

What is new this year?

Happy New Year is a nice greeting for others and probably a good personal reminder for us. I pray that 2026 will be a happy new year, but that greeting leads me to ask two important questions. What will make it happy, and what will make it new? I set goals every year, and many times they are the same goals as the previous year. Personal health, financial goals, and family priorities are all important to consider each year. They are good items to evaluate, but are they new, and will they make you happy?

We look for happiness in this world, but it doesn't last. Some things can give us temporary pleasure, but those pursuits will leave us empty, searching, and longing for more. Cravings are only temporarily satisfied; stuff doesn't last, and the recognition of our accomplishments fades. When we fill the elusive perception of happiness with things that are temporary, we will find that the emptiness grows. We need a joy that is outside of ourselves, one that doesn't fade, and one that is lasting.

In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus said, *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* In the book of John, Jesus said that the pain of childbirth gives way to the joy of the baby's birth, and then He said, *"I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."* When we look to the things of this earth for happiness, we will be disappointed because everything on earth decays, including ourselves. But our joy in Christ can never be taken away. You can find joy in a relationship with Jesus, but it means giving up the pursuit of earth's temporary pleasures.

Continued on page 2

Worship with us!

Sunday, January 4th

COMMUNION SUNDAY
8:30a - Traditional Service
9:40a - Classes for all ages
11:00a - Contemporary Service

Sunday, January 11th

8:30a - Traditional Service
9:40a - Classes for all ages
11:00a - Contemporary Service

Sunday, January 18th

8:30a - Traditional Service
9:40a - Classes for all ages
11:00a - Contemporary Service

Sunday, January 25th

8:30a - Traditional Service
9:40a - Classes for all ages
11:00a - Contemporary Service

Connect with
us online!



@EmmausAFLC



emmaus@emmauslutheran.org

The second question is, "What is new?" There are several answers to that question because 2026 has never happened before, but Ecclesiastes 1:9 says, "*there is nothing new under the sun.*" If we want 2026 to be different from the repetition of 2025 or if we want this new year to be transformative, then we need a change that is beyond what we can manufacture on our own. The reason we desire something new is that in ourselves we are incapable of sustaining change. New Year's resolutions are a classic example of our desire for things to be new, but we quickly fall back into the same routines.

2 Corinthians 5:17 describes how "new" happens. It says, "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*" Jesus can make us fully new. He can give us a new heart, new desires, new priorities, and a new future. His "new" doesn't depend on whether the next year is a repeat of the last year. We all have situations that require perseverance and faithfulness, but the transformation that Jesus gives is a change in perspective. He can change our attitude toward the things that are ahead of us. We can anticipate a new future rather than just endure it when Jesus is in control over what is ahead.

Let's look at 2026 as an opportunity for Jesus to be our joy as we anticipate how He is going to lead us into new adventures.

Happy New Year in Christ,
Pastor Kevin Olson



Sanctity of Life by Trish Anenson

As we come to know and love the Creator, the Author of Life, we begin to realize the value of His amazing gift of life. Just as an artist's work takes on value and meaning as you recognize the artist's name on a piece they have designed, we too see the image of God in each life He creates. We should realize that every life is a gift, and we carry a privileged responsibility to defend that gift of life. Genesis 1:27 tells us, "*So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them...*" Bernt Eidsmoe, former staff member at City Life Center, explains it so beautifully with these words, "We were created in God's image for His glory. Those who are saved by God's Gospel are called to protect His image in all life, the born and unborn."

So, God not only calls us to recognize that life is a gift, but He calls us to stand for life, to be an influence in our world, and to speak for those who cannot speak. As the Psalmist says in Psalm 139:13, "*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb...*" We are a living creation that testifies to His workmanship in our lives, and we are a reflection of our Father in heaven who lovingly gave us this beautiful gift of life.

