



FROM PASTOR BOB'S JOURNAL

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO...1999...This year marked ten years of service at a small LCMS church in Culver, IN. Trinity was a typical "Mission" plant. Meaning, LCMS church plants at the time were focused on providing a church home for LCMS Lutherans who had no local place to Worship. The focus was internal. Little attention was given to reaching the surrounding community. Trinity was known as the "church on the hill". The term referred not only to

a physical location, on an elevated piece of land on the north side of town, but also to a perceived attitude of snobbishness and arrogance. This was true to a point. Attractions in Culver were a large inland lake, Maxinkuckee, and Culver Military Academy. George Steinbrenner, whose children attended the Academy, had a house in Culver and was involved in Academy affairs. More on the Culver experience in months to come.

TEN YEARS AGO...2014...After a series of Holy Spirit interventions, I was asked to officially fill the Vacancy at St. Peters-Three Rivers MI. An IIM pastor had been interviewed for the position. He declined, opening the door for me to serve. That same Pastor, Ron Moritz, has been serving St. Peters since I left, post Covid, to serve the Vacancy at St. Paul-Centreville MI in 2020. Officially, I was listed as the Sole Pastor and installed in September 2014. I was never issued, nor did I sign, a Call Document. This was due to Divine Intervention and the good graces of the Michigan District President. More next month.

TWO YEARS AGO...2022...I had discerned that my time at St. Paul-Centreville was coming to an end. The Saints were refocused on Mission opportunities, primarily on selling the parsonage and assisting the Director in relocating her home-based Early Childhood Center to the Parsonage, which is adjacent to the church. I had done all that I was able to do in helping the Saints process the problems concerning embezzlement by the previous Secretary, and actions of the previous pastor. I had already begun negotiations to do an IIM in Easton PA. It was time to move on. JESUS did provide for Pastoral Care for St. Paul through a retired Pastor from Indiana.

ONE YEAR AGO...2023...Time was spent preparing an Evaluation of the IIM at Faith-Easton PA, encouraging the Leadership to work together, strengthening relationships with friends, and looking forward to R & R at home with Lindy and Family. While I passed by Wauseon on 80/90 on my journeys between Three Rivers MI and Easton PA, I had no clue that Emmaus would be my next stop. JESUS Knew ☐The weekend before I left Easton, I spent packing my Jeep. In the process my battery wore down. The tenant in the apartment above me graciously gave me a jump. On the morning I was scheduled to leave, the battery again died. Another jump from the neighbor. While at MacDonald's for the final time, I shared the problem with the gathered group, which included one of the Elders. This Elder immediately called his mechanic and arranged for an appointment to have the battery checked. By 5pm that day I had a new battery and was ready to hit the road. The Elder took care of all expenses. I was on the road back to Three Rivers early the next morning. PTL! On Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024, Faith Easton PA will install a Pastor. Given the current Clergy shortage in the LCMS, with many vacant congregations going years without a Pastor, having the next Pastor on site in less than one year is another sign of JESUS gracious provision and guidance. PTL!

A CHARACTER...BILL E...Bill and his wife were members of the Richton Park IL LCMS church. They were both retired and lived in a small village south of Richton Park. Bill loved wood-working and had converted a barn into a workplace. He had many tools, saws, and projects in various stages of completion. He had done the cabinets for the parsonage. Having visited his workshop on a few occasions I noticed something peculiar and astonishing. He had no missing digits or scars on his hands or arms. No battle scars after working years around sharp instruments. After setting up his power saw and preparing for the cut Bill would not turn on the power until everything was in order. When the cut was finished, he would reverse the process. No rush. His last name was Erickson. I called him my favorite Swede. Of course, He was the only Swede I knew ☐God Bless Bill and Elsie!

MISSION OPPORTUNITY'S...AT EMMAUS' DOORSTEP...The Family moving in to the Parsonage. They have children for a Sunday School. Let's make them feel welcome...AA Connections...Pre-School Children and Families.

HOLY SPIRIT GUIDED DECISIONS...I am at peace with the decision to sell the Parsonage and believe that the decision is within the Will of God. There are lessons to be learned from the experience. Don't be hasty. Don't allow the dollar sign to rule. There is a tendency to focus on the details and forget the big picture. Did JESUS have another option in mind? Parsonages have traditionally been used only for the benefit of one person or family. A point to ponder. Did we miss an opportunity that would benefit the wider community? Moving forward, ground every decision in prayer. Consider the details. See the big picture. Please prayerfully consider Tithing the proceeds of the sale of the Parsonage to a local need. ▶

COMMUNICATE...COMMUNICATE...COMMUNICATE...Important decisions that lie ahead include Pre-School, Physical Properties, Options for Pastoral Care. Keep the lines of communication open on all levels. Pray... Listen...Speak Clearly...Ask questions...Give Clear Answers. If the best answer is "I don't know": That is OK. Since Emmaus is a bottom-up system of polity, remember that all aspects of church life and ministry are under the authority of the Voters Assembly.

