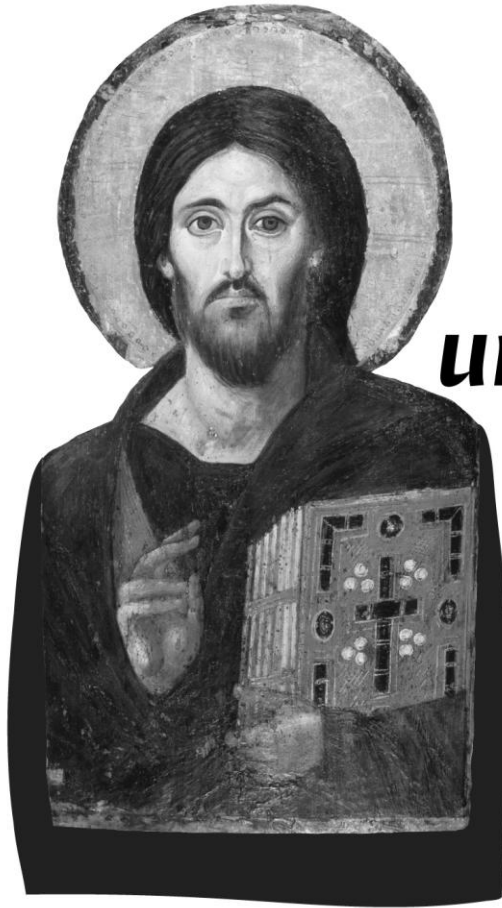




unexpected
TRUTHS

Pentecost 18

Real repentance looks different

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

September 27, 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.*

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost —September 27, 2026

Unexpected Truths: Real repentance looks different

It might be expected for someone to look sorry when they are caught doing something wrong. You might even see tears and hear words of apology. But you might not be surprised when the shock of being caught wears off – and so does the intensity of the repentance.

Real repentance looks different. God doesn't want us to simply go through religious motions like some sort of show. God desires a change of heart. God's desire is that our repentance would demonstrate sincere sorrow over sin. It might be unexpected, but God wants us to see the grace and forgiveness he has shown us in Christ, and in response, to love him back deeply and sincerely.

Service of the Word and Sacrament



Pre-Service Music

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

Michael D. Costello

As the Deer

arr. R. Lyndel Littleton

Today Your Mercy Calls Us

Benjamin M. Culli

Opening Hymn

637 The Law of God Is Good and Wise

Please stand.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The service continues on the next page.

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

Confession

Psalm 51

Join the choir to sing the confession.

Refrain



Be mer - ci - ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Verses



1. Al - might - y God, I am crushed and bro - ken. — Your
2. "My will be done" is the path I've fol - lowed; I
3. I see my sin, al - ways right be - fore me. — O



word has torn in - to my soul, re - veal - ing a - gain
have dis-graced your ho - ly name. Great God, can it be,
Lord my God, what have I done! I — know deep with - in



the reb-el I've been. Fa - ther, I pray, make me whole.
you'd care a-bout me, sin-soaked and dripp-ing with shame?
that all of my sin rails a - gainst you, you a - lone.

to refrain

Absolution

CW 172

Rejoice and be glad! 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Be seated.

Anthem

All the Earth Adores You

John Angotti

*All the earth adores you, adores you, O God,
And sings to you, singing your name, O Most High.*

Come and see the works of God present in our daily lives.

We sing your praise, O Most High.

Creation springs.

New life abounds.

We're gathered here on holy ground.

We sing your praise, O Most High.

Ev'ry knee shall bow before you.

Ev'ry tongue confess that you are

awesome, mighty, wonderful, merciful, always forgiving, God.

*All the earth adores you, adores you, O God,
And sings to you, singing your name, O Most High.*

Blessed be the merciful God.

Blessed be the name of God.

Blessed be the Son of God.

Blessed be the Lamb of God.

Ev'ry knee shall bow before you.

Ev'ry tongue confess that you are

awesome, mighty, wonderful, merciful, always forgiving, God.

*All the earth adores you, adores you, O God,
And sings to you, singing your name, O Most High.*

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; 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

Ezekiel 18:1–4,25–32

The prophet Ezekiel gives a strong warning to Christians who have grown dismissive of their sin. God wants sincere repentance that leads to true obedience.

¹The word of the LORD came to me:

²What do you mean, you who keep repeating this proverb concerning the soil of Israel, “Fathers eat sour grapes, and their sons' teeth are set on edge”? ³As surely as I live, declares the LORD God, you will never again use this proverb in Israel. ⁴Indeed, all souls are mine. The soul of the father is mine just like the soul of the son. The soul who sins is the one who will die.

²⁵But you say, “The Lord's way is not fair.” Listen now, house of Israel. Is it my way that is not fair? Is it not your ways that are not fair? ²⁶If a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and practices unrighteousness, he will die because of it. Because of the unrighteousness that he has practiced, he will die.

