

The Good News

MONTHLY PUBLICATION JANUARY 2026 VOLUME 71 NUMBER 1



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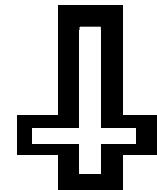
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DAILED MATERIAL
Please Deliver by 2nd or
3rd of the month.

PASTOR: Dennis Laherty
ASSISTANT MINISTER: Amanda Pulos
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR: Joniine Sodders
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:00 AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE: 11:00 AM
Spanish Worship is offered at 2:30 pm by House of Faith.

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Church: (562) 691-0656 Preschool: (562) 694-5316
150 North Palm Street, La Habra, California 90631
Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR



A New Day

After prayerful consideration I have accepted a Call to retirement.

It will certainly be different from any other Call in my years of ministry. I truly believe however it's where God wants me at this time in my life. It will certainly be different from congregational ministry. Sundays won't necessarily see me at the same location. I won't be wearing a clerical collar. I won't be standing in front of a congregation but instead sitting in a pew next to Phyllis. I will not have had anything to do with planning the order of worship. I will not be planning for the next liturgical season of the year. I won't be leading a Bible Study but instead possibly attending one somewhere, at some point in the future.

What will I be doing in my new Call? I will be traveling more. A cruise here or there will probably be part of my new Call. Continuing to take a class or two at the Osher Life-long Learning Institute (OLLI). I'll be continuing to take a Spanish class and be adding Ceramics in the near future. My new Call will have a road trip on the schedule to visit our children in various parts of the country. A part of my new Call may find me volunteering for some organization that helps people in the community. My new Call is somewhat open ended on what my responsibilities will be, but I anticipate it working out.

Leaving any Call there is always a loss. Certainly seeing, visiting, chatting with people each week will be missed. Just not being around people I have known for nearly 20 years will present a different lifestyle for me. But overall, I have to say, I'm excited about my new Call.

I pray that each of you reading this note would appreciate the Call that the Lord has given you. We believe He walks with us through our lives. It's no different with a new Call. He will be there to no doubt present some intriguing adventures.

Pastor Dennis Laherty



HEART AND HANDS OUTREACH SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!

“Feed My Sheep” – John 21

JANUARY 2026 HAHO REPORT

By the time you receive a copy of this first newsletter of 2026, Angel Tree gifts and another Caring Ministries food delivery will have been made.

There are no words to thank you for the generosity that you have shown during 2025. You have fed the hungry, clothed and gave shoes and jackets to the homeless, and bought gas and food for veterans as well as helping set up their kitchens. In addition, you allowed children and women who had fled abusive circumstances to receive Christmas gifts. Emanuel lives out faith and it is a joy to be part of this community of loving, caring believers.

If anyone is interested in joining the Hearts and Hands Committee, we will meet at 10:00AM on January 31st to begin looking at how AND who God is calling us to help in 2026. You are always welcome to share your ideas for outreach.



 **AUDIO-VISUAL**
team

**HELP WITH EMANUEL'S
SOUND & AUDIO VISUAL
TEAMS**

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

Sound – talk with Jack Ward (562-201-9168) or with Geoffrey Roberts to help with the 10AM service. Keep them “company” in the sound booth and see how it's done!

Video Recording – talk or sit with Kerry Ospital, or Geoffrey Roberts. You will learn how easy it is.

**Call or email the church office
(562-691-0656,
churchinfo@elclh.org)**



WE ARE
grateful
FOR YOU!

Thankful for John Ospital, Chip Whitcher, Jack Ward, and Pastor Laherty for their swift action on our plumbing problems this last month, along with monitoring by Lilly Hernandez and Jonine Sodders

Thankful for John, Robyn, Jeff and Kerry Ospital, Celeste Templeton, Maryann Carlson and Jeanette Parr for the hanging of the greens—it looked beautiful!

Thankful for Jill Drummond who organized and leads discussion in our weekly Book Group, join us!

