



Lutheran Church

◀ FAITH IN ACTION ▶

The Messenger

August 2023

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

From the Desk of Pastor Rob

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. –
Matthew 18:20

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

From the Desk of Pastor Rob

Monthly letter from Pastor Rob on an important topic in the church

Musical Notes

The latest news and info from Ruth Patrick, Director of Worship and Music

What's Happening at Emmanuel

Upcoming events and projects at Emmanuel

Monthly Calendar

Stay up to date on what is happening at the church in the coming month

Staying Connected

330-364-7571

Church Office
office@emmanuelnp.com

740-214-6896

Pastor Rob Eller's Cell
pastor@emmanuelnp.com

330-260-1224

Prayer Chain

www.emmanuelnp.com

facebook.com/

EmmanuelNewPhilly

instagram.com/

EmmanuelNewPhilly

youtube.com/

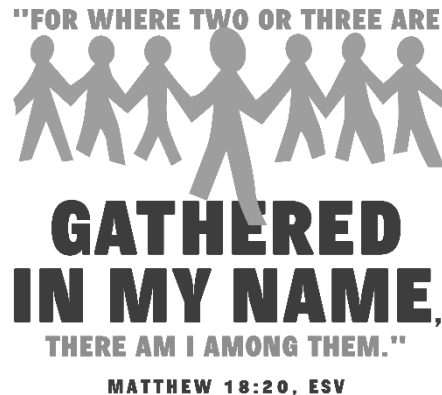
@EmmanuelNewPhilly

That verse is a very familiar one among Christians. For the last couple of months I will recite as I start the monthly midweek healing service because there are only a handful of us gathered together. During the pandemic I found myself turning to this verse as I am sure many of you did as well, as we worshipped from a distance, myself in the church building and all of you watching from home. There is a level comfort with that verse knowing that the size of the crowd gathered together has no

effect on whether Jesus is there among us in worship. This carried on throughout the scriptures, especially in the post-Easter readings of the early church in Luke and Acts. In the Emmaus Road story, Jesus broke bread with a couple of travelers and Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch with only his driver as the sole witness. In both of these cases, Jesus was there among them, both literally and spiritually.

There has been a lot of talk in the church lately about our attendance numbers are dwindling. This has been on the mind of your church council the last few months as we explore new ways to address this. We are not alone when facing this problem, many of the mainline Protestant denominations and the Roman Catholic Church are also in the same boat as us. The world around us is changing and for too long the church as whole has been slow to keep up with those changes. One of the silver linings of the pandemic in the last few years is that it has forced us to catch up by embracing technology and social media more with reaching people and for us to be more aware of what is happening in the world around us. When we were not able to do work out of our church buildings, we looked elsewhere to the communities around us and looked at how we can still do the work of the church by engaging with our neighbors.

Back to the bit about our weekly attendance and our membership. Yes, our attendance is down this year compared to last year. It does not mean Jesus is not still with us, as evidenced by the Bible verse that led off this article. Jesus is still there walking beside us as we do this important work of spreading the Gospel message, the Holy Spirit is still empowering us to do this work. But we cannot do it alone anymore; there is much work to be done and not enough hands to do it. As Jesus said, "the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." We do need more people in our church. Do not interpret that though to mean we just need more butts in the pews because all that does is solve the attendance drop. We need more



Continued on next page...

From the Desk of Pastor Rob continued...

people who are interested in hearing the Gospel message of God's redeeming love for the world. We need more people who have a curiosity to want to learn more, to become disciples. We need more people who want to share that love they receive with the world. We need more people who want to do God's work in the world.

Will we ever become a mega church? Probably not nor should we want to be. We want to be authentic to who we are, we want to be that shining beacon of the gospel not just to New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County or Northeastern Ohio, but to the whole world. We are Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

While going through the archives recently, I found the original building campaign literature for the education buildings. This quote from Pastor James Fisher stuck out to me "You and I are the Emmanuel Lutheran Church. The past, with its success and mistakes, is history. Our hope is in the future... If we sacrificially cooperate in the work of our Lord, our plans can be realized with joyful thanksgiving." That might have been over 50 years ago, but that still rings true today. The future of this congregation is bright, but we have to come together and do the work that is laid out in front of us. To echo a phrase that was repeated multiple times in the November 1951 edition of The Messenger newsletter that detailed the building campaign, "IT CAN BE DONE."

