

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 bulletins and 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.

Third Sunday in Advent — December 15, 2024

A Real Christmas Brings Great Joy

Multiple studies have revealed that the holiday season can make mental health struggles worse.

For some, the pressure to have "a perfect Christmas" can be overwhelming. For others, loneliness is amplified. Nostalgia for Christmas past brings a wistful sadness. Many struggle during a season of short days and long, dark nights.

We need a real Christmas, one that results in great joy!

But joy is not the same thing as happiness. It is infinitely better. Happiness is an emotion. Joyfulness is a condition. Happiness comes from circumstances. Joy comes from Christ assuring you of his abiding love and your glorious future. Happiness ("holiday cheer") is fleeting. Joy is enduring.

The historic Christian Church gave Latin titles to each Sunday. They titled the Third Sunday in Advent "Gaudete," which means "Rejoice!" As we reach the midway point of Advent, we ask Christ to empower us to do just that.



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

Service of the Word



Pre-Service Music

Savior of the Nations, Come Valerie Floeter

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry Anne Krentz Organ and Aaron Miller

> O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Thad Fiscella

Opening Hymn

305 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

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**.

Confession

God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.	
Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.	James 4:6, 10

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

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

Silence for meditation and reflection.

If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?	
But with you there is forgiveness; therefore, you are feared.	Psalm 130:3, 4

Response

We will sing the Song of Mary (Magnificat) throughout the season of Advent. Considering Mary's circumstances and its focus purely on Christ, these words have held a very prominent place in Christian churches since at least AD 540. They will serve as the Gospel and sermon theme for the last Advent Sunday.



Magnificat

God's promise to Abraham and his descendants was fulfilled in the coming of his Son. Jesus Christ humbled himself by submitting to God's law. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross. God promises to lift up the humble and fill the hungry with good things because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, so that we through his 2 Corinthians 8:9 poverty might become rich.

Even as we await Christ's second coming, he comes to us here and now in the words he gives his messengers to speak: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

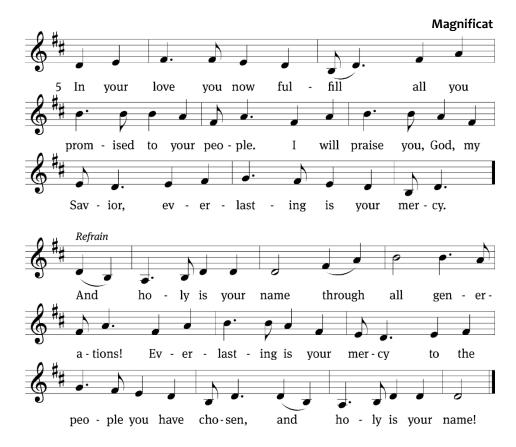
We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

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

We hear his call to see the light.

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

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.



The Word

Salutation The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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



Be seated.

First Reading

¹⁴Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. ¹⁵The LORD has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel's king, the LORD, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster. ¹⁶In that day Jerusalem will be told, "Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. ¹⁷The LORD your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing."

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

Second Reading

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

Please stand.

Zephaniah 3:14-17

We can rejoice, because the Lord has saved us and delights in us.

Philippians 4:4-7

What is the reason for our enduring joy? The Lord is near to us.

Gospel Acclamation

The congregation sings the refrain and verse.



Come to us, Em-man-u-el; come and set your peo-ple free.

Refrain

Gospel

Those who rejoice in the good news of salvation joyfully produce fruits of repentance.

Luke 3:7-18

⁷So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even think of saying to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ⁹ Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ The crowds began to ask him, "What should we do then?" ¹¹ He answered them, "Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same." ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ To them he said, "Collect no more than what you were authorized to." ¹⁴Soldiers were also asking him, "And what should we do?"

He told them, "Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. ¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with water.

But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people.

The Gospel of our Lord.



Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

327 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Sermon

Zephaniah 3:14-17

Sing, shout, and be glad!

After the sermon, please stand.

Apostles' Creed

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

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

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

Be seated.

