



## **Christmas 2**

God gives satisfaction to those who patiently wait

Emmanuel Lutheran Church


January 5, 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 bulletins and 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 [elctempe.org/worship](http://elctempe.org/worship).

For the latest information about services schedules, please visit [elctempe.org](http://elctempe.org).



#### Connection card

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

## Christmas 2 — January 5, 2025

### The Gift of God: God gives satisfaction to those who patiently wait

It is always hard to wait, but particularly if what you are waiting for is extremely important. If you must wait an hour for the waiter to bring your food, it is not a huge deal. But if you need to wait a week for an electrician to restore power to your home, that is more painful. Waiting is harder when we badly need what we’re waiting for.

After the fall into sin, people of faith waited for God to provide the gift they needed most – a Savior. Century after century passed. “Where is he?” they wondered. People were powerless to save themselves from sin and death and hell. So, there was nothing to do but patiently wait. At the perfect time in history, the first Christmas occurred. The faithful rejoiced!

This week, we see that God works on the timetable he knows to be best for us. We also see that those who wait for God to act are never disappointed. For God gives satisfaction to those who patiently wait.

# Service of the Word



## Pre-Service Music

**Son of God**  
Mark Hayes

**Quem Pastores**  
R. E. Gahringer, Paul Manz, Gilbert M. Martin

**The 'Waits' Carol**  
Gilbert M. Martin

## Opening Hymn

**364 Love Has Come**

*Please stand.*

## 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

Dear friends, let us come before God with a sincere heart and confess our sins to God our Father, seeking his grace, through Jesus the Christ child.

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. Do not treat me as my sins deserve or repay me according to my iniquities. In the name of Jesus my Savior I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation.*

When the time had fully come, God sent his Son,  
**born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.**

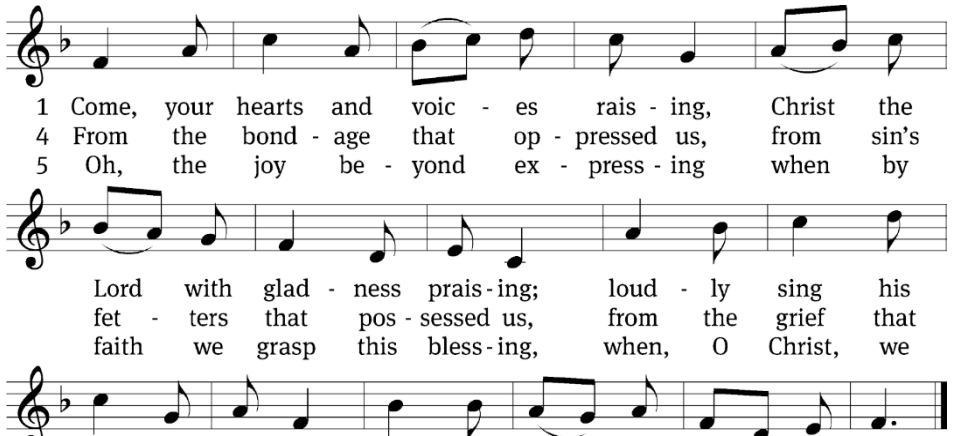
*Galatians 4:4,5*

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir. Hear the word of your Father, spoken through his servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Song of Praise

362 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising



1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the  
4 From the bondage that oppressed us, from sin's  
5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing when by

Lord with gladness praising; loudly sing his  
fetters that possessed us, from the grief that  
faith we grasp this blessing, when, O Christ, we

love amazing, worthy folk of Christendom.  
sore distressed us, we, the captives, now are free.  
come addressing thanks to you and highest praise!

## The Word

### Salutation

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## First Reading

Genesis 17:1-7

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty. Walk before me and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>I will make my covenant between me and you, and I will make your descendants very numerous."

