



December 2023/January 2024

<u>EmausELCA Staff & Worship Times</u>	
Pastor: Anglo - Rev. Marcy Wieties	262-880-1122 wieties@sbcglobal.net
Pastor: Hispanic –	
Outreach Director: Carol Beltran	414-208-9083 cyust@aol.com
Secretary:	
Church Office: 262-634-5515	E-mail: EmausELCA@gmail.com
Website: emauselca1.org	
English-spoken worship services are held at Emaus every Saturday evening at 4:30 and Sunday mornings at 9:00.	
Spanish-spoken worship services are held at Emaus every Sunday morning at 11:00.	
Emaus office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.	

December/January Calendar

		Saturday Worship (English) -	4:30 pm
		Sunday Worship (English)-	9:00 am
		December 24 - No 9:00 am Service	
		Sunday Worship (Spanish) -	11:00 am
		Coffee and Conversation Sundays, Sunset Room	10:00 am
Dec.	2	Christmas decorating at church (All welcome!)	9:00 am
	3	Advent Begins	
	3	Scrip Due	
	3-11	Novenas	
		(See calendar at church for locations)	6:00 pm

	6	Stitchers	10:00 am
	6	Bible Study	1:00 pm
	6	Community dinner	5:00 pm
	6	Advent midweek evening prayer service	6:00 pm
	7	Scrip Due	
	7	Community Meal	
	10	Scrip Due	
	12	Virgin of Guadalupe Worship Service	11:00 pm
	13	Stitchers	10:00 am
	13	Community Dinner	5:00 pm.
	13	Advent midweek evening prayer service	6:00 pm
	16-24	Posadas	6:00 pm
		(See calendar at church for locations)	
	19	Council Meeting	6:30 pm
	20	Stitchers	10:00 am
	20	Community Dinner	5:00 pm
	20	Advent midweek evening prayer service	6:00 pm
	23	No Saturday Worship Service	
	24	Christmas Worship Service in English	4:30 pm
	24	(No 9 am service)	
	24	Christmas worship service in Spanish	6:30 pm
		(No 11:00 am service)	
	25-29	Church Office Closed	
	30	New Years Eve Service	4:30 pm
	31	Hymn Singing	9:00 am
Jan.	3	Stitchers	10:00 am
	3	Bible Study	1:00 pm
	7	Scrip Due	
	10	Stitchers	10:00 am
	16	Council Meeting	6:30 pm
	17	Stitchers	10:00 am
	24	Stitchers	10:00 am
	24	Book Club	1:00 pm
	31	Stitchers	10:00 am

POINSETTIAS

Emaus will be ordering Poinsettias for Christmas. If you would like to be included in our order, please fill out the order form below.

My/our name/s: _____

Please reserve _____ poinsettias at \$20.00 each

As a MEMORIAL for _____

And/or to HONOR _____

Please place your order in the offering plate or leave it in the church office. Please make checks payable to Emaus ELCA and designate that it is for your poinsettia order.

_____ **I will pick up my poinsettia**

_____ **I would like to donate my poinsettia to a shut-in.**

Decorating the Church for Advent/Christmas

Decorating the church for Advent/Christmas will be on Saturday, December 2nd, at 9:00 a.m. If you are able to join us, your help will be appreciated.

Advent begins on December 3rd. Mid-week services will be held on Wednesday evenings. Supper will be served at 5:00 with worship services at 6:00

New Year's Eve

Services will be held in English at the regular times of 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 30, and 9:00 a.m. Sunday, December 31. We are planning a hymn sing and would like your input on favorite Christmas carols. Starting on November 11th, there will be a sign up sheet in the narthex for you to record your requests for the New Year's weekend hymns. We need your help, so start thinking of what you would like to sing.

Scrip Update

Orders for Scrip gift cards will be taken December 3, 10, and 17. The first order in 2024 will be on January 7, so plan ahead.

Conversational English

There has been some interest from both Latino and Anglo members about having Conversational English sessions to assist our Latino members in improving their conversational English skills. This could be a group meeting in the Fireside Room one Sunday morning a month between services or another possibility of having one-on-one conversations in a larger setting.

If you are interested in participating in such an endeavor, please let Pastor Marcy know.

Security Cameras

Security cameras have now been placed in four locations around the outside of the church as well as inside. Carol and Soledad Beltran are able to monitor activity in the area.

Doors Numbered

Numbers have been placed on each door both inside and out. This will allow for better identification when needing to explain which entrance to use especially when calling for emergency help. The front door is 1, back door 2, side door 3, and west door 4. Thanks Dan and Wayne.

The Most Important Letter You Will Ever Receive...

Have you ever received a love letter? I mean a real, honest-to-goodness "I love you so much it hurts" kind of love letter...

Letter-writing was a popular pastime in history, particularly in the 18th century, when many wrote love letters to those who were far away at war.

Just a few weeks ago, more than 100 letters addressed to French sailors aboard the Galatée warship in 1758 were released. The sailors were captured by the British that same year during the Seven Years War and the letters were never delivered. For 265 years, the letters sat sealed in Britain's National Archives, unopened and unexamined until a history professor stumbled upon them. He found, to his delight, a treasure trove bearing intimate details about romance and daily life in mid-18th-century France.

In some letters, wives pine for their husbands, wishing they could be reunited or waiting to hear whether their loved ones were safe. Some are from fiancées, desperate for any sign of remembrance and affection from their beloved. Some are from mothers to their sons, speaking of childhoods long gone and the sacrifices they would be willing to make in order to see their sons again.

All speak of longing and the wish for reunification. And all speak of love.

They are amazing, but they pale in comparison to what Timothy Dalrymple calls, "the opening lines of God's love letter to the world." He is referring to the Christmas story.

We often speak of the work of Christ as though God were compelled, by some celestial mechanics of salvation, to do precisely this in order to save us. But God was not compelled to do any of this.

God might have annihilated humankind and started over. God might have changed the rules so that no sacrifice and no ransom were necessary. But God chose a different manner of self-expression.

Perhaps a better way to think of all of God's work, from creation to incarnation to redemption is this: it is an extended act of divine self-expression, an unfolding of God's character. And what is the character of God made manifest in this story?

Love. Like the creation and restoration of all things, the birth, life, and death of Jesus Christ are expressions of a most extravagant divine love. A love that never fails. A love that seeks beyond every river and mountain until the

lost sheep is found. A love that will suffer and sacrifice all things on behalf of the beloved, that lays down its life for its friend. The same love that brought us into being in the first place enters, in the village of Bethlehem in the person of Jesus Christ, into a new and more intimate relationship with us. God *so loved the world* that He sent his only begotten son, so that every person who puts faith in him will be reconciled to God and brought to live with Him forever.

We celebrate in Christmas that God became a *person* in order to enter into a *personal* relationship with us...passionate and intimate, characterized not only by worship and reverence but also by tender mercy and forgiveness, love and mutual understanding. With Jesus, we can know God and be known by God through and through. With Jesus, we have footsteps in which to walk. With Jesus, we have the presence and power of God with us even in our most human and most painful moments.

Jesus is a love letter written just to *you*...pining just to be reunited with *you*, desperate for any sign of remembrance and affection from *you*, willing to make any sacrifice just for *you*.

Jesus is the most important letter you will ever receive.

Don't let that letter go unopened...

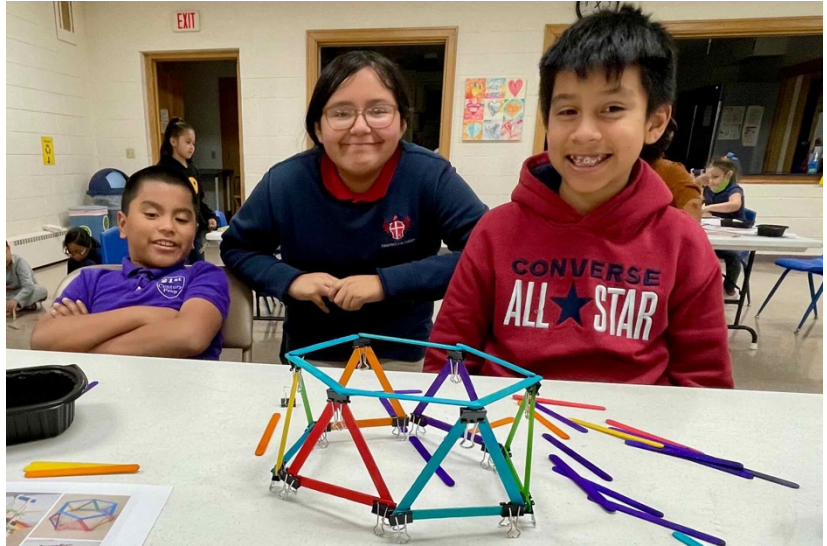
Pastor Marcy

EASY Newsletter

Monarch butterflies were front and center as Kathy Martin, Emaus' monarch butterfly queen visited EASY. She reviewed the many interesting facts we have learned about the monarch. She brought milkweed pods from her garden. The seeds in these pods were ready to take "flight". The kids took them outside and spread them all around the church grounds.



Hands on science activities kept the kids totally engaged and excited! Building structures using clips, clothespins, and popsicle sticks was a hit!



How many drops of water can you fit on a penny and a nickel? It takes a steady hand. They realized after many tries that you can get more drops on the coins with plain water than with soapy water.



Another challenge: Float Your Boat: the kids built boats using aluminum foil. Then they dropped pennies one by one to see how many they could place before their boat sank. One was heard to exclaim: "I got 287!"



EASY was pleased to have a visit from a member of the staff at Primrose Assisted Living. Tameka shared how she helps Pastor Mary who now lives there. She answered many questions about Primrose and emphasized that she works there because she wants to help people. (One of EASY's mantras is **KINDNESS MATTERS!**)



The kids created turkeys that were given to the people who live at Primrose. The residents were thrilled to see these turkeys on their dining room tables. Pastor Mary has several in her room.





EASY

Social Justice Update from RIC

RIC's Immigration Legal Services Clinic continues to function on first and third Saturdays from 10-1. Please let us know if you know someone who could use our services! We are looking forward to our annual fundraising banquet on December 3, so please consider purchasing a ticket to that event if you are able. We are still phone banking to try to persuade just one or two more legislators in the Assembly to vote for a bill that would enable local police departments to hire DACA participants. We'd love the help if you are able. Our other task forces always need members as well, so please let Stephanie Mitchell know if you are interested in working on the Rights of Nature, Restorative Justice, or Turn Up the Vote!

Last month we included an article about keeping your banking safe. The article in this issue is information about text message scams. Please read it and stay safe.

TEXT MESSAGE SCAM

Never discuss account numbers, PINs, passwords, or other personal information with anyone who contacts you. Legitimate companies don't ask for information like your account numbers or passwords by email, phone or text.

Don't call phone numbers sent in texts, emails or voicemails, as it will connect you with the scammers.

Don't trust caller ID. Just because your caller ID displays a phone number or name of a legitimate company you might recognize, it doesn't guarantee the call is really coming from that number or company.

Forward fraudulent texts to your wireless service provider at 7726 or "SPAM"

Don't click on links provided in text messages from numbers you don't recognize. Links can install malware and take you to fake websites that look real but whose purpose is to steal your information.

ELCA Disaster Fund

The ELCA has established a Disaster Fund for humanitarian relief in the Middle East as well as to support farmers and families in newly liberated areas of Ukraine. You may contribute thru the ELCA website or with donations to Emaus. Put Middle East Crisis or Eastern Europe Crisis in the designation line.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Date	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Communion Assistant	Reader	Usher
Dec. 2 4:30	Missy Porcaro				
Dec. 3 9:00	Cheryl Dexter	Carol Beltran	Carol Beltran	Amy Haman	Loren Larsen
Dec. 9 4:30	Cathy Meyer Linda Clinton				
Dec. 10 9:00	Joy Lippmann	Michaela Wieties	Soledad Beltran	Carol Eschmann	Cheryl Dexter
Dec. 16 4:30	Barb Toslek Jamie Toslek				
Dec. 24 4:30	Missy Porcaro Kathy Christensen		Joy Lippmann Carol Beltran	Kathy Chris. Cindi Larsen Nancy Smith Michaela W. Ellie Wieties Dave Chris.	Chris Wieties
Dec. 30	Cathy Meyer Linda Clinton				
Dec. 31	Caren Lamberton	Kathy Christensen	Kathy Christensen	Chris Lamberton	Chris Lamberton
January 6	Jamie Toslek				
January 7	Cindi Larsen	Carol Eschmann	Carol Eschmann	Karen Sedgwick	Dennis Kreimer
January 13	Missy Porcaro				
January 14	Cheryl Dexter	Cindi Larsen	Cindi Larsen	Michaela Wieties	Loren Larsen
January 20	Cathy Meyer Linda Clinton				
January 21	Joy Lippmann	Kathy Christensen	Soledad Beltran	Sandy Strini	Chris Lamberton
January 27	Jamie Toslek				
January 28	Kathy Christensen	Carol Beltran	Carol Beltran	Amy Haman	Cheryl Dexter