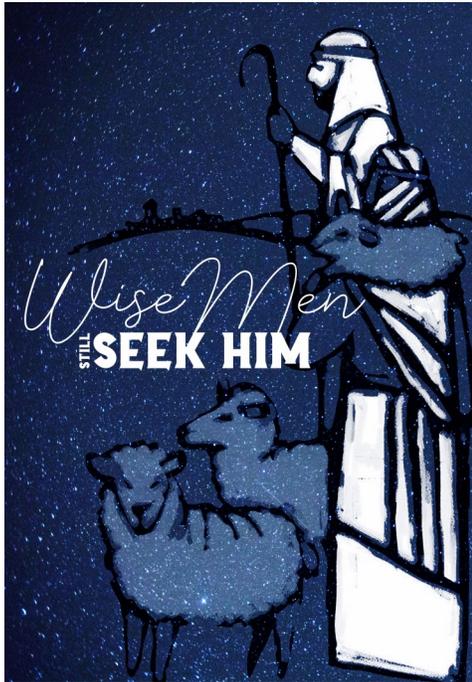


The Good News

MONTHLY PUBLICATION DECEMBER 2020 VOLUME 26 NUMBER 12



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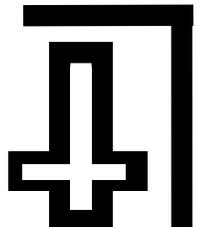
DATED MATERIAL
Please Deliver by 2nd or
3rd of the month.

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

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.

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” —Psalm 119:105 KJV

I’m celebrating Advent differently this year. Let’s be honest, I’m celebrating everything differently this year, and not a lot of celebrating at that. But for me, Advent will be different this year, and I suspect for you as well. I often preach and teach about how Advent is intended to be a time of waiting and expectation, a time of preparation and a time for us to await the Infant King. But if I’m totally honest, I too fall to the trappings of buying the best gifts, cooking the perfect cookie, having the best celebration. I am constantly propelling forward, not taking time to be deliberate and intentional about the coming Christ.

This year, however, I’m celebrating a little differently because I don’t know what’s coming next. Will I be able to celebrate with family? Maybe, maybe not. Will all of my well-laid plans get upended? If the previous nine months are any indication, probably. So this Advent I’m going to take things one step at a time, because that is all the further my lamp will shine. And with my trust placed firmly in Christ, that’s enough for today. I want to share with you a section from the Joy Circle Bible Study on “Holy Time” published in the *Gather* magazine where author Rev. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni shares the powerful message of God giving us enough to take the next step.

Some years ago, a seminary professor brought to class an example of the oil lamp the Psalmist might have had in mind; tiny clay vessels that fit in the palm of one hand. Thousands of years before electricity, these lamps might well light the path forward—but not like a high-powered flashlight illuminating the entire road. Perhaps, the professor reasoned, this is exactly the way the psalmist meant it. God’s Word gives us just enough light to see the next step in front of us, but no more—yet the lamp that is faithful can still guide us home, one step at a time. Trusting in God’s future and seeing it all at once are not the same things.

I pray this Advent as we take steps closer and closer to Jesus’ birth, you would be comforted in knowing that even if you cannot see the whole path forward, the Lord will light your way, step by step.

Pastor Cate Luehr

Matt's *Motivational* Minute



“Help me if you can I’m feeling down, and I do appreciate you being round, help me get my feet back on the ground, won’t you please, please help me?” —The Beatles/Help!

I did not think about putting it in my October newsletter article, but October is National Depression and Mental Health Month. While it is clearly not October, and I maybe “should” be writing something Advent-y or Christmas-y, I could not help but think about the mental strain we have been under the past eight months or longer. While we often think of God as part of our spiritual life, I think it is important to understand that faith encompasses our physical, mental and emotional well-being as well. This time of year is probably going to be mentally taxing on all of us. Maybe our family and friend gatherings will not happen or will look severely different. Maybe worship and Christmas services will look different than we want or then they have in the past. I want to encourage anyone reading this to remember that we are not put on this earth to struggle alone. While things may not be how we want or prefer, we can still reach out to family and friends to talk about hard topics. If you do not have someone you trust, therapy can really be a great option. I know that our culture can put shame on going to counseling, but counseling is a healthy thing to do and I believe a helpful thing to do especially when we are struggling. We remember in Romans 12:4-5 that we are the body of Christ. While we all have different roles, we are connected to each other and each member belongs to all the others. We also read in Galatians 6:2 that we are called to bear one another’s burdens. I would invite you to reach out to family, friends, neighbors, church members to check in to see how they are doing and to check how you may carry one another’s burdens because we are called to love each other.

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.

