

May-June 2026

Emanuel Lutheran Church

The Emanuel Witness

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.



Dear Family,

The story is told that there was a gathering of fish in a nearby lake. The elders had the children of all the fish swim past a reviewing stand. All the fish were applauded as they passed by, except those called *lokombe*, who swam on a slant. The *lokombe* parents and grandparents were mortified because their children had not done well.

When the *lokombe* children got home, their parents scolded them. The children were too polite to explain the situation directly to their parents. They did, however, speak to some of the elders. These elders asked the children and their parents to swim by them. Of course, the parents also swam on a slant. The elders reproached the parents. "You can't expect your children to swim differently from the way they see their parents swim."

Our children will mimic what they see and hear.

What are they seeing and hearing in your home?

What are they seeing and hearing at church?

Are they seeing and hearing that God is important?

Faith is caught more than it is taught.

We all have an important role in nurturing the faith our Lord has given to us. The primary way we nurture this faith is by coming to worship where we hear what our God has done for us. The second way is in our everyday life where we see God giving us His physical and spiritual gifts. As we sit down for our meals, let us give thanks for the blessings our God has given to us. When we lie down for the day, let us give thanks for all the blessings that our Lord has given to us. When morning comes, let us give thanks for another day our Lord has given to us.

If you are doing this in your home already, keep up the good work, and continue doing it! If you are not, I challenge you to say a prayer of thanksgiving for what God has done for you before each meal.

If we want our children to grow up with an understanding that our God is more than just a "Sunday morning God" then we need to show them that God is part of our lives not only on Sunday but also Monday-Saturday.

I leave you with the words of St. Paul, "My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians

2:2-3

Blessings,

Pastor Zeckzer



THY WORD
 is a lamp unto my feet
 and
 a light unto my path
130/740 III Psalm 119:105 J. Blocher

Daily Lectionary Readings

May 1 Exodus 25:1-22 Luke 5:17-39	May 11 Lev. 8:1-13, 30-36 Luke 9:1-17	May 21 Lev. 23:23-44 Luke 12:35-53	June 1 Num. 14:1-25 Luke 18:18-34	June 16 Prov. 16:1-24 John 16:1-16
May 2 Exodus 31:1-18 Luke 6:1-19	May 12 Lev. 9:1-24 Luke 9:18-36	May 22 Lev. 24:1-23 Luke 12:54-13:17	June 2 Num. 14:26-45 Luke 18:35-19:10	June 17 Prov. 17:1-28 John 16:17-33
May 3 Exodus 32:1-14 Luke 6:20-38	May 13 Lev. 10:1-20 Luke 9:37-62	May 23 Lev. 26:1-20 Luke 13:18-35	June 3 Num. 16:1-22 Luke 19:11-28	June 18 Prov. 20:5-25 John 17:1-26
May 4 Exodus 32:15-35 Luke 6:39-49	May 14 Lev. 16:1-24 Luke 10:1-22	May 24 Lev. 26:21-33, 39-44 Luke 14:1-24	June 4 Num. 16:23-40 Luke 19:29-48	June 19 Prov. 22:1-21 John 18:1-14
May 5 Exodus 33:1-23 Luke 7:1-17	May 15 Lev. 17:1-16 Luke 10:23-42	May 25 Num. 3:1-16, 39-48 Luke 14:25-15:10	June 5 Num. 16:41-17:13 Luke 20:1-18	June 20 Prov. 22:22-23:12 John 18:15-40
May 6 Exodus 34:1-28 Luke 7:18-35	May 16 Lev. 18:1-7, 20-19:8 Luke 11:1-13	May 26 Num. 8:5-26 Luke 15:11-32	June 6 Num. 20:1-21 Luke 20:19-44	June 21 Prov. 24:1-22 John 19:1-22
May 7 Exodus 34:29-35:21 Luke 7:36-50	May 17 Lev. 19:9-18, 26-37 Luke 11:14-36	May 27 Num. 9:1-23 Luke 16:1-18	June 7 Num. 20:22-21:9 Luke 20:45-21:19	June 22 Prov. 25:1-22 John 19:23-42
May 8 Ex 38:21-39:8, 22-23, 27-31 Luke 8:1-21	May 18 Lev. 20:1-16, 22-27 Luke 11:37-54	May 28 Num. 10:11-36 Luke 16:19-31	June 8 Num. 21:10-35 Luke 21:20-38	June 23 Prov. 27:1-24 John 20:1-18
May 9 Exodus 39:32-40:16 Luke 8:22-39	May 19 Lev. 21:1-24 Luke 12:1-12	May 29 Num. 11:1-23, 31-35 Luke 17:1-19	June 9 Num. 22:1-20 Luke 22:1-23	June 24 Prov. 30:1-9, 18-33 John 20:19-31
May 10 Exodus 40:17-38 Luke 8:40-56	May 20 Lev. 23:1-22 Luke 12:13-34	May 30 Num. 11:24-29; 12:1-16 Luke 17:20-37	June 10 Num. 22:21-23:3 Luke 22:24-46	June 25 Prov. 31:10-31 John 21:1-25
		May 31 Num. 13:1-3, 17-33 Luke 18:1-17	June 11 Num. 23:4-28 Luke 22:47-71	June 26 Joshua 1:1-18 Acts 8:1-25
			June 12 Num. 24:1-25 Luke 23:1-25	June 27 Joshua 2:1-24 Acts 8:26-40
			June 13 Num. 27:12-23 Luke 23:26-56	June 28 Joshua 3:1-17 Acts 9:1-22
			June 14 Num. 32:1-6, 16-27 Luke 24:1-27	June 29 Joshua 4:1-24 Acts 9:23-43
			June 15 Prov. 15:1-29 John 15:12-27	June 30 Joshua 5:1-6:5 Acts 10:1-17



