

Greetings Saints of Emmanuel:

This past Sunday we heard from our Lord Jesus that he came to bring division to this world. Hearing these words is probably a surprise for many of us and for most in our culture. But as I preached, Christ on the cross *is the dividing line* for all of mankind. On one side of him are all those who join with the thief who mocked him as he hung dying. On the other side are all those who join with the thief on the other side, who confess that Jesus did not deserve punishment, but that we do.

There is therefore good & bad division. We want to be divided *with Jesus*; we do not want to be divided *against Jesus*.

There is the sort of division that crept in and infected the ELCA, which to put it in as crisp of terms as possible, essentially said that God's Word is unreliable, and that fidelity in marriage isn't necessary. And so, this congregation, by joining herself to the NALC, said that, "No, in fact, God's Word *is reliable*, and that fidelity in marriage *is necessary and good*."

Just as Jesus did, we want to have fidelity towards God and towards each other. This fidelity and love that Jesus has contains both his fullness of mercy and the fullness of his call to the world to repent. No one is free to sin. No one is outside of the possibility of God's mercy. Rather than these two -- mercy & repentance -- being a contradiction, it is the only way that forgiveness is possible. What would God's mercy mean if there was no need for repentance? If our actions didn't matter, what would be the need for forgiveness? But as it turns out, our actions mattered enough to send Christ to the cross, and it's there that he divides the world into those who place their hope in him, and everyone else.

Watch this past Sunday's sermon [here](#) or read it [here](#).

In Christ our Lord,
+ Pastor Justin Baker

Newsworthy

ELC women kindly ask for your monetary support for our graduate and youth for the quilting materials. Please mark "Quilts" on the check byline and on the envelope. The cash or checks can be made out to the Emmanuel Lutheran Church Women, the ELCW, or to the church. Thank you! ~ Jeanne Yargar

Updated information for the seminary student, Caitlin Nobile, and how to give directly to her, is posted on the Narthex signup board.

Look up! The steeple is painted! All areas near the roof that needed painting are painted. Thanks to Todd & family for their help doing this.

For a recap of Lutheran Week--including officers elected, constitution & bylaws updates, and the theme of being a disciple-making church body--[click here](#).

Click [here to watch Ilana's](#) Violin Concert from this past Sunday.

Click [here for the NALC's mission & values](#), and to see the updated website.

NALC Mission Workers

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Thorstad and his wife "Moon" of Laos (follow [this link](#) to learn more about the ministry of the Thorstads); and Dure Negassa, representing the ministry and work of the Rev. Dagaga Gemachu of Kenya (follow [this link](#) to learn more about the ministry of Dure Negassa and the Rev. Gemachu).

Bulletin for this Sunday

[Click here to read.](#)

Upcoming

This Sunday: Final Outdoor Worship Service

Potluck to Follow Service

No Saturday setup. We'll begin setting up 8AM Sunday. Bring a potluck (brunch, lunch, etc.!) dish/item.

Discipleship met today, August 20, 10AM

Council met today, August 20, 11:30AM

Next Week, August 27, 11AM, Zoom

Prayer Group

As it will be the fourth Wednesday of the month, join Zoom for *prayer group*, led by Julie.

Christianity on Film: Bonhoeffer, Saturday, August 30

The Bakers, 1-3PM

Signup posted in the Narthex on the Signup Board. [Click here to watch the trailer for the movie.](#)

Sunday School in September

- One Month Sunday School Class on Philemon Launches in September

- Catechesis Class will finish The Apostles' Creed during September

Oktoberfest, September 27, 11AM-2PM

Please sign up to volunteer. We'll need help with grilling, with drinks, with setup and cleanup, and, of course, for potluck of German-style food. Signup is posted in the Narthex.

Mission District Convocation, October 18, ~8AM-3PM

We're hosting the mission district convocation. This will be a big one, because we're finalizing the mission district's constitution to move from being a mission district to a mission region (composed of four districts). Bishop Dan Selbo will be the guest speaker for the convocation and will be preaching the following Sunday here at Emmanuel.

As hosts, we'll need help grilling, greeting, serving. Signup to help will be posted. There will be a Stuff the Truck. More details to come.

Last Sunday's Service

[Click here to view the service.](#)

Let Us Pray

Prayers for Mission Workers

- For the Omars and their ministry among Muslims in the Atlanta region; for the Thorstads in their work in Laos & Thailand; and for Dure Negassa the Rev. Gemachu in their ministry in Kenya among the Oromos.

Prayers for those in need of Intercession

David Weihe, Linda Casper, Vince Berardinelli, George & Donna Campagna, Gary Kral, Mary Lou McDonald, Gayle Wertz, June Ugen, Debbie Pritts, Dick & Sandy Lester, Lori, Aurelia, Rachael, Adam, Aria, Ray, Don, Jeff, David, Cathy, Leila, Grace, Darin, Alice, Keith, Victoria, Zachary, Kevin, Levi, Mervin, Shawn, Lynn, Ginny, Roger, Betty, Zac, Les, Kenny, Gary, Linda, Michael, Missy, Jim, Bonnie, Tony, Sarah, Denise, Harry, Millicent, Stephanie, and Ruthie.

Prayers of Bereavement

Most blessed and Holy God, we laud and magnify your gracious power that brings the resurrection of Jesus to all who call upon his name. We implore you to remember the family of Rob Greenleaf, the family of Lois, and the family of Beverly.

Prayer for this Church

We pray that you will fill this congregation with the faith that endures unto life eternal. We pray that you make us one people united in prayer. We pray that you will send families, children, widows & widowers, the elderly, and any others into our midst, that they may also be filled with faith, encourage this congregation, and bring honor and glory and praise to your name.

Our Practice of Holy Communion

St. Paul writes: “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.” (1 Corinthians 11:27–28, ESV)

Not one of us is worthy *on our own merit* to receive our Lord Jesus. Nevertheless, he bids us to come to him all the same (Matthew 11:28-30). And so, trusting his great mercy, *anyone* may come to him *in faith*, having examined oneself according to this confession:

All who are baptized in the name of the Triune God, believe in the real presence of Jesus in the bread and the wine of Holy Communion, and are repentant of their sins are welcome at the Lord’s Table.

All others may come forward for a blessing, signaling this by crossing your arms over your chest.

+ + +

Have more pictures from any of our events? Send them our way -- don't want to leave you out!



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