

First Sunday in Advent

Lord Jesus, Bring Your Gifts: Salvation

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

November 29, 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:

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

- **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. A television allows you to see and hear the service.
- **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.

First Sunday in Advent — November 29, 2026

Lord Jesus, Bring Your Gifts: Salvation

In many cultures, it is customary to bring along a gift when you visit. Whether it is flowers or wine or toys for the kids, such presents are welcome. They are deeply appreciated when they meet a great need in the household, and especially meaningful when the gift giver sacrifices to make the gift.

Our own households have a great need. We have enemies, failures, sins, and shortcomings. But the Lord Jesus is about to arrive with gifts. He does not come empty-handed.

Jesus brings salvation, won by his holy life and innocent sacrificial death, freely given to sinners who could never earn it.

Service of the Word and Sacrament

Pre-Service Music

O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee
Paul Manz

Savior of the Nations Come
C. Ore, M. Burkhardt

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
John Behnke

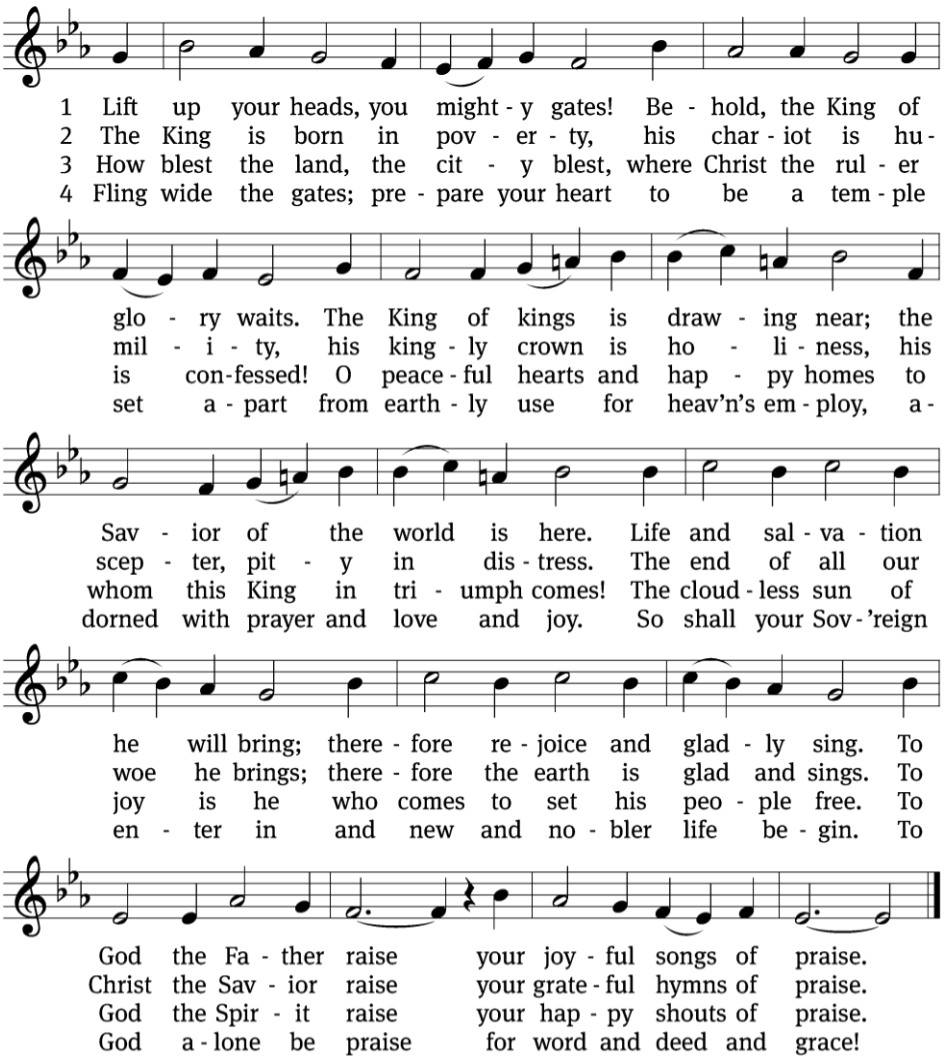
Prepare the Royal Highway
John Behnke

Opening hymn on next page.



Opening Hymn

305 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates



Please stand.

Invocation

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

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.

Confession and Absolution for Advent

Prepare the way for the LORD, make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low.

The rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.
And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it.

Dear friends, one day Christ will come in glory to deliver his people. Therefore, let us prepare our hearts to meet him by humbly seeking his forgiveness.
Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

All mankind has seen the salvation of our God. Christ came in human flesh to redeem our fallen race. With his perfect life, he kept the law in your place. With his innocent death, he paid for your sins. Christ now comes to you through the word of his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lighting of the Advent wreath

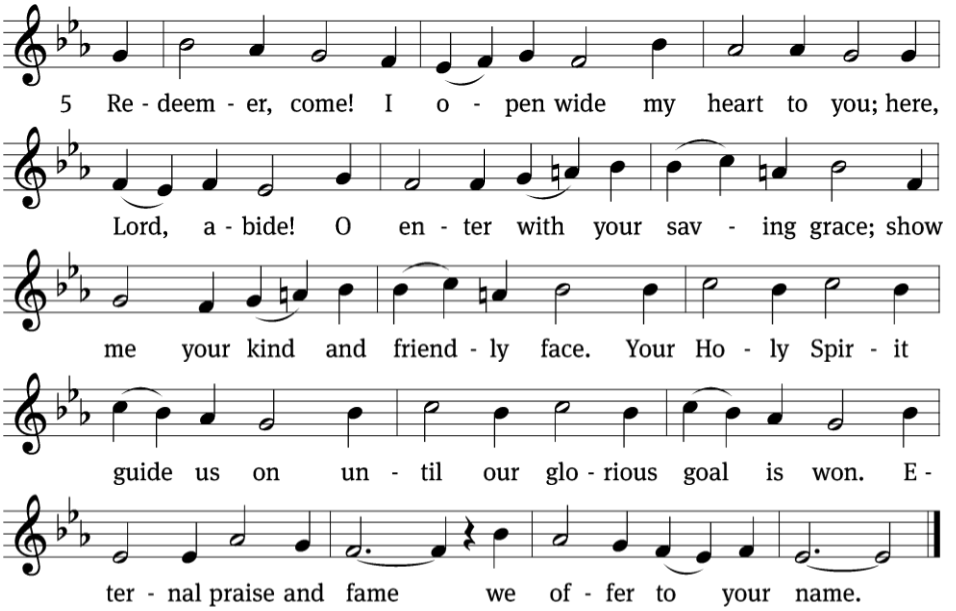
We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.
We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time. None of us know what day that will be.

We hear his call to watch.
We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Response

305 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates



Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Be seated.

The Word

First Reading

Isaiah 64:1–9

All of us have become unclean, tainted by sin. We need someone to save us.

[1]Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and come down.
Mountains then would quake because of your presence.
[2]As fire ignites stubble and as fire makes water boil,
make your name known to your adversaries.
Then nations would quake in your presence.
[3]You did amazing things that we did not expect.
You came down. Mountains quaked because of your presence.
[4]From ancient times no one has heard.
No ear has understood.
No eye has seen any god except you,
who goes into action for the one who waits for him.
[5]You meet anyone who joyfully practices righteousness,

who remembers you by walking in your ways!
But you were angry because we sinned.
We have remained in our sins for a long time.

Can we still be saved?

6 All of us have become like something unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like a filthy cloth.
All of us have withered like a leaf,
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.
7 There is no one who calls on your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you.
So you hid your face from us.
You made us melt by the power of our guilt.
8 But now, LORD, you are our father.
We are the clay, and you are our potter.
All of us are the work of your hand.
9 Do not be angry, LORD, without limit.
Do not remember our guilt forever.
Please look closely.
All of us are your people.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-10

Through Jesus Christ, God gives us the gift of unity with all believers.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 To the church of God in Corinth—those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, who are called as saints—along with all in every place who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

4 I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus. 5 You were enriched in him in every way, in all your speaking and all your knowledge, 6 because the testimony about Christ was established in you. 7 As a result you do not lack any gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also keep you strong until the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, who called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

10 Brothers, I am making an appeal to you using the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I ask that you all express the same view and not have any divisions among you, but that you be joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

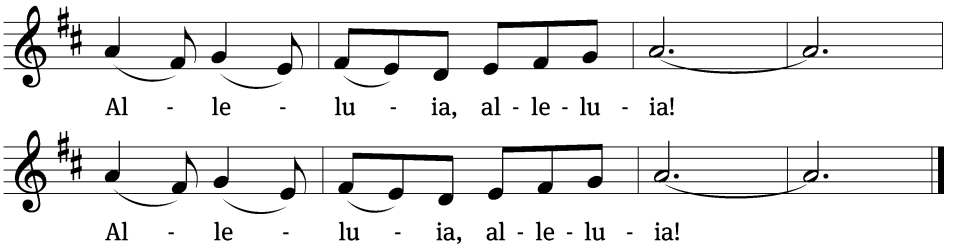
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

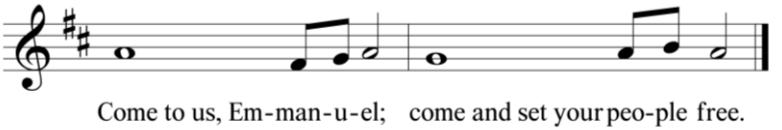
Gospel Acclamation

The congregation sings each refrain and verse.

Refrain



Verse



Refrain

Gospel

Mark 13:26-37

Jesus is coming at the end of time to bring the gift of salvation to all who are waiting for him.

26 Then you will see the Son of Man coming on clouds with great power and glory.
27 At that time he will send out his angels and gather his elect from the four winds,
from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of the sky.

28 "Learn from this illustration of the fig tree: Whenever its branch becomes tender
and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also when you see these
things happening, you will know that he is near—at the doors! 30 Amen I tell you:
This generation will certainly not pass away until all these things happen. 31 Heaven
and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

32 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,
but only the Father. 33 Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the
time will come. 34 It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he
put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also
commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. 35 Therefore keep watch, because you do
not know when the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at
midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. 36 If he comes suddenly,
do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!"

The Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

301 Savior of the Nations, Come

Sermon

1 Corinthians 1:1-10

God is faithful

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.

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

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

Offering

Musical Offering

In Thee Is Gladness
David Cherwien

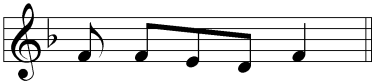
Personal Preparation for Holy Communion

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.

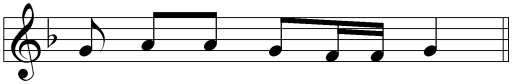
Please stand.

The Sacrament

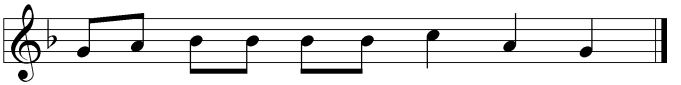
The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



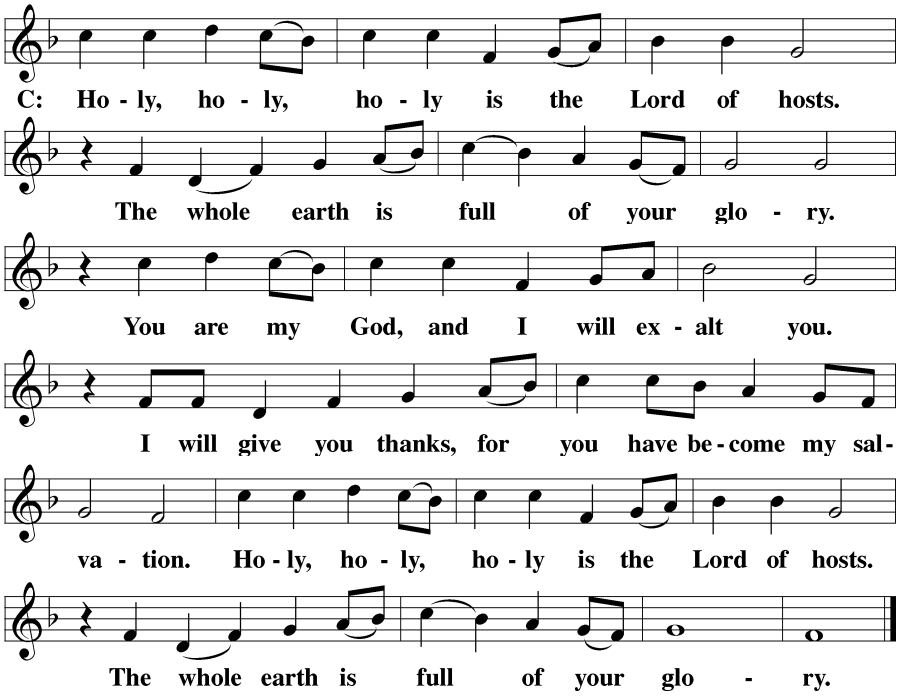
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

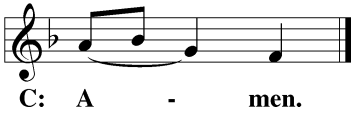


Words of Institution

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."

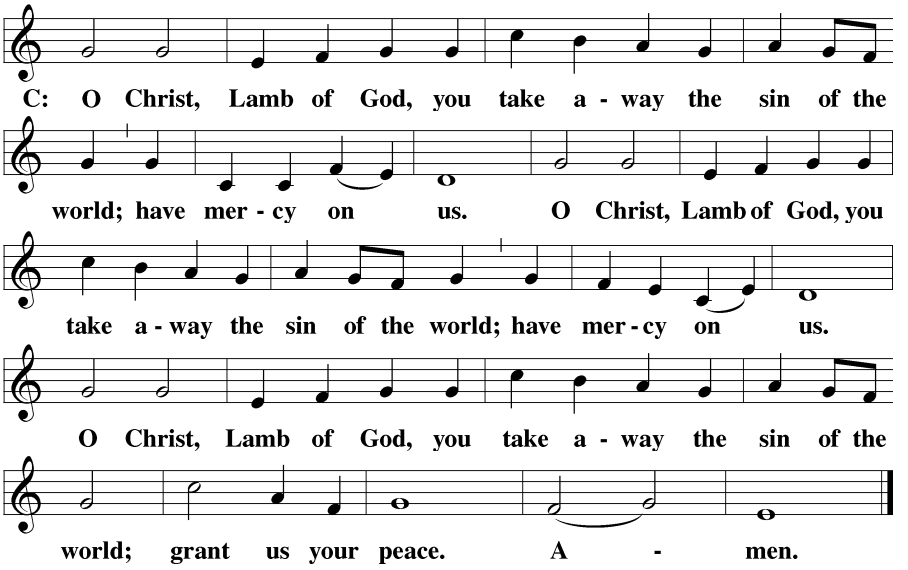
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



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 Hymns

319 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

513 In You Is Gladness

Please stand.

Thanksgiving

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

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.
Amen.

Be seated.

Post-Service Music

Serving at Worship

Preaching Minister	Pastor Daniel Gensmer
Presiding Minister	Pastor Gary Pufahl
Organ	Lisa Thiesfeldt
Acolyte	Carter (8:00 a.m.)
Video streamer and slides	Cathy Wightman, Charlie Myers
Video captions	Angie Keezer
Sound	Wes Wightman
Hymn selections	Sara Redman

Acknowledgments

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"In Thee Is Gladness" David Cherwien © 1994 Summa Productions.

In our prayers

- Mike Clark, who was recently hospitalized.
- Andy Galyen, uncle of Alicia Phillips, dealing with health concerns.
- Chris Heise – Home recovering.
- John Mueller, who was recently hospitalized.
- Kaylee – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Scott Trautman – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Bill Welker – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Bill Zidar – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Much-needed rain for the state of Arizona.

Ushers

8:00 a.m.	Mojo and Henry Krup, Andrew Olson, Jonathan Rossman
10:30 a.m.	Tom Bernthal, Caden Head, Josh Winterstein

Flowers

Thank you to Pastor Dan and Ingrid Pautz and family for beautifying our sanctuary with altar flowers in memory of Troy Pautz.

Communion

Thank you to Amber Bode and Erin Hahnke for helping set up Communion for this weekend.

This week at Emmanuel

Sunday

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person adult Bible study	No classes
Sunday school, teen and junior high Bible study	No classes
Public school Catechism	No class

Monday

ELS Thanksgiving break ends	Classes resume
Light in the Valley – campus ministry	No meeting

Tuesday

Communications meeting	6:30 p.m.
Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m. *Book of Daniel* *Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl*
Midweek Advent worship	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
Midweek Advent meal	4:45-6:15 p.m.
Adult choir	7:30 p.m.

Thursday

Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 p.m. *21st Century Lessons from the Life of Moses* *Led by Pastor Dan Pautz*
God's Ways Bible study	6:00-8:30 p.m. *Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl*
Bible Basics class	6:30-8:00 p.m. *Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz*

Friday

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

Saturday

Invitation handout: Christmas	9:00-11:00 a.m.
Joy Fellowship at Barleens Dinner Show	11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 6

Emmanuel Lutheran Church's 75th anniversary	
Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person adult Bible study	No classes
Sunday school, teen and junior high Bible study	No classes
Emmanuel's 75th anniversary celebration	9:15 a.m.
	Fellowship and presentation
Public school Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.
Advent by Candlelight	2:00-4:00 p.m.

Looking ahead

December 8	School Board meeting	6:00 p.m.
	Grief Share – Surviving the Holidays	6:00-8:00 p.m.
	Special Voters' meeting in the sanctuary	6:30 p.m.
December 9	Midweek Advent worship	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	Midweek Advent meal	4:45-6:15 p.m.
	Adult choir	7:30 p.m.
December 12	Emmanuel teen night	5:00-8:00 p.m.
December 13	Emmanuel fellowship night: Carols & Cocoa	4:00-6:00 p.m.
December 15	Church Council meeting	6:00 p.m.
December 16	Midweek Advent worship	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	ELS Preschool-Grade 2 Children's Christmas service	3:30 p.m.
	Midweek Advent meal	4:45-6:15 p.m.
	Adult choir	7:30 p.m.
December 18	ELS Christ ~ Connection ~ Coffee	9:00-10:00 a.m.
		following ELS chapel
December 20	ELS Grades 3-8 Children's Christmas service	4:00 p.m.
December 22	ELS Christmas break	Noon dismissal
December 23-January 5	ELS Christmas break	No school
December 24	Christmas Eve	Church office closed
	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	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.
	God's Ways Bible study	No class
December 25	Christmas Day	Church office closed
	Christmas Day worship service	9:00 a.m.
December 27	Public school Catechism	No class
December 31	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	No class
	New Year's Eve worship services	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	God's Ways Bible study	No class

Notes and News

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

Connection cards

The connection cards serve 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!

Christian education hour

Please note, there will be no Adult Bible study, Table Talk, Teen study or Sunday school classes today (Sunday, November 29) due to Thanksgiving weekend. The following Sunday (December 6), there will also be no classes due to the celebration of Emmanuel's 75th anniversary. Classes will resume Sunday, December 13, 2026.

Mr. Kevin Bode receives call

On Sunday, October 18, our part-time 5th-grade teacher and part-time music director Kevin Bode received a divine call from St. Matthew in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. He is called to be full-time music coordinator in the church. Keep Mr. Bode in your prayers as he considers where best to serve the Lord.

Midweek Advent services and meals

Our midweek Advent services start next Wednesday, December 2, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. for three weeks. In our midweek Advent worship, we will reflect upon **The Perfect Present** that God gives us at Christmas. Join the pre-service medley of seasonal songs to get into the holiday spirit, and let your heart soar in anticipation of welcoming our coming Savior!

During the time between the afternoon and evening services we'll gather in the MEC for Advent meals.

Wednesday, December 2, 4:45-6:15 p.m.
WOW (*Women of the Word*, Emmanuel's ladies' group) will be providing baked ziti.
If you are able to, please bring garlic bread, green salads, fruit, or dessert (cookies or bars) to share.

Wednesday, December 9, 4:45-6:15 p.m.
WOW will be providing soup.
If you are able to, please bring crackers, bread rolls, fruit, veggies, or dessert (cookies or bars) to share.

Wednesday, December 16, 4:45-6:15 p.m.
WOW will be providing macaroni and cheese, as well as chili.
If you are able to, please bring fruit, veggies, or dessert (cookies or bars) to share.

Lessons and Carols choir

For those who enjoy singing, you are again invited to be a part of this year's Lessons and Carols choir on December 24, 3:30 p.m. and repeated at 5:00 p.m. It is a highlight at Emmanuel! A special choir of 30-40 Emmanuel members and WELS friends of Emmanuel will sing the gospel truths of Christmas. Many steps have been taken to make this opportunity accessible to those who aren't a part of the adult choir but enjoy singing. If you would like to sing, contact Kevin Bode, kbode@elstempe.org, for more information in making this work for you. In December, we will rehearse after the 6:30 p.m. midweek Advent services.

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 Teacher's "Wish List." Please give your donation (if a check payable to "Ladies Group") to either Karen Henriksen, Wendy Binger or Rachel Severeid.

Mission to the Children | Christmas drive

We are once again planning to share Christmas joy with the children of Sonora, Mexico. We are partnering with Mission to the Children to collect Christmas toys and hygiene products. Visit the bulletin board in the church lobby and choose one or more gift tags. Each tag is labeled for the type of gift and the age of the recipient. Purchase your gift and bring it to church unwrapped, with the tag attached, by this Wednesday, December 3. Mission to the Children will distribute your gifts to the recipients in Sonora.

Mission to the Children exists to make disciples for Christ and is solely supported by the thoughtful donations from individuals, congregations and church groups, and works in cooperation with approved mission activities of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. You can learn more about Mission to the Children by visiting their website: missiontothechildren.org.

Thank you for helping make Christmas a little brighter for the less fortunate families Mission to the Children serve in southern Arizona and northern Mexico!

Invite our neighbors to Jesus' birthday

As the shepherds did so long ago, running through the streets telling everyone the good news of what they had heard and seen, it is our time to do the same. On Saturday, December 5, we will meet in the Ministry and Education Center at 9:00 a.m. to distribute maps and materials. Then we will walk the neighborhoods with invitations inviting our neighbors to come join all the activities proclaiming the birth of our Savior. Please come walk with us! Any questions, contact Benjamin Ruppel at bruppel@elctempe.org.

Joy Fellowship | December 5

Our Joy Fellowship group is for those 55 years and older. Our December outing is Saturday, December 5, 2026, at Barleens Dinner Show in Apache Junction for the Christmas show *Home for the Holidays*. The doors open at 11:00 a.m. The meal is at 12:00 p.m., and the show starts at 1:00 p.m. The cost is $52.00 per person. We have only 30 seats and cannot get more. A sign-up sheet is available in the MEC with more information. Please talk to Wendy Binger at (480) 452-6169 or Chet Jaehnig at (480) 329-5766 if you have questions.

Poinsettia donations

Help beautify the church this Christmas season. Women of the Word (WOW) will be selling twelve poinsettias to decorate the altar for December. The cost is $20 payable either in cash or check (made out to Ladies Group). Please give your payment to either Karen Henriksen, Wendy Binger, or the church office in an envelope marked "WOW." If you have any questions, please call Karen Henriksen at (602) 301-6243. Please sign up on the sheet provided in the Ministry and Education Center (MEC). All orders must be placed no later than Sunday, December 6.

Emmanuel's 75th anniversary celebration | December 6

Emmanuel Lutheran Church will be celebrating our 75th anniversary on Sunday, December 6. We will have special services on that day (December 6) during our worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Between the services, starting at 9:15 a.m., join us for fellowship and a presentation. We will be serving an Emmanuel traditional breakfast; please provide one of the following:

- Egg bake (you can pick up a pan in the MEC)
- Sliced mixed fruit
- Baked goods

Please join us to share the memories and blessings that Emmanuel congregation has had over the past 75 years.

Special congregational voters meeting

We will have a special congregational voters meeting on Tuesday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m. The Church Council is recommending that we call a pastor and a seventh-grade teacher. They also recommend calling Mrs. Hahnke and Mrs. Willis to teach for the 2027-2028 school year. Additionally, the Council is recommending some tuition increases for the 2027-2028 school year. Please join us for this important meeting.

Grief Share

Christians grieve differently than the world around us because of the hope we have in Christ. But even though Christians grieve with hope, the loss of a loved one presents unexpected challenges as they learn to navigate a world without their loved one. The holiday season can be especially challenging. With this in mind, Emmanuel is excited to present our new Grief Share support group, which intends to provide a safe space to share our struggles, our experiences, and find comfort in God's word.

Grief Share

If you or someone you know has struggled with grief, consider joining our Grief Share support group on Tuesday, December 8, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., or our 13-week series starting on January 31 at 2:30 p.m. Learn more and register for either event using the QR code or visiting our website (elctempe.org/griefshare). Reach out to Pastor Gensmer with any questions.

