



What Makes Christians *Different*

Pentecost 6

Christians live in two kingdoms

Emmanuel Lutheran Church


July 5, 2026

Welcome!

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

For your convenience

For your convenience, please take note of the following:

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

Connection card

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

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.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost — July 5, 2026

What Makes Christians Different? Christians live in two kingdoms

This weekend is the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of the Independence of the United States of America. American citizens from many diverse backgrounds are celebrating in many ways.

What makes Christian citizens different? Our Christian citizenship is not connected to a political party. Our Christian citizenship is not connected to particular civic activities. Our first allegiance is not to any country or flag on earth.

Christians understand that we live in two kingdoms. Our citizenship is in heaven, but God leaves us here on earth to be salt and light in our communities. God does not need our good works, but our neighbors do. God's Word informs our choice of political activities as we seek to be faithful to our calling as Christian citizens.

Service of the Word



Pre-Service Music

God Bless Our Native Land
Edward Broughton

Eternal Father, Strong to Save
Jonathan Reuss

O God Our Help in Ages Past
Charles Callahan

Opening Hymn

775 Before You, Lord, We Bow

Please stand.

The author of this hymn was Francis Scott Key. He also wrote our National Anthem.

Invocation

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

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

Confession of Sins

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

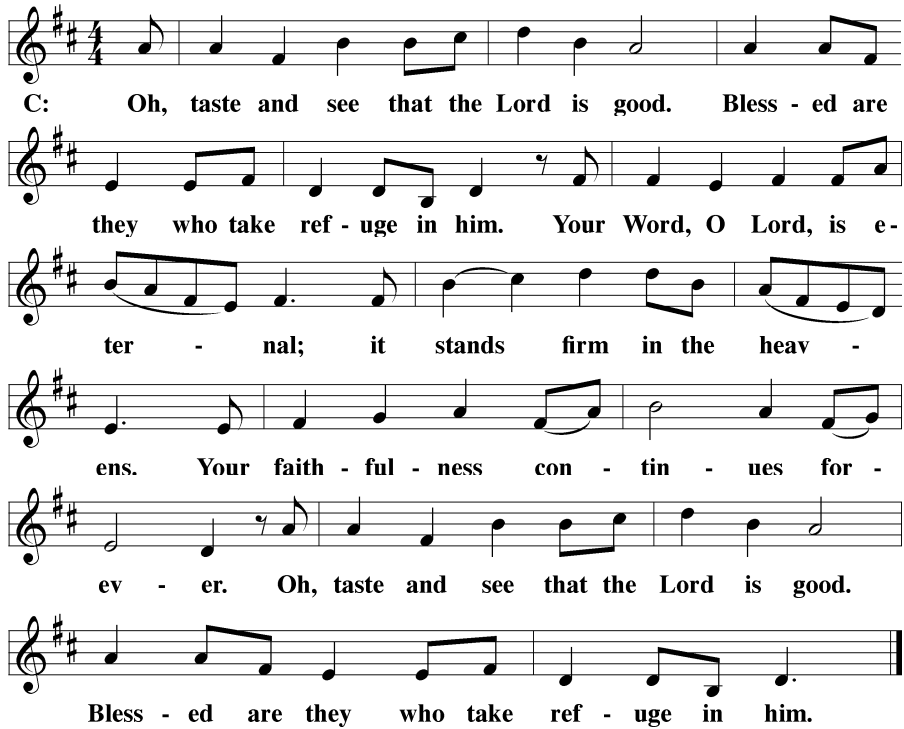
Silence for meditation.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

Amen.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Song of Praise



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end, grant us your promised rest and the full joys of your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Be seated.

First Reading

Daniel 1:8-21

⁸ Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the special food of the king or with the wine that he drank. So he sought permission from the chief official, so that he would not have to defile himself. ⁹ God made the chief of the officials favorable and sympathetic toward Daniel. ¹⁰ Then the chief of the officials said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink. Why should he see your faces looking less healthy than those of the other young men who are your age? You put my life at risk before the king."

Daniel, an exile in captivity, served the government faithfully.

¹¹ Daniel said to the superintendent whom the chief of the officials had placed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, ¹² "Please test your servants for ten days. Tell them to give us only vegetables, and we will eat them and drink water. ¹³ Observe our appearance and the appearance of the young men who eat the special royal food. Then deal with your servants based on what you see." ¹⁴ So he listened to what they said about this and tested them for ten days.

