

THE EMMAUS ROAD

SPRING 2025



Camp Emmaus • PO Box 128, Mt. Morris, IL 61054
www.campemmaus.org

2025 SUMMER DATES

May 23-26	Memorial Day Family Camp
June 20-22	CIT Training
June 21-22	Elementary (K-Grade 2)
July 6-12	Survivor Camp @ Camp Mack (Grades 6-8)
July 13-19	Senior High (Grades 9-12)
July 20-26	Middle School (Grades 6-8)
July 27-31	Intermediate (Grades 3-5)
Aug. 1-3	Young Adult/Young at Heart (Ages 18+)
Aug. 3-6	Target Sports Camp
Aug. 7-9	Women's Camp
Aug. 22-24	Men's Camp
Aug. 29-Sept. 1	Labor Day Family Camp

SPRING INTO CAMP!



Get a sneak preview of summer with Camp Emmaus' now-annual Spring Into Camp event, happening Saturday, April 26, beginning at 1 p.m.

The schedule will include a nature hike at 2 p.m., target sports opportunities at 3 p.m., a cookout at 5 p.m., and a traditional campfire at 6 p.m. All activities are optional, so you can also just spend some time relaxing, wandering the grounds, or enjoying nature if you like. Food will be provided for the cookout.

All are welcome, and there is no charge for this day of camp-style fun!

CAMP MANAGER'S CORNER



'Tis the season of *viriditas*. It's a Latin word that means greenness," but to the 12th-century Christian mystic Hildegard of Bingen, the term went beyond just a color. For her, *viriditas* was a symbol of the creative spark, the life force that permeates all existence and catalyzes the transformation from dormancy to bloom. This green vitality was seen as the physical expression of God's presence, nurturing both the natural world and the human spirit.

As camp is now awakening into its viridian season, I am aware of how the greening of all things is an invitation to explore the ways that God is "greening" our hearts, minds and spirit. By that, I mean that the Holy Spirit stirs in us to see anew the grace and peace of God's love for each one of us. As we are living into Holy Week and the Easter season, we are reminded that we are a resurrection people, and we ultimately have Christ to thank for that; and we also have God's creation as a visceral expression of what was once dormant that now is sprouting forth and green with new life. This is the pattern for us as disciples of Jesus: what was believed to be dead, is alive again.

I'm excited to be thinking about how our summer together at camp recreates the creative spark of the Holy Spirit. What ways might campers, staff and volunteers be feeling are dormant in their lives, only to experience the power of God's Spirit working through the ministry at camp as a kind of chrysalis experience!

Spring presents a viridian blueprint for renewal. When we are invited to embrace the energy of spring, we are invited to shed old patterns, rejuvenate our inner landscapes, and celebrate the continuous flow of life. My prayer for every camper, staff, volunteer, board member and camp supporter is that we experience God's *viriditas*/ renewal/ awakening/resurrection in our lives and at camp this summer. Happy Easter! Happy Spring! Happy *Viriditas*!

Respectfully in Christ, Randall Westfall



GRATEFUL SHED: Camp Emmaus has been experiencing some facility improvements this spring. Above, volunteer Doug Firebaugh (Freeport) shows off the new woodshed that was built near the new council ring by the boys' meadow, which will allow firewood to be stored much closer to the ring for all the coming campfires.

The Camp Emmaus board adopted the following mission statement at its winter meeting:

Camp Emmaus is an outdoor ministry that seeks to create a welcoming space where all can experience the healing powers of creation and be called to live a life of service, peace, and deep connections with one another.

Emmaus is an outdoor ministry of the Illinois/Wisconsin District of the Church of the Brethren since 1948.

CAMP BOARD: Sara Garner, chair; Gary Baisden; Patrick Benassi; Michelle Bowman; Amanda Burch; Shannon McNeil Smith; Monica Rice Frye; Mike Sondgeroth; Jonathan Stauffer; Callie Surber; Daniel Radcliff, interim financial secretary; Randall Westfall, camp manager

Photos by Randall Westfall

CAMP NEWS & NOTES

- **May 31** will be **camp clean-up day!** Come by and help get camp ready for the summer.
- Another offering in the Escape to Emmaus series—**Primitive Shelter Day**—was planned for April 19. Watch for future Escape to Emmaus offerings!
- Camp manager Randall Westfall led several local **outdoor education sessions** at the camp in March in cooperation with the Oregon Park District.
- **Firewood** is available for sale at the camp. For information, contact the camp at 815-734-4268.
- **Give to camp:** <https://campemmaus.churchcenter.com/giving>.

CLEAN AS A WHISTLE



They said it couldn't be done. But, yes, thanks to the ardent efforts of some volunteers, "Garage 2" at the camp (above) has been purged of junk and cleaned up till it practically shines.

The newly decluttered space will house most of the woodcutting equipment as well as tractor and mower equipment and repair materials.

The camp barn and other garage also received some much-needed TLC. Thank you to all the volunteers who make so many projects at Emmaus possible! We really couldn't do it without you.

◇ SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN! ◇

Register today at
campemmaus.churchcenter.com/registrations
 (or follow the link from the Camp Emmaus web page).
 Registrations before June 1 receive a discount.