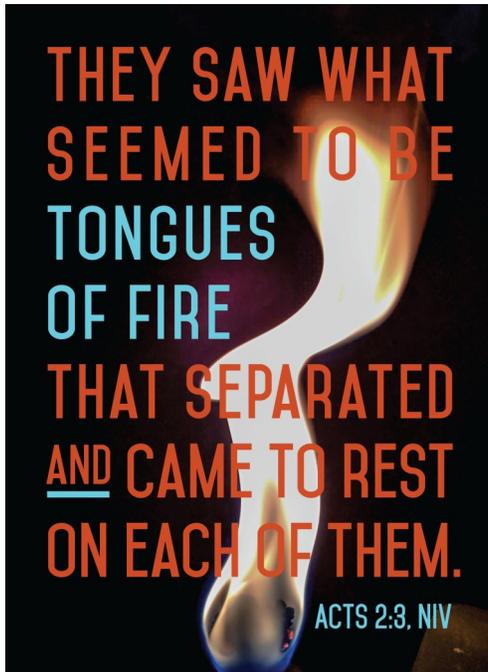


The Good News

MONTHLY PUBLICATION MAY 2021 VOLUME 27 NUMBER 5



IN THIS ISSUE

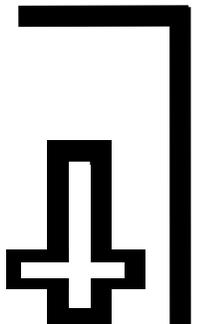
From Pastor Luehr Pg. 2
 Matt's Motivational Minute Pg. 3
 Heart And Hands Outreach Pg. 4
 Parish Education..... Pg. 5
 Vicar Matt's Farewell Pg. 6
 Movie Night..... Pg. 6
 Stewardship Committee..... Pg. 6
 Pastor Cate's Farewell..... Pg. 7
 In-Person Outdoor Worship Pg. 7
 Joy Circle Pg. 8
 Digital Sunday School..... Pg. 8
 Schoppa Scholarships Pg. 9
 Christ In Our Home..... Pg. 9
 Prayer Requests Pg. 9
 Children's Activities Page Pg. 10

address label here

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

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Traditional Worship Service
 Praise Service
 Children's Sunday School:
 PASTOR:
 VICAR:
 PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:
 9:00 a.m.
 10:45 a.m.
 10:00 a.m.
 Catherine E. Luehr
 Matt Polsdof
 Jonine 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.

As I write my last newsletter article as the Pastor at Emanuel, I am reminded of the great joy that has come from serving with you these past twelve years. When I started here, I was one month out of seminary with ample excitement and a lot to learn. I am so very thankful that I was able to learn how to be a pastor here in this place that nurtured me, taught me how to be a leader and worked with me in our shared passion for the Gospel. I'm thankful for the opportunity to grow from an associate pastor to a co-senior pastor, to a solo pastor to a supervising pastor all in the same congregation. I am thankful to have my place of employment also be a place of my deep passion and joy. Thank you for making this time with you a true joy.

In my sermon on Easter Sunday this past year, I shared these words "I am excited to see what God is going to be up to at Emanuel—I'm excited to know what the Holy Spirit has in store for this place." We have all been changed this past year. We have gone through the cycle of death, and now we are coming though, we are resurrection people!" Emanuel will shortly begin the interim work which though it can be difficult can also be so life giving. This is a time to look to the future of where God is calling this church. Especially after living in the pandemic this past year, this church now has a chance to look at where we came from and ask, "What do we want to bring back and what do we want to leave behind?" I truly am excited to see what Emanuel's next step will be and where you, the people—the hands and feet of Christ here in La Habra—will be called to next!

As I embark on my next chapter of ministry, I am excited to explore where I hear the calling of the Holy Spirit. As I begin a year-long chaplaincy residency at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, I know I will be doing God's work with my hands as I help children and families through frightening times. I thank you all so much for the love and support you have shown to me and my husband Clayton. Please know that as all of us continue the ministry God has set before us, I am eternally grateful to have been a part of this community of Christ.

Pastor Cate Luehr



Matt's *Motivational* Minute



“Here I am Lord, is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night, I will go Lord, if you lead me, I will hold Your people in my heart.” (Hymn “Here I am Lord”)

It is crazy that this is my last newsletter article with all of you! It seems like just yesterday I was writing my newsletter article introducing myself and my family. One of my favorite hymns that has been like a “theme song” for me is this hymn “Here I am Lord.” One of the reasons that it has been a favorite and a comfort is that wherever we go, the Lord is leading us and is going ahead of us.

The upcoming months and years will bring a lot of change for myself, Emanuel, and the world. The world seems to be in a time of transition as we work to combat the COVID-19 virus and come back to some semblance of “normalcy.” For myself and my family, we will be moving to a new place, starting a new call sometime hopefully in 2021, and welcoming a fourth child to our family! Emanuel will also be going through a time of transition as well as you all discern the future and where God is calling you. One of my other favorite things with this song is that “Your people” is capitalized. I am not one for grammar or editing, but knowing that “Your” is capitalized conveys that we are specific people belonging to God. Prayers, love, and support for all of you as you are listening for where God is calling you individually and as a congregation.

