

Divine Service at 8:00



Emmanuel Lutheran Church

917 West Jefferson Boulevard, Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Phone: 260/423-1369 Website: www.emmanuelutheran.org

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Here are a few things we'd like you to know...



CHILDREN IN WORSHIP



We are so happy you are here!

We've got tot bags and children's bulletins that are located in the east and west rear entrances of the church. Also, check out our Visual Faith page in the back of the bulletin.

Please feel free to bring your kids up during the distribution of Holy Communion for a personal blessing.

The unstaffed Church Nursery is available for children three years of age and younger and is located in the lower level. If you need help finding it, please ask one of our ushers who will gladly guide you.

PRAYER REQUESTS



If you have a prayer request that you would like announced to the congregation, you will find a prayer request card on the tables located near each entrance into the sanctuary. Drop the completed card into one of the boxes located at each entrance, or simply hand it to an usher.

CONNECTIONS COUNTER



Visit the Connections Counter located in Ebenezer Hall. We've been expecting you and have a gift for our visitors. You can also pick up information on all we have to offer and sign up for events too!

SPECIAL NEEDS



We offer a hearing loop, large print bulletins and printed copies of today's sermon. If these would be helpful, please ask one of our ushers who would be delighted to assist you.

GATHERING TIME



Join us for coffee, donuts and fellowship on Sunday mornings, after the early service and before Sunday school and Bible classes begin.

EMMANUEL APP



emmanuellutheran.org



Found in the gathering space we call Ebenezer Hall.

BUILDING FAITH IN THE CITY

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025

“Divine Detours”

AS WE GATHER

Sometimes in life, we are forced to travel trails we would never choose, and often these paths take us through pain and loss, suffering and sadness. These detours frustrate the most faithful among us, and yet these difficulties shouldn't surprise us. The Word of God is clear that struggle, pain, and loss are all part of the Christian life, just as they were for Christ Himself. And that's why today's text is so important, because in it, we learn that despite our doubts, and even through our suffering, God continues to work.

+ THE ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE AT 8:00 A.M. +

THE GATHERING TIME

During the Gathering Time, we encourage our members to greet each other with God's peace and to welcome visitors. Kindly turn off all cellphones and please sit toward the center of the pew so there is room for all who worship.

THE PRELUDE: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Megargel
Blersch

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN: “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

Hymn 386

THE PRESENTATION OF PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please stand as you are able)

THE INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (Galatians 4:4; Isaiah 63:14)

Leader: O Lord God, we confess that although we usually prepare for, as Paul put it, “the fullness of time,” that is not true in our personal lives.

People: Forgive our impatience for taking matters into our own hands, forgive our not trusting that You are in control of all things, and forgive our failing to acknowledge You above all else.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection)

Leader: We confess, O Lord, that unlike obedient Joseph, we have not always listened to Your commands and instructions.

People: **Forgive our desire to be in control, forgive our avoiding difficult decisions, and forgive our thinking that we are able to arrange all things for our own benefit.**

Leader: We confess, O Lord, that we have kept our faith to ourselves.

People: **Forgive our failure to ask You for guidance each day, and forgive our seeking to be like everyone else, rather than trusting You.**

Leader: Forgiveness has been won for you! The babe born in Bethlehem is the only-begotten Son of God and He is your Brother. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature.

People: **Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us;**

Leader: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-14

I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. ⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. ¹¹Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, ¹²who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of

Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand, as you are able)

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." ¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." ¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED (Spoken together)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Please be seated)

THE SERMON HYMN: "Let All Together Praise Our God"
(Please stand for verse 7)

Hymn 389

(Please be seated)

THE SERMON

Pastor Thomas A. Eggold

THE GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please take the black binder at the end of each pew, and fill out the appropriate info. We encourage our members to greet our visitors after the service.

