

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday Divine Service is at 9 a.m.

Sunday Bible Class begins at 10:15 a.m.

Sunday School begins at 10:15 a.m. (September-May)

Wednesday Evening Service is at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel.

Thursday Morning Worship is at 8:45 a.m. in the chapel.

Thursday Morning Bible Class is at 9 a.m. in Memorial Hall.

News, Notes & Numbers — continued

◆ Pastor Marks can be reached at the church office or at (920) 400-0425 and is available for any pastoral needs that you might have. Feel free to reach out to him to schedule a visit or just stop by when the porch light is on. Monday-Wednesday mornings are generally good for visits, but he will always be happy to see you. Pastor also holds designated hours one Saturday morning per month for individual confession and absolution, counseling appointments, and general visitation. Also, let Pastor know if you are in the hospital, having surgery or a procedure, or simply desire prayer for any reason. He can also be reached by email at pastor@emmanueladell.org.

◆ Facebook is another opportunity to get up-to-date information with what is happening at Emmanuel. Like us at "Emmanuel Lutheran Church-Mo Synod."

May God continue to reform our Church to His Word and bless our March!

“And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.”

Psalm 90:17 (Bible reference inscribed on our church cornerstone, circa 1916)

Return Service Requested

E-mail: pastor@emmanueladell.org

Phone: 920-994-9005

Adell, WI 53001
326 Center Ave.



PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE



Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS
326 Center Ave. — Adell, WI 53001
Phone: 920-994-9005 • website: emmanueladell.org

Emmanuel News

CONFIRMATION AND COMMUNION

The Rite of Confirmation in our church is a well-established tradition, yet its historical, theological, and practical foundations reveal some problems. While our current practice includes years of catechesis culminating in a ceremonial rite (often viewed as a “graduation”) that grants access to the Lord’s Supper, this model lacks solid biblical and confessional grounding.

The Problem:

- 1. Historical Confusion: The Rite of Confirmation as practiced today originated from non-biblical, medieval Roman Catholic traditions based on questionable sources and misunderstood theology. The Reformers (notably Luther) rejected it as a sacrament and emphasized catechesis, not confirmation rites.
2. Misplaced Emphasis: Confirmation has become a terminal event rather than a stage in ongoing discipleship. Its graduation-like feel encourages many families to treat it as the end of Christian instruction and participation. This is reflected in the drop in worship attendance post-confirmation.
3. First Communion Issues: Tying First Communion to Confirmation delays participation in the Sacrament for years after children understand it and desire to receive it. This practice diminishes the Sacrament’s importance in the Christian life and contradicts early Lutheran practice.
4. Parental Influence: The primary predictor of youth church participation post-confirmation is the parental example. No programmatic changes to catechesis will bear fruit if parents are disengaged from worship and faith life.

A Possible Solution:

Return to an early Lutheran model that prioritizes meaningful catechesis and proper sacramental participation:

- Stage 1: Catechesis to First Communion
o Begin instruction around 4th or 5th grade for children who demonstrate interest and readiness.
o Catechesis centers on Luther’s Small Catechism, involving both children and their parents.
o Upon completion, children are examined by the pastor and admitted to the Lord’s Supper in a brief rite of recognition.
o This teaches that the Sacrament of the Altar is essential and for the baptized of all ages are adequately prepared for it.
• Stage 2: Ongoing Catechesis toward Maturity
o In later years (middle school), students receive deeper instruction, again in partnership with parents.
o Completion of this stage includes a private examination and a congregational acknowledgment of the individual’s full understanding of our fellowship and beliefs.
o This results in recognition as a “fully catechized member,” now eligible for full congregational participation.

This approach shifts focus from ceremony to substance—catechesis grounded in Scripture and the Small Catechism, regular participation in the Divine Service, and a lifelong relationship with Christ and His Church. This is a practice that has already been implemented in many of our local LCMS congregations and is becoming much more common throughout our Synod. We spent multiple weeks studying this in depth in Bible Study this past fall and the initial reception from those involved in that conversation was over 90% positive. Given that we know that a change of this type could be met with many different reactions, we want to give all members the opportunity to have their voices heard.

Therefore, the enclosed survey is presented to you for your completion. Regardless of whether you completed this last fall or not, please fill this out and return it to the box that will be in the narthex. You are free to add your name to the survey or to leave it anonymous. Through these responses we will gauge the congregation’s readiness to continue exploration of the most positive way to move forward as we seek to ensure that all our members are fed and nourished and the lifelong path of faith is set up to strengthen us all. Please return the survey by April 12th. As always, I am available to speak to you regarding this or any other matter and would welcome your input or willingness to serve as a part of the group that continues to explore this matter.

Blessings,

✝ Pastor Marks

March 2026



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Highlights

- Youth Group Event on March 15th.
• Holy Week March 29th thru April 5th.
• Maundy Thursday Divine Service on April 2nd.
• Good Friday Tenebrae on April 3rd.
• Easter Vigil at St. John, Sherman Center on April 4th.
• Easter Sunrise Service, Easter Breakfast and Easter Festival Divine Service on April 5th.

Thursday Morning Bible Class

The class will meet on March 5, 12 and 26 at 9:00 a.m. We are studying the Book of Romans. We will not be meeting on the 19th.

