

From the Desk of Pastor Olsen: The Unseen

I am at my computer, following our Monday morning chapel and Thanksgiving (break), still musing on giving thanks. As I visited Bill Schmidt in the hospital on the Friday following Thanksgiving, a nurse was wearing a Christmas shirt already. I remarked to her that it is just the day after Thanksgiving and she was already on to Christmas. In response she said, "Thanksgiving is gone. We don't need to give thanks anymore." Sure, this was said in jest, I hope, but it got me to thinking, do we need to give thanks anymore? Does Christmas come along, and thanks is forgotten? As I sit by the bedside of Mr. Schmidt it occurs to me that thanksgiving is not over. It is never over.

Our Post-Communion Canticle reminds us right after receiving the very body and blood of Christ, "Thank the Lord and sing His praise..." It occurs to me as I watch the nurses that there is much to thank God for in that hospital. As I walk back to my car, it occurs to me to be thankful that I *can* walk out of the hospital. It occurs to me to be thankful when I get home, that my wife has prepared a plate for my dinner to heat up. It occurs to me to be thankful for the people who have come to sit with Mr. Schmidt at the hospital, to care for a brother in Christ.

It occurs to me to be thankful for those who are unseen on a Sunday morning who have done what is necessary to prepare for worship, such as the set-up crews. Where would we be if not for these unseen people. It occurs to me to be thankful because the sanctuary doesn't just magically appear on Sunday morning, although that would be pretty cool. It occurs to me to be thankful that the preparation for Holy Communion and, might I say the clean up as well, happens by unseen people

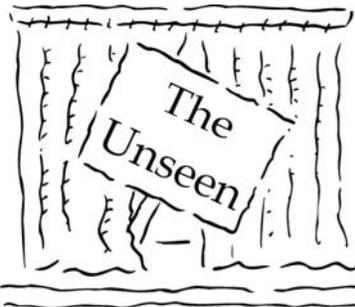
who take great care to handle these sacred vessels in a good and proper manor. It occurs to me to be thankful for the decorations around the building that when I show up there is Christmas everywhere. I am guessing it is not one of Santa's helpers, but a few people who take A LOT of time to share their gifts and talents with all of us. And there are many more unseen servants in the church, but I only have so much room in the newsletter!

It just occurs to me that thanksgiving is not over. The unseen people who serve willingly and joyfully are a blessing to me and to all of us. Praise be to God for these people. We never thank them enough. And especially are we thankful during this Advent season, the season of preparation, the season of anticipation, for a very special child, true God and true Man, who spent nine months unseen. This is the Savior of the world. This is the one who came to take your sin and my sin away. Unseen that He was, He was still God of God, light of light, very God of very God!

So much to be thankful for beyond just one day or one weekend in a year. And besides, who knows, by the time you read this my first grandchild may be born. (When does one get used to saying that?) I have held many children in the hospital but to hold my granddaughter soon must be something to give thanks. Which reminds me, I am thankful for the faithful grandparents in our congregation who have, and still are, showing me how to be a good grandfather. I am most definitely thankful for them!

Blessings in Christ,

Rev. Roy C. Olsen, III, Pastor, Husband, Father,
Grandfather and thankful Child of God.



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 Sundays, December 24th & 31st due to families and students being gone for Christmas. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7th.

Sunday School DoVotions

Join us on Sundays, December 10th & January 14th for a special class time for parents and their children.

Adult Bible Study

Advent Sunday Bible Class: Isaiah - The Fifth Gospel

Join us for our Advent study on Sunday mornings as we dig deeper into the Old Testament Readings from Isaiah. Here are the readings if you would like to prepare for the class ahead of time:

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| December 3 | Isaiah 64:109 |
| December 10 | Isaiah 40:1-16 |
| December 17 | Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 |

Adult Bible Class will not meet on Sundays, December 24th and 31st. Class will resume on Sunday, January 7th.

Midweek Wednesday Night Class:

Beginning, Wednesday, January 10, @ 7:00 p.m. in the Gym

Preparations are being made for this class, but aren't quite finalized yet. Please watch for information in the weekly News & Notes on what we will be studying.



Thank You So Much!

Thank you to Carol Rose & Family for the beautiful nativity that is now on display at Emmaus! The nativity was originally displayed at the Rose residence in Indian Village beginning in 1969. What a wonderful addition to the front of our building for the Christmas season!

Advent & Christmas Worship Services

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



PEACE CAME TO EARTH

Seeking peace by our own efforts is an endless pursuit, but God instructs us with a peace that surpasses understanding. He gives us peace in five separate ways that meet our needs, perhaps before we even know them.

This peace comes through the birth of Jesus. Using a five-point Christmas star as a metaphor, see the five ways Jesus brings us peace from God as the Prince of Peace.

Wednesday, December 6

Look Up! The Star of Peace Draws Near
While we often seek peace through more possessions, God's great gift has already come. God stops us as a wise Father and says, "Look up and see a lasting star and treasure, the gift of My Son."

Wednesday, December 13

PEACE TO ALL, NEAR AND FAR

We often seek peace through distance, putting our worries of the past far away, but God gives us peace here and now through the blood of His Son, who died on the cross.

Wednesday, December 20

OUR PEACE RESTS ON HIM ALONE

We often seek peace through the control we might have over others, but God gives us true peace with the Savior, who shines in majesty and stands in the middle of our conflicts.

Christmas Services



Christmas Eve

Holy Communion

Candlelight Service

Sunday December 24th

7:00p.m.

Join us for our Christmas Eve service as we look forward to Jesus' birth with the blessed

Christmas message.

Christmas Day

Holy Communion

Festival Service

Monday, December 25th

9:00 a.m.

Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus in Word and song.



Thank you!

Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped with the Christmas decoration 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!

Marti

*Merry Christmas
and God's
blessings to you and
your family in 2024!*

The Giving Tree

It's that time of year again . . . A time when we are able to bless others during the Christmas season! We plan to share our congregational love with two families this year.

The Emmaus Christmas GIVING TREE

Family #1 has had several hardships this year, including a house fire. They are a family of 8 (3 adults, 5 children). Look for tags on the Giving Tree!

Family #2 is a young couple. The husband recently found out that he has kidney cancer and will need to undergo treatment for this. They can be helped most with restaurant gift cards, grocery gift cards, gas cards, etc. as he begins his cancer treatment journey. Of course, all prayers are appreciated! In addition to gift cards and prayers, any cards/notes/letters of encouragement for this young man would be welcome as he battles this new diagnosis.

HOW: Please take a tag from the Giving Tree in our worship area, purchase the item(s), wrap and return them with the tag attached. **NOTE: for clothing items, please include a gift receipt.**

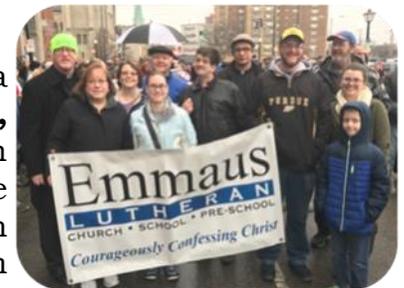
WHEN: Return wrapped items to Emmaus by **Sunday, December 17th.**

IF: You would rather give a monetary gift and have others shop, please give your gift to Jessica Barkdull on Sundays or **mail** a designated check to Emmaus.

Questions? Please contact Jessica Barkdull, 260-580-9067. Thank you!

March for Life

Emmaus will once again be participating in the Northeast Indiana March for Life. Plan on joining us on **Saturday, January 27, 2024** at the St. Francis Performing Arts Center. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. The Rally will take place at 12:00 p.m. and the March will start after the Rally. Emmaus will walk together with our banner to show our community how important life is from conception to natural death!



Sanctity of Life Sunday

We will also recognize and celebrate Life Sunday on January 21, 2024. As we have in the past, we will receive a special offering to support A Hope Center, a life-affirming ministry that provides life-transforming services related to pregnancy and sexual integrity. Emmaus has supported A Hope Center in the past with our donations and marching with them in the stand against abortion. Please pray for all those who support life. If you wish to make a contribution by check, please make it payable to Emmaus Lutheran Church and write "A Hope Center" on the memo line.

Thank you for prayerfully considering a donation to this ministry.

The Board of Elders

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.



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.



Membership Changes

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

TRANSFERS OUT

Neil & Robyn Farmer to St. Michael Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN

Erin Schoof to St. Peter Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN

Ryan & Kristen Winsemann, Calla, Hudson and Cy to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN

December Meeting

Board of Elders

Monday, December 11

6:30 p.m.



January Meetings

Board of Elders

Monday, January 8

6:30 p.m.

Board of Christian Service

Tuesday, January 9

4:30 p.m.

School Board

Tuesday, January 9

6:00 p.m.

Board of Christian Education

Tuesday, January 9

6:00 p.m.

Board Finance

Tuesday, January 9

6:00 p.m.

Church Council

Tuesday, January 9

7:00 p.m.



Board Reports

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

Wednesday, January 3rd, for the January 9th Church Council meeting.



Thank You!

Thanks so much to all of you who have volunteered in the church office this year. I sincerely appreciate all the help you've given to complete the various tasks that need to be done and help the office run smoothly. Whether you're a "regular volunteer" or came in and helped when I was out of the office for vacation or my surgery in March (I'm hoping March 2024 is uneventful!!), thank you so much! You are such a blessing to me and to Emmaus!

I wish each and everyone of you a very Merry Christmas and God's richest blessings in the New Year!

In His service,

Darlene Heeren

Church & Preschool Secretary

THE CHRISTMAS STORY



It came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:1-7 (KJV)

Emmaus School News



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday,

December 5

Gr 3 - 5 Christmas
Program @ 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday,

December 12

K - Gr 2 Christmas
Program

Tuesday,

December 19

Gr 6 - 8 Christmas
program

Friday,

December 22

End of 2nd Quarter

Monday,

December 25

Thru

Friday, January 5

Christmas Break
NO School

Monday, January 8

Classes Resume

Monday, January 15

Martin Luther King,
Jr. Day
NO School

Monday, January 22

thru

Friday, January 26

National Lutheran
Schools Week

The school year is in full swing, and the students, families, and teachers are all sharing the love of the Lord. Our school verse is “Done in Love” 1 Corinthians 16:14. I’ve seen excellent examples of Christ’s love on a daily basis.

In November, we celebrated Grand Friend’s Day. We started our day worshipping together, then the kids and their special friends rotated through a photo booth, a science presentation (courtesy of Science Central), our annual book fair, and a variety of classroom activities. Many praises and thanks were shared with me from our visitors.

Our students have experienced many fun, educational field trips. Third grade has visited the “Survive Alive” house with the Fort Wayne Fire Department. Multiple classes attended the Aladdin musical put on by students at Concordia High School. The eighth grade also went to the high school. They spent the day learning about the opportunities that Concordia has to offer. The Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo visited a couple of our classrooms and so have a few church members. Students and teachers enjoyed welcoming them and sharing that time together reading.

Practices for Christmas programs have begun. I enjoy hearing them in the afternoons. Performance concerts are December 5 at 6:30 pm for grades 3-5, December 12 at 6:30 pm for grades kdg-2, and December 19 at 6:30 pm for middle school.

At the beginning of December, the PTL will be hosting a Christmas Shoppe, as they’ve done previously. This event allows students a chance to shop for loved ones independently and teaches them money handling. Students from our upper grades will assist younger children from their Chapel families with shopping.

Our second quarter will end on December 22, which means we are halfway through the school year already!

“A Night at the Races” is the theme for our annual auction this year and will take place on February 24 at the Fort Wayne Country Club. What a great time for fun and fellowship as we support our ministry of educating God’s children. Tickets will be available for purchase soon. We are actively looking for donations for the silent and live auctions. Please contact the office, if you can help.

Enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year will be here soon. If you know of families with school age children, please talk to them

about Emmaus Lutheran School. We are excited to share God's love; schedule a tour and learn more about us.

As we prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming, we are thankful for your love, prayers, and support of the children, their families, and our teachers.

Preschool News

Preschool had a busy fall! Here's what we've been doing!



Doughnuts with Dad

We enjoyed having all of our dad's come for Doughnuts with Dad on Monday, November 6. We enjoyed a yummy snack of doughnuts and milk, had special activities in our classrooms showing our dads all that we are learning at school. We ended the morning with a special Chapel service with our dads and Pastor Olsen!

