



# CHRISTMAS

## Christmas 1

Christ the Savior is Born: He is the Son of God  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
December 28, 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.*

## Christmas 1 – December 28, 2025

### Christ the Savior is Born: He is the Son of God

Christmas holidays mean family time, often with extended family travel and visits. Meals are prepared, gifts are given, memories are made.

But the memories might not all be good. Sometimes there are Christmas hurts or even tragedies. We live in a world still affected by sin.

The sinfulness of the world cannot rob us of the peace God intends to bring through his Son. Christ the Savior is born, and through his life, God brings us into the family. He gives us the rights of redeemed sons and daughters, the privileges of inheritance.

# Service of the Word and Sacrament



## Pre-Service Music

### Opening Hymn

354 O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Please stand.*

### Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

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

### Confession

**CW 188**

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.  
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**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.*

### Absolution

**CW 188**

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 † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

# Response

## 366 O Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly



1 O re - joice, all Chris - tians, loud - ly, for our joy has  
2 See, my soul, your Sav - ior choos - es pov - er - ty and



now be - gun; won - drous things our God has done.  
weak - ness, too; in such love he comes to you.



Tell a - broad his good - ness proud - ly, who our race has  
Nei - ther crib nor cross re - fus - es, all he suf - fers



hon - ored thus, that he has be - friend - ed us.  
for your good to re - deem you by his blood.



Joy, O joy, be - yond all glad - ness! Christ has done a -



way with sad - ness! Hence, all sor - row and re - pin - ing,



for the Sun of grace is shin - ing!

Text: Christian Keimann, 1607–1662; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Tune: Andreas Hammerschmidt, 1611–1675, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

# The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only-begotten Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## First Reading

I will tell about the LORD's mercies,  
about the praises of the LORD,  
about all that the LORD has done for us,  
about his great goodness to the house of Israel,  
which he performed for them according to his abundant compassion,  
and according to his great mercy.

<sup>8</sup>He said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely,"  
so he became their Savior.

<sup>9</sup>In all their anguish he felt anguish,  
and the Angel of his Presence saved them.  
In his love and in his pity he himself redeemed them,  
and he took them up and carried them all the days of old.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Isaiah 63:7-9

*The kindness of the Lord is seen in sending a Savior to redeem those who turn away from him.*

# Response

# 366 O Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly



3 Lord, how shall I thank you right - ly? I am saved e -  
4 Je - sus, guard and guide your mem - bers, fill them with your



ter - nal - ly by your life and death for me.  
bound - less grace, hear their prayers in ev - 'ry place.



Let me not for - get it light - ly, but with all my  
Fan to life faith's glow - ing em - bers; grant all Chris - tians



heart be - lieve that from you I shall re - ceive  
far and near ho - ly peace, a glad new year.



*Refrain*  
Joy, O joy, be - yond all glad - ness! Christ has done a -



way with sad - ness! Hence, all sor - row and re - pin - ing,



for the Sun of grace is shin - ing!

## Second Reading

**Galatians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, <sup>5</sup> in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, "Abba, Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

*Redeemed by God's true Son, we can call God our "Father."*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

*The minister speaks the Gospel Acclamation:*

Alleluia! Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia!

## Gospel

**Matthew 2:13-23**

<sup>13</sup> After the Wise Men were gone, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream. He said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, because Herod will search for the child in order to kill him."

*God saves his Son from an early death. God's plan was to save the world by having his Son die on the cross when the time had fully come.*

<sup>14</sup> Joseph got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt. <sup>15</sup> He stayed there until the death of Herod. This happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

<sup>16</sup> When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Wise Men, he was furious. He issued orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding countryside, from two years old and under. This was in keeping with the exact time he had learned from the Wise Men. <sup>17</sup> Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children,  
and she refused to be comforted,  
because they are no more.

<sup>19</sup> After Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. The angel said, <sup>20</sup> "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to kill the child are dead."

