

March—April 2026

Emanuel Lutheran Church

The Emanuel Witness

Emanuel Lutheran Church 800 Green Street New Haven, IN 46774 PH: 749-2163 FAX 493-3425
E-Mail: churchoffice@emanuelnh.org Web Site: www.emanuelnh.org

Pastors

Rev. David O. Stecker

pastorstecker@emanuelnh.org

Rev. Scott A. Zeckzer

pastorzeckzer@emanuelnh.org

Pastoral Assistant

Rev. Chad E. Hoover

choover@clhscadets.com

Director of Parish Music

Doug Reynolds

music@emanuelnh.org

Lifecare Director

Jill Bulmahn

jillbulmahn@emanuelnh.org

DCE

Andrea Hoover

youthdirector@emanuelnh.org

Office Manager

Christine Castens

churchoffice@emanuelnh.org

Office Hours

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

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

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP



Maundy Thursday ~ April 2

(Holy Communion)

10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday ~ April 3

1:00 p.m. Service of the Word

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service



Easter Sunday ~ April 5

6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service

7:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Festival Services with Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Gathering with Holy Communion



TRAPPED IN LENT



Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. -John 15:13

Dear friends of Emanuel,

There is a penetrating reason why Lent is such a fruitful time of the year—it's about being trapped. Trapped in a corner whereby Lent's theme leaves us with no options but One. It leaves us so helpless. At the same time, it brings the most resounding hope one can ever imagine. The only true hope that exists. The hope that is eternal. I'm left with a weakness I can't muster the strength to overcome, and a realization that my strength has nothing to do with the solution.

Any attempts to justify myself makes me suggest God's love from the perspective of the cross of Christ is less than what His love really is. In one sense, I can't get free from being trapped in the corner Lent keeps driving me to reside in. When I try to reduce the severity of my faults, it reduces the severity of Christ's Passion. My justifications are an attempt to rely on my merit which become a mockery of the cross and Christ's effort in successfully enduring its shame. Therefore, trapped in the corner I remain!

At the same time, the theme of Lent causes me to understand that I do not want to reduce the severity of Christ's passion. How can I? Why do I dare? I realize that I don't want to reduce the severity of my sin—that reduces the severity of the cross. To reduce what He endured on the cross only suggests God's love is less than it is. In reality, God's love is limitless.

And here is the beauty of it all: when we stop justifying ourselves, that's when we begin to understand how to be free from the sin that traps us. When my sin is beyond my strength to overcome, the corner where I reside has no escape until the very cross that doesn't allow me to free myself becomes the very means by which God frees me by way of His devotion of love. His mercy is all I have left to rely on for my escape. It's the most humbling and peaceful realization to know that His mercy is the only thing I need in order to no longer be trapped in the corner I could never free myself from!

Your friend in Christ,
Pastor Stecker

The *Lutheran Lunch Ladies* will be offering a time of food and fellowship each Wednesday in Lent.

Join your church family for a delicious meal *after* the 10:30am service or *before* the 7pm service. (Or *both!* We don't judge.)

The free-will offering collected at the evening meal will support the LYFE Trip to the Higher Things Conference this summer.

