

## Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Soest

9909 Wayne Trace, Fort Wayne, IN

*Preaching Christ crucified since December 25, 1845*



# Life at Soest

We believe that the Holy Spirit “calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.” (Luther’s Small Catechism). God has called each of us to faith, and to a local congregation, where we each have a part to play in the community of faith. There are many ways to get involved at Soest, using our unique God-given talents to serve our neighbors.

## Governance

### Constitution

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Soest is governed by a constitution which outlines our basic beliefs, our association with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and the various positions and processes needed to run the church.

### Voter’s Assembly

The Voter’s Assembly meets quarterly (Evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in Feb, May, Aug, and Nov). At these meetings, the Pastor and Council members provide reports on activities, and the Voters’ Assembly considers and approves motions as they arise. In November, elections for Council positions for the coming year are held.

### Church Council

There are 13 members on the Council, each holding an office with various responsibilities. Council meetings are held monthly.

### Board of Elders

The Board of Elders is tasked with caring for the spiritual health of the congregation, and will often assist pastor with visiting shut-in members.

## Fellowship

There are plenty of opportunities for fellowship throughout the year.

### Fellowship Sunday

The second Sunday of the month is Fellowship Sunday, and sweets, fruit, coffee, and juice are served in the Fellowship Hall between services.

### Lenten Dinners

On Wednesdays in Lent, a light meal is served at 6pm prior to the midweek service at 7pm. Various groups throughout will take turns hosting the meal.

### Hog Roast

In November, we have our annual Hog Roast which is always a great time.

### Young Families

Families with young children from the congregation will meet monthly for informal food and fellowship time in the gym.

### Youth Group

We have both Jr. and Sr. High Youth Groups that meet regularly. High schoolers meet weekly in the FLC loft, and will regularly go on fun outings and service projects. Typically, they’ll take a week-long trip in the summer for service projects and the Higher Things conference.

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## Service

### Carpenter's Helpers

The Carpenter's Helpers group of (mostly retired) men utilize their talents to keep our property functional and beautiful.

### Doves

The Doves group of (mostly retired) women provide do a lot around the congregation. They operate the Rummage Sale in both the spring and fall every year, and do a great job preparing meals for various luncheons.

### Service Groups

Every member of the congregation is also on a Service Group (A, B, or C). These groups rotate monthly, and are responsible for various upkeep and improvement tasks.

### Ushers / Sound System

Our ushers and sound system crews work to make sure worship on Sunday goes smoothly, so that congregants can focus on hearing the Word.

## Education & Care

### St. John – Emmanuel Lutheran School

The single-largest ministry at Soest is our PreK-8 school, which we jointly operate with our sister congregation, St. John Flatrock. This school has a campus at Soest (PreK-3 to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) and at Flatrock (4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grades). The **School Board** is comprised of members from both churches. The annual Association Meeting in February reports on activity to both congregations and sets the budget for the coming year.

### Daycare

We operate a thriving daycare for infants through school ages. This is located in the basement of the Christian Growth Center.

### Adult Bible Class

Between services every Sunday, Pastor leads a bible study in the Bible Study room in the CGC. It's a great opportunity to enjoy some coffee while diving deeper into God's Word.

### Sunday School

At the same time as the Adult Bible Study, Sunday School is offered for ages 3 to 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the basement of the CGC. High School Bible Class occurs in the loft of the Family Life Center.

### Vacation Bible School

We host a 6-8pm, Sunday-Thursdays VBS every summer for kids ages 3-10. This is a great outreach event, and lots of fun for the kids.