

The Good News

MONTHLY PUBLICATION DECEMBER 2024 VOLUME 58 NUMBER 12

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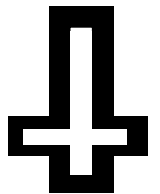


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address label here

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 AM
11:00 AM
Pastor: Dennis Laherty
Preschool Director: Jonine Sodders
Spanish Worship is offered at 2:30 pm by House of Faith.
E-mail: churchinfo@elch.org
Website: www.elch.org



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

A NOTE FROM THE

PASTOR



Over the years there has been one word in my vocabulary that has defined Christmas. The word is "Incarnation." For me this word defines the day, the season, and really life with Jesus better than any other.

At Easter, and during the following weeks, we talk about the "living Lord." We refer to the Resurrection, Jesus walking with his disciples and providing new life for those who follow him. The impact of the Easter season goes without saying because of the long-lasting impact on our daily lives.

Christmas, and the Incarnation of Jesus is different. For me it brings to mind that the event occurred because God the Father made a decision for all creation. The Father came to a point in time when it was decided that the law of God just wasn't working out. I imagine that the Father looked down, saw Mary and Joseph her betrothed, knew of the faithfulness of both of them, knew they would serve as Jesus' first disciples, then being one with the Spirit, saw to it that she was to bear a son, the Son. I can't help but feel that in some mystical way the Father and the Spirit rejoiced because God would now be Incarnate on the earth. The presence of the Lord would be more powerful than it had ever been. The future of Creation was secure because God Incarnate would be among the people. He would be welcomed as a newborn, develop as a toddler, grow through adolescence and become a well adjusted adult. All this occurred while being cultivated in the synagogue and the Temple as the fulfillment of the law, the Messiah and Savior of the World.

We know of many other names for Jesus. This time of year especially we hear of Him as the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. But all of this began when the Father decided that the Incarnation would be the starting point.

This Christmas season I would pray that all people could find a new place in their heart to welcome this living God. As we greet a new year, I would additionally pray that the Incarnation lives on as we grow with this special presence of the Lord as he touches our lives each day.

A Blessed Incarnation to you all.

Pastor Dennis Laherty



Burrito Ministry

December 14 come join us at 10:00 am as we prepare burritos to be taken out to those who are hungry. You may also be one to accompany others who go out to deliver them.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

DECEMBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 29 — 10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

DECEMBER 1/1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT — Worship Service at 10 am

10 am Worship

DECEMBER MIDWEEK SCRIPTURE AND PRAISE WEDNESDAYS

10:15 am December 4, 11, 18 Midweek advent in the library

DECEMBER 8/2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

11 am Emanuel's Annual Meeting with potluck

DECEMBER 15/3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

10 am Worship

Lessons and Carols with Communion

DECEMBER 22/4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT —CHILDREN'S PLAY

10 am Worship

"A Crazy Busy Christmas" Children's play with Communion

DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 7 pm

DECEMBER 29/1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10 am Worship



Order your poinsettias now to beautify the altar area at our Christmas worship services.

Cost is \$12 each. Please make checks payable to Emanuel Lutheran Church and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office by **December 2, 2024**. Please indicate on your check memo line "for poinsettias."

Ordering forms in Narthex.



"HANGING OF THE GREENS"

Help decorate the church for Christmas!!

Saturday, December 14, starting at 2 PM

in the Sanctuary.

Christmas music will be playing.

Come join us!

ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AFTER 10 AM WORSHIP

Join us for Emanuel's Annual Congregational Meeting over brunch/lunch in Moerer Hall. The purpose of this meeting will be to approve the 2025 budget, elect council members, receive 2024 ministry reports and approve the updates to our Constitution and Bylaws.

PLEASE make every effort to be a part of this important meeting in the life of our community of faith. Thank you for prayers and generous support of Emanuel's ministries!



HAHO UPDATE

HEART AND HANDS OUTREACH SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!

"Feed My Sheep" – John 21

HAHO OPPORTUNITIES FOR DECEMBER

We haven't even celebrated Thanksgiving and are preparing for our December outreach projects!

To begin, thanks to every one of you who took to heart the need for extra food and gift cards for Caring Ministries. Praise the Lord for your generosity and loving kindness to those in need.

We are excited to have made the decision to support the Wings Shelter for families fleeing trauma again this year. Many leave their homes with only the clothes they are wearing! We aid in helping these families by giving them the items they request as most needed. Then they have a wish list for something they truly would like to receive. Your generosity in the past has been overwhelming! Our prayer is that it will be so again. The Angel Tree with names and requests is expected to be out by the first Sunday in December.

