

# The Good News

MONTHLY PUBLICATION AUGUST 2020 VOLUME 26 NUMBER 8



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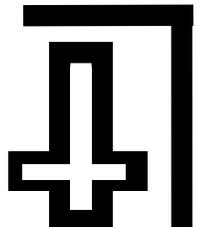
**DATED MATERIAL**  
 Please Deliver by 2nd or  
 3rd of the month.

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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: ww.elch.org

9:00 a.m.  
 10:45 a.m.  
 10:00 a.m.  
 Catherine E. Luehr  
 Matt Polsdorfer  
 Jonine Sadders



# 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.

## LISTENING FOR GOD

This Summer a group of 22 people were split into two groups for a virtual book club where we weekly read and discuss a chapter from the book *Listening for God*. This book is a compilation of short stories with discussion questions at the end of each story. All of the stories have a component of listening for God in unique places.

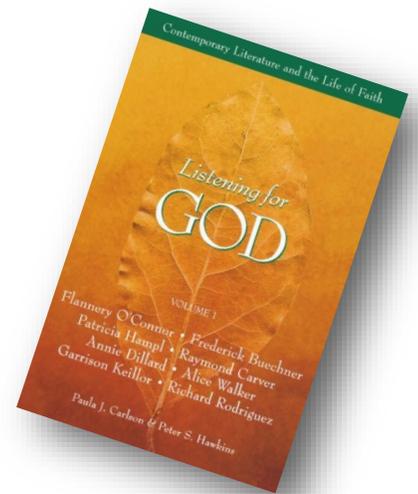
Confession time—I picked this book because it was an easy one for people to jump in and out of, we had a copy on the church library shelves, and the editors gave discussion questions so I didn't have to work very hard. However, when we started the first few stories I thought I had gotten myself in way over my head.

When I hear “short story” I think of a light-hearted narrative, maybe something like a fable with a nice moral at the end. That was not true for these stories! The first story was a heavy one to read. Then the second one was even more dense, and on and on they went. In discussing several of the stories, many members of the book club would share that they didn't enjoy the stories at all. I was worried that I had chosen poorly.

However, as the weeks have continued, even though the stories have not gotten any easier or lighter, our discussions have become richer and overall many people have been “enjoying” the book club. One of the overwhelming sentiments is that even though these stories are heavy or sad, they have opened up a wealth of places to Listen for God. Often times we come into situations of prayer ready to *talk to God* or *search for God*, but it takes a great amount of dedication and intentional quieting of the mind to pause and *listen for God*.

This book club has opened me up (and many book club members) to realize that God does not just speak to us through scripture, or sermon or song. Sometimes God speaks to us in unexpected ways. Our job is to create the space in our noisy lives (or at least quiet our noisy internal thoughts) and make ourselves people who are *listening for God*.

Pastor Cate Luehr



# Matt's *Motivational* Minute



*“I believe that God can and will let good come out of everything, even the greatest evil.  
For that to happen, God needs human beings who let everything work out for the best.”*

*—Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Have you heard of Dietrich Bonhoeffer before? He may be the most popular Lutheran pastor behind Martin Luther himself. I am currently in an independent study with eight of my classmates in a course called “Ministry in Pandemic.” COVID-19 clearly has impacted our lives and during this course we are looking at different people in the Bible and other Christians who suffered from exile or isolation during their lifetime that can provide some insights for us today during this global pandemic. Bonhoeffer was a German pastor who helped to conspire a plan to overthrow Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Regime. Unfortunately for Bonhoeffer he was imprisoned and ultimately executed. During his two years when he was in prison, he was isolated, cut off from family and friends, and faced an uncertain future. While he had times of doubt, depression and fear for the future, he also used this time to reflect on the church. He used his time in prison to re-imagine and dream of the future for the church. One of his biggest questions he tried to answer was “What is Christianity or who is Christ actually for us today?” When he was exploring this HUGE question, he realized that Christ, when on earth, served as an example for us by caring for others. It is when we look outside of ourselves that we are living into the calling that Christ has for us.

SOOOOOOOO during this time of exile, isolation and uncertainty what would it look like if we took time to reflect on our own individual faith and reflect on the meaning of church? What if we could listen for the small whispers of the Holy Spirit calling us forward to live out God’s plan? COVID-19 has been an extreme challenge, but we can use this time for prayer, listening and reflection so that it won’t be a waste of time. God has a calling for each of us and I look forward to seeing where God takes us all!

God’s peace,  
Vicar Matt



## HEART AND HANDS OUTREACH SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!

*“Feed My Sheep” – John 21*

### **SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!**

Thank you Emanuel! Despite this unprecedented pandemic of the Novel Coronavirus, you continue to love and reach out to our neighbors. We can share through our online ministry on the website ([www.elch.org](http://www.elch.org)), as well as through providing essential items. The monthly Second Mile Giving option is available on our Giving Website.

