

IDENTITY

revealed

Epiphany 3

Jesus is the Light

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

January 25, 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.
- **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.*

Epiphany 3 – January 25, 2026

Identity Revealed: Jesus is the Light

The prophet Isaiah described humanity as “people walking in darkness.” Then he foretold that a light would shine on them.

Enveloped by sin, suffering, and death, we find our minds and hearts clouded. But Jesus is revealed as the promised light. He shines his light by preaching repentance and the good news of the kingdom.

Our Savior is the Light of the world. We reflect his light to everyone around us.

Service of the Word and Sacrament

IDENTITY
revealed

Pre-Service Music

O God of God, O Light from Light

Charles Ore

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

settings from Paul Manz, Neil Wilhelm Gade, J.S. Bach

Opening Hymn

370 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Stand for the final stanza.



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see
2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, true Son of God
3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved me ere
4 Oh, joy to know that you, my friend, are Lord, be - gin -

and hail a - far the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
and Mar - y's son, the high - born King of a - ges!
you had be - gun this an - cient world's foun - da - tion.
ning with - out end, the first and last, e - ter - nal!

O Da - vid's son of Ja - cob's race, my Bride - groom and
In your blest bod - y let me be, e'en as the branch
Your Son has made a friend of me, and when in spir -
And you at length— O glo - rious grace— will take me to

my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.
is in the tree, your life my life sup - ply - ing.
it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.
that ho - ly place, the home of joys su - per - nal.

Part of our curriculum as a Lutheran school is studying hymns. Some hymns are suggested to be taught every year, while others every three years. Because of its excellent text and tune, this is one that our students learn almost every year.

Song continues on page 4.



Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
Sigh - ing, cry - ing for the sa - vor of your fa - vor,
What bliss is this! He is liv - ing, to me giv - ing
A - men, a - men! Come and meet me, quick - ly greet me!



Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n - ly plac - es.
rest - ing nev - er till I rest in you for - ev - er.
life for - ev - er; noth - ing me from him can sev - er.
With deep yearn - ing, Lord, I look for your re - turn - ing.

Invocation

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

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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.

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

370 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, let all glad sounds
of mu - sic ring in God's high prais - es blend - ed.
Christ will be with me all the way, to - day, to - mor -
row, ev - 'ry day till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.
Sing out, ring out tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
cho - sen na - tion; praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

The musical score is written on eight staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score includes a measure rest at the beginning of the first line and another at the start of the second line. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; 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.

*The prophet foretold
that people walking
in darkness would
see a great light.*

First Reading

Isaiah 8:19–9:4

¹⁹When they tell you, “Consult the mediums and the spiritists, who whisper and mutter,” shouldn’t a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living? ²⁰To the law and to the testimony! If people do not speak according to this word, there will be no dawn for them. ²¹They will pass through the land, distressed and starving, but when this takes place and they are starving, they will be frustrated, and they will curse their king and their God. They will turn their faces upward, ²²and then they will look down to the ground, but I tell you, they will see only distress, darkness, and the gloom that brings anguish. They will be banished into thick darkness.

¹Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for the land that was in anguish. In former times, he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will cause it to be glorious, along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles.

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.

³You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.
They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time,
like the celebration when people divide the plunder.

⁴For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them.
You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor,
as you did in the day of Midian.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

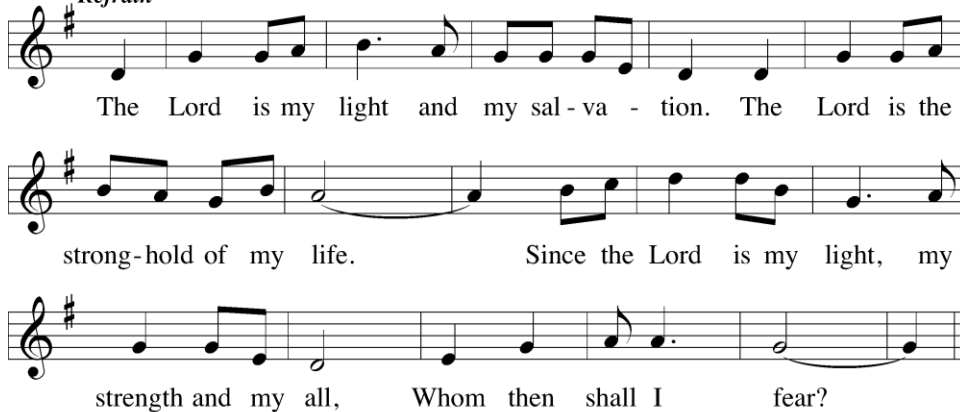
Psalm of the Day

Sung by all.