The hurting world around us needs the truth of the Gospel. City Life Center, located in the Phillips Neighborhood in South Minneapolis, is a Christian ministry Emmaus partners with that is influencing our world for Life. They believe in God and the promises of His Word, and every day they welcome and serve women and babies, students, and other groups, both locally and around the world.



Please remember in prayer...

Our Emmaus Family:

Praise the Lord for the healing He has already accomplished and pray for continued healing & strength for:

Candy Lohonen, Thomas Putman, Lola Lunde, Karen Cardwell, Wade Gibbons, Marv Christian, Will Schultz, Sue Yarker, Marge Monson, Hilde Goebel, Katherine Lange, Al Campbell, Pauline Anderson, Beth Arneson, Diane Wetherell, Quentin Johnson, Beth Johnson, Gayle Gottfried, Lea Byboth, Marlin Bates, Lois Kompelien, Linda Johnson, Lou Blake, Robin Caselius, Mick Hultengren

Pray for our Military:

1SG Nathan Carlsrud – National Guard

PFC Jerrik Miller – National Guard

SSGT Andrew Johnson – Air Force

Pray for all First Responders and their families in our midst as they serve our communities.



Pray for troubled marriages in our midst, for God's healing, reconciliation, and forgiveness.

Pray for peace in Jerusalem according to God's directive: *"You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give Him no rest until He establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth."* (Isaiah 62:6c-7)

Need Prayer?

During the week, you can contact the church office by phone during office hours **(952) 884-4751** or visit **emmauslutheran.org/prayer**.

There are over 200 recipients of our prayer chain emails who believe in the power of prayer! We'd love to lift you up in prayer!



Twin Cities Prays

Our Emmaus commitment is to pray for 24 hours on the second Thursday of the month.

This comes up next on **January 8th, 2026**



Children and Youth Ministry

Happy New Year!!! When we think of the New Year, we think of New Year's resolutions. A great verse to think about this New Year is 1 Corinthians 5:17: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*

January 4th our Sunday morning classes will resume and January 7th our Wednesday evening activities will resume!

Emmaus will host **Saturday Morning Sports Clinics** again this year. The first clinic will be held on **January 10th** from 9a – 10:30a. The four January clinics will focus on soccer skills! The clinics will run throughout the next 3 months to provide a place for kids to run around and learn some new skills, and for our parents to have some time together. If you are interested in helping to host a clinic, please reach out to Kristin Dahl Wolff. We would love the help.



After the Simple Supper on **January 21st** we will have our **Sledding Family Fun Night** from 6:30 – 8p at Adams Hill Park, 7200 Washburn Ave in Richfield! Bring warm sledding clothes and a fast sled! Hot cocoa will be provided.



The night all of our 4th, 5th, and 6th graders have been waiting for! Our annual **Overnight/NOT Overnight** is coming up on **Friday, January 30th**. It will be a night of fun, food, and fellowship. Drop-off at 5p, pick-up at 10:30p. Every year, we challenge the kids to invite a friend to join them. Being a disciple can be as hard at their age as it is at ours. This is an opportunity for the kids to have some fun while growing in God's Word – for some, hearing it for the first time!

We invite the confirmation students to help lead the night with Gary and Keith. We feel it is very important for the confirmation students to be a part of serving our church, and this is one way they have that opportunity.



Start studying your 10 Commandments and don't forget your flashlights! Please make sure you **RSVP by Wednesday, January 28th**

VBS is just around the corner, and I need your help! Our theme this year is ***Illumination Station: Shining A Light On Who Jesus Really Is, John 8:12***. If you have any leftover working Christmas lights of any kind/color/size/design, or if you see them out at the stores for 75% – 90% off and are willing to buy/donate them, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance!



Thank you!

Thank you to all those who donated Teddy Bears! We collected 85 bears and delivered them to Presbyterian Homes and Richfield A Villa's memory care units.

Our 4th-12th graders also made Christmas cards and took a field trip to Presbyterian Homes, where they sang for residents, handed out the cards, and prayed with them. This is such a blessing each year for both our kids and the residents. We have been invited to return this spring for another special evening with the residents.