Daily Lectionary Readings



March 1

Gen. 24:32-52, 61-67
Mark 8:1-21

March 2

Gen. 27:1-29
Mark 8:22-38

March 3

Gen. 27:30-45; 28:10-22
Mark 9:1-13

March 4

Gen. 29:1-30
Mark 9:14-32

March 5

Gen. 35:1-29
Mark 9:33-50

March 6

Gen. 37:1-36
Mark 10:1-12

March 7

Gen. 39:1-23
Mark 10:13-31

March 8

Gen. 40:1-23
Mark 10:32-52

March 9

Gen. 41:1-27
Mark 11:1-19

March 10

Gen. 41:28-57
Mark 11:20-33

March 11

Gen. 42:1-34, 38
Mark 12:1-12

March 12

Gen. 43:1-28
Mark 12:13-27

March 13

Gen. 44:1-18, 32-34
Mark 12:28-44

March 14

Gen. 45:1-20, 24-28
Mark 13:1-23

March 15

Gen. 47:1-31
Mark 13:24-37

March 16

Gen. 49:29-50:7, 14-26
Mark 14:1-11

March 17

Ex. 1:1-22
Mark 14:12-31

March 18

Ex. 2:1-22
Mark 14:32-52

March 19

Ex. 2:23-3:22
Mark 14:53-72

March 20

Ex. 4:1-18
Mark 15:1-15

March 21

Ex. 4:19-31
Mark 15:16-32

March 22

Ex. 5:1-6:1
Mark 15:33-47

March 23

Ex. 7:1-25
Mark 16:1-20

March 24

Ex. 8:1-32
Heb. 1:1-14

March 25

Ex. 9:1-28
Heb. 2:1-18

March 26

Ex. 9:29-10:20
Heb. 3:1-19

March 27

Ex. 10:21-11:10
Heb. 4:1-16

March 28

Ex. 12:1-28
Heb. 5:1-14

March 29

Ex. 12:29-32; 13:1-16
Heb. 6:1-20

March 30

Ex. 13:17-14:9
Heb. 7:1-22

March 31

Ex. 14:10-31
Heb. 7:23-8:13

April 1

Ex. 15:1-18
Heb. 9:1-28

April 2

Ex. 15:19-16:12
Heb. 10:1-18

April 3

Ex. 16:13-35
Heb. 10:19-39

April 4

Ex. 17:1-16
Heb. 11:1-29

April 5

Ex. 18:5-27
Heb. 12:1-24

April 6

Ex. 19:1-25
Heb. 13:1-21

April 7

Ex. 20:1-24
Luke 4:1-15

April 8

Ex. 22:20-23:13
Luke 4:16-30

April 9

Ex. 23:14-33
Luke 4:31-44

April 10

Ex. 24:1-18
Luke 5:1-16

April 11

Ex. 25:1-22
Luke 5:17-39

April 12

Ex. 31:1-18
Luke 6:1-19

April 13

Ex. 32:1-14
Luke 6:20-38

April 14

Ex. 32:15-35
Luke 6:39-49

April 15

Ex. 33:1-23
Luke 7:1-17

April 16

Ex. 34:1-28
Luke 7:18-35

April 17

Ex. 34:29-35:21
Luke 7:36-50

April 18

Ex. 38:21-39:8, 22-23, 27-31
Luke 8:1-21

April 19

Ex. 39:32-40:16
Luke 8:22-39

April 20

Ex. 40:17-38
Luke 8:40-56

April 21

Lev. 8:1-13, 30-36
Luke 9:1-17

April 22

Lev. 9:1-24
Luke 9:18-36

April 23

Lev. 10:1-20
Luke 9:37-62

April 24

Lev. 16:1-24
Luke 10:1-22

April 25

Lev. 17:1-16
Luke 10:23-42

April 26

Lev. 18:1-7, 20-19:8
Luke 11:1-13

April 27

Lev. 19:9-18, 26-37
Luke 11:14-36

April 28

Lev. 20:1-16, 22-27
Luke 11:37-54

April 29

Lev. 21:1-24
Luke 12:1-12

April 30

Lev. 23:1-22
Luke 12:13-34



March 1 - Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-3—*Land, Legacy, and Life!*

Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

March 8—Third Sunday in Lent

John 4:10—*Living Water*

Rev. Shayne Jonker

March 15—Fourth Sunday in Lent

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39—*Eyes That See*

Rev. Paul Shoemaker

March 22—Fifth Sunday in Lent

John 11:17-27, 38-53—*Is, Not Was*

Rev. William Mueller

March 29—Palm Sunday

John 12:16—*Do You Understand?*

Rev. Scott Zeckzer

April 3—Good Friday

John 19:17-30—*Jesus' Death—Good News*

Rev. Douglas Punke

April 5—Easter

Matthew 28:1-10—*Easter Is About Life!*

Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

April 12—Second Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31—*A Living Hope*

Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

April 19—Third Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:13-35—*Opened Eyes*

Rev. Shayne Jonker

April 26—Fourth Sunday of Easter

John 10:1-10—*The Perfect Shepherd*

Rev. Paul Shoemaker

Please Pray for our
Shut In Members

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





MARCH EVENT SCHEDULE

FACEBOOK: BRIDGE 20/30 GROUP FT. WAYNE | INSTAGRAM: THEBRIDGE2030

3 MARCH 2026	MEETUP: LIVE MUSIC 7 PM THE CLUB ROOM @ THE CLYDE CAROLYN & DAVE MARTIN FLATBREAD SPECIAL!
10 MARCH 2026	THE PORCH NIGHT: SERIES ON VANITY 7 PM THE HOLY CROSS YOUTH CENTER 3420 N ANTHONY BLVD
17 MARCH 2026	BRIDGE SKATE NIGHT 8-10:30PM BELL'S SKATI&I RINK 7009 IN-930 FT WAYNE \$10 ADMISSION & SKATE RENTAL WEAR YOUR GREEN!
24 MARCH 2026	LENTEN EXPERIENCE WITH PASTOR CHAD 7 PM THE GREENHAUS 3504 N. ANTHONY BLVD FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP & FUN!
31 MARCH 2026	NO BRIDGE 20/30 CLOSED FOR SPRING BREAK

RUMMAGE SALE

It's time to clean out your closets, cupboards, attics & garages. Your unused items may be someone else's treasure.

