

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Imminent Arrival of Emmanuel Emmanuel Lutheran Church December 21, 2025

Welcome!

We are honored that you are with us today. May the Word of God that you hear strengthen your faith and increase your desire to serve the Lord! If you are a guest today, we are thankful you have joined us. We hope that you will join us again soon.

For your convenience

For your convenience, please take note of the following:

- **Restrooms** are to the left as you exit the sanctuary.
- **Nursery.** There is a room where children may be quieted to the left down the hall across from the bathrooms as you exit the sanctuary.
- Children's worship notes are available. Ask an usher.
- **Hearing assistance.** A hearing loop is available in the worship area for hearing aids equipped with a T-coil.



If there is any other way in which we can assist you, let us know.

The service is streamed live online at <u>elctempe.org/worship</u>.

For the latest information about services schedules, please visit elctempe.org.

Fourth Sunday in Advent — December 21, 2025 Imminent Arrival: Imminent Arrival of Emmanuel

Emmanuel is an important person. "Emmanuel" means "God with us." It was a special name given to Jesus already 700 years before he was born. Who is with us when Jesus is with us? God himself. God became a human being in a special way, becoming truly human but remaining God.

God is still with us. We encounter him in a special way when we gather with two or three others in worship, and he comes to us in Word and Sacrament. The thrill of anticipation for Emmanuel's arrival is almost unbearable. This week, as you celebrate Christmas, stop, ponder, reflect, and marvel and the mystery of your salvation. God joins you to him and becomes your brother.



Connection card

During the offering

we ask that you

complete an online

connection card.

Service of the Word

Pre-Service Music

Come, O Savior of the World Glenn Medlock

The Promised Savior James Southbridge

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel David Smart, John Leavitt

Please stand.



For 3 weeks, we have used the well-known refrain of this hymn several times throughout the beginning of our worship. Today, note that the refrain will be only sung once at the end. See page 11 for a more detailed explanation of this ancient hymn.

Invocation

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

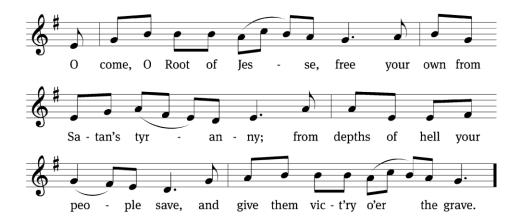
During our services, the congregation speaks the responses in **bold**.

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation as we await Christ's second coming on the Last Day. We prepare our hearts to meet him as we humbly seek his forgiveness.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection.



Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

You came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom. Lord, have mercy.

All:



You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ, have mercy.

All:



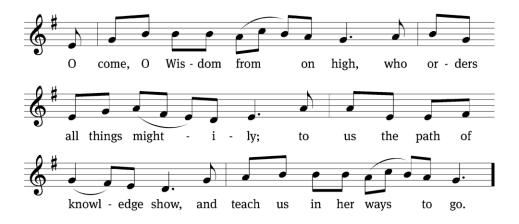
You will come in glory with salvation for your people. Lord, have mercy.

All:



God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only-begotten Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

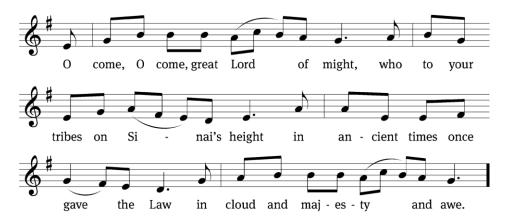
We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.

We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

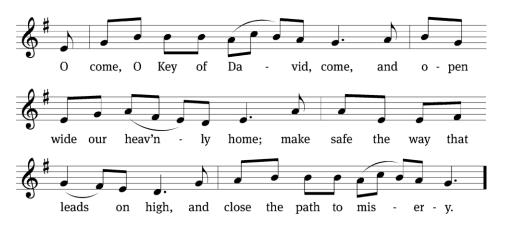
Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.



Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



Be seated.

Holy Baptism (10:30 a.m.)

