

### Easter 6

We have lasting joy Emmanuel Lutheran Church May 25, 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 <u>elctempe.org/worship</u>.

For the latest information about services schedules, please visit elctempe.org.

## Easter 6 — May 25, 2025

#### Because He Lives: We have lasting joy

Conventional wisdom says that joy flows directly from our circumstance. Our disposition is nothing more than the product of the events, conditions, and relationships in our lives. Therefore, it would seem that for our disposition to change, our circumstances would need to change.

But Jesus offers a joy that is superior. It is not a product of circumstance; it's a product of Easter.

Easter proves that God can take what normally causes people to weep and turn it into what causes people to rejoice. Sin, death, and shame went into Jesus' tomb. Forgiveness, life, and glory came out. Our risen Savior gives us a joy that remains constant in the highest of life's highs and the lowest of life's lows.

Because he lives, we have deep and lasting joy.



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

# Service of the Word and Sacrament

**Pre-Service Music** 

**Opening Hymn** 

Please stand.

#### Invocation

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

#### Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

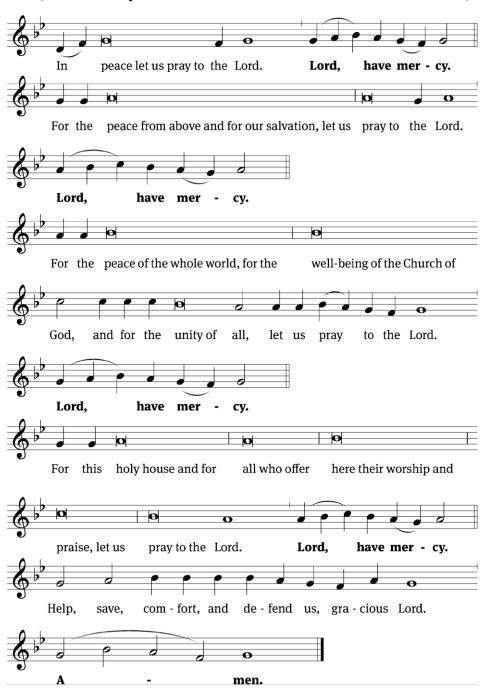
Silence for meditation and reflection.

#### Absolution

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his onlybegotten Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  During our services, the congregation speaks the responses in **bold**.



#### 449 This Joyful Eastertide



Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria





# The Word

#### Salutation

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

#### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you are the giver of everything good. Inspire us, your humble servants, to long for what is right and, through your gracious guidance, accomplish it to your glory; 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.

#### **First Reading**

<sup>8</sup>In Lystra there was a man who was sitting down because he had no strength in his feet. He had never walked because he was lame from birth. <sup>9</sup>When he was listening to Paul as he was speaking, Paul looked at him closely and saw that he had faith to be healed. <sup>10</sup>Paul said in a loud voice, "Stand up on your feet!" And the man jumped up and began to walk.

<sup>11</sup>When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form." <sup>12</sup>Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes, because he was the main speaker. <sup>13</sup>The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and garlands to the city gates, because he wanted to offer sacrifices, along with the crowds.

<sup>14</sup>But when the apostles Paul and Barnabas heard about this, they tore their clothes and rushed into the crowd, shouting, <sup>15</sup>"Men, why are you doing these things? We too are men with the same nature as you. We are preaching the good news to you so that you turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. <sup>16</sup>In past generations he allowed all the nations to go their own ways. <sup>17</sup>Yet he did not leave himself without testimony of the good he does. He gives you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons. He fills you with food and fills your hearts with gladness." <sup>18</sup>Even though they said these things, they had a hard time stopping the crowds from sacrificing to them.

<sup>19</sup>Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and persuaded the crowds to stone Paul. When they thought he was dead, they dragged him out

#### Acts 14:8-22

As a witness of Christ's resurrection, Paul's joy and his ministry were unaffected by circumstance. of the city. <sup>20</sup>But after the disciples had gathered around him, he stood up and went into the city. The next day, he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

<sup>21</sup>After they preached the good news in that city and had gathered many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, <sup>22</sup>strengthening the souls of the disciples and encouraging them to continue in the faith. They told them, "We must go through many troubles on our way to the kingdom of God."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

#### Second Reading

<sup>21</sup>The twelve gates are twelve pearls. Each of the gates is made out of one pearl. And the street of the city is pure gold, like transparent glass.

<sup>22</sup>I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup>The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God has given it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. <sup>24</sup>The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup>There is no day when its gates will be shut, for there will be no night in that place. <sup>26</sup>They will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. <sup>27</sup>Nothing that is unclean and no one who does what is detestable or who tells lies will ever enter it, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

Please stand.

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Psalm 30:5

Revelation 21:21–27

Spoken by the minister:

Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.



The great joy we have now will soon be made perfect and complete.

