

# **ADVENT**

## **IMMINENT ARRIVAL**

**Second Sunday in Advent**

Imminent Arrival of the Judge

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

December 7, 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](http://elctempe.org/worship).

For the latest information about services schedules, please visit [elctempe.org](http://elctempe.org).



#### Connection card

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

## Second Sunday in Advent — December 7, 2025

### Imminent Arrival: Imminent Arrival of the Judge

The judge is an important person. You stand when he enters the courtroom. What he says must be obeyed. If you are the one on trial, his judgments make a big difference in how your life will continue.

You might be quite nervous when the judge is about to arrive. The people awaiting the Christ were apprehensive about his arrival. John the Baptist invited people to turn their nervousness to repentance. He says that the arrival of the Judge is imminent, and the kingdom of heaven is near.

Listen to John! Repent and believe the good news of the coming Savior.

# Service of the Word



## Pre-Service Music

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry  
David Schelat

**O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel**  
Samuel Metzger, Marilyn Biery, Robert Powell

## Opening Hymn

309 The Advent of Our King

*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**.*

Dear friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation as we await Christ's second coming on the Last Day. We prepare our hearts to meet him as we humbly seek his forgiveness.

**Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection.*

## Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

*You came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom. Lord, have mercy.*

**All:**



Lord, have mer - cy.

*You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ, have mercy.*

**All:**



Christ, have mer - cy.



## Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only-begotten Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Be seated.*

## First Reading

<sup>1</sup>A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him:  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears,  
<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he will judge the poor,  
and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth.  
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness will be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his hips.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf will dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat,  
the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together,  
and a little child will lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear will graze together,  
and their young ones will lie down together.  
The lion will eat straw like the cattle.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole,  
and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD,  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>This is what will take place on that day. The peoples will seek the Root of Jesse, who will be standing like a banner for the peoples, and his resting place will be glorious.

## Isaiah 11:1–10

*Isaiah gives the credentials of the one who would come to judge.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Response

## 360 Behold, a Branch Is Growing



1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and  
2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise  
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the



grace! As proph - ets sang, fore - know - ing, it springs from Jes - se's  
sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and  
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - 'ry -



race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of  
pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to  
where. True man, and yet true God, from sin and



cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.  
her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.  
death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.

## Second Reading

## Romans 15:4-13

*God's people face the  
coming judgment  
with hope, not fear.*

<sup>4</sup>Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. <sup>5</sup>And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. <sup>9</sup>He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and I will sing to your name.

<sup>10</sup>And again it says:

Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.

<sup>11</sup>And again:

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples give him praise.

<sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says:

There will be a Root of Jesse,  
and he is the one who will rise up to rule the Gentiles;  
on him the Gentiles will place their hope.

<sup>13</sup>Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

*The congregation sings the refrain and verse.*



*Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Verse*



Come to us, Em-man-u-el; come and set your peo-ple free.

**Refrain**

## Gospel

Matthew 3:1–12

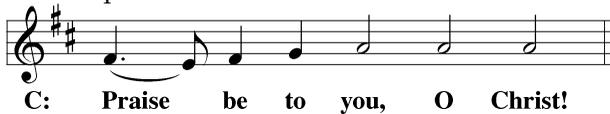
*John prepared people for the arrival of the Judge by emphasizing the nearness of the kingdom of God.*

<sup>1</sup>In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!” <sup>3</sup>Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
“Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.”

<sup>4</sup>John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him. <sup>6</sup>They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Therefore produce fruit in keeping with repentance! <sup>9</sup>Do not think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. <sup>10</sup>Already the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>I baptize you with water for repentance. But the one who comes after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of our Lord.



*Be seated.*

## Hymn of the Day

316 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

## Sermon

Romans 15:4–13

***Have hope in the imminent arrival of your Judge.***

*Please stand.*

## The Apostles' Creed

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

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

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

*Be seated.*

## Offering

### Musical Offering

**Behold, a Branch is Growing**

William H. Bates

*Please stand.*

### Prayer of the Church

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death:

*Special prayers.*

Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

**Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer.*

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

**Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

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

*Be seated.*

## Hymn

326 O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort

*Please stand.*

## Prayer for Grace

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## 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.



*Be seated.*

## Closing Hymn

308 There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

## Post-Service Music

Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

John Behnke, David Lasky

## Serving at Worship

Minister

Pastor Gary Pufahl

Organ

Kevin Bode

Video streamer and slides

Reed Bode, Chris Wempner

Video captions

Jeremy Burmeister

Sound

George Willis

Hymn selections

Sara Redman

## Acknowledgments

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"Kyrie" Gary Daigle and Ron Cooney, © 1996 GIA.

"Behold, a Branch is Growing" William Bates, © 2004 CPH.

## In our prayers

- Lois Henderson – Home recovering from illness.
- Seth Meyer – Recovering in Colorado from a car accident.
- Alexis Naumann – Hospitalized at John C. Lincoln.
- Kaylee – Receiving treatment for cancer.
- Thankfulness for the blessing of rain for Arizona.



Emmanuel usher  
sign-up.

