

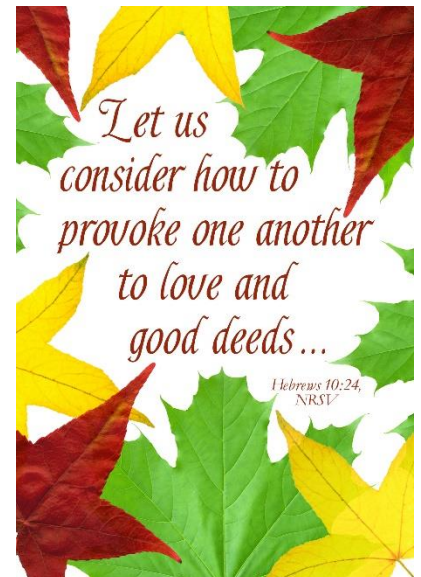
The Latest News and Happenings at
Emmanuel Lutheran Church in New Philadelphia, Ohio

From the Desk of Pastor Rob

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. – Hebrews 10:24-25

Now the Church is not wood and stone, but the company of believing people; one must hold to them, and see how they believe, live and teach. – Martin Luther

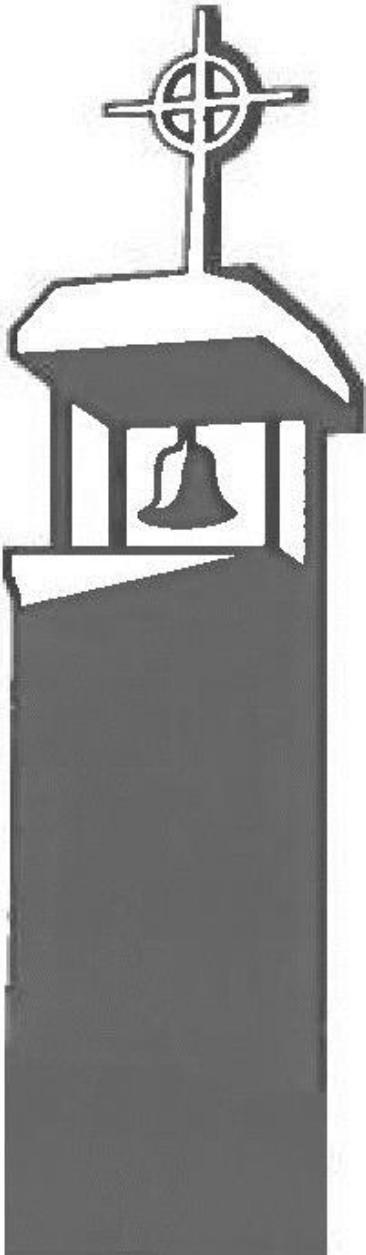
In the last century, we have gradually shifted our understanding of Christianity to something that revolves around buildings where we gather on Sunday mornings for worship. This building-centric mindset has led us to believe that church happens only within four walls, on a particular day, at a set time. We have unintentionally equated the work of spreading the Gospel with the confines of a church service. But what if I were to tell you that the church is much more than a building? In fact, it is not even the building at all! The true essence of the church lies not in bricks and mortar but in the people, the community of believers who carry the presence of Christ into the world every day. The church is a living body, not a static structure. It's in our hearts, in our actions, and in the relationships we build with others. It exists wherever two or three are gathered in his name, whether that be in a park, a coffee shop, or even online.



Jesus himself never limited his ministry to a building. He met people in the streets, by the sea, in homes, and at dinner tables. His message spread through everyday encounters with ordinary people in ordinary places. In the early church, the Gospel thrived in homes, marketplaces, and public squares. The apostles were not confined to a single place, they went out, sharing the love and message of Christ in all areas of life. We are called to do the same as those apostles, to take the church to the world, to carry the Gospel with us wherever we go, offering hope, love, and justice to a world in need, not just on Sunday mornings but in our Monday-to-Saturday living.

In the last year, we have tried various ways of taking the church outside the building and into the community. The pandemic caused a seismic shift in how we are to be the church, giving us a chance to be more creative and look back at the

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From the Desk of Pastor Rob continued...

roots of the early church in the book of Acts. It started at Emmanuel last year with Free Prayer and Pub Theology, times for us to gather together in community and fellowship, to pray with each other and discuss how we see our faith working in the world today and how we can carry the Good News to others. I started my podcast, The Sermon in the Valley, for this very reason, to reach out for others to hear the Gospel wherever they may be.



having dinner together, doing service projects, and mentoring the kids in the congregation.

