



# Emmaus Lutheran Church

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**Saturday Worship** - 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday Worship** - 10:00 a.m.

**Adult Bible Study** – Sun., 11:00 a.m.

## **Emmaus Lutheran Church's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** **“45 days of Thanksgiving for Emmaus' 45 years”** **July 28, 2024**

Great news! Emmaus Lutheran Church has reached a milestone in her mission. Nine years ago, Pastor Mark Winkler initiated a plan to lower the mortgage debt of the Congregation. Why? Because the lender had become the biggest ministry of the congregation, and the monthly payments were choking the outreach of God's love locally and beyond. In 2015 Pastor Mark shared a video on DVD explaining the issue and proposed a 9-year plan to reduce the mortgage debt to \$500,000. In doing this, the monthly payments could be reduced, freeing resources to be used to share Christ's love with people. The mortgage debt was over 1.5 million dollars, a monumental amount for 220 giving units of the congregation to tackle. Through faithful prayer and giving over the past 9 years, **Emmaus, 45 years a congregation**, has more than accomplished the “Winkler Plan” by exceeding the goal! The mortgage now stands at \$468,679 with a monthly payment of \$6,000!

Our lender will reduce our payment by \$1,500 or more with a significant one-time lump sum payment, which would free up needed dollars for us to afford a full-time pastor. This leads me to MORE...

GREAT NEWS! Emmaus has received the gift of an offer to match up to \$50,000 from an anonymous donor in gratitude to God for blessing us with 45 years as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In gratitude to God for this generous gift, our congregation council has recommended a new plan.

## **“45 days of Thanksgiving for Emmaus' 45 years”**

With God providing through us, we are seeking to match or exceed this gift in the next 45 days. We realize this is an ambitious leap of faith in a short period of time! However, we believe it is possible with God's help. To help us reach our matching goal of \$50,000, we are asking for help with a “thanks-giving to God”. Members, former members, and friends of Emmaus, please help up to celebrate the gift that Emmaus Lutheran's mission in the name of Christ has been these past 45 years. Your gift toward this matching goal can be given any time **between now and September 11<sup>th</sup>**. Please mark your gift “**45<sup>th</sup>**” so that we properly record it toward the “match”.

*Thank you* in advance for going above and beyond your regular giving. Your gifts help us be more sustainable and able to afford a full-time pastor, and grow our ministries in the name of our gracious Lord, Jesus Christ.

And... Thank you, for all you have given, throughout your life to share the love of Christ in living your baptism as a Child of God! You have made a difference!

Gratefully yours,

Barry Huntzman  
Interim Pastor, Emmaus Lutheran Church