THE MUSICAL OFFERING:

"O Holy Night"

Amelia Madden & Torrey Ratay-Brown

(Please stand as you are able)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For grace to rejoice in Christ's blessed incarnation; in thankfulness that, in the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem us and give us the adoption as His heirs; and to grant us a glad new year, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the Church, that all may embrace the Christ Child by Word and faith, and so be ready to depart whenever they are called, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For Christian families, that the Father would bless them with His promises; for parents, that they would be diligent and find delight in their work; for children, that by God's favor they would grow in strength and wisdom; and for widows, orphans and broken families, that God would comfort them with His mercy and give them joy in the redemption won for them in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the lonely, that they would be comforted with the sure and certain knowledge that God will never forsake them, and that within the household of faith they might find family, friends and loving companionship, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the sick and suffering, that according to God's gracious will, they would be healed; and for those who mourn, that God would fill their hearts with the certain hope of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those who receive the Lord's Supper this day, that they would behold their salvation in the very body and blood of Christ given for them according to God's Word, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Lord God, heavenly Father, graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

+ THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION +

THE PREFACE: (Spoken responsively by the Congregation)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

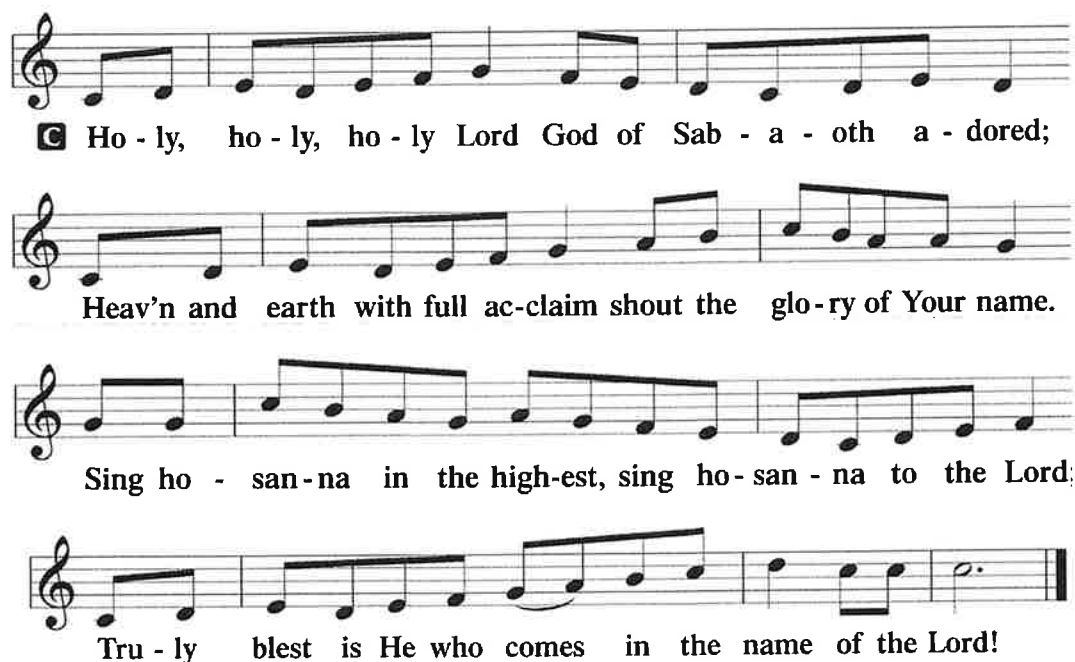
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

THE SANCTUS (Congregation sings)

LSB, 208



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Spoken together)

During the Lord's Prayer, the church bell tolls three times to encourage those outside the sanctuary to join with the church in corporate prayer.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: Amen.