#### Gospel

#### John 16:16-24

<sup>16</sup>"In a little while you are not going to see me anymore, and again in a little while you will see me, because I am going away to the Father."

<sup>17</sup>Therefore some of his disciples asked one another, "What does he mean when he tells us, 'In a little while you are not going to see me, and again in a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going away to the Father'?" <sup>18</sup>So they kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he's saying."

<sup>19</sup>Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you trying to determine with one another what I meant by saying, 'In a little while you are not going to see me, and again in a little while you will see me'? <sup>20</sup>Amen, Amen, I tell you: You will weep and wail, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. <sup>21</sup>A woman giving birth has pain, because her time has come. But when she has delivered the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, because of her joy that a person has been born into the world.

<sup>22</sup>"So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you. <sup>23</sup>In that day you will not ask me anything. Amen, Amen, I tell you: Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. <sup>24</sup>Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask, and you will receive, so that your joy may be made complete.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!** 

Be seated.

#### Hymn of the Day

513 In You Is Gladness

Sermon

John 16:16-24

#### A moment of sorrow, an eternity of joy

Please stand.

Jesus promises that our grief will be turned to perfect joy.

#### **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**

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 19 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, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy



#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

#### Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

#### Words of Institution

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.** 

Jesus, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



Be seated.

#### Distribution

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

#### **Distribution Hymns**

#### 611 Joyously I'll Praise My Savior 824 This Is the Threefold Truth

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.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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.** 

Be seated.

#### Closing Hymn (Monday)

#### 824 This Is the Threefold Truth

#### **Post-Service Music**

#### Serving at Worship

Preaching Minister Presiding Minister Organ Video streamer and slides Video captions Sound Hymn selections Acolyte Pastor Jon Buchholz Pastor Gary Pufahl Kevin Bode Chris Wempner, Will Meihak Angie Keezer George Willis Sara Redman CJ Sulit (8:00 a.m.)

#### Acknowledgments

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#### In our prayers

- Steve Henderson Hip pain and upcoming surgery.
- Seth Meyer Recovering from a car accident.
- Much-needed rain for the state of Arizona.

#### **Ushers** 8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Eli Gruman, Noah Gruman, Jon Rossman Caden Head, Roger Odle

#### Communion

Thank you to Nettie Dins and Sara Redman for helping set up Communion for the weekend.

#### This week at Emmanuel

#### Sunday

Worship services In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study

#### Monday

Memorial Day Monday night worship service Monday night Bible study in the MEC

#### Tuesday

Early Childhood Vacation Bible School

#### Wednesday

Wednesday Bible study in the MEC

Early Childhood Vacation Bible School

#### Thursday

Thursday Bible study at Denny's, Broadway and Priest, Tempe 6:00 a.m. *Life Applications from Genesis 1-11 Led by Pastor Dan Pautz* Early Childhood Vacation Bible School 9:00-11:00 a.m. Bible Basics in the MEC 6:30 p.m. *Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz* 

#### Saturday

Invitation handout	9:00-10:30 a.m.
Sunday, June 1	
Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.



Emmanuel usher sign-up.

Church office closed 6:30 p.m. No class this week

8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

No classes

9:00-11:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m. The Book of the Twelve Led by Pastor Dan Pautz 9:00-11:00 a.m.

LOOKING anead		
June 2	Monday night worship service	6:30 p.m.
	Monday night Bible study in the MEC	7:40 p.m.
		Book of Mark
		Pastor Chris Pflughoeft
June 3	Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.
June 4	Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
		The Book of the Twelve
	Č.	Pastor Chris Pflughoeft
June 5	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
		tions from Genesis 1-11
		by Pastor Dan Pautz at
	•	ay and Priest in Tempe)
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
T P		by Pastor Jon Buchholz
June 7	Black Canyon Delegate Conference	9:00 a.m12:00 p.m.
June 8	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
I O	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, tee	
June 9	Summer Art Camp in the ELS art studio	9:00 a.m12:00 p.m.
	Monday night worship service	6:30 p.m.
	Monday night Bible study in the MEC	7:40 p.m.
	Ladha	Book of Mark
Lune 10		Pastor Chris Pflughoeft
June 10	Summer Art Camp in the ELS art studio	9:00 a.m12:00 p.m.
June 11	Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
	Lad by	The Book of the Twelve
	Summer Art Camp in the ELS art studio	Pastor Chris Pflughoeft 9:00 a.m12:00 p.m.
	Emmanuel Family Nights	6:00-8:00 p.m.
June 12	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
Julie 12		tions from Genesis 1-11
		by Pastor Dan Pautz at
		ay and Priest in Tempe)
	Summer Art Camp in the ELS art studio	
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
		by Pastor Jon Buchholz
June 13	Summer Art Camp in the ELS art studio	0
June 14	Blood Drive	7:00-11:00 a.m.
June 15	Father's Day	11.00 unit
,	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, tee	
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# 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 <u>elctempe.org/connect</u>, or by filling out one of the cards in the pews. Thank you!

