

Emanuel First Evangelical Lutheran Church



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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.

April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter—Good Shepherd Sunday

The Pastors' Notes

In the seven Sundays of Easter, the paraments (cloths on altar, lectern, and pulpit) are white, symbolizing the holiness and glory of our risen Lord.

The risen Christ is our Good Shepherd. The Fourth Sunday of Easter is set aside to focus on Jesus as our Good Shepherd. Each year we hear from Psalm 23 as well as a selection of verses from John, chapter 10. Both sections of Scripture are known to speak of the Lord as our Shepherd.

Good Shepherd Sunday also begins a slight shift in focus for each service. The readings in the coming weeks begin to focus on our relationship to the risen Christ through his Word. The image of Jesus as our Shepherd teaches us how he protects our souls through the Gospel message of his Word. Our Good Shepherd is faithful. He will raise up true sub-shepherds who know Christ and proclaim the truth of his gospel.

Our hymns today focus on that beautiful relationship with Jesus as our Shepherd. Especially notice how each verse of hymn 552 corresponds to the respective verses of Psalm 23.

Order Of Worship: Setting Three pg. 188

Hymns.....551; 552; 804; 553
 Sermon Theme.....1 John 4:1-6

The Shepherd Is Greater

Prayer Of The Day

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Acts 20:28-32

28 "Always keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. 29 I know that after my departure savage wolves, who will not spare the flock, will come in among you. 30 Even from your own group men will rise up, twisting the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. 31 Therefore be always on the alert! Remember that for three years, night and day, I never stopped warning each one of you with tears.

32 "And now I entrust you to God and to the word of his grace, which has power to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Psalm 23

Second Reading: 1 John 4:1-6

1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit who does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming and is already in the world. 4 You are from God, dear children, and you have overcome the false prophets, because the one in you is greater than the one in the world. 5 They are from the world. That is why they speak from a worldly perspective and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God. The one who knows God listens to us, but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. That is how we can distinguish between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Gospel Acclamation

(Seasonal Verse: Easter)

*I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.
(John 10:14)*

Gospel: John 10:11-18

11 “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired man, who is not a shepherd, does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. 13 Because he works for money, he does not care about the sheep.

14 “I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me 15 (just as the Father knows me and I know the Father). And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I also have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. 17 This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it up again. This is the commission I received from my Father.”

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