

Christ the King

It's time to expect the best

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

November 22, 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:

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

- **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.

Christ the King — November 22, 2026

The Beginning of the End: It's time to expect the best

Consider the Christian man whose body aches from both cancer and chemo. Or the Christian woman whose back is arched by time and whose fingers are twisted by arthritis. They may pray for death, hoping for something better. But their hope is not a prayerful wish. It is an expectation of the end of sorrow and pain and the beginning of a perfect eternity with Jesus.

We have come to the end of the Church Year. It is time to talk about the end of the world on Judgment Day. That day does not frighten the believer. The first time Christ came, he saved us from our sin and the accusations of the devil. The second time he comes, he will save us from everything else.

It will be the best! Disease, abuse, heartache, even death—all gone. We will live forever with the Lord Jesus. Now is the beginning of the end. We yearn for Christ to come again and usher us into the best possible life of everlasting glory.

Service of the Word and Sacrament



Pre-Service Music

O Worship the King
Carol Tornquist, Kenon D. Renfrow, Raymond H. Haan

Across the Lands
Valerie Floeter

Opening Hymn

549 Across the Lands

Please stand.

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

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.

Confession

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.

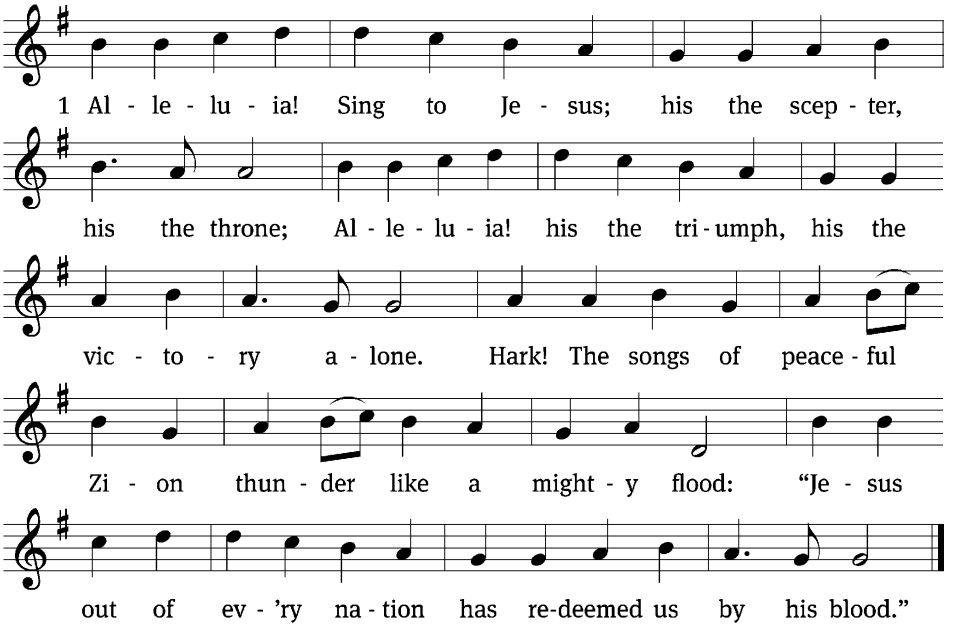
Absolution

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.

The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

Hymn

606 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, by your victory you have broken the power of the evil one. Fill our hearts with joy and peace as we look with hope to that day when every creature in heaven and earth will acclaim you King of kings and Lord of lords to your unending praise and glory; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

The Word

First Reading

Ezekiel 34:11–16,23-24

The Lord himself will care for his flock and be their Shepherd.

11For this is what the LORD God says. Here I am. I myself will seek the welfare of
my flock and carefully search for them. 12As a shepherd searches for his flock
when his sheep that were with him have been scattered, so I will search for my
flock and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of
clouds and thick darkness. 13I will bring them out from the peoples and gather
them from the countries and bring them to their own soil. I will shepherd them
on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys, and in all the settlements of the land. 14I
will lead them into good pasture, and their grazing land will be on the high
mountains of Israel. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and they will
pasture on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15I myself will shepherd my
flock. I myself will let them lie down, declares the LORD God. 16I will seek the
lost. I will bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured. I will strengthen the
weak. I will destroy the fat and the strong, and I will shepherd them with justice.

