

# IDENTITY revealed

## **Epiphany 1 / Baptism of Our Lord**

Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

January 11, 2026

## Welcome!

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

## For your convenience

For your convenience, please take note of the following:

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



If there is any other way in which we can assist you, let us know.

The service is streamed live online at [elctempe.org/worship](http://elctempe.org/worship).

For the latest information about services schedules, please visit [elctempe.org](http://elctempe.org).



### Connection card

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

## Epiphany 1 / Baptism of Our Lord – January 11, 2026

### Identity Revealed: Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One

“Christ” is not the family name of Jesus. It is a title. The Greek word “Christ” and the Hebrew word “Messiah” both mean the same thing: “The Anointed One.”

Anointing was the practice of pouring liquid over the head of someone to signify selection for some special task. When the Lord had someone anointed, he also poured his Spirit over them. It was the fulfillment of promises made over centuries.

# Service of the Word and Sacrament

**IDENTITY**  
revealed

## Pre-Service Music

On This Coronation Day

John Behnke

To Jordan's River Came Our Lord

Charles Callahan

To Jordan's River Came the Christ, Our Lord

J.S. Bach

## Opening Hymn

385 Christ Begins

*Please stand.*

*God's people long to gather together for strength from God and for mutual encouragement. This alternate beginning for worship is intended for use not only when there is a baptism but may be used on any occasion to remind God's people of Baptism's continuing blessings.*

*The minister conducts the gathering rite at the font.*

## Invocation

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

**Amen.**

I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

**Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.**

Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us.

**But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

*Bach's music was full of theological symbolism. The melody surrounds itself with quickly flowing notes. This was Bach's way of portraying the running and saving waters of baptism.*

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

*(John 3:5,6)*

*(Psalm 51:5)*

*(1 Corinthians 6:11)*

*Refrain*

Here's my Proph - et, my Priest, my King, a  
light in the dark, Christ steps in; here's my Sav - ior, my  
God, my King, the time has come, Christ be - gins.

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

**Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

(Ephesians 5:25-27) Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 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.**

*Refrain*

Here's my Proph - et, my Priest, my King, a  
light in the dark, Christ steps in; here's my Sav - ior, my  
God, my King, the time has come, Christ be - gins.

### Prayer of the Day

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## The Word

### First Reading

Isaiah 42:1–7

<sup>1</sup>Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom I delight.  
I am placing my Spirit on him.  
He will announce a just verdict for the nations.

<sup>2</sup>He will not cry out.  
He will not raise his voice.  
He will not make his voice heard in the street.

<sup>3</sup>A bent reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not snuff out.  
He will faithfully bring forth a just verdict.

<sup>4</sup>He will not burn out, and he will not be broken,  
until he establishes justice on the earth.  
The coastlands will wait for his law.

<sup>5</sup>This is what the true God says,  
the LORD who creates the heavens and stretches them out,  
who spreads out the earth  
and everything that it produces,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
and life to those who walk on it.

<sup>6</sup>I am the LORD.  
I have called you in righteousness.  
I will hold on to your hand,  
and I will guard you.

*The Lord promises  
to put his Spirit on  
the Messiah.*

I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people,  
to be a light for the nations,  
<sup>7</sup>to open the eyes of the blind,  
to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon,  
and to bring those who sit in darkness out of prison.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 2



1 Why this dark con - spir - a - cy, na - tions plot - ting to be free?  
2 On this Cor - o - na - tion Day, God's dear Son holds king - ly sway.  
3 Now his king - ship ful - ly won, God af - firms him as the Son,  
4 All con - spir - a - cies are vain: God's Mes - si - ah comes to reign.



Fool - ish - ly they rid - i - cule God's most wise and right - eous rule.  
His the hon - or, his the worth, his the na - tions of the earth!  
say - ing: "Rule with pru - dent hand each pos - ses - sion, ev - 'ry land."  
Prin - ces, peo - ple, heed this call: Hon - or Christ as Lord of all.



Lord, have mer - cy! Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy;  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Lord, have mer - cy! Fool - ish - ly they rid - i - cule  
Al - le - lu - ia! His the hon - or, his the worth,  
Al - le - lu - ia! Now his king - ship ful - ly won,  
Al - le - lu - ia! Prin - ces, peo - ple, heed this call:



God's most wise and right - eous rule. Lord, have mer - cy!  
his the na - tions of the earth! Al - le - lu - ia!  
God af - firms him as the Son, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Hon - or Christ as Lord of all. Al - le - lu - ia!