<sup>21</sup> Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus, Herod's son, had succeeded his father as ruler in Judea, he was afraid to go there. Since he had been warned in a dream, he went to the region of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> When he arrived there, he settled in a city called Nazareth. So what was spoken through the prophets was fulfilled: "He will be called a Nazarene."

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

*Be seated.*

## Hymn of the Day

537 Word of God, Come Down on Earth

## Sermon

Matthew 2:13-23

### ***He came to earth to die***

*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.**

*For the final time in 2025, we confess our Christian faith using the Nicene Creed. This year marks the 1,700th anniversary of the writing of the Nicene Creed. It is especially meaningful this time of year, as we celebrate the incarnation of God.*

## 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

### 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 27 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.**

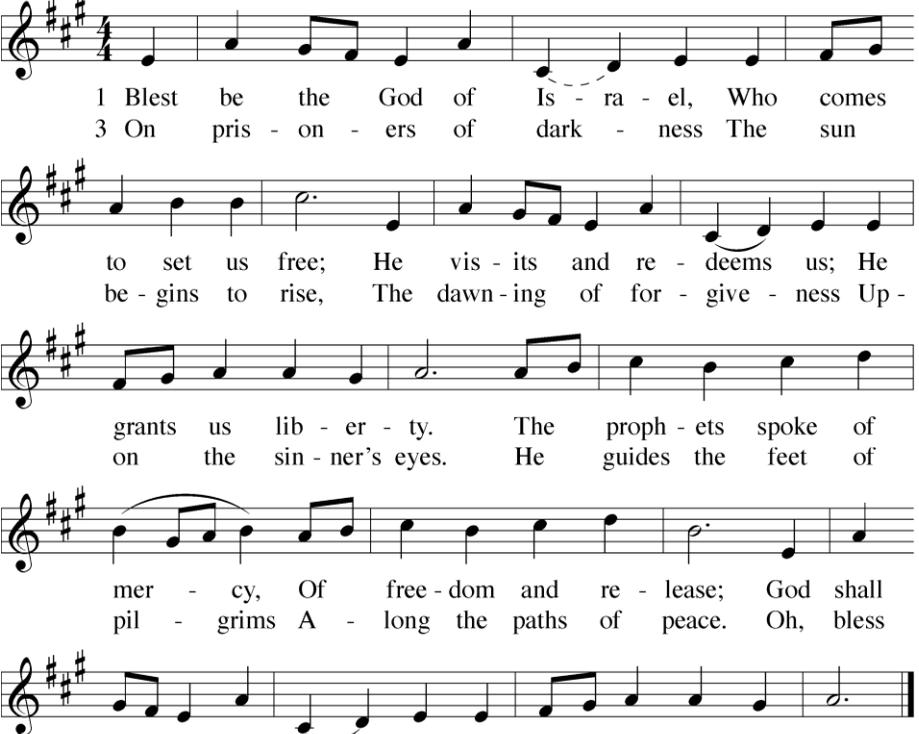
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is good and right so to do.**

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 by his wondrous birth became our Brother, taking on human flesh to live in righteousness before God and to become obedient even to death on a cross. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Song of Zechariah

Blessed Be the God of Israel



1 Blest be the God of Is - ra - el, Who comes  
3 On pris - on - ers of dark - ness The sun  
to set us free; He vis - its and re - deems us; He  
be - gins to rise, The dawn - ing of for - give - ness Up -  
grants us lib - er - ty. The proph - ets spoke of  
on the sin - ner's eyes. He guides the feet of  
mer - cy, Of free - dom and re - lease; God shall  
pil - grims A - long the paths of peace. Oh, bless  
ful - fill his prom - ise And bring his peo - ple peace.  
our God and Sav - ior With songs that nev - er cease!

