

Emmanuel Reformed Church

ROMANS

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

DIGITAL VERSION

Worship

Prelude: "Alleluia! Alleluia!" #215

God Gathers Us

"Mercy Tree"

Special Music - Kerrie Odens

Call to Worship

*** "Our God Reigns" #229 v. 1-5**

Prayers of the People

God Speaks to Us

Children's Sermon

Romans 8:18-25, "What are you waiting for?"

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, April 21, 2024

- 9a** Sunday School for all ages
PreK-6th grade — Church Basement
Jr & Sr High — Parsonage Basement
Adults — Church Basement
- 10a** Worship: Romans 8:18-25, "What are you waiting for?"
- 7p** Praise Team Practice

Monday, April 22, 2024

- 7:30p** Consistory Meeting (lunch/prayer by Blane Nagel)

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

- 7p** CREW @ ERC Basement (snacks: _____)
LIT @ Parsonage Basement (snacks: _____)

Thursday, April 25, 2024

- 3-5p** Church Office Open*

Sunday, April 28, 2024

- 9a** Sunday School for all ages
PreK-6th grade — Church Basement
Jr & Sr High — Parsonage Basement
Adults — Church Basement
- 10a** Worship: Romans 8:26-30, "How to Pray without Ceasing"
Compassion Sunday
- 7p** Praise Team Practice

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

Spiritual Disciplines

Celebrating the Right Things

DISCIPLINE: CELEBRATION & HOSPITALITY

**“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.**

**“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you shall be satisfied.**

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.”

— Luke 6:20-23, *ESV* —

Celebration is a vital discipline for disciples of Jesus and citizens of his kingdom. It makes the whole life he gives us vibrant with joy and energy and strength. But it requires *discipline* because we easily celebrate the wrong things.

“It is important to avoid the kind of celebrations that really celebrate nothing. Worse yet is to pretend to celebrate when the spirit of celebration is not in us.”

— Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline* —

We celebrate above all the grace of God at work in our lives to forgive us, sustain us, and transform us in Christ Jesus. This means we can rejoice even in suffering (Romans 5:3).

“Even those commonly thought to be ruined (Luke 6:20-23; Matt. 5:3-12) — the poor, the depressed, the persecuted — have a godlike well-being in his company and Kingdom.”

— Dallas Willard, *The Spirit of the Disciplines* —

There are an abundance of celebrations coming up: graduation parties, end-of-school/start-of-summer trips, weddings and wedding anniversaries, etc. And these are all good opportunities to practice celebration. Sharing our joy with each other and celebrating accomplishments with gratitude is a beautiful expression of our love for each other. Lean into these occasions as time with God.

But in the midst of the many celebrations going on, continue to practice celebrating God’s faithfulness and graciousness. Pray your thanks, and proclaim his goodness to others.

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**](http://www.emmanuelreformed.com)

[**www.youtube.com/@emmanuelreformedchurch2022**](https://www.youtube.com/@emmanuelreformedchurch2022)

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