



... how often should
I forgive?
"Not **SEVEN** times,
but, I tell you,
SEVENTY
times.
SEVEN"

Matthew 18:21-22

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Sunday Worship: 10:00am - Bible Class 11:15am



A member congregation of the *Church of the Lutheran Confession*

✠ Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✠

September 17, 2017

Pre-Service Meditation – Psalm 116:12-19

¹² What shall I render to the LORD For all His benefits toward me?

¹³ I will take up the cup of salvation, And call upon the name of the

LORD. ¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the LORD Now in the presence of all

His people. ¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His

saints. ¹⁶ O LORD, truly I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son

of Your maidservant; You have loosed my bonds. ¹⁷ I will offer to You

the sacrifice of thanksgiving, And will call upon the name of the

LORD. ¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the LORD Now in the presence of all

His people, ¹⁹ In the courts of the LORD's house, In the midst of you,

O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

Hymn #10 – This is the Day the Lord Hath Made

Invocation – p. 5

[We invoke (call upon) the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit]

Confession & Absolution – pp. 5-6

[We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness]

Introit – Ps. 130:1–2, 7–8; antiphon: Ps. 130:3–4

[Having received the Lord's forgiveness, we are glad to enter into His courts with praise and thanksgiving. This entrance is made in the Introit with the Lord's own

Word, often from the Psalms.]

P If You, LORD, should mark iniquities,

C O Lord, who could stand?

P But there is forgiveness with You,

C That You may be feared.

P Out of the depths

C I have cried to You, O LORD;

P Lord, hear my voice!

C Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

P O Israel, hope in the LORD; For with the LORD there is mercy,

C And with Him is abundant redemption.

P And He shall redeem Israel

C From all his iniquities.

P If You, LORD, should mark iniquities,

C O Lord, who could stand?

P But there is forgiveness with You,

C That You may be feared.

Gloria Patri – p. 6

[Latin for “Glory to the Father” ~ We glorify the Triune God]

The Kyrie – p. 7

[Greek for “O Lord” ~ We approach our Lord with a cry for help and mercy]

Gloria in Excelsis (Hymn #237 v. 1)

[Latin for “Glory in the Highest” ~ A hymn glorifying and praising our God]

All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended;
God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again;
Oh, thank Him for His goodness!

The Collect for the Day – p. 9

[The main thoughts for the day are “collected” together in this prayer]

Old Testament Reading – Proverbs 24:14-20

¹⁴ So shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul; If you have found it, there is a prospect, And your hope will not be cut off. ¹⁵ Do not lie in wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; Do not plunder his resting place; ¹⁶ For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity. ¹⁷ Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; ¹⁸ Lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him. ¹⁹ Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the wicked; ²⁰ For there will be no prospect for the evil man; The lamp of the wicked will be put out.

The Gradual – Psalm 133:1, 3b; 147:3

[A liturgical response of Scripture verses.]

- P** Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
- C** For brethren to dwell together in unity!
- P** For there the LORD commanded the blessing–
- C** Life forevermore.
- P** Alleluia. He heals the brokenhearted
- C** And binds up their wounds. Alleluia.

Triple Hallelujah – p. 10

[Hebrew for “Praise the Lord” - We Praise God for giving us His Word.]

Epistle Reading – Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵ for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; ⁷ just as it is right for me to

think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. ⁸ For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. ⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Confession of Faith - Apostle's Creed p. 12

[We boldly confess what we believe]

Hymn #342 – Chief of Sinners Though I Be

Sermon Text – Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”
²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. ²³ “Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ “And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ “But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. ²⁶ “The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ²⁷ “Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ “But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ ²⁹ “So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ³⁰ “And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹ “So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. ³² “Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ³³ ‘Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ ³⁴ “And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. ³⁵ “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

Sermon Theme – Forgiveness Follows Forgiveness

Offertory – p. 12

[In this prayer we offer God our hearts, asking Him for the best of all gifts: the Holy Spirit]

Offering of Thankful Hearts

[With thankful hearts, we offer our gifts to God]

General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

[We offer our petitions and thanks to God]

Hymn #652 – I Lay My Sins on Jesus

Prayer for the Church – p. 14

[We ask God to bless what we have heard and learned today]

The Benediction – p. 14

[We receive God's blessing for another week]

Hymn #32 – Redeemed, Restored, Forgiveness

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✠ Announcements ✠

Sunday Bible Class – Following the worship service today, we will take up a study of Luther and the Reformation.

Fall Delegate Conference – The fall MN Delegate Conference will be held today at Grace Lutheran Church in Sleepy Eye, MN. The conference will go from 3:00-7:00 pm. John Meyer and Don Auel are serving as our delegates, but the conference is open to anyone who would like to attend. The conference includes two presentations: 1) *WELS/ELS Update* (Pastor David Schierenbeck – Berea, Inver Grove Heights); and 2) *Mission Outreach to Underprivileged/Minority Populations* (Mr. David Rust – Grace, Fridley).

Midweek Bible Class – Our Midweek Bible Class continues Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Our topic is “St. Paul, His Life and His Letters.” Come join us at the parsonage or online on our youtube site: <https://www.youtube.com/user/BethelLutheranCLC/live>.

Quarterly Voters' Meeting – Our next Voters' Meeting is scheduled for Sept. 24th following the worship service. A fellowship meal will follow the meeting.

Reformation Celebration - This October we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation and the important doctrinal truths it has and continues to faithfully proclaim. We will be focusing on five unique and important doctrines of the Reformation, through a "pastor exchange" with other CLC congregations in Minnesota. We will study the doctrines of Justification (J. Naumann), the Means of Grace (J. Hein), the Theology of the Cross (R. Sauers), Vocation (N. Mayhew), and the Two Kingdoms (D. Baker). Each pastor will rotate to the five congregations and present a Bible Class study and worship service/sermon on one of these important Biblical truths. Lord, through our study of Your Word grant us understanding of these important truths, comfort us in Your abounding mercy and grace toward sinners, and give us strength to live our lives to Your glory.

Immanuel Begins - A few weeks ago the academic year began at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. During the opening service, President Sippert spoke about "The One-Way Street of Christian Education at Immanuel." High school enrollment begins with 110 total students (33 freshmen, 29 sophomores, 24 juniors, and 24 seniors). We rejoice that this enrollment is slightly higher than last year and is an increase of three students from what was anticipated. In the college there are 20 total students with more of these being enrolled full-time than last year. At this time 11 students are pursuing the teaching ministry and five are preparing for seminary training. In seminary there are three students, two of them beginning the program with one vicaring, Samuel Naumann at Hales Corners, WI. The vicar program provides practical pastoral experience for seminary students. We thank the Lord for all the blood-bought souls that will be immersed in His Word during their Immanuel experience.

CLC Call News - The Rev. Mark Weis, pastor of Grace Lutheran, Cape Coral FL, has accepted the call to St. Luke's Lutheran, Lemmon SD.

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| <u>Fruits of Faith: 9/10/17</u> | |
| Worship Attendance: | 44 |
| Parking Lot: | \$550.00 |
| CLC Budget: | \$3715.00 |
| CLC MDF: | \$86.00 |

