



FROM PASTOR BOB'S JOURNAL

PRE-SEMINARY/SEMINARY TRAINING...1967-1981...Traditional Seminary training in the LCMS began in High School, two years of Junior College, two years of Senior College, then to one of the two Seminary's, Fort Wayne or St. Louis. This "System" no longer exists. Following HS at Concordia-Milwaukee WI my journey took me to Concordia-

Seward NE and Concordia-River Forest IL, from which I graduated in 1975. Lindy and I were married in March 1976 and moved to Valparaiso IN where Lindy was finishing her Deaconess training at Valpo U. While in Valpo I found employment at the University Book Center. In time I was encouraged to take additional training to pursue a career in management. The Holy Spirit also was nudging me to pursue Pastoral Ministry. I presented the dilemma to my dad. His Response: "Look down the road ten years. Where will you be happy"? Soon after Lindy and I made preparations to move to St. Louis. I began classes at the Seminary in Summer 1977.

SEMINARY YEARS...1977-1981...Seminary Training focused on Doctrine and Tradition. Little attention was paid to understanding people, and spiritual and emotional dynamics in congregations. We were told that the training would "prepare us in every way" for Pastoral Ministry. The reality was quite different. I entered the Seminary four years after the Walkout (1974). Memories of that event were still fresh and raw. In the years following my graduation in 1981 negative feedback from local congregations filtered back to the Seminary's. Surveys were sent to LCMS congregations requesting feedback. The Number One concern was lack of relationship and people skills. We have gotten better but still have a long way to go. During my years working at the Hospital in Elkhart, when it became known that I was clergy, people would inquire about the denomination. When I replied "LCMS" there were one of two responses. One was: "Never heard of LCMS". The second was: "Oh, you are the ones who are fighting all the time".

CULVER YEARS...1987-2001...My first Trial by Fire. Escaping the Lynch Mob. At least three times in these years there were specific attempts by a small but vocal group to get rid of me. Trinity had a reputation. When fellow clergy would hear that I was Pastor of Trinity the response often was: "Oh, that church! It won't be long before they have your scalp on their wall". Each attempt was met with Holy Spirit protection and intervention on the part of supportive members. I was not without fault. My naivete, immaturity, lack of experience, sinful human nature, satanic influence, were all contributing factors. Presenting issues of conflict were confirmation, Holy Communion, and control. Founding members were still in positions of authority. I lasted longer than any previous Pastor. My time in Culver ended on a bad note. The "Rest of the Story" next month.

A CHARACTER...Eli B...Eli was the first person I met in Richton Park-IL. On my initial visit to Immanuel my first stop was MacDonalds across the street. Eli was the man at the counter working early shift. The first person a customer encountered. He grew up on the bayou in New Orleans-LA, one of ten children. His ancestors were slaves, his mother being an excellent cook and devout Christian. One day Eli snuck a piece of food from the kitchen as his mother was preparing dinner. Dinner was whatever was caught in the bayou trap. He soon felt the business end of a frying pan on the back of his head, courtesy of his mother. Trained as an Army cook, he was well equipped to handle the morning rush of patrons. We became fast friends. He knew every frequent customer preference. He began processing their order as he saw them walk through the door. Eli assisted me with preparing an annual Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by Immanuel for area Seniors. Eli had two different addresses. One with his brother. One with his wife. Being a good Chicagoan, he knew well the practice of "voting early and voting often".

MY JOURNAL ENTRIES are intended to give snapshots of events and people who have shaped my life and ministry, always grounded in the Grace of God: Father, JESUS, Holy Spirit. My intention is to be realistic about events and people. No Pain, No Gain! Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. I may write a book some day. ▶

COMMUNICATE...COMMUNICATE...COMMUNICATE...Please Keep the Lines of Communication open on all levels. Pray...Listen...Speak Clearly...Ask Questions...Give Clear Honest Answers...It is OK to say: "I don't know".

