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What is marriage?

In 1798, Thomas Malthus published an economy theory on population and food production. In 1968, Paul Ehrlich published *The Population Bomb*, which contributed to fears about overpopulation and actively led to nonprofits/think tanks directly teaching in public schools that having fewer children was necessary. (Listen [to this episode of the Aaron Renn](#) show with Daniel Hess, to hear about work in the opposite direction.)

In 2025, this belief has become so widely held that many nations are on the verge of serious population collapse. China, Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea, and Hong Kong have rates of 1.01, .95, .86, .73, and .73, respectively. If these rates stay steady, then the populations of these countries will *at least* halve, though that will take until the end of the century. In Western Countries, only Israel has an above-replacement rate of 2.75, meaning its population will continue to increase. America has a rate of 1.62. For comparison, Germany has a rate of 1.46, Sweden 1.44, France 1.64, Italy 1.2, and Mexico 1.91. Without immigration, any rate below 2.1 means a general population decline.

Several countries have taken active measures to increase fertility/birth rates, including offering tax rebates, childcare, and other policies. None of these policies seem to move the needle. Why then, out of the developed countries, is Israel the sole country with an increasing population? Why, out of the rest of the developed countries, is population in decline?

There is plenty of blame to go around. The studies mentioned above, by Malthus and Ehrlich, certainly actively contributed. They were successful in convincing people that more births would be bad, because of space or food. They were, however, unsuccessful in seeing that food production would increase alongside the population due to technology and techniques. And this, I think, gets to the heart of the matter – population decline is a result *first* of belief. The singular antidote to “solving” this rejection of birth and children – which is also a rejection of marriage – has to do with what people *believe* about marriage and children. Loosely, the statistics of birth rate give us a window into beliefs about marriage and about birth.

So, what *do* we believe about birth, babies, and marriage? How much of the current anti-marriage, anti-birth, anti-children cultural sentiment have we ingested? Come back next week and for *Vocation of Marriage Sunday* for more on this.

+ Pastor Justin Baker

Sunday's Service

The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost



Worship Service
Emmanuel Lutheran Church

10:15 AM, Sanctuary
July 6, 2025

Prayer Service for Families

July 2, 11AM (1st Wednesdays)

We have a time of prayer, and we follow that time of prayer
with sharing about our families.

Prayer Group

July 9, 11AM in the Library
(and on 2nd Wednesdays)

July 23, 11AM on Zoom
(4th Wednesdays)

Prayers for our People

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

Prayers of Bereavement

Most holy God, we entrust to you our faithful departed including the family of of Rob Greenleaf & Rosemary Palmer. Comfort all and pour out faith unto life eternal.

NALC Lutheran Week

*The NALC national convocation,
entitled Lutheran Week, is
August 3 -8, at the Omni William
Penn Hotel.*

*Volunteers for ~4 hour shifts
Monday-Friday
(Especially Weds - Friday)
are needed. Let's aim for ~5
volunteers from Emmanuel.*

Sign up to volunteer by July 2

NALC Lutheran Week

Snacks, drinks, & up to \$15 of parking reimbursement will be provided by the district/NALC. A meal is provided for volunteers Wednesday evening.

For further information, and to sign up, please contact Michele Hiener, who is this congregation's designated coordinator. Reach out to the office for her contact info.

Lutheran Week Volunteer Roles Needed

Host: Individuals in this role will act as greeters and provide information to attendees. They will be stationed in certain places throughout the building to help attendees find the meeting rooms, restrooms, meal areas, and display area.

Registration: Individuals in this role will welcome and check in attendees. This includes distributing materials and nametags.

Display Assistant: Individuals in this role will assist the various ministries in setting up displays, getting materials to the display area, and finding their way around the hotel.

Usher: Individuals in this role will assist in all general sessions by checking credentials at doors, providing information or assistance, and accepting the offering as well as guiding attendees during communion during worship services.

First Aid/Medical Response: Individuals that may be in one of the other roles but are trained in First Aid/Medical Response and can also assist in case of an emergency.

