

# THE VISITOR

701 S. First Street - Milbank, SD 57252 // [www.elcmilbank.org](http://www.elcmilbank.org)

## Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday 2:00 p.m.

Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>  
weeks and every Wednesday

Sunday School 10:15-11:15

YouTube Live Streamed on Sunday or  
Watch Replay

[https://www.youtube.com/@emanuel\\_lutheranchurchelcmi4536](https://www.youtube.com/@emanuel_lutheranchurchelcmi4536)



## Contact Information

Pastor Chris Davis

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Find us on Facebook  
@Emanuel Milbank

## **ANNUAL COUPLES RETREAT AT THE ABBEY**

As we begin the New Year, I just wanted to let everyone know about our Second Annual Couples Retreat coming up at the Abbey of the Hills on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Like last year we will spend a wonderful day together looking at Scripture and discussing how God views the roles of husbands & wives, and mothers & fathers in the lives of His people. We will meet at the Abbey around 8:30 AM and spend roughly a half hour talking and enjoying coffee, juice, cookies, rolls, etc. We will then spend the morning studying. At noon, we will break for a wonderful lunch in the Abbey dining room. After lunch there will be time to look around – both inside and out – and visit the gift shop. Following our lunch break we will gather back together and finish our studies. Everyone should be on their way home by 3:30. Look for a registration sheet outside the sanctuary or see Brandy in the church office. Please try to register by January 25<sup>th</sup>, so we can let the Abbey know how many will be attending. Come join us as we grow in our faith and spend time together in an incredibly beautiful and peaceful setting. Happy New Year everybody!

In Christ, Pastor Davis

**Official Acts** Baptism: Holden Jon Giessinger; Funerals: Kenneth Saeger, Orville Dauwen

## Scripture Readings

Date	Festival	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Jan. 1 A.D. 2026	Circumcision and Name of Jesus	Num. 6:22-27	Psalm 8	Gal. 3:23-29	Luke 2:21
Jan. 4	Second S. after Christmas	1 Kings 3:4-15	Psalm 119	Eph. 1:3-14	Luke 2:40-52
Jan. 6	Epiphany of Our Lord	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72	Eph. 3:1-12	Matt. 2:1-12
Jan. 11	The Baptism of Our Lord	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Rom. 6:1-11	Matt. 3:13-17
Jan. 18	Second S. after the Epiphany	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40	1 Cor. 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Jan. 25	Third S. after the Epiphany	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27	1 Cor. 1:10-18	Matt. 4:12-25

## Helping during Worship Service

Sound Radio Broadcast	
Jan. 4	Dave Schamber
Jan. 6	Larry Underwood
Jan. 11	Tracy Pinkert
Jan. 18	Charles Schamber
Jan. 25	Harlan Monson

### January 11<sup>th</sup> Events

Officer installation will be during our normal worship service. If you are an officer, new or existing board member please join us.

Communion Set up and Clean Up Training will be immediately after worship.

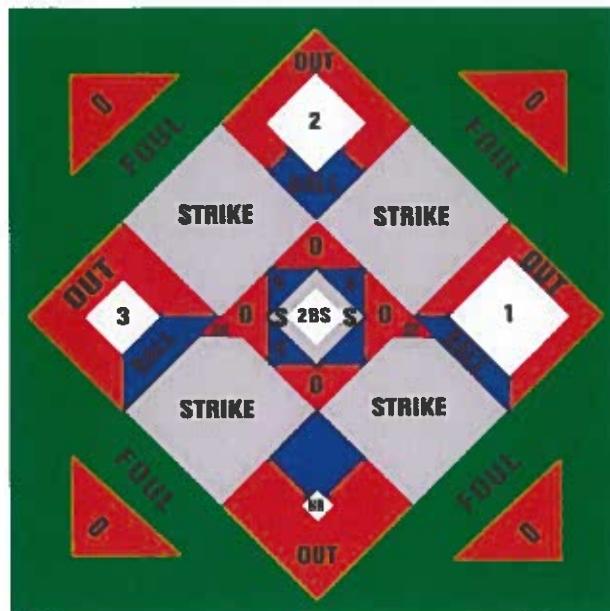


**The Ladies of Emanuel/LWML will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. The topic is from the Winter Quarterly, pg. 16: "Not the World's Peace". Linnea Schwandt and Joyce Johnson will serve a light lunch. Our focus for January will be a mission, TBD. ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED!! Serving coffee on Jan. 4 is Joyce Johnson and Regina Rethke, with the monies going to our missionary, Pastor Conrad.**

***Emanuel Dartball group plays on Sunday's at 3:00 p.m. in the Church Basement. All are welcome - You don't want to strike out!!!***



**DARTBALL**



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### ***January Special Mission Offering: Main Street Living***



Main Street Living is a distinctly Lutheran worship service. They strive to be a ministry that aids and complements the work of each pastor and their congregation as they work within their community. Main Street Living is broadcast each Sunday at 10:00 on NBC (KDLT) Stations.

