



NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: December 13, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On our own, we have no future; the ground of our hearts is cracked and hardened by sin, and there is no life in us. But through the atoning cross of Jesus Christ and in the power of His resurrection, we have a way out of the shadow of death; a way fed by springs of living water bubbling up to eternal life and, as Isaiah writes in our text, "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:9-10).

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! Third Sunday in Advent

Saturday, December 13: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 14:

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

Wednesday, December 17:

- 11:30 a.m. (Holy Communion)
- 7:00 p.m.: Advent Worship with Special Music from our Handbell Choir



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.

Sunday School's Journey to Bethlehem

Tomorrow, 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! Christmas Singalong at Emmanuel

On **Sunday, December 21**, we will host a Christmas singalong prior to each worship service. Singing will begin 20 minutes before the bells ring for worship. Come early and sing loudly!

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 300 more video Bible Studies led by our pastors.



THANK YOU & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Angela Adams Book Signing



Today, 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

This weekend, **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.



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

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.

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. You won't want to miss this special way to begin the Christmas season!



NEW! Caroling at Lutheran Life Villages on Christmas Day



On Christmas Day, you are invited to join in singing carols to the residents and staff at Lutheran Life Villages, 6701 S. Anthony Blvd. We will gather in the lobby of the Village at South Anthony around noon and share the joy of Christmas in song. This event will conclude around 1:00 p.m.

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.

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

Clay & Iron men's ministry is for all of our men. 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.

Prayerfully consider joining us for any/all of these upcoming events:



- **New on Mondays!**

Men's Weekly Devotion, **January 5, 12, 19, 26**, 6:30 a.m.: Ebenezer Hall

Come experience a quiet 15-20 minute way to start your day or lead your family in a moment of fellowship, prayer, and devotion.

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

Message or call Billy at 260.440.4945 to get connected. Walk humbly; stand firm

NEW! Consider Attending iLead 2026



iLead is a collaborative initiative of several local congregations working together to develop leaders in the Church. iLead 2026 congregations are Emmanuel, Holy Cross, Promise, St. Michael, St. Peter's, and Suburban Bethlehem. During January and February, there are three iLead presentations on the iLead 2026 theme "Discipleship Is Leadership Development." Here is the event calendar:

• **Looking for the Kingdom** with Ben Haupt, **Saturday, January 10**, St. Michael Lutheran Church

• **Words Create Worlds** with Henry Graf, **Saturday, January 24**, Holy Cross Lutheran Church

• **A Panel Discussion on Discipleship and Leadership Development**, **Saturday, February 7**, Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

All iLead 2026 sessions run from 8:30-10:00 a.m. and are free to all participants thanks to generous funding from The Lutheran Foundation. Learn more [here](#).

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

NEW! Save the Date—Information and Enrollment Sessions

Kinderqarten Information and Enrollment Sessions:

Thursday, January 22 OR Tuesday, February 17

6:30-8:00 p.m. | Getz Road Campus—2131 Getz Road

Bring your future student for a fun activity with teachers!

Childcare provided for siblings



[Preschool Information and Enrollment Sessions:](#)

Thursday, February 12 | Union Street Campus—1123 Union Street



Thursday, February 19 | Getz Road Campus—2131 Getz Road

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Information session for parents

Childcare provided

Learn more and register at www.esmeagles.com. Questions? Contact Erin Clark, Director of Admissions | 260.422.6712 | eclark@esmeagles.com

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.

NEW! Special Education Survey

The Lutheran Schools Partnership has formed an exploratory committee to learn more about how our Lutheran schools can best serve students with special education needs. We are first seeking to learn more about the needs of our community. If you are a parent or legal guardian of a child with special education needs, an educator, or church leader, we would value your input on this anonymous survey. Click [here](#) to complete the survey. Thank you for your feedback!

IN THE COMMUNITY

NEW! Christmas at the Wyneken House

Due to last Sunday's unfavorable weather, the Friends of Wyneken will host an additional Christmas open house at the historic Wyneken House, 11730 NW Winchester Road, Decatur, **tomorrow Sunday, December 14**, 1:00-5:00 p.m. A variety of Christmas villages will be on display. The holiday decorations can also be viewed until January 6 by calling/texting 260.519.3442 to schedule a visit.

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 Witzman to volunteer 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.

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



RESOURCES

NEW! Mental Health Moment



[Here](#) is a great tip sheet to help with substance use during the holidays.

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.

NEW! Lutheran Hour Ministries Christmas Resources

[Here's](#) a treasure trove of devotions, videos, Bible studies, and booklets each about Christmas that turn up the lights on the true meaning of Christmas: the first coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. Hours of viewing for kids and families, too!

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