

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

## From the Desk of Pastor Rob

Then Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times (seventy times seven).” – Matthew 18:21-22

**Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. – Ephesians 4:31-32**

Forgiveness is hard. When someone wrongs us, our first reaction is anger, and many times justifiably so. We are upset about what the person has done to us or to someone we are close to and protective instincts kick in. We shut the person who hurt us or others out of our lives or out of our community so that it does not happen again. While it may feel good initially, in the long term, that isolation only makes the pain worse as we continue to dwell on what happened.

Sometimes our anger and hurt consumes us to the point of wanting to seek retribution for what happened. We think that seeking an eye for an eye is the only way to make things right.

While that phrase is Biblically based, Jesus refutes it when he said that we are to turn the other cheek when someone hurts us. Seeking retribution does not do any good but instead causes an endless cycle of pain for all those involved. It causes a divide between us and will often force others to choose sides, which only makes everything worse. In the short term we may feel good about it but in the long term, that pain and division does not accomplish anything at all.

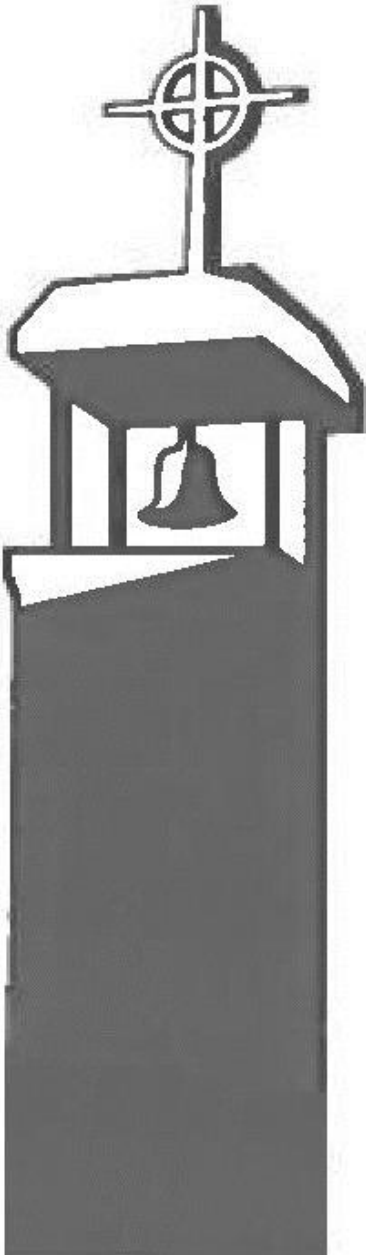
Instead, we are called to forgive others when they wrong us and hurt us. In the prayer that Jesus taught us in Matthew that we recite every Sunday, the Lord’s Prayer, we say “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sinned against us.” That is not some idle phrase to make us feel good, it is a command that because God gave His only Son Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins, we need to forgive others. Peter asked Jesus how many times we are to forgive someone, thinking that the answer would be an easy-to-reach number. Instead, Jesus gives the impossible number seventy-seven (or depending on your translation, seventy times seven, which would end up being four hundred and ninety.) Either way, the point of Jesus’s answer is that we are to forgive so many times that we end up losing count,



“How often should I forgive?  
“Not **SEVEN** times,  
but, I tell you,  
**SEVENTY-SEVEN**  
times.”

Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV

Continued on the next page...



From the Desk of Pastor Rob continued...

or we just do not stop forgiving because we cannot put an arbitrary amount on the forgiveness we are to give.

Moreover, forgiveness is not so much for the benefit of those who wronged us but for our own. This is what makes forgiving someone so difficult, because we think forgiving someone's behavior or actions is the same as excusing them. We are afraid that by offering forgiveness, that it will allow the person to harm us again. This is not the case at all. Forgiveness takes the burden of guilt and shame off of us. When we say "I forgive you," we are releasing ourselves from the bonds of that pain and effectively saying "I will not let what you did control my thoughts or actions anymore, I will not let it weigh me down." Forgiveness takes an immense weight off of us, we feel that burden lift and as a result, we are able to move forward without having to be worried that we are being pulled back.

