

THE BARTZ/LUSTER-BARTZ FAMILY



Robert O. Bartz (Pastor Bob) and Lindysue Luster-Bartz (Registered Nurse)
Pets: Four Cats, Three Dogs, 10+ Birds

CHILDREN...SPOUSES...GRANDCHILDREN

DAVID and Melissa...Both Elementary School Teachers...Residence: South Bend, Indiana
Children: Noah, Hanah (In Heaven with JESUS), Sarah

PETER (Fireman) and Jennifer (Physical Therapist)...Residence: Elkhart, Indiana
Children: Audrey, Claire, Jonathan, Joseph, Eleanor, Olivia

JENNIFER (Human Resources Specialist) and Dan (Landscape Business) Residence: Bluffton, Indiana

ANDREW (Manager Landscaping Business) and Meghan (Stay at Home Mom)...Residence: Zeeland, Michigan
Children: Elijah, Ezekiel, Gracie

STEPHEN (Meijer Associate, Music Ministry) and Allie (Stay at Home Mom)...Residence: Battle Creek, Michigan
Children: Damien, Miara

PHILLIP (Engineering Mechanic) and Victoria (Church Secretary)...Residence: Portage, Indiana

BENJAMIN (RV Manufacturing) and Gabriel (Kindergarten Teacher)
Children: Peyton (Due Early December)...Residence: Elkhart, Indiana

RACHEL (Registered Nurse) and Jake (Electrical Engineer)...Residence: Kalamazoo, Michigan

My usual schedule in Wauseon will be Wednesday Noon through Noon the following Monday. While in Waseon I will be available 24/7. If my Red Jeep is in the parking lot or driveway, please stop in. Most mornings, 7a-8a, you can find me at MacDonalds or Red Rambler. Please join me for coffee and conversation. I will be attending church meetings and events as posted in the church calendar. When I am home in Three Rivers MI please contact an Elder. Schedule changes will be announced or printed in the bulletin...Blessings Always...Love You All...Pastor Bob



CONTACT INFORMATION

PO BOX 237
58185 Avery Rd.
Three Rivers, Michigan 49093
CELL:269-535-2828
HOME:269-244-4166
E MAIL:rob112452@aol.com



*Thank you so much to our wonderful musicians
who give of their time to lead our worship.
You do an amazing job and we truly
appreciate your gift of music!
Blessings to you all!*





L.W.M.L. NEWS

Our unit met on November 1 and will meet again on January 3, 2024. Mary Behnfeldt will give the devotion and Marilyn Dachenhaus will be the hostess. We will continue to meet bi-monthly on the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend our meetings.

Our ladies will be packing the Shut-in Bags on December 8 at 9:00 a.m. This year the Quilting Ladies have given us stockings to fill, and we are grateful for these stockings. There is a list of the items needed in the box below.

Have a blessed, Happy Christmas season!

Shut-in Bags



During the Christmas season let us remember the Sick and Shut-ins in our congregation. Join the ladies on Friday, **December 8, at 9:00 a.m.**, to help pack the bags for the Shut-ins. The Quilting Ladies have made stockings for the Shut-in Bags this year, and we very much appreciate the stockings. We are collecting items for the stockings and if you would like to contribute items for the stockings, following are suggestions for the bags: small snacks, granola bars, small packages of cookies or small snacks, fruit such as clementines or small oranges, small boxes of raisins, veggie drinks, pencils, note pads, body lotion, tooth brushes and toothpaste, soaps, and Chapstick. Please leave your donation in the kitchen on the south counter marked "Shut-ins Bags. There are presently 15 shut-ins.

Hat and Mitten Frosty



The Hat, Mitten and Scarf Frosty will be up thru the month of December, in addition to hats, mittens and scarves, adult and work gloves, we are adding to the list to include adult socks, underwear for men and women (sizes S to XLG), and children's underwear (sizes 12 and up). Thank you in advance for your help. ~ Discipleship Team



EMMAUS FOOD PANTRY

**Thursday, Dec. 21,
5:00-7:00 pm**

Items needed:
Brown Paper Bags

FULTON COUNTY CHRISTMAS CHEER



Holiday Give-Away will be the week of December 4, 2023.
Set up, sorting and stocking will be done on December 4 & 5.

Distribution will be on December 6 & 7.

Phone coordinator of the Christmas portion is Lilli.

Call her at 419-551-6573 for questions on where and what.

PRESCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Registrations for 2023-2024 are now being accepted. Children who will be 3 years old by June 1, 2023 (T/TH 2-day class), and those who will be 4 years old by August 1, 2023 (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.



