



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Building faith in the city

NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: March 14, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Throughout the Bible, God's works are on display. Sometimes, they're designed to protect His people. Sometimes, they're intended to redirect His people. Other times, like this weekend's Gospel reading, they're designed to reveal God's glory even in the middle of suffering and struggle. Jesus' powerful and challenging answer to His disciples' question changes our perspective on suffering. Suffering isn't always a consequence of personal sin, but it is always where God's works can be displayed. May God display His works in us now and always!

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! Fourth Sunday in Lent

Saturday, March 14: 5:00 p.m. (Holy Communion)

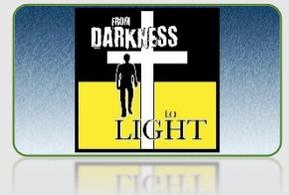
Sunday, March 15:

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

Wednesday, March 18:

Midweek Lenten Service: *For Us He Heals*

- 11:30 a.m. Lenten Service (Holy Communion)
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service with handbell 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 Hendrix.**

Sunday and Weekday Christian Education

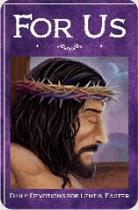
Sunday School (Birth-Grade 5), Confirmation (Grades 6-8), High School, and Adult Bible classes are offered each Sunday, 9:15-10:15 a.m. Click [here](#) for a list of all our Sunday and weekday Christian Education opportunities.

NEW! Pastor's Bible Study Online

Each week, Pastors Eggold and 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.



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.

NEW! Holy Week at Emmanuel

- **Palm Sunday Weekend**
(Holy Communion will be offered at all services.)
Saturday, March 28
5:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 29
8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
- **Maundy Thursday**
For Many, For Us
Thursday, April 2
11:00 a.m.: Worship with Holy Communion
7:00 p.m.: Worship with Holy Communion; Chancel Choir and Harp
- **Good Friday**
For Us, He Died
Friday, April 3
1:00 p.m.: Worship
7:00 p.m.: Tenebrae Service with Chancel Choir
- **Saturday, April 5**
No 5:00 p.m. service
- **Easter**
Sunday, April 5
7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m. Services
Holy Communion will be celebrated at all services.
Chancel Choir, Orchestra, and Handbells
(No Sunday School or Bible Classes)



THANK YOU & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! Thank You

It is with a grateful and joyful heart that I thank my Emmanuel family for all your care, concern, love, cards, words of encouragement, and most importantly your prayers before and after my facial surgery. I am so blessed by all of you.

*Blessings,
Becki Elonzae*

NEW! Food Bank Thank You

On behalf of both the volunteers and patrons of Emmanuel's Food Bank, thank you for your incredible generosity and support during our February food drive and for your continued support throughout the year. Your donations and resources make a meaningful difference for families in both our congregation and neighborhood. Your willingness to give reminds people that they are not alone and that their community truly cares about them.

NEW! Journey to Ethiopia

The logo for "Journey to Ethiopia" features the words "JOURNEY TO ETHIOPIA" in a stylized, blocky font. The letters are white with a dark outline, and the text is arranged in three lines: "JOURNEY TO" on the top line, "ETHIOPIA" on the middle line, and "JOURNEY TO" on the bottom line. The logo is set against a dark background within a white-bordered box.

February was a fun, full month, including a half-marathon in Hawassa, a sudden "surprise" trip out of the country, and the start of the new semester! Learn more about Heidi Wilkinson's work in Ethiopia [here](#).

"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! Help Prepare the Lord's Table



Altar Guild is a vital ministry that supports our weekend services that offer Holy Communion. Volunteers serve for one month throughout the year alongside other members for approximately 1-2 hours weekly. This opportunity is open to women, men, and couples. No experience is needed as training will be provided. We need members who attend either the 8:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. services. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve, and if you would like to become part of this ministry, or would like more information, connect with Becki at the church office at 260.423.1369 or becki@emmanuelutheran.org.

Clay & Iron

Walk humbly; stand firm. Needing or wanting some brotherly encouragement and fellowship? Join us anytime.



- *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?*
Thursday, April 9
7:00 p.m.
Leader: Bill Brace
Location: Loft

Call or message Billy Hofman 260.440.4945 to get connected.

EYG Trivia Night



Trivia Night is one week 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](#).

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@emmanuellutheran.org.



NEW! Palm Sunday Palm Prep



We would love your help getting ready for Palm Sunday! Join us on **Saturday, March 28**, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., in Ebenezer Hall as we prepare palm branches and create palm crosses for the weekend's services. **Please note, this event is not intended for young children.** If you plan to attend, please sign up [here](#).

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@emmanuellutheran.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! 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

Leaders: Kathy Eggold and Mary Harper

Contact: Lana Hille (Lanah@emmanuellutheran.org)/260.417.5639) to register so books can be ordered.

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@emmanuellutheran.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!

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)

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

Lutherans for Life

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

The majority of practicing Christians inherited their faith from someone in their house of origin. Twenty three percent say they are a Christian despite the sort of Christianity they saw in their household growing up. The Indiana Lutheran Laymen’s League District invites you to learn more about “Faith Formation in the Household” at their convention hosted at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Valparaiso on **Saturday, April 25**. Separate sessions will be provided for children (K-8th Grade) who will experience *Gospel Adventures—Mongolia*, and for youth (9th-12th Grade) *Spiritual Conversations: Sharing Life, Faith, and Jesus with Friends*. [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

Clutter can wreck our calm instantly. [Here](#) are tips to support your well-being this spring. Decluttering is the first on the list.



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.

NEW! Easter Resources from Lutheran Hour Ministries



- [Tears of Hope](#) is a special presentation of The Lutheran Hour®. Hosted by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker of The Lutheran Hour, this radio drama is based on an episode of This is the Life, taking the visual storyline written for the 1950s and giving it a modern twist for radio.
- [The Puzzle Club® Easter Adventure](#)
Springtime brings a challenging case and more adventure for those three clever detectives of The Puzzle Club: Christopher, Korina, and Alex.
- [3 Days](#)
More than just another reenactment of the resurrection, 3 Days portrays the often-told Easter story with a “you are there” feel. The clever script and skillful acting bring true human dimensions to the momentous events from Good Friday to Easter morning.
- [Easter: An Empty Tomb](#)
Death—no person has been wise, powerful, wealthy, or influential enough to escape it. Why should we think Jesus of Nazareth would be any different?
- [The Easter Story](#)
This children’s Easter story book is about Jesus’ life on earth. Watch Him as He enters Jerusalem, speaks with His disciples, is betrayed, arrested and, eventually, crucified.
- [The Marks of Love](#)
We know Him by the nail marks in His hands and feet, the marks of a love so great they will not let us go, even if it costs Him His life. In this Spiritual Reflections course, we’ll look at just a few examples of Jesus’ Marks of Love in the book of Mark.

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