



Lutheran Church

◀ FAITH IN ACTION ▶

# The Messenger

September  
2023

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

## From the Desk of Pastor Rob

“God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.” – Martin Luther

“A person is good when they are willing to help others in their need.” – Martin Luther in lecture on Galatians 5:22, LW vol 27

Sunday September 10 is God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday, the ELCA’s annual day of service. As in years past, we will don our yellow shirts, go out into the community and help those in need, proclaiming the good news of Jesus through not just our words but also our actions. These actions show our neighbors who we are as Christians what our mission is, to love and serve others just as Jesus loved and served those around him.

This year, that service is in the form of visiting our homebound members as well as others in the neighborhood and offering to help them in anyway they need around their houses. This is to live out that quote from Martin Luther above, to show our neighbors the love of God. These acts of service, these good works, are not essential for us to be saved, that happened with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Instead, these good works are signs of our salvation and God’s love, we do them because we are saved.

This year, I wrote a devotional for the synod’s devotion book that was distributed to be used in church council meetings. It happened to be placed for the month August and so we prayed on it at our last meeting. I want share a bit of it with you:

“We often think that the work of the church is like that of a business; balance the books, pay the employees, and keep up on building maintenance. But the church is not a business, it is so much more than that. The church is people that are gathered for worship, the people that have been filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the work of the church is not to keep the doors open and the lights on. The work of the church is in the neighborhoods and communities that surround it. The work of the church is to spread the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus and show the same love and compassion to those around us as God has shown for us. The work of the church is never done.

We must never lose sight that the work of the church is not for our benefit and glory but for the benefit of others and the glory of God. And when we’re

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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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youtube.com/

@EmmanuelNewPhilly



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



September 10, 2023

Many hands make easy work. - Martin Luther

From the Desk of Pastor Rob continued...

empowered by the Holy Spirit, we can move mountains and change the world for everyone. That is the mission of the church, the mission that the apostles were given at the Ascension, to continue the work of Christ and spread the Gospel message around the world. That continues to be our mission today as the church.”

As I said in my sermon for Ascension Sunday, there is work to be done. The work of the church will never stop and is not limited to just one Sunday. Our work is to be done every day with everyone we encounter. Spread that Good News, share that love God with everyone. Remember our slogan here is Faith in Action, so let's show the world who we are.

Prayerfully yours,

*Pastor Rob*

## Musical Notes

By Ruth Patrick, Director of Worship and Music



The Emmanuel Choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday, September 7, at 6:30 pm in the downstairs choir room. We are always ready to welcome new singers and hope you will consider joining us this year. Our rehearsals last one hour and we think you will find that this will be an hour of finding peace and joy through singing praises to our most loving God.

Our Fall Organ Recital will be coming up on the afternoon of October 22, with music provided by area organists and other musicians, making an enjoyable time of great music! Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this event! A free will offering will be taken to aid our Organ Restoration Fund.

## Women's Bible Study

By Ruth Patrick

Hello, women of Emmanuel! You're all invited to our next Bible Study on Wednesday, September 6, at 1:30 PM in the second floor meeting room. We will be using the study called A World Wanting Wellness, which is Session 3 in the July/August issue of Gather magazine, if you are a subscriber. There will also be copies of the study available for your use that day and to take home.

Our time together usually lasts from 60-90 minutes. Everyone is welcome to bring a friend, neighbor, relative, or perhaps the person who you always sit beside in church on Sunday morning!

## In Appreciation...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Thank you for your additional donation. Your generosity is inspiring. Your support is encouraging. We march on. Donations are slow in coming in but are doing so.

Sincerely,  
Becky, Dress-A-Child

## What's Happening at Emmanuel

### Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School with Don Brandt will be resuming on September 10 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 is returning to Emmanuel after a long hiatus! More details to come in the e-News, please see Pastor Rob or Hedi Torch with questions.