## Words of Institution

*In Holy Communion  
Jesus gives us his  
true body and his  
true blood for the  
forgiveness of sins  
and strengthening of  
our faith.*

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

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## Peace Came to Earth



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night when an - gels  
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen, in flesh and  
4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could



clove the sky with song and light and God em - bod - ied  
blood you bore our griefs and pain, in bread and wine you  
I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -



love and sheathed his might— Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!  
vis - it us a - gain— Who could but see: Im - man - u - el!  
brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: arr. Mark Kellner, 1959–2015, alt.; Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952

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*Be seated.*

## Distribution of the sacrament

*For our distribution today, you may approach the altar using the side aisles. The two sides will meet at the bottom step in the middle. For those who prefer a low-gluten wafer, please indicate such to the pastor when he distributes the host. The low-gluten wafers are in a soufflé cup on the paten. The grape-colored cups in each tray are alcohol-removed wine. We will dismiss down the center aisle.*

*Members and any guests who have spoken with a pastor prior to the service about receiving Communion may come forward at the direction of the ushers.*

## Distribution hymns

**362 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising**

**664 Wide Open Stand the Gates**

*After the distribution, please stand.*

# Thanksgiving

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**And his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup

**We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## The Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## Closing hymn

**363 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice**

## Post-Service Music

### Serving at Worship

Preaching Minister

Pastor Gary Pufahl

Presiding Minister

Pastor Jon Buchholz

Organ

Kevin Bode

Video streamer and slides

Jacob Sallquist, Lauren Sallquist

Video captions

Angie Keezer

Sound

George Willis

Acolyte

Colton Sallquist (8:00 a.m.)

## Acknowledgments

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## In our prayers

- Lois Henderson – Home recovering from illness.
- Cameron Lee – At Dignity Rehab in Chandler.
- Seth Meyer – Back home in Arizona to continue his accident recovery.
- Kaylee – Receiving treatment for cancer.
- Birth of Josh and Rachel Severeid’s son, Ronan Joshua Severeid, born on December 23.

## Ushers

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

## Flowers

Thank you to Karen Brandenburg for beautifying our sanctuary with altar flowers in memory of Fritz Brandenburg.

## Communion

Thank you to Elaine Aswege and Monica Beatrice for helping set up Communion for the weekend.

## Landscaping

Thank you to Dick, Steven, and Eric Sallquist and families for helping maintain, trim and clean the outside church property this week.



*Emmanuel usher  
sign-up.*

## **This week at Emmanuel**

### **Sunday**

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

### **December 22 - January 2**

ELS Christmas Break	No school
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### **Wednesday**

New Year's Eve	Church office closed
Wednesday Bible study	No class
New Year's Eve worship service	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
Adult choir in the MEC	No practice

### **Thursday**

New Year's Day	Church office closed
Thursday Bible study at Denny's	No class
God's Ways Bible study	No class
Bible Basics	No class

### **Sunday, January 4**

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
Presentation by Jason Jonker with Resilient Ministry	9:15 a.m.
Summer WELS Youth Rally informational meeting	9:15 a.m.
Public School Catechism	No class

### **Looking ahead**

January 5	ELS Christmas Break ends	School resumes
January 6	Festival of the Epiphany candlelight service	6:30 p.m.
	Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.
January 7	Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
		<i>Pastoral Epistles</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
	Adult choir in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
January 8	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
		<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Abraham</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>
		<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
	Bible Basics begins in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
		<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>
January 9	Chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.

January 10	Take down Christmas decorations	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
January 11	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
	Pancake breakfast in the MEC	9:15-10:30 a.m.
	Public School Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.
January 14	Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m.
		<i>Pastoral Epistles</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
	Adult choir in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
January 15	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
		<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Abraham</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>
		<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
		<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>
January 16	ALA Basketball Invitation Tournament	TBA
		<i>Arizona Lutheran Academy</i>
	Chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
January 17	ALA Basketball Invitation Tournament	TBA
		<i>Arizona Lutheran Academy</i>
January 18	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study	No class
	Church open forum	9:15 a.m.
	Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.
	Public School Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.
January 19	Martin Luther King day	No school / Church office closed
January 20	Church council meeting	6:00 p.m.
January 21	Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m.
		<i>Pastoral Epistles</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
	Adult choir in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
January 22	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
		<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Abraham</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>
		<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
		<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>
January 23	Chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.



