



NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: August 23, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We, who once were far from God; we who once were lost in our sin; we, who once clung to our works; we have been brought into the Kingdom of God—not because we’ve done enough, not because of anything in us, but because Jesus walked the narrow way of the Cross and by the blood of Christ alone we have been saved. This is the way and the truth and the life that has been given to us and it is this great and gracious act of God that gives Jesus’ words meaning to us today.

The information we've included in this newsletter is designed to help our Emmanuel family stay connected and involved. You can view our monthly calendar [here](#). Thanks for your interest and for all you do to strengthen the ministry we share.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Eggold and Pastor Sheafer

WORSHIP, SUNDAY SCHOOL, SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES, WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES

NEW! 11th Sunday After Pentecost

Saturday, August 23: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 24: 8:00 a.m. (Holy Communion); 10:30 a.m.



Summer Bible Adult Bible Classes

- ***Lutheran Christianity***

Come engage in the foundational truths of the Christian faith with a Lutheran lens.

Leaders: Pastors Eggold, Meyer, and Sheafer

Location: Brandt Hall

- ***The Chosen***

Explore the first season of this powerful show as it helps bring the Biblical story to life.

Leaders: Pastors Eggold, Meyer, and Sheafer

Location: Lower Level of Ebenezer

NEW! Pastor's Bible Study Online



Each week, Pastors Eggold and Sheafer lead a video Bible Study based on the Readings for the coming Sunday. Click [here](#) to view this week's study, as well as over 200 more video Bible Studies led by our pastors.

Christian Education Kickoff

Sunday, September 7, is a big day at Emmanuel! On this day, we'll begin our Christian Education season for 2025-2026. For this day, the entire Emmanuel congregation will be invited to meet outside on Union Street for a time of fun, food, and friendship from 9:00-10:15 a.m. Donuts will be back and a coffee truck will be on site. We'll even have a bounce house! All this will help us begin our Christian Education season with great excitement! **See a preview of many of our classes in the special section below.**

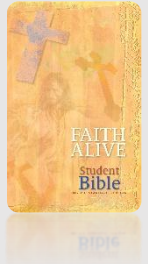
NEW! Bibles and Devotions for Second Graders

In the past, second graders have received a Bible as a gift from Emmanuel. This year, we are excited to add something new! Each second grade student will also receive a devotion book to use at home.

Students enrolled at Emmanuel–St. Michael (ESM) already received their Bible at Opening Chapel on the first day of school. If your child is a second grader **not** attending ESM, we would love to give them a *Faith Alive Student Bible* along with the devotion book.

We invite you to celebrate this milestone in your child's faith journey during **Education Sunday, September 7**, at the 10:30 a.m. service. At that time, you and your child will be invited to the altar to receive a blessing and their devotion book.

If your child is entering second grade this year, please let us know so we can include them. Call the church office at 260.423.1369 or email Liz Bejot, LBejot@emmanuel Lutheran.org.



NEW! Catechisms for Sixth Graders

In previous years, families of sixth graders were asked to purchase a Catechism as part of the Confirmation process. This year, we are delighted to gift each sixth grade student their very own Catechism as they take this important step in their faith journey. It's our joy to place this resource in their hands and walk alongside them as they continue to grow in Christ.

We invite you to celebrate this milestone in your child's faith journey during **Education Sunday, September 7**, at the 10:30 a.m. service. At that time, you and your child will be invited to the altar to receive a blessing and their Catechism.

If your child is entering sixth grade this year, please let us know so we can include them. Call the church office at 260.423.1369 or email Liz Bejot, LBejot@emmanuel Lutheran.org.

FALL PREVIEW CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & BIBLE STUDIES

NEW! Save the Date!

Emmanuel's Sunday morning Christian Education classes begin **September 14**, 9:15-10:15 a.m. Here's what to expect:

- **Birth-Grade 5** have Sunday School classes that will meet weekly in the rooms of the school building. **Pre-register for Sunday School by clicking this [link](#).**
- **Grades 6-7** have a joint Confirmation Class that will meet weekly in a room in the school building.
- **Grade 8** has a Confirmation Class that includes a family member and meets weekly in the lower level of Ebenezer.
- **Grades 9-12** have a regular, weekly Bible study that meets in the Loft, the upper level of Ebenezer.