Find their services online at <https://www.mainstreetliving.com/>

Please use the "Special Mission Offering" envelope or make mention on your form of payment that you wish to contribute to this mission.

Thank you for your support.

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***Are you looking for a new Family Devotional.*** LCMS Family Ministry offers a monthly option. Visit [lcms.org/family](https://lcms.org/family) to print off free family devotional resources for the home! Look for their new, customizable 2026 Family Devotions Calendar for suggestions on what to study, memorize and pray for each day. Download the devotion guide designed to provide a simple approach for leading devotions at home.

***Catch the Friends for Life Podcast***

<https://resources.lcms.org/podcasts/friends-for-life/>

## **Stewardship Section:**

"And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true" (Revelation 21:5).

In January there is a great deal of "new" talk. Parties are held to ring in the "new" year. "New" year's resolutions are made to set a "new" course of life in the "new" year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the "new" year on the dateline.

We use all this "new" talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the "new" resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That "new" person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The "new" habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The "new" person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need "new" talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of "new" is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This "new" comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of "new" is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary's cross and

buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ's body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God's creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbors. It beams out from our congregations. This newness is teamed at the circuit, district and Synod levels all to shine the newness of the Gospel to those who need it.

Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true. – LCMS Stewardship Ministry Article – January 2026



**Couples Retreat: February 7, 2026, 8:30-3:30 at the Abbey of the Hills. Sign up outside the sanctuary or by the office door. Registration deadline is January 25<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Sunday School:**

Sunday School resumes on January 4<sup>th</sup>. This is going to be a great second semester. Sundays after worship, 10:15-11:15 a.m. meet in the church basement.



## **Communion Set Up/Clean Up Training**

### **Communion Set Up and Clean Up Training**

**January 11th immediately after our worship service.**

**Join us at the front of the church.**

**All are encouraged to attend, pros and newbies!**



2026 Special Missions			2026 Door Offerings	
	Mission of the Month	Giving Goal	Door Offering Date	Door Offering Mission
January	Budgeted (Main Street Living)	\$ 550		
February	Lutheran Heritage Fund	\$ 1,000		
March	Orphan Grain Train	\$ 1,000		
April	Budgeted (Together In Mission)	\$ 550		
May	Budgeted (Lutheran Family Service)	\$ 550	5/17/2026	Food for the Poor
June	Budgeted (Main Street Living)	\$ 550		
July	Native American Ministry	\$ 1,000	7/12/2026	The Banquet
August	LCMS Disaster Response	\$ 1,000		
September	Mercy Meals	\$ 1,000		
October	Budgeted (Together In Mission)	\$ 550	10/11/2026	Pastor Appreciation
November	Grant County Food Pantry	\$ 1,000		
December	Budgeted (Lutheran Family Service)	\$ 550		



**Be Ye Doers Group Lists** and useful information are available outside the sanctuary at the reference counter. If you do not see your name on the list, please contact Brandy in the office – I am new at making the lists and entering members into our computer system. Thanks for understanding.

**Schedule for Serving in Worship:**

January – Group 4

February – Group 5

March – Group 1

April – Group 2

May – Group 3

June – Group 4

July – Group 5

August – Group 1

September – Group 2

October – Group 3

November – Group 4

December – Group 5

**Elders:**

Group 1 – Josh Radil (320) 815-2024

Group 2 – Dave Schamber (605) 949-3047

Group 3 – Darwin Wojahn (605) 467-6116

Group 4 – Dan Wagner (605) 651-2649 and

John Weyh (605) 809-5514

Group 5 – Dewey Athey (605) 467-0171

**2026 Council Meeting Dates:**

February 10, 2026 - 7 p.m.

April 14, 2026 - 7 p.m.

June 9, 2026 - 7 p.m.

August 11, 2026 - 7 p.m.

October 13, 2026 - 7 p.m.

November - ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING Day and Time TBD

December 8, 2026 - 7 p.m.

The Church Council meets in the fellowship hall. If you have questions regarding this information, please contact the church office. All are welcome.

**Bible Study Schedule:**

Sunday at 10:30 a.m. (After worship and fellowship)

Sunday at 6:00 p.m. (Couples Study w/ Supper & Childcare)

Thursday at 1:00 p.m. (Traditional Study using LifeLight Series)

Monthly 2nd Saturday at 9:00 a.m. (Men's Group)



ATTENTION!!!!



