

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

From the Desk of Pastor Rob

‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ – Matthew 25:21

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. – 1 Peter 4:10

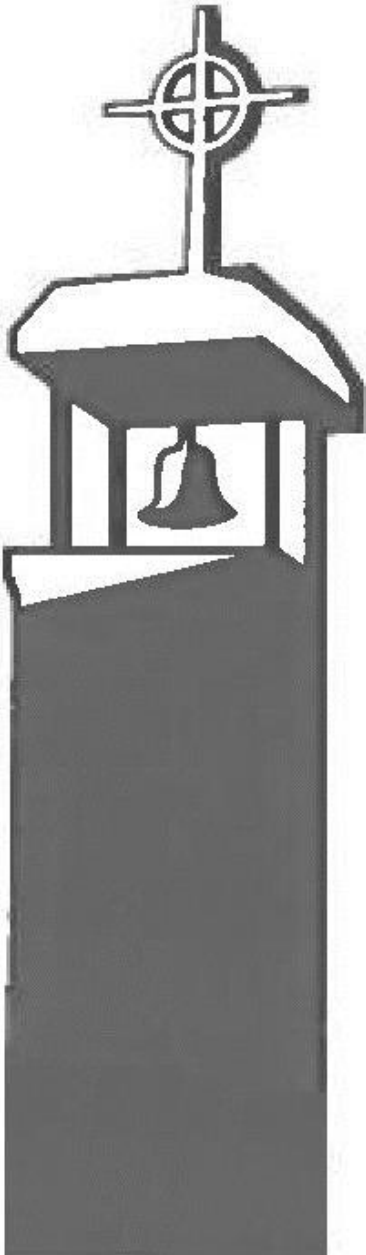
Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

That above prayer is one we often use in worship after we bring up the offering. In that prayer, we offer thanks to God for all that we have been given and in we will use those things to better the world. Those gifts are what we often to refer to as the three T’s of Stewardship; Time, Talents, and Treasures. There is a fourth T that often gets overlooked, that Telling our story, in other words, witnessing or, the dreaded “E” word, evangelism. Yes, stewardship does tie into evangelism because this story, this Good News, is one of the most important gifts we have been given that we need to share with others.

We tend to focus mostly on the “Treasure” aspect but all four of the T’s are necessary for stewardship. As we have come to realize in the last couple of years, volunteers have become an important facet of the function of this congregation and maintaining it on a day-to-day basis. That giving of our time and talents has been an invaluable resource to keeping up on things like cleaning, maintenance, and helping in the office, but it doesn’t end there. We also need people to give their time and talents on our council and committees, helping to maintain the life of this congregation internally and in the community.

This does not mean however that we cannot focus on Treasures. In order for the church to survive and thrive into the future, we need your offerings every week. Costs are going up, which means it will take more resources for the church to be maintained and grow. I know it’s a big ask, especially in this current economic climate, but as we read in Acts 20:35, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” We have been blessed to have received the bequest from the estate of Joan Kollar and as such we need to be good stewards with that resource because afterall, it is

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From the Desk of Pastor Rob continued...

not our money but God's and we are to do what is best with it, and even though we have been blessed with this gift, it does not mean we are not to continue to share our gifts with others.

Throughout the month of August, I will be doing a sermon series on Stewardship, with each week focusing on one of the four T's. After this series, we will start a stewardship campaign in the fall as we get ready to put together the next budget. I will also have Spiritual Gifts Inventory surveys available so that we can see where our gifts are the best to be used in the church.

Emmanuel is our church and we are tasked with shaping its future, so let us get to work.

Prayerfully yours,

Pastor Rob



~ Rosalind Hooker, guest writer ~

I was born into a family of faith, baptized at 2 months, and attended parochial school for 12 years. I was confirmed and married in my family's church. As an adult, I taught Sunday School for 18 years. Over time, I became uneasy with some of that denomination's "policies". As years went by, my husband's increasingly ill health prevented me from attending church. He passed away in December 2017. Three months later, realizing how much I missed church, I went shopping. Emmanuel was my fourth church to try. On my first day here, I was so excited!!! I had found a home. The service is liturgical. Holy Communion is the true Body and Blood of Jesus, not just a symbol. The people were so welcoming, especially Shirley Brug, Emmanuel's Ambassador. Six years later, I am still happy to be here, and, as an evangelical, I bring a friend to church from time to time to experience our goodness.

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.

Youth Summer Events

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!

Altar Flowers

The following Sundays are open for the remainder of 2024:

August 4 and 11

October 13 and 27

November 3 and 10

December 1, 8, 15

Cost is \$20 for one vase and \$40 for both vases. Please sign up on the flower chart in the lobby or call the church office.

We Are Hiring!

The Parish Secretary position is now posted and we are taking resumes and applications. If you or someone you know is interested, please see any member from the Personnel Committee (Don Brandt, John Foust, Tricia Self) or Pastor Rob.



ThursdayThoughts claims to be a weekly peek into my mind where I explore the profane and see God. From the past 6-ish weeks, you would think that I have lost my mind. Perhaps not too far off the mark!

Of course, the truth is that I have gotten distracted by many things and forgotten the one. I am sure that there are others of you that have gotten distracted: maybe from a diet, or an exercise program, or calling your mother, or prayer time?

