



# Emmanuel Lutheran Church

of North Hollywood

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Bulletin for Worship*

*December 21, 2025*

*10:00am*

*Welcoming all people, Emmanuel Lutheran Church and schools  
love, teach and serve through Christ.*

## **GATHERING**

### **Prelude**

*Please stand*

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Brief silence for reflection*

Long-expected God,  
**we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security only you can provide.  
We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.  
We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.  
Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.  
Increase our trust in God's timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.  
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own righteousness.

✝ You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace,  
and ready to welcome the Savior.

**Amen.**

# Gathering Song ~ ELW 257

## "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (stanzas 1-4)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



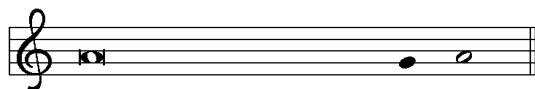
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## Greeting

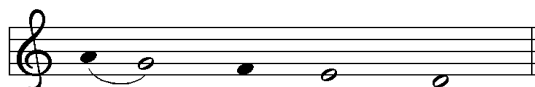
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# Musical Offering ~ Kyrie ELW Setting Four S 147



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



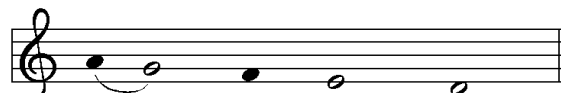
Lord, have mer - cy.



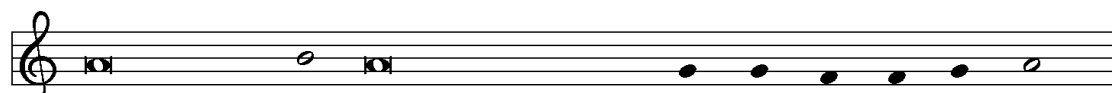
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray...

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## Children's Message ~ Pastor Rick Hall

*The children are invited to Sunday School*

### First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16

<sup>10</sup> The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm: 80:1-7, 17-19

- <sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- <sup>2</sup> **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>4</sup> **O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
- <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- <sup>6</sup> **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>17</sup> **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

- <sup>18</sup> And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.  
<sup>19</sup> **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

## Second Lesson

Romans 1:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## Gospel Acclamation ~ ELW Setting Four S 151a



The holy gospel according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her

as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

**Message ~ Pastor Rick Hall**

*Please stand*

**Hymn ~ ELW 265 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"**



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

**Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*The presiding minister invites the assembly into prayer.*

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*Brief silence*

*After each petition of the prayers...*

**Leader:** God of Grace,  
**People:** hear our prayers

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these words.*

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

**Amen.**

## **Peace**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say*

Peace be with you or similar words.

*Please be seated*

## **MEAL**

### **Offering**

*For those not worshipping in person, please mail your tithe or offering to the church, give online at our website, or use the link here to give.*

<https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Form/d491ee0f-8efd-4459-97c5-fa8df58e33>



