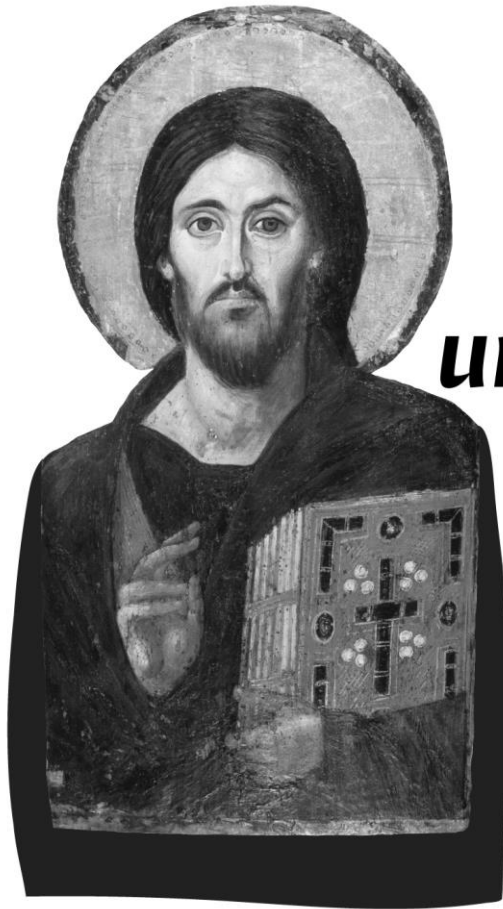




unexpected **TRUTHS**

Pentecost 16

Forgiveness is for me
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
September 13, 2026

Welcome!

We are honored that you are with us today. May the Word of God that you hear strengthen your faith and increase your desire to serve the Lord! If you are a guest today, we are thankful you have joined us. We hope that you will join us again soon.

For your convenience

For your convenience, please take note of the following:

- **Restrooms** are to the left as you exit the sanctuary.
- **Nursery.** There is a room where children may be quieted to the left down the hall across from the bathrooms as you exit the sanctuary. A television allows you to see and hear the service.
- **Children's worship notes** are available. Ask an usher.
- **Hearing assistance.** A hearing loop is available in the worship area for hearing aids equipped with a T-coil.



If there is any other way in which we can assist you, let us know.

The service is streamed live online at elctempe.org/worship.

For the latest information about services schedules, please visit elctempe.org.



Connection card

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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost —September 13, 2026

Unexpected Truths: Forgiveness is for me

Forgiveness does not come naturally to human beings. It is expected that we humans will defend ourselves, lash out when attacked, hold grudges, and bite back. So, when human beings hear that we are forgiven, we may even be suspicious or skeptical.

Jesus tells a parable that contrasts the forgiveness of God with our own unforgiving sinful nature. God forgives our huge debt. Who can comprehend such unexpected mercy? Certainly not unmerciful servants, who refuse to forgive small debts.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and teach us to forgive like you!

Service of the Word and Sacrament



Pre-Service Music

O Word of God Incarnate

Valerie Floeter

Just as I Am, without One Plea

Valerie Floeter, David Scherschel

Ten Thousand Reasons

arr. Amy J. Snyder

Opening Hymn

731 Oh, How Good It Is

Please stand.

A Gathering Rite on Psalm 103

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**.*

Vocalists: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all
that is with - in me, bless his ho - ly name,

All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all
that is with - in me, **bless his ho-ly name, his ho-ly name.**

Our Lord commands us to “be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”
However, all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

*Matthew 5:48,
Romans 3:23*

Psalms 51:5

Romans 6:23, The wages of sin is death. Our Lord calls us to “repent, for the kingdom of
Matthew 4:17, heaven has come near.” If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will
1 John 1:9 forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
We have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we
Daniel 9:5 **have turned away from your commands and laws.**

We join in silent confession.

Vocalists:

*He forgives all your sins and is full of compassion;
 he redeems you from the grave.
 He is slow to anger, and of great kindness,
 and abounding in steadfast love.*

He will not always accuse.