Offering

Musical Offering



A Peaceful Noel Thad Fiscella

Give online

Please stand.

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.

Hymn

318 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Please stand.

Prayer for Grace

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



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.



Be seated.

313 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

Post-Service Music

Awake to the Light David Nevue

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus David Nevue

Serving at Worship

Minister Piano Video streamer and slides Video captions Sound Acolyte Hymn selections Pastor Gary Pufahl Erin Hahnke Reed Bode, Chris Wempner Angie Keezer George Willis Colton Sallquist (8:00 a.m.) Sara Redman

Acknowledgments

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In our prayers

• Colin McDermott - Currently hospitalized at Banner Baywood.

Ushers

8:00 a.m.Eric Sallquist, Jacob Sallquist10:30 a.m.Matt Corrigan, Roger Odle, Mike Richey, Tristan Richey

Flowers

Thank you to Ralph and Bonnie Pennemans for beautifying our sanctuary with altar flowers.



Emmanuel usher sign-up.

This week at Emmanuel

Sunday

Online live-streamed service	8:00 a.m.
In-person services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.
Public school catechism	12:00 p.m.
Children's Christmas services	2:00 and 4:00 p.m.

Monday

Worship in church 6:30 p.m. In-person Bible study 7:40 p.m. Book of James Led by Pastor Chris Pflughoeft in Emmanuel's Ministry and Education Center (MEC)

6:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Church council meeting

Wednesday Bible study

Bible study	8:30 a.m.
	Ruth: A Gem in the Junk Pile
	Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl in
	Emmanuel's Ministry and Education Center (MEC)
Midweek Advent services	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
Midweek Soup Supper	5:00 p.m.
Adult choir in the MEC	7:30 p.m.

Thursday

Bible study Attitude Adjustn Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at Denny's (Broad	6:00 a.m. nent (Book of Philippians) and Priest in Tempe)
ASU campus ministry	No meeting this week
God's Ways Bible study in the MEC Bible Basics in the MEC	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
Friday	
ELS chapel	8:30 a.m.
ELS early release	12:00 p.m.
Arizona Lutheran Academy Christmas concert	7:00 p.m.
Saturday Christmas for Kids	10:00 a.m.
Next Sunday, December 22	
Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
Public school catechism	No class this week

Looking ahead

December 23-I	anuary 3 Christmas break	No school
December 23	Monday night worship service	6:30 p.m.
	Bible study in the MEC	No class this week
December 24	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols	3:30 and 5:00 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services	6:30 and 8:00 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day	Church office closed
	Christmas Day Service	9:00 a.m.
December 26	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	ASU campus ministry	No meeting this week
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	No class this week
	Bible Basics in the MEC	No class this week
December 29	In-person services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
2 000110 01 2/	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, to	
	Public school catechism	No class this week
December 30	Monday night worship service	6:30 p.m.
	Bible study in the MEC	No class this week
December 31	New Year's Eve Services	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
January 1	New Year's Day	Church office closed
5	Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	No class this week
	Adult choir in the MEC	No practice this week
January 2	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
· ·	ASU campus ministry	No meeting this week
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	No class this week
	Bible Basics in the MEC	No class this week
January 5	In-person services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, t	een study 9:15 a.m.
	Public school catechism	12:00 p.m.
January 6	ELS	Classes resume
· ·	Epiphany candlelight worship service	6:30 p.m.
	Bible study in the MEC	No class this week
January 7	Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.
January 8	Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
· ·	Adult choir in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
January 9	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
-	ASU campus ministry	No meeting this week
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
January 10	ELS chapel	8:30 a.m.
-	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.



Connection card

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

Notes and News

Connection cards

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

Christmas outreach

Invitation bundles for Christmas worship at Emmanuel are available in the narthex (church entrance) for people to take and distribute at their own leisure. You can use the map provided or distribute in your own neighborhood. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Pflughoeft at 480-291-2928.

