
NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: January 10, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This weekend, our readings highlight Christ's gifts to us through Baptism. He is the Chosen One of the Lord whose perfect life, precious death, and powerful resurrection are delivered to us through this simple, yet potent gift of water and His Word. As we ponder this gift, allow these words to guide your reflection:

The gifts Christ freely gives
He gives to you and me
To be His Church, His bride,
His chosen, saved and free!
Saints blest with these rich gifts
Are children who proclaim
That they were won by Christ
And cling to His strong name.

The gifts flow from the font
Where He calls us His own;
New life He gives that makes
Us His and His alone.
Here He forgives our sins
With water and His Word;
The Triune God Himself
Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.

(Lutheran Service Book, 602, stanzas 1-2)

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! The Baptism of Our Lord

Saturday, January 10: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 11:

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

Wednesday, January 14:

- 11:30 a.m. (Holy Communion)



Sunday and Weekday Christian Education

Sunday School (Birth-Grade 5), Confirmation (Grades 6-8), High School, and Adult Bible classes are offered each Sunday, 9:15-10:15 a.m. **Grades 6/7 Confirmation will now be in School Room D2 and Grade 8 Confirmation will now be in School Room D3.** Click [here](#) for a list of all our Sunday and weekday Christian Education opportunities.

Three New Sunday Adult Bible 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 Sheaffer

Location: Brandt Hall

NEW! Pastor's Bible Study Online



Each week, Pastors Eggold and Sheaffer 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.



Out of care for our childcare workers during the current rise in flu cases, we will postpone Monday Morning Moms and look forward to gathering again on February 9. Thank you for your understanding.

The dates are:

- **February 9 & 23**
- **March 9 & 23**
- **April 13 & 27**

For more information, contact Liz Bejot at LBejot@emmanuellutheran.org.

THANK YOU

NEW! Thank You From the Lesh Family

We would like to thank everyone who sent Christmas cards to our mother, Edith Lesh. She really enjoyed getting them and seeing them taped to her door. We also want to thank the carolers for taking time out of their day to sing to all those who are not able to get to a church. The carolers sounded great and we are sure that everyone loved it!

May everyone have a blessed 2026.

The Lesh Family

GET INVOLVED

NEW! iLead 2026 Starts Today!



iLead is a collaborative initiative of several local congregations working together to develop leaders in the Church. Watch this [video](#) to learn more about iLead.

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":

- ***Looking for the Kingdom*** with Ben Haupt, **today, 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.

Register [here](#). 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.

NEW! Join Us in Blessing Local Moms in Need

Our congregation is hosting a baby shower to support mothers in need at our local pregnancy centers and we'd love your help! From now until **Sunday, January 18**, we will be collecting donations of new or gently used baby items. Needed items include: Baby clothing, blankets, toys, diapers and wipes, pack 'n plays, strollers, and more. Look for the donation baskets in Ebenezer Hall to drop off your contributions. Together, we can share God's love and provide much-needed support to families in our community.

NEW! Visual Ministry Invites You to Sojourn with Jesus

Arise, shine for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.—Isaiah 60:1
Welcome to the shining season of Epiphany during which our Scripture readings reveal to us that our Lord Jesus is the Savior who brings light and salvation to all people! Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" John 8:12. Come walk in the light of Christ in 2026 with our friends at Visual Faith Ministry as they *Sojourn with Jesus* in one of these (free) weekly Gospel reading plans:

[Sojourn with Jesus: A Year of Weekly Gospel Verses](#)

[Words from the Upper Room: A Year with Jesus in John 14-17](#)

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 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.

- 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! Lutherans for Life

- **Saturday, January 17, and Sunday, January 18**

Baby Shower for Crisis Pregnancy Centers. We are collecting new and gently used baby items.

- **January 25**

12:00 noon

Join us for Fort Wayne Right to Life's March for Life at the TinCaps Stadium.

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.

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.

New this session: Help stock our PALS snack supply! Check out this [link](#) to help purchase items both for our in-person snack each week of PALS along with a take home bag for each child. Thanks for your help!

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

Kindergarten & Preschool Information and Enrollment Sessions

Are you exploring Preschool or Kindergarten options for your child? Do you have a friend or neighbor who is looking for an excellent school for their family? With a long history of academic achievement, Emmanuel—St. Michael (ESM) Lutheran School exceeds the standard for excellence of education in northeast Indiana. However, at ESM we hope to provide even more. In partnership with families, that foundation of faith, academic excellence, and preparation for a life of service and leadership is formed. Come learn more!

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. Questions? Contact Erin Clark, Director of Admissions |

260.422.6712 | eclark@esmeagles.com

National Lutheran Schools Week

Emmanuel—St. Michael (ESM) Lutheran School will be joining with Lutheran Schools around the country and the world to celebrate during the **week of January 26**. We are thankful for Emmanuel and St. Michael congregations and their faithful support of ESM both spiritually and financially. ESM celebrates its unique mission as a distinctively Lutheran school in providing “Education for Life and Faith for Eternity”!

NEW! CLHS News

There is so much going on at Concordia Lutheran High School! Click [here](#) to read more about:

- Adam Mildred Confirmed as U.S. Attorney
- "Last Look" Open House: Register Now!
- Update Your Alumni Information
- Now Hiring Teaching Positions for the 2026-2027 School Year

IN THE COMMUNITY

NEW! Collecting for Washington School

Washington School is in need of more sweatpants for students in sizes 5, 8, and 10. No other clothing items are needed at this time. You may drop off your donations at the church office. Thanks for helping!

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



Setting one goal a month as a parent can be helpful to your family. [Here](#) is a great guide to do so.

NEW! Project Connect

This week's booklet is [Speaking of Care](#). Have you ever considered the demands of giving and receiving care? This booklet shares the challenges, joys, and unexpected blessings experienced by those deeply involved in the care process. Authors Ron and Maggie Hilmer understand the dynamics of care from the inside out. Ron is a pastor with Parkinson's disease; Maggie is a physical therapist who has congenital heart problems and chronic back pain. Together they have learned how to help each other over life's physical hurdles through their love for each other and their faith in God.



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.**