

exactly
what i need

Lent 1

Exactly What I Need: A Champion

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

February 22, 2026

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 elctempe.org/worship.

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



Connection card

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

Lent 1 – February 22, 2026

Exactly What I Need: A Champion

I recognize my inability to defend myself against spiritual enemies. The world is against me, yet I look for ways to imitate it. I try to master my own sinful flesh, yet I recognize desires in myself that war against my soul. And when it comes to the devil, I fall into temptation again and again. My looming death reminds me that I have sinned.

I realize that what I really need is a champion. God the Father realized it too. He sent his Son to be my Savior. Jesus fought and won the battles I have lost – the battles that left me defeated and hopeless.

My Champion is my Substitute. He goes out to do battle with all the forces of hell – and win! Through the obedience of the Son of God, I have victory over my enemies.

Service of the Word and Sacrament

Pre-Service Music

From God Can Nothing Move Me

Sandra Eithun

In Christ Alone

Rachel Chapin

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Anne Krentz Organ

Seek Ye First

Lynne Hollander

ELS chimes

Opening Hymn (8:00 a.m.)

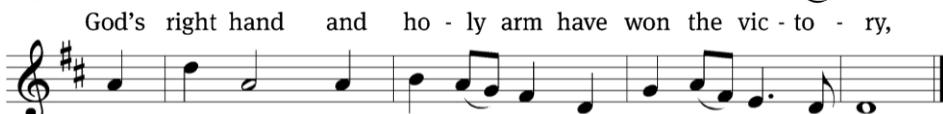
937 God's Right Hand and Holy Arm

arr. K. Lee Scott

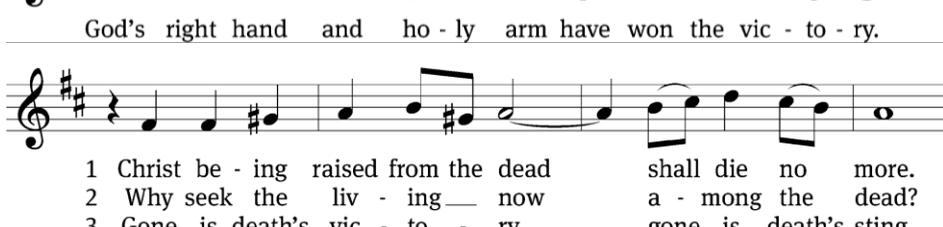
Refrain



God's right hand and ho - ly arm have won the vic - to - ry,



God's right hand and ho - ly arm have won the vic - to - ry.



1 Christ be - ing raised from the dead shall die no more.
2 Why seek the liv - ing — now a - mong the dead?
3 Gone is death's vic - to - ry, gone is death's sting.

Refrain



Death has no pow - er o - ver him; he lives to God.
Re - call his prom - ise un - to you; he lives a - gain.
God gives to us the vic - to - ry through Christ our Lord.

Choir: *God has won the victory!*

Opening Hymn (10:30 a.m.)

See page 13 for words.

863 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

arr. Paul D. Weber

Please stand.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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

Dear friends, the season of Lent is a time of repentance as we remember our Lord's suffering and death for our sins. We prepare our hearts for this and humbly seek his forgiveness.

Gracious Father in heaven, I am by nature sinful and unclean. I inherited original sin from Adam. I have fallen into the temptations of the ancient serpent and sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. Yet in your mercy, you gave your only-begotten Son to live and die for me. You chose me in Christ before the creation of the world to be your child and to walk in your light. I pray, do not cast me away from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. For Jesus' sake, forgive my sins and hide your face from my guilt.

Choir:

I tried so hard to see it.

It can be hard to believe it.

That you'd choose someone like me

To carry your victory.

All sing:

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

You are my Cham-pi-on. Gi-ants fall when you stand. Un-de-feat-
- ed ev-'ry bat - tle you've won. I am who you say I am.
You crown me with con-fi-dence. I am seat - ed in the heav - en-ly
place un-de-feat - ed with the One — who has con-quer-ed it all. —

Christ, the second Adam, came as our Champion and our Substitute. He was tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin.

Jesus is the atoning sacrifice, not only for our sins, but for the sins of the whole world.