Sign up to volunteer by July 2

The shifts are different hours and times, the host shifts will have both some standing and sitting times, the registration shifts will be mostly sitting, the ushers will be mostly standing, but chairs will be provided during non peak times, the display assistants will be standing and walking, the 1st aid/medical will be doing a host or usher shift but will have a first aid back pack with them, for the shifts.

Toilet Paper Collection for **Mother of Sorrows Pantry**

We're collecting toilet paper again to support the Mother of Sorrows Pantry, and we need your help!

Why 816 rolls of toilet paper? There are 204 families in need, and each family receives four rolls of toilet paper. $204 \text{ families} \times 4 \text{ rolls} = 816 \text{ total rolls}$.

July 6: Sunday goal of 204 rolls

July 13: Goal of 204 rolls

July 20: Goal of 204 rolls

July 27: Goal of 204 rolls

- **Goal: 816 rolls**
- **Deadline: July 31st**
- **Bring donations to the narthex**

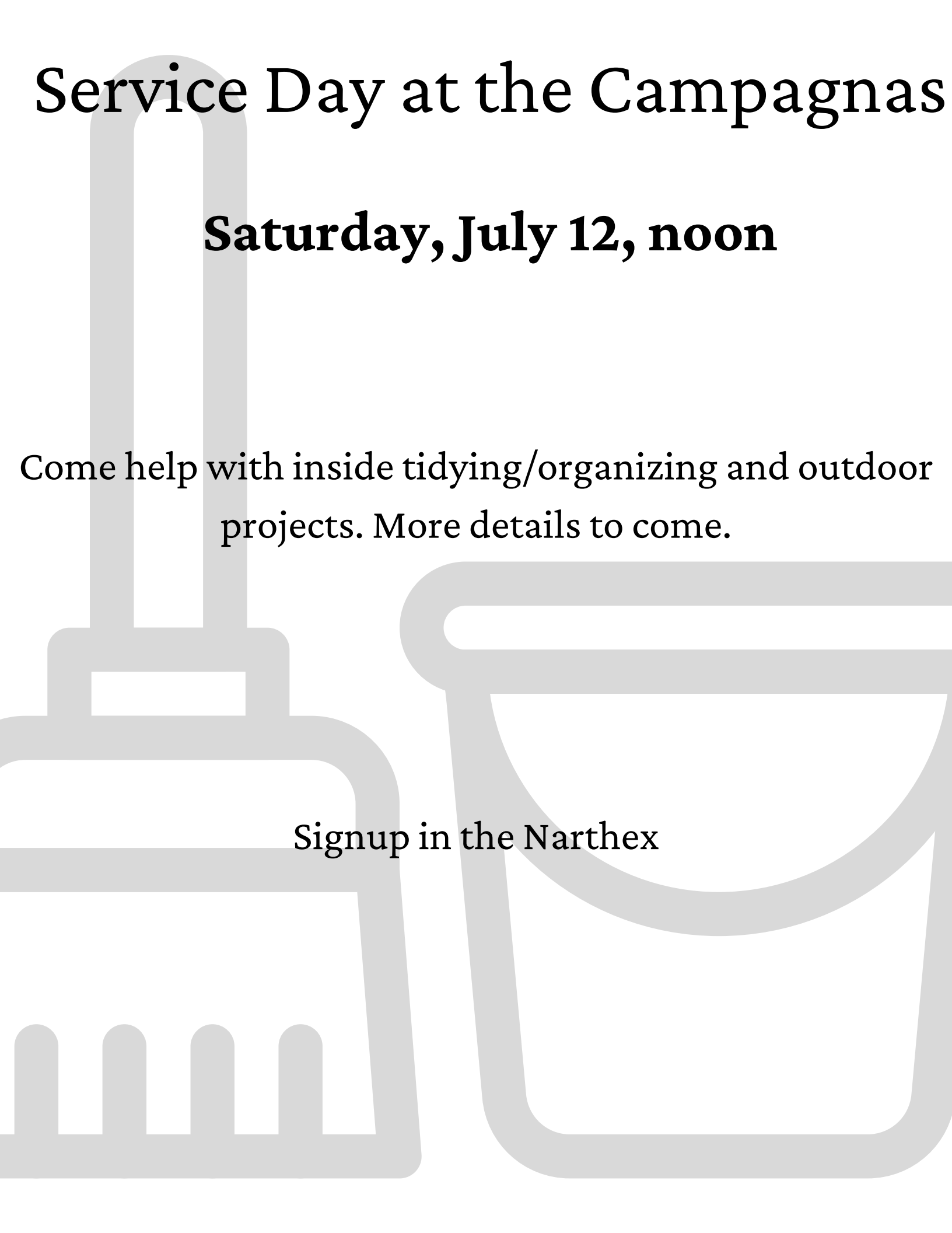
ELC Women's Meeting

July 8th at 9:30 AM

The ELC Women's group is doing
their annual planning meeting!

Join them on in Luther Hall

Women are encouraged to attend!

A stylized, light gray background illustration. On the left is a vacuum cleaner with a long, thin tube and a wide, rectangular body with a row of four small, rounded protrusions at the bottom. On the right is a bucket with a wide, flat rim and a rounded body.

Service Day at the Campagnas

Saturday, July 12, noon

Come help with inside tidying/organizing and outdoor projects. More details to come.

Signup in the Narthex

Celebrating July 13



Vocation of Marriage is a day set aside to reaffirm marriage as a Christian vocation—a public good, a holy calling, and a place where Christ is known.

Congregations are encouraged to adapt and use the provided resources in a way that fits their local context. Whether you celebrate with a renewal of vows, a dedicated sermon, special intercessions, or simply a moment of prayer—let this Sunday be a day when the Church gives thanks for the households in its midst.

IN-TENTS

YOUTH:
JULY 14-18

ELEMENTARY:
JULY 21-23

LUTHERAN CHURCH CAMP

2025



YOUTH: \$225

ELEMENTARY: \$125



*Y' all need a
little Jesus*



TO REGISTER AND FIND
MORE INFORMATION
SCAN HERE