## Second Reading

Acts 10:34–38

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak: “Now I really am beginning to understand that God does not show favoritism, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation, anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>He sent his word to the people of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

*The Holy Spirit was poured out onto Peter’s listeners as he told them how God anointed Jesus.*

<sup>37</sup>“You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached. <sup>38</sup>God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the Devil, because God was with him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

Mark 1:11

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

### Refrain



*You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.*

### Refrain

## Gospel

Matthew 3:13–17

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John at the Jordan. <sup>14</sup>But John tried to stop him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?”

*In the waters of the Jordan River, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power.*

<sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, because it is proper for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John let him. <sup>16</sup>After Jesus was baptized, he immediately went up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens were opened for him! He saw the Spirit of God, descending like a dove and landing on him, <sup>17</sup>and a voice out of the heavens said, “This is my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



*Be seated.*

Sermon

Matthew 3:13–17

***Christ's baptism fulfills all righteousness***

*Please stand.*

## Remembrance of Baptism

Holy Baptism is the priceless means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. The apostle Paul wrote: “All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” Again Paul wrote: “All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”

In Holy Baptism, God takes away our sins and gives us new life. We reject the devil and confess that we believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?  
**Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?  
**Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?  
**Yes, 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.**



Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**Yes, 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.**

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus, to value the Word and sacraments, and to live a life that pleases God?

**Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

May the eternal God, who saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you to everlasting life.

**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.*

## **Adult Confirmation (10:30 a.m.)**

**Aiden Rooney**

## **Offering**

## **Musical Offering**

**God's Own Child I Gladly Say It**

## **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.



C: And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

## Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

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  $\dagger$  body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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

C: A - men.

## Agnus Dei

*Be seated.*

*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

679 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

647 Word and Water, Filled with Promise

1 Word and wa-ter, filled with prom-ise, grant for-give-ness,  
 2 As the wa-ter res-cued No-ah, ark up-lift-ed,  
 4 Let us al-ways, Lord, re-mem-ber that the wa-ter

cleanse, re-claim in the Fa-ther, Son, and Spir-it's  
 on the waves, so this wa-ter, by God's prom-ise,  
 and the Word bear your nev-er-fail-ing prom-ise:

ho-ly, pre-cious, sav-ing name.  
 al-so res-cues, al-so saves.  
 our sal-va-tion is as-sured.

Bless-ings pur-chased when our Sav-ior paid the aw-ful  
 Now by Je-sus' res-ur-rec-tion we be-fore our  
 Your bap-tis-mal ben-e-dic-tion ev-er show-er

ran-som price—all de-liv-ered in this wash-ing:  
 God ap-pear pure and sin-less, ful-ly right-eous,  
 from a-bove—all the Spir-it's grace in Je-sus,

peace and par-don, par-a-dise.  
 with a con-science crys-tal clear.  
 and, dear Fa-ther, all your love.

*After the distribution, please stand.*

# Thanksgiving

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, 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.

*Remain standing.*

## Closing Hymn

930 Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; you are my own.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for -



ev - er. Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.

*Be seated.*

## Post-Service Music

Children of the Heavenly Father  
Robert Hobby

### Serving at Worship

Preaching Minister  
Presiding Minister  
Organ  
Video streamer and slides  
Video captions  
Sound

Pastor Jon Buchholz  
Pastor Gary Pufahl  
Kevin Bode  
Cathy Wightman  
Angie Keezer  
Wes Wightman

### Acknowledgments

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"Children of the Heavenly Father" Robert Hobby, © 1992 MorningStar Music.

### In our prayers

- Vivian, who was baptized today.
- Lois Henderson – Home recovering from illness.
- Jay Meshay – Preparing for triple bypass surgery this week.
- Seth Meyer – Back home in Arizona to continue his accident recovery.
- Kaylee– Receiving treatment for cancer.
- Aiden Rooney, who was confirmed today.
- Ronan, who was baptized today.
- Praise and thanksgiving for the much-needed rain.



*Emmanuel usher  
sign-up.*

### Ushers

8:00 a.m.

Dan Gruman, Eli Gruman, Noah Gruman

10:30 a.m.

Caden Head

### Communion

Thank you to Anita Morrison and Betty Reaume for helping set up Communion for the weekend.

### Landscaping

Thank you to Jim and Christine Olson for helping maintain, trim and clean the outside church property this week.

## **This week at Emmanuel**

### **Sunday**

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.

### **Tuesday**

Special voters' call meeting	6:30 p.m.
Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.

