



JESUS' Grace and Peace! This Newsletter contains personal thoughts, information, encouragement. A monthly feature will be from my Journal Notes: Christian Characters.

COMMUNICATION: Actively Listen...Have a Peaceful Spirit...Speak Clearly. The most important body part of Communication is your two ears. Listen to the words being spoken. Listen to the spirit and emotions. By the guidance of the Holy Spirit, ask appropriate questions. Follow the example of JESUS: Luke 2:46. Heed the counsel of Scripture: Hebrews 12:14, James 1:19+20. Communication is the on-going responsibility of all the Saints at Emmaus. Practice Holy Spirit lead Communication.

CHAIN OF COMMAND: By agreement, If I have thoughts, ideas, or concerns about congregational life and practice I begin by sharing them with the Board of Elders. Then, as necessary to a wider audience or individual. If concerns are with an individual, I follow the Spirit and letter of Matthew 18. All Saints at Emmaus are encouraged to do the same.

TIME OFF: Normal hours in Wauseon are Wednesday Noon through the following Monday Noon. I will be home in Three Rivers from Wednesday January 3 through Wednesday January 10. We celebrate our Family Christmas on Saturday January 6. Changes in my schedule will be announced and printed in the Bulletin.

CHRISTIAN CHARACTERS: Herman and Pauline. "Hermey" and Pauline were elderly and founding members of a small LCMS parish in Culver, Indiana. They were married for 50+ years and had no children. Their family were the Saints of the parish. They were one of the first to arrive at church on a Sunday morning. Herman would take up his post, sitting on a bench just outside the entrance to the Sanctuary, greeting everyone with a firm handshake and pointed stare. If you had not been to Worship in a while Herman would ask and pronounce for all to hear: "Where the H___ have you been? It's about time you showed up"! Behind his pointed remarks was a genuine concern for your welfare and a big soft heart. Pauline was always behind the scenes, making conversation and helping as needed. They were both very opinionated, firm in their beliefs. Yet they patiently listened to other points of view, voiced their concerns face to face, and were able to rise above the chaos and tension that was part of parish life. Herman and Pauline were married on Valentines Day. They both died and went to meet JESUS, one year apart, on Valentines Day. On the day Pauline died I visited her and Herman in the hospital. As Herman and I were waiting in the examination room for her to return from x-ray, he pointed to the brick wall in the room and commented that Pauline was as stubborn as that brick wall, since she had at first refused to come to the hospital. I chuckled to myself, knowing that if the situation was reversed, Pauline would have said the same thing about Herman. At the time it appeared that all was well and that they would return home later that day. Not long after I left, Pauline began to have trouble breathing. She lifted her arms, looked up to heaven, and breathed her last. Just that quick. One year later, to the day, Herman joined her. I can just imagine Pauline greeting Herman: "Where the H___ have you been? It's about time you showed up"! Thank You JESUS for Herman and Pauline!

I am available 24/7. Please join me for Coffee and Conversation at McDonald's or Red Rambler, 7a-8a. I greet the Pre-School students with "High Fives" about 9a. **NEW YEAR AND DAILY RESOLUTIONS**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Pastoral

Installation

WELCOME AND CELEBRATION!

The installation service for Rev. Robert O. Bartz will take place on Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 2:00 pm. Ohio District President Kevin Wilson will install Pastor Bob, with participation from pastors in the Napoleon Circuit. Please join us for this service and refreshments to follow.



L.W.M.L. NEWS

Our unit will meet on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. Mary Behnfeldt will be giving the devotion and Marilyn Dachenhaus will be the hostess. During January Marilyn Dachenhaus will be sending cards to the sick and shut-ins.

During December our members were delivering the stockings packed with goodies to the sick and shut-ins. The stockings were much appreciated. Thank you to the quilting ladies that made the stockings.

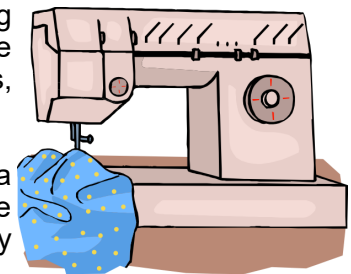
Have a Happy, Healthy New Year!