He will not keep his anger forever.

He does not treat us as our sins deserve.

He does not repay us according to our guilty deeds.

Vocalists: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all
 that is with - in me, bless his ho - ly name,
 All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all
 that is with - in me, bless his ho-ly name, his ho-ly name.

Vocalists:

*As a father cares for his children,
 the Lord will provide for us.
 He will satisfy you with good things,
 and renew your youth like the eagle's.*

As high as the heavens, so great is his love for us;
as far as the east is from the west, he removed your sins.

The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,
and his royal power rules over all.

Music notation for the hymn "Bless the Lord". The score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "Vocalists: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is with - in me, bless his ho - ly name, All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is with - in me, bless his ho-ly name, his ho-ly name." The vocalists' part is on the first two staves, and the all's part is on the last two staves. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some rests.

Vocalists: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all
that is with - in me, bless his ho - ly name,
All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all
that is with - in me, bless his ho-ly name, his ho-ly name.

Brothers and sisters, in the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Bless the Lord,
O my soul!
Amen.

The Word

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, you graciously forgive us all our sins and abundantly provide for all our needs of body and soul. Give us confidence in your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful to our neighbor, that we willingly forgive all people, and judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

First Reading

Genesis 50:15–21

*Joseph's brothers
had treated him
badly. Joseph was
quick to forgive
them and free them
from the prison of
their past.*

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him."

¹⁶They sent the following message to Joseph: "Before he died your father commanded us, ¹⁷'You are to tell Joseph, "Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you."' Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, "See now, we are your servants."

¹⁹Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. ²¹Now therefore, do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones." He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Ephesians 4:29—5:2

*St. Paul teaches
that kindness,
compassion, and
forgiveness are
marks of God's
Church.*

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come from your mouths. Say only what is beneficial when there is a need to build up others, so that it will be a blessing to those who hear. ³⁰Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of every kind of bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and slander, along with every kind of malice. ³²Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven us.

¹Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. ²And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Colossians 3:13

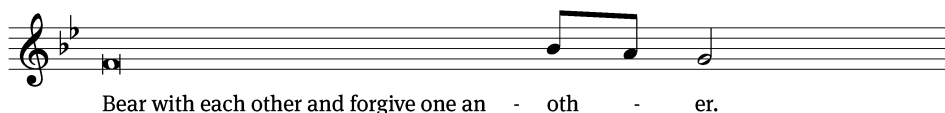
The congregation sings each refrain and verse.



Refrain



Tone



Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?”

²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. ²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt.

²⁶“Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, ‘Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’ ²⁷The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

²⁹“So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ ³⁰But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.

Through a parable Jesus teaches that the ability to forgive others comes when the Spirit enables us to understand how much God has forgiven us.

³¹“When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place.

³²“Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.

³⁵“This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

697 May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

Sermon

Genesis 50:15–21

The power of forgiveness

Please stand.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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

Be seated.

Offering

Musical Offering

**Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive/
May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill**
Jayne Nitz

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.

The Sacrament

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
san - na in the high - est!

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + 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.

Jesus, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Be seated.

Distribution

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

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

Distribution Hymn

677 The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

Distribution Anthem

Jesus Lover of My Soul

arr. Philip W.J. Stopford

*Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide.
O receive my soul at last!*

*Other refuge have I none;
hangs my helpless soul on thee.
Leave, ah, leave me not alone;
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed;
all my help from thee I bring.
Cover my defenseless head
with the shadow of thy wing.*

*Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
more than all in thee I find.
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name;
I am all unrighteousness.
False and full of sin I am;
thou art full of truth and grace.*

*Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin.
Let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art;
freely let me take of thee.
Spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.*

Please stand.

Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Blessing

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

Be seated.