THE AGNUS DEI (Congregation sings)

LSB, 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true us, Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Please be seated)

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION (Served by stations)

When Jesus said, "This is My Body...This is My Blood," He really meant it. As Lutherans, we believe in the real bodily presence of Christ in the Sacrament, not merely in a figurative or symbolic sense. This means that Jesus' body and blood are actually present in the bread and wine received in Holy Communion. In this meal our faith is strengthened and forgiveness is assured. This gift is an act of God's love, which we don't deserve, cannot explain, and don't even fully understand. We humbly believe it. It is a request of our congregation that anyone who wishes to commune with us would share this faith. If you are not receiving the Lord's Supper today but desire a blessing, approach the Pastor with your arms crossed over your heart. The individual cups located in the center of each tray contain non-alcoholic wine for those having that medical need. Individually packaged gluten-free communion wafers are available. Please ask the Communion Assistant if you have this dietary need.

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

"O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is"

Hymn 372

"O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild"

Hymn 546

"What Child Is This"

Hymn 370

THE DISMISSAL

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (Sung by the congregation)

LSB, 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN: "A Great and Mighty Wonder"

Hymn 383

THE POSTLUDE: "How Great Our Joy"

Blersch

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 1 Kings 3:4-15; Ps. 119:97-104; Eph. 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52

THE CHRISTMAS GREENS adorning the altar were given to the glory of God in loving memory of the 10th anniversary of the passing of Don Beitz from his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

SERVING

Organ	Myra Schmidt
Acolyte	Brenna Kelley
Altar Guild	Tammy Bair, JoAnn Bender, LuAnn Bender, Tina Bruce
Opener	Eric and Michelle Hoffman
Usher Crew 3	Ed Davis, Chuck Karrick, Dave Bieberich, Matt Benne, Barry Gynn, Kurt Kleinrichert, Tom Matson, Bill Pynchon, Mike Repp
Communion	Eric Hoffman, Kevin McGuigan, Tom Matson, Dave Smith
Audio Engineer	Craig Dahlkamp

The Prayers of the Church

Prayer Requests

- Our congregation continues to care for one another through a faithful prayer ministry. Please pray for the following people this week:
 - We pray for Hudson Matthew McCaig on the occasion of his Baptism. We ask God to strengthen Hudson as he grows and to bless his parents, James and Kayla (Konow), and his sponsors, John and Madalene Ripke and Logan Cochran, as they raise and nurture child's first name in his Baptismal faith.
 - Pray for strength, healing, peace and comfort for Pam Carmichael (sister of Deb Percy), Steve Herman, River Garcia (grandson of Raquel Klug), Carlton Grotrian (father of Karla Neeld), Colsen Gage (nephew of Annalissa Smith), Ricky Carmickle (brother-in-law of Deb Percy), Alycia

Williams, Dick Reinking, Gene Franklin (father of Sandy Behling), Vickie Kidwell (mother of Sandy Behling), Phil Arthur, Deb Percy, Ed Braun, Norv McClure, Janine (friend of Lauryn Longworth), Gracelynn Anderson (granddaughter of Tim and Cindy Anderson), Randi Gramling (cousin of Deb Percy), Stan Thompson, Deb Epperson, Salem Lee Hilty, Faith Behling, William Rush, Kathy Schweyer, Don Heckber, Wayne McClure, Mason Longworth, Chris Holmes (brother-in-law of Craig Dahlkamp)