The other idea, The Breakfast Club, is one that was presented to me from members of the congregation. The Breakfast Club would meet once or twice a month on a weekday morning for breakfast, fellowship, and conversation. The conversation does not have to be about church or faith, the whole point is just spending time with each other. These ideas, as well as any others that you have, are all about being the church together.

We are looking at other ways to take the church out of the building and into the community. Two ideas we are working on are O.W.L.s. (Older Wiser Lutherans) and The Breakfast Club. O.W.L.s. is an idea that I learned from a colleague of mine in Columbus, which takes the concept of youth group, but it is for our older folks with events like



The church is alive wherever the Gospel is lived out. It is a community on mission, not tied to a building, but mobilized by a message, the message of Christ's love for all people. Let us embrace that vision of the church and move beyond the walls, bringing the Good News to every corner of our lives.

Prayerfully yours,

Pastor Rob

In Appreciation

Dear Emmanuel Church Family, We thank you all so much for your love, support, food, caring thoughts, cards, and prayers during and through Steve's illness and death. It is hard to express adequately how much your loving kindness and concern have meant to us all.

Many thanks to everyone who took part in the service, helped set up, serve and clean up the lunch, and generally helped make the whole day go more smoothly. Special thanks to Cindy Smith for her beautiful music and to Pastor Rob for his leadership of the service and his organizational skills in putting it together and ensuring everyone was in the right places at the right time. The service was a blessing to our family and just the way Steve wanted it.

In appreciation,
Ruth, Martin and Maggie, Dennis,
Nina, and Hayden Patrick

To our church family,
Thank you for the beautiful bouquet of flowers we received in September. Many thanks to Myrna Hugh for delivering them when we were sick with COVID. Made our day a little brighter. Appreciate the birthday cards I received in October. Always enjoy them.

God Bless You All,
Bert and Phyllis Kohler

Upcoming Events
Movie Night
November 22

Join us on Friday November 22 at 6:00pm for an adults only movie night. We will be watching the movie “The Girl Who Believes in Miracles.” Pizza, dessert and drinks will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby. Any questions, please see Barb Rupe or Deb Ritenour

Hanging of the Greens
November 25

Join us on Monday November 25 for the annual Hanging of the Greens as we get the church ready for the Holiday season. We will start decorating at 4:00pm.

Blue Christmas Longest Night Service
December 21

For many people, the holiday season is not a joyous time of year, whether it is because of the added stress or because of the loss of a loved one. Blue Christmas services are a quieter, more somber and contemplative style service that gives space for slowing to grieve and think, often on night of the Winter Solstice, lending to its other name, Longest Night. In conjunction with our GriefShare program, Emmanuel will be hosting a Blue Christmas service this year on Saturday December 21 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome.

From the Northeastern Ohio Synod
The One Church Experiment



It is now time to experiment! It is time for a playfulness within the Spirit to try new things, engage different paradigms and models, and experiment with structure all for the sake of God’s mission in the world: that the love of Jesus might be known.

The One Church Experiment is a paradigm shift with different models within it. The paradigm shift is all about moving away from relying on a pastor or deacon for everything from worship leadership to management and instead living into the giftedness that God has given each baptized believer. Within that paradigm shift there are many ways to be the church. Project Isaiah 43 revealed the most sustainable model seems to be 4-6 congregations coming together with 2-3 rostered ministers to be rooted and grounded in God’s love for the sake of the world.

The "One Church Experiment: a discipleship laboratory" is a place to experiment and play and learn and grow and live out your calling as a disciple of Christ. There is grace for “mistakes” and ways to learn from those that make the next experiment better. Ultimately, there is a wideness in God’s Spirit that embraces our attempts and calls them good. Thank you for taking the next step in the playfulness of God and at least wondering about how we can experiment together for the sake of God’s mission in the world.

Before we go any further, we want to be clear: The One Church Experiment is not a way to save your congregation nor a way for you to simply get a pastor. This is more (a discipleship journey) and will therefore take more work and energy and thought.

Over the coming months there will be additional resources that unfold. Resources of study, partnership, and even funding! God is doing a new thing: The One Church Experiment!

