

**'E'-Mail**  
**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**  
**First Sunday after Christmas**

December 28, 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

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR SYNOD



### Getting Through the Holiday Season

*The holidays can feel especially complicated after disaster and loss. Traditions may not feel the same, and everyday reminders can stir up grief, worry, or exhaustion. This season, remember that there is no "right" way to get through it, only the way that works best for you*

#### Ways to care for yourself this season:

- Set boundaries. It's okay to say yes to what feels supportive and no to what feels overwhelming.
- Focus on what matters. Traditions can be reshaped, skipped, or reinvented to fit your current needs.
- Allow a full range of emotions. Laughter, sadness, relief, and frustration can all exist side by side.
- Stay connected. Reach out to trusted friends, family, or support groups who understand what you've been through
- Make room for rest. Quiet time, meditation, prayer, or simply pausing can restore energy.
- Ask for help. Lean on community resources, neighbors, or professionals. You don't have to carry this alone.

However the season unfolds, give yourself grace. Healing doesn't follow a calendar, and taking small steps forward is more than enough.

#### You are not alone. Support is here:

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: 24/7, call or text
- Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services: (424) 362-2935
- California Youth Crisis Line: 24/7, call or text (800) 843-5200
- Línea de Texto de Crisis: Envía un mensaje de texto con la palabra AYUDA al: 741741. También puedes utilizar WhatsApp enviando un mensaje al: 442-AYUDAME



## POINSETTIAS

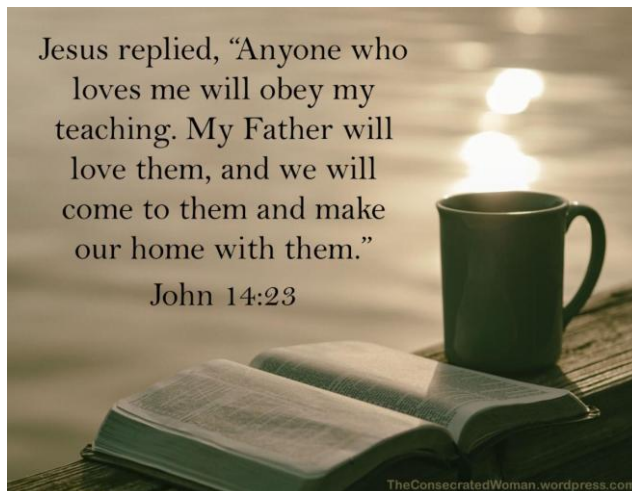
Remember, if you purchased poinsettias for the altar, you may pick-up yours after the 5:00 P.M. Christmas Eve service. Merry Christmas.



Download the [Prayer Ventures here](#) for December 2025. These petitions are offered as guides to prayer each day of the month for global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world.



### Jesus' 12 Disciples—A New Adult Bible



The Adult Bible Study Class is studying Jesus' disciple John. We look forward to learning more about the beloved Sunday mornings at 9 AM.

Thank you, Liz

**Message**  
Pastor Rick Hall  
**Minister of Music**  
Mark Longfield  
**Organist**  
Andy Gladbach  
**Greeter**  
Catherine Menton  
**Communion Assistants**  
George Watson  
Debby Semel  
Diana Howison  
George Watson  
Darlene Michener  
**Lector**  
Liz Rickertsen  
**Usher**  
Terri Lau  
Tom Reilly  
Morgan Loy  
**Gaffer**  
Marshall Bowen  
**Sound**  
Ted Akin  
**Live Stream**  
Bob Akin



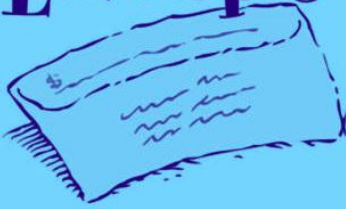
Sunday School classes for  
the new year will resume  
January 11, 2026.



## ***Birthdays***

25) Frank Gonzales  
27) George Watson  
28) Barbara Hitchcock  
Alexander Hahle  
Maxamus Hahle  
29) Charlotte Purcell-  
McCain

## **Offering Envelopes**



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.

## **We Pray For...**



### ***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;  
Ernine 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:*** O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

# FOOD ASKS OF THE SEASON



north

hollywood

interfaith

food

pantry

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](http://NorthHollywoodInterfaithFoodPantry.org)

[pantry and/or unload truck \(signupgenius.com\)](http://pantryand/orunloadtruck.signupgenius.com)

**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.



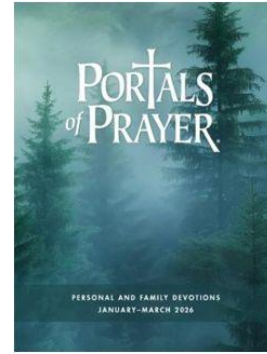
Drop off food donations at:

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 2026. ***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  
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818-761-6124