

The Beginning of the End >



Pentecost 20

It's time to invite the unworthy

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

October 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. A television allows you to see and hear the service.
- **Children's worship notes** are available. Ask an usher.
- **Hearing assistance.** A hearing loop is available in the worship area for hearing aids equipped with a T-coil.



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.*

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost —October 11, 2026

The Beginning of the End: It's time to invite the unworthy

Isn't it disappointing when someone has prepared an excellent meal, but travel delays mean that certain friends or relatives don't get to enjoy it? Sometimes there are no leftovers, and an opportunity is lost.

God has prepared an extraordinary spiritual meal for all people. It is received by faith. But it is not offered forever. The day will come when body and soul are separated, and those who do not believe in Jesus as their Savior will not share in his blessings.

The difference in God's kingdom is that he doesn't invite only friends and family, the rich and powerful, those who are worthy, beautiful, washed and clean. God invites the wretched, the ungodly, the miserable, the poor, the filthy, the dregs of society — those who have nothing to bring to the feast. Then he washes them and dresses them with fine garments. He makes the unworthy to be worthy for the feast.

It's the beginning of the end. Now is the time to issue the invitation!

Service of the Word and Sacrament



Pre-Service Music

The Day is Surely Drawing Near

J.S. Bach and Johann Pachelbel

This is the Feast

Charles Callahan

Opening Hymn

938 This Is the Feast

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and

blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. *Refrain*
hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. *Refrain*

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**.*

Opening Sentences

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine.

Isaiah 25:6 **He will swallow up death forever.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

Psalms 23:5 **You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived

1 Corinthians 2:9 **What God has prepared for those who love him.**

Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!

Revelation 19:9 **These are the true words of God.**

Confession and Absolution

We have heard the invitation but must confess that we have not always responded in true obedience. God has promised grace and mercy for Jesus' sake. Let us therefore go to his throne of grace.

Father in heaven, we confess that we have turned deaf ears to your gracious invitation. We have thought our plans were most important. We have spoken as if you could not hear. We have acted according to the expectations of the world around us. There is no good within us by which we can amend our sinful condition. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, and by your Holy Spirit increase the faith you have worked within us. Grant us to reflect in our daily living the righteousness and rejoicing we shall know at the wedding feast of the Lamb, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silence for personal reflection.

In his great mercy, God has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. He has promised you to eat and drink with prophets and apostles at his table. By our Lord's death and resurrection, your sins have been paid for; your seats are reserved. As a called and ordained 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.

Response

938 This Is the Feast



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb _____ who was slain has be -



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: v. 4
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun his _____ reign. Al - le - lu - ia! *Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you invite us to trust in you for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of your judgment but by the greatness of your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Be seated.

The Word

Isaiah 25:6–9

First Reading

*The prophet Isaiah
describes the
heavenly banquet,
where death and
tears will be no
more. How does one
get in? Through
faith in God and his
salvation.*

⁶On this mountain
the LORD of Armies will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food,
a banquet of aged wines,
with the best cuts of meat,
and with the finest wines.

⁷On this mountain
he will destroy the shroud that covers all peoples,
the burial cloth stretched over all nations.

⁸He has swallowed up death forever!

The LORD God will wipe away the tears from every face.
He will take away the shame of his people throughout the earth.
For the LORD has spoken.

⁹On that day it will be said,

“Look, here is our God!

We waited for him, and he saved us!

This is the LORD!

We waited for him.

Let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation!”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84

Psalm 84

The congregation sings each refrain and verses in bold.



How love-ly is thy dwell-ing place, O Lord of hosts, to me!

Psalm tone



How lovely is your dwelling place,
LORD Almighty!

**My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.**

Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you. **Refrain**

Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

LORD Almighty,
blessed is the one who trusts in you.

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

Second Reading

Romans 1:16-17

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes — to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

¹⁷For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed by faith, for faith, just as it is written, “The righteous will live by faith.”

*We are saved
through faith alone.
May we never reject
this gospel truth!*

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 25:6

Alleluia. On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all people. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 22:1–14

Jesus tells a story of those who foolishly rejected a king's gracious invitation.

¹Jesus spoke to them again in parables. He said, ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent out his servants to summon those who were invited to the wedding banquet, but they did not want to come.

⁴“Then he sent out other servants and said, ‘Tell those who are invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and my fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet!’

⁵“But those who were invited paid no attention and went off, one to his own farm, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized the king's servants, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷As a result, the king was very angry. He sent his army and killed those murderers and burned their town.

⁸“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. ⁹So go to the main crossroads and invite as many as you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those servants went out to the roads and gathered together everyone they found, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹²He said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wearing wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless. ¹³Then the king told the servants, ‘Tie him hand and foot and throw him into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

573 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness

Sermon

Matthew 22:1–14

The King is calling, come clothed

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

Jerusalem the Golden
Robert Powell

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.



