



NEWS FROM EMMANUEL: February 21, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

God is the actor. This is what Lent reminds us. We have a Savior who has been tempted in every way, yet was without sin. We have a Savior who knows the taste of weakness and the sound of the devil's voice and the ache of hunger. But He didn't just feel what we feel. He fought where we fall, and He won. And now, because of this Gospel truth, Lent becomes something different. It's not a ladder we climb to God, instead, it's a season where God humbles us with His Law, so He can raise us by grace. We fast. We pray. We give. We repent. But we do those things as a response to what God has already done for us. This is the grammar of grace. When the subject changes, we're in trouble, but when Christ is the subject, we are saved.

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! First Sunday in Lent

Saturday, February 21: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 22:

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

Wednesday, February 25:

Midweek Lenten Service: *Flesh for Us*

- 11:30 a.m. Lenten Service (Holy Communion)
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service with Piano and Vocal Duets



NEW! Prayers for PALS

PALS is a program in which Emmanuel members partner with Washington School students to build relationships and strengthen reading skills in a Christian environment. Each week we will pray for some of our Washington School PALS or helpers, and we encourage you to join us in the ministry. **This week, we are praying for Olivia.**

NEW! 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. In addition to *Lutheran Christianity* and Pastor McFadden's study on Galatians, we have a new Sunday morning, adult Bible class:

Genesis

February 15- May 17

Leader: Pastor Jon Meyer

Location: Sanctuary

Join us for a 12-week study of the first book in the Bible, Genesis. This book is the foundation for everything else that comes in the Bible. Not only is the book at the beginning of our Bible, it speaks to the beginning of creation; the beginning of humanity's separation from God, and God's plan to restore what was destroyed. Come discover the origin of the story of salvation and so much more!

Click [here](#) for a list of all our Sunday and weekday Christian Education opportunities.

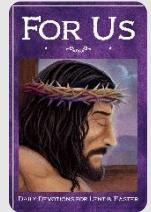
NEW! Pastor's Bible Study Online



Each week, Pastors Eggold and 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.

NEW! Our Lenten Journey

Emmanuel's Lenten Services are held at 11:30 a.m. with Communion, and 7:00 p.m. If you have not picked up a Lenten packet, they are located at the entrances into the Sanctuary and the Connections Counter, one per family please. To access our Lenten devotional, *For Us: Daily Devotions for Lent & Easter*, click [here](#). 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.



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.

The dates are: **February 23, March 9 & 23, April 13 & 27**

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

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 26, March 12 & 26, April 16 & 30, May 14**

We hope to see you there!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

"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

Euchre Tournament



Calling all card players! Emmanuel's Senior High Youth Group (EYG) will host its annual Euchre Tournament **tonight, 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.

Middle School Youth

Join us **tomorrow, 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.



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 meets the first Tuesday of each month. This is a group designed for those who like to play table games. Sometimes we play as individuals, other times we play with partners, and sometimes we divide into teams. The game for March is Sequence. We will meet on **Tuesday, March 3**, 1:00-3:00 p.m., in Ebenezer Hall. Please join us for fellowship and food. Bring a friend. We love to meet new people. Sign up is located at the Connection's Counter. If you forget to sign up, come anyway. If you have any questions, email Diane Campbell at newmoon312@gmail.com.

Visual Faith Workshop—Words from the Upper Room (Continues!)

Join us, **Tuesday, March 3**, 6:00–8:00 p.m., in Ebenezer Hall as we continue our Words from the Upper Room project during Lent. If you're already working on the devotional, come and keep it going—and if you're new, you're absolutely welcome to jump in and start from the beginning. We'll create a devotional with opportunities to scribe passages from the Gospel of John and we'll also have Easter cards available to make and send to anyone God brings to mind. All materials are provided—bring a friend and join us. Sign up [here](#).



NEW! Emmanuel's LWM/LWML Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 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:

- NOT ALONE: Gospel Help for Families in Crisis—Lutheran Family Service, Iowa—\$92,500
- Gospel Outreach through the Digital Mission Field—Lutheran Hour Ministries, US—\$100,000
- Reaching God's Children in Haiti—Trinity HOPE, Haiti—\$61,782

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.

NEW! Clay & Iron

Our Spring quarter starts next month!

- *Get Your Spurs On*

Leader: Bill Brace

Tuesday, March 10

7:00 p.m.

- Retired Old Men Eating Out (ROMEO)

Friday, March 13

11:30 a.m.

- *What Is My Job Again?*

Leader: Bill Brace

Thursday, April 9

7:00 p.m.



NEW! EYG Trivia Night



Get ready for an exciting evening of fun, food, and friendly competition at Emmanuel Youth Group's (EYG) Trivia Night! Gather a team of 6–8 players and join us **Saturday, March 21**, 6:00–9:00 p.m., in the gym. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., with pizza, snacks, and beverages available. Trivia begins promptly at 6:30 p.m. Show off your creativity by choosing team theme—costumes, props, and table decorations are encouraged! Prizes will be awarded throughout the night, including one for the best-themed table. Cost is \$10 per participant, childcare is available. All proceeds support our high school youth's summer servant event in Pikeville, Kentucky. To register a team, click [here](#). To support this event as a business sponsor, click [here](#).

NEW! GriefShare

What is GriefShare?

GriefShare is a 13-week Christ-centered grief support group program led by GriefShare leaders.

- Each session will include a 30-minute video of personal stories from grievers and insights from Christian counselors and pastors.
- Group members will talk (optional) about the video and discuss challenges they see.
- Between sessions participants are encouraged to do exercises; read Scripture in a workbook.

Who should attend?

The program is designed for adults who are grieving the death of a family member or friend.

When and Where?

Tuesdays, March 31-June 23

5:00-6:30 p.m.

Ebenezer Upper Level

Contact: Lana Hille (Lanah@emmanuellutheran.org/260.417.5639) to register so books can be ordered.

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.

NEW! Preparing for Christmas??!!

Can you help us prep for Christmas Eve 2026? We would like to give each child at the 5:00 p.m. Family Service a special banner they can use during the service and beyond. We are looking for people to help cut out felt shapes and embroider panels. If you have a Cricut machine and/or the ability to embroider, please fill out this [form](#). Thank you!

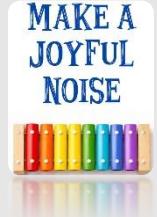
EMMANUEL—ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL (ESM) CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL (CLHS)

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.

NEW! Eagles Rise Fundraiser

Eagles Rise, Emmanuel—St. Michael's annual dinner auction, and will be held **Friday, March 6**, 6:00-9:30 p.m., at Parkview Mirro Center, 10622 Parkview Plaza Drive. Tickets are \$60 per person. You can register to attend [here](#). **Registration closes on Monday, February 23, at noon or when registration is full.**



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!

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

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



Cyberbullying is on the rise. You can find tips to keep your teen safe [here](#) and [here](#).

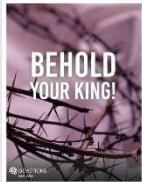
NEW! Project Connect

This week's booklet is [Do You Know Who Jesus Is?](#)

This booklet is ideal for children who are aged pre-school to third grade. It is written in rhyme to teach children the answer to the question, "Who is Jesus?" PDF versions of our booklets are available in our [virtual library](#) and on our [mobile app](#). Some booklets are even available in audio formats!



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.**