In case you've been wondering...
PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES are currently being printed!
 Stay tuned to the weekly News & Notes for updates and instructions on how to get your copy.



Please Pray for our Shut In Members

- Grace Bates
- Marilyn Dunaway
- Darlene Elsner
- Mary Ann Gallmeyer
- Janice Gilreath
- Delores Hoffman
- Beth Koeneman
- LaVera Linker
- Sally Neilson
- Marlene Poling
- Sandra Poling
- Jim Purvis
- Ed & Sally Schwehn
- Barb Shriver
- Betty Paterson
- Vicki Schmidt
- Rose Sweet
- Elna Szink
- Charlene Vondran



May 3
 1 Peter 2:2-10
You Are Chosen!
 Rev. William Mueller



We live in a world where everyone wants to be special; everyone wants to receive a trophy. As the redeemed people of God in Jesus Christ, we are so much more than special. We receive so much more than a trophy! We are chosen and “mercied,” and Christ has given us a glorious mission!

May 10
 John 14:21
Keep on Keeping
 Rev. Scott Zeckzer

Keepsakes—we all have them—those special things that remind us of special people, places, or events in our lives. God has given you keepsakes to remind you of what He’s done for you. He also has sent the Holy Spirit to help us to ‘keep on keeping.’

May 17
 Luke 24:44-53
Lifted to a Higher Reality
 Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

Why celebrate Christ’s ascension? He visibly left this earth, and we cannot see Him! There are wonderful reasons to celebrate this event. Christ’s ascension lifts us to a higher reality.

May 24
 John 7:38
Living Water
 Rev. Thomas Eggold

People who think they are healthy don’t go to the doctor, and those who are satisfied in themselves can’t accept a Savior. But to those whose sin has left them desolate—to the one whose life is dry and whose spirit is wilting; to the one who is cracked and broken by their sin; to the one who finds no fulfillment in this world; to the one who rightly despises his own skill and wisdom and sees the futility of his own efforts at salvation; to the one who hungers and thirsts for righteousness—these words mean everything!