# Notes and News

## Connection card

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

## 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](http://elctempe.org/connect), or by filling out one of the cards in the pews. Thank you!

## Christian education hour

Please note, there will be no **Adult Bible study, Table Talk, Teen study or Sunday school** classes today (Sunday, 12/28/2025) or next Sunday (1/4/2026) due to Christmas Break. Classes will resume in January 2026.

Next Sunday, January 4, 2026, Jason Jonker, the director of Resilient Recovery Ministry, will give a presentation at 9:15 a.m., between our Sunday morning services.

## Thank you to all who served!

During the Advent and Christmas seasons we have been blessed by the spiritual gifts of so many Christians who used their talents to God's glory. We thank the members of the adult and youth choirs, musicians, other vocalists, acolytes, lectors, ushers, altar guild servers, those who contributed flowers, and all who helped to make our worship services edifying. Thank you for your service!

## Thank you!

The pastors, teachers, and all the staff at Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School thank you for your cards, your gifts, your words of encouragement, your prayers and all the Christian love you show in so many ways throughout the year. We are blessed to serve you in Jesus' name!

## Help needed and Meal Train for the Rognholt family

Let's show our support for the Rognholt family as they welcome their two newest blessings. Luke and Jayme are in need of assistance with the twins a few hours during the week when Luke is working. If you are able to help, please contact Karen Henriksen at (602) 301-6243 or Luke Rognholt at (623) 476-6604. Also, any home-cooked meals or take out/delivery would be much appreciated. You can sign up to provide a meal using the QR code or this link:

<http://mealtrain.com/0dvw54>.



*Rognholt  
Meal Train*

## **New Year's celebration at Emmanuel**

We will 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.

## **Epiphany candlelight**

Tuesday, January 6, 2026, we will celebrate the Festival of Epiphany. Our Epiphany worship at 6:30 p.m. will be a special candlelight service. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for this special evening service, as we celebrate the light of our Savior that shines in the world and shines in our hearts.

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

## **RaiseRight gift card program**

Our RaiseRight Coordinator, John Mueller, is excited to assist you in ordering gift cards. Purchasing RaiseRight gift cards raises funds for students' tuition accounts at our Arizona WELS schools, the Arizona Lutheran tuition assistance fund, and our congregations and schools. You can order your RaiseRight through the Arizona Lutheran office ([RaiseRight@ALAcoyotes.org](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.

## **New YouTube channel**

Take a moment to check out our new YouTube channel. Go to [YouTube](#) and search for [@ELSvideostreaming](#), and subscribe today. All upcoming services will be found on our new channel. Looking for a recent live stream? All past live streams are also available on the new channel starting with the first Sunday in Advent (November 30). Our previous channel will become inactive as of January 1, 2026.

There are a few ways to get to our new channel:

Channel name: Emmanuel Lutheran Video Stream

Direct link: [elctempe.org/youtube](http://elctempe.org/youtube)

Click on the YouTube logo  found on the bottom of our church website

## **Special presentation by Resilient Recovery | January 4**

On Sunday, January 4, Jason Jonker, the director of Resilient Recovery Ministry, will give a presentation at 9:15 a.m., between our Sunday morning services.

Resilient Recovery is a Bible study on addiction, perfect for people who want non-judgmental support. They make it easy to get help because they remember how hard it was to reach out for help the first [or the 20th] time. They make people feel comfortable because they've experienced the difficulties.

This program works because it is built on the historical Christian practices that promote change. People receive help from God's Word and the Holy Spirit. Their program is also informed by the latest science on recovery.

