



CHRISTMAS UN-DECORATING

We will be un-decorating the church on January 3rd and 4th starting at 10:00 am each day. Please come help when/if you can, everyone is welcome. Thank you!



National Lutheran Schools Week
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod • Jan. 26–Feb. 1 • Hebrews 12:1-3

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.

PRESCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS



January 6, 2025 Class Resumes



January 20, 2025—Martin Luther King Jr. Day—No Preschool

Visit us at:

emmauschristianpreschool@yahoo.com
www.facebook.com/EmmausChristianPreschool



LWML News

Christmas Stockings were filled and delivered to our Emmaus Shut-ins. Much thanks to all those setting aside time to bring the Love of our Savior to those who often feel lonely or forgotten and also a thank you to all that donated items for the gift bags.

LWML's first meeting in 2025 will be held January 8 at 1:30 pm. Mary will give the devotion and JoAnn will serve as hostess.

During our 2025 meetings, Karen Wilson has volunteered to lead us in a group bible study on the book of James. It is divided into 5 study sessions:

- Session 1 How You Respond to Hardship Matters
- Session 2 Your Response to God's Word Matters
- Session 3 How You See Others Matters
- Session 4 What You Say Matters
- Session 5 How You Live Matters

Bible Study Guides have been placed in mailboxes for known participants to acquaint themselves with the content and format. The guide includes:

- *Individual access to five streaming videos
- *Group discussion questions
- *In-depth personal Bible study between sessions
- *Reading through the book of James
- *Scripture memory cards and coloring pages

All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend LWML meetings and the Bible Study. Whether you will be joining us, or not, and would like a copy of the Bible Study Guide or simply have questions, please contact Karen Wilson @ 380-231-1101.

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.
And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...encouraging one another..."
Hebrews 10: 23-24

2024 Tuesdays with Arlene Comfort Blanket Report

We made 212 blankets this year. We changed our Mission over the last couple of years. We've decided to focus on other local organizations to widen the Christmas cheer to more than just one place.

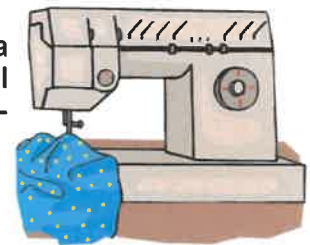
We have donated to Sara's Garden hyperbaric chamber, New Horizons School with Sara's Garden, and our Graduating Pre-School students. Other places we have donated to are, Sunshine Family Care Home in Archbold, the Ohio Soldiers and Sailors in Sandusky, the VFW Dad's Post 240 National Convention, SART to help children of sexual abuse cases, Suicide Awareness benefit, Devita dialysis, area nursing homes, Dr. Uribes and the Dominic Republic, the WFD and the WPD to show our support of their services to our community.

Our shut-ins received a huge handmade stocking filled with goodies for Christmas. We focus on our congregation's members during surgeries or other times of their need and 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 as long as we have blankets to do so.

Lois Tester is no longer with us but she will always be remembered for utilizing even the smallest scrap(s). She 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. We still have many of her tops to make more blankets. Terry has also been an asset with making tops and Karen has been using her unique designing talents as well to create some very stunning masterpieces.

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

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.



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—December 12, 2024

Meeting began at 6:30 with a reading by Sue Boysel. 8 members in attendance. November Minutes were reviewed and were unanimously approved as written.

Congregation Chair (Larry Neuenschwander):

- Larry passed along a message of thanks for the Christmas decorations inside and out. The congregation appreciates it, they look very nice.

Pastor's Report:

- Membership numbers baptized 254 and communicants 202

Administrator's report (Tricia Zesing):

- Church office closed for Christmas December 24-26
- Tricia is having carpal tunnel surgery on the morning of December 31st so the church office will be closed December 31-January 3. She will be working more hours the week of the 16th. Meeting minutes need to be submitted by December 18.
- January 2025 newsletter will be printed by December 27 but hopefully earlier.
- Worship services are completed and guest pastors scheduled through the end of February.