*Abram had waited for God to keep his promise to make Abram into the father of many nations.*

<sup>3</sup>Abram fell on his face. God spoke with him. He said, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you. You will be the father of many nations. <sup>5</sup>Your name will not be Abram anymore, but your name will be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a large group of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you extremely fruitful, and I will produce nations from you. Kings will come out of you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you as an everlasting covenant throughout their generations. I will be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, "Abba, Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

*The Old Testament believers waited for God to keep his promise to send a Savior. God kept his promise when the time had fully come. Those believers received the satisfaction of sonship.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

Psalms 98:3

*The minister speaks the Gospel Acclamation:*

Alleluia! All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

*In joyful satisfaction  
that the Lord had kept  
his promise of salvation,  
the priest Zechariah  
sang a song of praise.*

## **Gospel**

**Luke 1:68-79**

<sup>68</sup> Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited us and prepared redemption for his people. <sup>69</sup> He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, <sup>70</sup> just as he said long ago through the mouth of his holy prophets. <sup>71</sup> He raised up salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, <sup>72</sup> in order to show mercy to our fathers by remembering his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> the oath which he swore to Abraham our father, <sup>74</sup> to grant deliverance to us from the hand of our enemies, so that we are able to serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, because you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup> to give his people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup> because of God's tender mercies, by which the Rising Sun from on high will visit us, <sup>79</sup> to shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## **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.*

## **Hymn of the Day**

**383 The Only Son from Heaven**

## **Sermon**

**Galatians 4:4-7**

***The waiting is over; the promise is kept.***

## Offering

### Musical Offering

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly  
Alice Jordan



**Give online**

*If you prefer  
online giving, you may  
scan this code.*

*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

**954 Blessed Be the God of Israel**

*Please stand.*

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### Blessing

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.

**Amen.**

*Be seated.*

#### Closing Hymn

**339 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

## Post-Service Music

**Grant Us Thy Peace**

Dorothy Wells

**Forest Green**

Robin Dinda, Paul Manz

## Serving at Worship

Minister

Pastor Gary Pufahl

Organ

Kurt Rosenbaum

Video streamer and slides

Reed Bode, Chris Wempner

Video captions

Angie Keezer, Chris Wempner

Sound

George Willis

## Acknowledgments

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## In our prayers

- Lorenzo Ortega – Currently recovering at Tempe Post Acute.



*Emmanuel usher  
sign-up.*

## Ushers

8:00 a.m.

Joe Beatrice, Jim Olson

10:30 a.m.

Caden Head, Michael Kobs, Tim Kriewall

## Flowers

Thank you to Kevin and Amber Bode and family for beautifying our sanctuary with altar flowers in loving memory of their daughter Bella Marie.

## Landscaping

Thank you to Glenn and Ruth Derge for helping maintain, trim and clean the outside church property this week.



## **This week at Emmanuel**

### **Sunday**

Online live-streamed service	8:00 a.m.
In-person services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.
Public school catechism	12:00 p.m.

### **Monday**

ELS	Classes resume
Worship in church (Festival of Epiphany)	6:30 p.m.
In-person Bible study	No class this week

### **Tuesday**

Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.
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### **Wednesday**

Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
	<i>Diving deeper into doctrine</i> <i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl in</i> <i>Emmanuel's Ministry and Education Center (MEC)</i>
Adult choir in the MEC	No practice this week

### **Thursday**

Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	<i>Attitude Adjustment (Book of Philippians)</i> <i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i> <i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>
ASU campus ministry	No meeting this week
God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
	<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>

### **Friday**

ELS chapel	8:30 a.m.
ELS early release	1:50 p.m.

### **Saturday**

Take down Christmas decorations	9:00 a.m.
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### **Next Sunday, January 12**

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.
Public school catechism	12:00 p.m.
Pioneers meeting (pine car wood cutting; by reservation)	1:00 p.m.
Women of the Word (ELC Ladies' Group) meeting	1:00 p.m.

## Looking ahead

January 13	Monday night worship service	6:30 p.m.
	Bible study in the MEC	7:40 p.m.
	<i>Let us worship the Lord: A study of Christian Worship</i>	
	<i>Led by Pastor Chris Pflughoeft in</i>	
	<i>Emmanuel's Ministry and Education Center (MEC)</i>	
January 15	Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m.
		<i>Diving deeper into doctrine</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl in</i>
		<i>Emmanuel's Ministry and Education Center (MEC)</i>
	Communications meeting	5:30 p.m.
	Adult choir in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
January 16	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
		<i>Attitude Adjustment (Book of Philippians)</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>
		<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>
	Commission on Worship	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
	ASU campus ministry	5:00 p.m.
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
January 17	Commission on Worship	8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
	ELS chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
January 19	In-person services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	Church open forum	9:15 a.m.
	In-person Bible study	No class
	Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.
	Public school catechism	12:00 p.m.
January 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	No school
	Monday night worship service	6:30 p.m.
	Bible study in the MEC	7:40 p.m.
	<i>Let us worship the Lord: A study of Christian Worship</i>	
	<i>Led by Pastor Chris Pflughoeft in</i>	
	<i>Emmanuel's Ministry and Education Center (MEC)</i>	
January 21	Church Council meeting	6:00 p.m.
January 22	Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m.
		<i>Diving deeper into doctrine</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl in</i>
		<i>Emmanuel's Ministry and Education Center (MEC)</i>
	Adult choir in the MEC	6:30 p.m.