¹⁵ At the end of ten days, their appearance was noticeably better than that of the others. They were healthier than any of the young men who had been eating the special royal food. ¹⁶ So the superintendent permanently took away the special royal food and the wine they were to drink and gave them only vegetables. ¹⁷ As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and insight into all kinds of literature, as well as wisdom. In addition, Daniel also understood every kind of vision and dream.

¹⁸ At the end of the time which the king had set for them to be brought to him, the chief of the officials brought them before Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ The king spoke with them, and none of the others were found to be comparable to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they served the king. ²⁰ In every matter concerning wisdom and understanding that the king sought from them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and spell casters in his entire kingdom. ²¹ So Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 13:1-7

*God gives leaders
power and instructs
us to submit to their
authority.*

Everyone must submit to the governing authorities. For no authority exists except by God, and the authorities that do exist have been established by God. ²Therefore the one who rebels against the authority is opposing God's institution, and those who oppose will bring judgment on themselves.

³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to evil. Would you like to have no fear of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will receive praise from him, ⁴because he is God's servant for your benefit. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because he does not carry the sword without reason. He is God's servant, a punisher to bring wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore it is necessary to submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of conscience.

⁶For this reason you also pay taxes, because the authorities are God's ministers, who are employed to do this very thing. ⁷Pay what you owe to all of them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, and honor to whom honor is owed.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel

Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went out and plotted together how to trap him in his words. ¹⁶ They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are truthful and teach the way of God in accord with the truth. You are not concerned about gaining anyone's approval because you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷ So tell us, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

¹⁸ But Jesus knew their evil purpose and said, "Why are you testing me, hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax."

They brought him a denarius.

²⁰ He asked them, "Whose image and inscription is this?"

²¹ "Caesar's," they replied to him.

Then he said to them, "Therefore give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

²² When they heard this, they were amazed. Then they left him and went away.

The Gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

805 Eternal Father, Strong to Save

This text uses a patriotic melody, the tune known as the Navy Hymn.

Sermon

Matthew 22:15-22

Submit to the government, but don't worship it

Please stand.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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

God Bless our Native Land

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

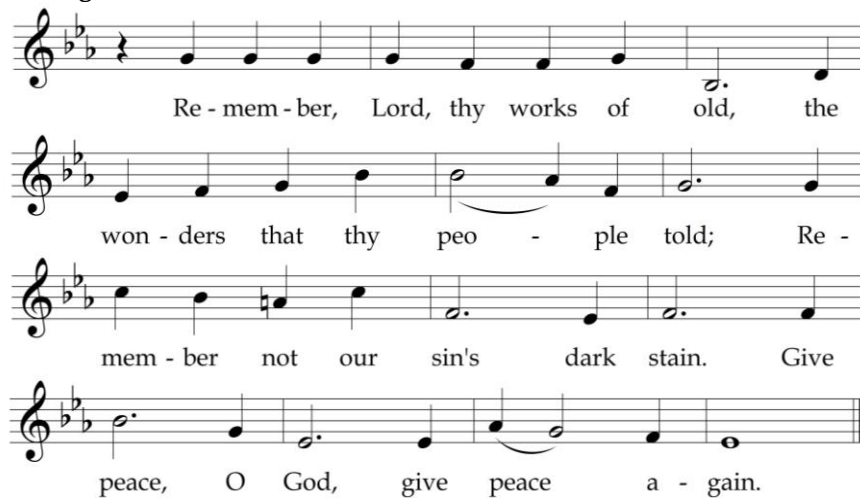
Almighty God, we acknowledge with thanks that all we have and enjoy is a gift from your gracious hand. We come before you today in heartfelt appreciation for our nation that is celebrating 250 years of your grace. With your almighty power and wisdom you guide and guard the universe you created. Every planet and every star remain in place according to your design. You know the far reaches of space and observe even heavenly lights we cannot see. At your command the world turns, the breezes blow, and the waters surge. Here you placed the crown of your creation, your human creatures, and gave us the bounty of the earth for our provision and pleasure.

Vocalist:

*Great God of nations, now to thee
Our hymn of gratitude we raise;
We offer thee our song of praise,
Give peace, O God, give peace again.*

You have created the family, arranged society, and established governments to provide order and stability in our lives. You command us to respect and support the authorities that function with your permission. You teach us to love all people, those who are like us and those who are not, and to care for those in need of help.