Pumpkin School

PreK also visited Kurtz Pumpkin School in October. We learned how pumpkins grow and we saw all different kinds of pumpkins. The highlight was taking a hayride out to the pumpkin patch and picking our own pumpkins to take home!

Ft. Wayne Art Museum

Through a grant, we were able to have the Ft. Wayne Art Museum come and visit the three PreK rooms and do a special lesson about portraits. After viewing a portrait that hangs in the museum, we were able to draw our own portrait. We are excited because the museum will be able to come a few more times before the end of the year!

Preschool Christmas Program

Don't forget to join us on Saturday, December 9, at 4:00 p.m. for our Preschool Christmas Program, "Christmas in our Jammies!" You will enjoy hearing us tell the story of Jesus' birth while singing and dancing in our Christmas Jammies! Trust me, you will never see the Christmas story acted out in a cuter way! It will start your Christmas out with a smile. 😊

In Christ,
Joann Olsen, Preschool Director

Church Office Hours

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



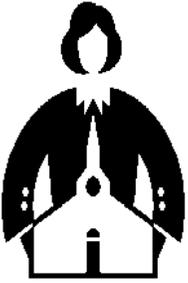
Monday, December 25 Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 26

Monday, January 1 New Year's Day

Monday, January 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Women's Guild



Time to **fill those cookie pans** and **come on Saturday, December 9th** to see what great things we have on sale for your gift-giving! (see insert)

A wonderful variety of homemade Christmas cookies and other favorites (including gluten free) 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 cookies, we'll have a variety of gourmet cookies (Maple Nut, Mocha, Chocolate Espresso & Dirt Cake), Rada Cutlery, homemade salsa, a variety of jams & jellies, and kitchen hand towels will be available to purchase. Come get some delicious homemade goodies and

enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee or hot chocolate!

Meetings

The Women's Guild meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m., but will not meet in December.

Our next meeting date is Wednesday, January 10, 2024 and **we will be discussing allocations**, based on our fundraising income. We hope we are able to continue to cover our recurring allocations, plus fund other projects for our church, school, and preschool.

Please join us in the cafeteria as we continue to plan future activities and events!

Barb Kanning, Secretary

2023 Contributions & Statements

Contributions

In order for contributions to be included on your 2023 Contribution Statement, they must be received at the church by Sunday, December 31, 2023.

If you are mailing your contribution, please allow sufficient time with the holiday mail for it to be delivered to the office by Friday, December 29, 2023.

Any contributions received after December 31st will be entered on your 2024 statement.

Year-End Statements

The 2023 Contribution Statements will be available to pick up in January. Please be sure to review your statement and contact the church office with any questions.

Thank you!

2024 Offering Envelopes

We are working on prepping the 2024 Offering Envelopes and hope to have them ready for you to pick up beginning mid-December. You may pick them up on Sunday mornings after the worship service or thru the week from the church office.

The Measure of Our Generosity

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8–11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old Testament law and "spirit" (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: "The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?

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



Concordia Lutheran High School News

'White Diamond Christmas Gala' Cadets in Cadence Dinner Auction

The CLHS Cadets in Cadence Dinner Auction is on Saturday, December 2, 2023, in the high school's gymnasium. This year's theme is White Diamond Christmas Gala! Come enjoy live musical entertainment, cocktails and dinner along with a live auction, dessert auction and a paddle raise. This has been a sold out event the last 2 years so make sure to purchase your tickets soon by going online to cadetsincadence.com.

Priority Application Deadline

If you are the parent of an eighth grade student or a high school student who is considering transferring to Concordia, please note that the priority application deadline for the 2024-25 school year is **December 15**. You can find more information online at becomeacadet.com!

Christmas at the Embassy

Celebrate the holiday season with Concordia Lutheran High School's annual Christmas at the Embassy at 4 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Historic Embassy Theatre. The 2023 event, "The Savior Reigns: Repeat the Sounding Joy!" will showcase the talents of CLHS music department students with choral,

instrumental and orchestral music. Tickets are now on sale at the Embassy Box Office and Ticketmaster. Tickets are \$12 for students/seniors and \$18 for general admission. No reserved seats. Begin your Christmas celebrations with song and some holiday cheer!

Concordia Scholars Deadline

Open to Incoming 9th Graders: Exemplifying Concordia's best and brightest, the Concordia Scholar receives up to \$2,500 per year as an academic scholarship. This student is academically exemplary and demonstrates integrity and good character not only at school but also in the church, home, and community. A Concordia Scholar must maintain a 3.50 or higher GPA at Concordia, remain in good standing with tuition payments, and maintain a record of positive behavior. This scholarship renews automatically providing the student continues to fulfill its requirements. The **deadline for applications is December 15**.

After-School Tutoring Times for December:

Open Mon - Thurs 3:30 - 5:00

There is no after-school tutoring from December 18-21 due to semester exams.

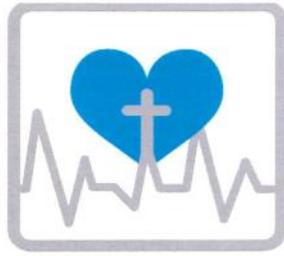
Religious Liberty: Free to be Faithful: A religious liberty education and awareness campaign from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



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.

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.



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-Motivated Voices for Life

(November 2023)

[“Researchers experimented on 1,000 embryos leftover from IVF”](#) *by Nancy Flanders*

Scientists used nearly 1,000 human embryos donated to research following a separate IVF study in order to experiment on them in the hope of improving the success rate of In Vitro fertilization (IVF).

During the study, it was learned that half of the embryos — about 500 — stopped developing due to genetic issues in early development. Study author Rajiv McCoy, an assistant professor of biology at Johns Hopkins University, believes that this is the same rate at which embryos stop developing in natural conception as well. Researchers think that this knowledge could allow more embryos to be successfully created during the practice of IVF — which could mean more embryos left perpetually frozen along with the estimated one million who are currently frozen. Research has shown that IVF destroys human embryos at a higher rate than abortion does.

McCoy explained, “It is very surprising that most of these embryo arrests are coming not from errors in egg formation, but from errors happening in cell divisions after fertilization. The fact that these errors don’t come from the egg suggests that maybe they could be mitigated by changing the way IVF is done.”

Johns Hopkins, along with London Women’s Clinic researchers in the UK, compared the embryos that stopped developing within a few days of fertilization with those that continued to develop. They found that some embryos begin to develop properly with the maternal genetic material before ceasing to develop once the embryo’s genes take over. The embryos who did not survive began with the typical 46 chromosomes like those who did survive but then passed down incorrect numbers of chromosomes as the cells continued to divide. “It doesn’t really matter if you have extra missing chromosomes in the very beginning because the maternal machinery is controlling things,” McCoy said. “When the embryo’s genome turns on, that’s when things go wrong.”

According to Medical Xpress, human embryos can experience high rates of chromosome gain and loss, referred to as aneuploidy, early on in development. Aneuploidy is understood to be a contributor to early miscarriage, and fertility clinics will often refuse to implant them. However, it has recently been discovered that such embryos can actually self-correct and continue to develop in the womb.

The researchers want to run further testing on specific cells from the embryos who stopped developing in order to trace the chromosomes’ origins to either maternal or paternal genetics. They also want to learn if the chemical composition of the dish in which the human embryos are kept could be harming or killing the embryos.

“The problem could be that the chemical composition of the culture medium that are commonly used will not allow all embryos to grow, that the abnormal cell divisions are due to stresses on the

egg and early embryo that causes the abnormal divisions associated with chromosome abnormalities,” said study co-author Michael Summers, a Senior Consultant at London Women’s Clinic.

