

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

From the Desk of Pastor Rob

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. – James 1:2-4

And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. – 1 Corinthians 5:3-5

There are many times in our lives where we find our faith tested. We go through rough patches in our lives and we begin to doubt our faith, wondering why these things are happening to us or to those around us and why would God let something like this happen. Our faith wavers and we question it more and more, not sure where to turn next. We think that this suffering is because of something we did wrong, or that “it’s all part of God’s plan.” As for the latter, that phrase is something we need to remove from this context because God never wants us to suffer and would never make that part of any plan for us.

We have all gone through these periods, myself included. Part of my seminary experience was spending a summer as a chaplain intern in a hospital setting. I could have chosen any of the hospital networks in Columbus, but as a newly minted parent, I decided to spend my ten-week internship working at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, a decision that seemed questionable at the time but one that I would never change. As a chaplain intern, I was assigned to two different floors in the hospital, one being the waiting room for in-patient surgeries and the other consisting of the recovery rooms for surgery and the pediatric burn unit. It was a summer I will never forget. It tested my faith and I spent many debriefing sessions with my supervisor wondering why God would let these things to happen to those children and why I was able to go home to a healthy child at the end of the day. My faith was tested to a point that I never experienced. My supervisor recommended a book to me, “When Bad Things Happen to Good People” by Rabbi Harold Kushner, which looks at the book of Job and the story of how he was tested to his limits but yet his faith was still there. That book helped me understand that what I was experiencing was normal and that all the pain, suffering, and hurt I was witnessing and ministering to was not because God wanted them to suffer or because those families lacked enough faith, rather it was because that was the natural course of life.

The TESTING of your
FAITH
PRODUCE
ENDURANCE.
James 1:3, NRSV

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

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

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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

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Prayer Chain

www.emmanuelnp.com

facebook.com/

EmmanuelNewPhilly

instagram.com/

EmmanuelNewPhilly

youtube.com/

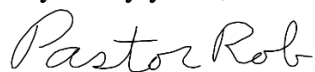
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From the Desk of Pastor Rob continued...

There will be points in our lives where our faith takes a hit because what we are experiencing seems unfair or even cruel. We may question God as to why this is happening to us, what did we do to deserve it or seeing the suffering of others and thinking that it is unfair that they have to endure that while we are better off. We may start to express our doubts but as I said in a recent sermon, these doubts are not meant to weaken our faith, but strengthen it, because we start to dig deeper into what our faith is, looking for the answers that we so desperately want and the proof that we think we need. The trials we face in life are not meant to break us. They may test our will, our strength, and our faith but as long as we remember our faith, we can overcome them. And when it is too much for us to bear, God is there to help carry us through the day. God will never forsake or leave us in our darkest moments. Just as applying heat to steel strengthens it, the pressures and tests on our faith also strengthen it. The end result of all of this is hope, and as St. Paul reminds us, hope does not disappoint and hope will abide alongside faith and love.

Prayerfully yours,



Musical Notes

By Ruth Patrick, Director of Worship and Music

I want to thank everyone who contributed to making our Easter festival service a beautiful and wonderful worship experience! It took a lot of people to decorate, hang the big banners, arrange the flowers, change the paraments, etc. so that everything looked terrific! Many thanks to all our musicians for providing beautiful and inspiring music for us that day. Much preparation time goes into making that all happen and we want you all to know how much you are appreciated!

Anyone who would like to sing with the choir for the remainder of the choir year is welcome to come to rehearsals on Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the downstairs choir room. We will be singing through June 4 and then will take the summer off.

WELCA/Women's Bible Study

By Ruth Patrick

All women of Emmanuel are invited to attend our Bible studies, the next one is May 3 at 1:30 pm in the 2nd floor meeting room, right side of the hall. We will be finishing up our study of the 10 commandments, with numbers 7-10. We have been enjoying studying them and have had some lively discussions at the studies. We welcome anyone to come and join us, materials are always provided for your use. Hope to see you there!