## Musical Offering ~ “Comfort, Comfort”

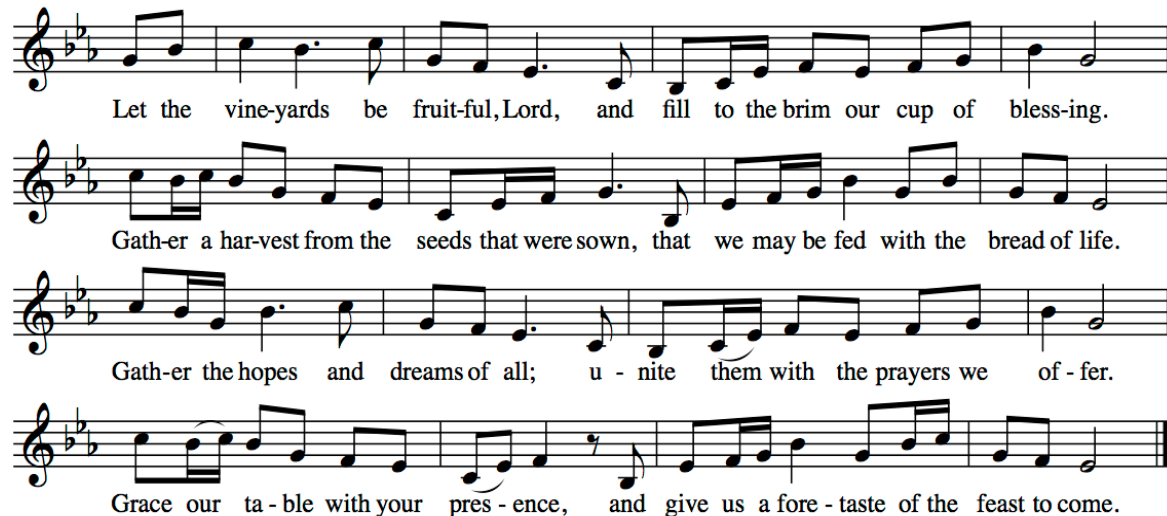
arr. John Ferguson

Chancel Choir,

Ricardo Beron, Gabriel Iaconis, Ute Iaconis, recorder

*Please stand*

## Offertory Song ~ ELW 184 “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing.

Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer.

Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## Offertory Prayer

Let us pray...

Nourishing God,

you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,

that we may rejoice and be for the world

signs of your kingdom come.

**Amen**

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

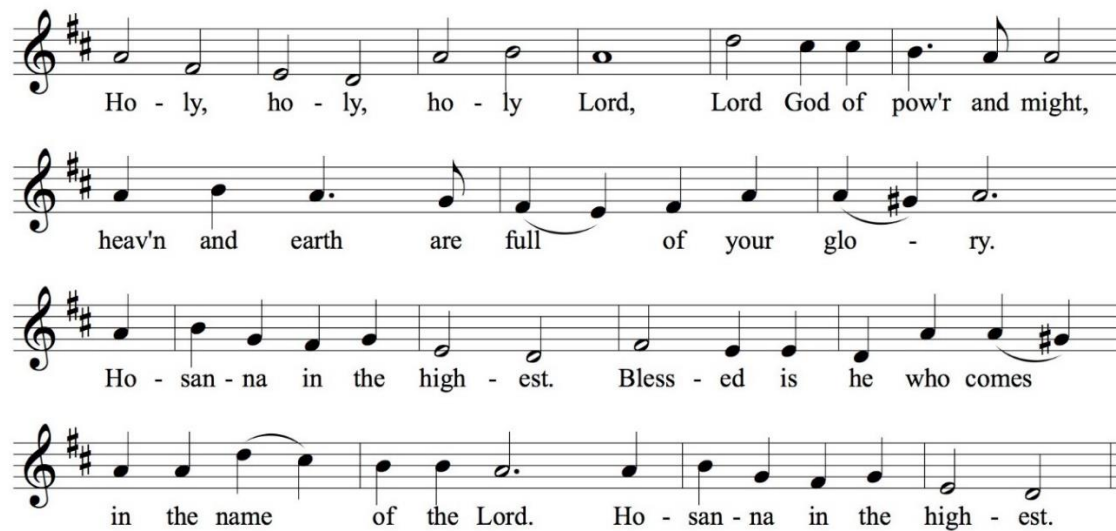
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The presiding minister continues:*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy - ELW Setting Four S 153



### The Words of Institution

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.  
In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.  
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

## Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

The table is set; the meal is ready. All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

*Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. (gluten free and grape juice options available)*

## Communion Songs ~ ELW Setting Four S 154 "Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

"In dulci jubilo"

by Batholomew Gesius and  
Johann Sebastian Bach

"Ma'oz Tzur"

traditional Hebrew tune  
recorders

## Prayer after Communion

God our host,  
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.  
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,  
welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

**Amen**

## SENDING

### Announcements

*Please stand*

### Blessing

*The minister blesses the congregation.*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen**

### Sending Song ~ ELW 251 "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"



- 1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
- 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.
- 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

