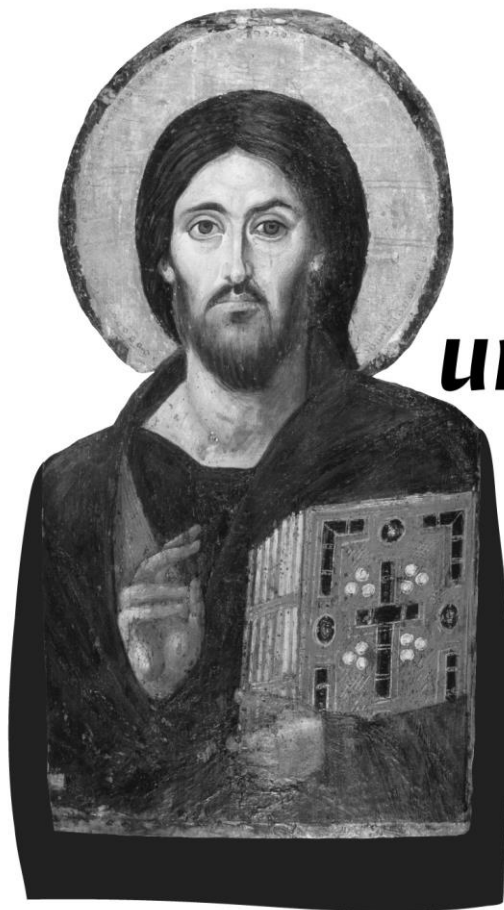




unexpected **TRUTHS**

Pentecost 13

The Son of Man is God
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
August 23, 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.*

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost —August 23, 2026

Unexpected Truths: The Son of Man is God

Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say I am?"

It's the most important question in the world, and it is a question every human being must answer.

Sadly, the answer many give is dead wrong.

Some in Jesus' day thought he was John the Baptist. Some thought he was the prophet Elijah who had come back from the dead. Today plenty of people believe that Jesus existed. They think that Jesus was a wise teacher or a role model for love. Both answers are expected. Both miss the main point.

Jesus is a real human being, the Son of Man. He is also Lord and Savior, the Son of the living God. This unexpected truth is the core of saving faith.

Service of the Word and Sacrament



Pre-Service Music

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Heather Sorenson

In Christ Alone

James Koerts

Prelude in Bb

J.S. Bach

Opening Hymn

782 Luther's Morning Prayer

1 I thank you, heav'n-ly Fa - ther, thro' Je - sus, your dear Son,
2 I trust my soul and bod - y in - to your lov - ing hands.

that you this night have kept me from dan - ger and from harm.
All things that I en - coun - ter I leave to your good plans.

Keep me this day from e - vil, that all I say and do
Send me your ho - ly an - gel to rout the e - vil one

be pleas - ing and re - flec - tive of love first shown by you.
and crush his dread - ful pow - ers. A - men. Your will be done.

Please stand.

Invocation

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

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

Confession and Absolution

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only-begotten Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

Response

615 Jesus, Thank You

*Introduced at the Song
Service in May, this
new hymn combines
distinctively Lutheran
words with a very
pleasing melody
suitable for all ages.*

1 The mys-t'ry of the cross I can-not com-pre-hend,
2 By your per-fect sac-ri-fice I've been brought near.
the ag-o-nies of Cal-va-ry.
Your en-e-my you've made your friend.
You, the per-fect Ho-ly One, crushed your Son, who
Pour-ing out the rich-es of your glo-rious grace, your
drank the bit-ter cup re-served for me.
mer-cy and your kind-ness know no end.

Refrain



Your blood has washed a-way my sin; Je-sus, thank you.

The Fa-ther's wrath com-plete-ly sat-is-fied;

Je-sus, thank you. Once your en-e-my, now

seat-ed at your ta-ble; Je-sus, thank you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; 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.

The Word

First Reading

Exodus 34:5-9

⁵The LORD came down in the cloud. He took his stand there with Moses and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶The LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed: "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and overflowing with mercy and truth, ⁷maintaining mercy for thousands, forgiving guilt and rebellion and sin. He will by no means clear the guilty. He calls their children and their children's children to account for the guilt of the fathers, even to the third and the fourth generation."

God proclaimed to Moses what he was like. Likewise, the Church's job is to proclaim to the world who Christ is and what he is like.

⁸Moses quickly bowed to the ground and worshipped. ⁹He said, "If I have now found favor in your sight, Lord, please let the Lord go along with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, pardon our guilt and our sin, and accept us as your possession."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 103



Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;



wor-ship his ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore,



O my soul; I'll wor - ship your ho - ly name.



- 1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn - ing; —
- 2 You're rich in love, and you're slow to an - ger. Your
- 3 And on that day when my strength is fail - ing, the



it's time to sing your — song a - gain. What - ev - er may
name — is — great, and your heart is kind. For all — your
end — draws — near, and my time has come; still — my



pass, — and what - ev - er lies be - fore me,
good-ness, I will keep — on — sing - ing—
soul will sing your praise — un - end - ing—



Refrain

let me be sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.
ten thou-sand rea - sons for my heart to find.
ten thou-sand years and then for - ev - er - more.