**REACHING OUT IN OTHER WAYS:** If you can't share food, money or time with others because you are “staying in” — how about the things you CAN do?

- Pray for friends, family, our leaders, and the world. Please note if you would like to pray with others, we are on Zoom at 8:30 AM each Saturday. To get the Zoom link, email Jeanette Parr at [parr3@roadrunner.com](mailto:parr3@roadrunner.com). If you do not have internet access, you can also join over the phone by calling in.
- Send a short note via snail mail or email, or make a phone call and leave a message. Let others know they are cared about.
- Contact Pastor Cate about visiting others SAFELY through the Prayer Patrol.
- Think about ways to share Emanuel and your faith with others and what you will continue to do when we meet again in person.

I have found that often by reaching out to others, I feel better too. Give it a try.

God bless all of you for your generous Hearts and Hands reaching out to others.

Jeanette Parr  
Facilitator

## FROM THE BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION



### **Greetings to all Emanuel Youth and Parents!**

Each week we continue to present an online Sunday School lesson for our youth. We do not yet know when we will come back in person for worship and Sunday School.

This past month we have learned so much about our how we can put what we have learned about God into action in our daily lives:

1. First of all, in the lesson about the ten men Jesus healed from leprosy, there was only one man who returned to thank Jesus. We discovered what it means to be grateful and that it is important for us to show our thanks to people.
2. During our “Light of the World” lesson we saw that our lights will never burn out because they are powered by Jesus. People will see our light when we show our love to God and to others through our actions.
3. Next was the “Why are there so many kinds of Bibles?” lesson. Language changes over the course of many years and as a result we have different translations of the Bible. The important thing is that the message is the same in every Bible. God’s Word is alive and working in our lives no matter what kind of Bible we are reading from.
4. In our final lesson “Whose Time Is It?” we learned that God gives us every second, minute, hour, and day. All our time is a gift from God.

Please pray for the spiritual growth of our youth and adults. Thank you for talking about God and including Him in your child’s daily life.

Blessings from all your Sunday School Teachers.

# HAPPY 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AT EMANUEL, PASTOR CATE!

On July 15, Pastor Cate Luehr reached her 11th year of serving as our amazing pastor. While we were unable to have a major celebration, we were able to surprise her and her husband Clayton Mark with a few balloons and cupcakes outside in the parking to honor her. We are so blessed to have Pastor Cate as our leader and to have Clay to assist in so many ways, including all of the editing for our on-line worship since March.



Celebrate



## DRIVE THRU COMMUNION AND PRAYER SERVICE AUGUST 9 & AUGUST 23

Thank you all for your participation in our recent survey. We heard what you were missing most and have set up a plan to address your spiritual needs while also retaining our current safety standards.

In addition to our weekly online worship service, we plan to hold our biweekly Drive-Thru Communion and Prayer service on Sunday, August 9 and Sunday, August 23 from 8-9:00 AM. This will be a drive-thru worship service with communion, individual prayer, music and blessings. More detailed information including an instructional video was emailed last month and also placed on social media. The email and video included the safety precautions we at the church are taking as well as those we expect of members who attend this drive-thru service.

The Drive-thru Communion and Prayer Service will be held in the upper parking lot east of the Sanctuary and north of Hope Center. **Please RSVP to the church office by noon the Friday before each service (churchinfo@elclh.org or 562-691-0656)** to ensure we have enough communion elements provided for that day. While we know this isn't "back to normal," we hope that having a short time of individual prayer, seeing church members from your car, and receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ will strengthen you for the days ahead.



## VIRTUAL HYMN AND PRAISE SONG SING-ALONG AUGUST 2, 16 AND 30 AT 10:30 AM



Emanuel Director of Choirs, Stephanie Young will be joined by Praise Band guitarist and singer Jeff Ward on **Sunday, August 2, 16, and 30** at 10:30 AM for our biweekly Virtual Hymn and Praise Song Sing-Along. Look for the Zoom link in the body of our weekly email that is sent with the worship bulletin. Stephanie and Jeff will be playing and singing from their homes and we look forward to you joining us as well. Email song requests to churchinfo@elclh.org by the Wednesday prior to the sing-along.

## MANY THOUSAND THANKS!

thank  
you!

Thank you to the church council and the members of Emanuel who have put in a lot of time over the past month writing the Covid-19 Safety Plan for Emanuel Lutheran Church. This document helps us understand our policies and procedures surrounding on-campus use, employee health, trace contacting and overall safety surrounding Covid-19. Thank you all for your tireless help. If you would like a copy of this plan, contact the church office to have one emailed or mailed to you.