The Emanuel Ladies' Society Spring Rummage Sale will be held on

Thursday, April 23 from 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Friday, April 24 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Please bring your donations (NO Large appliances or furniture – including TV's) to the Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday, April 19, setting up and sorting starts at 1:00 p.m.

No donations will be accepted after Tuesday, April 22

(Volunteers need to have time to price items and organize merchandise prior to the sale.)

Your helping hands would be greatly appreciated!

Volunteers are needed on Monday & Tuesday from 8 a.m.—7:30 p.m., and on Wednesday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

ALSO NEEDED: 6 & 8 FOOT TABLES for our Rummage Sale to be delivered Sunday, April 19. Please make sure they are marked with your name and be assured they will be used inside. Contact Julie Stutzman at 705-6636 or Sue Bunnell at 437-5296 if you can assist the Ladies and how many tables you are able to temporarily lend. **THANK YOU!**



THE LADIES SOCIETY RECEIVED A GENEROUS DONATION of white linen sets for queen & king sized mattresses. Each set contains a fitted sheet, a flat sheet & 2 pillowcases. These sheets are in very good condition! Also available are towel sets containing a hand towel & 2 washcloths, or a set of 3 washcloths. All proceeds of the sale go straight to the Ladies Society which, in turn, they use to support various ministries in our area (Shepherd's House, Cross Borders, and Charis House). Purchases can be made during church office hours. Please make checks out to Emanuel Ladies Society.

King Sheet Set...\$ 9.00

Hand towel and 2 wash cloths...\$ 1.00

Queen Sheet Set...\$ 7.00

3 wash cloth pack...\$.50



Lutheran Youth Fellowship at Emanuel

LYFE HIGHLIGHTS:

Ski trip to Jones, Michigan

New Year's Trivia Night

Bible study with Pastor Hoover



LIFE MATTERS

Lent is a great time to pray for life individually and with your household and church family. Thank God for the gift of life. Pray that all lives no matter his or her age, circumstance, diagnosis, or ability are treated with respect and care. Lament the brokenness and death that sin has brought into our world. Reflect penitentially on your sin. Remember that Christ died for you and for the sins of the whole world. Ask God to renew in you a right spirit and give you courage to shine the light of His love and mercy for all people into the world each day in the vocations He has given to you. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16

March-April Life Matters Activities

March - Emanuel will be participating once again in the Fort Wayne area 40 Days for Life prayer vigil. We will hold a vigil to pray for life in our Sanctuary on Sunday, March 22 after the second service until 12:30 p.m. Please join us in silent prayer for life. Prayer prompts will be provided. You may pray for as long as you choose. Materials on various life issues available for you to take home. We will also collect diapers and wipes for A Hope Center. You can donate to A Hope Center anytime. There is a collection bin in the donation cabinet under the coat rack where you can at any time give diapers, wipes, or other baby items.

April - Join us for a fun evening of food, fellowship, and faith supporting our local Christian pregnancy resource center - A Hope Center. The banquet is Tuesday, April 21 at the Memorial Coliseum. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner and the program begin at 6:30 p.m. The event is free to attend, but there will be a fundraising ask at the end. In addition to learning more about the mission of A Hope Center and the moms, dads, and babies they have helped, there is always a great meal and an inspirational speaker. This year's featured speaker is Matt Hammitt, the former lead singer of the Christian band Sanctus Real. If you would like to attend, please register with Renee Schuller so you can be seated at Emanuel's table. It would be awesome to fill more than one table from Emanuel this year!

Spring Women's Activities



Lenten Devotion - *Who Do You Say That I Am?*
Ascension Lutheran Church, Saturday, March 14 10 a.m.
RSVP to Renee Schuller

The Lutheran Women in Mission Fort Wayne 3 Zone Spring Gathering will be held the morning of April 11, 2026 at St. Michael Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne beginning at 9 a.m. The speaker will be Deaconess Gina Teeple. The Rev. Jeffrey and Deaconess Gina Teeple serve as LCMS missionaries in Germany. Gina works as a communications project manager, collaborating with the Eurasia communication specialist, missionaries, and LCMS Communications to support projects across the region and facilitate communication with supporters and donors. If you plan to join us for this special morning of food, fellowship, and faith, please RSVP to Renee Schuller.