### **Wednesday**

Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
	<i>Pastoral Epistles</i>
	<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
Adult choir in the MEC	6:30 p.m.

### **Thursday**

Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Abraham</i>
	<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>
	<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>
God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
	<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
Bible Basics begins in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
	<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>

### **Friday**

ALA Basketball Invitational Tournament	TBA
	<i>Arizona Lutheran Academy</i>
Chapel	8:30 a.m.
ELS early release	1:50 p.m.

### **Saturday**

ALA Basketball Invitational Tournament	TBA
	<i>Arizona Lutheran Academy</i>

### **Sunday, January 18**

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person Bible study	No class
Church open forum	9:15 a.m.
Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.
Public School Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.

## Looking ahead

January 19	Martin Luther King day	No school / Church office closed
January 20	Church council meeting	6:00 p.m.
January 21	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.
January 22	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
		<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Abraham</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>
		<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
		<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>
January 23	Chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
January 25	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.
	Public School Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.
January 27	Quarterly voters' meeting	6:30 p.m.
January 28	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.
January 29	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
		<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Abraham</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>
		<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
		<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>
January 30	Chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
January 31	Men of His Word conference	7:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
		<i>Emmanuel's Ministry and Education Center</i>
February 1	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.
	Public School Catechism	No class
	Church picnic and ministry fair	12:00-2:00 p.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](http://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.*

## Christian education hour

Please note, there will be no **Adult Bible study**, **Table Talk**, **Teen study** or **Sunday school** classes today (1/11/2026) due to the pancake breakfast. Classes will resume later this month.

Join us today, Sunday, January 11, for our pancake breakfast at 9:15 a.m., between our Sunday morning services, in the Ministry and Education Center.

## Meal Train for the Balgeman family

Let's show our support for the Balgeman family as they welcome their newest blessing. Any help with home-cooked meals or take out/delivery would be greatly appreciated. You can sign up to provide a meal using the QR code or this link: <https://mealtrain.com/16z335>; available dates and meal details can also be found on this link.



*Balgeman  
Meal Train*

## Meal Train for the Severeid family

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



*Severeid  
Meal Train*

## Help needed and Meal Train for the Rognholt family

Let's show our support for the Rognholt family as they welcome their two newest blessings. Luke and Jayme are in need of assistance with the twins a few hours during the week when Luke is working. If you are able to help, please contact Karen Henriksen at (602) 301-6243 or Luke Rognholt at (623) 476-6604. Also, any home-cooked meals or take out/delivery would be much appreciated. You can sign up to provide a meal using the QR code or this link: <http://mealtrain.com/0dvw54>.



*Rognholt  
Meal Train*

## Pancake breakfast | Today (January 11)

Bring a healthy appetite with you! We're hosting a delicious pancake breakfast at 9:15 a.m. today, between services in the MEC (Ministry and Education Center). Along with tasty pancakes, you can enjoy sausage and beverages. There's no charge for the pancake breakfast but a free-will collection will be gathered. Your contributions will help support the costs of Emmanuel's youth who are attending the WELS International Youth Rally this coming summer.

### **Special voters' call meeting | January 13**

Pastor James Backus returned our call to serve as one of our pastors. We will have a special congregational voters' meeting this Tuesday, January 13, at 6:30 p.m. to call another pastor to oversee our youth and family ministries.

### **Financial Peace University classes start in January**

Ever feel like no matter what you do, you can't get ahead with money? You're not alone. You'd be surprised how many people you know are struggling just like you. But it's time to make a change!

Dan Warskow will be leading two different virtual sessions of FPU (Financial Peace University) starting in January. Financial Peace University is a 9-week course which will focus on learning to pay off debt, saving money, and building lasting wealth. Virtual classes meet online via Zoom so you can attend from the comfort of your home.

Mondays: January 5 - March 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. (link: [fpu.com/5A85D6](https://fpu.com/5A85D6))

Wednesdays: January 7 - March 4, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. (link: [fpu.com/AF0381](https://fpu.com/AF0381))

Emmanuel members interested in attending can reach out to Dan ([daniel.warskow@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.warskow@gmail.com)) for a discounted price.

Also, any FPU alumni are welcome to attend for free if they want a refresher class. Contact Dan and he will enroll you in the class.

### **Bible Basics has started**

This past Thursday, January 8, at 6:30 p.m., we began 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, school parents who want to learn what their children are taught in our elementary school, or anyone interested in studying and growing in God's Word. This course is 15 weeks long and is held on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. It's not too late to join! If you are interested or know someone who may be interested, please contact Pastor Buchholz.