As a final request, please keep those jackets and warm winter clothes coming for St. Jude's Closet who help the homeless community. Large sizes are always most needed and we thank you in advance for your caring hearts. May the Lord bless you this Christmas as you have blessed so many in 2024. Please keep all these wonderful organizations in prayer!





Angel Tree

For those who may not know, the Angel tree is the way we reach out to abused children and their parent at Christmas! Names are received from the WINGS Shelter with a list of needed and desired gift requests. The names will be available on Sundays December 1 and 8 and must be returned by Wednesday, December 18! No Fail! Thank you in advance for your loving generosity!

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 15, 2024
10 am



Experience the Christmas Story in
Scripture and Song



BLOOD DRIVE

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

Monday Jan. 6, 2025
Noon to 6pm

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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

**A
CRAZY BUSY
CHRISTMAS**

AN ORIGINAL PLAY

DECEMBER 22
10 AM



FEATURING
EMANUEL'S
SUNDAY SCHOOL
KIDS



Thankful for our guest preacher, seminarian Amanda Pulos, who provides us with thought provoking messages and leads worship.

Thankful for all of the ministry chairpeople who compiled information and provided information for the Annual Report.

Thankful for Jonine Soddors who continues to provide help on the campus, even though it is outside of her job.

Thankful for Lilly Hernandez who works tirelessly coordinating all of our meetings, services, special events and does it with grace.

Thankful for Jill Drummond who helps with office needs.

Thankful for our Study Buddy Tutors who consistently help with children's learning.

Thankful for all those who help with check-in, Communion service, ushers, greeting, reading, sound booth, and all other needs at our worship services.

Thankful for our members who hop in to fix things at a moment's notice, including Jack Ward, Jeff Ward, John Ospital, Chip Witcher, and so many others.

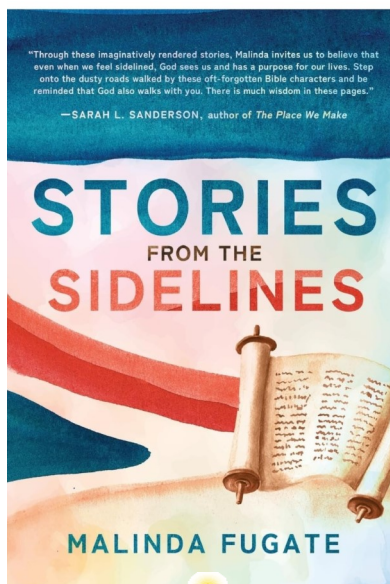
Thankful for Sharon Frazier, Candy Keller, and others who are re-working our Christmas banner so beautifully.

Thankful for everyone who faithfully attends worship and who gives their time, talent, and financial gifts to God through Emanuel.





Continuing in the Library,
Thursdays at 1pm



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.

SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS ~

Advent 1

December 1

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thess 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

Advent 2

December 8

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Advent 3

December 15

Zeph. 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Advent 4

December 22

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

First Sunday of Christmas

December 29

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



December 2024-From the Board of Parish Education

Sunday School Class Schedule: Join us on Sunday mornings for classes for all age groups starting at age three to sixth grade from 11:00 –11:45AM. Visitors are always welcome!

Sunday School: We are now devoting all Sunday School lessons to expanding our understanding of the story told in our Christmas play and learning the songs.

Bible Presentation: Bella Armendariz was presented the Adventure Bible in November.

Offerings: During November and December, offerings will be used to purchase gifts for a boy and a girl from the WINGS shelter. The students can see how their offering can help others in this special way, especially kids just like them.

Study Buddies FREE Tutoring: Study Buddies meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-4:30 PM for children in grades 1-6. We have five dedicated students who attend every week. Two new students are joining us in December. Study Buddies will be taking off for winter recess from Tuesday, Dec.17 through Jan. 6. Study Buddies will resume on Tuesday, January 7. This program is open to all children in our surrounding neighborhood as well as our Emanuel Lutheran family. Invite your friends!

Christmas Play: “A Crazy Busy Christmas” musical written by our very own Susan Wright will be presented on Sunday, December 22 at 10:00 AM. A potluck luncheon will follow the performance in Moerer Hall. The kids are so excited and energetic about serving in this way. Come and join us! Bring your friends. See how the Christmas carolers discover the real meaning of Christmas. The play has been a great way for our youth to learn about the Christmas story.

