



NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: December 6, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The problem with good works is not that we should do them but why. Our works reflect what it is we believe and hold dear. Works are the fruit of repentance and faith and do not add to what Christ has done in His mighty work of redemption. The call to bear the good fruit of repentance is not to work harder to be saved but to manifest in our everyday lives that we are saved, that we belong to the Lord, and that He has accomplished all things for our salvation. John faced a generation impressed with their works and empty of faith in God's mercy. We should know that doing works is not a choice. Hearts of faith will produce the good fruits of repentance. This is the calling of Christians and the mark of the work of the Spirit in our lives.

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! First Sunday in Advent

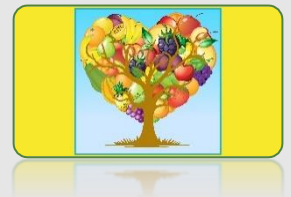
Saturday, December 6: 5:00 p.m. (Holy Communion)

Sunday, December 7:

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

Wednesday, December 10:

- 11:30 a.m. (Holy Communion)
- 7:00 p.m.: Advent Worship



Our Advent Journey



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

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 available through the church office;
- Weekly family devotions on our website and app.

NEW! Sunday School's Journey to Bethlehem

On **Sunday, December 14**, all of Emmanuel's kiddos are invited to journey through the halls of the school as we hear and see the Christmas story in a very unique way. This journey will begin in the gym at 9:00 a.m. and all the children (parents are invited too!) will be led to various characters of the Christmas story in the school building. The final scene will be back in the gym at 10:00 a.m. where we'd like everyone (children, their parents, all members of Emmanuel, etc.) to join in a simple but profound conclusion of word and song to this Journey to Bethlehem.



NEW! View Suzie and Tao's Mission Sunday Presentation



On Sunday, November 30, Qian Su "Suzie" shared her and her husband Tao's remarkable journey of faith. Thanks to all who braved the weather to attend this Mission Sunday presentation. If you missed it, or would like to watch it again, you can view a video of the presentation [here](#).

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!

THANK YOU & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! Angela Adams Book Signing



On **Saturday, December 13**, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Angela Adams, part of our Emmanuel family, will be doing a [book signing at Barnes & Noble](#) in Glenbrook Mall. Angela has stories in two *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books: *The Spirit of Christmas* and *101 Ways to Think Positive*. We hope many of you will be able to come out and support Angela.

Special Guests from the Holy Land

On **Saturday, December 13, and Sunday, December 14**, we will welcome Christian families from Bethlehem during all services. They will share their story and present a beautiful display of handmade olivewood carvings—Nativity sets, crosses, ornaments, angels, and more—available for purchase in Ebenezer.

These crafts make meaningful gifts for Christmas, Baptisms, weddings, and confirmation. All proceeds directly support Christian families in Bethlehem, helping them remain in the land of Christ's birth despite ongoing hardships.

Let us join in prayer for peace in the Holy Land and show our support through these treasured works.



NEW! Don't Miss Stars and Promises with Peter Mayer



As we head into the final month of 2025, we continue to see a generous and faithful response to the "In All Generations" campaign. 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](#).

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! Middle School Youth Christmas Party

Our 6-8th grade youth are invited to join us **tomorrow, 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.



NEW! An Opportunity to Encourage



Each December we publish a [list of Emmanuel members](#) who can use encouragement, are homebound, and those who live in a local care facility. If you are able and so inclined, please consider sending a card or note to one of these brothers or sisters this Christmas season, letting them know that they are loved by the Lord and by their church family.

NEW! Lutherans for Life

Lutherans for Life will meet **Friday, December 12**, at 9:30 a.m. at Turnstone (3320 N. Clinton). There will be a tour of Turnstone and lunch at Concordia Theological Seminary (6600 N. Clinton). **If you need a ride, please meet us at Emmanuel by 9:00 a.m.**

Christmas Lunch Bunch

Those of you around 60 or over are encouraged to join us for our annual Christmas Communion Service on **Tuesday, December 16**, 11:00 a.m., in the Sanctuary. The Early Childhood children will be singing for us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Bev Williams will also be joining us to provide musical accompaniment.



Following the service, we will be served a special Christmas meal at a cost of \$10.00, payable the day of the lunch, in the lower level of Ebenezer Hall. Pastor Eggold will be with us to share ministry updates. Please be sure to call the church office, 260.423.1369, or stop by the Connections Counter in Ebenezer Hall to **sign up for this event by Friday, December 12**. You won't want to miss this special way to begin the Christmas season!

NEW! 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.

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:

- **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.

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

Emmanuel—St. Michael Advent Vespers

Emmanuel—St. Michael's Advent Vespers service is **this Thursday, December 11**, 7:00 p.m., at **Purdue University Fort Wayne in the Auer Performance Hall** (Rhinehart Music Center). Doors open at 6:15 p.m. for free, general admission. Earlier that day, we will have a rehearsal at 10:00 a.m., also at the Auer Performance Hall, that is open to the public and all are invited to attend! Please call the school office, 260.422.6712, with any questions. We look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior with you!



Job Opportunity

Emmanuel—St. Michael seeks a Student Support Specialist who will enhance academic success by supporting students through compassionate care and intervention. Please see the [Job Description](#) for specific responsibilities and qualifications. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis with a flexible start date as early as January 5, 2026. Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, and [application](#) to Executive Assistant Hannah Swor, hswor@esmeagles.com.

IN THE COMMUNITY

NEW! Volunteers Needed for Santa Shop at Washington School

Washington School Santa Shop gift wrappers are still needed for **December 16, 17, and 18**, 9:00-11:30 a.m. Please call Diane Witzenman to volunteer at 260.249.1307.

Christmas at the Wyneken House

The Friends of Wyneken will host a Christmas open house at the historic Wyneken House, 11730 NW Winchester Road, Decatur, on **Sunday, December 7**, 1:00-5:00 p.m. The house will be decorated for the holiday season with a variety of themed Christmas villages including a Victorian town, an alpine village, and a Thomas Kinkade neighborhood.

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

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! Mental Health Moment

Parenting teens can be difficult. [Here](#) is a helpful resource.



NEW! Project Connect



This week's booklet is [Glad Tidings: The Story of Ten Carols](#). Perfect for the Christmas season! Discover the fascinating heritage and wonderfully rich details of ten of your favorite classic Christmas carols.

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!

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.**