

## From the Desk of Pastor Olsen:

### Lent Draws Near

The penitential season is right around the corner and will be here before you know it. "Remember you are from dust and to dust you shall return." These should be familiar words to you as they are the words spoken by the pastor as the ashes are placed on your forehead in the shape of the cross on Ash Wednesday. These words come down to us from God Himself following Adam's disobedience and his, and consequently ours as well, descent into sin. <sup>17</sup>*And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; **for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**"* (Genesis 3:17-19 ESV)

The wonderful way in which God created Adam by bringing him forth from the dust of the ground and breathing life into Adam, now tells him that through sin, death has entered into the world. In one short swoop we have sin, death and the power of the devil on display as both Adam and Eve fell under Satan's temptations.

The message of repentance is not new to us nor to the church. Mark's Gospel records Jesus right at the beginning of His ministry, <sup>14</sup>*Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom*

*of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."* (Mark 1:14-15 ESV) And it is also recorded in the Gospel of Luke following Jesus resurrection from the dead and appearing to His disciples. <sup>45</sup>*Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup>and **that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.**"* (Luke 24:45-47 ESV)

Paul in defense before King Agrippa at the end of the book of Acts speaks this truth, <sup>19</sup>*"Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, <sup>20</sup>but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, **that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.**"* (Acts 26:19-20 ESV)

Repentance was no stranger to the early church during the time of the Apostles. St. Paul writes to the young pastor Timothy regarding the Office of the Holy Ministry. <sup>24</sup>*And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, <sup>25</sup>correcting his opponents with gentleness. **God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup>and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.**"* (2 Timothy 2:24-26 ESV)

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Repentance is not just an Old Testament issue, but clearly that was preached and taught by the early church as well. Space keeps me from illustrating how the early church following the Apostles continued in this truth, but I will skip ahead a moment to a little known monk from the 16th century. **“When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' [Matt. 4:17], he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance”** (Luther's Works, Vol. 31, p. 25). That pretty much says it all. I suppose my question is this: If repentance is of such that Jesus declared its necessity, the Holy Apostles writing under the inspiration of God declared it necessary in the Epistles, and then even the church beyond those days until now found it not only good but necessary, why is it that we truly no longer value that which God has so graciously given to us? Yes, repentance is a gift given by the Holy Spirit that we would humble ourselves before the Lord, confess our sins and seek that which only God in Christ Jesus can give, forgiveness. May this Lenten season of repentance find you not just waiting for Easter to come, but rejoicing in the gift of repentance that you may see what you have done or left undone to bring about such woe

and pain that our Savior willingly suffered for you, that His blood shed would cover all your sins and remove your guilt. I leave you with these two Lenten hymn verses from the great Lutheran theologian and hymn writer, Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676) that you may meditate upon them as the season of repentance approaches.

Upon the Cross Extended, LSB #453, vv. 3, 4.

- 3 Who is it, Lord, that bruised You?  
Who has so sore abused You  
And caused You all Your woe?  
We all must make confession  
Of sin and dire transgression  
While You no ways of evil know.
  
- 4 I caused Your grief and sighing  
By evils multiplying  
As countless as the sands.  
I caused the woes unnumbered  
With which Your soul is cumbered,  
Your sorrows raised by wicked hands.

Text: Public domain

An Unworthy but Forgiven Servant of Christ,

Pastor Olsen

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## Bible Study Opportunities

### Sunday Morning

#### Sunday School Classes

We look forward to sharing God's Word with your children!

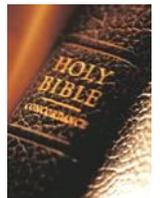
We are continuing our study of the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew gives us a full accounting of Jesus' teachings and the promise that Christ is coming again to reign eternally. Please note: Sunday School Classes will not meet on Sunday, February 18th (due to the long weekend) and Easter Sunday, March 31st.

#### Sunday School DeVotions

Join us on Sundays, February 11th and March 10th, for a special class time for parents and their children.

#### Adult Bible Study

Join us as we gather to study the Bible so we may grow in understanding and knowledge of His holy Word.



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## Lent & Easter Worship Services

### Be Gracious To Me - Lent 2024

God's grace wells up in Psalm 41, where David exults in divine mercy amid his own weakness, powerful enemies, and treacherous friends. If these lamentations call to mind your numerous difficulties and need for deliverance, they depict even more clearly the work by which your deliverance has been won. Join us as we gather for worship for our midweek Lenten Season Wednesday nights at 7pm., beginning with Ash Wednesday service Feb. 14, 7 pm, with a soup supper prior beginning at 5:30 pm.

### Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

Join us on Wednesday, February 14, at 5:30 p.m. for our Soup Supper. Come and enjoy a delicious variety of soups and desserts before we gather for worship. All are welcome!



