

The Herald

OF
EMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 9AM-1PM
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In This Edition

From the Pastor, 1
Sunday's Service, 2
Office Closed for
Lutheran Week, 3
Sunday School, Bible
Study, and Guest
Presenters!, 4-6
Violin Concert, 7
August Outdoor
Worship, 8
August Christianity
on Film, 9
Upcoming
Oktoberfest &
Convocation, 10
Toilet Paper Goal
Reached, 11
Praying, 12-14
Service Help, 15
Birthdays &
Anniversaries, 16
Members Serving, 17
Last Week's Service
& Sermon, 18-19
Christianity on
Topic: The Nicene
Creed, 20
Council Highlights &
Installation, 21-22
Pictures, 23

A Praying Church

Whatever our hopes are for this congregation, such must be our prayer. And whatever these prayers may be, to be prayers of the church, they must be prayed *together*.

With godly timing, we heard this past Sunday our Lord's teaching on prayer. We might pause here and reflect that "the one through whom and for whom" the world was created prayed. Often, Jesus retreated to pray. And finally, the disciples asked him about it. From that prompting, we get the rich yet simple legacy of the Lord's Prayer. And we also get insight into how prayer works, for Jesus gives us his own commentary.

When you go to a friend's at midnight for someone in need, your friend will give it to you *not* on account of your friendship, but on account of your boldness – your impudence for bothering him at midnight! In this way, babies, toddlers, children, are the models for prayer. Perhaps babies especially, for they cry out *until they know you have heard them and gotten what they need*. Unashamedly, with complete confidence, babies cry out until they have gotten their request. And the analogy goes further – babies might not (or perhaps, probably not!) even know what they need. No matter, it's the parents' job to figure it out. Let us not forget that the Holy Spirit does the same for us, interceding when we don't have the words or language or understanding to pray as we ought.

Like babies, we do not always know what we need. And yet, if were to pray as babies cry, we would nevertheless receive what the Lord God has for us. And so, as babies who cry out to the Lord, let us, as the church, pray the following:

We pray for the lost, that they might receive the Holy Spirit. We pray for the found, that they might be strengthened in faith through the Holy Spirit. We pray that God will send us families — families and children and singles and whomever else he wants to send us to strengthen this congregation. We pray for widows and widowers to be comforted in God's presence. We pray that families would return to or come to faith.

We ask God for good and godly things impudently, persistently, just like toddlers and babies ask for things. We pray, together, that we become a people of prayer, united in prayer, for the good things on God's mind for us.

And so, let us pray.

+ Pastor Justin Baker

Sunday's Bulletin

The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost



Worship Service
Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Guest Preacher, The Reverend Dr. Thomas Thorstad
10:15 AM, Sanctuary
August 3, 2025

Office Closed August 3-8



Thanks again to all of you who volunteered!

If you have any questions about your volunteering that you signed up for, please reach out to Michele Hiener. Pastor Justin Baker will be serving at the Convocation, so we hope to see you there.

Sunday School

9AM Sundays

Resumes August 3

We have two special presentations at the beginning of the month of August. Please come out to hear these mission workers share about their ministry:

- On August 3, we'll hear from Thomas Thorstad about his ministry.
- On August 10, we'll hear from Dure Negassa about the ministry she's involved in.

Beginning on August 17, we'll resume our regularly Sunday School classes:

- Discipleship Class continues
- Apostle's Creed continues
- Stories of Faith continues

Acts Bible Study

Resumes Mondays at 1PM

Beginning August 11

Because Pastor Justin be attending and serving at Lutheran Week, we'll resume our Acts Bible Study on August 11.

Pastor Thomas Thorstad, August 3

Preaching during the service & Presenting at Sunday School



Pastor Tom, Pastor Deuane, and their family have been called to live and serve in the Mekong region of Southeast Asia. Their ministry work centers around Bible Translation and Theological Education of pastors and lay leaders who live and serve in tribal areas of the unreached people groups of Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar. Over 86 % of the people in those countries are considered unreached, with no less than a .05% Christian presence and no known bible translation in their people's language. Two of the countries his family serves are in the top 25% of most persecuted Countries in the world. Pastor Tom and Pastor Deuane work with local churches in those countries and have a strong relationship with their church leadership in those countries.

