



NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: November 15, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

All Saints' Day marked a shift in the Church's focus. We remember those who have gone before, and now, for the next few Sundays, we look ahead at our hope. In the reading from Luke this weekend, everyone sees the grandiosity of the Temple, and by all accounts, it's a building that would have left anyone in awe. As they marvel over it, Jesus tells them about what will happen, and it isn't a pleasant picture. Sure enough, the day would come and it brought desolation, death, and destruction. That's the fate of dust, and that's all the temple was: a glorified pile of dust. Our lives are filled with so many things that occupy our attention, but they are all like the temple: dust. One day, they will all be gone. The amazing thing, though, is what God can do with dust. 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! 23rd Sunday After Pentecost

Saturday, November 15: 5:00 p.m. (Holy Communion)

Sunday, November 16:

- 8:00 a.m.
- 10:30 a.m. (Holy Communion)

Wednesday, November 19: 11:30 a.m. (Holy Communion)



Sunday and Weekday Christian Education for Fall 2025

- Sunday School for ages birth-Eighth Grade, 9:15-10:15 a.m.
- Sunday Adult Bible Studies
- Weekday Bible Studies for Adults

See a complete listing of all our Christian Education opportunities [here](#).

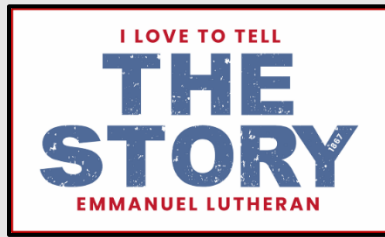
NEW! Pastor's Bible Study Online



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.

Sanctuary Doors

For security reasons, all of our Sanctuary doors, including the west side door, will be locked following the Opening Hymn/Song of each service. Please use the main doors of Ebenezer Hall (circle drive entrance) to enter the church after this time. Thank you for your understanding!



2026 Stewardship Commitment

On October 25 and 26, Stewardship Commitment cards were distributed in our worship services with the instructions to return the commitment cards during November in the offering plate.

As you consider your family commitment for 2026, incorporate these suggestions:

1. Receive God's gifts. If you have not been faithfully attending worship to hear God's Word, receive His forgiveness, and partake of His body and blood for the eternal benefit of your soul.
2. Pray. Go to the throne of grace and ask for the Lord's guidance.
3. Consider what the Church does. The Church is called to spread the Good News about Jesus Christ by preaching the Gospel to all who will hear it and administering the Sacraments to the faithful. This is our mission, and the mission is for the life of the world.
4. Examine yourself. Are you:
 - a) giving of your first fruits – that is, does your offering come out of your paycheck first, not just what's left over;
 - b) giving voluntarily and cheerfully;
 - c) giving systematically and proportionally in a generous way;
 - d) relying on God's promise to provide for you?
5. Decide on your commitment. Now you are ready to consider what proportion of your income you will give faithfully, proportionally, generously, and cheerfully.

If you didn't receive a 2026 commitment card on October 25-26, you can pick one up from the Connections Counter.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! Congregational Meeting on November 16

Tomorrow, **Sunday, November 16**, we will hold our annual Congregational Meeting.

You can view the *Congregational Meeting Guide* (updated 11.12.2025) [here](#).

In this meeting, we will receive updates on our ministry, approve a budget, and elect new leaders. We will also vote on an important recommendation to support Concordia Lutheran High School's "A Bold Step" capital campaign.

The meeting will start shortly after the conclusion of the 10:30 a.m. worship service and will be held in the Sanctuary. If you need childcare for the meeting, please register [here](#).



Celebrating A Successful Capital Campaign with Peter Mayer



As we head into the last few months of 2025, we continue to see a generous and faithful response to the “In All Generations” campaign. At this point, the Lord has provided more than \$6 million of the \$7.4 million it cost us to renovate our Union Street school building. On **Monday, December 15**, we will celebrate this remarkable blessing with a special Christmas concert in our sanctuary by recording artist Peter Mayer. Learn how to receive a free ticket [here](#).

Hospital Visits

Did you know that due to HIPAA laws, hospitals no longer contact churches to inform them that a congregant is hospitalized? If you or a loved one is hospitalized and would like a visit from an Emmanuel pastor, please contact the church office, 260.423.1369, to let us know the name of the hospital and a room number. It is also helpful if you give the hospital permission to share your room number with the public so that we can stay up-to-date on when you or your loved one is discharged. It is Emmanuel’s practice to visit our hospitalized members regularly. Thank you for helping us provide this spiritual care!