²⁷But if a wicked man turns from his wickedness that he has done and practices justice and righteousness, he will preserve his life. ²⁸Because he has seen and turned away from all the rebellious acts that he had committed, he will surely live, and he will not die. ²⁹But the house of Israel says, “The Lord's way is not fair.” Is it really my ways that are not fair, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not fair?

³⁰Therefore, I will judge each one of you according to his ways, O house of Israel, declares the LORD God. Repent and turn away from all your rebellious acts, so that you will not set out a stumbling block that makes you guilty.

³¹Throw off from yourselves all your rebellious actions by which you have rebelled, and obtain a new heart and a new spirit for yourselves. Why should you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, declares the LORD God. So repent and live!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1–11

Moved by Christ's love and empowered by the Spirit, we sincerely attempt to imitate the selflessness and humility of Jesus.

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one mind. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility consider one another better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look carefully not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

⁵Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. ⁶Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, ⁷but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on

a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalms 51:17

The congregation sings each refrain and verse.



Refrain



Tone



Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

²³When Jesus went into the temple courts, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him while he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things?" and "Who gave you this authority?"

²⁴Jesus answered them, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer it, I will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, where was it from? From heaven or from men?"

They discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Then why did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'From men,' we are afraid of the crowd, since they all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know."

He said to them, "Then I will not tell you by what authority I do these things."

Through a story Jesus teaches that sincere love for God involves not just saying what God wants to hear but doing what God wants done.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in my vineyard.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰He came to the second and said the same thing. The second son answered, ‘I will go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?”

They said to him, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Amen I tell you: The tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, but you did not believe him. However, the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him. Even when you saw this, you did not change your mind and believe him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

737 Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

Sermon

Philippians 2:1–11

Like Christ

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

Before You God, the Judge of All

Anne Krentz

Personal Preparation for Holy Communion

As you prepare to receive the Sacrament today, you may use the Christian Questions on page 295 in your blue hymnal or Personal Preparation on page 19 of this service folder.

Please stand.

The Sacrament

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of 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 T 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 T 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.

*This served as
Emmanuel
Lutheran School's
hymn of the week.*

Distribution Hymn

663 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

Anthem (8:00 a.m.)

Blest Be The Tie That Binds

*Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.*

*Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.*

*We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.*

*When here our pathways part,
we suffer bitter pain;
yet, one in Christ and one in heart,
we hope to meet again.*

*From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.*

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.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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 T give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated.

Post-Service Music

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

Michael Burkhardt

Serving at Worship

Preaching Minister

Presiding Minister

Organ

Choir

Soloists

Tone Chimes

Instrumentalists

Acolyte

Video streamer and slides

Video captions

Sound

Pastor Gary Pufahl

Pastor Daniel Gensmer

Lisa Thiesfeldt

Junior Choir

Kris Pufahl, *accompanist*

Nathaniel Ehlers, Lucas Hahnke, Lea Rosales

Craig Kiecker, *director*

Chandler Balgeman, *bass*

Kali Gonzalez, Maddie Leppert,

Raeleigh Rakowski, Zoe Willis, *brass*

King Carter (8:00 a.m.)

Reed Bode, Chris Wempner

Chris Wempner

George Willis

Acknowledgments

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In our prayers

- Ken Dins – Home recovering.
- Chris Heise – Home recovering.
- Kaylee – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Bill Welker – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Bill Zidar – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Much-needed rain for the state of Arizona.

Communion

Thank you to Barb Andrews and Jackie Beals for helping set up Communion for this weekend.

Landscaping

Thank you to Lance Marten for helping maintain, trim and clean the outside church property this week.

Ushers

8:00 a.m.	Tony Orłowski, Barry Redman, Andy Wait, Kevin Wenzel
10:30 a.m.	Caden Head, Mike and Bradley Reeve, Benjamin Ruppel

This week at Emmanuel

Sunday

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person adult Bible study	9:15 a.m.
	<i>Adult Bible class: Beyond the Temple Walls</i>
	<i>Table Talk: Creation and Science: Friends or Foes?</i>
Sunday school, teen and junior high Bible study	9:15 a.m.
Public school Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.
Emmanuel teen night	6:00-8:00 p.m.

Monday

Light in the Valley – campus ministry	6:00-7:30 p.m.
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Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

ELS chapel 8:30 a.m.

ELS early release 1:50 p.m.

Saturday

Elders' meeting 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 4

Blood Drive 7:00-10:30 a.m.

Worship services 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

In-person adult Bible study 9:15 a.m.

Adult Bible class: Beyond the Temple Walls

Table Talk: Creation and Science: Friends or Foes?

Sunday school, teen and junior high Bible study 9:15 a.m.

Public school Catechism 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Looking ahead

October 6 Communications meeting 6:30 p.m.

