

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

From the Desk of Pastor Rob

“...you, then, that teach others, will you not teach yourself?” – Romans 2:21

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. – James 1:22

We have all heard the phrase “practice what you preach.” I recently mentioned in a sermon that the best way for us to show our faith is by living out what we teach and preach. I was reminded recently of the need for me to listen to what I preach on Sundays.

Story time. We planted a couple apple tree saplings in our yard a couple years ago around this time. As they are quite young, they aren’t very sturdy yet and one of them was knocked over this past winter and broke off at ground level. After it happened, we were not sure what we would be doing to replace it so I placed the broken tree back in the ground in the hole where it was. A couple of weeks ago, Tanya told me she saw buds on the tree, which I thought was impossible since the tree should be dying or dead from breaking. I go into the backyard to look at it and sure enough there are buds on the tree just like the other tree beside it that was still in the ground. I gently pull the tree up from the hole since it was just placed there to find small roots growing from the broken edge on the bottom. I was shocked to see this but also determined to save this tree now. So I dug a deeper hole, placed the posts back in the ground that I removed last year and tied it back up, waiting to see what happens this year.

You may be wondering the whole point of this story. When the tree broke, I was pretty upset because had invested time and energy into getting and planting these apple trees and I thought for sure this was all going to waste now. I did not want to have to get a new tree to replace the broken one nor did I want to dig up the other tree since apple trees need to be planted in multiples in order to produce apples. What I did not take into account was God stepping in to teach me a lesson through this whole ordeal.

In my Lenten sermon series, we talked about the various covenants God made with his chosen people. One in particular was the promise to Abraham and Sarah that life would persist even in the most unlikely of scenarios, this one being a child

Continued on the next page...

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

From the Desk of Pastor Rob

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

Musical Notes

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

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/

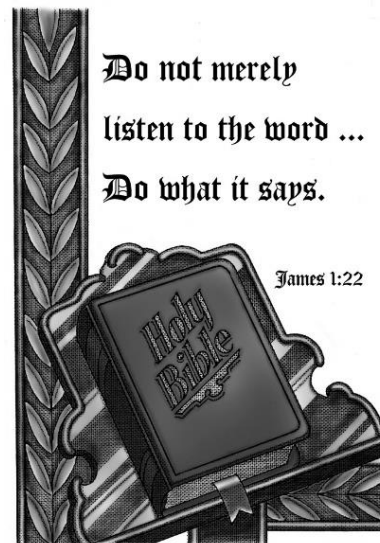
EmmanuelNewPhilly

youtube.com/

@EmmanuelNewPhilly

**Do not merely
listen to the word ...
Do what it says.**

James 1:22



From the Desk of Pastor Rob continued...

promised to Abraham and Sarah, despite their advanced age and the number of unsuccessful attempts on their part. I wrote the sermon, but I clearly was not paying attention to what I was saying to all of you. God used this moment to remind me that I need these sermons just as much as all of you do. And I want to pass this lesson on to you; that we all need to be open to what we are called to share and do with the world because maybe God is using us not just to teach the Good News to others who need to hear it but for us to hear it as well. We cannot evangelize if we ourselves are not open to hearing the same Word of God as well.

Prayerfully yours,

Pastor Rob

Musical Notes

By Ruth Patrick, Director of Worship and Music

I wish everyone a joyous and blessed Easter Season! There are 7 Sundays in the Easter season and we will continue singing Easter hymns during that time, and will continue using Setting 4 of the liturgy, with the addition of the Hymn of Praise (This is the Feast) and a return to the usual Gospel Acclamation. The Psalm will be sung and/or read on various Sundays. If you have a favorite Easter hymn that you would like sung in worship, please let me know that.

It's never too late to join the choir- come and join us on Thursday at 6:30 in the downstairs choir room! We have plenty of space for more singers!

I was asked about the Organ Restoration Fund recently and want to let you know that donations to that fund can be made at any time. Just mark your envelope so that your gift makes it into the correct fund.

Wishing you all God's blessings of peace and joy!

Women's Bible Study

By Ruth Patrick

The April Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, April 17, at 1:30 pm, in the second floor meeting room. We will be using Session 4 in the March/ April issue of Gather magazine, which focuses on food and our faith - who doesn't like to think and talk about food?! See you there!

In Appreciation...

To our church family,
Thank you very much to the service committee for the pretty valentine card and case of lovely flowers.
Thanks to Bonnie and om Yanders for the delivery of the flowers.
It's always a blessing to be remembered.
Thank you to all the church's volunteers for the work they do or have done.

God Blessings to All,
Bert and Phyllis Kohler

Dear family and friends of Emmanuel,
Your outpouring of love and care and concern in recent months, signs of faith in action, are so appreciated - thanks. So many cards, phone and text messages, visits, rides to doctor's appointments, and the feast of foods delivered (better than Door Dash) have been overwhelming. It's not always easy to suddenly be on the receiving end of this kind of ministry - but we are learning how to do it. Thank you to everyone - and as always Thanks be to God.

With our heart filled with gratitude,
Ruth and Pastor Steve Patrick

Thank you to everyone who attended the Wednesday evening potlucks and worship during Lent. We had a wonderful selection of food each night and some great discussion. This year's theme was Created for Community and it was evident the community is flourishing here at Emmanuel. Pastor Rob is looking forward to doing this again next year.



Save the Date: Project Isaiah 43



"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you see it?"

God spoke these words to the people of Israel in exile in Babylon, but there is no reason to believe God isn't saying the same thing to the church today!

Do you wonder what the Lutheran Church of the 21st century will look like? Are you concerned about the future of your congregation or neighboring congregations?

