



Lutheran Church

◀ FAITH IN ACTION ▶

The Messenger

October 2023

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

From the Desk of Pastor Rob

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! – 2 Corinthians 5:17

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. – Ecclesiastes 3:1

Fall is a season of change. As we look outside, we see the leaves on the trees outside changing, going from green to the various shades of yellow, orange, and red. The weather starts to get cooler, or so we hope, and the kids have been back in school for the last month. Our minds start to shift from thinking about the carefree days of summer vacations and relaxation to planning for the impending holiday season and all the chaos that it brings with it.

In the church, it is also a season of change as start to look forward to our events and gatherings coming up this Fall as we start a new year of programming with the return of old favorites Sunday School, the annual organ concert, and Trunk or Treat and starting new traditions with the Blessing of the Animals and potluck and movie nights. This month that culminates in the Festival of Change of sorts with the commemoration of the moment that started the biggest change in the church, the Reformation and Martin Luther's nailing of the 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg.

We have been the church that is closely identified with change historically but in recent history, we have been so resistant to make any change that it has almost become a stumbling block for us. Do not get me wrong, holding on to our traditions is something that we should do, but we should not let it get in the way of being the church today. When we are so consumed with our identity in the past that we are not open to trying new things, we soon be left in the dust as the rest of society races ahead of us.

I have opened my Reformation Sunday sermons with the joke "How many Lutherans does it take to change a lightbulb? Change? What is this change? Why do we have to change?" It seems funny on the surface but it has become a painful reminder of how resistant we are to trying different things in the church. I know of a church that refused to change to the new hymnals twice, first waiting years to switch from the Service Book and Hymnal to the Lutheran Book of Worship and then waiting to switch from that same LBW to the new Evangelical Lutheran Worship book. Resistance to change is part of that congregation's culture.

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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

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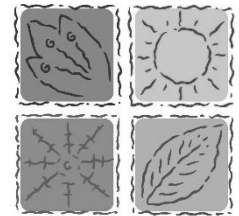
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FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON, A TIME FOR EVERY ACTIVITY UNDER HEAVEN.

ECCLESIASTES 3:1, NLT

From the Desk of Pastor Rob continued...

We cannot let this fear of change prevent us from doing the work of the church in the world. The pandemic has forced us to rethink everything we do in our lives and has brought with it new opportunities to be the church and reach people. Never did I imagine having my sermons and worship services broadcast to anyone in the world who wanted to watch, but here we are. As we go through the changing of the seasons, let us keep our hearts and minds open to the change that God wants to work through us and let us be open to the Holy Spirit guiding us through that change.

Prayerfully yours,

Pastor Rob

Musical Notes

By Ruth Patrick, Director of Worship and Music



Our third organ recital will be presented on Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 3pm. We will have a group of organists and pianists performing classical and sacred pieces and we invite you to attend and encourage friends, family, and neighbors to attend also. A free will offering will be received for the Organ Restoration Fund. As a special part of this event, Luke Tegtmeier of the Schantz Organ company of Orrville, Ohio, builders of our organ, will give a brief talk about the company and our organ. Luke will also be performing in the recital. Refreshments will be served.

The Emmanuel Choir is rehearsing on Thursday nights again at 6:30 pm in the downstairs choir room. We welcome new members any time and if you have questions about joining our group, please speak to Ruth Patrick or any choir member. Rehearsals last one hour and we warm up on Sunday mornings at 9am.

Women's Bible Study

By Ruth Patrick

All women of Emmanuel, your friends, and neighbors are cordially invited to attend our Bible studies, the next one being on October 4 at 1:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room, 2nd floor, right side of hallway. We are beginning a new set of studies entitled "Holy Places". The sacred places in which we encounter God include "home", "sanctuary" and "pilgrimage". This month we will focus on "Home". "We may first think of Home as a physical building, but home can also be the people we call family, our community or our homeland". Come join in the discussion!

For those who subscribe to Gather magazine we will be using the first session in the September/October issue. Copies of the study are always available for those who don't subscribe. Please join us!

In Appreciation...

Thank you for your sponsorship!

Sincerely,
River Valley Antique Tractor Pullers
Association

News from the Service Committee Operation Christmas Child

We have 50 boxes that are available for members to take and pack for the Shoebox project. We will put them in the lobby to be picked up by anyone interested. The cost for shipping has increased to \$11 per box. If you intend to participate, please bring them back by the October 1 date so they can be sent. Service Committee will collect them and transport them to the local pick-up site.

Thanksgiving Baskets:

Donations for Thanksgiving Baskets may be brought into the church for distribution by Nov. 15. Service Committee will pack up boxes to be given to needy families identified by the New Phila Schools. Monetary donations may also be given to the church to defray costs of gift certificates for perishable food.

Share A Christmas

Our church will also continue to participate in the Share A Christmas project by putting up a tree with tags that designate the age and gender of children that members may purchase gifts for. We have always been willing to share our blessings with our community. Share A Christmas is also requesting monetary donations to help with clothing and food vouchers.