What happened at Emanuel's Epiphany Celebration?



Good question! First, we gathered in the Fellowship Hall for dinner, King Cake (if your slice had a baby Jesus, you won a prize!), and crafts for the children while the adults visited.



At 6:15, everyone met Pastor Hoover in the narthex and we walked into church together. During the service, Pastor Hoover had a children's sermon. We sang hymns about Jesus being the *Light of the World*.



At the end of the service, we lit the candles we held on Christmas Eve and walked outside together for *The Burning of the Greens* to mark the close of the Christmas season. The fire reminded us that Christ is the *Light of the World*. We sang Christmas carols one last time around the fire.



Then we went back inside to warm up with hot chocolate! YUM!



YOUTH GROUP

Emanuel Junior Youth

When EJY get together,
they Work Hard,
then they Play Hard!

EJY enjoyed time together in January. They worked hard creating tie blankets to be given to patients at Parkview Hospital. Then they played hard at the ice skating rink at Headwaters Park.



March Birthdays



Christ, the Life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe, who, Thyself for me once giving to the darkest depth of woe: through Thy suffer'rings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee bonds and stripes, a cruel rod; pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, O Thou sinless Son of God! Thus didst Thou my soul deliver from the bonds of sin forever. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon, for Thy sorrows deep and sore, for Thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank Thee evermore, thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing, for Thy bleeding and Thy dying, for that last triumphant cry, and shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

CLS Chapel Hymn of the Month:
LSB 420 (1, 2, 7)

2

Jack Cain
Linda Friend
Michelle Widenhoefer
Tayler Beemer

3

Rose Sweet
Denise Sauders
Donna Baker

4

Marilyn Dunaway
Janet Locatelli
Julie Vincenski
Scarlett Gillingham

5

Cathy Dunn
Abbigayle Werling

6

Ty Luginbill
David Herman
Julia Evans

7

Esther Smith
Robin Johnson
Carlos Taylor

8

Kimberly Doster
Kathryn Gotschall
Katie Melin
Mackensie Neumann
Ellie Benjamin
Gabriella Gillingham
Racheal Zellers
Eric Richeson
Mattis Richeson
Casey Cheviron

9

Cynthia Louis
Brent Bremer

10

Randy Short
Elly Vardaman
Isabella Essex

11

Ned Busche
Sue Bunnell
Finnegan Stecker

12

Helen Fisher
Brandon Parker
Kenzi Swygart
Mason Jackson

13

Dennis Bradtmiller
Brad Peters
Shelby Anderson

14

Mark Schuller
Karly Gotschall
Rylee Benjamin

15

Colleen Peters
Vayda Schorey

16

Ryan Hellingner
Chrystal Pranger
Jakob Girardot
Sophia Russell

17

Peggy Fritz

18

Donald Vogtman
Marilyn Herman
Brenda David
Nancy Graham
Grayson Price
Scott Huston
Journey Nicholson

19

Troy Waidelich
Jodi Espy
Jami Girardot
Emmett Cheviron

20

Vicky Schmidt
Chloe Lynch
Lucas Carter

21

Renee Schuller

22

Kelly Gerig
Tyrus Gatchell
Kathryn Fitzwater

24

Jaime Renninger
Rachel Remenschneider
Laura Robinette
Samuel Hartman
Jaxon Espy

25

Richard Yingling
Christopher Graham
Noah Andrus

26

Karen Rodriguez
Nick Price

27

Joellyn Rinard
Jeb Berning

28

Paul Bultemeier
Suzanne Busche
Laura Hartman
Pamela Cobb
Ava Doster

29

Patricia Scott
Faye Roemke
Edward Harper
David McGraw
Justin Renninger
Amanda Gehl
Sean Miller
Kaitlyn Warney
Hudson Kurtz

30

Sara Scavone
Norah Werling
Lilliana Hernandez
Henry Werling
Elizabeth Hoepner
Coral Jones

31

Amber Rhodes
Gustave Jones



April Birthdays

1

Charlene Hormann
Karson Fensler
Alyrah Page

2

Sharon Christianer
Marcie Weber
Robert Knight
Douglas Werling

3

Genevieve Waidelich
Michael Mackin
Eli Johnson
Leah Koeneman

4

Courtney Loshe
Piper Pontsler

5

J

6

Darwin Werling
Kristine Corbin
Stephanie
Schneider-Dawson
Natasha Dommer
Luke Aumick
Zachary Fensler

