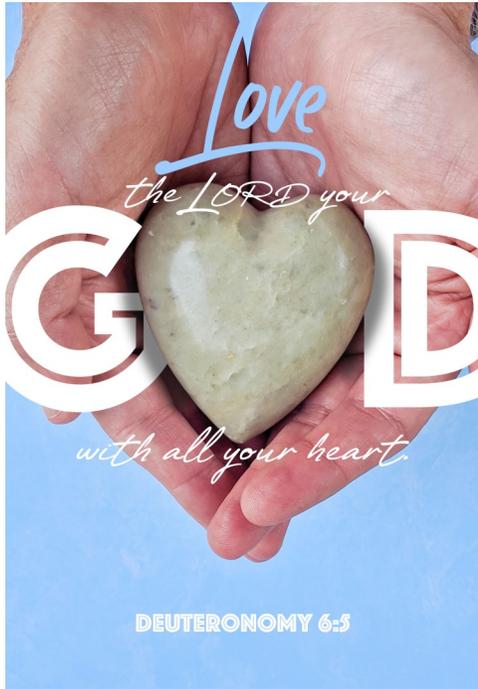


The Good News

MONTHLY PUBLICATION FEBRUARY 2021 VOLUME 27 NUMBER 2



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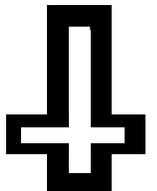
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DATED MATERIAL
 Please Deliver by 2nd or
 3rd of the month.

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
 10:45 a.m.
 Children's Sunday School:
 10:00 a.m.
PASTOR:
 Catherine E. Luehr
VICAR:
 Matt Polsdof
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:
 Jonine Sadders
 Spanish Worship is offered at 2:30 pm by House of Faith.
E-mail: churchinfo@elclh.org
Website: www.elclh.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.

CREATED FOR COMMUNITY

Often on Ash Wednesday we hear the words from our hymnal that proclaim to us the practices of Lent. It states that “we are created for communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.” Though many common Lenten practices rightly invite us to individual acts of “repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love,” Lent is also a time for deepening of community.

Since last March, many of us have been craving community as we once knew it. Many of us have been creative in the way we create new communities. Many of us long for when we can physically be in community once again. We have learned that we are actually “in community” in many different ways.

This Lent, Emanuel will participate along with several other congregations in the Pacifica Synod to create a series of Midweek Lent services that look at what it means to be in community and what it means that we as people of God are created *for* community. Our hope is that even when we are physically apart we would recognize how we are in community.

February 24 - In community with creation

Mark 4:35-41 *Jesus calms a storm*

March 3 - In community with all the saints

Mark 9:2-8 *Jesus is in conversation with those who have gone before him*

March 10 - In community with our neighbor

Mark 2:1-12 *A community comes together to bring a neighbor to Jesus*

March 17 - In community with those on the margins

Mark 5:1-20 *Jesus crosses barriers to attend to those on the margins*

March 24 - In community with Christ

Mark 10:32-45 *Jesus reminds us that we are walking the way of the cross*

Pastor Cate Luehr

Matt's *Motivational* Minute



“Really, my message is simple. It’s a message of compassion. In this world that is spinning madly out of control, we have to realize that we’re all related. We have to try to live harmoniously.” —Woody Harrelson

Wow! The world really feels out of control. I am still struggling in many ways, as I am sure most of you are, to totally process what is going on in the world around us. There was a lot of optimism for the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, but if this year has taught me anything 19 days into the year it is that this year too may not be the year I want or need. In the midst of all the challenges around us (COVID-19, racism, political upheaval, hunger just to name a few), I have been focused on the question of “What is God up to during this time and where is God at work during this time?” These seem to be recurring themes in my seminary courses or in conversations with those around me. I will be the first to admit that I am still trying to process what God is up to during this time, but I do still see God at work.

Before jumping into where I see God at work, I wanted to share a reminder for both you and me. In Romans 8:38-39 we read, *“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* We know that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. It is a crazy time, but our love isn’t separated. I see God at work all around me when I slow down to look for it. In our house we are focusing on a question that came up in a parenting book Jenni and I are reading. “Do you want to be special or do you want unity?” What it meant was that we often try to compete against each other in order to validate ourselves which is something in our American context is too often promoted. However, if we want unity it will require us to be part of a community and lift others up and this can be hard, but other cultures and societies around the globe have done this throughout time and still do this today. We learned in one of my seminary courses about the “Ubuntu philosophy” which can be translated as “I am because we are.” It understands the importance of community over the individual. As the quote points out we often forget how related and connected we are to each other. We need to be reminded of our connectedness to God’s love and then reminded of our connectedness to share that love of God with those around us. As Martin Luther points out, “God doesn’t need your good works, but your neighbor does.” We don’t do good works or help others to earn our salvation, but rather because this is what God has called us to. We live in a community that is in need of our help.

God’s peace,

Vicar Matt Polsdofer



HEART AND HANDS OUTREACH SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!

“Feed My Sheep” – John 21

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!

