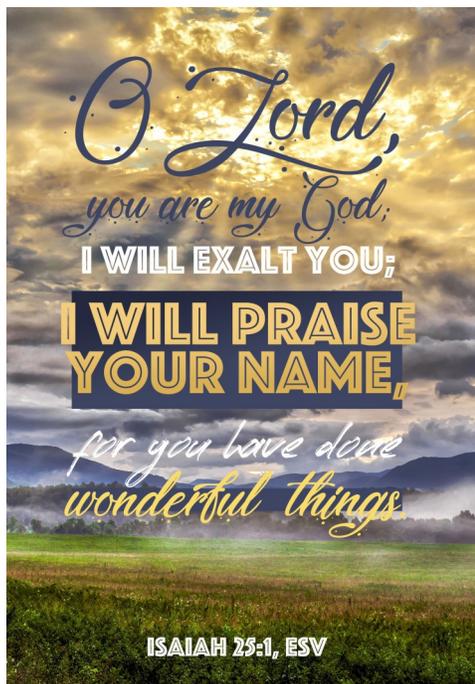


The Good News

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OCTOBER 2020 VOLUME 26 NUMBER 10



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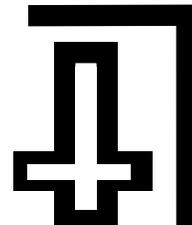
DATED MATERIAL
 Please Deliver by 2nd or
 3rd of the month.

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: www.elch.org

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

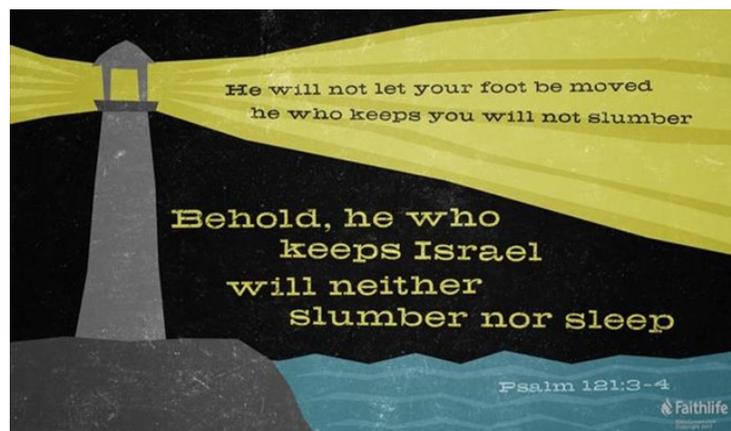
*“He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.” — Psalm 121:3-4*

I’m writing this newsletter article in the middle of the night. In case you were wondering, no it’s not because I missed the deadline and am now pulling an all-nighter. Tonight, I just couldn’t sleep. I woke up in the middle of the night and couldn’t fall back asleep, the occasional bout of insomnia that strikes most of us from time to time. But after tossing and turning for awhile, I decided the best thing for me was to get up and get some work done. These emails that I’ve put off writing all week—done! The plans and procedures that needed tweaking—done! Write my October newsletter article—done!

Throughout this night, I have been thinking about the power of God in the nighttime. When most of the world sleeps and rests, the God of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. This line from Psalm 121 is one that is often read at funerals to remind us of the immutability of God. But what about times like right now, the middle of the night, the neighborhood is asleep, the cars are quiet, and I don’t even hear birds chirping in my backyard. Surely God must be resting, taking it easy, getting a little shut-eye before the morning hustle and bustle starts, right?

But God is not at rest. God doesn’t take a moment of rest away from the care he has for us as His creation. God is the one who keeps us and holds us, in our waking hours, in our sleeping hours, in our busyness, in our joy, in our sadness, and even in the time of a pandemic. God neither slumbers nor sleeps but our God remains constant, shining light in dark places and watching over His beloved.

Pastor Cate Luehr



Matt's *Motivational* Minute



“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” — Jesus in Matthew 6:34

Hello Emanuel family! I was recently on the phone with one of my amazing classmates. I was lamenting how things were being impacted by COVID and the poor air quality with the fires. My classmate listened attentively and with love said, “It seems like the world is trying to tell you something.” She was referencing that I am not always great at being present. I get excited about what is next, whether that is in a ministry setting, school or with my family. I miss out on the present moment at times because I keep wondering towards the future.

Our family has seen a lot of change in a short amount of time and will see a lot more change in 2021 when I graduate and (hopefully!) get a first call at some point in the year. There is a lot to wonder and worry about. But in my struggle, one thing that has smacked me right in the face is how little control I have over the future and even the current moment. I am working on slowing down, finding the joy in the ordinary moments, and finding where God is at work in not only my life or my family’s, but also in yours and in my neighbors. I think we all are realizing how true these words are in Matthew’s Gospel. Today’s trouble is MORE than enough for today (Vicar Matt translation).

God loves us and cares for us. God is at work in our lives whether we can see it or not. I pray that we all are able to use at least some of this time to slow down, not worry about tomorrow and be present. There is a lot of love and ministry going on around us if we look for it.

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), as well as through providing essential items. The monthly Second Mile giving option is available on our website under Giving/Secure Online Giving.