23Then I will raise up over them one shepherd, and he will tend them. My
servant David will tend them, and he will be their shepherd. 24I, the LORD, will be
their God, and my servant David will be the prince among them. I, the LORD,
have spoken.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

The victory celebration that is coming is greater than anything we have ever seen.

20But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who
have fallen asleep. 21For since death came by a man, the resurrection of the dead
also is going to come by a man. 22For as in Adam they all die, so also in Christ
they all will be made alive. 23But each in his own order: Christ as the firstfruits
and then Christ's people, at his coming. 24Then comes the end, when he hands
over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has done away with every other
ruler and every other authority and power. 25For he must reign "until he has put
all his enemies under his feet." 26Death is the last enemy to be done away with.
27Certainly, "he has put all things in subjection under his feet." Now when it says
that all things have been put in subjection, obviously that does not include the
one who subjected all things to him. 28But when all things have been subjected to
him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected all
things to him, in order that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Since By Man Came Death
from *The Messiah*, G.F. Handel

Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Please stand.

Gospel

Matthew 27:27–31

Once Jesus was crowned with thorns. Now he is crowned with glory.

27Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the
whole cohort of soldiers around him. 28They stripped him and put a scarlet
robe on him. 29They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head.
They put a staff in his right hand, knelt in front of him, and mocked him by
saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30They spit on him, took the staff, and hit him
repeatedly on his head.

31After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes
on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

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.

Be seated.

Anthem

The Hallelujah Chorus
from *The Messiah*, G.F. Handel

Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ.
And He shall reign for ever and ever.
King of kings and Lord of lords! For ever and ever. Hallelujah!
And he shall reign for ever and ever. Hallelujah!

Hymn of the Day

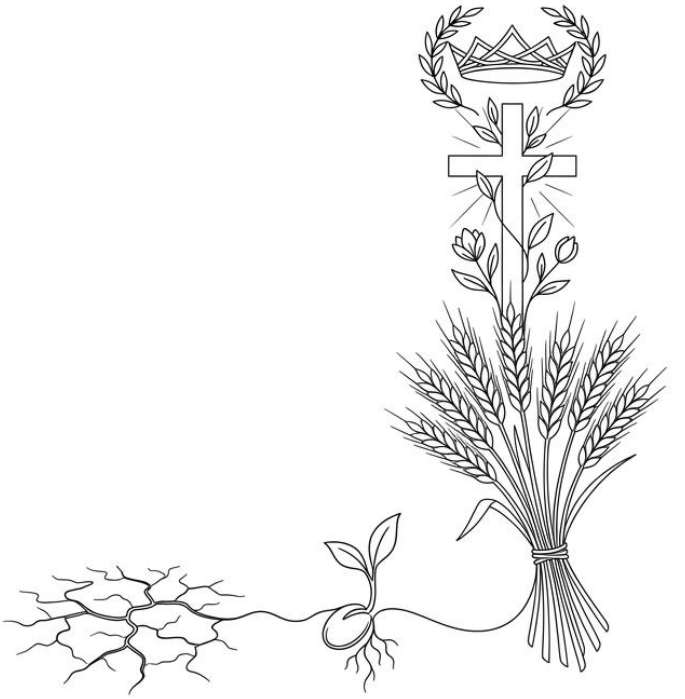
511 Crown Him with Many Crowns
arr. Hal Hopson

Sermon

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

Get ready for the big one!