Dure Negassa, August 10

Previously this included incorrect information about Dure. Dure will be presenting on the ministry she does in Kenya alongside Rev. Gemachu. The *lead pastor* is Rev. Dagaga Gemachu.



**AWAKENING LIVES
TO WORLD MISSIONS**



ALWM Int'l works effectively among the least reached through our ministries & global workers in *nine* countries on *three* continents (most less than 2% Christian), including *Kenya, Africa!* You and your church can partner with us to change lives!



Rev. Dagaga Gemachu
Pastor, Oromo Christian
Fellowship Nairobi, Kenya

OCFN ministers to Ethiopian refugees in Nairobi. In addition, Pastor Dagaga and his OCFN team of evangelists minister among the Borana people in northern Kenya. This nomadic tribe is largely Muslim, with little contact with Christianity until the last 10+ years. OCFN planted 11 Borana churches, and recently 163 Borana people were baptized!

Special Violin Concert

Ilana Aronovich

Sunday, August 17,

5 - 7PM

Ilana Aranovich, 16, is a rising junior and violinist who began her studies at the age of three. She is a current member of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra (PYSO) and has performed as a soloist with the Westmoreland Youth Symphony Orchestra (WYSO) after winning their concerto competition, performing the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto.

A prize winner in the Young People's Competition and a chamber music prize winner with the Pittsburgh Concert Society, Ilana is passionate about both solo and collaborative performance. She has spent her summers studying at the Interlochen Arts Camp, the Heifetz Institute, and the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival.

Ilana regularly shares her musical gifts at Emmanuel. Please join us Sunday, August 17, 5-7PM for her violin concert.

Final Outdoor Worship Service

Sunday, August 24

No Saturday Setup

Sunday Setup, 8am

Service, 10:15am

Potluck! following the
service

Christianity on Film

Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Spy, Assassin

Saturday, August 30,
1PM @ The Bakers

Watch the Trailer [Here](#)

Why the Bonhoeffer film?

The heritage of the Lutheran Church includes both its formation in the Reformation, as well as its corruption, under the Nazi regime.

Bonhoeffer, together with select others, actively fought against the institutional capture of the German Christian Church, which capitulated to the Nazi party, compromising the message of the gospel. With conviction, Bonhoeffer was instrumental in forming the *Confessing Church*, which maintained fidelity to the gospel, as well as forming an underground seminary to form men as pastors at Finkenwalde.

Bonhoeffer's legacy includes his rich writing, such as *The Cost of Discipleship* and *Life Together*. But his legacy is not without its own questions – for he joined in an assassination attempt on Hitler's life. Sign up to watch the story of Bonhoeffer.

(The *Christianity On Series* is the Last Saturday of the Month @ 1PM)

Oktoberfeast

Saturday, September 27

11AM - 2PM, Pavilion

If you'd like to volunteer to grill or help, let Pastor know.

Mission District Convocation

Saturday, October 18

8AM - 3PM

*Hosted Here At Emmanuel Lutheran
Church*

We'll be hosting and providing food. If you'd like to volunteer to help, reach out to Pastor Justin.

Mother of Sorrows Community Food Pantry

938 Rolls Collected!

Thank you for helping to far surpass our goal of 816 rolls - We collected 122 more rolls than our goal!

Mother of Sorrows hosts a community food pantry that collects additional items each month to give to those in need.

Great work!

These toilet paper rolls will be distributed to 204 families in need on August 5.

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

August 6, 11AM (1st Wednesdays)

in the **Sanctuary**

Since Pastor Justin will be serving at the NALC Convocation, Julie has agreed to lead this service.