2023 Tuesdays with Arlene Comfort Blanket Report

We made 210 blankets this year. We changed our Mission over the last couple of years. Instead of giving all the blankets to Christmas cheer, which many churches still do, we've decided to focus on other local organizations. This year and the last couple years we have donated to Sara's Garden hyperbaric chamber, New Horizons School with Sara's Garden, and our Graduating Pre-School students. Other places we have donated to are, Sunshine Family Care Home in Archbold, the Ohio Soldiers and Sailors in Sandusky, the VFW Dad's Post 240 for their National Convention, SART to help children of sexual abuse cases, Suicide Awareness benefit, Devita dialysis, area nursing homes, Van Crest nursing home in Liberty Center, Aden nursing home here in Wauseon. Hospice of NW OH, FCHC Oncology, even The Humane Society. We are also helping Care Camps kids with cancer, Wauseon Fire Dept. and Dr. Uribes who is taking our blankets to the Dominic Republic. Pastor Bob and Our Shut-ins have received a blanket for Christmas and Our Congregation's Members during surgeries or other times of their need. Community members, we don't know, who have reached out to us with needs. We also donated to disaster relief thru the Red Cross and the Missionaries in Ft. Wayne. We try to help anyone who have a need if we have blankets to do so.

Lois Tester is the best with utilizing even the smallest scrap(s). She has made striped tops which have become some of our blankets given for healing, Isaiah 55:3, with His stripes we are healed. Her latest scrap creation was a top for the American Legion. The theme was combat, and Lois did her best to achieve a truly combat masterpiece. No real pattern, but it was a delight to the eyes.

Terri has also been an asset with making tops and Karen has been using her unique designing talents to create some delightful tops as well. If there is someone you know who had a need for a Comfort blanket, contact us, we will try to get a blanket for them, if we have blankets available.



We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who has helped, with a Thrivent card, for materials, thread, batting or any supplies, that have made all this outreach possible. No matter how big or small it was, we greatly appreciate your support.

God Bless You, Sincerely, The Tuesday's with Arlene Quilters

PRESCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Registrations for 2024-2025 are now being accepted. Children who will be 3 years old by June 1, 2024 (T/TH 2-day class), and those who will be 4 years old by August 1, 2024 (M/W/F 3-day class or Monday through Friday 5-day class), may register for their respective classes to begin this Fall. Please call the preschool at 419-337-8471 or email any questions to emmauschristianpreschool@yahoo.com.



Classes Resume Tuesday, January 2, 2024



Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 15, 2024

Visit us at:
emmauschristianpreschool@yahoo.com
emmauschristianpreschool.webs.com
www.facebook.com/EmmausChristianPreschool

National Lutheran Schools Week

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Jan. 21-27, 2024 • John 15:1-5



National Lutheran Schools Week provides more than 1,800 preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families.

National Lutheran Schools Week gives us an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings within the communities we serve.

Our schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—December 7, 2023

Opening devotion by Pastor Bob. 9 members in attendance.

November Minutes were reviewed.

A motion was made and passed unanimously to approve November minutes with corrections to attendance.

Congregation Chair (Larry Neuenschwander):

- The following resolution was read by Larry, “be it resolved that Emmaus Lutheran Church, Wauseon, OH, as a Standing Resolution to remain in force until such time as amended or revoked, hereby authorizes and establishes a housing allowance for Robert O. Bartz at any time serving, in the amount each year equal to 40% of that person’s annual compensation.” For tax purposes, council will make a motion at the December Voter’s meeting to accept the above resolution.

Pastor’s Report:

- Membership numbers baptized 259 and communicants 207
- Pastor Bob shared observations of his time with Emmaus so far. He stressed the importance of three traits for a healthy church- Communication, follow the chain of command, accountability.

Administrator’s report (Tricia Zesing):

- Worship services complete through January.
- January newsletter will be printed on December 28.
- Church Office will be closed December 25 &26 and January 1 for the holidays.

