

ADVENT

IMMINENT ARRIVAL

Third Sunday in Advent

Imminent Arrival of the Messiah

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

December 14, 2025

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.*

Third Sunday in Advent — December 14, 2025

Imminent Arrival: Imminent Arrival of the Messiah

The Messiah is an important person. "Messiah" is the same word as "Christ" or "Chosen One." He is someone who has been anticipated for a long time. Now his arrival is imminent. He's standing at the door.

The historic Christian Church gave Latin titles to each Sunday. They titled the Third Sunday in Advent "Gaudete," which means "Rejoice!" As we reach the midway point of Advent, we ask Christ to empower us to do just that. We rejoice because God fulfills all his promises in Jesus, his Chosen One, the Messiah.

Service of the Word and Sacrament



Pre-Service Music

Opening Hymn

311 Dawning Light of Our Salvation

Please stand.

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**.*

Dear friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation as we await Christ's second coming on the Last Day. We prepare our hearts to meet him as we humbly seek his forgiveness.

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.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

You came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom. Lord, have mercy.

All:



Lord, have mer - cy.

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ, have mercy.

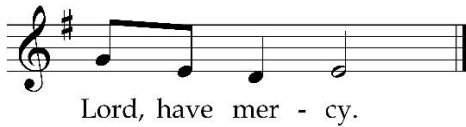
All:



Christ, have mer - cy.

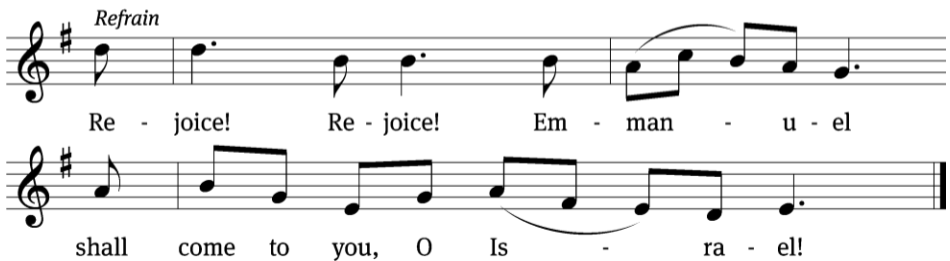
You will come in glory with salvation for your people. Lord, have mercy.

All:



God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only-begotten Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

All:



We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

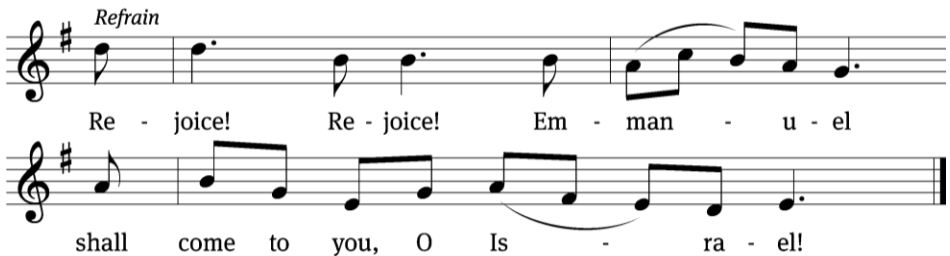
We hear his call to see the light.

We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

All:



The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1–10

¹The wilderness and the desert will be glad.
The wasteland of the Arabah will rejoice and blossom like a crocus.
²It will bloom lavishly,
and there will be great joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it.
It will be excellent like Carmel and Sharon.
They will see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make the shaky knees steady.
⁴Tell those who have a fearful heart:
Be strong.
Do not be afraid.
Look! Your God will come with vengeance.
With God's own retribution, he will come and save you.

⁵Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,
and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged.
⁶The crippled will leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.
Waters will flow in the wilderness,
and streams in the wasteland.

*Isaiah tells us that
the coming of the
Messiah would
change everything.*

⁷The burning sand will become a pool,
and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water.
There will be grass, reeds, and rushes where the haunts of jackals once lay.

⁸A highway will be there,
a road that will be called the holy way.
The impure will not walk there.
It will be reserved for those who walk in that holy way.
Wicked fools will not wander onto it.

⁹No lion will be there,
nor will any ferocious animal go up on it.
They will not be found there,
but only the redeemed will walk there.

¹⁰Then those ransomed by the LORD will return.
They will enter Zion with a joyful shout,
and everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Happiness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

The congregation sings the entire psalm.