- Pray for the following people recovering from surgery: Jan Reche, Steve Mueller, Ivy Harkenrider, Anne Kelly, Wes Harless, Jan Hoffman
- Pray for healing, comfort and peace for the following people with cancer: Bonnie Havener (sister-in-law of George and Becki Elonzae), Karen Burtch (sister-in-law of Lori Richey), Amy Krontz (daughter-in-law of David and Karen Wyss), Mary Grosjean, Peg Davis, Ashley Edge (niece of Barb and Gary Lesh), Barb Hambrock, Julie McMichael (niece of Deb Percy), Bob and Jenny Hobby (brother-in-law and sister of Chris Murphy), Shelly Koenig (friend of Matt & Amy Konow), Rob Howe, Judi Brunow, Josh Walters (friend of Patty Rouse), Judy Baumgartner (mother of Kristin Smith), Tina Bennett, Dennis McFadden, Lisa Toth (Pepple), Laura Herrick (Caroline Eber's niece), Art Klausmeier, Roger Kuehnert, John Jennings (friend of Dave and Tammy Bair), Bruce Williams, Herb Schumm, Rob Roehm, Ann Schwartz, Hazel Krenzke (Brian and Anna Snodgrass's niece), Robert Burmeister (Hannah Swor's dad), Roxanne Moore, Marsha Sappenfield, Jenny Nehrenz (niece of Charlene Hess), Rick Bair (brother of Dave and Tammy Bair)
- Join our staff in praying for the following members:
 - Ty and Cheryl Bennett, Tucker, Lindsay, Allison
 - Jeff and Sarah Bercot, Milla and Maeve
 - Russell Berg
 - Lois Berry
 - Chris Bible
 - Tasha Bible, Sam, Jacob, Benjamin and Adam
 - Dave and Sharon Bieberich
 - Eric and Karen Bieberich, Noah, Luke and Grace
 - Matthew and Stacy Bieberich, Mayce and Maddox
 - Michael Bieberich
- Please pray for the missions supported by Emmanuel's congregation:
 - Rev. James and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf - Ponce, Puerto Rico
 - Lutheran Agency for Missions to Burmese (LAMB)
 - Rev. Michael Paul - Taiwan
 - Heidi Wilkinson - Ethiopia

- The Lutheran Heritage Foundation
- Luther Academy
- Lutheran Senior Care Ministry (LSCM)
- Lutherans For Life (LFL)
- Lutheran Bible Translators

If you have a prayer request that you would like to make known to our Emmanuel family, please email me at taeggold@hotmail.com. If you would like to join the Emmanuel Prayer Chain, please email Marsha Sappenfield at marshasappenfield@comcast.net or call 260-616-0679.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Baptism: Thank God for the baptisms so far in 2025.

Dolores Harper	Parker Schultheis	Mason Gilliom	Atlas Arnold
Renae Smith	Rafael Alberto	Lois Altheide	Lincoln Griffin
Virginia Miller	Amelia Adair	Forrest Clarke	Brandon Cirilo
Charlotte Schmotzer	Lilyth Tittman	Anna Vandercar	William Vogt
Bennett Hoyle	Liam Hill	Rowen Lomont	Owen Light
Kollin Vanderford	Klaire Vanderford	Khloe Vanderford	Walter Vanderford
Wilma Vanderford	Vada Gillum	Valerie Miller	Gary Keller
Terry Buffington	Desirae Rider	Payton Caudill	Benjamin Rider
Alice Gynn	Quinn Brimmer	Parker Hall	Kirstin Lobozzo
Jordyn Christlieb	Devon Jewell	Izaiah Christlieb	Iyla Christlieb
Elyjun Christlieb	Amira Christlieb	Nevaeh Christlieb	Atreus Layman
Theodora Kendrick	Salem Lee Hilty	Austin Dillion	Nova Dillion
Daniel Schindler	Emmanuel Price	Lewis Adair	Hudson McCaig

The Teaching of the Church

Want Help Growing in the Word? Regularly visit Pastor Brunow's website <http://www.genesbrunotes.com>. The website offers notes on each chapter of Scripture, Bible studies, tips for preparing for worship, and a weekly devotion based on the Gospel reading for the coming week. You can find these devotions under the "Sermon Notes Plus" option.

Sunday School and Bible Class 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. (Starting January 4)

CLASS	LOCATION
Little Flock (Birth - Age 3)	School Room A5 (Extended Care)
4-5 Year Olds	School Room A3
K-1 st Grade	School Room A1
2 nd -3 rd Grade	School Room B3
4 th -5 th Grade	School Room B5
6 th -7 th Grade	School Room D2
8 th Grade	School Room D3 (Art/Science)

High School	Loft
Lutheran Christianity	Brandt Hall
Galatians	LL Ebenezer
Living Faithfully in a Fallen World	Sanctuary

Confirmation - Two Location Changes

- Grades 6/7 Confirmation will now be in school room D2.
- Grade 8 Confirmation will now be in school room D3 (Art/Science room).