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.

Choir:

*Perfection could never earn it.
You give what we don't deserve and
You take the broken things
And raise them to glory.*

All sing:

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two lines of the hymn. The second staff contains the next two lines. The third staff contains the next two lines. The fourth staff contains the final line of the hymn, ending with a double bar line.

You are my Cham-pi-on. Gi-ants fall when you stand. Un-de-feat-
- ed ev-'ry bat - tle you've won. I am who you say I am.
You crown me with con-fi-dence. I am seat - ed in the heav - en-ly
place un-de-feat - ed with the One who has con-quer-ed it all.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author of our faith and the one who brings it to perfection. For the joy set before him, he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God.

Let us consider him who endured such hostility from sinful people, so that we do not grow weary and lose heart.

Let us never grow weary of doing good, so that the kindness and gentleness of Jesus are evident to all.

Put your word on my lips to share your good news, and shape my life with your love. Make me a living sacrifice of thanks, devoted to serving you in faith and serving my neighbor with Jesus' love.

Choir:
*Now I can finally see it.
You're teaching me how to live it.
So let all the striving cease
This is my victory!*

All sing (sung twice):

You are my Cham-pi-on. Gi-ants fall when you stand. Un-de-feat-
- ed ev-'ry bat - tle you've won. I am who you say I am.
You crown me with con-fi-dence. I am seat - ed in the heav - en-ly
place un-de-feat - ed with the One—who has con-quer-ed it all.—You are my
Cham-pi-on. Gi-ants fall when you stand. Un-de-feat - ed ev-'ry bat-
- tle you've won. I am who you say I am. You crown me with
con - fi - dence. I am seat - ed in the heav - en-ly
place un-de-feat - ed with the One—who has con-quer-ed it all.—

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory, that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; 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.

A Reading

Romans 5:12–19

¹²So then, just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, so also death spread to all people because all sinned. ¹³For even before the law was given, sin was in the world. Now, sin is not charged to one's account if there is no law, ¹⁴and yet death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those whose sin was not like the transgression of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

*Adam's defeat
meant death for me.
Christ's victory
means life for me.*

¹⁵But the gracious gift is not like Adam's trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of this one man, it is even more certain that God's grace, and the gift given by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ, overflowed to the many!

¹⁶And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin, for the judgment that followed the one trespass resulted in a verdict of condemnation, but the gracious gift that followed many trespasses resulted in a verdict of justification.

¹⁷Indeed, if by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through the one man, it is even more certain that those who receive the overflowing grace of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ!

¹⁸So then, just as one trespass led to a verdict of condemnation for all people, so also one righteous verdict led to life-giving justification for all people. ¹⁹For just as through the disobedience of one man the many became sinners, so also through the obedience of one man the many will become righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

*The leader of
demons and the
Champion of
mankind do battle.
Jesus wins.*

¹Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil. ²After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The Tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread."

⁴But Jesus answered, "It is written:
Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God."

⁵Then the Devil took him into the holy city. He placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶and he said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written:

He will command his angels concerning you.
And they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again, it is written:
You shall not test the Lord your God."

⁸Again the Devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹He said to him, "I will give you all of these things, if you will bow down and worship me."

¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Go away, Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

¹¹Then the Devil left him, and just then angels came and served him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

836 I Walk in Danger All the Way



1 I walk in dan - ger all the way; the thought shall nev - er
2 I pass through tri - als all the way, with sin and ills con -
4 I walk with an - gels all the way, they shield me and be -
5 I walk with Je - sus all the way, his guid - ance nev - er

leave me that Sa - tan, who has marked his prey, is
tend - ing; in pa - tience I must bear each day the
friend me; all Sa - tan's pow'r is held at bay when
fails me; with - in his wounds I find a stay when

plot - ting to de - ceive me. This foe with hid - den snares
cross of God's own send - ing. Oft in ad - ver - si - ty
heav'n - ly hosts at - tend me. They are my sure de - fense;
Sa - tan's pow'r as - sails me; and by his foot - steps led,

may seize me un - a - wares if e'er I fail to
I know not where to flee, when storms of woe my
all fear and sor - row, hence! Un - harmed by foes, do
my path I safe - ly tread. No e - vil leads my

watch and pray; I walk in dan - ger all the way.
soul dis - may; I pass through tri - als all the way.
what they may, I walk with an - gels all the way.
soul a - stray; I walk with Je - sus all the way.

