



Christ the King | Last Sunday of the Church Year

The promise creates expectation

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

November 23, 2025

Welcome!

We are honored that you are with us today. May the Word of God that you hear strengthen your faith and increase your desire to serve the Lord! If you are a guest today, we are thankful you have joined us. We hope that you will join us again soon.

For your convenience

For your convenience, please take note of the following:

- **Restrooms** are to the left as you exit the sanctuary.
- **Nursery.** There is a room where children may be quieted to the left down the hall across from the bathrooms as you exit the sanctuary.
- **Children's 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.*

Christ the King | Last Sunday of the Church Year — November 23, 2025

Cause and Effect: The promise creates expectation

The Church has marked the passing of yet another Church Year, waiting for our Lord to return. How long will we have to wait and watch for Jesus? We do not know. Jesus said he would return soon. But the definition of “soon” for the One who has no beginning or end will naturally differ from ours. Whenever Jesus returns, it will take us by surprise. So, how do believers avoid growing lethargic? How do we remain ready and watchful for Christ's return? Our Savior points us to his Scriptures.

The promises Jesus has made us this past year — promises that give us comfort and hope and purpose — were not merely spoken. Jesus ensured those promises were written down in Scripture. As we see in Scripture all the promises that Christ has fulfilled, there is discernable effect. The Spirit creates within us an eager anticipation regarding the Scriptural promises that are as-of-yet unfilled. While we cannot be certain when the day of fulfillment will come, we are completely confident of what that day will bring. No matter how many years we must mark, we watch with eager anticipation, and we pray, “Amen! Come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20).

Service of the Word and Sacrament



Pre-Service Music

Nearer, My God to Thee

Brad Jacobsen

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Paul Thurmond

In God, My Faithful God

Valerie Floeter

The God of Abraham Praise

Sandra Eithun

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

David Nevue

Opening Hymn

490 The Clouds of Judgment Gather

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**.*

Choir:

I wait – my soul waits – for the Lord; my hope is in his word.

More than the watchman waits for dawn my soul waits for the Lord.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 130

LORD, from the depths I call to you;

**Lord, hear me from on high and give attention to my voice when I for mercy
cry.**

Lord, in your presence who can stand, if you our sins record?

But yet forgiveness is with you, that we may fear you, Lord.

All:



I will wait for you, I will wait for you; on your
word, I will re - ly. I will wait for you, sure - ly
wait for you, till my soul is sat-is - fied.

The musical score for the 'All:' section is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'I will wait for you, I will wait for you; on your word, I will re - ly. I will wait for you, sure - ly wait for you, till my soul is sat-is - fied.'

Were you to count my sinful ways,
how could I come before your throne?

Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze;
I stand redeemed by grace alone.

So put your hope in God alone;
take courage in his pow'r to save —

completely and forever won
by Christ emerging from the grave.

All:



I will wait for you, I will wait for you; on your
word, I will re - ly. I will wait for you, sure - ly
wait for you, till my soul is sat-is - fied.

This musical score is identical to the one above, featuring the same melody and lyrics for the 'All:' section.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.
Amen.

Now he has come to make a way,
and God himself has paid the price,

that all who trust in him today
find healing in his sacrifice.

All:



Choir:

*I wait – my soul waits – for the Lord; my hope is in his word.
More than the watchman waits for dawn my soul waits for the Lord.*

Be seated.

Anthem

Keep Your Lamps
Spiritual
André Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.

Christian, journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Today's Gospel makes reference to Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish virgins. Jesus' message is one of warning: be ready, for you do not know the day nor hour of my return! This anthem has been considered a slave song. One can only speculate that such a song was sung often by slaves and provided great hope that freedom was near. Likewise, we Christians pray for Jesus to come quickly and bring us to heaven where we are free from all sin.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of his return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Habakkuk 1:1–3; 2:1–4

*The LORD instructs
the prophet
Habakkuk to write
down what he was
about to hear God
say. That revelation
empowered God's
people to anticipate
God's deliverance.*

¹The threatening oracle which the prophet Habakkuk saw.

²How long, LORD, must I cry for help, but you do not listen?

I call out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save!

³Why do you cause me to see injustice?

Why do you overlook misery?

Devastation and violence confront me.

There is strife, and tensions rise.

⁴I will stand at my watch post and station myself on the city wall. I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer he will give to my complaint.

²Then the LORD answered me. He said:

Record the vision and write it plainly on tablets so that a herald may run with it.

³Indeed, the vision is waiting for the appointed time. It longs for fulfillment and will not prove false. If it seems slow in coming, wait for it, because it will certainly come and will not be delayed.