Are you an ITC Customer?



PLEASE READ

Effective January 1, 2026, our church service will only be available on TV to ITC customers by using the Video-On-Demand (VOD) service. If you are an ITC customer you will be able to view our service at your convenience. If you have questions regarding this ITC change, please contact their office at 1.800.417.8667

**How to Watch a Church Service on VOD:** VOD is available 24 hours a day for you to watch at your leisure. To watch, press the "On Demand" button on the remote. A list of folders will appear. Using the arrow buttons, move to the folder called "Church Services" and press "OK." Another list of folders will appear with the churches from the town you chose. Select Emanuel Lutheran Church to view using the arrows and press "OK." The final list of folders appears with the dates of the services. Using your arrows one last time, move to find the service you want and press "OK." Once the church service comes up, press "Watch." To stop the service once it is playing, press the "Last" button.

**If you attend in person, watch on Midco, YouTube, or listen on the radio there are no changes.**

YouTube - Sunday 9:00 a.m. Stream Live or Replay by searching "Emanuel Lutheran Church, Milbank, SD"

Radio Listening - Sunday 10:00 a.m. KMSD 1510AM or KMSD 95.1FM

Midcontinent Customers – Channel 3 Tuesday 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., Sunday 8:30 p.m.

**Emanuel Bulletins are available on our website: we keep four weeks of bulletins available for reference: <https://www.elcmilbank.org/resources>**

Wednesday, December 17, 24 OGT volunteers gathered for fellowship and treats. Joyce Kasuske led us in celebrating and remembering all the God led progress of the last 20 years of Milbank's OGT Collection Center. We have grown:

- A great area specifically for packing Mercy Meals.
- Increased number of volunteers to secure and put together much needed Layette, Hygiene, School and Teacher kits
- Collections of more plastic bags than ever imagined and increased number of volunteers who cut, tie and crochet them together for sleeping mats
- Increased "out of area" involvement in making quilts and securing items for kits
- Because the word of our Mission spreading, we have been able to share monetary gifts locally as well as worldwide.



The volunteers focus on serving others. Here is Orphan Grain Train's mission statement: In loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both far and near"

The collection center volunteers took a little break over Christmas. We will reopen Saturday Jan 3.

Warm Wishes for a Holiday filled with hope, peace and joy. Linnea

# January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
January Special Offering Mission of the Month: Main Street Living				1 Happy New Year! 2	3	
				11am Communion at St. Williams		
4 9am Service of the Word w/ Holy Communion 10:15—11:15 Sunday School (PreK-HS) 10:30 Fellowship followed by Bible Study 3pm DartBall 6pm Bible Study-Couples	5 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Elders Mtg with New Board of Education Group	6 EPIPHANY 7pm Epiphany Ser- vice	7 9am Mercy Meal Packing at OGT Bldg PreK Chapel Service 2pm Worship w/ Holy- Comm. 3:30-5:00 Confirmation 5:00 Conf. Parent Mtg 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir 8pm AA Meeting	8 11am Park Place Ser- vice 1pm Bible Study	9 10 9am Bible Study—Men's Group	
11 Officer Installation 9am Service of the Word 10 Communion Set Up Train- ing (Meet in front of church) 10:15—11:15 Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship followed by Bible Study 3pm DartBall 6pm Bible Study-Couples	12	13 1:00 LOE(LWML)	14 7am HS Bible Study PreK Chapel Service 2pm Worship w/ Holy- Comm. 3:30-5:00 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir 8pm AA Meeting	15 1pm Bible Study	16 17 6pm Movie Night Fellow- ship Hall “The Snowball Express”	
18 9am Service of the Word w/ Holy Communion 10:15—11:15 Sunday School (PreK-HS) 10:30 Fellowship followed by Bible Study 3pm DartBall 6pm Bible Study-Couples	19 6pm Cub Scouts	20	21 PreK Chapel Service 2pm Worship w/ Holy- Comm. 3:30-5:00 Confirmation 5:30 Bells No Choir 8pm AA Meeting	22 1pm Bible Study Newsletter Deadline	23 24	
25 Deadline to Register for Cou- ples Retreat 9am Service of the Word 10:15—11:15 Sunday School (PreK-HS) 10:30 Fellowship followed by Bible Study 3pm DartBall 6pm Bible Study-Couples	26	27	28 PreK Chapel Service 2pm Worship w/ Holy- Comm. 3:30-5:00 Confirmation 5:30 Bells No Choir 8pm AA Meeting	29 1pm Bible Study	30 31	