As part of our *I Love to Tell the Story: A Congregational Journey*, all adults will meet together in the Sanctuary:

- **September 14:** *A Brief History of the LCMS*: Rev. Dr. Cameron MacKenzie
- **September 21:** *The Emmanuel Story*: Emmanuel Leaders Past and Present

- **September 28:** *The Story of Our Sanctuary*: Charlie Pratt
- **October 5:** *A Story of Growth*: Pastor Thomas Eggold
- **October 12:** *A Story of Ministry*: Pastor Thomas Eggold
- **October 19:** *A Story of Discipleship*: Ron Pennekamp
- **October 26:** *A Story of Stewardship*: Pastor Thomas Eggold

Monday Morning Moms



Hey, mama! Have you been looking for a group to connect with here at Emmanuel? We hope you'll [join us every other Monday morning](#) as we explore what it truly means to be a Gospel mom. Drop your kiddos off in the Lower Level of Ebenezer Hall with our amazing caregivers. Then, head upstairs to the Loft to fellowship, enjoy a cup of coffee, and join us in studying 1, 2, and 3 John. You can order the study book [here](#). **We will meet on the following Mondays, 8:30-10:00 a.m.:**

- **August 25**
- **September 8 & 22**
- **October 6 & 20**
- **November 3 & 17**
- **December 1 & 15**

Questions? Please reach out to Liz Bejot-LBejot@emmanuelutheran.org.

Friends in the Word Women's Study

Ladies, are you looking for a welcoming space to be in the Word? Join us **every other Thursday** morning in the Loft as we study the Book of Colossians, discovering the supremacy of Christ and His sufficiency "in all things." You can order the study book, *The Mighty and The Mysterious*, [here](#).

We will meet on the following Thursdays, 8:30-10:00 a.m.:

- **August 28** (Fellowship, coffee, and intro. to study)
- **September 4 & 18**
- **October 2, 16, & 30**
- **November 13**
- **December 4 & 18**

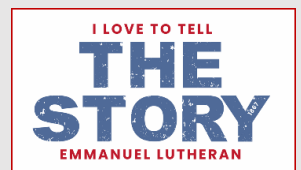
Wednesday Women's Bible Study

The 8:30 a.m. Wednesday Women's Bible Study will resume **Wednesday, September 3**, in Brandt Hall. We will begin our study this fall in Paul's letters to the Thessalonians.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

I Love to Tell the Story: A Congregational Journey

"I Love to Tell the Story" will begin on **Sunday, September 14**, as we gather in the Sanctuary between services to hear a history of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, followed each Sunday by presentations on the founding of the congregation, the construction of our historic sanctuary, the growth of Emmanuel in recent years, and, most importantly, the Lord's continued call to ministry. Classes are listed above. Learn more [here](#).



Heidi Wilkinson's Missionary Journey

Missionary and Emmanuel Member Heidi Wilkinson is preparing to serve in Ethiopia. Read her newsletter [here](#).

GET INVOLVED

NEW! Join Our Choir



The Adult Choir season is starting this week! Any interested singers are invited to join us this **Wednesday, August 27**, at 6:30 p.m., in the Choir Room. Let's make a joyful noise together! See Matt Johnston for more information.

Are You Interested in a Mission Trip?

Emmanuel has a rich tradition of sending members on mission trips. Over the last 20 years, we have sent teams to Puerto Rico, Alaska, Prague, and New Orleans, but we haven't sent any teams since before the pandemic. Emmanuel's Mission Task Force meets monthly with the goal of increasing awareness in our members of local, national, and worldwide mission opportunities. The Mission Task Force is looking for individuals who have an interest in serving on a mission trip team. If this interests you and you would like to be included in our plans for future mission trips, please sign up [here](#).