Give online

*If you prefer
online giving, you
may scan this code.*



Connection card

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

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. He protects and preserves his Church in every age and gives us confidence to lift up our heads and watch for Jesus with joy. 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.



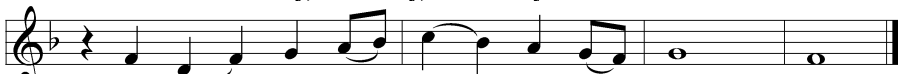
You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



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.

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.



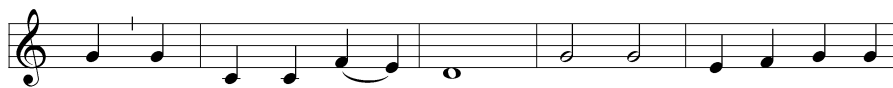
C: A - men.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

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.

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.

Distribution Hymns

675 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

889:1,2 Jerusalem the Golden

1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, with milk and hon - ey blest -
2 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, the home of God's e - lect!

the sight of it re - fresh - es the wea - ry and op - pressed.
O sweet and bless - ed coun - try that ea - ger hearts ex - pect,

I know not, oh, I know not what joys a - wait us there,
where they who with their lead - er have con - quered in the fight

what ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, what bliss be - yond com - pare:
for - ev - er and for - ev - er are clad in robes of white:

to sing the hymn un - end - ing with all the mar - tyr throng,
in mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us to that dear land of rest

a - midst the halls of Zi - on re - sound - ing full with song.
where sings the host of heav - en your glo - rious name to bless.

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.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

Remain standing.

Closing Hymn

889:3 Jerusalem the Golden

3 The Christ is ev - er with them, the day-light is se - rene;
the pas - tures of the bless - ed are ev - er rich and green.
There is the throne of Da - vid, and there, from care re - leased,
the shout of them that tri - umph, the song of them that feast.
To God en - throned in glo - ry the Church's voic - es blend,
the Lamb for - ev - er bless - ed, the Light that knows no end.

Post-Service Music

Prelude in C
Gordon Young

Serving at Worship

Preaching Minister
Presiding Minister
Organ
Instrumentalist
Video captions
Sound

Pastor Daniel Gensmer
Pastor Jon Buchholz
Kevin Bode
Autumn Bode, *flute*
Jeremy Burmeister
Wes Wightman

Acknowledgments

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"Jerusalem the Golden" Robert Powell, © 2005 Birmamwood Publications.

In our prayers

- Ken Dins – Home recovering.
- Chris Heise – Home recovering.
- Kaylee – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Louise Sallquist – Home recovering.
- Bill Welker – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Bill Zidar – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Much-needed rain for the state of Arizona.

Ushers

8:00 a.m.

David Kraus, Peter Nimmer, Jim Olson, Jacob Pufahl

10:30 a.m.

Caden Head, Michael Kobs, Ryan Konig, Michael Prah

Flowers

Thank you to John and Alysha Bergsma for beautifying our sanctuary with altar flowers in honor of their daughter's 7th birthday and pastor appreciation.

Communion

Thank you to Diana Brocard and Rose Moore for helping set up Communion for this weekend.

This week at Emmanuel

Sunday

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Pastor appreciation reception	9:00-9:30 a.m.
Church open forum	9:15 a.m.
Adult Bible study, Sunday school, teen Bible study	No classes
Public school Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.

Monday-Friday

ELS Fall break	No school
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Monday

Light in the Valley – campus ministry	5:00-7:00 p.m. <i>Tempe Sports Complex</i>
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Wednesday

Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m. <i>Book of Daniel</i> <i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
Adult choir practice	6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m. <i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Joseph</i> <i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i> <i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>
God's Ways Bible study	No class this week
Bible Basics class	6:30-8:00 p.m.

Friday

ELS chapel	8:30 a.m.
ELS early release	1:50 p.m.

Saturday

ELS football tournament	TBA <i>Arizona Lutheran Academy</i>
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Sunday, October 18

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person adult Bible study	9:15 a.m. <i>Adult Bible class: Taboo Topics</i> <i>Table Talk: Galatians</i>
Sunday school, teen and junior high Bible study	9:15 a.m.
Public school Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.

