

THE EMMAUS ROAD



Camp logo by Debbie Noffsinger

SPRING 2024

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

www.campemmaus.org

CAMP MANAGER'S CORNER

Recently our family got to watch a red fox (*vulpes vulpes*) exploring our backyard. As it ambled along the edge of the yard, I had an overwhelming sense to follow it and see where it would lead me. We saw it wander along the ravine and towards the boy's meadow, so I worked to pick up the trail from there.



I found tracks along the limestone creek bed and recognized it was our wild canine friend. I picked up the trail further up the ravine towards the bridge and could see it was leading me further back along the Living Waters Trail. A few more tracks in the muddy substrate behind Hare Lodge showed me that the fox moved southwest up the bluff. Shortly after that, I lost the trail. I sat down on a log, took in the moment, and gave thanks.

It was there that I felt a sense of peace that I've not fully experienced in my six months here at Emmaus. And it was among the peace of these wild things at camp that I was reminded this is our home. It's here where God will lead us along new paths and trails to amazing encounters with creation and the Holy Spirit!

I'm not so sure the point of my venture was to simply track that fox; rather it was to lead me to a holy moment where I encountered the peace of God. The fox was just the messenger. As I walked back to the house, a prayer was reverberating in my soul. It's a prayer I pray we all will discover this coming year at Emmaus: that we are not content to simply experience God at camp, but to also be adventurous enough to discover where God's creation and God's Spirit will lead us. This is our invitation. I hope you'll all RSVP for an epic summer at Emmaus!

Respectfully in Christ,
Randall Westfall

Escape artists

A new "Escape to Emmaus" series kicked off March 2 with a sunny woodworking day enthusiastically attended by nearly 30 people of all ages.

Camp manager Randall Westfall led the activity, showing participants some basic cutting techniques, followed by an opportunity to put those to use by carving whimsical trees, mushrooms, and other items.

The morning-to-afternoon event included a lunch break and time for fellowship. Camp provided carving knives for those who didn't have their own, along with wood, carving gloves, and paint to add color to the new creations.



Additional Escape to Emmaus events coming up include April 6, Flint-knapping and Arrowheads; May 4, Birding (in partnership with Northwest Illinois Audubon); and June 1, Target Sports (archery/sling-shots). See camp website for details and registration.

2024 CAMP DATES

April 13 Spring Into Camp

May 24-27 Memorial Day weekend Family Camp

July 7-11 Intermediate Camp (grades 3-5)

July 12-14 Young Adult/Young at Heart Camp

July 14-20 Senior High Camp (grades 9-12)

July 21-27 Middle School Camp (grades 6-8)

Aug. 2-4 CIT training

Aug. 3-4 Elementary Camp (grades 1-2)

Aug. 8-10 Women's Camp

Aug. 16-18 Men's Camp

Aug. 30-Sept. 2 Labor Day weekend Family Camp



“There’s a different vibe here for kids of all kinds.”

—Camp Emmaus board member, talking about the welcoming community spirit found at camp



THE STARS AT NIGHT ARE BRIGHT

Camp supporter Mark Royer took inspiration from Van Gogh’s famous “Starry Night” to paint this interpretation of a camp night over Hare Lodge. Come see your own stars at camp!

Summer rates unchanged for ‘24

Good news of great joy! The camp board has decided that there will be NO rate increases for summer camp registration in 2024. With finances tight in many places, this will hopefully enable as many people as possible to enjoy the experience of a camp week or weekend.

That leaves rates at \$385 for full-week camps (Senior High, Middle School), \$280 for the shorter Intermediate Camp, \$110 for the weekend Young Adult/ Young at Heart camp, and \$95 for the Elementary overnight.

Some scholarship assistance is also available through the camp for those in need. Contact the camp office for more information on requesting this help for you or others.

Registration will open at www.campemmaus.org by March 31; watch for more information. A summer brochure is also going out soon.

Last year brought a total of 110 campers through the gates, and the goal is to increase that in 2024. Are there family members or friends you could invite to camp this year?

CAMP NEWS & NOTES

- Camp manager Randall Westfall is **visiting several congregations** this spring to share and preach: Find him at Polo on March 17, Milledgeville (Dutchtown) April 21, Highland Avenue in Elgin April 28, and York Center in Lombard on May 5. Contact the camp to schedule Randall in your congregation!
- **Firewood** is available for sale at the camp. For information, call the camp at 815-734-4268.
- Various weekends are available this spring to **schedule a retreat** at camp in the retreat lodge or log cabin. Call 815-734-4268 to check availability.
- New items are coming to the **camp store!** Be sure to check out the inventory this year as you add to your Emmaus collection.
- Do you have items or skills you want to **share with camp**? Call to check out current needs!



Learn about ‘Linked by Love’

The 2024 camp curriculum theme will be “Linked by Love,” again using the InsideOut materials produced by a church consortium that includes the Church of the Brethren.

Together, we’ll look at what it means to be loved by God and to love others. Daily themes come from Colossians, Luke, Job, Exodus, Philemon, and 1 John.

From the materials: “As we seek to create and strengthen life-giving relationships, we remember that such love flows from God, links us all together, and we give thanks.”

GIVING 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 a new 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 for details.

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
Photos by Jim Miner