We get distracted all the time from the things that are good for us. The danger is to say, "Well, that didn't work" and never pick the good thing back up again. Or we become disenchanted with ourselves, hard on ourselves, so that the shame is so heavy we just can't pick the good back up.

This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel
after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their minds
and write them on their hearts,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.
And they shall not teach one another
or say to each other, 'Know the Lord,'
for they shall all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.
For I will be merciful toward their iniquities,
and I will remember their sins no more."

--Hebrews 8:10-12

At the beginning of our Lutheran liturgy we have the opportunity to either engage in a confession and forgiveness or a thanksgiving for baptism. Either of these two rites remind us of the same thing: God loves us, forgives us, and wants us to move forward in the confidence of our redemption through Christ. They are both this moment in our worship where we remember that God does not hold grudges, God does not remember our sins, God does not hold the past against us. Instead, God is forever holding out to us a future with hope.

So, I have to wonder, why do we hold on to our own faults, failings and foibles. Why is it so hard to forgive ourselves?

This week I am practicing self-forgiveness, because God in Christ has first forgiven me. I am restarting this good practice of seeing God in the mundane and writing about it publicly because it is good for me. It's nice to be back in your inbox.

Peace this week,
Bishop Barbins

GriefShare®



This article was originally published in the July 2023 edition of The Messenger

Good Day Everyone,

I am writing to you today about a new program we are going to start at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in the Fall. This program is called Grief Share and it is a 13-week session, it is a Christ centered grief support group program. GriefShare is built around three components which work together to help group members get on the path of healing. The 3-part design every week includes a video seminar and a small group discussion and you also will be provided with a participation guide. GriefShare is for adults who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. During this time during of the program the hope is to get everyone through the 6 signs of healing. These 6 signs of healing do not have an order, but we hope in time everyone will be able to process through those signs of healing. It could take more than one 13-week session to reach the 6 signs of healing. These 6 signs are Accepting, Dealing with emotions, Adjusting, Addressing questions, Continuing and Sharing comfort.

Here at Emmanuel Lutheran Church one of our many missions is to help others. This program can be a great resource to everyone in our church and community. We all have lost someone dear to us, and sometimes do not know how to handle that grief. Grief can be very overwhelming, and this program has not only helped me through my loss of loved ones, but I have seen it help others. Grief is not an easy thing to go through at all. Our church members have seen loss and we want to be able to help anyone that would like help through the process of grieving their loss.

The GriefShare program is set to start hopefully in the Fall we are looking at September. We are in the process of getting the material and training those who would like to help be GriefShare counselors. If you have a desire to be a GriefShare counselor, please contact the church or me Wayne York. This program cannot be successful with just one person, we need our church community to help support this very wonderful and needed program not only for our church, but for our community. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10a says, "Two are better than one...If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."

We have a group set up online through griefshare.org in order for you to sign up for this 13-week program, we will meet on Sundays at 3:00pm starting on August 18 and run through November 10. If you are interested in participating with this GriefShare program as I stated above, please contact Pastor Rob at the church office, or me Wayne York at 919-434-8503 or email me at yorkncsecu@yahoo.com.

In Christ's Love,
Wayne York

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:

We will never change the world by going to church. We will only change the world by being the church.

Worship Volunteers

August

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

September

September 1
Lector: Wayne York
 (Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants from Council)
September 8
Greeters: Kenny and Lisa Lab
Lector: Jerry Gartrell
Usher: Barb Rupe
Communion Assistants: Kenny and Lisa Lab

September 15
Greeters: Tom and Bonnie Yanders
Lector: Tom Yanders
Usher: Tom Yanders
Communion Assistants: John Foust and Wayne York

September 22
Greeters: Dick and Myrna Hugh
Lector: Rob Sterling
Usher: Neil Rupe
Communion Assistants: Dick and Myrna Hugh

September 29
Greeters: Dane Smith and Dorthy Glass
Lector: Barb Rupe
Usher: Dane Smith
Communion Assistants: Marcia Lile and Deb Ritenour

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
28	29	30	31	1 4:30pm - Food Pantry	2 Office CLOSED	3 10am - Tractor Pull at
4 9:30am - Worship Service	5 12pm - AA Meeting 6:45pm - Tusc. Co. Coin	6 11am - Pastors' Group 2:15pm - Worship & 6:30pm - Zumba Class 7pm - Property Meeting	7 11am - Free Prayer 1:30pm - Women's Bible 6pm - Stamp Club	8	9 Office CLOSED	10 11am - Tall Timbers
11 9:30am - Worship Service	12 12pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Finance Meeting 6:30pm - Council Meeting	13 11am - Pastors' Group 6:30pm - Zumba Class	14 1pm - Healing Service	15	16 Office CLOSED	17
18 Messenger DEADLINE 9:30am - Worship Service 3pm - GriefShare	19 12pm - AA Meeting	20 11am - Pastors' Group 6pm - Stamp Club 6:30pm - Zumba Class	21 11am - Free Prayer	22	23 Office CLOSED	24
25 9:30am - Worship Service 3pm - GriefShare	26 12pm - AA Meeting	27 11am - Pastors' Group 6:30pm - Zumba Class	28 5:30pm - Pub Theology at	29	30 Office CLOSED	31