Adult Bible Classes

- **Lutheran Christianity** (January 4-March 29; Teacher - Eggold, Sheaffer, Hille; Location - Brandt Hall) is a class designed to help build a solid foundation in the core teachings of the Church and is offered to anyone interested in learning more about the Lutheran Christian faith or brush up on what they had learned at another point in their faith journey.
- **Galatians** (January 4-March 22; Teacher - Dennis McFadden; Location - LL Ebenezer) Join us for a 12-week study of St. Paul's letter to the Galatians. This letter has been called the "Magna Carta of Christian liberty," for it maintains that only through the grace of God received through faith in Jesus Christ can a person escape the curse of sin and of the law and live a new life, not in bondage or license, but in a genuine freedom of mind and spirit through the power of God. Galatians was a favorite epistle of reformer Martin Luther who called it his "Katie" (Luther's wife!). Our class will involve my PowerPoint presentation, video clips, and discussion.
- **Living Faithfully in a Fallen World: Being Lutheran after Luther's Death** -(January 4 - February 8; Teacher - Pastor Larry Rast; Location - Sanctuary) We all know that Luther posted the 95 Theses in 1517—but what happened after that? This study will look at the latter part of Luther's life and then examine the enormous challenges the Lutheran church faced in the years following his death (1546) and when things finally (kind of) settled down in 1580. Over the weeks we will see how God keeps His promises to His church—even when His church struggles with the difficulties of living faithfully in a fallen world.

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 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: January 12 & 26, February 9 & 23, March 9 & 23, April 13 & 27, and May 11 from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact Liz Bejot - LBejot@emmanuelutheran.org.

The News of the Church

Missionaries Jeff and Gina Teeple Coming to Emmanuel - After serving Peace Lutheran Church in Fremont, Indiana, for many years, Rev. Jeff and Deaconess Gina Teeple are serving the Lord as missionaries in Germany. Jeff is a missionary pastor to Trinity Lutheran Church in Frankfurt. Trinity is an English-speaking congregation that serves expat families from around the world. As communications project manager, Gina works with the Eurasia communication specialist, missionaries and LCMS Communications to support projects in the region and facilitate communication to supporters and donors. Jeff and Gina will share more about their work and Pastor Teeple will serve as our Epiphany preacher on January 4 and 5.

2026 Contribution Envelopes are available to pick up in Ebenezer Hall. If you have your contributions taken out electronically, you will not have envelopes. However, if you would like to have them, please contact the church office.

CONSIDER ATTENDING iLead 2026 - iLead is a collaborative initiative of several local congregations working together to develop leaders in the church. iLead 2026 churches 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." Here is the event calendar:

- Looking for the Kingdom with Ben Haupt on Saturday, January 10, at St. Michael Lutheran Church
- Words Create Worlds with Henry Graf on Saturday, January 24, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church
- A Panel Discussion on Discipleship and Leadership Development on Saturday, February 7, Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

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.

Visual Faith — Gratitude & Prayer Journals - Join us in the new year as we work on our 2026 Gratitude & Prayer Journals! Writing down one thing you're thankful for and one thing you're praying about each day can transform how you see God at work in your life. This event will be on Tuesday, January 6, 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Ebenezer Hall. Bring a snack, invite a friend, and sign up at the Connections Counter or scan the QR code.



GAME ON is a group designed for those who like to play table games. We play a different game each month. The game for January is Rummikub - a take off of Rummy but played with tiles. No experience is needed. Please join us for

fellowship, fun, and food. GAME ON will meet Tuesday, January 6, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in Ebenezerl. Please join us and bring a friend. There is a sign-up sheet at the Connections Counter. If you forget to sign up come anyway!

Volunteer 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. Your time and kindness can make a lasting impact. Join us in this rewarding ministry! Who can volunteer? Any adult, high school student, along with 7th and 8th graders are welcome to apply. Scan the QR code for more information and to apply.



