



Connections

East Hills Community Church

A Light in the Darkness

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11)

Christmas is about love. Or, at least it should be. I suppose it depends on who you ask. East Hills Community Church does so much to show love to others at Christmastime. Every year we come together to decorate our church with trees, lights, wreaths and bows. It’s a time of fellowship and fun as we listen to Christmas music and encourage each other by helping one another. Many from our congregation lend a hand and give their time and energy to transform our church into a winter wonderland.

For two years in a row, there has been someone who walked into our sanctuary, stopped in their tracks, and said with tears in their eyes, “Wow! This is so be-au-ti-ful!” I could tell at that moment that they hadn’t felt that kind of Christmas spirit for a while. This is such an important feeling. Simply put, East Hills Church must have made them feel like they were home. If not home, then a sense of warmth. If not warmth, then a sense of love. If not love, then of hope. Coming into a place where visitors can physically see that people care enough to do all they can do is an example of ministry. It is ministry because if it helps just one person come a little closer to God, then it was all worth it.

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A Light in the Darkness

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Decorating is a lot of work! I once heard it said, “Ever since Eden we’ve had the propensity of turning God’s best gifts into hard labor.” However, Isaiah 49:13 says, “Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice O earth; burst into song, O mountains! For the LORD comforts His people and will have compassion on His afflicted ones.” This is, in a nutshell, the essence of ministry. Decorating to show love to somebody is just another way East Hills shouts for joy and rejoices that a Savior is born! On Sunday morning we finally get a chance to burst into song! The choir and worship team dawn their festive voices and great attitudes to bring Christmas alive to East Hills. What a wonderful way to celebrate!

Many people visit our campus throughout the week. The ladies from Tudorka Day Care tell me they enjoy taking their breaks in the Fellowship Hall because it is such a beautifully decorated room. As parents come to pick up their children from the day care, some peek in to admire our sanctuary and look around with their children. I always have the door open, Christmas lights on and Christmas music playing. It is our hope that it will present an inviting place for them to come and worship.

This year we placed a 20-foot sign along our driveway wishing everyone entering our campus a Merry Christmas. This simple, welcoming act might put a smile on someone’s face this Christmas and lead them to come visit a warm, welcoming, family-friendly church. Please keep everyone that visits our campus in your prayers. Pray fervently for them, that their Christmas goes well and that they recognize and remember the gift of God’s Son, given to seek and save us all.

This year let’s do everything we can to give hope, love and compassion to everyone. Do this so that we bring about, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14) And remember to keep Christ in our Christmas celebrations. Jesus is the Light of the World and we need to do anything we can to share the good news. May the Light breach the darkness in every corner of our lives—and throughout the world! Amen.

Your Friend,
Pastor Jonathan Casas

Tech Insider

God loves a cheerful giver and our church continues to have faithful ones! As a matter of fact, several of you are utilizing our online giving service. It makes giving easier because you can give to East Hills securely in seconds - anywhere, anytime! You can also set up a recurring donation on a schedule, and stay up to date on your current giving stats. Giving a tithe will safely and automatically be deducted from your account through our provider Sharefaith. Simply go to our website and click on the “Give Online” button and set up an account!

East Hills Community Church Financial Report

General Fund

October Income	Numbers Redacted
October Expenses	
November Income	
November Expenses	



MANY THANKS FROM EHCC!

A big **THANK YOU** to everybody that helped make our "Souper" Pie & Praise celebration a wonderful time with food and fellowship!

THANK YOU to each person to assisted in decorating our church for the holidays!

To our Elders & Deaconesses, **THANK YOU** for your faithful service!

THANK YOU to all the members of the Worship Team for adding your gifts to our services!

To all the teachers of the Children's and Adult Sunday School classes and the mid-week Bible Study groups, **THANK YOU** for your dedication!

THANK YOU to all who help behind the scenes, like inviting others & providing rides, faithfully giving, maintaining our facility, taking cared of the day to day, and praying for our church!

THANK YOU to all visitors and regular church attendees. Your presence is appreciated!



To our Pulpit Search Committee, **THANK YOU** for your dedication & prayers for each step in our search process!

THANK YOU to Pastor Jonathan for your hard work and devotion to leading our worship services, advancing our outreach, and skillfully handling the many administrative and technological duties at East Hills Church!

And the biggest **THANK YOU** of all to God for His love, guidance, protection, and forgiveness! Let us continue to come together and worship our Heavenly Father!

Merry
Christmas

Glory to God
in the highest,
and on earth *peace,*
good will toward men.

 Luke 2:14 

AT THE PULPIT

December

2	Don Ott
9	Don Ott
16	Don Ott
23	Don Ott
30	Steve Korch



(Dates subject to change)



OUR FAMILY WRITES:

THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS



The sights and sounds of Christmas
Are all around us now.
Blanketed with their essence
Yet we are oblivious to them somehow.