Welcome Our New Council Members!

Council Installation: July 20

Let us warmly welcome our new council members to Emmanuel Lutheran Church! We are grateful for their willingness to serve and lead our congregation. May God bless them with wisdom, strength, and guidance as they begin this important ministry.

Please keep them in your prayers as they take on this role in service to our church.

President: Scott Wilson

Vice President: Holly Pelusi

Treasurer: Dan Hunter

Secretary: Steve Cehovin



Worship: Debbie Weigold

Discipleship: Scott Gustafson

Fellowship & Evangelism:

Danette Hunter

Stewardship: Ross Nese

 Join Us for Outdoor Worship! 
and help setup!

We will need volunteers to help set up
Saturday the 26th at 12:00PM!
(Then join us for Christianity On Topic
in the Sanctuary at 1pm.)

We will *also* need volunteers to help set
up Sunday the 27th at 8:30AM!

We'll have waters and two tents set up
to help us stay cool(er) on Sunday. Join
us after the service for a meal!

Christianity on Tap, Film, & Topic

**LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH @
1PM**

July: Christianity On Topic
*1700 Years of The Nicene Creed:
Still Hard at Work
in the Sanctuary*

August: Christianity On Film
Movie TBD
@ The Baker Home

Pause in September for Oktoberfest

October: Christianity On Topic
*The Church & AI: Dangers and Warnings for the
Faithful Christian in the Age of AI
in the Sanctuary*

LITURGICAL DAY	The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
DATE	7/6/2025 10:15AM	7/13/2025 10:15AM	7/20/2025 10:15AM
ORGANIST	Homer Adams	Homer Adams	Homer Adams
PASTOR	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Julie Schamber	Michele Hiener	Karla Gustafson
COUNTER TEAM	Bob Jordan & Scott Wilson	Ed Datemasch & Stan Casper	Ed Datemasch & Stan Casper
GREETERS	Scott & Carol Wilson	Dan & Cherie Wolovich	Stan & Linda Casper
USHERS	<i>Volunteer Needed</i> & Serenity Wee	Debbie Weigold & Matt Yothers & Serenity Wee	Elizabeth Yothers & Mary Whipkey & Serenity Wee
ACOLYTE	Bob Jordan	Elizabeth Yothers	Lou Hiener
CRUCIFER	Scott Wilson		
ALTAR GUILD	MaryAnn Sinwell & Bob Jordan	MaryAnn Sinwell & Bob Jordan	Kathy & Karla Gustafson
ALTAR FLOWERS	Dan and Danette Hunter	Ed Zinkan	Ross and Lisa Nese
COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS	Susan Smith	Susan Smith	Danette Hunter

