

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

From the Desk of Pastor Rob

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. – Matthew 18:1-3

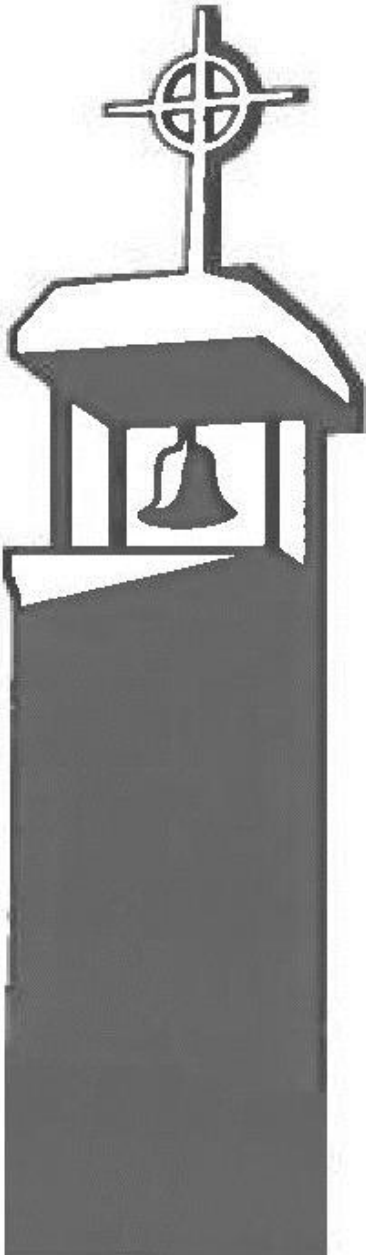
Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” – Matthew 19:13-14

Growing up, one of the phrases I heard frequently as a child in my congregation is “You are the future of this church.” Being so little, I never quite understood what that meant. As parents we like to put these big expectations on our children, saying that the future is theirs and someday they would be the ones in charge, but at age 7 or 8, I was more concerned with toys, cartoons, and sports than the future. Fast forward twenty or so years and I heard that phrase used again but I finally understood what it meant. I was the assisting minister one Sunday when the pastor leaned over to me during the passing of the peace, pointed toward the acolyte and said “The two of you are the future of the church.” At point, I was already making plans for going to seminary after my pastor saw I was meant to be a pastor. He saw the same gifts in the acolyte that he saw me.

I have long been of the opinion that children belong in church, especially in the sanctuary during worship. Many churches will send their children out for Sunday School or Children’s Church during most of the service, but I firmly believe that children belong in sanctuary as well. I remember growing up asking my parents what something meant in the readings or the pastor’s sermon and they would take the time to explain it to me. I remember going up for the children’s sermons, singing in the children’s choir, and being an acolyte, and with each of those opportunities learning more and more about what it means to be a Christian and to be the church in the world. If I was not present in church during worship and having those opportunities, I would not be the pastor I am today, if I would even be a pastor at all.

It has been such a blessing these last nine months having a renewed children’s program here at Emmanuel. If you had asked me a year ago if we would ever bring

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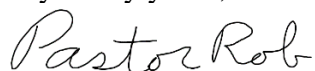


From the Desk of Pastor Rob continued...

back Kid's Sunday School or if I would ever do a children's sermon, I would have probably told you that I did not see that in our future, but here are with a budding youth program full of potential and I have done more children's sermons in the last nine months than I ever did in the previous two years here and in my time in seminary combined. The answers the children give to my questions have been insightful and funny and know many of you get just as much out of those messages as the children do. The sound of children playing in the Kids Zone in the narthex just outside of the sanctuary is a welcome addition to the overall sounds of Sunday worship. Having the children lead the Palm Sunday procession has been one of if not the best highlight of my time here so far.

The Holy Spirit is definitely at work in this congregation and I feel Her at work in our children's ministry. I am excited and hopeful for what the future has in store for us as we continue to grow and thrive well into the future. Who knows, maybe we will have youth acolytes serving on the altar again. We are only getting started here

Prayerfully yours,



Musical Notes

By Ruth Patrick, Director of Worship and Music

The choir season ends on May 26 and once again, I thank the choir for their faithful attendance and participation. We will have special music as often as possible during the summer. Worship for the summer will include using a new liturgical setting, Setting 8, which we think you will enjoy learning and using. This will begin about the middle of June. Accompaniment will be on the piano and there will be song leaders to help us learn the melodies of the liturgy.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy summer!

Women's Bible Study

By Ruth Patrick

Women's Bible study will not meet in June. Our next meeting will be on July 17th, 1:30 PM as usual. Please note the change in date. We had 8 attendees this past month and had good discussions about certainty and uncertainty as related to our faith and lives.

Hope to see everyone in July!

In Appreciation...

I would like to thank all of you in my church family for surrounding me with love and showering me with cards in celebration of my 80th birthday.

Thanks so much,
Pat Barnes

Thank you to our Sunday School teachers, St. Timothy Class – Don Brandy and Kids Sunday School – Heidi Torch, Frank Torch, and Judy Swinehart. Your hard work has not gone unnoticed and we look forward to what you have in store for next school year!

