



---

## NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: December 27, 2025

---

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*Sometimes in life we are forced to travel trails we would never choose and often these paths take us through pain and loss, suffering and sadness. These detours frustrate the most faithful among us, and yet these difficulties shouldn't surprise us. The Word of God is clear that struggle, pain, and loss are all part of the Christian life, just as they were for Christ Himself. And that's why this weekend's text is so important. In it, we learn that despite our doubts, and even through our suffering, God continues to work.*

*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 After Christmas

**Saturday, December 27:** 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 28:**

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

**Wednesday, December 31**

7:00 p.m.

**New Year's Eve Worship Service**

Celebration of Holy Communion



### **NEW!** Sunday and Weekday Christian Education

Sunday School (Birth-Grade 5), Confirmation (Grades 6-8), High School, and Adult Bible classes are on break until **Sunday, January 4**. Click [here](#) for a list of all our Sunday and weekday Christian Education opportunities. Sunday Adult Bible classes will feature three new classes:

#### **•Galatians**

Join us for a 12-week study of St. Paul's letter to the Galatians. This letter has been called the "Magna Carta of Christian liberty," for it maintains that only through the grace of God received through faith in Jesus Christ can a person escape the curse of sin and of the law and live a new life, not in bondage or license, but in a genuine freedom of mind and spirit through the power of God. Galatians was a favorite epistle of reformer Martin Luther who called it his "Katie" (Luther's wife!).

**Leader:** Pastor McFadden

**Location:** Ebenezer Lower Level

### •**Living Faithfully in a Fallen World: Being Lutheran after Luther's Death**

We all know that Luther posted the 95 Theses in 1517—but what happened after that? This study will look at the latter part of Luther's life and then examine the enormous challenges the Lutheran church faced in the years following his death (1546) and when things finally (kind of) settled down in 1580. Over the weeks we will see how God keeps His promises to His church—even when His church struggles with the difficulties of living faithfully in a fallen world.

**Leader:** Pastor Rast

**Location:** Sanctuary

### •**Lutheran Christianity**

This class designed to help build a solid foundation in the core teachings of the Church and is offered to anyone interested in learning more about the Lutheran Christian faith or brush up on what they had learned at another point in their faith journey.

**Leaders:** Pastors Eggold and Sheafer

**Location:** Brandt Hall

### **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 300 more video Bible Studies led by our pastors.

### **NEW! 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, 8:30-10:00 a.m., as we journey through the salvation story of the Old Testament using Chad Bird's book *Hitchhiking with the Prophets*. Drop your kiddos off in the Lower Level of Ebenezer Hall with our amazing caregivers, then head upstairs to the Loft to enjoy fellowship, a cup of coffee, and study with other moms. The dates are:



- **January 12 & 26**
- **February 9 & 23**
- **March 9 & 23**
- **April 13 & 27**

For more information, contact Liz Bejot at [LBejot@emmanuel Lutheran.org](mailto:LBejot@emmanuel Lutheran.org).

---

## THANK YOUS & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

---

### **NEW! Christmas Greeting from Madalene Eggold**

Click [here](#) to read a Christmas greeting and thank you from our dear sister in Christ, Madalene Eggold.

### **NEW! Thank You to Stephen Ministry**

The family of Janet Pennell would like to thank Emmanuel Stephen Ministry for the beautiful red poinsettias in her honor.

### **NEW! Thank You From Washington School**

Washington School wishes to thank our congregation for the generous donations to their Santa Shop! Also, they were so grateful for the adult volunteers and the 7th and 8th graders who helped shop with the children and wrap gifts. Our support for this activity is greatly appreciated.

## A Christmas Greeting of Gratitude

Click [here](#) to read a special letter from the family of Wes and Beth Williams.

## Missionaries Jeff and Gina Teeple Coming to Emmanuel



After serving Peace Lutheran Church in Fremont, Indiana, for many years, Rev. Jeff and Deaconess Gina Teeple are serving the Lord as missionaries in Germany. Jeff is a missionary pastor to Trinity Lutheran Church in Frankfurt. Trinity is an English-speaking congregation that serves expat families from around the world. As communications project manager, Gina works with the Eurasia communication specialist, missionaries, and LCMS Communications to support projects in the region and facilitate communication to supporters and donors. Jeff and Gina will share more about their work and Pastor Teeple will serve as our Epiphany preacher on **January 4 and 5**. Learn more about the Teeples [here](#).