THIS AND THAT...Thank You to all who assisted in the move from parsonage to apartment. The apartment address is: 410 Cole, Apt 7. The apartment complex is behind the American Legion Hall. I will continue to announce, and print in the Sunday Bulletin, my weekly activities and my trips home to Three Rivers MI. My schedule may change from week to week due to family activities and Doctor appointments. I am looking forward to Spring, Summer, and Fall events in the Wauseon area. I am available 24/7 in person or by Cell Phone:269-535-2828. While in Wauseon I will usually be at Red Rambler between 7a and 830a, then to church. Following Easter Worship I will be returning to Three Rivers. I will return to Wauseon on Monday, April 8. Saturday, April 6 is our annual Chicago Cub Roof Top outing at Wrigley Field for myself, sons, and their friends. Have a Blessed Spring...Go CUBS ☐...Love You All...Pastor Bob

CONTACT INFORMATION
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Napoleon Zone LWML Spring Rally
April 13, 2024
St. John Lutheran Church, Stryker
T-079 State Route 66

Declare His Glory Among the Nations

Psalm 96:3



Guest Speaker: Judy Kaufmann
 She will be sharing about her mission trip to Malawi in Africa

Registration starts at 8:30am with the program starting at 9am

Ingathering: New socks and underwear for men, women and children donated to Orphan Grain Train. Plus, we will also have a collection for mites and zone expenses



There will be a Board of Director's meeting starting at 8:25am, April 13th.
 Please have at least one person from your church attend the meeting.



L.W.M.L. NEWS

Our unit met on Wednesday, March 6, at 1:30 p.m. We had a Bible Study that Pastor Bob led. The devotion was led by Marilyn Dachenhaus, Putting on Patience.

Thank you to all who have donated food for the Easter Breakfast, and helped with the serving.

The Spring Rally will be on April 13 at St. John's Stryker.

During March JoAnn Eckler sent cards to the sick and shut-ins. In April Karen Wilson will be sending cards.

The election of officers was held and the following officers will take on their responsibilities on July 1:
 President: Karen Wilson;
 Vice President: Marilyn Dachenhaus;
 Secretary & Treasurer: Mary Behnfeldt.

Please continue to save the cancelled stamps and save for the Mite Boxes.

The next meeting will be on May 1 at 1:00 p.m. Leone Huner will give the devotion and serve as hostess.

HAPPY EASTER

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.



No Class—Easter Break—April 1

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

Live and Experience the EMMAUS ROAD...Luke 24:13-35...The Focus of IIM/ITM

JESUS Joins Us.
JESUS Engages Us in Conversation.
Why are we Standing Still?
JESUS Keeps Moving.
JESUS Reminds, Admonishes, and Teaches.
JESUS brings us to a Point of Decision.
Have I/We asked JESUS to Stay?
JESUS Revealed through Everyday Life.
Our Bold Response.
Mission Revealed.

EMMAUS VISION
CARING LIKE JESUS ,
WE WALK WITH OUR NEIGHBORS,
SO THEY MAY SEE THE SAVIOR.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—March 14, 2024

Meeting began at 6:30 with a reading from Jesus Calling by Bev Schlosser. 10 members in attendance. February Minutes were reviewed and were unanimously approved as written.

Congregation Chair (Larry Neuenschwander):

- There were two separate loans when we took out the GEM loan. At some point they were consolidated. The loan against the parsonage will have to be paid off with the proceeds from the sale of the parsonage. The current balance on the GEM loan is \$61,033.08. This is not the payoff amount.

Pastor's Report:

- Membership numbers baptized 259 and communicants 207.

Administrator's report (Tricia Zesing):

- Worship services complete through May.
- Administrator is on vacation March 11-15.
- April newsletter will be printed on March 27.

Financial Officer's Report (Bev Schlosser):

Offerings for February 2024	7,268.64
Expenses for February 2024	<u>12,045.46</u>
Shortage of	4,766.82

General fund balance	19,851.41
Less non-operating funds	2,436.35
Less unpaid bills	<u>1,048.99</u>
Current balance	18,366.07

Emmaus investments balance	91,689.71
Gem loan balance	61,033.08

Education Team: (Tante Lovins):

- Sunday School was held the first 2 weeks of March. 1 child in attendance each week.
- Using curriculum from Sunday School Store which was approved by Pastor Bob. Curriculum includes bible story and craft suggestions. The cost was \$97 for 234 weeks of lessons.
- Requesting to put a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to recruit teachers. Hope to get a 6 or 8 week rotation of teachers. Current teacher volunteers include Tante, Adriane Baldwin, Karen Wilson, Stella and Elaina Hilyard. Discussion on age of teachers. Discussion on insurance liability. Bev will check with Pastor Bob for guidance on this.