January 23	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	<i>Attitude Adjustment (Book of Philippians)</i>	
	<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>	
	<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>	
	ASU campus ministry	5:00 p.m.
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
	<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>	
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
	<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>	
January 24	ELS chapel	8:30 a.m.
	Joy Fellowship	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.

# 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 [elctempe.org/connect](http://elctempe.org/connect), or by filling out one of the cards in the pews. Thank you!

## Thank you from the Pautz family

The family of Troy Pautz thanks the members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church along with all others for their prayers, support and comforting words throughout Troy's battle with Lymphoma and during his funeral services. We are very grateful to everyone who participated in the services and the beautiful reception that followed. Thank you for surrounding us with your love and support. Above all we thank our gracious Lord! If any of you have photos that you think the Pautz family would love to see, please send to Pastor Pautz, [danpautz7@gmail.com](mailto:danpautz7@gmail.com).

## Thank you to all who served!

During the Advent and Christmas seasons we have been blessed by the spiritual gifts of so many Christians who used their talents to God's glory. We thank the members of the adult and youth choirs, musicians, other vocalists, acolytes, lectors, ushers, altar guild servers, those who contributed flowers, and all who helped to make our worship services edifying. Thank you for your service!

## Thank you from Emmanuel Lutheran staff

The pastors, teachers, and all the staff at Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School thank you for your cards, your gifts, your words of encouragement, your prayers and all the Christian love you show in so many ways throughout the year. We are blessed to serve you in Jesus' name!



## Connection card

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

### **Epiphany candlelight**

Tomorrow (Monday, January 6) 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.

### **2025 offering envelopes**

The offering envelopes for 2025 are ready to be picked up. 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 at (480) 967-3983.

### **2025 Flower chart**

The new flower calendar is on the bulletin board in the church narthex if you want to sign up to place flowers on the altar next year. You may place flowers for any occasion on any date that is available. Choose your date(s) early for best selection! Many of our members commemorate special events, such as birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, or they contribute flowers in memory of loved ones. Contact information for possible florist options is included on the calendar posted in the narthex. Thank you for the flowers that beautify our sanctuary each week!

### **Poinsettias | Thank you**

Thank you to all who donated poinsettias! Those who donated are welcome to take them home. Any remaining poinsettias as of January 11 will be moved into the MEC (Ministry and Education Center).

### **Take down Christmas decorations | January 11**

This coming Saturday, January 11, starting at 9:00 a.m. we will be taking down the Christmas decorations and storing them for next year. Please help us even if you can only spare one or two hours. We will be in need of 8 or 10-foot ladders and many helpers. Please contact Karen Henriksen at (602) 301-6243 with any questions. Thank you!

### **Ladies' Group (Women of the Word) | Refreshments and informational**

Our next Emmanuel Ladies' Group (Women of the Word) meeting will be on Sunday, January 12, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Ministry and Education Center. All ladies of Emmanuel are encouraged to join. We will be discussing the available elected offices, roles, responsibilities and teams of our Emmanuel Ladies' Group (known as WOW - Women of the Word). We will enjoy light refreshments while socializing. Our next meeting will be planned for February and we will hold office elections at that time, as well as have refreshments. More information to come.

### **Lutheran Pioneers | January 12**

Pioneers are starting to work on their pine cars for the big race in March. Anyone who needs help cutting their pine car can schedule a time to work with Mr. Kern and Mr. Wenzel at Emmanuel on Sunday, January 12. Please email [mrsteresarakowski@gmail.com](mailto:mrsteresarakowski@gmail.com) to get your timeslot reserved. If your pioneer does not need help cutting, feel free to work independently on your pine car, and we'll see you at the February meeting for a lesson on sewing.

