

Emmanuel Reformed Church

ROMANS

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

DIGITAL VERSION

Worship

Prelude: "Were You There?" #181

God Gathers Us

Special Music: Kerrie Odens

"Jesus Paid It All" #210

Call to Worship

*** "One Day" #170 v. 1,2,4,5**

Mission Update: Words of Hope

Prayers of the People

God Speaks to Us

Children's Sermon

Romans 6:15-7:6, "Freed to Serve"

Pastor Cody Raak

God Sends Us

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

*** Prayer for Blessing**

*** Benediction**

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

This Week at ERC

Sunday, March 17, 2024

- 9a** Sunday School for all ages
PreK-6th grade — Church Basement
Jr & Sr High — NO CLASS THIS MONTH!
Adults — Church Basement
- 10a** Worship Service: Romans 6:15–7:6, “Freed to Serve”

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

- 6:50p** AWANA @ Springfield Bible Church
- 7p** CREW @ ERC Basement (snacks: _____)
LIT @ Parsonage Basement (snacks: _____)

Thursday, March 21, 2024

- 3-5p** Church Office Open*

Sunday, March 24, 2024 - *Palm Sunday*

- 9a** Sunday School for all ages
PreK-6th grade — Church Basement
Jr & Sr High — NO CLASS THIS MONTH!
Adults — Church Basement
- 10a** Worship Service: Romans 7:7-25, “Our Struggle”

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

Spiritual Disciplines

“Fasting for Good”

DISCIPLINE: FASTING

*“Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?”*

— Isaiah 58:6, ESV —

Isaiah 58 challenges us in our practice of fasting. For us, fasting from food is a voluntary, temporary experience. But many go without food regularly, and unwillingly. Fasting helps to deepen our trust and empower our prayers. We looked at these reasons for fasting last week. Isaiah 58 forces us to examine ourselves even further.

In Isaiah 58, God tells his people to deny themselves by practicing his righteousness, including feeding the hungry, freeing the oppressed from their burdens, clothing the naked, and welcoming the homeless. And this call to righteousness and justice comes with a promise. If we do this, God says we will experience his healing and restoration (v.8), his guidance and protection (v.11, 14); also, God promises we will reflect his glory (v.8, 10).

Think about a different kind of fast this week. What would it look like to say “No” to some of the conveniences and privileges you enjoy at the expense of others? For example, examine the kinds of products you purchase online. When we buy cheap clothes (research “fast fashion”!), what is the impact on the people who make them? Or the planet when we throw them away? And what does “free shipping” really cost in terms of the people working in the warehouses or driving the deliveries? What if denying ourselves means reducing our participation in these unjust systems? What might we *gain* if we divest ourselves this way?

Emmanuel's Mission

"To serve God and share the good news of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Staff

Pastor: Cody Raak (464-4952)

Custodian, Secretary: Gwynevere DenHerder (464-7764)

Consistory

Elders

Lawrence Namminga, Jr. - *Clerk**
Connie Tjeerdsma
Claudette Heusinkveld
Ginger Pudwill
Dr. Mel Wallinga - *VP**
Matt Den Herder

Deacons

Tom Kolecka
Jeremy Krueger - *Deacon's Secretary**
Brenda Pudwill - *Treasurer**
Blane Nagel - *Deacons' Chair**
Tom Pier
Jeremy Bertrand

** Admin team: The consistory officers oversee church personnel.*

Emmanuel Reformed Church

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www.emmanuelreformed.com

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