



NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: February 7, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this weekend's Gospel reading, Jesus shares one of His purposes. He says He's come to fulfill the Law, not get rid of it. Ultimately, this is a wonderful thing for believers in Jesus. His work accomplishes what ours can't. But to do this, Jesus makes it clear that the Law demands a righteousness greater than that of the most righteous people of that day, the scribes and Pharisees. Humbled by the reality that no one can measure up, the free gift of Jesus' righteousness becomes the understanding and motivation for us to worship and live for God's glory and not our own-to be the salt and light that Jesus declares us to be!

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 Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

Saturday, February 7: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 8:

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

Wednesday, February 11:

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



NEW! Prayers for PALS

This week, we are praying for Angela.

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 Shearer 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@emmanuellutheran.org.

NEW! Friends in the Word

Friends in the Word meets every other Thursday morning, 8:30-10:00 a.m., in the Loft. Here are the scheduled dates:

February 12 & 26,

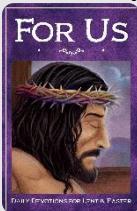
March 12 & 26

April 16 & 30

May 14

We hope to see you there!

NEW! Preparing for Lent



Emmanuel's Lent Services will begin on **Wednesday, February 18**, with Ash Wednesday services at 11:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Holy Communion will be celebrated in both services. Lenten packets are available at the entrances into the Sanctuary and the Connection's Counter, one per family please. In the packet you will find our Lenten calendar which outlines our services, and envelopes for Lenten giving. Download our Lenten devotional entitled [For Us: Daily Devotions for Lent & Easter](#). As we turn our attention toward our Lenten Journey, there is no better way to receive strength and peace than to gather in God's house and hear the message of His love and forgiveness found in the Word.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! Emmanuel Church Office Closed for February Conference This Week

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 Sheaffer 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.

NEW! "The Story Continues" in 2026

We are excited to announce that Emmanuel has officially launched a planning process designed to seek the Lord's direction for a renewed congregational vision. Led by our ministry staff, Elders, Church Council, and a Vision Team representing different groups within our church family, in the coming months, we will be listening to the congregation, analyzing pertinent data about our community, and discerning a concise vision for the future of the ministry we share. Building on our "I Love to Tell the Story" journey last fall, the goal of this process is to present a clear vision to the congregation for approval in the November congregational meeting. Please pray for this planning process and take advantage of opportunities to contribute to it as "The Story Continues."



GET INVOLVED

NEW! Final iLead Session Meets Today



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, **today, 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.

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.



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.

- *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.

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! Middle School Youth



Join us on **Sunday, February 22**, 2:15-6:30 p.m., for our February Middle School Youth Event: Laser Tag and Deep-Dish Pizza. For more information and to register, please click this [link](#). Reach out to Liz Bejot at LBejot@emmanuellutheran.org with any questions.

NEW! Easter Flowers

It's hard to imagine ordering Easter flowers when it's cold outside and with snow on the ground. Easter is on Sunday, April 5, and **the deadline to order your flower(s) is Monday, March 9**. Order forms can be picked up from the Connections Counter in Ebenezer, the Welcome Center, or you can print one [here](#). Please submit your form along with payment to the church office. If paying by check, please make it payable to Emmanuel. Your flowers will be available for pick up after the 11:00 a.m. service on Easter Day.



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@emmanuellutheran.org, for more information.

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)

NEW! Extended Care Help Needed at Both Campuses

Emmanuel—St. Michael School is in need of morning help with our Extended Care from 6:30-8:30 a.m., Monday-Friday, at either Getz or Union. Individual days are available if you're willing to help but can't do all days of the week. Please contact Analicia Nunez at anunez@esmeagles.com if you're interested or able.

Eagles Rise Fundraiser

**MAKE A
JOYFUL
NOISE**



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

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

Lutherans for Life

- *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.

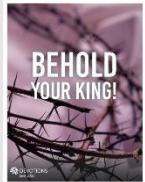
RESOURCES

NEW! Mental Health Moment

Caring for a loved one with depression can be a lot. [Here](#) are general tips to help caregivers and [here](#) are tips for those supporting a spouse.



NEW! Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries



Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 18**. [Behold Your King!](#) is this year's Lenten series from Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM). Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends, and congregations, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of Lent and Easter.

Have them [delivered right to your inbox](#), [podcast the audio devotional](#), access them on your mobile device through the [free app](#), or listen with [Spotify](#), [iHeart Radio](#), Alexa, or Google Home.

These Lenten devotions are available here in both English and Spanish, as well as in French, and Chinese from our ministry center in Canada.

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