The business of hectic days,
Of jobs and home and school
Of concert dates and children's play,
The running low on fuel.

BUT STOP!

See the Christmas tree and
Remember another bough,
Made into the shape of a cross,
Where God fulfilled His vow.

Feel the prick of needled pine,
As sharp as any thorn,
Remember them wreathed 'round His head,
His body spent and torn.

Hear the Christmas carols sung,
The hymns and psalms of old,
The stories that they reminisce,
Of God's love we see unfold.

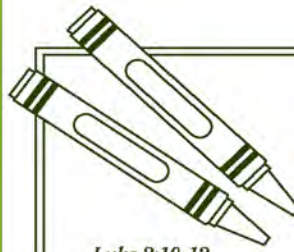
See the stars so heavenly bright,
And angels heard on high,
Proclaiming Jesus' birth to men,
The babe was born to die.

Colors bright red, green and gold,
Red for the blood He shed,
Green is life given afresh,
Gold crowned upon His head.

Presents wrapped under the tree,
Trinkets compared to His gift,
Eternal life, new life is given,
As His blood mends the rift.

So see the sights and hear the sounds,
Enjoy them every one,
Remembering the Christ Child,
That His love for you abounds.

By Evie Berg

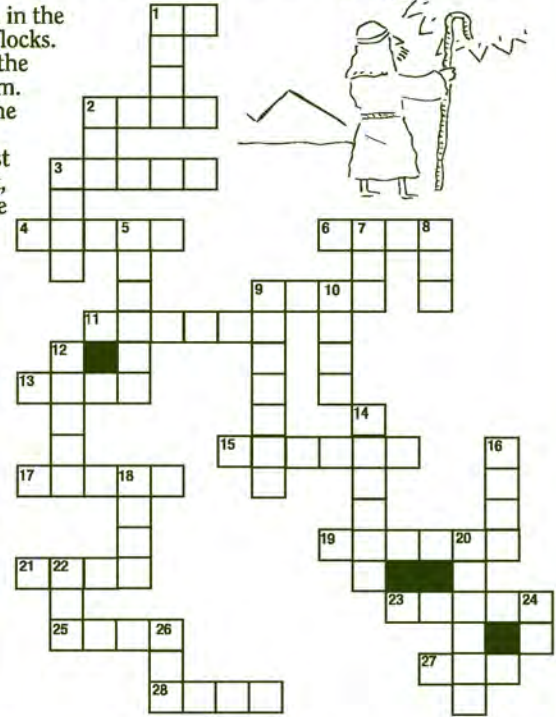


Just for KIDS

Luke 2:10-12

The Angel Appeared

There were shepherds in the fields watching their flocks. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to them. Find the words that the angel spoke. First fit the words from the list into the squares. Next, write the words on the correct lines.



- | | |
|------|---------|
| Do | This |
| be | sign |
| has | find |
| all | baby |
| for | lying |
| not | bring |
| you | great |
| joy | Today |
| town | David |
| that | afraid |
| good | people |
| news | Savior |
| will | Christ |
| been | cloths |
| born | manger |
| Lord | wrapped |

" _____ . I _____ of
24 26 1A 5 3A 8 13 18
4 27 16 9A 1A 2D 7 15 12
in the _____ of _____ a _____ the _____
28 23 20 22 1D 3D
to _____ ; he is _____ the _____ ."
8 19 10

Answer: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."





ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



Alanna Casas

1. Are you a hunter or gatherer?

Gatherer.

2. Do you like pizza? Or flowers? Or both? Favorite Food?

Pizza. My favorite food is chocolate-covered strawberries.

3. If you found a \$10 million lottery ticket how would you spend it?

- Go around buying the homeless basic living necessities and a year's supply worth of food.
- Also, I would wisely invest some for my brothers and me.

4. Tell us something about yourself:

- I have a huge variety of hobbies that I love.
- For example, I enjoy doing crafts, can play the xylophone, and know some sign language.
- The first time I did archery was when I was 11 and got multiple bulls eye's.
- One time I was super close to stepping on a snake when I was younger and barefoot.
- I started karate classes with my brother when I was 3 years old. I was the youngest in the class.
- I started playing piano when I was 6 years old and it's become a second language for me.
- When Aedin and I were younger, we were a part of a T-Ball team that my mom and dad coached.
- I'm homeschooled, in the 9th grade, and am getting straight A's.

5. Who's the most influential person in your life, and why?

My grandpa, Frank. He was always telling to "reach for the stars." He also told me that I only get out of something what I put into it - nothing more, nothing less. He was supportive of everything I did and he told me how proud he was of me. One of my favorite things about him was that he often took the time to help those in need.

