

Emmaus Lutheran Church
1224 Laurel Street
Indianapolis, IN 46203



January/February 2026
The Emmaus Companion
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Parish Planning Meeting

November 11, 2025

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

Open with devotion

Last month's minutes read and approved

Treasurer Report

\$150,000 transferred in CD's/treasury notes. \$30K in money market, \$40K into a 1,2-, and 3-year CD
\$50K going in LCEF, may add more.

Endowment handling the 18K electrical

Got the food pantry tax exempt form

We are in the black and all bills are paid.

Elders Report

Rodger & Betty Foster were transferred to Zion Lutheran Church in October.

Randy & Elaine Skipworth requested (and the Elders concurred) a transfer to Calvary Lutheran Church.

The Emmaus Thanksgiving dinner (Saturday after Thanksgiving) was mentioned. The urgent need for refrigerator space was brought up. It was decided to remove the large non-working unit, replace it with ones from the nursery room (and possibly purchase an additional unit).

Property Board

The Properties Board is pleased to share several important updates regarding recent maintenance and improvement projects around our church facilities:

The electrical upgrade work in the kitchen basement has been completed, improving safety and reliability.

The leaky steam valve for the boilers has been replaced and boilers startup completed, ensuring continued efficient heating as we move into the colder months.

A new water heater has been installed in the basement of the kitchen, providing hot water for our daily needs.

Weather stripping has been applied to all exterior doors to help prevent drafts and reduce energy costs this winter.

New light bulbs will soon be installed in the gym to replace those that burned out.

Requesting company names and contacts for snow removal.

Discuss and direction for use of dumpster or can containers.

We appreciate everyone's patience and support as these improvements were made. These updates help keep our facilities safe, comfortable, and ready to serve our congregation and community.

Call Committee

Waiting for 10 new candidate names and PFI from District. The next meeting is scheduled for 11/13/25.

Considerations to discuss will be calling a pastoral candidate and possibly follow up with the District to add Emmaus to the Seminarian candidate list.

Fellowship Board

We are hosting a Chicken Noodle Dinner on Sunday, November 16th, following church.

Breakfast with Santa is approaching fast. I have a signup sheet in the hallway for anyone who would like to volunteer.

All Advent Dinners have host.

Pantry News

Donations are up. Several churches have donated to help out.

398 households and 1448 individuals, and 27 returning customers.

Outreach Board

The Outreach Board met on Tuesday, November 4 with members, Karla Frownfelter, JoAnn Riemer, Robert Carey, Katie Arritt, Sandy Duncan, and Sherry Jett in attendance. Tresa Strakis and Kenny Colton were not there.

We began by reading Psalm 29 as our devotion and having a prayer.

Robert gave us the **PANTRY REPORT**. We were told that there were 31 families who showed up today, but they have a limit of 28. The numbers of clients are up, but the donations are also up. He specifically mentioned Immanuel Christian at Morris & East St. as being a donator. The “Reverse Advent Calendar” has been published in our latest church newsletter to encourage church members to donate. Sherry Jett mentioned she’s been helping at the Pantry for 20 years. **Pleasant surprise—On the Channel 8 News at 10 P.M. on Wednesday, Nov. 5, the Emmaus Pantry was featured. They interviewed Julie Raasch. (This all had to do with the food shortages and the Gov’t shutdown.)** This was good exposure for our Pantry! **FREE “THANKSGIVING” DINNER**. 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. Jeff Frownfelter has graciously taken charge of this event for the congregation. The menu is the usual Thanksgiving menu with roast turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, and rolls. Assorted flavors of pies are available for dessert. We offer coffee, lemonade, and water to drink. This meal is dine-in or carry-out.

We are sending out flyers to the Pantry clients to advertise, of course. Also, Sherry Jett volunteered to get some flyers out to be posted in the neighborhood into businesses, etc. that will allow us to put them up. The banners that were put on the fence by our park need to have some modifications made to them to hang them up this year. The Riemers are seeing to this and getting those put up soon.

We next discussed doing an **ADVENT DINNER**. We will be doing the dinner on December 17. We plan to serve 3 kinds of soup, with salad, crackers, rolls, fruit, dessert, and beverages.

We spent a little time signing up for the upcoming **SUNDAY TREATS**. Then Robert closed our meeting out with prayer.

Next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, at 6:30.

New Business

January Semi-Annual Meeting has been set for January 18th.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Chandler

LENTEN SEASON

Ash Wednesday, which in 2026 falls on **February 18**, marks the beginning of the holy season of Lent in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. While many Christians recognize Ash Wednesday for its distinctive sign of the cross in ashes on the forehead, the LCMS understands this day not as a mere ritual or cultural tradition but as a deeply theological moment—one grounded in Scripture, centered on repentance, and focused on Christ’s saving work.

Lent begins with God’s call to repentance. The point is not self-improvement or spiritual performance. Repentance, in Lutheran theology, always leads us back to Christ’s mercy. As Luther wrote, the entire life of a Christian is to be one of repentance—daily drowning of the old Adam and rising in new life through the Gospel.

Service will start at 7:00pm with the Imposition of Ashes. Like in the past, we will have a fellowship meal prior to service starting at 5:30pm



Join us on Fridays, January 9th and February 13th at 6:00pm for our monthly game night. There are board games, card games, and anything in between. Bring a snack to share and come enjoy a fun night of fellowship!

Ladies Society

We will meet Thursday, January 8 at 12 noon at Happy Days Drive- In, 2126 S. Sherman Drive. Come for a delicious lunch and good conversation!

We will meet Thursday, February 12 at 12 noon in our Ladies Society Room for a Happy Valentine's Day lunch and have a short Bible Study. Bring your Bible, a sack lunch and drinks and dessert will be furnished.

PANTRY NEWS

In 12 November days, the Emmaus Food Pantry served 1,287 individuals from 339 families. We anticipate similar numbers December through February as the need in our community grows. Thank you for helping us encourage our neighbors with your donations as our dedicated volunteers share the good news of our loving Savior to them—food for the soul.

We appreciate our sister congregations and Lutheran High School for sharing their many blessings with us throughout the year and for their extra efforts at Thanksgiving and Christmas that filled our shelves. Immanuel UCC on Prospect and East Sts always collects trunkful of food and hygiene products for the community along with a healthy check. Gleaners allotted us \$1,100 from donations that they raised this year, and our regular DAP partners and donors continue to amaze us with their generosity.

Families of long time faithful volunteers, Mary Jane Mack and Doug and Ann George, left memorials to the pantry and their children gave an added Christmas donation this year. Even the Ft Square business community called to lend a hand

We are keeping many of our Emmaus volunteers busy unloading and storing the monthly Gleaners heavy orders, the weekly donations from Aldis, Dollar General, Bimbos and Second Helpings, and directly serving those who come to our pantry Monday through Wednesday afternoons. Robert Carey leads those volunteers daily and Julie Raasch makes sure the food is boxed and ready to hand out, the clothes clean and neatly displayed and the hygiene kits assembled for distribution.

We appreciate the years of volunteer hours that Kenny Colton and Rosetta Cantwell gave to the pantry and wish them well in their "pantry retirement". As the Emmaus Food Pantry starts the 40th year serving our neighbors, we count our blessings for all of you. God provides.

Senior's Bible Study Class

Wednesday mornings @ 9:30 a.m. 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.



Adult Sunday School

Book of the Bible

Starting January 4th we will begin to explore this during the Sunday School hour. Come join us in the conference room from 8:45-9:45am.



ELDER MEMBERS

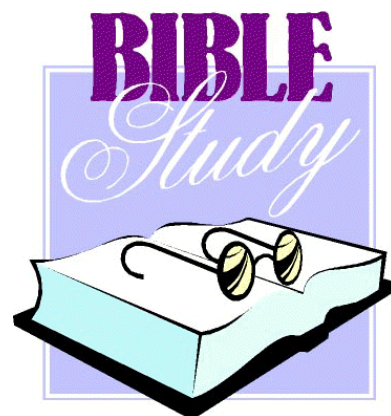
Members in need of ministry care or with spiritual concerns should call one of the Elders:

Tim Birtchman	317-788-0021
Dave Duncan	317-783-3726
Scotty Jett	317-490-9742
Norm Riemer	317-862-4344
Jeff Frownfelter	812-929-2495
Gary Strakis	317-445-2553

Thursday Night Bible Study

Brice Tressler will be leading the Bible Study.

Starts January 8th
7pm—8pm





PARISH PLANNING MEETINGS are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month. This month our meeting will be

January 18h for the semi annual meeting, Feb 10th. 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

Email:emmausindy@gmail.com (general)

emmauschurchindy@gmail.com (church)

Website: www.elcindy.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/emmausfountainsqaure



LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

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. Tickets are **NOW**

AVAILABLE at LuFest.org.

Open Enrollment for 2026-27 School Year

Now is the time to enroll for the 2026-27 school year. Please contact Director of Admissions, Deidre Barnett, with any questions. Be sure to check our website at LHSI.org for more details.

Save the Date! - May 9, 2026

Join us for our 50th Celebration taking place at Lutheran High School on May 9, 2026. This will be a free event taking place in the late afternoon and evening that will include a program and dinner. Stay tuned for more information!.

Outreach Board News:

Most every Sunday our board is busy with the Sunday Fellowship Time after church. This takes very little effort each week, and any member of the congregation is welcome to provide the treats (they're almost always store bought). It's also a good chance to get time to visit with your fellow church members. Talk to any board member if you'd like to help out.

"Praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you." Joel 2:26 ESV



Happy New Year!

As we welcome 2026, we are filled with hope and anticipation for what God has in store for our Emmaus family. We pray that each of you has experienced the blessings of the Christmas season and are entering this new year with renewed faith and joy.

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee worked diligently throughout the final weeks of 2025, sprinting to the finish line with several meetings and candidate interviews. Their dedication and commitment have been a true blessing to our congregation.

We ask that you continue to pray for the candidate chosen in our December 28th voters meeting. This period of waiting is a time for reflection and trust in the Lord's guidance. Near the end of January 2026, we expect to hear whether the selected candidate will accept our call. If the answer is yes, we will give all praise and thanks to God—Amen!

If, however, the candidate does not accept, the Call Committee is prepared to continue following the Lord's leading.

Thank you for your ongoing support, prayers, and faith as we move forward together into this new year. May God continue to bless Emmaus and guide us in every step.



WINTER

WORD SEARCH



WORD LIST

BOOTS
CHILLY
COAT
COLD
FEBRUARY
FIREPLACE
FLURRIES
FREEZE
FROST
FROSTBITE
HIBERNATE
HOLIDAY
HOT CHOCOLATE
ICE SKATING
ICICLE
IGLOO
JACKET
MITTENS
NEW YEAR
PENGUIN
SCARF
SKIING
SLEIGH
SNOW
SNOWFLAKE
SNOWMAN
SOLSTICE
WINTER

Q	X	G	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	F	E	F
R	D	I	W	I	N	T	E	R	E	C	C	R
A	S	T	O	O	B	U	Q	O	T	I	T	E
E	D	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	A	R	H	E
Y	E	J	A	C	K	E	T	N	L	V	W	Z
O	P	Q	B	X	L	P	F	S	O	F	S	E
W	B	P	S	U	E	R	O	M	C	N	B	W
E	Q	C	J	N	A	L	D	F	O	N	B	G
N	V	M	G	C	S	A	R	W	H	E	N	H
A	N	U	S	T	U	O	F	X	C	I	Z	X
W	I	D	I	I	S	L	L	M	I	S	P	B
N	H	C	W	T	A	M	Z	K	T	S	B	D
D	E	X	B	K	C	I	S	E	O	N	S	E
H	B	I	E	P	I	T	S	T	H	O	B	P
C	T	R	E	N	C	T	N	A	F	W	T	S
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C	H	F	L	J	S	S	Y	E	E	R	C	R
Q	Z	E	P	X	K	Y	K	B	Q	O	W	R
I	C	B	E	F	A	H	U	I	U	S	Y	U
C	H	R	R	N	T	Z	G	H	X	T	X	L
I	I	U	I	K	I	B	A	I	F	V	M	F
C	L	A	F	G	N	J	E	M	E	Y	Z	K
L	L	R	Q	I	G	L	O	O	Z	L	H	O
E	Y	Y	D	L	O	C	P	L	H	A	S	B



January Birthdays

Tim Burton	1/1	Lisa Smith	1/22
Abigail Smallwood	1/4	Kenneth Colton	1/22
Sue McFarland	1/5	Gabby Whitsit	1/23
Scotty Jett	1/9	Karen Roesener	1/25
LaDonna Strakis	1/14	Joseph Taylor	1/27



January 2025 SCHEDULE

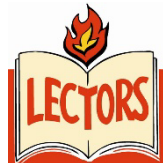
1/4 Gary Strakis
1/11 Jeff Frownfelter
1/18 Bob Groth
1/25 Tim Birtchman



1/4 Garald Evans
1/11 Jerry Campbell
1/18 Dave Duncan
1/25 Norm Riemer



1/4 Robert Carey
1/11 Bob Groth
1/18 Pat O'Connor
1/25 Tim Birtchman



1/4 Horst Hildebrandt
1/11 Jerry Roesener
1/18 Carol Chandler
1/25 Bob Groth



Frownfelter



1/4 Frownfelter's
1/11 Riemer's
1/18 B Whitsit/D Herndon
1/25 Cantwell/Smith



February Birthdays

Ronald Corn	2/1	Charlie Schwomeyer	2/11
Donna Herndon	2/3	Scott Chandler	2/13
Dakota Carter-Stone	2/6	Bonnie Birtchman	2/15
Melinda Andrews	2/10	Deborah Sater	2/18
Karla Frownfelter	2/10	Sarah Perry	2/19



FEBRUARY 2025 SCHEDULE

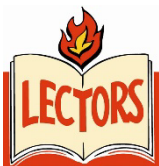
2/1 Bob Groth
2/8 Jeff Frownfelter
2/15 Gary Strakis
2/18 Tim Birtchman (W)
2/22 Bob Groth
2/25 Jeff Frownfelter (W)



2/1 Garald Evans
2/8 Jerry Campbell
2/15 Dave Duncan
2/18 Norm Riemer (W)
2/22 Garald Evans
2/25 Jerry Campbell (W)



2/1 Andrea Campbell
2/8 Robert Carey
2/15 Norm Riemer
2/22 Bob Groth



2/1 Jeff Frownfelter
2/8 Horst Hildebrandt
2/15 Jerry Roesener
2/22 Carol Chandler



Rosetta Cantwell



2/1 The Frownfelter's
2/8 The Riemer's
2/15 B Whitsit/D Herndon
2/22 Cantwell/Smith