GET INVOLVED

NEW! Chili Cook-Off and Bingo Night

Tonight, Saturday, November 15, is the night! Join us for Emmanuel’s annual Chili Cook-Off and Bingo Night in the gym from 6:00–8:00 p.m. Along with plenty of chili, we will have hot dogs, sides, and desserts available. The meal cost is \$5 per person (maximum \$20 per family), and Bingo boards are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. This family-friendly event is sponsored by Emmanuel’s Senior High Youth Group, with proceeds supporting their summer servant event trip to Pikeville, Kentucky.



Middle School Youth

All 6th–8th graders are invited to a game night tomorrow, **Sunday, November 16**, 3:30–5:00 p.m., in the gym. Please enter through the Jackson St. doors and join us in the gym for a game, snack, and devotion. If you have any questions, please reach out to Liz Bejot at LBejot@emmanuelutheran.org.

Feeding the Hungry with King's Global Outreach



Each December, Pastor Lewis King of King's Global Outreach leads a food drive to help underserved families on the southeast side of Fort Wayne. This year, the food distribution event will take place on **Saturday, December 20**, and Emmanuel will join several area congregations to provide a Christmas meal through King's Global Outreach. Our contribution to the meal is green beans, and in order to fill the anticipated need, we have committed to providing 1,200 cans of green beans for the

food baskets. **Throughout November, we will be gathering green beans in Ebenezer Hall** so that they can be delivered to King's Global Outreach for preparation in early December. Thanks for considering this opportunity to provide food for Christmas.

Help the Piecemakers

The Piecemakers were able to deliver 60 quilts to the Lutheran World Relief this year. Thank you to those who sewed the tops of the quilts. We are now looking for those who are willing to sew together squares for this year’s quilts. The squares are provided. If you are willing, call Jan Werth at 260.452.4769.

Lunch Bunch

Our upcoming Lunch Bunch activity for our members and friends around 60 or over will be on **Tuesday, November 18**. Our special guest speaker will be Joel Sauer representing the West Central Neighborhood Association who will give us an update on what's happening in the neighborhood.

We gather for fellowship from 11:00 a.m. to noon at which time lunch is served in the Lower Level of Ebenezer Hall. The cost is \$10.00, payable that day. Sure do hope to see you there!

NEW! Visual Faith Workshop

Join us on **Tuesday, December 2**, 6:00–8:00 p.m., for a special evening of creativity and fellowship in Ebenezer Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity to put finishing touches on your Advent journal and begin crafting your 2026 gratitude and prayer journal. Whether you're a seasoned journaler or just beginning, you'll find inspiration and guidance in a relaxed, encouraging setting. Supplies will be furnished, so come ready to create and reflect as we journey through Advent and look forward to a new year of praising God. Please sign up at the Connections Counter or click [here](#). We look forward to seeing you there!



Clay & Iron: Men's Ministry at Emmanuel



Clay & Iron men's ministry is for all of our men. Together we can do more—you are not alone. Hebrews 10:24-25 says, “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another . . .” **Therefore, men of Emmanuel, please take this opportunity to share your interests and give us some feedback** on our men's ministry Clay & Iron where we

seek to find ways to help connect, build, and sharpen ourselves for service to Christ and the

world. You can take the survey [here](#).

Consider joining us for any/all of these upcoming events:

- **Tuesday, December 2**, 7:00-8:30 p.m.: Lower Level of Ebenezer
- **Thursday, January 8**, 7:00-8:30 p.m.: Lower Level of Ebenezer
- **Saturday, February 21**, 9:00-11:00 a.m.: Brunch

Message or call Billy at 260.440.4945 to get connected, and as always: Walk humbly; stand firm.

NEW! Christmas Giving Tree

A huge thank you for the tremendous response to our Christmas giving project this year. The tags were all taken the first weekend! Enjoy selecting gifts and gift cards for our families these next two weeks and **bring them into church, unwrapped, with the tag by Monday, December 1**. If you are able, we would love to have you join us on Friday, December 5, at 9:00 a.m. in the lower level of Ebenezer for our wrapping party.

EMMANUEL—ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL (ESM) CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL (CLHS)

Grandparents' Day at Emmanuel—St. Michael

Emmanuel—St. Michael (ESM) is hosting its annual Grandparents' Day celebration on **Friday, November 21**, during the school day. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the connections that ESM students have across generations. They are looking for volunteers to “adopt” a student who does not have a grandparent or special guest to attend the event. There are both morning and midday slots available. If you would like to help in this way, please contact Joy Kreider at the school office (260.422.6712) or email office@esmeagles.com.

