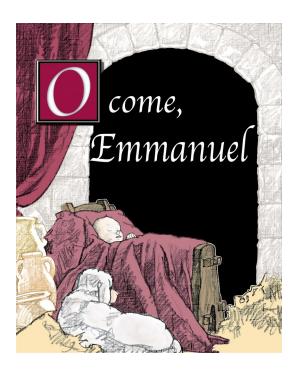
# The Good Hews

# MONTHLY PUBLICATION DECEMBER 2021 VOLUME 27 NUMBER 12



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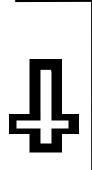
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DATED MATERIAL
Please Deliver by 2nd or
3rd of the month.

## E-mail: churchinfo@elclh.org Website: www.elclh.org

Spanish Worship is offered at 2:30 pm by House of Faith.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 AM
PRAISE WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45 AM
INTERIM PASTOR: Sandy Bentz
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR: Jonine Sodders
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR: Jonine Sodders
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR: Jonine Sodders



#### **BELURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Preschool: (562) 694-5316

150 North Palm Street, La Habra, California 90631 (562) 691-0656

Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

# A NOTE FROM THE



# INTERIM PASTOR

# **Counting Down to Christmas**

Thanksgiving. Black Friday. Cyber Monday. Giving Tuesday. The world tells us that the countdown to Christmas is all about finding the best bargains and how many 'shopping days' are left until Christmas. Christians, though, count down to Christmas VERY differently! For centuries, to help re-orient Jesus' followers, the church has emphasized the season of Advent.

The four weeks of Advent are the start of the church year. It is a season of waiting, a season of reflection and anticipation. In start contrast to the world rushing toward Christmas, we instead, and VERY intentionally, WAIT for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Advent helps to deepen our focus on God's purposes and plan. In Advent, we take

time to reflect on what Jesus' life, death and resurrection mean for our lives and our priorities. Some questions we might reflect on during Advent are these:

Are we living FOR Jesus and to serve God's priorities? How might we be fighting against or resisting God's will? Are we actively seeking ways to be instruments of God's Peace, Hope, Joy and Love?

As we answer those questions, Advent waiting can become joyous anticipation. We might begin looking for God, we might begin noticing all the surprising places and people and circumstances in which we already see God at work. And, if we let it, Advent introspection can give way to a renewed and deeper relationship between us and our loving God who came down from heaven to become one of us. God, in Jesus, CHOOSES to love us, to forgive us, to save us from our sins and free us to live for the sake of our neighbor, for the sake of Christ.

Each Sunday in our lessons, music, prayers, worship AND our silence, the themes of Advent: Peace — Hope — Joy — Love will frame our waiting and our

joyous anticipation.

Start a NEW tradition: beginning December 1, read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each evening. There are 24 chapters. On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus' life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!!

Along with joining us in worship this Advent, I invite you to make time and space for spending time WITH God. Pray. Make space for commun-

> ion with God. I especially encourage you to make time to read the Bible daily. The Bible, rather than a rule book, is a LOVE LETTER from God! It tells us what God wants us to know. It reminds us of God's great love for us and God's promise to not only walk with us (Emanuel), but to also walk before us, preparing the way ahead.

Maybe this year ALL of us might countdown to Christmas by reading the Gospel - the 'Good News" - according

to Luke?? If we start on December 1 and read one chapter of Luke everyday, we'll finish those 24 chapters on Christmas Eve and hear again about this God who loves us more than we could ever imagine. Oh, and by the way, let's remember that Christmas is NOT just a day, but a season! The 12 Days of Christmas BEGIN on December 25! May our Advent preparation lead to the most joyous and love filled Christmas SEASON ever!

In God's Gracious Grip, Pastor Sandy



# 10 am Sunday Worship in Advent

Dec 5\* Worship followed by special ministry celebration and light brunch Dec 12\* Worship includes Children's Choir

Dec 19 Lessons and Carols with chancel and handbell choirs

\*9:15 am coffee available 9:15 am while Sunday School meetings and children practice songs for Dec. 12

# HEART AND HANDS OUTREACH SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!



"Feed My Sheep" - John 21

#### PATRIOTS & PAWS THANKSGIVING BAGS FOR VETERANS!

Thank you for your generous gifts of Thanksgiving bags for Patriots & Paws! 62 Emanuel bags were filled, packed and delivered on Saturday, November 13. That's 62 Military families being fed! Thanks to John Ospital for providing his truck for delivery. Also, thanks to Thrivent for the Action Team Card which allowed us to provide even more meals.





