

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH PO Box 282 308 4th Avenue Grafton, Iowa 50440 Office: 641-748-2736 emanluthch@wctatel.net www.emmanuelgrafton.org

Interim Pastor: Pastor Paul Weeg

Musician: Will Bartz

Lay Reader: Brooke Stiles

15th Sunday after Pentecost September 10th, 2023



P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. We begin our worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit **C: Amen**

A Litany of Praise

P: Hear, O children of God, You who are child or adult, teacher or learner, You who live at home or away You who come to worship and learn.

C: We have gathered here to worship the Lord our God, the Lord alone!

- P: Hear, O children our God You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.
- C: We will recite them to our children and talk about them at home and at church. We will meet to hear and respond to God's voice.
- P: Through the generations, God continues to speak to us in the wonders of creation, in the stories from the Bible, and through the living Christ, who taught us to journey together, following God's ways.
- C: We will share God's message in our teaching and learning settings.
- P: "O Lord, how manifold are your works. In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures." God's creative work goes on in each generation. When we hear and share God's good news, God's creative power bubbles up in ways we could never imagine. Come; gather around to see what God will do!

- C: Surprising God, you call forth each generation to hear and share your good news of salvation. Inspire us and equip us through this new year to become people who know and love you, who interpret your word for today, who belong to your gathered community, the church, and who share your good news with joy.
- P:May our God bless us, bless these resources for teaching and learning, and make us a blessing at home, across the street, and around the world.

Gathering Song:

Come Thou Fount

Come, thou Fount of every blessing tune my heart to sing thy grace streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it mount of God's unchanging love

Here I raise my Ebenezer hither by thy help I'm come and I hope, by thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God he, to rescue me from danger interposed his precious blood

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be Let that grace now, like a fetter bind my wandering heart to thee Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it prone to leave the God I love here's my heart; O take and seal it seal it for thy courts above

A Litany for Sunday School

P: We celebrate our new year of Sunday school.

C: We celebrate its message of love and grace, healing, and hope.

P: We celebrate the chance to learn about the Bible, God's story.

C: We celebrate the many ways we can respond and share this story.

P: For teachers who offer their time and talents to teach about and encounter God with others.

C: We give you thanks, O God.

P: For congregations who support the faith nurture of their children,

C: We give you thanks, O God.

P: For parents and caregivers who nurture and respect their children at home,

C: We give you thanks, O God.

P: For children who come with energy and enthusiasm,

C: We give you thanks, O God.

P: We dedicate this Sunday school year to you, O God, and pray that, through it, we will grow as followers of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God. AMEN.

Installation of Sunday School Teachers

Song:

Less Like Me (Zach Williams)

Oh, I have days I lose the fight Try my best but just don't get it right Where I talk a talk that I don't walk And miss the moments right before my eyes Somebody with a hurt that I could have helped Somebody with a hand that I could have held When I just can't see past myself, Lord help me be A little more like mercy, a little more like grace A little more like kindness, goodness, love, and faith A little more like patience, a little more like peace A little more like Jesus, a little less like me

Yeah, there's no denying I have changed 'Cause I've been saved from who I used to be But even at my best, I must confess I still need help to see the way You see Somebody with a hurt that I could have helped Somebody with a hand that I could have held When I just can't see past myself, Lord help me be

A little more like mercy, a little more like grace A little more like kindness, goodness, love, and faith A little more like patience, a little more like peace A little more like Jesus, a little less like me

Oh, I wanna feed the beggar on the street Learn to be Your hands and feet Freely give what I receive, Lord help me be I want put You first above all else Love my neighbor as myself In the moments no one sees, Lord help me be

A little more like mercy, a little more like grace A little more like kindness, goodness, love, and faith A little more like patience, a little more like peace A little more like Jesus, a little less like me A little more of living everything I preach A little more like Jesus, a little less like me

First Reading: Deuteronomy 6:5-9

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Psalm 78:1-7, read responsively:

P: Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.C: I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

P: That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, we will not hide from their children.

C: We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, and the wonderful works he has done.

P: He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, which he commanded them to teach their children;

C: that the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

P: so that they might put their trust in God, and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Song:

Praise to the Lord (Shane & Shane)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation O my soul, praise Him, for He is my health and salvation Let all who hear, now to His temple draw near Join me in glad adoration Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning

Sheltering you under His wings, and so gently sustaining Have you not seen all that is needful has been Sent by His gracious ordaining? Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you Ponder anew what the Almighty can do If with His love He befriends you Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee God of glory, Lord of love Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee Op'ning to the Sun above

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee God of glory, Lord of love Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee Op'ning to the Sun above We adore You Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him Let the Amen sound from His people again Gladly forever adore Him

Gospel Lesson: Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Homily

Song: The Creed (to the tune of "The Scarlet Tide" by Allison Krauss) Words by Merlin Bartz

Oh I believe in God the Father, Creator of both earth and Heaven; Of all things seen and those unseen; of things to come and what has been. My soul and body and their powers, He gave to me and still preserves from day to day with mercy and with love.

Praise to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit; Equal in glory and yet three in one.