IN THE COMMUNITY

NEW! Donations Needed

Washington Elementary is in need of clothing for their students. Their most desired items are sweatpants, underwear, socks, and pullover shirts in sizes 4/5 through 10/12. Please bring these items into the church office. Thank you for your consideration!

The Christ Child Festival Needs Your Help

The Christ Child Festival returns to Fort Wayne on **Wednesday, November 26**. This year, we are excited to announce activities in two locations: Parkview Field and the Allen County Public Library downtown branch. For complete details, visit our new [website](#).

Bring the joy of the season to life by volunteering. The Christ Child Festival depends on the help of dedicated community members to create a warm, welcoming experience for guests of all ages. Volunteers are needed to assist with event logistics, bring the Nativity to life, and help children enjoy engaging holiday activities. Click [here](#) to volunteer.

Here are two specific ways in which you can help:

- **COLLECT** used Christmas cards by reaching out to neighbors, coworkers, friends, and any other groups with which you're involved. These are for a craft, so used ones are perfect. They'll only be using the front of the card and possibly the back if there are decorative parts. If you feel you'd like to buy cards for this, that's fine-but used cards were specifically requested. They need THOUSANDS! Hannah Swor will collect them in the school office at Union. If you have kids at Getz and want to drop them off there, Joy Kreider will get the cards sent over to Hannah at Union. **Last day to donate cards is Friday, November 21.**
- **PRAY** for the event, its organizers and volunteers, especially as they battle different obstacles that threaten to derail the Christ Child Festival.



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



The Bridge 20/30 is a community based in Fort Wayne, providing weekly social and devotional events for people in their 20s and 30s—whether single, dating, or married—who are seeking meaningful connection, encouragement, and belonging. We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

[Join us this month!](#) Questions? Contact Dawn Schuller at dschuller@clhscadets.com.

Santa Shop at Washington School

Each year members of Emmanuel help stock and volunteer at the Santa Shop at Washington School. This year we need donations of:

- \$1-\$5 gift items
- Wrapping paper
- Gift bags
- Boxes
- Bows
- Tissue paper
- Ribbon

All donations are needed by Friday, December 5. Donations may be placed in the marked bins in Ebenezer.

Volunteers are needed December 15-18, 9:00-11:30 a.m., in the Washington School Library.

To sign up to help wrap gifts for the children or for any questions please contact Diane Wittenman at 260.249.1307.

NEW! Beer and Hymns Christmas Singalong

Join us on **Sunday, December 21**, from 3:00-5:00 p.m., at Chapman's Brewing Company at Electric Works, for an afternoon of [fellowship and singing](#) with members from area LCMS congregations. All ages are welcome. Please bring a snack or potluck item to share.

RESOURCES

Subscribe to *The Lutheran Witness*

If you would like to subscribe to *The Lutheran Witness*, please download and fill out [this form](#), enclose it in an envelope along with your payment of \$25, and return it to the church office by **Sunday, November 23**.



NEW! Mental Health Moment



As Thanksgiving approaches, [here](#) are eight gratitude exercises to cultivate a more grateful mindset.

NEW! From Lutheran Hour Ministries

Lutheran Hour Ministries has resources that are ideal for honoring and supporting our vets. You can find links to all the topics below, [here](#).

- ***Called to Serve: Utilizing Our Gifts As Veterans***
This is a five-session small group Bible Study for veterans. Based on research by Barna Group and Lutheran Hour Ministries, *Called to Serve* helps veterans recognize they were created by God as a gift with gifts (talents, skills, and abilities). And those gifts are meant to be grown and shared with others in their family, church, workplace, and community.
- ***Valuing Veteran's Gifts to the Community***
Lutheran Hour Ministries and Barna Group partnered together to continue their study of giftedness in this special report. The EveryGift™ Inventory was conducted online with 662 veterans of the US Military. The results, along with analysis, give an overview of how veterans are uniquely gifted and how they can use those gifts to serve their family, congregations, and communities.
- ***Warriors of Faith Bible Study***
Service members of the United States Armed Forces are met with challenges on and off the battlefield. *Warriors of Faith—Military Men*, a Bible study written especially for these servicemen and women, explores the issues of anger, grief, guilt, forgiveness, and love, as they impact the lives of those who have served, or are now serving, their country.
- **[The Conflict at Home: Soldiers Confronting PTSD](#)**
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder impacts many in the military. Coping effectively won't happen by dodging the problem. However, by God's grace and the Holy Spirit's power, soldiers can learn to thrive.

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