IIM/IIT THOUGHTS...Three factors make a successful IIM/IIT Ministry Experience: God's Grace and Leading, Voter's Assembly Consent, My personal Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual wellbeing. It is my intention to remain at Emmaus until a Call has been extended and accepted by the next Pastor. There is no such thing as a "permanent" Pastor. We Live, Die, Move On, and go to Heaven. JESUS Is Forever! Let's have continued conversation and prayer about the future of Emmaus. Please consider different models of Pastoral Care. Smaller churches and retirements point to consideration of alternative and effective models.

THIS AND THAT...I am available 24/7. While in Wauseon I am living at 415 Cole, Apt 7, in the apartment complex behind the American Legion. I will continue to announce my weekly schedule before Sunday Worship and print it in the Sunday Bulletin. Due to Doctor appointments, and family activities my time at home in Three Rivers MI may change from week to week. While in Wauseon I will usually be at Red Rambler for coffee and conversation between 7a and 830a. I will be at church starting about 9a. I am looking forward to area Spring and Summer events. Blessings Always...Love You All...
Pastor Bob

CONTACT INFORMATION

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**LIFT UP THE WORD
LIGHT UP THE WORLD**

2 SAMUEL 22:29-31



THE 73rd ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024

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.



May 8 at 11:00 am Muffins with Mom



May 10—Last day of preschool



May 10—Preschool Graduation at 6:00 pm followed by an ice cream sundae bar

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

**We would like to congratulate all of the 2024 Graduates
and wish you all a very blessed future!**



“For I know the **PLANS**
I have for **you**”
declares the **LORD**
“plans to **PROSPER** you
and not to harm you,
plans to give you
HOPE and a
FUTURE.”
Jeremiah 29:11

MONTHLY MEETINGS

BE SEEN. BE CONNECTED. BE INFORMED.

Thursday, May 9, 2024

5:30 pm

Discipleship Team
Elders Team
Trustees Team

6:30 pm

Emmaus Council



EMMAUS FOOD PANTRY

Thursday, May 16

5:00-7:00 pm

Items needed:
Brown Paper Bags



**Tuesday
May 21**
Please get
your
information to
the church
office for next
month's
newsletter.

Charm is deceptive, and beauty
is fleeting; but a woman
who fears the Lord
is to be praised.

PROVERBS 31:30 NIV

Wishing you God's unending
favor, kindness and love this

Mother's Day
and always.



You Are Invited To A Stencil Paint Party!

WHEN: Saturday, May 18, 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



L.W.M.L. NEWS

Our unit met on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. The devotion was given by Marilyn Dachenhaus and JoAnn Eckler served as the hostess. Our next meeting on May 1 will begin at **1:00 p.m.** Pastor Bob will give the Bible Study.

We served the Easter Breakfast on March 31. Thank you to all the members that helped serve the meal and donated food for the breakfast. Thank you to Ginni Neuenschwander for the beautiful decorations on the tables.

The Spring Rally was held on April 13 at St. John's, Stryker. The speaker was Judy Kauffman and she spoke about her trip to Malawi in Africa.

The Fall Retreat will be on Saturday, September 21, at St. John's, Stryker. Our unit will decorate the tables with St. Paul, Flatrock.

Mary Behnfeldt will send cards to the sick and shut-ins in May.

The following were elected as officers for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025:

President – Karen Wilson
Vice-President – Marilyn Dachenhaus
Secretary-Treasurer – Mary Behnfeldt

At our next meeting on May 1, the devotion will be given by Leone Huner and she will serve as the hostess.

Please continue to save cancelled stamps and fill the Mite boxes! Happy Spring!

Monday, May 27, 2024

HAPPY
MEMORIAL
Day

Church Office Closed

Tuesday s with Arlene sewing ladies group would like to share some pictures of the blankets that were given.





Some blankets were selected and given to Dr. Uribes, his team took and delivered to those in need on their trip to the Dominican Republic.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—April 11, 2024

Meeting began at 6:25 with a reading from Jesus Calling by Sue Boysel and Bev Schlosser. 10 members in attendance.

March Minutes were reviewed and were unanimously approved as written.

