



A
Savior
has been
born to you;

he is
the
Messiah,
the
Lord.

Luke 2:11

Welcome to worship!

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 bulletins and 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.*

Christmas Day — December 25, 2025

Christ the Savior is born: Holy Infant, so tender and mild

From eternity, Jesus has been God, holy and majestic. When we look tenderly at the holy infant, we are looking at the same God who once told the prophet Moses, “No one may see me and live.” Yet, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds all saw their holy God and survived. How? God became human, hiding his glory within flesh, so that he could come to us without instilling fear or dread.

A famous theologian once said, “We are to think of the Lord’s birth, where the Word became flesh, not as a past event which we recall, but as a present reality on which we gaze.” It’s not that Christ the Savior was born. It’s that Christ the Savior is born.

THE FESTIVAL OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



Pre-Service Music

Opening Hymn

347 Angels from the Realms of Glory
arr. John Ferguson

Please stand for the final stanza.

Invocation and litany for Christmas Day

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made his salvation known.
And revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Sung response

350 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Psalm 98

*Psalm 98 is the
appointed psalm
for Christmas
Day.*

*The congregation
speaks the
responses in **bold**.*

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;

make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,

with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn –
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

Sung response

353 Joy to the World

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing (*repeat*).**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy (*repeat*).**

Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.

Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;

Let them sing before the LORD,
for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Sung response

353 Joy to the World

**No more let sins and sorrows grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found (*repeat*).**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love (*repeat*).**

Be seated.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Debbie Ann Mackey

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

All of us were born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherited a sinful nature; we were without true fear of God and true faith in God and by nature stood condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sins by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

The congregation and the baptismal party speak together:

Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

We confess our sins:

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.

God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan's power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never leave you or forsake you. In the name of Jesus and by his authority, I declare to you: Your sins are + forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. God has reconciled you to himself through Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

These questions are addressed to the adult being baptized:

Do you believe that you were born in sin and therefore eternally lost?

Yes, I believe.

Do you believe that the triune God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – planned and carried out your salvation?

Yes, I believe.

Do you believe that in Holy Baptism God gives to you the forgiveness of sins won for you by Jesus on the cross?

Yes, I believe.

Do you renounce the devil, along with all his lies and empty promises?

Yes, I do renounce him.

Do you desire to be baptized into the Christian faith?

I do.

Receive the sign of the cross upon the head † and upon the heart † to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The baptism takes place at the baptismal font.

The baptismal candle is lit from the paschal candle and presented to the newly baptized.

Jesus said, “I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” Light this candle on the anniversary of your baptism as a remembrance of this special day, and give thanks to him who has called you out of darkness into his light.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have redeemed us and called us to be your own children, bringing us into the body of Christ, your church. We pray, grant to Debbie and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The baptismal party may be seated.

First Lesson

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald,
who proclaims peace and preaches good news,
who proclaims salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God is king!"

*The good news of
victory calls for
exuberant
celebration.*

⁸The voice of your watchmen – they lift up their voices.
Together they shout for joy,
because with both eyes they will see it
when the LORD returns to Zion.

⁹Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,
because the LORD is comforting his people.
He is redeeming Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD lays bare his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of
the earth will see the salvation from our God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-9

In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many
ways. ²In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of
all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God's
glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful
word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of
the Majesty on high.

*God's Son purified
us from our sins
and is now seated
higher than the
highest heavens at
the right hand of
Majesty.*

⁴The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more
excellent than theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say:

You are my Son. Today I have begotten you?

And again:

I will be his Father, and he will be my Son.

⁶And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said:

Let all God's angels worship him.

⁷About the angels he says:

He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire.

⁸But about the Son he says:

God, your throne is forever and ever,
and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy beyond your
companions.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Galatians 4:4

Please stand.

Alleluia! When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law. Alleluia!

Gospel

John 1:1-14

The eternal Word became flesh for us and for our salvation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

⁹The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the Only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Be seated.

Hymn

355 Let All Together Praise Our God

Sermon

Hebrews 1:1-9

The mystery of the incarnation

After the sermon, please stand.

The Athanasian Creed

Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold to the true Christian faith.
Whoever does not keep this faith pure in all points will certainly perish forever.

Now this is the true Christian faith:

We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being.

For each person—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—is distinct,
but the deity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory and coeternal in majesty.

Whoever wishes to be saved must have this conviction of the Trinity.
It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.

Now this is the true Christian faith:

We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.

He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father,
and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh,

equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;
and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one; one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;

one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;
for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ.

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.
He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.

At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds.
Those who have done good will enter eternal life, but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.
This is the true Christian faith. Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

Be seated.

The Athanasian Creed was written around the end of the fifth century to confess the Trinity and the incarnation of Christ. We confess the portion of the creed that speaks to Jesus as both true God and true man.

Offering of thanks

Musical Offering

Personal preparation for Holy Communion

As you prepare to receive the Sacrament today, you may use the Christian Questions on page 295 in your blue hymnal or Personal Preparation on page 19 of this service folder.

Adult Confirmation

Brian James Mackey
Debbie Ann Mackey

After the confirmation, please stand.

The Sacrament of the Altar

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is good and right so to do.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his wondrous birth became our Brother, taking on human flesh to live in righteousness before God and to become obedient even to death on a cross. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Song of Zechariah

Blessed Be the God of Israel



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

Eucharistic Prayer

(Prayer of Thanksgiving)

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we eagerly approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through the body and blood of Christ, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

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.

Words of Institution

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

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

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

Amen.