In Appreciation...

Dear Lutheran Friends,
Thank you for your card and your prayers. It has meant a lot to us. I am improving each day. Your prayers are working! Thank you.
Gene and Ruth Joyce

Dear Emmanuel Friends,
Thank you for the pretty bad of Easter goodies and a special thanks to Myrna Hugh for delivering it to my door. It was a nice surprise.
Also, I appreciate receiving the Messenger, bulletins, and sermons in the mail. They keep me informed and the sermons are always inspiring. Thank you for remembering me.
Blessings,
Shirley Yoder

Thank you to everyone for the cards, your thoughts, and prayers! Mom (Beverley) enjoying reading the cards and very happy she hasn't been forgotten by Emmanuel.
Robin Watson

To our Emmanuel Friends,
We were pleasantly surprised when Myrna Hugh stopped by with a pretty Easter card and gift bag filled with goodies from the Service Committee. It's always a blessing to be remembered. Thank you all very much.

In Christian Love,
Bert and Phyllis Kohler

I was so pleased to see the prayer shawl that was delivered to my mother, Lorraine Keplinger. The shawl is made with my mother's favorite colors. She recognized the names on the note, Bert and Phyllis Kohler, which prompted a humorous memory of him at a church council meeting years ago.
My sister and I appreciate the visits to our mother, it helps keep her alert and engaged. A special thank you to Bert.
Karen Kaufman

Emmanuel's Fund Balances

Here is a breakdown of the monetary funds and their approximate balances as of March 31, 2023. (Some remain unchanged due to lack of report from Raymond James)

General Fund ~ \$17,000

(This fund is used for all general monthly expenses, including payroll, utilities, etc.)

Endowment Fund ~ \$192,000

(This fund is used for mission, outreach, and capital improvements to our facility.)

Nancy Phillips Fund ~\$81,000

(This fund has no specific designated use and is used at the discretion of Council.)

M.R. Zuchegno Fund ~\$12,000

(This fund established in 2016 has been used as an 'emergency' fund, providing monies when deficits bring our General Fund balance below \$5,000.)

Property Fund ~\$500

(This fund is used for immediate facility repairs.)

Memorial Fund ~\$19,000

(This fund contains undesignated money given 'in memoriam' and can be used at the discretion of Council.)

Hick's Scholarship ~\$57,900

(This fund is used solely for scholarships to students attending higher education institutions.)

Organ Fund ~\$50,000

(This fund is for the future overhaul of the sanctuary organ.)

In Other News... Annual Church Picnic



Emmanuel's annual church picnic will be Sunday June 11th at Tuscora Park. Worship will be at 10:30am at the park amphitheater, weather permitting, rain location to be determined. Following the service will be a catered picnic

lunch in the pavilion. After lunch, enjoy FREE rides and putt putt mini golf for 2 hours.

The menu is hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, baked beans, and cake for dessert. Tickets go on sale Sunday May 14 or stop in the office during the week. Price is \$10 for adults, \$7 kids (4-11), and under 4 are free. Deadline to purchase is Sunday June 4.

Pastoral Care Visits

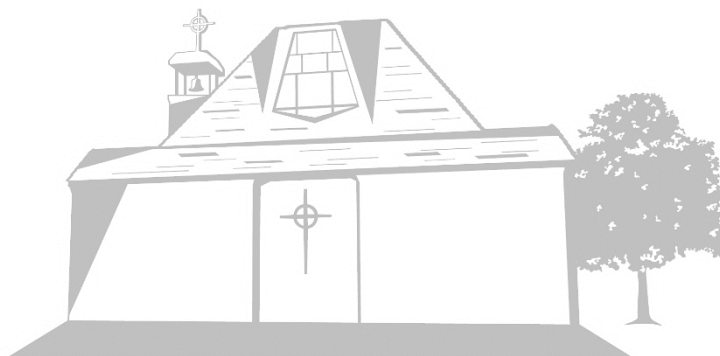
If you or anyone you know would like a visit from Pastor Rob, please call the church office or Pastor Rob to make arrangements. If you can help with visiting and taking communion to shut-ins, please see Pastor Rob.