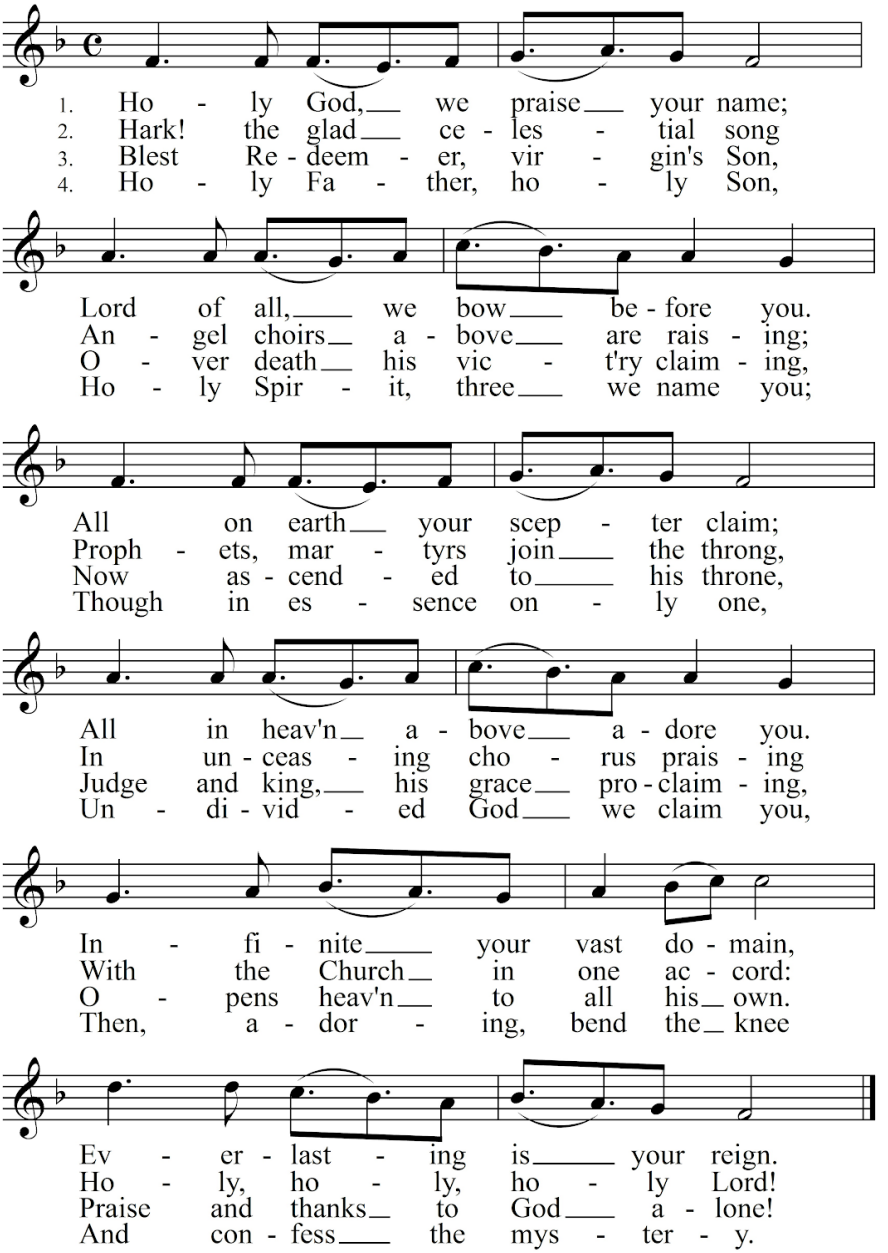
Please stand.



Response

Te Deum

Holy God, We Praise Your Name



Be seated.

Offering

Musical Offering

He Shall Feed His Flock from Handel's *Messiah*
Christopher Evans

Give online
If you prefer online giving, you may scan this code.

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

Personal Preparation for Holy Communion

As you prepare to receive the Sacrament today, you may use the Christian Questions on page 295 in your blue hymnal or Personal Preparation on page 23 of this service folder.

Please stand.

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.

The Sacrament

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He protects and preserves his Church in every age and gives us confidence to lift up our heads and watch for Jesus with joy.

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.



Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



Be seated.

Distribution

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.

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.

Distribution Hymns

495 The King Shall Come

921 Come, Thou Almighty King

612:4 How Great Thou Art



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.
Amen.

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.
Amen.