Post-Service Music

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

Valerie Floeter

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Sandra Eithun

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

Valerie Floeter

Serving at Worship

Preaching Minister

Pastor Gary Pufahl

Presiding Minister

Pastor Daniel Gensmer

Piano

Erin Hahnke

Vocal Ensemble

Christina Crabtree, April Degner, *soprano*

Kris Pufahl, Lisa Thiesfeldt, *alto*

Dan Gruman, Jay Wiechmann, *tenor*

Eli Gruman, Will Meihak, Josh Winterstein, *bass*

Brenda Glodowski, *director*

CJ Sulit (8:00 a.m.), Lincoln Schlaht (10:30 a.m.)

Cathy Wightman, Will Meihak

Angie Keezer

Wes Wightman

Sean Lieske

Acolytes

Video streamer and slides

Video captions

Sound

Hymn selections

Acknowledgments

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In our prayers

- Ken Dins – Hospitalized at Banner Desert.
- Chris Heise – Home recovering.
- Elaine Kern – In hospice care at home.
- Kaylee – Home recovering from surgery and going through additional treatments.
- Bill Zidar – Receiving treatments for cancer.

Communion

Thank you to Justine, Olivia, Ellinor and Natalie Konig for helping set up Communion for this weekend.

Landscaping

Thank you to Jim and Christine Olson for helping maintain, trim and clean the outside church property this week.

Ushers

8:00 a.m.

Tony Orlowski, Barry Redman, Andy Wait, Kevin Wenzel

10:30 a.m.

Caden Head, Mike and Bradley Reeve, Benjamin Ruppel

This week at Emmanuel

Sunday

Worship services

8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

In-person adult Bible study

9:15 a.m.

Adult Bible class: Beyond the Temple Walls

Table Talk: Creation and Science: Friends or Foes?

Sunday school, teen and junior high Bible study

9:15 a.m.

Public school Catechism

12:00-1:30 p.m.

Monday

Light in the Valley – campus ministry

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Church Council meeting

6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Saturday

Annual ministry planning event 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 20

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

Looking ahead

September 21 Light in the Valley – campus ministry 6:00-7:30 p.m.
September 22 Evangelism meeting 6:30 p.m.
September 23 Wednesday Bible study 8:30 a.m.
Book of Daniel
Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl
Adult choir practice 6:30 p.m.
September 24 Thursday Bible study at Denny's 6:00 a.m.
21st Century Lessons from the Life of Joseph
Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at
Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)
God's Ways Bible study 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Bible Basics class 6:30-8:00 p.m.
September 25 ELS chapel 8:30 a.m.
ELS early release 1:50 p.m.
Joy Fellowship at Hale Theatre 4:00-6:00 p.m.
September 26 PALM meeting 8:30-11:00 a.m.

September 27	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.
	Public school Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.
September 28	Light in the Valley – campus ministry	6:00-7:30 p.m.
September 30	Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m.
	<i>Book of Daniel</i>	
	<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>	
	Adult choir practice	6:30 p.m.
October 1	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Joseph</i>	
	<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>	
	<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>	
	God's Ways Bible study	6:00-8:30 p.m.
	Bible Basics class	6:30-8:00 p.m.
October 2	ELS chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
October 3	Elders' meeting	7:30-9:00 a.m.
October 4	Blood Drive	7:00-10:30 a.m.
	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.
October 5	Light in the Valley – campus ministry	6:00-7:30 p.m.
October 6	Communications meeting	6:30 p.m.
	Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.
October 7	Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m.
	<i>Book of Daniel</i>	
	<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>	
	School Board meeting	6:00 p.m.
	Adult choir practice	6:30 p.m.
October 8	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Joseph</i>	
	<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>	
	<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>	
	God's Ways Bible study	6:00-8:30 p.m.
	Bible Basics class	6:30-8:00 p.m.
October 9	ELS chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
October 10	Invitation handout: Family Fall Festival	9:00-11:00 a.m.
October 11	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	Pastor appreciation reception	9:00-9:30 a.m.
	Church open forum	9:15 a.m.
	Adult Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
	Public school Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.

