



What Makes Christians *Different*

Pentecost 8

Christians live as wheat among weeds

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

July 19, 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.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost — July 19, 2026

What Makes Christians Different?

Christians live as wheat among weeds

The variety of wheat that grows in the Middle East looks much like wild grass or weeds. It is often difficult to tell wheat and weeds apart until shortly before harvest time, when the wheat stalks develop a head containing the kernels of grain. Pulling the weeds out of a wheat field could lead to accidentally pulling up a fair amount of wheat. People need to wait for the harvest to separate wheat from weeds.

Jesus uses this image to illustrate life this side of heaven. What makes Christians different? We are like wheat planted by the Lord. Unbelieving evildoers are pictured as weeds.

We might want God to take care of evil now, pulling up all the weeds. But he tells us to wait for the harvest of Judgment Day. So in this present age we live as wheat among weeds, being faithful, fruitful, and mindful of the coming harvest.

Service of the Word



Pre-Service Music

The Day is Surely Drawing Near
J.S. Bach

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
Ronald A. Nelson

Opening Hymn

622 Voices Raised to You We Offer

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.

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For". The score consists of 12 staves of music, with the lyrics aligned with the notes. The final note of the piece is a whole note on the G line of the treble clef.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For



The Word

The Lord be with you.
 And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with you in perfect joy hereafter; 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.

Like wheat among weeds, Christians live surrounded by evil in this world. But God promises that the presence of evil in this world does not mean that God doesn't care for us.

First Reading

Isaiah 44:6–11

⁶This is what the LORD, the King of Israel, Israel's Redeemer, the LORD of Armies, says.

I am the first, and I am the last.

Except for me there is no god.

⁷For who is like me? Let him declare it.

Let him recite in order for me the things that took place since the time I established an ancient people.

Or let them declare what is yet to come, and what is going to take place.

⁸Do not tremble, and do not be frightened.

Did I not announce this to you, and declare it already long ago?

You are my witnesses.

Is there any god except me?

There is no other Rock. I am not aware of any other.

⁹All those who form an idol are good for nothing.

All the things which delight them provide no benefit.

As for their witnesses—they do not see.

They know nothing, so they will be ashamed.

¹⁰Who is this who forms a god or casts a metal image that can provide no profit? ¹¹Look at him! All his associates will be ashamed. The craftsmen are merely men. Let them all gather themselves and take a stand. They will be terrified and ashamed together.

The Word of the Lord.

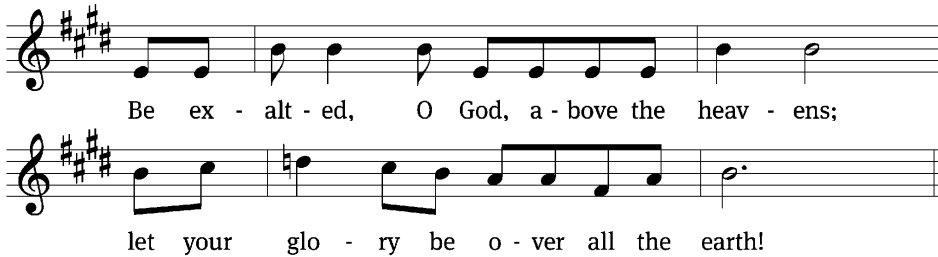
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 57

The congregation sings each refrain and verses in bold.

Refrain



Tone



*I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings
until the disaster has passed.*

**I cry out to God Most High,
to God, who vindicates me.**

*He sends from heaven and saves me,
God sends forth his love and his faithfulness. Refrain*

*My heart, O God, is steadfast,
I will sing and make music.*

**Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre!
I will awaken the dawn.**

*I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;
I will sing of you among the peoples.*

**For great is your love, reaching to the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches to the skies.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen. Refrain**

Jesus' parable about the wheat and weeds could give the impression that God is ambivalent about evil. But God's wrath is real and will be fully revealed at the harvest.

Second Reading

Romans 1:18–25

¹⁸Indeed, God's wrath is being revealed from heaven against all the ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who try to suppress the truth by unrighteousness. ¹⁹This happens because what can be known about God is evident among them, because God made it evident among them. ²⁰In fact, his invisible characteristics – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, because they are understood from the things he made. As a result, people are without excuse, ²¹because, even though they knew God, they did not honor him or give him thanks as God. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless heart was darkened.

²²Although they claim to be wise, they have become fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human, or like birds, four-footed animals, and crawling things. ²⁴So, as they followed the sinful desires of their hearts, God handed them over to the impurity of degrading their own bodies among themselves. ²⁵Such people have traded the truth about God for the lie, worshipping and serving the creation rather than the Creator, who is worthy of praise forever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Romans 11:33

The minister speaks the verse.

Alleluia! Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

The Lord has a plan to separate wheat and weeds. Christians will be perfectly separated from every evil at the final harvest.

