

# THE EMMAUS ROAD

SEPTEMBER 2023



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



## A SUMMER TO SAVOR

While activities go on at camp all year 'round, summer always feels like the heart of camp life, as children and youth and volunteer counselors pour through the gate for some life-changing days on the trails, on the field or playground, in the lodge, and around the campfire.

This year was no different, as nearly 100 campers spent a week or a few days at Emmaus for Senior High Camp, Intermediate Camp, YAAYAH, Middle School Camp, and Elementary Camp. More than one camper said it was the best week of their summer!

The 2023 Bible study theme was "What's In a Name?", looking at the ways we are uniquely created, gifted, and called by God. Stories of Moses, Zacchaeus, Ruth and Naomi, Elizabeth and Zechariah, Peter, and more helped campers think about their own names and journeys and how God might be calling them.

Head chef Reid Phillips and his crew provided great meals again through the summer, and camp board members and other volunteers covered all the needed duties to keep camp running well. New items in the camp store—including apparel with the new camp logo, and a variety of other T-shirts—proved popular,

It's not too soon to be thinking about 2024. Put Camp Emmaus on your calendars and consider inviting (or sponsoring) children and youth you know to spend a week at camp next summer!



### 2024 DATES:

Intermediate July 7-11; YAAYAH  
July 12-14; Senior High July 14-20;  
Middle School July 21-27; CIT Aug.  
2-4; Elementary 1 Aug. 3-4;  
Women's Camp Aug. 8-10; Men's  
Camp Aug. 16-18





## WELCOME, RANDALL!

Randall Westfall, our new camp manager, arrived at Camp Emmaus in mid-August. A group of volunteers met the moving van on Aug. 20 to help get Randall and his family settled into their new home.

Randall recently finished his 13<sup>th</sup> summer as director at Camp Brethren Heights in Michigan and was also recently ordained into the ministry in Michigan District.

Welcome Randall, Brenda, Heidi, and Hewyt! Here's to a great beginning!

## CAMP NEWS & NOTES

• **Firewood** is available for sale at the camp. For more information, contact the camp at 815-734-4268.

• Volunteers are always needed for **camp cleanup**. Contact your church's camp representative or a camp board member to help. Especially note Leaf Raking Day, Nov. 11.

• **Women's Camp** had another good event together Aug. 10-12, with about 16 attending. Watch for 2024 details!

• **Give to camp:** <https://campemmaus.churchcenter.com/giving>

Photos by Jim Miner, Ralph Miner, Sara Garner, Megan Heimerdinger

## Celebrate 75 years of Camp Emmaus!

Come to camp on Saturday, Sept. 16, to join the party as Camp Emmaus celebrates three-quarters of a century of outdoor ministry!

The lunch and open house event begins at 1 p.m., with a special program to honor all camp's volunteers starting at 3 p.m. The camp store will also be open, featuring this year's new designs—perfect for you or as gifts for the Christmas season ahead!

For anyone wanting a longer camp experience, cabins and other facilities can be rented from Friday evening through Sunday noon. To make a reservation (or to RSVP for Saturday's events), contact Sara Garner at 630-923-9039 or [thegarnergirls@gmail.com](mailto:thegarnergirls@gmail.com).

Camping began at Emmaus in 1948 due to the vision and generosity of Brethren leaders. In that same spirit, we look forward to the next 75 years!

## Gather 'round the fire



Enjoy autumn at camp on Saturday, Oct. 21, as the district is invited to a campfire and other fall fun.

Come during the afternoon to relax or hike around camp on your own, then gather at 5 p.m. for a pumpkin-decorating contest and light meal, followed by the campfire (with s'mores!) beginning about 6:15 p.m.

The event is free, but donations are welcome.

## THE JOY OF FOREVER

Financial archaeology is the art of digging through layers of paper to arrive at a key conclusion or discovery: the Camp Emmaus Unrestricted Endowment can grow the ministries you love far into the future! We have received more than \$20,000 in gifts toward this goal as of June!

My true goal is achieving a \$1 million unrestricted endowment base in gross donations. Our policy is to draw earnings/growth based on 5-year averages, for an additional source of income that is resilient and inflation-resistant.

For example, do you give \$500 a year to Camp Emmaus? A gift of \$10,000 to the endowment would ensure the purchasing power of your gift renews annually forever!

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**CAMP BOARD:** Aaron Gerdes, chair; Sara Caracheo Garner, vice chair; Dan Radcliff, treasurer; Gary Baisden; Patrick Benassi; Michelle Bowman; Amanda Burch; Jan Dietrich; Shannon McNeil Smith; Elizabeth Patterson; Austin Weaver, recording secretary; Randall Westfall, camp manager

## FALL EVENTS

**Sept. 1-4** Labor Day Family Camp

**Sept. 16** 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Lunch and Open House (1-4 p.m.)

**Oct. 21** District Campfire Events begin at 5 p.m.

**Nov. 11** Leaf Raking Day (Youth Leaf Raking Retreat Nov. 10-12)