



FROM PASTOR'S JOURNAL...CHARACTERS...Sam Kramer

My first winter in Richton Park, Il involved being hospitalized for a weekend with asthma. Thankfully The Lord sent a great Physician (Dr. Coolidge) to treat the condition. Medications and commonsense living have helped keep the condition under control.

As I was waiting for discharge papers to be processed, a Monday morning, a man was wheeled into the other space in the room. He was being prepped for emergency heart surgery. A standard question on the admission form asked for a person's religion. Sam's reply to the question: "I am Jewish. A few days ago, I accepted JESUS as my Savior. What does that make me"? Not being able to keep quiet, I replied: "Sir, that makes you a Messianic Jew". Sam replied: "We need to talk".

This exchange, surely orchestrated by the Holy Spirit, led to prayer, an introduction to Sam's family, successful surgery, and return home for recovery. Sam was a retired wrestling coach and a teacher at local high schools. The Head Elder at the church I was pastoring at the time knew Sam.

On one of my visits to Sam at his home we had more opportunity to talk and pray. On the advice of a Representative from JEWS FOR JESUS I gave Sam a copy of Luther's Small Catechism. I also asked Sam what led him to covert. He answered by saying that his Jewish tradition was not providing answers to his life questions.

Sam came to visit church one time with his wife, who was Pentecostal. I am sure she had been waiting and praying for years for his conversion and was not about to let him affiliate with another church. Many witnessing opportunities in life are short lived, yet productive. I am thankful to have been part of Sam's Journey with JESUS.

As an aside, Dr. Coolidge asked me some pointed questions and pointed me toward healthy choices that helped control my asthma. He also took the time to get to know me as a person. In the few years I was his patient he always took the time to ask about family and vocation. Old School Doctoring! PTL!

RESOLUTIONS FOR DAILY LIFE

PUTZ...A word from my dear Mother's colorful and inspirational vocabulary. In time of anxiety, clean out a closet or re-arrange a space in the house. It's OK to trash stuff, even if my wife finds out. I call it non-offensive, no danger, obsessive/compulsive behavior . It passes quickly.

KISS...Keep your life simple. In any situation there is a main issue. Singular, not plural. It is OK to have a messy desk when I go back to the Parsonage.

SURF...When a big wave comes your way, instead of heading straight into it, ask JESUS for a surfboard. Climb onto the surfboard. Ride the wave. All waves eventually reach the shore and dissipate. Some days ask JESUS for a bigger surfboard.

THOUGHTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023

KEEP YOUR OPTIONS OPEN: A full-time Pastor, while a traditional model, is not the only option for Emmaus. Explore other possibilities through prayer and conversation.

I AM AVAILABLE 24/7 while in Wauseon. Most mornings I will be at Red Barron for coffee and Conversation, between 7a and 9a. If my Jeep is in the parsonage driveway I will be in the office or parsonage. Please stop in!
SCHUTTER TIME (Another of my Mother's favorite phrases), is any time my office door is open, and I am present. If I am taking a nap, please wake me

HOME TO THREE RIVERS: My schedule to return home may vary due to weather, meetings, or other circumstances. My weekly schedule will be in the Sunday Bulletin and part of announcements.

If you don't have a cause worth dying for, you don't have a cause worth living for! Read God's Word...Focus on JESUS...Ask JESUS In... Blessings Always...Love You All...Pastor Bob

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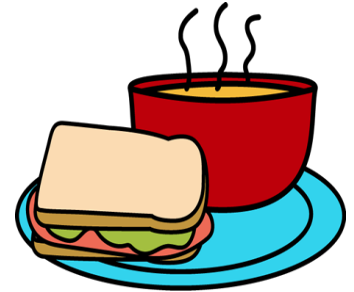
“Hugs and Kisses” Sunday



February 11 will be Hugs and Kisses Appreciation Sunday. “Thank you” to everyone for everything you do for Emmaus. Blessings to All. ~Discipleship Team

*please
join us*

The L.W.M.L. will be serving a Soup and Sandwich Supper on Wednesday, February 14, before the Ash Wednesday service. We will start serving at 5:30 p.m. until 6:45 p.m. The L.W.M.L. will serve soup, sandwiches and cookies. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for donations of food and supplies that are needed. Please come to the supper!



2024 Lent Schedule



- Ash Wednesday—February 14, 7:00 pm
- Midweek Lent 2—February 21, 7:00 pm
- Midweek Lent 3—February 28, 7:00 pm
- Midweek Lent 4—March 6, 7:00 pm
- Midweek Lent 5—March 13, 7:00 pm
- Midweek Lent 6—March 20, 7:00 pm



*“Let the
little children come to me ...”*

A Sunday School class is currently being formed for the littlest members and visitors of Emmaus and we could use your help! We have not had an Education Team at Emmaus for several years. We are looking to fill this team and start small with a Sunday School class for the little ones and hopefully expand and grow from there. If you are interested in helping with planning on the Education Team or teaching on a rotating basis please call or text Tante Lovins 419-822-6436.

