



Lutheran Church

◀ FAITH IN ACTION ▶

# The Messenger

March 2024

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

## From the Desk of Pastor Rob

Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin.  
– James 4:17

**“We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.” – Confession and Forgiveness, Evangelical Lutheran Worship**

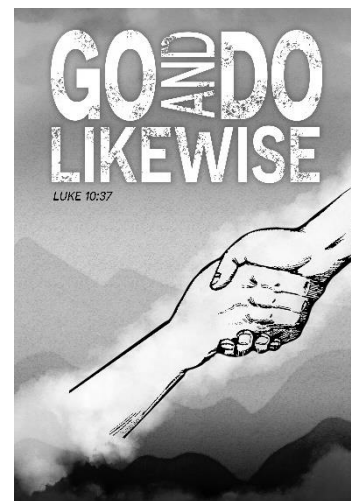
**“Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.” – Luke 10:36-37**

We are once again in the season of Lent. As I have said in sermons previously, Lent is about self-reflection, repentance, and reconciliation. To repent means to change your mind, turn back, to change direction. During Lent, we look at the areas in our lives where we need to change, where we have fallen short in fulfilling our obligations and duties as Christians. We often think that it is only about looking at the things what we have done in the last year, but it is more than just that. We have to also look at the opportunities that we missed, the times where we did not do what we should have done.

In our confessional rite, we lament not only for the things we have done but those that we also failed to do. We lament for the times where we did not speak up in defense of someone. We lament for the times we ignored someone’s pleas for help, whether it was something as simple as not helping someone reach an item off a high shelf in the store to ignoring the person with the sign on a highway off ramp asking for any kind of help to being apathetic towards the needs of others.

Think to the parable of the Good Samaritan. The two righteous men who ignored the man who fell to the hands of robbers are guilty of ignoring the needs of another person. The lesson there is, we can say all the right prayers, we can come to church every Sunday but none of that matters if we ignore our siblings who are in need. I know many of us are suspicious of those asking for help, questioning their true motives and wondering if they actually need any help, but that is not what we are called to do, it is not up to us to judge the worthiness of someone asking for assistance, we are simply called to help.

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#### 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

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From the Desk of Pastor Rob continued...

During this Lenten and beyond, I encourage all of you to take up a spiritual practice that helps draw you closer to God and closer to others. Open your hearts and your minds to those that are in need in our area. Do whatever you can to help and advocate for them and when you see or hear others disparaging them in any way, remind them that we are all Children of God and created in His image and that we are called to love and serve all of our neighbors in need. And remember the words of Jesus to "Go and do likewise."

Prayerfully yours,



## Musical Notes

By Ruth Patrick, Director of Worship and Music

### LITTLE FACTS ABOUT SOME BIG LENTEN HYMNS

**O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days:** With a text originally written in Elizabethan English, this hymn now uses a paraphrase by Gilbert E Doan Jr, who was a retired Lutheran Pastor. He was a graduate of Harvard, studied at several other schools including Princeton. He later served as the chair of the hymn-text committee of the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship.

**I Want Jesus To Walk With Me:** This African American spiritual looks like a request for Jesus to walk with us, but is also an affirmation that Jesus will always be with us. The name of the tune is Sojourner, named for the woman who became known as Sojourner Truth. She was a former slave from New York, who had been treated cruelly, then escaped and began to preach, sing and advocate for women's rights and abolition.

**Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross:** Written by Fanny Crosby, the best-known writer of gospel hymns. She was blind by the age of 6 weeks, began writing verses when she was 8. A very tiny woman at 4 feet 9 inches and less than 100 pounds, she also worked among the marginalized. She wrote at least 8500 hymns!

**Lamb of God:** Written by Twila Paris, a popular songwriter, author, vocalist and pianist from Fort Worth, Texas. She has 22 albums and 33 number-one Christian radio singles. For 3 years she was the Gospel Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year.

I hope as you sing the hymns of Lent you will always pay close attention to the texts- they are some of the more important parts of our worship each Sunday morning!

## In Appreciation...

Dear Emmanuel Lutheran Church,  
We very much appreciate your generous donation of \$454 to the Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County. Opening in 2005, the shelter has now provided over 175,000 bed nights to those in need. Your donation will help us continue to provide our guests with weekly case management, referral services, and a safe place to stay as they continue their journey to independent living.  
God Bless,  
Friends of the Homeless of  
Tuscarawas County

On behalf of Lorraine Keplinger, I thank you for the lovely poinsettia given to her. It certainly brightens her room on these dreary winter days. Plus a big thank you to Linda and Jean for delivering the plant with some cookie! We appreciate you leaving a note. Emmanuel's visits and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated.  
Karen Kaufman

## Women's Bible Study

By Ruth Patrick

Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, March 6 at 1:30 pm in the second floor meeting room. All women of Emmanuel, your friends, neighbors and relatives are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will be studying Session 3 in the March/April issue of Gather magazine. It is on page 14 and is entitled "Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith". Hope to see you there!