May 31
 Matthew 28:19
Let God Be God!
 Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

Christians across the world gather today to worship the Triune God. In Jesus Christ, we encounter the true God—One who challenges our expectations, yet gracefully comes to us with purpose and promise. The invitation given to us is simple and profound: Let God Be God!

Life Matters



Mother's and Father's Days are wonderful days to celebrate life and give thanks for our moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas. Yet, these days can be difficult for many. On these days, take an extra moment to pray that our heavenly Father would comfort those who are grieving the loss of their mother, father, or grandparent; those moms and dads grieving the loss of a child; those who have suffered a miscarriage or stillbirth; those who do not have children; and those couples who are struggling with infertility or are waiting to become parents through adoption. These are also good days to pray that the Lord would bless and guide all parents to raise their children in love and mercy and train them up in the way, the truth, and the life, our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray that the Lord would provide loving parents and faith-filled homes for all children living in abusive homes, in foster care, or awaiting adoption. We pray that by God's grace all families facing any kind of brokenness would be reconciled to each other and to our heavenly Father by the redeeming blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

This Mother's Day you have the opportunity to celebrate the moms in your life while supporting the life affirming efforts of Right to Life of Northeast Indiana (RLNI). Saturday, May 9 and Mother's Day, May 10, carnations will be available in the narthex before and after services. A suggested donation of \$2 per carnation will go to support RLNI. Take one or two to show mom or grandma how much you love and appreciate them!



Thank you to everyone who joined us in praying for life at the March prayer vigil and who have helped in various ways to support the babies, moms, and dads served by A Hope Center.



EMANUEL OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS to member students attending Concordia Lutheran High School and to members preparing for full-time church work at synodical colleges (the Concordia University System or either of our seminaries). Please let the church office know if your student will be attending Concordia Lutheran High School next year. Also, let us know if your student will be leaving CLHS. College students, let us know that you are entering or continuing a program. We're currently compiling the list of students among whom our funds will be divided. Thank you!

Who is my elder?

Emanuel is divided into 11 Elder districts, by member last name. If your last name falls within the listed range for an Elder, he is "your" Elder. The Board of Elders serves the church by overseeing the worship life of its members. Your Elders care about you and your spiritual life! Please don't hesitate to contact your Elder!

Steve Poling—Head Elder

Jimmy Cobb—District #1: Abbott-Bradtmiller

Wade Benjamin—District #2: Bradtmueller-Cozad

Benjamin Castens—District #3: Crisp-Fitzwater

Paul Niccum—District #4: Flagg-Guy

Mike Sweet—District #5: Hall-Jones

John Colter—District #6: Kaeser-Mason

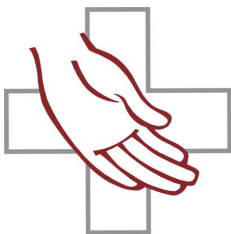
Ben Oberlin—District #7: McClain-Osborn

Nick Gehl—District #8: Osterman-Rinard

Tom Bandt—District #9: Robertson-Short

Jerry Schlund—District #10: Shriver-Waidelich

David Herman—District #11: Walchle-Zuercher



The We Care Ministry team offers support for short term needs of members in a variety of ways: errands & driving support to and from medical appointments if there's a driving restriction or related health care need; companion sitting; errand running; odd jobs such as yard work or repairs; as well as other transport needs. Short term meal support is also available. We are always looking for volunteers to help this service support as well. So if you'd like to give this a try or need any of these supports contact the church office and we'll help you get connected to care and service.