**Ushers**

8:00 a.m.

Brad Bode, Daniel Janes, Jacob Pufahl, Craig Wentzel

10:30 a.m.

Roger Odle, Luke Sallquist, Nick Sallquist, Steve Sallquist

**Flowers**

Thank you to Bill and Donna Zidar and family for beautifying our sanctuary with altar flowers in memory of Jason Zidar.

**Landscaping**

Thank you to Tony and Alice Orlowski for helping maintain, trim and clean the outside church property this week.

**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.
Advent by Candlelight	2:00-4:00 p.m.

**Tuesday**

School Board meeting 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday**

Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
	<i>Pastoral Epistles</i>
	<i>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 services	6:30 p.m.
Adult choir in the MEC	7:30 p.m.

**Thursday**

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 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>

**Friday**

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

**Saturday**

ELS soccer tournament at Arizona Lutheran Academy

## Sunday, December 14

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

## Looking ahead

December 16	Joy Fellowship at Barleen's	11:00 a.m.
	Church Council meeting	6:00 p.m.
December 17	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 18	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>	
	ELS Winter music recital	1:00-2:30 p.m.
	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 19	Chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	12:00 p.m.
	Arizona Lutheran Academy Christmas concert	7:00 p.m.
December 21	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
	Public School Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.
December 22 – January 2	ELS Christmas Break	No school
December 24	Christmas Eve	
	Wednesday Bible study	No class
	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols	3:30 and 5:00 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Candlelight services	6:30 and 8:00 p.m.
	Adult choir	No practice
December 25	Christmas Day	Church office closed
	Thursday Bible study	No class
	Christmas Day worship service	9:00 a.m.
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	No class
	Bible Basics in the MEC	No class

December 28	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
	Public School Catechism	No class
December 31	New Year's Eve	
	Wednesday Bible study	No class
	New Year's Eve worship service	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	Adult choir	No practice
January 1	New Year's Day	Church office closed
	Thursday Bible study	No class
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	No class
	Bible Basics in the MEC	No class
January 4	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.
	Public School Catechism	No class
January 5	ELS Christmas Breaks ends	School resumes
January 6	Festival of the Epiphany candlelight service	6:30 p.m.
	Stewardship meeting	8:00 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 worshippers to help us serve you by scanning the QR code, by going to [elctempe.org/connect](http://elctempe.org/connect), or by filling out one of the cards in the pews. Thank you!

### Special voters' call meeting on December 2, 2025

On Tuesday, December 2, the congregation called **Pastor James Backus** of Watertown, Wisconsin, to serve as Emmanuel's associate pastor in the area of youth and family ministry. Please pray for Pastor Backus and his family, as he deliberates this call to serve the Lord in Tempe.

At the same voters' meeting the congregation resolved to discontinue Monday evening worship services, effective immediately. The decision was made due to consistently low attendance and a concern for using limited resources (pastors and musicians) in the most faithful way. The pastors will seek to minister to the faithful worshippers who regularly attended on Monday evenings in different ways, so they are still served by Word and Sacrament. The congregation will continue to evaluate the need for a Monday service and will restart Monday worship when warranted.

### **Midweek Advent services and meals**

Advent is a time of preparation for Jesus' birth. To prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus, we continue to gather for midweek Advent worship services on Wednesdays, December 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.

#### **Wednesday, December 10, 4:30-6:30 p.m.**

WOW (*Women of the Word*, Emmanuel's ladies' group) will be providing macaroni and cheese.

If you are able to, please bring bread rolls, fruit, veggies, or dessert to share.

#### **Wednesday, December 17, 4:30-6:30 p.m.**

*To be determined*

### **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](http://elctempe.org/raiserright) to learn more.

## **RaiseRight gift card program**

Giving gift cards for Christmas this year? Purchase them from our RaiseRight 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](mailto:RaiseRight@ALAcoyotes.org)) or order at any time through [RaiseRight.com](http://RaiseRight.com). You will need the Enrollment Code, which can be provided by contacting John Mueller ([RaiseRight@ALAcoyotes.org](mailto: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/raiseright](http://elctempe.org/raiseright) to learn more.

Please note, for physical cards, be sure to place your order before December 15 to receive cards before Christmas. You can always purchase and print e-cards from your computer or smartphone via the [RaiseRight mobile app](#).

## **A heartfelt thank-you**

Thank you for your generosity this holiday season! Many gifts of toys and hygiene products were collected last month. These gifts were given to Mission to the Children in Tucson, Arizona, where they will be wrapped and presented to families in Mexico and southern Arizona.

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. It is only fitting we share those blessings with others. Thank you!

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/](http://missiontothechildren.org/).

## **All Things New devotions for Advent**

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](mailto:kbode@elstempe.org), for more information. In December, we will rehearse after the 6:30 p.m. midweek Advent services.

## **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 teachers' "Wish List." Please give your donation (if a check, make payable to "Ladies Group") to either Karen Henriksen, Wendy Binger or Rachel Severeid.