Thankful for all who participated in the Christmas Event with yummy appetizers and fun White Elephants

Thankful for everyone who brought food for the foodbank and for those who provided wonderful, generous gifts to the Women and Children of Domestic Violence through WINGS

Thankful for the musicians and lesson readers who made a wonderful and meaningful presentation at Lessons and Carols

Thankful for our hardworking church and pre-school staff who all took on extra duties during this Christmas Season and made it look easy and spectacular

Thankful for all those who helped decorate the tree and the sanctuary and everyone who donated poinsettias

Thankful for all the members of Emanuel who continue to love and support this congregation and its ministries





BLOOD DRIVE
Emanuel Lutheran Church

Location: Moerer Hall
150 N. Palm Street
La Habra, CA 90631

Monday, January 5, 2026
Noon to 6 pm

PICTURE ID REQUIRED AT REGISTRATION AND DURING HEALTH EXAM.

Please schedule an appointment online by visiting www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: **EMANUELLC** or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.



1-800-RED-CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

St Jude Closet

St Jude Medical Center has a community closet that supplies clothes to patients and homeless in need. Emanuel, through HAHO, has decided to take on the task of helping to keep that closet stocked. Here's where you can help. Check your closets for the following items you aren't using and bring them to church – **gently used**, please. A collection box will be available in the narthex.

This list of requested clothing will also be on the narthex table, so pick one up on your way in or out of church if you need a new one. We do ask that you stay within the list as we've received some items that we weren't able to take such as dresses, women's shorts/skirts, and children's clothes. Any questions about items on the list, please call Sharon Frazier

The following are in HIGH need:

Men's pants sizes 28-34 and 44-48. Men's shirts sizes M, XXL

Men's jackets sizes L, XL, XXL, XXXL

Women's pants sizes 20+

Women's sneakers sizes 8 and above / Tube socks

Men's sneakers sizes 10 and above / Tube socks

There is an ongoing need for the following:

Men's and Women's casual clothing (gently used, no stains or holes)

Men's and Women's jackets/coats (Men's are in high demand)

Undergarments (new only)

Belts/Scarves/mittens/beanies/backpacks/totes/ponchos (no wallets or purses please)

Shoes (Men's are in high demand)

Also, if you have crutches, walkers, canes, or manual wheel chairs you no longer need, they will be glad to take them. A tax donation letter is available upon request.

This project is being coordinated through HAHO. If you have questions, please call Sharon or Jeanette.



January, 2026-From the Board of Parish Education

Sunday School meets each Sunday at 11:00 AM in Moerer Hall!

- Sunday School January Schedule: Sunday School will resume meeting at 11:00 beginning on January 4 after the Christmas break. We will continue using the Whirl learning curriculum where students relate the weekly scripture readings to their everyday life. These five-minute animated videos show how they can apply God's teaching to them. Visitors are always welcome!
- "The King's Birthday" program was special way to share the story of Jesus' birth to members. We thank all our students who participated. They did a great job as they learned the true meaning of Christmas. Susan Wright, Cindy Reyes, Denise, Emily Beard, and Mary Ann Carlson helped with our play rehearsals and working out details for this presentation. Kim Beard and Robyn Ospital gave a helping hand with the potluck that was enjoyed by all after the play. We are so blessed to have dedicated volunteers.
- Angel Tree: Children gave generously as we collected donations for buying gifts for children at the Wings Shelter. We gave gifts to boys ages six and eleven years old. Our students discovered that when we give offerings, it goes to help others, even kids their own ages.
- Offerings: During January, offerings will be used to reach out and help others in special ways. The kids will be choosing where they would like their offerings to be used.
- Study Buddies: Study Buddies will resume on January 6 after school begins for the new year. We are thankful to God for these great kids who want to learn and achieve in their classwork. We meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-4:30 PM for children in grades 1-6. This program is open to all children in our surrounding neighborhood as well as our Emanuel Lutheran family.
 - We would like to invite anyone who would like to work with a student to join us on either day. It is such a benefit to work with a student individually in order to check that they are understanding the task they are working on. Talk to Mary Ann Carlson for details.