December 14 at 6:00 pm followed by a dinner



No class December 18—January 1

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

Advent



please
join us

- **Start of Advent** Sunday, December 3
- **Midweek Advent Services**, Wednesdays 7:00 PM
 - **Week 1:** December 6
 - **Week 2:** December 13
 - **Week 3:** December 20
- **Christmas Eve** Sunday, December 24, 10:00 AM
- **Christmas Eve** Sunday, December 24, 7:00 PM
Candlelight Service with Holy Communion
- **Christmas Day** Monday, December 25, No Worship Service

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—November 14, 2023

Opening devotion by Pastor Bob. Walk humbly with God and he will see you through. Pastor also shared a handout with the Footprints in the Sand poem. 9 members were in attendance.

September Minutes were reviewed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve October minutes as written.

Congregation Chair (Larry Neuenschwander):

- Dean Schuette and Mark Schlueter will set a date and ask for volunteers to set up the nativity scene in front of the church.

Pastor's Report:

- Membership numbers baptized 259 and communicants 207
- Pastor will be off January 3rd through the 10th for family holiday time.
- He will also begin shut in visits in December with volunteers from the congregation to accompany him.
- He also handed out a list of five Developmental Tasks of Congregation. He asked that we read these and if we have any questions or topics we need to discuss, let him know.

Administrator's report (Tricia Zesing):

- Worship services complete through January.
- December newsletter will be printed on November 22.
- Office will be closed November 23 and 24 for Thanksgiving Break

Financial Officer's Report (Bev Schlosser):

- Offerings for October 2023. 11,542.57
Less expensive for October 2023. 9,381.24
October positive of. 2,161.33
- YTD offerings 99,776.04
YTD expenses. 86,150.46
YTD positive net 13,626.48
- General fund balance as of November 13th. \$27,409.97
Less non-operating funds. 10,725.28
Less unpaid bills. 1,644.54
Current net balance. 15,040.15
- Emmaus investments balance 10/31/23. 76,595.86
- Gem loan balance. 10/31/2023. 69,925.79
- Sunday December 17th was set as the voters meeting date to approve the 2024 budget and discuss the parsonage.

Education Team:

- Bev discussed the possibility of starting a Wednesday night youth program. This would include reaching out to the preschool parents and finding out if there is interest and what they would like to see as a program. We could possibly reach out to the parents on the night of the Christmas program and dinner on December 14th.

Elders Report (Roger Behnfedt)

- Pastor Ted will be covering Sunday January 7th.
- Discussion took place on the delaying the selling of the parsonage. It was decided that we would bring it up at the voters meeting on December 17th.

Discipleship Team (Karen Grieser):

- November 29th and 30th will be the Christmas decorating inside the church. Anyone who can help will be certainly appreciated.

Trustee Team (Leo Raabe):

- Don Hildreth requested a one-year contract for the janitor job. Previously it was a 2-year contract.
A motion was made and passed unanimously to extend a one-year contract to Don Hildreth for janitor position.
- Some discussion took place on smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Larry will check with the fire department to see if they have any available. The Kitchen one was removed with remodeling and needs to be replaced.
- Concerning the flat roof, the Church Mutual insurance adjuster suggested that we fix the perimeter of the roof to help with the drainage. Leo received a quote from Bo Dec for \$9,075.00. It was suggested we get one more quote. Leo will request another quote to compare and then report back to council.

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 underway
- Christmas program will be held December 14 at 6pm
- State Inspection for playground held 11/14/23
- Acct. Balance -

Sign Committee (Tante Lovins):

- No report

Call Committee (Beth Flory):

A motion was made and passed unanimously to disband the Call Committee until Pastor Bob's commitment is complete.

Unfinished Business:

- None

New Business:

- Pastor Bob will be attending the circuit meeting at Emmanuel Lutheran in Hamler. Pastor Bob will not be here on Tuesdays in December.
A motion was made and passed unanimously to change council meetings to the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.
- The other boards could meet at 5:30 on the same evening, if that is appropriate.

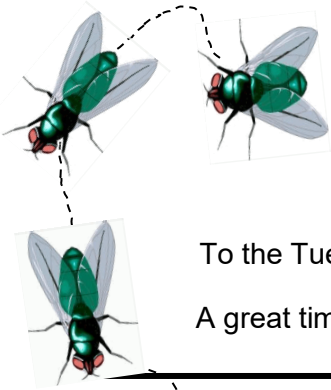
8:10pm meeting adjourned; Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

Next meeting: TBD

Minutes taken by Bev Schlosser, submitted by Tante Lovins, Recording Secretary



VOTERS' MEETING
Sunday December 17, 2023
in the fellowship hall after church
to finalize and pass
the 2024 Financial Plan.