### **PALM meeting and breakfast | January 17**

Join your WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) colleagues from valley churches on Saturday, January 17, for breakfast and fellowship at Heritage Lutheran Church at 421 E. Ray Road in Gilbert. The Phoenix Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM) is a group of area WELS members gathering to share opportunities for faith and fellowship across valley WELS churches. Breakfast starts at 9:00 a.m., followed by a devotional and discussion about ongoing WELS activities. Come and meet other WELS folks or renew some acquaintances. Please RSVP to Don Empie ((602) 550-5128 or [dempie@kingdomworkers.com](mailto:dempie@kingdomworkers.com)) to make sure we have adequate seating and breakfast.

## Open Forum on January 18

In place of Sunday Bible class next Sunday, January 18, we will hold an open forum for our congregation. The open forum is an opportunity to connect with your pastors and congregation leaders, ask questions, and get updated information on different church programs, our elementary school, our congregation's budget, and more. The open forum shares important information that will be presented to the voters for their consideration at the voters' meeting on Tuesday, January 27. Sunday school and teen group will still meet on January 18.

## Tuition assistance workshop

AZ Lutheran is committed to helping families afford a private, Christian education for their children. If you are concerned with the tuition, be sure to find out about all the options available to you by attending our first Tuition Assistance Workshop of the school year on Wednesday, January 21, at 6:00 p.m. on the AZ Lutheran campus. Register at [ALAcoyotes.org/TAW](http://ALAcoyotes.org/TAW).

## New Bible studies start

Beginning on Sunday, January 25, we will return to holding two Bible studies on Sunday mornings between services. During this Family Bible Hour, we'll also have Sunday School for younger children and Teen Group for middle- and high-schoolers.

- **The Ten Commandments.** Join Pastor Buchholz in the Oak Room for an in-depth study of the Ten Commandments given through Moses at Mount Sinai. Although it was carved in stone nearly 3,500 years ago, God's Moral Law remains in full force and effect today. Learn practical ways to apply the commandments to our daily lives as Christians.
- **Psalms – A Time to Sing.** Pastor Pufahl leads this series in the Olive Room. The psalms were the hymnal for God's Old Testament people. Join the psalmists in singing and shouting and celebrating the gifts of God's grace that he showers down upon his people. The joy expressed in the psalms is unmatched, and it overflows into every aspect of our lives.

## Thank you from the Ladies' Group

An enormous thank-you to all of you who participated in our Christmas card mission project. *Women of the Word* (WOW, Emmanuel's ladies' group) had Christmas Cards for sale in the MEC during the Advent season. We collected \$294.00 in donations, which will be sent to Our Savior's Lutheran School in Peridot, Arizona. The donations will be used to purchase much needed school items from their "Teachers' Wish List." Thank you!

## Church library reminder

If you have checked out a book (or several) from our church library to enjoy, and need them longer than two weeks, please come in to sign them out for a longer period of time. Thank you and happy reading!

### **Register now for men's conference on January 31**

**Men of His Word** is a gathering of WELS pastors and lay leaders who have been holding yearly conferences in Minnesota and Wisconsin for over a decade. The group is now expanding to Arizona under the guidance of a local team of volunteers. The annual conference for Men of His Word – Arizona will be held 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/](https://MenofHisWord.org/Phoenix/) and click on the 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). Registration will be open at 7:15 a.m. with breakfast being served until 8:00 a.m. The conference will start at 8:00 a.m. with devotion followed by the keynote speaker. Register and purchase your ticket today; the cost is \$125 and students are \$50.

### **Men of His Word Conference Scholarship**

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



*Men of His Word  
scholarship sign-up*

### **Emmanuel church picnic | February 1**

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



*Food Sign-Up*

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

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



*Helper Sign-Up*

### **Save the date | Grandparents Day**

If you are the grandparent of an AZ Lutheran student, mark Wednesday, February 4 on your calendar. That morning, faculty and students will welcome grandparents on campus to join their grandchildren at chapel, attend a few classes, enjoy some food and entertainment, and spend time with their grandchild at school. The invitation and sign-up will be available shortly after Christmas. Until then, put February 4 on your calendar.