## **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 Barleen's Dinner Show in Apache Junction (2275 E. Old West Hwy, Apache Junction, Arizona 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 as soon as possible. A signup sheet is available in the Ministry and Education Center. Any questions, contact Wendy Binger at [jbwendy97@gmail.com](mailto:jbwendy97@gmail.com).

## **Christmas celebration at Emmanuel**

You can find more information at [elctempe.org/Christmas](http://elctempe.org/Christmas).

- Wednesday, Dec. 10, Children's Christmas service, at 3:30 p.m.  
*"From Heaven Above", Preschool to Grade 2*
- Sunday, Dec. 14, Children's Christmas service, at 4:00 p.m.  
*"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice", Grades 3 to 8*
- Wednesday, Dec. 24, Lessons and Carols, at 3:30 and 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 24, Candlelight services, at 6:30 and 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day worship, at 9:00 a.m.

We will also give thanks to the Lord for another year of his grace at our **New Year's Eve** worship with Holy Communion:

- Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Our celebration of the Christmas season culminates with our special worship for the **Festival of the Epiphany** at a special candlelight service.

- Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

## **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](mailto:bruppel@elctempe.org) to go over details and scope of work. Resumes accepted until December 19, 2025.

## **Aluminum can recycle efforts**

Please continue to donate your aluminum cans. Our last total received was \$27.00. What a wonderful and easy way to help our school!

## **Men of His Word Conference 2026 | January 31**

Registration is open for the Men of His Word (MOHW) Conference, to be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at the Desert Willow Conference Center (48th Street and Broadway in Phoenix). Register and purchase your early bird ticket now for \$100; students \$50. The cost will increase to \$125 after the first of the year.

The Men of His Word Conference is a gathering for godly men to be encouraged by one another and to grow together in faith through worship and Bible study. This year's theme is "Courage Under Fire." Pastor Jeff Gunn will be the keynote speaker at the conference, and there are also many breakout groups for learning and discussion. Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments are included. Visit [www.menofhisword.org](http://www.menofhisword.org) for more information and to register.

## **Men of His Word Conference Scholarship**

Through a generous donation, men from Emmanuel who sign up for the conference will receive a \$50 cash-back scholarship. Only 40 scholarships are available. Register now and pay the registration fee, and once you have attended the event in January, you will receive a \$50 reimbursement. (Students who register before December 31, and receive the scholarship, will end up attending for free!) Gentlemen, take advantage of this opportunity to attend this excellent conference with your brothers in Christ. Those interested in receiving a scholarship can sign up [here](#) or use the provided QR code.



*Men of His Word  
scholarship sign-up*

# Poinsettias

Thank you to all who contributed poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary this Christmas season!

Karen Brandenburg in memory of Fritz Brandenburg

Michael and Melanie Clark and family in memory of Pete Buhlig and Lyle Clark

Pastor Dan and Ingrid Pautz in memory of Troy Pautz

*For the Glory of God:*

Margaret and Alicia Benson

John and Alysha Bergsma and family

Gary and Wendy Binger

Chet and Barb Jaehnig

Pastor Jon and Linda Rossman

Jerry and Judy Rusert

Wes and Cathy Wightman



## **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 7<sup>th</sup> grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is "Imminent Arrival: Imminent Arrival of the Judge."

The **Junior High Bible study Grades 7-8** is meeting in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is "Imminent Arrival: Imminent Arrival of the Judge."

The Sunday School for **Grades 4-6** is meeting in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom at the south campus. The study topic today is "The King's table."

The Sunday School for **Grades 1-3** is meeting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom at the south campus. The study topic today is "The King's table."

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

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 promises a Savior."





# It's Harvest Time!

**Goal:** \$800,000  
**Purpose:** Ministry Expansion and Debt Reduction

It was one year ago, in December of 2024, that we closed the construction loan for our new Ministry and Education Center. Our construction loan balance was converted to a fully-amortized, principal-and-interest loan with a 20-year loan term.

One year ago, our starting balance was **\$3,014,874**. Since then, we've been using your gifts to pay additional principal each month. As of the end of November 2025, our balance was down to **\$2,778,394**. That's a reduction of nearly \$240,000 in outstanding principal – and that means we'll be paying less interest on that balance!

Would you like to make a special gift to *It's Harvest Time*? Do you have an upcoming Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) that you would like to designate for the campaign? Speak with congregation president Chet Jaehnig, (480) 329-5766, about ways you can leverage tax strategies to benefit your own finances and support the Lord's work.

Thank you for your generous gifts! Your contributions are laying a foundation for gospel ministry for generations to come.

<b>ALREADY PAID:</b> <b>\$236,480</b>	<b>ORIGINAL MORTGAGE PRINCIPAL: \$3,014,874</b>
<b>BALANCE LEFT TO PAY: \$2,778,394</b>	



# About Us

**E**mmanuel 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**

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**Pastor Jon D. Buchholz**

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**Pastor Daniel D. Pautz**

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**Financial Operations Mgr. Darcy Meyer**

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(480) 344-3783

**School Secretary Erin Hahnke**

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**E**mmanuel 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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