How do I say thank you for all of your support and love over the past two years? I appreciate all the love and support I received throughout the past two years, but especially right away as I was new to all of this and was learning as I went. Many of you offered words of support and provided teaching moments to help me as I grew in this role. I would especially like to thank my internship committee for the time and effort they put in these past two years. I would also like to thank all those who have served on church council while I have been here as they have been amazing answering my questions and teaching me throughout these two years! Also, I would like to thank Pastor Cate for all the time, effort, and energy she has put in as my supervisor these past two years. Thank you again for all your amazing support over the past two years!

God’s peace,

Vicar Matt Polsdofer





HEART AND HANDS OUTREACH SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!

“Feed My Sheep” – John 21

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!

Many of us have truly missed our community in-person outreach during the pandemic. We have provided food to Storehouse Ministries/LRCC and provided gift cards to HIS House, WINGS, and Mama Hill’s House to provide food and necessities.

IT IS NOW DEEMED SAFE TO MEET AND PLAN OUR HAHO OUTREACH GOING FORWARD. To that end, we will meet in person at Emanuel on Saturday, May 15 at 10:00 AM. We will meet where we can physically distance and we will take all precautions including wearing masks. **Anyone who has ever wanted to reach out on behalf of Emanuel and has any ideas for this, please come!!!**

In addition to supporting our community ministries, let’s consider how else we can be good friends and neighbors. Hearts reach out too! Here are some thoughts on how to become a friend and nurture a good friendship. In our world today, friendship and love for all people are the way to peace.

BE KIND. This most basic behavior emphasized during childhood remains the core of successful adult relationships. Think of friendship as an emotional bank account. Every act of kindness and every expression of gratitude are deposits into this account, while criticism and negativity draw down the account.

- **Listen up.** Ask what’s going on in your friends’ lives. Let the other person know you are paying close attention through eye contact, body language, and occasional brief comments such as, “That sounds fun.” When friends share details of hard times or difficult experiences, be empathetic, but don’t give advice unless your friends ask for it.
- **Open up.** Build intimacy with your friends by opening up about yourself. Being willing to disclose personal experiences and concerns shows that your friend holds a special place in your life and deepens your connection.
- **Show that you can be trusted.** Being responsible, reliable and dependable is key to forming strong friendships. Keep your engagements and arrive on time. Follow through on commitments you’ve made to your friends. When your friends share confidential information, keep it private.
- **Make yourself available.** Building a close friendship takes time—together. Make an effort to see new friends regularly and to check in with them in between meet-ups. You may feel awkward the first few times you talk on the phone or get together, but this feeling is likely to pass as you get more comfortable with each other.

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 Jesus, the meaning of Easter, and faith.

1. In our lesson “Do I Have to Like Everybody?” we learned that Jesus says, “I give you a new command: Love each other as I have loved you.” With God’s help we can show God’s love to people even if we don’t like the things they do or say.
2. On Palm Sunday we heard the story of Jesus riding on a donkey as He entered Jerusalem for the Passover. People honored Jesus by putting palm branches and their coats on the ground for him to walk on. Jesus was the “King of Peace” and the whole world celebrated!
3. For Easter we learned about the important events that occurred during Holy Week. After Jesus was crucified he was put in a tomb. When the women go to the tomb and find that Jesus is not there, we celebrate that “Jesus is alive!” God has raised Jesus from the dead! We need to share the Good News!
4. Finally, in April we found the answer to the question, “Where did Jesus go when He needed help?” Every time Jesus had to do something hard or important, he spent time with God for help and guidance. Luke 5:16 says “Jesus often slipped away to be alone so he could pray.”.

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 schools schedules may have changed and there is anticipation of the coming of summer.

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

Blessings from all your Sunday School Teachers.



VICAR MATT'S FAREWELL SUNDAY, MAY 16 AT 5:00 PM

The time has come—Vicar Matt will be leaving us soon. We have decided to have a picnic on the front lawn at 5:00 PM on Sunday, May 16th, which will be his last Sunday with us. Everyone will bring their own food, but at least we can gather together outside. We are going to make a Shutterfly book with pictures and messages from as many as possible. There will also be a mic set up for anyone who would like to say a few words that day. If you have any questions, ideas to share, or would like to help, please contact Robyn Ospital. Hopefully we will all be able to attend and wish them Godspeed.

MovieTime

MOVIE NIGHT WITH HOUSE OF FAITH SATURDAY, JUNE 5 AT 5:00 PM

House of Faith has graciously invited Emanuel to join them in the upper parking lot for a movie night on Saturday, June 5 at 5:00 PM. The movie is **Breakthrough** and everyone is asked to bring their own chairs or blankets to sit on. Save the date!

FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Again, as you hear each Sunday, many thanks to those of you who have so faithfully given to our beloved Emanuel. You have allowed ministry to continue in this place. Certainly included in this is the time you have dedicated to others less fortunate or unable to care for themselves. You may have made calls to those who were lonely or filled a need when help was needed. We ask that you share those stories as an encouragement to others. When we are taught that we can't out give God, it is true. The blessings that come from giving in the name of God, far exceed what it costs us.

As we look ahead to more normalcy in our lives, both personally and at Emanuel, we encourage you to look at where you are called to serve. It may be in your neighborhood, community or at Emanuel. We are sure the Holy Spirit is calling each of you to take a step of faith in your future. This pandemic has changed us all! Our prayer is that it has drawn us all to a closer relationship with our God. May He lead us to broaden our desire and willingness to join a committee, pray more, volunteer to help someone in need and to trust Him more. May we each feel the calling of the Spirit in us. May God continue to bless you far more than you can imagine and keep you safe and well.

In shared faith and service,
Emanuel's Stewardship Committee



Time, Talents & Treasure



PASTOR CATE'S FAREWELL SUNDAY, MAY 30 AT 5:00 PM

As you all know, Pastor Cate Luehr has been accepted into a Chaplain Residency Program where God is calling her to learn and serve the children and their families at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. The Church Council has decided to have a picnic on the front lawn at 5:00 PM on Sunday, May 30th, which is her last Sunday with us. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we ask that everyone bring their own food and we can gather together outside (keeping social distance) to wish her the best as she starts a new chapter in her service to God.

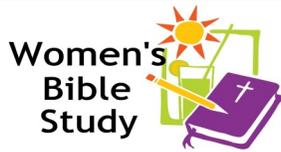
If you would like to write her a message, share a photo or send her a gift, please forward them to the church office at churchinfo@elch.org by Sunday, May 9th. There will also be a mic set up for anyone who would like to say a few words that day. If you have any questions, ideas to share, or would like to help, please contact Mary Jo Hermann. Hopefully everybody will be able to attend and wish her and Clay all the best as they start a new phase in their walk with God.



IN-PERSON OUTDOOR WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY

The church council has determined it to be reasonably safe for Emanuel to resume outdoor parking lot worship on Sundays at 10:00 AM. We will follow the previous format with people seated outdoors in chairs for a short in-person service of prayer, communion, music, scripture, and homily. We will be practicing the usual safety protocols and 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 please continue to the upper parking lot where an usher will direct you and assist with a chair if needed. You are encouraged 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 available.

While we know this is still not "back to normal" we hope having a short time of worshipping together again will strengthen you for the days ahead.



JOY CIRCLE ON ZOOM TUESDAY, MAY 18 AT 9:30 AM

The Joy Circle is a women's group that meets monthly for a time of discussion and fellowship. We have met virtually for the past seven months due to the pandemic; however on Tuesday, May 18 at 9:30 AM we plan to meet **IN PERSON**. We will either meet in the hall or on the patio, wear masks, and each bring our own food. There will also be an option to participate via Zoom for anyone who prefers to attend virtually. 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." This month Rev. Christa von Zychlin will conclude our four-part study "Journeys with Angels" where we have shaken those biblical branches, watched 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, May 16 and she will get the lesson and Zoom link to you.



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).



SCHOPPA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Elroy Schoppa Scholarship Fund is provided by Emanuel Lutheran Church for members of Emanuel who are, or will be, attending an accredited college or vocational school in the next academic year. Students must attend 50% of Sunday Worship services and scheduled Youth meetings for at least 2 years within 4 years of applying. They must also maintain a 2.5 minimum GPA. Current recipients are Jessica Mora (fourth year) and Amanda Zambrano (second year). Contact Warren Parr or Wolfgang Hessel for more information.



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 have received our supply of *Christ in Our Home* devotional booklets for **April-May-June 2021**. 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 a prayer request you would like included in Sunday Worship, please contact the church office by Thursday and we will be able to include it in our service.



Kid's Korner

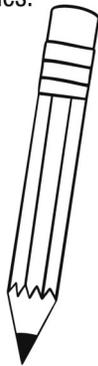


WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Jesus commands us to be his witnesses. This craft is a reminder to reach out to all our "circles."

What you need:

- 5 bowls or cups (assorted sizes)
- Construction paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Brad fastener
- Crayons or markers



What you do:

1. Place the bowls and cups upside down, each on a different color of paper. Trace around the circles and cut them out.
2. With a pencil, pierce a small hole atop each circle. Layer circles on each other from largest to smallest, aligning the holes. Insert the brad through all layers.
3. Starting in the center, label the circles *my house*, *my city*, *my state*, *my country*, *the world*. Draw a picture on each one.
4. Pray, asking Jesus how you can spread his message.



A lasting promise

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus speaks a final promise to the disciples.

Directions: Use the picture clues to find the letters. Then write that word below to complete Acts 1:8, NIV.

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

"But you will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8, NIV

Answer: power

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