



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Building faith in the city*

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## NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: February 28, 2026

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*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*“Born again” has become a catch phrase in our age. It is not merely that Jesus says one must be born again but born from above. This new birth happens not from human will or desire but solely from the love and act of God working by the Spirit. The Spirit calls us to the font, gathers the baptized around His Word and Table, delivers us from the darkness of unbelief, and makes holy those who belong to the Lord. Thanks be to God!*

*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 Sheafer*

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

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### **NEW!** Second Sunday in Lent

**Saturday, February 28:** 5:00 p.m. (Holy Communion)

**Sunday, March 1:**

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

**Wednesday, March 4:**

Midweek Lenten Service: *Done for Us*

- 11:30 a.m. Lenten Service (Holy Communion)
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service with Piano and Organ Duets



### **NEW!** Prayers for PALS

PALS is a program in which Emmanuel members partner with Washington School students to build relationships and strengthen reading skills in a Christian environment. Each week we will pray for some of our Washington School PALS or helpers, and we encourage you to join us in the ministry. **This week, we are praying for Kennedy.**

## 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. In addition to *Lutheran Christianity* and Pastor McFadden's study on Galatians, we have a new Sunday morning, adult Bible class:

### **Genesis**

**February 15- May 17**

**Leader:** Pastor Jon Meyer

**Location:** Sanctuary

Join us for a 12-week study of the first book in the Bible, Genesis. This book is the foundation for everything else that comes in the Bible. Not only is the book at the beginning of our Bible, it speaks to the beginning of creation; the beginning of humanity's separation from God, and God's plan to restore what was destroyed. Come discover the origin of the story of salvation and so much more!

Click [here](#) for a list of all our Sunday and weekday Christian Education opportunities.

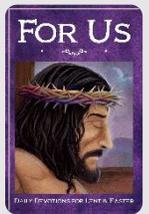
### **NEW! Pastor's Bible Study Online**



Each week, Pastors Eggold and 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.

### **Our Lenten Journey**

Emmanuel's Lenten Services are held at 11:30 a.m. with Communion, and 7:00 p.m. If you have not picked up a Lenten packet, they are located at the entrances into the Sanctuary and the Connections Counter, one per family please. To access our Lenten devotional, *For Us: Daily Devotions for Lent & Easter*, click [here](#). As we turn our attention toward our Lenten Journey, there is no better way to receive strength and peace than to gather in God's house and hear the message of His love and forgiveness found in the Word.



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## THANK YOU & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**NEW!** Thank you to all the dear members of Emmanuel who remembered me with cards and well wishes on my birthday!

Pat Yeiter

### **NEW! "The Story Continues" in 2026**



We are excited to announce that Emmanuel has officially launched a planning process designed to seek the Lord's direction for a renewed congregational vision. Led by our ministry staff, Elders, Church Council, and a Vision Team representing different groups within our church family, in the coming months, we will be listening to the congregation, analyzing pertinent data about our community, and discerning a concise vision for the future of the ministry we share. Building on our "I Love to Tell the Story" journey last fall, the goal of this process is to present a clear vision to the congregation for approval in the November congregational meeting. Please pray for this planning process and take advantage of opportunities to contribute to it as "The Story Continues." Learn more about "The Story Continues" [here](#).

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## GET INVOLVED

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### Game On

Game On meets the first Tuesday of each month. This is a group designed for those who like to play table games. Sometimes we play as individuals, other times we play with partners, and sometimes we divide into teams. The game for March is Sequence. We will meet on **Tuesday, March 3**, 1:00-3:00 p.m., in Ebenezer Hall. Please join us for fellowship and food. Bring a friend. We love to meet new people. Sign up is located at the Connection's Counter. If you forget to sign up, come anyway. If you have any questions, email Diane Campbell at [newmoon312@gmail.com](mailto:newmoon312@gmail.com).

