



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Building faith in the city

NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: March 28, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This week we begin our observation Holy Week with Palm Sunday. It is our privilege to gather as a community of Christ as we reflect upon the free gift of salvation that was won for us by His death and resurrection. A schedule of services and additional Holy Week information can be found below.

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*

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.

****No Sunday School classes. There will be a Mission Sunday presentation in the Sanctuary at 9:15 a.m.**

The *Lutheran Christianity* class will meet as usual.

- **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)

****Parking for Easter**** Due to such strong attendance on Easter Sunday, parking will be available for our Easter worship services at Washington Elementary school in the parking lot on Rockhill and Jefferson. Please consider using this parking option so that those with health concerns may park closer to the building. We thank Washington Elementary School for graciously opening their campus to us for our Easter celebration.

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@emmanuel Lutheran.org.

NEW! Easter Flower Pick-Up

If you ordered flowers for our Easter services and are unable to pick them up on Easter Sunday, you can do so the following **Tuesday, April 7**, as the **church office will be closed on Monday, April 6**.

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

NEW! Palm Sunday

Holy Communion will be celebrated at all services this weekend.

Saturday, March 28: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 29:

- 8:00 a.m.
- 10:30 a.m.

****No Sunday School classes.** There will be a Mission Sunday presentation in the Sanctuary at 9:15 a.m. The *Lutheran Christianity* class will meet as usual.

Wednesday, April 1:

No 11:30 a.m. 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 in thanksgiving for our volunteers and a successful PALS session.**

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.

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

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@emmanuellutheran.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

Leaders: Kathy Eggold and Mary Harper

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

NEW! Clay & Iron

Clay & Iron is for all our men, so please reach out to Billy Hofman at 260.440.4945 to get connected. ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) is specifically for retirement-aged gentlemen. The hiking is for the whole congregation plus any other family and friends you'd like to bring along; we'd love to see you there (weather permitting)!



- **Monday Morning Devotional**
Cancelled for Monday, March 30, **will resume weekly at 6:30 a.m. on Easter Monday, April 6.**
- **Monthly Gathering**
“What Is My Job Again?”
Leader: Bill Brace
Thursday, April 9
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Location: The Loft
- **ROMEO**
Friday, April 10
11:30 a.m.
Location: Chapman's Electric Works Taproom & Brewery
- **NEW: Monthly Devotional Lunch Hour (DLH)**
Leader: Robert Bennett
Thursday, April 16
Noon
Location: To be determined
- **Family & Friends Hiking at [Lindenwood Nature Preserve](#)**
Saturday, April 25
1:00-3:00 p.m.

NEW! Join Us for Spring Trivia

GAME ON is a group designed for those who like to play tables games. A different game is played each month. Sometimes we play as individuals, or with partners, or as a team. The game for April is “Spring Trivia” and will be held in Ebenezer on **Tuesday, April 7**, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Please join us and bring a friend. We love to meet new people. You can register by signing up at the Connections Counter in Ebenezer. If you forget to register, please come anyway. Join us for fellowship, fun, and food.

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](#).

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.

NEW! Lutherans for Life

Lutherans for Life will meet **Friday, April 10, 9:30 a.m.**, in Brandt Hall. Our speaker will be Janet Smith on *The Power of Movement: A Secret Weapon for Aging Adults*.

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

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! 2026 LWML Spring Three Zone Gathering

Power and Glory Through Christ—based on Ephesians 3:20-21

- **Date: Saturday, April 11**
- **Location:** St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2131 Getz Road
- **Registration and Continental Breakfast:** 8:30-9:00 a.m.
- **Meeting Begins:** 9:00 a.m.
- **Registration Fee:** \$7.00
- **Speakers:** Rev. Jeffrey and Deaconess Gina Teeple
- **Gifts for the Heart In-Gathering:** Monetary gifts in support of the Teeple's mission work in Eurasia and small Biblical children's books, (such as the [Arch](#) books) and Biblical activity and coloring books for use in Missionary Care Packages.

Please RSVP to your congregational representative, Janet Werth 260.452.4769, **by Friday, April 3**.

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.

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.

NEW! Faith Formation in the Household

But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15

- A majority of practicing Christians participate in spiritual conversations, prayer, and Bible-reading with their households.
- Faith heritage impacts Christians' beliefs and practices for the long term.

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! Easter Cards Available

Emmanuel's Greeting Card Cabinet has been restocked with a wide variety of greeting cards that sell for only 50 cents/each. The cabinet is located on the landing that leads into the Sanctuary, next to the elevator. Easter cards are now available for your purchase. Your support of this ministry helps to keep the cards coming so that we can continue to offer them at 50 cents/each.

NEW! Mental Health Moment

Substance use issues can be more than just alcohol and drugs. Online gambling is at an all-time high. [Here](#) are ways to support yourself, friends, family, or anyone with these issues!



NEW! Project Connect



This week's booklet is [What Happens When I Die?](#)

What Scripture says about death is explained to Christians and non-Christians in this booklet. Reviewing Bible passages on the "body," "soul," "heaven," "hell," etc., the issue of death is addressed.

PDF versions of our booklets are available in our [virtual library](#) and on our [mobile app](#). Some booklets are even available in audio formats!

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.**