Christian Worship, p. 151

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

 10 The LORD spoke to Ahaz again. He said, 11 "Ask for a sign from the LORD your God. Ask for it either in the depths below or in the heights above."

 $^{12}\mbox{But}$ Ahaz responded, "I will not ask. I will not test the LORD."

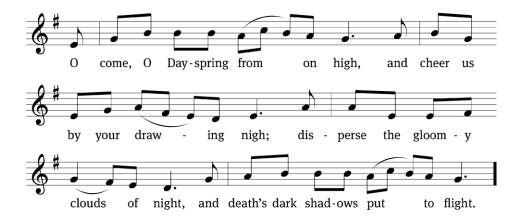
¹³So Isaiah said:

Listen now, you house of David. Is it not enough for you to test the patience of men? Will you test the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give a sign for all of you. Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and name him Immanuel.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Isaiah prophesies that a virgin would give birth to God in the flesh.



Second Reading

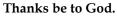
Romans 1:1-7

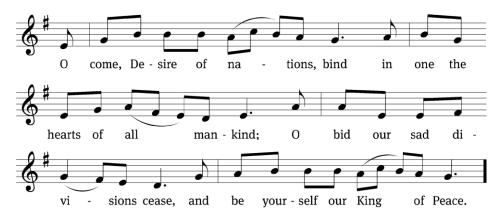
¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised in advance through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures. ³This gospel is about his Son, who in the flesh was born a descendant of David, ⁴who in the spirit of holiness was declared to be God's powerful Son by his resurrection from the dead – Jesus Christ, our Lord. ⁵Through him we received grace and the call to be an apostle on behalf of his name, to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, ⁶including you, who were called by Jesus Christ.

After thousands of years of God's promises, Paul looks back and sees every one of them kept when God became man.

⁷To all those loved by God who are in Rome, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.





Please stand.

Gospel Matthew 1:18–25

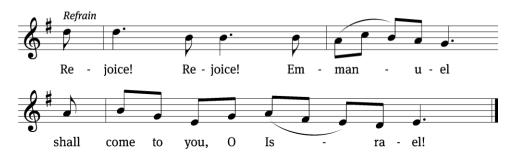
Joseph knew full well that Mary would give birth to a son who would be Emmanuel, God with us. ¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in marriage to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. ²⁰But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel," which means, "God with us."

²⁴When Joseph woke up from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. He took Mary home as his wife, ²⁵but he was not intimate with her until she gave birth to her firstborn son. And he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!



Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

301 Savior of the Nations, Come

Sermon Matthew 1:18–25

It's a miracle! Jesus is Immanuel!

Please stand.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated.

Offering

Musical Offering

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel John G. Barr

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Be seated.

Hymn

319 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

Please stand.

Prayer for Grace

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



The Blessing

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.



Be seated.

Closing Hymn

321 God's Own Son Most Holy

Post-Service Music

Festive Postlude Robert J. Hughes

Let Christians All with Joyful Mirth
James Mansfield

Serving at Worship

Minister Organ Video streamer and slides Video captions Sound Hymn selections Pastor Gary Pufahl Kurt Rosenbaum Cathy Wightman, Chris Wempner Jeremy Burmeister Wes Wightman Sara Redman

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.TM Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

"Come, O Savior of the World" by Glenn Medlock, copyright 1987 by Lorenz Publishing Co.

by David Smart, copyright 1963 by Hope Publishing Co.

by John Leavitt, copyright 1992 by Augsburg Fortress.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Our brothers and sisters in the early centuries of Christian worship chanted or spoke special sentences at certain points of the service. They were known as antiphons. Among them were seven to be used in the evening during Advent from December 17 to 23. These were sung and known as The Seven Great O Antiphons. They date from the 6th or 7th century. They are invocations addressed to Christ the Messiah under his many biblical titles. Those antiphons begin:

- O Wisdom...
- O Lord and leader...
- O Root of Jesse...
- O Key of David...
- O Dayspring...
- O longed-for King...
- O Emmanuel...

