



NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: January 31, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Beatitudes are not a moral roadmap designed to lead us to Heaven. No, the Beatitudes bring blessings because they come to us as requirements of righteousness already met in Jesus. He is the one who has fulfilled every demand of the Law. He is the one who has taken away our sin, and the good news for us sinners is that Jesus Christ has come to comfort and to fill, to bring mercy and to reveal God, to make peace and to give us the Kingdom. He has given us the power to do the same. In Christ, you are blessed. And in Christ, you will be a blessing to others.

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! The Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

Saturday, January 31: 5:00 p.m. (Holy Communion)

Sunday, February 1:

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

Wednesday, February 4:

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



NEW! Prayers for PALS

This week, we are praying for Summer.

Sunday and Weekday Christian Education

Sunday School (Birth-Grade 5), Confirmation (Grades 6-8), High School, and Adult Bible classes are offered each Sunday, 9:15-10:15 a.m. **Grades 6/7 Confirmation will now be in School Room D2 and Grade 8 Confirmation will now be in School Room D3.** Click [here](#) for a list of all our Sunday and weekday 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.

Monday Morning Moms

Hey, mama! Have you been looking for a group to connect with here at Emmanuel? We hope you'll join us every other Monday morning, 8:30-10:00 a.m., as we journey through the salvation story of the Old Testament using Chad Bird's book *Hitchhiking with the Prophets*. Drop your kiddos off in the Lower Level of Ebenezer Hall with our amazing caregivers, then head upstairs to the Loft to enjoy fellowship, a cup of coffee, and study with other moms.



Out of care for our childcare workers during the current rise in flu cases, we will postpone Monday Morning Moms and look forward to gathering again on February 9. Thank you for your understanding.

The dates are:

- **February 9 & 23**
- **March 9 & 23**
- **April 13 & 27**

For more information, contact Liz Bejot at LBejot@emmanuelutheran.org.

THANK YOU & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! *Dear Emmanuel Friends,*

Thank you so much for your donation of diapers, new clothes and homemade clothes and bibs. Your support is greatly appreciated by our center and all the women we serve.

*Thank you and God bless,
Women's Care Center Staff*

Emmanuel Church Office Closed for February Conference

From **February 10-14**, the staff members of Emmanuel will be attending the Best Practices in Ministry conference in Phoenix. This is an unprecedented opportunity for professional development as our staff spends four days learning, worshipping, and growing together. Since it involves the majority of our staff, the **church office will be closed from Tuesday, February 10, through Friday, February 14**. If a special need for pastoral care arises during this time, you can still reach Pastor Eggold at 260.414.8691 or Pastor Sheafer at 260.416.2590, and arrangements will be made to provide you with the pastoral assistance you need.

This opportunity is made possible in large part through the generous support of The Lutheran Foundation. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to strengthening ministries and investing in the work God is doing through our congregation. Please pray for our staff as we enjoy this special time together.

GET INVOLVED

NEW! Emmanuel Food Bank Drive



For more than 17 years, Emmanuel's Food Bank has served families in our congregation and community, assisting an average of 40 families each month with food, personal hygiene items, and household supplies. The Food Bank is open on the third Thursday of every month, 3:30-5:00 p.m. It is supported almost entirely by donations and volunteers and currently requires \$16,000 in monetary support each year. **During February, we**

invite you to help support this ministry by donating non-expired food, hygiene, or cleaning items, or by making a designated monetary gift for the food bank. Donations may be placed in the marked bins in Ebenezer Hall. Thank you for helping us care for our neighbors in need throughout the year.

NEW! Game On

Game On is a group of fun-loving people who enjoy playing no stress games. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month, 1:00-3:00 p.m., in Ebenezer Hall. This month's game will be Rummikub. The objective of Rummikub is to be the first player to play all the tiles from your rack by forming them into sets or runs. If you enjoy being with other gamers, join us on **Tuesday, February 3**. A sign up sheet will be at the Connection Counter, but if you forget to sign up, come anyway. We always enjoy adding new people to our group.

Visual Faith Workshop—Words from the Upper Room

Join us on **Tuesday, February 3**, 6:00-8:00 p.m., in Ebenezer Hall as we prepare our hearts for Lent. Together, we'll create a devotional featuring opportunities to scribe passages from the Gospel of John. All materials are provided—bring a friend and join us. Sign up at the Connections Counter or click [here](#).



First Impressions

Is the "sandwich generation" ready for dessert? Susan Imler will share insights on balancing career and caregiving. Homemade pie included!