---

## GET INVOLVED

---

### 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.: Brandt Hall Meeting Room

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! GAME ON**

GAME ON is a group designed for those who like to play table games. We play a different game each month. The game for January is Rummikub, a take off of Rummy but played with tiles. No experience is needed. Please join us for fellowship, fun, and food. GAME ON will meet Tuesday, January 6, 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Ebenezer. Please join us and bring a friend. There is a sign-up sheet at the Connections Counter. If you forget to sign up come anyway!

### Visual Faith—Gratitude & Prayer Journals



Join us in the new year as we work on our 2026 Gratitude & Prayer Journals! Writing down one thing you're thankful for and one thing you're praying about each day can transform how you see God at work in your life. We'll meet Tuesday, January 6, 6:00-8:00 p.m., in Ebenezer Hall. Bring a snack, invite a friend, and sign up at the Connections Counter or click [here](#).

### **NEW! Emmanuel's LWM/LWML Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, January 8

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

**Location:** Lower Ebenezer

**What is LWM?**

LWM is Lutheran Women in Mission. Women of Lutheran Women in Mission support the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

What to expect at the meeting:

- A warm welcome and fellowship with other women of faith; empathy, laughter, sometimes tears, and always friendships that uplift and encourage.
- Bible Study: An hour of interactive, cooperative study
- Service Project: practical, hands-on projects that make a difference in people's lives locally, nationally, and globally--materials and instruction are provided and the projects are completed during each meeting. Many hands make light the work!

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

- Christ-Centered Hope for Cancer Patients—Phil's Friends, US: \$100,000
- Light of Jesus Christ to Unwed Homeless Mothers—A Place of Refuge Ministries of South Wisconsin, Inc., Wisconsin: \$75,000
- Building a Place of Care—Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, North Dakota: \$60,000

### 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](#).

### NEW! Lunch Bunch



As we begin the New Year 2026, we are reaching out to all those in our church family who are around 60 or over to join us for Lunch Bunch where fellowship time starts at 11:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, January 20**, in the lower level of Ebenezer Hall. Lunch is served at noon followed by one of our favorite fun activities—Bingo! The last time we played, everyone seemed to enjoy this fun activity where they could win some fun prizes too. Lunch reservations are required by calling the church office at 260.423.1369 or by **signing up at the Connections Counter by Friday, January 16**. The lunch cost is \$10.00 per person payable that day. Hoping to see many of you there to kick off the new year with a bang!

### NEW! Volunteer for PALS

Peer Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS) is a ministry of Emmanuel that partners with Washington Elementary to support 2nd and 3rd graders. **Each Wednesday, from January 28-March 25**, 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!

**A training session will take place Wednesday, January 21.** Who can volunteer? Any adult, high school student, along with 7th and 8th graders are welcome to apply. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.

---

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

---

### 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 Spring Semester. Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, and [application](#) to Executive Assistant Hannah Swor, [hswor@esmeagles.com](mailto:hswor@esmeagles.com).

### Save the Date—Information and Enrollment Sessions

#### [Kindergarten Information and Enrollment Sessions:](#)

**Thursday, January 22 OR Tuesday, February 17**

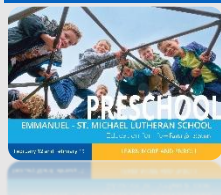
6:30-8:00 p.m. | Getz Road Campus—2131 Getz Road

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](http://www.esmeagles.com). Questions? Contact Erin Clark, Director of Admissions | 260.422.6712 | [eclark@esmeagles.com](mailto:eclark@esmeagles.com)

---

## IN THE COMMUNITY

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

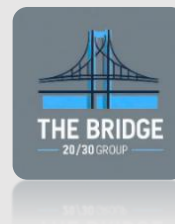
The Bridge 20/30 is a Fort Wayne-based community for young adults in their 20s and 30s—single, dating, or married—seeking faith, fellowship, and friendship. We meet Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. for Bible study, devotion, service, and social events. [Join us this month!](#)

Connect with us:

Facebook: [Bridge 20/30 Group Ft. Wayne](#)

Instagram: [@thebridge2030](#)

Email: [dschuller@clhscadets.com](mailto:dschuller@clhscadets.com)



---

## RESOURCES

### NEW! Mental Health Moment



[Here](#) are more self-care tips to help alleviate stress during the holidays.

### **NEW! Project Connect**

This week's booklet is [35 Character-Building Prayers for My Grandchild Vol.2](#). If you're a grandparent and liked Lutheran Hour Ministries' *35 Character Building Prayers Vol. 1*, you're sure to like the NEW Part Two!



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!

---

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