## Gift Card Ministry

Many folks come to us asking for assistance. Pastor Rob keeps a stash of gift cards in his desk to hand to those in need. This is funded through the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. If you would like to help, you can donate to the fund to purchase more gift cards or purchase them and donate them to the church. The best gift cards are Buehler's, Drug Mart, Speedway, and Aldi.

## Donations needed!

The New Philadelphia High School National Honor Society is creating a "free store" for students with needs. We would like to have toiletry items: soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes that would be available for any student who needs these items throughout the year. We would love to have your help with this project! To help, simply donate some of the items listed, and we will make sure that they are distributed to the students that need them.

Thank you!

## Help Wanted

As approved on at the annual meeting in January, we are going to start the process of hiring office and custodial staff. We need a personnel committee to modify the job descriptions and help with interviews. If you are interested or have the skills to help with this committee, please see Pastor Rob or Council President Neil Rupe.

## Wednesdays in Lent

Join us for potluck dinner and worship each Wednesday in Lent this year, (February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20). The theme of the service this year is Created for Community. Each week will have a different potluck theme (favorite family recipe, cookout favorites, breakfast for dinner, Italian, and Casserole-palooza). Sign-up sheets will be out in the lobby in the coming weeks, please pay attention to the theme for the week before signing up.

## Lenten Disciplines

**Stations of the Cross** - Come walk the stations of the cross in the sanctuary Monday – Thursday 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Private Confession** - Pastor Rob Eller will be available for private confession and prayer Wednesdays 10:00am – 11:00am

## Movie Night and Potluck

The Congregational Life Committee would like to invite the adults of the congregation to a movie night and potluck dinner on Saturday March 16th at 5pm. Following dinner we will watch the movie "The Girl Who Believed in Miracles." There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby. We hope to see you there!

## Easter Cross

On Easter Sunday, Marsch 31st, remember to bring fresh flowers for the Easter Cross before the worship service. Place them on the cross located in the narthex as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord! The cross will then moved outside the Second Street doors for all to see as they drive by.



Interested in being part of the planning and implementation of this new vision for Emmanuel Lutheran Church? Join church council or a committee. Not sure where you might fit in? Talk to Pastor Rob and together we can see where your gifts can be put to use in the church.

## 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.

## Holy Week

### Services

#### Palm Sundy

March 24 – 9:30am

#### Maundy Thursday

March 28 – 7:00pm

#### Good Friday

March 29 – 7:00pm

#### Easter Vigil

March 30 – 7:00pm

#### Easter Sunday

March 31 – 9:30pm

## Words of Wisdom:

Now the church is not wood and stone, but the company of people who believe in Christ.  
-Martin Luther

## Worship

### March

#### March 3

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

#### March 10

**Greeters:** Lori Rainsberg (parking lot)  
Mary Lou Westbrook (by bulletins)

**Lector:** Marcia Lile

**Usher:** Neil Rupe

**Communion Assistants:** Ward and Linda Holdsworth

#### March 17

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

**Lector:** Tom Yanders

**Usher:** Tom Yanders

**Communion Assistants:** Jon Foust and Wayne York

#### March 24 – Palm Sunday

**Greeters:** Ken Lab (parking lot)  
Lisa Lab (by bulletins)

**Lector:** Jerry Gartrell

**Usher:** Dane Smith

**Communion Assistants:** Ken and Lisa Lab

#### March 28 – Maundy Thursday

**Greeters:** Deb Ritenour (by bulletins)

**Lector:** Barb Rupe

**Usher:** Marcia Lile

**Communion Assistants:** Rob and Karen Sterling

#### March 29 – Good Friday

**Greeters:** Roger Lile (by bulletins)

**Lector:** Dane Smith

#### March 30 – Easter Vigil

**Greeters:** Chris Smith (by bulletins)

**Lector:** Marcia Lile and Marsha Smith

#### March 31 - Easter

**Lector:** Wayne York  
(Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants from Council)

## Volunteers

### April

#### April 7

**Lector:** Ken Lab  
(Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants from Council)

#### April 14

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

**Lector:** Barb Rupe

**Usher:** Deb Ritenour

**Communion Assistants:** Neil and Barb Rupe

#### April 21

**Greeters:** Rob Sterling (parking lot)  
Karen Sterling (by bulletins)

**Lector:** Rob Sterling

**Usher:** Tom Yanders

**Communion Assistants:** Jon Foust and Wayne York

#### April 28

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

**Lector:** Myrna Hugh

**Usher:** Marcia Lile

**Communion Assistants:** John and Barb Snady

## Emmanuelite

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*noun*- A person of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, past or present, who welcomes everyone, who loves and serves their neighbors unconditionally, who puts their faith into action.