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## NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: January 17, 2026

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*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*Jesus asks, "What are you seeking?" And when we take this confessional question seriously; when we look at what we want from God; when we honestly expose our expectations and come clean with what we are seeking, we discover that our hearts are turned in on themselves. And there, we find fear and brokenness. And we see selfishness and pride. We unearth the ugliness and desperation that sin has brought into our lives, and when we hold these things up to the light of God's Word, we quickly discover that what we desire leads to death. So, the question Jesus asked these disciples in the desert, and the question Jesus asks us today, is a question designed to reveal what we need rather than what we want. This is a question that leads us to repentance, and there, the Lamb of God does His saving 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*

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

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### **NEW! The Second Sunday After the Epiphany**

**Saturday, January 17: 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, January 18:**

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

**Wednesday, January 21:**

- 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 Morning Adult Bible Classes**

**•*Galatians***

**Leader:** Pastor McFadden

**Location:** Ebenezer Lower Level

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

**Leader:** Pastor Rast

**Location:** Sanctuary

•**Lutheran Christianity**

**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! Friends in the Word Women's Study**

Friends in the Word meet every other Thursday morning, 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m., in the Loft. Here are the scheduled dates:

- **January 29**
- **February 12 & 26**
- **March 12 & 26**
- **April 16 & 30**
- **May 14**

We hope to see you there!

**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](mailto:LBejot@emmanuellutheran.org).

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## THANK YOU

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**NEW! To Our Emmanuel Family,**

*We want to thank you for all of your cards, prayers, and well wishes. Your love and support mean so very much to us.*

*Love,*

*Jim and Donna Cotter*

**NEW!** Dear Emmanuel Congregation,

I want to thank you for all your cards and prayers and well wishes. I have been quite ill and pray every day for myself and for all of you. Please know that you are appreciated. My church is in my heart, and the Christ as we know it, listens and answers in His time.

Love and God Bless,

Tamara Fox

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## GET INVOLVED

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### 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](#)

### **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:

- ***Men's Weekly Devotion***

**Mondays**

6:30 a.m.

Brandt 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.

- ***ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out)***

**Friday, February 13**

11:30 a.m.

Chapman's Brewing Company at Electric Works

- ***Family & Friends Brunch***

**Saturday, February 21**

9:00-11:00 a.m.

Lower Level Ebenezer

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

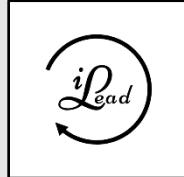
### Lunch Bunch



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. The lunch cost is \$10.00 per person payable that day.

## **NEW! Consider Attending iLead**

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":

- *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! Middle School Youth is Back**



All 6-8 graders are invited to our 2026 Middle School Youth gatherings! A full schedule is available [here](#). Our first event will be **Sunday, January 25**, 2:00-4:00 p.m., at Georgetown Bowl. The cost is \$10 and includes two hours of bowling, pizza, pop, and shoe rental. Please register [here](#) for the event. If you have any questions, please reach out to Liz Bejot at [LBejot@emmanuellutheran.org](mailto:LBejot@emmanuellutheran.org).

## **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!

## **NEW! Lutherans for Life**

- *Right to Life March and Rally*  
**Saturday, January 31**  
Parkview Field  
Doors Open: 12:00 p.m.  
Pre-March Rally: 12:30–1:00 p.m. at Parkview Field  
March Begins: 1:00 p.m.

**Parking Information:** Parking is available in the Parkview Field Silver Lot and the two adjacent lots, all located in front of the stadium.

## **NEW! Visual Faith Workshop—Words from the Upper Room**

Join us on **Tuesday, February 3**, 6:00-8:00 p.m., in Ebenezer Hall as we prepare our hearts for Lent. Together, we'll create a devotional featuring opportunities to scribe passages from the Gospel of John. All materials are provided—bring a friend and join us. Sign up at the Connections Counter or click [here](#).



## **NEW! Euchre Tournament**

Calling all card players! Emmanuel's Senior High Youth Group (EYG) will host its annual Euchre Tournament on **Saturday, February 21**, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. in the lower level of Ebenezer Hall. The entry fee is \$10 per participant. Snacks and beverages will be provided, and all proceeds will help cover the cost of shipping care packages to Emmanuel's college students. [Register](#) with a partner or sign up individually and we will pair you with someone when you arrive.

## **NEW! Save the Date for Trivia Night**

As you look ahead to March, start thinking about who might make up your dream team for Trivia Night, **March 21**, 6:00-9:00 p.m. in the gym!

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

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

## **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

### 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](mailto:dschuller@clhscadets.com)

### NEW! Marriage Date Night

- **Sunday, February 22**

5:00 p.m.

The River Christian Church—1515 Magnavox Way

Marriage Date Night was created for married couples to enjoy a fun night out with lots of laughter and music. An evening with unlimited eternal opportunities, a chance for outreach and relationship building. For more information, click [here](#).

### NEW! Guarding Our First Charge: Men's Gathering 2026

Join other men in Christian fellowship, **April 9-12**, at Lakeview Villages near Seymour, Indiana, as we explore biblical perspectives on life issues. Dr. Donna Harrison (board-certified OB/GYN) and Rev. Dr. D. Richard Stuckwisch (Indiana District President, LCMS) will help us explore the topics of abortion, contraception, IVF, adoption, and defending life in every circumstance. In blessing, God's first mandate is that we "be fruitful and multiply." (Genesis 1:28) Let us "therefore choose life." (Deuteronomy 30:19) Get away and enjoy God's creation, feast at our hog roast, compete in feats of skill and wit, and grow in your vocations as father, husband, son, and brother. Contact [joshua@vandercar.net](mailto:joshua@vandercar.net) to discuss the event and visit [www.mensgathering.us](http://www.mensgathering.us) for info and registration.



## RESOURCES

### NEW! Mental Health Moment



Caring for a loved one with dementia can be difficult. [Here](#) is a helpful link to many strategies and items to support yourself.

### NEW! Project Connect

This week's booklet is [The Bible: What? When? Why?](#) What makes Scripture unique? Here you'll learn about the individual books in the Bible that form the Old and New Testaments—the Word of God given to mankind.



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!

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