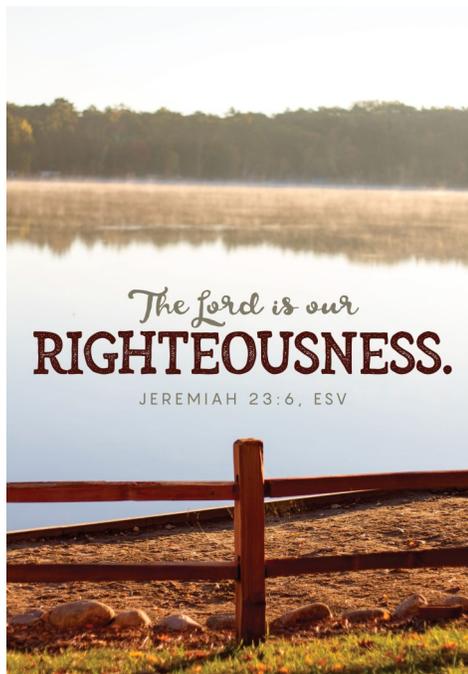


The Good News

MONTHLY PUBLICATION NOVEMBER 2019 VOLUME 25 NUMBER 11



IN THIS ISSUE

From Pastor Luehr	Pg. 2
Matt's Motivational Minute.....	Pg. 3
Help Wanted	Pg. 3
Heart And Hands Outreach.....	Pg. 4
Emanuel Christmas Party	Pg. 5
Parish Education.....	Pg. 6
Annual Congregational Meeting.....	Pg. 7
Constitution & Bylaws Meeting.....	Pg. 7
Joy Circle	Pg. 7
Lay Bible Study.....	Pg. 7
Children's Play	Pg. 8
Polsdofer Baby Shower.....	Pg. 8
Thrivent Choice Dollars.....	Pg. 8
Thanksgiving Dinner Postponed	Pg. 8
Save the Dates	Pg. 9
Children's Activities Page.....	Pg. 10

address label here

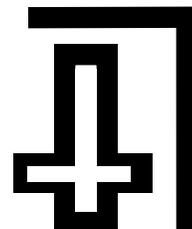
DATED MATERIAL
Please Deliver by 2nd or
3rd of the month.

Emanuel 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 Polsdofer
PRE-SCHOOL 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



A few weeks ago I preached a sermon about gratitude and I mentioned that I would be adding a gratitude journal to my article for the November "Good News". A few years ago a challenge on Facebook was circulating encouraging people to post one thing every day that they are thankful for. So often, social media can be a place to complain or fight or express anger. As I watched these posts, I saw that when one person would write about something they were thankful for it would encourage others to write with their own words of gratitude.

Gratitude is something that can grow through practice. Sometimes life can seem overwhelmingly difficult, but as we are willing to pause and think hard about where God has led us through any given day, usually there is at least one thing we can be thankful for. Even it that is thankfulness that we get to lie down on a soft bed and that a difficult day is coming to an end. So for the month of November I encourage you to keep a gratitude journal. At the end of each day, write down one thing you are thankful for. Feel free to cut out or remove the calendar to the right and put it in a place of prominence in your home. Consider sharing your gratitude daily with friends or family. Watch as the Holy Spirit works in you to change your heart as you practice gratitude.

Pastor Cate Luehr

Today, Lord, I am thankful for...

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

4th _____

5th _____

6th _____

7th _____

8th _____

9th _____

10th _____

11th _____

12th _____

13th _____

14th _____

15th _____

16th _____

17th _____

18th _____

19th _____

20th _____

21st _____

22nd _____

23rd _____

24th _____

25th _____

26th _____

27th _____

28th _____

29th _____

30th _____

Matt's Motivational Minute



"Questions are not scary. What is scary is when people don't have any. What is tragic is faith that has no room for them." -Rob Bell

I have had an awesome opportunity to work with our confirmation students. When working with them, this quote stuck out in my head. We were reading about Adam and Eve interacting with the serpent. After we were done reading the Bible verses, we had some questions. One of those questions was, "Whose fault was the fall?" Was it Adam's? Or Eve's? The crafty serpent? Was it God's? God was the one who created everything and placed Adam and Eve together with the serpent. It was awesome to see our young people wrestle with their faith and be open to ask these questions. It is one of the things that I enjoy about the Wednesday morning Bible study too. There are a lot of questions being asked and everyone is open to exploring those questions.

