

The Royal Messenger

From the desk of Pastor Olsen:

His Name Shall Be Called....

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6 ESV)

Too often, we overlook the wonderful Gospel given to us in the Old Testament. Isaiah is a particularly rich source of both God's Law and Gospel. Unfortunately, we either disregard the Gospel proclaimed in the Old Testament, which reveals the promises of God, or we consider it only during Christmastime.

Once again, we are presented with the marvelous message of Christ's coming—the fulfillment of God's promises in the person and work of His one and only Son, Jesus Christ. In our midweek services, we will focus on Isaiah 9:6 and examine how Jesus Christ fulfills the names given in this prophecy.

On the Sunday morning prior to the midweek service, we will explore in detail each of these names: **Wonderful Counselor**, **Mighty God**, and **Everlasting Father**. As we open the Holy Scriptures, we will uncover the great peace, hope, and joy foretold and fulfilled in the incarnation—the Word made flesh who dwelt among us, true God and true Man, who came to save us from our sins.

Join us as we study God's Word on Sunday during Adult Bible Class, and again for our Midweek Vespers Service on Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. Our "Thirsty Thursday" classes at 10:45 a.m. will also continue throughout the Advent season. We are using Luther's Large Catechism as our guide and are currently studying the Third and Fourth Commandments. As we look forward to the coming of Christ, we anticipate both the celebration of His birth at Christmas and His return on the Last Day.

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.' And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.' And he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.'" (Revelation 21:3–7, ESV)

Until that day, may we be found faithful, enduring to the end.

To Christ Alone Be All Glory and Honor, Now and Forever. AMEN.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Olsen

Wonderful
Counselor

MIGHTY GOD

Everlasting
Father





Advent by Candlelight

We are in the season of Advent, a time to prepare for Christmas. But as women, it often feels like every moment of Advent is filled with cleaning, decorating, baking, shopping, and more in preparation for Christmas parties and celebrations.

This dinner though is intentional time spent in fellowship, praying, singing, and reading Scripture to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord. We hope you can join us! Please see Lisa Kanning with any questions.

Friday, December 6
7 pm

"A voice cries in the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Isaiah 40:3

Cookie Fair Fundraiser

Mark your calendar for the annual Cookie Fair at on Saturday, December 14. A wonderful variety of homemade Christmas cookies, fudge, and other favorite Christmas treats will be sold for \$8.00 per pound. These homemade goodies make a wonderful gift and an easy way to do your last minute "Christmas baking!"

Free decorative tins will be available to make "gift wrapping" easy! In addition to the Christmas treats, we'll have Rada Cutlery, a variety of homemade jams & jelly, and kitchen hand towels available to purchase. Come get some delicious homemade goodies and enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee or hot chocolate!

Saturday, December 14
9 am—Noon



Letter from the Congregational President

Dear brothers and sisters of Emmaus,

As we wind down our church year in the Gospel and prepare for the new church year beginning with Advent, we recently held our November Voters Meeting to showcase the recent work of our boards. I attempted to get a more consistent format, and the feedback has been positive. Each board presented what they accomplished in the prior year, what they are working on in the year ahead, and ways that they need help either through people or prayers. Or both.

During the Leadership Summit in August of 2023, I challenged every board to narrow their goals to three per team with the focus of delivering on goals rather than have a large list and maybe get around to some incrementally. As a result, everyone had positive momentum and encouraging news to report. We are getting good things accomplished. In our upcoming leadership summit, we are approaching our goalsetting using three themes: **Fears, Forward, and Fellowship**.

The first involves confronting a Fear. It is not a typical topic in a church support setting, but I believe that making fears a safe topic to discuss, we can make some headway on some of our unsaid concerns that linger in the background. One key feature (bug?) of our Old Adam is we have concerns or genuine fears in our respective boards and let it eat away at us. This goal may allow us the opportunity to confront a fear by identifying it, sharing it, and seeking the Lord as well as one another for courage and strength to address it.

The theme for each board's second goal is moving Forward. Most of our groups are small ("but mighty!" as Mrs. Durlacher reminds us) and it is easy to be consumed with our day-to-day duties and really not gain ground year after year. However, as we are about to embark on our next 125 years of ministry at Emmaus, we are each building a longer-term goal.



The final goal for each board is themed around collaboration through Fellowship.

We have a lot of talent and good ideas at Emmaus, but at times we are spread a bit thin and elect to put off something

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Emmaus coming together at the Election Day Prayer Vigil.

Letter from the President continued

important but a bit challenging for a later date. This is an opportunity to work together and deliver some larger items to strengthen and expand our ministries at Emmaus as well as getting to work with members we might not normally encounter.