Parents with Kids Project—Bible Verse Collage Night

On **Tuesday, September 2**, 6:00–8:00 p.m., in Ebenezer Hall, we invite you to take part in a special evening of creativity and reflection. Participants will create a visual collage centered on a meaningful Bible verse—such as a Baptism verse, confirmation verse, or a favorite family passage. This event is especially suited for parents and children to work on together, but you do not need to bring a child to participate. Individuals are welcome to create a collage for themselves or as a meaningful gift for a child, grandchild, godchild, or loved one. Grandparents, godparents, aunts, and uncles are also encouraged to join. All basic materials will be provided. You are also encouraged to collect and bring items from home that you might like to include in your collage—such as family photos, greeting cards, or small mementoes. No artistic experience necessary—just bring your favorite verse and a heart ready to create! Sign up [here](#).



NEW! Clay & Iron Men's Ministry



Clay & Iron is Emmanuel's ministry for men: we gather monthly but are active constantly through talking, messaging, praying, and smaller connections. Reach out, we'd love to get to know you and connect! Fall quarter's theme is "Who Am I?" We'll meet on **Tuesday, September 2**, 7:00-8:30 p.m., in the lower level of Ebenezer. Walk humbly; stand firm.

NEW! Emmanuel's LWM/LWML Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 4

Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Location: Lower Ebenezer

What is LWM?

Women of Lutheran Women in Mission support the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Through prayer, Bible study, and service, women at LWM make a difference in people's lives worldwide.

Organizations helped in the last year by LWM grant support include:

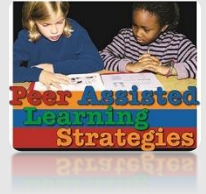
- Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry, Hope Lutheran, South Sioux City, Nebraska: \$50,000
- Growing Our Place: Care for Special Needs Students, Our Place After School Care, Inc., Nebraska: \$20,000

What to expect at the meeting:

- A warm welcome and fellowship with other women of faith.
- Bible Study: *Here I Am, Send Me*
- Service Project: Christmas Ornament project for our missionaries in Puerto Rico, the Neuendorfs

Looking for a Way to Make a Difference? Join PALS!

Do you have a heart for connecting with kids? Are you patient, a good listener, and enjoy sharing the love of Jesus? If so, we'd love to have you join the next session of PALS! Peer Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS) is a ministry of Emmanuel that partners with Washington Elementary to support 2nd and 3rd graders. Each week, for eight weeks, these students join us in Ebenezer Hall where we share snacks, explore the love of Jesus, read, and play together. Your time and kindness can make a lasting impact. Join us in this rewarding ministry!



Dates:

September 10 (training), 17, & 24

October 1, 8, 15, & 22

November 5 & 12

Time: 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Who can volunteer? Any adult, high school student, along with 7th and 8th graders are welcome to apply. Click this [link](#) to apply and feel free to email Liz Bejot at LBejot@emmanuelutheran.org with any questions.

Conversations on Race

On **Saturday, September 13**, Terrie Ensley M.S.W. LCSW, will be speaking on how to communicate with someone who has differing values, morals, political, racial, and religious beliefs. This will take place in the Loft, 10:00-11:30 a.m. All are welcome!

Lunch Bunch



Inviting everyone around 60 or over to join us for Lunch Bunch as we kick-off another season of food, fun, and fellowship. Our first meeting will be **Tuesday, September 16**, with fellowship beginning at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch served at noon and prepared by our familiar cook Tammy. Following lunch, our special speaker will be our very own member Joy Boutakov who will speak to us about "Stress and Ways to Handle It." Joy has worked for many years in the field of nursing and currently serves the One Mission Society as a volunteer fully committed to encouraging and walking with missionaries while in the field and on home assignment. We look forward to having her share this most appropriate topic with us as we navigate today's world.

The cost for the Lunch Bunch meal is \$10.00/person, payable that day in the lower level of Ebenezer Hall. You are encouraged to stop by the Connections Counter in Ebenezer Hall to **sign up for this event or call the church office at 260.423.1369 no later than Friday, September 12**. We sure hope you will join us.

