EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Building faith in the city

NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: November 7, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
The emphasis for the readings during this time of the Church Year heighten our focus us on Christ's return. This weekend our readings call us to live hopefully (not wishfully) in the sure and certain promises of our God, in the finished work of our Savior, as we await His second coming. The hope we have changes the way we worship. This hope changes the way we prepare in this time of waiting. Our hope changes the way we grieve those who die in the faith. This hope we have in Christ allows us to encourage each other as we anticipate our Savior's return. May the Holy Spirit sustain us in this hope every day of our lives! Amen.

*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! **24th Sunday After Pentecost**

Saturday, November 7

- 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 8

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

Wednesday, November 11

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

NEW! **Prayers for 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. We will pray for the students in our weekly worship services. **This week, we are praying for Elena.**

Fall Christian Education
Our Sunday morning Christian Education Hour, 9:15-10:15 a.m., is up and running for the Fall Season. There are classes for children through adults. **Parents, register your children for Sunday School *here***. Registration helps us keep our records up to date and informs our leaders of any special needs children have. Thanks! Click ***here*** for the Fall 2026 Christian Education opportunities.

Guest Organist and Bible Class Leader



Tomorrow, Sunday, November 8, from 9:15-10:15 a.m., Benjamin Kolodziej, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod author, composer, choirmaster and lecturer, will lead a Bible study entitled *Faithful, Practical, Musical: How the Missouri Synod Became a Singing Church*. Mr. Kolodziej will discuss how the Synod became and still is an active "singing Church." He will also be the organist for the Sunday worship services that morning. This will be part of the new Bible class, *Faith, Life and Worship*, led by Pastor Mark Sheafer and Matt Johnston.

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.



THE STORY CONTINUES

The Story Continues: A Renewed Vision for Emmanuel
After months of listening, praying, discussing, and planning, we are excited to announce that The Story Continues planning process is complete, and our renewed vision for Emmanuel's ministry is ready to share! Nearly 20 years ago, Emmanuel adopted Building Faith, a bold vision that helped guide our congregation through an extraordinary season of growth.
Now, as we look to the next chapter of our story, we're shifting our focus from bricks and mortar to ministry and mission. We invite every member of Emmanuel to spend some time exploring *The Story Continues: A Renewed Vision for Ministry*. You can read the plan ***here***.

Join Us for a Vision Forum
Consider attending a Vision Forum on **Sunday, November 15**, at noon in the lower level of Ebenezer Hall as Pastor Eggold and the Vision Team present an overview of the planning process, explaining where we believe God is leading Emmanuel in the years ahead. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the plan. You can register for the Vision Forum ***here***. Please take time to ***read the plan*** and join us on November 15.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Voters' Assembly
Our annual Congregational Voters' Assembly will take place in the Sanctuary immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, November 22**. We encourage members to attend as we consider the next chapter of Emmanuel's ministry together. At this meeting, we will vote on a budget for 2027, elect congregational leaders, and seek approval for *The Story Continues* vision. If you need childcare for the Voters' Assembly, click ***here***.
We have so much to celebrate! For nearly 160 years, God has faithfully blessed Emmanuel and worked through His people to share His love and forgiveness. We are excited about the opportunities before us and grateful for everyone who has contributed to this planning process. **Please take time to *read the plan* and participate in the Voters' Assembly on November 22. Your involvement matters as we begin this new chapter together.**

GET INVOLVED

NEW! **Christmas Giving Trees**



This year our Christmas Giving Team will again participate in the Byron Health Center Angel program as well as assist our Emmanuel members and Emmanuel—St. Michael School families. The Giving Trees will include tags for gifts and gift cards. Click ***here*** for more instructions, the date gifts need to be returned, and the date for wrapping gifts. Please include all tags with your gift.

NEW! **Winter Clothes Needed**
Washington School is in need of winter coats, gloves, hats, and pants for both boys and girls, sizes of 5-12. You may bring your donations to the church office. Thank you for your generosity!

Veterans Luncheon
The Emmanuel Life Team is inviting all our veterans to a special luncheon on **Wednesday, November 11**, at 11:30 a.m., in the lower level of Ebenezer (there is elevator access). You are welcome to invite a guest. Please **RSVP by Sunday, November 8**, by calling the church office at 260.423.1369. We look forward to honoring our many veterans for their service to our country.