Dear Emanuel Family,

Thank you for sharing love & concern for Aiden and his family with your prayers, cards, and even just your interest in his situation. Hopefully the information included here explains a little more about 13-year-old Aiden. These are 2 posts the family has shared on Facebook:



Aiden's transplant journey continues. He is currently active on the transplant list & needs a new kidney. As his health continues to deteriorate, we are considering all options to help bring him a better quality of life. We are blessed in many ways, but all of us need help sometimes. Please know that we are working on our end to see if we are viable donors for Aiden. There are a lot of factors considered for pediatric patients, and we may not provide the best match to give him the longest kidney life before another surgery is needed in the future. Keeping his best interests in mind, we are reaching out to see if any willing kidney donors are out there. While we have been waiting for a kidney from the deceased donor list, his health has reached a point where dialysis is likely needed. This adds more complications to his already complicated life. Also, live donor kidneys have a history of being healthier & lasting longer. This is not an easy request for us, but again, we are trying to make his quality of life our priority. This is also not an easy decision for potential donors. We truly appreciate any thoughts, prayers, and assistance from the bottom of our hearts.

Many have asked how they can support our family. Here are a few ways you can help:

1. *Please help by sharing Aiden's story. Aiden's blood type is O, therefore his donor would need to have this blood type as well. Interested people will need to fill out the online forms and then a living donor coordinator will reach out to them within 5 days. Here is the direct link to the Donor Evaluation Form: <http://iuhealth.org/living-kidney-donation>. The living donor coordinator, Tracy Perry, can be reached at 317-944-4370 with questions.*

2. *Please pray alongside our family. We continue to pray that the perfect kidney for Aiden comes at the perfect time. We continue to pray for the medical staff that is guiding his care. We have endless medication changes, food changes, insurance calls, etc. We continue to pray for our boys. This life has led to some hard discussions with Aiden and AJ. Please pray that we can continue to find ways to help them navigate an array of emotions.*

3. *Many have asked to donate meals, gift cards, etc. As a family, we work through COTA to help offset the financial burden that comes with managing a chronic illness. The Children's Organ Transplant Association is a 501(c)3 charity. Donations/gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. COTA has helped offset the financial burden associated with Aiden's care. We felt this was the best way to manage people supporting our family. Any support provided through COTA can only be used to cover specific medical expenses. Here is the COTA page in honor of Aiden: <https://cota.org/cotaforaidenb/>*

We are thankful for our village that continues to support us through tough times. We are confident 2026 is going to bring healing our way!

Thank you to everyone that has shared Aiden's story. We continue to be on a mission to find the perfect kidney for him. Today (World Kidney Day) seems appropriate to update everyone on Aiden's status. On February 24 he went to the OR, once again, for some new hardware. Aiden was discharged from the outpatient procedure, then reported to the dialysis unit for his 1st round of hemodialysis. Aiden currently reports to Riley on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for dialysis. We start our days at 4:00 a.m. in order to report by 7:00 a.m. for treatment. This transition has been hard on his body but he continues to battle and work through difficult times. This has been a big adjustment for us all. We thank you for your ongoing support & prayers as we navigate these tough times.

With grateful hearts,

Aiden, AJ, Andrea, & Andy Bearman and family



LYFE enjoyed a night of Mission-Based Laser Tag and Axe Throwing at Combat Ops!

They then capped off the night with midnight food at IHOP!



EJY Worked Hard and Played Hard!

They filled eggs for Emanuel's annual Easter egg hunt, followed by pizza and Sky Zone!



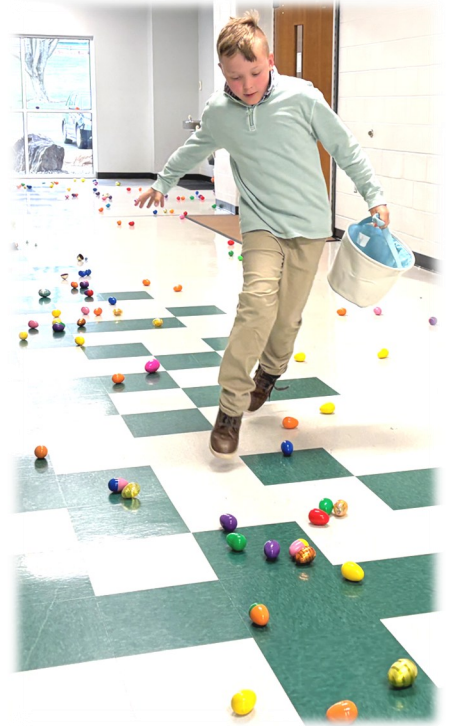
YOUTH GROUP

This special night was just for Emanuel's 8th grade confirmands!