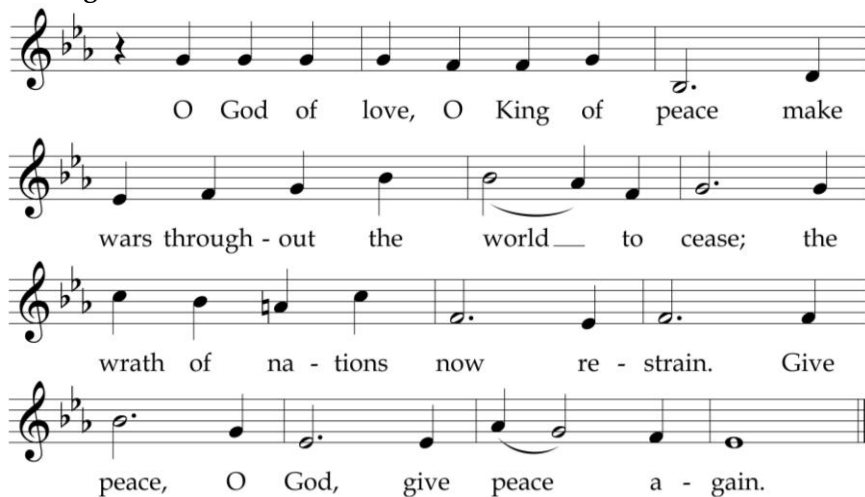
All sing:



Re - mem - ber, Lord, thy works of old, the
won - ders that thy peo - ple told; Re -
mem - ber not our sin's dark stain. Give
peace, O God, give peace a - gain.

Guard and guide us when you allow serious diseases, financial uncertainty, and social unrest to torment our country and wars that rage on in our world. You surely punish the wicked in troubled times, but you also call people to turn away from sin to your forgiving love. Give wisdom to the leaders of our land and bend their will to yours. Drive away party spirit and harsh rhetoric that often deepen the divisions among people. Help our nation find contentment in helping and protecting one another.

All sing:



O God of love, O King of peace make
wars through - out the world to cease; the
wrath of na - tions now re - strain. Give
peace, O God, give peace a - gain.

Enable the medical community to discover cures for diseases and plagues that afflict our planet. Preserve the lives of your people that we may continue to share your love with others. Spare the lives of those who do not know you so they may find you and be saved. Allow farms and factories, businesses and institutions, schools and communities to prosper and provide the blessings you desire to bestow on us. Use the blessing of wealth to enable us to spread the gospel throughout the world.

All sing:



We pray thee let the gos - pel light thro'
all our land its ra - diance shed; dis -
pel the shades of er - ror's night, give
peace, O God, give peace a - gain.

Look with favor upon our nation and preserve our cherished liberties. Enable our leaders to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice. Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.

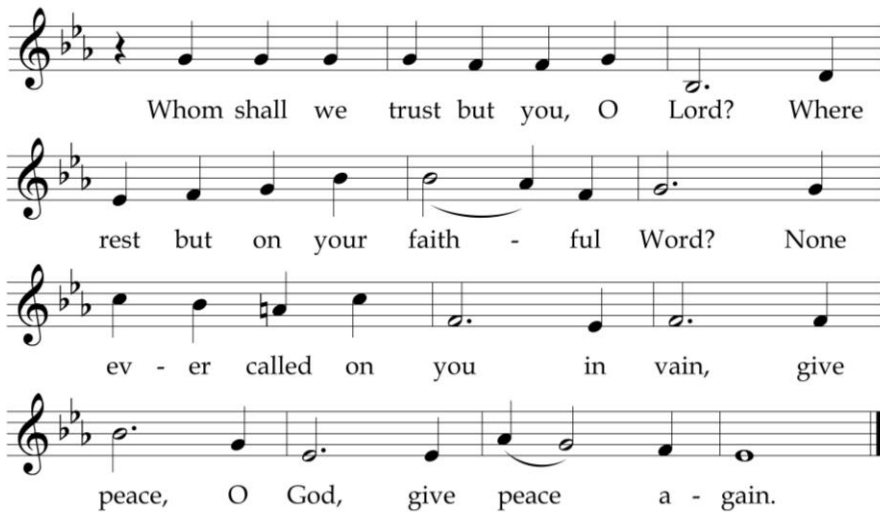
Free us from all thoughts, words, and actions of prejudice and pride. Help us to see in all people the faces of those who have been redeemed by the innocent life and precious blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died and rose for everyone from every nation under heaven.

Strengthen the homes of our nation. By your Spirit lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility, and children to show respect.

Special prayers may be offered.

We come to you on behalf of the people and nation we love.
Hear us for the sake of Jesus, your Son and our Savior. Amen.