Wednesdays at Emmanuel

Exciting new and returning events are coming starting this month.

- 2nd Wednesday of the month, healing service with communion at 1:00pm
Join us for prayers, scripture, communion, and a litany of healing.
- 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, Free Prayer with Pastor Rob at Magic Mugs in Dover from 11:00am-1:00pm
This is an opportunity for anyone who wants to talk or pray with Pastor Rob but do not feel comfortable coming to church
- Last Wednesday, Pub Theology at the Broadway Brewhouse, from 5:30-7:00pm

As outlined in previous editions of The Messenger, this takes church out of the building and gives people a chance to talk about the Bible and faith in a casual environment.



December Financials

Income:
\$17,446.26

Expenses:
\$11,900.27

Difference:
\$5,545.99

May
Benevolence:
Big Brothers
Big Sisters –
New Philadelphia



Worship Volunteers

May

May 7
Lector: John Foust
(Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants
from Council)

May 14
Greeters: Dick Hugh (parking lot)
Myrna Hugh (by bulletins)
Lector: Dane Smith
Usher: Barb Rupe
Communion Assistants: Dick and
Myrna Hugh

May 21
Greeters: Butch Baker (parking lot)
Barb Baker (by bulletins)
Lector: Lois Victor
Usher: Tom Yanders
Communion Assistants: John Foust
and Wayne York

May 28
Greeters: Dane Smith (parking lot)
Dorothy Kaufman (by bulletins)
Lector: Sally Dorn
Usher: Dane Smith
Communion Assistants: Neil and
Barb Rupe

June

June 4
Lector: Carole Bates
(Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants
from Council)

June 11 – Church Picnic
Lector: Marsha Smtih

June 18
Greeters: Roger Lile (parking lot)
Marcia Lile (by bulletins)
Lector: Marcia Lile
Usher: Deb Ritenour
Communion Assistants: Butch and
Barb Baker

June 25
Greeters: John Foust (parking lot)
Wayne York (by bulletins)
Lector: Myrna Hugh
Usher: John Sandy
Communion Assistants: Karen and
Rob Sterling

Words of Wisdom
Faith is a living, daring
confidence in God's grace so
certain that you could stake your
life on it one thousand times.
- Martin Luther

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9:30 am Worship Service	1 12pm - AA Meeting 6:45pm - Tusc. Co. Coin	2 11am - Pastors' Group 6:30pm - Zumba Class 7pm - PROPERTY	3 11am - Free Prayer at 1:30pm - WELCA Bible 6pm - Stamp Club	4 6:30pm - Choir practice	5 Office CLOSED	6
7 9:30 am Worship Service	8 COUNCIL Meeting 6:30 12pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Finance Meeting	9 11am - Pastors' Group 6:30pm - Zumba Class	10 1pm - Healing Service	11 6:30pm - Choir practice	12 Office CLOSED	13
14 9:30 am Worship Service	15 12pm - AA Meeting	16 11am - Pastors' Group 1:30pm - Free Family 6pm - Stamp Club 6:30pm - Zumba Class	17 11am - Free Prayer at	18 Messenger DEADLINE 6:30pm - Choir practice	19 Office CLOSED	20
21 9:30 am Worship Service Joyful Noise OFFERING	22 12pm - AA Meeting	23 11am - Pastors' Group 6:30pm - Zumba Class	24	25 6:30pm - Choir practice	26 Office CLOSED	27
28 9:30 am Worship Service	29 12pm - AA Meeting	30 11am - Pastors' Group 6:30pm - Zumba Class	31 5:30pm - Pub Theology at	1	2	3