### Ash Wednesday Worship

**February 14 7:00 p.m.**

**Mutual Consideration**

**Psalm 41:1-2**

How close is your relationship with Jesus? According to Paul, "all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death," and "if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:3, 5). Your Baptism has brought you so close to Jesus that you share death, life, and all things with Him. Therefore, when David said of Jesus in Psalm 41:1, "Blessed is the one who considers the poor," he was also speaking of you. Your blessed Lord Jesus considers you—a poor, miserable sinner—and He will surely deliver you in the day of trouble so that you, too, will be "called blessed in the land" (Psalm 41:2).

### Mid-Week Lent Worship Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

**February 21 Sustained in Sickness  
Psalm 41:3**

Since the fall into sin, no part of our human nature has escaped the ravages of original sin. Not only has sin separated us from God to our spiritual detriment, but our bodies, created for perfect health, endure sickness and injury. King David announces God's answer to this catastrophe in Psalm 41:3: "The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health." This is a beautiful promise, but what does it mean for you and your infirmities? As all the Scriptures bear witness to Jesus, the gifts contained in these words are only revealed by your Baptism into Him by whose wounds we are healed.

**February 28 I Have Sinned  
Psalm 41:4**

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the subject of all the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments. But some passages say puzzling and seemingly impossible things about Him. Consider Psalm 41:4: "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You." David, the writer of this psalm, was indeed a sinner who needed God's gracious forgiveness. How puzzling it is that we would apply this confession of sin to our sinless Lord! But Paul writes, "For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). In your Baptism, your sinless Jesus has joined Himself to you and has fulfilled all the words that testify of Him.

**March 6 Soon and Never  
Psalm 41:5**

King David's enemies said of him, "When will he die and his name perish?" (Psalm 41:5) Do you have enemies who wish the same fate on you? Regardless of your best efforts to "lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way" (1 Timothy 2:2),

you are pursued unceasingly by three dread adversaries: the world, the devil, and your own sinful flesh. When will you die? When will your name perish? Christ silences your foes and your fears and will strengthen and keep you firm in His Word and faith unto the end.

your refuge too. In Baptism, Jesus Christ has lifted you out of the verbal cesspool and placed you firmly on the rock of His Word. That Word is never empty, but it shall accomplish that which He purposes for you.

**March 13 Empty Words  
Psalm 41:6**

You are daily assailed by empty words: idle small talk, advertising slogans, and news reports that play on your fears. Political and business leaders spew cant, clichés, and spin. Perhaps even your friends and family get in on the act, betraying you with flattery and falsehoods. King David was only too familiar with such afflictions: “When one comes to see me,” he said, “he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad” (Psalm 41:6). Our Lord’s powerful Word was David’s refuge from vain and malicious talk. It is

**March 20 Vindication  
Psalm 41:7-8**

In Psalm 41:7–8, David lamented, “All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me. They say, ‘A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.’” These words pointed forward to our Lord Jesus Christ, who rose again in defiance of His enemies. Do you have enemies who whisper and scheme against you? Have you been brought low—perhaps so low that you despair of ever rising again? Jesus was vindicated in His resurrection, and you shall be too. You can have certainty in your resurrection and vindication because Jesus Christ is risen.

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## Holy Week



**Palm Sunday  
March 24**

9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion Service



**Easter Sunday  
March 31**

6:30 a.m.

Easter Vigil Sunrise  
Holy Communion Service



**Maundy Thursday  
March 28**

7:00 p.m.

Holy Communion Service

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
Easter Breakfast



**Good Friday  
March 29**

12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tre Ore Service @  
St. Paul Lutheran Church



9:30 a.m.

Festival Holy Communion  
Service

7:00 p.m. - Tenebrae Service

**Saturday, February 24th  
6:00-10:00 p.m.**

**Fort Wayne Country Club**  
5221 Covington Road

**Dinner Menu**

Will be announced soon!

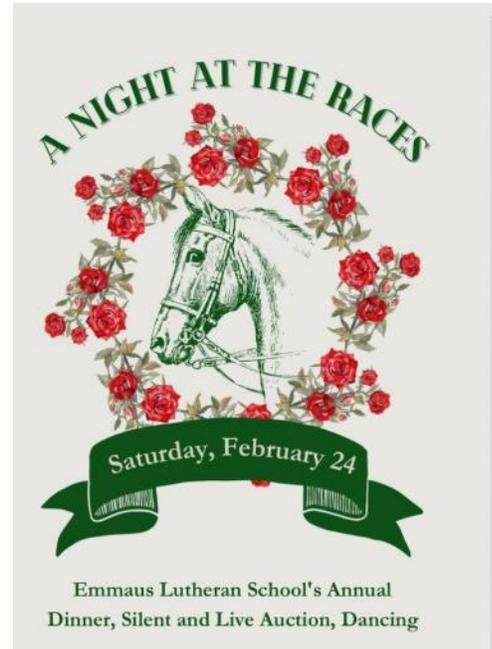
**Featured Entertainment:**

Yacht Party

**Tickets**

Individual: \$75.00

Table of 8: \$550.00



Tickets are available to purchase in the school and church offices, payable by cash or check

Tickets can also be purchased online by going to the church website: [www.emmausfortwayne.org](http://www.emmausfortwayne.org). Click on News & Events and then Latest Announcements for the link to get your tickets.

