



**'E'-Mail**  
**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**December 24, 2025**

***Serving the Community since September 1945***

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

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# December 2025

**Have you ever heard a whisper? |  
Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry | Christmas 2025**



**Celebrate Christmas with neighbors and friends at Emmanuel.  
Wednesday, December 24, 5:00 – 6:00 P.M**

Christmas Eve Family Celebration includes: A Living Nativity, Carols, Candles, and our adult and children's choir.

Following 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!



**Message**  
 Pastor Rick Hall  
**Minister of Music**  
 Mark Longfield  
**Organist**  
 Andy Gladbach  
**Greeter**  
 Barbara Reilly  
**Crucifer**  
 Henry Kraft  
**Communion Assistants**  
 Debby Semel  
 George Watson  
 Sue Clauss  
 Bonnie Koch  
 Diana Howison  
 Sylvia Ottemoeller  
 Darlene Michener  
 CaroleJean Willis

**Prayers**  
 Jeff Zimmer  
**Readers**  
 Tom Reilly  
 Pati Evans  
 Erika Sieme  
 A.J. Coggeshall  
 Pastor Rick Hall  
**Ushers**  
 Kurt Marsden  
 Debie Marsden  
**Gaffer**  
 Marshall Bowen  
**Sound**  
 Ted Akin  
**Live Stream**  
 Bob Akin

**Living Nativity**  
 Mary - Lois Kirk  
 Joesph - Jason Plattner  
**Angels-**  
 Dianna Roden  
 Cadence Longfield  
 Eleanor Stuart  
**Inn Keeper**  
 Jeff Zimmer  
**Shepherds=**  
 Alex Reilly  
 Reed Longfield  
 James Kraft  
 Jet & Ying Tremble  
 Oliver & Fitzgerald Stuart  
**Director**  
 Marshall Bowen  
**Costumes**  
 Bonnie Koch

## Journey to Bethlehem



This is the original presentation of Journey to Bethlehem, written by Marge Wold and narrated by Pastor Erling Wold. It was produced by Tommy Bond (Butch from "Our Gang"). The publicist was Al Fackler, and it featured numerous Hollywood personalities over the years. It was presented annually for 11 years between 1960 and 1971 on the Laurel Hall playground of Laurel Hall.. The sets cost more than \$65,000. Quite an investment for Emmanuel Lutheran Church in their efforts to reach the San Fernando Valley with the Gospel. The church spent about \$35,000 each Christmas to present this event over 10 nights leading up to Christmas. Live animals were donated by Spahn Movie Ranch, who also supplied chariot teams for the original Ben Hur Movie in 1959. Grandstands capable of seating 1000 were constructed on the playground. Professional Hollywood lighting and sound accompanied the soundtrack. The Introduction is by "Sheriff John" Rovick, then a member of Emmanuel. All of the cast were church members, part of the Church's theatrical ensemble, well known for its numerous presentations.

In 1963, KTTV Channel 11 in Los Angeles, then Mertomeida Television, filmed the entire production for broadcast on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day on TV. This presentation is from a rare videotape discovered in the church storage room. By about 1967, the production had become a staple on KTTV in Los Angeles, and it was filmed a second time in color and continued to be aired on KTTV in Los Angeles for some years after the actual production ended. During a fire at the Metromedia Studios in Hollywood, all of the color copies were accidentally destroyed. This is the only surviving copy of the original presentation.

Today, nearly 50 years later, Emmanuel is still known for its outstanding choir concerts, theatrical presentations, and events that reach out to the community.

## Bishop Bos Christmas Eve Message



*Church*  
OFFICE CLOSED

December 22 – January 2



Each of you should give  
what you have decided  
in your heart to give,  
not reluctantly  
or under compulsion,  
for God loves a cheerful giver.

**2 Corinthians 9:7**

DailyVerses.net



## Sharing Our Abundant Blessings

At this time of year, we are counting our blessings, and at the top of that list is you - the people of Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Schools. Without you and your generous financial support, we simply couldn't make a significant impact on the lives of those we serve. Thank you!