Lost & Found

Please check out the Lost & Found bins; there are many things to be found! One bin is located in the coat area near the Information Desk, and the other bin is downstairs near the kitchen. Items left will be donated by the end of the month.

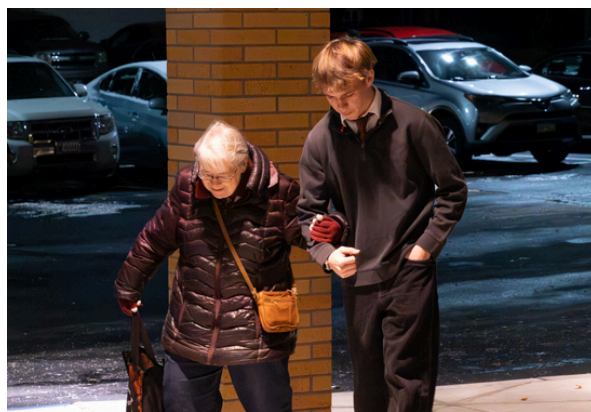


Golden Hearts

Wed Jan 21 @ 11am in the Fireside Room

Our program will feature Pati Kachel of the Parable Fund, telling the story of "Christmas with Katie Luther." Her program includes some of Luther's reflections on Advent. There will be a light meal to follow.

You can sign up in the atrium between services, Sundays, Jan 11 & 18th.



Winter Weather Cancellations

In the event of a winter storm or dangerous road conditions, any Emmaus schedule changes or cancellations will be announced as early as possible via:

- email notification to those on our Emmaus Email Update list
- information posted on our website
- postings on our Facebook & Instagram

Praying Around the World

- Praise the Lord for the adoption finalization of **Lucy Ann** into the family of **Sarah Petersen and Alfonso Aranda**, missionaries in Baja, Mexico, with Foundation for His Ministries. We rejoice with them over Lucy's permanent addition to their family. Sarah is the daughter of Grant and Becky Petersen, and they are the grateful grandparents of Lucy.
- Praise the Lord for the **AFLC World Missions Staff**, located at the AFLC Headquarters. Please pray for the Director of World Missions and his wife, **Earl and Joan Korhonen**, and for the office support, as they plan out the new year and seek the Lord's direction in the decisions they make each day with the missionaries and their ministries.
- Please remember to pray for **Timothy Pressley**, serving with **Child Evangelism Fellowship** in the metro and surrounding area. Pray for Timothy and his wife, as they balance ministry work with family life. Pray for God's provision of open doors at schools where Timothy seeks to begin new chapters of CEF. Pray for teachers to take a stand for the Gospel for the sake of their own students.
- Please pray that the ministry of **City Life Center, Trinity First School**, and the **Marie Sandvik Center** will know the Lord's protection as they reach out in the Philips Neighborhood in South Minneapolis. Pray for the children, students, moms, dads, and the elderly who are cared for and loved by those who work with these ministries. Please pray for God's provision for these ministries, and for hearts to be set free by the Truth of the Gospel.

Thank You Emmaus Family

Thank you to each one who has committed to pray for our missionaries, here and throughout the world. Thank you for your generous donations of time and finances to support those on the field. Most of all, thank you for your love for the Gospel and for your desire to see it reach every tribe and every nation. We are grateful for each one of you and your heart for missions.

Baby Bottle Boomerang

We are excited to support the work of City Life Center through the Baby Bottle Boomerang project this month. **The Boomerang will be back on January 4th!** On that Sunday, baby bottles will be passed out after the church services for you to take home and collect your gifts of support. Then, on **January 25th, we will collect the baby bottles**, and the money raised will be given as a gift to City Life Center. This is a fun way to come alongside Betty McGuire and the ministry as we value God's gift of life in our own Emmaus family, for we see every child as a "ray of hope" and a "tiny star," reminding us of the love and promises of our God.

Mission Events:

January 8th - 11:00am
Missions Committee Mtg

Nov. Mission Income:

\$3,766.35

Nov. Mission Expenses:

\$500 to House of Hope
\$500 to Good in the Hood
\$500 to WorldVision
in Sri Lanka

Happy
Birthday!

Stephen Nash
Jan 10

Tamba Abel
Jan 11

Alexis Olson
Jan 22

Lara Nash
Jan 26

Call the church office for contact information.



Mission of the Month

Jonni Sliver & Miriam Infant Home

Jonni is part of the Emmaus family, having spent many years in our church with her own family before she knew the Lord was calling her to Brazil to work with children. The following message from Jonni will give you a picture of how the Lord is using her in a special way to share His love and to heal the broken hearts of children in Brazil.

Hello Precious Emmaus Family!

It is so fun to start the New Year with you! I am so grateful for your love and support for so many years!

I share with you, month by month, and you hold up our children and their families through prayer. I thought that you might like to see examples of the fruit of those prayers!



Let's start way back. In 2011, Cleberson came to us at just six years old. He had gone through terrible experiences before he arrived; it is hard to believe that a six-year-old could be broken, but Cleber was. We praise the Lord for Claudinae and Julian, who adopted this child and loved him through every storm! Today, Cleber is a powerful young man of 20, who is part of the worship team at church and an amazing big brother to his younger siblings (also adopted). God moved through your prayers to bring healing to this precious child!



A few years later (six to be exact) João and Janaina arrived. True orphans, the children have aunts and uncles, but none who were willing to receive them. The feeling of not being wanted ate away at both of their young hearts. But God had a plan! Kassius and Brunna had been waiting for the children God had planned for them. They had decided when they first married that they would adopt children for a very sweet reason. Kassius learned when he was seven years old that he had been adopted as a baby. He decided then and there that when he was grown, he would adopt children because he wanted other kids to know how wonderful it is to be chosen to be loved. And that is just what they did. Today, Janaina is 17 years old, and Joao is 19. Both love the Lord and show His joy to the people in their lives, carrying on a wonderful family tradition!



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: 3100 E Medicine Lk Blvd
Plymouth, MN 55441

Email: jonni.sliver@aflc.org

aflcworldmissions.org/jonni-sliver

The last are much more recent. Last year, Josi and Jose came to us from the hospital. Their mother gave them up for adoption at birth, and just 3 months later, they were adopted by Lucas and Val. Now named Joao and Pedro, this happy little family is growing day by day, in JOY! And we are looking forward to seeing what God does in their lives in the years to come!



Respond! Short Term Missions

If you or someone you know is interested in going on either or both of the short-term mission trips this summer:

- Baja House Build or Children's Home: June 14-21st
- AFLC Home Missions in Naknek, AK: July 10-28th

Your application and \$100 non-refundable deposit are due by January 11th. Space is limited for all three trips; first-come, first-served.

Will you help?

We wish to provide the men at Rancho de Cristo and Rafa's House with new:

- Mattresses (Twin) ~\$100/each
- Mattress Pads (Twin) ~ \$18
- Sheets (twin) ~ \$22
- Pillow (standard) ~ \$10

Contribute to one item or all!

Checks can be made payable to Respond!/Emmaus

House of Hope

Welcome Kristina and Her Boys!

We're excited to welcome Kristina and her sons, Jayden (8) and Jaxson (1½), to the House of Hope. This is a wonderful chance to share Christ's love as they settle in.

Family Needs

- Clothing: School, play, pajamas (new or gently used)
- Pants: 7 and 2T | Shirts: 8 and 2T | Shoes: 1 and 5c
- Diapers: Size 4
- Toys: Action figures, board games, puzzles, Legos, wooden trains, play kitchen

Donations of these items—or funds for utilities (\$250/month)—are greatly appreciated.

Prayer Requests

- For Kristina and her boys as they settle in
- That they feel loved and welcomed

Join us for the next team meeting: Tuesday, Jan 27 at 5:30p.

Thank You

We want to express our deepest gratitude to every volunteer and donor who helped prepare the House of Hope. Your generosity and prayers have turned this house into a home. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus!





Women's Ministries

Challenging Women to Say "Yes" to Jesus

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January Women's Ministries Meeting

January 8th at 9 am in Room 209. Emmaus women are invited to join this wonderful group of ladies for devotions, fellowship, and event planning.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ATTENDED OUR 2025 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION! Our program, led by Ramona Boggott, kept our focus on the reality of Immanuel – God truly with us. It was a worshipful experience as our Emmaus music team led us to adore Christ this season.



THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Almost 100 ladies (and men) volunteered to make our Christmas Celebration a wonderful day of fellowship, food, and worship for the 200+ ladies that attended. Thanks to all who contributed crafts and baked goods to bless our missionaries. We will have the final totals published in next month's Emmaus Light.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2026 will be full of Women's Ministries events designed for you to invite your neighbors and friends to learn and grow in their relationship with Christ.

WMF Spring Rally (March)
AFLC Ladies Retreat (April)
Ladies Tea (May)

National WMF Day (June)
Salad Supper (September)
2026 Christmas Celebration (December)



DID YOU MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION to become more involved at Emmaus? The WMT invites you to help with "short-term" assignments, publicity, decorations, event photography, and retreat planning. Contact the church office (952.884.4751) to share your gifts and talents with us. Our events are designed to promote fellowship and share the Gospel of Christ.

Giving Envelopes

Giving envelopes for 2026 are available for pick up in the upper atrium at church!

If you haven't already, please pick up your envelopes at church, or call the church office if you need help getting them delivered to you. Thank you, as this helps us save on postage.

Please begin using your new envelopes right away and discard any unused 2025 envelopes to avoid confusion.



JANUARY 2026

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 8:30a – 4:30p

Office Phone # 952-884-4751

emmauslutheran.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 8a Men's Bible Study
4 COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:30a Traditional Service 9:40a Classes 11:00a Contemp. Service	5 9a Quilters	6 10a Tuesday Bible Study 7p Adult Choir Rehearsal	7 5p Children's Choir 5:45p Simple Supper 6:30p King's Kids 6:30p Emus Youth Group 6:30p Adult Studies 6:30p Worship Rehearsals	8 TWIN CITIES PRAYS 9a Women's Ministries Mtg 11a Liudahl Funeral	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10 7a Men's Breakfast 8a Men's Bible Study 9a Soccer Clinic
11 8:30a Traditional Service 9:40a Classes 11:00a Contemp. Service	12 9a Quilters	13 10a Tuesday Bible Study 6p Council Mtg 7p Adult Choir Rehearsal	14 5p Children's Choir 5:45p Simple Supper 6:30p King's Kids 6:30p Emus Youth Group 6:30p Adult Studies 6:30p Worship Rehearsals	15 9a Pickleball 1:30p GriefShare 6:30p Pickleball	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17 8a Men's Bible Study 9a Soccer Clinic
18 8:30a Traditional Service 9:40a Classes 11:00a Contemp. Service	19 MLK Day 9a Quilters	20 10a Tuesday Bible Study 6:30p Greeter Team Mtg 7p Adult Choir Rehearsal	21 11a Golden Hearts 5p Children's Choir 5:45p Simple Supper 6:30p Family Fun Night 6:30p Adult Studies 6:30p Worship Rehearsals	22 9a Pickleball 1:30p GriefShare 6:30p Pickleball	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 8a Men's Bible Study 9a Soccer Clinic
25 8:30a Traditional Service 9:40a Classes 11:00a Contemp. Service	26 9a Quilters	27 10a Tuesday Bible Study 5:30p House of Hope mtg 7p Adult Choir Rehearsal	28 5p Children's Choir 5:45p Simple Supper 6:30p King's Kids 6:30p Emus Youth Group 6:30p Adult Studies 6:30p Worship Rehearsals	29 9a Pickleball 1:30p GriefShare 6:30p Pickleball	30 OFFICE CLOSED 5p 4 th – 6 th grade Overnight/Not Overnight!	31 8a Men's Bible Study 9a Soccer Clinic

Present: Pastor Nick, Al Spadine, Paul Eikom, Pastor Kevin, Nate Anderson, Keith Grinde, Mike Anenson, Chuck Scott, Gary Gilbertson, Ben Webb, Jennifer Hanson, Mark Stowman

Absent: Aaron Bogott, Mark McGaffey, Eric Ringquist, Kyle Anenson

Opening Devotions: Chuck S. Luke 2:1-21, The Birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the reason we are here, worshiping and serving. v.11 "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"

Secretary Report: Approved by email

Executive Committee Report: Paul

- Currently in the process of hiring a person for the Front Office position

Treasurer's Report: Al

- Giving in November was good, like previous months
- We are on budget for the year
- Motion from Al to accept the November financial report: Seconded. Voted and approved

Pastor Nick Report:

1. Vision Path Discussion (VP1)

- As we finish VP1 and enter VP2, it may be helpful for our leadership teams to consider why we go through these phases as a church council. VP1 is intended to remind us of the vision, assess the vision, monitor progress against current strategies, and consider new strategies. VP2 is designed to be more of an implementation phase before we finalize our vision and partner our goals to the upcoming 2026 church budget in phase 3 (VP3). During our December council meeting, we will discuss staff goal-setting and program planning implementation. Each council member will be assigned a ministry leader or leaders to work with on development planning and ministry goal setting. (See Vision and Partnering User Guide, Appendix B, pp. 18- 23)
- Comments:
 - Completed assigning leaders to Council members per their liaison positions
 - We are looking at connections to the 4 Vision Path focus areas
 - Give completed reports to Pastor Nick
 - Completion date set at Feb 1, 2026

2. Evangelism Committee Report

- What is evangelism? How is the Lord leading Emmaus to disciple as we reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ? At our council meeting, we will discuss our new evangelism strategies for Emmaus.
- Comments:
 - Starting with writing definition(s) of evangelism for Emmaus

3. Office Manager Position Staffing Update

- Currently interviewing for the position and also re-assessing the position itself

Pastor Kevin Report:

1. Missions

- December: Kevin Olson – Orality Institute
- January: Jonni Sliver – Miriam Children's Home
- The Mission Committee moved to give \$500 to Good in the Hood as the Mission of the
- Month and \$500 to the House of Hope for the transition of the new resident.

2. Our Church – be encouraged by the ministry happening through our church

- Host of the AFLC Home Missions event on November 8th
- Host of the AFLC South Metro Thanksgiving Eve service for many years
- 1622 boxes packed for Operation Christmas Child
- Our 4th House of Hope resident beginning and the previous 3 have launched
- successfully
- Host of our annual Women's Christmas brunch, program, and craft sale for 200 people
- Children's Musical, Adult Choir, Children's Choir, and Bell Choir
- Sending Thanksgiving and Christmas Cub cards to 20 families, plus 20 Christmas
- baskets
- Sharing Pastor Nick with the Free Lutheran Youth convention planning
- Sharing Pastor Kevin with the Orality Institute international discipleship program
- **All of that in just one month**

3. Orality Institute Travel

I will be traveling to Bangladesh and Cambodia from January 4th – 16th. We will be introducing the oral strategy and curriculum to these countries as well as Myanmar. Please pray for peace between Cambodia and Thailand. They resumed fighting on Monday December 8th

Old Business:

- FLBC Scholarship Guidelines (Al)
 - Al will email the updated guidelines proposal to council members this week and we will vote on approval at the Jan meeting
- Security cameras have been updated (Nate)

New Business:

- Staff Cell Phone Reimbursement Policy (Al)
 - Review and discussion of the policy. Motion to approve (Chuck) Seconded. Voted and approved

Motioned to adjourn meeting (Chuck) second. Motion approved.

