

The Good News

MONTHLY PUBLICATION DECEMBER 2019 VOLUME 25 NUMBER 12

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Holiday Worship Schedule

- ◆ **December 15:**
 9:00 AM Lessons & Carols
 10:45 AM Children's Christmas Musical
- ◆ **December 24: Christmas Eve Worship**
 7:00 PM and 11:00 PM
- ◆ **December 29: 10:00 AM Combined
 Worship Service**

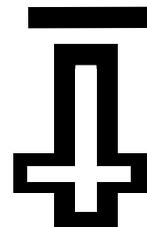
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Sunday, December 29
10 AM Combined Worship Service



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



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

Post It Notes from Pastor Luehr



John 13:35
By this shall all
men know that ye
are my disciples, if
ye have love one to
another.

A few years ago, I ran across this Christian website called *Advent Conspiracy* and its four basic tenants inspiring people of faith to reconnect with the meaning of Christmas:

WORSHIP FULLY ~ SPEND LESS ~ GIVE MORE ~ LOVE ALL

There is a book that describes the movement in detail, but I feel like this snippet from their website (<https://adventconspiracy.org>) sums it up pretty well:

This isn't a formula or strict set of rules. Advent Conspiracy is about reorienting our hearts back to Christ. It's about letting go of traditions that actually take our focus away from God during Christmas. Things like overstuffed schedules, credit card debt, stress and dread have replaced the hope and peace the angels speak of.

*“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”
– Luke 2:14*

Advent Conspiracy started when a few pastors realized people were struggling to find the connection between Christmas to-do lists and the story of Jesus' birth. An overwhelming stress had overtaken the worship and celebration of the King.

I have wanted to introduce these themes to Emanuel for a while and I think this is finally the year. Beginning on the First Sunday in Advent and continuing throughout our Midweek Advent Worship we will look at how “The Christmas Holiday” draws us away from “The Christmas Miracle” and what we can do to re-center our lives in a rapidly changing world. If you cannot attend the midweek worship service during the day, look to our Facebook page each week during December to be a part of the discussion with other people from Emanuel. This will not be a time to wage war on the commercialization of Christmas, but rather it will be a time to really look at our own lives and see how we can change our thoughts and actions to reflect Christ.

Pastor Cate Luehr



Matt's *Motivational Minute*



We can't sleep, we can't think, can't escape the noise

We can't take the noise, so we just make noise

— from the song “Noise” by Kenny Chesney

Noise

Vicar Matt, what does a country song by Kenny Chesney have to do with Advent or Christmas? Great question!!! At first glance, or hearing the song in this case, the two could not be further apart. One thing you probably do not know about me is that I am a country music fan. I was listening to this song one day as I was getting ready. I was rushing through all the tasks I had to do before leaving the house because I was running late. In the midst of getting ready and listening to this song I realized that I cannot escape the noise of my life, so like the song I made more noise.

So where does this connect with Advent? If you notice in a lot of the Advent characters, they were able to find a quiet space where they were able to escape the noise and hear God talking to them. Think about Mary, Jesus’ mother. She is able to escape the noise and hear an angel call out to her, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you,” when finding out that she was going to be the mother of Jesus. Or what about Joseph? He has an angel of the Lord appearing to him in a dream. Or what about the three wise men who are divinely warned in a dream to not return to King Herod? Or what about those shepherds who are keeping watch over their flock one night and an angel of the Lord appears to them to tell them, “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” What do they all have in common? They all had an opportunity where they could hear the Lord speaking to them.

What would the story be like if they were too busy adding to the noise in their life? How do we add to the noise in our lives — through social media, YouTube, and many other things? What if an angel of the Lord is talking to us right now? Would we be able to hear it or is it drowned out by noise?

I encourage you during this busy season of Advent and Christmas that you try to take just a few minutes a day to have quiet time and hear if the Lord is trying to talk with you.

God’s peace,
Vicar Matt



IT’S TIME TO DIG OUT YOUR YARD SIGN

As you get out your holiday decorations this year, remember to take out your invitation sign and place it in your front yard. **PLEASE DO SO BEGINNING DECEMBER 1st.**

If you returned your sign to the office, or did not receive one, you may pick one up in the narthex beginning December 1st. The signs will be available right up until Christmas Eve. Please place one in your yard and take the opportunity to invite your neighbors to join us in worship. You may get a chance to start up a conversation with someone you didn’t know was looking for a place to celebrate the birth of our wonderful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What an awesome thought! Thank you in advance for your willingness.



Heart And Hands Outreach Sharing the Good News!

"Feed My Sheep" – John 21

COMMUNITY SHARING AND CARING OUTREACH:

PATRIOTS & PAWS: On November 12th, 106 Holiday Dinner Bags were delivered . . . meaning 106 veterans and their families were fed. Thanks to Thrivent for the grant, to their members for helping pack, and to Emanuel for all of the gift cards!



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.

NEW THIS YEAR, we will have a box for new, unwrapped toys for children from 10 months to 17 years of age, 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 GUNS OF ANY KIND.** How about picking one or two items up while you're shopping and seeing all of those adorable toys? **HIS House Toy Box will be in Moerer Hall from November 24 through Friday, December 6.**

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.

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

Merry Christmas!



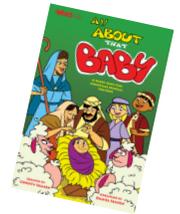
FROM THE BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION

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 at 10:00 AM in Moerer Hall. We are studying about the birth of Christ as we prepare for our Christmas musical.