## **Fine Arts Fair | February 5**

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

## **2026 Flower chart**

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

## **2026 Landscaping schedule**

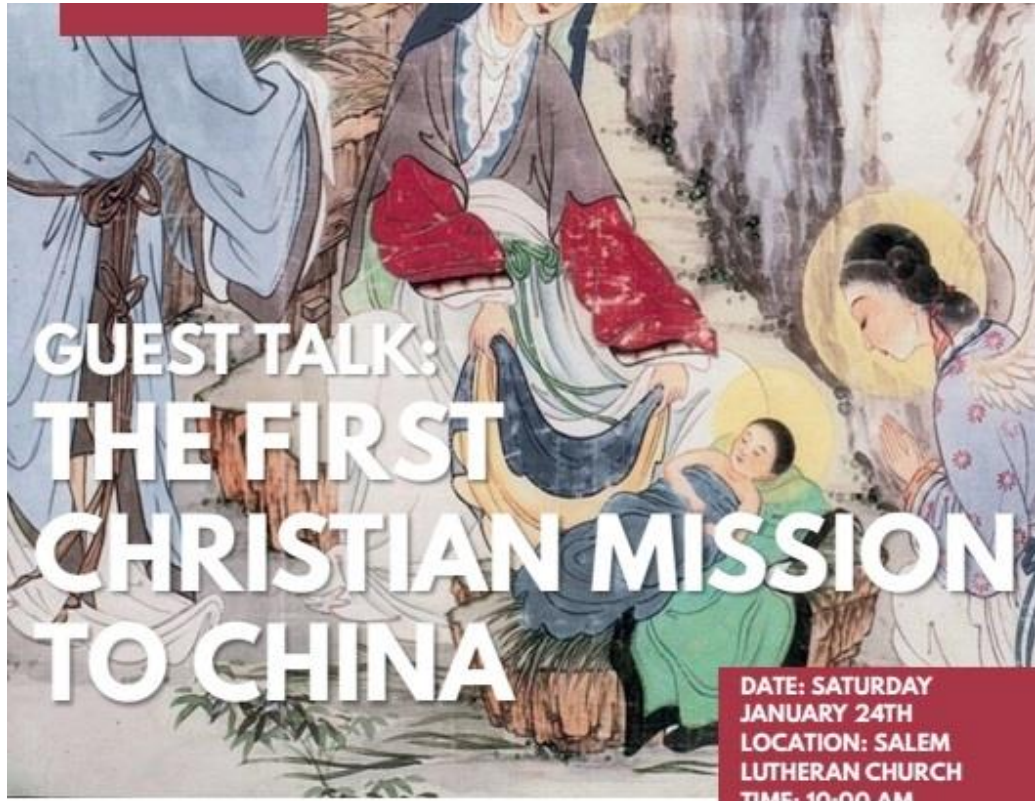
New year, new schedule! The 2026 landscaping calendar is on the bulletin board in the church narthex if you want to sign up this year (2026). Landscaping consists of picking up trash around the campus, weeding, blowing off the courtyard and surrounding plant/flower beds, and other general clean-up. Full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

## **Arizona Lutheran Academy Game Show Gala 2026**

Come on down! Get ready to spin the wheel and guess the price at our Game Show Gala on Saturday, March 28, 2026. This retro-themed evening will bring back the glitz, charm, and excitement of your favorite classic game shows — complete with themed games, dinner, and a night of fun to support our mission. Visit [ALAcoyotes.org/Gala](https://ALAcoyotes.org/Gala) to learn more.

Interested in sponsoring Arizona Lutheran Academy's 2026 Gala? If you own a business in Arizona, we want your name on our sponsor list! Your sponsorship between now and March 6 will support the students at Arizona Lutheran Academy and the campus branding and improvements. Plus, sponsor packages include tickets, print, and web advertising. Visit [ALAcoyotes.org/gala](https://ALAcoyotes.org/gala) to sponsor or learn more.





While the rapid spread of Christianity across the Greek- and Latin-speaking Mediterranean world is well-known, few people are aware that an equally rapid spread took place eastwards in the Syriac language. Not only did this result in Christian churches in India by the second century, but a church body in China by the seventh century. This first Chinese church called itself Jingjiao (the Luminous Teaching) and is the subject of a recent award-winning history by Lutheran missionary and scholar, Dr. Glen Thompson.

Join us to hear him tell this fascinating story and give a glimpse into who these missionaries were, what their mission strategy was, what they taught, and what challenges they faced.



**SPEAKER**

**GLEN THOMPSON**

Prof. Emeritus,  
Asia Lutheran Seminary  
Wisconsin Lutheran College

# 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

**E**mmanuel 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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**E**mmanuel 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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