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## **Worship Team**

<b>Message</b>	Pastor Rick Hall
<b>Minister of Music</b>	Mark Longfield
<b>Organist</b>	Andy Gladbach
<b>Greeter</b>	Darlene Michener
<b>CA Bread</b>	Mark Longfield
<b>CA Wine #1 (tray)</b>	Tom Reilly
<b>CA Wine #2 (tray)</b>	George Watson
<b>CA Empty #3 (recp.)</b>	CaroleJean Willis
<b>CA Empty #4 (recp.)</b>	Diana Howison
<b>Lector</b>	Kimberly Laux
<b>Usher #1</b>	Jeannie Wilson
<b>Usher #2</b>	Barbara Piecka
<b>Gaffer</b>	Barbara Ericson
<b>Sound</b>	Stephen Howison
<b>Live Stream</b>	Jessie Tobey

**Thank You Visitors and Members!** On our [elcnoho.org](http://elcnoho.org) website, please click on “Member/Visitor Form” to give us feedback.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Christmas Eve Worship**



**Celebrate Christmas with neighbors and friends at Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Laurel Hall School!**

**Christmas Eve Family Celebration!** A Living Nativity, carols, candles , and our choir.

Following the service, we will have fellowship with coffee, hot chocolate, carols, and Christmas cookies on the patio. Wednesday, December 24, 5:00 – 6:00 P.M. All are welcome, come as you are, invite a friend!

### **Offering Envelopes**



Envelopes for 2026 are ready to be picked up in the Narthex. Please begin using them in no earlier than January 2026 because your box of 2026 envelopes may be a different number than your box of 2025 envelopes. Also, please do not use 2025 envelopes after December 31, 2025. If you do not see your name and would like envelopes, please contact Diana Howison at [diana\\_howison@sbcglobal.net](mailto:diana_howison@sbcglobal.net)

As the 2025 calendar year comes to a close, please remember that all 2025 contributions need to be in the offering plate by Sunday, December 28, made through the online portal no later than December 31, post-marked no later than December 31 for correct recording. Thank you for your faithful stewardship; this is how our ministry continues.



In the month of December the Adult Bible Study Class will be studying Jesus' disciple John. We look forward to learning more about the beloved disciple in the coming weeks. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9 AM.

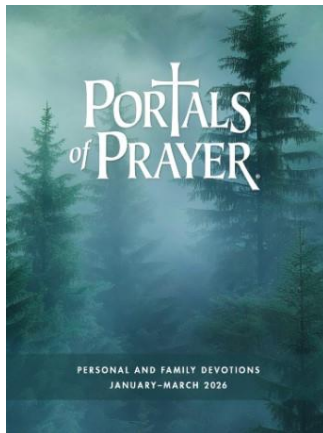
Thank you, Liz



### Confirmation Classes Starting in October

This year we will be partnering with other churches in the Twin Valley Conference to teach Confirmation classes. Classes will be held on Sunday afternoons from 1:30-3:30pm at differing locations and churches throughout the Conference. Classes will only be once a month and will run until May. If you are in the 6-8th grade and want to attend or if you are the parent of a middle schooler who wants their kiddo to attend, please contact Pastor Rick at [rhall@elcnoho.org](mailto:rhall@elcnoho.org) or call the church 818-761-6124 or catch him on Sunday. It should be an exciting year of learning as we will focus on: **What does it mean to be Lutheran?**

### Next Quarter Devotionals Available



Devotional booklets are available in the literature rack in the church narthex, ***Portals of Prayer*** and ***Christ in our Home*** each covering one quarter of 2025. ***Spark*** is available in limited number. In this magazine style devotional book ***Spark***, there are activities and stories to lead everyone in the family through the season. Finally, ***The Word in Season*** is also available. Pick up any of these in the narthex today! Pick these up at no charge. They are our gift to help you.



### The church office

will be closed on  
December 22 – Jan 2 for the  
Holidays. For any immediate  
needs please coordinate with  
Ancel, Office Manager by 12  
noon, on December 15, 2025





## POINSETTIAS

A limited number of poinsettias have been purchased to beautify the Sanctuary for Christmas. Please contact Karen Ohrt at 818-618-9825 to purchase a plant, the cost is \$17.00 each. Donations are also welcome to help cover the cost of the Poinsettias.