Volunteer for Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers Are "The After People." They are there:

- after the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- after the funeral, when everyone leaves and emotions come crashing in on you.
- after the relationship falls apart.
- after the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- after the nursing home director says, "Welcome to your new home."
- after the last child drives away and the house suddenly seems empty.
- after the gavel falls, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.

- after the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you dreamed possible.
- after you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- after your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

For more information about training classes that begin **Tuesday, September 16**, contact Lana Hille at 260.417.5639.

IN THE COMMUNITY

NEW! Volunteer in West Central

Docents are needed for the West Central Neighborhood Association Home and Garden Tour, September 6 and 7. Learn more [here](#).



Bridge 20/30: Where Young Adults Connect, Grow, & Belong



The Bridge 20/30 is a welcoming space for post-high school young adults—whether single or married—to build real friendships and deepen their walk with Christ. It's the perfect way to stay grounded and find community during the busy seasons of early adulthood. [Join us in August](#) for a month of fun, connection, and growing together. Come as you are, bring a friend, and jump in anytime! For questions feel free to email dschuller@clhscadets.com. Follow us on Facebook at [Bridge 20/30 Group Ft. Wayne](#) or on Instagram [@thebridge2030](#).

Shepherd of the City Community Picnic

All are welcome to Shepherd of the City's Community Picnic! Enjoy a grilled sandwich and sides for \$5.00/person. This will take place on **Saturday, September 13**, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., at Shepherd of the City (1301 S. Anthony Blvd.).

Men's Retreat at Camp Lutherhaven

Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Retreat is scheduled for **September 26-28**. Dr. Jeffrey Leininger, who is currently the pastor at First Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, Chicago, and also served 21 years in campus ministry at Concordia University Chicago, is the main speaker for this year's retreat and will focus on "Callings for Life: God's Plan, Your Purpose." You can register for Iron Sharpens Iron [here](#).

From Teen Heartthrob to Faithful Witness—Come Hear the Story

He played Mike Seaver on *Growing Pains*—a teen idol in suspenders and a fixture on *Tiger Beat* magazine. But behind the scenes, Kirk Cameron's real story began when a co-star invited him to church—and a message he heard there changed everything. At 17, Kirk went from self-proclaimed atheist to passionate believer and now he's using his platform to speak for life and truth. Come hear his incredible testimony at the [28th Annual Right to Life of Northeast Indiana Fall Banquet](#) on **Tuesday, October 14**, at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. For tickets for early seating call Carolyn Beitz, 260.433.7188.

RESOURCES

NEW! Mental Health Moment

Sometimes, the way our loved ones want to cope with things in life can get out of hand, or they are not the healthy coping tools we hope they would choose. If you care about someone who may have a substance abuse issue, you can start [here](#) for some ways to support them.



NEW! Project Connect



Project Connect is a topical booklet ministry of Lutheran Hour Ministries. Our Project Connect booklets address a wide variety of topics, offering booklets that connect God's Word to real-life issues. PDF versions of our booklets are available in our [virtual library](#) and on our [new mobile app](#). Some booklets are even available in audio formats!

This week's booklet is [Do You Know Who Jesus Is?](#) This booklet is ideal for children who are aged pre-school to third grade. It is written in rhyme to teach children the answer to the question, "Do You Know Who Jesus Is?"

Here's a short object lesson:

When we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus who is seated at the right hand of God the Father, our lives are in a wonderful balance. When we take our eyes off Him, we lose that balance. We can see how that works this way: Take a broom and put the handle in the palm of your hand with the straw part straight above you. If you keep your eyes fixed above, you can balance the broom. If you look at the palm of your hand, the broom falls over. If the words on the broom sound familiar, it's a paraphrasing of Colossian 3:1-2. If the caricature of Jesus looks familiar, it's on the cover of this week's Project Connect booklet, *Do You Know Who Jesus Is?*



*****If you would like to receive the weekly newsletter via your email, please click [this link](#) to sign up.***