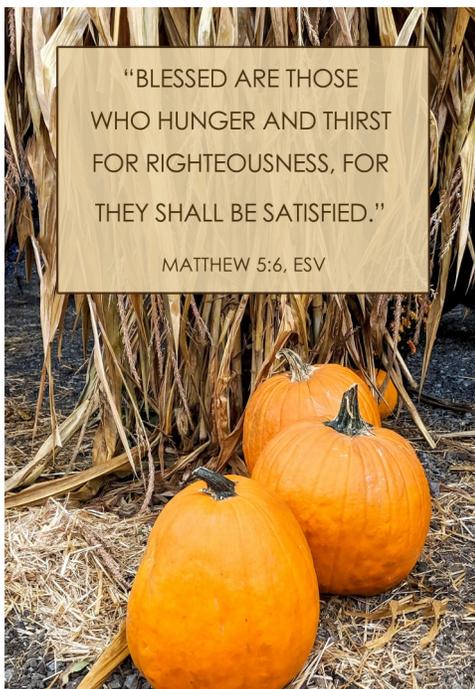


The Good News

MONTHLY PUBLICATION NOVEMBER 2020 VOLUME 26 NUMBER 11



"BLESSED ARE THOSE
WHO HUNGER AND THIRST
FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR
THEY SHALL BE SATISFIED."

MATTHEW 5:6, ESV

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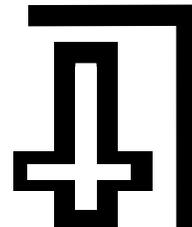
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DATED MATERIAL
 Please Deliver by 2nd or
 3rd of the month.

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
 9:00 a.m.
 Praise Service
 Children's Sunday School:
 10:45 a.m.
 10:00 a.m.
PASTOR:
 Catherine E. Luehr
VICAR:
 Matt Polsdorfer
PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR:
 JoIne 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



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

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” is one of my favorite hymns, and if you don’t know it just type that phrase into YouTube and a plethora of versions come up. The month of November is often a time when we offer thanksgiving for all of the blessings that have come our way. However, this year it seems that the “blessings” are few and far between, and how it’s easy to think, “What do I really have to be thankful for? Where is God blessing me this year?”

I think of how, especially now when we are at a time of counting our blessings amidst a difficult year, that we often want to make God into a “good parts” version. Kind of like a highlights reel or a theatrical cut versus a director’s cut of a movie. We just want the good stuff, we don’t want to think of where God was during that messy divorce and custody hearing, or during that long hospital stay where the illness just never got better. We don’t want to think of the bullying and teasing that was relentless. Come thou fount of every hurt, every pain, every trial, every pandemic, every divided election? I don’t think so. Where is the blessing in that?

It’s easy for us to congratulate a student for making the honor roll, but it’s hard to ask a student about a suspension. We applaud those who get promoted, but aren’t quite sure how to respond to those who are laid-off. But we’re not a “good parts only” people. We are a people of good parts and bad parts. We are a people of the exciting swashbuckling parts and the long monotonous drawn-out parts. Though we often like to put on the face of being a good parts only people who worship in a good parts version church, we don’t have a good parts only God. God is a God of love, a good God, an all-powerful God. A God who *can* perform miracles but consistently enters our lives through the promise. A promise He makes to us in the person of Jesus Christ, who takes on our frail humanity and dies, for all. Come thou fount of every promise. Our blessing is that we don’t have a God who is only the “good parts version.” Our blessing is that though we have hope for God to be there in our abundance, we have a *promise*, a promise given to us on the cross, that Christ is willing to go into the depths with us. And He does even unto death. We were never given a promise that life in Christ would be a life without pain, and 2020 has proven that ten-fold. We were given a promise though, that we would never have to be in pain alone. Come thou fount of every promise.

Of course trusting in this promise is not easy. I struggle with it again and again and again. As Christians we are called to be with each other in the good parts and the bad parts. But for me, I know it is much easier to compliment the honor roll student than it is to confront the suspended one. Come thou fount of every promise —sometimes that’s too hard to ask for.