Congregation Chair (Larry Neuenschwander):

- Mark Ballmer and Jason Leu (Distinctive Roof Service) will be joining the council meeting to explain their quote for repair to the church roof.
- Larry suggested reserving 2 parking spots on the north side of the parking lot for the Pastor and Administrator. Discussion followed the suggestion. Larry will research the cost to paint over two of the existing signs. Potential options for painting the signs- county or Jordan Purdue.
- Larry has talked to the new owner at the parsonage. \$9,600 had to be put in an escrow account for the new drive way at the parsonage. Discussion on how to pay the paving company for the drive way if the money is in an escrow account. Questioned if paving company can send bill to us?

Pastor's Report:

Membership numbers baptized 258 and communicants 206

Administrator's report (Tricia Zesing):

- Worship services complete through June.
- Last day of preschool May 10. Beginning May 13 office hours will be Monday-Thursday, 8a-1p. Summer office hours beginning June 3 will be Monday-Thursday 9a-1p.
- May newsletter will be printed on April 25.

Financial Officer's Report (Bev Schlosser):

Offerings for March 2024	8,572.96
Expenses for February 2024	<u>9,903.38</u>
Shortage of	1,330.42
YTD 2024 shortage	20,349.30
Based on 2024 offerings and expenses only	
General fund balance	17,331.70
Less non-operating funds	2,306.67
Less unpaid bills	776.89
Current balance	14,248.14

Emmaus investments balance 94,288.77

\$180,934.07 from sale of parsonage invested with Edward Jones Money Market account for the time being. Gem loan balance paid off with proceeds of the sale of the parsonage.

Education Team: (Tante Lovins):

- Consistently have 1 student in attendance.
- Karen Wilson has been helping in taking a spot in the teacher rotation. Still looking for more volunteers.
- Those helping with education will meet with someone from District to ask questions about insurance liability and age requirements for teachers/helpers.

Elders Report (Harold Boysel):

- Lois Tester deceased 3-29-24, Funeral in Delta 4-4-24. Memorial Service 4-27-24 (10am) at Emmaus.

Discipleship Team (Sue Boysel):

- March food pantry served 34 cars.
- The line dancing class will be held in April 27 at 2pm.
- Suicide Awareness Memorial Ride August 3.

Trustee Team (Beth Flory):

- Fire inspector found that fire security light above sound booth needs repaired or replaced. Larry will contact Snow Fire Protection. Also, a reminder to unplug extension cord in sound board.
- Representatives from Distinctive Roof Service attended Council and explained rubber roof system. Stated there is plenty of life left in the roof. With proper maintenance should have 10-12 years left. Proposal- will include inspect and perform EPDM repairs across entire EPDM roof. Strip in suspicious seams, relax stretched rubber, Reapply coverage along failed drip edge terminations. Billed at time and material not to exceed \$7,000.00 but with a general target of \$5,000.00. Trustees agreed to move forward with proposal from Distinctive Roof Service.

Preschool Team (Bev Schlosser):

- 2024-2025 Registrations – 1 for Tue/Thur class, 8 for M/W/F class, 3 for 5 day class
- Preschool teacher position open- posted on Indeed.com
- Graduation- May 10th at 6 pm with an ice cream sundae bar after program. Adriane is applying for a Thrivent card to pay for supplies and any other needs for graduation.
- Primary School visit – Adriane is checking with the principal for dates.
- Playground compliance- Jennifer is emailing to see what still needs fixed on playground.
- Jennifer is emailing Rebecca Coy from state to get written clarification don 7 child rule for in class or in building for second staff member.
- Cookie dough fundraiser, \$960.60 profit.
- Keeping website same as church website. Bev is checking into adding a tuition button on the preschool portion for online payments.
- Merry go round was delivered. Will need to be assembled.
- Acct. Balance \$38,080.10 ending balance as of March 31, 2024.

Sign Committee (Tante Lovins):

- No report

Investment Committee (Bev Schlosser):

- David Garmenn, Wayne Badenhop, and Adriane Baldwin have agreed to be on the Investment Committee.

Unfinished Business:

- There is a tree on the parsonage property that needs to be removed. Larry will get a quote from Dan Seiler for stump removal. All together there are about 10 stumps that need to be removed on church property and the one from the parsonage yard.