PRAYER GROUP

August 13, 11AM (2nd Wednesdays)

In the **Library**

August 27, 11AM (4th Wednesdays)
on **Zoom**

PRAYING TOGETHER

We pray for the lost, that they might receive the Holy Spirit. We pray for the found, that they might be strengthened in faith through the Holy Spirit. We pray that God will send us families — families and children and singles and whomever else he wants to send us to strengthen this congregation. We pray for widows and widowers to be comforted in God's presence. We pray that families would return to or come to faith.

We ask God for good and godly things impudently, persistently, just like toddlers and babies ask for things. We pray, together, that we become a people of prayer, united in prayer, for the good things on God's mind for us.

PRAYERS FOR OUR PEOPLE

David Weihe, Linda Casper, Vince Berardinelli,
George & Donna Campagna, Gary Kral, Mary Lou
McDonald, Gayle Wertz, June Ugen, Debbie Pritts,
Dick & Sandy Lester, 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.

**Do you need help around the house?
Around the yard? Would a church
workday be good for you?**

If so, please let Pastor Justin know, so
that we can schedule it and help you!

**Do you enjoy helping around the
house? What about in the yard?
Would serving at someone's home
be a good fit for your gifts and
talents?**

If so, please let Pastor Justin know, so
that you can join in upcoming church
workdays for our members.



Anniversaries and Birthdays

8/6 Bob Jordan

8/8 Julie Schamber

8/9 Howard & Debbie Weigold (50 years)

8/11 David & Jeanne Yargar (51 years)

8/12 Penny Walker

8/20 Jim Pepka

8/20 John & Judy Sieg (59 years)

8/22 Jim Lewis

8/23 Jim & Karen Kuczek (56 years)

8/25 Karen Flood

8/26 Rev. Greg Held

8/28 Mary Whipkey

8/28 Paula Wasko

8/28 Rich & Sandie Lee (59 years)

8/29 Ron Smith

8/29 John & Sandy Seidling (21 years)

LITURGICAL DAY	The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
DATE	8/3/2025 10:15AM	8/10/2025 10:15AM	8/17/2025 10:15AM	8/24/2025 10:15AM
ORGANIST	Homer Adams	Homer Adams	Homer Adams	Homer Adams
PASTOR	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Elizabeth, Hannah, & Lisa Yothers	Steve Cehovin	Lou Hiener	Kathy Gustafson
COUNTER TEAM	Cherie Wolovich & Jeanne Yargar	Scott Wilson & Jeanne Yargar	Ed Datemasch & Stan Casper	Ed Datemasch & Stan Casper
GREETERS	Sally Seidling	Ross & Lisa Nese	Arlene Woodward	Jim & Peggy Lewis
USHERS	Stan Casper & Ed Datemasch & Serenity Wee	Steve Cehovin & Scott Wilson & Serenity Wee	Steve Cehovin & Scott Wilson & Serenity Wee	Dan Hunter & Matthew Yothers & Serenity Wee
ACOLYTE	Faith Palmer	Matthew Yothers	Karla Gustafson	MaryAnn Sinwell
CRUCIFER	Matthew Yothers			Danette Hunter
ALTAR GUILD	Donna Berardinelli & Jeanne Yargar	Donna Berardinelli & Carol McDowell	Kathy & Karla Gustafson	Kathy & Karla Gustafson
ALTAR FLOWERS	Ed Zinkan			
COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS	Danette Hunter	Jeanne Yargar	Jeanne Yargar	Jeanne Yargar

Watch Last Week's Service

The Seventh Sunday After Pentecost



Worship Service
Emmanuel Lutheran Church

10:15 AM, Pavilion
July 27, 2025

Sermon From July 27, 2025

PENTECOST 7 | JULY 27, 2025

✝ PASTOR JUSTIN BAKER

✝ I preach in God's name for God's people. Let my words be from God and for God's people. **Amen**

Good morning.

From Last Week

Two weeks ago, we heard that the best place to put *doing and showing mercy* into practice — the lesson from the Good Samaritan — is in our own homes, with our family, and in the church.