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

Board of Parish Education



The King's Birthday



Join us at Arthur's Coffee Shop
1281 E. La Habra Blvd

MEN'S BREAKFAST



SATURDAY, JAN 3 @ 8:00 AM

Burrito Ministry

Saturday January 17, 2026 10 am
Please join us preparing or delivering
burritos to those who are hungry.



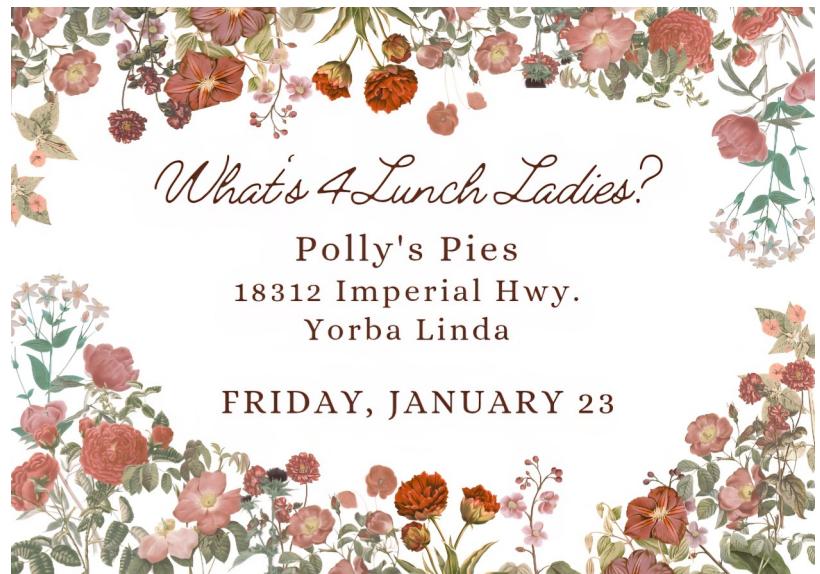
FREE STUDY BUDDIES TUTORING

**TUESDAY & THURSDAY,
3-4:30 PM**

Study Buddies, our FREE tutoring program for
grades 1-6, meets at Emanuel on Tuesdays
and Thursdays from 3-4:30 PM in the Hope
Center Library.

If you'd like to contribute to the fun, they are
always in need of snacks for the kids.
Lunch box size bags of chips and small water
bottles are supplied to our students while they
study.

Invite a friend or neighbor! Flyers are available
at Sunday's Welcome Table.



SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS ~

2nd Sunday of Christmas

Baptism of Our Lord

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 4

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:1-1

January 11

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 18

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 25

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1,4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

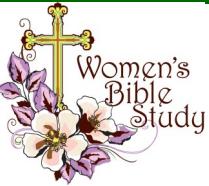
WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE - JANUARY

Thank you for volunteering to serve during worship in various capacities. If you cannot serve on any particular assigned Sunday, it is your responsibility to find a replacement or trade with someone on the list. Then PLEASE notify the church office by the prior Monday so the bulletin will read properly. Thank you for volunteering to serve.

	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>READER</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>	<u>USHERS</u>
Sun.				
1/4	Rachelle and Ariah McCloskey	Celeste Templeton	AJ Ward Rose Ward Denise Whitcher	John Ospital Fraloi Cuyno
1/11	Marsha Maynard. Jill Drummond	VJ Roberts	Jeanette Parr Robyn Ospital Amanda Pulos	Emily Beard Chip Whitcher
1/18	Connie Bogosian Kim Beard	Denise Whitcher	Mary Ann Carlson Susan Wright Jessica Pisetsky	James Crabb VJ Roberts
1/25	Sharon Patow Sue Morgan	Cindy Reyes	Nancy White Steve White James Sweeney	Cheska Cuyno John Ospital

PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE ASAP IF YOU UNAVAILABLE TO SERVE DUE TO PLANNED VACATIONS, OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON. IT HELPS IMMENSELY IN PLANNING. MANY THANKS!