### 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.

### After Church Coffee

There have been questions about the coffee we have been drinking after church for the last year. We get it from Lutheran World Relief and their partnership with Farmers Market Brands. On the follow pages are info about the coffee. If you like, you can order it online for yourself as well at <https://lwrfarmersmarket.org/>.

*From Farmer  
To You*

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF  
**FARMERS  
MARKET**  
COFFEE

**LWR FARMERS MARKET COFFEE** is a new line of coffee sourced directly from farmers participating in Lutheran World Relief projects.

Every delicious cup helps transform poor communities that depend on their coffee crop to feed their families. Farmers get a strong up-front price for their coffee beans and a portion of the profit. With LWR Farmers Market Coffee, farmers aren't just suppliers of coffee beans, they are partners in the coffee business.



**#SIPBOLDLY**



LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF

**ORDER NOW!**

**877.LWR.MRKT | [lwr.org/coffee](http://lwr.org/coffee)**



# GUSTAVO SAYS COFFEE IS LIFE

Brad LaBriola for LWR

## **GUSTAVO'S FARM IS TEEMING WITH LIFE.**

There are dogs (including puppies), chickens, adult children, grandchildren — and there are coffee trees, which Gustavo says are the lifeblood of his farm.

“An old farmer once told me, ‘Take really good care of your coffee farm. That’s your daily bread.’” Gustavo explains.

There was a time when farming didn’t provide his family their daily bread. He says he used to work as a farm laborer, but that never met his family’s needs. So he worked hard to buy just over 8 hectares (about 20 acres) of land, on which he now grows coffee. Even then, he says, his family struggled. He used to sell his coffee to a middleman, who took most of his profits and left little for him to support his family.

With the help of people like you, Lutheran World Relief began working with Gustavo’s coffee cooperative, SOPPEXCCA, several years ago — helping farmers diversify their crops, better protect their environment and improve their coffee. Gustavo was a founding member of the cooperative and said it was founded so that farmers could get a better price for their coffee and provide for their children. He and other farmers have greatly improved their coffee crops by learning how to nurture a coffee tree so that it yields good quality cherries, how to wait for the cherries to turn bright red before picking, and now farmers have access to better processing equipment — like the wet mill Gustavo uses to remove the outer skin and pulp from his coffee cherries.

“Thanks to coffee, I now have bread for my children and grandchildren,” Gustavo says.

Whereas Gustavo used to work as a laborer on other people’s land, he now works side by side with his sons in his own coffee fields. “I’m very proud my sons don’t have to sell their labor,” he says.

To Gustavo, coffee is more than just a crop.

“Coffee gives us life. Coffee is medicine,” he says. “If the world is passing you by, enjoy a cup of coffee — then get back to it.”

Meet Gustavo and his beautiful family and visit his coffee farm at [lwr.org/coffee](http://lwr.org/coffee).

*From Farmer  
To You*

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF  
**FARMERS  
MARKET**  
COFFEE

 LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF

**877.LWR.MRKT | [lwr.org/coffee](http://lwr.org/coffee)**

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## 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](http://www.tinyurl.com/NEOS-GiF).

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

### Directory Updates

We are updating our directory information. If any of your information has changed in the last few years, please fill out the enclosed form and return to the church office.

### Words of Wisdom:

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."

- C.S. Lewis

## Worship Volunteers

### September

#### September 3

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

#### September 10

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

**Lector:** Myrna Hugh

**Usher:** Barb Rupe

**Communion Assistants:** Dick and Myrna Hugh

#### September 17

**Greeters:** Dane Smith (parking lot)  
Dorothy Kaufman (by bulletins)

**Lector:** Tom Yanders

**Usher:** Neil Rupe

**Communion Assistants:** Ward and Linda Holdsworth

#### September 24

**Greeters:** John Sandy (parking lot)  
Barb Sandy (by bulletins)

**Lector:** Barb Rupe

**Usher:** Marcia Lile

**Communion Assistants:** Barb and John Sandy

## 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.

### 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:** Dorothy Kaufman

**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