

Greetings Saints of Emmanuel:

We heard this past Sunday about Jesus dining at a dinner party hosted by a ruler of the Pharisees. This was no friendly invitation; the Pharisees invited him so that they could watch him carefully. In other words, it was a trap to catch him in his words!

But, of course, who was really watching whom? And upon whom would the trap be sprung? Jesus has his eye on the Pharisees, and though they have it out for him, he also has his heart towards them. And so, Jesus warns the dinner party: (1) Don't take the place of honor; (2) Don't invite your friends & family; and (3) Don't refuse the invitation you've been given.

(1) Jesus, the King of Glory, is in their midst. The place of honor is for him. (2) Jesus, Friend of Sinners, sends invitations (using us, by the way!) to his Great Banquet indiscriminately, to make us his friends & family. (3) We have received his invitation; let us not forsake it, for that is what these Pharisees are in grave danger of doing.

There are, at least, two responses for us from this passage.

(1) The first and central thing is this: *"Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled."* This is our mission as the church: to *compel* people to come to faith in Jesus. This language may be a bit stronger than we like, but that is exactly why we need to hear it. So, how do we do this? We begin with prayer. We pray for the lost--the lost in our own families and among those whom we know. We pray that God will make himself known to them, and that those people would *hear* and *respond* to his presence.

Evangelism begins with prayer because it is God's doing. So far, so good. But often this is also where evangelism ends. It ignores the "compel people to come in" part of the passage. And so, we don't *only* pray. We also speak freely and confidently and courageously about God's salvation in Jesus. We speak about who we know Jesus is and what he has done. We don't shy away or hide from these conversations. We don't *outsource* these conversations; we take them head on, trusting God to guide us and do his work through us and in us.

(2) Why not throw a non-traditional dinner party? Invite those beyond your circle of friends & family, just as Jesus told the host of the dinner party to do. Perhaps a dinner party for your neighbors? (If anyone tries this out, let me know how it goes.)

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

In Christ our Lord,
+ Pastor Justin Baker

Today, Wednesday, September 3

11AM, Sanctuary

Prayer for Families Service

Please join us to pray for children, grandchildren, and families to remain in, find, & return to the faith. In this service, we ask especially for God to draw our families into

the Christian faith.

Executive Committee

Noon, Music Room

Gathering of the Women of Emmanuel, Pie Night

6:30PM, Heritage Hall

What more needs to be said than "pie"?

Gathering of the Men of the Church

6:30PM, Hoss's

Salad bar. Food. And desserts!

Missionary Support During September | Raising \$4500

During the month of September -- finishing on Oktoberfest -- we'll support the three mission workers who visited this year -- The Omars, Dure Negassa & her Kenyan missionary partners, and the Thorstads.

We are raising \$4500 for the mission workers who have visited us this year. We have three distinct goals -- \$1000 the Omars, \$1500 for Dure Negassa & the Rev. Dagaga Gemachu, and \$2000 for the Thorstads. Anything given over and above the \$4500 will go to the Thorstads.

Please use one of the "Missionary Support" envelopes, or mark your check or memo with "Missionary Support."

Newsworthy

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Quilt Fund. As of September 1st, ELCW have raised \$260 and hope to raise an additional \$25 to cover all of the material costs. These donations along with our existing quilting funds will cover the costs of this year's 4 quilting projects.

~ Jeanne Yargar

You may also consider marking "Caitlin Nobile" in your memo line, to give to this seminary student through the church. We will take gifts for Caitlin through the first two Sundays of September.

For a recap of Lutheran Week--including officers elected, constitution & bylaws updates, and the theme of being a disciple-making church body--[click here](#). And click [here for the NALC's mission & values](#), and to see the updated website.

Sunday School in September: Bible Study on Philemon

- On Sundays in September, we'll study Paul's letter to Philemon. This short letter is captivating, and is about the return to fellowship of a runaway slave.

- In our other Sunday School class, we'll continue the Apostles' Creed.

