



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Building faith in the city

NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: September 19, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On the surface, the parable of the laborers in the vineyard seems wrong. Shouldn't the worker receive the wages he or she deserves for his or her time and labor? It offends our sense of fair play that one who worked less should receive the same as one who worked more. If you only focus on the perspective of the laborer, that might seem true, but if you focus on the generosity of the vineyard owner, you get a very different perspective. God's mercy is not the reward for our labor but a pure gift of grace given to those who deserve none of His kindness. When you begin to look at this parable from that perspective, God's abundant generosity becomes clear. The Lord does what none of us would do—forgives all our sins, no matter how great, and bestows upon us the mercy and salvation we did nothing to earn and could never deserve.

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! 17th Sunday After Pentecost

Saturday, September 19

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

Sunday, September 20

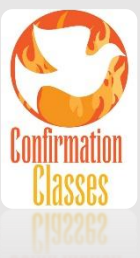
- 8:00 a.m.
- 10:30 a.m. (Holy Communion)

Wednesday, September 23

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



2026-2027 Confirmation Classes



Grades 6-8 Confirmation begins **tomorrow, 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](#).

NEW! Fall Christian Education

Tomorrow, 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. Click [here](#) for the Fall 2026 Christian Education opportunities.

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.



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 ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW! Welcome to Our New Fieldworkers

We are happy to welcome two new fieldworkers and their families to our congregation.

Zachary Jacob, wife Emily, and son John

Originally hailing from Ohio, we moved to and lived in Connecticut, Colorado, and now Indiana over the past two years due to two career relocations and now seminary. Before moving to Indiana, I worked as a mechanical engineer and Emily (with John in tow) worked in various early childhood education roles at the congregations of which we were members. As first-generation Lutherans, we are deeply grateful for the church and feel called to serve it more fully. With the Holy Spirit's help, we are committed to raising John in his Christian faith as we prepare for service to Christ's church.



Warner and Jessica Mehl



I was born and raised in Beaverton, Oregon, later studying Bible/Theology and Mandarin Chinese at Wheaton College. I was confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church in Wheaton, and later moved to Thailand to teach Bible to middle school students. I met my wife Jessica, who is from Vietnam, and spent time travelling back and forth to Vietnam, as well as teaching English for test preparation.

GET INVOLVED

NEW! District Prayers for Emmanuel

Greetings from your brothers and sisters at the District Office! We will be lifting up Emmanuel in our prayers in a few weeks. Click [here](#) to read a letter from President Stuckwisch.

NEW! Calling all 1st–12th Grade Singers

Come join our new choir, the Emmanuel Junior Chorale, and sing with us for Christ the King Sunday, a midweek Advent service, and the Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. service. We would love to have as many voices as possible, even if you can only sing for one service. **Rehearsals begin Thursday, October 22. Sign up now or no later than Wednesday, September 30, at this [link](#).**

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](#).



NEW! Visual Faith Ministry

Join us for our Visual Faith workshop: Praying Scripture on **Tuesday, October 6**, 6:00-8:00 p.m., in Ebenezer Hall. God has given us the gifts of His Word and prayer, and Scripture itself can become a starting place for conversation with God. During this evening, we will explore two creative prayer practices—Counterpanes and Open Spaces—that use words, color, and simple patterns to help us pray through Scripture with praise, thanksgiving, confession, lament, intercession, and reflection. No artistic experience is needed. Sign up at the Connections Counter and join us for an evening of Scripture, prayer, creativity, and fellowship.

NEW! Help Us Launch American Heritage Girls at Emmanuel

Have you heard of American Heritage Girls (AHG)? AHG is a Christ-centered character and leadership development program for girls ages 5–18, designed to build women of integrity through faith, service, leadership, life skills, citizenship, and outdoor experiences. A new AHG Troop is being formed here at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, learn more [here](#).

Emmanuel Golf League Update

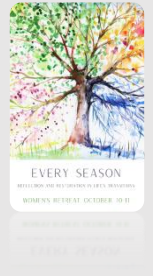


As daylight hours decrease these next several weeks, the Emmanuel Golf League will be adjusting their start time. **Instead of starting at 5:30 p.m., the weekly, Wednesday league will begin at 4:30 p.m.** Thanks for your understanding and flexibility! If you have questions, contact Fred Peterson (260.437.2885) or Mike Huesner (260.416.1380).

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](#).



IN THE COMMUNITY

NEW! Fall LWML Rally

Ladies, make plans to attend the LWML North Zone Fall Gathering on **Saturday, October 3**. Deaconess Jana Peters, Executive Director, [The Shepherd's Hand Community Outreach Center](#), will be the featured speaker. Learn more [here](#).

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.

Lutherans for Life

- [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.

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



Not all relationships are healthy. Sometimes, as a friend or co-worker of someone being abused, it can be hard to stand by and be supportive. [Here](#) are ways to do that.

NEW! Project Connect

This week's booklet is [How to Forgive As We Have Been Forgiven](#). This booklet provides readers with the scriptural basis and the encouragement to forgive others by reminding them of God's extravagant forgiveness that they have received.

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.***