Offerings: During 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: IT'S PLAY TIME! Our youth are now rehearsing for "All About That Baby," which is a sheepishly fun Christmas musical. Seekers meet each Thursday from 5:30 to 7:00 PM for our play practice. The play will take place on December 15 at 10:45 AM with a potluck following the performance. All youth are welcome.



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.

Confirmands, Seekers, and High School Youth: There will be a special joint Craft Night event at 6:00 PM on Thursday, December 19 where we will have games, crafts, and snacks. Don't miss out on the fun! Come and make a gift for a special friend or family member.



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

Board of Parish Education



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.

Youth Decorate the Church!

All Youth are invited to help decorate the church for Christmas. On Friday, **December 13, meet at 5:00 PM** in the sanctuary to help the congregation decorate. We will play music, have some Christmas snacks and make the sanctuary look ready for Christmas! Feel free to invite friends too!



Youth & Children Craft Night

On **Thursday, December 19**, all youth and children are invited to Moerer Hall to participate in an end-of-the-year Christmas Party. We will have snacks, games, and lots of Christmas crafts. Do you have a parent, teacher, or relative who you would like to make a gift for? This is the perfect event! We will even have some wrapping paper and gift bags to wrap up any special creations. All kids Kindergarten through 12th grade are invited to join us from **6-7:30 PM in Moerer Hall**. Any adults who would like to help our younger crafters at this event, please talk with Mary Ann Carlson.

JOY CIRCLE



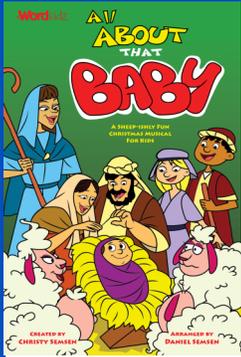
The Joy Circle Bible Study will meet on **Monday, December 16, from 9:30-11:00 A.M.** The Joy Circle is a women's group that gathers on the third Monday of each month in the Hope Center Library for fellowship and treats and to participate together in a Bible study taken from *Gather Magazine*, the magazine 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 Hope Center Library

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 (across from the library). **Due to the holidays, they will not be meeting in December, but will resume on January 9th and 23rd** (note this is the 2nd and 4th Thursday). They are using Dr. Charles Stanley's monthly Bible study lessons along with *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. All are welcome to join! 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.

MOERER HALL FLOOR PROJECT

On Saturday, November 16, and Sunday, November 17, a group of hardworking people cleared out the furniture to allow for the renewal of the floors in Moerer Hall, the kitchen, and the Sunday School Room — and had it back together before worship on Sunday! What a great team! The floor looks absolutely beautiful and we couldn't have done it without you!



Many thanks to: Mary Ann Carlson, Janine Ward, Jack Ward, Carl Pulley, Jerry Schnakenberg, Seth Schnakenberg, John Ospital, Wolfgang Hessel, Ben Polsdofer, Cindy Reyes, Eric Stogner, Ruby Polsdofer, Vicar Matt Polsdofer, and Clayton Mark. (Not pictured: Evan Reyes, Jeff Ospital, Robyn Ospital, Ricki Fehr) You are all awesome!



MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE

Advent is a time of anxious preparation awaiting the coming of our Lord. We will be celebrating this time of waiting at our midweek services on Wednesdays in December at 10:15 AM.

During this time we will meet in the Moerer Hall Fireside Room for a time of prayer, Christmas hymns, and a message. We will look at how "The Christmas Holiday" draws us away from "The Christmas Miracle" and what we can do to re-center our lives in a rapidly changing world. We hope that you are able to join us in celebration of the expectant incarnation!

Wednesday, December 4:	10:15 AM
Wednesday, December 11:	10:15 AM
Wednesday December 18:	10:15 AM



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!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ 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 on **Friday, December 13, starting at 5:00 PM** in the Sanctuary. Christmas music will be playing and treats served! Join us!
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Services** on **Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00 PM and 11:00 PM**
- ◆ **Combined Worship Service** on **December 29 at 10:00 AM**



EMANUEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

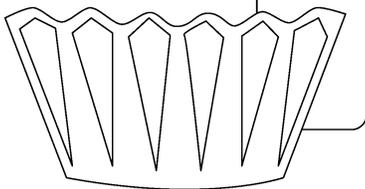
This coming January, Emanuel will be celebrating 60 years of ministry in La Habra. We will have a 60th anniversary celebration the morning of **Sunday, January 26**. Please reserve this day on your calendar to celebrate with your Emanuel family.

Kid's Korner

Light the way



Make some Christmas candles to remember Jesus, the Light of the world.

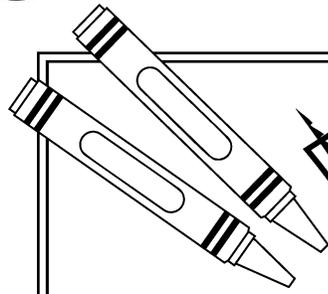


What you need:

- Unlined white notecards
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Yellow tissue paper
- Mini muffin liners
- Clothespins

What you do:

1. Roll a notecard from side to side into a "candle" tube. Secure with glue.
2. Insert a piece of tissue paper "flame" in one end.
3. Glue the other end to a muffin liner. Then glue the liner to a clothespin.
4. Repeat to make many paper candles. Pin them to the branches of a Christmas tree.



PUZZLE

Symbols of the *season*

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.



shepherd's staff

_ _ _ _

tree that keeps its leaves

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

shines to lead the way

_ _ _

green for eternal life,
red for Jesus' blood

_ _ _ _ &
_ _ _ _ _

sounds to announce
good news

_ _ _ _

has no beginning or end

_ _ _ _ _

Th ks b to od fo is
indesc ba le gif !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

Answer: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly & berries, bell, wreath.
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV