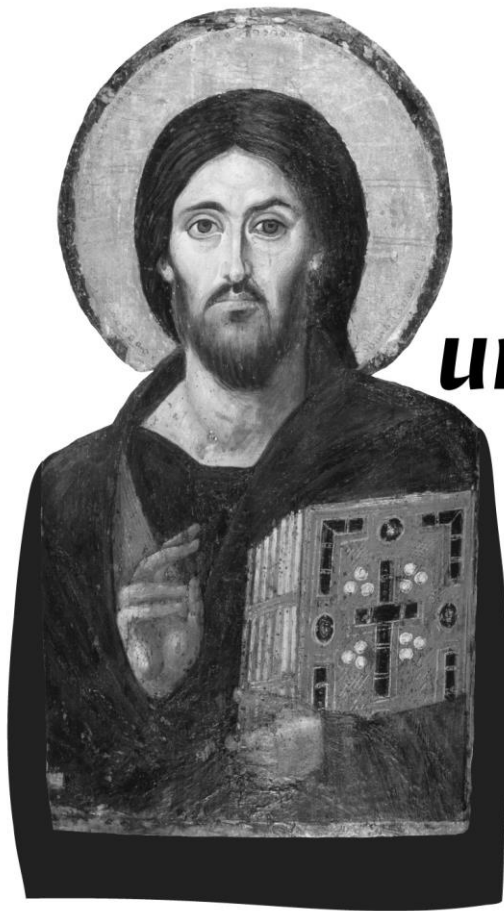




unexpected
TRUTHS

Pentecost 14

Cross comes before crown
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
August 30, 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. 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.



Connection card

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

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost —August 30, 2026

Unexpected Truths: Cross comes before crown

Some religious groups today teach that if a person follows God, God responds by granting prosperity and peace, as would only be expected.

Today we see how that is nonsense.

Jesus explains that if we are part of the Church of God, we will have to bear crosses. Believers suffer in this world, sometimes just because we are believers.

So why bother following Jesus? We carry our crosses in gratitude for Jesus carrying his cross. Jesus' cross was too heavy for us because it was weighted down with our sin. We carry our crosses as disciples because we know that in those moments of struggle, we are forced to turn to Christ and rely on his strength.

This is the unexpected path, the one Jesus himself walked: the cross comes before the crown.

Service of the Word and Sacrament



Pre-Service Music

Sonata in G minor
Arcangelo Corelli

Opening Hymn

867 Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near

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.*

Confession and Absolution

CW 188

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

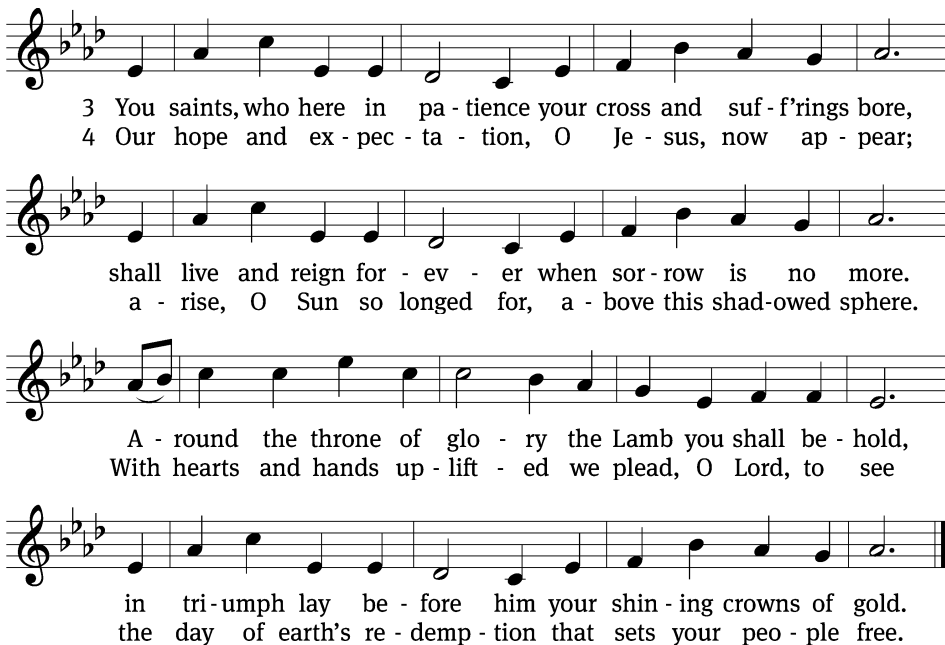
Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn

493 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



3 You saints, who here in pa - tience your cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad-owed sphere.

A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb you shall be - hold,
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed we plead, O Lord, to see

in tri - umph lay be - fore him your shin - ing crowns of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; 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

Jeremiah 15:15–21

¹⁵O LORD, you understand.
Remember me and care for me.
Take vengeance for me on those who persecute me.
You are slow to anger.
Do not take me away.
Keep in mind that for your sake I bear disgrace.
¹⁶Your words came to me, and I devoured them.
Your words became my joy,
the delight of my heart,
because I bear your name,
O LORD God of Armies.
¹⁷I did not sit with the band of partygoers,
nor did I celebrate with them.
I sat alone, because your hand was upon me.
You filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unending?
Why is my wound incurable, refusing to heal?
Will you be as deceptive as an intermittent stream to me,
like a source of water that a person can't depend on?

¹⁹Therefore this is what the LORD says.
If you repent, I will take you back,
so that you may stand before me.
If what you say is worthwhile and not worthless,
you will be my spokesman.
They must turn to you,
but you must not turn to them.

²⁰I will make you like a bronze wall to this people.
They will fight against you,
but they will not overcome you,
because I am with you to save you
and to rescue you, declares the LORD.

²¹I will rescue you from the hand of the wicked,
and I will deliver you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*When the prophet
Jeremiah grew tired
of carrying his cross
and complained, the
LORD called on him
to repent and
promised salvation.*

I Trust, O LORD, Your Holy Name

Psalm 31D

1 I trust, O LORD, your ho - ly name; O let me
 2 Bow down your gra - cious ear to me and hear my
 3 You are my strength, my shield, my rock, my for - tress
 4 With you, O LORD, I cast my lot; O faith - ful
 5 All hon - or, praise, and maj - es - ty to Fa - ther,
 not be put to shame nor let me
 cry, my prayer, my plea; make haste for
 strong a - gainst each shock, my help, my
 God, for - sake me not, to you my
 Son, and Spir - it be, our God for -
 be con - found - ed. My faith, O LORD,
 my pro - tec - tion, for woes and fear
 life, my tow - er, my bat - tle sword,
 soul com - mend - ing. LORD, be my stay,
 ev - er glo - rious, in whose rich grace
 be in your Word for - ev - er firm - ly ground - ed.
 sur - round me here. Help me in my af - flic - tion.
 al - might - y LORD— who can re - sist your pow - er?
 and lead the way now and when life is end - ing.
 we run our race till we de - part vic - to - rious.

Second Reading

Romans 8:18–25

*St. Paul teaches
 God's Church that
 no cross can
 compare with the
 crown of glory that
 is waiting.*

¹⁸For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope ²¹that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²²For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time. ²³And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as

sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴Indeed, it was for this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for something we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 8:34

Alleluia! Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:21–26

²¹From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again.

²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you.”

²³But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a snare to me because you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men.”

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?

Jesus calls his Church to walk in his path: first comes the cross, then comes the crown.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

694 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Sermon

Matthew 16:21–26

Crosses aren't comfortable, but they are crucial

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

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 19 of this service folder.

Please stand.

The Sacrament

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,
heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

Amen.

Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



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

Be seated.

Distribution

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.

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.

Distribution Hymns

655 Before You, God, the Judge of All

664 Wide Open Stand the Gates

884 Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See

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.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; 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.

Post-Service Music

Serving at Worship

Preaching Minister

Presiding Minister

Organ

Instrumentalist

Acolytes

Video streamer and slides

Video captions

Sound

Pastor Gary Pufahl

Pastor Daniel Gensmer

Kevin Bode

Kali Gonzalez, *horn*

King Carter (8:00 a.m.), Grayson Head (10:30 a.m.)

Colton and Lauren Sallquist

Chris Wempner

Jacob Sallquist

Acknowledgments

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In our prayers

- Paul Brandenburg – Thanks to God for successful kidney transplant.
- Family of Evelyn Gross who was taken home to heaven on August 27.
- Chris Heise – Home recovering.
- Elaine Kern – In hospice care at home.
- Kaylee – Home recovering from surgery and going through additional treatments.
- Pat Romero – Hospitalized and recovering from surgery.
- Tina Wentzel – Experiencing lethargy and pain; that she receives comfort and gets answers from her upcoming tests.
- Bill Zidar – Receiving treatments for cancer.

Communion

Thank you to Jen Bode and Chris Wempner for helping set up Communion for this weekend.

Landscaping

Thank you to Bryan Rakowski and family for helping maintain, trim and clean the outside church property this week.

Ushers

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Al and Will Meihak, Tim and Sam Warren
Steve, Nick and Luke Sallquist, Mark Schroeder

This week at Emmanuel

Sunday

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person adult Bible study	9:15 a.m.
	<i>Timely Topics, Timeless Truths</i>
Sunday school, teen and junior high Bible study	9:15 a.m.
Catechism orientation	12:00 p.m.

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m.
	<i>Book of Daniel</i>
	<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
Adult choir practice	6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Joseph</i>
	<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>
	<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>
God's Ways Bible study	6:00-8:30 p.m.
Bible Basics class	6:30-8:00 p.m.

Friday

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

Saturday

Elders' meeting	7:30-9:00 a.m.
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Sunday, September 6

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person adult Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
Pancake breakfast	8:00-10:15 a.m.

Looking ahead

September 7	Labor Day	Church office closed, no school
September 8	School Board meeting	6:30 p.m.
September 9	Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m.
		<i>Book of Daniel</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
	Adult choir practice	6:30 p.m.

September 10	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Joseph</i>	
	<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>	
	<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>	
	God's Ways Bible study	6:00-8:30 p.m.
	Bible Basics class	6:30-8:00 p.m.
September 11	ELS chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
September 12	D-Backs vs. Rangers baseball game	5:10 p.m.
	<i>Chase Field</i>	
	<i>ELS Junior Choir sings</i>	
September 13	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.
September 15	Church Council meeting	6:00 p.m.
September 16	Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m.
	<i>Book of Daniel</i>	
	<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>	
	Adult choir practice	6:30 p.m.
September 17	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Joseph</i>	
	<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>	
	<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>	
	God's Ways Bible study	6:00-8:30 p.m.
	Bible Basics class	6:30-8:00 p.m.
September 18	ELS chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
September 20	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.
September 23	Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m.
	<i>Book of Daniel</i>	
	<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>	
	Adult choir practice	6:30 p.m.
September 24	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Joseph</i>	
	<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>	
	<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>	
	God's Ways Bible study	6:00-8:30 p.m.
	Bible Basics class	6:30-8:00 p.m.
September 25	ELS chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
	Joy Fellowship at Hale Theatre	4:00-6:00 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, or by filling out one of the cards in the pews. Thank you!

Meal Train for the Kern family

Let's show our support for the Kern family as they welcome home their third child. 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/q47g81>; available dates and meal details can also be found at this link.

Save the date for our annual pancake breakfast | September 6

Join us next Sunday, September 6, for our annual pancake breakfast. Starting at 8:00 a.m. through 10:15 a.m., chefs Tony and Jordan will be cooking up pancakes which will be served in the MEC (Ministry and Education Center). Come early to join us for pancakes and then attend the 10:30 a.m. service, or worship at the 8:00 a.m. service and stay for pancakes afterwards. Either way, bring your appetite and share in a morning of fellowship and food for both your soul and your stomach.

ASU campus ministry to begin soon

Calling all Arizona State University students and college students in the Phoenix area! Light in the Valley is the WELS campus ministry that meets regularly during the school year. The group meets for a Bible study and Christian fellowship. All college students are welcome to join. Pastor Daniel Gensmer is our new campus pastor and will be partnering with Light in the Valley to serve WELS students attending ASU. Our campus ministry group is planning on kicking off our year following Labor Day. More information will be provided in the coming weeks. If you are interested in joining, or know of a college student who would be interested, please contact Pastor Gensmer at dgensmer@elctempe.org or (615) 887-3816.

Take me out to the ballgame!

Join us Saturday, September 12, while we enjoy listening to our Emmanuel Lutheran School's Junior Choir join other choirs to sing the national anthem and cheer on our Arizona Diamondbacks. Emmanuel Lutheran Church will be offering tickets to the game. If you would like to attend, sign up by Wednesday, September 2. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the MEC (Ministry and Education Center). September 12 will be bobble head night - you have an opportunity to snag a Merrill Kelly bobble head. Tickets are \$58 each and can be paid by cash or check to Chet Jaehnig.



Connection card

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



*Kern
Meal Train*

MUMs Bible Study

Calling all moms and their children under age 2! Join us for MUMs Bible Study, beginning September 13 at 9:15 a.m. in the church nursery. MUMs (mothers understanding mothers) is Emmanuel's group for moms interested in growing in God's Word and Christian fellowship. Come enjoy a time of encouragement, fellowship, and growing together in God's Word. We'd love to have you join us on Sunday mornings!