Wednesday, February 4

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Ebenezer Hall

Emmanuel's LWM/LWML Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 5

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

Location: Lower Ebenezer

LWM is Lutheran Women in Mission. Women of Lutheran Women in Mission support the mission of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

What to expect at the meeting:

- A warm welcome and fellowship with other women of faith; empathy, laughter, sometimes tears, and always interaction that uplifts and encourages.
- Bible Study: An hour of interactive, cooperative study and discussion led by Judy May. Lesson sheets provided. Each meeting's study can be experienced as a standalone.
- Service Project: 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."

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

- Introducing Muslims to the Savior—Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Global—\$100,000

- Healing Your Heart—Faith-based Child Counseling—Lutheran Counseling & Family Services of Wisconsin—\$100,000

Clay & Iron: Men's Ministry at Emmanuel

Men's Winter theme: "Here's What I HAVE to Say," discerning when to speak and when to stay quiet as God's servant-leaders.



- *Men's Weekly Devotion*

Mondays

6:30 a.m.

Brandt Hall

Come experience a quiet 15-20 minute way to start your day or lead your family in a moment of fellowship, prayer, and devotion.

- *Game Night*

Friday, February 6

7:00 p.m.

At the Hofman's house, please RSVP

- *ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out)*

Friday, February 13

11:30 a.m.

Chapman's Brewing Company at Electric Works

- *Family & Friends Brunch*

Saturday, February 21

9:00-11:00 a.m.

Lower Level Ebenezer

Message or call Billy at 260.440.4945 to get connected.

NEW! Consider Attending iLead at Emmanuel



iLead is a collaborative initiative of several local congregations working together to develop leaders in the Church. Watch this [video](#) to learn more about iLead.

iLead 2026 congregations are Emmanuel, Holy Cross, Promise, St. Michael, St. Peter's, and Suburban Bethlehem. During January and February, there are three iLead presentations on the iLead 2026 theme "Discipleship Is Leadership Development":

- *A Panel Discussion on Discipleship and Leadership Development, Saturday, February 7, Emmanuel Lutheran Church.*

Register [here](#). All iLead 2026 sessions run from 8:30-10:00 a.m. and are free to all participants thanks to generous funding from The Lutheran Foundation.

February Lunch Bunch

Our next Emmanuel Lunch Bunch activity for our members around 60 or over will be held on **Tuesday, February 17**, when our special guests will be our friends from Fairhaven Funeral Home who will be accompanied by an elder law attorney. They look forward to joining us with good information about how to make necessary arrangements before you need them. They will offer information about preplanning protection and protecting your assets, helpful information even if you have already completed some preplanning. They will address any questions you might have.

As usual we will gather together during fellowship time which starts at 11:00 a.m. in the lower level of Ebenezer Hall where lunch is 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, February 13.** The lunch cost is \$10.00/person, payable that day. Hoping to see a good turn out to welcome our special guest speakers.

Euchre Tournament

Calling all card players! Emmanuel's Senior High Youth Group (EYG) will host its annual Euchre Tournament on **Saturday, February 21**, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. in the lower level of Ebenezer Hall. The entry fee is \$10 per participant. Snacks and beverages will be provided, and all proceeds will help cover the cost of shipping care packages to Emmanuel's college students. [Register](#) with a partner or sign up individually and we will pair you with someone when you arrive.



Save the Date for Trivia Night

As you look ahead to March, start thinking about who might make up your dream team for Trivia Night, **March 21**, 6:00–9:00 p.m. in the gym!

NEW! Save the Date for Emmanuel's VBS

Join us **June 22–26** as we walk the streets of Rome! Explore the Underground Church, meet the Apostle Paul, and so much more. Mark your calendars and invite a friend!

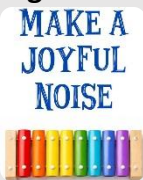
Interested in being a part of the planning team? It's forming NOW! Reach out to Liz Bejot, LBejot@emmanuel Lutheran.org, for more information.

NEW! Newspaper Needed

Do you have a stack of newspapers lying around? We would love to use it for VBS! We have some fun decor pieces we are going to start working on. Label your newspapers "VBS" and drop off at the church office. Thanks for your help!

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

Eagles Rise Fundraiser



Eagles Rise, Emmanuel—St. Michael's annual dinner auction, will be held **Friday, March 6**, 6:00–9:30 p.m., at Parkview Mirro Center, 10622 Parkview Plaza Drive. **Tickets are \$50 per person for early registration until Monday, February 16** (\$60 after). Click [here](#) for more info and to register to attend.

Now Collecting Donations for Eagles Rise 2026

Please contact either of our auction coordinators, Erin Neuenschwander (260.417.8373) or Lisa Terrell (260.710.1949), if you have something to donate! All items should be gathered by **Thursday, February 26**. If you, your employer, or other organizations would like more information about supporting Emmanuel—St. Michael's students by sponsoring Eagles Rise, click [here](#) to learn more. Thank you!