You may pick-up your purchased poinsettia after the Christmas Eve service which is at 5:00 pm. Merry Christmas.

## City of Angels Community Choir

**Sunday, December 21, 5pm**



If you are looking for a family Christmas Concert with seasonal singing and familiar carols, then look no further, the City of Angels Community Choirs is the perfect concert for you and your family. Sunday, December 21 at 5pm, the Adult Master Chorale and Children's Chorus will be filling our Emmanuel sanctuary with beautiful Christmas music. The concert costs \$25 for Adults and \$10 for Children, but for Emmanuel Lutheran parishioners it is **FREE!** Just mention Emmanuel at the ticket table to get in.





The last Sunday School for the year will take place on 12/21. Classes will resume on 1/11.

## NEW SWAG FOR SALE

TODDLER T-SHIRTS \$20  
TODDLER HOODIE- \$25  
ADULT T-SHIRTS \$25  
ADULT HOODIE- \$35  
TOTES- \$15  
PATCHES (SET OF 3) -\$10

LAST YEARS  
INVENTORY  
ON SALE!

**ORDER NOW**



[LHPPTO.swagsales@gmail.com](mailto:LHPPTO.swagsales@gmail.com)

**CASH/CHECK PAYMENTS  
ACCEPTED AT CHRISTMAS SING**

VISIT OUR INSTAGRAM FOR MORE INFO @laurelhallpreschoolpto





We need helping hands to pack more bags! We are asking people for an hour or two of their time to pack bags at Temple Beth Hillel. Check out some of the ways you can volunteer below. Then visit our website, [NHIFP.org](http://NHIFP.org), go to the tab "Sign Up Genius" to help out!

**Transportation Team** transports the loaded grocery bags from the packing site at Temple Beth Hillel to the food distribution site at First Christian Church. Sign up to help out here: [North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry: Sign up to help out here](http://NorthHollywoodInterfaithFoodPantry.org)

[Transport bags from Temple to new pantry and/or unload truck \(signupgenius.com\)](http://NorthHollywoodInterfaithFoodPantry.org)

**Packing Team** fills the bags and sorts them in the basement of Temple Beth Hillel. Sign up to help out here: [North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry: Pack Bags at the Temple OR at Distribution - CHECK LOCATION ADDRESS! \(signupgenius.com\)](http://NorthHollywoodInterfaithFoodPantry.org)

**Sack Lunches Team** makes sack lunches at home and delivers them to the First Christian Church. Sign up to help out here: [North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry: Provide sack lunches - make at home and deliver \(signupgenius.com\)](http://NorthHollywoodInterfaithFoodPantry.org)

Please place your groceries in the food collection box in the narthex and they will be delivered to Temple Beth Hillel.

**Got extra grocery bags?** If you've got gently used paper or plastic bags taking up space in your pantry, we'd love to give them a second life! Drop off whatever you can spare at our distribution site—we'll put them to good use.

Other ways you can help us is by shopping from our [Amazon Wish List](#)

## FOOD ASKS OF THE MONTH



We always need cat and dog food (wet or dry).

Please donate cans of hearty soups and chili.



Drop off food donations at:

Our Distribution Site  
- **Mondays and Fridays**  
**between 7:30AM-11:00**  
(11634 Moorpark St. -1/2 block east of Colfax)

Temple Beth Hillel (enter off  
Laurelgrove) **Mondays-Fridays, 4:00-5:00PM** please donate cans of hearty soups and chili.

## Contact Us

Please check as many as you wish.

- 0 I wish to meet with Pastor Rick Hall to learn more about the sacrament of Holy Communion.
- 0 I wish to meet with Pastor Rick Hall to learn more about the sacrament of Holy Baptism.
- 0 I wish to meet with Pastor Rick Hall to learn more about becoming a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church.
- 0 Today, or next Sunday will be my first communion, or the first communion for:

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DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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**THANKS! Pastor Hall will contact you soon!**