**Deadline for purchasing tickets: Friday, February 9th.**



Easter Sunday  
*Breakfast*

**Easter Breakfast**

**8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

Members, friends and family are all invited to join us for a delicious breakfast between our worship services on Easter morning. The menu was not available at the time the newsletter was printed, so be sure to check future News & Notes.

If you know that you'll be joining us for breakfast, we ask that you sign up so that we have a better idea of how much food to prepare. Sign-up sheets will be available on Sundays, March 17th & 24th.

We hope to see you there!

**Sunday, March 10,  
2024**



It's that time of year again! Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10th.

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 9th!

**Church Office Hours**

Please note the Church Office will be closed on the following days:

Monday, February 19 Presidents' Day

Monday, April 1

Easter Monday

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## An Update Specifically for You

We would like to bring you up to speed on a couple of things. The first item is the bell project. The 100-year-old bells from the Broadway church have been refurbished and returned to Emmaus (you can see them in the outbuilding). However, the cell/bell tower construction has been delayed due to changes in the process cell companies go through to approve adding service towers. Because of this delay, the \$58,000 grant we had from The Lutheran Foundation expired and was not renewed. However, we have received a loan from LCEF to make the final payment on the refurbishment. The loan will be re-paid in the short-term without using general church funds. Once the cell/bell tower is completed (12-18 months?) rental income from the tower will be used to repay the loan.

While the short-term bell loan is not expected to impact the general fund, the general fund does need our attention. During certain periods of the church year, Emmaus' attendance and overall giving declines, which has negatively impacted the church's finances. We understand that there are times when we cannot attend the regular service, but please keep in mind that the church's expenses continue even though we are not in attendance. However, there is an app to help with this, the Vanco app allows you to make your regular weekly contribution even if you are unable to attend the Sunday service.

It was also shared with you over the last several months that 53% of Emmaus' members did not make a supporting contribution to the church during 2022. While we are working on ways to improve this, it is important that we all give prayerful consideration to our financial support of Emmaus Lutheran Church. To borrow from Pastor Schopp – remember, the \$20.00 bill you put in the plate today doesn't go nearly as far as the \$20.00 dollar bill your grandparents put in the plate 40 years ago, or your parents put in the plate 20 years ago or even as far as the one you put in the plate three years ago.

Finally, the Emmaus Lutheran School is part of our Church mission. You can support this mission, and have some fun, by attending the upcoming A Night at the Races – the annual Dinner, Silent and Live Auction and Dancing. More information on this is included in this newsletter (see pg .

Thank you – Paul Stockinger, Bill Bradley, Gregg Kiess

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## Thank You!

*Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped with the Christmas decorations and allowed me to be able to do what I so love. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! You are so amazing and so appreciated!*

- and -

*I want to thank the volunteers who helped to take down the Christmas decorations. No one realizes the hard work involved, but I know and can't thank you enough. I appreciate each and every one of you more than you know.*

*Blessings,*

*Marti*

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## February Meetings

Board of Elders	Monday, February 12	6:30 p.m.
Board of Christian Service	Tuesday, February 13	4:30 p.m.
School Board	Tuesday, February 13	6:00 p.m.
Board of Christian Education	Tuesday, February 13	6:00 p.m.
Board Finance	Tuesday, February 13	6:00 p.m.
Church Council	Tuesday, February 13	7:00 p.m.



## March Meetings

Board of Elders	Monday, March 11	6:30 p.m.
Board of Christian Service	Tuesday, March 11	4:30 p.m.
School Board	Tuesday, March 11	6:00 p.m.
Board of Christian Education	Tuesday, March 11	6:00 p.m.
Board Finance	Tuesday, March 11	6:00 p.m.
Church Council	Tuesday, March 11	7:00 p.m.



## Board Reports

Board Chairpersons/Secretaries: Please be sure to submit your board's report/meeting minutes to Darlene by:

**Wednesday, February 7th**, for the February 13th Church Council meeting.

**Wednesday, March 6th** for the March 11th Church Council meeting.

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## March for Life 2024

This year's March for Life took place in Fort Wayne on Saturday, January 27, 2024. This was the 50th annual March For Life in Northeast Indiana.