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

Board of Parish Education





DECEMBER JOY CIRCLE Monday, December 16, 2024 9:30AM - 11:00AM

We will be meeting in December. In fact, we take this opportunity to share a favorite Christmas treat with one another, if you desire. Please do not feel obligated as there is always more than enough food provided!

This would be a great time to join us for the last meeting of the year. We will meet at 9:30AM and conclude by 11:00AM. The Bible Study will again come from the ELCA Women's Gather Magazine. As of yet we do not know the title of the study or devotional, but will have copies available for the 16th.

May you each experience joy as only the Lord can bring as you celebrate our Lord's birth this Christmas!



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**

You Tube



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 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 Soddors (562)694-5316 or email EmanuelPreschoolLaHabra@hotmail.com



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

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.

~ 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.



PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER DECEMBER 2024

*** 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

~ This month, join us in praying that the community may know Christ!

We believe that people's greatest need is to hear and believe in the truth of the gospel. On our own, each one of us is totally depraved and hopelessly lost, and yet the free gift of salvation is available for all who repent of their sin and put their trust in Jesus Christ. He is the way, and the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father but through Him (John 14:6).

~ For all people dealing with natural disasters around the world. Those who have lost loved ones, homes, pets and everything they own.

Continuing Prayers

~If you have Prayer requests for the next 8 weeks, please contact the Church office to add names.

Assisted Living Centers/Homebound

~ Shirley Jordan – Park Vista
~ Margaret Roberts – Addie's Cottage Anaheim

~ Jean Arata
~ Lee Reitzel – Emerald Court

Friends and Family to Remember

~Please call the office to update this list.

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.

December 2024																																																																																									
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																			
1 Advent 1 9:30a-12:30p HOF (YR) 10a Worship Service (S) 11a Sunday School (H) 5-7p HOF (H)	2 10-3p Banner Workshop 7-9p HOF (S) 7:30p AA (H)	3 3-4:30p Study Buddies (L) 6p BSF(All)	4 9a Bible Study (L/Z) 10-3p Banner Workshop 10a Bridge Club (H) 7:30p Al-anon (C)	5 9-1 Banner Workshop 1p Book Club (L) 3-4:30p Study Buddies (L) 6p District 18 (H) 6:30p Bells and Choir (S) 7-9p HOF (4)	6 6-10:30p HOF (S) 7:30-8:30p HOF(CR 2, 4, YR) 8p AA(H)	7 7-9:30 BSF Leaders (H/F) 8a Men's Breakfast 8:30a Prayer Group (Y,Z) 5-10pm HOF																																																																																			
8 Advent 2 9:30a-12:30p HOF (YR) 10a Worship Service (S) 11a Annual meeting/potluck	9 10-3p Banner Workshop 7-9p HOF (S) 7:30p AA (H)	10 3-4:30p Study Buddies (L) 6p BSF(All)	11 9a Bible Study (L/Z) 10-3p Banner Workshop 10a Bridge Club (H) 7:30p Al-anon (C)	12 9-1 Banner Workshop 1p Book Club (L) 3-4:30p Study Buddies (L) 6:30p Bells and Choir (S) 7-9p HOF (4)	13 Good News Deadline 11:30a What's 4Lunch Ladies 6-10:30p HOF (S) 7:30-8:30p HOF(CR 2, 4, Y) 8p AA (H)	14 7-9:30a BSF Leaders 8:30a Prayer Group (Y,Z) 10a Burrito Ministry 2p Hanging of Greens (S) 6-9pm HOF (MH)																																																																																			
15 Advent 3 9:30a-12:30p HOF (YR) 10a Worship Service (S) 10a Lessons & Carols 11a Sunday School	16 9:30a Joy Circle (H) 7-9p HOF (S) 7:30p AA (H)	17 No Study Buddies (L) 5:30p Church Council (L,Z) 6p BSF (ALL)	18 9a Bible Study (L/Z) 10-3p Banner Workshop 10a Bridge Club (H) 7:30p Al-Anon (C)	19 1p Book Club (L) No Study Buddies (L) 7-9p HOF(4) 6:30p Bells and Choir (S)	20 6-10:30p HOF (S) 7:30-8:30p HOF (CR 2,4, Y) 8p AA (H)	21 7-9:30 a BSF Leaders 8:30a Prayer Group (Y,Z)																																																																																			
22 Advent 4 9:30a-12:30p HOF (YR) 10a Worship Service (S) 10a Children's play 12:30-7p HOF(ALL)	23 7-9p HOF (S) 7:30p AA (H)	24 No Study Buddies Preschool closed Office open until noon 7 pm Christmas Service	25 Office/Preschool closed 	26 7-9p HOF (4) No Book Club No Study Buddies No Bells and Choir	27 6-10:30p HOF (S) 7:30-8:30p HOF (CR 2,4, Y) 8p AA (H)	28 7-9:30a BSF Leaders 8:30a Prayer Group (Y,Z)																																																																																			
29 First Sunday of Christmas 9:30a-12:30p HOF (YR) 10a Worship Service (S)	30 7-9p HOF (S) 7:30p AA (H)	31 New Years Eve Preschool closed Office open until noon 8-1 pm HOF	<div>November 2024</div> <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr></table>	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		<div>January 2025</div> <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr></table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	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	
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Emanuel Lutheran Church: 150 N. Palm Street, La Habra, CA 90631 • Phone 562-691-0656, www.elch.org • **Preschool:** 562-694-5316