⁴Look, his soul is puffed up and is not righteous within him
—but the righteous one will live by his faith.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Revelation 22:6–13

⁶The angel said to me, “These words are faithful and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

⁷“And look: I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who holds on to the words of the prophecy of this book.”

⁸I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. When I heard and saw them, I bowed down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. ⁹But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and also with those who hold on to the words of this book. Worship God!”

¹⁰The angel also said to me:
Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near.
¹¹Let the one who is unjust continue to be unjust.
Let the one who is filthy continue to be filthy.
Let the one who is just continue to do what is just.
Let the one who is holy continue to be holy.

¹²Look, I am coming soon and my reward is with me, to repay each one according to what he has done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 24:42

The congregation sings each refrain. The minister sings the verse.



Therefore watch for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Refrain

Gospel

Luke 12:35–40

*Though we cannot
know when Jesus
will return, we can
be certain what will
happen when he
does. So, we watch
and wait with
anticipation.*

³⁵“Be dressed, ready for service, and keep your lamps burning. ³⁶Be like people waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷Blessed are those servants, whom the master will find watching when he comes. Amen I tell you: He will dress himself and have them recline at the table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸Even if he comes in the second or third watch, they will be blessed if he finds them alert. ³⁹But know this: If the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you are not expecting him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

486 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Sermon

Habakkuk 1:1–3; 2:1–4

How long, O Lord?

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

Still, My Soul Be Still

James Koerts

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.

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 preserves his Church to the end of time, when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to 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 pow - er,
God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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.

Jesus, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

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

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

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

Be seated.

Distribution

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

639 God Has Spoken by His Prophets
850 It Is Well with My Soul

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.

Post-Service Music

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

Valerie Floeter

Jerusalem, My Happy Home

Sandra Eithun, Valerie Floeter

Serving at Worship

Preaching Minister

Presiding Minister

Piano

Choir

Video streamer and slides

Video captions

Sound

Acolyte

Pastor Jon Buchholz

Pastor Gary Pufahl

Erin Hahnke

Adult choir

Jacob Sallquist, Lauren Sallquist

Chris Wempner

George Willis

Colton Sallquist (8:00 a.m.)

Acknowledgments

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In our prayers

- Lois Henderson – Diagnosed with lung disease.
- John Kissinger – Recovering from an accident.
- Seth Meyer – Recovering in Colorado from a car accident.
- Alexis Naumann – Receiving treatment for illness.
- Kaylee – Diagnosed with cancer.
- Susan Score – Recovering from a recent surgery.
- Thankfulness for the much-needed rain.

Ushers

8:00 a.m.

Daniel Janes, Dane Lieske, Myles Lieske, Sean Lieske

10:30 a.m.

Matt Corrigan, Caden Head, Mike Richey, Tristan Richey

Flowers

Thank you to Margaret and Alicia Benson for beautifying our sanctuary with altar flowers in memory of Meghan Benson.

Communion

Thank you to Karen Combs and Alice Orlowski for helping set up Communion for the weekend.

Landscaping

Thank you to Wes and Cathy Wightman for helping maintain, trim and clean the outside church property this week.



*Emmanuel usher
sign-up.*

This week at Emmanuel

Sunday

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

Monday

Monday night worship service	6:30 p.m.
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Wednesday

Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
	<i>Pastoral Epistles</i>
	<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
ELS early dismissal	12:00 p.m.
Thanksgiving Eve worship service	6:30 p.m.
Adult choir	No practice

Thursday

Thanksgiving Day	Church office closed
ELS Thanksgiving break	No school
Thanksgiving Day worship service	9:00 a.m.
Thursday Bible study at Denny's	No class
God's Ways Bible study	No class
Bible Basics	No class

Friday

Thanksgiving	Church office closed
ELS Thanksgiving break	No school

Saturday

Decorate sanctuary and MEC for Christmas	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
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Sunday, November 30

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

Looking ahead

December 1	Monday night worship service	6:30 p.m.
December 2	Special voters' call meeting	6:30 p.m.
	Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.
December 3	Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
		<i>Pastoral Epistles</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
	Midweek Advent services	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	Midweek Advent meal in the MEC	4:30-6:30 p.m.
	Adult choir in the MEC	7:30 p.m.