LITURGICAL DAY	The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
DATE	7/27/2025 10:15AM	8/3/2025 10:15AM	8/10/2025 10:15AM
ORGANIST	Homer Adams	Homer Adams	Homer Adams
PASTOR	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Holly Pelusi	Elizabeth, Hannah, & Lisa Yothers	Steve Cehovin
COUNTER TEAM	Bob Jordan & Scott Wilson	Cherie Wolovich & Jeanne Yargar	Cherie Wolovich & Jeanne Yargar
GREETERS	Bill Primozic	Sally Seidling	Ross & Lisa Nese
USHERS	Dave & Mary Whipkey & Serenity Wee	Stan Casper & Ed Datemasch & Serenity Wee	Steve Cehovin & Scott Wilson & Serenity Wee
ACOLYTE	Kaleb Wee	Faith Palmer	Matthew Yothers
CRUCIFER		Matthew Yothers	
ALTAR GUILD	Donna Berardinelli & Jeanne Yargar	Donna Berardinelli & Jeanne Yargar	Donna Berardinelli & Carol McDowell
ALTAR FLOWERS			
COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS	Danette Hunter	Danette Hunter	Danette Hunter

Worshipping & Offering

Date	5/25	6/1	6/8	6/15	6/22	6/29
Worshipping Together	61	59	72	69	63	75
Offering	\$8580	\$4451.51	\$3176	\$3200	\$2556	\$3589

This congregation has continued its generous giving, and as a result, we are on track to meet our budget, which will allow us to continue to plan accurately and minister effectively.

As you can see from the offering and budget below, we'll need to offer \$80,172.64 over the next four months. This should be well within our reach, so I encourage all of us to continue giving generously.

One final reminder – we increased our benevolence to 10% of our benevolence, meaning we are committed to giving \$26,079.30 for the sake of the gospel for this year.

Budget:

\$260,793.02

Offering first 8 months:

\$180,620.38

Offering needed last 4 months:

\$80,172.64

Sunday School (Pauses in July)

Worship	Sundays	10:15AM	Sanctuary
Acts Bible Study (Pauses in July)			
Start the Week with Bill, an AA group	Mondays	6:30PM	Luther Hall
Staff Meeting	Tuesdays	9:30AM	Library
Champion Cheerleading	Tuesdays	6:00PM	Heritage Hall
Prayer for Family	1st Wednesdays	11:00AM	The Sanctuary
Emmanuel Prayer Group	2 nd Wednesdays	11:00 AM	Library
	4 th Wednesdays	11:00AM	Zoom
Steps and Stories, an AA group	Wednesdays	7:00PM	Luther Hall
Boy Scout Troop 208	Thursdays	6:45PM	Luther Hall
Al-Anon Family Group	Thursdays	7:30PM	Heritage Hall

UPCOMING

Prayers for Family	Wed, July 2	11:00 AM	Sanctuary
Stewardship Meeting	Thurs, July 3	2:00 PM	Music Room
ELCW Meeting	Tues, July 8	9:30 AM	Luther Hall
Worship Meeting	Tues, July 8	7:00 PM	Music Room
Prayer Group (In person)	Wed, July 9	11:00 AM	Library
Service Day	Sat, July 12	12:00 PM	The Campagnas
Discipleship Meeting	Wed, July 16	10:00 AM	Music Room
Marriage Sunday	Sun, July 13	10:15 AM	Sanctuary
Council Retreat	Thurs, July 18	5:30 PM	The Bakers
	Fri, July 19	9:00 AM	The Wilsons
Council Installation	Sun, July 20	10:15 AM	Sanctuary
Fellowship & Evangelism Meeting	Mon, July 21	11:00 AM	Luther Hall
Outdoor Set-Up	Sat, July 26	12:00 PM	Pavilion
Christianity on Topic	Sat, July 26	1:00 PM	Sanctuary
Fellowship/ Outdoor Set-Up	Sun, July 27	8:30 AM	Pavilion
Christianity on Film	Sat, August 30	1:00 PM	The Bakers
Oktoberfest	Sat, September 27	11:00 AM	Pavilion
Christianity on Topic	Sat, October 25	1:00 PM	Sanctuary

If you'd like something added to the calendar, please let the office know.