Notes and News

Connection cards

The connection cards have a valuable purpose in helping us serve you better. We ask all our worshipers to help us serve you by scanning the QR code, by going to elctempe.org/connect, or by filling out one of the cards in the pews. Thank you!

Meal Train for the Kern family

Let's show our support for the Kern family as they welcome home their third child. Any help with home-cooked meals or take out/delivery would be greatly appreciated. You can sign up to provide a meal using the QR code or this link: <https://mealtrain.com/q47g81>; available dates and meal details can also be found on this link.

MUMs Bible Study

Calling all moms and their children under age 2! Join us for MUMs Bible Study, beginning this morning (Sunday, September 13) at 9:15 a.m. in the church nursery. MUMs (mothers understanding mothers) is Emmanuel's group for moms interested in growing in God's Word and Christian fellowship. Come enjoy a time of encouragement, fellowship, and growing together in God's Word. We'd love to have you join us on Sunday mornings!

Public school catechism starts today

Public school catechism starts today (Sunday, September 13) at 12:00 p.m. in the Ministry and Education Center.

ASU campus ministry | Tomorrow (September 14)

Calling all Arizona State University students and college students in the Phoenix area! Light in the Valley is the WELS campus ministry that meets regularly during the school year. Our campus ministry group, led by Pastor Daniel Gensmer, will start meeting regularly on Monday evenings at Emmanuel Lutheran Church from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. starting tomorrow, Monday, September 14. This semester, we will be engaging in a Bible study based on the book "Christian, Who Are You?" If you are interested in joining, or know of a college student who would be interested, please contact Pastor Gensmer at dgensmer@elctempe.org or (615) 887-3816.

Joy Fellowship at Hale Theatre | September 25

Save the date for this musical comedy performance of "Catch Me If You Can" on Friday, September 25, at the Hale Theatre in Gilbert. The performance starts at 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$45.00 per person and we have 25 seats reserved. A sign-up sheet will be available in the MEC. Contact Wendy Binger at (480) 452-6169 or Chet Jaehnig at (480) 329-5766 for any questions.



Connection card

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



*Kern
Meal Train*

Phoenix Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM)

Join your WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) colleagues from valley churches on Saturday, September 26, at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship.

The Phoenix Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM) is a group of area WELS members (men and women) gathering to share opportunities for faith and fellowship across valley WELS churches. Emmanuel will be hosting this event; the topic for the morning will be Martin Luther College (MLC) Daylight and the strength of outreach and follow through.

Arizona Lutheran Academy Homecoming

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



*Blood Drive
sign-up*

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

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

Invitation handout: Family Fall Festival | October 10

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

Campus Fall work day | October 24

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

Save the date for our Family Fall Festival | November 1

Our annual Family Fall Festival is scheduled for Sunday, November 1, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. This is a fun, family-friendly event with Trunk-or-Treat, bounce houses and more.

We will need donations and volunteers, so be on the lookout in the coming weeks for more information. In the meantime, add this fun event to your calendar and invite your family and friends!

Interested in snapping a few photos?

The Communications Committee is seeking photographers for upcoming events. First on the docket is the East Valley Reformation Service on Sunday, October 25. Interested in volunteering or want more information? Contact Jen Bode at JenBode18@gmail.com.

Needy food pantry donations

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

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

RaiseRight gift card program

Our RaiseRight Coordinator, John Mueller, is excited to assist you in ordering gift cards. Purchasing RaiseRight gift cards raises funds for students' tuition accounts at our Arizona WELS schools, the Arizona Lutheran tuition assistance fund, and our congregations and schools. You can order your RaiseRight through the Arizona Lutheran office (RaiseRight@ALAcoyotes.org) or order at any time through RaiseRight.com. You will need the Enrollment Code, which can be provided by contacting John Mueller (RaiseRight@ALAcoyotes.org), and then enroll to start earning. Orders are placed twice a month, with deadlines of 8:00 a.m. on the 15th and the last day of the month. Visit our webpage at elctempe.org/raiserright to learn more.