This morning, we will emulate what our Christian ancestors did so long ago by not singing the refrain until the end. The refrain wasn't published with these antiphons until 1710.

In our prayers

- Lois Henderson Home recovering from illness.
- Cameron Lee At Dignity Rehab in Chandler.
- Seth Meyer Back home in Arizona to continue his accident recovery.
- Kaylee Receiving treatment for cancer.
- Ada and Edwin, who were baptized today.

Ushers

8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Pastor Brad Bode, Dan Gruman, Eli Gruman, Jacob Pufahl Caden Head



[&]quot;The Promised Savior" by James Southbridge, copyright 1996 by Lorenz Publishing Co.

[&]quot;O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

[&]quot;O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" by John G. Barr, copyright 1991 by Belwin Mills.

[&]quot;Festive Postlude" by Robert J. Hughes, copyright 1991 by Lorenz Publishing Co.

[&]quot;Let Christians All with Joyful Mirth" by James Mansfield, copyright 1995 by Lorenz Publishing Co.

Landscaping

Thank you to George and Rikki Willis and family for helping maintain, trim and clean the outside church property this week.

This week at Emmanuel

Sunday

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
Public School Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.

December 22 - January 2

ELS Christmas Break No school

Wednesday

Christmas Eve	Church office closed
Wednesday Bible study	No class
Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols	3:30 and 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight services	6:30 and 8:00 p.m.
Adult choir in the MEC	No practice

Thursday

Christmas Day	Church office closed
Thursday Bible study at Denny's	No class
Christmas Day worship service	9:00 a.m.
God's Ways Bible study	No class
Bible Basics	No class

Sunday, December 28

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
Public School Catechism	No class

Looking ahead

December 31	New Year's Eve	
	Wednesday Bible study	No class
	New Year's Eve worship service	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	Adult choir	No practice
January 1	New Year's Day	Church office closed
	Thursday Bible study	No class
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	No class
	Bible Basics in the MEC	No class
January 4	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
-	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen st	tudy No classes

Public School Catechism

Presentation by Jason Jonker with Resilient Ministry

9:15 a.m.

No class

January 5	ELS Christmas Breaks ends	School resumes
January 6	Festival of the Epiphany candlelight ser	rvice 6:30 p.m.
, ,	Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.
January 7	Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
y y	y y	Pastoral Epistles
		Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl
	Adult choir in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
January 8	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	21st Century Lesso	ons from the Life of Abraham
		Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at
	· ·	padway and Priest in Tempe)
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
		Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
		Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz
January 9	Chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
January 11	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, t	
	Pancake breakfast in the MEC	9:15-10:30 a.m.
	Public School Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.
January 14	Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m.
		Pastoral Epistles
		Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl
	Adult choir in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
January 15	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	21st Century Lesso	ons from the Life of Abraham
	D // /D	Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at
		padway and Priest in Tempe)
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
	Pill P : : : 1 MEC	Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
T 16		Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz
January 16	ALA Basketball Invitation Tournament	
	Charal	Arizona Lutheran Academy
	Chapel	8:30 a.m.
Ianuary 17	ELS early release ALA Basketball Invitation Tournament	1:50 p.m. TBA
January 17	ALA Daskewall invitation Tournament	
		Arizona Lutheran Academy



Connection card

During the offering we ask that you complete an online connection card.

Notes and News

Connection cards

The connection cards have a valuable purpose in helping us serve you better. We ask all our worshipers to help us serve you by scanning the QR code, by going to <u>elctempe.org/connect</u>, or by filling out one of the cards in the pews. Thank you!

Christian education hour

Please note, there will be no **Adult Bible study**, **Table Talk**, **Teen study** or **Sunday school** classes today (Sunday, 12/21/2025) or next Sunday (12/28/2025) due to Christmas Break. Classes will resume in January 2026.