Be seated.

Post-Service Music

Worthy Is the Lamb
from *The Messiah*, G.F. Handel

Crown Him with Many Crowns
Fritz Reuter

Serving at Worship

Preaching Minister	Pastor Jon Buchholz
Presiding Minister	Pastor Daniel Gensmer
Organ and Piano	Kurt Rosenbaum, Noah Gruman
Choirs	Adult and junior choir
Accompanists	Mary Cota, Lisa Thiesfeldt
Instrumentalists	6th grade, *guitar ensemble*
	Nathan Crabtree, Lucas Hahnke, Sean and Dane Lieske, Maddie Leppert, Charlie Myers, *brass*
	Kris Pufahl, Rachel Severeid, *percussion*
	Kali Gonzalez, Matt Kanzebach, Tim Kriewall, Heidi Zimmermann, *strings*
	Josh Severeid, *timpani*
Video streamer and slides	Chris Wempner, Baxter Priebe
Video captions	Jeremy Burmeister
Sound	George Willis
Hymn selections	Sara Redman

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.
Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.
Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

"How Great Thou Art" Text: Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899-1989, Tune: Swedish, Text and tune: © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust. US print rights admin. Hope Publishing Co. All other rights admin. Capita CMG Publishing. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 705984.
"Worthy is the Lamb" arr. Larry Shackleton, Lorenz Publishing, 2009.
"O Worship the King"
by Carol Tornquist, copyright 2002 by Word Music
by Kenon D. Renfrow, copyright 2006 by Alfred Publishing
by Raymond H. Haan, copyright 1979 by Broadman Press
"Lead On, O King Eternal"
by Timothy Albrecht, copyright 1999 by Augsburg Fortress
by Kenneth D. Varner, copyright 2007 by Lillenas Publishing Company
"He Shall Feed His Flock" from Handel's *Messiah*, by Christopher Evans, copyright 2018 by Christopher Evans.
"Crown Him with Many Crowns" by Fritz Reuter, copyright 1984 by Dr. Martin Luther College.

In our prayers

- Andy Galyen, uncle of Alicia Phillips, dealing with health concerns.
- Chris Heise – Home recovering.
- Kaylee – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Scott Trautman – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Bill Welker – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Craig and Tina Wentzel, who are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary on November 28.
- Bill Zidar – Receiving treatments for cancer.

Ushers

8:00 a.m.	Mojo and Henry Krup, Andrew Olson, Jonathan Rossman
10:30 a.m.	Tom Bernthal, Caden Head, Mike and Bradley Reeve

Flowers

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

Communion

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

Landscaping

Thank you to Wes and Cathy Whiteman 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 adult Bible study	9:15 a.m. *Adult Bible class: Taboo Topics* *Table Talk: Galatians*
Sunday school, teen and junior high Bible study	9:15 a.m.
Public school Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.
Grief Share – Surviving the Holidays	2:00-4:00 p.m.
Emmanuel teen night	6:00-8:00 p.m.

Monday

Light in the Valley – campus ministry	6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m. *Book of Daniel* *Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl*
ELS Thanksgiving break	Noon dismissal
Thanksgiving Eve worship service	6:30 p.m.
Adult choir	No practice

Thursday-Friday

ELS Thanksgiving break	No school

Thursday

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

Friday

Day after holiday	Church office closed

Saturday

Decorate church and MEC for Christmas	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 29

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

Looking ahead

November 30	ELS Thanksgiving break ends	Classes resume
December 1	Communications meeting	6:30 p.m.
	Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.