Acts Bible Study, Mondays

1PM in Luther Hall; 6:30PM in the Music Room

- Continues throughout September

Bell Choir Practice

Tuesdays, 9AM, Sanctuary

Oktoberfeast is this month!

September 27, 9AM-3PM

Outside Groups

With back to school season comes the return of many of the outside groups that use our building! Here are some of the ways we're using our building to be a blessing to our community:

-Support Groups: three support groups meet in our building. They use the space in the evenings on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

-Boy Scouts: a local troop and their leaders host weekly meetings here, on Thursday evenings and every third Tuesday evening.

-Girl Scouts: No less than five girl scout troops meet here throughout the week! They use our space on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

-Cheerleading: a cheerleading group uses Heritage Hall for their practices throughout their season (fall and early winter).

If you see these groups while you are here, please give them a warm welcome! Thank you for your continuous support that allows our building to bless others.

Upcoming

Worship Meeting

Tuesday, September 9th, Music Room, 7PM

Prayer Group

Wednesday, September 10th, Library, 11AM

Fellowship and Evangelism Meeting

Monday, September 15th, Luther Hall, 11AM

Discipleship Meeting

Wednesday, September 17th, Music Room, 10AM

Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 17th, Music Room, 11:30AM

Mission District Meeting

Saturday, September 20th, Heritage Hall, 10AM

Prayer Group

Wednesday, September 24th, Zoom, 11AM

OKTOBERFEAST

Saturday, September 27th, Outside, 11AM-2PM

Mission District Convocation

Saturday, October 18th, ~8AM-3PM

More About Our Major Upcoming Events!

Oktoberfeast, 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 is posted in the Narthex. See the flyer at the end (and posted around the church) for more information!

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.

More information about our mission workers here: 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). Follow [this link](#) for more information about the Omars.

Prayers for those in need of Intercession:

Steve Cehovin, James Troxell, 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 implore you to remember the family of Rob Greenleaf. Fill all families who mourn with the strength to grieve, the comfort of your presence, and faith unto life everlasting.

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.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

September Birthdays:

9/16 Cherie Wolovich

9/17 Kathy Gustafson

9/22 Sandie Lee

9/22 Joshua Pelusi
9/25 Finley Baker

September Anniversaries:

9/19 William & Dana Sadler (3 years)
9/23 Vince & Donna Berardinelli (58 years)
9/23 Jeff & Holly Pelusi (25 years)
9/25 Bob Jordan & MaryAnn Sinwell (20 years)
9/29 Lou & Michele Hiener (35 years)

October Birthdays:

10/4 Denny Potter
10/7 Darryl Brednich
10/9 Dan Hunter
10/10 Linda Casper
10/11 Chi Wee
10/14 Gary Kral
10/21 Homer Adams
10/22 Keenan Seidling
10/23 Ed Zinkan
10/27 Bill Lavallee

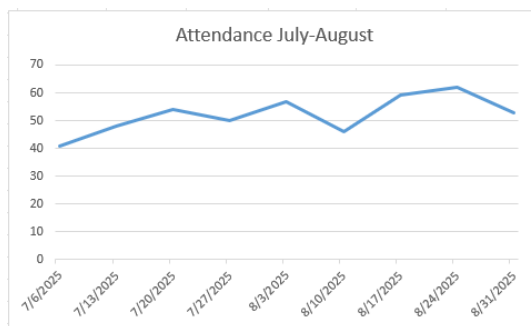
October Anniversaries:

10/2 Darryl & Elsie Brednich (60 Years)
10/10 Dana & Diana Hillman (55 Years)
10/17 James & Lisa Pepka (33 Years)
10/21 Dave & Mary Whipkey (58 Years)
10/26 Ed & Susan Zinkan (51 years)

