



3011 W. Camp Rd. \* Oregon, IL 61061  
(815) 734-4268 \* manager.campemmaus@gmail.com  
www.campemmaus.org

*Encounter Creation. Experience God. Ignite your Faith.*

September 9, 2024

To the Delegate body of the Illinois/Wisconsin District Conference:

On behalf of the Camp Emmaus Board, Staff, Volunteers, Investors and Supporters, I bring you greetings and I am honored to share with you the many ways that Camp Emmaus is impacting the lives of many people on the local level, in congregations, and in the church at large.

The theme for the 2024 summer camp programming was *Linked by Love*, where campers, staff, and volunteers embarked on a journey to discover how they experience God's love and the ways God's love is linked by our relationships to our families, friends, and faith communities. The ministry at Camp Emmaus is one in which we continually seek to link ourselves to God's love; embodied in Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit. In doing so, lives are forever changed and that is why camp is more than just a setting, it's an embodied experience that we share with others. I pray we will always have that encounter and experience of being linked by God's love especially here at camp!

#### **Camp Emmaus 2024 Highlights:**

- We celebrated **76 years of outdoor ministry**.
- Memorial Day **Family Camp attendance** was 35 and Labor Day Family Camp also had 35 people.
- **Spring into Camp** had 53 people in attendance
- Summer Camp by the numbers: **112 campers** and **52 staff** and volunteers representing **13 congregations** in the northern tier of the district.
- **New Programming**: Escape to Emmaus Days (*Woodcarving, Flintknapping, Birdwatching, Target Sports* in the spring & *Shepherd's Slings, Primitive Shelters, Music Jam, Decorative Baking* this coming fall), updated background check software, and new and updated camp policies and procedures.
- **New amenities and features**: Loader Tractor with pallet forks, gates at entrances, walk-in cooler door, Archery, slingshot and target equipment, new council fire circle at the boy's meadow, a camp telescope for stargazing
- We had the honor of **hosting the Outdoor Ministries Association Board** here in April.
- The **camp board** had our **winter retreat** in which we began envisioning for the next 5 – 25 years of ministry at Emmaus and where God may be leading us to new ministry opportunities. We're excited to dream together and imagine what camp will grow to be in the next chapter of outdoor ministry.
- Our camp staff, board and volunteers have both done incredible work **extending the ministry of Camp Emmaus to several guest groups**, and they have sought to be wise and diligent stewards of our financial resources. We have **4 new rental groups** this year and hosted local 4-H Club, Softball Team party, graduation parties, and church worship services.
- **A big thank you to our staff and volunteers for all the work (seen and unseen) that goes into keeping this camp looking and functioning as well as it does.** Thank you for your passion and gifts to make Emmaus the sacred space that it is and will be for future generations.
- **Come see us at our display booth** to pick up some **Emmaus gear**, brochures and **share what Camp Emmaus has given you**. We hope to have a fundraising video as part of that sharing time go out on Giving Tuesday.

*Camp Emmaus is an outdoor ministry of the Illinois/Wisconsin District Church of the Brethren since 1948.  
Nestled on 99 acres of rolling woodland in the Rock River Valley in north-central Illinois;  
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## **2025 Summer Camp Schedule:**

May 23-26	Memorial Day Family Camp
June 13	CiT Training
June 14-15	Elementary I Camp
July 6-12	Survivor Camp (at Camp Mack w/ Mack, & Brethren Heights campers)
July 13-19	Senior High Camp
July 20-26	Middle School Camp
July 27-31	Intermediate 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

We share this report about the ministry taking place at camp so that you may know how such experiences of immersive Christian community help people know and experience first-hand the presence of God in ways that nurture hope for our present and future. As we continue the work of Jesus at camp, we ask that you prayerfully consider how you might have a role in the ministry of camp and specifically as Emmaus transitions into new leadership. And as always, we look forward to partnering with you and to what awaits us in 2025.

Check us out at [www.campemmaus.org](http://www.campemmaus.org) or follow us on Facebook.

Respectfully,



Randall Westfall  
Camp Emmaus Manager

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