<u>THE ANGEL TREE IS COMING!</u> Gift tags for children and families at HIS HOUSE and WINGS will be available on the tree in Moerer Hall <u>NOVEMBER 28 AND</u> **DECEMBER 5**. Gifts need to be **returned NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 19**.

All of us love to give — the tags go fast! Jo Ellen Dobson has graciously agreed to coordinate this Angel Tree ministry along with Mischelle Uhlman, Sharon Frazier and Janine Ward.

NOTE: HAHO WILL MEET IN PERSON IN THE YOUTH ROOM ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 15 AT 10 AM

\*\*\*PLEASE JOIN US IN PLANNING OUTREACH MINISTRIES\*\*\*

Jeanette Parr Facilitator



# FROM THE BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION

# Sunday School meets in person!

# Youth will sing in church on December 12 at 10 AM

<u>Sunday School December Schedule:</u> During the month of December there will be one combined worship service at 10:00 AM. <u>Sunday School will meet December 5, 12 and 19 at 9:15 AM</u>. Mark your calendar for December 12 to be part of the Children's Choir. Be sure to come practice songs on December 5 and 12 at 9:15 AM. (There will be no Sunday School December 26 and January 2.)

#### What we learned at Sunday School — Did you know?

- God told Noah to build an Ark that was 100 feet long, three stories high, extra wide with a door and window on the side. A GREAT FLOOD was coming!
- Noah and his three sons started building the Ark. It took 120 years to build this boat. The neighbors laughed at them because it had not rained in the area.
- Noah gathered two of every kind of animal on Earth and led them onto the Ark. Noah and his whole family went into the Ark and God closed the door.
- It rained 40 days and 40 nights. After the Ark sailed for 150 days, it landed on a mountain. When Noah left the Ark he built an altar and thanked God for keeping his family safe. God made a rainbow in the sky as a sign of hope and promise that He will not destroy the Earth again by water.
- Arts and crafts have enhanced our learning of Noah and the Flood.



Elizabeth Wright

<u>Offerings</u>: During December, offerings will be used to purchase gifts for a boy and a girl from the Angel Tree. The students can see how their offering can help others in this special way.

**Seekers**: Seekers are not meeting at this time.

<u>Study Buddies:</u> Study Buddies meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-4:30 PM for children grades 1-6. This program is open to all children in our surrounding neighborhood as well as our Emanuel Lutheran family. Invite your friends! Talk to Jill Drummond or Char Ponzio for details.

Please continue to pray for the spiritual growth of the youth and adults.

Board of Parish Ed



# **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**

DECEMBER 5 THROUGH JANUARY 2 WE WILL HAVE ONE 10 AM BLENDED (PRAISE AND TRADITIONAL) WORSHIP SERVICE. WE WILL RETURN TO TWO SERVICES JANUARY 9, 2022.

#### NOVEMBER 28 / 1st Sunday in Advent — Two Services

9 AM Traditional Worship & 10:45 AM Praise Worship 10 AM Sunday School between services for children 3 years through 6th grade

#### **DECEMBER 5 / 2nd Sunday in Advent — One Service**

9:15 AM Sunday School and coffee 10 AM Blended Worship Service followed by

#### ~ LIGHT BRUNCH & SPECIAL MINISTRY CELEBRATION ~

Weather permitting we will gather outside after worship. If inside, we will open the windows in Moerer Hall and mask up when we are not eating.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!!