Thank you
♥
VOLUNTEERS!



JANUARY JOY CIRCLE

January 19, 2026

9:30AM - 11:00AM

As of this writing, we will have met in December and enjoyed a wonderful devotional entitled Practicing Advent Imagination with scripture taken from both Isiah and Matthew. I would like to thank all who attended for taking the time to spend in fellowship during this blessed season.

As we look forward to the first get-together in January of 2026, we will begin a series entitled Embodied Prayer by Rev. Liv Larson Andrews. We look forward to discussing challenges and questions we may deal with in prayer. This would be a great time to give this welcoming women's group a try. All are welcome! Bring your Bible if you like, or one will be provided with the lessons that are given out at each session. Remember, we only meet once a month and there is no homework. We would love to see you there.



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 www.elclh.org
- 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)



TO WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE AND VIA LIVE STREAM, GO TO



- Emanuel's website: <http://elclh.org>
- YouTube: Emanuel Lutheran Church La Habra
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4Fu6qvPdYF2MM92JzoU9uA>



- Facebook: Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
<https://www.facebook.com/emanuel.lutheran.1>

**Closed captioning is available on both YouTube and Facebook.
Visit Emanuel's website or find us on Instagram**

Emanuel Lutheran Preschool Now Enrolling

Emanuel Lutheran Preschool is now enrolling students!



- Our Preschool is open all year-round.
- We are a state licensed, non-profit organization dedicated to providing an atmosphere of love and acceptance in which all children are encouraged to develop to their fullest potential.
- Our teachers are dedicated to support and inspire your child's progress.
- Daily activities include motor development, social skills and language skills to benefit your child at their appropriate level.

If you or someone you know is looking for child care reach out to Preschool Director Jonine Sodders (562)694-5316 or email EmanuelPreschoolLaHabra@hotmail.com



Welcome to Preschool

TO WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE AND VIA LIVE STREAM, GO TO

- Emanuel's website: <http://elclh.org>
- YouTube: Emanuel Lutheran Church La Habra
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4Fu6qvPdYF2MM92JzoU9uA>
- Facebook: Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
<https://www.facebook.com/emanuel.lutheran.1>



Closed captioning is available on both YouTube and Facebook.
Visit Emanuel's website or find us on Instagram (emanuellahabra) for upcoming events

Altar Flowers Donation

We invite you to provide flowers for the altar on any Sunday Service! Sign up in the Narthex. On the Monday before flowers are expected, call Blooming Hills to order flowers. Cost will be \$65.00 paid to Blooming Hills Florist, (562) 690-3347. Please take the flowers home after the service on Sunday, or they will be taken to a shut in that week.



~ PRAYER ~

**GOD'S WORD TELLS US IT IS THE
MOST POWERFUL FORCE GOD
HAS ENTRUSTED TO US!**

***Have a prayer request for
yourself or others?***

Call or email the church office and we will share it with the Prayer Team.

***Want to make time to pray
with others?***

Consider joining the Prayer Group in person in the Youth Room or via Zoom 8:30-9:30 AM Saturday mornings.

***Want to be part of the Prayer
Team?***

Contact the church office.
**Celebrating 12 years of meeting
and praying together**



PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER JANUARY 2026

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

"I ask that you take away sickness, infirmity and pain from me and restore me to health"

Special Prayer Focus for This Month

~ "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy" ~ Psalm 103:2-4

Continuing Prayers

- ~ Dan Toussaint
- ~ Cathy Spangler
- ~ Anne Bobchick
- ~ Baby Troy
- ~ Chuck Holztendorff

If you have Prayer requests for the next eight weeks, please contact the Church office to add names.

Assisted Living Centers/Homebound

- ~ Lee Reitzel – Emerald Court

Friends and Family to Remember

- ~ Lin Baesler, wife of Pastor Ron Baesler

Remembering the Family of Those Who Have Died

Shirley Jordan (May 31, 2025)

Prayers of Thanksgiving

- ~ For all God's blessings, those we see and so many big and small ways God provides for our needs, often before we even know our need.
- ~ Thank You, God, for those who are here to share these blessings this month, for the generosity of our hosts that make this possible. Bless those who are here and those who are in our hearts, and all those who are not as fortunate.

