

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Pictures of Emmaus folk! (in online/ email version)
- Church lady story pg 2
- Uses of outreach funds and building pg 3
- Upcoming opps — "Destinations" pg 4
- Newsletter — mostly online; print version available
- Look for the Calendar!

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Together! on the journey... Will Healy

Cease to do?

In thinking about ways we as a church may challenge one another to a deeper level of faithfulness to God, the biblical discipline of fasting has been offered as a practice we might consider in the coming Lenten season.

I appreciate the wisdom of pastor and writer John Ortberg when he suggests "practices of abstinence" as a helpful antidote to the danger of becoming driven by busyness and hurry. He writes, "You can divide spiritual disciplines up into practices of engagement where you're *doing* something you don't normally do—study, worship,

fellowship, etc.--versus **practices of abstinence**--where you *refrain* from something you normally would do: silence, solitude, fasting, simplicity, etc. **To try to add disciplines of engagement without disciplines of abstinence is a recipe for stress and burnout.**"



In the Wilderness, Ron DiCianni

All of which is simply to say that sometimes our greatest challenge is not so much what we will begin to do as Christ-followers as it is in what we will cease to do.

Might you consider a voluntary fast—from food, technology, a specific activity perhaps—for one day over the course of Holy Week (April 1-7) to see if God might bring a greater balance and spiritual discernment to your life and the life of our church?

Further, what might God do in us this season as we refrain (by engaging in a fast or silence or simplicity) to help us identify with the needs of the people we serve?

In the driver's seat ministry directions Will Healy

Vigilance in Prayer

During holy week, Emmaus will host a 24-hour prayer time. If you've never participated in a prayer vigil before, maybe this invitation is for you.

Just what is a prayer vigil? Well, the idea is actually centuries old. "Vigil" indicates a time of "vigilance" originally held the night before a reli-

gious feast with prayer or other devotions. Here at Emmaus it means signing up to commit to pray for a half hour here at the church sometime between noon on Good Friday and noon on Holy Saturday. When you enter the sanctuary you'll be provided with a prayer guide as a way to pray for our church, community, and world.

We're excited about what God will show us through this time of concerted prayer!

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
- Colossians 4:2



Stop this car! family focus Dee Menning



“The parenting journey provides one of life’s greatest opportunities for spiritual growth.”

- James & Lynne Jackson

On the last Saturday in January, Emmaus hosted an event “Parenting with Contagious Love and Faith.” Presenters James and Lynne Jackson shared their experiences and grace-filled advice for families, with a tone of winsome and wise love.

The four principles expanded at the workshop to help build peaceful purposeful parents and children who know, love, and serve God, while fostering connected families include –

Foundation: attend to personal and spiritual growth that supports healthy relationships. Know first that God fully accepts and enjoys us, and living in this love enables us to accept, enjoy, and love our children.

Connection: give consistent effort to love, know, and enjoy your child/ren.

Proaction: notice and plan opportunities to mentor faith, character, and skills.

Correction: determine thoughtful, grace-based actions to address misbehavior.

That’s just a taste, I know. My children are all adults now, but there are grandchildren for me to parent, and I still have lots to learn: I was so glad to listen!

Fortunate for us all – they have a couple of books weaving the principles together with great stories, sound psy-

chological principles, and scriptural doctrine (I’ve started into their first book—it’s good!)

Check out the website www.connectedfamilies.org to read about their books, learn practical parenting tips, access free resources, sign up for regular parenting emails, and much more.



Are we there yet? Council update Michelle Wieber

This fall the Church Council has split up the Emmaus phone list and we’re spending time praying for you and your family. If you have specific prayer requests, you can let the Emmaus office know what they are, and they can forward to the Council member praying for you.

The Council met with the HR and Finance Board several times this fall. At the January congregational town hall meeting, the end result of that work was shared: around staff compensation, some constitution changes, and capital campaign potential. Pastor Will has challenged us to consider what we as a church might do in our community if we didn’t have a

mortgage payment.

Bruce Olson is leading the committee looking at constitutional revision and would treasure your help and wise input.

The nominating committee is meeting to initially pray and then seek out members willing to serve on the boards that have openings. Please pray for them and consider whether God is calling you into service.

The Council is preparing for the annual meeting on April 22 when Emmaus intends on voting on the constitutional revisions, nominees, and budget for the year ahead. Please put this on your calendar.

Finally, the Council will be retreating with the staff in February.

Besides hearing from staff, we’ll be considering: 1) What makes Emmaus distinctive? 2) What is your dream for Emmaus?

The Council’s work may appear to be “all business” but my experience on the Council for the past nine months has revealed that the Council and Board members rely on God to lead with His wisdom. So, I share with you the verse that God has me focusing on:

“My determined purpose is that I may know Him, that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His person.”

- Philippians 3:10 (Amplified Bible)

Takin’ a break out & about with church lady Lori Rossmiller

One of the things I enjoy about my job is the opportunity to learn new and interesting things. Take, for example, my conversation while buying grape juice for communion when Karen (the check-out person) commented, “Your juice choice is sales tax exempt because it contains 100% juice. Taxable beverages include pop, sports drinks, and coffee with added sweeteners; but apple cider, milk, coffee beans, or bottled water are exempt.”

Intrigued, I said, “Tell me more.” Karen said, “There’s an entire book of Minnesota tax laws for grocery stores if you’re interested.”

I came back the next day – my day off – and asked to see it.

What I learned:

*While most candy is taxable, Twix, Kit Kats and licorice are not. Why not? They contain flour.

*In the candy category are everything from chocolate chips to breath mints to fruit roll-ups to carob covered raisins and, ironically, sugarless candy.

*Your popsicles and ice cream bars are tax exempt because they require refrigeration and therefore aren’t candy. Wait, what if I buy my Snicker’s bar from the refrigerated

section? Too bad, candy that does not require refrigeration is taxable.

*Prepared food is taxable and includes food sold with eating utensils and food sold in a heated state.

*Food cooked at home or heated up at home is exempt.

I’m not even going to try to explain what happens when the grocery store sells food with two or more ingredients mixed or combined together.

My favorite and most puzzling tax exempt food item sold at the grocery store: sushi sold by weight. Go figure.



“My determined purpose is that I may know Him... understanding the wonders of His person.”



Image from <http://slipperymermaid.com/>

Rest stop still moments

Karen Anway

“What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”
- Micah 6:8b

Lives of prayer and service
Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength... Love your neighbor as yourself.
- Mark 12:30-31

When the teacher of the law asked Jesus to name the Greatest Commandment, Jesus quoted Scripture from Deuteronomy and Leviticus. When John the Baptist sent messengers from his prison cell to ask Jesus if He was the Messiah, Jesus described His public life, and the life predicted for the Messiah in

Isaiah, both as the same lives of service.
The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.
- Luke 7:22b

Jesus knew Scripture well and quoted it often. His short public ministry grew naturally from prayer, worship, study, and obedience to His Father in heaven. Jesus' life - that demonstrated active loving - is His gift to mankind and our source of hope.

How can we Christians link our lives of prayer and spiritual discipline to lives of service? The first lesson in the workbook, *Experiencing God*, advises: **When you see the Lord at work somewhere, join Him there.**

Like see and join, love is a verb (Jesus implies action in the Mark 12 words). Words without actions don't count. Our actions will grow naturally from understanding God's love as we experience it in our own lives of prayer, study, and worship.



from the Saint John's Bible:
a Diane von Arx illuminated verse

Sightseeing out and about

Karen Nelson

Outreach Board meets needs
Much of what the Emmaus Outreach Board does is support people who have dedicated their lives to mission work (view a list of the missionaries we support at <http://www.emmauschurch.org/str-missions-missionaries.htm>), but we also do some things closer to home.

The **Community Benevolence Fund** makes up a small part of the Outreach annual budget. It is similar to the Encouragement Fund for which we take an offering on the first Sunday of each month, only instead of helping the people of Emmaus this fund helps our neighbors in Northfield and Dundas.

In order for someone to receive assistance they need to fill out a request for assistance. Our first step is to make

sure that they have been in contact with the Community Action Center and have received assistance from any existing programs for which they qualify. If the social workers at the CAC feel confident that our support would indeed meet a serious need that cannot be met elsewhere, we step in.

In the past year we have been able to do some wonderful things:
~ help a widowed mother of four little ones, who is putting herself through nursing school, with some much needed car repairs to keep her safe as she commutes.
~ buy bus fair for a woman who was escaping an abusive relationship.
~ pay for a short stay at a local motel for a teenage boy who was sleeping in Sechler Park and waiting for a spot at a

shelter last February when we had record cold bitter temperatures. ~help buy gas for a married mother of four who is attending an outpatient clinic seven days a week in the Cities for treatment to break free from an addiction to prescription medication which developed due to chronic pain.

Our guidelines recommend that we limit giving for any one individual to \$300 in a lifetime. There are some exceptions: when we've developed a relationship - and we do have the pleasure of nurturing some lovely relationships - we may help when some time has passed and a new need develops.

Thank you for your giving which helps us reach out in personal, tangible ways to our neighbors in need.

When there's a serious need that cannot be met elsewhere, we step in.

Side Trips fun facts

Lori & Dee

Our building is used well

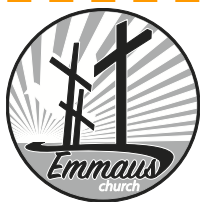
Did you know that Emmaus is a happenin' place? It is. Here's a little-known fact: our structure is used often by various community groups, and we're glad to offer the space.

As Pastor Will verbalized at the last special congregational meeting in January, the philosophy at Emmaus is to ask, "Why not?" (Why not have others use this space?), rather than asking "Why?" We want the arms of Jesus to welcome more, and more, and more.

Here's a recap of groups that have met at Emmaus in the last year or so:

- * Cannon Valley Youth Orchestra (auditions, practices and concerts)
- * Al-Anon (2 groups for adults)
- * Al-Ateen
- * Friends of Lashbrook Park
- * Northfield Quilters Association (for much of the past year)
- * Feet of Faith Dance
- * Mom's In Touch (a chapter for grandmothers meets at Emmaus)
- * Piano Recitals (for local piano teachers)
- * Latino Church
- * The Key (cooking class)
- * The YMCA (various classes)
- * ArtTech (cooking classes)
- * Girl Scouts of America (leadership meetings, classes)
- * City of Northfield (general and special elections)
- * Fundraisers for local families in need





Emmaus Baptist Church

712 North Linden Street

Northfield, MN 55057

Phone: 507-645-9480

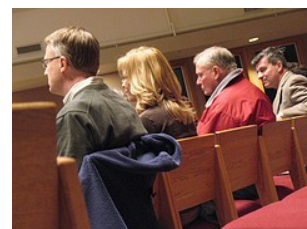
E-mail: emmaus@emmauschurch.org



Note: Along with email and online version, this newsletter is available in paper copy upon request by calling the church office 507-645-9480.

Quoteable

“It is not how much we do but how much love we put in the doing.
It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving.”
- Mother Teresa



Destinations

Soon those tulips will be blooming, for spring is right around the bend. With it are many exciting events to brighten up your calendar!



Besides what's listed to the right, keep in mind there's also Sunday School, WIT

(1st Saturday of the month), Senior Lunches, Bible Studies, WOW, Youth Group, Soup Group... and more!

To learn of more events, locate the calendar page, and/or refer to the calendar online via MemberConnect at [Emmaus' home page](#) or follow the "[What's Happening This Week](#)" link on Emmaus' web site.

Contact the church office with questions (Lori or Karen, 507-645-9480, emmaus@emmauschurch.org).

upcoming events

Kristin Lindholm

February 22 — Ash Wednesday

7:00 PM Service

March 7 — First Wednesday

6-7:30 PM (Supper at 6, activities for all from 6:30-7:30 PM)

March 30-31 — LifeKeys

5:30-9 PM Fri, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM Sat

April 5 — Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service

6:30 PM

April 6 — Good Friday Service at COGIC in Minneapolis

April 6-7 — 24 hour Prayer Vigil

Noon to noon Friday to Saturday

April 8 — Easter!

Sunrise Service

7:00 AM

Easter Breakfast

8-10:30 AM

Easter Worship Services

9:00 AM & 11 AM



April 15 — Celebration Sunday!

10:00 AM (in auditorium; all are invited, focus on Communion)

April 22 — Annual Meeting/ Election and Potluck!

12:00 PM (after 2nd service)

May 2 — First Wednesday

6-7:30 PM (Supper at 6, activities for all from 6:30-7:30 PM)

May 5 — Church Work Day

8:00 AM to noon

May 16 — Milestone Wednesday

6:30-7:30 PM

(an amazing time when parents, children grades K-5, and mentors learn about important Milestones of faith!)