December 2	Midweek Advent worship	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	Midweek Advent meal	4:45-6:15 p.m.
	Adult choir	7:30 p.m.
December 5	Elders' meeting	7:30-9:00 a.m.
	Invitation handout: Christmas	9:00-11:00 a.m.
	Joy Fellowship at Barleens Dinner Show	11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
December 6	Emmanuel Lutheran Church's 75th anniversary	
	Adult Bible study, Sunday school, teen Bible study	No classes
	Emmanuel's 75th anniversary celebration	9:15 a.m.
		Fellowship and presentation
	Advent by Candlelight	2:00-4:00 p.m.
December 8	School Board meeting	6:00 p.m.
	Grief Share – Surviving the Holidays	6:00-8:00 p.m.
	Special Voters' meeting in the sanctuary	6:30 p.m.
December 9	Midweek Advent worship	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	Midweek Advent meal	4:45-6:15 p.m.
	Adult choir	7:30 p.m.
December 12	Emmanuel teen night	5:00-8:00 p.m.
December 13	Emmanuel fellowship night: Carols & Cocoa	4:00-6:00 p.m.
December 15	Church Council meeting	6:00 p.m.
December 16	Midweek Advent worship	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	Midweek Advent meal	4:45-6:15 p.m.
	Adult choir	7:30 p.m.
December 18	ELS Christ ~ Connection ~ Coffee	9:00-10:00 a.m.
		following ELS chapel
December 20	ELS Grades 3-8 Children's Christmas service	4:00 p.m.
December 22	ELS Christmas break	Noon dismissal
December 23-January 5	ELS Christmas break	No school
December 24	Christmas Eve	Church office closed
	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	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.
	God's Ways Bible study	No class
December 25	Christmas Day	Church office closed
	Christmas Day worship service	9:00 a.m.
December 27	Public school Catechism	No class
December 31	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	No class
	New Year's Eve worship services	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	God's Ways Bible study	No class
January 1	New Year's Day	Church office closed
January 2	Elders' meeting	7:30-9:00 a.m.
January 3	Public school Catechism	No class
January 5	Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.

Notes and News

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

Connection cards
The connection cards serve 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!

Mr. Kevin Bode receives call
On Sunday, October 18, our part-time 5th-grade teacher and part-time music director Kevin Bode received a divine call from St. Matthew in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. He is called to be full-time music coordinator in the church. Keep Mr. Bode in your prayers as he considers where best to serve the Lord.

Grief Share

Grief Share
Christians grieve differently than the world around us because of the hope we have in Christ. But even though Christians grieve with hope, the loss of a loved one presents unexpected challenges as they learn to navigate a world without their loved one. The holiday season can be especially challenging. With this in mind, Emmanuel is excited to present our new Grief Share support group, which intends to provide a safe space to share our struggles, our experiences, and find comfort in God's word.

If you or someone you know has struggled with grief, consider joining our Grief Share support group on either this afternoon (Sunday, November 22), 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., or on Tuesday, December 8, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Learn more and register for either event using the QR code or visiting our website (elctempe.org/griefshare). Reach out to Pastor Gensmer with any questions.

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

Our Thanksgiving worship services will be on Wednesday, November 25, at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, November 26, at 9:00 a.m. Join us in giving thanks.

Christmas cards
Women of the Word (WOW) have boxed and a few individual Christmas Cards for sale in the MEC. All money from the purchases will go to Our Savior's Lutheran School in Peridot, Arizona, for their Teacher's "Wish List." Please give your donation (if a check payable to "Ladies Group") to either Karen Henriksen, Wendy Binger or Rachel Severeid.

Christmas decorating day

Hanging of the Greens

Please join us this Saturday, November 28, as we gather to decorate the sanctuary, courtyard and MEC (Ministry and Education Center) for Christmas. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. with lunch served at noon. If you can come for a part of the time or for the whole time, your help is appreciated and needed. We especially need individuals willing to climb ladders. Scan the QR code to RSVP so we can plan accordingly for lunch. Plan to join us on November 28 for lots of decorating fun! Contact Karen Henriksen at (602) 301-6243 for any questions.

Advent services and meals

Our midweek Advent services start on Wednesday, December 2, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. for three weeks. We will also serve a meal between the services. More information is to come.