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! We will not be at the June 1 pull.

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.

Dinner and a Show!

Congregational Life is planning an outing this summer to see the production Ruth at the Ohio Star Theater in Sugarcreek with a meal before or after at Dutch Valley Restaurant. The show is based on the book and Biblical person of Ruth. Look for more details in the following months as the date and details are finalized. We are looking going to the matinee showing on either August 10th or 17th.

Gift Card Ministry

Many folks come to us asking for assistance. The church keeps gift cards on hand for this purpose. 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. The people we help are grateful for the assistance and by doing this we are living out the command from Jesus to help the least of these. Please prayerfully consider helping this small but important piece of the ministry that we do here at Emmanuel.



“Do you ever get a bit curious as to what goes on here between Easters?”

Saturday Evening Post
March 31, 1956

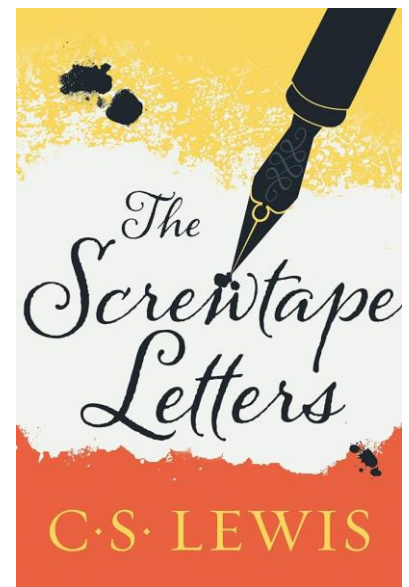


Annual Church ~~Picnic~~ Revival

The annual church picnic will be June 9 here at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Worship will be at 10:30am in the fellowship hall followed by lunch prepared by Dane and Cindy Smith. Music and entertainment provided by Bruce Seevers with a hymn sing to follow the meal. Sign up sheet is in the lobby, please indicate how many people are coming and let Dane know about any dietary restrictions you may have.

Pub Theology Book Study

Starting in June, our monthly Pub Theology group will start on 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.



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.



June 15, 2024 • End of Sunday School Swim Party

Celebrate the end of the school year with us on Saturday June 15 at Wayne and John's house, 2093 Ervin Road NW Dover. Lunch at 1:00 pm and swimming from 2:00-4:00 pm. Bring a covered dish, hot dogs and burgers provided. Bring your family and some friends! RSVP to Heidi at 330- 432-2936 or Judy 330-447-9360.

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.

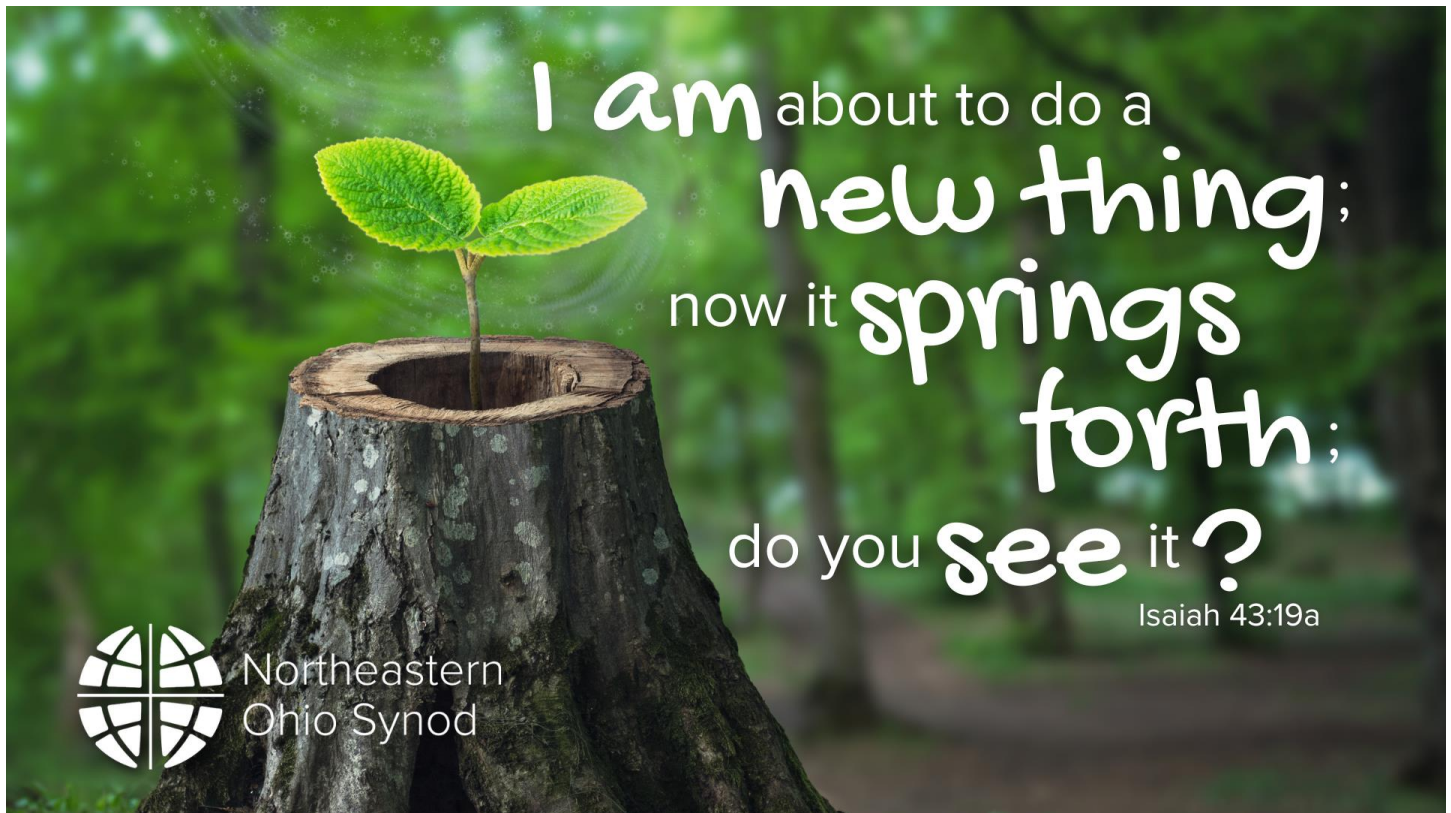
August 10, 2024 • Tall Timbers Swim Party