7

Paul Niccum
Wayne Meyer
Jennifer Hanley
Skyler Messman
Addison May
Brooke Schorey
Addilynn Young

8

Lauren Couture
Liam Herman
Isaac Pranger

9

Kay Remenschneider
Brody Oberlin
Raymond Jones, III
Amy Simkins
Becky Hitzfield

10

Ruth Seddelmeyer
Steven Aiton
Mackenna Sorg
Coltyn Richeson

11

Milan Mutzfeld

12

Kati Blair
Nicole Messman
Kyler Bayes
Hadlee Shipp
Eleanor Bender
Oliver Rehwaldt

13

Makayla Coomer
Zion Kinnee

14

Timothy Werling
Bella Meadows
Landon Carter

15

Philip Locatelli
Judy McMichael
Max Meyer

16

Cinda Lambert
Tamara Cheviron

17

Kelly Blair
Christy Rosswurm
Daniel Biedess
Savannah Swygart
Tristan Cross

18

James Purvis
William Van Spankeren
Bowen Richeson
Brady Kurtz
Henry Fritz

19

Jill Lepper
Abby Feasby
Kinley Galentine
Andrew Brooks

20

David Yoder

21

Karen Zimmerman
Jeffrey Berning
Melissa Amstutz
John Kremer
Owen Knittle
Silas Shipp

22

Cortney Dommer
Grant Bremer
Ezekiel Hogle

23

Ashley Galentine

24

Taylor Yoder
Hunter Espy
Carter Yoder
Ezekiel Yoder

25

David Stecker
Victoria Nzekwe
Brian Blair
Chad Bauer

27

Patricia Speaks
Benjamin Swygart

28

Hudson Blair
Zachary Burnside
Olivia Long
Nicholas Dager
Kaitlynn Pontsler

29

Jayne Scheele
Lisa Babb
Hannah Biedess
Meadow Remenschneider



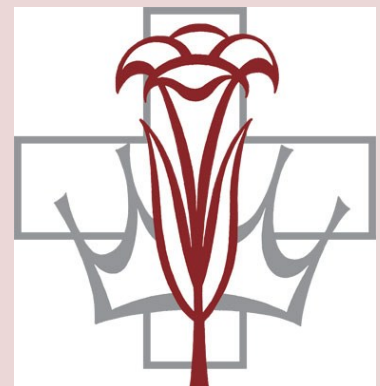
All the earth with joy is sounding: Christ has risen from the dead! He, the greater Jonah, bounding from the grave, His three-day bed, wins the prize: death's demise—songs of triumph fill the skies.

Christ, the devil's might unwinding, leaves behind His borrowed tomb. Stronger He, the strong man binding, takes, disarms his house of doom; in the rout casting out pow'rs of darkness, sin, and doubt.

Jesus, author of salvation, shared in our humanity; crowned with radiant exaltation, now He shared His victory! From His face shines the grace meant for all our fallen race.

Praise the Lord, His reign commences, reign of life and liberty—Paschal Lamb, for our offenses, slain and raised to set us free! Evermore bow before Christ, the Lord of Life adore!

CLS Chapel Hymn of the Month: LSB 462



Emanuel Lutheran Church
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 NEW HAVEN IN 46774



MISSION STATEMENT:

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

March / April 2026

EMANUEL'S EASTER GARDEN: As the Easter season approaches, the Altar Circle is once again offering a you an opportunity to purchase flowers that will decorate our sanctuary for Easter. Please complete this form & return it to the church office *no later than Monday, March 9.*

Make checks payable to EMANUEL ALTAR CIRCLE.

NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____

TOTAL PLANTS ORDERED= _____

TOTAL AMOUNT\$ _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Check here if you'd like your flowers at The Gathering _____

Easter Lilies

\$12	Quantity
6" (1 stem)	-

Hyacinths 7" Pot \$11	Quantity
Blue	-
Pink	-
White	-
Purple	-

Tulips 6" Pot \$11	Quantity
Pink	
Red	-
Orange	
Yellow	-
Purple	

Snake Plant 6" Pot \$21	Quantity
Assorted	

Mums 6" Pot \$17	Quantity
Purple	
White	
Yellow	

Azalea 6" Pot \$30	Quantity
Pink	

Hydrangea 6" Pot \$30	Quantity
Pink	
Blue	

Daffodils 7" Pot \$11	Quantity
Dwarf Yellow	
Standard Yellow	-

ZZ Plant 6" Pot \$21	Quantity
Green	