

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 17, 2023

Sixteenth 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 is quick to forgive. The last few weeks have focused on how believers handle sin among one another. Underneath those instructions has always been the goal of that work: restoration through Christ's forgiveness. Today, the focus is squarely on how we forgive others. We forgive as Christ has forgiven us. Jesus erased your debt of sin by offering his life on the cross. His resurrection means you don't have to doubt that sacrifice worked. In the joy and freedom of forgiveness, you can now proclaim forgiveness to those who have wronged you. You can set aside thoughts of anger or revenge. When this work is difficult return to the truths we've looked at over the last weeks: Jesus *is* the Christ, the Son of the Living God; Jesus gives you the strength to bear the cross of hardship in life; Jesus instructs you to lead believers back to the cross in repentance and for forgiveness.

Next week's readings begin a focus on some of Jesus' parables. We ask our Lord to "tell us a story" that through the spiritual truths in it, we might receive his spirit of peace and power.

Order Of Worship: Setting Three pg. 188

Hymns.....579; 733; 726; 731
 Capitol Choir (10:30).....*Sing and Celebrate*
 Sermon Theme.....Genesis 50:15-21

Am I in the Place of God?

Prayer Of The Day

Lord God, heavenly Father, you graciously forgive us all our sins and abundantly provide for all our needs of body and soul. Give us confidence in your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful to our neighbor, that we willingly forgive all people, and judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him."

16 They sent the following message to Joseph: "Before he died your father commanded us, 17 'You are to tell Joseph, "Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

18 His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, "See now, we are your servants."

19 Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? 20 You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. 21 Now therefore, do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones." He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.

Psalm 103

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:29-5:2

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come from your mouths. Say only what is beneficial when there is a need to build up others, so that it will be a blessing to those who hear. 30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of every kind of bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and slander, along with every kind of malice. 32 Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven us.

5:1 Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. 2 And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Gospel Acclamation

(Seasonal Verse: God's Love)

Bear with each other and forgive one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13)

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?”

22 Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. 23 For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt.

26 “Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, ‘Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’ 27 The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

28 “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

29 “So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ 30 But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.

31 “When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place.

32 “Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?’ 34 His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.

35 “This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

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.