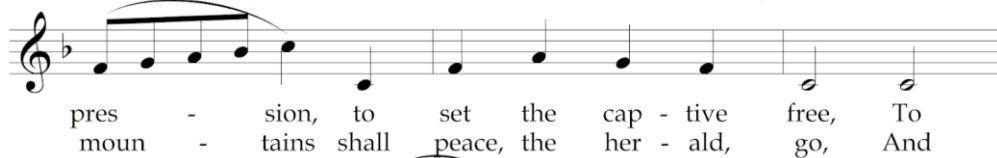
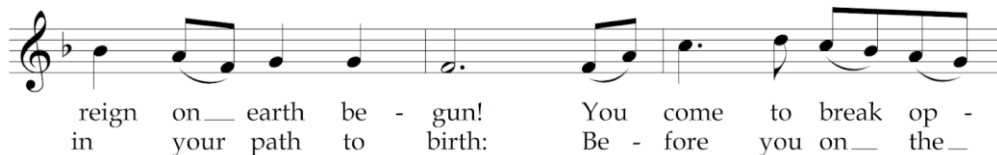
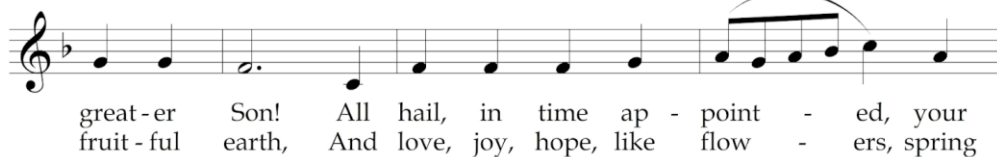
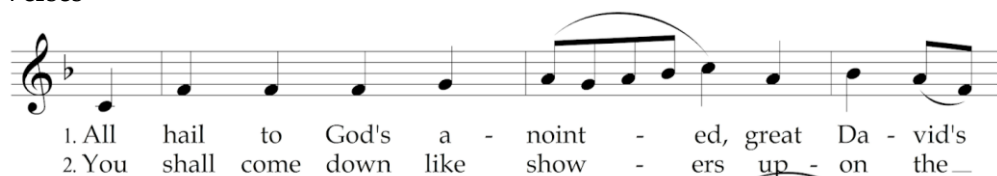
Psalm 72

arr. Hal Hopson

Refrain



Verses



Second Reading

James 5:7–11

*James points to Job
as an example of
perseverance in the
face of suffering.*

⁷Therefore, brothers, be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the valuable harvest from the ground, patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rain. ⁸You be patient too. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged. Look! The Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰Brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering with patient endurance. ¹¹See, we consider those who endured to be blessed. You have heard of the patient endurance of Job and have seen what the Lord did in the end, because the Lord is especially compassionate and merciful.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

The congregation sings the refrain and verse.



Refrain



Verse



Refrain

Gospel

Matthew 11:2–11

²While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples ³to ask him, “Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?”

*John's disciples
wanted to verify that
Jesus was the
Messiah.*

⁴Jesus answered them, “Go, report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. ⁶Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me.”

⁷As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹Amen I tell you: Among those born of women there has not appeared anyone greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

arr. Don Chapman

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to
 2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a

set thy peo - ple free; from our fears_ and
 child and yet_ a king, born to reign in

sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in
 us for - e - ver, now thy gra - cious king - dom

thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,
 bring. By thine own_ e - ter - nal Spir - it

hope of all_ the earth though art, dear de -
 rule in all_ our hearts a - lone; by_ thine

sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry
 all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to_ thy

long - ing heart.
 glo - rious throne.

Trust in the imminent arrival of your Messiah!

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

Personal Preparation for Holy Communion

As you prepare to receive the Sacrament today, you may use the Christian Questions on page 295 in your blue hymnal or Personal Preparation on page 23 of this service folder.

Please stand.

