

The Latest News and Happenings at
Emmanuel Lutheran Church in New Philadelphia, Ohio

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From the Desk of Pastor Rob

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. – Isaiah 43:19

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. – Jeremiah 29:11

Happy New Year everyone! We have made it through another year of uncertainty, of change, and of loss. To call 2022 a success does not feel quite right. Yes, we had some great events in the church from our summer carnival, Trunk or Treat, and the Fall Organ Festival. We had many other ideas that were put forward that we were not able to get to for one reason or another, but I do hope we can get back to some of those this year as a way of doing outreach into the community as well as having fellowship with one another. Some of the new long-term ideas are bringing back the summer music camp, starting a Pub Theology group to meet at least once a month for faith discussions and a meal (details were shared in last month's The Messenger), and some others in the works that are not ready to be revealed yet.

At the same time, 2022 was a year of loss for this congregation with a few of our long-time members joining the company of saints and entering the church triumphant as well as some moving on to the next chapter of their lives away from Emmanuel. Those members will be sorely missed for the impacts they had on this congregation and community. Emmanuel will not be the same without them. But at the same time, we have welcomed some new members into our community of faith and we are beyond grateful for them and the enthusiasm they bring here. We have also entered into a transition period with a few of our staff members moving on to other ventures in their lives.

In all of this, we may be wary about what is to come, but as the prophets remind us, God has plans for all of us, plans to give us hope for the future and hope for the new things that are coming.

Prayerfully yours,

Pastor Rob

Musical Notes

By Ruth Patrick, Director of Worship and Music

Many thanks to all those musicians who provided special music during the Advent/Christmas season: organist Cindy Smith, vocalists John Foust, Wayne York, Bob Victor, Jerry Gartrell, and all the members of the Emmanuel choir. You all added to the joy and gladness of our celebration of the seasons.

As you all are aware, the Emmanuel Choir has grown this year and we are very grateful for all our new members. But remember, anyone who likes to sing is welcome to join us at any time- we love getting new members!

A substantial monetary grant was received from the Kimble Foundation for our Organ Restoration Fund. For this we are so grateful and sincerely thank the people who are responsible for helping this to happen! More on this later!

WELCA/Women's Bible Study

By Ruth Patrick

Women's Bible Study group will meet on January 4 at 1:30 pm in the second floor meeting room. We will begin a 4-month study of the 10 Commandments, which should prove to be interesting and enlightening. Our studies are all written by women Pastors, theologians, and other women writers so they often represent a woman's perspective on some aspects of each study. Session one of this study will be found in the January/February issue of Gather magazine if you like to look at it ahead of time and subscribe to this magazine. Materials will be provided each month for those who do not subscribe.

Please consider joining us and enjoying the fellowship and discussions with your sisters in Christ at Emmanuel. Friends and neighbors always welcome as well!

Altar Flowers

There are 3 Sundays still open for altar flowers in January. Please sign up to sponsor them, otherwise there will not be flowers on the altar those Sundays.

Mailing List

Do you receive our newsletter by mail but not our bulletins and Pastor Rob's sermon and would like copies for reading at home or to follow along with our worship livestream? Please contact us at the church and we will be happy to add you to our mailing list for the weekly bulletin.

What's Happening at Emmanuel... Annual Meeting Part 2

On Sunday January 29 after worship, we will have the second of our annual meetings, this one to elect new members to the congregation council as well as representatives to the 2023 NEOS Assembly in May and to review annual reports from the committees and ministries of this congregation.

In addition to those elections, we will be voting on the following changes to our Constitution and Bylaws (what is being changed is crossed out and new language is bolded):

Constitution

C10.04. ~~(33) Thirty-three percent~~
(10) Ten percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

Rationale: Easier to reach quorum

Bylaws

C10.01.02 A Special Congregational Meeting will take place yearly on the first Sunday of ~~Advent~~ **December** for the purpose of adopting the Mission Plan for the following church year.

Rationale: Does not conflict with Thanksgiving holiday.

C11.01.a The Officers of the Church shall be elected from among those Congregation Council members elected to serve on the upcoming term of council by those that are present and voting at Council's annual April Congregation Council Retreat. Voting shall be by ecclesiastical ballot. Their term of office shall begin once installed on the first Sunday in ~~May~~ **February**, and terminate the following ~~May~~ **February** with the installation of those elected to serve on the following term of council. No officer shall hold more than one officer position at a time.

Rationale: New council members can start work right away.

In Appreciation...