Peace Came to Earth



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



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



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



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

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

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

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Distribution of the sacrament

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

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

Distribution hymns

354 O Come, All Ye Faithful

364 Love Has Come

366 O Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly

After the distribution, please stand.

Thanksgiving

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

And his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup

We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Amen.

The Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

Amen.

Be seated.

Closing hymn

361 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Post-Service Music

He is Born!

Dan Forrest

Our final service of the year will be a confessional service with Holy Communion on New Year's Eve at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Acknowledgments

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Serving at Worship

Minister	Pastor Jon Buchholz
Organist	Kurt Rosenbaum
Instrumentalists	Norm Andrews, Nathan Crabtree, Kali Gonzalez, Eli Gruman, <i>brass</i> Kali Gonzalez, Tim Kriewall, Mark Schuelein, <i>strings</i> Emma Pufahl, Kris Pufahl, <i>woodwinds</i> Kevin Bode, <i>timpani</i>
Video streamer and slides	Cathy Wightman, Jacob Sallquist
Video captions	Angie Keezer
Sound	Wes Wightman
Acolyte	Colton Sallquist

In our prayers

- Lois Henderson – Home recovering from illness.
- Cameron Lee – At Dignity Rehab in Chandler.
- Brian Mackey, who was confirmed today.
- Debbie Mackey, who was baptized and confirmed today.
- Seth Meyer – Back home in Arizona to continue his accident recovery.
- Kaylee – Receiving treatment for cancer.



Emmanuel usher
sign-up.

Ushers

9:00 a.m.

Mojo Krup

Communion

Thank you to Sandy Buchholz for helping set up Communion for the weekend.

This week at Emmanuel

December 22 – January 2

ELS Christmas Break No school

Thursday

Christmas Day Church office closed

Christmas Day worship service 9:00 a.m.

God's Ways Bible study No class

Bible Basics No class

Saturday

Christian memorial service for Alexis Naumann 10:00 a.m.

with luncheon to follow

Sunday, December 28

Worship services 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Bible study, Sunday school, teen study No classes

Public School Catechism No class

Looking ahead

December 31 New Year's Eve

Wednesday Bible study No class

New Year's Eve worship service 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Adult choir No practice

January 1 New Year's Day Church office closed

Thursday Bible study No class

God's Ways Bible study in the MEC No class

Bible Basics in the MEC No class

January 4 Worship services 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study No classes

Presentation: Jason Jonker with Resilient Ministry 9:15 a.m.

Public School Catechism No class

January 5 ELS Christmas Break ends School resumes

January 6 Festival of the Epiphany candlelight service 6:30 p.m.

Stewardship meeting 8:00 p.m.

January 7 Wednesday Bible study in the MEC 8:30 a.m.

Pastoral Epistles

Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl

Adult choir in the MEC 6:30 p.m.

January 8 Thursday Bible study at Denny's 6:00 a.m.

21st Century Lessons from the Life of Abraham

Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at

Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)

God's Ways Bible study in the MEC 6:00 p.m.

Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl

Bible Basics begins in the MEC 6:30 p.m.

Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz

January 9	Chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
January 11	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
	Pancake breakfast in the MEC	9:15-10:30 a.m.
	Public School Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.
January 14	Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m.
		<i>Pastoral Epistles</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
	Adult choir in the MEC	6:30 p.m.



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!

Thank you to all who served!

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

Thank you!

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

Christian memorial service for Alexis Naumann

Alexis Naumann was called to heaven on Friday, December 12, 2025. A memorial service will be held here at Emmanuel this Saturday, December 27, at 10:00 a.m., with a luncheon in the MEC following the service. We ask the Lord to comfort the Naumann family during this time of loss, even as we thank the Lord for the eternal victory he has given to Alexis.

New Year's celebration at Emmanuel

We will give thanks to the Lord for another year of his grace at our **New Year's Eve** worship with Holy Communion:

- Wednesday, December 31, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Our celebration of the Christmas season culminates with our special worship for the **Festival of the Epiphany** at a special candlelight service.

- Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Epiphany candlelight

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

2026 offering envelopes

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

Bible Basics starts January 8

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

Register now for men's conference coming in January

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

Registration is open for the Men of His Word (MOHW) Conference, to be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at the Desert Willow Conference Center (48th Street and Broadway in Phoenix). Register and purchase your early bird ticket now for \$100; students \$50. The cost will increase to \$125 after the first of the year.

Men of His Word Conference Scholarship

Through a generous donation, men from Emmanuel who sign up for the conference will receive a \$50 cash-back scholarship. Only 40 scholarships are available. Register now and pay the registration fee, and once you have attended the event in January, you will receive a \$50 reimbursement. (Students who register before January 5, and receive the scholarship, will end up attending for free!) Gentlemen, take advantage of this opportunity to attend this excellent conference with your brothers in Christ. Those interested in receiving a scholarship can sign up [here](#) or use the provided QR code.



*Men of His Word
scholarship sign-up*

Poinsettias

Thank you to all who contributed poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary this Christmas season!

Karen Brandenburg in memory of Fritz Brandenburg

Michael and Melanie Clark and family in memory of Pete Buhlig and Lyle Clark

Pastor Dan and Ingrid Pautz in memory of Troy Pautz

For the Glory of God:

Margaret and Alicia Benson

John and Alysha Bergsma and family

Gary and Wendy Binger

Chet and Barb Jaehnig

Pastor Jon and Linda Rossman

Jerry and Judy Rusert

Wes and Cathy Wightman



After Christmas, those who contributed poinsettias may take their flowers home to enjoy. Poinsettias remaining after Sunday, December 28, will be disposed of.

Personal preparation for Holy Communion

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Personal prayer:

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

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



About Us

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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