## DECEMBER 12 / 3rd Sunday in Advent — Children's Choir

9:15 AM Sunday School and coffee 10 AM Blended Worship Service with Children's Choir

## **DECEMBER 19 / 4th Sunday in Advent — Lessons & Carols**

9:15 AM Sunday School and coffee 10 AM Blended Worship Service / Lessons & Carols

#### **DECEMBER 24 / Christmas Eve**

7 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

#### **DECEMBER 26**

10 AM Blended Worship Service

#### **JANUARY 2**

10 AM Blended Worship

#### JANUARY 9 — Return to two services (9 AM & 10:45)

Celebrate the Savior

Emanuel's Church Council continues to prayerfully balance congregational safety with a desire to make worship as accessible and enjoyable as possible for everyone. While Orange County has not mandated it, the CDC strongly encourages mask wearing indoors regardless of vaccine status. For the safety of our neighbors, the congregation is encouraged to wear a mask while singing and to practice social distancing.



# SPECIAL MINISTRY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, DEC. 5, 10 AM

By now you should have received an invitation to the above event. On December 5, we will join together immediately after our 10:00 AM combined worship to share a light brunch and celebrate together for the first time in person. Weather permitting we will be outside. If not, we will open the windows in Moerer Hall and mask up when we are not eating. Please mark your calendars and plan to join together!!

# STUDY BUDDIES TUTORING TUES & THU, 3-4:30 PM

Study Buddies, our free tutoring program for grades 1-6, takes place here at Emanuel on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-4:30 PM in the Hope Center Library. **NOTE: There will be no Study Buddies December 21 thru December 30.** 

Questions? Call Jill Drummond (714-403-0956)

# **VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB**

Emanuel will host another virtual book club Thursdays at 10 AM beginning January 6. We are thankful to Linnita Licano for again facilitating this group.

The new book is called "The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up, and Burnt Out" by Brennan Manning. It is available on Amazon for \$11.65 and it is also available on Kindle.

If you would like to join, contact the church office (churchinfo@elclh.org) and we will send you the weekly Zoom link.



"HANGING OF THE GREENS"
(Decorating the church for Christmas)
Friday, December 10, starting at
5:00 PM in the Sanctuary.
Christmas music will be playing —
join us!



# THRIVENT MEMBERS REMEMBER TO DESIGNATE CHOICE DOLLARS

Thrivent members, please don't let this opportunity pass by. Though your Choice Dollars will continue to accumulate through March 31, 2022, you may designate them at any time. Should you choose to do so around the holidays, be sure to designate them again by March 31. In order to simplify the process, you may simply call the local office and speak personally to Laurie or Katie and they will take care of your request.

Questions regarding the eligibility of a particular charity can be found online. Many thanks to each of you who have supported our church or your favorite charity through direction of these monies. Undesignated funds are never wasted or lost. They are funneled into areas such as the Action Team gift cards which have helped us often in the past for special events such as VBS. Thanks again for remembering the needs of others.



# God's Blessings Emree Reesman and Welcome to our Emanuel Family!!

On Sunday, November 21, we shared in the baptism of Emree Reesman and welcomed her as Emanuel's newest member!



# ~ SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS ~

# Advent 2 **December 5**

Mal 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Phil 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

# Advent 3 **December 12**

Zeph 3:14-20 Isa 12:2-6 Phil 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18

# Advent 4 **December 19**

Micah 5:2-5a Psalm 80:1-7 Heb 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-55

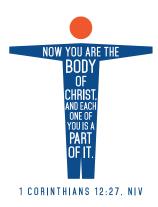
#### **December 26**

1 Sam 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Col 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52

## THANK YOU FOR SERVING CHRIST THROUGH EMANUEL!

Scripture says that we ARE Christ's body in the world, God's hands and feet. God has given ALL of us gifts for ministry and when we use those gifts together, God is glorified!

Each month we want to lift up a few people in our congregation that have gone "the extra mile" in helping us be Christ's Church. Please call or email the church office (<a href="mailto:churchinfo@elclh.org">churchinfo@elclh.org</a>) to suggest others who might be thanked in future newsletters!