One of my favorite reasons for being at Emmaus is that if you have a heart for service, you can make a positive impact here. Larger, well-heeled churches are easy to drift into and out of and get lost in the flow of milk and honey. Part of what makes Emmaus a family is we see each other throughout the week wearing our different hats. Nearly every board has the potential to level up with just one more person (like you) whether on a project or working towards one of their goals. I have been excited to have adjusted our Council agenda in recent months to formally approve someone new joining the board.

You do not need to be an expert to volunteer. We have several friendly mentor types around to train you up. Most boards meet once a month (and usually take June and December off) and stay current via email or group texts. Some boards meet via Zoom if you cannot make the trip to Emmaus yet want to remain involved - **you can**. If you have ever wanted to try out a different talent God has blessed you with that you do not have opportunities to try more in your day-to-day existence, consider this your call. Are you interested in developing a new talent or skill? **Consider this your call.** You could even put your new skill on a resume or LinkedIn if you are a career type at this stage in your life.

If you are not sure where to start, please feel free to ask me or Pastor or anybody else you regularly see here, and we can help you find a fit. **Every board welcomes prayers and has specific petitions to share at the meeting.** Some boards have more immediate needs that would benefit from an extra member or two including Property, School, and Finance. We have other former boards that now continue in more of a project/work group format due to not having enough people, so there are even less formal on-ramps to service as well.

I look forward to serving you in the new year and would love to help you discover your role as our 125th year dawns soon.

God's Blessings,
Paul Stockinger, President

Board of Finance Update

It is with regret that I am letting you know that David Kendall has resigned from the Board of Finance. I want to take this opportunity to recognize him for his years of faithful service and thank him for his input while a member of this Board. He will be missed.

Please let me or the church office know if you would be interested in being a part of the Board of Finance.

A description and duties of the Board are in the Emmaus Constitution which can be provided if you would like review. Please keep in mind that, while it may look daunting, much of our regular activity is around the budget, evaluating vendors and ways to save money, finding income opportunities, discussing needs of church/school/preschool, and working through cash flow situations to help provide for needs in a timely matter.

Thank you!
Gregg Kiess, Treasurer



Women's Guild Update

First, we want to say a very sincere THANK YOU to all our Emmaus family for your wonderful support for our **kringles** fundraiser. At this writing, we have a few pastries left from the 144 ordered! It was a very successful venture for us.

Second, it is time to get ready for our annual **Cookie Fair**! NOW is the time to get out your favorite holiday recipes and purchase the needed ingredients. The **disposable cookie pans will be distributed on Sundays, December 1st and the 8th**. All day Friday, Dec. 13th will be the cookie delivery day to the church office until 4:00pm. If that doesn't work for you, the cookies can be delivered on Sat. morning by 8:30am. The sale will run on Saturday, Dec. 14th from 9:00am until noon. Flyers will be included in News & Notes those two previous Sundays. Spread the word -- we need shoppers, too!

Lastly, if you are free on **January 8th at 9:00 am**, please come to our **next regular Guild meeting**. At that meeting, we will be doing our annual funding allocations for recurring bills that we pay, and we hope we raise enough dollars to do some extra allocations to our church, school, and preschool. You will see those results in the February newsletter.

Once again, thank you for your support.
Barb Kanning, Secretary



Letter from the Principal

The school is busy everyday; lessons to learn, fun to be had, field trips to go on and sharing the love of Jesus.

We celebrated **Grand-Friends Day**, a day to celebrate the achievements of students with someone special to them. The building was full of laughter and excitement as children shared with their special friend. The students that didn't have a friend weren't alone as they were easily included with someone else's friend. The guests enjoyed crafts in classrooms, tours of the school, pictures with their friend, Mark's Ark and Chapel.

The beginning of the Church Year brings with it the joy and excitement of all of our students. It is with great anticipation that the students are excited to share with you their upcoming **Christmas Performances**:

Kindergarten-2nd Grade: December 10th at 6:30pm
3rd-8th Grade: December 17th at 6:30pm

In January we will celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week; which celebrates more than 1,800 preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work in the school of the 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.

Thank you for all you do to support the ministry of Emmaus Lutheran School, the students, families and staff. **You are a blessing.**

Growing up into Christ.

Blessings,

Esther Spanos
Principal

5th grade students participating in the Election Day Prayer Vigil.



Handbells Choir

Do you love making music?
No need to carry a tune! If you can count to four,
you can join Handbells! We welcome beginners.

We are in need of a couple of Adult Handbell players this year. We would love to have you join us on Thursday nights from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, see Joann Olsen.



