

Emanuel First Evangelical Lutheran Church



1001 North Capitol Avenue Lansing, MI 48906
www.emanuelfirst.org; www.facebook.com/EmanuelLutheran
(517) 485-4118

Service Times: Sunday 8:00AM & 10:30AM - Wednesday 6:30PM

Radio Broadcast Sunday 8:00AM on WJIM 1240 on the AM dial

Live streaming 8:00 and 10:30AM follow the prompt on the website

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

Emanuel First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Paul J. Lindloff

Pastor Joel A. Voss

Notes for Visitors:

- **Welcome!** If you are a guest this morning, please fill out a cream colored card. These cards are placed in every pew. One side of the card is for members receiving communion, the other side is for visitors. You may place the card in the collection plate. Feel free to also speak with one of the pastors to introduce yourself or ask any questions.
- **Restrooms** are located in the hallway north of the sanctuary.
- **Nursery Room:** If you need a quiet place for your children, we have a room near the church offices. If you need help finding the room, please ask an usher for assistance.
- **Hymnals:** Use the blue hymn books in the rack ahead of your pew to follow along in the service. If you need help or guidance, please ask someone nearby to assist you.

September 3, 2023

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Pastors' Notes

During this non-festival part of the church year (the Sundays after Pentecost), we have spent time growing in our faith regarding the holy ministry and the characteristics of a Christian. Now our emphasis is on Jesus' church. As we work together for Christ, we ask: What kind of a church does God want?

Today, we hear: God wants a church that takes up its crosses. The Son of God tells us today that if we are part of his Church, we will bear crosses in this life. Believers will still have troubles in this world. Often those troubles come simply because they are believers of Christ. This can be difficult to handle. But believers know the cross Jesus already carried—one too heavy for us to bear, weighed down with our own sin. We carry our crosses because we know that in those moments of struggle, we are forced to turn to Christ and rely on his strength. The church takes up its crosses, because this is the Christian path, the one Jesus himself walked: first the cross, then the crown.



Order Of Worship: Setting Two pg. 172

Hymns.....601 (8:00) *Borning Cry* (10:30); 694; 831; 867
Sermon Theme.....Matthew 16:21-26

Jesus Takes the Difficult Path

Prayer Of The Day

Almighty God, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

- 15 O Lord, you understand.
Remember me and care for me.
Take vengeance for me on those who persecute me.
You are slow to anger.
Do not take me away.
Keep in mind that for your sake I bear disgrace.
- 16 Your words came to me, and I devoured them.
Your words became my joy,
the delight of my heart,
because I bear your name,
O Lord God of Armies.
- 17 I did not sit with the band of partygoers,
nor did I celebrate with them.
I sat alone, because your hand was upon me.
You filled me with indignation.
- 18 Why is my pain unending?
Why is my wound incurable, refusing to heal?
Will you be as deceptive as an intermittent stream to me,
like a source of water that a person can't depend on?
- 19 Therefore this is what the Lord says.
If you repent, I will take you back,
so that you may stand before me.
If what you say is worthwhile and not worthless,
you will be my spokesman.
They must turn to you,
but you must not turn to them.
- 20 I will make you like a bronze wall to this people.
They will fight against you,
but they will not overcome you,
because I am with you to save you
and to rescue you, declares the Lord.
- 21 I will rescue you from the hand of the wicked,
and I will deliver you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Psalm 31

Second Reading: Romans 8:18-25

18 For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. 19 In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. 20 For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope 21 that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

22 For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time. 23 And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. 24 Indeed, it was for this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he already sees? 25 But if we hope for something we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance.

Gospel Acclamation

(Seasonal Verse: God's Word)

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. (Mark 8:34)

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-26

21 From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again.

22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you."

23 But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a snare to me because you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men."

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. 25 In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?"

Scripture taken from: *The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version®* (EHV®) copyright © 2019 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. www.wartburgproject.org. Used with permission.
Cover artwork is a product of Paramentics. © 2014 Ian M. Welch. Used by permission. All Rights Reserved. paramentics.com
The service music is covered under Onelicense.net, license # A-715881.