Looking ahead

October 19	ELS	Classes resume
	Light in the Valley – campus ministry	Canceled
October 20	Church Council meeting	Canceled

October 21	Wednesday Bible study	No class this week
October 23	ELS parent/teacher conferences	No school
October 24	ELS volleyball tournament	TBA
	<i>Arizona Lutheran Academy</i>	
	Fall campus work day	8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
	WELS Youth Night @ Emmanuel	5:00-8:00 p.m.
October 25	East Valley Area Reformation service	4:00 p.m.
	<i>Fellowship following the service</i>	
October 27	Quarterly Voters' meeting	6:30-8:30 p.m.
October 30	ELS Christ-Connection-Coffee	9:00-10:00 a.m.
	<i>following ELS chapel</i>	
October 31	Setup for Family Fall Festival	8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
November 1	Family Fall Festival	4:00-6:00 p.m.
November 3	Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.
November 4-6	ELS Arizona-California teachers' conference	No school
November 6	<i>Helping the Hurting</i> training session	6:30-8:30 p.m.
	<i>Heritage Lutheran Church, Gilbert, Arizona</i>	
November 7	Elders' meeting	7:30-9:00 a.m.
	<i>Helping the Hurting</i> training session	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
	<i>Heritage Lutheran Church, Gilbert, Arizona</i>	
	Memorial service for Elaine Kern	10:00 a.m.
	<i>Reception following the service</i>	
November 10	Evangelism meeting	6:30 p.m.
November 15	Emmanuel teen night	6:00-8:00 p.m.
November 22	Grief Share – Surviving the Holidays	2:00-4:00 p.m.
November 25	ELS Thanksgiving break	Noon dismissal
	Thanksgiving Eve worship service	6:30 p.m.
	Adult choir	No practice
November 26-27	ELS Thanksgiving break	No school
November 26	Thanksgiving Day	Church office closed
	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	No class
	Thanksgiving Day worship service	9:00 a.m.
	God's Ways Bible study	No class
	Bible Basics class	No class
November 27	Day after holiday	Church office closed
November 29	Public school Catechism	No class
November 30	ELS	Classes resume

Notes and News



Connection cards

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

Connection card

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

Christian education hour

Please note, there will be no Adult Bible study, Teen Bible study, or Sunday School today (October 11) due to our pastor appreciation reception, church open forum, and the beginning of Fall break. Classes will resume next Sunday, October 18. Join us after the first service in the Ministry and Education Center for cake and fellowship, and stay for the open forum.

Staff Spotlight | Pastor Appreciation Month

Our pastors dedicate their lives to the service of God and sharing his Word. October is Pastor Appreciation Month and is a time to serve as an opportunity to highlight our pastors and honor their service to our church, community and Jesus' mission. Let's show our thanks and gratitude to our pastors this month.

Join us this morning (Sunday, October 11), after the first service, in the Ministry and Education Center for cake and to show our appreciation for our pastors.

As part of Pastor Appreciation Month, each week we will be highlighting one of our pastors. Last week we highlighted Pastor Dan Pautz, this week we are highlighting Pastor Jon Buchholz. Do you know what his favorite lunch spot is near Emmanuel? What about why he chose to enter the ministry? See page 20 to find the answers and other interesting facts about Pastor Buchholz!

Thank you for your contribution!

On behalf of the LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society), thank you for your generous contributions last Sunday. Your faithful support of our mission work is sincerely appreciated.

Memorial service for Elaine Kern | November 7

Elaine Kern was called home to heaven on Sunday, September 13. A memorial service has been scheduled for Saturday, November 7, at 10:00 a.m. here at Emmanuel Lutheran. A reception will take place in the Ministry and Education Center following the service.

Campus Fall work day | October 24

With the weather turning to our favor, it's time to do some of our outdoor projects that have been a challenge over the summer. This clean-up day also helps us prepare for Reformation and our Family Fall Festival. We will start at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 24, until completed. You are welcome to come when you can and help as long as you're able. Thank you!



WELS Youth Night

WELS Youth Night | October 24

Calling all teens! Join us on Saturday, October 24, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church for WELS Youth Night. This is an evening for Phoenix-area high school teens to gather around God's Word, have some fun, and encourage one another in Christ. The event will be from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and you can look forward to food, games, fellowship, and a keynote on fear and how God's Word combats it in our lives. Come join us and invite a friend! Visit our website (elctempe.org/youth), or use the QR code, to learn more and to [register](#) prior to the event. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the event, use the [volunteer link](#).

East Valley Joint Reformation Service | October 25

The special East Valley Joint Reformation Service will be held here at Emmanuel on Sunday, October 25, at 4:00 p.m. Join us for another powerful celebration of God's grace! The service theme this year is: *The truth will set you free*. In a world where truth is relative and the future is uncertain, we build our lives on the solid rock of God's Word, the immovable truth of Scripture. Pastor Timothy Henning of Chino Valley, Arizona, will serve as our guest preacher. Following the service, we will enjoy food and fellowship in the Ministry and Education Center.

Family Fall Festival | Donations and volunteers needed

Our annual Family Fall Festival is scheduled for Sunday, November 1, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. This is a fun, family-friendly event with Trunk-or-Treat, bounce houses and more. Visit our website (elctempe.org/fallfestival) or use the QR code for more information.