All sing:



Whom shall we trust but you, O Lord? Where
rest but on your faith - ful Word? None
ev - er called on you in vain, give
peace, O God, give peace a - gain.

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.

Prayer for Grace

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

The Blessing

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated.

Closing Hymn

God Bless America

God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam.
God bless America, my home sweet home!
God bless America, my home sweet home!

Post-Service Music

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Sue Mitchell-Wallace

Serving at Worship

Minister

Pastor Gary Pufahl

Organ

Kevin Bode

Instrumentalist

Kali Gonzalez

Vocalist

Sarah Kern

Video streamer and slides

Cathy Wightman, Colton and Lauren Sallquist

Video captions

Jeremy Burmeister

Sound

Wes Wightman

Hymn selections

Lisa Thiesfeldt

Acknowledgments

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In our prayers

- Chris Heise – Home recovering and anticipating additional treatments.
- Kaylee – Home recovering from surgery and going through additional treatments.
- Bill Zidar – Battling cancer.

Flowers

Thank you to Debbie Myers and Charlie for beautifying our sanctuary with altar flowers in memory of Jennifer Myers, beloved daughter and mother.

Ushers

8:00 a.m.

Reggie and Mason Marquez, Lance Marten

10:30 a.m.

Caden Head, Steve Meyers, Roger Odle, Mike Wilson

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.

Monday

Worship Committee meeting

6:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Stewardship meeting

8:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Wednesday Bible study

8:30 a.m.

*Drive through the Gospels
Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl*

Emmanuel Family Night

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Thursday

Thursday Bible study at Denny's

No class

Resumes on July 23

Sunday-Saturday

Good Shepherd Bible Camp

July 12-18

Sunday, July 12

Worship services

8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study

9:15 a.m.

Looking ahead

July 14-17	WELS Youth Rally	
July 15	Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m. <i>Drive through the Gospels Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
July 16	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	No class <i>Resumes on July 23</i>
July 19	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	Church open forum	9:15 a.m.
	In-person Bible study	No class
	Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.
	Ordination and installation service of Pastoral candidate Daniel Gensmer	4:00 p.m. <i>Meal to follow</i>
July 21	Church council meeting	6:00 p.m.
July 22	Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m. <i>Drive through the Gospels Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
	Emmanuel Family Night	6:00-8:00 p.m.
July 23	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m. <i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Joseph Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>
July 26	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.
July 28	Quarterly voters' meeting	6:30 p.m.
July 29	Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m. <i>Drive through the Gospels Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
July 30	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m. <i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Joseph Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>
August 1	Back-to-School work day	7:00-11:00 a.m.
August 2	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.

Notes and News



Connection cards

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

Connection card

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

Pastor Pufahl returns the call to St. John's in Princeton, Wisconsin

After some time of prayerful deliberation, Pastor Pufahl has decided to return the call to St. John's in Princeton, Wisconsin. He is excited to continue serving at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. We continue to pray for the saints at St. John's as they wait for the Lord to bring them their next pastor.

Emmanuel summer family nights

This summer we are hosting Emmanuel Family Nights. This is a fun opportunity for us to gather for a meal or snack, a devotion, and a fun activity. These are being held on Wednesdays (July 8 and 22) from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Emmanuel's Ministry and Education Center (MEC). Any questions, contact Alysha Bergsma at church@elctempe.org or (480) 967-3983.

Our third summer night will be this Wednesday, July 8, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Join us for game night – bring your favorite board game or card game, and let's have some fun! Snacks and drinks will be provided.

A heartfelt thank-you

Thanks to the generosity of a number of Emmanuel members, all of the items that were needed to help furnish the Bylas mission parsonage have been received. On behalf of the Bylas congregation, thank you very much!

“Welcome” donation drive

Over the next week and a half, we will be collecting gift cards, cash donations, diapers and wipes for the Gensmer family. Please drop off all donations to the church office before Wednesday, July 15.

Some specific items we are hoping for are the following:

- Restaurant gift cards
- Grocery store gift cards
- Target or Walmart gift cards
- Cash donations (to be used to stock the Gensmer's fridge and pantry)
- Cans of Diet Coke
- Cans of Celsius energy drinks
- Huggies diapers (size 1 and up) – *please include receipt in case they need to exchange sizes*
- Huggies baby wipes

Installation service and meal for Pastoral candidate Daniel Gensmer | July 19

Emmanuel is receiving a new pastor this month. Pastoral candidate Daniel Gensmer will be ordained into the Holy Ministry and installed as Emmanuel's youth and family ministry pastor on Sunday, July 19. A special service will be held on Sunday, July 19, at 4:00 p.m., followed by a meal served in the Ministry and Education Center. Daniel and his wife, Rachel, recently welcomed their first child last month and plan to move to Arizona in the coming weeks. Please keep them in your prayers during this new and exciting time and move to Arizona.