One of the things I have enjoyed about seminary is the opportunity to ask A LOT of questions. I am the person in the class that is probably driving everyone else crazy, because I'm asking SO MANY questions! Sometimes we have questions or even doubt God, and then wonder if we are not Christians or strong enough Christians. I enjoy learning new things and for me asking questions is one of the best ways to learn. When you have questions about your faith, please do not hesitate to ask me or someone you trust! I may not have the answer, but I am always glad to listen and try to find an answer if there is one. One of my favorite descriptive words of Jesus is teacher. He is glad to meet us where we are and walk with us in our journey.

In Christ,
Vicar Matt



STRONG ♦ COMMITTED ♦ INTELLIGENT

Does this describe YOU?

Saturday, November 16, 7:00 AM – for ONE HOUR.

Help move equipment and furniture from Moerer Hall and the Sunday School Room.

(We will be stripping and waxing the floors.)

NO PAY, BUT ALL THE DONUTS YOU CAN EAT.

**Please let the Church Office (562-691-0656) or
Jeanette Parr (562-761-9488) know if you will be helping.**



STRETCH YOUR MINISTRY LEGS! DON'T MISS THIS FUN EVENT!



Heart And Hands Outreach Sharing the Good News!

“Feed My Sheep” – John 21

COMMUNITY SHARING AND CARING OUTREACH:

PATRIOTS & PAWS: As you know, we received a grant from Thrivent to be used for the Holiday Bags for Patriots & Paws. We have \$2,000 to purchase the grocery items for the bags. We will purchase all of the grocery items for 100 bags, and with other Thrivent members participating, assemble them on **Saturday, November 9 at 10:00 AM.**



This grant cannot be used for the \$20 gift cards (to purchase the turkeys). Therefore, we are asking for 100 grocery gift cards in the amount of \$20 to be purchased by Emanuel members. Your gift card and a personal note from you will be added to the bags when they are packed on November 9.

If you would like to make a complete bag on your own, please fill it with all of the grocery items below and a \$20 grocery gift card (as we have done in the past) and bring it on November 9 or **NO LATER THAN November 10.** This will then allow us to provide holiday dinner for more than 100 veterans and their families.

Items to be in the Holiday Dinner Bags are:

- *\$20 grocery gift card*
- *One Box/Bag of Instant Mashed Potatoes*
- *One Box/Container of Stuffing Mix*
- *Two Packets of Dry Gravy or Two Cans of Turkey Gravy*
- *Two Cans Green Beans*
- *One Large Can of Yams*
- *Two Cans of Chicken Broth*
- *One Can of Cranberry Sauce*

*** The blue Emanuel bags are available for this purpose.***

WANDS FOR WILDLIFE “WANDRAISER”: Thank you for your donations of wands and eyeglasses. They will make a huge difference in the lives of people and wildlife!

ANGEL TREE FOR WINGS / UNWRAPPED TOYS FOR HIS HOUSE: It is already time to be planning for our very fun and exciting Christmas which allows us to help families who are in transition both at the WINGS facility which shelters victims of domestic violence, and also this year HIS House, which shelters families in transition from homelessness to being in their own homes.

The ANGEL TREE will have tags with family members’ genders, ages and wishes. Tags will be available on December 1 and December 8, with all gifts returned **NO LATER THAN December 15.** In addition, we will have a box for new, unwrapped toys for children from 10 months to 17 years old which will be given to HIS House for the children who have graduated from the program recently, but still may not receive a gift in their new surroundings. **THEY WILL NOT ACCEPT TOY GUNS OF ANY KIND.** How about picking one or two items up while you’re shopping and seeing all of those adorable toys? **These toys will be collected on November 24 and December 1 for delivery by December 6.** If you are interested in participating in the delivery of these toys, please let Janine Ward or Mischelle Uhlman know.