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 click 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!

Project Isaiah 43 Continues at Synod Assembly



Over the last month, your Synod Staff have facilitated five Project Isaiah 43 events all over Northeastern Ohio! Thank you to every person who took the time to join us in conversation (on some exceptionally beautiful Spring days, we might add). We look forward to reporting out the harvest from our conversations in the near future.

While there will be more specifics communicated to everyone, the theme we heard over and over again was one of hope. Many of our congregation members shared that they have felt the strain of our changing world. We often hear messages of decline, pastoral shortages, and fear about the future, but at these events, participants shared a more hopeful outlook.

"We've mistaken our identity with our traditions," one participant observed, "It's time to focus on WHO we are, not what we've always done." Another person shared a new awareness that their ministry is vital, "It's God's work, we simply plant the seeds."

Participants also shared messages of feeling empowered. "As we look to our Lutheran tradition, the 'priesthood of all believers' is one of the great unfinished parts of the Reformation." If we collaborate more with the body of Christ, there will be a "greater empowerment of folks in congregations to use their gifts," one participant shared excitedly! One person asked, "What if (the current state of the church) is God's plan to help us get out of a 100-year rut? God is calling!"

As we wrapped up the event on Sunday, one person asked, "Could we do this more? Like multiple times a year?" The answer is, of course! There is certainly power in gathering together as a synod to hear what is happening in our neighboring congregations and to get to know our fellow members of the body of Christ.

As for Project Isaiah 43, we will continue the conversations at Synod Assembly on June 1st at the John S. Knight Center. As we are "Waiting and Watching" for the Spirit to Speak, may we be ever mindful that God is already doing a new thing! May our hearts and minds be open to see it.

**Staying
Connected**

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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:**

You can't drive
forward if you keep
looking in the
rearview mirror.
That's why the
windshield is huge,
so look forward.
-Steve Harvey

**Worship Volunteers
June July**

June 2
Lector: Wayne York
(Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants
from Council)

June 9
Greeters: Roger and Marcia Lile
Lector: Myrna Hugh
Usher: Marcia Lile

June 16
Greeters: Neil and Barb Rupe
Lector: Dane Smith
Usher: Deb Ritenour
Communion Assistants: Neil and
Barb Rupe

June 23
Greeters: John Foust and Wayne
York
Lector: Barb Rupe
Usher: Neil Rupe
Communion Assistants: Deb
Ritenour and Wayne York

June 30
Greeters: John and Barb Sandy
Lector: Ken Lab
Usher: Tom Yanders
Communion Assistants: John and
Barb Sandy

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

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 |
|---|--|---|---|----------------------|---------------|-----|
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 |
| | | | | | Office CLOSED | |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9:30am - Worship Service | 12pm - AA Meeting 6:45pm - Tusc. Co. Coin | 11am - Pastors' Group 6:30pm - Zumba Class 7pm - PROPERTY | 11am - Free Prayer at 6pm - Stamp Club | 4:30pm - Food Pantry | Office CLOSED | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 10:30am - Church | 12pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Finance Meeting 6:30pm - Council Meeting | 11am - Pastors' Group 6:30pm - Zumba Class | 1pm - Healing Service 6pm - Pines & Quaker | | Office CLOSED | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| Joyful Noise OFFERING 9:30am - Worship Service | 12pm - AA Meeting | Messenger DEADLINE 11am - Pastors' Group 6:30pm - Zumba Class | 11am - Free Prayer at | | Office CLOSED | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 9:30am - Worship Service | 12pm - AA Meeting | 11am - Pastors' Group 6:30pm - Zumba Class | 5:30pm - Pub Theology at | | Office CLOSED | |
| 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 9:30am - Worship Service | | | | | | |