



**CHURCH LIFE | Announcements for December 21, 2025**

**Christmas Eve Services** | Wednesday, December 24, 1\*, 3\*, and 5pm  
 Celebrate Christmas Eve with us! Catch an encouraging message about the hope we have in Jesus. Pick up some business card-sized invites at church and invite a friend or neighbor to attend with you. \*Children's programs for infants to five-year-olds will be available at 1 and 3pm. [efcc.org/christmas](http://efcc.org/christmas)

**Upcoming Church Holidays & Program Schedule** | December 24 – January 1  
 Please note that the church office and campus will be closed on Thursday, December 25, through Saturday, December 27. The office will also be closed the following week from Monday, December 29, through Thursday, January 1 (some staff will be on campus on Friday, January 2, per our normal schedule). Wednesday night Kids Clubs and youth group meetings will not be held on Wednesday, December 24 or 31. In addition, our Gym sports (such as basketball) will not be held during the holiday closure periods.

**2025 Year-end Giving Reminders**  
 Contact: Lori Pierce, [lap@efcc.org](mailto:lap@efcc.org), (760) 781-2114  
 Any contributions you wish to claim as a deduction on your 2025 income taxes must be given in the offering on Sunday, December 28, brought to the church office by 4pm on Wednesday, December 31, or postmarked by December 31, 2025. Or visit [efcc.org/give](http://efcc.org/give) to give a gift online, on our App, or scan the QR code above. Year-end donor statements will be emailed (and mailed out to those without email addresses) if you gave to EFCC in 2025.



**Year-to-Date Giving Update (April through November 2025)**  
 Thank you for your ongoing generosity to our church! See the latest financial report below through November 2025 of our current fiscal year. Any financial gifts can be given in person at church, online at [efcc.org/give](http://efcc.org/give) or via our App. You may give to our two main funds, the General Fund or the Outreach Fund, and/or also to our Beyond Fund (building projects). *Our Beyond loan balance is at \$6,951,196 as of December 17, 2025.*

Church Fund	Actual Given	Budgeted	Difference (+/-)
General*	\$3,950,962	\$3,410,000	+\$540,962
Outreach	\$482,674	\$480,000	+\$2,674

**\*Note:** December's General Fund budget is \$925,000. As of December 17, we have received \$402,400 toward our budgeted goal. Thank you for giving.

**January Prayer Night** | Wednesday, January 7, 6:30-8pm, Chapel  
 Let's ring in the New Year of 2026 with prayer! Join us in the Chapel on the first Wednesday night of January to experience the power that comes when we come together in prayer. Gather with your church family as we pray for each other, our church, the local community, our nation, and the world. This night of prayer will begin a 21-day prayer focus at Emmanuel Faith. Those who attend will be provided with a special 21-day prayer guide.

Announcements continue on the next pages or see more online at [efcc.org](http://efcc.org).

**Announcements Continued ...**

**Good Boundaries and Goodbyes Class** | Wednesdays, January 7 to February 25  
6:30-8:15pm, Ed. Center, Room 23/24 | [care@efcc.org](mailto:care@efcc.org) or (760) 781-2108  
*Good Boundaries and Goodbyes* is an eight-week book/video series by Lysa Terkeurst that will guide you on your journey toward creating and maintaining healthy boundaries ("let your yes be yes, and your no be no"). The class cost is \$15 per person for the course book. You can register online at [efcc.org/help](http://efcc.org/help).

**Newcomer Lunch** | Sunday, January 11, 12:15-1:30pm, Cafe  
If you're new, we'd love to meet you at our next Newcomer Lunch. You'll enjoy lunch with some of the church's elders, pastors, and staff. You'll also have the opportunity to learn more about the church and ways you can connect. RSVP online at [efcc.org/events](http://efcc.org/events) for this free lunch.

