



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Building faith in the city*

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## NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: May 2, 2026

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*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*On Sunday, 17 young men and women from our congregation will confirm the gifts God bestowed upon them in Holy Baptism. In their own voices, they will make a confession of their faith and pledge to “suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it.” This dramatic vow seems impossible in a world that is so opposed to Christ and yet, this bold confession, spoken from sinful mouths, is given credence by the same God who creates, redeems, and brings life from death. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the impossible has become possible, and we can take heart and confess our faith with confidence.*

*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*

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

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### **NEW!** Fifth Sunday of Easter

#### **Saturday, May 2**

- 5:00 p.m. (Confirmand Witness & Holy Communion)

#### **Sunday, May 3**

- 8:00 a.m.
- 10:30 a.m. (Rite of Confirmation & Holy Communion)

#### **Wednesday, May 6**

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



### **NEW!** Please Pray for Our Confirmands

The following youth will be confirmed **tomorrow, Sunday, May 3**, during the 10:30 a.m. service. We welcome these young brothers and sisters in Christ as fellow members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Teagan Lee Arkelin  
William Philip Arthur II  
Lincoln Robert Bruce  
Colin August Creutz  
Robert Martin Frye  
Francis Thomas Green

Sophia Marie Herber  
Samuel Marcus Hoffman  
Carter Ryan Johnson  
Brenna Elizabeth Kelley  
Elijah Joseph Kenjorski  
Layla Noelle Longworth

Kennedy Rose Paetz  
Jada Grace Rodgers  
Hudson Lee Steele  
Annabelle Rose Stellwagen  
Aelah Mae Vandercar

### **NEW! 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. **Please note locations our adult Bible studies for tomorrow, Sunday, May 3:**

- *Abiding in the Vine*: Brandt Hall
- *Genesis*: Ebenezer (Lower Level)

### **NEW! Pastor's Bible Study Online**



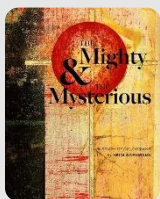
Each week, Pastors Eggold and Sheaffer lead a video Bible Study based on the Readings for the coming Sunday. Click [here](#) to view this week's study, as well as over 300 more video Bible Studies led by our pastors.

### **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!



### **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!

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## **THANK YOU & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **NEW! Emmanuel Fieldworker Receives Vicarage Placement**

On Tuesday, one of Emmanuel's current fieldworkers received his Vicarage Placement. He will be serving at University Lutheran Chapel, Minneapolis. Our congratulations and prayers go out to Brad!



### **NEW! Williams Family Looking Forward to Vicarage**



On Tuesday Wes and his family learned he will be serving his vicarage at Faith Lutheran Church, Churubusco. May God bless Wes, his family, and the members of Faith as he prepares to serve his vicarage.

Click [here](#) to read their letter of thanks.

## 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](#).

## 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.

## **NEW!** Lost & Found

A lost and found table has been set up at the steps leading to Ebenezer. Please take a moment to check and retrieve any belongings that may be yours.

## 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.

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# GET INVOLVED

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## **NEW!** Join Us for Games

Game On is a monthly table game group. Join us in Ebenezer Hall on **Tuesday, May 5**, 1:00-3:00 p.m., for a Kentucky Derby-themed horse racing game, food, and fellowship. Sign up at the Connections Counter, or just come and bring a friend.

## 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).

## 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!

## **NEW!** Lunch Bunch

Our next Emmanuel Lunch Bunch activity for our members around 60 or over will be **Tuesday, May 19**, when our special guest speaker will be Maizy King, the Director of Wellness at Lutheran Life Villages Residential Living. She will share a practical presentation on wellness, exercise, and fall prevention. She will also share simple strategies to improve strength, balance, and confidence in everyday movement, a huge factor in helping you stay independent and active.

We will gather during fellowship time, which starts at 11:00 a.m. in the lower level of Ebenezer Hall. Lunch is 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, May 15.** The lunch cost is \$10.00 per person, payable that day. Hoping to see a good turnout to welcome our special guest speaker Maizy King.

## 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](mailto:becki@emmanuellutheran.org).

## 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@emmanuellutheran.org](mailto:LBejot@emmanuellutheran.org).

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

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### **NEW! Retirement Celebration**

Join us in celebrating Mrs. Jewell LaBrash on her retirement. She will be recognized at Emmanuel on **Sunday, May 10**, at the 8:00 a.m. service with reception to follow. You may bring any notes or gifts to the reception or drop them off at either school office prior to the 10th.

### **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](mailto:eclark@esmeagles.com), [www.esmeagles.com](http://www.esmeagles.com).

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## IN THE COMMUNITY

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### **NEW! Bridge 20/30 Group Invites Young Adults to Connect**



The Bridge 20/30 Group is celebrating its 1-Year Anniversary this month and invites young adults in their 20s and 30s to join in a month of community-building events. The Bridge exists to connect young adults through faith, friendship, and meaningful relationships in the Fort Wayne area.

**Featured Event:** Bridge Summer Kickoff Social

**When:** Tuesday, May 19, 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** The Garden, 3308 N. Anthony Blvd.

Celebrate one year of Bridge with an exciting evening of speed meet networking, volleyball, and backyard games as we welcome back college students and kick off the summer season. Attendees are encouraged to bring a friend.

See the rest of the May events [here](#).

Connect with us: Facebook: [Bridge 20/30 Group Ft. Wayne](#); Instagram: [@thebridge2030](#);

Email: [dschuller@clhscadets.com](mailto:dschuller@clhscadets.com)

### **NEW! Lutherans for Life**

Our next meeting will be **Friday, May 8**, 9:30 a.m., at Emmanuel. Pastor Larry Hencye, our spiritual advisor, will lead us in Bible Study.

### **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](mailto:smithje0512@gmail.com) or Coach Hendrickson at [hendricksoncm@gmail.com](mailto:hendricksoncm@gmail.com).

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## RESOURCES

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### **NEW!** Mental Health Moment



There are key differences between calling 988 or 911. People may not always know when to reach out for behavioral health support versus emergency service. See an explanation [here](#).

### **NEW!** Project Connect

This week's booklet is [35 Character-Building Prayers for My Grandchild Vol.2](#). 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!



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