6. What's the last thing you thanked God for?

My loyal friends who have always been there for me.

7. What is your favorite verse and why?

Deuteronomy 31:6. It's been my favorite since I was little. It just clicked with me since I'm a scared person in general and the verse basically reminds me that I don't need to be scared because God is always with me and no matter what comes. He will never leave me or forsake me.

8. What's it like being on the Worship Team?

You have to learn to trust your fellow worshipers and adapt to change. But overall it's a lot of fun especially knowing that we're all a part of a bigger picture and that we're transforming people's lives.

9. Describe what "worship" means to you:

It's an extreme form of love - a type of unquestioning devotion.

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Announcements

New Members

We rejoice with our newest members, who recently completed our new members class. Please welcome Barbara McKee, Bruce Kohfield, Veronica Vodopich, and Will Perez. We are so glad to have each of them at our church and are grateful for their ongoing active participation!

Holiday Season Special Offering

On each Sunday in December envelopes will be available for our Holiday Season special offering. This year the Holiday Offering will be used for needed facility upgrades, including windows for the gate house.



We have recently started a new series on the Gospel Project, a Christ-centered, chronological Bible study. Come at 9:15 AM Sundays for this fun and interactive class!

*“Your Savior is born
today in David’s city.
He is Christ the Lord.”*

– Luke 2:11



Newsletter Deadline

We are looking for submissions to the newsletter! We are specifically looking for original poetry, encouraging stories, art, and uplifting articles. The deadline for the January 2019 **CONNECTIONS** newsletter is Thursday, December 20. If you would like something considered for publication in the next newsletter please bring it to the office or e-mail it to: EastHillsCCOffice@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Alanna’s Interview *(Continued)*

10. What is the best lesson that God has taught you?

God is good but that doesn't mean that life will always be good.

If we want to become more like Christ, it means we must go through the same things He went through. That includes suffering, hardships, betrayals, and temptations. It is only by going through those things that our characters are transformed, our faith is strengthened, and we become a true reflection of Christ. Instead of complaining about my hardships I should really just look at them as great opportunities to grow in Christ and become like Him.

11. What's the one thing you wished everyone knew about EHCC?

We listen and learn from our pastor but we don't follow him. The pastor directs us to Who we should be following—God.

12. How long have you been a Christian? How did it happen?

I became a Christian when I was 3. I just remember repeating the sinner's prayer after my mom and dad and to this day believing every word of it.



May your days be
merry and bright with
the light of God's love.

OUR CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Sunday Mornings

Adult Bible Study—9:15 AM

Coffee Fellowship—10:25 AM

Sunday Service—11:00 AM

December 2 - *Communion Sunday*

HOW THE GRINCH "TRIED TO STEAL" CHRISTMAS

(Matthew 1 & 2; Luke 2)

December 9

YOO HOO AND THE RINCH

(Selected verses)

December 16

TAMIM THE RAM

(Luke 2)

December 23 - *Christmas Brunch 9:45—10:45*

MAMMOTH THE MOUNTAINOUS MUTT VS. THE TRADITION

(Matthew 1 & John 1)

Come visit our beautifully decorated church and hear
our Contemporary Worship Team and Christmas Choir!



Behold
I BRING YOU
GOOD NEWS
OF GREAT JOY
THAT WILL
BE FOR
All THE PEOPLE
Luke 2:10



Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

Christmas Choir performs
every Sunday until Christmas

No Dec. Fellowship Lunch

23 — Christmas Brunch

25 — Christmas Day

FEBRUARY

21 — Concert by
New Legacy Project

For
Unto
us a
CHILD
is born
Unto us a Son
is given, and the
Government shall be
Upon His shoulders,
and His Name shall be called,
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Isaiah 9:6

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 – Paul King

8 – Mary Aima

8 – Cynthia Minor

10 – Ailyn Fuentes

23 – Crystal Shields

27 – Roy Mizer

& ANNIVERSARIES

12 – Floyd and Phyllis Fortuin

20 – Roger and Clarice Martin

29 – Krist and Lynn Gudnason

Upcoming Concert: New Legacy Project, formerly the Blackwood Legacy, blends the best of country gospel, traditional and edgy newer southern gospel, with today's popular worship music, while staying true to the Gospel Message. This Nashville-based group is known for their flowless harmonies, comedy, and homespun humor.

Join us for a memorable time of live music, fellowship and fun! Admission is free and a love offering will be received. Listen for their new radio single "God of the Empty Grave" and visit them at www.NewLegacyProject.com.

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed here, we apologize!
Please contact the church office or email Jonathan at
jonathancasas@rockinworship.com to update our records.

