



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Building faith in the city

NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: April 25, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We gather here in worship to do what no one else in the world can do: to proclaim that Jesus has come, that He has shed His blood for the world's sins, that He has risen from the dead for the world's salvation, and that He is constantly among us offering Himself for our eternal life. Here, through the Apostles' teaching, in the fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in our prayer, we hear the voice of the Shepherd, and the work of the Good Shepherd doesn't stop here! The Good Shepherd also provides and cares for the world, and He does it through your witness to the Risen Christ, through your forgiveness of others, through your faith lived out in real life, and expressed in the everyday opportunities God gives you to love another.

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*

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

NEW! Fourth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 25

- 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 26

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

Wednesday, April 29

- 11:30 a.m. (Holy Communion)



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.

In addition to our Genesis class, we have added an additional adult Bible class:

- ***Abiding in the Vine***

The class is designed to be a connection to The Story Continues visioning process. We will explore the Christian life as one rooted wholly in Christ and sustained by His grace. Participants will consider how discipleship begins not with our effort, but with our Lord's saving work, and how repentance,

formation, and sanctification flow from His mercy rather than from human striving. Grounded in Scripture, this study offers clear teaching, thoughtful discussion, and scriptural encouragement for those who desire to grow in faith while remaining anchored in the promises of Christ.

Leader: Stephen Bornheimer

Location: Brandt Hall: April 19 & 26/Lower Level of Ebenezer: May 3-17

NEW! Pastor's Bible Study Online



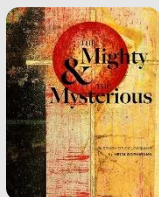
Each week, Pastors Eggold and Sheaffer lead a video Bible Study based on the Readings for the coming Sunday. Click [here](#) to view this week's study, as well as over 300 more video Bible Studies led by our pastors.

NEW! Sunday School Update

In Sunday School, we are wrapping up our time together with a new song called *Your Word is Growing Me*. If you'd like to play the song at home, click this [link](#). As we learn the song, we would love to have the preschool class join us for Sunday School opening in the gym at 9:15 a.m. Lastly, please mark your calendars to join us in worship on Sunday, May 17, at the 8:00 a.m. service as the Sunday School will be sharing our song with you!



NEW! Summer Bible Study for Women



Looking for an evening women's Bible study this summer? Join us for *Summer in the Word*—a welcoming space for fellowship, encouragement, and growth in God's Word. We'll gather in the lower level of Ebenezer from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on:

- **June 2, 16, 30**
- **July 14, 28**
- **August 11**

Led by Liz Bejot and Sarah Pennekamp, this study will explore *The Mighty and the Mysterious*, a study on the book of Colossians by Heidi Goehmann. The book can be purchased [here](#). We would love to have you join us!

THANK YOU & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! Congregational Meeting on April 26

We will hold a brief congregational meeting **tomorrow, Sunday, April 26**, following the 10:30 a.m. service. Updates will be provided on the *In All Generations* campaign as well as *The Story Continues* visioning process. Childcare will be offered for this meeting. Please register [here](#) for childcare. The meeting guide can be found [here](#).



NEW! Williams Family Looking Forward to Vicarage



This **Tuesday, April 28**, the William family will learn where Wes will serve his vicarage. Click [here](#) to read their letter of thanks.

NEW! Thank You

Dear Emmanuel Members, Especially the Wednesday Bible Class Members,
Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and cards during my recent surgery. Your words of encouragement and support are greatly appreciated.
Pastor Arnie Piering

NEW! A Call for Help from Ethiopia

Over the last year, Emmanuel member Heidi Wilkinson has been serving in Ethiopia with Mission for Christ Network. In the course of her work, she has become friends with a woman named Mercy who has had significant health challenges. Heidi reached out to Emmanuel, asking the members of our congregation to contribute toward her medical care. You can find out more about Mercy [here](#). If you would like to donate to help Mercy, please use your offering envelope and designate the amount of your gift on the “Other” line of the envelope.



The Story Continues



Our congregational planning process continues to move forward. Our Vision Team and staff are currently holding listening sessions for groups within our congregation. During May, we will also ask our members to complete a survey to help identify strengths and areas for growth in our ministry. Please keep this process in your prayers and look for ways you can contribute as *The Story Continues*. **If you would like to schedule a personal interview with one of the Vision Team members to give input to the process, please contact Pastor Eggold.** Learn more about *The Story Continues* [here](#).

NEW! The Story Continues—Over 60 Listening Session

For all those around 60 or over in our congregation, consider joining a listening session to consider your ideas as part of our visioning process as *The Story Continues*. Sign up at the Connections Counter and take a list of the questions we will consider. Meet in Lower Ebenezer on **Tuesday, May 12**, from 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Save the Dates For Photos

It's time for a new Pictorial Directory! Dates for picture taking will be **July 21-25** and **July 28-August 1**. More information about the directory and how to register to have your picture taken will be forthcoming.

