

Pentecost 24

It's time to watch for the final events

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

November 8, 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.

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost — November 8, 2026

The Beginning of the End: It's time to watch for the final events

Imagine you are planning to take the family out to dinner. You all have to wait for someone to get ready. Minute after minute passes. What can happen in that situation? It's easy to focus on something else and even forget the original goal. Perhaps as you wait, you even fall asleep.

As we wait for Christ to return, as day after day passes, it can be easy to get distracted, to lose vigilance, to become spiritually drowsy. It's the beginning of the end. Why does it have to take so long?

God forbid that Christ should return and find us spiritually asleep! Today we are reminded that the time between Christ's first and second coming is a time for watchfulness. Stay awake and alert, and be ready to greet your coming Savior!

Service of the Word and Sacrament



Pre-Service Music

Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray
Timothy Albrecht

Wake, Awake
Wayne Woldt, J.S. Bach

Opening Hymn

870 O Church, Arise

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 and Absolution

CW 172

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.

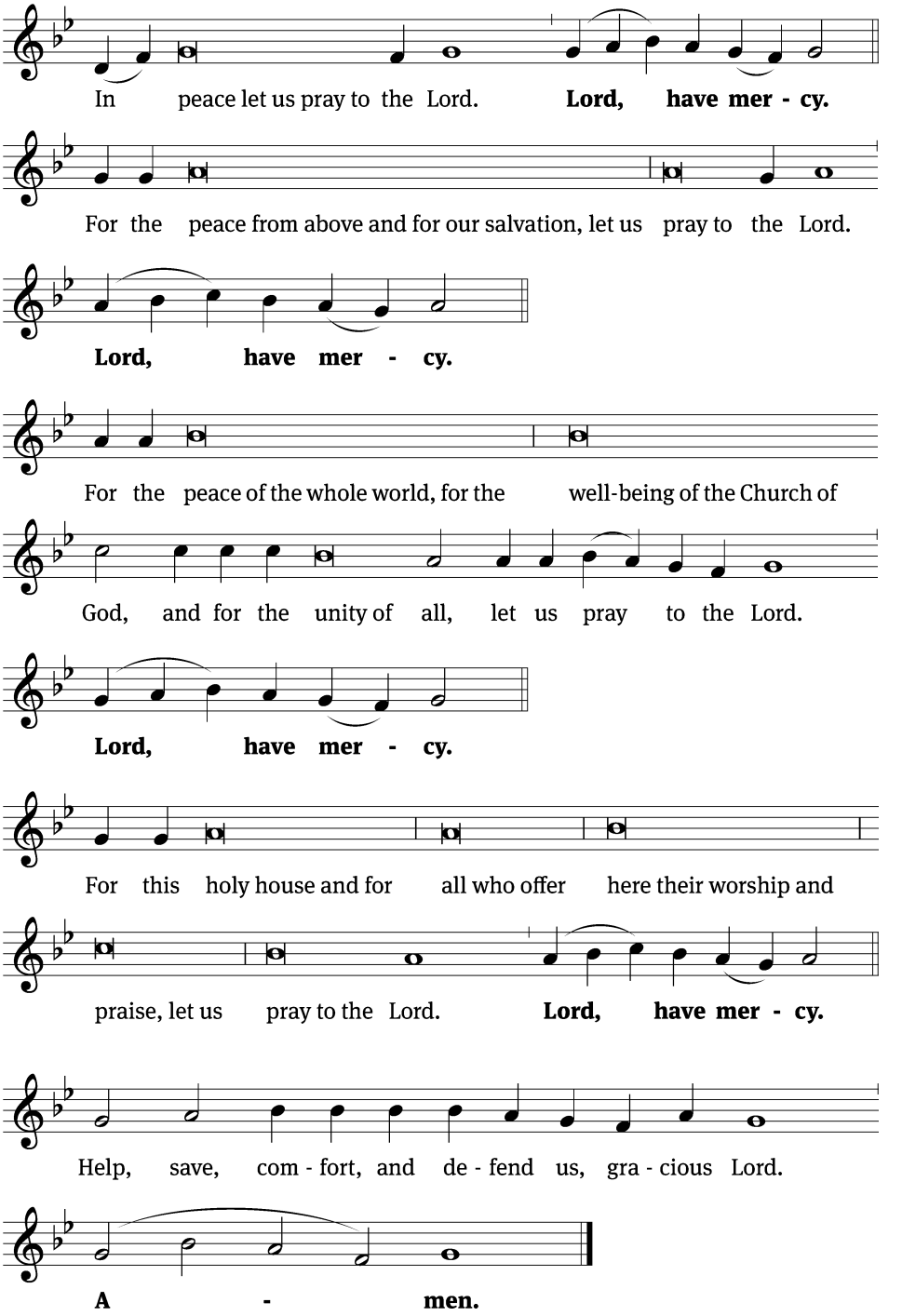
Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid 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.

