



HONEST TO GOD

Emmanuel Faith
Community Church
September 20, 2026

CHURCH LIFE | Announcements for Sept. 20, 2026

Divorce Support Group | Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm, Now-December 16

Care and Counseling at care@efcc.org

You don't have to walk through separation or divorce alone. DivorceCare is a supportive 15-week, video-based program where you'll find encouragement, practical tools, and caring people to help you navigate what's ahead and move toward healing and hope. Visit efcc.org/help to register.

Fall Apologetics Class | Begins Thursday, September 24

6:30pm, Education Center, Room 24 | Gary at gary.zacharias@gmail.com

Christians are told to make a defense for what we believe. That's what apologetics does — it gives good reasons why Christianity is true. Starting Thursday, September 24, and running for seven weeks, Gary Zacharias and Steve Bruecker will lead our fall Apologetics Class with all new material. We'll meet weekly from 6:30-8pm. Come and join us at any time!

The Grace Course | Thursdays, September 24-December 3

6:30-8:30pm, at Emmanuel Faith

Join us on Thursday nights, starting September 24, to experience the transforming power of God's grace. Discover how God's grace frees you from guilt, shame, fear, and pride while helping you grow in His love each day. This class will also feature a one-day retreat on December 5. Learn more or sign up at efcc.org/events.

Help Us Choose the Next EFCC Elders | Suggestions for

Elders will be accepted until Monday, Monday, Sept. 28

Contact: Claire Williams, cwilliams@efcc.org,

(760) 781-2163, or scan the QR code

Emmanuel Faith's Elder Nominating Committee will

begin to prayerfully consider prospective Elder candidates soon for the 2027 spring Annual Meeting election. We welcome suggestions for church-member nominees. Church members may submit a man's name using the form provided at the wooden ballot box in the lobby, by scanning the QR code, or by emailing cwilliams@efcc.org with your suggestions through Monday, September 28. We'll begin consideration as soon as we receive your input.

Bible references for elder qualifications include Acts 20:28-31;

1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; Hebrews 13:17; and 1 Peter 5:2-3

Men's Campout at Hurkey Creek | Friday, October 2 - Sunday, October 4

Join the Men's Ministry email list by contacting Scott Smith at ssmith@efcc.org

Step away from the routine and make room to recharge, connect, and grow.

Men of all ages—and their sons—are invited for a weekend of Bible teaching, great food, plenty of free time, and time together outdoors. Come build friendships, strengthen your faith, and make some great memories along the way. Learn more and register at efcc.org/events



Announcements Continued ...

Help Make Christmas Sound Beautiful!

Love music? This Christmas, there's a place for you! Whether you love to sing or would like to play or learn handbells, join us as we prepare to fill the season with music that celebrates Jesus. No choir audition is necessary, and bell ringers of all experience levels are welcome. Come use your gifts, try something new, and be part of making Christmas at Emmanuel Faith something special. **Christmas Choir:** Rehearsals begin Saturday, October 3, from 9am–noon, followed by Thursday rehearsals at 7:30pm. **Bell Choir:** Rehearsal times will be determined based on the availability of those who sign up. Sign up at efcc.org/events or email ClassicWorship@efcc.org.

Parent Dedications | Sunday, October 4, during services; required class either Sunday Sept. 27, 9am or Wednesday, Sept. 30, 7pm
You don't have to have all the answers to lead your child toward Jesus—you simply have to choose to take the next step. Parent Dedication is an opportunity to publicly commit to raising your child to know, love, and follow Jesus, surrounded by a church family committed to supporting you along the way. Dedications take place during Sunday services, and parents are asked to attend a preparation class beforehand. Take this special step for your family and sign up today at efcc.org/events.

Giving at Emmanuel Faith | efcc.org/give

Your generosity makes ministry possible! Every gift helps create opportunities for people to know Jesus, grow in faith, find community, and experience His love here in North County and beyond. Thank you to everyone who faithfully gives and invests in what God is doing through Emmanuel Faith. You can give through the EFCC App, online at efcc.org/give, or by placing a check in the offering boxes on Sunday.

EFCC Care & Counseling Ministry | 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 or call (760) 781-2108.



God's Waiting Room | 2nd & 4th Thursdays 6:00-8:30pm, Youth Center Lounge (upstairs)

Andrea & Toni, toniflash73@gmail.com

Join a safe community of caring mothers in prayer, sharing and encouragement while waiting for the return of our young adults who have strayed from God.

See more information on back ...



September 20, 2026

HONEST TO GOD

"Who Do You Say I Am?"

Matthew 16:13-20

Ryan Paulson, Lead Pastor

What you _____ will

_____.

- It's _____
- It's _____
- It's _____
- It's _____

Jesus isn't just _____; he's _____

and _____.

Need more room to add notes? See the back side of this sermon outline.

Helpful links: efcc.org/sermons | efcc.org/devos | efcc.org/podcasts

Additional sermon notes ...

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. To connect more, or to go deeper here, see some ways to take a next step below ...