Dear Saints at Emmanuel,
Thank you for your mission support as together we make Christ known in NE Ohio. I give thank for your partnership in the gospel.
Peace,
Bishop Barbins

Thank you for all your thoughts, cards, and prayers! Mom truly appreciates you all! She just turned 92 and is still hanging in there!
Thank you,
Robin Watson
(for Beverly Watson)

Dear Emmanuel Members,
Thank you so much for the lovely prayer shawls you gave Charlie and me. Charles was happy with the "Semper Fi" that Bert Kohler had added to his card. Thanks again for your thoughtfulness!
Charles and Mary Jane John

Thank you for all the cards, gifts, prayers, and well wishes. Freddy is doing great and growing very fast. We appreciate everything!
The Eller family

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Thanksgiving baskets, shoe boxes, and Share-A-Christmas! Your contributions help make the holidays better for those in need.
Service Committee

Thank you to all the Thrivent members who designate their Thrivent Choice Dollars to be used at Emmanuel. We really appreciate the generosity as we continue our ministry in the community.

In Other News...

2023 Events at Emmanuel Lutheran Church

The following list are events that are in the works or on the calendar for Emmanuel Lutheran Church in 2023. There are others that are in the discussion stage but details are not worked out yet.

- ✓ Starting soon, our Pub Theology group will meet once a month on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00pm at the Broadway Brewhouse, 27 S Broadway St, New Philadelphia, OH. We will come together for food, fellowship, and conversation about our faith, the Bible, and current events.
- ✓ Souper Bowl Sunday: February 12 after worship. Join us for homemade soup as we raise money for the Dover-New Philly Food Bank.
- ✓ Ash Wednesday Drive Thru Ashes: On February 22, come through the parking lot at Emmanuel from 11:00am-1:00pm to receive a blessing and ashes if you are unable to make it to worship in the evening.
- ✓ Midweek Lent Services: Join us on Wednesday evenings in March and April at 7:00pm for Evening Prayer.
- ✓ Holy Week Services: With the success of the Easter Vigil Service last year, we will be making it a permanent addition to the Holy Week line up of services of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. April 2, 5-7.
- ✓ Spring Cleaning Rummage Sale: As we get our homes cleaned and organized this spring, think about donating any unwanted items to the church for our rummage sale this May. We will also have a bake sale and concessions available. Date to be determined soon.
- ✓ Summer Carnival: With the success of the School's Out For Summer Carnival last year, we're bringing it back this year. Games, activities, food, and fun for all ages. Date in June to be determined.
- ✓ Church Picnic: The annual church picnic at Tuscora Park will be Sunday June 11. Join us for worship, food, and fun.
- ✓ Music Camp: After a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the summer music camp will be returning this year in July. Details are coming later.
- ✓ Trunk or Treat Carnival: In late October, Trunk or Treat will be back again with candy, food, games, and activities for all ages.
- ✓ Fall Organ Recital: With the success of last year's organ recital, it will return in 2023 as an annual fundraiser for our organ restoration fund.

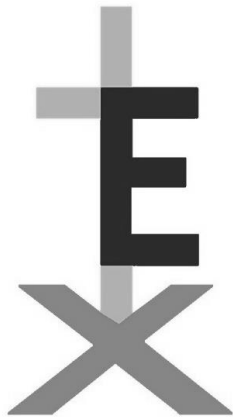
November Financials

Income:
\$14,539.64

Expenses:
\$15,633.42

Difference:
(\$1,123.78)

January
Benevolence:
Community
Hospice



Worship January

January 1

Lector: John Foust
(Greeters, Ushers from Council)

January 8

Greeters: Bob Victor (parking lot)
Lois Victor (by bulletins)
Lector: Jerry Gartrell
Usher: Barb Rupe
Communion Assistants: Bob and Lois Victor

January 15

Greeters: Rob Sterling (parking lot)
Karen Sterling (by bulletins)
Lector: Lois Victor
Usher: Dorothy Kaufman
Communion Assistants: Ward and Linda Holdsworth

January 22

Greeters: Tom Yanders (parking lot)
Bonnie Yanders (by bulletins)
Lector: Tom Yanders
Usher: Dane Smith
Communion Assistants: Tom Yanders and Deb Ritenour

January 29

Greeters: Dick Hugh (parking lot)
Myrna Hugh (by bulletins)
Lector: Wayne York
Usher: Neil Rupe
Communion Assistants: Dick and Myrna

Volunteers February

February 5

Lector: Marsha Smith
(Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants from Council)

February 12

Greeters: Butch Baker (parking lot)
Barb Baker (by bulletins)
Lector: Sally Dorn
Usher: John Sandy
Communion Assistants: Rob and Karen Sterling

February 19

Greeters: Chuck Moore (parking lot)
Helaine Moore (by bulletins)
Lector: Ken Lab
Usher: Lois Victor
Communion Assistants: Roger and Marcia Lile

February 26

Greeters: John Frank (parking lot)
Joyce Frank (by bulletins)
Lector: Bob Victor
Usher: Dane Smith
Communion Assistants: John Foust and Wayne York

Words of Wisdom:

It's not what I don't know
that bothers me - it's what I
do know and don't do.
-Martin Luther

Find us on YouTube now:

<https://www.youtube.com/@EmmanuelNewPhilly>
Watch past worship services, mid-day devotion videos,
and Pastor Rob Presents Fun with Flagons!