Elders Report (Roger Behnfeldt):

- Rev. John Schinkel will be guest pastor for April 7, 2024
- Consider tithing on proceeds from sale of parsonage. Discussion on whether this should be to an outside charity or set aside in a separate account for mission work at Emmaus.
- Pastor is encouraging the elders to consider opportunities for preschool.

Discipleship Team (Karen Grieser):

- January food pantry served 24 clients, 2 were new clients.
- The line dancing class will be held in April.
- Team asked for support from Emmaus to provide food for a suicide awareness poker run at the VFW in August. They would like to put a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

A motion was made and passed unanimously to assist the VFW's suicide awareness poker run with food donations.

Trustee Team (Beth Flory):

- Leo Rabe obtained 3 estimates for the roof.
 1. Install a new rubber roof system whole roof \$93,500. Option 1 from Roof Ohio.
 2. Install a coating over existing roof includes a 20yr warranty \$57,000. Option 2 from Roof Ohio.
 3. Install new tapered roof system \$96,575 includes a 20 year warranty. Option 3 from BoDec
 4. Clean, prime and seal and coat entire roof with flex seal coating. \$18,500 10 year warranty. Option 4 from J&B Roofing.Council discussed options. Suggested having Dean Schuette look at options and see if he has any feedback. Also, questioned whether or not it would be worth it to have an architect come out and see what would be the best option. Trustees will continue to weigh out options.
- Fire inspector found 3 violations. They have all been corrected.
- Proposed having an open-air day to air out the church and clean.

Preschool Team (Bev Schlosser):

- 2024-2025 Registrations – 1 for Tue/Thur class, 5 for M/W/F class, 3 for 5 day class
- Preschool teacher position open- posted on Indeed, Bev Schlosser will check into other advertising methods including Facebook.
- Jennifer Rodriguez is checking for new state regulation updates.
- Herron's Oak furniture coming to fix issues on playground that did not pass inspection.
- Spring flower fundraiser- sold 81 plants total (71 preschool, 10 congregation)
- Cookie dough fundraiser brought in \$1,658.00 in sales, almost \$960 profit.
- Old website provider shut down, so the preschool website is no longer available. Looking into options and pricing for new provider.
- A lime green pedal merry go round will be ordered for the playground. Total cost is \$2,823.00. Will need help with installation.
- Tricia Zesing will no longer be an assistant in the classroom. There is only 1 adult needed in the classroom as long as there are have less than 12 students.
- Acct. Balance \$40,317.93 ending balance as of February 29, 2024 (includes \$24,900.00 in grant money)

Sign Committee (Tante Lovins):

- Request to remove "Need Prayer" and add Psalm 127:1 bible verse.

Investment Committee (Bev Schlosser):

- No report

Unfinished Business:

- Larry will check to see if we will have to pay capital gains tax on the sale of the parsonage.

New Business:

- In search of a new lawn mower. There has been a donation come in and the donor is pleased to know that the donation may go toward the purchase of a lawn mower.
Motion made and passed unanimously to purchase a new lawn mower with the donation.
- There has been a request to move Christmas decorations out of the quilting room to create more storage. Council decided to leave as is but sort through Christmas decorations.

7:40 meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer and Benediction

Next meeting: April 11, 2024 @ 6:30pm

Tante Lovins, Recording Secretary

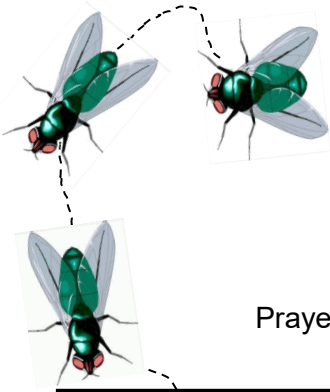


Fall-Spring Office Hours are

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



FLY ON THE WALL

Thanks for all those who donated food, served and cleaned up after the Easter breakfast.

Great job to all those who helped with Pastors move to his apartment.

Much thanks to altar ladies during this busy month.

Prayers for those who are leading a Sunday school class - you are appreciated!

Stewardship minute....