The Lord is My Light (Psalm 27)

Alberto Taulé

Refrain



The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion. The Lord is the
strong-hold of my life. Since the Lord is my light, my
strength and my all, Whom then shall I fear?

Verses



1 There is one thing I ask of the Lord:
2 Do not hide your face, O Lord,
3 Teach me, Lord, and keep me on your paths;
To dwell in his house for - ev - er,
Ev - 'ry day I will seek your face.
Guide me, Lord, a - long a lev - el way.
To gaze on the beau - ty of the Lord
Though my fa - ther and moth - er may for - sake me,
I will gaze on the good - ness of the Lord
All the days of my life.
The Lord will re - ceive me.
In the land of all the liv - ing.

Every Friday, our preschool - 8th graders gather together for chapel. One of the things we sing is a Song of the Quarter. This one serves our school for Quarter 3.

*God's children walk
in the light of Christ
by living in love for
God and for one
another.*

Second Reading

1 John 2:3–11

³This is how we know that we have known him: if we keep his commands. ⁴The one who says, "I know him," but does not keep his commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵If anyone keeps God's word, the love of God is truly made complete in him. This is how we know that we are in him: ⁶The one who says he remains in him should walk as Jesus walked.

⁷Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one that you have had since the beginning. The old command is the message you heard. ⁸At the same time, the command I am writing is new — it is true in Jesus and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. ⁹The one who says he is in the light and yet hates his brother is still in the darkness. ¹⁰The one who loves his brother remains in the light, and nothing causes him to stumble. ¹¹The one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

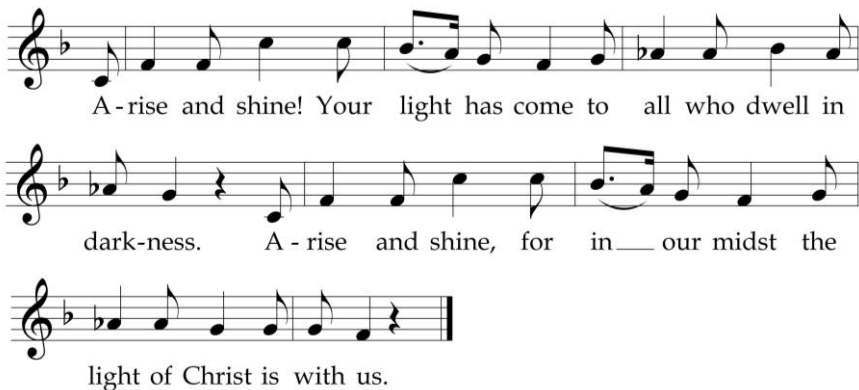
Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 9:2

Refrain: *vocalist(s)*

Those who walked in darkness have seen a great light. To those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shone.

Refrain: all



A - rise and shine! Your light has come to all who dwell in
dark-ness. A - rise and shine, for in — our midst the
light of Christ is with us.

Gospel

Matthew 4:12–23

¹²When Jesus heard that John was put in prison, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴He did this to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

Jesus preached the light of the gospel to a world in the darkness of unbelief.

¹⁵Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles,
¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light,
and on those dwelling in the region and the shadow of death a light has dawned.

¹⁷From that time, Jesus began to preach: “Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near.”

