your talents. We would love to see dancing, singing, acting out a scene from your favorite movie, or tell us some jokes! Emanuel's Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir, and Praise Band will fill in the rest of the show with your favorite songs. Contact Pastor Cate, Vicar Maria, Stephanie Young, or anyone in our music ministries if you would like to participate!



JOY CIRCLE

The Joy Circle Bible Study will meet on **Monday, May 20, from 9:30-11:00 AM.** 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.

This month we will be concluding our five-month Bible study looking at the Gospel of John. We will continue learning how 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 five-session study by Rev. Julie A. Kanarr, we have met 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. **This month they will meet on May 2 and May 16,** where they will continue their study of *The Lost Books of the Bible*. 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.



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. Contact Warren Parr, Wolfgang Hessel or Dwight Carey for more information.

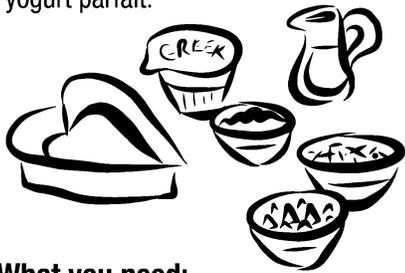
Kid's Korner



HEART-SHAPED breakfast



Treat Mom with this yummy, beautiful yogurt parfait.

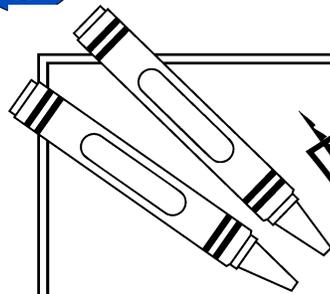


What you need:

- Large heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Greek yogurt (any flavor)
- Toppings (mini chocolate chips, granola, shredded coconut, chia seeds, oats, slivered almonds, blueberries, sliced strawberries, raspberries, bananas)
- 2 teaspoons maple syrup

What you do:

1. Place cookie cutter on a plate. Spoon in yogurt, spreading it to the edges of the cookie cutter.
2. Add toppings, making a nice design. Remove cookie cutter.
3. Drizzle syrup around the edge of the plate.
4. Serve to your mom on Mother's Day!



PUZZLE

A blessed woman

The last chapter of Proverbs describes a woman who loves God and strives to be a good wife and mother.

Directions: Use the picture clues to complete Proverbs 31:15, 28.

She gets _____ while it is still _____ ;



she provides _____ for her _____



Her _____ rise _____ and



_____ her blessed.



PROVERBS 31:15, 28 (NIV)

Answer: up, night, family, children, up, call