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.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie



Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria




Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. For you a -
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,
with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of
God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; 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

Isaiah 51:17–52:6

The nation of Israel was sleepwalking through life, exhausted by their present problems. "Awake!" the prophet cries. Israel is to watch for the coming redemption.

17 Rouse yourself! Rouse yourself! Get up, Jerusalem!
You have drunk the cup filled with the Lord's wrath from his hand.
You drank it. You drained the chalice, the cup that makes you stagger.
18 There is no one to guide her from among all the sons she bore.
There is no one to take her hand from among all the sons she raised.
19 Those two things are happening to you.

Who will grieve for you?
Devastation and destruction and famine and sword!
Who will comfort you?
20 Your children faint and collapse at the corner of every street,
like an antelope in a net.
They are full of the wrath of the Lord,
full of the rebuke of your God.
21 Therefore hear this, you afflicted woman,
a woman drunk, but not from wine.
22 This is what the Lord God says,
your God, who will contend for his people.
Look, I am taking the cup that makes you stagger out of your hand,
the chalice, the cup filled with my wrath.
Never again will you drink from it,
23 because I will place it into the hand of your tormentors,
who have said to you,
"Lie down so that we can walk over you."
You made your back like the ground
and like the street for those who walked over you.

[1] Wake, awake!
Clothe yourself with strength, O Zion.
Put on your beautiful garments,
Jerusalem, you holy city,
for never again will the uncircumcised
and the unclean enter you.
[2] Shake off the dust.
Get up and take your seat, Jerusalem.
Loosen the chains from your neck,
you captive daughter of Zion.

[3] Yes, this is what the LORD says.
You were sold for nothing,
and you will be redeemed without money.

[4] Yes, this is what the LORD God says.
In the beginning, my people went down to Egypt to stay there for a while.
Later Assyria oppressed them without cause.

[5] Now what do I have here? declares the LORD.
Indeed, my people have been taken away for nothing.
Their rulers howl with mockery, declares the LORD.
My name is continually despised all day.
[6] Therefore my people will know my name.
So on that day they will know that I am the one—
the one who is saying, "Here I am!"

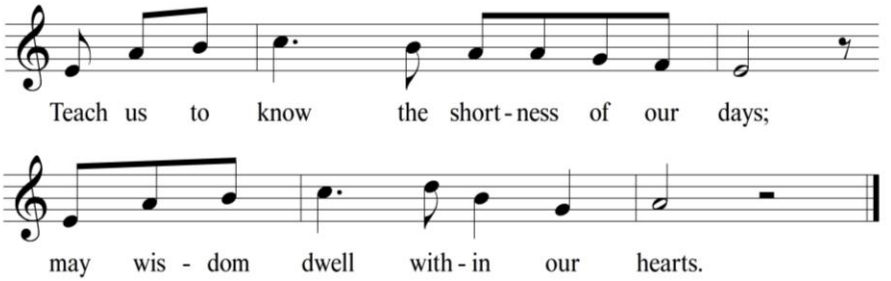
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 90

Join the vocalist to sing each refrain.

Marty Haugen



You turn man back to dust, and say, "Return, O children of men."
To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, or like a watch in the night.
Refrain

You sweep them away like a dream, like a grass which is fresh in the morning.
In the morning it sprouts and is fresh; by evening it withers and fades. **Refrain**

Then teach us to number our days, that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Turn back, O LORD! How long? Show pity to your servants. **Refrain**

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us;
Give success to the work of our hands.
O give success to the work of our hands. **Refrain**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

St. Paul teaches how we should wait for Jesus to return. Be watchful. Don't fall asleep. Live as children of the light.

[1]Concerning the times and dates, brothers, there is no need to write to you, [2]for you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]When people are saying, "Peace and security," destruction will suddenly come on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will certainly not escape. [4]But you, brothers, are not in the dark so that this day could take you by surprise like a thief, [5]for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. [6]So then let us not sleep like everyone else, but rather let us remain alert and sober.

[7]To be sure, those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. [9]You see, God did not appoint us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. [10]He died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. [11]Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are also doing.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 24:42

The congregation sings each refrain. The minister sings the verse.



Therefore, watch for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Refrain

Gospel

Matthew 25:1–13

The wise, those who are watching and ready for the Bridegroom, enter into the great wedding banquet.