Sermon

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus front and center in your spiritual war

Please stand.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.

Offering

Musical Offering

In Adam We Have All Been One
Rachel Chapin



Connection card

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

Personal Preparation for Holy Communion

As you prepare to receive the Sacrament today, you may use the Christian Questions on page 295 in your blue hymnal or Personal Preparation on page 23 of this service folder.

Please stand.

The Sacrament

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

A Sacrament consists of two things: (1) the word of Christ and (2) an earthly element. In the Words of Institution we bring Jesus' words to bread and wine, and with them he gives us his true body and blood.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Be seated.

Distribution

Members and any guests who have spoken with a pastor prior to the service about receiving Communion may come forward at the direction of the ushers.

For our distribution today, you may approach the altar using the side aisles. The two sides will meet at the bottom step in the middle. For those who prefer a low-gluten wafer, please indicate such to the pastor when he distributes the host. The low-gluten wafers are in a soufflé cup on the paten. The grape-colored cups in each tray are alcohol-removed wine. We will dismiss down the center aisle.

Distribution Hymn

670 I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

Please stand.

Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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 (8:00 a.m.)

The congregation sings stanzas 1, 2, and 4.

863 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

arr. Paul D. Weber

Choir: *The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.*

**1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a trusty shield and weapon;
he helps us free from ev'ry need
that has us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe
now means deadly woe;
deep guile and great might
are his dread arms in fight;
on earth is not his equal.**

Choir: *The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.*

**2 With might of ours can naught be done,
soon were our loss effected;
but now a Champion comes to fight
whom God himself elected.
You ask, "Who is this?"
Jesus Christ it is,
the almighty Lord,
and there's no other God;
he holds the field forever.**

Choir:

*Though hordes of devils fill the land
All threat'ning to devour us.
We tremble not, unmoved we stand
They cannot overpower us.
This world's prince may rage
In fierce war engage.
He is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.*

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**4 The Word they still shall let remain
nor any thanks have for it;
he's by our side upon the plain
with his good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
goods, fame, child, and wife,
though all may be gone,
our victory is won;
the kingdom's ours forever!**

Choir: *The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.*

Closing Hymn (10:30 a.m.)

See page 3 for words.

God's Right Hand and Holy Arm

Post-Service Music

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Sandra Eithun

O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing

Valerie Floeter

Lord Jesus Christ, You Set Us Free

Valerie Floeter

Serving at Worship

Preaching Minister

Pastor Allen Schroeder

Presiding Minister

Pastor Gary Pufahl

Piano

Erin Hahnke, Kris Pufahl

Choir

Junior choir

Chimes

ELS chimes

Craig Kiecker, *director*

Brass

Norm Andrews, Kali Gonzalez,

Eli Gruman, Sean Lieske, Tim Moke

Timpani

Alicia Benson

Video streamer and slides

Cathy Wightman, Lauren Sallquist

Video captions

Angie Keezer

Sound

Wes Wightman

Acknowledgments

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"O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing," Valerie Floeter, ©2016 Concordia Publishing House.

"Lord Jesus Christ, You Set Us Free," Valerie Floeter, ©2009 Floeter Music.

In our prayers

- Jon Boeder – His mom Cherie entered heaven.
- Karen Combs – Hospitalized at Chandler Regional.
- Bonnie Delco – Recovering from illness.
- Ken Dins – Recovering at a rehab facility.
- Kaylee Odle – Receiving treatment for cancer.
- Louise Sallquist – Hospitalized at Chandler Regional.
- Yolie Schoening – Hospitalized at Banner Baywood.
- Wayne Score – Hospitalized at Banner Gateway.

Ushers

8:00 a.m. Tor Henriksen, Eric Sallquist, Colton Sallquist, Jacob Sallquist
10:30 a.m. Steve Sallquist, Luke Sallquist, Nick Sallquist, Mark Schroeder



*Emmanuel usher
sign-up.*

Flowers

Thank you to Ronda Henderson for beautifying our sanctuary with altar flowers in memory of John Henderson.