Resilient is also an acronym that describes the program:

**R**est in Jesus and His Care

**E**xpress My Need for Jesus

**S**eek God's Presence and Power

**I**magine Freedom in Christ

**L**ive Transparently by Owning My Sin

**I**nvoke Jesus to Change Me

**E**xalt Jesus Above All Things

**N**eutralize Temptation through Meditation on God's Word

**T**ell Others What God Has Done for You

Join us on Sunday, January 4, as we learn more about this ministry that is offered by our sister church, Crosswalk Lutheran Church in Laveen, Arizona.

### **Summer WELS Youth Rally informational meeting | January 4**

We are holding an informational meeting on January 4, 2026, at 9:15 a.m. in the 7th grade classroom. This is for all families interested in sending their teen(s) and/or helping chaperone for this summer's July youth rally in Ohio.

### **Door-to-Door witnessing to the LDS of the East Valley**

Heritage Lutheran Church, along with Truth in Love Ministry ([tilm.org](http://tilm.org)) and students from Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, will be witnessing door-to-door to the LDS of the East Valley from January 4-11. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please call the Heritage church office at (480) 855-3619 or send an email to [office@heritagelutheran.com](mailto:office@heritagelutheran.com).

### **Bible Basics starts January 8**

On Thursday, January 8, at 6:30 p.m., we will begin another session of Bible Basics. Bible Basics is a course in which we study the basic truths of the Christian faith. This class is open for those who desire to become communicant members of this church, those who want to learn more about what the Bible teaches, school parents who want to learn what their children are taught in our elementary school, or anyone interested in studying and growing in God's Word. This course is 15 weeks long and will be held on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. If you are interested or know someone who may be interested, please contact Pastor Buchholz.

### **2026 offering envelopes**

The offering envelopes for 2026 are ready to be picked up this week. The table in the Ministry and Education Center has the envelopes in alphabetical order. If you do not see your name and would like to order envelopes, or, if you do not wish to receive offering envelopes but prefer online giving, please contact the church office (480) 967-3983.

### **Take down Christmas decorations | January 10**

Join us on Saturday, January 10, starting at 9:00 a.m. as we take down the Christmas decorations and store them for next year. Come when you are able to and stay for however long; we'll be at the church and MEC from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (or until the job is done). We will be in need of 8- or 10-foot ladders. Contact Karen Henriksen at (602) 301-6243 or Chet Jaehnig at (480) 329-5766 if you have any questions.

### **Pancake breakfast | January 11**

Bring a healthy appetite with you to church on Sunday, January 11! We'll be hosting a delicious pancake breakfast between services in the MEC. Along with tasty pancakes, you can enjoy eggs and sausage and beverages. There's no charge for the pancake breakfast, but a free-will collection will be gathered. Your contributions will help support the costs of Emmanuel's youth who are attending the WELS International Youth Rally this coming summer.

### **Open Forum on January 18**

In place of Sunday Bible class on January 18 we will hold an open forum for our congregation. The open forum is an opportunity to connect with your pastors and congregation leaders, ask questions, and get updated information on different church programs, our elementary school, our congregation's budget, and more. The open forum shares important information that will be presented to the voters for their consideration at the voters' meeting on Tuesday, January 27. Sunday school and teen group will still meet on January 18.

### **Tuition assistance workshop**

AZ Lutheran is committed to helping families afford a private, Christian education for their children. If you are concerned with the tuition, be sure to find out about all the options available to you by attending our first Tuition Assistance Workshop of the school year on Wednesday, January 21, at 6:00 p.m. on the AZ Lutheran campus. Register at [ALAcoyotes.org/TAW](http://ALAcoyotes.org/TAW).

## **New Bible studies start**

Beginning on Sunday, January 25, we will return to holding two Bible studies on Sunday mornings between services. During this Family Bible Hour, we'll also have Sunday School for younger children and Teen Group for middle- and high-schoolers.