EVANGELISM:

THE BLUE SHOPPING BAGS ARE BACK! If you need a new bag, they are available, just let us know.

Did you know we have business cards? 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 over six years and we continue to see miracles.

The next HAHO meeting is Saturday, January 11, at 10:00 AM. Please join us.

Thank you for your generous Hearts and Hands!

Jeanette Parr
Facilitator



ELFFF's
Emanuel Lutheran FOOD~FUN~FELLOWSHIP

Who: Any adults who enjoy the above! Everyone welcome!
Where: Emanuel Lutheran Church – Moerer Hall
When: Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 5:00 PM
Menu: Yummy (Hearty) Hors d'oeuvres & Dessert
Cost: Bring an Hors d'oeuvre OR Dessert for 8-10 people.
Bring a wrapped “white elephant” gift (each of you).

Please let us know if you're coming so we can plan
RSVP by Wednesday, December 4
Ricki @ rickifehr@yahoo.com (714-718-6127) OR
Jeanette @ parr3@roadrunner.com (562-761-9488)

Merry Christmas!



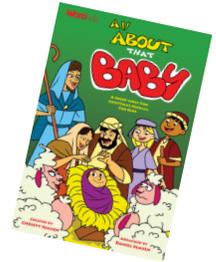
FROM THE BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION

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 through 5th Grade meet 10 10:00 AM in Moerer Hall. We are studying the Creation (Genesis 1:1-31, Genesis 2:4-25) and that God created everything in the whole world — including us! We will learn that we are created in God’s image and that all people are worthy of love and respect.

Offerings: During November and December, offerings will be used to purchase gifts for children from the WINGS shelter. A boy and a girl will be chosen from the Angel Tree. The students can see how their offering can help others in this special way.

Seekers: Seekers meet each Thursday from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. All youth from kindergarten through 6th grade are welcome. We have begun the year with enthusiasm, energy, and a spirit of fellowship. In November, we will begin practicing four our Christmas play. All are welcome to join us.



Study Buddies: Study Buddies continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:00 PM for children in grades 1-6. Please note the ending time has changed to 5:00 PM instead of 5:30 PM. This program is open to all children in our surrounding neighborhood as well as our Emanuel Lutheran family. Invite your friends! We would like to add 2 or 3 more tutors to our wonderful group of volunteers so please consider giving us a try. We think you’ll love it. High school students are also welcome to tutor — this would be a great way to earn community service. Talk to Jill Drummond or Char Ponzio for details.

Trunk-or-Treat: Many thanks to all who contributed items, prepared food, decorated trunks, and let games for this festive event. We also thank Kirsten Garcia for making the trophies for the trunk decorating event.

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

Board of Parish Education



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, **November 10, at 4:00 PM** in the Sanctuary. Be sure and pick up your copy of the Annual Report. They will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, October 27, or you can pick one up in the Church Office during the week of October 28th. **Please plan to attend!**

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW CHANGES INFORMATION MEETING

The council has been working over the past few months to update our constitution to be more in line with the ELCA model constitution. Many of the changes within the constitution are fairly straightforward, however it is important to update this document from time to time. There are also some changes to existing bylaws along with a new bylaw being proposed at the annual meeting. These updates have all been affirmed by the council and will be brought to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting. Because it is a lengthy document, we will not be going line-by-line at the annual meeting and instead will look to update the constitution and bylaw as a whole. We do want to provide people a chance to discuss these updates with the Pastor and Vice President of the congregation so we will hold an information meeting on Sunday, **November 3, at 10:00 AM in the Moerer Hall fireside room** for anyone who is interested in looking at the changes prior to the November 10 Annual Congregational Meeting.

JOY CIRCLE



The Joy Circle Bible Study will meet on **Monday, November 18, 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.

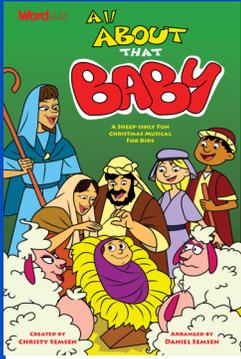
We have begun a 3-month study focusing on Old Testament poetry and the emotions they portray. If you have never participated in the Joy Circle before, consider trying one or more of the 3 or 4 month sessions. Extra copies of this Bible study will be available that morning.