And I believe in Christ the Savior; God's only Son, my Lord;Born of the virgin Mary mild, conceived divinely, yet a child.He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified and died,And from the grave He arose to save.

Praise to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit; Equal in glory and yet three in one.

And I believe the Holy Spirit gives life to me without my merit; Proceeding from the Father, Son; worshipped and glorified as One. He calls and sanctifies my being, enlightens with good gifts receiving; Unites the church on earth in one true faith. Praise to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit; Equal in glory and yet three in one.

Praise God from whom all blessing flow. Let all the hosts in heaven Join praising Him with creatures here below

Collection of the Offering

Prayer of the Church

P: Living God, You are the beginning of our journeys, our guide, and our destination.

C: We remember our relatives and mentors, leaders and teachers who led us to faith by singing us songs and telling us Bible stories, by welcoming us and accepting us, by praying for us without our knowing and by showing us how to follow Jesus.

P: You have been faithful to your people generation to generation. Help us pass your faithfulness on the next generation.

C: Today, we are dedicating ourselves and this year of Sunday school to you. May learning and worshiping together inspire us so that we share your good news with joy and confidence. Equip us to be diligent in faith-sharing at home, and nurture us to become passionate followers of Jesus Christ.

Lord's Prayer

Closing song:

The Blessing (Kari Jobe)

The Lord bless you and keep you. Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.

Amen, Amen, Amen

The Lord bless you and keep you. Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.

Amen, Amen, Amen

May His favor be upon you and a thousand generations And your family and your children and their children

May His presence go before you and behind you and beside you. All around you and within you. He is with you, He is with you.

In the morning, in the evening, in your coming and your going In your weeping and rejoicing, He is for you, He is for you

He is for you (repeated 8 times)

Amen, Amen, Amen

Thank you... to Will Bartz for sharing his musical talent in today's service. What a great way to lead us into the new Sunday School year!

Thank You and Welcome to this year's Sunday School Teachers, the work you do will provide blessings to these students that will last their entire lifetime.

Welcome...to all who worship with us this morning, Please join us for a time of light refreshments and conversation following the service.

Pray for...all those returning to school and those preparing for the harvest.

For Pastoral Care ...contact Pastor Weeg at 641-381-0675 or Sharon Hulshizer at the office or at 641-425-7775.

Tomorrow... is Pastor Weeg's 75th birthday. We wish him a very *"Happy Birthday!"* and thank him for his work with us at Emmanuel!

This Week at Emmanuel September 11 th – 17 th , 2023		
Wednesday, Sept. 13th	5:30-7 pm	AWANA club
	7:00 pm	Choir cancelled until further notice
Thursday, September 14 th	7:00 pm	Church Council
Sunday, September 17 th	9:30 am	Worship with baptisms (Noisy Offering)
	10:40 am	Fellowship
	10:40 am	Sunday School classes begin
Offering: September 3, 2023		Attendance: 72
General Fund: \$ 7,150.34		Benevolence: \$ 55.00
Building Fund: \$ 130		Food Bank: \$ 50
Campership Fund: \$50		

Mark Borchardt... is a patient at the Osage hospital, Room 104 and welcomes visitors. His time there is indefinite as he is receiving IV antibiotics throughout the day as he recovers from foot surgery and infection.

Worth County Public Health Flu Clinic...*Monday, September 11th 9-10 a.m.* at the *Grafton Community Center*. Call 641-324-1741 with questions.

Blood drive...*Thursday, Sept.* 14th from 1:30-5:30 p.m. at the Worth County Fair Grounds Community Room. To set up an appointment, call Bob Perry at 641-324-2252.

Drive-thru Pork Loin Sandwich Supper, *Visitation Catholic Church in Stacyville*, Sunday, *September 17th*, *4-6 p.m.*, Free will offering. Pork Loin sandwich, bbq baked beans, chips, cookie, water, or milk. Games, raffle baskets, and the Mitchell County Dairy Trailer from 2-6 p.m.

Worth Co Historical Society Annual Meeting...September 19^{th} at the Worth County Fairgrounds community room. 6 p.m. meal followed by guest speaker, Dave Holstad. Tickets are \$25 payable at the door. Reservations by Sept 12^{th} if you would like the catered meal by Signatures Supper Club. (More info on bulletin board)

Bethel's Annual Chicken and Noodles...*September 20th 4:30-7 pm.* at *Bethel United Methodist Church* in Manly. Chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, corn, coleslaw, fruit salad, pie, and drink. \$9/adults; \$6/K-12; Preschool -Free. Take out available upon request.

Lutheran Retirement Home Auxiliary Fall Festival Fair...Saturday, September 23rd from 9-11 a.m. Baked goods, produce, crafts. Drawing for a quilt and other prizes! Join us for coffee and cookies, too!

Deer Creek Pork and Corn Feed...*Thursday, September 24th 4:30 p.m.-gone.* At South Square (St Ansgar), drive thru style. Pulled pork sandwiches, Johann's sweet corn, beans, cookie, plus the Mitchell County Dairy ice cream trailer! Free Will Offering.