Lessons and Carols choir

For those who enjoy singing, you are again invited to be a part of this year's Lessons and Carols choir on December 24, 3:30 p.m. and repeated at 5:00 p.m. It is a highlight at Emmanuel! A special choir of 30-40 Emmanuel members and WELS friends of Emmanuel will sing the gospel truths of Christmas. Many steps have been taken to make this opportunity accessible to those who aren't a part of the adult choir but enjoy singing. If you would like to sing, contact Kevin Bode, kbode@elstempe.org, for more information in making this work for you. In December, we will rehearse after the 6:30 p.m. midweek Advent services.

Special congregational voters meeting

We will have a special congregational voters meeting on Tuesday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m. The Church Council is recommending that we call a pastor and a seventh-grade teacher. They also recommend calling Mrs. Hahnke and Mrs. Willis to teach for the 2027-2028 school year. Additionally, the Council is recommending some tuition increases for the 2027-2028 school year. Please join us for this important meeting.

Invite our neighbors to Jesus' birthday

As the shepherds did so long ago, running through the streets telling everyone the good news of what they had heard and seen, it is our time to do the same. On Saturday, December 5, we will meet in the Ministry and Education Center at 9:00 a.m. to distribute maps and materials. Then we will walk the neighborhoods with invitations inviting our neighbors to come join all the activities proclaiming the birth of our Savior. Please come walk with us! Any questions, contact Benjamin Ruppel at bruppel@elctempe.org.

Joy Fellowship | December 5

Our Joy Fellowship group is for those 55 years and older. Our December outing is Saturday, December 5, 2026, at Barleens Dinner Show in Apache Junction for the Christmas show *Home for the Holidays*. The doors open at 11:00 a.m. The meal is at 12:00 p.m., and the show starts at 1:00 p.m. The cost is $52.00 per person. We have only 30 seats and cannot get more. A sign-up sheet is available in the MEC with more information. Please talk to Wendy Binger at (480) 452-6169 or Chet Jaehnig at (480) 329-5766 if you have questions.

Poinsettia donations

Help beautify the church this Christmas season. Women of the Word (WOW) will be selling twelve poinsettias to decorate the altar for December. The cost is $20 payable either in cash or check (made out to Ladies Group). Please give your payment to either Karen Henriksen, Wendy Binger, or the church office in an envelope marked "WOW." If you have any questions, please call Karen Henriksen at (602) 301-6243. Please sign up on the sheet provided in the Ministry and Education Center (MEC). All orders must be placed no later than Sunday, December 6.

Advent by Candlelight | December 6

Ladies of Emmanuel (and friends and family) are invited to join us for Advent by Candlelight on Sunday, December 6, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event will be held in the Ministry and Education Center (MEC) at Emmanuel. This is an event put on by women, and for women. It is a time to reflect on the coming of the Savior and to help refocus our lives during the busy holiday season. It is a time of fellowship, devotion, and song.

Advent by Candlelight

We are currently looking for several women to host a table. That means you will have a table of up to eight ladies and be responsible for decorating your table and providing small finger foods and drinks for your table. Hosts can sign up here, scan the QR code, or sign up in the MEC. Please reach out to Bethany Olson (abcolson14@gmail.com) or Alysha Bergsma (church@elctempe.org) if you would like more information.

You don't have to host a table to attend! If you'd like to attend but don't wish to host a table, attendees can sign up using the QR code or the sign-up sheet in the MEC. Invite your female friends and family members to join you. We hope to see you there! All hostesses and attendees, please sign up by today (Sunday, November 22).

Mission to the Children | Christmas drive

We are once again planning to share Christmas joy with the children of Sonora, Mexico. We are partnering with Mission to the Children to collect Christmas toys and hygiene products. Visit the bulletin board in the church lobby and choose one or more gift tags. Each tag is labeled for the type of gift and the age of the recipient. Purchase your gift and bring it to church unwrapped, with the tag attached, by Wednesday, December 3. Mission to the Children will distribute your gifts to the recipients in Sonora.

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.

Thank you for helping make Christmas a little brighter for the less fortunate families Mission to the Children serve in southern Arizona and northern Mexico!