FLY ON THE WALL

Big thank you to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas and also the nativity scene in front of the church.

Much appreciated are all the food donations for the food pantry.

To the Tuesdays with Arlene quilters for the comfort quilts and stockings for the shut ins.

A great time was had at the Painting Party. Thanks to the Emmaus ladies, who attended.

Stewardship minute....

Sent to Tell the Good News

The season of Advent has provided opportunity for us to reflect on God's great love for us fallen sinners that has caused Him to send His very own Son Who came for the ungodly, even for those who will never acknowledge His sacrifice and who reject His free gift of salvation. Along with the joy that we have in our Savior, especially at this time of the celebration of Jesus' birth, the knowledge that not all experience this joy brings a sorrow to us as it does to the heart of our Lord.

Just as God in His love sent His Son into this world to save the lost, so we are now sent to tell others of that love. The shepherds at Jesus' birth did not hesitate to tell others. *"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen..."* (Luke 2:20). Like the shepherds, our joy and mission are to share the good news with all people that Jesus came *"to seek and to save the lost"* (Luke 19:10). By grace, we are invited to be participants who declare to the world how God has reconciled us to Himself through His Son. God makes His appeal to unbelievers through us, and, therefore, it is imperative that we share the Gospel, which is the life-giving truth. We are to preach and teach the Word of God.

God calls us to share our faith and to let His light shine brightly. You and I have something to share that is needed by others, and that is the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ, Who came to us as a babe in a manger. In light of what Christ has done for us, we respond with a desire to serve and glorify Him. We are equipped and enabled by the Holy Spirit through His Word and Sacraments (2 Timothy 3:16-17) to be participants in His mission. We are the feet, eyes, ears, mouths, and hands who carry the message, who see the needs, who listen to the cries of those in need, who bring help to them, who tell them the message of reconciliation.

God's Word challenges us to use our time, talents, and money, so we can make an eternal difference in the lives of others. Because God is always with us, we can be faithful in our purpose to be God's participants in His mission to save all people.

May we all keep Christ as the heart of our Christmas and see Jesus as the reason for our joy. God's blessings on your Christmas worship and celebration with loved ones.

Have a blessed Christmas!



2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES—Next year's offering envelopes will be on the table in the hallway December 3. Please pick yours up when they are available but keep in mind to not start using them until next year. Thank you!



Prayers for our Emmaus Family:

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

Prayers for Relatives and Friends of Emmaus

Carlan Badenhop
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*)
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, Dec. 7, 2023

5:30 pm
Discipleship Team
Elders Team
Preschool Team
Trustees Team

6:30 pm
Emmaus Council



Christmas Poinsettias

Our Sanctuary will be decorated with various colored poinsettias for Christmas Eve from the kindness of members honoring or remembering loved ones and also supporting our preschool. (These plants may be taken home any time after the Christmas Eve service.) Thank you to all for your support!



Our L.W.M.L. are looking for volunteers to visit the sick and shut-ins in the congregation. Any of our members, men or women, that would like to visit the sick and shut-ins, please contact Marilyn Dachenhaus, Karen Wilson, or Mary Behnfeldt. The shut-ins are very easy to visit with, and really enjoy the visits. Sometimes these visitors are the only people they see.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Vera Koder
- 4 Brian Baldwin
- 6 Camden Schlueter
- 6 Aislyn Beachy
- 11 Barbara Franklin
- 12 Dean Schuette
- 21 Scott Lovins
- 23 Andy Schlueter
- 30 Vivienne Smallman
- 30 Valentina Smallman



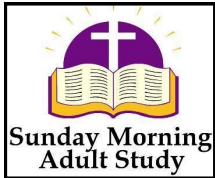
DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Bonnie & Andrew Davis
- 30 Scott & Anna Norris



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.



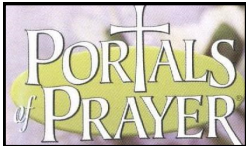
SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Sunday mornings
at 8:30 am
Please join us!

OFFICE HOURS

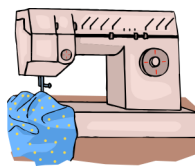
Fall-Spring Office Hours are

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



The October to
December 2023
Portals of Prayer
are available in the
church hallway.

Please pick up your copy today.



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



Tuesday
Dec. 19
Please get
your
information to
the church
office for next
month's
newsletter.

FREE FOOD

Senior Commodity Box @ Fulton County Fairgrounds 4th Monday of each month from 10:30 am to Noon. **You need to be 60 years or older to receive free healthy food and vegetables.**