¹⁸As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. ¹⁹He said to them, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

²⁰They immediately left their nets and followed him. ²¹Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Anthem

Lord, You Are Light

John Leavitt

*You are my light in the morning;
Your are my light in the evening, too.
Your word is the light to guide through the night.
When trouble's near I will not fear;
I can depend on you.*

*Lord, you are light, you are strength, you are might all around me.
Whatever they say, I will not look away; you are all I see.
When the clouds get in the way,
Then you chase them away.
You will answer when I pray;
Let me always stay in your light.*

*You are the light in my daybreak;
You are the light of my sunset, too.
Your light in my life brings peace out of strife.
There is no fear when you are near;
help me trust in you.*

*Your word is the light to guide through the night.
When trouble's near, I must not fear;
I shall depend on you.*

Hymn of the Day

629 O God from God, O Light from Light



1 O God from God, O Light from Light, O Prince of
 2 For deep in proph - ets' sa - cred page, and grand in
 3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, that death of
 4 Then sing to Christ a might - y song; ex - tol his



Peace and King of kings, to you in heav - en's
 po - ets' wing - ed word, slow - ly in type, from
 pain mid hate and scorn— these all are past, and
 name, his mer - cies tell! Sing, heav'n - ly hosts, your



glo - ry bright the song of praise for - ev - er rings.
 age to age the na - tions saw their com - ing Lord;
 now a - bove he reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.
 praise pro - long, and all on earth, your an - them swell!



To him who sits up - on the throne, the Lamb once
 till through the deep Ju - de - an night rang out the
 Lift up your heads, you heav'n - ly gates! So sang his
 All hail, O Lamb for sin - ners slain! For - ev - er



slain but raised a - gain, be all the glo - ry
 song, "Good will to men!" What an - gels sang in
 hosts, un - heard by men. Lift up your heads, for
 let the song as - cend! To Christ the King, en -



he has won, all thanks and praise! A - men, a - men.
 heav'n - ly light re - ech - oes now, "Good will!" A - men.
 you he waits. We lift them up. A - men, a - men.
 throned to reign, all glo - ry, pow'r! A - men, a - men.

A bright light shines in a dark place

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

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
Michael Burkhardt

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 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 lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. 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 hosts,
heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, 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.

Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

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

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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us, grant us 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 Hymns

517 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness
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.

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.

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.

Post-Service Music

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star
Johann Pachelbel

Serving at Worship

Preaching Minister

Presiding Minister

Organ

Vocalists

Pastor Gary Pufahl

Pastor Jon Buchholz

Kevin Bode, Lisa Thiesfeldt

Chrsitina Crabtree, Eli Gruman, Noah Gruman,

Leia Hahnke, Will Meihak, Bradley Reeve

Cathy Wightman, Lauren Sallquist

Video streamer and slides

Video captions

Sound

Angie Keezer

Wes Wightman

Hymn selections

Sara Redman

Acknowledgments

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“The Lord Is My Light” CWS 767

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Tune: El Señor es mi luz, Alberto Taulé, b. 1932 (S) Alberto Taulé; admin. OCP Publications.

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“Gospel Acclamation” John Paradowski, © 2005 Choristers Guild.

In our prayers

- Jay Meshay – Home recovering from surgery.
- Seth Meyer – Back home in Arizona to continue his accident recovery.
- Kaylee – Receiving treatment for cancer.
- Lorenzo Ortega – Hospitalized at Banner University.
- Yolie Schoening – Hospitalized at Banner Baywood.
- Wayne Score – Hospitalized at Banner Desert.

Ushers

8:00 a.m.

Dan Gruman, Eli Gruman, Noah Gruman, Jacob Pufahl

10:30 a.m.

Matt Corrigan, Caden Head, Roger Odle, Mike Wilson

Communion

Thank you to Shannon Meyers and Leticia Velasquez for helping set up Communion for the weekend.