The event began at the University of St. Francis Performing Arts Center, with a presentation by this year's keynote speaker, Senator Liz Brown.

Thousands marched from the Performing Arts Center to the Federal Building on South Harrison Street. We were grateful it wasn't frigid cold, snowing, or raining this year!

Thank you to those who came out to walk in support of the sanctity of life!





*Darlene Heeren*  
*5320 Indian Avenue*  
*Fort Wayne, IN 46807-3030*

January 7, 2024

Dear Emmaus Family,

It has been a blessing and privilege to serve as your church and preschool secretary, so this hasn't been an easy decision for me. I very much enjoy working with Pastor Olsen and Joann, the rest of the staff, and all of you. I've wrestled with this for a while and after much thought, prayers, and conversations with Jim and our girls, I have decided it's time to retire. My plan is, Lord willing, that my last day of employment will be Friday, July 26, 2024. I have so enjoyed what will be 25 years serving you and the Lord in this capacity.

I sincerely appreciate all your words of encouragement, support, and especially your prayers. I'll continue to be a part of the Emmaus family and support our church, school and preschool. I know that God has a plan and He will provide someone to take over my responsibilities.

Again, thank you all so much from the bottom of my heart.

In His service,

*Darlene S Heeren*

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## ***Thank you!***

I received many thanks from both Giving Tree families. They both shared that tears were shed because of our congregation's generosity. Thank you so much for blessing these families this year!

*Jessica Barkdull*

**The  
Emmaus  
Christmas  
GIVING TREE  
Thanks you!**



## Emmaus School News



### UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

**Friday,  
February 16**  
NO School  
Teacher Training

**Monday,  
February 19**  
Presidents' Day  
NO School

**Saturday,  
February 24**  
School Auction @  
Fort Wayne Country  
Club  
6:00 - 10:00p.m.

**Thursday, March 7**  
End of 3rd Quarter

**Friday, March 8**  
Teacher Training  
NO School

**Friday, March 15**  
Middle School Dance  
8:00-10:00 p.m.

**Friday, March 29**  
Good Friday  
NO School

**April 1 - 5**  
Spring Break

### **National Lutheran Schools Week**

Around the world National Lutheran Schools Week, January 21st-27th, celebrates more than 1,800 preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work in the schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We at Emmaus are thankful for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families. Our school is an amazing witness of God's love through Christ by teachers, students and parents alike. We spent the week sharing the love of Jesus in service projects, devotions, activities and so much more. To God be the Glory!

### **100 Days of School!**

We celebrated the 100th day of school in style, the younger students dressed in 100 Day attire and hats; they also filled the halls with joy and excitement as they traveled to share the news with all that "Today is the 100th day".

### **Enrollment for 2024-2025 School Year**

Enrollment is currently open for returning students, new students may begin enrolling February 12th. If you know of anyone who is looking for a school home, please encourage them to consider Emmaus. We are excited to share God's love; schedule a tour and learn more about us.

### **Annual School Auction**

The annual school auction "A Night at the Races" will take place February 24th at the Fort Wayne Country Club. The auction provides additional funds to help and support our ministry of educating God's children. It is also a wonderful time for Christian fellowship. Tickets are available online or in the office. We are looking for donations for the silent and live auctions. Please contact the office if you can help.

(See more info about the auction on pg. 5)

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## Preschool News

### Thank You Women's Guild!

A huge thank you to the Women's Guild for our admission folders for us to give information to our prospective parents who come and tour our preschool. By helping us give a professional look to our information it helps us put our best foot forward right from the start and helps us stand out to the parents as a great preschool! The Women's Guild also purchased a light pad for us to be used for a center in our new classroom. Thank you Women's Guild!

preschool news



and to schedule a tour as soon as possible. We expect that we will fill up rather quickly based on the amount of interest we are receiving about registration.

### School Auction

Make sure that you attend our school auction! It will be held on Saturday, February 24th, at the Ft. Wayne Country Club. It's always a fun night and greatly helps our ministry here at Emmaus Church, School and Preschool!

### Preschool Students Singing

Preschool is looking forward to singing in worship on Sunday, February 11. Please be on the lookout for our families and welcome them warmly. Many of our families do not have a church home and this is a great way for them to start to feel welcome here at Emmaus!