### **ASU campus ministry resumes | January 16**

Calling all Arizona State University students and college students in the Phoenix area. Light in the Valley is the WELS campus ministry that meets at Arizona State University's Tempe campus in the Student Pavilion. The group meets on Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. for a free meal, Bible study, and Christian fellowship. Mark your calendars - ASU campus ministry resumes on Thursday, January 16. All college students are welcome to join. If you want to learn more, you can email [lightinthevalleyasu@gmail.com](mailto:lightinthevalleyasu@gmail.com).

### **Men of His Word Conference 2025 | January 18**

Registration is open for the Men of His Word (MOHW) Conference, to be held on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at the Desert Willow Conference Center (48th Street and Broadway in Phoenix). Register and purchase your ticket now for \$100. 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 "Forge Ahead in Faith." Pastor Buchholz 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](http://www.menofhisword.org) for more information and to register.

### **Explore ALA and Coyote Shadow Day**

Our next Explore ALA (Arizona Lutheran Academy) event will be on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. Explore ALA for parents and students starts at 6:00 p.m. with a student-led campus tour. This is an informational session to learn more about the ALA experience. Students are invited to shadow during the school day on Wednesday, January 22. Register for both at [ALAcoyotes.org/explore](http://ALAcoyotes.org/explore).

### **Tuition assistance workshop**

ALA (Arizona Lutheran Academy) is committed to helping families afford a private, Christian education for their children. Be sure to find out about all the options available by attending one of the upcoming Tuition Assistance Workshops on Tuesday, January 21, at 6:00 p.m. on the ALA campus. Register at [ALAcoyotes.org/TAW](http://ALAcoyotes.org/TAW).

### **Grandparents Day at ALA | Save the date**

If you are the grandparent of an ALA student, mark Wednesday, February 5, 2025, 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. You can RSVP by visiting [ALAcoyotes.org/GP](https://ALAcoyotes.org/GP).

### **Serve at Paz de Cristo | Meal service on March 9**

Ages 12 and up are invited on Sunday, March 9, 2025, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. to help with meal service (please arrive 15 minutes early for sign-in). This volunteer opportunity will consist of serving dinner to those in need. Kitchen help, serving plates, handing out meals, and kindly greeting people with a smile will be among the duties for the night. Please contact Martha Wenzel at [wenzel715email@gmail.com](mailto:wenzel715email@gmail.com) or call or text (602) 697-3200 to reserve your spot. An e-mail link will be sent to you.

## **Christian education hour**

Here is a list of our classes, topics, and locations for our Sunday morning education hour.

The **Adult Bible study** is meeting in the Oak Room of the Ministry and Education Center (MEC). The study topic today is "The Gospel according to John."

The **Table Talk** is meeting in the Olive Room of the Ministry and Education Center (MEC). The study topic today is "Galatians."

The **Teen Bible study Grades 9-12** is meeting in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is "The Gift of God: God gives satisfaction to those who patiently wait."

The **Junior High Bible study Grades 7-8** is meeting in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is "The Gift of God: God gives satisfaction to those who patiently wait."

The Sunday School for **Grades 4-6** is meeting in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom at the south campus. The study topic today is "Mary and Martha."

The Sunday School for **4K Preschool-Grade 3** is meeting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom at the south campus. The study topic today is "Mary and Martha."

The Sunday School for **two- and three-year-olds** is meeting in the preschool classrooms at the south campus. Parents are encouraged to remain with their children. The study topic today is "Wisemen worship Jesus."

The **MUMs Group** is meeting in the nursery. Mothers and their children under 2 years are welcome to join for a devotion and fellowship.

## **Sunday school note**

Parents, please take your children to the south side of campus for check-in. All Sunday School students will meet in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom for a children's devotion, a song, and a snack before splitting up for their classes.

# About Us

**E**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](mailto:gpufahl@elctempe.org)

(480) 344-3781

**Pastor Jon D. Buchholz**

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(602) 377-1915

**Pastor Daniel D. Pautz**

[danpautz7@gmail.com](mailto:danpautz7@gmail.com)

(480) 766-2994

**Pastor Christopher M. Pflughoeft**

[christopher.pflughoeft@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.pflughoeft@gmail.com)

(480) 291-2928

**Church Secretary Alysha Bergsma**

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(480) 967-3983

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(623) 313-5614

**Music Director Kevin Bode**

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(480) 694-3532

**Financial Operations Mgr. Darcy Meyer**

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(480) 344-3783

**School Secretary Erin Hahnke**

[school@elstempe.org](mailto:school@elstempe.org)

(480) 967-3991



**E**mmanuel 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).

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