Midweek Advent worship and soup supper | December 18

Join us this Wednesday (December 18) for our third and final Midweek Advent worship services at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. Our theme this year is Christmas Trees. We'll ponder the trees of the Bible that point us to the Tree of Life, the coming Christ. As we have in recent years, we'll begin each service with a sing-along of popular Advent and Christmas songs, so arrive early to share your requests.

Between services, join us for a soup supper in the Ministry and Education Center from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thank you to all who joined in Christmas caroling

Last Saturday morning (December 7), 25 carolers of all ages shared the Christmas message through song at Solterra Senior Living. We performed a variety of classic and beloved Christmas carols for the residents. The residents were a wonderful audience, many joining in on the familiar favorites like "Silent Night" and "Jingle Bells." After our performance, we had a chance to visit with some of the residents and hear some of their memories. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this event!

Opportunity to sing | Lessons and Carols

For those who enjoy singing, you are invited to be a part of this year's Lessons and Carols choir on December 24, 3:30 p.m. and repeated at 5:00 p.m. It is a highlight at Emmanuel. A special choir of 30-40 Emmanuel members and WELS friends of Emmanuel will sing the gospel truths of Christmas. Many steps have been taken to make this opportunity accessible to those who aren't a part of the adult choir but enjoy singing. If you would like to sing, contact Kevin Bode (<u>kbode@elstempe.org</u>) for more information. In December, we would rehearse after the 6:30 p.m. Advent services.

Poinsettia donations

Help beautify the church this Christmas season. Emmanuel's Ladies' Group, Women of the Word (WOW), will be selling poinsettias to decorate the altar for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. The cost is \$15, payable either in cash or check (made out to Ladies Group). Please give your payment to either Karen Henriksen, Wendy Binger, or the church office in an envelope marked "WOW." Please have all orders and payments in by today (December 15). If you have any questions, please call Karen Henriksen at 602-301-6243. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Ministry and Education Center.

Christmas for Kids | December 21

This coming Saturday, December 21, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, we will host our annual Christmas for Kids program. Children ages 3 to 12 (Preschool to 4th grade) are welcome to join us for a fun morning of music, crafts, and lessons. Register your children at <u>elctempe.org/C4K</u>. Would you like to serve for this program? This will be a great opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas with others. Those who are interested in serving can connect with Pastor Pflughoeft at 480-291-2928, visit <u>elctempe.org/C4K</u> or use the provided QR code to sign-up to volunteer.

Christmas cards

The ladies' group has Christmas cards out for sale in the narthex. All money from the purchases of the cards will go to Our Savior's Lutheran School, Peridot, Arizona, for their Teacher's "Wish List."

Christmas celebration at Emmanuel

You can find more information at <u>elctempe.org/Christmas</u>.

- Sunday, Dec. 15, ELS children's service, at 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 21, Christmas for Kids, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 24, Lessons and Carols, at 3:30 and 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 24, Candlelight services, at 6:30 and 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day worship, at 9:00 a.m.

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

• Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Our celebration of the Christmas season culminates with our special worship for the **Festival of the Epiphany** at a special candlelight service.

• Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.



Christmas for Kids volunteer sign-up

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

Heritage Lutheran Church, along with Truth in Love Ministry (<u>tilm.org</u>) and students from Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran College, will be witnessing door-to-door to the LDS (Latter-day Saints) of the East Valley from January 3-9, 2025. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please call the Heritage church office at 480-855-3619 or send an email to <u>office@heritagelutheran.com</u>. Training and experience are offered for this witnessing opportunity. Here is the schedule at Heritage Lutheran Church (WELS):

Training:

Friday, January 3, 6:30-9:00 p.m. (Training Part 1: Know Who is Behind the Door) Saturday, January 4, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Training Part 2: Know What to Say/Do at the Door)

At the door witnessing:

We will be doing at the door witnessing on the following dates and times: Saturday, January 4 (Session 1 - 1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.; lunch served before and dinner after)

Sunday, January 5 (Session 2 - 1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.; dinner served after) Monday, January 6 (Session 3 - 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; lunch provided) Monday, January 6 (Session 4 - Trip to Mesa temple; dinner provided) Tuesday, January 7 (Session 5 - 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; lunch provided) Tuesday, January 7 (Session 6 - trip to Gilbert temple; dinner provided) Thursday, January 9 (Session 7 - 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; lunch provided) Thursday, January 9 (Session 8 - 1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.; dinner provided)

You can participate in as many/few of the sessions as you are able.