Landscaping

Thank you to John and Carol Campbell and Dave and Stacey Peter and family 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 | 9:15 a.m. |
| Public School Catechism | 12:00-1:30 p.m. |

Monday

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Greeter training and ice cream social in the MEC | 6:30 p.m. |
|--|-----------|

Tuesday

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Quarterly voters' meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
|---------------------------|-----------|

Wednesday

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday Bible study in the MEC | 8:30 a.m. <i>Drive through the Gospels</i> <i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i> |
| Adult choir in the MEC | 6:30 p.m. |

Thursday

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Thursday Bible study at Denny's | 6:00 a.m. <i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Abraham</i> <i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</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> |

Friday

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

Saturday

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Men of His Word conference | 7:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m. |
|----------------------------|---------------------|

Sunday, February 1

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Christian Education Sunday | |
| Worship services | 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. |
| In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study | 9:15 a.m. |
| Public School Catechism | No class |
| Church picnic | 12:00-2:00 p.m. |

Looking ahead

| | | |
|------------|------------------------|---|
| February 3 | Stewardship meeting | 8:00 p.m. |
| February 4 | Wednesday Bible study | 8:30 a.m. <i>Drive through the Gospels</i> <i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i> |
| | Adult choir in the MEC | 6:30 p.m. |

| | | |
|-------------|--|-----------------------|
| February 5 | Thursday Bible study at Denny's | 6:00 a.m. |
| | <i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Abraham</i> | |
| | <i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i> | |
| | <i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i> | |
| | ELS Night at the Arts in the MEC | 3:30-5:30 p.m. |
| | God's Ways Bible study in the MEC | 6:00 p.m. |
| | <i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i> | |
| | Bible Basics in the MEC | 6:30 p.m. |
| | <i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i> | |
| February 6 | ELS K-8 Grandparents' Day | 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. |
| | Chapel | 10:40 a.m. |
| | ELS early release | 12:00 p.m. |
| February 7 | Elders meeting | 7:30 a.m. |
| | Evangelism outreach: ELS open enrollment | 9:00-10:30 a.m. |
| February 8 | Worship services | 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. |
| | Bible study, Sunday school, teen study | 9:15 a.m. |
| | Public School Catechism | 12:00-1:30 p.m. |
| February 9 | Worship committee meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| February 10 | School Board meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| February 11 | Wednesday Bible study | 8:30 a.m. |
| | <i>Drive through the Gospels</i> | |
| | <i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i> | |
| | Free estate workshop in the MEC | 9:30-10:30 a.m. |
| | Adult choir in the MEC | 6:30 p.m. |
| February 12 | 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> | |
| February 13 | ELS Valley Teacher in-service | No school |
| February 15 | Blood drive | 7:00-10:30 a.m. |
| | Worship services | 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. |
| | Bible study, Sunday school, teen study | 9:15 a.m. |
| | Public School Catechism | 12:00-1:30 p.m. |
| February 16 | Presidents' Day | No school |
| February 17 | Church council meeting | 6:00 p.m. |
| February 18 | Wednesday Bible study | 8:30 a.m. |
| | <i>Drive through the Gospels</i> | |
| | <i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i> | |
| | Ash Wednesday worship service | 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. |
| | Lent supper in the MEC | 4:45-6:15 p.m. |
| | Adult choir in the MEC | No practice |

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 Balgeman family

Let's show our support for the Balgeman family as they welcome their newest blessing. 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/16z335>; available dates and meal details can also be found on this link.

Meal Train for the Severeid family

Josh and Rachel Severeid have been blessed with a baby boy. Help is needed with meals for the new parents. If you are able to help with home-cooked meals or take out/delivery, it would be much appreciated. You can sign up to provide a meal using the QR code or this link: <https://mealtrain.com/3ynm88>; available dates and meal details can also be found on this link.

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>.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church calls Pastor Patrick Freese

On Tuesday, January 13, the congregation called **Pastor Patrick Freese** of Abita Springs, Louisiana, to serve as Emmanuel's associate pastor in the area of youth and family ministry. Please pray for Pastor Freese, his wife Sarah, and their two children, as he deliberates this call to serve the Lord in Tempe.

Greeter training and ice cream social | January 26

Like chatting with people? Enjoy a bowl of ice cream every now and then? Join us tomorrow (Monday, January 26) at 6:30 p.m. for greeter training followed by an ice cream social. This training is for those who need a refresher, new to greeting, or interested in learning more about becoming a Sunday morning greeter. Contact Pastor Buchholz or Benjamin Ruppel with questions.



Connection card

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



*Balgeman
Meal Train*



*Severeid
Meal Train*



*Rognholt
Meal Train*

New Bible studies start

Beginning today (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.