We can’t always enter into others pain well. Sometimes we can’t do it at all. But whether or not I follow through with answering Christ’s command to love my neighbor even into their darkness, that promise is still there. When we fail, when we avoid asking the difficult questions, when we would rather look at the good parts version of someone, Jesus will still be there as He has promised, in our depths.

Better than any feast or hymn or even family, Jesus gave us a remarkable blessing. He gave us Himself. Come thou fount of every promise. Come, Lord Jesus. Come. Amen.

Pastor Cate Luehr

Matt's *Motivational Minute*



BEING THANKFUL IN A THANKLESS SEASON

When I was trying to figure out what I would write about, I ended up contacting a friend who is a pastor to ask them what they were going to write about. We were having a great conversation and one thing we both thought about is how we can be thankful in what is seemingly a thankless season. In a quick Google search, there were at least 25 Biblical verses that showed up right away about being thankful. I also thought of the praise song “Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King. His love endures forever.” I think about how in a “normal” time it would be really easy for me to write an article to y’all about being thankful about all the blessings God has given you.

One of the things I’ve learned throughout seminary and the pandemic is to look outside of myself. If things are going well for me, it doesn’t mean things are going well for everyone in the congregation—or vice versa—if things are bad for me it doesn’t mean it’s bad for everyone. But getting back to how to be thankful in a thankless season, I don’t have an “easy 5 step program” to get everyone to be thankful and see all the things God has done for them. At different points in life, it doesn’t feel like God has done much for you while at other times you can’t go anywhere without seeing all the great things God has done.

What I would invite you to do is to try to build the muscle of gratitude. Maybe its sharing a good and bad thing from your day with someone important in your life. Maybe it’s doing a journal where you reflect on your day. Whatever your practice may be, I would invite you to take baby steps to start your journey of trying to find a way to be thankful even in seemingly thankless seasons. I also pray that wherever you are in your faith journey you experience the presence of the living God.

God’s peace,
Vicar Matt

***Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 1st.
Remember to set your clocks back an hour.***





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.elclh.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.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES in Garden Grove has a great need for hygiene kits. Thirty-six bags were delivered to LSS and they truly appreciated receiving these items for those in need. Thanks to Pastor Cate for making the delivery, and thank YOU for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

LOGAN CRABB EAGLE PROJECT: Congratulations to Logan Crabb who chose to collect toys for the La Habra Christmas Toy Distribution as his Eagle Scout project. Many of you have been able to assist in this and we are so grateful for your contributions!

LRCC: So far \$1,125 has been designated to help and support the camp in 2020. This important ministry changes lives. Online contributions may be made directly through Fund 601.



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. 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, that God forgives us, and how we can become strong in our faith.

1. In our lesson "All Clear" we saw how calculators are a great invention. When we make a mistake, we press the "all clear" button and our mistakes disappear. The Bible says that God is the one who forgives all our sins. It's like God has a "clear" button for each one of us and our sins are forgiven. When we truly ask God to forgive us, our sins are forgiven. God wipes our sins away. We can start all over again. How special is that!!!
2. In the lesson "Does God Like Me Better than My Brother or Sister?" we discovered in Romans 2:11 that God judges all people in the same way. God does not show favoritism. HE loves each of us equally!
3. What could the Book of Hope be? It's the BIBLE! It gives us patience and encouragement so we can have hope (Romans 15:14). Even when things go wrong we have reason to be happy. We learned that God will always love us no matter what. Jesus died and rose again and we can build our hope on Him.
4. In our fourth week, we had Camryn Logoteta assist with our lesson about "What are the Ten Commandments?" We discovered how Moses got the Ten Commandments from God. We try to keep the Ten Commandments because we want to please God and be strong in our faith. God gave us these rules to help strengthen our spiritual growth and be the best person we can be.

A special thanks goes to Ricki Fehr (and her iMovie tutor Clayton Mark) as she has taken over editing our weekly Sunday School lessons.

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

Although we didn't have Trunk-or-Treat this COVID-19 year, we made treat bags for our youth to enjoy.