#### THANK YOU TO ...

- Emanuel's Church Council: President Jerry Schnakenberg; Vice-President Carl Pulley; Secretary Mary Jo Hermann; Treasurer Ricki Fehr; Caring Ministry Carol Crabb; Congregational Life Marsha Maynard; Worship Support Susan Fallon and Susan Wright (2022)
- Emanuel's Transition Team: Sharon Frazier, Kevin Garcia, John Ospital, Cindy Reyes, Jeff Ward, Susan Wright and Intentional Interim Pastor Sandy Bentz.
- Mary Ann Carlson, Jeanette and Warren Parr, and Janine Ward for planning and leading our Special Ministry Celebration December 5.
- Sharon Frazier and Emanuel's trained Stephen Ministers as they stay current on training and as they love, support and spend time with their care receivers.
- John Ospital for organizing Emanuel's blood drive and to all who donated and helped save 45 lives!!
- HAHO (Helping Hands and Hearts Outreach) for organizing and all who helped provide 60+ Thanksgiving dinners for veterans and their families.
- Ricki Fehr, with assistance from Chip Whitcher, for the new office and parking sign at the entrance of the north lot.
- Mary Ann Carlson for setting up the altar each week, for preparing for baptisms and ensuring our chancel is set for the right season.



# JOY CIRCLE Mon, Dec 20, 9:30 AM

The Joy Circle is a women's Bible Study that meets in Moerer Hall the 3rd Monday of each month from 9:30-11:00 AM for discussion and fellowship. Everyone is encouraged to wear a mask and bring a drink for themselves. Coffee will be provided. Since it's December, yet we are still practicing precautions, there may also be store-bought treats to share if anyone wishes to. A copy of the study and Zoom link are emailed the week before. New to Joy Circle? Email the church office (churchinfo@elclh.org). Participate in person or via Zoom.

For this month we will use the Advent devotional pages 32-37 in the November/December issue of the Gather Magazine for our Bible study and discussion. The 4 Advent devotions touch on Joy, Anticipation, Sorrow, and Longing. Please email the office if you would like a copy. All women are invited — we hope you will join us.



## **EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT EMANUEL FINANCIALLY**

Thank you for your financial gifts to God through Emanuel Lutheran Church!!! Below are 4 ways to give:

- Entryway offering plate
- Mail to the Church Office
- "Giving" link online at <u>www.elclh.org</u>
- Text dollar amount to 562-210-0007

Our bank has recently notified us how checks must be written in order to be accepted. We are asking for your assistance to avoid future checks being refused.

- Checks must be made payable to **EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH** (full name written out)
- Checks are to be written using **blue or black ink only** (other colors not acceptable)
- Make sure the **number in the amount is the same as the amount written in words** (\$100.00 = one-hundred and no/100 dollars)
- Sign Your Check
- Please indicate in the memo line if the check is for a specific ministry.

Thank you SO MUCH for your assistance. If more convenient, you may also give online through our website (www.elclh.org) under the Giving tab or through text message (see above). Thank you for your continued generous support through your offerings.

NOTE: To be counted in 2021 giving, checks must be received or postmarked by December 31.



## JOIN EMANUEL'S SOUND/AUDIO VISUAL TEAMS

Help with video recording as well as running sound/PowerPoint is still needed:

<u>Sound</u> – talk with Jack Ward (562-201-9168) to help with 10:45 sound. Talk with Geoffrey Roberts to help with the 9 AM service. Keep them "company" in the sound booth and see how it's done!

<u>Video Recording</u> – talk or sit with, Ricki Fehr, Geoffrey Roberts or Jack Ward. You will learn how easy it is. Call or email the church office (562-691-0656, churchinfo@elclh.org).

## Worship Assistants Also NEEDED!!

Many more worship leaders are needed. PRAYERFULLY consider how God might use YOU! Consider serving with your children, grandchildren, spouse or best friend as a:

Reader – read the Bible lessons during worship

Greeter – be the first smiling face to welcome worshippers

<u>Usher</u> – share a worship bulletin, help worship go smoothly

Altar Guild – help prepare or put away communion for Sunday worship.



Thank you to Susan Fallon for scheduling worship assistants. Call or email her (562-694-5557, rsfallon@aol.com) or the church office (562-691-0656, churchinfo@elclh.org) to be added to the schedule. You will be blessed by the experience!



## PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER ~ DECEMBER 2021

\*\*\* Save this for reference throughout the month. \*\*\*

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12

#### **Special Prayer Focus for This Month**

- ~ For Emanuel's council leaders, staff, volunteers and newly appointed Transition Team.
- ~ For all who are grieving losses of every kind, especially Jessica, Jack and Ellie as they grieve the sudden death of husband and father Chris. May they feel God's comfort and the love of our community as they gather at Emanuel Saturday, December 18, for a celebration of Chris' life and God's promise of resurrection and life everlasting.
- ~ For rain to renew and replenish our water supplies and for comfort and relief for all recovering and rebuilding after disaster. May God continue to work through Lutheran Disaster Relief and all working with people affected by fire, storm, earthquake, flooding and other disasters.
- ~ As we enter the season of Advent, may the Holy Spirit be stirred in us to notice signs of God's presence and providing at work in us and in the people, places and circumstances all around us.
- ~ For us to prayerfully anticipate and actively prepare to welcome Christ into our hearts, our lives, our community and world today and every day.

#### **Continuing Prayers**

~ Jean Arata

~ Marge Dalby

~ Maiju Hessel

~ Chuck Holtzendorff

~ Warren Parr

~ Shelley Reesman

~ Jerry Schnakenberg

~ Cathy Spangler

~ Dan Toussaint

~ Jacob Toussaint

~ Mischelle Uhlman

~ Ruth Wolfarth

## **Assisted Living Centers/Homebound**

~ Shirley Jordan – Park Vista

~ Betty Gould - Home

~ Lois Lundberg - St. Elizabeth

- ~ Eric Sessing Posada Whittier
- ~ Margaret Roberts Addie's Cottage Anaheim

#### Friends and Family to Remember

- ~ Peggy Toussaint-Vowel (Daniel Toussaint's sister)
- ~ Susan Blackstock (Tammy Mora's cousin)
- ~ Lori Sering (Shirley Jordan's daughter)
- ~ Denise Timberlake (Sharon Frazier's daughter)
- ~ Mike Petrelli (Doris Rossoni's son)
- ~ Matt Rossoni (Doris Rossoni's stepson)
- ~ Mike Rossoni (Doris Rossoni's stepson)
- ~ Jessica, Jack, and Ellie Taylor

#### **Prayers of Thanksgiving**

- ~ Thanks for God's love, comfort, faithfulness and providing! May we live our lives so filled with gratitude that we can't help but share all God's blessings with others
- ~ God's peace and healing for all struggling in mind, body and spirit. May God surround all in need with encouragement, friendship, patience and the assurance of God's love and presence.
- ~ For Emanuel's staff, for all the musicians, worship assistants, altar care, sound and video and other volunteers who make it possible for us to worship God in person and on line.
- ~ For Emanuel's December 5 Celebration of Ministry and first in-person fellowship gathering. May God be glorified as we celebrate God's faithfulness and recommit to growing in faith and pursuing God's will and purposes

If you have prayer concerns to add to Emanuel's list, please contact the church office at (562) 691-0656. Once a month, names will be removed from the list that have been in print at least eight consecutive weeks (except those who request extended prayer). You are welcome to re-submit any names removed from the list, or you may remove a name at any time by contacting the church office. Thank you.