Second Reading

Romans 10:5-13

⁵Indeed, Moses writes this about the righteousness that comes by the law: "The one who does these things will live by them." ⁶But the righteousness that comes by faith speaks like this: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith that we are proclaiming. ⁹Certainly, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and it is with the mouth that a person confesses, resulting in salvation. ¹¹For Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."

St. Paul teaches that those who know in their heart that Jesus is both Lord and Savior will be saved. They really know Jesus.

¹²So there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives generously to all who call on him. ¹³Yes, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

John 6:68

Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴They said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵He said to them, "But you, who do you say that I am?"

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overpower it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he commanded the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The truth upon which God builds his Church is this: Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

The Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Sermon

Exodus 34:5-9

It's God's name, not noise.

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

Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness

John Leavitt

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.



C: And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



Words of Institution

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

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men.

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

657 Baptismal Waters Cover Me

564 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Please stand.

Thanksgiving

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



C: A - men.

The Blessing

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated.

Post-Service Music

Psalm 19

Benedetto Marcello

Serving at Worship

Preaching Minister

Presiding Minister

Organ

Acolytes

Instrumentalist

Video streamer and slides

Video captions

Sound

Pastor Daniel Gensmer

Pastor Jon Buchholz

Kevin Bode

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

Colton Sallquist, *trumpet*

Reed Bode, Charlie Myers

Jeremy Burmeister

George Willis

Acknowledgments

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"In Christ Alone" James Koerts, © 1995 Thank You Music.
"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" John Leavitt, © 2001 CPH.

In our prayers

- Kathy Corrigan – Home recovering.
- Chris Heise – Home recovering.
- Kaylee – Home recovering from surgery and going through additional treatments.
- Bill Zidar – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Much-needed rain for the state of Arizona.

Flowers

Thank you to Janell Weir for beautifying our sanctuary with altar flowers in loving memory of family members who have passed.

Communion

Thank you to Cindy Frey and Jane Maasz for helping set up Communion for this weekend.

Ushers

8:00 a.m.	Al and Will Meihak, Tim and Sam Warren
10:30 a.m.	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>Hebrews</i>
Sunday school, teen and junior high Bible study	9:15 a.m.

Wednesday

Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m. <i>Book of Daniel</i> <i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
Adult choir practice resumes	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.
ELS Family Fall grill-out	5:30-7:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 30

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.

Looking ahead

September 1	Communications meeting	6:30 p.m.
	Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.
September 2	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 3	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 4	ELS chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
September 5	Elders' meeting	7:30-8:30 a.m.
September 6	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
	Pancake breakfast	8:00-10:15 a.m.
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.

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!

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 new issue that starts with a devotion for August 30.

Adult choir resumes | August 26

Any high-school age student and older is invited to be involved with our congregation's adult choir. We meet Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. to prepare music for our worship throughout the year. A new year begins this Wednesday, August 26, in the MEC (Ministry and Education Center). If you can carry a tune, you are encouraged to join this group! The time together is upbeat, and making music for God's glory is emotionally powerful. Can't make every week but still would like to be involved? There are several options available to you. Childcare is provided throughout the year. For more information, contact Kevin Bode at kbode@elstempe.org or (480) 694-3532.



Connection card

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

Emmanuel Lutheran School 2026-2027 t-shirts

Would you like to order an Emmanuel Lutheran School t-shirt? The black and yellow t-shirt incorporates the 2026-2027 school theme, *Courageous in Christ*, with the theme passage from 1 Corinthians 16:13. T-shirts are \$15 each and are available in Youth (small, medium, large) and Adult (small, medium, large, XL, XXL, XXXL). The deadline for ordering t-shirts is tomorrow, Monday, August 24. To order, please contact Amani Campos in the school office at (480) 967-3991 or at school@elstempe.org.

Junior Coyote | Volleyball club this Fall

Girls in grades 4-8 are still welcome to join the Jr. Coyote volleyball club. This club continues this coming Saturday (August 29) and three Saturdays in September and October in the Arizona Lutheran gymnasium. Register at alacoyotes.org/jrvbclub.

Save the date for our annual pancake breakfast | September 6

Join us on 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.

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 signup 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.

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.

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).

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.

Needy food pantry donations

A big thank-you to all who have donated goods to our food pantry. Your support is much appreciated!

Currently we have an abundance of canned vegetables, tuna and chicken, peanut butter and pasta, so these items are not needed. Suggestions for other donations are gift cards to Fry's or Walmart. If you have questions, please reach out to Alysha Bergsma in the office.

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](https://www.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.

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 be in need of 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 “Hebrews.”

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: The Son of Man is God.”

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: The Son of Man is God.”

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

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

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

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 animals.”

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.

Pastor Gary A. Pufahl

gpufahl@elctempe.org

(262) 744-1619

Principal Craig Kiecker

ckiecker@elstempe.org

(623) 313-5614

Pastor Daniel R. Gensmer

[dgersmer@elctempe.org](mailto: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*