

Emmanuel Reformed Church

ROMANS

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024

DIGITAL VERSION

Worship

Prelude: **Praise Team**

God Gathers Us

Call to Worship

Praise Team

Prayers of the People

God Speaks to Us

Children's Sermon

Romans 1:1-17, "Called"

Pastor Cody Raak

The Sacrament of Communion

All who trust in the Lord Jesus for the forgiveness of sins are invited to his Table of grace. Please come down the center aisle, receive the bread and the cup, and return to your seats by the outer aisles.

Praise Team

God Sends Us

*** "Doxology" (#625)**

*** Prayer for Blessing**

*** Benediction**

*** We stand, as able, to worship our great God!**

This Week at ERC

Sunday, January 7, 2024

9a Sunday School Potluck, all are welcome!

10a Worship Service, Communion

Monday, January 8, 2024

7p God's Garden Circle - Connie Tjeerdsma hosting

Kristi Chenoweth leading Lesson 4

Roll Call- "Reveal your 2024 prayer partner"

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

4p LIT Youth Group departs for Rocky+ (Orange City, IA)

6:50p AWANA @ Springfield Bible Church

7p CREW @ ERC Basement

12a LIT Youth Group returns to Springfield

Thursday, January 11, 2024

9-4 *Cultivate Co-Op (formerly Synod Youth) Youth Ministry Conference (Orange City, IA)*

3-5p Church Office Open*

Sunday, January 14, 2024

9a Sunday School for all ages

PreK-6th grade — Church Basement

Jr & Sr High — Parsonage Basement

Adults — Church Basement

10a Worship Service

Romans 1:18-32,

Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons

***The church office will be open THURSDAY this week from 3:00-5 PM.**

Spiritual Disciplines

Rest

DISCIPLINE: SABBATH, SOLITUDE, & SILENCE

*Thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel,
“In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”*

— Isaiah 30:15 —

When we work hard, we get things done. It follows, we think, that if we work harder, we *should* get *more* done. So we force more work, more effort, and more *doing* into our day.

This thinking is proven true, whether we actually accomplish more or not. If we do get more done, then we're correct, and we work even harder. If we fall behind, then at least people see how busy we are, and our effort (and exhaustion) is respected. Ironically, it is often true that the more we attempt, the less we actually accomplish.

But God tells us that our salvation, our strength, is *not* in our own productivity or doing. This goes against our natural way of thinking. Instead, our strength is in rest, in silence, in our faith in God. To say “no” to the incessant demands on our time is to trust that God is always working. Instead of applauding those who seem to get it all done, or chastising ourselves when we can't, we trust the only One who is truly able to “multitask.” God alone works and accomplishes and does, often invisibly, without sleeping (Psalm 121:3-4).

In contrast, God commands us to rest (Exodus 20:8-11). In fact, the day of rest (Sabbath) is the beginning of the week. We start well when we start from rest. Take a break at the beginning of this year. Maybe it's a day (like Sunday). Maybe it's more, or less. Use this time to make space for God to speak, to work. If resting or taking a break is difficult for you, start small. Allow yourself one hour of true rest, to *be*, without needing to accomplish anything.

Emmanuel's Mission

“To serve God and share the message of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Emmanuel Staff

Pastor: Cody Raak (464-4952)
Office Manager: Gwynevere DenHerder (464-7764)

Emmanuel Consistory

Elders

Beth Namminga (*Mission*)

Bryan Nagel (*Worship*)

Lawrence Namminga, Jr. (*Clerk*)

Connie Tjeerdsma (*Hospitality*)

Claudette Heusinkveld

Ginger Pudwill

Deacons

Amy Cooper

Craig Vanderlei (*Treasurer*)

Tom Kolecka

Jeremy Krueger (*Deacon's Secretary*)

Brenda Pudwill

Blane Nagel

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