## VIDEO MINISTRY

We know that many of you have spoken highly of the Video worship that we have been able to provide during this time of quarantine. We also know that we are reaching many people with the Good News of Jesus Christ who would otherwise not be able to join us in person. We want to continue this ministry in some fashion when we are able to resume in-person worship. To that end, we are asking if anyone is interested in being a part of our new “Video Ministry Team.” We are looking not just for people with skills in this area, but people willing to learn. We need a team of people to help film the services on Sunday as well as those who would be interested in doing very minimal editing of the service before it is uploaded. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested, please email the church office at [churchinfo@elch.org](mailto:churchinfo@elch.org).



## PRAYER PATROL

As you may know, we have started a new ministry called “Prayer Patrol.” This ministry takes small groups of individuals to visit those who are homebound, living alone, people feeling isolated or would just benefit from a visit with church members. While still practicing safe measures, this small group visits people in their driveways and on their porches offering prayers and greetings. Additionally, we will be able to bring communion to you if you wish. If you would like a visit, or if you would like to be one of the people who joins the next prayer patrol, please contact Pastor Cate at [pastorcate@elch.org](mailto:pastorcate@elch.org).

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer is one part of our ministry that we continue to do strongly. If you have any prayer requests you would like included in Sunday Worship, please contact the church office by Wednesday and we will be able to include them in our filming.





## TAKE IT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER

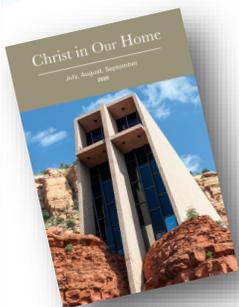
Our Saturday morning prayer group has gone digital! For the past seven years, each Saturday morning at 8:30 AM a group of people from Emanuel had been meeting in our prayer chapel to spend time in intentional prayer for our church, our community, and our world. Since we are not able to meet in person, the *Take It to the Lord in Prayer* group is now online! If you would like to join this group on any given week, please contact Jeanette Parr ([parr3@roadrunner.com](mailto:parr3@roadrunner.com)) to receive the Zoom link.

## DIGITAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us each week as we post a new children's Sunday School class lead by Mary Ann Carlson. We will continue through the stories of Jesus and hear them retold in our SPARK Bible. Look for the Sunday School Class on all the platforms you find worship ([elclh.org](http://elclh.org), Facebook, and YouTube).



## CHRIST IN OUR HOME



*Christ in Our Home* is a quarterly devotional resource that encourages us to live out our faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day that follows the Revised Common Lectionary. We recently received our supply of *Christ in Our Home* devotional booklets for July-August-September 2020. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please email us at [churchinfo@elclh.org](mailto:churchinfo@elclh.org).

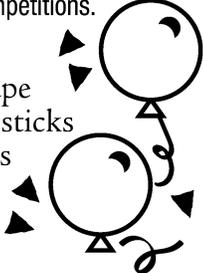
# Kid's Korner

## GREAT SUMMER GAMES

Though this year's Summer Olympics were postponed, you can host friendly neighborhood competitions.

### What you need:

- Masking tape
- Large craft sticks
- Paper plates
- Balloons
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Green construction paper
- Craft glue

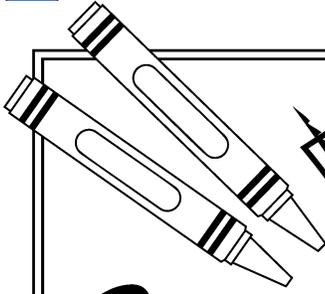


### What you do:

**Balloon Badminton:** Make rackets by taping a stick "handle" to each plate. Blow up and tie a balloon. Use the rackets to pass the balloon back and forth, without letting it touch the floor.

**Rhythmic Routines:** Using tape, firmly attach one end of a 4-foot ribbon to a craft stick. Display style and skill by waving it around. Try choreographing a routine to a praise song.

**Champion Crown:** Cut a large hole out of the center of a paper plate. Cut 2-inch ovals from green paper. Glue those "leaves" to the ring as garland. Crown a winner of each game!



## PUZZLE

### Compete for the crown



The apostle Paul compares the Christian life to running a race for an imperishable crown.



*Directions: From the starting line through the finish line, circle every third letter. Then place the circled letters in order in the blanks below to complete 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, NIV.*

START

ctrejasucphelpomrxkibvztaejargiusonyccw

i q s a t e x y m p s a k o g m z s j e e u b t n y e h a p i d m r f o e  
t e g r b u a n p i c d n o f i h m n e y g j o c s x r d p o e t w k i n

FINISH

"Do you not know that in a \_\_\_\_\_ all the runners run, but only one gets the \_\_\_\_\_? \_\_\_\_\_ in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ goes into strict \_\_\_\_\_. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a \_\_\_\_\_ that will last forever."

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-25, NIV

Answer: race, prize, run, competes, games, training, crown