I recently offered forgiveness during worship to someone who caused harm to this congregation. Leading up to that prayer my heart was racing and while saying the prayer and offering the forgiveness, my voiced was shaky. But immediately after, I could tell that what happened to us would not hang over us anymore and we were able to move on. I ask all of you, forgive those who hurt you in the past and forgive anyone who hurts you in the future.

Prayerfully yours,

*Pastor Rob*

## Pub Theology Book Study

Our monthly Pub Theology group will continue a book study on C.S. Lewis's classic novel, *The Screwtape Letters*. Join us on the last Wednesday of the month at the Broadway Brewhouse (127 S Broadway St, New Philadelphia) at 5:30pm for dinner and discussion. You can find copies of *The Screwtape Letters* on Amazon, at the Bookman's Café in New Philadelphia, and at the Tuscarawas County Library. If you have questions about this book study or suggestions for future book studies, please talk to Pastor Rob.

## Tractor Pulls

It's that time of year again! Emmanuel Lutheran Church is once again proud to be a sponsor of the River Valley Antique Tractor Pull! Join us as we cheer on Emmanuel's own Wayne York as he competes. Tractor pulls start at 10:00 am on the first Saturday of the month from May until October at the Harvest Barn on 420 Dutch Valley Dr NE, Sugarcreek, OH, just off State Route 39 across from Dutch Valley Restaurant and the Ohio Star Theater. Emmanuel will have tent set up to hand out bottled water and brochures for the church. Sign-up sheets will be in the lobby, please help with this outreach opportunity!

## 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.

## Women's Bible Study

By Ruth Patrick

Women's Bible study will meet on July 17th, 1:30 PM. Please note the change in date. We had 8 attendees in May and had good discussions about certainty and uncertainty as related to our faith and lives.

Hope to see everyone there.

**"FOLLOW ME."**



## Come see a Show!

Join us on August 17th for a congregational outing to see the production Ruth at the Ohio Star Theater in Sugarcreek. The show is based on the book and Biblical person of Ruth. Tickets will cost \$30, sign up sheet is in the lobby. For the two Sundays prior to the show (August 4 and 11), join us for a Bible study on the book of Ruth at 8:30am. All are welcome!

## Party at the Park

Join us at Tuscora Park on Saturday July 13 for pizza and fun! Lunch will start at 12:00pm with rides to follow. Free for the kids! Please RSVP with Heidi Torch and Judy Swinehart.

## Christmas in July

Join us Thursday July 25 for our annual Christmas in July party. We will start at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall and watch classic Christmas short movies with pizza for dinner. Sign up sheet will be in the lobby, please sign up if you plan to come so we know much pizza to order.

## Help Wanted

At the annual meeting in January, the congregation approved of the re(NEW) plan for the congregation. Part of that plan was creating a Vision Committee to help plan out and shape the future direction of the congregation and revise the vision and mission statements for the church. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please see Pastor Rob or Council President Tricia Self.



~ Heidi Torch, guest writer ~

My grandparents built a house in New Philadelphia, they had been living in Stonecreek at the time. Across the street from their new house lived Helen and Bob Hixson. They were members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. They invited their family to go with them. After several years of attending church, my aunt Bonnie and mother Judy were baptized and joined the church. My mom was 14 and my aunt was 16. Funny thing we still sit in the same seats they always did. My mom was probably about 11 years old when my family first started going, my grandma was 31 years old. Many people in our family have been married and baptized in our church. And at age 94 my grandmother's funeral was there, 63 years after she first went to Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Our family has been going to Emmanuel for over 70 years now, and 5 generations have attended and been members. A lot of wonderful memories! and all because a neighbor walked across the street and invited the new family on the street to their church.

## Youth Summer Events

### July 13, 2024 • Party in the Park!

Come have fun at Tuscora Park with us on Saturday July 13. Pizza for lunch and ride tickets provided for the children. Families are welcome to join us and bring some friends! RSVP to Heidi at 330-432- 2936 or Judy 330-447-9360. Time to be announced.

### July 25, 2024 • Christmas in July

Wear your pajamas and join us at church on Thursday July 25 for pizza, treats and classic Christmas TV specials. Bring your family and friends! We will start at 6:00 pm. Please contact the church to let us know you plan on coming.