Trip to Israel in 2027

Imagine walking through Jerusalem where Jesus walked, or taking a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee where Jesus calmed the storm. From January 26 to February 4 2027, Pastor Daniel Cole of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Springerville and Taylor, Arizona, will be hosting a tour of Israel through *Imagine Tours and Travel*. This trip includes airfare, deluxe motor coaches, guided sightseeing, all entrance fees, and breakfast and dinner daily. If you have any questions or would like more information, there are brochures in the back of church (or scan the QR code), or please contact Pastor Cole at (920) 588-0309 (call or text), revdan.cole@gmail.com or visit immanuelaz.com.



Pastor Cole
2027 Israel trip
brochure



BEYOND THE TEMPLE WALLS

A greater vision for the future church

During this Sunday morning Bible study, we will reframe church not as an institution fighting for survival with fewer people stepping inside church buildings, but as God's people living out their faith beyond Sunday and beyond the walls.

Grounded in the Bible's rich temple theme, this four-week series invites God's people to rethink stewardship in terms of relationships, authentic community, whole life well-being, and engagement with God's world.

Designed for today's shifting religious landscape, "Beyond the Temple Walls" speaks directly to the questions parents and grandparents are asking about the future of the church and to the longings of younger generations wary of institutional religion.

Where: Ministry and Education Center (Oak and Cedar Rooms combined)

When: Sundays at 9:15 a.m. for four Sundays

September 13: "To a greater responsibility" – exploring what church membership means today and the responsibility it involves, not to a building or institution, but to people.

September 20: "To a greater community" – focusing on mentoring and fellowship to foster authentic relationships with the church.

September 27: "To a greater well-being" – reflecting on what it means that God dwells in our bodies and how that impacts our spiritual and physical lives.

October 4: "To a greater world" – envisioning how the promise of a new creation shapes our view of stewardship and creation care.