In Christ,  
Joann Olsen, Preschool Director

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## Ways to Help Emmaus:

### Kroger Community Rewards!

This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Shopper's Card. It's easy! Here's how:

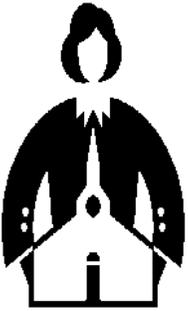
1. Go to Kroger.com and set up an account (if you don't have one) or log into your account.
2. Under your account options select "My Account."
3. Scroll down the page and select "Community Rewards" (left side of screen).
4. Under "Organization Name" enter "Emmaus Lutheran School and Church" or use "organization Number" BF171.

### Advantage Recycling

We are accepting empty printer ink cartridges, old cell phones, and laptops. This helps keep those items out of the landfill and helps us as we will receive payment from the recycling company. Items can be placed in the box located inside the west entrance to the gym/sanctuary from the front hall. Monies from this program will be used for school supplies.

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## Women's Guild



### Cookie Fair A Success!

First, a quick message to all our December bakers AND shoppers. Because of your work baking a wonderful assortment of holiday cookies, and coming, along with our many annual shoppers, our Cookie Fair was a great success. The total raised from the cookies, jams, Rada and kitchen towels was **\$3,104.50** -- a new high! THANK YOU for all of your support.

### 2024 Allocations

Because of your work baking and purchase support, we made the following allocations at our January meeting:

- First and foremost are the recurring expenses that we annually cover, estimated to cost \$2,500. They include: Portals of Prayer; Fort Wayne Lutheran newspaper; Altar Guild, Communion, Baptismal and Confirmation supplies, bulletin print licensing; Clip Art; Caller Member phone charges; choir and bell choir needs; pulpit supplies, etc.
- The special projects we approved in January are:

1. Banners (10) for the front gym wall showing the church year liturgical colors.

2. Lutheran Teacher Colloquy help to aid the tuition costs for each class taken.

3. Supply help to the school for Lutheran Schools Week project.

4. Preschool introductory packets and a tabletop light pad for student use.

These commitments totaled an additional estimated **\$2,350.00**.

We continue to look for fundraising ideas and plan to repeat the Pizza Hut discount cards like last year. If you have any ideas for fundraising, please share with any Guild member.

### Next Meeting

Our next regular meeting is March 13th at 9:00am. We will not meet in Feb., as it is Ash Wednesday, and we're having our annual Soup Supper at 5:30pm. Please join us when our Guild and Teachers/Administrators cook for you!!

Barb Kanning, secretary

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## THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you own a Thrivent product, please act NOW to designate your Choice Dollars from **2023** to: Emmaus Lutheran Church OR Emmaus Lutheran School, Fort Wayne. If you do NOT act on this, those dollars will revert back to the corporate office for their choice!

If you have an online account, just access that and be sure to choose Emmaus in Fort Wayne, as there are two other LCMS Emmaus churches in Indiana. If you don't have an online account, here is the number to call and say "Choice Dollars::" **1-800-847-4836**.

If you have questions, call Barb Kanning at: 260-432-5228.



## Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ

*Each month, the LCMS Synod Office writes Stewardship newsletter articles for congregations to use.  
See more at LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship).*



## Fort Wayne Zone Restructuring Proposal

A LWML Fort Wayne zone restructuring proposal has been developed due to the South Zone ( we are in this ) having low participation. The proposal is to use US27 as the dividing line with an East and West ( which we would be in) zone. I am the current president of South zone. Please contact Lisa Kanning at 260-446-6700, [kanninglisa@gmail.com](mailto:kanninglisa@gmail.com)

by phone, text or email if you want to see the proposal letter or have feedback. Feedback from the churches will be gathered until Feb 15th. Thanks for being part of one of the few active groups in the South Zone.

## 2024 Spring 3 Zone Gathering

The Spring 3 Zone gathering is coming up in April at Bethlehem ! More info to come in upcoming weekly News & Notes.



## Concordia Lutheran High School News

### **CLHS Choir Tour – Fort Wayne Performance, February 4**

Concordia Choirs will be performing on Sunday, February 4 as part of their choir tour. The performance will be at Kramer Chapel on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne and starts at 7:30 p.m. The tour also includes performances in Kokomo, IN, Collinsville, IL and St. Louis, MO.

### **24-Hour Theater Festival Public Performance, February 10, 7 p.m.**

The 24-Hour Theater Festival is an event the CLHS Theatre Department sponsors each year to encourage students to give theater a try. Each year, upwards of 80+ students are involved. Students can participate as writers, directors, actors, dancers, tech crew, set design or stage crew. The event begins at 7 p.m. on Friday night, when the writers gather to pair up and write four shows. The next morning the directors meet with the writers to go over their shows and then are handed a list of students who will be their actors. Students then break up into their various casts and start preparing their shows, while the set, stage and tech crews also prepare for the show.