Men of His Word Conference 2025

Early registration is now open for the Men of His Word (MOHW) Conference, to be held on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at the Desert Willow Conference Center (48th Street and Broadway in Phoenix). Register and purchase your ticket now for \$100. The cost will increase to \$125 after the first of the year. The Men of His Word Conference is a gathering for godly men to be encouraged by one another and to grow together in faith through worship and Bible study. This year's theme is "Forge Ahead in Faith." Pastor Buchholz will be the keynote speaker at the conference, and there are also many breakout groups for learning and discussion. Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments are included. Visit <u>www.menofhisword.org</u> for more information and to register.

Save the date for a fiesta | March 29, 2025

Arizona Lutheran Academy is hosting its 14th annual Gala on Saturday, March 29, 2025. The goal is to raise funds for our Building Tomorrow campaign. It's a fiesta and you are invited! Learn more at <u>ALAcoyotes.org/gala</u>.

Christian education hour

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

The **Adult Bible study** is meeting in the Ministry and Education Center (MEC). The study topic today is "Apologetics: Defending the Faith."

The **Teen Bible study Grades 9-12** is meeting in the 7th grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is "A Real Christmas Brings Great Joy."

The **Junior High Bible study Grades 7-8** is meeting in the 8th grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is "A Real Christmas Brings Great Joy."

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

The Sunday School for **4K Preschool-Grade 3** is meeting in the 3rd grade classroom at the south campus. The study topic today is "Jesus' Transfiguration."

The Sunday School for **two- and three-year-olds** is meeting in the preschool classrooms at the south campus. Parents are encouraged to remain with their children. The study topic today is "Jesus is born /Shepherd and Wisemen."

The **MUMs Group** is meeting in the nursery. Mothers and their children under 2 years are welcome to join for a devotion and fellowship.

Sunday school note

Parents, please take your children to the south side of campus for checkin. All Sunday School students will meet in the 5th grade classroom for a children's devotion, a song, and a snack before splitting up for their classes.

The greatest gift God ever gave; and it is for you!

When a father puts gifts under the Christmas tree, it is not to compensate his children for doing their chores. That would make whatever is inside that wrapping paper a wage, not a gift. A gift is given voluntarily simply so the giver can show favor to the one receiving the gift, without any expectation of repayment. In the season of Christmas, we receive the gift of God. That does not simply mean we receive the gifts God gives. When we look into the manger, we see that God is the gift.

In the person of Jesus, God gave us himself. And because our God became true man and did everything necessary for our

salvation, he is able to give us so many other Christmas gifts: forgiveness, hope, peace, a place in his family, eternal life in paradise. "That is too much!" you object. "I don't deserve any of it!" True enough. However, none of these things are wages. We could not and need not earn them. Because they are gifts, given by our gracious God to show us his favor.

Join us to receive God's greatest gift!

Join us for Christmas Eve worship Lessons and Carols service at 3:30 and 5:00 p.m. Candlelight worship at 6:30 and 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Day worship Wednesday, December 25 9:00 a.m.

Christmas for Kids

Saturday, December 21 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Ages 3-12 Music, crafts, and lessons







Join us for Emmanuel's Christmas for kids for a morning full of fun in a safe, caring environment.

Kids from preschool through grade four are invited to join us for crafts, songs, a bible lesson, and more Christmas fun!







715 W SOUTHERN AVE, TEMPE AZ, 85282

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

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Pastor Jon D. Buchholz jonbuchholz@msn.com

(602) 377-1915

Pastor Daniel D. Pautz

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Pastor Christopher M. Pflughoeft

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(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).

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