Activity bags are passed out as the kids go through Drive-Thru Communion. We hope they are enjoying the craft ideas by using their creativity.

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.



NEW MEETING TIMES

DRIVE-THRU COMMUNION & PRAYER SERVICE NOVEMBER 1 & 15 FROM 10-11:00 AM

For the weeks leading up to Advent, we plan to alternate weekly between *Drive-Thru Communion & Prayer Service* and *Parking Lot Worship*. On Sunday, November 1 and November 15 from **10-11:00 AM (note new time)** we will hold Drive-Thru Communion & Prayer Service. We invite you to drive onto campus, remain in your car and visit various stations for prayer, music, Communion and blessing. 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 drive-thru service. This 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 the service (churchinfo@elclh.org or 562-691-0656). 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. We will also be collecting food donations for the CRCC and Storehouse Ministries.

PARKING LOT WORSHIP ~ NOVEMBER 8, & 22 AT 10:00 AM

We will hold *Parking Lot Worship* (with people in chairs) on November 8 and November 22 at **10:00 AM (note new time)**. These will be short in-person services of music, scripture, homily and prayer. We will be practicing safety protocols. We are asking attendees to park in the lower lot by the classrooms and then walk to the registration table on the patio to check in. Then continue to the upper parking lot where an usher will direct you and assist with a chair if needed. You are welcome to bring your own chair or you may use one of the folding chairs from the church. If you would like to attend but wish to stay in your car, drive into the upper lot and an usher will direct you to a space designated for cars. Also, if you would like to sit in a chair but walking from the lower lot is a challenge, there will be limited parking in the upper lot for those in need. Again, please RSVP to the church office (churchinfo@elclh.org or 562-691-0656) by noon the Friday before the services you plan to attend.

PARKING LOT WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION ~ NOVEMBER 29 AT 10:00 AM

We will change to just one style of service beginning November 29, the First Sunday of Advent, through the remainder of 2020. We will meet at 10:00 AM each Sunday and will follow the above Parking Lot Worship format, however we will also include Communion weekly going forward. While we know this isn't "back to normal," we hope having a short time of worshipping together and receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ will strengthen you for the days ahead.

*****All Sunday worship moves to 10:00 AM starting in November.*****

November 1, 10:00 AM:	Drive-Thru Communion and Prayer Service
November 8, 10:00 AM:	Parking lot worship with people in chairs
November 15, 10:00 AM:	Drive-Thru Communion and Prayer Service
November 15, 5:00 PM:	Annual Congregational Meeting, parking lot and virtual
November 22, 10:00 AM:	Parking lot worship with people in chairs

We will change to just one style of service beginning November 29, the First Sunday of Advent.

November 29, 10:00 AM:	Parking lot worship with Communion
December 6, 10:00 AM:	Parking lot worship with Communion
December 13, 10:00 AM:	Parking lot worship with Communion
December 20, 10:00 AM:	Parking lot worship with Communion

*****Christmas Eve Worship TBD*****

December 27, 10:00 AM:	Parking lot worship with Communion
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VIRTUAL PARENT SUPPORT GROUP THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5 AT 7:30 PM

Have you ever been on an important phone or video call and had your children fighting and screaming loudly 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, November 5 at 7:30 PM** we will hold our 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 contact the church office if you are interested.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL



Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 15, at 5:00 PM** in the upper parking lot. We will be using the same COVID-19 safety precautions as we use during our worship services. If you would rather participate from your home, we will also hold a Zoom meeting at the same time. A copy of the report will be emailed the last week of October. If you prefer a printed copy, you can pick one up at our services on November 1 or November 8, or we can mail you a printed copy. During this meeting we will be approving the 2021 budget and elect new Church Council members so please plan to attend. RSVP by noon Friday, November 13, for both the in-person and Zoom meeting

JOY CIRCLE ON ZOOM TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 9:30 AM



The Joy Circle is a women's group that meets monthly for a time of discussion and fellowship. We will continue our VIRTUAL JOY CIRCLE via Zoom on Tuesday, November 17 at 9:30 AM and will conclude our three-month study on "Holy Time." All women are welcome to join. 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 can 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, November 15 and she will get the lesson and Zoom link to you.