LA HABRA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CARE CENTER: During the Christmas giving season, you have all been so generous in past years with gifts for the Angel Tree. This year we will not have our traditional Angel Tree and instead ask you to give The Gift of Food! Many people in our community are still hungry and in need. We also know that with more people out of work or having reduced hours, our local food pantry is feeding MANY people in our community. Ricki Fehr helps pack and distribute food every week at the center. She also transports the food gifts which have come from Emanuel and reports that the food comes in and goes out the same day! If you are interested in volunteering during the week, help is always needed. Contact Ricki Fehr at (714) 718-6127 for more information. During the Christmas giving season, we encourage you to bring food gifts so that others will not be hungry. Items especially needed are proteins such as:

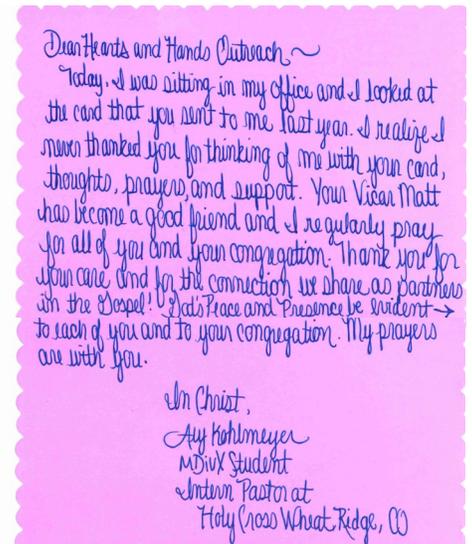
- Peanut Butter
- Tuna
- Canned Meats
- Canned goods such as fruit and vegetables
- Non-perishables such as pasta or packaged dinners
- Rice and Beans

Thank you for these important gifts for our neighbors!

REACHING OUT IN OTHER WAYS: At the beginning of the second year of Vicar Matt’s MDVIX program, he asked if we would send a note to his cohorts (fellow classmates). At that time, we reached out with a handwritten note of support and encouragement to each one. To the right is a note we recently received in return. We never know the far-reaching effects of our hearts and hands outreach.

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 USPS 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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR HEART AND HANDS TEAM!

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 how to pray and trust God.

1. In our lesson “Woman at the Well” we saw that when we drink of “living water” we are hearing God’s Word which is love that forgives and life that lasts forever with God, eternal life. We built a water filtration device that helped clean dirty water into cleaner water to drink.
2. The parable of the pearl was from Matthew 13:45-46. Jesus tells us this story so we won’t forget that our life with God is so precious. God’s love is the pearl of great price.
3. As Jesus taught the disciples all about prayer, he gave us a way to pray with “The Lord’s Prayer.” One way to help us pray is by using the letters C A R T:
 - C — stands for *Confession*, confess and ask for forgiveness
 - A — stands for *Adoration*, praise God for your many blessings
 - R — stands for *Request*, make our needs known to God
 - T — stands for *Thanksgiving*, show how grateful we are

These ideas can help us when we pray to God. He hears ALL our prayers.

4. In our fourth week, our lesson about “The Leap of Faith” showed us that there are some things we just can’t do by ourselves. We need to trust God to help us. When we are feeling weak we can just “leap” into God’s arms and He will help us be strong.

Wow! We have learned so many important life lessons here with online Sunday School. We will be equipped to face any challenges we encounter.

A special thank you goes to Ricki Fehr as she is editing our weekly Sunday School lessons and getting them ready for online viewing.

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

Please pray for our youth and parents as the new school year continues with distance learning and/or a hybrid model for some students.

Prayers are lifted for the spiritual growth of our youth and adults.

Blessings from all your Sunday School Teachers.



PARKING LOT WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

We have now changed to one style of Sunday worship service effective Sunday, November 29, through the remainder of 2020. We will meet at 10:00 AM each Sunday and will follow the Parking Lot Worship format. People will be seated outdoors in chairs for a short in-person service of communion, prayer, music, scripture, and homily. 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 parking in the upper lot for those in need.

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.



VIRTUAL PARENT SUPPORT GROUP THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 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? We will be holding our monthly Zoom meeting on **Thursday, December 3rd at 7:30 PM** 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 children please contact the church office if you are interested.



JOY CIRCLE ON ZOOM TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15 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, December 15 at 9:30 AM. We will be holding a one-month devotional study about Advent rituals for uncertain times. 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@elch.org by Sunday, December 13 and she will get the lesson and Zoom link to you.

THIRD GRADE BIBLES

Each year our third grade students receive their own personal Bible as a gift from the congregation. This year we had three young people who were given Bibles. Two students, Ben Garcia and Jackson Ospital, received their Bibles at the outdoor worship service. Sadie Diaz received her Bible at her home. Congrats to these three young people and may the Word of God dwell within you!