Register now for men's conference on January 31

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 annual conference for Men of His Word – Arizona will be held this Saturday, January 31, 2026, at the Desert Willow Conference Center (48th Street and Broadway 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 and to register, visit MenofHisWord.org/Phoenix/ and click on the registration button.

Day of in-person registration will be open at 7:15 a.m. on January 31 with breakfast being served until 8:00 a.m. The conference will start at 8:00 a.m. with devotion followed by the keynote speaker. Register and purchase your ticket today; the cost is \$125 and students are \$50.

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 this month, you will receive a \$50 reimbursement. 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*

Emmanuel church picnic | February 1

It's that time of year again! Our annual church picnic is scheduled for Sunday, February 1, 12:00-2:00 p.m. Please join us for fellowship, festivities, fun, and food. Hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, barbecue beans, drinks, and condiments will be provided.

We are asking for members to contribute cold sides and desserts. To sign up for dishes, use the provided link ([Food Sign-up](#)) or the QR code.

More information about this event, including volunteer opportunities, can be found at this link ([Picnic Helper Sign-up](#)) or the provided QR code.



Food Sign-Up



Helper Sign-Up

Grandparents Day at Arizona Lutheran Academy | February 4

If you are the grandparent of an AZ Lutheran student, mark Wednesday, February 4 on your calendar. That morning, faculty and students 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 sign-up can be accessed [here](#) or scanning the QR code. Please sign up by Wednesday, January 28.



*AZ Lutheran
Grandparents
Day sign-up*

Fine Arts Fair | February 5

Get ready to be inspired! Join us for the Fine Arts Fair where art and music come together. Explore art by preschool through eighth grade artists and enjoy a special band performance at 4:30 p.m. See you Thursday, February 5, in the Ministry and Education Center (MEC) from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Contact Mrs. Amber Bode (amber.lee.bode@gmail.com) for more details or questions.

Grandparents Day at Emmanuel Lutheran School | February 6

Grandparents Day at Emmanuel will be celebrated on Friday, February 6, for students in grades K-8, from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Grandparents will join their students for chapel and fun activities.

Open enrollment outreach | February 7

Enjoy walking? Want an opportunity to enjoy the cooler weather? Join us Saturday, February 7, to hand out information about Preschool through Grade 8 open enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year. All members, parents, guardians are welcome to join and put in some steps in support of our school. We will meet in the Ministry and Education Center at 9:00 a.m. to distribute maps and materials. We then will walk the neighborhoods providing information about our school. Any questions, contact Benjamin Ruppel at bruppel@elctempe.org.

Tuition assistance workshop | February 10

Arizona Lutheran Academy is committed to helping families afford a private, Christian education for their children. Be sure to learn about all the options available by attending the upcoming Tuition Assistance Workshop on Tuesday, February 10, at 6:00 p.m. on the AZ Lutheran campus. Register at ALAcoyotes.org/TAW.

Free estate workshops | February 11 and March 5

Reliant Law Group, owned and operated by Arizona Lutheran Academy alumni, invites you to a free seminar.

- Don't have an estate plan?
- Have an existing estate plan or trust that needs updating?
- Learn how to keep your family and assets out of Arizona Probate Court.
- Ensure you have a plan to leave a legacy!

Choose a seminar date:

- February 11 at Emmanuel Lutheran (9:30 a.m.)
- March 5 at AZ Lutheran (6:00 p.m.)

Learn more and register at: ALAcoyotes.org/estate

Save the date | Blood Drive on February 15

Please consider saving the life of a loved one by donating blood on Sunday, February 15 from 7:00 to 10:30 a.m. The Vitalant bloodmobile will be out in the parking lot for you to donate. Tell a friend, family member or neighbor we have this opportunity here on campus. Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to register. 90% of all donations stay here in Arizona helping our community.



*Blood Drive
sign-up*

Peace Lutheran Church open house and dedication service

We are invited to join in the celebration of Peace Lutheran Church opening their new church building. Open house will be on Saturday, February 21, 12:00-4:00 p.m. with tours, food, drinks, bounce house and face painting. On Sunday, February 22, at 4:00 p.m. there will be a dedication service with a potluck dinner to follow. Peace Lutheran Church is located at 15317 E. Riggs Road in Gilbert.