Last week, we heard that Martha opened her home to Jesus, showing mercy to him — but that she had a hard time showing mercy to her own sister, because Mary was sitting at the feet of Jesus instead of helping Martha with all the chores!

Martha was serving, but she was *distracted* by serving, having no time for Jesus, perhaps even avoiding making time for him. Our question for her and for us was: *When will Martha have time for Jesus? When will we have time for Jesus?*

But in due course, in due time, in becoming a people of prayer and in continuing steadfast in the good news of Jesus, we may find that our priorities have shifted. We may find that our question is no longer *When will we have time for Jesus?* but rather, *When will we not have time for Jesus?*

Further, we heard the following:

What could be more compelling than being in God's presence — the God of Creation, the Savior of the World, the One who holds the keys to Life and Death, the Judge of the World? Why would go anywhere else? Why wouldn't we come to him?

And so, there were two things to which I encouraged us towards:

- (1) Let us, over the course of this next year, become a people of prayer, united in what we ask for, consistent in what we pray for. Let us pray for families and for children. Let us pray for fruitfulness. Let us pray for these things together, with one voice.
- (2) That we continue in the faith, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that we have heard

Opening

What better and more appropriate passages could we have for becoming a people of prayer and continuing in the faith than the ones we heard this week? What better encouragement for prayer, than from Jesus himself with the Lord's Prayer and his teaching on it? What better example than Abraham interceding for his cousin Lot and his family in Sodom? What better way to continue in the faith than in prayer and in the words of Paul in Colossians?

A quick story. When we were in Maryland this past week, we visited Nella's old youth director, Christian, for a cup of coffee. Just a few minutes in, and he handed me a book entitled, *A Praying Church*. The title alone, I took it, as just one more serendipitous piece of evidence that we, as *this church*, are called to be united in prayer.

There are, already, great strengths in this congregation on prayer. We have two, dedicated consistent ministries — the Prayer Chain and the Prayer Group — led by Michele and Julie, respectively. There is at least one among us who prays for every person in this congregation every night. There are others here who regularly pray for this congregation and her members. And there is our prayer service for families whose children and grandchildren are no longer in the faith. So, in becoming a people of prayer, a *praying church*, we don't need to send for an architect, plan a design, send for materials, and figure out how to build it. Much of the infrastructure already exists. We are headed already in this direction to be a *praying church*. What I have in mind is for this entire congregation of disciples to join in prayer *together* — at home, in groups together, and here. What I hope and

Christianity on Topic

1700 Years of The Nicene Creed: Still Hard at Work

The *Nicene Creed*, begun at the Council of Nicea in 315, has been a foundation of the church for 1700 years. In researching the *Nicene Creed*, I found that the Council of Nicea did more than draft a first version of the Creed. These 318 bishops also ruled on 20 Canons – twenty laws for the whole church. There is a *lost heritage* in not knowing what the Church has believed. And so, this is just the beginning of hearing more about the history of the Church.



Watch the seminar and Q&A by clicking on the
picture

Council Highlights

July 19, 2025

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting

- The Technology Task Force and the Membership Task Force will be moved to the new Stewardship Committee.
- Pastor is interested in being able to support a vicar by the year 2028.
- Initial budgets discussions for financial year 2026 have started.
- Pastor will be out of the office for Lutheran Week 2025, August 4 through August 8. He will serve as chaplain on August 8. This will be held at the Omni William Penn in downtown Pittsburgh.
- On August 11, Dure Negassa, a NALC missionary in Kenya, will be discussing her mission during the Sunday School hour.
- Bible study starts the second week of August. Pastor will be teaching on the book of Acts.
- Oktoberfest is scheduled for September 27.

7/20 Council Installation



Front: Stewardship Chair, Ross Nese; Worship Chair, Debbie Weigold;
Fellowship & Evangelism Chair, Danette Hunter; Discipleship Chair, Scott
Gustafson

Executive Committee, Back: Vice President, Holly Pelusi; President, Scott
Wilson; Pastor Justin Baker; Treasurer, Dan Hunter; Secretary, Steve Cehovin