As we enter the giving season, we ask you to continue to give abundantly by making a year-end gift to continue our ELC and school communities. There are many ways to help support ELC, Laurel Hall School, and Laurel Hall Preschool -

- Attend one or all the upcoming services or seasonal events. Your offerings support our ministries.
- Gifts of cash can be placed in the offering plates or mailed to the church.
- Donations may be made online at [elcnoho.org](http://elcnoho.org). When the page loads, click on the "Give to Emmanuel" button in the upper right corner of the page.
- Thrivent Choice Dollars can be directed to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Laurel Hall School, and Laurel Hall Preschool.
- Gifts of appreciated stock may be transferred at any time. Please call the Business Office for more details.
- Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD), sometimes called an IRA Charitable Rollover, enables a donor to give up to \$108,000 from a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA each year directly to ELC or the schools. The distribution counts toward the IRA owner's required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year and will not be included in the owner's adjusted gross income for the year. This is a great way for you to avoid paying taxes on your RMD, while supporting ministries you care about.

*Blessings,  
Diana Howison  
ELC Financial Secretary*



Envelopes for 2026 are ready to be picked up in the Narthex. Please begin using them 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.

## Confirmation Classes



This year we are partnering with other churches in the Twin Valley Conference to teach Confirmation classes. Classes are 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?**



### ***Prayer List ...***

Nesbitt Blaisdell,  
Bob Boehman  
Mike Cosenza  
Ruthanne Henderson  
The Hodge Family  
Rick Holt  
Dick Krussow  
Kimberly Laux  
Samuel Lee  
Lillie Lim  
Leo Lujan  
Jim & Karen Ohrt  
Lumina Padron-Sanchez  
Donna Stenberg  
& family  
Pam Sullivan  
Denise Vanzago  
Muriel Waugh

### ***We pray for those newly added to the Prayer List....***

Kimberly Laux  
Mary Ann Manore

### ***.Shut-ins:***

Karen Bollesen;  
Gloria Blackman;  
Jim & Marie Crawford  
Bill Hoffman;  
Ernie Larson;  
Bernadine Poulsen;  
Mavien Ready;  
Thorsen Family

### ***...Mission Concerns:***

ELC sponsored missionaries around the world;  
California Lutheran University;  
ELCA World Relief

### ***... in Military Service:***

Bryce Anderson;  
Joshua Camarena  
Aaron Carpenter;  
Marc Gonsalves;  
Curtis Haines;  
Daniel Lukavsky;  
David Lukavsky;  
Tyler Stefansen  
Austin Swanson;  
Jeremy Stephens;  
Keaton Wriedt

***Prayer of the Day:*** Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

# FOOD ASKS OF THE MONTH



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: 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](#)



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

Please donate cans of hearty soups and chili.



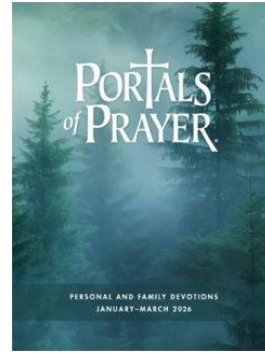
Drop off food donations at:

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.

## 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.



[Give Now](#)

The link takes you directly to our giving page. If you have questions about any giving options, you may benefit from watching this tutorial on safely donating online: [Online Giving](#)

Please feel free to call the business office:  
(818) 763-5434.



Southwest  
California Synod  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH IN AMERICA

[SoCalSynod](#)

Visit the synod website to check out upcoming events. Sign up to receive newsletters from the synod office.

[LSS](#)



See how [Lutheran Social Services](#) works and how you can make a donation. Your donations are essential. See a complete list of urgent local needs in this time of covid [here](#).

### YOUR COUNCIL

**President:** Tom Reilly  
**Vice President:** Sue Clauss  
**Secretary:** Liz Rickertsen  
**Treasurer:** Robert Akin  
**Financial Secretary:** Diana Howison



### Members at Large:

Marshall Bowen;  
Aaron Kraft;  
Michael Madolora  
Angela Wiegand

### For the Kids

+ Download Children's pages with stories, puzzles and quizzes based on the lessons for the week.

[Gospel page for 7+](#)  
[Gospel pages 3-7](#)

[Gather Bible Study](#)

for  
Women of the ELCA at  
Emmanuel Lutheran

[Church Website](#)

There are several links in these online newsletters. Please let me know if any of them don't work for you. THANK YOU for your positive comments. I always welcome your input.

Sincerely,

[Marty McCambridge](#)

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

6020 Radford Avenue, North Hollywood, CA 91606

818-761-6124