



NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: July 4, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Though it is our nature to try and solve paradoxes and resolve contrasts, the path of faith is to appreciate what each reveals to us and to trust in the Lord for all things. This weekend our readings present paradoxes and contrasts that we receive in faith in the middle of things of this world that seem to challenge them. We might find it frustrating to chafe under the tension of what is and what should be, yet even in these moments coming to Jesus leads us to discern the gracious will of God in Him and rejoice of His easy yoke. Thanks be to God.

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! Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Saturday, July 4

- 5:00 p.m. (Holy Communion)

Sunday, July 5

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

Wednesday, July 8

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



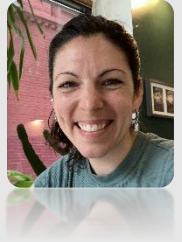
Special Music for Independence Day Weekend



America's 250th Anniversary is quickly approaching, and our Music Ministry is preparing special music for the **Sunday, July 5**, worship services. The Adult Choir and Brass Choir will lead unique arrangements of familiar hymns and songs, many drawn from the *Lutheran Service Book* and *Lutheran Worship* hymnal. Plan to arrive a few minutes early to enjoy a special sing-along! Our **Saturday, July 4**, service will also feature hymns and songs commemorating our nation's independence.

NEW! Missionary Heidi Wilkinson to Give Ministry Minute This Weekend

Emmanuel member and missionary to Ethiopia, Heidi Wilkinson, will address the congregation tomorrow in the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services. She will also be available to talk about her experience in Addis Ababa last year following each service.



NEW! Summer Christian Education

Check out our summer, adult Sunday and Weekday Bible classes [here](#). Our Youth Sunday School classes will resume in September. We have a new adult Bible Study that runs through August 23:

Abiding in the Vine

June 28-August 23

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.

Leaders: Stephen Bornheimer, Pastor Eggold, Pastor Sheafer

Location: Lower Level Ebenezer

Playground Playdates



Join us for some summer fun at Krueckeberg Corner playground! All kids and their families are invited for a special time of fellowship and play. These low-key gatherings are a great way to enjoy the outdoors and connect with other families. We will gather from 9:15-10:15 a.m. on the following Sundays:

•July 5, 19

•August 2, 16

We can't wait to see you there!

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.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & THANK YOU

NEW! Can You Help?

We are looking for friendly volunteers to serve as hosts and hostesses at Emmanuel to welcome and sign in members who have scheduled appointments for their church directory photos. You may have already received a text message and email with instructions to register to help through Breeze. If you did not receive either message or need assistance scheduling your appointment, please contact the church office, 260.423.1369, and ask for Becki or Carolyn. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you are using your cell phone to schedule your appointment and the scheduling page will not open, turn off your Wi-Fi and try again using your cellular data.

Pictorial Directory—Gathering Families, Connecting Generations

Sign up is now available for Emmanuel's new Pictorial Directory photo sessions. You can schedule your appointment by following the instructions below:

1. Go to website www.ucdir.com
2. Click on the RED box that is located on the right side of the homepage entitled "Photography Appointment Scheduling Login"
3. Enter your church code: in2038
4. Enter your church password: photos2038
5. Select your preferred photography date and appointment time.

****If you have more than six family members, you must reserve two appointments consecutively (such as 6:00 and 6:10 p.m.).**

If you need assistance, please call the church office at 260.423.1369 and ask for Becki or Carolyn.

NEW! Reformation Treasures Return to Emmanuel



Rare Reformation-era books donated by a lifelong Emmanuel family are returning to the city from a major university collection. The donated books and other historically significant books that influenced and reflected the Protestant Reformation will be on exhibit at Emmanuel, **July 25 and 26**, in Ebenezer Hall, before returning to the Kessler Collection housed in the Pitts Theology Library at Emory University in Atlanta.

The theme of the exhibit is "From Latin to the People: Reforming Worship in 16th-Century Germany." Dr. Richard "Bo" Manly Adams, Director of the Pitts Library, and Dr. Armin Siedlecki, Head of Rare Book Cataloging, have organized the exhibit and will be giving a multimedia lecture

on **Saturday, July 25, 2:00 p.m.**, in Emmanuel's Sanctuary.

The exhibit will include 16th-century catechisms, period Bibles, a 1526 printing of Luther's *Deutsche Messe*, and earlier tracts influencing Luther's Order of Service, including the Lord's Supper. Also on display will be historic records of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, and historical photos and artifacts of the Dornseif family, who brought the books to America as German immigrants in the mid-1800s and who eventually settled in Fort Wayne. Members of the extended Dornseif family have attended Emmanuel for four generations.

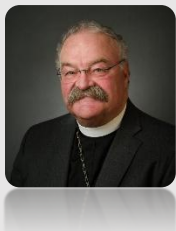
The exhibit will be open to the public on July 25, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Learn more [here](#).

Vacation Bible School Recap

What a week! One hundred and five children explored the ancient world and, more importantly, discovered the timeless truth of God's love. Sixty faithful volunteers made it all possible, pouring their time and hearts into every child who walked through our doors. To our Emmanuel family—thank you for your prayers, your support, and your servant hearts. To God be all the glory!



Harrison Elected to Sixth Term as LCMS President



The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, having received more than 50% of the votes cast in the third ballot for the election of the president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is the president-elect for the 2026–2029 triennium. It will be his sixth term in office. Read more [here](#).

GET INVOLVED

LWM/LWML Meeting with Guest Speaker Heidi Wilkinson

Date: Thursday, July 9

Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Location: Lower Ebenezer

Women of Lutheran Women in Mission support the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Through prayer, Bible study, and service, women of LWM make a difference in people's lives worldwide.

Organizations helped in the last year by LWM grant support include:

- Mobilizing After School Care for Teens—Our Place After School Care Inc., Hastings, Nebraska: \$69,500
- Scholarships to Support International Deaconesses—Tanzania—Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne: \$100,000

What to expect at the meeting:

- A warm welcome and fellowship with other women of faith.
- Bible Study: Interactive Bible Study led by Judy May, Bibles and worksheets available for those who need them.
- Special Guest Speaker: Heidi Wilkinson will give us highlights from her past year's ministry in Ethiopia!

Visual Faith

There will be no Visual Faith workshop in July. We will resume on **Tuesday, August 4**. Visual Faith is a simple and creative way to slow down with God's Word through prayer, Scripture, journaling, and other hands-on practices. No artistic experience is needed—just a desire to reflect, pray, and grow in faith. All are welcome to join us when we gather again in August. Have a wonderful summer!



IN THE COMMUNITY

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



Bridge 20/30 is a Christian young adult group for adults in their 20s and 30s focused on building community, friendships, faith, and fellowship through social events, devotion nights, and activities throughout the Fort Wayne area. New participants are always welcome! **See the July events [here](#).**

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

Lutherans for Life

Our next Lutherans for Life meeting is **Friday, July 10**, 9:30 a.m., at Emmanuel. Our guest speaker is Toni Lovell, Director of Clinical Services at Lutheran Social Services of Indiana, on the topic of senior addiction. She will highlight why older adults are uniquely vulnerable to developing substance use disorders. It explores how life transitions such as retirement, grief, social isolation, chronic health conditions, and increased medication use can contribute to addiction risk. All are welcome to attend.

RESOURCES

NEW! Mental Health Moment

Teen dating can bring up complicated issues. [Here](#) is a good website for teens to learn how to set boundaries, break up in healthy ways, and build healthy relationships.



NEW! Project Connect



Project Connect's [Journey Through Anxiety](#) booklet series is the basis for Lutheran Hour Ministries' next Nurturing Your Faith Bible study. These texts explore anxiety, depression, entanglements, and life's rat race. Each booklet's focus will be highlighted and presented in a single Bible study corresponding with and available in the four 2026 issues of [The Lutheran Layman](#). Each installment features supporting Scriptures, commentary, reflection questions, video, and more.

The study's video host will be Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, speaker of The Lutheran Hour. He will interview Rev. Dr. Rick Marrs, senior professor of practical theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, who has extensive experience in pastoral care and Christian counseling. Learn more [here](#).

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.***