Kindergarten & Preschool Information and Enrollment Sessions

Are you exploring Preschool or Kindergarten options for your child? Do you have a friend or neighbor who is looking for an excellent school for their family? With a long history of academic achievement, Emmanuel—St. Michael (ESM) Lutheran School exceeds the standard for excellence of education in northeast Indiana. However, at ESM we hope to provide even more. In partnership with families, that foundation of faith, academic excellence, and preparation for a life of service and leadership is formed. Come learn more!

Preschool Information and Enrollment Sessions:

Thursday, February 12 | Union Street Campus—1123 Union Street

Thursday, February 19 | Getz Road Campus—2131 Getz Road

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Information session for parents

Childcare provided



Kindergarten Information and Enrollment Sessions:



Tuesday, February 17

6:30-8:00 p.m. | Getz Road Campus—2131 Getz Road

Bring your future student for a fun activity with teachers!

Childcare provided for siblings

Learn more and register at www.esmeagles.com. Questions? Contact Erin Clark, Director of Admissions, 260.422.6712, eclark@esmeagles.com

NEW! Now Enrolling for 2026-27 School Year

Emmanuel—St. Michael Lutheran School, in partnership with our congregations and families, is raising up the next generation of students who know the love of Christ and are prepared to serve Him in their families and communities. Now accepting applications for Preschool-8th grade. Schedule a visit today! Contact Erin Clark, Director of Admissions, 260.422.6712, eclark@esmeagles.com, www.esmeagles.com.

IN THE COMMUNITY

NEW! Lutherans for Life

- *Right to Life March and Rally*

TODAY, Saturday, January 31

Parkview Field

Doors Open: 12:00 p.m.

Pre-March Rally: 12:30-1:00 p.m. at Parkview Field

March Begins: 1:00 p.m.

Parking Information: Parking is available in the Parkview Field Silver Lot and the two adjacent lots, all located in front of the stadium.

- *Legislative forum with Breakfast*

Saturday, February 7

8:15 a.m.

Parkview Field Meeting Room

- *Surviving Grief*

Kathy Eggold, Guest Speaker

Friday, February 13

9:00 a.m.

Emmanuel

Bridge 20/30: Where Young Adults Connect, Grow, and Belong

The Bridge 20/30 is a Fort Wayne-based community for young adults in their 20s and 30s—single, dating, or married—seeking faith, fellowship, and friendship. We meet Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. for Bible study, devotion, service, and social events. [Join us this month!](#)

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

Email: dschuller@clhscadets.com



Marriage Date Night

- **Sunday, February 22**

5:00 p.m.

The River Christian Church—1515 Magnavox Way

Marriage Date Night was created for married couples to enjoy a fun night out with lots of laughter and music. An evening with unlimited eternal opportunities, a chance for outreach and relationship building. For more information, click [here](#).

Guarding Our First Charge: Men's Gathering 2026



Join other men in Christian fellowship, **April 9-12**, at Lakeview Villages near Seymour, Indiana, as we explore biblical perspectives on life issues. Dr. Donna Harrison (board-certified OB/GYN) and Rev. Dr. D. Richard Stuckwisch (Indiana District President, LCMS) will help us explore the topics of abortion, contraception, IVF, adoption, and defending life in every circumstance. In blessing, God's first mandate is that we "be fruitful and multiply." (Genesis 1:28) Let us "therefore choose life." (Deuteronomy 30:19) Get away and enjoy God's creation, feast at our hog roast, compete in feats of skill and wit, and grow in your vocations as father, husband, son, and brother. Contact

joshua@vandercar.net to discuss the event and visit www.mensgathering.us for info and registration.

RESOURCES

NEW! Mental Health Moment

[Here](#) are helpful resources for families dealing with mental health diagnosis issues.



NEW! Project Connect



This week's booklet is [Where Is God When Bad Things Happen To Me?](#)

- Why do bad things happen?
- Why are they happening to me, right now?
- Is it because God is punishing me?
- Is it because God doesn't care about me—or because God doesn't exist?
- How can I possibly know?
- And how can I survive this situation—is there any help for me?

These are the painful questions almost every human being has to face at least once in their lives. And there are no easy answers that will stop our questioning and leave us instantly free from pain and doubt. But while God hasn't explained everything the way we'd like Him to, there are some things He has shown us—and some of that might be helpful to you, if you are going through a time of great suffering and doubt.

Project Connect is a topical booklet ministry of Lutheran Hour Ministries. Our Project Connect booklets address a wide variety of topics, offering booklets that connect God's Word to real-life issues. PDF versions of our booklets are available in our [virtual library](#) and on our [new 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.**