Carols and Cocoa fellowship night | December 13

Have a favorite Christmas carol you listen to on repeat? Do you enjoy Christmas cookies? How many marshmallows do you like in your hot cocoa? Join us Sunday, December 13, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Emmanuel's Ministry and Education Center for a fun and festive evening. We are inviting the community to this event, and are looking for volunteers to help at the event. If you are interested in volunteering (e.g. event setup, greeter, hot cocoa server), please check out the opportunities to serve.

Carols & Cocoa event volunteers

Savior of the Nations, Come Advent devotions

Looking for a new devotion for the Advent season? *Savior of the Nations, Come: Advent Scripture and Song* is Martin Luther College's newest devotion book. Professor Paul Koelpin, who chose the hymns and readings, explains: "Advent is a season of expectation and preparation. Scripture's prophetic truths find their fulfillment in the person and work of Jesus, the Savior of the nations. The 'psalms, hymns and spiritual songs' of the church relate these truths in memorable music and verse. Sometimes, in this season of repentance and waiting, our melodies border on mournful. Sometimes they are triumphant. Sometimes hopeful. Always our spirit is full of joy—confident that, in Christ, God reconciled the world to himself."

Daily devotions email sign-up

Get your complimentary copy of *Savior of the Nations, Come* today; copies are available in the church narthex. If you'd prefer, you can request that Martin Luther College send the devotions to you as daily emails to your personal email December 1-25; sign up here or scan the QR code.

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 (like Emmanuel Lutheran School), 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 elctempe.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.

Donate from your IRA and connect people to Emmanuel!

If you are 70 ½ years old and own an IRA, the IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows you to give funds from your IRA directly to a charity. You can take advantage of a simple way to share Jesus with others through the ministry of Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School and receive tax benefits in return. You can give any amount up to $100,000 per year from your IRA directly to Emmanuel without having to pay income taxes on that gift.

Contact your IRA administrator for more information. You gift must be received by December 31, 2026, to qualify.

Men of His Word conference scholarship

Our Emmanuel Church Council has set aside scholarship funds for men from Emmanuel who sign up and attend the *Men of His Word* conference on January 30, 2027. After signing up and attending the conference, contact the church office (church@elctempe.org) to be reimbursed ($50 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. Gentlemen, take advantage of this opportunity to attend this excellent conference with your brothers in Christ.



CAROLS & COCOA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

from 4-6pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
715 W Southern Ave.

A Christmas Celebration for the Whole Family!

Join us for a joyful evening of Christmas carols, hot cocoa, cookies, crafts, and games as we celebrate the greatest gift of all—the birth of our Savior, Jesus!



Men of His Word is a group of WELS Christian men, called workers and laymen, who encourage one another to serve our Savior and grow as Christian leaders. Our annual conference helps men find renewed strength and joy in God's Word so you are well equipped to face all of life's challenges.

The 2027 Men's Conference is centered on John 10:10, with the theme: *Live the Full Life*. Keynote speaker John Sebald will remind us that the full life isn't a life without trouble. It's the life Jesus came to give us, and he gives us everything we need to overcome every obstacle and live a full life in him. Breakout groups will explore the following topics:

Session 1 — Living the Full Life After Suffering Trauma – Sebald	**Session 6** — Living Fully in a Society with Gender Issues – Gensmer
Session 2 — What Biblical Masculinity Really Looks Like – Parsons	**Session 7** — Start a Men's Group in Your Church – Gunn
Session 3 — Living Fully in the Body God Gave You – Herkstroeter	**Session 8** — Living Fully in the Unseen Battle (Demons & Poltergeists) – Pufahl
Session 4 — Defending the Full Life: Christian Apologetics for Ordinary Men – Berg	**Session 9** —Living Fully When God Doesn't Fix It – Jacobson
Session 5 — Living Fully When Life Is Frantic – Sellnow	**Session 10** — Living Fully God's Way in a World Where Anything Goes (Young Men) – Pagel

The Conference is on Saturday, January 30, 2027, at the **Desert Willow Conference Center** in Phoenix.

The **early bird registration** fee is $100. The registration amount for retired called workers is $85 and $50 for young men college age or younger. The registration fee includes breakfast, lunch, and beverages. Polo shirts and T-shirts are available for an extra charge.

The deadline to register for early-bird pricing is January 10, 2027.

Men of His Word

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

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.

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).

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.

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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