HIS HOUSE: His House in Placentia has been meeting the needs of the hungry and homeless in Orange County through the entire time of the pandemic. Lives have been transformed:

- 20 families have received safe shelter and supportive services
- 22 families were provided with financial assistance to prevent homelessness
- 35% of the residents graduated and moved into permanent housing

They have requested a group of volunteers to support families by providing a meal. For more information or to volunteer, please email them at [**info@his-oc.org**](mailto:info@his-oc.org).

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES in Garden Grove has a great need for hygiene kits. Bags may be filled and brought to Emanuel over the next couple of months for delivery to those in need.

Orange County Wish List / Family Hygiene Kit

- Family pack of Toothbrushes
- Toothbrush covers
- Two disposable razors
- Shaving Cream
- Tube of Toothpaste
- Two bars of Soap or Body Wash
- Family Size Shampoo & Conditioner
- Lotion
- Dental Floss
- Mouthwash
- Family packet of pocket Kleenex
- One new Wash Cloth

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 someone a short note via snail mail or email, or make a phone call and leave a message. Let others know they are cared about.
- Think about ways to share Emanuel and your faith with others and what you will continue to do when we meet again in person.

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!

Thank you for having your kids join us for our online Sunday School lessons each week.

This past month we have learned so much about our how God's love impacts our lives and we can help share God's love.

1. In our lesson about "The Good Sheep Dog," we saw we are all God's sheep and Jesus is our Good Shepherd. God needs us to help Him take care of His sheep by reminding people how much God loves them.
2. "Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples" Bible story took place after Jesus was resurrected. This was the third time Jesus had appeared to the disciples. During 'Drive-Thru Communion' our students received a gift bag with a sticker picture for them to create their own picture of this Bible story. Please have them retell the story to your family.
3. In our "Can You Write with Your Mouth" lesson we discovered, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). We can ask God to give us strength to use our abilities when times get hard for us. He will show us the way. God gives each part of the body a job to do and each part has a special purpose. Our church is like that too because every person is important and we all need each other as we work together.
4. In "The Widow's Offering" Bible story (Mark 12:38-44), Jesus was teaching His disciples that it's not what you give, it's how you give it. Small gifts given out of **love** and **trust** in God are big gifts.

A special thanks goes to Ricki Fehr (and her iMovie tutor Clayton Mark) as she took over editing our weekly Sunday School lessons this month. Thank you Ricki!

Thank you for encouraging your child on our virtual journey together.

Please pray for our youth and parents as the new school year begins with "distance learning, and for the spiritual growth of our youth and adults.

Blessings from all your Sunday School Teachers.



VIRTUAL PARENT SUPPORT GROUP THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 AT 7:00 PM

Have you ever been on an important phone or video call and had your children fighting and screaming loud in the background? Have you felt frustrated by local parks closing? Are your kids fighting more than normal? Are you feeling anxious about school? On Thursday, October 1st at 7:00 PM we will be starting a monthly Zoom meeting to help each other out during this stressful time. This is a kid-free and judgment-free time to join Vicar Matt Polsdofer and other parents to talk, vent and be there for one another. If you are a parent of school-age child/ren please be looking for an email or other communication from Vicar Matt, or contact the church office if you are interested.



DRIVE THRU COMMUNION AND PRAYER SERVICE OCTOBER 4 & 18 FROM 8-9:00 AM

In addition to our weekly online worship service, we plan to hold our biweekly Drive-Thru Communion and Prayer service on Sunday, October 4 and Sunday, October 18 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 can be found on our YouTube channel. The video includes the safety precautions we at the church are taking as well as those we expect of members who attend this drive-thru service. **We will also be collecting food donations for the CRCC and Storehouse Ministries as well as Hygiene Kits for LSS.**

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. **When you RSVP, please include the names of everyone who will be attending in your vehicle and which 15-minute time slot you will attend.**

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 OCTOBER 11 & 25 AT 10:30 AM



Emanuel Director of Choirs, Stephanie Young will be joined by Praise Band guitarist and singer Jeff Ward on **Sunday, October 11 and Sunday, October 25** 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.



IN-PERSON OUTDOOR WORSHIP OCTOBER 11 & 25 AT 5:00 PM

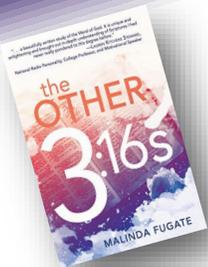
Beginning **October 11 at 5:00 PM**, we plan to hold evening in-person worship services every other week in our upper parking lot. We have been holding biweekly drive-thru prayer and communion services Sunday mornings from 8-9:00 AM. We now plan to supplement this with biweekly in-person services to be held on the opposite weeks. These will be short in-person services of music, scripture, homily and prayer. We will be practicing safety protocols. If this interests you, **please RSVP to the church office by noon the Friday before the service (churchinfo@elclh.org or 562-691-0656)**. For safety measures, we are asking attendees to park in the lower lot and bring their own chairs to the upper lot where the service will be held. If this is a hardship, you may park in the upper lot and a chair will be provided. Note our October 25 in-person service will be a Reformation Celebration where we will also celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism with our confirmands (see below).

