



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Building faith in the city

NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: March 7, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In John 4, Jesus deliberately crosses boundaries to meet a woman who knows the sting of being an outsider. Jesus “had to pass through Samaria,” not by accident, but by mercy—because He goes where no one else will go, speaks to the one no one else will speak to, and offers a gift no one else can give. Christ comes for sinners and His forgiving, life-giving and living water of grace doesn’t avoid the unclean or the broken; it seeks them out. Having been quenched by Christ, we are sent to do the same: to move toward the lonely, the avoided, the overlooked, and to carry the living water of Jesus to those who are dying of thirst.

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*



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

NEW! Third Sunday in Lent

Saturday, March 7: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 8:

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

Wednesday, March 11:

Midweek Lenten Service: *For Us He Seeks*

- 11:30 a.m. Lenten Service (Holy Communion)
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service with Chancel Choir



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 Chase.**

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

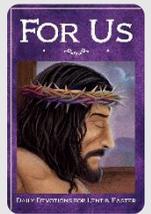
NEW! Pastor's Bible Study Online



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.



THANK YOU & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

"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](#).

GET INVOLVED

NEW! 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 this 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.



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 (ROMEO)
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.

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.

NEW! EYG Trivia Night

Trivia Night is two weeks away! Gather a group of 6-8 people, choose a team theme (costumes, props, decorations encouraged), and join us **Saturday, March 21**, 6:00-9:00 p.m., in the gym. Pizza, beverages, and snacks are available. Cost is \$10 per participant. All proceeds support our high school youth group's summer servant event to Pikeville, Kentucky. To register a team, click [here](#). To support this event as a business sponsor, click [here](#).



NEW! Middle School Youth



All 6th-8th graders are invited to join us for Emmanuel's Middle School Youth event on **Sunday, March 22**. We will be roller skating together at Roller Dome North (444 W. Coliseum Blvd.) from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Your registration includes two hours of skating, skate rental, and all-you-can-eat pizza. Please click [here](#) to sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Bejot at LBejot@emmanuel Lutheran.org.

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/260.417.5639) to register so books can be ordered.

NEW! Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Join Us for Emmanuel's Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 4**, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., in Emmanuel's gym. Kids of all ages are invited to search for eggs, enjoy treats & crafts, and experience the Easter story. Bring your basket and a friend. No registration required. If you have any questions, contact Liz Bejot, Director of Children's Ministry, LBejot@emmanuelutheran.org.



How You Can Help: Pick up a bag of empty eggs from Ebenezer Hall, fill them with treats, stickers, or small toys and **return them by Sunday, March 29**. (Please make sure all candy is pre-packaged.) Prefer to purchase pre-filled eggs or have extra eggs at home to donate? That works too! Thank you for your support!

NEW! All Our Alleluias



The next Visual Faith Workshop is on **Tuesday, April 7**, 6:00-8:00 p.m., in Ebenezer Hall, and we will bring back the Alleluias! "Alleluia" is not said during Lent as a small fast of praise—so that our Easter "Alleluia!" returns with fresh joy and full-throated celebration. We will be making a small praise book centered on "Alleluia!" All supplies provided. Grab a friend and sign up at the Connections Counter or click [here](#).

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, 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!

NEW! Women's Retreat

Mark your calendars for our next Women's Retreat, **October 10-11**, featuring LCMS deaconess, author, and licensed mental health professional, Heidi Goehmann.

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

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 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, www.esmeagles.com.

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.

IN THE COMMUNITY

NEW! Lutherans for Life

- Lutherans for Life will meet at Emmanuel **Friday, March 13**, 9:30 a.m., in Brandt Hall. We will see a video about a soldier who was held as a prisoner for seven years during the Viet Nam War. Visitors are always welcome.
- The [A Hope Center banquet](#) is **Tuesday, April 21**, 6:30 p.m., at the Allen County Memorial Coliseum. The guest speaker is Matt Hammitt, former lead singer of Sanctus Real who wrote the powerful song "Lead Me." If you wish to join us, contact Carolyn Beitz at 260.433.7188 for reservations.

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

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](#).

RESOURCES

NEW! Mental Health Moment

Here in the Midwest, we joke about the doom and gloom of our winters, but they truly do have an effect on our mental health. We are almost to the sunshine, warmer air, and flowers of Spring, but until then, [here](#) are ways to support ourselves.



NEW! Project Connect



This week's booklet is [There's More to Anger than Getting Mad](#).

Poorly managed anger leads to many problems. This booklet offers details about anger, as well as productive ways to express your anger, what to say, and how to say it. 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.



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