



NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: September 5, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have been forgiven, and because of this gift we have been given the authority to offer forgiveness to others—not only our personal forgiveness, but also the forgiveness of God! That is the job of the church! We have been justified, we have been sanctified, and we have been called to forgive, and the stakes couldn't be higher. Our actions in this life have eternal ramifications, and when we ignore sin for any reason, we risk losing a sister or brother. But when, by God's power, we step out in love to forgive a brother or sister, we deliver what Jesus accomplished on the cross, and God uses us in ways that have eternal impact.

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! 15th Sunday After Pentecost

Saturday, September 5

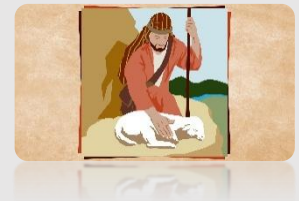
- 5:00 p.m. (Holy Communion)

Sunday, September 6

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

Wednesday, September 9

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



Catechisms for Sixth Graders

As part of the Confirmation process, we are delighted to gift each sixth-grade student their very own Catechism as they take an important step in their faith journey. It's our joy to place this resource in their hands and walk alongside them as they continue to grow in Christ.

We invite you to celebrate this milestone in your child's faith journey during Education **Sunday, September 13**, at the 10:30 a.m. service. At that time, you and your child will be invited to the altar to receive a blessing and their Catechism.

If your child is entering sixth grade this year, please let us know so we can include them. Call the church office at 260.423.1369 or email Liz Bejot, LBejot@emmanuel Lutheran.org.

Bibles & Devotions for Second Graders

We are grateful to continue the tradition of gifting our second-grade students a Bible, and again this year, we are excited to include a devotion book for them to use at home.

Students enrolled at Emmanuel–St. Michael (ESM) received their Bible at Opening Chapel on the first day of school. If your child is a second grader not attending ESM, we would love to give them a *Faith Alive Student Bible* along with the devotion book.

We invite you to celebrate this milestone in your child's faith journey during Education Sunday on **September 13**, at the 10:30 a.m. service. At that time, you and your child will be invited to the altar to receive a blessing and their devotion book.

If your child is entering second grade this year, please let us know so we can include them. Call the church office at 260.423.1369 or email Liz Bejot, LBejot@emmanuelutheran.org.

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;
Presentation of Catechisms for Sixth Graders;
Dedication of Confirmation families;
Dedication/Installation of Christian Education leaders

NEW! 2026-2027 Confirmation Classes



Grades 6-8 Confirmation begins **Sunday, September 20**. If your family has a member in grades 6-8, we encourage you to join the confirmation program at Emmanuel. For more details, click [here](#).

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 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.

GET INVOLVED

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:

- **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.



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.

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.

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.

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.

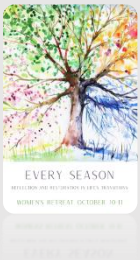
Meet in Ebenezer Hall

Bring a snack to share.

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



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)

Emmanuel—St. Michael 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. Emmanuel—St. Michael (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!

IN THE COMMUNITY

Bridge 20/30 Group Invites Young Adults to Connect



Bridge 20/30 invites young adults in their 20s and 30s to join us for fellowship, faith, and fun this September! **See the September events [here](#).**

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

Email: dschuller@clhscadets.com.

NEW! Volunteers Needed for the West Central Home and Garden Tour on September 12 and 13

Each year, a small group of West Central residents work together to plan, orchestrate, and coordinate the annual Home & Garden Tour. There is still a need for volunteers to work the event on **September 12 and 13**. To learn more and register to volunteer, click [here](#).



NEW! Lutherans for Life

- **Lutherans for Life Meeting**

Friday, September 11

9:00 a.m.

Brandt Hall

Guest Speaker: Cathie Humbarger, former director of Right to Life of Northeast Indiana. She will address legislative issues in Indiana. We welcome visitors.

- **[National Day of Remembrance](#)**

Saturday, September 12

2:00 p.m.

Catholic Cemetery, 3500 Lake Ave, Fort Wayne

Join us as we remember the lives lost to abortion in 2025.

- [Strides of Hope Walkathon](#)

Saturday, October 10

9:00 a.m.

Morsches Park, 1035 E State Road 205, Columbia City

Your support provides A Hope Center's free services to the community. A great event for the whole family!

- [Annual Right to Life of Northeast Indiana Banquet](#)

Monday, October 12

6:30 p.m.

Memorial Coliseum

This year, we are honored to welcome keynote speaker Kayleigh McEnany, along with a testimony from David Scotton. McEnany is a former White House press secretary and currently hosts *Saturday in America* and co-hosts *Outnumbered* on Fox News Channel. Scotton is a practicing attorney and adoption advocate whose own adoption story inspired Kirk Cameron's movie, *Lifemark*. If you are interested in attending, please contact Carolyn Beitz at 260.433.7188 for more information.

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](#).

Oktoberfest

The Friends of Wyneken will host an Oktoberfest at the Wyneken House, 11730 NW Winchester Road, Decatur, on **Saturday, September 26**, 5:00-9:00 p.m. There will be German and American food, beverages, a silent auction, live music by the duo String Theory, and tours of the historic Wyneken House. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Additional information can be found on the [Friends of Wyneken Facebook page](#) or by calling/texting 260.437.0420.

NEW! Lutheran Singles Weekend

On **October 9-11**, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, single adults, ages 21-40, are invited to a weekend of fellowship, worship, and connection at Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church, Zionsville, Indiana. For more details on lodging assistance for out-of-town guests and registration information, click [here](#).

RESOURCES

NEW! Mental Health Moment

Grandparents! Want ways to support your family and grandchildren? Click [here](#)!



NEW! Project Connect



This week's booklet is [Rediscovering Jesus: Exploring Meaning and Purpose at College](#).

College is supposed to be where we figure out life and plan for the future. But what we really hope to find is something more—an authentic purpose bigger than coursework. And if we're really daring, something that helps transform the world. That impulse is noble. This booklet shows you how you could act on it. There's someone worth learning from—someone more committed to bringing real beauty into this broken world than anyone in history. Consider that

Jesus might help you find what you're searching for: a way to make a real difference, to bring beauty to a world in need.

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.***