The Sacrament

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

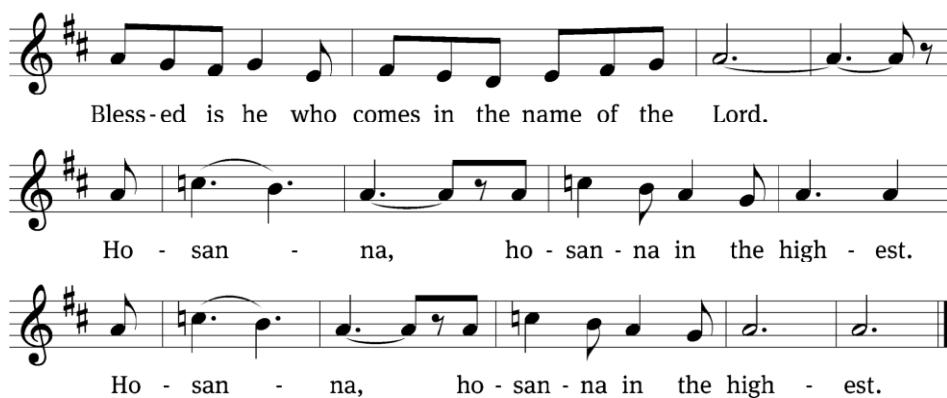
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. 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.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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

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

320 As Angels Joyed with One Accord
313 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

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

Serving at Worship

Preaching Minister
Presiding Minister
Piano
Instrumentalists

Video streamer and slides
Video captions
Sound
Hymn selections
Acolyte

Pastor Jon Buchholz
Pastor Gary Pufahl
Erin Hahnke
Kevin Bode, *bass*
Nathaniel Ehlers, *acoustic*
Josh Severeid, *saxophone*
Jacob and Lauren Sallquist
Angie Keezer
George Willis
Sara Redman
Colton Sallquist (8:00 a.m.)

Acknowledgments

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"Psalm 72" Hal Hopson, © 2008 Birmamwood Publications.

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" Don Chapman, © 2004 Hearts to God Music.

In our prayers

- Lois Henderson – Home recovering from illness.
- Cameron Lee – At Dignity Rehab in Chandler.
- Seth Meyer – Returning to Arizona to continue his accident recovery.
- Alexis Naumann – In hospice care at Friendship Village in Tempe.
- Kaylee – Receiving treatment for cancer.
- Praise God for the compassionate teachers at Emmanuel and Arizona Lutheran Academy who serve students of all abilities.
- Much-needed rain for the state of Arizona.



*Emmanuel usher
sign-up.*

Ushers

8:00 a.m.

Baxter Priebe, Ben Priebe, Barry Redman, Eric Sallquist

10:30 a.m.

Matt Corrigan, Carter Richey, Mike Richey, Tristan Richey

Communion

Thank you to Suzie Schlaht and Crystal Sulit for helping set up Communion for the weekend.

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.

Christmas service: Grades 3-8

4:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Joy Fellowship at Barleen's

11:00 a.m.

Church Council meeting

6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Wednesday Bible study in the MEC

8:30 a.m.

Pastoral Epistles

Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl

Midweek Advent services

3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Midweek Advent meal in the MEC

4:30-6:30 p.m.

Adult choir in the MEC

7:30 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 Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>	
ELS Winter music recital	1:00-2:30 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>	

Friday

ELS Chapel	8:30 a.m.
ELS early release	12:00 p.m.
Arizona Lutheran Academy Christmas concert	7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 21

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
Public School Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.

Looking ahead

December 22 – January 2	ELS Christmas Break	No school
December 24	Christmas Eve	
	Wednesday Bible study	No class
	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols	3:30 and 5:00 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Candlelight services	6:30 and 8:00 p.m.
	Adult choir	No practice
December 25	Christmas Day	Church office closed
	Thursday Bible study	No class
	Christmas Day worship service	9:00 a.m.
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	No class
	Bible Basics in the MEC	No class
December 28	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
	Public School Catechism	No class
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	9:15 a.m.
	Public School Catechism	No class
January 5	ELS Christmas Breaks ends	School resumes
January 6	Festival of the Epiphany candlelight service	6:30 p.m.
	Stewardship meeting	8:00 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!

Midweek Advent services and meals

Advent is a time of preparation for Jesus' birth. To prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus, we continue to gather for our final midweek Advent worship service on Wednesday, December 17, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. Our midweek Advent theme is *Bible Songs of Christmas*. Come early and join in the pre-service singalong of your favorite Christmas hymns and carols. Escape the rush and hurry of the commercialized pre-Christmas season, and quiet your heart in repentance, contemplation, and worship of Jesus, the true Reason for the Season.

During the time between the afternoon and evening services we'll gather in the MEC for Advent suppers.

Wednesday, December 17, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

We are asking people to please bring a crockpot of soup, crackers, bread rolls, fruit, veggies, or dessert to share.