Help needed and Meal Train for the Rognholt family



Rognholt Meal Train

Let's show our support for the Rognholt family as they welcome their two newest blessings. Luke and Jayme are in need of assistance with the twins a few hours during the week when Luke is working. If you are able to help, please contact Karen Henriksen at (602) 301-6243 or Luke Rognholt at (623) 476-6604. Also, any home-cooked meals or take out/delivery would be much appreciated. You can sign up to provide a meal using the QR code or this link: http://mealtrain.com/0dvw54.

Christmas cards

Women of the Word (WOW) have boxed and a few individual Christmas Cards for sale in the MEC. All money from the purchases will go to Our Savior's Lutheran School in Peridot, Arizona, for their teachers' "Wish List." Please give your donation (if a check, make payable to "Ladies Group") to either Karen Henriksen, Wendy Binger or Rachel Severeid.

Christmas celebration at Emmanuel

You can find more information at elctempe.org/Christmas.

- Wednesday, Dec. 24, Lessons and Carols, at 3:30 and 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 24, Candlelight services, at 6:30 and 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day worship, at 9:00 a.m.

We will also give thanks to the Lord for another year of his grace at our **New Year's Eve** worship with Holy Communion:

• Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Our celebration of the Christmas season culminates with our special worship for the **Festival of the Epiphany** at a special candlelight service.

• Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Epiphany candlelight

Tuesday, January 6, 2026, we will celebrate the Festival of Epiphany. Our Epiphany worship at 6:30 p.m. will be a special candlelight service. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for this special evening service, as we celebrate the light of our Savior that shines in the world and shines in our hearts.

Prayers and gift cards for Kaylee and family

Kaylee, a fifth-grader at our Emmanuel Lutheran School, has been diagnosed with cancer and begun chemotherapy treatments. We keep Kaylee and her family in our prayers.

Our Emmanuel family has an opportunity to assist and support Kaylee's family by giving a gift card to help with meals and groceries. Some of the family's preferred locations are Panera Bread, Salad-and-Go, Chick-fil-A, and Fry's. If you wish to give a gift card, you can drop it off in the church or school offices and it will be delivered to the family. An easy way to purchase gifts cards is by purchasing them from Emmanuel's RaiseRight coordinators, John and Jean Mueller, on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the MEC or visit our webpage at electrompe.org/raiseright to learn more.

RaiseRight gift card program

Giving gift cards for Christmas this year? Purchase them from our RaiseRight program!

Our RaiseRight Coordinator, John Mueller, is excited to assist you in ordering gift cards. Purchasing RaiseRight gift cards raises funds for students' tuition accounts at our Arizona WELS schools, the Arizona Lutheran tuition assistance fund, and our congregations and schools. You can order your RaiseRight through the Arizona Lutheran office (RaiseRight@ALAcoyotes.org) or order at any time through RaiseRight.com. You will need the Enrollment Code, which can be provided by contacting John Mueller (RaiseRight@ALAcoyotes.org), and then enroll to start earning. Orders are placed twice a month, with deadlines of 8:00 a.m. on the 15th and the last day of the month. Visit our webpage at eletempe.org/raiseright to learn more.

Please note, for physical cards, be sure to place your order before December 15 to receive cards before Christmas. You can always purchase and print e-cards from your computer or smartphone via the RaiseRight mobile app.

New YouTube channel

Take a moment to check out our new YouTube channel. Go to YouTube and search for @ELSvideostreaming, and subscribe today. All upcoming services will be found on our new channel. Looking for a recent live stream? All past live streams are also available on the new channel starting with the first Sunday in Advent (November 30). Our previous channel will become inactive as of January 1, 2026.

There are a few ways to get to our new channel:

Channel name: Emmanuel Lutheran Video Stream

Direct link: elctempe.org/youtube



Click on the YouTube logo found on the bottom of our church website

Special presentation by Resilient Recovery | January 4

On Sunday, January 4, Jason Jonker, the director of Resilient Recovery Ministry, will give a presentation at 9:15 a.m., between our Sunday morning services.

Resilient Recovery is a Bible study on addiction, perfect for people who want non-judgmental support. They make it easy to get help because they remember how hard it was to reach out for help the first [or the 20th] time. They make people feel comfortable because they've experienced the difficulties.