Family Fall Festival
- Information

We are in need of donations and volunteers. Donations needed include cans of soda, cases of water bottles, juice boxes, non-chocolate candy, fruit snacks, and snack size bags of: chips, pretzels, popcorn, and cookies.

In order to make this a successful event, we need people like you. If you're interested in volunteering, please visit our [website](#) by scanning the QR code. Volunteer opportunities may include: providing and decorating a [trunk for Trunk-or-Treat](#), setting up, decorating, staffing an activity (such as bounce house, food table, etc.), clean-up and take-down ([full list of volunteer opportunities found here](#)).



Helping the Hurting
training

Kingdom Workers' Helping the Hurting training sessions | November 6-7

[Kingdom Workers](#) is a global, Christian nonprofit that partners with Christians to share Jesus' love while helping their neighbors. Their aim is physical and spiritual healing for the people they serve, which results in lasting change that glorifies God. One of Kingdom Workers' programs is [RISE](#), a program that helps train advocates to support survivors of relationship abuse. They are hosting *Helping the Hurting* training sessions at Heritage Lutheran Church in Gilbert, Arizona, on Friday, November 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m., and Saturday, November 7, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sign up for one or both sessions using [the sign-up form](#) or scan the QR code.

Grief Share

Christians grieve differently than the world around us because of the hope we have in Christ. But even though Christians grieve with hope, the loss of a loved one presents unexpected challenges as they learn to navigate a world without their loved one. The holiday season can be especially challenging. With this in mind, Emmanuel is excited to present our new Grief Share support group, which intends to provide a safe space to share our struggles, our experiences, and find comfort in God's word. If you or someone you know has struggled with grief, consider joining our Grief Share support group on either Sunday, November 22, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., or on Tuesday, December 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Learn more and register for either event using the QR code or visiting our website (elctempe.org/griefshare). Reach out to Pastor Gensmer with any questions.



Grief Share

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



PASTOR JON BUCHHOLZ

EDUCATION

Northwestern College
(1986, Bachelor of Arts)
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
(1990, Master of Divinity)

SERVICE AT EMMANUEL

- Began serving at Emmanuel in 2005
- Worship and outreach pastor
- Areas of Service:
 - Property Committee, Building Committee, Worship Committee, Evangelism Committee, Technology Committee

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO ENTER THE MINISTRY?

My Grandpa was a pastor, and I always admired him and the work of the ministry. When I was a student at ALA, Mr. Vic Fenske and my other teachers encouraged me to study for the public ministry.

TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF

FAMILY: My wife is Sandy. We celebrated 35 years of marriage this year. We have four grown children and six grandchildren.

HOBBIES: Woodworking, languages, flying, bicycling.

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE:
Revelation 2:10

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT ARIZONA:

I love the mountains, the desert, the scenery, the weather, and the opportunities to be outdoors for most of the year.

FAVORITE LUNCH SPOT NEAR EMMANUEL:

Some Burros (Mill Ave. and Baseline)

WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY READING OR LISTENING TO?

German radio station br24.de



The Truth Will Set You Free

"If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. You will also know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

—John 8:31,32

The 509th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation
East Valley Area Reformation Service
Emmanuel Ev. Lutheran Church
Tempe, Arizona
October 25, 2026

**Join us for Emmanuel's
Family Fall Festival!**
**Sunday, November 1,
4:00 - 6:00 PM**

- Trunk -or- Treat in a safe, fun environment
- Photo Booth
- Bounce Houses
- Face Painting
- Door Prizes
- Food available (cash only)



Learn more



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.

Pastor Gary A. Pufahl

gpufahl@elctempe.org

(262) 744-1619

Principal Craig Kiecker

ckiecker@elstempe.org

(623) 313-5614

Pastor Daniel R. Gensmer

[dgersmer@elctempe.org](mailto:dgensmer@elctempe.org)

(615) 887-3816

Music Director Kevin Bode

kbode@elstempe.org

(480) 694-3532

Pastor Jon D. Buchholz

jonbuchholz@msn.com

(602) 377-1915

Financial Operations Mgr. Darcy Meyer

treasurer@elctempe.org

(480) 344-3783

Pastor Daniel D. Pautz

danpautz7@gmail.com

(480) 766-2994

School Secretary Amani Campos

school@elstempe.org

(480) 967-3991

Church Secretary Alysha Bergsma

church@elctempe.org

(480) 967-3983

Member Ministry Coordinator

Benjamin Ruppel

bruppel@elctempe.org

(480) 967-3983



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).

715 West Southern Avenue

Tempe, Arizona 85282

(480) 967-3983 church • (480) 967-3991 school

church@elctempe.org

www.elctempe.org