²⁴He presented another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵But while people were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶When the plants sprouted and produced heads of grain, the weeds also appeared. ²⁷The servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy did this.’ The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and gather up the weeds?’ ²⁹‘No,’ he answered, ‘because when you gather up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “First, gather up the weeds, bind them in bundles, and burn them. Then, gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

³⁶Then Jesus sent the people away and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

³⁷He answered them, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.
³⁸The field is the world. The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the Evil One. ³⁹The enemy who sowed them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the world. The reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Therefore, just as the weeds are gathered up and burned with fire, so it will be at the end of the world. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will pull out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and those who continue to break the law. ⁴²The angels will throw them into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

488 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

Sung as follows: st. 1: all, st. 2: males, st. 3-4: all, st. 5: females, st. 6: all

Sermon

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

Wait patiently for the harvest!

Please stand.

The Apostles' Creed

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

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

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

Be seated.

**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**

Aria
G.F. Handel

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church**Lord's Prayer**

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

Be seated.

Hymn

491 Come, You Thankful People, Come

Please stand.

Prayer

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

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

Amen.

Be seated.

Hymn

861 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head

Post-Service Music

A Rejoicing
Jacob B. Weber

Serving at Worship

Minister

Organ

Instrumentalist

Video streamer and slides

Video captions

Sound

Hymn selections

Pastor Gary Pufahl

Kevin Bode

Jacob Sallquist, *saxophone*

Reed Bode, Chris Wempner

Angie Keezer

George Willis

Lisa Thiesfeldt

Acknowledgments

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"Come Ye Thankful People Come" Ronald A. Nelson, (C) 2010 Augsburg Fortress.

"A Rejoicing" Jacob B. Weber, (C) 2015 CPH.

In our prayers

- Chris Heise – Home recovering and anticipating additional treatments.
- Kaylee – Home recovering from surgery and going through additional treatments.
- Bill Zidar – Battling cancer.

Ushers

8:00 a.m.

Reggie and Mason Marquez, Lance Marten

10:30 a.m.

Caden Head, Steve Meyers, Roger Odle, Mike Wilson

This week at Emmanuel

Sunday

Worship services

8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Church open forum

9:15 a.m.

In-person adult and teen Bible study

No class

Sunday school, junior high Bible study

9:15 a.m.

Ordination and installation service of

Pastoral candidate Daniel Gensmer

4:00 p.m.

Meal to follow

Tuesday

Church council meeting

6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Wednesday Bible study

8:30 a.m.

Drive through the Gospels

Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl

Emmanuel Family Night

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Thursday

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

Sunday, July 26

Worship services 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person adult and teen Bible study 9:15 a.m.
Timely Topics, Timeless Truths
Sunday school, junior high Bible study 9:15 a.m.

Looking ahead

July 28 Quarterly voters' meeting 6:30 p.m.
July 29 Wednesday Bible study 8:30 a.m.
Jonah: Running from God
Led by Pastor Daniel Gensmer
July 30 Thursday Bible study at Denny's 6:00 a.m.
21st Century Lessons from the Life of Joseph
Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at
Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)
August 1 Back-to-School work day 7:00-11:00 a.m.
August 2 Worship services 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study 9:15 a.m.
August 4 Stewardship meeting 8:00 p.m.
August 5 Wednesday Bible study 8:30 a.m.
Jonah: Grace in the deep
Led by Pastor Daniel Gensmer
Back-to-School orientation 4:30-7:30 p.m.
August 6 Thursday Bible study at Denny's 6:00 a.m.
21st Century Lessons from the Life of Joseph
Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at
Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)
August 8 Elders' meeting 7:30 a.m.
August 9 Worship services 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study 9:15 a.m.
August 12 ELS First Day of School
Wednesday Bible study 8:30 a.m.
Jonah: Grace for others
Led by Pastor Daniel Gensmer

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!



Connection card

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

Installation service and meal for Pastoral candidate Daniel Gensmer | Today

Emmanuel is receiving a new pastor today. Pastoral candidate Daniel Gensmer will be ordained into the Holy Ministry and installed as Emmanuel's youth and family ministry pastor this afternoon, Sunday, July 19. A special service will be held at 4:00 p.m., followed by a meal served in the Ministry and Education Center. Daniel and his wife, Rachel, recently welcomed their first child last month and are settling into their home here in Arizona. Please continue to keep them in your prayers during this new and exciting transition to Arizona.

For the meal, we will be hosting a Southwest fiesta and serving Mexican food. Please bring a dish to share; sign up [here](#) (or use the QR code) to see what food is needed and available service opportunities.



Meal and serving sign-up

Meal Train for the Gensmer family

Let's help welcome the Gensmer family as they settle into Arizona and life with a newborn. 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/8lqo28>; available dates and meal details can also be found on this link.



*Gensmer
Meal Train*

Emmanuel summer family nights

This summer we have been hosting Emmanuel Family Nights. This is a fun opportunity for us to gather for a meal or snack, a devotion, and a fun activity. These have been held on Wednesdays in June and July in Emmanuel's Ministry and Education Center (MEC). Any questions, contact Alysha Bergsma at church@elctempe.org or (480) 967-3983.

