

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12: 1 & 2

To facilitate growth in commitment to Christ and in connection to people through the church

Middle School Stuff

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes begin on

Jan. 5: with the annual Bunko game. Invite your parents and siblings to join us for some fun.

Jan. 12: Lesson- bring your Bible with you!

Jan. 19: Lesson- ditto

Jan. 26: Service

Looking Ahead for Confirmation

30 Hour Famine on Feb. 25 & 26- You'll be hearing more about collecting pledges and the plans for the Famine over the next couple of weeks

Lent and Mentors: Lent begins on March 9. If you want the same mentor as last year, please make sure it's okay with your mentor. If you want a change, please let me know so I can help you find a new one.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Attendance at Sunday school is very sporadic. (Look it up, it's a great word.) Make a resolution to come to Sunday School at least twice a month. And, while you're making resolutions, plan to use your offering envelopes each time you're here. You help Camp Lutherwood with your Sunday School offerings.

LOCK IN: Jan. 14 & 15

It's been a while for a lock in! Come to Emmaus at 8:00 p.m. for an evening of fun. Bring a sleeping bag, pillow, snack to share, your favorite drink, and \$5.00. Bring some friends too.

High School Stuff

PHUNDAY NITE

Jan. 2: No Phun –After you do your share of Christmas tree pick up, go home, put your feet up, relax and get a good night sleep before school starts.

Jan. 9: wear your green and/or yellow-we'll play *Duckopoly* and anticipate Monday's victory!

Jan. 16: Dinner & game-no theme, just phun

Jan. 23: Lois isn't here-how about a movie night?

Jan. 30: Dinner & a game-no theme again

SUNDAY SCHOOL

I'm working on the Sunday School schedule. I'll post a schedule in the Youth Room when it's ready.

Let me know if you have any ideas of what themes and ideas you want to explore during Sunday School time. (If you want a particular adult to share, let me have the name.) We have lots of open dates from January on.

Looking Ahead Stuff

FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Camp Lutherwood is sponsoring a retreat for high school students the weekend of April 8, 9, & 10. Save the date and I'll have more information later.

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Emmaus is hosting the OLYO Middle School Rally on March 5 & 6. This rally is open to all Oregon middle school students. Hayden Smothers and Alex Golbek are involved with the planning. I would love to have all our middle school students participate. You get to meet lots of Oregon Lutheran, you have a great time, and we get to be great hosts. I'll have more detailed information in the next newsletter.

FOR BOTH HIGH AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

We'll be gathering Souper Bowl offerings TWO Sundays; Jan. 30 in conjunction with a Soup lunch here at church and Feb. 6, Super Bowl Sunday. Look for ballot boxes in your Sunday School rooms so you can vote for places to send our offerings. We need volunteers to help collect the donations each Sunday.

Although the 30 Hour Famine is part of confirmation, we can add a section for high school students. If you've never participated in this program, you should try it. Several people in the past have told me that this was the most meaningful event in the years at Emmaus. So, be brave. Reserve Feb. 25 & 26.



Stuff from Me

Keep your focus on Jesus!

A couple of things for you to think about for 2011. First of all, there are some changes happening in the youth newsletter. After this one, you will be getting the letter inside the regular newsletter that comes to your entire family. (It's in there this month, so check it out.) I will also be e-mailing it those of you that have e-mail addresses on file with me. And finally, you can go to the Emmaus web page and print out a copy each month. (emmauseugene.org) These changes are to help save money on postage. Which leads me to the next comment. Those of you who are confirmed received a box of envelopes for weekly giving. I would like to challenge you to use the box to give regularly to the work of Emmaus. Start with 50 cents a week, or better yet, \$1.00 a week. I know that most people think that they will give when they have lots, but generosity is a habit that starts when you have a little. Get in the habit now, and it will be easier to give as your resources grow.

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Summer Mission Trip Stuff

Fund Raising

1. All the Entertainment Books sold!! We made \$185.
2. All the Cosmos Corn sold!! We made \$145.44.
3. CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP January 2, 8, 9
Right now, the heaviest days for pick up are the 8th & 9th. So, you can still sign up to work. The poster is in the Youth Room
4. Collect cans and bottles everywhere you see them. Ask neighbors and family to share!
5. 144 ENVELOPES This is the biggie. I have a letter composed for you to solicit donations from friends and family. You can mail out as many as you want, but the goal is for you personally to raise \$144. I will be explaining this program in the next newsletter and will be setting up a display in the Gathering Area.

Covenant

Remember to sign up to help with worship. We need greeters and communion assistants and acolytes and lectors for all of January & February. It's part of your commitment.

Remember to attend worship services and Sunday School.

Continue to make your family deposit. You can put the check or cash in the offering. Just use pew envelopes and mark that it's for New York or summer mission trip or any other way to make it clear.