



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Building faith in the city

NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: May 9, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this weekend's Gospel reading, Jesus promises, "I will not leave you as orphans." Here, Jesus identifies the fear of abandonment the disciples faced as He prepared to leave them, and it connects to our own struggles, doubts, and tendency to wander from God. Yet, even when we leave Him, Christ does not leave us. Through His cross, resurrection, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, Jesus keeps His promise to come to us, forgive us, dwell with us, and hold us as children of the Father. Therefore, our faith rests not in our strength but in Christ's presence and promise: because He lives, we also will live.

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 of Easter

Saturday, May 9

- 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 10

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

Wednesday, May 13

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



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.

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.

NEW! Location Changes for EYG & Sunday School Tomorrow

Tomorrow, Sunday, May 10:

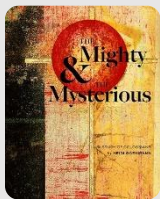
- EYG and 8th grade Confirmation will gather in the lower level of Ebenezer.
- Preschool-5th grade Sunday School classes will meet and stay in the cafeteria. Please pick up kiddos from the cafeteria at 10:15 a.m.
- 6th and 7th Grade and Little Flock will meet in their regular classrooms.
- *Genesis Adult Bible Study* returns to the Sanctuary and *Abiding in the Vine* remains in Brandt Hall.

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!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! The Story Continues—Congregational Survey

As part of Emmanuel's 2026 planning process, we are inviting members and regular attendees to complete a short congregational survey. We are grateful for the many signs of health and growth in the congregation, and we want an honest snapshot of where we are today so we can steward our resources wisely and thrive in the future. You are welcome to skip any question you don't feel equipped to answer. This survey is also one tool among several, alongside listening sessions and personal conversations. Thank you for helping us listen well as *The Story Continues*. You can access the survey [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.

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!

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.

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.

GET INVOLVED

NEW! Clay & Iron

ALL MEN: Our quarterly Friends and Family Brunch is next **Saturday, May 16**, 9:00-11:00 a.m. It will take place in the lower level of Ebenezer. You don't need to bring anything but yourself (and family or friends if you like). I will email a sign up for carry-in/potluck items on Monday so please watch for that.

Also: we are renewing a focus on SERVICE, especially to our Emmanuel community. Let me know if you'd like to receive notice of ways you can help. Several of our older members are moving this spring and could use a helping hand or two. Connect with Billy at 260.440.4945 Walk humbly; stand firm.



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@emmanuelutheran.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@emmanuelutheran.org.

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

NEW! Retirement Celebration

Join us in celebrating Mrs. Jewell LaBrash on her retirement. She will be recognized at Emmanuel **tomorrow, Sunday, May 10**, at the 8:00 a.m. service with reception to follow.

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

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

NEW! CTSFW Golf Outing

On **Friday, May 29**, alumni, students, community members, and friends of Concordia Theological Seminary--Fort Wayne (CTSFW) are invited to our annual Golf Outing at Noble Hawk Golf Links.

Proceeds from the event will help fund the construction of a new Food and Clothing Co-op for students and their families. Thanks to a gift from a generous donor, all proceeds from the event will be matched! Learn more and register [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).

LutherRun Summer Registration Now Open

LutherRun 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



Moms do it all! Take some time to support yourself. Ideas are [here](#). Dads encourage the moms in your life to do this. Sometimes they feel they can't, and they need the encouragement.

NEW! Nurturing Your Faith: Journey Through Anxiety—Session 1

Based on the Project Connect booklet, *Journey Through Anxiety*, this Bible study considers anxiety's heavy impact on our wellbeing. Just as sin splintered our relationship with God, so too has it caused stress in our lives, leading us often to problematic responses based on worry and fear. But anxiety can be managed by taking action to address the issues and by leaning into God's love and power to see us through to a successful outcome. This [link](#) connects you to a two-minute video that provides an overview of the series and, on the same page, the link to download the video Bible study.



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