



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Building faith in the city

NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: March 21, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the face of death, the question, "Now what?" cannot be answered by this world. No political platform can respond to this question. No "how to" morality can shed light on this mystery. No amount of material wealth, no intellectual ideal, no social theory, nothing the world speaks can cut through the pall of silence and answer the question that death asks. The Bible tells us that the wages of sin is death, and no one escapes this truth. Yet to this ultimate question, Jesus speaks: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die." Today, this is God's promise to you.

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! Fifth Sunday in Lent

Saturday, March 21: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 22:

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

Wednesday, March 25:

Midweek Lenten Service: *For Us Betrayed*

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



NEW! Stephen Minister Commissioning

Tomorrow, Sunday March 22, during the 10:30 a.m. service, several members of Emmanuel will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers. They are: Janet Fisher, Peggy Krueger, Chris Larimer, Becky Lutz, Roxanne Pratt, John Ripke, Chris Sauer, Sarah Schwantz, and Cole Strater. Please pray that God would bless each of them as they begin their service.

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 Brandon.**

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.

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.

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
11:30 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

Dear Emmanuel Church Family,

It is with a grateful heart that I want to thank you all for your encouragement, cards, thoughts, and prayers while I have been battling breast cancer chemo treatments these past weeks. I am certainly feeling much better at last, but I still have a round of radiation treatments ahead of me. God bless each and every one of you for your continued support and prayers on my behalf.

Blessings,

Marsha Sappenfield

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.

Journey to Ethiopia

The logo for "Journey to Ethiopia" features the words "JOURNEY TO ETHIOPIA" in a stylized, hand-drawn font. The text is arranged in three lines: "JOURNEY TO" on the top line, "ETHIOPIA" on the middle line, and "ETHIOPIA" on the bottom line. The letters are black with some white highlights, giving it a textured appearance.

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! Middle School Youth



All 6th-8th graders are invited to join us for Emmanuel's Middle School Youth event **tomorrow, 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.

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.



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@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!

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@emmanuelutheran.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](#).

Clay & Iron

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



- *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.

NEW! Lunch Bunch at Sweetwater



Our members around 60 or over are invited to join us for a field trip to [Sweetwater](#), 5501 Highway 30 W, for our next Emmanuel Lunch Bunch activity on **Tuesday, April 21**. We will meet by 9:45 a.m. in the Sweetwater front lobby. We will enjoy a tour and a drum circle from 10:00-11:00 a.m. We will eat lunch together following the tour. The lunch includes your choice of sandwich, chips, fruit, cookie, and drink. **The cost of our boxed lunch is \$15.00 and needs to be preordered by completing the Sweetwater Boxed Lunch**

Order Form available at the Connections Counter or Church Office and turned into the Church Office along with your payment by Monday, April 6. Unfortunately, late orders cannot be accepted. The tour is handicap accessible. For those not using a wheelchair, there is some walking involved. We are hopeful that this opportunity to tour Sweetwater will be well received by our Lunch Bunch friends.

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!

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

NEW! Call Extended

Emmanuel—St. Michael (ESM) has extended a Call to Mrs. Sarah Haupt to serve as kindergarten teacher beginning next school year. Sarah is a graduate of Concordia University Wisconsin with a degree in Early

Childhood Education and a certificate in Adaptive Education. Please keep the Haupt family in your prayers as they consider serving with us at ESM.

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.

IN THE COMMUNITY

NEW! Donations for Washington School

Washington Grade School is still in need of pants and sweatpants, sizes 5 through 10, for their students. The students really go through these items. Please bring your donation(s) to the church office. Thank you for your support of our ministry to Washington School.

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.

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.

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

Tips to help your mental health for the next 31 days are [here!](#)



NEW! Project Connect



This week's booklet is [Why Should I Go to Church?](#)

What do you think when you hear the word "church"? Read stories of church attendance, unexpected blessings, and the sense of community people found in the body of Christ.

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.



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.**