They enjoyed going to Walmart to shop for their Secret Pals!

Then back to Emanuel for brownies and Confirmation trivia with prizes!





The youngest members of Emanuel enjoyed an Easter Egg hunt *inside* this year, since it was very muddy outside on Easter Sunday. Everyone found plenty of eggs, and all received an Arch book to take home!



He
is
Risen



May Birthdays

Alleluia! Let praises ring! To God the Father let us bring our songs of adoration. To Him through everlasting days be worship, honor, pow'r, and praise, whose hand sustains creation. Singing, ringing: Holy, holy, God is holy; spread the story of our God, the Lord of glory.

Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto the Lamb of God we sing, in whom we are elected. He bought His Church with His own blood, He cleansed her in that blessed flood, and as His bride selected. Holy, holy is our union and communion. His befriending gives us joy and peace unending.

Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto the Holy Ghost we sing for our regeneration. The saving faith in us He wrought and us unto the Bridegroom brought, made us His chosen nation. Glory! Glory! Joy eternal, bliss supernal; there is manna and an endless, glad hosanna.

Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto our triune God we sing; blest be His name forever! With angel hosts let us adore and sing His praises evermore for all His grace and favor! Singing, ringing: holy, holy, God is holy; spread the story of our God, the Lord of glory!

LSB 822

CLS Chapel Hymn of the Month

1
Cayden Metzger
Theodore Fensler

2
Janis Lahrman
Sherri Bremer
Larry Coomer
Alice Lehman
Elizabeth Carlson

3
Nicholas Gehl
Nick Scavone
Benjamin Koeneman
Mary Purvis
Avery Jones
Amy Biedess

4
Cillian Hoover

5
Susan Crowl
Steven Baker
Zachary White
Molly Sorg

6
Charlene Vondran

7
Beverly Newhouse
Rachel Carter
Blake Reed
Koen Reinhard

8
Noah Aumick
Kerrigan Grayless-Kemp
Elin Miller
Brent McKee

9
Camryn Reuille
Keegan Blair

10
Pamela Robinson
Victoria Fox
Jessi Fink

11
Don Lambert
Timothy Hall
Brian Poling
Eden Shipp

12
Craig Fox
Katie Snyder

13
Rick Salyer
Madison McGuire
Keira Dommer
Georgia Conrad
Evelyn Kleine

14
Annette Adams

15
Sandra Herman
Kate Cobb
16
Zachary Berning
Chase Ferrell
Kelsi Swygart

17
Olivia Pranger

18
Hannah Black
Lauren Osborn

19
Autumn Richeson

20
Eric Knittle
Candace Kaeser
Sawyer Pontsler

21
Tamara Warney
Makenzie Schneider
Lillian Turner
Emilia McKee

22
Barbara Werling
Reagan Widenhoefer

23
Libby Cain
Ruby Girardot
Rafael Hernandez

24
Tyler Czubakowski

25
Alice Adams
Jeffrey Robinson
Avary Vincenski

26
Deloris DeLong
LaVera Linker
Wyatt Coomer
Doug Reynolds

27
Jeffrey Brockmann
Gregory Ernest
Madalyn Smith
Roan Abbott

28
Kathy Sovine
Patricia Gardner
Nicolette Bremer
Carter Jackson
Patricia Schultz
Elan Williams

29
Deborah Vaughn
Melissa Ottenweller
Caleb Zeckzer

30
Sandi Herman
Amber Scherer

31
Lisa Fensler
Leesa Bledsoe



For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope

Jeremiah 29:11

June Birthdays

1

Ann Kremer
Zachary Dommer
Nathan Miller
Gwendolyn Hofman
Abigail Snodgrass
Daphnie Freeman
Sylas Page

