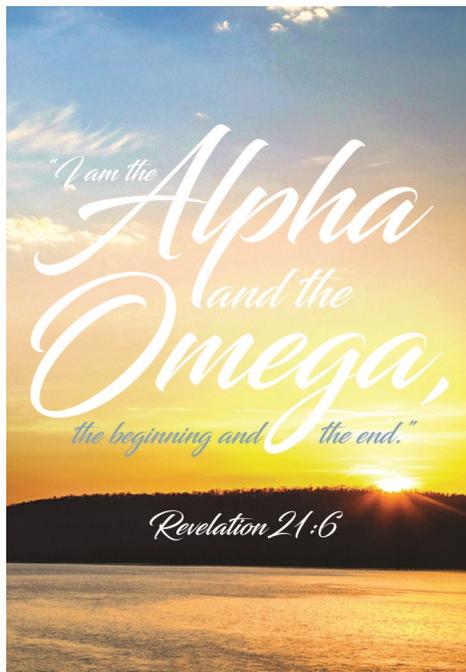


The Good News

MONTHLY PUBLICATION JANUARY 2020 VOLUME 26 NUMBER 1



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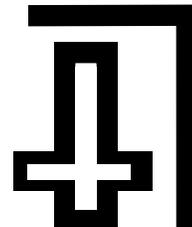
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Sunday, January 26
 10 AM Combined Worship Service



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

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

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.

“I’M SICK AND TIRED!”

As I’m writing this article, I am literally both sick and tired. I caught a cold that has left me with much less energy than I am used to, hence both sick and tired. But it has me thinking about this phrase “I’m sick and tired of...” You have probably said this more than a few times and probably with a few different endings to that sentence:

“I’m sick and tired of this traffic!”

“I’m sick and tired of her music!”

“I’m sick and tired of his attitude!”

“I’m sick and tired of you!”

I realized that all of these statements are complaints. It’s natural in our human story to complain about things that bother us, things that get under our skin, things that we are sick and tired of. I have been wondering what this complaining does to us, emotionally speaking. I think in the short term it might make us feel better or vindicated to blame someone else or something else for our bad attitude, but ultimately we are the ones who end up feeling worse by our complaining.

There are, of course, things in life and in the world that require us to speak up and act in line with the Gospel and not in line with evil—things like sexism, abuse, inequality and much more. All of these things beg for us to speak the word of Christ into a broken world. By calling out the wrongs of the world, we are speaking a word of God’s peace to redefine it. But complaining about how long the line was at the grocery store is probably not what He was going for when Jesus commanded us to speak out against oppression.

I have done it, as I’m sure you have too. I complain first in my head how long the line is, then I get a perturbed look on my face, then I grumble to the person next to me about how long it’s taking, then I whine to the cashier about how long I’ve waited, followed with a bunch of heavy sighs in my car ride home and the first words out of my mouth when I get home are about how I would have been home sooner if the lines at the grocery store weren’t so long!!! I haven’t solved anything and really only succeeded in creating more dissatisfaction in myself and those around me.

Jesus Calls us to be agents of change in our world, and while we may have lofty goals of healing the world of all the social ills and bringing about the Kingdom of God, sometimes we can make a bigger impact by changing ourselves. In the new year, I challenge you to implement the Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr:

*God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can,
And wisdom to know the difference.*

Pastor Cate Luehr

Matt's *Motivational* Minute



*"Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."
-Martin Luther King Jr.*

NEW BEGINNINGS

There is something special about New Year's Eve. There is so much hope and anticipation for what the year will bring. It will finally be the year we achieve a certain goal. Maybe that it is finally the year we lose the weight we've wanted to, start eating healthy, watch less tv, read more, or whatever our goal is. On New Year's Eve almost anything seems possible, but a few weeks later on January 15th or so we come back to "reality." Losing that weight may be harder than we thought or watching less tv may be harder because our favorite show returned, or a brand-new show just came out! We sometimes feel like we have to wait the rest of the year for that New Year's Eve again. As Christians, we can do this with our faith life as well. On New Year's we could have some big lofty goal of reading the whole Bible that year or increasing our volunteer hours a ton, yet we can get that same dejected feeling on January 15th. Yet we read in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" We are in Christ and we are a new creation. The old has gone and the new is here! As Christians it can be hard to have that excitement and anticipation daily that we have on New Year's Eve, but we are being made new! As MLK says, we need to just take the first step towards our goal. We do not have to read the entire Bible in one day, rather just start by reading a verse. We do not need to volunteer 40 hours in a week, rather start with one hour a week. As 2020 approaches rapidly and will surely speed by us, I pray that we all remember we are a new creation daily. The old is gone and the new is here!