Prayerfully yours,



Musical Notes

By Ruth Patrick, Director of Worship and Music

As we enjoy the summer time, we realize that it is moving along quickly, as always! Time to think about returning to fall activities at church and that means choir rehearsals will begin again! Our first rehearsal will be on Thursday, September 7, at 6:30 in the downstairs choir room. The Emmanuel Choir is open to anyone who likes to sing and make a joyful noise to the Lord! Music has always been a very important part of the Lutheran worship experience and we are really happy to be able to have a choir to lead and be a part of worship at Emmanuel. Many churches that I know of do not have a choir anymore, so we are very blessed. So, I encourage you to think about joining us again this fall, or for the first time- we will be very happy to see you all!

Healing Service

Due to a scheduling conflict, the healing service in August will be on August 16, the third Wednesday of the month.

In Appreciation...

Emmanuelites:

Thank you to Judy Swinehart for delivering the pretty altar flowers to us. Many thanks to Pastor Rob for officiating at the memorial service for my daughter and the folks that supported us with cards and prayers. My daughter Karen Michele Fisher passed away on June 22nd, even though I still grieve, I know she is at peace with the Lord

In Christian Love,
Bert and Phyllis Kohler

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Thank you so much for your generous contribution to Dress-A-Child. On behalf of the children we serve, we are most grateful. Our donations have been less than prior to COVID and this year, so far, we are behind last year at this time. Your gift is a big boost to our spirits. Thank you for having hearts for "the least of these." Thank you, again for your gift.

Sincerely,
Becky

Women's Bible Study

By Ruth Patrick

Our next Women's Bible Study group will meet on Wednesday, August 2 at 1:30 in the 2nd floor meeting room. We will be using the lesson from the July/August issue of Gather magazine. All women of Emmanuel are invited and welcome to attend and bring a friend! Copies of the study are always available for those who do not subscribe to Gather magazine. (Watch for more announcements of this meeting date since we have not yet received our issues of the July/August issue of the magazine with the study. If it does not arrive soon, we may move the meeting date!)

God's Work, Our Hands

God's Work, Our Hands is coming up on September 10. We are looking for Emmanuelites to visit shut-ins (possibly bringing cookies) also offering to do minor chores for members and friends/neighbors as a way of sharing blessings. Please notify the office or a church member to get on our list of folks to visit and assist. More details coming as the date draws near.

Directory Updates

We are updating our directory information. If any of your information has changed in the last few years, please fill out the enclosed form and return to the church office.

Pastoral Care Visits

If you or anyone you know would like a visit from Pastor Rob, please call the church office or Pastor Rob to make arrangements. If you can help with visiting and taking communion to shut-ins, please see Pastor Rob.

Worship Volunteers

August

August 6

Lector: John Foust
(Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants from Council)

August 13

Greeters: Wayne York (parking lot)
John Foust (by bulletins)

Lector: Jerry Gartrell

Usher: Neil Rupe

Communion Assistants: Dick and Myrna Hugh

August 20

Greeters: Roger Lile (parking lot)
Marcia Lile (by bulletins)

Lector: Marcia Lile

Usher: Barb Rupe

Communion Assistants: Karen and Rob Sterling

August 27

Greeters: Tom Yanders (parking lot)
Bonnie Yanders (by bulletins)

Lector: Dane Smith

Usher: Tom Yanders

Communion Assistants: Barb Rupe and Marcia Lile

September

September 3

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

September 10

Greeters: Butch Baker (parking lot)
Barb Baker (by bulletins)

Lector: Myrna Hugh

Usher: Barb Rupe

Communion Assistants: Butch and Barb Baker

September 17

Greeters: Dane Smith (parking lot)
Dorothy Kaufman (by bulletins)

Lector: Tom Yanders

Usher: Neil Rupe

Communion Assistants: Ward and Linda Holdsworth

September 24

Greeters: John Sandy (parking lot)
Barb Sandy (by bulletins)

Lector: Barb Rupe

Usher: Marcia Lile

Communion Assistants: Barb and John Sandy

Words of Wisdom:

"Church is not an organization you join; it is a family where you belong, a home where you are loved and a hospital where you find healing."

- Nicky Gumbel

