

THE VISITOR

701 S. First Street - Milbank, SD 57252 // www.elcmilbank.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday 2:00 p.m.

Holy Communion 1st, 3rd, 5th
weeks and every Wednesday

Sunday School 10:15-11:15

YouTube Live Streamed on Sunday or
Watch Replay

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 7th. 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 25th, 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 st 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 11th 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



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.

Are you looking for a new Family Devotional. LCMS Family Ministry offers a monthly option. Visit 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

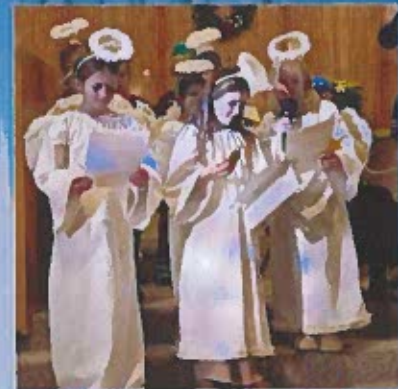


Couples Retreat: February 7, 2026, 8:30-3:30 at the Abbey of the Hills. Sign up outside the sanctuary or by the office door. Registration deadline is January 25th.

Sunday School:

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

**Thank you Sunday
School for a beautiful
Christmas program.**



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 Milbak'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 that 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				<i>1 Happy New Year!</i> 11am Communion at St. Williams	2	3
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 Service 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 Service vice 1pm Bible Study	9	10 9am Bible Study—Men's Group
11 <i>Officer Installation</i> 9am Service of the Word 10 Communion Set Up Training (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) 5:30 Youth Board 6:00 Evangelism 6:00 Stewardship	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 Fellowship 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 <i>Deadline to Register for Couples Retreat</i> 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
Peiker, Joann	1-Jan
Peschong, Shannon	1-Jan
Bray, Daniel	2-Jan
Koepke, William G.	2-Jan
Weinkauff, Mackenzie R.	2-Jan
Opitz, Sheila	3-Jan
Peiker, David M.	3-Jan
Bates, Jennifer	6-Jan
Graf, Jackson P.	7-Jan
Sackreiter, Bryan R.	7-Jan
Schmieg, Brytten M.	7-Jan
Seehafer, Eleanore R.	7-Jan
Wiedrick, Taylie	7-Jan
Berkner, Diane R.	9-Jan
Christians, Natalie	9-Jan
Lee, Amber	9-Jan
Bloom, Conrad D.	10-Jan
Schell, Rylee M.	10-Jan
Poppen, Richard P.	12-Jan
Gabriel, Lisa	13-Jan
Myers, Nathan L.	13-Jan
Steffen, Stella M.	13-Jan
Frerichs, Gene	14-Jan
Rethke, Diane	14-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
Weissenfluh, James D.	17-Jan
Tietjen, Logan R.	18-Jan

Bolin, Cole	19-Jan
Bowen, Daniel L.	19-Jan
Karges, Zackary E.	19-Jan
Rethke, Evan J.	21-Jan
Berry, Justin L.	22-Jan
Schamber, Charles	22-Jan
Ackerman, Angela M.	24-Jan
Lee, Tyler D.	24-Jan
Linngren, Veronica S.	24-Jan
Hofhenke, Irma R.	25-Jan
Rudebusch, Emma	25-Jan
Peiker, Maxine S.	26-Jan
Bogenrief, Gail R.	27-Jan
Hunt, Landrie J.	27-Jan
Jibbens, Debra J.	28-Jan
Mueller, Braden	28-Jan
Athey, Duane (Dewey)	29-Jan
Klemm, Kasey M.	29-Jan
Hilbrands, Alexander L.	30-Jan
Stemsrud, Tatiana R.	31-Jan
Anniversary Wishes - January	
Mertens, James E. (Jim) and Darlene G.	11-Jan
Holtquist, Robert A. (Bob) and Brenda	16-Jan
Rethke, Mark P. and Niki	27-Jan
Linngren, William T. (Travis) and Veronica S.	28-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

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

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

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

Treasurer

Howard Mueller

Financial Secretary

Diann Dauwen

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.