Alanon meets in Hope Center, **Wednesday @ 7:30 pm**; **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** meets in Moerer Hall **Monday @ 7:30 pm & Friday @ 8pm**

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

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



The 2nd Mile Giving Envelope for Dec. is:

Good Samaritan Fund

BOOK OF LUKE WED 9-10 AM IN THE LIBRARY **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!!*



We are reading the book of Luke. 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 OCT/NOV/DEC 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 ? ?

The short Old Testament book of Lamentations is a set of communal laments (sorrowful songs) about the destruction in 587 B.C. of which city, by which people?

- A. Babylon; the Assyrians
- B. Jerusalem; the Babylonians
- C. Rome; the Greeks
- D. Caesarea Philippi; the Romans

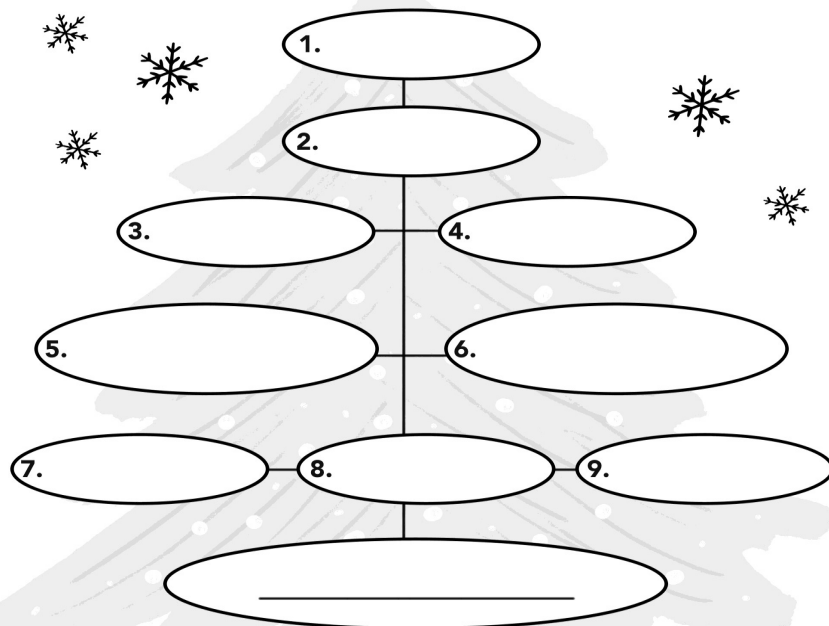


Answer: B (See Bible commentaries.)

Kid's Korner

Puzzle!

Write the answer to each clue in the correct circle.
Then jot down the first letter of each answer
and unscramble those letters to form a word about this
season. Write that answer at the bottom of the tree.



CLUES

1. You trim this at Christmas.
2. One who governs
3. The first word of a popular carol, it means "Listen!"
4. You burn this to make the air sweet.
5. "For unto us is born this day a _____ ..."
6. She was betrothed to Joseph.
7. Shepherds heard them sing.
8. A Christmas song
9. 'Tis the _____ to be jolly!"

Answers: 1. tree, 2. ruler, 3. hark, 4. incense, 5. Savior, 6. Mary, 7. angels, 8. carol, 9. season; Christmas



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.

What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.