God's peace,
Vicar Matt



Heart And Hands Outreach Sharing the Good News!

"Feed My Sheep" – John 21



COMMUNITY SHARING AND CARING OUTREACH:

TWO BIG BOXES OF TOYS WERE DELIVERED TO HIS HOUSE! Dolls, cars, trucks, games, balls, and every kind of toy imaginable went to the children and graduates of HIS HOUSE, an interim home and home transition provider for families. Janine Ward and Jeanette Parr delivered the toys on December 6, and because you shared MORE toys, a second trip was made by Janine on December 9. In addition, the Joy Circle and the Take-It-To-The-Lord-In-Prayer group adopted a 4-year-old brother and a 15-year-old sister who are residents of HIS HOUSE and provided everything on their wish lists.

WHAT A JOY to give and provide gifts in our Lord's name to these children. Thank you all for your generosity.

WINGS ANGEL TREE: On November 30, The ANGEL TREE was decorated and tags with family wishes were applied. On December 1, all the tags were taken! Thanks to Mischelle Uhlman for coordinating this ministry to WINGS, a shelter for victims of domestic violence. Thanks to Jo Ellen Dobson, Jean Arata, Denise Whitcher and Janine Ward for helping in this endeavor.



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



“Hanging of the Greens”



Every year our sanctuary is beautifully decorated for Christmas. On December 13, the following people made it happen:

- Ricki and Ruth Fehr
- Jeff and Kerry Ospital
- John and Robyn Ospital
- Jeanette and Warren Parr
- Celeste Templeton
- Margaret, Lisa, Liam, and Reagan Williamson

Thank you to all of the Emanuel people who contribute to this beauty!



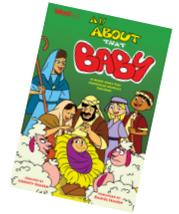
FROM THE BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION

Sunday School Classes are held weekly for Preschool through 5th Grade. Visitors are always welcome! Classes for Preschool to 5th grade meet at 10:00 AM in Moerer Hall. We will continue to learn about when Jesus was born and why they traveled to Egypt (Luke 1:26-58; 2:1-20).

Offerings: Gifts were purchased for a 6-year-old girl and a 7-year-old boy whose names were on the Angel Tree. Our weekly offerings helped to buy these gifts. Our students discovered that when we give offerings, it goes to help others, even kids their own ages.

Seekers: Seekers will return on Thursday, January 9, 2020. The youth meet each Thursday from 6:00-7:00 PM.

"It's All About That Baby" Play: We thank all of our students who participated in our musical play. They did a great job and we learned all about our Savior's birth from a shepherd's viewpoint. We thank Jack Ward for setting up sound for us. We also thank Francis Cuyno for helping with our play rehearsals and managing the accompaniment DVD. Francis also assists with Sunday School and with the Seeker program.



Study Buddies: Our Study Buddies program is going strong. They meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 5:00 PM. They will resume on January 7 after the Christmas break. There is still a need for more tutors on Thursdays. Talk to Jill Drummond or Char Ponzio for details. Come join the fun.

Youth and Children's Craft Night: Craft night was held on December 19 where we had snacks, games, and Christmas crafts. It was a festive time!

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

Board of Parish Education

UNDER
CONSTRUCTION
Ephesians 2:10



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH RETREAT!!

The weekend of **February 15-17**, 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 **Friday, January 31**. We will be able to play with the farm animals, worship, join in great camp activities, learn with other youth 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.*

This year's theme is ... **UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." —Ephesians 2:10



MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE
A SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER MUSEUM

MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE CONFIRMANDS TRIP SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

On Sunday, January 19, the confirmation students and their mentors will be traveling to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. The Museum of Tolerance outing is an incredible time for students and adults to explore how we can be more accepting of those who may look or act or believe differently than we do. We will finish the evening with dinner together.

If you know of a Junior High student who is not in confirmation but would like to attend, please speak with Pr. Cate or Vicar Matt. More information will be mailed directly to the confirmation students and mentors.



FULFILLING YOUR GENEROSITY WITH LEGACY PLANNING

Wednesday, February 19, 10:15-11:15 AM in Moerer Hall

When creating our legacy plans, we hope to create financial support for all the organizations and people we love. However, navigating this pathway of intent can be trying and confusing. Please join us for a dynamic conversation about your passions, legacy intentions, and how to connect them with efficiency to your estate planning. A dedicated committee of Emanuel members have been working for several months creating a gift policy to best serve the ministry of Emanuel when we are blessed to receive such gifts. Please RSVP to the church office by Sunday, February 16. Light refreshments will be served. If you would like to attend but cannot be there on February 19, please let us know and Lisa Higginbotham will be happy to meet with you individually.



