

Hope for the New Year...

As we ring in the New Year, we tend to reflect on the events of the year past. Many of us have experienced exquisite blessings of love and marriage, new family additions, new careers and locations... Many of us have, also, endured tremendous struggles that we seriously thought we could not bear – sickness, the passing of loved ones, financial hardships, devastating disasters, and the hollow loneliness that comes with it all.

As we anticipate the New Year with both anxiousness and excitement as we set new goals and make future plans, I find it so very comforting to remember this: We have a Father. We have a Comforter. We have a Savior. We have hope.

In the book of Hebrews, we find this promise: *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."* - Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

We have God's love and promises to carry us through this life and He – Our Father – has promised us that He will never leave us or forsake us. What a wonderful promise! Through thick and thin, joy and sorrow, God is there with us. There is nothing that happens to us that doesn't first pass by Him. Every moment of bliss or struggle, our Heavenly Father shares with us.

Reflect on the year past and be thankful for His presence in gladness and in sorrow. Look forward to the year that lies before us, knowing that we are not left alone and comfortless. Know that our joys are His joys. He loves us with an unconditional love that cannot be quenched. His Grace will be more than sufficient. Rejoice! We have a Savior!

Jamie Prater, CLD 2018

January Gathering

The next Gathering is Friday, January 19th.

Covered dish dinner, dessert and fellowship at 6:30pm and Worship 7:30pm

Fourth Day Speaker

Krista Mosser

Community Singing with Chris Shinn

& Special Music with Tracy Roach

Snow Policy:

In the event of inclement weather if Ashland Independent Schools are closed the Gathering will be canceled.

SPRING WALKS

Men's April 12-15, 2018

Women's April 26-29, 2018



Thank you, Board members...

As the incoming Community Lay Director, I wish to personally thank Fred Herr for leading the AAEC and Board for the past year. Fred will be staying on the Board as the Past CLD and as an advisor and mentor. I also wish to thank the outgoing Board members – Brian Poling, Past CLD; Sherry Hackworth; Larry Kirkpatrick; Melanie Herr; and Rev. Lisa Shinn for their hard work, dedication, faithfulness, and discernment of God's guidance for the Community. You all have been a blessing to the Board and Community. God's blessing to all. Also, I would like to welcome newest members to the AAEC Board: Anita Fitzpatrick, Justin Matthews, Sandy Ott, Cindy Poling, and Beth Qualls

Thank you for being dedicated servants of Jesus Christ to this Emmaus community.

Jamie Prater, CLD 2018