1"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their
lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were foolish, and
five were wise. 3When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any
oil with them; 4but the wise took oil in their containers with their lamps. 5While
the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6But at
midnight there was a shout, 'Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'
7Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. 8The foolish ones said
to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.' 9But the
wise answered, 'No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to
those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10But while they were away
buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to
the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. 11Later, the other virgins also
came and said, 'Lord, Lord, let us in.' 12But he answered, 'Amen I tell you: I do
not know you.' 13Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or
the hour.

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

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

486 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Known as the "King of Chorales (Hymns)", this exciting and unique melody has captured the attention of composers for centuries. The words give more commentary on the Gospel for today and assure the believer of Jesus returning and taking us to heaven.

Sermon

Isaiah 51:17–52:6

Nap time is over

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.

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.

Offering

Musical Offering

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers
Paul Manz

Adult Confirmation (10:30 a.m.)

Joseph Cromwell

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.

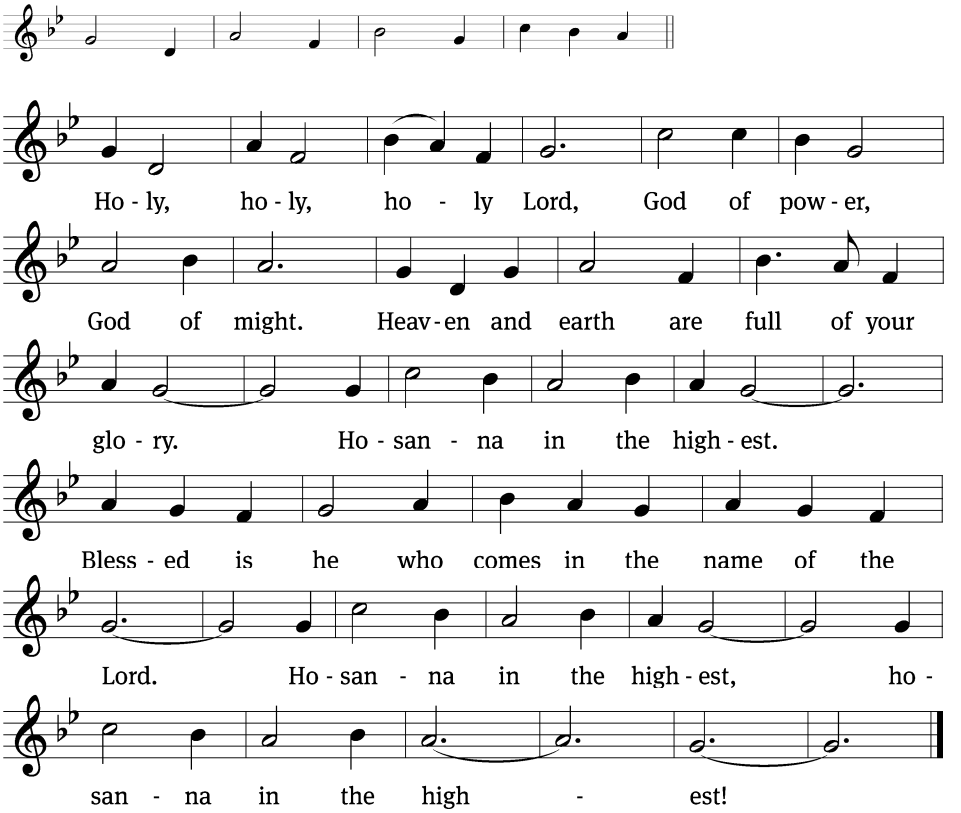
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

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



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



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

493 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

713 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

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

Wake, Awake
John Behnke

Serving at Worship

Preaching Minister	Pastor Daniel Gensmer
Presiding Minister	Pastor Jon Buchholz
Organ	Kevin Bode
Instrumentalist/Vocalist	Josh Severeid, *saxophone*
Acolyte	(8:00 a.m.)
Video streamer and slides	Cathy Wightman, Baxter Priebe
Video captions	Angie Keezer
Sound	Wes Wightman
Hymn selections	Sara Redman

Acknowledgments

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In our prayers

- Joseph Cromwell, who was confirmed in the Christian faith today.
- Chris Heise – Home recovering.
- Kaylee – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Scott Trautman – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Bill Welker – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Bill Zidar – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Thank you, God, for sending the rain.

Ushers

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

Flowers

Thank you to Chris and Crystal Sulit for beautifying our sanctuary with altar flowers in honor of their 17th wedding anniversary.

Communion

Thank you to Louise Sallquist and Julie Sallquist for helping set up Communion for this weekend.

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.

Monday

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

Tuesday

Evangelism meeting	6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m. *Book of Daniel* *Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl*
Veterans Day program	1:00 p.m.
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 Moses
	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.
Communications meeting	6:30 p.m.

