

Emmaus Lutheran Church
1224 Laurel Street
Indianapolis, IN 46203



November/December 2025

The Emmaus Companion

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Parish Planning Meeting

September 9, 2025

Present - Jeff Frownfelter, Carol Chandler, Robert Carey, Dave Duncan, Gary Strakis, Norm & JoAnn Riemer, Tim Birtchman, Pastor Irmer

Open with Devotion

Read and approved last month minutes

Treasurer Report

All bills are current and we are in the black.

We have all the money from the government that they owed us.

We did get a refund from Dilling Group from an overpayment of \$2400.

Property Board

1. Koorsen inspection completed. Replaced batteries for backup alarm and notified IFD inspection deputy. All other devices passed inspection and we are again up to date.
2. Various signs were purchased, created, and posted per request from the board of Elders.
3. The boiler valve has been replaced with a maximum cost of \$5,200, and it may be less. Insulating the valve will be completed this fall when the boiler is started.
4. Jake is painting the pastoral office and should be completed in the next week or so. Window sill and framing on exterior of pastoral office are in need of repair.
5. Need to contact Adam at Barth concerning 400 amp disconnect repair in the kitchen basement. Will request a date for said repair efforts. Endowment will pay for this. 18K
6. Working on the playground area; sprayed with vinegar 30% and salt and dawn dish soap (very effective). Pulled remaining weeds and grasses. Ready for Octoberfest on 9/26.
7. Replaced door closure on ladies restroom door.
8. After an unfortunate break in; fixed broken/frozen window latches and all windows are now secure. Police identified the perpetrator, and will ask for the location of missing keys; I'm still waiting for response.
9. Neighbor Kris will donate new basketball goals.

Call Committee:

9/14/2025 will hold a meeting to vote and call pastor candidates: Pr Irmer, Pr Schimm, and Pastor Wacker. Lisa from the District office provided a link to access and complete official call forms.

Outreach Board

Our board met on Tuesday, September 2 with members Sandy Duncan, Karla Frownfelter, JoAnn Riemer, Robert Carey, and Katie Arritt in attendance. Tresa Strakis and Kenny Colton did not attend.

We first heard some updates on the **PANTRY** from Robert. The numbers of clients are up, and we are receiving lots of donations of fresh garden produce. These are quite popular with the clientele. We were encouraged to continue praying for Julie Raasch, due to her lingering health problems.

We next spent quite a bit of time working with Karla to make sure we have all the details of the **OCTOBER-FEST** taken care of and nothing is forgotten. The Thrivent action kit, complete with shirts for the volunteers, has already arrived. This includes \$250 to help pay for our event. To assist her, the Senior's Class will be preparing some "Outreach Bags" that include candy, church information, and other trinkets. This will be done on the Wednesday before the event, September 24, and Sandy has already purchased the bags and candy for this. Karla is also going to try to put together a brief "History of Emmaus Lutheran Church" to have available just in case there is someone who inquires about our historic church. We have several volunteers who are making the homemade desserts. JoAnn is working on a lot of the publicity, and flyers are currently being distributed at the Pantry. Our set-up time for this event to get the tables and chairs outside is 4:30. Please pray for good weather.

We next discussed how to handle the **THANKSGIVING DINNER**. It was decided to offer a free "Thanksgiving Dinner" on another day of the holiday weekend, but we haven't definitely decided on the day yet. We will probably follow the same format as last year, asking for donations of certain different items from the congregation.

We discussed the possibility of having some other Outreach Events for the community, but no definite decisions were made. Then we focused on signing up for **SUNDAY TREATS** in September and October. Soon we will be asking others in the congregation to help out with this enjoyable Sunday fellowship and snack time, too.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7.

Fellowship Board

We are back to having monthly meals and we are excited to be doing so. We will be preparing a meal on September 14th and October 12th.

Plans are being made for Advent meals and Breakfast with Santa

Elders

No meeting this month

Pantry

August totals will be 346 households, 1332 individuals, and 31 returning. We were open for 12 days.

We would like the bicycle rack under the kitchen window at the pantry.

The foundation of the pantry has some issues.

Pastor Report

Sarah Perry and Kevin Summers will be confirmed on a Sunday in October 12th.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chandler

Parish Planning Meeting Minutes October 13, 2025

Present- Jeff Frownfelter, Jerry Campbell, Tim Birtchman, Carol Chandler, Robert Carey, Norm and JoAnn Riemer, Gary Strakis, Pastor Irmer

Open with Devotion

Minutes approved

Treasure Report

All bills are paid and current and we are in the black.

Do we need to invest the overflow money so it is not just sitting in the bank.

A motion was made by Gary Strakis to invest up to \$150K, Jerry Campbell 2nd, all were in favor.

Properties Board

Barth Electrical is working on a new panel. They are expected to be done within 3 days.

Working on a window pane outside Pastor's study.

Water valve has been replaced.

Boiler to be started up on October 20th

Will need to check the hot water in the kitchen.

Pantry Report

September totals= 386 households, 1419 individuals, 29 returning customers. We were open for 14 days.

Fellowship Board

We held our monthly meal and celebrated Pastor Appreciation Month. We made chili and the Ladies Society provided a cake.

We will have a fellowship meal in November on the 16th. Chicken & Dumplings, Chicken & Noodles, green beans, mashed potatoes, rolls, and apple pies.

Advent meals are available for boards to host. Ellwyn will host one, but there are still 2 available.

Starting to organize Christmas Breakfast.

Asking for volunteers to help with decorating the church. We might be looking to purchase a new 9 ft. tree.

Board of Elders

Discussed wellbeing of members/former members. Alma (Bunny) Flandermeyer will be communed by the Elders. Rev Ray Main is at the Altenheim and would appreciate visits. The Elders granted a membership transfer of Elizabeth Whitney Hardy with her children: Joel Whitney-Mendoza, Arely Whitney-Mendoza, and Rosemary Whitney to St. Paul Lutheran Church Indianapolis.

Sarah Perry & Kevin Summers were confirmed and welcomed into communicant membership Oct 12.

Board of Outreach

The Outreach Board met on Tuesday, October 7 with members, Karla Frownfelter, JoAnn Riemer, Robert Carey, and Katie Arritt present. Sandy Duncan, Tresa Strakis, and Kenny Colton were unable to attend. Sherry Jett attended as a guest and would like to join our board. All were in agreement to add her as a member.

We began by reading Psalm 71:5-6 as our devotion and having a prayer.

Robert gave us the **PANTRY REPORT**. Just today, October 7, we received a large donation from St. John's. **The Lord provides so well for our Pantry!** We were told about the ongoing health issues of Julie Raasch and how they are being handled. Prayers were requested for her! Pat O'Connor is putting together a list for the congregation of the items that the Pantry most needs to have donated.

We spent time going over this year's **OCTOBERFEST REPORT**. The weather for this year's event was perfect so we could be outside! Hallelujah! This year's event was expertly handled by Karla Frownfelter. She and her helpers had the obstacle/complication to deal with of having a very large wedding rehearsal taking place at the same time and the gym being set up using all our tables and chairs. In addition to our equipment, they had brought in tables/chairs from St. John's and Calvary to use. These got mixed up with ours due to labeling issues. We ended up borrowing tables and chairs for our event, mostly from the Strakis family. All Glory be to God that they had some to lend! Karla had received \$250 Thrivent funding to pay for this event. Katie Arritt was her shopping assistant for this event. The financial report is on a separate sheet. One thing Karla experienced was that she planned to spend Thrivent money on the German meat, but when she presented the charge card in payment it had expired! That was an expensive blunder. The food consisted of German sausages and hot dogs expertly grilled by our volunteers, served on buns with your choice of various condiments, pretzels, chips, homemade German potato salad, green beans, sauerkraut, applesauce (individual cups), and an assortment of yummy desserts prepared by our volunteer chefs. The drinks were an assortment of root beer and various other soda pops and bottled water. Guests were also given small Outreach Bags and a half sheet flyer about upcoming events at Emmaus. These had been prepared on Wednesday, September 24 by the senior's Bible study class. They consisted of 2 chocolates, a mint, a Christian bracelet, a Bible verse card, and information about Emmaus Lutheran Church. They were quite popular. Thanks to Sandy Duncan for donating the plastic bags and the candy! Any leftover homemade food was sent home with interested people in carry-out boxes. The estimated number who came to our event was about 60 or so, + the 16 or so volunteers who helped out, making for a total of around **80**. In addition to our Emmaus parishioners, those who came included quite a few from the Pantry and a number of families of our former school students. We had nice recorded music provided by Charlie Schwomeyer. For entertainment, we provided 2 corn hole games, 2 basketballs, and of course the playground was very popular on the lovely fall evening. Our publicity was done in the usual way by the banners on the fence, posting flyers in the church windows & doors and passing out a lot of flyers at the Pantry. We also publicized our event at Central Christian Academy, where a lot of our former students now attend school. We have a connection there because our church member Kathy Rogers is employed there. The next topic was the **FREE "THANKSGIVING" DINNER**. As recommended at the September Parish Planning meeting, this will take place on Saturday, November 29, from 12 Noon till 2 p.m. We will be using the same format as last year, asking for donations of all items from the congregation members. The only thing that we don't know yet is who will be in charge. We do know that we need to change the banners that hang on our fences to reflect a different date. Also, Sherry Jett volunteered to get some flyers out to be posted into the neighborhood into businesses, etc. that will allow us to put them up. Praise the Lord for that! We always make it a point at our meeting to discuss the upcoming **SUNDAY TREATS**. We made sure board members signed up for the treats in the month of November. Since there didn't seem to be anything else to discuss, the board was reminded that our next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4. We closed the meeting in prayer.

Trunk or Treat

October 31st starting at 5:30-7:30. We will serve chili. We need volunteers with cars.

Pastor Report

We had 2 confirmation on October 12th. We might have several people starting new confirmation class.

Lutheran High Sunday will be held on November 23rd. Pastor Benzinger will do the service.

No new business

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chandler

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee continues to prayerfully seek the pastor whom God is preparing to serve our congregation. As many of you know, our previous call was prayerfully considered but ultimately declined by Pastor Schimm. We trust that the Lord is guiding both our congregation and Pastor Schimm according to His good and perfect will.

The committee has resumed its work by reviewing the list of pastoral candidates we previously received. In addition, we have requested that our District provide some additional candidates for our consideration. When the list of available candidates is combined from the previous list and the new list from District, the bios and personal information will be made available for your review on site in Carol's office.

We ask for your continued prayers for the committee, for the candidates under consideration, and for our congregation — that the Holy Spirit would lead us all in faith, patience, and unity as we seek God's will.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." — Proverbs 3:5–6

Ladies Society News

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 13 at 12 noon at Bob Evans Restaurant at 4441 Southport Crossings Drive please come to enjoy our lively fellowship together....we welcome new faces!!!

Our annual Christmas gathering will be held on Wednesday, December 10th at 11am at Golden Corral in Greenwood.

Emmaus Food Pantry

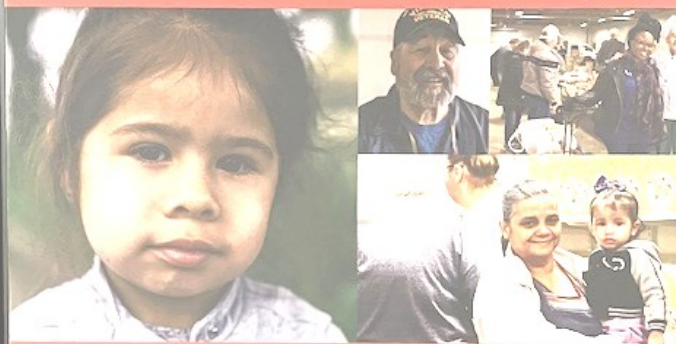
In September the Emmaus Food Pantry volunteers served 1,419 individuals from 386 families over 14 days. The need is great!

Consider giving a Thanksgiving or Christmas gift to the pantry in honor of a loved one. Look for sales on canned goods, corn bread, stuffing, ...this holiday season at your favorite store for our reverse Advent donations.