This program works because it is built on the historical Christian practices that promote change. People receive help from God's Word and the Holy Spirit. Their program is also informed by the latest science on recovery.

Resilient is also an acronym that describes the program:

Rest in Jesus and His Care

Express My Need for Jesus

Seek God's Presence and Power

Imagine Freedom in Christ

Live Transparently by Owning My Sin

Invite Jesus to Change Me

Exalt Jesus Above All Things

Neutralize Temptation through Meditation on God's Word

Tell Others What God Has Done for You

Join us on Sunday, January 4, as we learn more about this ministry that is offered by our sister church, Crosswalk Lutheran Church in Laveen, Arizona.

Door-to-Door witnessing to the LDS of the East Valley

Heritage Lutheran Church, along with Truth in Love Ministry (tilm.org) and students from Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, will be witnessing door-to-door to the LDS of the East Valley from January 4-11. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please call the Heritage church office at 480-855-3619 or send an email to office@heritagelutheran.com.

Pancake breakfast | January 11

Bring a healthy appetite with you to church on Sunday, January 11! We'll be hosting a delicious pancake breakfast between services in the MEC. Along with tasty pancakes, you can enjoy eggs and sausage and beverages. There's no charge for the pancake breakfast, but a free-will collection will be gathered. Your contributions will help support the costs of Emmanuel's youth who are attending the WELS International Youth Rally this coming summer.

Tuition assistance workshop

AZ Lutheran is committed to helping families afford a private, Christian education for their children. If you are concerned with the tuition, be sure to find out about all the options available to you by attending our first Tuition Assistance Workshop of the school year on Wednesday, January 21, at 6:00 p.m. on the AZ Lutheran campus. Register at ALAcoyotes.org/TAW.

Men of His Word Conference 2026 | January 31

Registration is open for the Men of His Word (MOHW) Conference, to be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at the Desert Willow Conference Center (48th Street and Broadway in Phoenix). Register and purchase your early bird ticket now for \$100; students \$50. The cost will increase to \$125 after the first of the year.

The Men of His Word Conference is a gathering for godly men to be encouraged by one another and to grow together in faith through worship and Bible study. This year's theme is "Courage Under Fire." Pastor Jeff Gunn will be the keynote speaker at the conference, and there are also many breakout groups for learning and discussion. Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments are included. Visit www.menofhisword.org for more information and to register.

Men of His Word Conference Scholarship

Through a generous donation, men from Emmanuel who sign up for the conference will receive a \$50 cash-back scholarship. Only 40 scholarships are available. Register now and pay the registration fee, and once you have attended the event in January, you will receive a \$50 reimbursement. (Students who register before January 5, and receive the scholarship, will end up attending for free!) Gentlemen, take advantage of this opportunity to attend this excellent conference with your brothers in Christ. Those interested in receiving a scholarship can sign up here or use the provided QR code.



Men of His Word scholarship sign-up

2026 offering envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2026 will be ready to be picked up this week. The table in the Ministry and Education Center will have the envelopes in alphabetical order. If you do not see your name and would like to order envelopes, or, if you do not wish to receive offering envelopes but prefer online giving, please contact the church office (480) 967-3983.

Arizona Lutheran Academy Game Show Gala 2026

Come on down! Get ready to spin the wheel and guess the price at our Game Show Gala on Saturday, March 28, 2026. This retro-themed evening will bring back the glitz, charm, and excitement of your favorite classic game shows — complete with themed games, dinner, and a night of fun to support our mission. Visit ALAcovotes.org/Gala to learn more.

Save the date | Grandparents Day

If you are the grandparent of an AZ Lutheran student, mark Wednesday, February 4, 2026, on your calendar. That morning, we will welcome grandparents on campus to join their grandchildren at chapel, attend a few classes, enjoy some food and entertainment, and spend time with their grandchild at school. The invitation and sign-up will be available shortly after Christmas. Until then, put February 4 on your calendar.