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We were able to hold our first ever in-person/virtual hybrid Annual Meeting. A small group was able to meet in person at the church and more joined in on Zoom. Special thanks to President Jerry Schnakenberg's daughter Sariah Strang for being our tech guru for the day. We were able to successfully pass the annual budget for 2021 with thanks going to Treasurer Ricki Fehr. If you did not receive a copy of the 2021 annual report, they are still available at the church and we will happily send one to you if you so desire.



ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP



Just about everything is looking different this year—and that includes our Advent Midweek Services. We will be holding morning and evening worship opportunities every Wednesday in Advent, December 2, 9, 16, & 23.

- **Midday Prayer** - Every Wednesday in Advent from 12-1:00 PM we will allow individuals and households to sign up for a 10-minute slot to have time of individual prayer in the sanctuary (with masks and sitting in designated pews) accompanied by organ music. Pastor Cate and Vicar Matt will also be reading prayers written by members every 10 minutes. We will also be streaming this live on Facebook and possibly YouTube. You must RSVP to the church office (phone or email) by noon the day before. Please indicate your name and if any other members of your household will be joining you.
- **Evening prayer**- Every Wednesday Night in Advent from 6:00-6:30 PM we will offer prayer around the outdoor cross on the patio as an option for people to gather outside. Limited chairs will be provided. If the group reaches larger than 20 we will move to the upper parking lot for more adequate spacing. Acoustic music will be provided and the same prayers offered in the morning will be offered in the evening read by Vicar Matt or Pr. Cate. No RSVP will be needed, but we will keep track of attendees for contact tracing. We hope you can join us.



LESSONS & CAROLS ONLINE!

This year we are again going to hold our Lessons & Carols Service — and it's all DIGITAL! Tune in to our online worship on Sunday, December 20 for a collection of scripture and song as we celebrate the 4th Sunday in Advent.

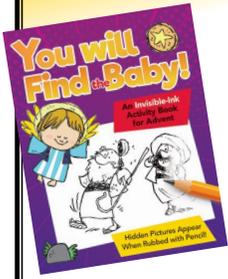


CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

We will post our online recorded Christmas Eve Worship available online beginning 12:00 noon on December 24 on all of our regular platforms—Facebook, YouTube and on our church webpage www.elclh.org.

We will also hold two in-person outdoor worship services on Thursday, December 24 in the upper parking lot. People are welcome to bring their own chair or sit in one of the churches folding chairs. Space will also be made available for those who wish to remain in their cars while attending worship.

Our 3:00 PM worship will feature the Emanuel Praise Band, and our 7:00 PM service will feature keyboard, soloist and handbells. Individual candles will be distributed at the 7:00 PM service and Communion will be offered at both. Because we expect more people than usual, we **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** you RSVP to the church office. All individuals must have a signed waiver on file before attending worship.



CHILDREN’S ADVENT BOOK

We are pleased to offer new “Invisible Ink” Advent activity books for Children. A hidden picture will appear when rubbed with a pencil, and daily stories and devotions are provided for every day of Advent starting November 29. Feel free to pick one up in the church office or at our outdoor worship service. You may also contact the office to have one mailed to you or any children you know!



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 met 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).

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.



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 4, 2021
- February 15, 2021
- March 31, 2021

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

Kid's Korner

LET IT snow!

Create a winter wonderland with this fun craft.



What you need:

- Glass jar with lid but no label
- Laminated photo (that will fit in the jar)
- Small plastic Christmas trinkets
- Hot or waterproof glue
- Container with spout
- 1 cup distilled water
- 3 tsp. glycerin
- Glitter



What you do:

1. Unscrew lid and flip jar upside down. Glue the photo and trinkets to the inside of the lid, standing upright.
2. In a container, mix water and glycerin. Pour the mixture into the jar, leaving space at the top.
3. Spoon in some glitter.
4. When glue is dry, attach the decorated lid tightly. Shake the jar to see "snow" swirl and settle.



WHITE AS SNOW

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.



PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
❄️ for	❄️ give	❄️ come	❄️ together	❄️ around	❄️ after
❄️ self	❄️ into	❄️ settle	❄️ eternal	❄️ thanks	❄️ forgive
❄️ God	❄️ LORD	❄️ says	❄️ without	❄️ Christ	❄️ warmth
❄️ love	❄️ sins	❄️ scarlet	❄️ other	❄️ light	❄️ praise
❄️ red	❄️ star	❄️ white	❄️ snow	❄️ winter	❄️ peace

EXIT

"_____ now, let us _____ the matter," _____ the
 _____. "Though your _____ are like _____,
 they shall be as _____ as _____"

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

Answer: Path 3; come, settle, says, LORD, sins, scarlet, white, snow