Emmanuel's LWM/LWML Meeting Schedule Change
Date: Thursday, November 12
Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Location: Lower Ebenezer
What is LWM?
Women of Lutheran Women (LWM) 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:

- Reaching Out with God's Love in a Safe Place, Forward a Ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska: $77,730
- Proclaiming Christ in Honduras, *Misión Evangélica Luterana Confesional en Honduras*, Central America: $25,000

- Speaking Truth Around the Table, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, United States: $75,000

What to expect at the meeting:

- A warm welcome and fellowship with other women of faith.
- Bible Study: (1:00-2:00 p.m.) Interactive study led by Judy May, study handouts available at meeting.
- Service Project: (2:00-3:00 p.m.) 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."

Grief Share "Surviving the Holidays"



Holiday grief can be tough, emotionally, relationally, physically, and spiritually. In this two-hour gathering, we will explore how the holidays can be both manageable and meaningful. We will discuss:

- How to respond to social invites
- How to balance solitude and fellowship
- How to remember your loved one
- How to be grateful for blessings

"Surviving the Holidays" will take place on **Saturday, November 14**, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., in Brandt Hall. **Please RSVP to Lana Hille at 260.417.5639 or you can sign up at the Connections Counter, by Sunday, November 8**. A brunch will be provided and books will be gifted by Thrivent. Feel free to bring a Christmas culinary treat of your own to share.

Middle School Youth November Gathering



All middle school students are invited to join us for our November event. Meet us at Emmanuel on **Sunday, November 15**, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. We will be playing a large group game in the gym. Please enter and pickup through the Jackson Street doors. We hope to see you there!

Lunch Bunch



Our next Emmanuel Lunch Bunch activity for our members around 60 or over will be **Tuesday, November 17**. After months of listening, praying discussing, and planning, we are excited to announce that *The Story Continues* planning process is complete, and our renewed vision for Emmanuel's ministry is ready to share! Nearly 20 years ago, Emmanuel adopted Building Faith, a bold vision that helped guide our congregation through an extraordinary season of growth. Now, as we look toward the next chapter of our story, our focus is shifting from bricks and mortar to ministry and mission.

After our lunch, Pastor Eggold will present an overview of the planning process, explaining where we believe God is leading Emmanuel in the years ahead. Don't miss this exciting presentation! Meet us in the lower level of Ebenezer at 11:00 a.m. for fellowship. Lunch will be 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, November 13**. Lunch is $10 per person, payable that day.

Chili Cook-Off and Bingo Night
Get ready for a night of food, fun, and friendly competition at Emmanuel's Chili Cook-Off and Bingo Night on **Saturday, November 21**, 6:00-8:00 p.m., in the gym. The evening begins with an hour of chili sampling, with sides, hot dogs, and desserts, followed by Bingo for gift card prizes. This family-friendly event is sponsored by the Emmanuel Youth Group, with proceeds supporting the 2027 Servant Event to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Get involved by entering a chili in the competition or donating a $10 gift card(s) for Bingo prizes. Gift cards may be dropped off at the church office or the Connections Counter on Sunday mornings.

King's Community Outreach Christmas Food Distribution
Once again, Emmanuel is partnering with Rev. Lewis King and ***King's Global Outreach*** to help provide Christmas meals for families in our community. Last year, Emmanuel generously donated more than 1,000 cans of green beans! This year, we hope to collect **1,000 cans of green beans and 500 boxes of instant mashed potatoes**. These donations may be dropped off in Ebenezer Hall throughout November. Volunteers are also welcome to help with the food distribution on **Saturday, December 19**, at 9:30 a.m., at McMillen Park Community Center. Thank you for helping share Christ's love with our neighbors this Christmas season!

MISSIONS & MISSIONARIES

Belize Mission Trip: The Beginning of an Exciting Partnership



We are excited to announce a new opportunity for Emmanuel to expand our mission outreach beyond our borders! Two members of our Emmanuel family, Bret and Bonnie Walker, will represent our congregation on a mission trip to Belize, November 14-21. They will be working alongside the ***Belize Mission Society*** and fellow congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod from Florida and Colorado.
The mission team will serve in Seine Bight, an underserved village in Belize, through men's, women's, and children's ministries, community outreach, construction projects, and potentially the reopening of a much-needed dental clinic. Read more ***here***.