Communion

Thank you to Molly Heyn and Sandy Heyn for helping set up Communion for this weekend.

Landscaping

Thank you to Craig and Tina Wentzel 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	9:15 a.m.
Public school catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.

Monday

Communications Committee meets	6:30 p.m.
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Wednesday

Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
	<i>Drive through the Gospels</i>
	<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>
Midweek Lent worship service	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
Lenten supper in the MEC	4:45-6:15 p.m.
Adult choir practice	7:30 p.m.

Thursday

Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Jacob</i>	
<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>	
<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>	
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>	

Friday

School chapel service	8:30 a.m.
ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
Fish Fry	4:00-7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 1

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.
Public School Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.

Looking ahead

March 3	Special voters' call meeting	6:30 p.m.
	Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.
March 4	Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m.
	<i>Drive through the Gospels</i>	
	<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>	
	Midweek Lent worship service	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	Lenten supper in the MEC	4:45-6:15 p.m.
	Adult choir in the MEC	7:30 p.m.
March 5	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Jacob</i>	
	<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>	
	<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>	
	Martin Luther College mini concert for ELS	10:00-10:30 a.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>	
March 6	ELS	No school
	John Henderson Memorial basketball tourney	9:00 a.m.
	<i>at Arizona Lutheran Academy</i>	
	Martin Luther College concert	7:00-8:30 p.m.
March 7	John Henderson Memorial basketball tourney	8:00 a.m.
	<i>at Arizona Lutheran Academy</i>	

March 8	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.
	Public School Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.
March 11	Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m.
		<i>Drive through the Gospels</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Pautz</i>
	Midweek Lent worship service	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	Lenten supper in the MEC	4:45-6:15 p.m.
	Adult choir in the MEC	7:30 p.m.
March 12	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
		<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Jacob</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>
		<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	No class
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
		<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>

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, or by filling out one of the cards in the pews. Thank you!

Meal Train for the Balgeman family

Let's show our support for the Balgeman family as they welcome their newest blessing. Any help with home-cooked meals or take out/delivery would be greatly appreciated. You can sign up to provide a meal using the QR code or this link: <https://mealtrain.com/16z335>; available dates and meal details can also be found on this link.

Call for a new pastor

Our next call meeting to extend a call for a pastor to serve in the area of youth and family ministry will be held on Tuesday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church open house and dedication service

We are invited to join in the celebration of Peace Lutheran Church opening their new church building. Today, Sunday, February 22, at 4:00 p.m. there will be a dedication service with a potluck dinner to follow. Peace Lutheran Church is located at 15317 E. Riggs Road in Gilbert.

Donuts for Dollars - Teen fundraiser

The Emmanuel teens will be holding a fundraiser today (Sunday, February 22). They will sell donuts beginning after first service and continue to sell until they



Connection card

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



Balgeman Meal Train

run out. Donuts are \$1 each but extra donations are welcomed and appreciated! The proceeds will offset the cost of our Emmanuel teens attending the WELS International Youth Rally.

Lenten meals and fellowship

Let's get together! Enjoy a meal and fellowship on Wednesday nights for the five remaining weeks during Lent. Bring your family, friends and dish to share. If you plan to attend and/or provide a dish, please RSVP using the provided QR code, link or paper sign-up in the Ministry and Education Center (MEC).



*Lenten meal
(2/25) sign-up*

Wednesday, February 25 – Mac-n-Cheese

Setup and cleanup led by Emmanuel's ladies' group (*Women of the Word, WOW*). WOW will provide macaroni and cheese. The congregation will bring veggies and dip, fruit, and desserts. Sign-up [here](#)

Additional information regarding remaining Lenten meals will be provided in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, please contact Tina Richey at klrichey@cox.net.

Singing opportunities

All are invited to join the adult choir for some upcoming special services. There are three opportunities: all males for Palm Sunday, mixed voices for Easter Sunday, and all females for the Sunday after Easter. You are invited to join us at 7:30 p.m. on each Wednesday night leading up to Holy Week (starting this Wednesday, February 25). We would enjoy having additional singers for these special worship opportunities. For more information, contact Kevin Bode, kbode@elstempe.org.