Financial Officer’s Report (Bev Schlosser):

- Offerings for November 2023. 7,548.70
Less expensive for November 2023. 12,731.82
November negative of. **5,183.12**

- YTD offerings 107,325.64
YTD expenses. 98,882.28
YTD positive net 8,443.36

- General fund balance 2023. 25,889.54
Less non-operating funds. 9,662.90
Less unpaid bills. 1,223.66
Current net balance. \$15,002.98

- Emmaus investments balance 10/31/23. 82,231.13
- Gem loan balance. 10/31/2023. 62,881.26
- Discussed 2024 proposed budget for the new year, with adjustments for Pastor Bob’s salary and mileage expense. 2024 budget estimated from actual expenses for the January-November 2023 with some minor adjustments. The budget will be presented to voters at the Voter’s Meeting on Sunday December 17.

A motion was made to present the proposed 2024 budget to voters. Discussion led to an amendment to the motion to include a raise in the amount of \$1000 for the year for Church Administrator, Tricia Zesing. The motion to present the proposed 2024 budget and include a \$1000 raise for Tricia for the year passed unanimously.

- A new contract from Konica, the copy machine service was presented to council. The new contract includes a new copy machine and a savings of \$100 a month.

A motion was made and passed unanimously to approve the new contract with Konica.

Education Team:

- Bev discussed the possibility of starting a Wednesday night youth program. Pastor Bob will invite families the night of the preschool program.
- Roger Behnfeldt has asked Tante Lovins and Adriane Baldwin to work toward starting a Sunday School program for the children that are attending Sunday service.

Elders Report (Harold Boysel)

- Pastor Bob will be gone for the holiday on Sunday January 7. Pastor Ted will be covering that Sunday.
- Pastor Bob's Installation Service will be held on Sunday January 28.
- Roger and Mary Behnfeldt and Pastor Bob will begin visiting shut-ins December 8.

Discipleship Team (Sue Boysel):

- November food pantry served 30 cars (130 people)!!
- The team completed the Christmas decorations at church.
- The team is currently working on postcards to be sent to in-actives.
- They will be cutting back on the number of offering envelopes and Portals of Prayers ordered.

Trustee Team (Leo Raabe):

- The Custodian contract with Don Hildreth has been signed for a 1 year term.
- The insurance adjuster has reported that there is not enough damage to the roof to consider a claim. Dean Schuette has made needed repairs to the roof.
- Dean is also making a ramp for the new shed for ease in getting the lawn mower in and out.

Preschool Team (Bev Schlosser):

- 2023-2024 Registrations – 2 day class 6 students, 3 day class 5 students, 5 day class 5 students
- Registrations will go out with current students on Dec 1st.
- Poinsettia fundraiser generated a record of 91 plants sold for a profit of \$323.
- Christmas program will be held December 14 at 6pm, the congregation is invited to attend.
- Acct. Balance - \$20,713.53

Sign Committee (Tante Lovins):

- No report

Unfinished Business:

- Pastor Bob will adjust his schedule to allow for his attendance at the monthly Circuit Meeting which is held the third Tuesday of each month.

New Business:

- An additional name was presented for an option for an organist.
- Memorial money will be used to pay for the refreshments for the Installation Service on January 28, 2024.

7:40 meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer and Benediction recited in unison.

Next meeting: January 11 @ 6:30pm

Tante Lovins, Recording Secretary



FLY ON THE WALL

Thanks for those putting up some lights outside.

Special thanks to all those who purchased poinsettias. 91 is very amazing!

Thanks to those who helped with the preschool Christmas program and dinner following 🎄.

Also to the special elf who drops food off at the back door. It is appreciated.

Stewardship minute....

The Great Exchange

Let's recall for a moment Jesus' encounter with the Rich Ruler. This young man came to Jesus asking how he could inherit eternal life. First Jesus threw the law at him: Don't commit adultery, don't murder, don't steal, don't give false testimony, honor your parents. Without hesitation, the young man asserted that he had kept these commandments all his life. Jesus said: *"One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me"* (Luke 18:22). This the Rich Young Ruler could not do, for he loved his wealth more than anything else.

How different was Jesus' response when asked to give up the glories of Heaven for the lowliness of earth. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 8:9, *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich."*

How have we become rich through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ? What do we count as riches? Do we look at wealth the way the Rich Young Ruler did or through Christ's eyes?

Jesus was willing to give up His whole world in order that our souls could be saved. He gave His life in exchange for ours. We celebrate at this time of year His coming to earth as a helpless baby for the purpose of exchanging His life for our eternal lives.