Lunch Bunch (60+) - As we begin the New Year 2026, we are reaching out to all those in our church family who are around 60 or over to join us for Lunch Bunch. Fellowship starts at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 20th, in the LL Ebenezer Hall. Lunch is served at 12:00 p.m. followed by one of our favorite fun activities -- BINGO! Lunch reservations are required by calling the church office at 260.423.1369 or by signing up at the Connections Counter by Friday, January 16. The lunch cost is \$10.00 per person payable that day. Hoping to see many of you there to kick off the new year with a bang!

ESM Seeks Student Support Specialist who will enhance academic success by supporting students through compassionate care and interventions. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis with a flexible start date as early as spring semester. Please contact Executive Assistant, Hannah Swor (hswor@esmeagles.com) for the application and with any questions.

ESM Kindergarten Enrollment - With so many schools in the area to choose from, making the decision about where your child will begin their education is easier said than done. We invite you to join us on January 22 or February 17 for our Kindergarten Information and Enrollment session to get a clear picture of what ESM is all about. To learn more and register, please scan the QR code.



ESM Preschool Enrollment - As a parent, we understand that no one knows your child's unique needs better than you. Finding a school that will reinforce the values you are instilling at home is crucial. We invite you to join us on February 12 or 19 for our Preschool Information and Enrollment sessions to get a clear picture of what ESM is all about. To learn more and register, please scan the QR code.



The Calendar of the Church

Monday, December 29

No scheduled Events

Tuesday, December 30

6:00 p.m. Study the Psalms at Chapman's

Wednesday, December 31

7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Worship Service w/Communion

Thursday, January 1

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, January 2

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, January 3

5:00 p.m. Divine Service w/ Communion

Sunday, January 4

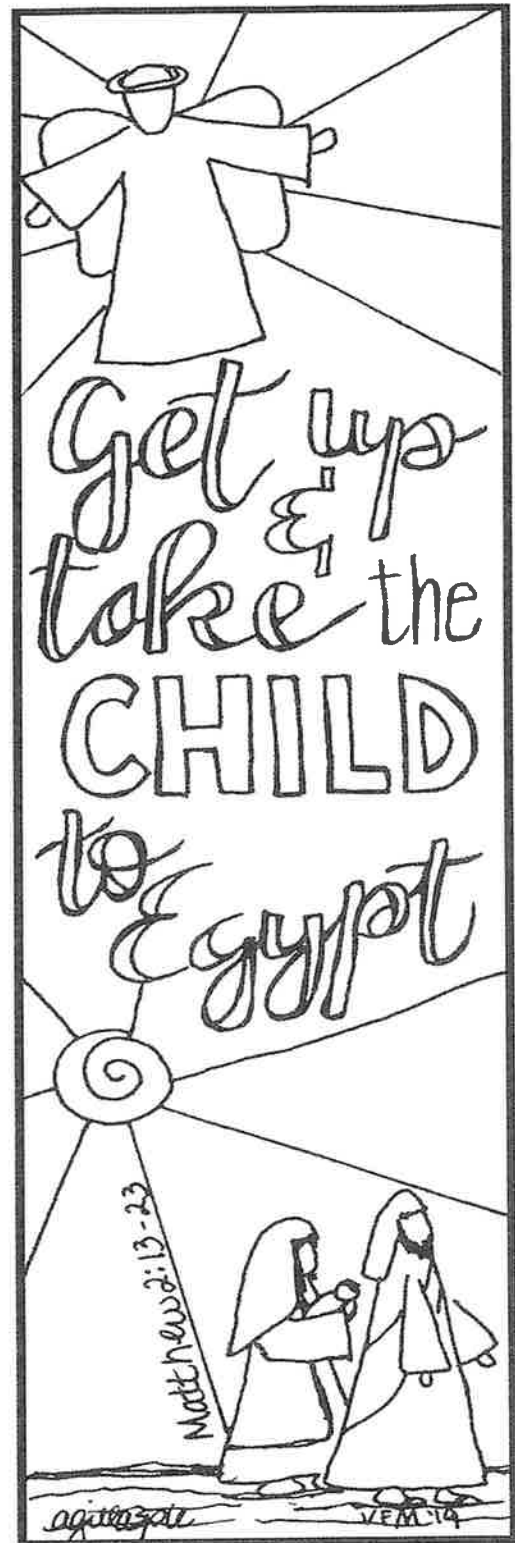
8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:15 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class