New Bible studies start

Beginning on Sunday, January 25, we will return to holding two Bible studies on Sunday mornings between services. During this Family Bible Hour, we'll also have Sunday School for younger children and Teen Group for middle- and high-schoolers.

- The Ten Commandments. Join Pastor Buchholz in the Oak Room for an in-depth study of the Ten Commandments given through Moses at Mount Sinai. Although it was carved in stone nearly 3,500 years ago, God's Moral Law remains in full force and effect today. Learn practical ways to apply the commandments to our daily lives as Christians.
- Psalms A Time to Sing. Pastor Pufahl leads this series in the Olive Room. The psalms were the hymnal for God's Old Testament people.
 Join the psalmists in singing and shouting and celebrating the gifts of God's grace that he showers down upon his people. The joy expressed in the psalms is unmatched, and it overflows into every aspect of our lives.



Men of His Word is a group of WELS Christian men, both called workers and laymen, who encourage one another to live their lives in service to our Savior and his people, and who strive to become Christian leaders. Men of His Word holds an annual conference for men that focuses on current issues and helps men find renewed strength and joy in God's Word to face all of life's challenges.

The 2026 Men's Conference is centered on Isaiah 43:1-2, with the theme: **Courage Under Fire.** Pastor Jeff Gunn will serve as the keynote speaker, assuring us that courage isn't the absence of fear; it's trusting the One who has already redeemed you, called you by name, and claimed you as His own. Breakout groups will explore the following topics:

Session 1 — Taking the Heat at Church: 8 Systems for a Healthy Church - Gunn	Session 5 — Aging With Courage: Embracing a New Season of Service – Wagenknecht
Session 2 — Courage to Confess: Being a Bold Confessor in a Hostile Culture - Kassulke	Session 6 — Inspiring Outreach in Lukewarm Congregations – Parsons
Session 3 — Leading Your Family Through the Flames of Moral Injury - Henselin	Session 7 — From "Textbook" To "Book of Life:" A New Look at an Old Book - Zaferos
Session 4 — Courageous Giving: Stewardship That Takes Faith and Guts – Weinstein	Session 8 —Truth & Lies - The Battle Within and Without - Eric Landwehr

The Conference is on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at the **Desert Willow Conference Center** in Phoenix.

The early bird registration fee is \$100 and \$50 for young men ages 14-24. The registration amount for retired called workers is \$85. The registration fee includes breakfast, lunch, beverages, and a T-shirt.

The deadline to register for early-bird pricing is January 5, 2026.



For more information, go to https://www.menofhisword.org or email menofhisword.az@gmail.com.



About Us

 $E_{
m mmanuel}$ Lutheran Church shares the love of Jesus and the truth of his saving Word with the people in our church, our community and the world.

The objectives of our mission are:

- To preach, by proclaiming the Word of God, as we worship and praise God in a loving Christian atmosphere;
- To **teach**, by fostering an ongoing increase in knowledge and maturity in God's Word:
- To reach, by sharing the Gospel of God's Word with all people, and to do so;
- By **each** member actively participating in our ministry.

Pastor Gary A. Pufahl gpufahl@elctempe.org (262) 744-1619 (cell)

Pastor Jon D. Buchholz jonbuchholz@msn.com (602) 377-1915

Pastor Daniel D. Pautz danpautz7@gmail.com (480) 766-2994

Church Secretary Alysha Bergsma church@elctempe.org (480) 967-3983

Member Ministry Coordinator Benjamin Ruppel bruppel@elctempe.org (480) 967-3983

Principal Craig Kiecker ckiecker@elstempe.org (623) 313-5614

Music Director Kevin Bode <u>kbode@elstempe.org</u> (480) 694-3532

Financial Operations Mgr. Darcy Meyer treasurer@elctempe.org (480) 344-3783

> School Secretary Erin Hahnke school@elstempe.org (480) 967-3991



 $E_{
m manuel}$ Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran

Synod (WELS). We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the Wisconsin Synod as well as the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).

715 West Southern Avenue Tempe, Arizona 85282 (480) 967-3983 church • (480) 967-3991 school church@elctempe.org www.elctempe.org