### August 10, 2024 • Tall Timbers Swim Party

Come hang out with us on Saturday August 10 starting at 11:00 am at 1921 Tall Timber Rd NE, New Phila. Swimming, lunch, fishing and a playground and fun all day for your family and friends. The church will pay for admission. Camp site A16. RSVP to Heidi at 330-432-2936 or Judy 330-447-9360.

### September 8, 2024 • Back to Sunday School Party/Rally Day

Join us as we kick off the new Sunday School year on Sunday September 8 at 8:30 am. Breakfast and activities in the fellowship hall to celebrate the beginning of a new Sunday School year, bring a friend!

# This Summer at Emmanuel Lutheran Church

**LIVE BY FAITH:  
A SUMMER SERMON SERIES**

EMMANUEL Lutheran Church  
FAITH IN ACTION

*Giving Back to God:*  
A Stewardship Sermon Series  
Time, talents, treasures, & telling our story

August 2024

EMMANUEL Lutheran Church  
FAITH IN ACTION

**YOUTH SUMMER events**

EMMANUEL Lutheran Church  
FAITH IN ACTION

JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR:

- June 15, 2024  
Swim Party
- July 13, 2024  
Party in the Park
- July 25, 2024  
Christmas in July
- August 10, 2024  
Tall Timbers Swim Party
- September 8, 2024  
Back to Sunday School Party

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
TRACTOR PULLING TEAM  
SAVED BY GRACE AND GREASE ALONE  
First Saturday of the Month  
Harvest Barn, Sugarcreek

EMMANUEL Lutheran Church  
FAITH IN ACTION

**PUB THEOLOGY BOOK STUDY**  
The Screwtape Letters  
by C.S. Lewis

Last Wednesday of the month at the Broadway Brewhouse (127 S Broadway St, New Philadelphia) at 5:30pm.

different brews different views  
PUB THEOLOGY  
BEER, CONVERSATION & GOD

EMMANUEL Lutheran Church  
FAITH IN ACTION

Ohio Star Theater Proudly Presents

**RUTH**

An original Sight & Sound Theatres Production

Congregational Outing August 17 at 1:00pm  
Bible study on book of Ruth Sunday August 4 & 11 at 8:30am

Join us for these events all summer long here at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. More details can be found in this newsletter. Contact the church office with any questions on these events or to RSVP for them. We look forward to seeing you there! All are welcome...and we do mean ALL!

## "Yes, We're The Church Together"

Growing up, I learned this song in Sunday School, maybe you did, too:

*"I am the church! You are the church!  
We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world,  
Yes, we're the church together!"*

*Text: Richard Avery and Donald Marsh © 1972 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved. One License #A-707583*

The song continues with a few verses reminding us that "the church is a people" and "we're many kinds of people." I honestly, hadn't thought about this song for quite a while, but recently I have found myself singing the refrain as I see social media posts from our siblings in Christ all across the United States as they gather for their Synod Assemblies.

Just as we gathered as the body of Christ in the Northeastern Ohio Synod on June 1st, part of "our church" (the ELCA) has been gathering at many different events over the last few months, and some will continue to gather in the weeks ahead. Even just on the same day as our Assembly, both Northwest Ohio and Southern Ohio also gathered together - as did the Montana, North Carolina, Southwest California, South Dakota, Lower Susquehanna, Western North Dakota, Southeastern, Florida-Bahamas, Nebraska, Eastern North Dakota, Oregon, Metropolitan Chicago, Metropolitan Washington DC, West Virginia-Western Maryland, and Northeastern Iowa Synods! Also, just this past weekend, our neighbors in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod gathered for three days as they elected a new bishop.

When I start to ponder all of these Lutherans gathering in different places, I cannot help but think of the incredible work that can be done when we see ourselves as a "Church Together."

When was the last time you pondered how your church is connected to the greater church? Have you considered how you are a part of the body of Christ? What does it look like to be the church together? In this week's Walking Together, I'm including the ELCA June Mission Support Memo (below). I hope you will take the time to read a story of faith from our church. May it inspire and remind you that "yes, we're the church together!"