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.

JANUARY 2026

BOOK OF JOHN
WED 9-10 AM IN THE LIBRARY
****No Experience Needed!!****

We are reading the book of John. Come join us in the Emanuel library 9 a.m. Wednesday. Call or email the church office at churchinfo@elclh.org to receive the Zoom link if you can not make it in person. All you need is a computer, tablet or smartphone.



CHRIST IN OUR HOME
JAN/FEB/MAR
NOW AVAILABLE

This quarterly devotional resource 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. Booklets are available in the church entryway or office. Email churchinfo@elclh.org if you would like a copy mailed to you.



?? ???? Bible Quiz ?? ??

James 1:17 reminds us about the source of every blessing. According to this verse, how is God described?

- A. The one who changes like shifting shadows
- B. The giver of wisdom to the faithful
- C. The Father of heavenly lights who does not change
- D. The one who rewards those who are generous

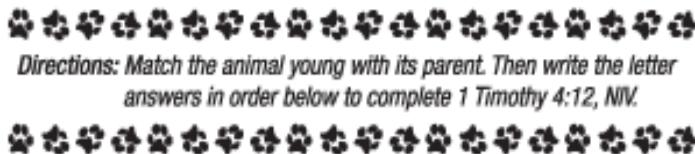


Kid's Korner



No kidding

Whatever our age, God calls us to model holy living for others.



Directions: Match the animal young with its parent. Then write the letter answers in order below to complete 1 Timothy 4:12, NIV.



1. ____ bear	9. ____ monkey	A. fry	I. hatchling
2. ____ frog	10. ____ platypus	B. fawn	K. foal
3. ____ owl	11. ____ alligator	C. gosling	L. owlet
4. ____ horse	12. ____ giraffe	D. cub	M. puggle
5. ____ kangaroo	13. ____ goose	E. kid	N. joey
6. ____ deer	14. ____ swan	F. cygnet	O. polliwog
7. ____ goat	15. ____ dog	G. infant	P. puppy
8. ____ fish		H. calf	

"1on't let any 2ne 3oo 4 down o5 you 6caus7

you 8re you9, but set an exa10ple for the bel11evers
in speec12, in 13onduct, in love, in 14ai15th and in 16urity."

1 TIMOTHY 4:12, NIV

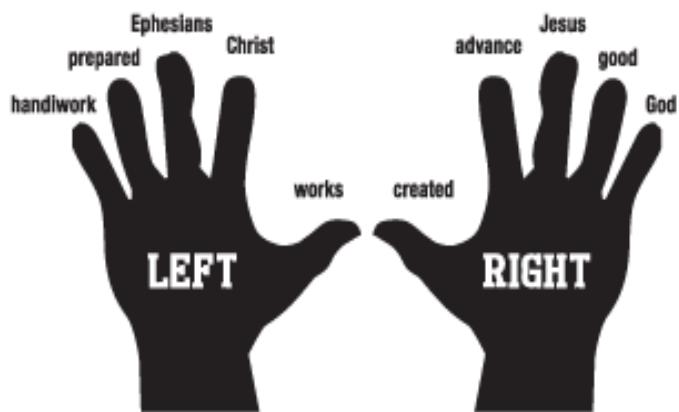
Answers: D, O, I, K, N, B, E, A, G, M, L, H, C, F, P



Handiwork to do good works

God has a special plan and purpose for each of us.

Directions: Use the finger-position clues under the blanks below to complete Ephesians 2:10, NIV.



For we are God's _____, _____ in

L pinky R thumb

to do _____, _____, _____, _____
L pointer R middle R ring L thumb

which _____, _____ in _____
R pinky L ring R pointer

for us to do. _____ 2:10, NIV
L middle

Answers: handiwork, created, Christ, Jesus, good, works, God, prepared, advance, Ephesians