Prayers and gift cards for Kaylee and family

Kaylee, a fifth-grader at our Emmanuel Lutheran School, has been diagnosed with cancer and begun chemotherapy treatments. We keep Kaylee and her family in our prayers.

Our Emmanuel family has an opportunity to assist and support Kaylee's family by giving a gift card to help with meals and groceries. Some of the family's preferred locations are Panera Bread, Salad-and-Go, Chick-fil-A, and Fry's. If you wish to give a gift card, you can drop it off in the church or school offices and it will be delivered to the family. An easy way to purchase gifts cards is by purchasing them from Emmanuel's RaiseRight coordinators, John and Jean Mueller, on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the MEC or visit our webpage at elctempe.org/raiseright to learn more.

RaiseRight gift card program

Giving gift cards for Christmas this year? Purchase them from our RaiseRight program!

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

Please note, for physical cards, be sure to place your order before December 15 to receive cards before Christmas. You can always purchase and print e-cards from your computer or smartphone via the [RaiseRight mobile app](#).

Christmas cards

Women of the Word (WOW) have boxed and a few individual Christmas Cards for sale in the MEC. All money from the purchases will go to Our Savior's Lutheran School in Peridot, Arizona, for their teachers' "Wish List." Please give your donation (if a check, make payable to "Ladies Group") to either Karen Henriksen, Wendy Binger or Rachel Severeid.

Joy Fellowship | December 16

Our Joy Fellowship group is for those 55 years and older. On Tuesday, December 16, we have 30 seats reserved at Barleen's Dinner Show in Apache Junction (2275 E. Old West Hwy, Apache Junction, Arizona 85119) for the 11:00 a.m. show. *Home for the Holidays* is a seasonal mix of holiday classics. The cost is \$52 per person. Please pay Chet Jaehnig or Wendy Binger as soon as possible. A signup sheet is available in the Ministry and Education Center. Any questions, contact Wendy Binger at jbwendy97@gmail.com.

Aluminum can recycle efforts

Please continue to donate your aluminum cans. Our last total received was \$27.00. What a wonderful and easy way to help our school!

Christmas celebration at Emmanuel

You can find more information at elctempe.org/Christmas.

- Sunday, Dec. 14, Children's Christmas service, at 4:00 p.m.
"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice", Grades 3 to 8
- Wednesday, Dec. 24, Lessons and Carols, at 3:30 and 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 24, Candlelight services, at 6:30 and 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day worship, at 9:00 a.m.

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

- Wednesday, Dec. 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, Jan. 6, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Campus custodian

We are looking for a part-time custodian to assist Benjamin Ruppel with campus duties. The main focus will be working as School Custodian. The person hired will be working evenings and possibly weekends for approximately 20 hours per week. Any interested individuals please contact Benjamin Ruppel at (480) 967-3983 or bruppel@elctempe.org to go over details and scope of work. Resumes accepted until December 19, 2025.


New YouTube channel

Take a moment to check out our new YouTube channel. Go to [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) and search for [@ELSvideostreaming](https://www.youtube.com/@ELSvideostreaming), and subscribe today. All upcoming services will be found on our new channel. Looking for a recent live stream? All past live streams are also available on the new channel starting with the first Sunday in Advent (November 30). Our previous channel will become inactive as of January 1, 2026.

There are a few ways to get to our new channel:

Channel name: Emmanuel Lutheran Video Stream

Direct link: elctempe.org/youtube

Click on the YouTube logo  found on the bottom of our church website

Door-to-Door witnessing to the LDS of the East Valley

Heritage Lutheran Church, along with Truth in Love Ministry (tilm.org) and students from Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, will be witnessing door-to-door to the LDS of the East Valley from January 4-11. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please call the Heritage church office at 480-855-3619 or send an email to office@heritagelutheran.com.

Men of His Word Conference 2026 | January 31

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.

The Men of His Word Conference is a gathering for godly men to be encouraged by one another and to grow together in faith through worship and Bible study. This year's theme is "Courage Under Fire." Pastor Jeff Gunn will be the keynote speaker at the conference, and there are also many breakout groups for learning and discussion. Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments are included. Visit www.menofhisword.org for more information and to register.

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 December 31, 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*

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 "Sacraments and Keys."

The **Table Talk** is meeting in the Olive Room of the Ministry and Education Center (MEC). The study topic today is "Married for Life."

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 "Imminent Arrival: Imminent Arrival of the Messiah."

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 "Imminent Arrival: Imminent Arrival of the Messiah."

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

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

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

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 is born."

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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