In 2020, we were unable to continue many of the ministries with whom we have faithfully partnered over the last few years. Through all of this we have continued to support the La Habra Community Resource Care Center with needed food for distribution. You are encouraged to continue these food gifts.

We also have another opportunity for you to consider. During the coming months while we may not be meeting in person and when many others are unable to help our neighbors, we offer you the following from our partners in ministry who are totally focused on hunger and homelessness:

- WINGS Shelter For Victims of Domestic Violence
- HIS House For Families in Transition From Homelessness to Homes
- MAMA’s Hill House For Women and Children in Need

Would you consider giving grocery cards of \$20 or \$25 from any chain store and we will distribute them to these ministries to help them get through this difficult time? You can drop off or send the cards to the Church office. You can designate a specific ministry or let the Spirit guide us as to which ones are most in need.

If you can’t share food, money, or time with others because you are “staying in,” how about the things you CAN do?

- Since February 2013, we have been praying for friends, family, our leaders, and the world. The number of miracles experienced is awesome. If you would like to pray with others, we are on Zoom at 8:30 AM each Saturday. Email me at parr3@roadrunner.com to get the link. Don’t have internet access? You can call in.
- Send a short note via regular mail, email someone, or make a phone call and leave a message. Let others know they are being cared about. If you would like the name of someone who could especially use a greeting, contact Pr. Cate and she can provide you with a name.
- 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!

We encourage you to try a new activity such as a book club, a circle meeting or prayer group that you have never tried before. Zoom is the way to go!

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 Jesus.

1. In January, we discovered that scholars think it may have taken the wisemen up to two years to find Mary, Joseph and Jesus. The wisemen felt it was important for them to find the promised Messiah. Today we continue to look for Jesus in our daily lives.
2. In the lesson of Simeon and Anna we learned that God had promised Simeon that he would see the Messiah (the Chosen One) before he died. Simeon was at the temple when Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to be dedicated. The Holy Spirit told Simeon that this was the promised Savior. A widow named Anna was serving at the temple that day and she saw Jesus. She thanked the Lord and spread the news to all about the promised Savior.
3. In “Escape to Egypt,” after the wisemen left Bethlehem, Joseph had a dream. An angel told him to protect Jesus and to “Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you to return for Herod is going to search for the child.” What an adventure for Mary, Joseph and young Jesus. They stayed until it was safe to return to Israel and Nazareth.
4. “The Boy in the Temple” gave our students a glimpse or look into Jesus’ childhood. He learned and grew just like any other boy or girl. Mary and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. It was a festive time. When Mary and Joseph began to travel home they discovered that Jesus wasn’t with them. They returned to Jerusalem to search for Jesus. After searching three days they finally found Jesus in the temple talking with the teachers. He was just 12 years old, but Jesus could talk about God with a room full of grownups. He was in his “Father’s House.”

We look forward to the time when we will once again meet together. It will be a time of sharing about what we have learned, our favorite Bible stories, and how we can now navigate the Bible finding the different Books of the Bible. It will be such a fun, busy celebration!

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 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.

LENT 2021

Lent will look a little different this year, but we wanted to let you know about some opportunities that are happening.



Ash Wednesday, February 17

On Ash Wednesday, we will be offering an online service that will feature the final installment of Vicar Matt's internship project "*Answering the Call*" looking at where God is calling us in our lives. This service will include a time for you to do the Imposition of Ashes at home and will be made available on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel by Wednesday morning.

We will also be holding a drive-thru Imposition of Ashes on Wednesday, February 17, from 9:00-10:00 AM and again in the evening from 6:00-7:00 PM. Pastor Cate and Vicar Matt will be conducting this with very strict personal safety protocols in place. As mentioned later in this newsletter, the church council will meet February 1 to reevaluate in-person gathering and if at that time it is deemed safe to meet in person, we will plan our first service back to be an evening Imposition of Ashes service on February 17 in lieu of the evening drive-thru Imposition of Ashes.

Lenten Midweek Online Worship

For our Midweek Lenten Worship we will be collaborating with other churches from around the Pacifica Synod as we create online worship that will be available every Wednesday on all of our digital platforms. We have partnered with other ELCA churches from around our Synod to provide the Good News of Jesus centered around our theme "*Created for Community*." Join us online for worship February 24, March 3, 10, 17 and 24.

A graphic for Lenten Worship. The left side has a blue sky with white clouds background. The right side has a dark blue background with white text. The text on the left includes a quote from Psalm 27:8a, the year 2021, the title "Lenten Worship", and a list of participating churches. The text on the right is the title "Created for Community" followed by a list of community themes and a concluding prayer.

My heart has heard you say
"Come and talk with me"
Psalm 27:8a

2021
Lenten Worship

Virtual Lenten Worship
Available online every Wednesday in Lent

Bethlehem/ Los Alamitos
Emanuel/La Habra
First&The Table/ Fullerton
Whittier Pres & Salem/Whittier
St. Paul/Fullerton

Created for Community

In community with
Creation...

In community with
All Saints...

In community with
Our Neighbors...

In community with
those in the margins...

In community with
Christ...