IVF is carried out 2.5 million times a year around the world, but each year only 500,000 babies are actually born from the IVF procedure, according to research published in Reproductive Biomedicine Online. That means that each year, if just one embryo is created during each IVF cycle (the average is seven), at least 80% — at least two million — of the human beings created through IVF either die during the process, are frozen indefinitely, or are destroyed. *Correction, 10/17/23: This article was updated to reflect that the embryos were donated to researchers following a separate IVF study.*

[“Premature Twins Set Record at Cleveland Clinic, Surviving at Just 22 weeks”](#) by Victoria Bergin

Due to advances in modern medicine, premature babies are surviving at higher rates and earlier delivery dates. Kimyah and DJ Jackson set a record at Cleveland Clinic as the youngest surviving premature twins when they were born at 22 weeks. When their mother Kimberly went to the hospital clearly in the early stages of labor, she was told that they had a 10-20% survival rate. Her doctors did everything they could to stop her labor, but they were unsuccessful.

“We closely work with the families in these situations to come to a decision on whether they would like comfort care or full resuscitation efforts. Kimberly wanted us to do everything we could for her twins,” said Dr. Firas Saker, the medical director of Cleveland Clinic NICU at Hillcrest Hospital. The twins did need to be resuscitated and intubated, but they survived. They were each about the size of a soda can: Kimyah weighing in at 12 ounces, and DJ at 15 ounces. Due to the high level of risk, the twins were rushed to the NICU and Kimberly only got a glimpse of Kimyah, anxiously thinking, “She’s too small.”

The family spent the next 138 days in the hospital. At first, Kimberly wasn’t even able to hold her newborn babies because their skin was so fragile. There were many ups and downs during those months, but the twins were finally released and are developing well at almost one year old. The staff that cared for them celebrated their “graduation” and even made a heartwarming video.

[Calendar](#)

- November 22, 3 pm-8 pm Christmas in the downtown library sponsored by Christ Child Festival
- November 23, HAPPY THANKSGIVING
- November 24, 10 am-4 pm Christmas in the downtown library sponsored by Christ Child Festival
- December 8, 11 am **NO MEETING** – Luncheon at the Tall Rabbit Café

[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

Catalog and Life Sunday Orders
orders@lutheransforlife.org

National LFL Phone Number
888-364-5433

Puzzle!

Unscramble the Christmas-themed words below, writing each extra letter on the blank to the right. Then place those extra letters in the correct spots below to discover what we receive at Christmas.



1. TGLBEHHEME _____
2. NEAGLO _____
3. NRMEDAG _____
4. ODEKSNY _____
5. AMGYZ _____
6. OHESJIP _____
7. EFJUSS _____
8. ITEENMSW _____
9. SPHHDSREEO _____
10. EMCFAL _____
11. TLSRA _____
12. CSSNUEO _____
13. HEVSPE _____
14. ENIN _____

_____ , _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13 14

Answers: Bethlehem (G), angel (O), manger (D), donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), wise men (T), shepherds (O), camel (F), star (L), census (O), sheep (V), inn (E); God's gift of love

Puzzle!

The word list contains the angel's Christmas message to the shepherds. Fit those words into the crossword squares. Then write them on the correct lines below to complete Luke 2:10-11, NIV.

Word list:

| | | | |
|-----|------|-------|---------|
| be | baby | that | today |
| do | been | this | afraid |
| all | born | town | Christ |
| for | find | will | cloths |
| has | good | bring | manger |
| joy | Lord | David | people |
| not | news | great | Savior |
| you | sign | lying | wrapped |

“ _____ . I _____ the _____ of _____ the _____ in the _____ of _____ a _____ to _____ ; he is _____ the _____ .” Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answer: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11, NIV.

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, January 29, 2024



Please take note of the deadline for submitting information for the **February/March 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. Thank



“I’m a king in the living Nativity. I need some gold and a camel by Friday.”

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

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Paul Stockinger

Vice-President:

William E. Bradley, Jr.

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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

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www.emmausfortwayne.org

YouTube Channel: Emmaus Lutheran Fort Wayne 

Rev. Roy C. Olsen, III, Pastor
revolsen@emmausfortwayne.org

Darlene Heeren, Church & Preschool Administrative Assistant
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
Website: www.emmauslutheranfw.org

Debbie Fairchild, School Administrative Assistant

Joann Olsen, Preschool Director

Teachers: *Amanda Dahnke, Michael Dahnke, Stacey Durlacher, , Meg MacKenzie, Faith Korte, Courtney McMeen, 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 Advent & Christmas Services

Please see the schedule for these special services on

Page 3.