Friday

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

Saturday

WOW ladies' group event	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
PALM meeting	9:00-11:00 a.m.
	Lamb of God Church, Phoenix, Arizona

Sunday, November 15

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.
Emmanuel teen night	6:00-8:00 p.m.

Looking ahead

November 17	Church Council meeting	6:00-8:00 p.m.
November 20	ELS Christ ~ Connection ~ Coffee	9:00-10:00 a.m.
		following ELS chapel
	ELS Grades 1-4 drama performance and Preschool-Kindergarten sing	6:00 p.m.
November 21	Elders' meeting	7:30-9:00 a.m.
November 22	Grief Share – Surviving the Holidays	2:00-4:00 p.m.
November 25	ELS Thanksgiving break	Noon dismissal
	Thanksgiving Eve worship service	6:30 p.m.
	Adult choir	No practice
November 26-27	ELS Thanksgiving break	No school
November 26	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
November 27	Day after holiday	Church office closed
November 28	Decorate church and MEC for Christmas	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

November 29	In-person adult Bible study	No classes
	Sunday school, teen and junior high Bible study	No classes
	Public school Catechism	No class
November 30	ELS	Classes resume
December 1	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	Grief Share – Surviving the Holidays	6:00-8:00 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.

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

Notes and News

Connection cards

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

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's 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.

New *Meditations* available

Meditations is a daily devotional magazine that is released every three months. Each daily devotion has a Scripture reading, a meditation, and a prayer. Your complimentary copy of *Meditations* is available on the back counter at church. Please pick up the current issue that starts with a devotion for November 29.

Overflowing with gratitude

Last Sunday, we held our annual Family Fall Festival. Due to the weather, we had to pivot and hold the event in our Ministry and Education Center. We had a wonderful turnout despite the weather, and everyone had a fun time. The planning committee would like to thank everyone who donated items, those who hosted a trunk (or this year, a table), and the many volunteers who helped make this event possible. We are overflowing with gratitude! *In everything give thanks – 1 Thessalonians 5:18.*

Veterans Day program | November 11

Emmanuel Lutheran School will be hosting a Veterans Day Program on Wednesday, November 11. All veterans and their spouses are invited to a luncheon beginning at noon. Invitation flyers are available in the back of church for veterans. Feel free to take as many as you need to share with veterans.

RSVP for Veterans Day program

Please RSVP for the lunch by calling the school office at (480) 967-3991, emailing Miss Chris Wempner at cwempner@elstempe.org, using the provided QR code, or clicking on this lunch link. The students will present a program beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the church. All congregational members and parents are invited to attend and help us honor the veterans.

Taste and See: Ladies' apple butter fellowship | November 14

Emmanuel's ladies' group, *WOW (Women of the Word)*, is hosting an apple butter workshop this month. Ladies, you're invited to join us at Emmanuel on Saturday, November 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the MEC for a sweet time of fellowship. We will be chopping, simmering, and jarring homemade spiced apple butter together. No baking experience needed. Bring your favorite apron, come prepared to chop, mix and jar, and everyone will take home a fresh jar. Visit elctempe.org/WOW for more information and to sign up.

Ladies' group event

Use this link to sign up, scan the QR code, or sign up in the MEC for this fun event. Please note, in order to accommodate the space and ensure enough supplies, sign up as soon as possible. *Keep me as the apple of your eye – Psalm 17:8.*

Phoenix Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM)

Join your WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) colleagues from valley churches on Saturday, November 14, at 9:00 a.m. for 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. Lamb of God will be hosting this event (599 E. Chandler Boulevard, Phoenix, Arizona 85048).

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 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.

Hanging of the Greens

Christmas decorating day

Please join us on 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.

Save the date: Advent by Candlelight | December 6

Advent by Candlelight

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.

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 Sunday, November 22.

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.

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.

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 watch for the final events."

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 watch for the final events."

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

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

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

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 makes the walls fall down."

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



If you are 70 ½ years old or older 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 a qualified charity such as ours without having to pay income taxes on that gift.

Why consider this type of gift?

Your gift will be used today to support the ministry of Emmanuel Lutheran. If you specifically earmark the donation toward our Ministry and Education Center, that will reduce our mortgage payments and expand our ministries.

You pay no income taxes on the gift. The QCD transfer generates neither taxable income nor a taxable deduction, so you benefit even if you don't itemize!

Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your adjusted gross income.

Beginning in the year you turn 73, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD).

Contact your IRA administrator for more information.

Your gift must be received by December 31, 2026, to qualify.

Make a difference today by connecting people to Emmanuel!

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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.

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Emmanuel Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the Wisconsin Synod as well as the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).

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