#### Christian education hour

Please note, there will be no **Adult Bible study**, **Table Talk**, **Teen study** or **Sunday school** classes today (Sunday, 5/25/2025) due to Memorial Day weekend. Classes will resume next Sunday, June 1, 2025.

#### Meal Train for the Meyer family

A meal train has been set up to help the Meyer family while Seth continues to be treated at Banner University Medical Center. Meals can be delivered at the front entrance of the hospital (1111 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix) between 5:00-5:30 p.m.; please include plates and utensils if possible. Please note, meals need to arrive ready-to-eat as there is no access to microwaves, ovens, or refrigerators. To schedule delivery, contact either Ben at (480) 295-6298 or Hannah at (480) 246-9028. You can view more information and sign up to provide a meal using the QR code or this link: <u>https://mealtrain.com/y5ndml</u>. Thank you for your continued prayers for Seth's healing and support to the family. You are invited to view updates on Seth Meyer and to share your prayers, pictures, thoughts, or encouragement; go to prayersforseth.com.

#### **Good Shepherd Bible Camp**

Registration is now open for Good Shepherd Bible Camp! We are planning to send two buses of campers from our church and school to Good Shepherd Bible Camp in Angelus Oaks, California. Camp this year will be July 13-19. Learn more at <u>goodshepherdbiblecamp.com</u> or use the provided QR code. If you would like to serve as a chaperone for this fun getaway, please speak with Pastor Pflughoeft.

#### Early Childhood Vacation Bible School (ECE VBS)

Early Childhood Vacation Bible School is this week! Children entering threeyear-old kindergarten (3K) through Kindergarten can sign up for this year's ECE VBS from May 27 to May 29. The theme for this year is "Australian Adventure." Visit <u>elctempe.org/vbs</u> to learn more about this fun event, to register your kids, or sign-up to volunteer to help.

#### Invitation handout | May 31

Join us walking the neighborhood inviting families to our church and Emmanuel Family Nights. We will start at 9:00 a.m. this coming Saturday, May 31, meeting in the Ministry and Education Center; light refreshments will be available. Let us know if you want maps to hand out at another time, due to your schedule. Contact <u>BenjaminRuppel@gmail.com</u> for questions.



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



Meal Train sign-up





Sign up for ECE VBS

#### **Baby bottle offerings**

Earlier this month we celebrated Mother's Day, and Father's Day is June 15. We have an opportunity to support two great ministries: 1) New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers and 2) Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center.

Here's what we can do:

- Pray that the people in these ministries can touch the lives of others with the gospel.
- Take a baby bottle home with you (you can take more than one). *Baby bottles are in the church narthex.*
- Fill the baby bottle with your cash, change, or checks (checks made out to Emmanuel Lutheran Church).
- Bring the baby bottle(s) back to church between now and June 15.

We will give 50% of the offerings to New Beginnings and 50% to Alpha.

#### **Emmanuel family nights**

This summer we will be hosting four Emmanuel Family Nights, when families can gather for a meal, a devotion, and a fun activity. These will be held on Wednesdays in the summer: June 11, June 25, July 9, and July 23. Learn more at <u>elctempe.org/familynights</u>.

#### Blood Drive | June 14

The Vitalant bloodmobile is coming to Emmanuel on Saturday, June 14, 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Your donation could help a family member, friend or neighbor in need. Spread the word and please consider donating.

ALA sports camps - registration

#### ALA summer sports camps

Arizona Lutheran Academy (ALA) summer sports camps take place the first three weeks of June. Baseball-softball (co-ed) and volleyball (girls) camps are June 2-5, and basketball camps (boys and girls) are June 9-12 and June 16-19; all summer sports camps are for grades 4-8.

To find more information about the camps or to register, use the QR code or visit <u>ALAcoyotes.org/camps</u>.

#### Donations for Emmanuel Lutheran School art department

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. Any questions can be directed to Mrs. Amber Bode at (480) 694-4698. Thank you for making our art program a success!

Items requested:

- iodized salt (generic brand)
- all-purpose flour (generic brand)
- plastic tablecloths
- small or regular paper plates
- cleaned plastic yogurt containers
- cardboard squares
- new acrylic (interior) paints
- newspaper
- yarn (any color)
- coffee wooden stirring sticks

## 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



 ${f E}_{mmanuel}$  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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Pastor Jon D. Buchholz jonbuchholz@msn.com (602) 377-1915

Pastor Daniel D. Pautz danpautz7@gmail.com (480) 766-2994

#### Pastor Christopher M. Pflughoeft

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# Church Secretary Alysha Bergsma church@elctempe.org

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ELS 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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