This Spring, Bishop Barbins and the Northeastern Ohio Synod Staff is inviting every congregation to send four people to a Project Isaiah 43 event in your conference! Each Project Isaiah 43 event will include a brief presentation time, but will be heavily focused on conversations as we think together about the future of Lutheran Christianity. The four people your congregation sends may or may not include a rostered staff person - in fact, we are especially desiring the insights of congregation members!

Information gleaned from the Project Isaiah 43 events will be shared with the whole Northeastern Ohio Synod prior to June 1, 2024 as the conversations at these events will flow into what we are doing at our Synod Assembly.

The meeting for South Central Conference is Saturday May 4 at 10am at Zion Lutheran Church in North Canton. Let Pastor Rob know if you are interested.

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.

Gift Card Ministry

Many folks come to us asking for assistance. The church keeps gifts 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.

Altar Flowers

There are openings on the flower chart for April, May, and June. Please sign-up so that we have beautiful flowers on the altar on those Sunday.

Help Wanted

As approved on at the annual meeting in January, we are going to start the process of hiring office and custodial staff. We need a personnel committee to modify the job descriptions and help with interviews. If you are interested or have the skills to help with this committee, please see Pastor Rob or Council President Neil Rupe.

THE BELLS OF EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Bell Choir has returned with rehearsals on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm in the sanctuary! We have a wonderful group of ringers who cannot wait to share their music with the congregation in the future.

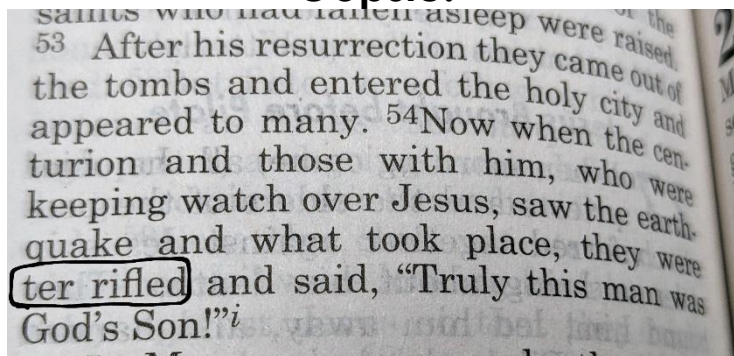
Congregational Potluck

John Foust and Wayne York invite the congregation to a potluck dinner and fellowship time at their house on April 20, appetizers at 4:00pm and dinner at 5:00pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby.

Yodel Community Calendar

The city of New Philadelphia has partnered with Yodel Community Connections to create a city wide event calendar that gives everyone a one-stop-shop to get access to what is happening in our community. Emmanuel has been invited to join this and our events are now being advertised to a wider audience. If you would like to know more about what is happening in New Philadelphia, download the Yodel Community Connections app for your smartphone or go to <https://events.yodel.today/newphiladelphia/community>

Oopsie!



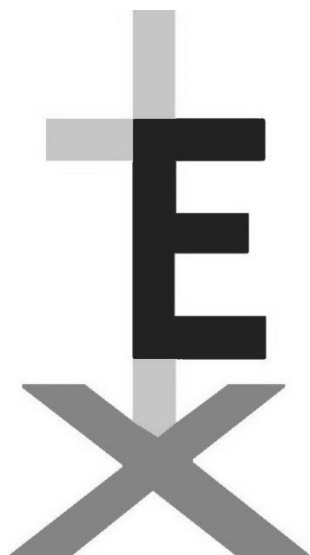
During our last Wednesday Lent Potluck and Worship, while having a discussion on our reading for the night, Pastor Rob was stumped when looking up a passage at the end of Matthew because of the words that are circled in the image above. After stumbling through it, Pastor realized this was quite the typo from the editors of this particular edition of the Bible. Just goes to show that we all make mistakes and sometimes they can lead to lighthearted moments. By the way, if you're stumped, the word should be "terrified".

Writers Wanted

Pastor Rob writes a featured article every month on the front page of The Messenger. If you would like to write something for a future edition, please let Pastor Rob know. The articles can be about anything in regards to our faith, how we live as Christians in today's world or a reflection on a particular Bible passage.

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.



Worship Volunteers

April

April 7

Lector: Ken Lab
(Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants from Council)

April 14

Greeters: Tom Yanders
Bonnie Yanders
Lector: Barb Rupe
Usher: Deb Ritenour
Communion Assistants: Neil and Barb Rupe

April 21

Greeters: Rob Sterling
Karen Sterling
Lector: Rob Sterling
Usher: Tom Yanders
Communion Assistants: Jon Foust and Wayne York

April 28

Greeters: John Sandy
Barb Sandy
Lector: Myrna Hugh
Usher: Marcia Lile
Communion Assistants: John and Barb Sandy

Words of Wisdom:

"The Church is called not only to feed the hungry, but to eat together. When the table is set and all sit down, tables melt away and relationships are formed. That is the beauty of Christ's table."

-Rev. Luke Edwards

May

May 5

Lector: Sally Dorn
(Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants from Council)

May 12

Greeters: Lori Rainsberg
Mary Lou Westbrook
Lector: Jerry Gartrell
Usher: Barb Rupe
Communion Assistants: Ken and Lisa Lab

May 19

Greeters: Ward Holdsworth
Linda Holdsworth
Lector: John Foust
Usher: Neil Rupe
Communion Assistants: Ward and Linda Holdsworth

May 26

Greeters: Dick Hugh
Myrna Hugh
Lector: Marsha Smith
Usher: Dane Smith
Communion Assistants: Dick and Myrna Hugh

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.