Lisa Higginbotham, Regional Gift Planner for ELCA Foundation will be leading our presentation. Lisa successfully worked in the financial services industry for 25 years, including her own professional practice as a financial advisor, specializing in retirement and legacy planning. Hoping to bring her experience and advocacy to each, she helps create gift and endowment policy, works directly with donors to help them express generosity, and transitions merging or closing organizations to fulfill their legacies by combining assets or disposition.

JOY CIRCLE



The Joy Circle Bible Study will meet on **Monday, January 13, from 9:30-11:00 AM.** **Please note this is one week earlier than usual.** 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.

Starting in January we will begin a 4-month study titled "We are Called." Each Bible Study we will explore what it means to be called by God and to what ministries and vocations our Lord calls each and everyone of us. 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, this month they will meet 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.

Join us for . . .



Emanuel's 60th Anniversary Celebration

SUNDAY JANUARY 26, 2020
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 AM
LUNCHEON FOLLOWING SERVICE

Please join us in remembering how God has blessed and honored our ministry at Emanuel Lutheran Church.

Please RSVP by January 19 to (562) 691-0656 or churchinfo@elclh.org.

60TH ANNIVERSARY HELP

Emanuel's 60th anniversary is coming up on Sunday, January 26. We plan to have a huge celebration with a festive worship, trip through the decades, luncheon and commemorative banner. Please let us know if you would like to help with the celebration. Specifically we would like people to help coordinate and set up for the catered lunch, and people to help assemble the commemorative banner. Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping. Many hands make light work.

Kid's Korner

"STEP" INTO THE NEW YEAR

Make this craft to remember God's many blessings.

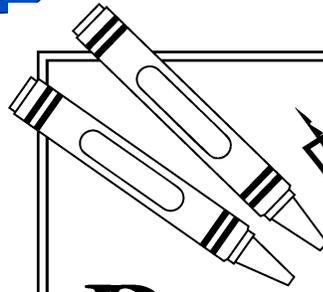


What you need:

- Small stones
- Permanent markers
- Foil pan and cooking spray
- Drop cloth
- Gloves
- Quick-set concrete (and adult help)
- Bucket and paint stirrer

What you do:

1. After reflecting on the past year, use markers to decorate stones with memorable words, dates and drawings.
2. Spray pan with cooking spray. Set pan outside on a drop cloth.
3. Wearing gloves, mix concrete in a bucket, according to instructions.
4. Pour concrete into pan. Smooth top with paint stirrer.
5. Press in stones, handprints and other decorations.
6. Let dry completely. Remove from pan.
7. Place the stepping-stone outside as a reminder of God's continued goodness.

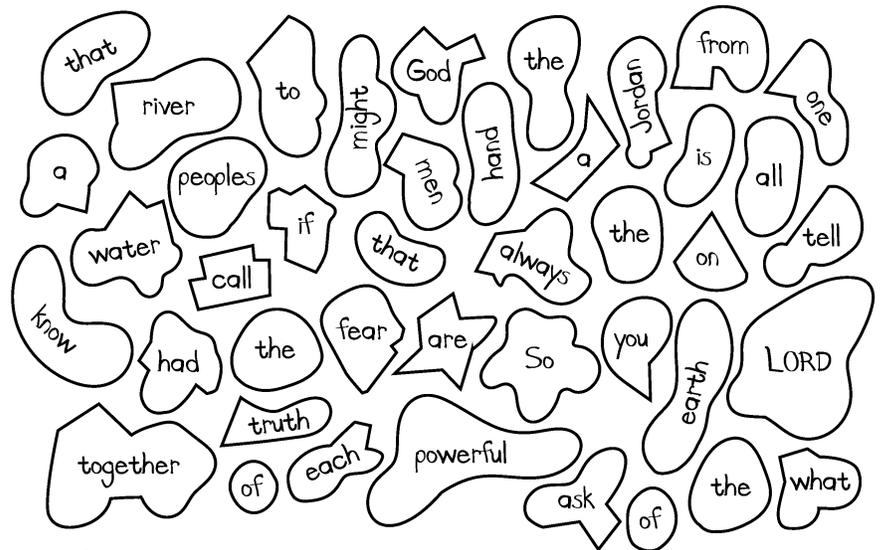


PUZZLE

Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.



So _____ the _____ the
 _____ the
 _____ the _____ .

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV