



EMAUS ELCA VISITOR

Caminando Juntos + We Walk Together

March 2026

<u>EmausELCA Staff & Worship Time</u>	
Pastor: Anglo - Rev. Marcy Wieties	262-880-1122 wieties@sbcglobal.net
Pastor: Hispanic – Miguel Perez	786-915-2678 vacambu@gmail.com
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 afternoon at 3:30 and Sunday mornings at 8:30.	
Spanish-spoken worship services are held at Emaus every Sunday morning at 10:00	
Emaus office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.	

March Calendar

Sunday Worship (English)		8:30 am
(First Sunday - Breakfast)		
Sunday Worship (Spanish)		10:00 am
Coffee and Conversation Sundays, Sunset Room		9:30 am
March	1 Breakfast	10:00 am
	Scrip Due	
	4 Stitches	10:00 am
	Bible Study	1:00 pm
	8 Daylight Savings Time Starts (spring forward)	

11	Stitchers	10:00 am
15	Scrip Due	
18	Stitchers	10:00 am
19	Council (Zoom)	6:30 pm
25	Stitchers	10:00 am
	Book Club	1:00 pm
29	Scrip	

Looking Ahead

April	3	Good Friday	
		English-Spoken Worship Service	12:00 noon
	4	Racine/Kenosha Community Joint Easter Vigil at Carthage College	

Pastor Marcy's Message

Lent: The Journey to the Cross—and Beyond

Each year, the Church invites us into the sacred season of Lent—a forty-day journey of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Just as Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness before beginning His public ministry, we are called to step away from distractions and draw closer to God.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and leads us to the joy of Easter. It begins with a simple, powerful truth: we are dust, and to dust we shall return. Marked with ashes, we are reminded of our humanity—fragile, finite, and deeply in need of God's mercy. And yet, even as we hear that truth, we also hear another: we are baptized children of God. Nothing—not even death—can separate us from the love of God in Christ. Those ashes on our foreheads also mark us with hope. They are not a symbol of despair; they are a sign that God is not finished with us.

Lent is a season for telling the truth—about ourselves, about our world, and about our need for God. We name the ways we fall short in loving God, neighbor, and creation. We lament injustice, division, and suffering. But in the same breath, we know absolution. We are hold onto the promise that we are forgiven—not because we have gotten everything right, but because Christ has already claimed us. We are reminded that our freedom begins with God's action, not our effort...in other words, we are dependent on God's grace.

Making Space for God

The goal of Lent isn't to check a spiritual box. It's to make space. Space for God to speak. Space for our hearts to soften. Space to notice where we've drifted and gently turn back.

Lent doesn't have to be dramatic to be meaningful. Sometimes it's as simple as setting aside a few extra minutes in the morning to pray. Maybe it's reading a psalm slowly and thoughtfully—like Psalm 51—and letting its words shape your own prayer. Maybe it's turning off the radio during your commute and sitting in quiet for a few minutes. It is, in all things, about presence—being honest before God and attentive to His voice.

It's a time that reminds us that love must be lived out. Lent calls us to open our hands—to serve our neighbors, care for the vulnerable, and give generously. In doing so, we reflect the heart of Christ, who gave Himself fully for us.

In many traditions, Lent is seen as a time to give something up in order to remind one that we depend on God for everything. But for many Lutherans, Lent is more so a time to take hold of something new. Maybe it's committing to serve, to give more generously, or to reach out to someone who's been on your heart. Love in action is one of the clearest ways we reflect Christ to the world around us.

For Lutherans, Lent is not about earning God's favor through fasting or sacrifice. It is about being drawn again to grace. Gathered around Word, Water, and Table, we receive what God promises: forgiveness, life, and salvation. Through reflection and renewal, we prepare our hearts to celebrate the victory of Christ with deeper gratitude and joy.

As we move toward Easter, may this season help you slow down, draw near, and rediscover the steady, faithful love of God that carries us every day of the year.

Lent doesn't end in ashes. It ends in resurrection.

It is with great joy that we anticipate Pastor Marcy's return to serve our Emaus Congregation on March 1st. We continue to pray for her as she resumes her role as our pastor.

Many thanks to Carol Beltran who has been leading our congregation through this difficult time. As well as providing leadership of our worship services, Carol has

also encouraged our congregation to step up and assume some responsibilities in other areas of the life of the church. WELL DONE!

EASTER FLOWERS

Forms will be available to order flowers to decorate the altar for Easter Sunday. You can donate a plant in honor or memory of a loved one and either take it home or ask that it be given to a shut-in.

175th Anniversary-New Designated Giving Option

At our recent congregational meeting, the congregation voted to add a designated line item for our 175th Anniversary Celebration. This will allow us to begin planning and preparing for this important milestone in the life of Emaus.

If you would like to support the events and activities being planned for our anniversary year, donations may be made through Vanco or by submitting a check. Please be sure to write "Anniversary" in the memo line so your gift is directed to the correct designated account.

Thank you for helping us honor 175 years of faith, community and God's faithfulness.

A Family Prayer

God made us a family
We need one another
We love one another
We forgive one another
We work together
We play together
We worship together

Together we use God's word
Together we grow in Christ
Together we love all people
Together we serve our God
Together we hope for heaven.

These are our hopes and ideals.
Help us to attain them, O God.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen

EASY Newsletter

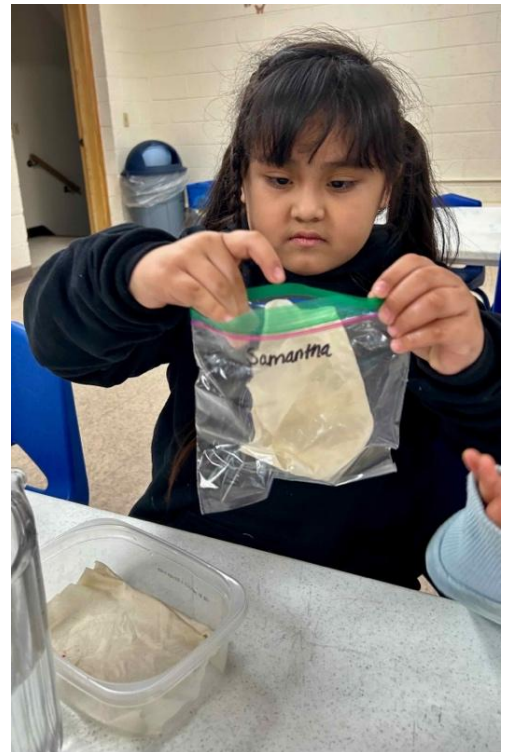
Flowering bulbs that were planted in January are blooming much to everyone's delight



Science experiment involved the element of water. What is evaporation? They soaked fabric and sealed it in a baggie and left a piece of fabric in a container.



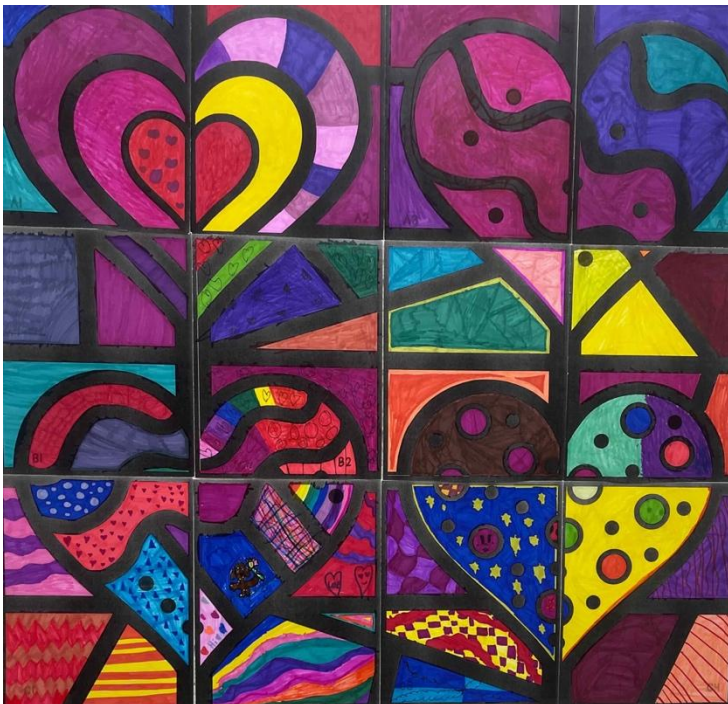
The exposed piece of fabric dried up overnight. The sealed fabric remained wet for several weeks.



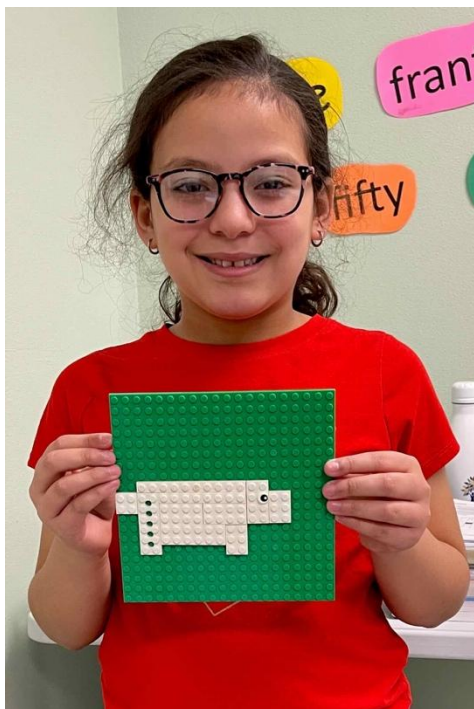
Then each group filled large containers with water using food coloring. They sealed all the containers except one. As the days go by, they are marking the water level of the open containers. Evaporation is causing the water level to lower in the open container.