SAVE THE DATES BLOOD DRIVES AT EMANUEL

Emanuel will hold blood drives in Moerer Hall from 12:00 to 6:00 PM on the following dates. Mark your calendars if you've got a pint to spare, and keep an eye out for more details in future bulletins and newsletters.

- January 2, 2021
- February 15, 2021
- March 31, 2021

Give blood, save a life. We know you've got it in you!



CONFIRMATION THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Pastor Cate, Vicar Matt, and all who faithfully orchestrated the wonderful service on October 25 to celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism. In these strange times of one cancellation after another in the lives of our students, we were blessed to celebrate this wonderful day together.

We are thankful for our students and their eagerness to complete their class and for their willingness to return in the fall. We thank all our mentors who were dedicated to meeting regularly with their girls to do their Bible studies until we weren't able to do so. We thank God for their willingness to meet together on Zoom and for joining the celebratory drive-by for their middle school graduation as well as working together on their projects. We pray that you were all blessed by time spent together.

Lastly, a very special thank you goes to Lee Reitzel for making the gift bags, Carol Crabb for helping prepare them, and for each of you who so generously filled them! I thank you for the opportunity to feed them with food as well as the Word of God each month.

As the supportive congregation that you have always been, please pray for them. Please pray that they are filled with the Holy Spirit and allow themselves to be led and blessed by God throughout their lives.

Janine Ward
Confirmation/Mentor Coordinator

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 (elclh.org, Facebook, and YouTube).

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.





St. Jude Medical Center
Senior Services
Digital Literacy ...
Technology Training and Support

DIGITAL LITERACY – TECHNOLOGY TRAINING AND SUPPORT
BECAUSE USING TECHNOLOGY IS IMPORTANT *and* FRUSTRATING!

If You Know An Older Adult Who:

- ✓ Needs An Electronic Device
- ✓ Needs Stable, Affordable WiFi
- ✓ Would Like Technology Training
- ✓ Could Use Some Technology Support (*Who Couldn't!*)
- ✓ Could Benefit Socially and Many Other Ways From A Greater Utilization of Technology

Then This Program Can Help!



Learn:

- ✚ Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Your Phone / Computer / Tablet
- ✚ How To Connect With Friends, Family and Others
- ✚ To Be Comfortable With Technology
- ✚ How To Order Products, Transportation, Etc., On-Line
- ✚ How To Access Music, Photos, Social Media, and More!

For More Information About Qualifying For This Program
Contact:

Loren Valentine, BS, CHES
Loren.Valentine@stjoe.org OR
714-446-7017

Kid's Korner

A taste of history



Add a yummy, authentic touch to your Thanksgiving meal with this recipe.



What you need:

- 2/3 cup heavy cream
- pint jar with lid
- strainer
- bowl
- container
- salt



What you do:

1. Pour cream into the jar and close the lid tightly.
2. Shake vigorously about 8 minutes, until a solid lump of butter forms. (Take turns with a friend!)
3. Strain the contents, catching the buttermilk in a bowl to save for another recipe.
4. Put the butter in a container. Add salt to taste.
5. After chilling the butter, enjoy on fresh bread.

PUZZLE

Glad gatherings

The first Christians met together over a meal. Today church families still gather to break bread and thank God.

Follow the instructions below. Then write the remaining words in order from left to right and top to bottom to complete the verses.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	They	found	broke	bread	acts	in
2	houses	their	homes	beautiful	and	round
3	ate	world	beginning	together	follow	thought
4	with	numbers	glad	happiness	lesson	and
5	thanks	sincere	disciples	gathering	hearts	tradition
6	celebrate	good	praising	Christian	God	river

Cross out all words in column E with double letters.

Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.

Cross out all words in column B that end in d.

Cross out all words in column A that have more than 4 letters.

Cross out all words in row 5 with 3 syllables.

Cross out all words in the table with 9 letters.

Cross out all words in column F with 2 or more vowels.

_____ . ACTS 2:46-47, NIV

Answer: They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. Acts 2:46-47, NIV