**Kids and Youth 2026 Winter Camps Are Almost Here**  
The cost to attend any of our 2026 winter camps is only \$195 per student. High School Camp will be held from January 23-25 at Camp Maranatha in Idyllwild. Our Elementary students (3rd-5th graders) will head to Camp Cedar Glen in Julian from February 6-8. And Junior High (Middle School) Winter Camp (6th-8th graders) will be held from March 6-8 at Whispering Winds Camp, also in Julian. Camp registration is open online at [efcc.org/events](http://efcc.org/events).

**Have You Visited Our Holy Grounds Cafe Recently?**  
*Open Sundays, from 8-11am, located in the Courtyard*  
Our on-campus Cafe is open on Sunday mornings and serves breakfast fare, including "half" or "full" breakfast options, breakfast burritos and sandwiches, donuts, pastries, cereal, coffee, and other beverages. Stop by before or after the 9am service for great food and/or a chance to just hang out. You can even watch the worship service.

**EFCC Care & Counseling Ministry** | [efcc.org/help](http://efcc.org/help)  
*Support Groups & Other Classes*



**Have a Need? We're Here to Help!**  
Life can be hard at times, but you don't have to go through it alone. Whatever your need, the Emmanuel Faith Care & Counseling ministry is here to help, guide, encourage, and point you toward the love of Jesus. We'd love to come alongside you. We can help with counseling, mentoring, or spiritual direction. To take a next step, scan the QR code above, visit our webpage via the link above, email us at [care@efcc.org](mailto:care@efcc.org) or call (760) 781-2108. Consider this upcoming class ...

**Grief Support: Loss of a Spouse Workshop** | Sat., Jan. 10, 9:30-11:30am  
*Chapel downstairs | Register online at [efcc.org/help](http://efcc.org/help)*

As a widower, do you dread the lonely days and nights? Wonder what to do with your spouse's belongings? At this workshop, you'll meet other people who understand and have found ways to make it through. Discover reasons for hope and find practical tips for coping with the death of a spouse. The cost to attend is \$10 for the workshop booklet.



**December 21, 2025**  
**THE JOURNEY OF CHRISTMAS**  
**The Final Five**  
Matthew 2:1-12  
Ryan Paulson, Lead Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_ is meant to move  
us toward an \_\_\_\_\_.

- \_\_\_\_\_ ➤ \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ ➤ \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ ➤ \_\_\_\_\_

Our final five:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Christmas isn't just about \_\_\_\_\_;  
it's about being \_\_\_\_\_.

Need more room to add notes? See the back side of this sermon outline.  
Helpful links: [efcc.org/sermons](http://efcc.org/sermons) | [efcc.org/devos](http://efcc.org/devos) | [efcc.org/podcasts](http://efcc.org/podcasts)

## Additional sermon notes ...

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## Take Your Next Step!

Thank you for attending Emmanuel Faith today! If we can help you in any way, contact us at [welcome@efcc.org](mailto:welcome@efcc.org). To connect more, or to go deeper here, see some ways to take a next step below ...

### Need Prayer? | [efcc.org/prayer](https://efcc.org/prayer)

We'd love to pray for you! Visit our prayer form online, scan the QR code at right, or email [prayer@efcc.org](mailto:prayer@efcc.org).



### Give to EFCC | [efcc.org/give](https://efcc.org/give)

Your generosity changes lives! To give to EFCC, visit our Giving page, access our App, scan the QR code, or use an offering envelope at church.



### Find a Group | [efcc.org/groups](https://efcc.org/groups)

Learn about God's heart for you, build lasting relationships, and walk alongside others in every season of life. Scan the QR code or visit our groups page online.



### Join a Team | [efcc.org/teams](https://efcc.org/teams)

Helping others through volunteering gives us a greater sense of meaning and brings great joy both to us and those we help. Join a team and come serve at EFCC.



## NEW TO EFCC? Start Here!

### We'd Love to Get to Know You! | [efcc.org/connection](https://efcc.org/connection)

Take a moment to tell us more about yourself. Scan the QR code at right, or fill out a Connection Card in the chair back. You also can visit our Welcome area in the Worship Center lobby, or go online to visit our website at [efcc.org/connect](https://efcc.org/connect).