New Business:

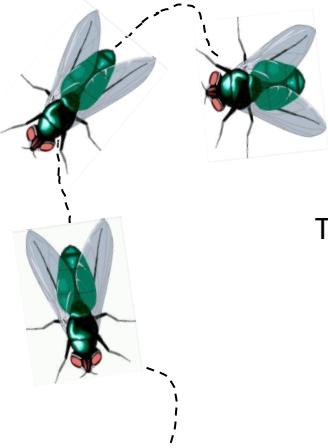
- No new business

7:25 meeting adjourned with Benediction

Next meeting: May 9, 2024 @ 6:30pm

Tante Lovins, Recording Secretary

FLY ON THE WALL



Thanks to the special guy who replaced all the ceiling tile.

To all those who helped with the memorial get together for Lois Tester.

To the crew who went out and picked out and purchased a mower.
The yard looks beautiful!

Thanks for fun and fellowship learning to line dance.

A big thank you to Pastor Bob for his inspiring sermons
and always being eager to chat with us and just be here for us.

Stewardship minute....

Changing from Me to We

By nature, we are self-serving, proud people. The world and our flesh promote the thought of “looking out for number one” at any cost. We want what is best for ourselves, often at the expense of others. We want to be in control, and we live as if we are invincible. To illustrate this idea, there is a story about Muhammad Ali who was the boxing champion of the world. He was on an airplane and was told by the stewardess to buckle his seat belt. Ali said, “I don’t need to buckle my seat belt, because I am superman and superman doesn’t need a seat belt.” In response the stewardess said, “You may call yourself superman, but superman doesn’t need an airplane.”

We are probably not as obnoxious as Ali was reported to be on that airplane; however, don’t we struggle with the same problem of our own self-importance? In our humanity, we place ourselves on a pedestal. Without God’s presence in our lives, this attitude of self-importance will not change. By our own reason or strength, we can’t change. Only through God’s love and grace can we truly live with love toward others and with servant hearts. In Matthew 20:26 Jesus said, “*Whoever would be great among you must be your servant.*” Jesus lived for His heavenly Father and others. Through God’s Word and Sacraments, He changes us from being interested only in ourselves to seeing others as brothers and sisters in Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, God opens our eyes so we see the opportunities to reach out and serve others with His love. In Jesus’ life, we see the life that He wants us to emulate. Jesus told His disciples, “*The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many*” (Matt 20:28). The entire life of Jesus was one of love and service. As Jesus came to serve, so must all of us joyfully accept a life of service to others. As we change from “me” people to “we” people, we begin to share God’s love with others.

	May Office Hours
	Beginning May 13
	Monday—Thursday 8:00 am—1:00 pm
	Summer Office Hours
Beginning June 3	
Monday—Thursday 9:00 am—1:00 pm	



Prayers for our Emmaus Family:

Richard Brown
 Grace Clair
 Jeff Flory
 Barb Franklin
 Jamie Hanson
 LaTishia Horrell
 Pastor Bob
 Roseanna Parsons
 Joyce Plassman
 Tiffany Prayter
 Linda Prather
 Leo Rabe
 Barb Shannon
 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 Brother*)
 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

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.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Beth Flory
- 4 Jeff Flory
- 4 Ed Eyer
- 6 Zachary Villanueva
- 9 Leone Huner
- 10 Charlotte Wakefield
- 11 Derek Schuette
- 14 Darl Beachy
- 17 Lee Huner
- 19 Richard Brown
- 19 Adriane Baldwin
- 20 Kaydence Beachy
- 21 Keigen Beachy
- 26 Tante Lovins
- 29 Emilie Rabe
- 31 Tracey Schuette



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Jeff & Beth Flory
- 23 Bruce & Julie Bickle

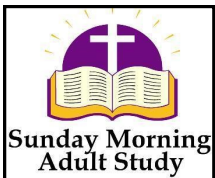


ALTAR FLOWERS

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.

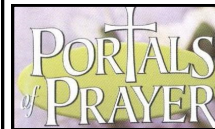
FREE FOOD

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.**



SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS

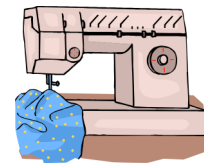
Sunday mornings
at 8:30 am
Please join us!



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

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.



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.