Public school catechism starts on September 13

Public school catechism starts on Sunday, September 13, at 12:00 p.m. in the Ministry and Education Center. Before classes begin, all catechism families with 7th and 8th grade students are invited to attend our Catechism Orientation on August 30 at 12:00 p.m. (lunch will be provided).

Junior Coyote | Volleyball club this Fall

Girls in grades 4-8 are still welcome to join the Jr. Coyote volleyball club. This club continues Saturday, September 19, and two Saturdays in October in the Arizona Lutheran gymnasium. Register at alacoyotes.org/jrvbclub.

Junior Coyote cheer camp | September 12

Girls in grades K-8 are invited to a one-day cheer camp, hosted by the Arizona Lutheran cheer coaching staff and cheerleaders. Participants will learn cheers, motions, jumps, and basic stunting and tumbling skills. The camp will take place in the Den on Saturday, September 12. Find more information and register at ALAcoyotes.org/cheercamp.

Joy Fellowship at Hale Theatre | September 25

Save the date for this musical comedy performance of "Catch Me If You Can" on Friday, September 25, at the Hale Theatre in Gilbert. The performance starts at 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$45.00 per person and we have 25 seats reserved. A sign-up sheet will be available in the MEC. Contact Wendy Binger at (480) 452-6169 or Chet Jaehnig at (480) 329-5766 for any questions.

Phoenix Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM)

Join your WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) colleagues from valley churches on Saturday, September 26, at 9:00 a.m. The Phoenix Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM) is a group of area WELS members (men and women) gathering to share opportunities for faith and fellowship across valley WELS churches. Emmanuel will be hosting this event; the topic for the morning will be MLC Daylight and the strength of outreach and follow through.

Save the date for our Fall blood drive at Emmanuel | October 4

The Vitalant bloodmobile is coming to Emmanuel on Sunday, October 4, 7:00 to 10:30 a.m. Your donation could help a family member, friend or neighbor in need. Spread the word and please consider donating. To schedule your donation appointment, visit donors.vitalant.org/dwp/portal/dwa, click on "Blood Drive Code" and enter code: EmmanuelLC, or use the provided QR code.



*Blood Drive
sign-up*

Positions open at Arizona Lutheran Academy

Currently two positions are available at Arizona Lutheran Academy (AZ Lutheran): Director of Mission Advancement and bus drivers. Continue reading on to learn more from AZ Lutheran.

Director of Mission Advancement: The leader of our mission advancement team oversees building and maintaining strong relationships with donors, alumni, federation churches, and community partners. This position is responsible for the broader development and stewardship of ALA's donor network through appeals, events, and day-to-day connection with Arizona Lutheran supporters. Our next leader has a commitment to sharing the amazing work God is doing within our ministry, works well independently, and excels in building relationships. Find out more information by contacting President Doug Meyer at Meyer@ALAcoyotes.org or (602) 626-0084.

Bus drivers: Morning and afternoon driver needed for East Valley route (Emmanuel and Pilgrim to/from AZ Lutheran). One person for both, or a combination can work. School days only. Hours 6:00-8:00 a.m. and/or 3:15-5:15 p.m. Find out more information by contacting Principal Kurt Rosenbaum at Rosenbaum@ALAcoyotes.org.

Invitation handout: Family Fall Festival | October 10

Come walk with us to hang door invitations for our annual Family Fall Festival. We will be reaching out to our neighbors on Saturday, October 10, meeting in the Ministry and Education Center at 9:00 a.m.

Save the date for our Family Fall Festival | November 1

Our annual Family Fall Festival is scheduled for Sunday, November 1, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. This is a fun, family-friendly event with Trunk-or-Treat, bounce houses and more.

We will need donations and volunteers, so be on the lookout in the coming weeks for more information. In the meantime, add this fun event to your calendar and invite your family and friends.

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 “Timely Topics, Timeless Truths.”

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 “Unexpected Truths: Cross comes before crown.”

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 “Unexpected Truths: Cross comes before crown.”

The Sunday School for **Grades 4-6** is meeting in the 4th grade classroom at the south campus. The study topic today is “Philip and the Ethiopian.”

The Sunday School for **Grades 1-3** is meeting in the 3rd grade classroom at the south campus. The study topic today is “Philip and the Ethiopian.”

The Sunday School for **4K Preschool-Kindergarten** is meeting in the kindergarten classroom at the south campus. The study topic today is “Philip and the Ethiopian.”

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 “God made people.”

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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