



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Building faith in the city

NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: August 22, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christianity is not about what is in your heart, it's about what's in God's! To put it another way, we don't look to ourselves for salvation; we look to Christ. In Christ, we see the heart of God, and, "upon this rock," Jesus told Peter, "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not overcome it!" Today, you are blessed because the Father in heaven has revealed this gift to you and you can rejoice in the Rock of your salvation.

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! 13th Sunday After Pentecost

Saturday, August 22

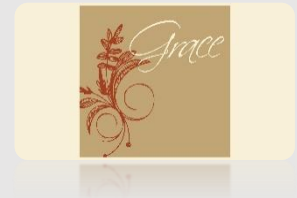
- 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 23

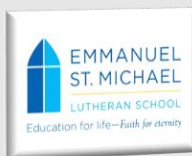
- 8:00 a.m. (Holy Communion)
- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, August 26

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



NEW! Join Us for Emmanuel—St. Michael (ESM) Sunday



ESM Sunday at Emmanuel will be hosted **tomorrow, Sunday, August 23** at the 10:30 a.m. service, which will include the dedication of Emmanuel member Jennifer Barnes as Student Support Specialist. Grades K-8 are invited to sing. There will be an open house in the school and a small reception for fellowship during the education hour. We pray God's blessings on the new school year!

Learn About Destiny Rescue at Emmanuel on Sunday, August 30

On **Sunday, August 30**, Destiny Rescue will join us for our Mission Sunday. Destiny Rescue is a global organization dedicated to rescuing children from sexual exploitation and human trafficking and equipping them to stay free. Amy Johns serves as the Director of Strategic Partnerships at Destiny Rescue and recently traveled to Thailand and Cambodia to visit Destiny



Rescue's frontline teams. Amy will share first-hand stories of both the heartbreaking realities children face and the incredible hope that rescue brings.

During our Sunday School hour, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Amy will explain the global crisis of child trafficking, share how God is working through Destiny Rescue, and offer practical ways we can partner in bringing freedom and restoration to vulnerable children. This Mission Sunday is being hosted by Emmanuel's Lutherans for Life and Mission Task Force groups and will take place in the lower level of Ebenezer Hall. To learn more before Amy's visit, please visit DestinyRescue.org.

NEW! Christian Education Kickoff

As Bible classes, Sunday School, and Confirmation begin for the fall, we invite the entire congregation to come together for a morning of fellowship on **Sunday, September 13**. Join us as we gather to reconnect after the summer, meet teachers and leaders, and look ahead with excitement to a new season of growing together in God's Word.

- **9:15-10:15 a.m.**
ALL are encouraged to join us in the gym;
Food, coffee, and fellowship;
Bounce House;
Information about Bible classes and other activities starting up.
- **10:30 Worship**
Second-grade home resource presentation;
Dedication of Confirmation families;
Dedication/Installation of Christian Education leaders.

NEW! Fall Christian Education

On **Sunday, September 20**, we will begin our Sunday morning Christian Education Hour, 9:15-10:15 a.m. There are classes for children through adult.

Some of the highlights include:

- Sunday School for Little Flock-Fifth Grade
- Confirmation classes for Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade
- High School Bible Study
- *Lutheran Christianity* (Adults)
- *Study of Ephesians* (Adults)

We will also offer weekday studies that include:

- LifeLight Bible Class
- Pastor's Bible Study
- Several Bible studies for men and women of all ages.

Click [here](#) for the Fall 2026 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.

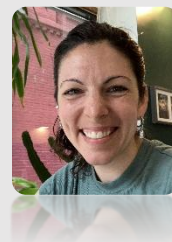
GET INVOLVED

NEW! Food Bank Needs Donations

Thank you for your continued support of Emmanuel's Food Bank. We are grateful for both the food and financial donations we receive. At this time, we are especially in need of adult incontinence products in medium, large, and extra-large sizes, for both men and women. We are also in need of canned meat and cereal. If you can donate any of these items, please bring them to the church office. Thank you!

Journey to Ethiopia Dessert Night

Join us this **Thursday, August 27**, 6:30-7:30 p.m., in Ebenezer Hall for a special evening with missionary Heidi Wilkinson. Heidi will share a brief presentation about her past 10 months of ministry in Ethiopia and how you can be part of the journey as she prepares to return in September. All ages are welcome! Come hear about Heidi's work, enjoy dessert, and spend time in fellowship together. Please RSVP for this event by emailing Heidi at heidi.wilkinson@missionofchrist.org.



Visual Faith Workshop: Whispers to God



Join us on **Tuesday, September 1**, 6:00-8:00 p.m., and be ready to create! Participants of all ages and skill levels will make an envelope journal—a special place to tuck away written prayers and “whispers” to God. Sign up at the Connections Counter. We look forward to creating and praying with you!

Emmanuel's Men's Ministry “Clay & Iron”

All of our men should be getting weekly devotions as well as updates about upcoming gatherings, service projects, prayer requests, special needs, and more.

If you are not receiving these and you wish to be added, email will.hofman@gmail.com.

Dates to note:

- **Tuesday, September 1**
Fellowship and Study
7:00 p.m.
The Loft
- **Friday, September 11**
Retired Old Men Eating Out (ROMEO)
11:30 a.m.
- **Sunday, September 13**
Help set up for Education Sunday
- **Saturday, September 19**
Built to Build Men's Breakfast
Led by Pastor Eggold
8:00 a.m.
Ebenezer Lower Level

Walk humbly; stand firm.



NEW! Interested in Joining Choir?



The Adult Choir is starting a brand new season and we'd love for YOU to be a part of it! We start weekly rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 2**, 6:30-8:00 p.m. A schedule will be handed out along with other information regarding the year ahead. Contact Matt Johnston, 260.229.1387, for any questions or the need for childcare. No auditions. No pressure. Just music, fellowship, and a whole lot of joy. Come sing with us!

NEW! Emmanuel's LWM/LWML Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 3

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

Location: Lower Ebenezer

What is LWM?

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

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

- Shining a Bright Gospel Light: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church & School, Mobile, Alabama—\$78,675
- Redeeming Life New Moms & Babies Transition Home: Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, Illinois—\$100,000
- Sharing Faith & Food with Single Mothers: Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas—\$38,800

What to expect at the meeting:

- A warm welcome and fellowship with other women of faith.
- **Bible Study:** 1:00-2:00 p.m. This interactive study is led by Judy May. Study handouts are available at the meeting.
- **Service Project:** 2:00-3:00 p.m. We work on fun, practical, hands-on projects that make a difference in people's lives: locally, nationally, and globally. Materials and instruction are provided, and the projects are completed during each meeting: "many hands make light the work."

Looking for a Way to Make a Difference? Join PALS!

Do you have a heart for connecting with kids? Are you patient, a good listener, and enjoy sharing the love of Jesus? If so, we'd love to have you join the next session of PALS!

Peer Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS) is a ministry of Emmanuel that partners with Washington Elementary to support 2nd and 3rd graders. Each week for eight weeks, these students join us in Ebenezer Hall, where we share snacks, explore the love of Jesus, read, and play together. Your time and kindness can make a lasting impact. Join us in this rewarding ministry!



- **Dates:**
September 9 (training), 16, 23, & 30
October 7, 14, 21 (NOT 10/28)
November 4 & 11
- **Time:** 3:30-5:00 p.m. (Other than training 9/9, which will be from 3:30-4:30 p.m.)
- **Location:** Ebenezer Hall
- **Who can volunteer?** Any adult, high school student, along with 7th and 8th graders are welcome to apply.

Click this [link](#) to apply and feel free to email Liz Bejot at LBejot@emmanuelutheran.org with any questions.

NEW! Lunch Bunch



Inviting everyone around 60 or over to join us for Lunch Bunch as we kick off another season of food, fun, and fellowship. Our first meeting will be **Tuesday, September 15**, with fellowship beginning at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch served at noon prepared by our familiar cook Tammy. The cost for the Lunch Bunch meal is \$10.00 per person, payable that day in the Lower Level of Ebenezer Hall.

After lunch, our special speaker will be our very own Emmanuel member [Jacob Pennekamp](#) who is the Head of School at Concordia Lutheran High School. Jacob will be sharing an update with us on what is happening these days as students return to Concordia for the fall semester. We look forward to his being with us to kick off our 2026-2027 Lunch Bunch season.

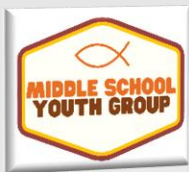
You are encouraged to stop by the Connections Counter in Ebenezer Hall to sign up for this event or call the church office at 260.423.1369, no later than Friday, September 11.

NEW! Men's Ministry Breakfast at Emmanuel

All men are invited to Emmanuel's Built to Build Men's Ministry Breakfast on **Saturday, September 19**, 8:00 a.m., in the lower level of Ebenezer Hall. Pastor Eggold will serve as our speaker as we explore how we are built by God to build up others in the callings He has given us. Through breakfast, conversation, and a practical presentation, we will consider what it means for Christian men to provide, protect, lead, and serve faithfully while first being strengthened by Christ through His Word, worship, prayer, and Christian fellowship. The doors open at 7:45 a.m., and we'll wrap up by 10:00 a.m. Come enjoy breakfast, connect with other men, and consider how God is calling you to build up the people He has placed in your life.



NEW! Middle School Youth Group Activities



Middle School Youth Group is a supportive community where kids grow in faith, build friendships, and have fun together. We're committed to caring for each other and deepening our relationship with God. Join us and be part of our faith-driven group! This Fall's first gathering is:

•**Sunday, September 27**

Welcome Picnic & Kickball

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Meet in Ebenezer Hall

Bring a snack to share.

For more info on upcoming events, click [here](#).

Consider Volunteering with INASMUCH Ministry

For years, Broadway Christian Church's [INASMUCH Ministry](#) has been an arm of mercy in our West Central Neighborhood. Emmanuel has been working to build a partnership with INASMUCH, and their Executive Director, Mary Ann Mings, has approached us with a wonderful opportunity to help with their Circles program in September. Circles cohorts meet weekly and are designed to mentor and walk the journey with someone in situational or generational poverty who could benefit from financial literacy and community building. Amazing things happen when the attendees receive these! Find out more about Circles [here](#).

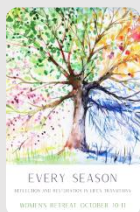


Circles currently needs:

1. Volunteers to serve as a mentor to be paired with one person—it may not be easy, it is very rewarding!
2. Volunteers willing to prepare an evening meal for all the attendees - once or even more! INASMUCH can supply food to cook or reimburse expenses.
3. Volunteers who would like to help us with childcare.

If you are interested, please contact Mary Ann Mings at mmings@gobroadway.org or talk with Pastor Eggold or Pastor Sheaffer.

Emmanuel Women's Retreat



Registration is now open for the 2026 Emmanuel Women's Retreat! Join us **October 10-11**, at the Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park for a weekend of encouragement, fellowship, and time in God's Word, centered on the theme *Every Season: Reflection and Restoration in Life's Transitions*. Our featured speaker is LCMS deaconess, author, and licensed clinical social worker, Heidi Goehmann.

To view the retreat brochure and find details on lodging, food, costs, and the weekend schedule, click [here](#). To register for the event, click [here](#).

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

NEW! Emmanuel—St. Michael (ESM) Match Challenge

The Getz Road campus expansion is underway! This project will add a secure vestibule, music rooms, classrooms, a cafeteria, locker rooms, enhanced school safety, and new preschool programming. ESM has committed a \$300,000 matching gift to honor its partnership with St. Michael. We are asking our parents, grandparents, and alumni to match it!

- **The Goal:** Raise \$300,000 by Christmas break.
- **Student Reward:** If we hit our goal by Christmas break, the entire school will celebrate with special treats!
- **Donate:** Select "ESM Matching Gift" when [giving online](#) or write it on the memo line of your check.
- **Spread the Word:** Share this match opportunity with friends of ESM.

Click [here](#) to learn more!

Thank you for your prayers and support as we invest in the next generation of Eagles!



Craft Fair



Come out and support Emmanuel—St. Michael 8th graders at the Craft Show here at Emmanuel, Saturday, October 24, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be handmade candles, jewelry, soaps, home decor, candies, treats, and more. If you're interested in becoming a vendor, reach out to craftfair@esmeagles.com. Click [here](#) to learn more.

IN THE COMMUNITY

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 August events [here](#).**

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

Email: dschuller@clhscadets.com.



NEW! Lutherhaven Men's Retreat



Men are invited to Camp Lutherhaven for the 2026 Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Retreat, **September 25-27**. The weekend will offer a chance to step away from life's busyness, strengthen your faith, and enjoy Bible study, worship, fellowship, recreation, and time outdoors. Pastor Gabe Kasper will serve as the retreat speaker, with worship led by Chabros Music. Cost ranges from \$50–\$89 depending on lodging, and those who register by September 4 will receive a free retreat T-shirt. Learn more and register [here](#).

RESOURCES

NEW! Mental Health Moment

Back to school means back to stress for many parents and kiddos. Help yourself out by looking at [this](#) first.



NEW! Project Connect



This week's booklet is [Learning to Pray](#). This booklet is geared towards pre-school to third-grade children. It is written in rhyme to teach and encourage children (and Parents) to spend time with God in prayer.

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.***