May 13 —

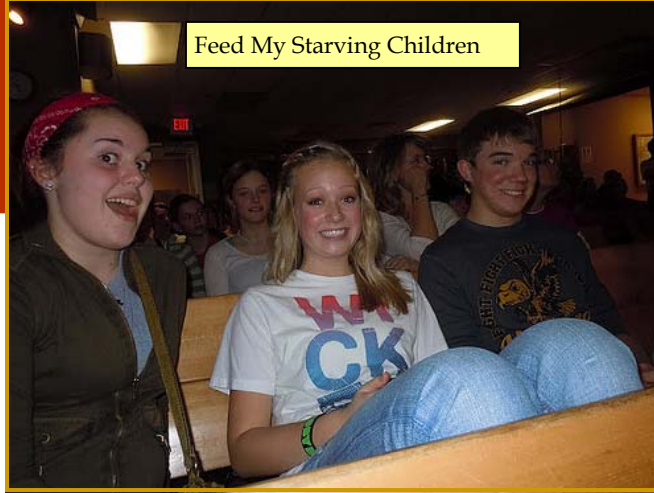
College Recognition Sunday

May 27—High School Recognition Sunday

Picture Page!



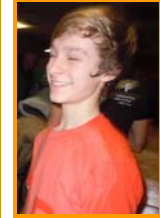
Packing event!



Feed My Starving Children



Scooping away



Happy to help



Connected Families



Sunday School



WOW!



Calendar!

MARCH 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 WIT (Women in Touch) 8:30-10 am
4 Beth Moore Bible Study 5-7 pm (BMBS) Beth Moore Bible Study 6:30-8:30 (BMBS)	5 Worship Board 7pm	6	7 Men's Breakfast 6am (MB) 1st Wednesday 6-7:30pm	8 Soup Group 5:30-7pm	9	10
11 BMBS 5-7 pm BMBS 6:30-8:30pm	12	13 Finance Board 7pm	14 MB 6am WOW 6:30-7:30 pm Youth Group (YG) 6:30-8pm Church Council 6:30pm	15 Outreach Board 4pm	16	17
18 Senior Luncheon 12pm CE Board 11am Youth Board 11am Adult Board 11am BMBS 5-7 pm BMBS 6:30-8:30pm	19	20	21 MB 6am NO WOW NO YG	22	23	24
25	26	27 Stephen Ministry Supervision 7pm	28 MB 6am WOW 6:30-7:30 pm Youth Group (YG) 6:30-8pm	29 Soup Group 5:30-7pm	30 LifeKeys	31 LifeKeys

APRIL 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Worship Board 7pm	3 Finance Board 7:pm	4 MB 6am NO WOW NO YG	5 Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service 6:30pm	6 Good Friday Service at COGIC in Mpls Prayer Vigil 12pm-12pm Saturday	7 Prayer Vigil-12pm
8 Easter Services 7am, 9 am, 11 am Easter Brkfst 8-10:30am	9	10 Staff Planning Day	11 MB 6am WOW 6:30pm YG 6:30-8 pm Church Council 6:30pm	12 Soup Group 5:30-7pm	13	14 WIT 8:30 am
15 Celebration Sunday 10 am CE Board 11am Youth Board 11am Adult Board 11am	16	17	18 MB 6am WOW 6:30pm YG 6:30-8 pm	19 Outreach Board 4pm	20	21
22 Church Annual Mtg/Elections 12 noon	23	24 Stephen Ministry Supervision 7pm	25 MB 6am WOW 6:30pm YG 6:30-8 pm	26 Soup Group 5:30-7pm	27	28 Leadership Brkfst 8-10:30am
29	30					

MAY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 MB 6am 1st Wednesday 6-7:30pm	3 Youth Board 8 pm	4	5 WIT 8:30-10 am Church Workday 8-noon
6	7 Worship Board 7pm	8 Finance Board 7 pm	9 MB 6am WOW 6:30-7:30pm YG 6:30- pm Church Council 6:30 pm	10 Soup Group 5:30- 7pm	11	12
13 College Recognition Sunday	14	15	16 MB 6am Milestone Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm YG 6:30- pm	17 Outreach Board 4pm	18	19
20 CE Board 11am Youth Board 11am Adult Board 11am	21	22	23 MB 6am WOW 6:30-7:30pm YG 6:30- pm	24 Soup Group 5:30- 7pm	25	26
27 High School Recognition Sunday	28	29 Stephen Ministry Supervision 7pm	30 MB 6am WOW 6:30-7:30pm YG 6:30- pm	31		

Upcoming events

Trout Lake Camp - June 17-23

Youth Mission Trip to Costa Rica - July 8-21

IMPORTANT: We so hope to encourage community and foster involvement that **this calendar is one of several tools for keeping you informed about happenings at Emmaus.** Our intent is to give a taste of what is going on and to let you know what is coming up. **For a more complete look at the most current information regarding the Emmaus calendar, please visit the “What’s Happening This Week at Emmaus” link:**
<http://www.emmauschurch.org/happening.htm>