GET INVOLVED

NEW! Lutheran Women in Mission

Just a friendly reminder that April's Lutheran Women in Mission meeting will be held in Lower Ebenezer on **Thursday, April 30**, 1:00-3:00 p.m. This will allow us to prepare our gifts for our Emmanuel confirmands before their Confirmation on Sunday May 3.

Additionally, May's meeting will be a field trip to [Worship Anew](#) on the Concordia Theological Seminary campus, **Thursday, May 7**, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Those who wish to carpool may meet at Emmanuel between noon and 12:30 p.m. to travel together.

We hope to see you!

Visual Faith

Our next Visual Faith Workshop is an open studio night to work on any project you'd like. Whether you have an unfinished *Words From the Upper Room* journal, a Thanksgiving garland, or even an Advent project, this workshop is for you. We will also have Faith Mail available, so you can create and send something to whoever is on your heart. Join us **Tuesday, May 5**, 6:00-8:00 p.m. This is an excellent opportunity to come see what Visual Faith is all about. Bring a friend and sign up at the Connections Counter or click [here](#).



Join the Emmanuel Golf League



The Emmanuel Golf League begins **Wednesday, May 6**, at 5:30 p.m. Weather permitting, the league plays weekly at Brookwood Golf Club on Bluffton Road through the month of October. It costs \$28 to play nine holes with a cart. If you have questions, please contact Fred Peterson (260.437.2885) or Mike Huesner (260.416.1380).

NEW! First Impressions

Ladies, you're invited to join us for our final First Impressions gathering of the regular season before we transition into summer socials! On **Wednesday, May 6**, from 6:00-7:30 p.m., in Ebenezer Hall, we'll share a meal together as we celebrate the gift of friendship and give thanks for many who faithfully serve and support the ministry of Emmanuel. We'd love to have you join us!

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.

NEW! Emmanuel's Vacation Bible School

June 22-26

9:00 a.m.-Noon

Step back in time with us this summer as we travel to ancient Rome for an unforgettable VBS adventure! Kids will explore what life was like for early Christians and discover how God's love and faithfulness are always with us—no matter where we go.



- Registration is now open, and we can't wait for your children to join us! [Register here](#).
- We're also looking for volunteers to help bring this experience to life—there's a place for everyone to serve. [Sign up here](#).
- Plus, if you'd like to support VBS in another way, check out our Amazon wish list to help us gather supplies. [Shop here](#).

Please reach out to Liz Bejot, Director of Children's Ministry with any questions at LBejot@emmanuelutheran.org.

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.

IN THE COMMUNITY

St. Michael Lutheran Church is Hiring

As our ministry continues to grow and evolve, we are taking thoughtful steps to ensure we are well positioned to support both our current needs and future opportunities. We are in the process of hiring for two new roles: Facilities & Grounds Manager and Administrative Office Support. To learn more or apply, click [here](#).

Bridge 20/30 Group Invites Young Adults to Connect

The Bridge 20/30 Group is excited to announce its [April 2026 Event Schedule](#), offering meaningful opportunities for young adults in their 20s and 30s to build community, grow in faith, and enjoy connection in a welcoming environment. Connect with us: Facebook: [Bridge 20/30 Group Ft. Wayne](#); Instagram: [@thebridge2030](#); Email: dschuller@clhscadets.com

Health Fair and 5K



[The Shepherd's Hand Community Outreach Center](#), 1231 S Anthony Blvd., is excited to invite you to sign up for 5K run/walk on **Saturday, May 2**. We will also be hosting our annual health fair on the same day. Learn more [here](#).

Lutherhaven Cross Country Camp

Check out the new running focused camp for grades 4-8 at Camp Lutherhaven this year, **June 14-19**. A sports camp for endurance athletes, this week is a great opportunity for runners. Led by cross country coaches and collegiate athletes, campers will learn about running technique, what futures in running can look like, and improve their fitness. Learn more [here](#) (scroll toward the bottom of the page).

LutheRun Summer Registration Now Open

LutheRun is open to all Lutheran school students and Lutheran homeschooled students entering grades 4-8 in the Fort Wayne area. All levels of runners are encouraged to participate. This will be a time of building what we call “base” miles and strengthening our bodies for the fall season.



- **When:**
June 29-July 30
Mondays & Thursdays
5:30-7:00 p.m.

- **Where:**
Mondays at Concordia Theological Seminary, 6600 N. Clinton Street, 46825
Thursdays at Concordia Theological Seminary and at various Fort Wayne Parks, Details coming soon!
- **Cost:**
\$100: 1st child in family
\$85: 2nd child in family
\$70: 3rd child in family.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Questions? Contact Janet Smith at smithje0512@gmail.com or Coach Hendrickson at hendricksoncm@gmail.com.

RESOURCES

NEW! Mental Health Moment



Teen's brains grow so rapidly; [here](#) are ways to support that growth.

NEW! Project Connect

This week's booklet is [35 Character-Building Prayers for My Grandchild](#). Heartfelt petitions address traits like courage, humility, and respect. Scripture reinforces each prayer and space is available for personal reflection.

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



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