Honoring Pastor Stephen Patrick

On October 2, Emmanuel lost someone near and dear to all of us. Pastor Steve Patrick made a lasting impact on many of us in the congregation and he will be missed. Church Council would like to honor the memory of Pastor Steve Patrick by renaming the lobby in his honor. Pastor Steve loved having everyone gather for fellowship time after worship and it seems fitting to rename the space we gather in in his memory. Council would like to solicit suggestions for the name from the congregation. We will have a rededication in the coming months.



Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response: Hurricane Helene

We continue to pray for those impacted by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. Working alongside the Florida-Bahamas Synod, Southeastern Synod, North Carolina Synod, and other partners, Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to respond. They anticipate that LDR's greatest impact will be reaching those in underserved areas and in the long-term, community-focused recovery and care for which Lutheran Disaster Response is known. If you are looking for a way to help, consider donating here: elca.org/hurricanes/donate. 100% of donations designated as "Hurricane Relief" will go to communities that have been heavily impacted by these storms. If you prefer, you can also send donations to the Northeastern Ohio Synod (designated for Hurricane Response) and they will forward on your behalf. Find information and resources about Lutheran Disaster Response's hurricane relief at ELCA.org/hurricanes.



Operation Christmas Child

Shoebboxes for Operation Christmas Child are available not for anyone who would like to fill one. Please see instructions for what to include in the boxes. Filled boxes are to be returned to the church by mid-November so they can be sent out. The cost of shipping is \$10, donations accepted to help offset this cost

Christmas Eve Services

This year we are making a time change to our Christmas Eve service to make it more accommodating for families with young children. Service will start at 4:00pm this year. There has also been some interest in bringing back a service later at night on Christmas Eve at either 10:00 or 11:00pm. If this is something that you would attend, please let Pastor Rob know and we will add that service as well.

Baptism and First Holy Communion

If there are any families who are interested in having their child baptized or would like to start First Communion classes, please contact Pastor Rob Eller. First Communion classes will be once a month during the Sunday School hour on Sundays.

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.

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

Words of Wisdom:

"Faith in Action. It's not just a slogan, it's how we live."

Worship Volunteers

November

November 3

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

November 10

Greeters: John and Barb Sandy
Lector: Jerry Gartrell
Usher: Deb Ritenour
Communion Assistants: John and Barb Sandy

November 17

Greeters: Neil Rupe and Chuck Moore
Lector: Myrna Hugh
Usher: Neil Rupe
Communion Assistants: John Foust and Wayne York

November 24

Greeters: Dane Smith and Dorthy Glass
Lector: Wayne York
Usher: Dane Smith
Communion Assistants: Dick and Myrna Hugh

Emmanuelite

(ih•man•yoo•uhl•ahyt)
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.

December

December 1

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

December 8

Greeters: Kenny and Lisa Lab
Lector: Tom Yanders
Usher: Barb Rupe
Communion Assistants: Kenny and Lisa Lab

December 15

Greeters: Tom and Bonnie Yanders
Lector: Rob Sterling
Usher: Tom Yanders
Communion Assistants: Neil and Barb Rupe

December 22

Greeters: Dane Smith and Dorthy Glass
Lector: Barb Rupe
Usher: John Foust
Communion Assistants: John and Barb Sandy

December 24

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

December 29

Greeters: Roger and Marcia Lile
Lector: John Foust
Usher: Dane Smith
Communion Assistants: Ward and Linda Holdsworth

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
					Office CLOSED	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:30am - Adult Sunday 8:30am - Kid's Sunday 9am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Worship Service 3pm - GriefShare	12pm - AA Meeting 6:45pm - Tusc. Co. Coin	11am - Pastors' Group 6pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Zumba Class 7pm - Property Meeting	11am - Free Prayer 6pm - Stamp Club		Office CLOSED	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30am - Adult Sunday 8:30am - Kid's Sunday 9am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Worship Service 3pm - GriefShare	12pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Finance Meeting 6:30pm - Council Meeting	11am - Pastors' Group 6pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Zumba Class	1pm - Healing Service		Office CLOSED	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30am - Adult Sunday 8:30am - Kid's Sunday 9am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Worship Service	Messenger DEADLINE 12pm - AA Meeting	11am - Pastors' Group 4:30pm - Free Family 6pm - Bell Choir 6pm - Stamp Club 6:30pm - Zumba Class	11am - Free Prayer		Office CLOSED 6pm - Adults Only Movie	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:30am - Adult Sunday 8:30am - Kid's Sunday 9am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Worship Service	12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Hanging of the	11am - Pastors' Group 6pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Zumba Class		OFFICE Closed	Office CLOSED	