Stewardship meeting 8:00 p.m.

October 7 School Board meeting 6:00 p.m.

October 10 Invitation handout: Family Fall Festival 9:00-11:00 a.m.

October 11 Pastor appreciation reception 9:00-9:30 a.m.

Church open forum 9:15 a.m.

Adult Bible study, Sunday school, teen study No classes

October 12-16 ELS Fall break No school

October 14 Adult choir practice 6:30 p.m.

October 15 God's Ways Bible study No class this week

October 17 ELS football tournament TBA

Arizona Lutheran Academy

October 19 ELS Classes resume

October 20 Church Council meeting Canceled

October 21 Wednesday Bible study No class this week

October 23 ELS parent/teacher conferences No school

October 24 ELS volleyball tournament TBA

Arizona Lutheran Academy

Fall campus work day 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

WELS Youth Night @ Emmanuel 5:00-8:00 p.m.

October 25 East Valley Area Reformation service 4:00 p.m.

October 27 Quarterly Voters' meeting 6:30-8:30 p.m.

October 30 ELS Christ-Connection-Coffee 9:00-10:00 a.m.

following ELS chapel

November 1 Family Fall Festival 4:00-6:00 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!



*Teen night
questionnaire*

Emmanuel teen night | This evening (Sunday, September 27)

This evening, Sunday, September 27, Emmanuel invites all high school-age teens to join us for some time in God's word, food, and games. The night will run from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Along with this exciting opportunity, we hope to establish a monthly opportunity for our teens to take a deep dive into God's word and how it applies to our lives today. The Bible is the ultimate resource God equips us with to face the challenges the world throws our way. With this in mind, we invite all the teens to submit questions, topics, situations, and challenges they would like to see developed into a Bible-focused conversation for our monthly teen group. Please use [this questionnaire](#) or scan the QR code to submit your questions.

Arizona Lutheran Academy Homecoming

Join us for AZ Lutheran's Homecoming week from September 30 to October 2! Catch the flag football, volleyball, and football teams in action. The football game is Friday, October 2, at 7:00 p.m. vs. ALA Sierra Vista (wear your black & gold!), with special events for alumni. Visit ALAcoyotes.org/homecoming for more information.

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

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



*Blood Drive
sign-up*

Invitation handout: Family Fall Festival | October 10

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

LWMS West and East Fall Retreat

LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society) West and East Fall Retreat will be on Saturday, October 10. This year's host is Grace Lutheran in Glendale, Arizona. The rally is from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with check-in starting at 8:15 a.m. A light breakfast will be served and lunch is included. More information and registration forms are available in the narthex and the MEC, and online at www.grandcanyonlwms.org. Retreat registration fee is \$20. Please mail or register on-line by next Friday, September 25. A sign-up sheet for those who wish to carpool is in the MEC. For those who cannot attend but would like to contribute to missions, a freewill offering will be collected after each service on Sunday, October 4.

Campus Fall work day | October 24

With the weather turning to our favor, it's time to do some of our outdoor projects that have been a challenge over the summer. This clean-up day also helps us prepare for Reformation and our Family Fall Festival. We will start at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 24, until completed. You are welcome to come when you can and help as long as you're able. Thank you!

WELS Youth Night | October 24

Calling all teens! Join us on Saturday, October 24, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church for WELS Youth Night. This is an evening for Phoenix-area high school teens to gather around God's Word, have some fun, and encourage one another in Christ. The event will be from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and you can look forward to food, games, fellowship, and a keynote on fear and how God's Word combats it in our lives. Come join us and invite a friend! Visit our website (elctempe.org/youth), or use the QR code, to learn more and to [register](#) prior to the event. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the event, use the [volunteer link](#).



WELS Youth Night

Family Fall Festival | Donations and volunteers needed

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. Visit our website (elctempe.org/fallfestival) or use the QR code for more information.

We are in need of donations and volunteers. Donations needed include cans of soda, cases of water bottles, juice boxes, non-chocolate candy, fruit snacks, and snack size bags of: chips, pretzels, popcorn, and cookies.

In order to make this a successful event, we need people like you. If you're interested in volunteering, please visit our [website](#) by scanning the QR code. Volunteer opportunities may include: providing and decorating a [trunk for Trunk-or-Treat](#), setting up, decorating, staffing an activity (such as bounce house, food table, etc.), clean-up and take-down ([full list of volunteer opportunities found here](#)).



*Family Fall Festival
- Information*

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 “Beyond the Temple Walls.”

The **Table Talk Bible study** is meeting in the Olive Room of the Ministry and Education Center (MEC). The study topic today is “Creation and Science: Friends or Foes?”

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: Real repentance looks different.”

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: Real repentance looks different.”

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

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

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

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 “Jacob’s dream.”

The **MUMs** (mothers understanding mothers) group is meeting in the church nursery. This is for moms and their children under age 2.

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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