December 4	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Abraham</i>	
	<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>	
	<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>	
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
	<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>	
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
	<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>	
December 5	Chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
December 6	Invitation handout (<i>meet in the MEC</i>)	9:00 a.m.
December 7	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.
	Advent by Candlelight	2:00-4:00 p.m.
December 8	Monday night worship service	6:30 p.m.
December 9	School Board meeting	6:30 p.m.
December 10	Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
	<i>Pastoral Epistles</i>	
	<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>	
	Christmas service: Preschool-Grade 2	3:30 p.m.
	Midweek Advent meal in the MEC	4:30-6:30 p.m.
	Midweek Advent service	6:30 p.m.
	Adult choir in the MEC	7:30 p.m.
December 11	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Abraham</i>	
	<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>	
	<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>	
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
	<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>	
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
	<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>	
December 12	Chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
December 13	ELS soccer tournament at AZ Lutheran	TBA
December 14	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.
	Christmas service: Grades 3-8	4:00 p.m.
December 15	Monday night worship service	6:30 p.m.
December 16	Joy Fellowship at Barleen's	11:00 a.m.
	Church Council meeting	6:00 p.m.

**Connection card**

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

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!

Special voters' call meeting on December 2, 2025

We are planning a special voters' meeting for Tuesday, December 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the Ministry and Education Center, to extend a call for a pastor to serve in the areas of youth and family ministry. We also have a motion for the voters to vote on regarding the Monday evening worship service. All are welcome to attend the meeting. The voters are male communicant members over the age of 18. Please join us for this special meeting. Here are the motions for the voters.

- *The voters extend a call to a candidate on a call list to serve as our pastor overseeing youth and family ministries. [Motion brought by the Church Council. This recommendation is made in light of the fact that Pastor Steve Gabb has returned our call. The Church Council recommends a pastor who will also help with the preaching responsibilities and evangelism opportunities. Other duties may include our school ministry and campus ministry at ASU.]*
- *The voters approve immediately discontinuing the Monday night worship service. [Motion brought by the Board of Elders supported by the Church Council. This is a recommendation made due to chronically low attendance, prioritization of ministries during the current pastoral vacancy, anticipation of the busyness of the upcoming holiday season, and as part of a caring effort to reduce pastoral workloads. The elders strongly recommend ending the offering of corporate worship on Monday evenings. In the future, at the direction of the Worship Committee, the elders may revisit options for offering a regular worship service outside the Sunday morning time block. This may be prompted by the filling of our pastoral vacancy, implemented as part of an expanded ministry plan, offered in conjunction with sister congregations in the Valley.]*

Thanksgiving worship services

"Give thanks unto the Lord for he is good!" We have a good and gracious God who has shown us much kindness and given us many gifts. As many in our nation gather around the dinner table to reflect on their thankfulness through a family meal, we invite you to join us to first give thanks to God.

Our Thanksgiving worship services will be on Wednesday, November 26, at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m. Join us in giving thanks.

New Meditations available

Meditations is a daily devotional magazine that is released every three months. Each daily devotion has a Scripture reading, a meditation, and a prayer. Your complimentary copy of *Meditations* is available on the back counter at church. Please pick up the current issue that starts with a devotion for November 30.

Sanctuary and MEC decorating | November 29

Please join us this coming Saturday, November 29, as we gather to decorate the church sanctuary and Ministry and Education Center (MEC) for Christmas. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and anticipate 3 to 4 hours to complete the decorating. If you can come for a part of the time or all of the time, we would appreciate the help. Especially needed are individuals willing to climb ladders. Refreshments will be provided. You can sign up [here](#) by using the provided QR code to let us know how many people to expect. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Henriksen at (602) 301-6243 for sanctuary or Chet Jaehnig at (480) 329-5766 for MEC.



*Christmas
decorating sign-up*

Prayers and gift cards for Kaylee and family

Kaylee, a fifth-grader at our Emmanuel Lutheran School, has been diagnosed with cancer and begun chemotherapy treatments. We keep Kaylee and her family in our prayers.

Our Emmanuel family has an opportunity to assist and support Kaylee's family by giving a gift card to help with meals and groceries. Some of the family's preferred locations are Panera Bread, Salad-and-Go, Chick-fil-A, and Fry's. If you wish to give a gift card, you can drop it off in the church or school offices and it will be delivered to the family. An easy way to purchase gifts cards is by purchasing them from Emmanuel's RaiseRight coordinators, John and Jean Mueller, on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the MEC or visit our webpage at elctempe.org/raiserright to learn more.

We want to thank all those who donated last Sunday before and between services. All funds raised were given to Kaylee's family.

RaiseRight gift card 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, 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/raiserright to learn more.



*Mission to the
Children – Amazon
wish list*

Mission to the Children gifts | Christmas toy and hygiene 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. There's so much to love about Christmas. Whether it's the miraculous account of Jesus' birth or the cherished time we spend with family and friends, this is truly a blessed time of year.

Please join us in making Christmas a little brighter for the less fortunate families Mission to the Children serves in Mexico and southern Arizona. Place your gift donations into the blue bins that you'll find in the church lobby and in the Ministry and Education Center (MEC). All gifts must be brought to Emmanuel by Monday, December 1. Thank you for your generosity!