Gleaners news: The Tom and Julie Wood Family Resource Center is open at Gleaners to the Indianapolis community. They can help fill out state and federal forms. They have a medical clinic, legal services, WIC services, a drive through food pantry, hygiene items and diapers.

Gleaners supplies food for pantries like ours in 21 central Indiana counties. In 2024 faith based food pantries in those counties provided 26,666,667 nutritious meals to their clients. One in eight Hoosiers are food insecure and one in six Hoosier children are food insecure. Since 2018 Gleaners costs have increased from \$2 million to \$9.5 million.

*Every year, thousands
of Hoosier families have
food to eat because of*



**GENEROUS and
COMPASSIONATE
people like you.**

Oh Give Thanks Unto The Lord

We will be gathering as a Church Family to give thanks to the LORD. Please set aside an hour on Wednesday, November 26th @ 5:30pm and join us for our Thanksgiving Eve Service.



FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER

Saturday, November 29th from 12-2pm

There will be a home cooked meal served on the Saturday following Thanksgiving for anyone interested. There will be an opportunity to sit and enjoy the meal, or take your meal to go. Volunteer opportunities will be available.

Saturday, December 6th!

9am—11am

Emmaus Gym

There will be breakfast, crafts, cookie decorating, hot chocolate bar, face painting, Letters to Santa, and you can even sit on Santa's lap!

If you would like to volunteer for this event, please let the church office know!



Advent Schedule

Our Wednesday Advent schedule will be as follows

Wednesday, December 3rd
Matthew 3:1-6

Wednesday, December 10th
Matthew 11: 11-15

Wednesday, December 17th
Luke 1:26-38a

Christmas Eve Night (5:30pm)
"CHRISTmas Eve Candlelight Service"

Christmas Day (9:00am)
John 1:1-14

ADVENT MEALS

Each Advent season, we gather together before each Wednesday church service to fellowship with one another. A meal is provided each week during Advent. Please join us at 5:30pm before the service at 7:00pm.

Dec. 3— Fellowship

Dec 10— Ellwyn (Baked Potato Bar)

Dec 17— Open

If you board would like to provide a meal, please contact Carol



DECORATE THE SANCTUARY

On Saturday, November 29th at 9:00am, we will decorate the sanctuary. We need at least 6-8 people willing to help out. We will need someone that is willing to go up on a ladder as well. With many hands, it makes for less work and it should only take about an hour.





We are meeting monthly for a fun night of all kinds of games. There are dice, cards, and strategic games. Something for everyone.

We meet at 6pm on November 14th and December 12th. Bring a snack to share!



PARISH PLANNING MEETINGS are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month (**Nov. 11 & Dec 9**) at 6pm. The business of the church is conducted at these meetings and any church member is welcome to attend, to ask questions, express concerns, make comments, ect. Please let the Church office know the day before that you will be attending.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 317-632-1486

Fax: 317-632-2620

Email: emmausindy@gmail.com (main)
emmauschurchindy@gmail.com (church)

Website: www.elcindy.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/
emmausfountainsqaure

ELDER MEMBERS

Members in need of ministry care or with spiritual concerns should call one of the

Elders:

Dave Duncan	317-783-3726
Scotty Jett	317-490-9742
Norm Riemer	317-862-4344
Jeff Frownfelter	812-929-2495
Tim Birtchman	317-788-0021
Gary Strakis	317-332-0937

Lutheran High School - 50 Years We have opened our doors for the 50th year of Lutheran High School. God has blessed Lutheran High School and our families! Join us for LHS Trivia Time weekly on our social media pages. If you have memories to share, please email those to Kathy Anderson at kanderson@lhsi.org.

LuFest - February 6, 2026 Grab your friends and join us for an unforgettable night celebrating and supporting Lutheran High School at the beautiful Indiana Roof Ballroom. Early Bird Tickets are NOW AVAILABLE at LuFest.org. Don't delay! Ticket prices will increase on December 13.

Saints on Stage presents Almost, Maine Join our Lutheran High School thespians as they present Almost, Maine a real romantic comedy taking place on November 13, 15-16. More information coming soon on LHSI.org.