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.



February 19, 2024—No Class for President's Day



Our preschool is in need of snacks. The following is a list needed: Nila Wafers, Cheese/Peanut Butter Crackers, Graham Crackers, Granola Bars, Cheese Slices, Applesauce, Gogurt, and Small 100% Juice Boxes.

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

L.W.M.L. NEWS



Our unit met on January 3. We will meet again on March 6, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. The May meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 1.

We are planning the reception for Pastor Bob's ordination on January 28.

The Ash Wednesday Soup and Sandwich Supper will be held on Wednesday, February 14 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend! If you would like to donate some food for the supper, the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

We are planning the Easter Breakfast on March 31, 2024.

Leone Huner will be sending cards to the sick and shut-in during February. At our March meeting Marilyn Dachenhaus will be giving the devotion and JoAnn Eckler will be the hostess.

Have a good winter!



ATTENTION

Discipleship would like your input on whether anyone would be interested in Line Dancing lessons and/or a Gospel Sing a Long. Dates to be announced later, after feedback and contacts to see what may be available to us. Watch bulletin for survey coming soon.
Thanks, Discipleship Team

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—January 11, 2024

Meeting began at 6:40 with 7 members in attendance. Opening devotion was given by Pastor Bob. December Minutes were reviewed and approved as written.

Congregation Chair (Larry Neuenschwander):

- No report

Pastor's Report:

- Membership numbers baptized 259 and communicants 207
- Change in schedule for next week. Pastor will be here through Tuesday morning and go to the circuit meeting in L.C. then go home to Three Rivers and return to Wauseon on Thursday.
- Installation service will be held on January 28th. Pastor and Tricia Zesing are taking care of the details. Pastor invited council to come forward at the installation.
- A potential buyer for the parsonage will be coming to look at the parsonage tomorrow (Friday).

Administrator's report (Tricia Zesing):

- Worship services complete through March.
- February newsletter will be printed on January 24.
- 4th quarter payroll taxes and all year end taxes, 1099's and W-2's will be filed this month.

Financial Officer's Report (Bev Schlosser):

- Offerings for December 2023. 9,362.00
Less expenses for December 2023. 9,277.02
December 84.98

Year End 2023	
Offerings 2023	116,689.36
Expenses 2023	108,359.10
Net positive of	8,330.26

General fund balance	13,829.82
(24,617.69 less non-operating funds and unpaid bills of 10,787.87)	

Emmaus investments balance 10/31/23.	87,850.80
Gem loan balance. 12/31/2023.	62,267.70

- Need to assign a new signer for the investment acct. Kay Heilman is still on the account. Bev will discuss this with Larry Neuenschwander.
- Bev reported that Emmaus has received an anonymous \$20,000 memorial gift bringing the memorial total to \$27,078.32

Education Team: (Tante Lovins):

- Adriane Baldwin and Tante met to discuss starting a Sunday School class. The class will be held during the church service and will rely on volunteer teachers alternating Sundays. For the time being, the class will be for young children (4-6 year old). The curriculum will be created following the weekly Gospel lessons. The Lord's Prayer, an activity and song will also be a part of each lesson.
- Tante volunteered to try to recruit a few people to join the Education Board which has had no team members for the last several years.

Elders Report (Roger Behnfeldt):

- Installation service for Pastor Bob will be held on January 28, 2024.
- Elders discussed Emmaus' past climate/culture, events and filled Pastor Bob in on the history.

Discipleship Team (Karen Grieser):

- December food pantry served 36 cars, (new record number served) 7 new clients.
- Consistently receiving donations of food dropped off at the back door of fellowship hall by an anonymous donor. Board would like to place a plastic container outside the door for the food to be placed in to keep it dry.
- A big thank you to everyone who helped undecorate the church.
- Proposing a line Dancing class and/or gospel sing along, will put a survey out to the congregation to gauge interest.
- Feb 11 Hugs and Kisses Sunday.

Trustee Team (Leo Rabe):

- Beth Flory has been in contact with insurance company. They asked for an estimate on the roof. Beth received a quote from BoDec in the amount of \$96,000. She will fax quote to insurance company.

Preschool Team (Bev Schlosser):

- 2023-2024 Registrations – 2 day class 6 students, 3 day class 5 students, 5 day class 5 students
- 3 registrations for next school year.
- Spring flower fundraiser coming in February.
- Playground has some additional changes needed due to state requirements - volunteers needed to assist with the updates.
- Phase 3 of Covid grant money coming (\$24,000)
- Acct. Balance \$15,837.62

Sign Committee (Tante Lovins):

- Nothing new to report.