NEW! **Missions and Missionaries Emmanuel Supports**
Please pray for the mission efforts supported by our congregation. You can find out more by clicking on the links below.

- ***Rev. James and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf***: Ponce, Puerto Rico
- ***Rev. Michael and Jen-Yi "Irene" Paul***: Taiwan
- ***Rev. Jeffrey and Deaconess Gina Teeple***: Germany
- ***Heidi Wilkinson***: Ethiopia
- ***Rev. Chris and Dr. Jenny Yang***: Taiwan
- ***Luther Academy***
- ***Lutheran Agency for Missions to Burmese*** (LAMB)
- ***Lutheran Bible Translators***
- ***Lutherans For Life*** (LFL)
- ***Lutheran Senior Care Ministry*** (LSCM)
- ***The Lutheran Heritage Foundation***

EMMANUEL—ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL
CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SHOOL

November Dine-to-Donate Night
Join us at Portillo's on Coliseum Blvd. on **Thursday, November 12**, 5:00-8:00 p.m. You will be helping support Emmanuel—St. Michael 8th graders as they raise funds for their Washington D.C. trip. Use the code PORTILLOS63 when ordering online or in the app. Enjoy dinner while supporting our students!

NEW! **Grandparents Needed**
Save the Date! Emmanuel--St. Michael (ESM) is hosting their annual Grandparents' Day celebration on **Friday, November 20**. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the connections that ESM students have across generations. They are looking for volunteers to "adopt" a student who does not have a grandparent or special guest to attend the event. Save the date now and look for more information to come. If you would like to help in this way, please contact Joy Kreider at the school office 260.422-6712 or email at ***office@esmeagles.com***.

IN THE COMMUNITY

NEW! **The Shepherd's Hand Blessing Bags**
The Shepherd's Hand is working to provide Blessing Bags for those in need this Thanksgiving. Your $25 donation provides a family of four with everything they need to make an easy Thanksgiving meal at home. Each bag will include: canned turkey, mashed potatoes, corn, green beans, cranberries, gravy, cornbread mix, and brownie mix. We would like to collect $1,625 for 65 blessing bags. We also need about six volunteers. To donate, click ***here***. We greatly appreciate your partnership in blessing our community during this special season!

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 October!
See the November events ***here***.
Connect with us: Facebook: ***Bridge 20/30 Group Ft. Wayne***; Instagram: ***@thebridge2030***; Email: ***dschuller@clhscadets.com***.

Forgotten Stones Art Show
Forgotten Stones is committed to ensuring that the homeless do not slip through the cracks. They aim to offer support, resources, and a sense of community to individuals in need. You are invited to a special evening supporting The Forgotten Stones on **Friday, November 20**, at WunderKammer Company, 3412 Fairfield Avenue. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The evening will feature live painting, poetry, photography, an interactive exhibit highlighting Forgotten Stones and its future expansion plans, a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, and dessert. A cash bar will also be available. Tickets may be purchased ***here***. For questions, contact Brandi Schorey at ***Brandi.Schorey@anthem.com***.

***NEW!* Santa Shop for Washington Elementary School**

Santa Shop offers students at Washington School the opportunity to "shop" for items that they can gift to family members for Christmas. The shop is seeking donations of $1 to $5 gift items, as well as gift bags in all sizes. **Please bring your donation(s) to the church by Friday, December 4**. To sign up to help wrap gifts, Monday, December 14-Thursday, December 17, please contact Diane Witzenman at 260.249.1307. Thank you for your support, kindness, and generosity to Washington Elementary School!

RESOURCES

NEW!* Subscribe to *The Lutheran Witness



The Lutheran Witness is the official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Its mission is to help readers interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran perspective. To subscribe, click ***here*** to download the subscription form, then return it to the church office.

Mental Health Moment

Grief can feel more compounding as we near holidays or as the outdoor season ends. Here is a great website to support your grieving self.



***NEW!* Martin Luther Bible Study From Lutheran Hour Ministries**

A Man Named Martin–Part 3: The Movement will show how the Reformation accelerated the transformation of a world already in flux. While armed conflicts, theological disputes, and heated controversies marked segments of society throughout medieval Europe, the march of the Reformation left its imprint on the face of culture and citizen alike. Everything from education, politics, science, theology, marriage, and the family-and even extending to one's view of vocation and his relationship to God-came under the shaping and seminal influence of the Reformation.

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