### Visual Faith Workshop—Words from the Upper Room (Continues!)

Join us, **Tuesday, March 3**, 6:00–8:00 p.m., in Ebenezer Hall as we continue our Words from the Upper Room project during Lent. If you're already working on the devotional, come and keep it going—and if you're new, you're absolutely welcome to jump in and start from the beginning. We'll create a devotional with opportunities to scribe passages from the Gospel of John and we'll also have Easter cards available to make and send to anyone God brings to mind. All materials are provided—bring a friend and join us. Sign up [here](#).



### Emmanuel's LWM/LWML Meeting

**Date: Thursday, March 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:

- NOT ALONE: Gospel Help for Families in Crisis—Lutheran Family Service, Iowa—\$92,500
- Gospel Outreach through the Digital Mission Field—Lutheran Hour Ministries, US—\$100,000
- Reaching God's Children in Haiti—Trinity HOPE, Haiti—\$61,782

### Easter Flowers



It's hard to imagine ordering Easter flowers when it's cold outside and with snow on the ground. Easter is on Sunday, April 5, and **the deadline to order your flower(s) is Monday, March 9**. Order forms can be picked up from the Connections Counter in Ebenezer, the Welcome Center, or you can print one [here](#). Please submit your form along with payment to the church office. If paying by check, please make it payable to Emmanuel. Your flowers will be available for pick up after the 11:00 a.m. service on Easter Day.

## **NEW! Clay & Iron**

Walk humbly; stand firm.

Our Spring quarter begins in March!

- *Get Your Spurs On*  
**Leader:** Bill Brace  
**Tuesday, March 10**  
7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Loft
- Retired Old Men Eating Out (ROMEEO)  
**Friday, March 13**  
11:30 a.m.
- *Guys Game Night*  
**Friday, March 20**  
7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Euchre, Hearts, UNO, Mantis, Code Names, bring your own! Snacks provided.  
**Location:** Ebenezer
- *What Is My Job Again?*  
**Leader:** Bill Brace  
**Thursday, April 9**  
7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Loft



Call or message Billy Hofman 260.440.4945 to get connected.

## **NEW! Lunch Bunch**



We welcome all our members around 60 or over to join us for our next Emmanuel Lunch Bunch activity on **Tuesday, March 17**. Our special guest speaker and Emmanuel member Bill Warner will join us to share his most memorable experiences as an FBI agent and how that influenced his early book writing. Hoping you can join us for our fellowship time beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the lower level of Ebenezer Hall. Lunch will be 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, March 13.** The lunch cost is \$10.00 per person payable that day.

## **EYG Trivia Night**

Get ready for an exciting evening of fun, food, and friendly competition at Emmanuel Youth Group's (EYG) Trivia Night! Gather a team of 6-8 players and join us **Saturday, March 21**, 6:00-9:00 p.m., in the gym. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., with pizza, snacks, and beverages available. Trivia begins promptly at 6:30 p.m. Show off your creativity by choosing team theme—costumes, props, and table decorations are encouraged! Prizes will be awarded throughout the night, including one for the best-themed table. Cost is \$10 per participant, childcare is available. All proceeds support our high school youth's summer servant event in Pikeville, Kentucky. To register a team, click [here](#). To support this event as a business sponsor, click [here](#).



## GriefShare

### What is GriefShare?

GriefShare is a 13-week Christ-centered grief support group program led by GriefShare leaders.

- Each session will include a 30-minute video of personal stories from griever and insights from Christian counselors and pastors.
- Group members will talk (optional) about the video and discuss challenges they see.
- Between sessions participants are encouraged to do exercises; read Scripture in a workbook.

### Who should attend?

The program is designed for adults who are grieving the death of a family member or friend.

### When and Where?

**Tuesdays, March 31-June 23**

5:00-6:30 p.m.

Ebenezer Upper Level

Contact: Lana Hille ([Lanah@emmanuelutheran.org](mailto:Lanah@emmanuelutheran.org)/260.417.5639) to register so books can be ordered.