UPCOMING EMMAUS EVENTS

Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Service at 7 pm (Tuesday night)
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Day—Church/School Closed
Dec. 4	Midweek Advent Service at 7 pm
Dec. 6	Advent by Candlelight at 7 pm
Dec. 11	Midweek Advent Service at 7 pm
Dec. 9-13	Candy Cane Lane Christmas Store
Dec. 10	K-2 Christmas Program
Dec. 14	Cookie Fair from 9 am to 12 pm
Dec. 14	Preschool Christmas Program at 4 pm
Dec. 17	3-8 Christmas Program
Dec. 18	Midweek Advent Service at 7 pm
Dec. 23-Jan. 3	Christmas Break—No School
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm
Dec 25	Christmas Day Service at 9 am



Preschool News

A huge thank you to everybody for supporting our Preschool Fundraiser "Andy's Knock Out Chicken" **Preschool made \$1,500 towards our new playground climber.** David Bruns is our lucky winner and since McDonald's isn't his favorite we will be making a trip to Chick Fil A in the near future!

Our **Preschool Christmas Program will be on Saturday, December 14 at 4:00.** Join us as our littlest students tell the story of Jesus' birth through word and song! It's always a fun day as you never know what will happen when Preschoolers get on stage! Don't know what to do with old craft supplies like yarn, stickers, scrap book paper and beads? Preschool loves things like this we will gladly take them off of your hands! **We can also use buttons and old Christmas cards!**

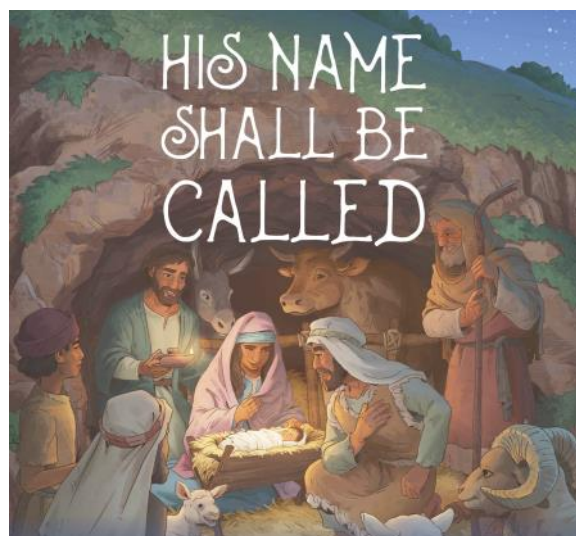
Registration for next school year will be opening in January. Do you know a family that is looking for a Christian Preschool? We offer many different options. Have them call the Church/Preschool office to set up a tour soon!

In Christ,
Joann Olsen, Preschool Director

Advent Series

During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's Son, who was given the name Jesus—a Hebrew name that means "**God saves.**" In addition to His earthly name, Holy Scripture calls Jesus by various titles which describe something about His person or work. In this year's Advent series, we are going to examine four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. Those titles are "**Wonderful Counselor,**" "**Mighty God,**" "**Everlasting Father,**" and "**Prince of Peace.**" We will learn how each of these titles describes something about who Jesus is and what He did for our salvation.

Midweek Advent Services
Dec. 4, 11, 18 at 7 pm



Make your own Christmas Ornament

1. Color the angel.
2. Cut it out with scissors.
3. Punch a hole in the top.
4. Tie a piece of yarn or ribbon through the hole
5. Hang it on your Christmas tree.



Just for

KIDS

Magi-Wise Men from the east followed the star to Bethlehem. They went to worship the "King of the Jews" ... Jesus.

"Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh."

Matthew 2:11

The magi gave the best they had as gifts to Jesus. What can you give to Him?

Find the letters in each pile that are not covered by another. Unscramble them to find something to give to Jesus. Check your answers in your Bible.



Psalm 100:4



John 13:34



Exodus 15:2

Answers:

Psalm 100:4 THANKS; John 13:34 LOVE; Exodus 15:2 PRAISE.



END OF YEAR *Giving*

Did you know 30% of charitable contributions happen in December?

If you want to keep your dollars close to home, here are a few options.

Adopt-A-Student

Make a direct impact with a donation to this Emmaus program. It serves students with much needed financial support; giving them an opportunity to attend Emmaus and receive a Christ-centered education.

Emmaus Endowment

Right now, this fund benefits with a **double match** from the Lutheran Foundation! Funds are mainly used to support operating costs and curriculum updates.

LSGO

Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization (LSGO) is a program that allows individuals and businesses to reduce or eliminate their state taxes by funding scholarships for families wanting a quality, Christian education. Donors receive a 50% state tax CREDIT up to their total state tax liability. To learn more, go to www.lutheransgo.org and click on the DONOR tab.

Contact Gregg Kiess to get started with one of these programs.

Annual Cookie Fair

Saturday, December 14, 2024
9:00 a.m. - Noon



Homemade cookies (Christmas and all-time favorites), fudge and other Christmas treats will be sold for for \$8.00/lb. These goodies make a wonderful gift and an easy way to do your last minute "Christmas baking!" Free decorative Christmas tins will be available so you can easily pack and "wrap" your cookies and give them as a gift!

Emmaus Lutheran Church
School & Preschool,
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Fort Wayne, IN

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