## CHILDREN'S, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

### Children | [efcc.org/kids](https://efcc.org/kids)

Sundays | Children's Center  
Infants to 6th Grade | 9 and 10:45am

Wednesdays | Children's Center  
Kindergarten to 6th Grade | 6:30-8pm (September to May)

### Junior High & High School

[efcc.org/jh](https://efcc.org/jh) | [efcc.org/hsm](https://efcc.org/hsm)

Sundays | 10:45am | Youth Center

Wednesdays | 6:30-8pm (Sept. to May, and summer camps/events)

### Young Adults | [efcc.org/ya](https://efcc.org/ya)

Tuesdays (ages 18-25) | 7pm | Youth Center, Young Adults Rm. (2nd Flr.)

Week Night Small Groups | 7-9pm (off campus)

## WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

CLASSIC | Sundays, 9am, Worship Center

MODERN | Sundays, 9am, Chapel (video venue)

MODERN | Sundays, 10:45am, Worship Center, & 5pm, Chapel

EN ESPAÑOL | Sundays, 10:45am, Chapel



[www.efcc.org](https://www.efcc.org)

(760) 745-2541 | [welcome@efcc.org](mailto:welcome@efcc.org)  
639 E. 17th Ave., Escondido, CA 92025  
EFCC Open Wi-Fi Password: John3:16



[www.emmanuelfaithpreschool.org](https://www.emmanuelfaithpreschool.org)

(760) 781-2260 | [preschool@efcc.org](mailto:preschool@efcc.org)  
639 E. 17th Ave., Escondido, CA 92025  
Monday-Friday, 7am-5pm (full & part day)

# Celebrating 2025

Here are some highlights from our EFCC family living on mission in our community and around the world:

- We gathered **66 community partners** to celebrate our city on Love Esco Day 2025.
- **1,083 Love Esco volunteers** completed **74** projects for the good of our city.
- **250 Snowball Bash volunteers** welcomed **801 guests** from the San Diego foster and adoptive community
- Together we've impacted **19,195 people** in our community.



- We encouraged **67 missionaries** at the Global Gathering in January.
- **194 people** experienced life-changing mission trips to **8 countries**.
- **266 pastors** were trained in disciple making and church planting around the world.
- **54 new churches** were planted among unreached people.
- In November we celebrated our global family and experienced flavors and activities from **16 countries** on Global Sunday.



**Thank you Emmanuel Faith!**

# EFCC Family News Update

*Sharing our family passings and prayer needs*

December 21, 2025

## Pray for Our Church Family

### Home With the Lord

*Upcoming Memorial Services & Homegoing Updates*

**Bruce Marshburn, Barbara Pillsbury, and Jean Slaughter** recently passed away. Please keep their families in prayer at this time.



**Jean Casperson** — A memorial service will be held for her on Saturday, December 20, at 1pm in the Chapel.

**Ron Borders** — A memorial service will be held for him on Saturday, January 10, at 1pm in the Chapel.

**Gary Coleman** — A memorial service will be held for him on Saturday, January 17, at 10am in the Chapel.

**Chester & Marjorie Scheltema** — A memorial service will be held for them on Saturday, February 7, at 1pm in the Chapel.

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### In the Hospital or Outpatient Care *(at Present or Pending\*)*

Jim Munson, Barbara Tucker, and Kenny Winter.

### Recovering at Home or in Extended Care

Joyce Blankenship, Shirley Elmore, Pam Irwin, Bob McQuead, Barry Miller, Bob Moberly, Lilian Mohler, Linda Nolan, Vanessa O., Ron Strubhar, Ron Sutliff, and Kara Torrez.

### In Hospice Care

Pamela Thacker and Barbara Tucker.

### Fighting Cancer *(\*denotes a child or youth)*

Tim Daugherty, Bob Davidson II, Bruce Gephart, Wally Goff, Erica Howard, Pam Irwin, Thelma Monigold, Eligio Moreno, Sylvia Rankin, Luanne Rishel, Shirley Roireau, Virginia Sanderson, Pamela Thacker, Barbara Tucker, Silvia Vargas, Nancy Wilson, and Gary Williamson.