The Creator who fashions us together with
all things, the Christ who leads us into a
new beloved community, the Spirit who
holds us in the communion of saints, One
God, bless you now and always.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Thank you all for your continued financial support of Emanuel Lutheran Church. A number of you regularly mail in your offering using your provided offering envelopes. We have the 2021 envelopes at Emanuel and would like to provide them to those of you who would like to use them. You can come to the church to pick them up, or we are happy to drop them off at your home with contactless delivery. Additionally, if you are someone who gives your regular offering online, the boxes contain additional envelopes to use for Second Mile giving and special offerings. If you do not use your envelopes, please let the office know and we can update our list for next year.

VIRTUAL WINTER RETREAT FROM LRCC

Since we are still not able to gather at Luther Glen or EL Camino Pines for our annual winter retreats, LRCC will be producing a Virtual winter retreat.

On each of the first three Fridays in February, they will be publishing a new video workshop for you to view any time. Each video is catered to children and adults of all ages! Then the last Saturday in February, make sure to sign up for the live worship on Zoom held at 3:00 PM on February 27 (<https://lrcchome.com/virtual-winter-retreat>) or contact Pr. Cate to sign up with the church (pastorcate@elclh.org).

We hope you can join this awesome event!

LUTHERAN RETREATS,
CAMPS & CONFERENCES
El Camino Pines
Luther Glen Farm

2021
Winter
Retreat

Still Standing

Romans
12:12

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3 Video Workshops

Interactive
Zoom Celebration

Workshops
released

Feb. 27th
@ 3pm

Feb. 5th
Feb. 12th
Feb. 19th

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IN-PERSON GATHERING

We hope to continually keep you up to date on the council and leadership's most recent decisions regarding in-person gatherings. The church council met on Tuesday, January 19 to determine the best route for our congregation over the next few weeks. It was determined that it would not be wise to gather for in-person worship at this time. This is due in part to the high levels of COVID related hospitalizations in Orange and Los Angeles counties, and in part due to the increasing number of members who are beginning to get the vaccine. We know it is difficult not to meet in person at this time, but we also know there is hope on the horizon.

The council has decided to meet every two weeks (as opposed to every four weeks as we currently do) to determine the safety and risk of gathering for in-person worship. We will again meet on February 1 to determine if it is wise for us to meet starting mid February. If it is decided we should not resume, we will again reevaluate at our February 16 meeting and determine if we should resume in-person gatherings for the beginning of March. We will be contacting you in the congregation as soon as we have decisions, and we hope that knowing we are reevaluating every two weeks will provide some sense of a timeline in this unpredictable time.

INDIVIDUAL COMMUNION



We know that many of you are missing many parts of meeting in person, especially communion. If you would like communion, please let the office know and Pr. Cate or Vicar Matt will make it available to you. We can come to your home and celebrate communion on your front steps, or you can schedule a time to come to the church office and we can celebrate communion at a safe distance like Jill Drummond and Char Ponzio chose to do recently.

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.



BLOOD DRIVE — BIG THANKS!



On January 4, Emanuel held the first of three scheduled blood drives for the American Red Cross. Thank you John Ospital for coordinating these drives, and a BIG thanks to you and our community!! The goal for this blood drive was to collect 20-25 units of blood for critical needs across Southern California. They collected 32—far above the goal!!! Thank you, and we hope you can participate in the upcoming drives in Moerer Hall from 12:00 to 6:00 PM on **Monday, February 15 and Wednesday, March 31**. You can register at www.giveblood.org. Here are a couple photos of Emanuel staff (Vicar Matt Polsdofer and Lorrie Freeman) donating!



JOY CIRCLE ON ZOOM TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 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, February 16 at 9:30 AM. 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.

Angels are not a major focus of holy Scripture, nor are they ever mentioned in our Christian creeds. Yet they show up with frequency and at pivotal moments in both Old and New Testaments. Church reformer Martin Luther is quoted as saying, "If you picture the Bible to be a mighty tree and every word a little branch, I have shaken every one of these branches because I wanted to know what it was and what it meant." Through April 2021, the Rev. Christa von Zychlin will present a four-part study "Journeys with Angels" in which we will shake those biblical branches, watch for angels and listen for God's call to action.

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, February 14 and she will get the lesson and Zoom link to you.

Kid's Korner

Loving embraces

Express your love and friendship with handcrafted bracelets.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Bowl of boiling water
- Wide wooden craft sticks
- Glass cup
- Markers, paint or decorative tape

What you do:

1. Pour about 3 cups of boiling water into a bowl. Soak sticks in the water about 30 minutes.
2. Remove sticks and slowly, gently bend them into a curve.
3. To maintain the shape, place curved sticks inside a glass cup overnight to dry completely.
4. Remove and decorate the bracelets, which make fun Valentine's Day gifts.

PUZZLE

A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

“

J Q U O W A E O E E E
 J E A A E E' U N O J Q U O W
 A E O N L U A E J E A A
 N L U A' A E O A N U E N A W
 J E A A E W F A
 N U E N A W U N O
 A E O A E E O
 F A E E O ”

RUTH 1:16, NIV



W	A		E	T
B	U	H	D	O
G	R	L	Y	I
	N	S	P	M

Answer: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV

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