LITURGICAL DAY	The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
DATE	9/7/2025 10:15AM	9/14/2025 10:15AM	9/21/2025 10:15AM	9/28/2025 10:15AM	10/5/2025 10:15AM	10/12/2025 10:15AM
ORGANIST	Homer Adams	Homer Adams	Homer Adams	Homer Adams	Homer Adams	Homer Adams
PASTOR	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Holly Pelusi	Julie Schamber	Michele Hiener	Elizabeth & Lisa Yothers		
COUNTER TEAM	Susan Smith & Cherie Wolovich	Lou Hiener & Ross Nese	Susan Smith & Dorna Ugen	Susan Smith & Lisa Yothers	MaryAnn Sinwell & Kathy Gustafson	MaryAnn Sinwell & Kathy Gustafson
GREETERS	Barb Greenleaf	Bob Jordan & MaryAnn Sinwell	Kathy & Karla Gustafson	The Bakers	Dave & Mary Whipkey	James & Janet Troxell
USHERS	Ed Datemasch & Joe Ugen & Serenity Wee	Ed Datemasch & Joe Ugen & Serenity Wee	Mack & Karen Flood & Serenity Wee	Mack & Karen Flood & Serenity Wee	& Serenity Wee	& Serenity Wee
ACOLYTE	Debbie Weigold	Faith Palmer	Kaleb Wee	Hannah Yothers		
CRUCIFER		Kaleb Wee		Matthew Yothers		
ALTAR GUILD	Kathy & Karla Gustafson	MaryAnn Sinwell & Bob Jordan	MaryAnn Sinwell & Bob Jordan	Dan & Danette Hunter	Dan & Danette Hunter	Donna Berardinelli & Jeanne Yargar
ALTAR FLOWERS	Cherie and Dan Wolovich	Julie Schamber	The Pelusi Family	Dana Sadler	Ross and Lisa Nese	Debbie Weigold
COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS	Karla Gustafson	Karla Gustafson	Karla Gustafson	Karla Gustafson	Karla Gustafson	Angela Held

Attendance & Offering

Our attendance and offering throughout the past two months were lower than our usual cadence. See the charts for total (in person) and total offering below:



Attendance (in person)



Offering (total)

Last Sunday's Service

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

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

Altar Flowers

If you've signed up to provide altar flowers, please email the office a few weeks in advance to let us know what or who you would like the flowers to be dedicated to and how you would like the dedication to read!

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Women

Wednesday Evening
September 3, 2025
Heritage Hall

6:30 PM Pie Night with Denni Grassel
**presenting *"My Faith Journey:
Replacing Darkness with Light"***

A sign-up sheet to provide refreshments
will be posted a few weeks prior to this event.
Please sign up on the Narthex bulletin board.



Devotions: Julie Schamber

Hostesses: MaryAnn Sinwell
Carol Wilson

Program Rep.: Danette Hunter

Donation Opportunities – Collections for Friends Thrift Shop

- Gently-used *hooded* winter coats (due by end of Oct)
- Gently-used prom dresses (collected through year)

*Items may be dropped off at the Thrift Shop or brought to
the church labeled for "Jeanne Yargar".*



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

OKTOBERFEAST



SEPTEMBER 27, 11AM - 2PM

LIVE MUSIC - BRATS - GAMES

POTLUCK - BEER & ROOT BEER





MID NORTHEAST MISSION DISTRICT CONVOCATION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th

At EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

5000 Old William Penn Highway, Export PA. 15632

8:15 REGISTRATION & STUFF THE TRUCK

9:00 Worship with Communion & Opening of the Convocation

The Event will go until 3:30 – Lunch will be included

Keynote Speaker will be Bishop Dan Selbo

Also please note we will be Electing a new Dean and will be setting up our new 6 Mission Districts in our Mission Region

We will be collecting “**HEALTH KITS**” items to “Stuff the truck”

Please go to the NALC website (thenalc.org) under the Disaster Response to download a list of the items for Health kits, but all items are welcome

Please register individually or by congregation with how many people plan to attend.

Cost will be \$10.00 per congregation (so bring anyone who is interested!)

Send your registration sign up sheet & payment to:

Mission District Registration

C/O Connie Slope – 291 MacDonaldton Road –Berlin, PA 15530

It is always a great day of sharing our blessings with each other, seeing old friends, making new friends and getting involved in your Mission District.





Emmanuel Lutheran Church | 5000 Old William Penn Highway PO Box #396 | Export, PA
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