Sunday School

- 3/1 — The Kingdom of Children
- 3/8 — The Passion Prediction
- 3/15 — A Trusting Widow
- 3/22 — Forever Food
- 3/29 — Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Snack Schedule

- 3/1 — Buchholz
- 3/8 — Michaels
- 3/15 — Popp
- 3/22 — Fischer
- 3/29 — Dieringer

Worship Attendance Sunday & Wednesday

Week of 1/25.....	144
Week of 2/1.....	145
Week of 2/8.....	127
Week of 2/15.....	215

Lent/Easter Schedule



Sunday, February 22	Divine Service — Lent 1	9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, February 25	Lenten Meal — Sloppy Joes hosted by Ladies' Aid	5:15 p.m.
	Midweek Lent 1: "The Robe of Human Frame"	6:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 1	Divine Service — Lent 2	9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 4	Lenten Meal — Tacos hosted by the Elders	5:15 p.m.
	Midweek Lent 2: "Done for Us"	6:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 8	Divine Service — Lent 3	9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 11	Lenten Meal — Hot Turkey Sandwiches hosted by Board of Christian Education	5:15 p.m.
	Midweek Lent 3: "For Us He Seeks"	6:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 15	Divine Service — Lent 4	9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 18	Lenten Meal — Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwiches hosted by Trail Life and AHG	5:15 p.m.
	Midweek Lent 4: "Healing from Demons"	6:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 22	Divine Service — Lent 5	9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 25	Lenten Meal — Chili Cook Off	5:15 p.m.
	Midweek Lent 5: "For Us Betrayed"	6:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 29	Palm Sunday Divine Service	9:00 a.m.
Holy Week (3/30—4/3)	Stations of the Cross Devotional—open daily	8:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 2	Maundy Thursday Divine Service "For Many Means for You"	6:30 p.m.
Friday, April 3	Good Friday Tenebrae: "His Dying Breath"	1:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 4	Easter Vigil at St. John, Sherman Center	6:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 5	Easter Sunrise Service: "For Us He Lives on High to Reign"	6:30 a.m.
	Easter Breakfast hosted by the Youth Group	7:30 a.m.
	Easter Festival Divine Service	9:00 a.m.

The fifth annual **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** was held on Tuesday, February 17th with approximately 75 in attendance. A great time was had by all. Everyone ate well and enjoyed the activities which included some competitive games of pancake hop and pancake pass. Thank you to all who attended and especially to our confirmation classes who assisted by serving and helping to clean up. \$386 was raised to assist the confirmands with expenses for confirmation camp this summer.



Confirmands ready to serve pancakes.



Building a tower without talking.



Playing the pancake hop.



The pancake pass.

Mission of the Month—March

The Missions of the Month for March are **Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and Seminarians Luke Konkell and Andrew Harrill**. For more than 175 years, the seminary in St. Louis has existed to prepare men for the holy ministry of Word and Sacraments in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Concordia Seminary serves the church and the world by providing theological education and leadership centered in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Half of your gifts on your mission line this month go to the seminary and the other half will be given to the seminarians we support. Any gift on the mission line of your weekly envelopes for March goes to supporting the work of the church and the training of her pastors.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Psalm 51:10

News, Notes & Numbers

♦ **Pastor is available** for private confession and absolution and counseling one Saturday each month, as listed in the calendar, or by appointment at other times. Consider taking advantage of these opportunities.

♦ The **American Heritage Girls** have put together freezer meals as part of their cooking badge. If you could use a meal, for any reason, please help yourself to a mini lasagna, frozen fruit salad, and chocolate peanut butter pie from the fellowship hall freezer.

♦ **January Mission, Sheboygan Lutheran High School**, raised \$740.00. We thank you for your gifts that supported this mission.

♦ **Game Night/Potluck and Fellowship with the Harrills** on Saturday, March 7th at 5:00 p.m. Bring your favorite games and snacks and welcome back Andrew and Lorraine as they visit from Seminary in Fort Wayne. And make sure to attend worship on March 8th as Seminarian Andrew Harrill will be preaching.



♦ Thank you to everyone who participated in **Souper Dinner XXVII**. Much work went into making the soups, setting up the room, coordinating the details, baking the deserts, manning the entrances, dishing up the soup, and so many other tasks. Each volunteer's efforts helped to make this a huge success as we welcomed many people from church and community and provided an excellent meal. And in the end we also raised around \$2,800.00 for future projects at Emmanuel. Thanks to everyone!

♦ The **2026 Indoor Rummage, Plant & Youth Bake Sale** will be held on May 1st (from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and on the 2nd (from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.). Everyone is encouraged to start collecting items to donate and/or to start plants now for the Plant Sale. More details to come.

♦ Please join us for the **2026 Easter Breakfast** hosted by the Youth Group and the Board of Education. A variety of tasty breakfast foods will be served from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. If you'd like to contribute a breakfast pastry, please bring it with you on Easter morning or drop it off on Holy Saturday between 9 and 11:00 a.m.



**Concordia
Seminary**
ST. LOUIS



Youth Group will meet on March 15th at 4:30 p.m.

Tubing at Nutt Hill on February 15th.

♦ **Cora Nicole Krueger**, daughter of Robert and Carly Krueger, was baptized on February 8th. We thank God for welcoming Cora into His family through the washing of baptismal waters. Serving as sponsors for Cora were Adam Maurer and Danielle Maddison.