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. This month they will meet on Thursday, November 5, and Thursday, November 19, 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.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL DECEMBER 15, 2019

We invite all children to be a part of our holiday musical "All About that Baby" published by Word Music. Practices will be on Thursdays beginning November 7 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. The musical will be presented on December 15 at the 10:45 Praise Service followed by a potluck luncheon in Moerer Hall immediately after the service.

Angels and shepherds and...talking sheep? Oh, my! Bethlehem is overflowing with people arriving from out of town. Nathaniel, a lovable but scatter-brained, late-for-work shepherd, bumps into two of those travelers as he rushes to take his shift at watching the flock. The other shepherds, are waiting for Nathaniel—late once again—to arrive. Thus begins a story that is ALL ABOUT THAT BABY. Some entirely new, fictional characters explore what it might have been like had they enjoyed a "front row seat" to the events of that holy night! Join us for this delightful presentation of the blessed story of Jesus' birth. Please contact Mary Ann Carlson at (562) 619-0532 with any questions.

BABY SHOWER!!

A baby shower for Vicar Matt and Jenni Polsdofe will be held on Saturday, November 2, at 10:00 AM in Moerer Hall. Join us for fun and refreshments. Their baby girl is due late November and they are registered at Target.

Contact Robyn Ospital or Jill Drummond if you would like to help.

...it's a girl!



THRIVENT MEMBERS

Remember to allocate your Choice Dollars before they expire. Whether you designate your monies to Emanuel or another worthwhile approved organization, don't let money go to waste. If you regularly do so online, great. But if it's easier, there are forms in the Narthex to fill out and we will hand deliver them to the local Thrivent office. This is such a wonderful opportunity to help others through God's goodness to us. If you have questions about whether you are eligible, contact the Thrivent office.

Emanuel Lutheran's Annual "Thanksgiving Dinner"

Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner will not be held in 2019 due to the upcoming Polsdofe baby shower and the 60-year anniversary celebration.

POSTPONED





Lessons & Carols

*Sunday, December 15
9:00 AM
Traditional Worship Service*

Come hear the Christmas Story

As told through scripture and song during Lessons & Carols.

Emanuel's Chancel Choir will lead a beautiful service marking the Season of Advent. Don't miss the chance to worship and sing your favorite Christmas Carols!



SAVE THE DATES

- ◆ Our **Emanuel Christmas Party** will be held on **Saturday, December 7, beginning at 5:00 PM** in Moerer Hall.
- ◆ **"Hanging of the Greens"** (decorating the church for Christmas) will be held on **Friday, December 13, starting at 5:00 PM** in the Sanctuary. Christmas music will be playing and treats served! Join us!



EMANUEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This coming January, Emanuel will be celebrating 60 years of ministry in La Habra. We will have a 60th anniversary celebration the morning of **Sunday, January 26**. Please reserve this day on your calendar to celebrate with your Emanuel family.

Kid's Korner

GRATITUDE game

Start a fun tradition by playing this game on Thanksgiving.

What you need:

- M&M's or other colored candies
- A bowl
- The list below (adapt the colors, as needed)

Red: a need God has provided for

Orange: a gift you've received

Yellow: something you've recently learned

Green: something in nature

Blue: a special memory

Brown: someone you love

What you do:

1. One at a time, people pick a candy and share what they're thankful for (according to the color).
2. Pass the bowl around and continue reflecting on God's goodness until all the candy is gone!



A feast of praise

Throughout the Bible, God's people give thanks and praise for his goodness.



Directions: Draw lines to match the scriptures (all NIV) with the correct speaker.

"I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3

Hannah

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1:46-47

David

"He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him." Exodus 15:2

Mary

"My heart rejoices in the LORD." 1 Samuel 2:1

Paul

"I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30

Moses

Answers: Philippians 1:3, Paul; Luke 1:46-47, Mary; Exodus 15:2, Moses; 1 Samuel 2:1, Hannah; Psalm 69:30, David