Performances of the four original student produced shows will be on Saturday, February 10 at 7 p.m., 24 hours after the writers first met to write the shows. It is open to the public! Cost is \$2.00 or a canned good, which will be donated to Canstruction.

### **CLHS Winter Musical - Guys and Dolls** **Friday, February 23 and Saturday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, February 25 at 2:00 p.m.**

Considered by many to be the perfect musical comedy, *Guys and Dolls* ran for 1,200 performances when it opened on Broadway in 1950. Set in Damon Runyon's mythical New

York City, *Guys and Dolls* is an oddball romantic comedy. Gambler, Nathan Detroit, tries to find the cash to set up the biggest craps game in town while the authorities breathe down his neck; meanwhile, his girlfriend and nightclub performer, Adelaide, laments that they've been engaged for fourteen years. Nathan turns to fellow gambler, Sky Masterson, for the dough, and Sky ends up chasing the straight-laced missionary, Sarah Brown, as a result. *Guys and Dolls* takes us from the heart of Times Square to the cafes of Havana, Cuba, and even into the sewers of New York City, but eventually everyone ends up right where they belong. This musical is directed by Mr. Chris Murphy, with musical direction by Mrs. Kathryn Peperkorn.

### **2024-2025 Freshman Scheduling Nights** **Monday, February 26 and Thursday, February 29**

Mark your calendar for our Freshmen Scheduling Nights. This is the time to come in and set up the schedule for your incoming freshman. Dates are split based on your last name. The dates are Monday, February 26, 2023 and Thursday, February 29, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. You must have submitted an application for admission to attend. During this time, you will have the opportunity to select your classes and ask questions of your counselor before your freshman year. Students will be assigned dates based on their last names:

**A-M: 6:30 PM February 26**

**N-Z: 6:30 PM February 29**

Please arrive at the auditorium door for check-in. We will also take your photo for our High School Signing Day! Students and parents will be shown the calendar and other information about starting the school year as well as setting up your schedule.



# LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Equipping Lutherans to be gospel-motivated voices for Life

(January 2024)

## [Mom Fights in Court after State Denies Adoption Due to Her Christian Beliefs](#) *Alliance*

*Defending Freedom, Portland Oregon*

Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys representing an Oregon mother of five who wishes to adopt siblings under the age of 10 from foster care, filed a notice of appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit Wednesday after a lower court ruled against her. Oregon state officials categorically excluded Jessica Bates from the adoption process because she refused to speak or act against her belief that boys and girls are biologically different and should cherish that difference, not reject it.

ADF attorneys are asking the 9th Circuit to allow Bates to access Oregon's adoption system free of discrimination while her lawsuit continues so that she can provide a loving home to children in need. "No state should abandon children in favor of a dangerous ideological agenda," said ADF Legal Counsel Johannes Widmalm-Delphonse. "Jessica is a loving mother who feels called to adopt siblings under the age of 10 from foster care. But the state of Oregon is categorically excluding her from adopting any child because Jessica shares a view held by millions of Americans: that boys and girls are biologically different and should cherish that difference, not reject it.

Because Jessica will not promote Oregon's radical gender ideology to children under the age of 10, the state considers her an unfit parent and has deprived hundreds, if not thousands, of children in Oregon's system of the opportunity to be raised in a loving home. We urge the 9th Circuit to allow Jessica to continue her adoption journey and provide a loving home to children in need."

Bates began the process of applying to become certified to adopt children from foster care last year. The Oregon Department of Human Services, the agency responsible for overseeing the state's child welfare programs, denied her application because Bates would not agree to say and do things that conflict with her faith, like facilitating a child's access to dangerous drug interventions that block their natural, biological development, taking children to Pride parades, or using pronouns inconsistent with a child's sex.

Although Jessica repeatedly told ODHS officials that she would happily love and accept any child placed with her, officials still rejected her application, making her ineligible to adopt any child—even children who share Jessica's religious beliefs. ODHS's policy needlessly penalizes Bates and many other people of faith for their religious views, compels parents to speak words that violate their conscience, and deprives religious families of equal protection of the law because of their faith.

Bates, who lost her husband in a car collision six years ago, is a mother of five children, ages 10 to 18. Inspired by the story of a man who adopted a child from foster care, Bates felt a calling to follow the biblical teaching to care for orphans. State officials, however, rejected her application because she refused to abandon her religious beliefs. Rebekah Schultheiss is serving as local counsel on behalf of Bates.

## [Supreme Court Will Hear Case to Ban Mail-Order Abortions, Save Babies from Dangerous Abortion Pills](#) *Steven Ertelt*

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said it will hear a case on whether to uphold the ruling from a federal appeals court that banned mail-order abortions and protects women from dangerous abortion pills.