Fish Fry on February 27

Mark your calendar for Friday, February 27. The Emmanuel Fish Fry makes its return! Come enjoy a fish dinner prepared by Tony Orlowski and his fish fry crew. Fish will be served between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. in the Ministry and Education Center (MEC). In addition, carnival games for kids will take place on the basketball court, and a pie auction will take place in the MEC.

Meal tickets are now on sale in the courtyard following services. Presale ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children (K-8). Tickets at the door will increase to \$17 per adult and \$9 per child. Carnival game tickets will be \$5 per child or \$10 per family and will be available for purchase at the entrance.

All proceeds from the Fish Fry will go toward the purchase of a new K-2 Superkids Language Arts curriculum. Anyone interested in making a special contribution toward this curriculum should contact the school office. (Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School is organized as a not-for-profit organization under IRS Section 501(c)3, and special contributions may be tax-deductible; consult your tax adviser.)

Free estate workshops | March 5

Reliant Law Group invites you to a free seminar on Thursday, March 5, at 6:00 p.m. at Arizona Lutheran.

- Don't have an estate plan?
- Have an existing estate plan or trust that needs updating?
- Learn how to keep your family and assets out of Arizona Probate Court.
- Ensure you have a plan to leave a legacy!

Learn more and register at: ALAcoyotes.org/estate

Save the date for Martin Luther College choir concert | March 6

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 6, at 7:00 p.m. The College Choir from Martin Luther College will be presenting a concert here at Emmanuel! We are pleased to host them for the evening. Our responsibilities include feeding them dinner that night and providing a home for 60+ singers. Hosts are needed. For housing inquiries, click [here](#) or scan the provided QR code for more information on host responsibilities and the opportunity to sign up. Thank you for considering keeping a future pastor or teacher for the night! For dinner inquiries, contact Chet Jaehnig at (480) 329-5766 or chet.jaehnig@gmail.com. For full details, visit our [News and Events](#) page on our church website (or directly at elctempe.org/mlcchoir).



MLC choir
housing sign-up

Arizona Lutheran Academy Gala tickets available

Come enjoy the Arizona Lutheran Academy Gala on Saturday, March 28, 2026. We're bringing back the glitz, charm, and excitement of your favorite classic game shows—complete with themed games, dinner, and a night of fun to raise funds for campus improvements. Visit ALAcoyotes.org/gala to purchase tickets or learn more.

Save the date | LWMS Spring Rally

The LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society) Spring Rally for the Grand Canyon West circuit will be on Saturday, March 21, 2026. Shepherd of the Valley in Surprise, Arizona will be hosting. The rally is from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with registration/check-in starting at 8:15 a.m. A continental breakfast will be served, and lunch is included. More information and registration are available at www.gcwlwms.org. Rally registration fee is \$20 by February 28, then \$25 from February 28 to March 11. Mail in or register online by March 11.

The Emmanuel ladies' group, *WOW (Women of the Word)*, will be collecting donations for the mission offering that the LWMS is supporting (new world mission fields). A freewill offering will take place on Sunday, March 1.

A sign-up sheet for those who wish to carpool will be available in March. All ladies of Emmanuel are members of LWMS. We hope you can join us!

Emmanuel Lutheran School's Friday Fish Fry

February 27 | 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Join us for a delicious dinner, pie auction,
& fun-filled activities for kids!

• • •

Pie Auction 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Kids' Activities 4:00-6:00 p.m.



All proceeds & donations
will go toward the purchase of a new
K-2 Superkids Language Arts curriculum!

• • •

Consider donating a pie for our auction!

Tickets are available after both services today
and in the school office during the week:

\$15 Adult | \$7 Child (K-8th grade)

Tickets at the door:

\$17 Adult | \$9 Child (K-8th grade)

Kids' Play Area \$5 Child | \$10 Family
(pay at time of entrance)

Bounce House, Carnival Games, Face Painting, Cake Walk

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 "Ten Commandments."