Our fourth and final summer night is this Wednesday, July 22, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Join us for movie night! We'll be watching *Angel Studio's* animated movie *David*. We'll be popping up bags of popcorn, but we encourage you to bring your favorite movie snack!

We'll also be serving a meal before our evening activity begins, if you'd like to join us for dinner. The meal will be at 5:00 p.m. in the MEC (Ministry and Education Center). We'll be providing pizza, along with lemonade and water. Sign up [here](#) (or use the QR code) to let us know you plan to join us for dinner and if you want to bring something to share. RSVP today to ensure we have enough food.



*July 22 - Summer
Night meal sign-up*

Please donate plastic bags

A member of our congregation makes mats for the homeless out of plastic bags. Please bring these bags on the fourth Sunday of the month to help her service to the homeless.

Support our Emmanuel Lutheran School teachers | School supply drive

As you walk down the store aisles and notice the back-to-school displays, please keep our school's wonderful teachers in mind. Teachers often purchase extra classroom supplies out of their own pockets to ensure their students have everything they need to succeed.

If you would like to bless our educators with a donation of school supplies, items can be dropped off at either the church or school office. Please clearly mark your bags or boxes *Donations for Teachers*. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting our school community!

Supplies needed:

- Expo markers - fine tip (black)
- Expo markers - broad tip (all colors)
- Crayola markers - broad tip (classic, tropical and bold colors)
- Crayola markers - fine tip (all colors)
- Crayola colored pencils
- Ink stamp pads - variety of colors
- Clear packing tape
- Masking tape
- Sharpie markers - all colors
- Fun pens - felt tip, ball point, gel (all colors)

Emmanuel Lutheran School art donations

The art department of Emmanuel Lutheran School is asking for donations for the upcoming school year. Please place all donations in the church or school offices. Please direct questions to Mrs. Amber Bode at (480) 694-4698. Thank you for making our art program a success!

- plastic water bottles (standard size - 16.9 oz)
- aluminum foil
- plastic tablecloths
- cleaned plastic (or glass) yogurt containers
- foam or paper plates
- cardboard squares or circles
- Ziploc (or off brand) plastic baggies of any size

Back-to-School work day | August 1

The annual Back-to-School work day is scheduled for Saturday, August 1. All parents, teens, and students are invited and encouraged to come and help get the campus and classrooms ready for the 2026-2027 school year. To beat the heat, the work day will begin at 7:00 a.m. and continue through the morning until the project list is completed. Even if you can't make it at 7:00 a.m., feel free to come a little later and stay for however long you are able. Many supplies will be made available, but you are welcome to bring your own cleaning supplies and materials.

Needy food pantry donations

Thank you to all who contribute goods to our food pantry. Your support is much appreciated! Currently we have an abundance of canned vegetables and pasta, so these items are not needed. Suggestions for other donations include peanut butter, cans of tuna or chicken, or individual fruit cups. Gift cards to Fry's or Walmart would also be helpful. If you have questions, please reach out to Alysha Bergsma in the office.

Christian education hour

Here is a list of our classes, topics, and locations for our Sunday morning education hour. *Please note the changes to our Christian education hour through the summer.*

Please note, there will be no **Adult Bible study** today (July 19, 2026) due to our church open forum. Classes will resume next Sunday, July 26. Join us at 9:15 a.m. in the Ministry and Education Center for the open forum.

The **Teen Bible study Grades 9-12** will be joining the adults in the Oak Room of the MEC for the open forum.

The **Junior High Bible study Grades 7-8** is meeting in the 7th grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is "What Makes Christians Different? Christians live as wheat among weeds."

The Sunday School for **Grades 3-6** is meeting in the 8th grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. They will be watching a movie today.

The Sunday School for **Kindergarten-Grade 2** is meeting in the 6th grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. They will be watching a movie today.

The **Sunday School for two- and three-year-olds and 4K** is meeting in the church nursery. Parents are encouraged to remain with their children. The study topic today is "God rescues 3 men."



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.

Pastor Gary A. Pufahl

gpufahl@elctempe.org

(262) 744-1619

Principal Craig Kiecker

ckiecker@elstempe.org

(623) 313-5614

Pastor Daniel J. Gensmer

dgensmer@elctempe.org

(615) 887-3816

Music Director Kevin Bode

kbode@elstempe.org

(480) 694-3532

Pastor Jon D. Buchholz

jonbuchholz@msn.com

(602) 377-1915

Financial Operations Mgr. Darcy Meyer

treasurer@elctempe.org

(480) 344-3783

Pastor Daniel D. Pautz

danpautz7@gmail.com

(480) 766-2994

School Secretary Amani Campos

school@elstempe.org

(480) 967-3991

Church Secretary Alysha Bergsma

church@elctempe.org

(480) 967-3983

Member Ministry Coordinator

Benjamin Ruppel

bruppel@elctempe.org

(480) 967-3983



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).

*715 West Southern Avenue
Tempe, Arizona 85282*

*(480) 967-3983 church • (480) 967-3991 school
church@elctempe.org
www.elctempe.org*