Find in the Narthex

June 2025 Directory

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Export, Pennsylvania

June 18, 2025

the eNews

OF
EMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Pastor Justin and Lena's Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 9AM-1PM
pastor@elmc.org
office@elmc.org

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Prayers for Nigeria

The seminary which I attended in Ambridge, now called Trinity Anglican Seminary (which is still also home to the North American Lutheran Seminary campus) offers January and June term intensives. These are week long courses. A friend of mine from seminary five years ago, Rotshak, is now pursuing a Doctor of Ministry, and as a result, returned from Nigeria to take some June term classes. On our way to pick up my mom from the airport, my family was able to swing through town to have lunch with him. And so, we caught up about family, ministry, and culture – in America and in Nigeria.

His focus for his Doctor of Ministry degree is catechesis for families: his concern is how to form families in the faith. It's clear to me that there is a broad movement of a return to focusing on the faith of the whole family. And I think this movement is part of a broader movement to return to the foundations of our faith. I suspect the Holy Spirit is at work, encouraging these movements.

Not unlike our own culture, the older generations in Nigeria are rooted in the Church, but the younger generations are much less so, but with a few distinctions. The younger generations still seek to baptize their babies, because of a lingering culture of superstition about spiritual forces. This superstition is correct (do we really think the demonic forces just gave up?), but unfortunately the families then never attend again.

Another issue is, again similar to America's prosperity preachers & televangelists, Nigeria also has uber-rich prosperity and motivational preachers. These "pastors" prey on the poor, disregard Scripture, and give motivational speeches rather than preaching Christ crucified. One specific detail on the state of poverty in Nigeria, according to my friend: a family may earn just under \$80 a month for extremely hard work and be quite pleased with that amount of money.

Those then are some of the big challenges for ministry in the Nigerian context: baptism, then abandonment; pastors taking advantage of the poor; and the difficulty of getting families to remain in Church in order to grow in faith. And lastly, Christians in Nigeria still face persecution by rape, death, and terror.

1

+ Pastor Justin Baker

PENTECOST 2 | JUNE 22, 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.

The Holy Trinity

We heard last week that the right response to the Holy Trinity — One God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — is praise. We have confidence that the Holy Trinity is who God is. A clear example of this is the Baptism of Jesus, where the Father speaks from heaven of his Beloved Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus as a dove. When we pause and reflect, God — utterly distinct, utterly unique, Creator of the universe, incommensurably greater than the sum of all he has made — is also unique and distinct in the core of *who* he is, for He is both one and three, at the same time. He is the source of all unity, and he is the source of all community. And so, we bow in worship of our Great God — One in Three, Three in One. There is no one like him. Nor can there be. Nor will there ever be.

The Demon-Possessed Man

Because there is no one like him, we will find that when the world encounters Jesus, our assumptions, our worldview, often gets turned on its head. Jesus makes us see the world *through new eyes*, in a way that only he can see — until he reveals it to us.