Year-end offering statements available

The 2025 year-end offering statements are available in the Ministry and Education Center on the table. After today (Sunday, January 25), the statements will be mailed.

Travel with WELS groups

Interested in traveling with members of your faith family? The [OWLS](#) (WELS Seniors) is partnering with [Father's World Tours](#) to offer several group tours that incorporate daily devotion and connections with local WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) ministries. They have three trips ready to register and they'd love to have you along.

- [Spring Training in Arizona](#) - February 20-27
- [Horsin' Around in Kentucky](#) - April 17-26 from New Ulm or April 18-25 from Milwaukee
- [Adventures in Alaska](#) - July 20-August 4

Trips are open to W/ELS members of all ages. Visit www.fathersworldtours.com or contact Steve Balza (steve@fathersworldtours.com or 507-217-1731) to learn more.

Many thanks

In 2025, the RaiseRight gift card Sunday morning sales at Emmanuel totaled almost \$20,000, resulting in rebates of close to \$800! When including online gift card purchases, the rebate amount totals over \$7,200! These funds go directly to support your children at Emmanuel and Arizona Lutheran Academy. You are making a difference. Thank you for your support!

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/raiseright to learn more.

Donuts for Dollars – Teen fundraiser

The Emmanuel teens will be holding a fundraiser on Sunday, February 22. They will sell donuts beginning after first service and continue to sell until they run out. Donuts are \$1 each but extra donations are welcomed and appreciated! The proceeds will offset the cost of our Emmanuel teens attending the WELS International Youth Rally.

2026 Flower chart

The new flower calendar is on the bulletin board in the church narthex if you want to sign up to place flowers on the altar this year (2026). You may place flowers for any occasion on any date that is available. Choose your date(s) early for best selection! Many of our members commemorate special events, such as birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, or they contribute flowers in memory of loved ones. Contact information for possible florist options is included on the calendar posted in the narthex. Thank you for the flowers that beautify our sanctuary each week!

2026 Landscaping schedule

New year, new schedule! The 2026 landscaping calendar is on the bulletin board in the church narthex if you want to sign up this year (2026). Landscaping consists of picking up trash around the campus, weeding, blowing off the courtyard and surrounding plant/flower beds, and other general clean-up. Full volunteer landscaping instructions will be emailed to volunteers a week in advance to their scheduled date. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Wenzel at (kevinw@wenzeldev.com). Thank you for helping maintain, trim and clean the outside church property each week!

Arizona Lutheran Academy seeking creative Gala donations

Please consider how you might support AZ Lutheran's students by contributing to Arizona Lutheran Academy's 2026 Gala and auction. Your donation of a service or hand-crafted item would be welcome! Do you own a boat and would enjoy taking a group out on the lake for a day? Are you a season ticket holder? Do you own a timeshare? Do you own a cabin up north? Could you donate a few days at your vacation home? Please consider donating an item, "experience," or service to our 15th Annual Gala. Get ideas online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4AABAF22AA8-donation2#/> or ALAcoyotes.org/gala.

Arizona Lutheran Academy Gala tickets now available

Come on down! It's time to fill the studio audience for our *Game Show Gala* on Saturday, March 28, 2026. We're bringing back the glitz, charm, and excitement of your favorite classic game shows—complete with themed games, dinner, and a night of fun to raise funds for campus improvements. Visit ALAcoyotes.org/gala to purchase tickets or learn more.

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 "Ten Commandments."

The **Table Talk** is meeting in the Olive Room of the Ministry and Education Center (MEC). The study topic today is "Psalms – a time to sing."

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 "Identity Revealed: Jesus is the Light."

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 "Identity Revealed: Jesus is the Light."

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

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

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

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 "Jesus calls his helpers."

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."*

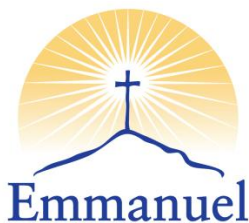
Q: Do you promise that with the help of the Holy Spirit you will from this time forward amend your sinful life?

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.

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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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