		DECE	ECEMBER 2021	121		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
November 2021 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		January 2022 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 34:30p Study (Z) 34:30p Study Buddie 11a Preschool Brd (C) (L) (L) 6p House of Faith (S/C/4) 7:30p Al-Anon (C)	2 3-4:30p Study Buddies <i>8-10p AA (H)</i> (L) 7:15p AA Dist #18 (H)	<b>3</b> 8-10p AA (H)	4 7a BSF Leaders (H) 8:30a Prayer Group (H/Z)
9:15a Sunday School (H) 10a Blended Worship (S) 11a Special Ministry Celebration & Brunch (Outside or H) 1-7p House of Faith Worship (S/C/H/Y/1-4)	6 6p Transition Team (C) 7:30p AA (H)	7 3-4:30p Study Buddies (L) 6p BSF (S/H/F/L/C/Y)	8 9a Bible Study (Z) 6p House of Faith (S/C/4) 7:30p Al-Anon (C) 1 pm Rejoice Conf. In Yorba Linda	9 3-4:30p Study Buddies (L)	10 8-10p AA (H) 5pm Hanging of the Greens (S)	11 8:30a Prayer Group (Y/Z)
12 Advent 3 9:15a Sunday School (H) 10a Blended Worship with Children's Choir (S) 1-7p House of Faith Worship (S/C/H/Y/1-4)	13 4p Stephen Ministry (C) 7:30p AA (H)	14 3-4:30p Study Buddies (L) 5:30p Council Mtg (L/Z)	<b>15 9a Bible Study (Z)</b> 6p House of Faith (S/C/4) 7:30p Al-Anon (C)	16 3-4:30p Study Buddies <i>8-10p AA (H)</i> (L)	<b>17</b> 8-10p AA (H)	18 8:30a Prayer Group (Y/Z) 5p House of Faith (S/H) Chris Taylor Celebration of Life (S/H) (Morning, time TBD)
19 Advent 4 9:15a Sunday School (H) 10a Worship with Lessons & Carols (S) 1-7p House of Faith Worship (S/C/H/Y/1-4) Angel Tree Gift Deadline	20 9:30a Joy Circle (H) 6p Transition Team (C) 7:30p AA (H)	21	22"Good News" Deadline 23 9a Bible Study (Z) 6p House of Faith (S/C/4) 7:30p Al-Anon (C)		24 8-10p AA (H) 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship (S)	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 6 <i>p House of Faith (Y)</i>
26 10a Blended Worship (S) (no Sunday School) 1-7p House of Faith Worship (S/C/H/Y/1-4)	<b>27</b> 7:30p AA (H)	<b>58</b>	<b>29</b> <b>9a Bible Study (Z)</b> 6p House of Faith (S/C/4) 7:30p Al-Anon (C)	30	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b> 8-10p AA (H)	TRUC Meaning Christma

Emanuel Lutheran Church: 150 N. Palm Street, La Habra, CA 90631 • Phone 562-691-0656, Fax 562-691-8897

www.elch.org • Preschool: 562-694-5316

SUNDAY WORSHIP: Traditional 9:00 a.m. • Praise 10:45 a.m. • Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.

(Spanish Service at House of Faith: 1:00 p.m.)

Al-Anon meets in Moerer Hall Wednesdays @7:30 pm; AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) meets in Moerer Hall Mondays @ 7:30 pm and Fridays @ 8:00 pm.

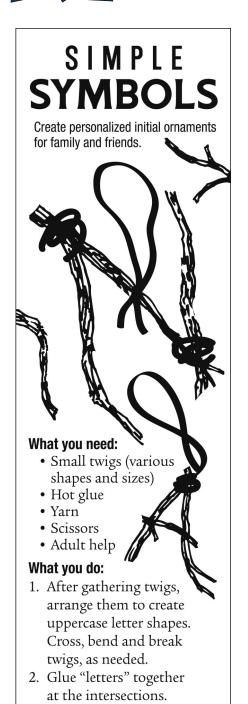
Legend: C: Hope Center Classroom; CH: Chapei; F: Fireside Room; H: Moerer Hall; L: Hope Center Library; S: Sanctuary; Y: Youth Room; Z: Zoom



Order your poinsettias now to beautify the altar area and outdoor worship space at our Christmas Services. The cost is \$8.50 each and they must be ordered by Wednesday, December 15, 2021.

Please order poinsettias for a total of \$ to be given to the Glory of God:
In loving memory of
In honor of
In celebration of
In thanksgiving to God for
(Please list names as you wish them to appear in the bulletin.)
Given by
If you need a call concerning the listing indicated above, please include your phone number.
Name: Phone:
Please make checks payable to Emanuel Lutheran Church and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office by December 15, 2021. Please indicate on your check "for poinsettias." Contact the church office at (562) 691-0656 with any questions.

# Kid's Korner



3. Cut an arm-length of yarn and wind it around twigs to add color to each letter.

4. Create a loop of yarn and

tie it to the top of the ornament for hanging.



Answer: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21, NIV