2

Patrick Gengo
Beau Viggiano
Isaac Carter

3

June Goranson
Chase Bremer

4

Marianne Berning

5

Cheryl Brockmann
Tyler Grossman
Asher Peters

6

Rebecca Coomer
Sue Braun
Julie Poling
Jerry Schlund
Lauren Bulmahn
Henrik Guenin

7

Bruce Robinson
Marla Voirol
Jeffrey Turner
Keegan Reinhard
Andie Knittle
Lydia Bender
Scarlett Guy
Everly Rodriguez
Aaron Hunter
Maxine Lehman

8

Andrew Castens
Alexandra Russell
Jasmine Conrad

9

Wayne Doenges
Tyler Gerig
Madelyn Gerig

10

Terry Werling
Brian Franz
Ava Werling

11

Stephen Poling
Rebecca Van Spankeren
Matthew Swygart
Arianna Voirol
Jude Peters
Elizabeth Hileman
Gatlyn Richeson

12

Kayleigh Morlan
Collin Evans

13

Braden Walter
Gracie Yoder

14

Sally Georges
Michelle Hogle
Austin Gardner
Breanna Jackson

15

Doris Sowers
Austen Nzekwe
Joshua Werling
Renee Brooks

16

Jay Melcher
Angela Harter
Rebecca Schlund

17

Jillian Short
Sophia Andrus

18

Ashley Fuelling

19

Julie Krinn
Scott Zeckzer
Kimberly Coomer
Ashley San Inocencio
Brittany Swygart
Kendyhl Silvani
Cathleen Stroble
Chloe Zimmerman

20

Chase Luginbill
Violett Gillingham
Nathan Johnson

21

Sally Schwehn
Angelena Viggiano
Shay Pontsler

22

June Davis
Henry Koithahn
Wade Benjamin
Diane Dubbelde
Hailey Schmeling
Michael Brockmann
Ariya Pankop

23

Lori Snodgrass

24

Susan Johnson
Elinor Hofman
Reece Minden
Hannah Minden
Emeline Dommer
Derek Lehman

25

Michelle Loshe
Brandon Loshe
Hayley Woods

26

Janice Gilreath
Cheryl Birkmire
Molly Kidd
Justin Koenig
Matthew Sorg

27

Erica Ernest
Benjamin Schaad
Carlie Willger
Jennifer Goranson

28

Donald Holmes
Diane Bremer

29

David Werling
Randy Chin
Jeanie Doenges
Bryce Fox

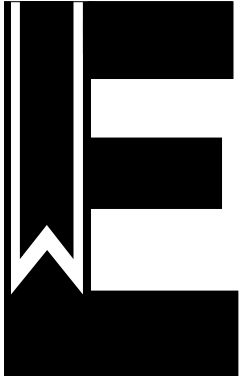
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Thomas Quandt
Thomas Meyer
Daniel Ungemach
Shannen Colter



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MISSION STATEMENT:

*Emanuel Lutheran Church
furthers God's Kingdom by
connecting people,
strengthening families, and
proclaiming God's Word.*

May / June 2026



2026 National Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive
During the past thirty five years, the annual POSTAL WORKERS' STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE has provided needed food donations for food banks. Emanuel's New Haven Food Bank is one of those food banks. More than one billion pounds of food products have been collected by United States postal workers and delivered to food banks. Emanuel volunteers are needed this year. This is a family friendly event for all ages. Volunteers will sort donated food items delivered by mail carriers to Central's cafeteria. A few volunteers are also needed to meet mail carriers at their mail routes to lighten their loads.

PLEASE SUPPORT EMANUEL'S FOOD BANK!

DATE: Saturday, May 9, 2026
TIME: 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
MORE INFO: Thomas Kneller (260) 749-0895
Greg Peters (260) 402-2658