For the meal, we will be hosting a Southwest fiesta and serving Mexican food. Please bring a dish to share. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

Emmanuel youth campers and families say, "Thank you!"

Over the past month of June, the Emmanuel youth volunteered to serve refreshments during our Sunday morning fellowship time between the services. The freewill donations collected during that time will be going towards the Emmanuel youth traveling to Good Shepherd Bible Camp in California later this month. Your generous donations will help offset some of their travel expenses. Thank you to everyone who donated! You are helping many families lower the cost of travel to and from camp.

Support our Emmanuel Lutheran School teachers | School supply drive

As you walk down the store aisles and notice the back-to-school displays, please keep our school's wonderful teachers in mind. Teachers often purchase extra classroom supplies out of their own pockets to ensure their students have everything they need to succeed.

If you would like to bless our educators with a donation of school supplies, items can be dropped off at either the church or school office. Please clearly mark your bags or boxes *Donations for Teachers*. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting our school community!

Supplies needed:

- Expo markers - fine tip (black)
- Expo markers - broad tip (all colors)
- Crayola markers - broad tip (classic, tropical and bold colors)
- Crayola markers - fine tip (all colors)
- Crayola colored pencils
- Ink stamp pads - variety of colors
- Clear packing tape
- Masking tape
- Sharpie markers - all colors
- Fun pens - felt tip, ball point, gel (all colors)

Emmanuel Lutheran School art donations

The art department of Emmanuel Lutheran School is asking for donations for the upcoming school year. Please place all donations in the church or school offices. Please direct questions to Mrs. Amber Bode at (480) 694-4698. Thank you for making our art program a success!

- plastic water bottles (standard size - 16.9 oz)
- aluminum foil
- plastic tablecloths
- cleaned plastic (or glass) yogurt containers
- foam or paper plates
- cardboard squares or circles
- Ziploc (or off brand) plastic baggies of any size

Back-to-School work day | August 1

The annual Back-to-School work day is scheduled for Saturday, August 1. All parents, teens, and students are invited and encouraged to come and help get the campus and classrooms ready for the 2026-2027 school year. To beat the heat, the work day will begin at 7:00 a.m. and continue through the morning until the project list is completed. Even if you can't make it at 7:00 a.m., feel free to come a little later and stay for however long you are able. Many supplies will be made available, but you are welcome to bring your own cleaning supplies and materials.

Christian education hour

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

Please note the changes to our Christian education hour through the summer.

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

The **Teen Bible study Grades 9-12** will be joining the adults in the Oak Room of the MEC.

The **Junior High Bible study Grades 7-8** is meeting in the 7th grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is “What Makes Christians Different? Christians live in two kingdoms.”

The Sunday School for **Grades 3-6** is meeting in the 8th grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is “Zachhaeus.”

The Sunday School for **Kindergarten-Grade 2** is meeting in the 6th grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is “Zachhaeus.”

The **Sunday School for two- and three-year-olds and 4K** is meeting in the church nursery. Parents are encouraged to remain with their children. The study topic today is “Walls of Jericho.”

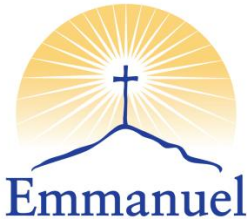
THE
ORDINATION
AND INSTALLATION
OF
CANDIDATE FOR THE HOLY MINISTRY
DANIEL GENSMER

—♦—
CALLED TO SERVE.
EMPOWERED BY GRACE.
SENT IN CHRIST.



Sunday, July 19, 4:00 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
715 W. Southern Avenue, Tempe

Meal following the service
Mexican food potluck
Please bring a dish to share



About Us

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

The objectives of our mission are:

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

Pastor Gary A. Pufahl

gpufahl@elctempe.org

(262) 744-1619 (cell)

Pastor Jon D. Buchholz

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Pastor Daniel D. Pautz

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(480) 766-2994

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Principal Craig Kiecker

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(480) 694-3532

Financial Operations Mgr. Darcy Meyer

treasurer@elctempe.org

(480) 344-3783

School Secretary Amani Campos

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(480) 967-3991



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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