Items needed:

- Unwrapped toys (up to \$10 value each)
- Small toys for canvassing bags
- Spanish coloring or activity books
- New socks and underwear (all ages)
- Hygiene items (full size)
- Individually wrapped candy

Mission to the Children has also created an Amazon wish list; items can be shipped to them directly from this list. Scan the QR code for more information.

Gift cards and monetary donations can be mailed to:

Mission to the Children
PO Box 42223
Tucson, Arizona 85733

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/.

All Things New Advent devotions

Looking for a new devotion for the Advent season? *All Things New* is Martin Luther College's newest devotion book. As we gather around the manger this year, we'll ponder Jesus' words in Revelation 21:5, "I am making everything new!" In these devotions, we'll see that through the coming of Christ – his birth at Christmas, his presence in our hearts through faith, and his triumphant return at the end of the world – God indeed makes all things new.

Get your complimentary copy of *All Things New* today; copies are available in the church narthex and the MEC. 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](#) by using the QR code.



*Daily devotions
email sign-up*

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 (which start Wednesday, December 3).

Midweek Advent services and meals

Advent is a time of preparation for Jesus' birth. To prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus, we will gather for three midweek Advent worship services on Wednesdays, December 3, 10, and 17, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. Our midweek Advent theme is *Bible Songs of Christmas*. Come early and join in the pre-service singalong of your favorite Christmas hymns and carols. Escape the rush and hurry of the commercialized pre-Christmas season, and quiet your heart in repentance, contemplation, and worship of Jesus, the true Reason for the Season.

During the time between the afternoon and evening services we'll gather in the MEC for Advent suppers. Watch for more information on what to bring.

Invite our neighbors to Jesus' birthday | December 6

As the shepherds did so long ago, running through the streets telling everyone the good news of what they heard and saw, it is our time to do the same. On Saturday, December 6, we will meet in the Ministry and Education Center at 9:00 a.m. to distribute maps and materials. We then 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.

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.

Poinsettia donations

Help beautify the church this Christmas season. Women of the Word (WOW) will be selling ten poinsettias to decorate the altar for December. The cost is \$15 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 7.



*Advent by
Candlelight
sign-up*

Advent by Candlelight | December 7

Ladies of Emmanuel (and friends and family) are invited to join us for Advent by Candlelight on Sunday, December 7, at 2:00 p.m. The event will be held in the Ministry and Education Center (MEC) at Emmanuel. This is an event put on by women, and for women. It is a time to reflect on the coming of the Savior and to help refocus our lives during the busy holiday season. It is a time of fellowship, devotion, and song.

We have room for a few more tables if you are interested in being a host. That means you will have a table of up to 8 ladies and be responsible for decorating your table and providing small finger foods and drinks for your table. Hostesses can sign up using the QR code or the sign-up sheet in the MEC. Please reach out to Bethany Olson (abcolson14@gmail.com) or Alysha Bergsma (church@elctempe.org) if you would like more information, or visit our website [here](#).

You don't have to host a table to attend! If you'd like to attend but don't wish to host a table, attendees can sign up using the QR code or the sign-up sheet in the MEC. Invite your female friends and family members to join you. We hope to see you there! All hostesses and attendees, please sign up by today (Sunday, November 23).

Joy Fellowship | December 16

Our Joy Fellowship group is for those 55 years and older. On Tuesday, December 16, we have 30 seats reserved at Barleens Dinner Show in Apache Junction (2275 E. Old West Hwy, Apache Junction, AZ 85119) for the 11:00 a.m. show. *Home for the Holidays* is a seasonal mix of holiday classics. The cost is \$52 per person. Please pay Chet Jaehnig or Wendy Binger by December 2. A sign-up sheet is available in the Ministry and Education Center. Any questions, contact Wendy Binger at jbwendy97@gmail.com.

A reminder about our church library

The church library is located in the back of the church; look for the door to your right as you exit the sanctuary. There are lots of books to choose from: children's books, Christian fiction, People's Bibles and more. No library card is needed – just fill out the form (clip board) to check out a book. When you're ready to return a book, you can place it in the brown basket under the window area in the library. Parents, please help our young readers return books after two weeks.

Campus custodian

We are looking for a part-time custodian to assist Benjamin Ruppel with campus duties. The main focus will be working as School Custodian. The person hired will be working evenings and possibly weekends for approximately 20 hours per week. Any interested individuals please contact Benjamin Ruppel at (480) 967-3983 or bruppel@elctempe.org to go over details and scope of work.

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 "Sacraments and Keys."

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

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 "Cause and Effect: The promise creates expectation."

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 "Cause and Effect: The promise creates expectation."

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

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

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

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 cares for 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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