

Emanuel First Evangelical Lutheran Church



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(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.

November 19, 2023

Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

The Pastors' Notes

We are in the last weeks of the church year (a new church year begins with the season of Advent on December 3). These last weeks we focus on The Time Between — the time between when Jesus' did his work on earth and when he will return. During this time we know peace and perfection are ours. Yet we will not know that existence without sin until Christ comes again.

Today, our focus is: A Time for Faithful Service. We have heard the calls to endure (Oct 29), to look to heaven (Nov 5), and to be watchful (Nov 12). The promises we have heard over those last few weeks are what motivate Christians to be busy with faithful service. Christ has blessed every believer with different gifts and talents. Through his gospel message he calls us to use them to give him glory and to serve and love one another. In the time between Christ's first and second coming, we use everything the master has given us to live according to his will and to carry out his mission. May our Lord Jesus feed your faith today, renewing your heart and mind, so you see all the opportunities in your life to use his blessings for faithful service.

Order Of Worship: Setting Three pg. 188

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Hymns.....739; 751; 695; 930
ELS Choir(10:30).....*Jesus Loves Me*
Sermon Theme.....Romans 12:1-8

Renewed Thinking

Prayer Of The Day

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Isaiah 1:10-18

- 10 Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom!
Listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah!
- 11 What do your many sacrifices mean to me? says the Lord.
I have more than enough rams as burnt offerings
and enough fat from well-fed animals.
I am not pleased with the blood of bulls
or the blood of lambs and male goats.
- 12 When you come to appear before me,
who has asked for this from your hands:
this trampling on my courts?
- 13 Stop bringing worthless offerings!
Your incense is an abomination to me.
I cannot stand your sinful assemblies
on the new moons, Sabbaths, and holy days.
- 14 Deep in my soul I hate your new moons and your appointed feasts.
They have become a burden to me.
I am tired of putting up with them.
- 15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you.
Indeed, even though you make many prayers, I will not hear.
Your hands are full of blood.
- 16 Wash yourselves. Purify yourselves.
Remove your evil deeds from my sight.
Stop doing evil. 17 Learn to do good.
Seek justice. Relieve the oppressed.
Seek justice for the fatherless. Plead for the widow.
- 18 Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord.
Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow.
Though they are as red as crimson, they will be like wool.

Psalm 128

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

1 Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy and pleasing to God—which is your appropriate worship. 2 Also, do not continue to conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you test and approve what is the will of God—what is good, pleasing, and perfect.

3 So by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think in a way that results in sound judgment, as God distributed a measure of faith to each of you. 4 For we have many members in one body, and not all the members have the same function. 5 In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us. If the gift is prophecy, do it in complete agreement with the faith. 7 If it is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. 8 If it is encouraging, then encourage. If it is contributing, be generous. If it is leadership, be diligent. If it is showing mercy, do it cheerfully.

Gospel Acclamation

(Seasonal Verse: God's Word)

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. (Revelation 2:10)

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

14 “You see, the kingdom of heaven is like a man going on a journey. He called his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to still another one talent, each according to his own ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The servant who had received the five talents immediately put them to work and gained five more talents. 17 In the same way, the servant who had received the two talents gained two more. 18 But the servant who had received one talent went away, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.

19 “After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 The servant who received the five talents came and brought five more talents. He said, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’

21 “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’

22 “The servant who received the two talents came and said, ‘Master, you entrusted me with two talents. See, I have gained two more talents.’

23 “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’

24 “Then the servant who received one talent came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter seed. 25 Since I was afraid, I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’

26 “His master answered him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! You knew that I reap where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter seed? 27 Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers so that when I came I would get my money back with interest. 28 Take the talent away from him and give it to the servant who has the ten talents. 29 Because everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. But the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 30 Throw that worthless servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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