In our prayers of thanks for the birth of the Christ Child, let us also ask Him to give us hearts of humility like His and the will to expend ourselves in lives of giving and serving in imitation of His life and death.



Fall-Spring Office Hours are

Monday—Friday 8:00 am—2:00 pm

Administrator will be in the preschool as the aide
daily from 9:00 —11:30 am

Church office closed during this time



Prayers for our Emmaus Family:

Grace Clair
Jeff Flory
Barb Franklin
Jamie Hanson
LaTishia Horrell
Roseanna Parsons
Joyce Plassman
Tiffany Prayer
Linda Prather
Barb Shannon
Our Call Committee
Our Emmaus Family
Our Emmaus Preschool
Our Inactive Members

Prayers for Relatives and Friends of Emmaus

Carlan Badenhop
Pastor Steve Geske
Rodney Kurth (*Norma Kurth's Son*)
Ted Mirabal (*Jennifer Rodriguez's Father*)
Ken Prater (*Bev Schlosser's Friend*)
Sharon Prather (*Don Prather's Sister-in-law*)
Jim VonDeylen (*Leone Huner's Brother*)
Derek Wilson (*Karen Wilson's Son*)
Ted Wright (*Roseanna Parsons' Brother*)
Wesley Wright (*Roseanna Parsons' Brother*)
Kelsey Wyse (*Renee Wyse's Daughter*)
Tammy & Rick (*Darl Beachy's Friends*)

Prayers for our District Pastors:

Pat Kramer (*Pastor Kramer's Wife*)
Rev. Logan Scheiwe

Shut-Ins

Margaret Detter
Linda Prather
Barb Shannon

Darrel Garmenn
Irene Rabe
Chris Tuckerman

Annabelle Leupp
Larry Rabe
Nancy Zesing

Gerri O'Brien
Gladys Rue

MONTHLY MEETINGS

BE SEEN. BE CONNECTED. BE INFORMED.

Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024

5:30 pm

Discipleship Team
Elders Team
Preschool Team
Trustees Team

6:30 pm

Emmaus Council



EMMAUS FOOD PANTRY

Thursday, Jan. 18, 5:00-7:00 pm

Items needed:
Brown Paper Bags



Tuesday
Jan. 16
Please get your information to the church office for next month's newsletter.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Amy Rice
- 9 Shawn Hanson
- 10 Diana Kline
- 11 Krystine Davis
- 14 Jamie Hanson
- 16 Felicity Garmenn
- 22 Wayne Badenhop
- 26 Chris Schlueter
- 28 Lawrence Rabe
- 29 Sarah Smallman



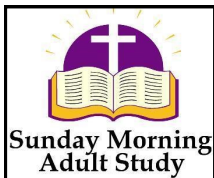
JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

No Anniversaries this month



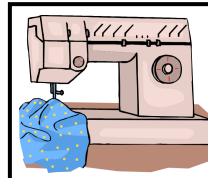
ALTAR FLOWERS

If you wish to provide the altar flowers to commemorate a special occasion or in someone's memory, please let the office know. The cost is \$30. Please make checks payable to Emmaus Lutheran Church and turn check into the office prior to the date.

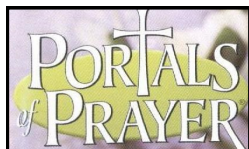


SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Sunday mornings
at 8:30 am
Please join us!



The Tuesday's with Arlene's
Emmaus Quilters
meet every Tuesday
@ 9:00 am



The January to
March 2024
Portals of Prayer
are available in the
church hallway.
Please pick up your



We will be un-decorating the
church on Monday, January 8,
2024, starting around 10:00 am.
Please come help when/if you can,
everyone is welcome. Thank you!

Keep these guidelines in mind as winter continues and you need to decide about coming to services:

- 1) We respect the judgment of our members when they decide weather conditions are too dangerous and they choose to stay at home.
- 2) When the designated law enforcement agencies declare a Level 2 or Level 3 condition for the county or city, we encourage our members to abide by those restrictions and stay home. Activities at Emmaus are cancelled under Level 2 or Level 3 conditions.
- 3) Generally, when the Wauseon Schools are closed due to weather, Emmaus programs are also cancelled for that day.
- 4) An email will be sent to all current email addresses on file with the church office, and an announcement will be posted on social media.