Need Prayer? | 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.



Give to EFCC | 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

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

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

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.



CHILDREN'S, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

Children | efcc.org/kids

Sundays | Children's Center

Infants to 6th Grade | 9 and 10:45am

Wednesdays | Children's Center

Kindergarten to 6th Grade | 7-8:30pm* (September to May)

Junior High & High School

efcc.org/jh | efcc.org/hsm

Sundays | 10:45am | Youth Center

Wednesdays | 7-8:30pm* (Sept. to May, and summer camps/events)

Young Adults | efcc.org/ya

Tuesdays (ages 18-24) | 7pm | Youth Center, Young Adults Rm. (2nd Flr.)

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

*Please note new Wednesday night meeting time, effective Wed., Sept. 2.

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

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



www.emmanuelfaithpreschool.org

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

What does it look like for the church to show up for foster families?

We often think of church as a Sunday thing—we gather, worship, learn, and draw close to God together. But church extends beyond the weekend and beyond the walls of our buildings.

When the church shows up for foster families, it looks like delivering groceries when a family receives a late-night placement. It looks like calling an adoptive mom in the trenches of trauma. It looks like being a listening ear for a teenager living in a group home. It's ordinary things, done with extraordinary love.

Family Strong at Emmanuel Faith supports foster, adoptive, and kinship families through many of these ordinary acts of extraordinary love.

On October 3, you can show up, too. Join us for a Family Strong Respite Night. For just a few hours, you'll help kids feel safe and loved, give caregivers a chance to catch their breath, and show our community what it looks like when the church shows up.

VOLUNTEER AT
FAMILY STRONG AND
BEHAVIOR SUPPORT MINISTRY'S
RESPITE NIGHT
OCTOBER 3RD
4-7PM
**SUPPORT FOSTER
KIDS AND FAMILIES
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

ITS AS EASY AS...

1. SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

SCAN HERE!



2. GET YOUR LIVE SCAN ON SEPT. 27TH
WALK-INS WELCOME 10:15- 12:30, BOARD ROOM

3. SHOW UP READY FOR FUN!



Giving to the Outreach Fund is one way we collectively share the Gospel here in Escondido and around the world. Thank you for your generous gifts!



Standing with Nepal in Crisis

On August 26, a devastating wall of water, mud, and ice swept through the Rasuwa region of Nepal, destroying homes, cutting off villages, and leaving thousands of people missing.

Emmanuel Faith has partnered for years with a network of churches across the Himalayas. We provided resources for pastor training and sent a missions team to encourage and support Nepalese pastors as they shared the hope of Jesus in their communities. Today, many of those same pastors are on the front lines of the disaster—traveling by helicopter to isolated villages and entering hydroelectric tunnels to help rescue survivors.



Rescue efforts inside a tunnel.

One church planter has watched 15 members of his church pulled from the debris. Another 25 remain missing.

Because of your generosity to the Outreach Fund, Emmanuel Faith has provided \$20,000 in immediate disaster relief, delivered through trusted local pastors who know their communities and are responding where the need is greatest.



Lori Pierce, from EFCC, in Nepal in 2023

This is what it means to be part of Jesus' global Church:
when our brothers and sisters are hurting, we stand with them.

Please Pray

- For families who are mourning the loss of loved ones.
- For the rescuers who have witnessed unthinkable tragedy and continue to search.
- For the churches in Nepal to be a beacon of hope as the nation mourns.

EFCC Family News Update

Sharing our family passings and prayer needs

September 20, 2026

Pray for Our Church Family

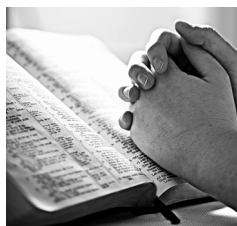
Home With the Lord

Upcoming Memorial Services & Homegoing Updates

Elaine Castellaw — A memorial service will be held for her on Saturday, September 26, at 2pm in the Chapel.

Patricia Boldt — A memorial service will be held for her on Saturday, October 3, at 2pm in the Chapel.

Will McLennan—Memorial being planned; details to follow.



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

Kim Brett and Patrick Hetherington

Recovering at Home or in Extended Care

H.D. Brumfield, Ginny Colandrea, Karen Hoerster, Betty Jensen, Bob Moberly, Ida Murray, Christy Riley, and Don Smith.

In Hospice Care

Sally Eaton, Dale Jackson, Nancy Peet, and Pamela Thacker.

Fighting Cancer

Don Chilson, Tim Daugherty, Bob Davidson II, Sally Eaton, Bev Feiker, Bruce Gephart, Wally Goff, Leonard Haynes, Erica Howard, Pam Irwin, Jaqueline Lawton, Thelma Monigold, Eligio Moreno, Joyce Olson, Luanne Rishel, Shirley Roireau, Virginia Sanderson, Joseph Patrick Stoker, Marilyn Texton, Pamela Thacker, John Twombly, Nancy Wilson, Gary Williamson, and Cynthia Zabuska.