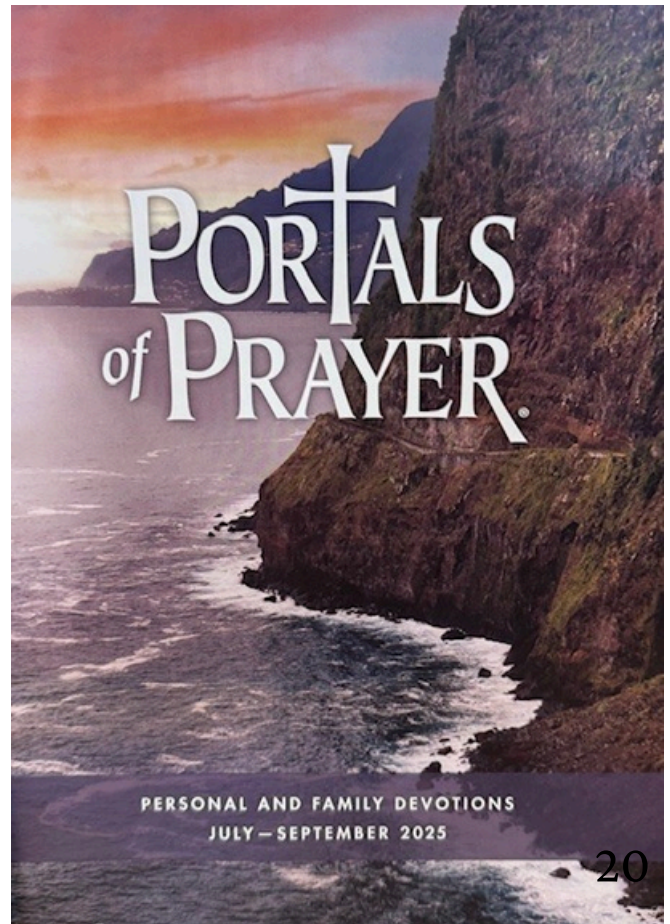
In our passage from Luke, Jesus encounters a terrifying man immediately upon stepping off the boat. For is that not how this man would seem to us, if we were to encounter him? The man had many demons, wore no clothes, lived in no home, but instead lived among the tombs. The man was also kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles, but would break the chains, and be driven into the desert. It seems the demons tormented the man for sport. We would be extraordinarily uncomfortable were we to encounter this man in our daily lives. This man, who lived among the tombs, who was kept under guard, who would be driven into the desert by the demons, would have been known to the townspeople — would have been known as someone to watch out for and avoid. They would have known to keep their distance, to stay away, for their own good.

Jesus, however, has no reason to be afraid or to keep his distance, for he arrives in the power of the Holy Spirit, coming in the full authority of God, carrying out the mission of God. We know, before we even finish reading or hearing this story, that when Jesus encounters this demon-possessed man, the end of the story will be that the demons are cast out and that the man is made well. This takes place. But the man being made well is not the whole story, and so there are a few details for which it's worth taking a closer look.

When Jesus arrived, this demon-possessed man immediately met him. For someone who is full of demons, for someone who has no home, for someone who is often chained, for someone who lives in the graveyard, isn't this the clearest, most rational, best possible thing that anyone could ever do — to meet Jesus immediately? And so the man does. The only others, as far as Luke tells us, who were nearby were pig herdsman. No others, of whom we are told, were stirred of themselves to go meet Jesus. Only the demon-possessed man.

We'll have to pause and ask: What are the pig farmers doing there? Pigs were unclean; Jews did not eat pigs nor touch them, lest they be found unclean and therefore unable to worship. And yet, here are herdsman raising pigs. This seems to suggest that the townspeople had begun to neglect their faith — had begun to reject the Jewish Law — and were becoming spiritually like the surrounding culture, spiritually Greek.

This is also a danger for Christians; this is a danger for us. In what ways is our culture so convincing, so compelling, so captivating, that we neglect our faith and become spiritually American, spiritually Pennsylvanian, spiritually middle-class, spiritually something other than Christian?



Anniversaries and Birthdays

7/1 Stan & Linda Casper (47 years)

7/7 Daniel & Danette Hunter (46 years)

7/7 Irv & Debbie Pritts (54 years)

7/7 Chi & Colleen Wee (18 years)

7/8 Lou Hiener

7/10 James & Janet Troxell (54 years)

7/11 Donna Ugen

7/12 Sandy Seidling

7/16 Pastor Justin & Nella Baker (3 years)

7/23 Rich Lee

7/27 Scott Wilson

7/28 Tim Ford

7/29 Susan Smith

7/30 Mike Jaszcar







Miss Last Week Service?

Follow the QR codes to **read** the sermon.

Scan QR code (or click) to read the sermon!



The Third Sunday After Pentecost



Worship Service
Emmanuel Lutheran Church

*10:15 AM, Pavilion
June 29, 2025*