- **The Ten Commandments.** Join Pastor Buchholz in the Oak Room for an in-depth study of the Ten Commandments given through Moses at Mount Sinai. Although it was carved in stone nearly 3,500 years ago, God's Moral Law remains in full force and effect today. Learn practical ways to apply the commandments to our daily lives as Christians.
- **Psalms - A Time to Sing.** Pastor Pufahl leads this series in the Olive Room. The psalms were the hymnal for God's Old Testament people. Join the psalmists in singing and shouting and celebrating the gifts of God's grace that he showers down upon his people. The joy expressed in the psalms is unmatched, and it overflows into every aspect of our lives.

## **Save the date | Grandparents Day**

If you are the grandparent of an AZ Lutheran student, mark Wednesday, February 4, 2026, on your calendar. That morning, we will welcome grandparents on campus to join their grandchildren at chapel, attend a few classes, enjoy some food and entertainment, and spend time with their grandchild at school. The invitation and sign-up will be available shortly after Christmas. Until then, put February 4 on your calendar.

## **Arizona Lutheran Academy Game Show Gala 2026**

Come on down! Get ready to spin the wheel and guess the price at our Game Show Gala on Saturday, March 28, 2026. This retro-themed evening will bring back the glitz, charm, and excitement of your favorite classic game shows – complete with themed games, dinner, and a night of fun to support our mission. Visit [ALAcoyotes.org/Gala](https://ALAcoyotes.org/Gala) to learn more.

## **Register now for men’s conference coming in January**

**Men of His Word** is a gathering of WELS pastors and lay leaders who have been holding yearly conferences in Minnesota and Wisconsin for over a decade. The group is now expanding to Arizona under the guidance of a local team of volunteers. The second annual conference for Men of His Word – Arizona will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, in Phoenix. The conference is open to all men who would like to grow spiritually, be inspired by God’s Word, and fellowship with Christian brothers from the Southwest. For more information, visit [MenofHisWord.org/Phoenix/](https://MenofHisWord.org/Phoenix/) and click on the early bird registration button.

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.

## **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 January 5, 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*

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*Men of His Word* is a group of WELS Christian men, both called workers and laymen, who encourage one another to live their lives in service to our Savior and his people, and who strive to become Christian leaders. *Men of His Word* holds an annual conference for men that focuses on current issues and helps men find renewed strength and joy in God's Word to face all of life's challenges.

The 2026 Men's Conference is centered on Isaiah 43:1-2, with the theme: **Courage Under Fire**. Pastor Jeff Gunn will serve as the keynote speaker, assuring us that courage isn't the absence of fear; it's trusting the One who has already redeemed you, called you by name, and claimed you as His own. Breakout groups will explore the following topics:

<b>Session 1</b> — Taking the Heat at Church: 8 Systems for a Healthy Church - Gunn	<b>Session 5</b> — Aging With Courage: Embracing a New Season of Service – Wagenknecht
<b>Session 2</b> — Courage to Confess: Being a Bold Confessor in a Hostile Culture - Kassulke	<b>Session 6</b> — Inspiring Outreach in Lukewarm Congregations – Parsons
<b>Session 3</b> — Leading Your Family Through the Flames of Moral Injury - Henselin	<b>Session 7</b> — From "Textbook" To "Book of Life:" A New Look at an Old Book - Zaferos
<b>Session 4</b> — Courageous Giving: Stewardship That Takes Faith and Guts – Weinstein	<b>Session 8</b> — Truth & Lies - The Battle Within and Without - Eric Landwehr

The Conference is on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at the **Desert Willow Conference Center** in Phoenix.

The early bird registration fee is \$100 and \$50 for young men ages 14-24. The registration amount for retired called workers is \$85. The registration fee includes breakfast, lunch, beverages, and a T-shirt.

**The deadline to register for early-bird pricing is January 5, 2026.**



For more information, go to <https://www.menofhisword.org> or email [menofhisword.az@gmail.com](mailto:menofhisword.az@gmail.com).

# 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



Those who contributed poinsettias may take their flowers home to enjoy. Poinsettias remaining after today (Sunday, December 28), will be disposed of.





# 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

**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.

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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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