Stewardship Defined: "Therefore"

According to the King James Bible Dictionary, the word "therefore" is used 1,237 times in the Bible. The most prominent use of the word "therefore" in Scripture is a "reaction or a response to what has happened in the past." It serves to connect a truth with a proper response. Understanding that "therefore" connects action or response to a truth, could we not use the single word "therefore" as a definition of stewardship? Is not stewardship faith in action! Stewardship is all we do after God enables us to say, "I believe." Through faith, we know that God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, so we can enjoy the abundant life now and life eternal with Him. Through faith, we believe what Jesus has done for us; "therefore" we will serve and obey Him. "Therefore" is the link between knowing and doing. There are many wonderful definitions of stewardship, but, if we attempt to simplify our understanding of stewardship and define stewardship with just one word, the word "therefore" is as brief and concise as we can get.

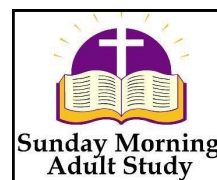
In Romans 12:1, we find one of the hundreds of verses that uses the word "therefore": "*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God...*". In the chapters preceding this verse, Paul repeatedly references God's abundant mercy to us. Using the word "therefore," Paul directs us, in light of God's mercy, to "*present [our] bodies as a living sacrifice.*" Having received God's mercy, we are motivated to live as faithful stewards. God wants us completely and totally. Everything that we are and have should belong to Him. "Therefore," God wants all of us.

In our daily routines, we tend not to take this notion of giving everything to God too seriously. However, God's Word clearly wants us to think more about how we can use our lives and our bodies in service to Him. The question to consider is, "Do we use our bodies in ways that honor God?" Let's consider our hands. Do we use them to serve only ourselves or do we use them in service to God? Do we use our eyes, ears, brains, mouths, etc. in service to God? God says every part of us is to be used as an act of worship. "*Therefore...by the mercies of God*" each of us should do whatever God puts before us and do it cheerfully.

May the word "therefore" remind of us of the importance of faithful stewardship, and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can be the stewards God has made us to be.

CHILDREN'S *Sunday School*

Children's Sunday School Class is during the church service for 3 y.o. and up. The kids will be released before the sermon and brought back before communion (if it's a communion Sunday) or by the end of the service. The class will last for 30 minutes.



SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Sunday mornings
at 8:30 am
Please join us!



Prayers for our Emmaus Family:

Richard Brown
Grace Clair
Jeff Flory
Barb Franklin
Jamie Hanson
LaTishia Horrell
Pastor Bob
Roseanna Parsons
Joyce Plassman
Tiffany Prayerer
Linda Prather
Leo Rabe
Barb Shannon
Lois Tester
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*)
Marcia Mattin (*Vickie Oberla's Friend*)
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 Son*)
Derek Wilson (*Karen Wilson's Son*)
Ted Wright (*Roseanna Parsons' Brother*)
Wesley Wright (*Roseanna Parsons' Brother*)
Kelsey Wyse (*Renee Wyse's Daughter*)
Dale Yackee (*Darl Beachy's Friend*)
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

I was regretting the past and fearing the future.

Suddenly my Lord was speaking:

"My name is I Am."

He paused..I waited ..He continued

"When you live in the past with it's mistakes and regrets, it is hard.

I am not there. My name is not I WAS.

When you live in the future, with its problems and fears, it is hard

I am not there. My name is not I WILL BE.

When you live in this moment , it is not hard.

I am here. My name is I AM."

Helen Malicoat

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Larry Neuenschwander
- 5 Barbara Shannon
- 7 Darrel Garmenn
- 10 Greg Nagel
- 12 Michael Beachy
- 14 Payton Lovins
- 16 Ginni Neuenschwander
- 16 Elijah Wakefield
- 17 Justine Netcher
- 21 Sue Boysel



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Darl & Edith Beachy
- 14 Michael & Amanda Beachy
- 16 Richard & Sherry Johnson
- 25 Todd & Amy Rice
- 29 Larry & Ginni Neuenschwander



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.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

BE SEEN. BE CONNECTED. BE INFORMED.

Thursday, Apr. 11, 2024

5:30 pm

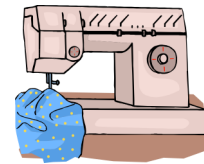
Discipleship Team
Elders Team
Trustees Team

6:30 pm

Emmaus Council



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

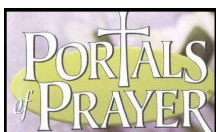


The Tuesday's with Arlene's Emmaus Quilters meet every Tuesday @ 9:00 am They are in need white and tan/beige spools of thread.



LINE DANCING

Information/Instructions
April 27, 2024
2:00 pm Saturday
Emmaus Lutheran Church
Come join us and learn to Line Dance



The April to June 2024 **Portals of Prayer** are available in the church hallway. Please pick up your copy today.



EMMAUS FOOD PANTRY

Thursday, April 18
5:00-7:00 pm
Items needed:
Brown Paper Bags