10:30 a.m. Divine Service w/ Communion



Sermon Notes



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This Visual Faith resource is designed to help visual and tactile learners take worship into the week. You can find more Visual Faith resources at <https://www.visualfaithmin.org>.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Building faith in the city

We are a caring family of baptized Christians bound together in the forgiveness which God has provided all people through His Son, Jesus.

This family exists to announce this gift of forgiveness to individuals of all nations and cultures through the preaching of God's Word and the administration of the Sacraments. Emmanuel instructs young and old according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and reaches out through forgiving relationships, working to connect all members of the family through caring friendships.

Emmanuel serves as shepherds of the sheep; seekers of the lost; friends of sinners; and caregivers to the poor, lonely and broken-hearted. It is a family that cares for all people and reaches out to witness to the love and forgiveness found in Jesus Christ.

Emmanuel Worship Services are designed to share God's love and forgiveness through the ministry of Word and Sacrament. We offer a variety of worship styles and we encourage you to worship in the liturgical style that best meets your needs.

Saturday Evening Divine Service—This service offers a contemporary setting and is held on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Morning Divine Services—These services are held on Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. and feature worship in a traditional liturgical setting.

Church Staff

Thomas A. Eggold, Senior Pastor
Dan Sheafer, Associate Pastor
Matt Johnston, Dir. of Music Ministry
Lana Hille, Dir. of Congregational Care
Sarah Pennekamp, Dir. of Discipleship
& Youth Ministry
Liz Bejot, Dir. of Children's Ministry
Jennifer Tweedy, Dir. of Admin.
& Finance
Arthur Klausmeier, Pastor Emeritus
Dan May, Pastoral Assistant
Herb Schumm, Pastoral Assistant

Mark Sheafer, Pastoral Assistant
Ryan Tietz, Pastoral Assistant
Dan Dahling, Pastoral Assistant
Myra Schmidt, Organist
Dick Shively, Business Manager
Becki Elonzae, Office Manager
Randy Thompson, Maintenance Supervisor
Carolyn Meyer, Administrative Assistant
Brad Larson, Seminary Fieldworker
Caleb Swor, Seminary Fieldworker
Qien "Suzie" Su, Deaconess Fieldworker

Emmanuel-St. Michael Lutheran School

Dr. Ben Stellwagen, Principal

1123 Union Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 Website: www.esmeagles.com

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

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1 Now sing we, now re - joice,	Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me;	I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine	The Fa-ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?	Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth	Poor in a man-ger lies;
Cheer my wea-ried spir - it,	O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign-ing o'er us	Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing	With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth	The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it,	Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us	A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing	In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!	Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee!	Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there!	May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there!	Oh, that we were there!

God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

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1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap - tized
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap - tized
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap - tized
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad - ness: I am bap - tized
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing To this life - long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it,
 in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er:
 in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion,
 in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness
 com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing:



Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's
 Je - sus' cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y
 I am not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the
 To in - her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in
 E - ven there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a -



trea - sures man - y? I have one worth
 con - science seize me Since my Bap - tism
 font I've trav - eled, All your might has
 dust and ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance
 waits its rais - ing, Still my soul con -



more than an - y That brought me sal -
 did re - lease me In a dear for -
 come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your
 bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
 tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
 giv - ing flood, Sprin - kling me with Je - sus' blood?
 tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
 strength di - vine To make life im - mor - tal mine.
 in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

Let All Together Praise Our God

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1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

5 He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.

6 He is the key and He the door
To blessèd paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

△ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

A Great and Mighty Wonder

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1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"