Valentine's Day: EASY kids who are being mentored each made a "Thank you" card in appreciation for the special attention they are receiving. A mural was created as well as individual posters and added to our LOVE wall in the hallway.



A week was spent on studying the polar bear and how climate change is causing a decrease in the polar bear population. Using Legos they created their version of a polar bear and formed words related to these amazing animals. Did you know that polar bears prefer seals over fish?



Lastly we took talked about the Winter Olympics taking place in Italy. We shared the amazing story of Elena Myers Taylor who won the gold medal for winning the bobsled run. They were moved by the fact that she has two special needs children who are deaf. They wondered what it would be like to have to talk using sign language.

We had our own creative version of the Olympics. Oh there were lots of laughs to be sure. Using ice cubes, they tried their hand at landing on a target, and knocking cups off the table. How about stacking six dominos on someone's forehead. A slippery slope to be sure!!!



Monies Available for your Emaus Projects Apply for Thrivent Grants

Thrivent offers grants up to \$250 to support voluntary teams or projects. Note some of the grants listed below that have been received by Emaus Thrivent members and initiated by any Emaus personnel or individual. Lets continue to support Emaus with more Thrivent grants. **APPLY, APPLY, APPLY.**

Some of the grants received last year include:

- The Emaus Stitchers
- \$250 to support the Valentines Day Dinner fundraiser
- \$250 for the Shrove Pancake Dinner fundraiser.
- \$250 for an educational gift for each EASY member (mainly books)
- \$250 to support a Latino strategy meeting.

A group of Latino pastors in the greater Milwaukee Senate as well as the Bishop who gather together monthly to meet and strategize on ways they can better serve their community through advocacy and support.

How to Apply

You need to be a Thrivent member to apply for a grant. Each member can apply for two grants per year for up to \$250 each. It's very easy. If you have a project at Emaus that can use funding contact a Thrivent member.

Thrivent Members List. A list is being developed of Thrivent members who would like to participate but do not have a project to submit and Emaus individuals who need a Thrivent sponsor. Please contact Carolyn Wooster if you are a Thrivent member who would like to assist or if you have a project at Emaus that can use funding. We will match you up.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Last year, Thrivent donated \$31.4M to causes our members care about.

Your recommendations tell us which nonprofits, including churches, should receive these funds.

Make your voice heard this year.

Thrivent will make Choice Dollars available for you to direct periodically over the calendar year, depending on your contract type(s). Help support the causes you care about by directing Choice Dollars to one or more of the nonprofits in the Thrivent Choice catalog. Go to Thrivent.com, select Choice Dollars. You will be given the total you have available to donate. Search for Emaus ELCA Lutheran Church in search name.

A Bit Of Emaus History

Under Pastor Dan's leadership, the congregation outgrew its original building and began to consider buying or building another church. A lot on Mound Avenue (then named Chippecotton Street) was purchased for \$850 in November 1875 and work on the new building continued through 1876 and 1877. Members helped with the expenses involved and the old church building was sold for \$1,000. At last, the new church was dedicated on January 27, 1878. This was, indeed, a high point in the life of the congregation with festivities extending over three days. The dedicatory sermon entitled "The Journey to Emmaus" was delivered by Pastor Jacob Holm. Some years later, another pastor, Martinus Lyngby, contributed a copy of a painting entitled "The Journey to Emmaus" which was commissioned to be placed above the altar upon completion. This picture is now hanging on the wall outside of the offices.



The new building provided space for more activity and even included a parochial school which continued for 35 years.

Many significant changes occurred during the next 20 years with several pastors serving at Emmaus. Due to disagreements over constitutional issues, members left to form new congregations. During the period between 1874 and 1896, the First Scandinavian Lutheran Church had become five separate congregations. What seemed to be irreconcilable differences at the time proved to be a means of extending the church and made a ministry in Racine that would not have been possible for a single church.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Date	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Communion Assistant	Reader	Usher
March 1	Cindi Larsen	Cindi Larsen	Cindi Larsen	Carol Eschmann	Denis Kreimer
March 7	Cathy Meyer				
March 8	Cheryl Dexter	Karen Sedgwick	Chris Lamberton	Kathy Christensen	Loren Larsen
March 14	Missy Porcaro				
March 15	Caren Lamberton	Carol Eschmann	Carol Eschmann	Nancy Smith	Chris Lamberton
March 21	Jamie Toslek				
March 22	Kathy Christensen	Kathy Christensen	Kathy Christensen	Sandy Strini	Dan Wooster
March 28	Cathy Meyer				
March 29	Cindi Larsen	Cindi Larsen	Cindi Larsen	Kathy Christensen	Denis Kreimer