Minutes submitted by Mark Stowman

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Helping People Say 'Yes!' to Jesus



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL



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Adult Studies!

Parents of Young Families: *John Mark Comer's "How to Unhurry"*

Come join us for a 4-week video study looking at the topics of silence & solitude, sabbath, simplicity, and slowing. This study focuses on practical applications from the book "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry" by John Mark Comer. Sundays, beginning on January 4 in the Fireside Room.

Men's Sunday Study: *Majesty of God using the "Behold your God" study book and video*

Feel free to join us as we study God's attributes and what it means for our lives and ministry.

Men's Wednesday Study in Room 207

All men are invited to join us in studying God's Word and building each other up in our walks with the Lord.

Women's Wednesday & Sunday Study: *Joseph: An Ordinary Life in the Hands of the Extraordinary God*

We will be using an AFLC study written by Candice Johnson. Books (free of charge) are available in the Atrium on Sunday mornings for those participating in the Bible study or come to class to get your copy. Study begins Sunday, January 4th at 9:45a and Wednesday, January 7th at 6:30p in Room 209 (We are doing the same lesson each week on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings).

Sunday Study: Read Through the Bible in 90 Days

Join Suzanne Sanden as she leads the "Read the Bible in 90 Days"! To join, please contact her at 612.205.3627. Discussion will be held on Sundays in Room 208 at 9:45a beginning January 4.

You will start your reading on January 1!
The You Version Bible app is required.

New Sanctuary Study: Experience Jesus. Really.

This new study by bestselling author John Eldredge invites us to experience the deep, lasting, and real communion we have in Christ. He writes: "In this present age, we are all becoming disciples of the internet. We are addicted to distraction. We idolize our instant access to a never-ending avalanche of information. We think we're finally holding the keys to a better life. But if that's true, then why are we all wrestling with ever-increasing levels of anxiety, dissatisfaction, and despair?"





GriefShare

"The most important step I took as a result of GriefShare was facing my own grief and letting go of the pain. It was life changing!"

"GriefShare is a safe place where support is shared, whatever or whenever our loss experience has been. We learned from each other how to walk through our grief journey, even if we weren't sure initially that we needed to participate."

– Emmaus GriefShare participants



These quotes are just a peek into the blessings and growth experienced in the fall cycle of GriefShare. Many of the group of 18 who participated are choosing to repeat the cycle this winter, because they recognize there is more they need to process for their particular loss, more healing that needs to occur. Some have delayed dealing with their feelings for years because it seemed too painful; but they're choosing to courageously face those feelings and be set free. They're not leaving their loved ones behind; they're moving forward in life while still cherishing them.

The winter cycle of **GriefShare will begin on Thursday, January 15th and meet for 12 consecutive sessions at 1:30 pm each week.** Workbooks are provided along with excellent videos at no charge. Online registration is highly recommended; visit GriefShare.org/findagroup and look for Emmaus to register with our group.



If a weekday time slot is not workable for you, we may have an option for a Sunday afternoon session. If you are interested in that time or need more information about GriefShare, please contact the church office.

Tues Bible Study

Join us for the 8-week Tuesday Morning Bible Study with Pam Olson as we journey through 1 & 2 Samuel, emphasizing the importance of righteous leadership, consequences of disobedience, and God's faithfulness in guiding His people. Characters that will be highlighted: Samuel, Eli, Saul, Jonathan, David, Joab, and Absalom. We will read how God has been at work carrying out His purposes, beyond David, with hope for the future Messiah, who will bring God's kingdom and blessing to all nations. We'll see you on Tuesday mornings at 10a in the sanctuary!