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As LifeNews reported previously, in April the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a ruling that banned mail-order abortions that put women's lives at risk, condemned the improper FDA approval process for the drug and restored strict limits on the drug meant to protect women's health that the Biden administration removed.

By illegally approving chemical abortion drugs, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration failed to abide by its legal obligations to protect the health, safety, and welfare of girls and women. The FDA never studied the safety of the drugs under the labeled conditions of use, ignored the potential impacts of the hormone-blocking regimen on the developing bodies of adolescent girls, disregarded the substantial evidence that chemical abortion drugs cause more complications than surgical abortions, and eliminated necessary safeguards for pregnant girls and women who undergo this dangerous drug regimen.

The appellate court said the FDA's faulty decision to approve the abortion drug could stand because too much time had passed since it was approved — even if that approval process was problematic. The maker of the dangerous abortion drug appealed along with the Biden administration.

Today, the nation's highest court said it will take the case.

Alliance Defending Freedom Senior Counsel Erin Hawley, told LifeNews she is glad SCOTUS will hear this important case and expects the lower court decision to be upheld.

"Every court so far has agreed that the FDA acted unlawfully in removing common-sense safeguards for women and authorizing dangerous mail-order abortions. We urge the Supreme Court to do the same. The FDA has harmed the health of women and undermined the rule of law by illegally removing every meaningful safeguard from the chemical abortion drug regimen. Like any federal agency, the FDA must rationally explain its decisions. Yet its removal of common-sense safeguards—like a doctor's visit before women are prescribed chemical abortion drugs—does not reflect scientific judgment but rather a politically driven decision to push a dangerous drug regimen."

Ingrid Skop, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., a board-certified OB-GYN who serves as Vice President and Director of Medical Affairs at Charlotte Lozier Institute, shared her reaction. She told LifeNews that the case is vital because abortion pills kill and injure women.

"As a practicing OB-GYN with over 30 years of experience, I have seen first-hand what the abortion pill regimen has done to my patients, both mother and child. As many as one in five women will suffer a **complication** such as hemorrhage or infection, and I have cared for many of these women in the ER. The Biden administration's decision to weaken commonsense safeguards and remove doctors from the process shows they prioritize abortion on demand over the mother's safety. I hope the Supreme Court realizes that the lives of many babies and women are at risk. The FDA must be held accountable for its callous actions." To read more on this article go to [lifenews.com](http://lifenews.com)

## Calendar

January 12, 9:30 LFL meeting at Emmanuel  
January National March for Life  
January 27, 12 noon March for Life in Fort Wayne  
February 9, 9:30 a.m. LFL meeting at Emmanuel

## Executive Board

**President:** Karen Blank – 797-3348  
**Vice President:** Harriet Stennfeld – 747-5001  
**Secretary:** Dennis Brink – 238-4046  
**Treasurer:** Lynn Francis – 749-7472  
**Spiritual Advisor:** DCE Larry Hencye – 348-8483  
**Resource Person:** Carolyn Beitz – 432-9189  
**Access Fort Wayne:** Patty Hunter – 467-3966

## National LFL Email Addresses

General Information

[info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org)

Catalog and Life Sunday Orders

[orders@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:orders@lutheransforlife.org)

National LFL Phone Number  
888-364-5433



## Membership Changes

The following membership changes have taken place since our last newsletter:



### BAPTISM

Elaine Jo Bohnke ..... January 31, 2023

### TRANSFER OUT

Jeremy Schopp to Luther Memorial Chapel,  
Shorewood, WI



## Member Caller

We have set up our account for the new service to call all our members. Please add this phone number 855.248.7295 to your caller id or your phone address book and entitle that contact as the Church Call so that it will be identified properly on your caller id. If your phone number has changed or you need to add an additional number for your household, please see Darlene so that she can update the call list.

### What you need:

- 45 miniature twist pretzels (to make 20 butterflies)
- Cookie sheet covered with parchment paper
- Light cocoa and multicolored Candy Melts (available at craft stores)
- Disposable decorating bags
- M&M's, Skittles, sprinkles, cinnamon drops, etc.

### What you do:

1. Break five pretzels into pieces for antennae.
2. On cookie sheet, arrange pairs of whole pretzels as shown.
3. Melt Candy Melts in microwave, separating colors into different bags.
4. Pipe melted brown candy down the center to hold pretzels together, making a head and body. Press on two pretzel pieces for antennae.
5. Pipe other melted candy into the pretzel holes.
6. Add M&M's and other decorations into melted candy on the wings. Let cool. Enjoy a pretty spring snack!

# Butterfly Pretzels

Celebrate being a new creation by making this fun spring snack.