REVERSE
ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO THE **FOOD PANTRY**

- December 1- box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3- stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7- canned tomatoes
- December 8- canned tuna
- December 9- dessert mix
- December 10- jar of applesauce
- December 11- canned sweet potatoes
- December 12- cranberry sauce
- December 13- canned beans
- December 14- box of crackers
- December 15- package of rice
- December 16- package of oatmeal
- December 17- package of pasta
- December 18- spaghetti sauce
- December 19- chicken noodle soup
- December 20- tomato soup
- December 21- can corn
- December 22- can mixed vegetables
- December 23- can carrots
- December 24- can green beans



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Please join us for a Bible Study on Thursday evenings from 7pm-8pm. We discuss various topics and would love for you to join .



Adult Bible Class

Sunday mornings and will meet in the conference room from 8:45-9:45 a.m.



EMMAUS BIBLE STUDY CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Sunday Mornings
Sunday School 8:45am

Women's Bible Study
2nd and 4th Monday of the Month
7pm in the Conference room



Senior's Bible Study Class

Wednesday mornings @ 9:30 a.m. We look forward to our new study. Now would be a great time to join us. Anyone who is free on Wednesday at that time would be welcome to join our lively discussion as we learn more about our Christian walk with Jesus. Norm Riemer is the leader of this group.

November Birthdays

Gloria Muhlhauser	11/08	Sandra Duncan	11/20
Katherine Arritt	11/10	Lee Ann Kidwell	11/23
Harry Hildebrandt	11/10	Delinda Riley	11/23
Luka Chumley	11/17	Jake Strakis	11/25
Derek Holliday	11/19	JoAnn Riemer	11/28



November 2025 SCHEDULE

11/2 Bob Groth
11/9 Jeff Frownfelter
11/16 Gary Strakis
11/23 Bob Groth
11/26 Tim Birtchman (W)
11/30 Jeff Frownfelter



11/2 Jerry Campbell
11/9 Dave Duncan
11/16 Norm Riemer
11/23 Garald Evans
11/26 Jerry Campbell (W)
11/30 Dave Duncan



11/2 Norm Riemer
11/9 Robert Carey
11/16 Bob Groth
11/23 Pat O'Connor
11/30 Tim Birtchman



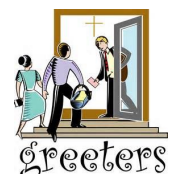
11/2 Horst Hildebrandt
11/9 Jerry Roesener
11/16 Carol Chandler
11/23 Bob Groth
11/30 Jeff Frownfelter



Rosetta Cantwell



11/2 Cantwell/Smith
11/9 The Frownfelter's
11/16 The Riemer's
11/23 Whitsit/Herndon
11/30 Cantwell/Smith



December Birthdays

Richard Alter 12/10
Robert Carey 12/11
Carolyn Quinette 12/12
Jennifer Hurst 12/15

Jeff Frownfelter 12/20
Jessica Pulley 12/21
Angela Loy 12/23
Jesus 12/25



December 2025 SCHEDULE

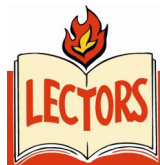
12/3 Gary Strakis (W)
12/7 Tim Birtchman
12/10 Jeff Frownfelter (W)
12/14 Bob Groth
12/17 Gary Strakis (W)
12/21 Bob Groth
12/24 No Communion
12/25 Jeff Frownfelter
12/28 Tim Birtchman



12/3 Norman Riemer (W)
12/7 Garald Evans
12/10 Jerry Campbell (W)
12/14 Dave Duncan
12/17 Norm Riemer (W)
12/21 Garald Evans
12/24 Jerry Campbell (Christmas Eve)
12/25 Dave Duncan (Christmas Day)
12/28 Norm Riemer



12/7 Andrea Campbell
12/14 Bob Groth
12/21 Robert Carey
12/28 Norm Riemer



12/7 Horst Hildebrandt
12/14 Jerry Roesener
12/22 Carol Chandler
12/28 Jeff Frownfelter



Birtchman's



12/7 The Frownfelter's
12/14 The Riemer's
12/21 D. Herndon/B Whitsit
12/28 Cantwell/Smith