Unfinished Business:**New Business:**

- A Wings of Change member would like to host another paint party in the fellowship hall.

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

Next meeting: February 8, @ 6:30pm

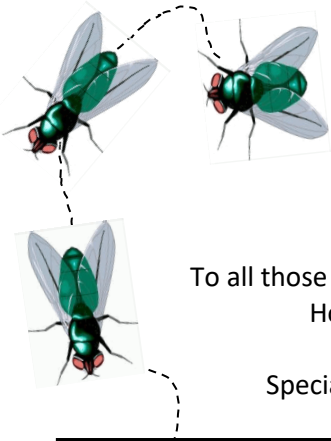
Tante Lovins, Recording Secretary



You Are Invited To A Paint Party!

WHEN: Saturday, February 24, 2024
TIME: 4 pm painting—LEAD at 6 pm
LOCATION: Emmaus Lutheran Church
841 N Shoop Ave. Wauseon, OH 43567

HOW MUCH: \$20.00
We will have snacks available
Open for AA and community



FLY ON THE WALL

Thanks to all who helped undecorate the church, from the inside to the outside and the lovely person who fixed us "Dreamy Spaghetti and Garlic Sticks" for lunch.

Thanks to that person who took down the advent wreath and candles.

To all those who bought things for Frosty - thank you so much! This benefited Sara's Garden, New Horizon, SARTS, Crisis Pregnancy Response Center and FCHC Oncology Center.

Special thanks to the LWML all who helped with Pastor Bobs installation and reception.

Stewardship minute....

Controlling Time

In his letter to the people in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul exhorts them: *"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil"* (Ephesians 5:15-16). Today is a very important day to make our lives meaningful. Yesterday is history, and tomorrow may never come. At some point in life, we start asking, "Where did the months and the years go?" Time is an irreplaceable commodity that God grants us, a precious period of opportunity for fulfilling the purposes for which we exist. Living as stewards, we realize the importance of time and use it properly. Wise use of time starts by living a life for Christ. If our time, energy, and focus are only on material wealth or other worldly successes, our time has been wasted.

While we must spend time providing for our needs, our life's purpose must be to do the Lord's work. Jesus, Who *"did not come to be served but to serve"* (Matthew 20:28), is our model. We are called to bring people to Christ and serve others using the gifts given to us by God, including our time. Ignoring God's plan for our lives will result in anguish and despair.

As God's stewards, we are called to be good managers of God's gifts, especially time, since it is irreplaceable. When we place our trust in God, we can say along with the Psalmist *"My times are in Your hand"* (Psalm 31:15). Knowing that our time is a trust from God, we will be prompted to use our time for the things that He would have us do. God, Who has given us time, will also guide us in using it wisely.



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
 Pastor Bob
 Roseanna Parsons
 Joyce Plassman
 Tiffany Prayter
 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, Feb. 8, 2024

5:30 pm
 Discipleship Team
 Elders Team
 Trustees Team

6:30 pm
 Emmaus Council



EMMAUS FOOD PANTRY

Thursday, Feb. 15, 5:00-7:00 pm
 Items needed:
 Brown Paper Bags




OUR Newsletter DEADLINE is

Tuesday **Feb. 20**
 Please get your information to the church office for next month's newsletter.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for all the hats, mittens, scarves, underwear and socks that were donated. Thank you to Ginni for helping with a Thrivent card. All items have been delivered and everyone was very thankful. Items went to Oncology at FCHC, SART, Sara's Garden, New Horizons and Pregnancy Response. Thanks again, Discipleship Team



"Thank you" to all who helped to Un decorate the church from Advent, and to Edith for making a delicious lunch for all to enjoy. Appreciate all of you so much.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Hayden Konieczka
- 4 Monica Meiring
- 10 Grace Clair
- 13 Donald Prather
- 14 Karen Grieser
- 14 Gregory Kohler
- 15 Richard Johnson
- 15 Lois Tester
- 16 Annabelle Leupp
- 27 Roseanna Parsons



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Ed and Sandra Eyer

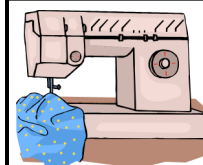


ALTAR FLOWERS

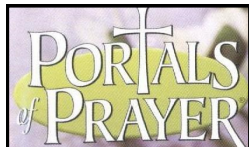
If you wish to provide the altar flowers to commemorate a special occasion or in someone's memory, please let the office know. The cost is \$30. Please make checks payable to Emmaus Lutheran Church and turn check into the office prior to the date.



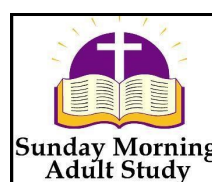
2023 Giving Receipts are in your mailboxes. Please pick yours up today. Thank you!



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



SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Sunday mornings at 8:30 am
Please join us!

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.