Birthday Wishes - January		Day	
Lindberg, Matthew	1-Jan	Bolin, Cole	19-Jan
Peiker, Joann	1-Jan	Bowen, Daniel L.	19-Jan
Peschong, Shannon	1-Jan	Karges, Zackary E.	19-Jan
Bray, Daniel	2-Jan	Rethke, Evan J.	21-Jan
Koepke, William G.	2-Jan	Berry, Justin L.	22-Jan
Weinkauf, Mackenzie R.	2-Jan	Schamber, Charles	22-Jan
Opitz, Sheila	3-Jan	Ackerman, Angela M.	24-Jan
Peiker, David M.	3-Jan	Lee, Tyler D.	24-Jan
Bates, Jennifer	6-Jan	Linngren, Veronica S.	24-Jan
Graf, Jackson P.	7-Jan	Hofhenke, Irma R.	25-Jan
Sackreiter, Bryan R.	7-Jan	Rudebusch, Emma	25-Jan
Schmieg, Brytten M.	7-Jan	Peiker, Maxine S.	26-Jan
Seehafer, Eleanore R.	7-Jan	Bogenrief, Gail R.	27-Jan
Wiedrick, Taylie	7-Jan	Hunt, Landrie J.	27-Jan
Berkner, Diane R.	9-Jan	Jibbens, Debra J.	28-Jan
Christians, Natalie	9-Jan	Mueller, Braden	28-Jan
Lee, Amber	9-Jan	Athey, Duane (Dewey)	29-Jan
Bloom, Conrad D.	10-Jan	Klemm, Kasey M.	29-Jan
Schell, Rylee M.	10-Jan	Hilbrands, Alexander L.	30-Jan
Poppen, Richard P.	12-Jan	Stensrud, Tatiana R.	31-Jan
Gabriel, Lisa	13-Jan	Anniversary Wishes - January	
Myers, Nathan L.	13-Jan	Mertens, James E. (Jim) and Darlene G.	11-Jan
Steffen, Stella M.	13-Jan	Holtquist, Robert A. (Bob) and Brenda	16-Jan
Frerichs, Gene	14-Jan	Rethke, Mark P. and Niki	27-Jan
Rethke, Diane	14-Jan	Linngren, William T. (Travis) and Veronica S.	28-Jan
Berkner, Cara J.	15-Jan		
Bowen, Shirley M.	16-Jan		
Graf, Mona J.	16-Jan		
Loeschke, Alexander W.	16-Jan		
Riley, Holly A.	16-Jan		
Pinkert, Jesse E.	17-Jan		
Weissenfuh, James D.	17-Jan		
Tietjen, Logan R.	18-Jan		

## 2026 Board Members and Terms (January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026)

### **Elders**

(3)Darwin Wojahn	Term 2, Year 3
(1)Josh Radil	Term 2, Year 2
(4)John Weyh	Term 2, Year 1
(4)Dan Wagner	Term 1, Year 1
(2)Dave Schamber	Term 1, Year 3
(5)Dewey Athey	Term 1, Year 3

### **Education**

#### Sunday School Superintendent

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Tina Whitlow	Term 1, Year 1
Wanda Bohn	Term 1, Year 1
Vacant	

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### **Evangelism**

Kristin Tostenson	Term 2, Year 2
Joy Berry	Term 1, Year 1
Regina Rethke	Term 1, Year 3
Elizabeth Radil	Term 2, Year 2

### **Trustee**

Curt Berkner	Term 2, Year 2
Dick Schwandt	Term 2, Year 1
Cheryl Pauli	Term 1, Year 3
Mike Bogenreif	Term 1, Year 1

### **Boards:**

Term of 3 years

Boards must have at least 3 people (one elected each year)

Limited to two consecutive terms, off one year, then may run again

### **Officers:**

No officer will be allowed to succeed himself or herself more than once, with the exception of the Financial Secretary, Secretary, Sunday School Superintendent and Treasurer.

### **Endowment:**

Five Members plus the Treasurer and Pastor

Three terms of three years.

### **Stewardship**

Adam Hunt	Term 1, Year 2
Kim Kolb	Term 2, Year 1
Geoff Street	Term 1, Year 2

### **Youth**

Brandy Blauert	Term 2, Year 1
Cydney Hunt	Term 1, Year 2
Misty Weyh	Term 1, Year 1

### **Endowment**

Wayne Grabow	Term 2, Year 1
Jackson Schwandt	Term 2, Year 3
Wayne Dragt	Term 2, Year 3
Pat Blauert	Term 2, Year 2
Harlan Monson	Term 1, Year 1

### **President**

Wayne Dragt	Term 1, Year 1
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### **Vice President**

Tyler Henderson	Term 1, Year 1
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### **Secretary**

Melissa Mueller
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### **Treasurer**

Howard Mueller
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### **Financial Secretary**

Diann Dauwen
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