



NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: November 22, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"That's mine!" is a phrase familiar to us often for selfish reasons. But this phrase is also familiar to our God. Where humans are motivated by selfishness, the Lord acts out of love. He claims you as His own because He loves you and He wants you to be with Him for eternity. You are His treasured possession! He will never leave you behind. When the Lord says, "You are Mine," you have His pledge of enduring faithfulness, today and unto eternity!

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 Sheaffer*

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

NEW! Last Sunday of the Church Year

Saturday, November 22: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 23:

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

Wednesday, November 26: 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! Preparing for Advent



Next Sunday, November 30, we begin a new Church Year with the penitential season of Advent. We will celebrate God's greatest gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, in many unique ways, including:

- Weekday Morning Prayer Services;
- Wednesday Evening Advent Services;
- Emmanuel—St. Michael School Christmas Vespers;
- [***Coming Home for Christmas***](#) a downloadable, daily devotion booklet. Printed copies are also available through the church office;

- Weekly family devotions on our website and app.

Detailed information about all these opportunities, plus the schedule for Christmas and New Year's worship services, may be found in the [Advent at Emmanuel](#) booklet.

NEW! Mission Sunday with Suzie and Tao

Deaconess fieldworker Qian Su “Suzie” and her husband Tao will serve as our Mission Sunday speakers on **Sunday, November 30**, at 9:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Christians from Beijing, China, Suzie and Tao have an amazing story of how the Lord brought them to faith through the work of the Holy Spirit, led them to each other, and is preparing them to proclaim the Gospel through Concordia Theological Seminary here in Fort Wayne. Don't miss this unique opportunity to grow in your understanding of the Church and see how God continues to make disciples of all nations through His saving Gospel.



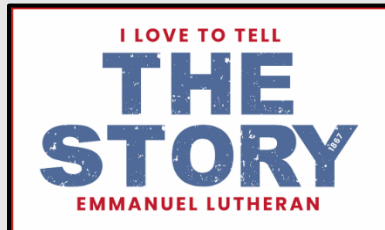
NEW! Pastor's Bible Study Online



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.

THANK YOU & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! Thank You from Emmanuel's Youth Group

Thank you to everyone who attended, donated gift cards, or provided food items for the Chili Cook-Off and Bingo Night! The evening was a wonderful success and a clear reminder of the strong support Emmanuel has for its youth as they prepare for their summer servant event in Pikeville, Kentucky, this June.

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](#).



NEW! 2026 Contribution Envelopes Available

The 2026 contribution envelopes are available to pick up in Ebenezer Hall. They are stacked in alphabetical order. If you contribute electronically or with pew envelopes (found in the black friendship folders), you may not have an envelope packet assigned to you. If you would like an envelope packet, please call or see Jen Tweedy in the church office, or email her at jennifer@emmanuelutheran.org.

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! Help us Decorate for the Advent and Christmas Season

Next Saturday, November 29, we will decorate the Sanctuary beginning at 8:30 a.m. All are invited to help.

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!

NEW! Clay & Iron: Men's Ministry at Emmanuel

Clay & Iron men's ministry is for all of our men. Please take [this survey](#) to help us better serve you.

Our Winter theme is “Here's What I HAVE to Say”—Discerning when to speak and when to stay quiet as God's servant-leaders. 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. Walk humbly; stand firm.



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**.

NEW! Emmanuel's LWM/LWML Meeting

Date: Thursday, December 4

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

Location: Lower Level Ebenezer

What is LWM?

Women of Lutheran Women in Mission support the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). 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:

- The Perpetual Call for Pastors & Teachers—LCMS Office of Pastoral Education, U.S.: \$100,000
- Growing Together to Share Braille & Large Print—Lutheran Braille Workers, U.S.: \$100,000

What to expect at the meeting:

- A warm welcome and fellowship with other women of faith
- Bible Study: *Equipped*
- Service Project: Lutheran Social Services (LSS). We will be collecting and collating disposable diapers to give to LSS for distribution to those in need. Those who would like to donate diapers, please bring them to the church by **Tuesday, December 2**. Thank you!

NEW! Middle School Youth Christmas Party



Our 6-8th grade youth are invited to join us on **Sunday, December 7**, 12:00-2:00 p.m., in Lower Ebenezer. We will be enjoying lunch together before the rest of the festivities. ***If your child has any dietary restrictions, please reach out to Liz Bejot.***

We will also have a white elephant gift exchange. Please plan to bring a gift that does not exceed \$10. Ideas for gifts include: random things found around your house (with candy or a gift card added to sweeten the deal), funny ornaments, random items found at Five Below or other discount stores, etc.

Please sign up for the event [here](#) to make sure we have enough food.

IN THE COMMUNITY

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!

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

The Bridge 20/30 is a Fort Wayne-based community for young adults in their 20s and 30s—single, dating, or married—seeking faith, fellowship, and friendship. We meet Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. for Bible study, devotion, service, and social events. [Join us this month!](#)

Connect with us:

- Facebook: [Bridge 20/30 Group Ft. Wayne](#)
- Instagram: [@thebridge2030](#)
- Email: 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 Witzenman at 260.249.1307.

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

NEW! 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 **tomorrow, Sunday, November 23.**

NEW! Mental Health Moment

The holidays can be rough, if you or someone you love is struggling with substance abuse, [here](#) are some tips for navigating the holidays.



NEW! Advent Devotions From Lutheran Hour Ministries



God in His incomparable love has made a way for us through the wilderness. He did this by giving us His Son, our Light in the darkness. *In Born to You ... a Savior*, we embrace the Christmas joy and wonder of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

At Christ's birth, God the Father did a new and everlasting thing in our lives: He gave us His one and only Son for our redemption. In divine humility, Jesus joined us as a human being. Born of a woman, bearing the sins of the world, Jesus comes to us as our Protector, our Deliverer, our Savior.

Daily Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them [delivered right to your inbox](#), listen to the [devotional podcast](#), or access them on your mobile device through the [free app](#). You can request Devotions for Advent booklets both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends and congregations, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of these seasons.

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