Financial Officer's Report: (Bev Schlosser)

- Offerings for November 10,324.49
Expenses for November 5,850.36
November net positive. 4474.13
January-November YTD positive balance \$1,036.38
General Fund as of 12/12/24 26,459.11
- **Edward Jones Investments**
Bev will be meeting with Jacob Newlove from Edward Jones on December 13, to discuss investments.

Education Team: (Tante Lovins):

- Attendance is consistent with 1 student.
- Team decided to wait to use the Christmas program previously discussed until next year.

Elders Report (Roger Behnfeldt):

- Roger reported he has visited 4 shut-ins and gave communion. There are still a few more he needs to visit.
- Roger reminded everyone how lonely it can be for the shut-ins.
- Roger has received more information from Pastor Scheiwe and Zion Ridgeville. Pastor Joel Morgan has been in touch with an interim pastor to be shared between Emmaus and Zion. We should find out something in the next month.
- Guest Pastor for December- Pastor Ted Rellstab, January 9 & 15- Pastor Terry Cripe, January 12 & 26 - Pastor Rellstab, February 2 & 16 Pastor Cripe, February 9 & 23 Pastor Rellstab

Discipleship Team (Sue Boysel):

- Food pantry served 32 cars, 106 people.
- A total of \$900.50 was raised at the craft/bake sale benefit for LaTishia Horrell.
- Jan 3 at 10am take down Christmas decorations

Trustee Team (Beth Flory):

- Beth Flory reminded council approval on snow removal contract was agreed on at a previous meeting.
- Council discussed parking lot again. There are spots where weeds are already pushing through the asphalt in the back parking lot. Scott Lovins will take pictures of areas that need attention.
- Larry Neuenschwander reported that he spoke to Mark Ballmer about the roof. Someone will be out to inspect the roof.
- Furnace filters need to be checked. Scott will contact Brian Baldwin for assistance.

Preschool Team (Bev Schlosser):

- 9 students enrolled in MWF class
- 7 students will graduate and two will remain as preschoolers.
- Poinsettia fundraiser profit- \$177 (57 plants sold)
- Christmas program will be held on December 18 at 6pm, meal to follow.
- Christmas break December 19, 2024 through January 3.
- Preschool shed has been reroofed by Dean Schuette.
- Acct. Balance \$25,957.96 ending balance as of 11/30/24.
- Preschool team presented the challenge of the preschool moving forward. The council discussed pros and cons of keeping the preschool open. Council carefully considered the future of the preschool. Due to it not being financially sustainable, low enrollment, and the public school announcing it will be adding a third public preschool classroom next school year, council made the decision to recommend closing.
A motion was made and passed unanimously to inform the congregation that after much discussion council made a recommendation to the congregation to close the preschool.

Sign Committee (Tante Lovins):

- The sign has been fixed.

Investment Committee ():

- No report

Nominating Committee:

- No report

Unfinished Business:

- Installation Service - January 12
- Special needs signs- 4 new signs installed outside kitchen door and paint lines blue

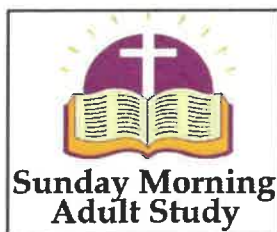
New Business:

- None

7:45 meeting adjourned with Benediction and Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: January 9, 2025 @ 6:30pm

Tante Lovins, Recording Secretary



**SUNDAY ADULT
BIBLE CLASS**

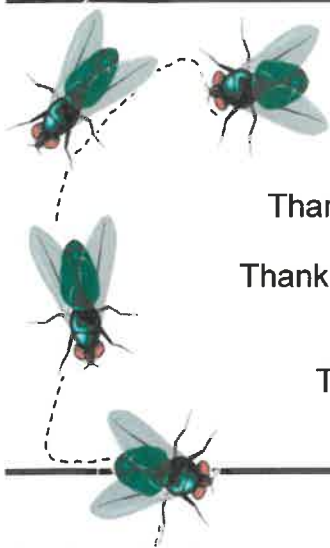
Sunday mornings at 8:30 am
Please join us!