The **Table Talk** is meeting in the Olive Room of the Ministry and Education Center (MEC). The study topic today is "Psalms - a time to sing."

The **Teen Bible study Grades 9-12** is meeting in the 7th grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is "Exactly What I Need: A Champion."

The **Junior High Bible study Grades 7-8** is meeting in the 8th grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is "Exactly What I Need: A Champion."

The Sunday School for **Grades 4-6** is meeting in the 4th grade classroom at the south campus. The study topic today is "A nativity night."

The Sunday School for **Grades 1-3** is meeting in the 3rd grade classroom at the south campus. The study topic today is "A nativity night."

The Sunday School for **4K Preschool-Kindergarten** is meeting in the kindergarten classroom at the south campus. The study topic today is "A nativity night."

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 "Jesus helps a man walk."



It's Harvest Time!

Goal: \$800,000
Purpose: Ministry Expansion and Debt Reduction

In December of 2024 we closed the construction loan for our new Ministry and Education Center. Our construction loan balance was converted to a fully-amortized, principal-and-interest loan with a 20-year loan term.

At that time, our starting balance was **\$3,014,874**. Since then, we've been using your gifts to pay additional principal each month. As of February 19, 2026, our balance was down to **\$2,533,062**. That's a reduction of over \$482,000 in outstanding principal – and that means we'll be paying less interest on that balance!

About 21 months from now, at the beginning of December 2027, our interest rate will reset to a new rate. We are currently locked into a rate of 4.25%, but when we hit December of next year, a new rate will lock in for the next five years. We expect the rate will be higher, but the more we can pay down our principal balance, the lower our new payment will be.

Would you like to make a special gift to *It's Harvest Time*? Do you have a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) that you would like to designate for the campaign? Speak with congregation president Chet Jaehnig, (480) 329-5766, about ways you can leverage tax strategies to benefit your own finances and support the Lord's work.

Thank you for your generous gifts! Your contributions are laying a foundation for gospel ministry for generations to come.

ALREADY PAID: \$481,812	ORIGINAL MORTGAGE PRINCIPAL: \$3,014,874
BALANCE LEFT TO PAY: \$2,533,062	

Personal preparation for Holy Communion

The following questions for self-examination (adapted from various sources) may be helpful as you prepare to receive the Sacrament.

As we prepare to partake of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is appropriate that we diligently examine ourselves, as St Paul exhorts us. For this Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort and strengthening of those who humbly confess their sins and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But if we thus examine ourselves, we find nothing in ourselves but sin and death, from which we can in no way set ourselves free. Therefore our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy upon us and has taken upon himself our nature, so that he might fulfill the whole will and law of God and for us and for our deliverance suffer death and all that we by our sins have deserved. In order that we should more confidently believe this and be strengthened in faith and cheerful obedience to his holy will, he has instituted the holy Sacrament of his Supper, in which he feeds us with his body and gives us to drink of his blood.

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup firmly believing the words of Christ, lives in Christ and Christ in him, and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of him, proclaiming his death – that he was delivered over for our sins and raised to life for our justification. Then with thankful hearts we commit ourselves again to take up our cross and follow him, keep his commandments, and love one another as he has loved us.

As you examine yourself, consider these questions before God, who searches the heart:

Q: Do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserved his wrath and punishment?

A: *Truly you should confess, for Holy Scripture declares, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."*

Q: Do you heartily repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and action?

A: *Truly you should repent, as did the penitent sinners: King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the woman caught in adultery; the prodigal son; and others.*

Q: Do you sincerely believe that God, by his grace, for Jesus' sake, forgives you all your sins?

A: *Truly you should believe, for Holy Scripture declares, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

Q: Do you promise that with the help of the Holy Spirit you will from this time forward amend your sinful life?

A: *Truly you should so promise, for Holy Scripture declares, "No one who lives in him keeps on sinning," and Jesus himself declares, "If you love me, you will obey what I command."*

Personal prayer:

Lord Jesus, as a penitent sinner filled with joy and gratitude, I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of love and kindness to others. Amen.

A person should examine himself before eating of the bread and drinking from the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment (1 Corinthians 11:28,29,31).



About Us

Emmanuel 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.

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Emmanuel 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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