Carols and Cocoa fellowship night | December 13



Carols & Cocoa event volunteers

Have a favorite Christmas carol you listen to on repeat? Do you enjoy Christmas cookies? How many marshmallows do you like in your hot cocoa? Join us Sunday, December 13, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Emmanuel's Ministry and Education Center for a fun and festive evening. We are inviting the community to this event, and are looking for volunteers to help at the event. If you are interested in volunteering (e.g. event setup, greeter, hot cocoa server), please check out the opportunities to serve.

Donate from your IRA and connect people to Emmanuel!

If you are 70 ½ years old and own an IRA, the IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows you to give funds from your IRA directly to a charity. You can take advantage of a simple way to share Jesus with others through the ministry of Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School and receive tax benefits in return. You can give any amount up to $100,000 per year from your IRA directly to Emmanuel without having to pay income taxes on that gift.

Contact your IRA administrator for more information. You gift must be received by December 31, 2026, to qualify.

Men of His Word conference scholarship

Our Emmanuel Church Council has set aside scholarship funds for men from Emmanuel who sign up and attend the *Men of His Word* conference on January 30, 2027. After signing up and attending the conference, contact the church office (church@elctempe.org) to be reimbursed ($50 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. Gentlemen, take advantage of this opportunity to attend this excellent conference with your brothers in Christ.

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 "Taboo Topics."

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

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 "The Beginning of the End: It's time to expect the best."

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 "The Beginning of the End: It's time to expect the best."

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

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

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

The Sunday School for **two- and three-year-olds** is meeting in the preschool classrooms at the south campus. Parents are encouraged to remain with their children. The study topic today is "God cares for people."

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



Men of His Word is a group of WELS Christian men, called workers and laymen, who encourage one another to serve our Savior and grow as Christian leaders. Our annual conference helps men find renewed strength and joy in God's Word so you are well equipped to face all of life's challenges.

The 2027 Men's Conference is centered on John 10:10, with the theme: *Live the Full Life*. Keynote speaker John Sebald will remind us that the full life isn't a life without trouble. It's the life Jesus came to give us, and he gives us everything we need to overcome every obstacle and live a full life in him. Breakout groups will explore the following topics:

Session 1 — Living the Full Life After Suffering Trauma – Sebald	**Session 6** — Living Fully in a Society with Gender Issues – Gensmer
Session 2 — What Biblical Masculinity Really Looks Like – Parsons	**Session 7** — Start a Men's Group in Your Church – Gunn
Session 3 — Living Fully in the Body God Gave You – Herkstroeter	**Session 8** — Living Fully in the Unseen Battle (Demons & Poltergeists) – Pufahl
Session 4 — Defending the Full Life: Christian Apologetics for Ordinary Men – Berg	**Session 9** —Living Fully When God Doesn't Fix It – Jacobson
Session 5 — Living Fully When Life Is Frantic – Sellnow	**Session 10** — Living Fully God's Way in a World Where Anything Goes (Young Men) – Pagel

The Conference is on Saturday, January 30, 2027, at the **Desert Willow Conference Center** in Phoenix.

The **early bird registration** fee is $100. The registration amount for retired called workers is $85 and $50 for young men college age or younger. The registration fee includes breakfast, lunch, and beverages. Polo shirts and T-shirts are available for an extra charge.

The deadline to register for early-bird pricing is January 10, 2027.

Men of His Word

For more information, go to **https://www.menofhisword.org** or email **menofhisword.az@gmail.com**.

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.

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).

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.

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

Pastor Daniel R. Gensmer
dgensmer@elctempe.org
(615) 887-3816

Pastor Jon D. Buchholz
jonbuchholz@msn.com
(602) 377-1915

Pastor Daniel D. Pautz
danpautz7@gmail.com
(480) 766-2994

Church Secretary Alysha Bergsma
church@elctempe.org
(480) 967-3983

Principal Craig Kiecker
ckiecker@elstempe.org
(623) 313-5614

Music Director Kevin Bode
kbode@elstempe.org
(480) 694-3532

Financial Operations Mgr. Darcy Meyer
treasurer@elctempe.org
(480) 344-3783

School Secretary Amani Campos
school@elstempe.org
(480) 967-3991

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