## Save the Date for Emmanuel's VBS

Join us **June 22-26** as we walk the streets of Rome! Explore the Underground Church, meet the Apostle Paul, and so much more. Mark your calendars and invite a friend!

Interested in being a part of the planning team? It's forming NOW! Reach out to Liz Bejot, [LBejot@emmanuelutheran.org](mailto:LBejot@emmanuelutheran.org), for more information.

## Preparing for Christmas??!!

Can you help us prep for Christmas Eve 2026? We would like to give each child at the 5:00 p.m. Family Service a special banner they can use during the service and beyond. We are looking for people to help cut out felt shapes and embroider panels. If you have a Cricut machine and/or the ability to embroider, please fill out this [form](#). Thank you!

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

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### Extended Care Help Needed at Both Campuses

Emmanuel—St. Michael School needs morning help with our Extended Care from 6:30-8:30 a.m., Monday-Friday, at either Getz or Union. Individual days are available if you're willing to help but can't do all days of the week. Please contact Analicia Nunez at [anunez@esmeagles.com](mailto:anunez@esmeagles.com) if you're interested or able.

### Now Enrolling for 2026-27 School Year

Emmanuel—St. Michael Lutheran School, in partnership with our congregations and families, is raising up the next generation of students who know the love of Christ and are prepared to serve Him in their families and communities. Now accepting applications for Preschool-8th grade. Schedule a visit today! Contact Erin Clark, Director of Admissions, 260.422.6712, [eclark@esmeagles.com](mailto:eclark@esmeagles.com), [www.esmeagles.com](http://www.esmeagles.com).

## **NEW!** Concordia University System Information Fair

**When: Sunday, March 15**

12:00-3:00 p.m.

**Where:** Concordia Lutheran High School

**What:**

- Seven Concordia Higher Education representatives will be present.
- Learn about church work and other programs.
- Ask questions about admissions, scholarships, and campus life.
- Learn more [here](#).

Also enjoy the Lutheran Schools Fine Arts Festival celebrating student talent in music and art. Food trucks will be on site during the event.

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## IN THE COMMUNITY

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### **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 in March!](#)

Connect with us: Facebook: [Bridge 20/30 Group Ft. Wayne](#); Instagram: [@thebridge2030](#); Email: [dschuller@lhscadets.com](mailto:dschuller@lhscadets.com)

### **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.



### **NEW! Faith Formation in the Household**

Do you know that the way Christians go about their day and connect with members in their household is a critical aspect of spiritual growth? When the households of your congregation are spiritually vibrant, your congregation is more effective at faith formation, outreach, and community engagement. Bring the family to learn more at the Indiana Lutheran Laymen's League Convention hosted at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Valparaiso on **Saturday, April 25**. All are welcome to attend. [Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies](#), Lutheran Hour Ministries Vice President, Ministry Engagement is the keynote speaker. See the schedule and register [here](#).

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## RESOURCES

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### **NEW! Mental Health Moment**



Finances can really impact how we think and feel. [Here](#) is a helpful guide to support financial well-being.

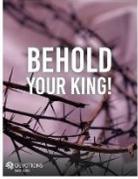
## **NEW! Project Connect**

This week's booklet is [\*Helping Your Child Have a Relationship with God.\*](#)

Explore how adults can partner with God by planning special moments and responding to everyday moments that will help children learn how to pray to God and understand His Word. PDF versions of our booklets are available in our [virtual library](#) and on our [mobile app](#). Some booklets are even available in audio formats!



## **Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries**



[\*Behold Your King!\*](#) is this year's Lenten series from Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM). Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. 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 Lent and Easter.

Have them [delivered right to your inbox](#), [podcast the audio devotional](#), access them on your mobile device through the [free app](#), or listen with [Spotify](#), [iHeart Radio](#), Alexa, or Google Home. These Lenten devotions are available here in both English and Spanish, as well as in French, and Chinese from our ministry center in Canada.

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