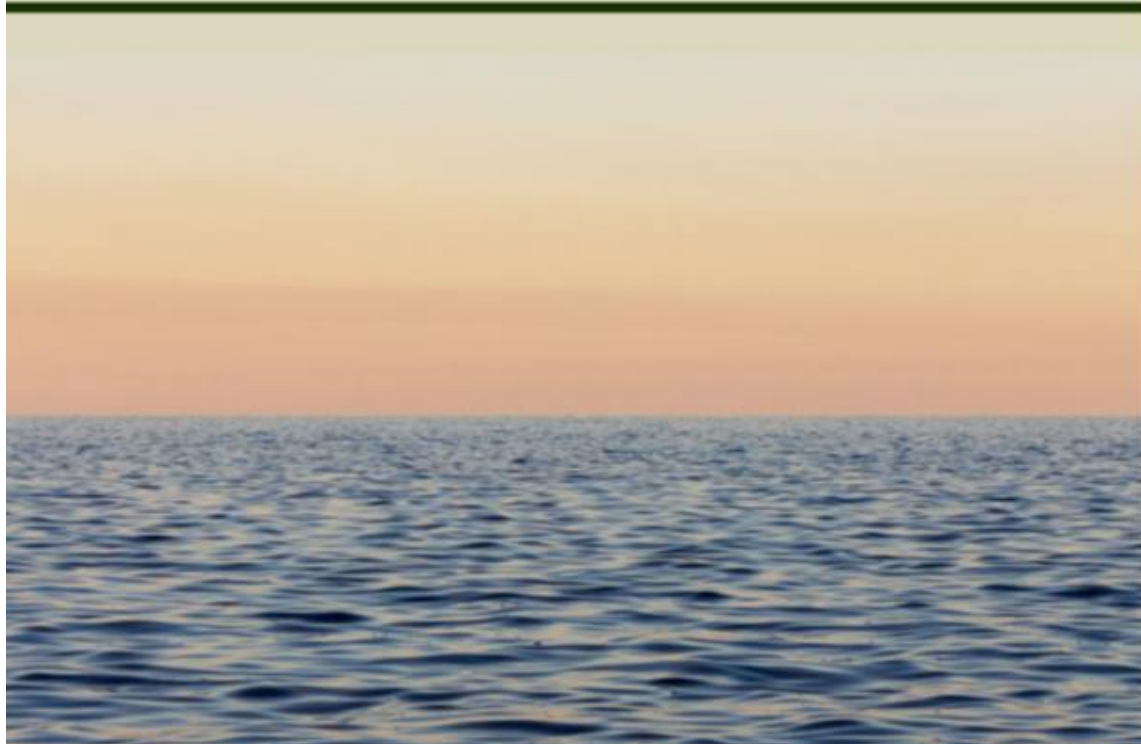
The Truth About Earth

CREATION AND
SCIENCE:
FRIENDS OR FOES?

Reconciling Science
with Scripture

Table Talk Bible Class:
Joel Hahnke and
Dan Kucenski

Sunday Mornings
9/13 thru 10/4



Christian education hour

Here is a list of our classes, topics, and locations for our Sunday morning education hour.

The **Adult Bible study** is meeting in the Oak Room of the Ministry and Education Center (MEC). The study topic today is “Beyond the Temple Walls.”

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

The **Teen Bible study Grades 9-12** is meeting in the 7th grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is “Unexpected Truths: Forgiveness is for me.”

The **Junior High Bible study Grades 7-8** is meeting in the 8th grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is “Unexpected Truths: Forgiveness is for me.”

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

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

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

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 saves Noah.”

Personal preparation for Holy Communion

The following questions for self-examination (adapted from various sources) may be helpful as you prepare to receive the Sacrament.

As we prepare to partake of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is appropriate that we diligently examine ourselves, as St Paul exhorts us. For this Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort and strengthening of those who humbly confess their sins and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But if we thus examine ourselves, we find nothing in ourselves but sin and death, from which we can in no way set ourselves free. Therefore our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy upon us and has taken upon himself our nature, so that he might fulfill the whole will and law of God and for us and for our deliverance suffer death and all that we by our sins have deserved. In order that we should more confidently believe this and be strengthened in faith and cheerful obedience to his holy will, he has instituted the holy Sacrament of his Supper, in which he feeds us with his body and gives us to drink of his blood.

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup firmly believing the words of Christ, lives in Christ and Christ in him, and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of him, proclaiming his death – that he was delivered over for our sins and raised to life for our justification. Then with thankful hearts we commit ourselves again to take up our cross and follow him, keep his commandments, and love one another as he has loved us.

As you examine yourself, consider these questions before God, who searches the heart:

Q: Do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserved his wrath and punishment?

A: *Truly you should confess, for Holy Scripture declares, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."*

Q: Do you heartily repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and action?

A: *Truly you should repent, as did the penitent sinners: King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the woman caught in adultery; the prodigal son; and others.*

Q: Do you sincerely believe that God, by his grace, for Jesus' sake, forgives you all your sins?

A: *Truly you should believe, for Holy Scripture declares, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

Q: Do you promise that with the help of the Holy Spirit you will from this time forward amend your sinful life?

A: *Truly you should so promise, for Holy Scripture declares, "No one who lives in him keeps on sinning," and Jesus himself declares, "If you love me, you will obey what I command."*

Personal prayer:

Lord Jesus, as a penitent sinner filled with joy and gratitude, I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of love and kindness to others. Amen.

A person should examine himself before eating of the bread and drinking from the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment (1 Corinthians 11:28,29,31).



About Us

Emmanuel Lutheran Church shares the love of Jesus and the truth of his saving Word with the people in our church, our community and the world.

The objectives of our mission are:

- To **preach**, by proclaiming the Word of God, as we worship and praise God in a loving Christian atmosphere;
- To **teach**, by fostering an ongoing increase in knowledge and maturity in God's Word;
- To **reach**, by sharing the Gospel of God's Word with all people, and to do so;
- By **each** member actively participating in our ministry.

Pastor Gary A. Pufahl

gpufahl@elctempe.org

(262) 744-1619

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*