



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Building faith in the city

NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: January 24, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Epiphany season proclaims and celebrates the salvation of God coming into the world as a light shining in a dark place. Matthew quotes the prophet Isaiah predicting the dawning of that light into the darkness of unbelief, separation from God, sin, and “the shadow of death” (Matthew 4:16). That light was and is Jesus and His message: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (v. 17). This weekend, the light of Jesus and His message dawns on us.

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

****SPECIAL WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENT****

Dear Emmanuel Family,

The forecast for this Sunday indicates the possibility of dangerous winter weather. In my 30 years at Emmanuel, we have only cancelled our weekend worship services one time, yet your safety is important and I encourage our members to make wise decisions about attending church when the weather gets bad. While rare, if we decide to cancel or alter our weekend worship and education schedule, we will communicate it in the following ways:

- *An announcement will be posted at the top of our [website homepage](#).*
- *An email and text message will be sent to every member.*
- *A push notification will be sent out on the Emmanuel app.*
- *A post will go out on [Emmanuel's Facebook page](#).*

Please keep an eye on these communication channels if severe weather hits this weekend, and note that if we were to cancel our Sunday services, a video of the Saturday service will be available on our website and app.

If it snows, but not enough to force the cancellation of our services, volunteers to help our staff with snow removal or to serve as parking lot attendants would be greatly appreciated. If you could help in this way, please give me a call at 260.414.8691.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Thomas Eggold

NEW! The Third Sunday After the Epiphany

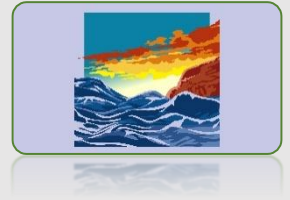
Saturday, January 24: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 25:

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

Wednesday, January 28:

- 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.

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.

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@emmanuel Lutheran.org.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! Emmanuel Church Office Closed for February Conference

From **February 10-14**, the staff members of Emmanuel will be attending the Best Practices in Ministry conference in Phoenix. This is an unprecedented opportunity for professional development as our staff spends four days learning, worshipping, and growing together. Since it involves the majority of our staff, the **church office will be closed from Tuesday, February 10, through Friday, February 14**. If a special need for pastoral care arises during this time, you can still reach Pastor Eggold at 260.414.8691 or Pastor Sheafer at 260.416.2590, and arrangements will be made to provide you with the pastoral assistance you need.

This opportunity is made possible in large part through the generous support of The Lutheran Foundation. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to strengthening ministries and investing in the work God is doing through our congregation. Please pray for our staff as we enjoy this special time together.

GET INVOLVED

NEW! iLead at Holy Cross 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":

- *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.

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 **tomorrow, 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@emmanuel Lutheran.org.



NEW! Help Provide Snacks for PALS

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!

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.

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! First Impressions

Is the “sandwich generation” ready for dessert? Susan Imler will share insights on balancing career and caregiving. Homemade pie included!

Wednesday, February 4

6:00–7:30 p.m.

Ebenezer Hall

NEW! Emmanuel's LWM/LWML Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 5

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

Location: Lower Ebenezer

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 interaction that uplifts and encourages.
- Bible Study: An hour of interactive, cooperative study and discussion led by Judy May. Lesson sheets provided. Each meeting's study can be experienced as a standalone.
- Service Project: Fun, 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:

- Introducing Muslims to the Savior—Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Global—\$100,000
- Healing Your Heart—Faith-based Child Counseling—Lutheran Counseling & Family Services of Wisconsin—\$100,000

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

CLAY & IRON

Men's Winter theme: "Here's What I HAVE to Say," discerning when to speak and when to stay quiet as God's servant-leaders.

- *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.



- *Game Night*
Friday, February 6
7:00 p.m.
At the Hofman's house, please RSVP
- *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.

NEW! February Lunch Bunch

Our next Emmanuel Lunch Bunch activity for our members around 60 or over will be held on **Tuesday, February 17**, when our special guests will be our friends from Fairhaven Funeral Home who will be accompanied by an elder law attorney. They look forward to joining us with good information about how to make necessary arrangements before you need them. They will offer information about preplanning protection and protecting your assets, helpful information even if you have already completed some preplanning. They will address any questions you might have.

As usual we will gather together during fellowship time which starts at 11:00 a.m. in the lower level of Ebenezer Hall where lunch is served at noon. Lunch reservations are required by calling the church office at 260.423.1369 or by signing up at the Connections Counter by Friday, February 13. The lunch cost is \$10.00/person, payable that day. Hoping to see a good turn out to welcome our special guest speakers.

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.

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!

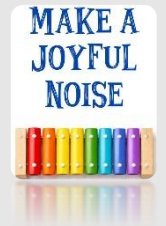
EMMANUEL—ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL (ESM) CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL (CLHS)

National Lutheran Schools Week

Emmanuel—St. Michael (ESM) Lutheran School will be joining with Lutheran Schools around the country and the world to celebrate this week. 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! Eagles Rise Fundraiser

Eagles Rise, Emmanuel—St. Michael's annual dinner auction, will be held Friday, March 6, 6:00-9:30 p.m., at Parkview Mirro Center, 10622 Parkview Plaza Drive. Tickets are \$50 per person for **early registration until Monday, February 16** (\$60 after). Click [here](#) for more info and to register to attend.



NEW! Now Collecting Donations for Eagles Rise 2026

Please contact either of our auction coordinators, Erin Neuenschwander (260.417.8373) or Lisa Terrell (260.710.1949), if you have something to donate! All items should be gathered by **Thursday, February 26**. If you, your employer, or other organizations would like more information about supporting Emmanuel—St. Michael's students by sponsoring Eagles Rise, click [here](#) to learn more. Thank you!

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!

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

Kindergarten Information and Enrollment Sessions:

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



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

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](#).

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 to discuss the event and visit www.mensgathering.us for info and registration.



RESOURCES

NEW! Mental Health Moment



When stress is all-encompassing, it is helpful to repeat a verse or an affirmative reminder. Something like, "Give us this day our daily bread." Here is a [link](#) to 12 Bible verses to recall when you are stressed.

NEW! Project Connect

This week's booklet is [30 Days of Household Devotions](#). Based on Barna research, this booklet contains 30 different devotions written by Dr. Kari Vo. They can be used consecutively as a month of devotions or occasionally per time and topic. An introduction gives pointers on doing household devotions and additional info is provided on accessing devotions online.



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.**