What's Happening at Emmanuel

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School with Don Brandt has resumed, Sundays at 8:30am. This year the topic is taking a deeper dive into Paul's letter to the Ephesians. All are welcome and encourage to come!

Kids Sunday School

Kids Sunday School has returned! Sundays at 8:30am in the Kidz Bible School room. Ages 3 and up are welcome!

Blessing of the Animals

Join us on Sunday October 8 at 3:00pm for a blessing of the animals. Bring your pets or livestock to receive a blessing from Pastor Rob. No animal is too big or too small. Service will be outside in the gravel or grass.

Wednesdays at Emmanuel

- 2nd Wednesday of the month, service of healing and 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.
- Last Wednesday, Pub Theology at the Broadway Brewhouse, from 5:30-7:00pm
Join us as we talk about the Bible and our faith over dinner.

News from the Congregational Life Committee

Movie Night

The Congregational Life Committee would like invite the adults of the congregation to a movie night and potluck dinner on Saturday October 14th in the Fellowship Hall. Potluck dinner will start at 5:00pm and the movie at 6:00pm. We will watch the movie "The Girl Who Believed in Miracles." There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby for who is coming and what dish you are bringing. Any questions, please see Barb Rupe.

Trunk-or-Treat

Join us on Saturday October 28th from 5:30-8:00pm for our annual Trunk-or-Treat. This year we are moving it to the evening of trick-or-treating for New Philadelphia to make it easier for families who would like to come. We will be serving hotdogs, chips, hot chocolate, apple cider and water. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby for anyone who would like come and hand out candy from their cars. We will also need help serving the food and extra candy is always appreciated. If you have any questions, please Barb Rupe or a committee member.

Church Picnic

Congregational Life Committee is soliciting input from the congregation on the future of the church picnic, mainly whether to continue to have it at Tuscora Park or move it to outside in the church lawn. Please direct all ideas and concerns on this to Barb Rupe, chair of the committee or other members (Karen Sterling, Wayne York, Deb Ritenour, and Dane Smith).

The Reformation

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- EDICT
- SALVATION
- THESES
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- SACRAMENT
- THEOLOGY
- MONK
- BULL
- HERETIC



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

We are pleased to announce the launch this Fall of “Growing in Faith” here in the Northeastern Ohio Synod!

In the letter to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul writes, “I pray that, according to the riches of God’s glory, you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through the Holy Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.”

Growing in Faith is a ministry within the ELCA committed to fostering learning environments for followers of Jesus to grow in faith as they become more deeply rooted and grounded in love. We believe that lay members of our congregations are integral to healthy discipleship in our churches and communities.

As we launch Growing in Faith, we will be partnering with other synods. Our hope is to soon be hosting classes on the territory of our synod and taught by our own pastors.

Growing in Faith is a series of classes that you can take quickly in sequence or at a leisurely pace as it is convenient for you. Each course runs for 5 weeks and the cost is \$70 per course. The dates and times of these courses will be announced as they become available.

The courses available for registration now include:

- Worship Matters – Zoom 6-9pm – Sept 21, 28, Oct 5, 12, 19
- Christianity in a Lutheran Key – Zoom 6-9pm – Nov 2, 9, 16, 30, Dec. 7
- Introduction to the Old Testament – Zoom 6-9pm – Dec 14, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25

On the schedule to be offered after the new year are:

- Introduction to the New Testament – TBD
- Lutheran Creeds and Confessions – TBD
- Living as a Christian in the World – TBD

You can read more at <https://www.neos-elca.org/growing-in-faith.html>

You can also register through this link: www.tinyurl.com/NEOS-GiF.

For any questions about Growing in Faith, please contact Bishop Laura Barbins (lbarbins@neos-elca.org).



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.

Words of Wisdom:

"God's dream is that you and I and all of us will realize that we are family, that we are made for togetherness, for goodness, and for compassion."

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu

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.

Worship Volunteers

October

October 1

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

October 8

Greeters: John Frank (parking lot)
Joyce Frank (by bulletins)

Lector: Rob Sterling

Usher: Deb Ritenour

Communion Assistants: Neil and Barb Rupe

October 15

Greeters: Dick Hugh (parking lot)
Myrna Hugh (by bulletins)

Lector: Sally Dorn

Usher: Barb Rupe

Communion Assistants: Dick and Myrna Hugh

October 22

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

Lector: Ken Lab

Usher: Dane Smith

Communion Assistants: Ken and Lisa Lab

October 29

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

Lector: Wayne York

Usher: Tom Yanders

Communion Assistants: Rob and Karen Sterling

November

November 5

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

November 12

Greeters: Ward Holdsworth (parking lot)
Linda Holdsworth (by bulletins)

Lector: Jerry Gartrell

Usher: Marcia Lile

Communion Assistants: Ward and Linda Holdsworth

November 19

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

Lector: Tom Yanders

Usher: Tom Yanders

Communion Assistants: John Foust and Wayne York

November 26

Greeters: Dick Hugh (parking lot)
Myrna Hugh (by bulletins)

Lector: Marcia Lile

Usher: Dane Smith

Communion Assistants: Neil and Barb Rupe