~Deacon Jenny Frantz, Director of Communication and Formation



Our June 2024 ELCA Mission Support Memo takes us back to U.P. Wild Church, in Northern Great Lake Synod: "a spiritual home for the seekers of beauty, wonder, & awe; where the 'church goers' supplement their journey and the 'misfits' finally feel connected within the congregation of paper birch trees & squawking

geese via the Mystery which creates all things." Everyone can engage by connecting to virtual walks that include a cemetery stroll, prayer by the beach, following deer tracks, even finding Christ in the compost, and so much more at [www.upwild.org/media/](http://www.upwild.org/media/).

Additionally find free access to ELCA Stewardship recordings on "The Spirituality of Capital Campaigns," "Creating a Year-Round Stewardship Calendar," "Narrative Budget Construction," "Donor Motivations" or "Four Mindset Shifts" which are perfect for stewardship teams wanting to do some continuing education or for councils curious about what's happening in the realm of stewardship.

We are grateful for all the leaders who have worked diligently and faithfully in school-year-based activities and are eager to connect at the ELCA Youth Gathering Interactive Learning Center!

**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:**

"The key is this:  
Meet today's  
problems with  
today's strength.  
Don't start tackling  
tomorrow's  
problems until  
tomorrow. You do  
not have tomorrow's  
strength yet. You  
simply have enough  
for today."  
- Max Lucado

**Worship Volunteers  
July August**

**July 7**  
**Lector:** Tom Yanders  
(Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants  
from Council)

**July 14**  
**Greeters:** Kenny and Lisa Lab  
**Lector:** Jerry Gartrell  
**Usher:** Barb Rupe  
**Communion Assistants:** Kenny  
and Lisa Lab

**July 21**  
**Greeters:** John Foust and Wayne  
York  
**Lector:** Marcia Lile  
**Usher:** Dane Smith  
**Communion Assistants:** Dick and  
Myrna Hugh

**July 28**  
**Greeters:** Ward and Linda  
Holdsworth  
**Lector:** Sally Dorn  
**Usher:** Marcia Lile  
**Communion Assistants:** Ward and  
Linda Holdsworth

**August 4**  
**Lector:** Kenny Lab  
(Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants  
from Council)

**August 11**  
**Greeters:** John Foust and Wayne  
York  
**Lector:** Dane Smith  
**Usher:** Tom Yanders  
**Communion Assistants:** John  
Foust and Wayne York

**August 18**  
**Greeters:** Roger and Marcia Lile  
**Lector:** Marsha Smith  
**Usher:** Neil Rupe  
**Communion Assistants:** Barb Rupe  
and Deb Ritneour

**August 25**  
**Greeters:** Lori Rainsberg and Mary  
Lou Westbrook  
**Lector:** John Foust  
**Usher:** Barb Rupe  
**Communion Assistants:** John and  
Barb Sandy

**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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1 12pm - AA Meeting	2 11am - Pastors' Group 6:30pm - Zumba Class 7pm - Property Meeting	3 11am - Free Prayer 6pm - Stamp Club	4 OFFICE Closed	5 Office CLOSED	6 10am - Tractor Pull at
7 9:30am - Worship Service	8 12pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Finance Meeting 6:30pm - Council Meeting 6:30pm - Tusc. Coin club	9 11am - Pastors' Group 6:30pm - Zumba Class	10 1pm - Healing Service 6pm - Pines Mobile Home	11	12 Office CLOSED	13 12pm - Party in the Park
14 9:30am - Worship Service	15 12pm - AA Meeting	16 11am - Pastors' Group 4:30pm - Free Family 6pm - Stamp Club 6:30pm - Zumba Class	17 11am - Free Prayer 1:30pm - Women's Bible	18 Messenger DEADLINE	19 Office CLOSED	20
21 9:30am - Worship Service	22 12pm - AA Meeting	23 11am - Pastors' Group 6:30pm - Zumba Class	24	25 6pm - Christmas in July	26 Office CLOSED	27
28 9:30am - Worship Service	29 12pm - AA Meeting	30 11am - Pastors' Group 6:30pm - Zumba Class	31 5:30pm - Pub Theology at	1	2	3