

# THE EMMAUS ROAD



Camp logo by Debbie Noffsinger

FALL 2024

Camp Emmaus • PO Box 128, Mt. Morris, IL 61054  
[www.campemmaus.org](http://www.campemmaus.org)

## Celebrating a sensational summer



### SUMMER 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

**76th** year of ministry at Camp Emmaus

**112** campers attended

**52** staff and volunteers

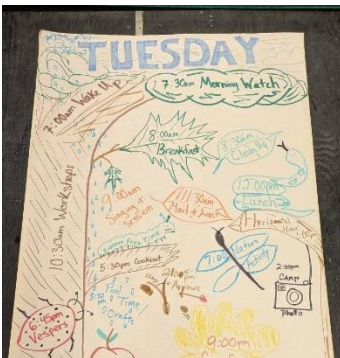
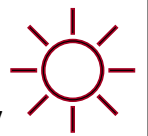
**13** Church of the Brethren Illinois/  
Wisconsin congregations represented

**80** percent of campers with Brethren  
connections and/or congregations

**0** trips to the hospital!

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### 2025 SUMMER CAMP DATES

May 23-26 Memorial Day Family Camp

June 13-14 CIT Training

June 14-15 Elementary Camp (grades K-2)

July 6-12 Survivor Camp (at Camp Mack, Ind.)

July 13-19 Senior High Camp (grades 9-12)

July 20-26 Middle School Camp (grades 6-8)

July 27-31 Intermediate Camp (grades 3-5)

Aug. 1-3 Young Adult/Young at Heart Camp

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





## CAMP MANAGER'S CORNER

My family and I have now been here at Camp Emmaus for one year. And I'll admit that there is much about this landscape at camp that I have not fully explored yet. So much of my time on the property has more to do with work than with the opportunity to truly be present to the abundant beauty of creation around me. And I look forward to discovering the hidden gems and niches that I've yet to unearth.



In doing so, I am scouting for a "green couch" location. The green couch is a place to be present to what is happening in the landscape, both externally and internally. It's a place for contemplation, worship, naturalist training, journaling, scripture reading and simply being present to God's Spirit amongst creation. For me it means cultivating and tending to that space in a way that allows me to be prayerfully attentive to what God's Spirit might be speaking to me. It must be a space that is inviting and yet conjures up the mystical and otherworldly. Wherever it ends up being... there will be a bench and a natural threshold, and a prayer labyrinth/circle. It will be a space where I can "green" my soul when I notice my spirit is drying up.

This isn't just a dream for me, but also for the land here at camp. I envision that we would have more intentional, designated prayer spaces (green couches) scattered throughout the property. Places for rest, renewal, release and reliance on the Spirit. A little sanctuary within a sanctuary. We have a few of those space already (lakeside sanctuary/altar, 'come meet God' bench, peace pole, new council circle) and I'm excited to see how we might tend to those little sanctuaries together to enhance the Emmaus experience by continuing to "green" up the souls of all who encounter God in this blessed sanctuary.

Respectfully in Christ, Randall Westfall

## An afternoon of gratitude

Camp Emmaus' annual celebration luncheon kicks off an afternoon of festivities at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, with an open house, program, and auction to follow. The auction, a new addition, will feature a signed Caleb Williams helmet as part of an array items to raise funds for camp's ministries. All camp volunteers, friends, and supporters are welcome!

### CAMP WISH LIST

Along with general financial donations, the following items are currently of particular need at camp: 1) funds for **tractor purchase** (see summer newsletter), 2) **two 23-cubic foot freezers** (preferred brand: 1. GE, 2. Frigidaire, 3. Kenmore).

### NEWS & NOTES

• Congratulations to **Aaron Gerdes**, winner of this year's Church of the Brethren Outdoor Ministries Association Volunteer of the Year award!

• Get away with your family, friends, church group, or organization this fall! **Schedule a retreat** at camp in the retreat lodge or log cabin; call 815-734-4268 for availability.

• The Church of the Brethren **Illinois/Wisconsin District campfire** will take place at camp on **Saturday, Oct. 12** with songs and s'mores beginning about 6 p.m.. Come early to take a fall hike, enjoy a light meal, and decorate pumpkins.

• A new event debuts this fall at Emmaus: **Father-Son Camp** will take place **Oct. 12-14**, featuring target sports, wilderness living skill tips, hiking, campfires, and more. Fathers, sons, brothers, grandparents, and men of all ages are invited! (Under 18 must be accompanied by adult.)



### PLANTING SEEDS: GIVE A GIFT FOR GROWTH

A gift of any size to Camp Emmaus can make a big difference! In addition to its regular annual fund, the camp is also building an endowment to secure camp's ministries for the future.

Give online at: <https://campemmaus.churchcenter.com/giving>, or contact treasurer Dan Radcliff at [Dev.Chair.CampEmmaus@gmail.com](mailto:Dev.Chair.CampEmmaus@gmail.com).

**CAMP BOARD:** Sara Garner, chair; Patrick Benassi, vice chair; Dan Radcliff, treasurer; Liz Patterson, secretary; Gary Baisden; Michelle Bowman; Amanda Burch; Shannon McNeil Smith; Mike Sondgeroth; Callie Surber; Austin Weaver, recording secretary; Michelle Firebaugh, financial secretary; Randall Westfall, camp manager