CHILDREN'S
Sunday School

Children's Sunday School Class, for 3 years old and up, will be from 8:30—9:30 am in the Emmaus room.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for volunteers to teach the class.

If you have any questions, please see Tante Lovins or Adriane Baldwin.



FLY ON THE WALL

Thank you to all who came to help un-decorate the church.

Thank you to those who helped with the preschool Christmas Party.

Thank you to council for dealing with different issues concerning church and trying to make those tough decisions.

Thanks to Dean and Derek for the new roof on the preschool shed.

Stewardship minute....

Opportunities Abound in the New Year

Each new day brings promise of a fresh start. For many, the start of a new week is the time to begin that diet, get serious about exercising, or forego TV viewing. For a vast majority, though, there is something especially motivating and invigorating about seeing the JANUARY calendar on the wall. This is the year we will accomplish great things.

God does not necessarily call us to do great things. However, He asks that we be trustworthy in small things. Jesus said, *“One who is faithful in very little is also faithful in much”* (Luke 16:10). To that end He gives us gifts, both small and big, to use to build up the Body of Christ and to reach out to the lost.

Some of us have many gifts. People like Michelangelo – painter, sculptor, and poet – and Thomas Jefferson – architect, statesperson, and scientific farmer – come to mind. God, the Giver of gifts, knows that the number of gifts each of us has varies. Jesus told the Parable of the Talents pointing up this fact and teaching us that success lies in using what we have been given, not in having the greatest number.

Our gifts also differ in degree. There are many sculptors but few, if any, compared to Michelangelo. Yet their art can bring satisfaction and inspiration to others. You may not be able to sing opera, but you can sing God’s praises. You may not be a great orator, but you can witness to the love and grace of God in Christ. You may not be a mechanic, but you can provide transportation for someone needing to get to an appointment or to church. You may not be a wealthy corporate CEO, but you can use some of your funds to help those in need and to extend God’s kingdom.

That is why God gives us gifts and abilities so we may be equipped to serve others. *“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace”* (1 Peter 4:10). The start of a new year offers us an opportune time to assess those gifts and see how we can use them for God’s glory and the good of His people. The motivation to do this comes from the same One Who gave the gifts! Just as He was motivated by love for us to give us, not just our gifts, but His greatest gift, His Son, so we are motivated by love for Him to serve those He calls us to serve.

Prayer Requests



Prayers for our Emmaus Family:

Grace Clair
 Jeff Flory
 Barb Franklin
 Jamie Hanson
 LaTishia Horrell
 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*)
 Deb Anderson-Sperry (*Kim Fall's Sister*)
 Derek Wilson (*Karen Wilson's Son*)
 Ted Wright (*Roseanna Parsons' Brother*)
 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
 Chris Tuckerman

Darrel Garmenn
 Irene Rabe
 Terry Volkman

Annabelle Leupp
 Gladys Rue

Geri O'Brien
 Barb Shannon



2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES—Next year's offering envelopes are on the table in the hallway. Please pick yours up today and begin using them January 5, 2025. Thank you!

MONTHLY MEETINGS

MEET. BE CONNECTED. BE INFORMED.

Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025

5:30 pm
 Elders Team
 Preschool Team
 Trustees Team

6:30 pm
 Emmaus Council



EMMAUS FOOD PANTRY

Thursday, January 16
 4:00 pm Discipleship Meeting
 5:00-7:00 pm Food Pantry

Items needed:
 Brown Paper Bags



Tuesday
Jan. 21
 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
- 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.



The JAN to MAR 2025 **Portals of Prayer** are available in the church hallway. Please pick up your copy today.

EMMAUS VISION

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



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

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.**

OFFICE HOURS

Fall-Spring Office Hours are
Monday—Thursday
8:00 am—1:00 pm



Thank you to all of our members who have volunteered to deliver meals on wheels this past month. If any of our members would like to deliver the Meals on Wheels from the hospital, please contact Mary Behnfeldt at 419-337-0134. The recipients of the Meals really appreciate the lunches that they receive.