CONFIRMANDS AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM OCTOBER 25 AT 5:00 PM



It's finally time for the Affirmation of Baptism! Our young people who are coming to the end of their 2-year confirmation faith formation program were not able to celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism originally planned for May. We will now be celebrating with them on Reformation Sunday, October 25. The Students will share their statements of faith as part of our recorded virtual worship service posted on our website and on social media platforms the morning of October 25. Then we plan to have the Rite of Confirmation take place live at our in-person parking lot worship that evening at 5:00 PM.

We pray that if you are able to join us in person that you would attend this service celebrating the faith of these young people. Remember to wear red in honor of Reformation Sunday and confirmation! If you are not able to join us in person, be sure to watch the virtual service and celebrate the witness of faith with our confirmands.



VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

After great success this past summer, we are hosting another virtual book club. We are thankful to Linnita Licano for facilitating this group. It began on September 24 at 10:00 AM (Pacific Time) and will continue for 6 weeks. The book being studied is **"The Other 3:16s"** by Malinda Fugate and it is available on Kindle.

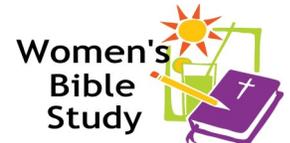
If you would like to join but missed the first week, no problem. Simply contact the church office and we will send you the weekly Zoom link for the remaining weeks.



TRUNK DECORATING

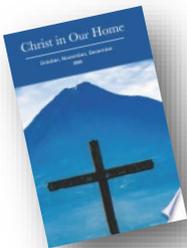
Trunk-or-Treat will not be held at Emanuel this year due to the precautions surrounding Covid-19. However we would still love to see your costumes and even your decorated trunks in your garage!! If you decorate a trunk, send us a photo and we will put it on our Social Media pages. Check out our Facebook page and Instagram in mid-October for details.

JOY CIRCLE ON ZOOM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 AT 9:30 AM



The Joy Circle is a women's group that meets monthly for a time of discussion and fellowship. We were not able to meet in the spring due to COVID-19, however, we held our first VIRTUAL JOY CIRCLE last month and plan to meet again via Zoom on Tuesday, October 20 at 9:30 AM. All women are welcome to join. We have just started a three-month study on "Holy Time." Our studies come out of the *Gather Magazine*, a magazine from the Women of the ELCA. If you do not have a subscription to this magazine, we will be able to email you a digital copy of the lesson. If you have not previously participated in the Joy Circle but would like to give it a try, please email Pastor Cate at pastorcate@elclh.org by Sunday, October 18 and she will get the lesson and Zoom link to you.

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 October/November/December 2020. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please email us at churchinfo@elclh.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) 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 (elch.org, Facebook, and YouTube).



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®

FREE SHRED EVENT & FOOD DRIVE

Shred your documents and share your gifts! This event serves two purposes — you have the opportunity to shred unwanted documents plus provide your neighbors with needed nutrition. Bring a nonperishable food item to help support families in our community. There is a 10-box limit for shredding. This event is sponsored by Rob Burns and Jay Huckabone of Thrivent Financial and will be held on **Saturday, October 17, from 8-11:30 AM at Christ Lutheran Church, 820 W. Imperial Highway in Brea** (corner of Imperial Highway and Arovista). For more information call 714-525-4360 or email katie.anderson@thrivent.com.



Blessings and hugs to our wonderful, supportive church family. Your prayers, phone calls, visits and meals meant so much to us while I was in the hospital. John and I felt loved everyday. This was a real life example of "Love thy neighbor as yourself." We are grateful for all our Emanuel friends.

— Mischelle Uhlman

Kid's Korner

SEED impressions

Create autumn-themed artwork using items from plants.



What you need:

- Seed pods, nuts, pine cones
- Mixing bowl
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup warm water
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Go on a nature walk and collect seeds with interesting textures.
2. In the bowl, mix flour and salt. Gradually add water. On a table, knead the dough. (If too dry, add more water; if too sticky, add more flour.)
3. Flatten a ball of dough and stamp impressions in it with the seeds.
4. If desired, bake for several hours at 150 degrees until dry and hard. Or, to reuse dough, store in an airtight container up to 6 months.



A PLANTING PARABLE

Jesus had to explain his Parable of the Sower to the confused disciples.

Directions: Use the word bank to answer the clues. Then fill in the correct words below to complete Matthew 13:23, NIV.

WORD BANK: sow, soil, wither, root, thorn, crop, seed, farmer

1. Plant part that absorbs water _____
2. Contains what's needed to grow a plant _____
3. To plant _____
4. Sharp part of a plant _____
5. What is harvested. _____
6. To dry up and shrivel _____
7. Person who plants _____
8. The earth a plant grows in. _____

“But the _____₂ falling on good _____₈ refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.

This is the one who produces a _____₅, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was _____₃ n.”

MATTHEW 13:23, NIV

Answer: root, seed, soil, wither, farmer, soil, seed, soil, crop, wither, farmer, soil, seed, soil, crop, wither, farmer, soil, seed, soil, crop, wither, farmer, soil, seed, soil.