### What you need:

## Religious Liberty: Free to be Faithful: A religious liberty education and awareness campaign from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



In response to increasing intrusions by government in the realm of the church, the LCMS launched this "Free to be Faithful" campaign in September 2012 to educate and move people to take informed action to protect religious freedom and all the cultural issues that pertain to it: the definition of marriage, the work of social service organizations, confessing the faith in the public square, aspects of the Health and Human Services mandate and the like. The website is: [www.lcms.org/freetobefaitful](http://www.lcms.org/freetobefaitful).

Topics covered include: responses from our Synodical president on Planned Parenthood controversy, The Boy Scouts of America and the recent Supreme Court rulings, as well as many others. Stay informed about these and many other events that affect the religious liberties of Emmaus Lutheran, as well as Christians all across our nation.

## Moving?



Please be sure to notify the Church Office of your new address, so that we can keep our records up to date. This will help save money on postage when we need to mail something to you. Thanks for your cooperation!

## Going to the Hospital?



If you know in advance that you are scheduled for a hospital stay, please call the church office so that we can include you in our prayers. If you are admitted unexpectedly, please be sure to have a family member or friend call and inform us. The voice mail on the phone system is "on" 24 hrs. a day, seven days a week, so please call any time!

## Newsletter Deadline:

### Monday, April 1, 2024 (no joke!)



Please take note of the deadline for submitting information for the **April/May 2024** newsletter. Information can be mailed or dropped off at the church office, faxed to (260) 459-7766, or e-mailed to: [dheeren@emmausfortwayne.org](mailto:dheeren@emmausfortwayne.org). Thank you!



## 2023-2024 Officers, Board Chairmen & Head Elders of Emmaus Lutheran Church

### President:

*Paul Stockinger*

### Vice-President:

*William E. Bradley, Jr.*

### Secretary:

*Dr. David Reichwage*

### Treasurer:

*Gregg Kiess*

### Business Manager:

*Jamelyn Rigdon*

### Board of Outreach:

*Vacant*

### Board of Christian Service:

*Vacant*

### Board of Christian Education:

*Vacant*

### Board of Finance:

*Gregg Kiess*

### Board of Parish Publicity & Promotion:

*Vacant*

### Board of Properties:

*Chris Durlacher*

### Emmaus School Board:

*Tiffany Diehm*

### Emmaus Principal:

*Esther Spanos*

### Emmaus Foundation:

*Paul Stockinger, Gregg Kiess, Tim Durnell, Phil LaBrash, Stan Veit, William E. Bradley, Jr., Rev. Olsen*

### Board of Elders:

*James Heeren, Chairman  
Jacob Bushur, Rodney Peters, David Rosenkoetter, William G. Schmidt, Jesse Steinbacher, Stan Veit*

### Pastor:

*Rev. Roy C. Olsen, III*



### ***Our Mission Statement***

*Empowered by God's gift of never-ending love in Word and Sacrament and responding to the forgiveness won for us by Jesus Christ on the cross, the mission of the family of Emmaus Lutheran is to*  
**COURAGEOUSLY CONFESS CHRIST**  
*through worship, life together, teaching and service.*

## **Emmaus Lutheran Church, School & Preschool**

8626 Covington Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46804  
Phone: 260-459-7722 FAX: 260-459-7766  
[www.emmausfortwayne.org](http://www.emmausfortwayne.org)

YouTube Channel: Emmaus Lutheran Fort Wayne 

**Rev. Roy C. Olsen, III, Pastor**  
[revolsen@emmausfortwayne.org](mailto:revolsen@emmausfortwayne.org)

**Darlene Heeren, Church & Preschool Administrative Assistant**  
[dheeren@emmausfortwayne.org](mailto:dheeren@emmausfortwayne.org)

Church Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday: 8:00a.m.- 4:15 p.m.; Friday 8:00am-Noon

**Esther Spanos, Principal**  
E-mail: [principal@emmauslutheranfw.org](mailto:principal@emmauslutheranfw.org)  
Website: [www.emmauslutheranfw.org](http://www.emmauslutheranfw.org)

**Debbie Fairchild, School Administrative Assistant**

**Joann Olsen, Preschool Director**

**Teachers:** *Amanda Dahnke, Michael Dahnke, Stacey Durlacher, Kenzie Hensley, Meg MacKenzie, Faith Korte, Julie Mueller, Terri O'Brien, Joann Olsen, Megan Rosswurm, David Stellwagen, Elizabeth Stockinger, and Tricia Wilkin.*

### **Worship Schedule Sunday Mornings**

9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
*Holy Communion will be celebrated on the 1st thru 4th Sundays of the month and all festival dates. Matins Service will be held on the 5th Sunday of the month.*

10:20 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes

### **Midweek Lent & Holy Week Services**

Please see the schedule for these special services on

Page 3.