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## What is marriage?

Last week, I began this series on *What is marriage?* by speaking of children. This series is countercultural, and it's countercultural to begin a series on marriage by writing first about children. But this is also how Scripture begins marriage.

To recap from last week: Birthrates in many countries are quite low, low enough that some countries will begin experiencing significant population decline. These statistics show that fewer people are having fewer children. Why is this? There are economic contributing factors, like salaries vs. housing prices. But at its core, fewer people having fewer children comes down to what we believe – or perhaps what we *no longer* believe – that children and marriage are good.

Marriage, from the beginning, was established for companionship, for shared dominion, and for children. What is *most* incredible about Creation is that *God creates*. But what does God create? As the Creation account unfolds in Genesis 1-2, we get an increasingly zoomed in view of what God delights in, and so we see his chief delight– mankind in the image of God.

First, God makes the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). Second, we see the zoomed in details of God's creation of the universe: light, darkness, heaven, earth, and then – the things of the earth and the things of heaven. Then, at last, God makes man – male and female, in God's image, for *dominion* and *children*. Third (and at last!), we see the zoomed in account of God's formation first of the man, and then woman, *fit* for him (and, implicitly, the man fit for her). Genesis 2:4 through the end of the chapter *makes clear* that God loves, desire, and gives extraordinary authority to the man and to the woman. They are to exercise this authority over creation and share this with their children.

What is the surest vote of confidence that God loves you, that you're *meant* to be here? *You exist*. That's true of every child that has ever been, and will ever be. What does this mean? Astonishingly, procreation – the fruit of marriage, the fruit of the two becoming one – means joining in the creation of old. Each soul created is to be cherished by his parents, but also – each infant is a new creation and *by default* joyously cherished by God.

This series on *What is Marriage?* will continue throughout July. We're focusing on marriage because this Sunday, we'll have our *Vocation of Marriage* liturgy, where hear about the Lord Jesus, about marriage, and about the Church.

+ Pastor Justin Baker

# Sunday's Service

The Fifth Sunday After Pentecost



**Worship Service**  
**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

*10:15 AM, Sanctuary*  
*July 13, 2025*



# 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: We collected 90 rolls this week!

July 13: New goal of 242 rolls per week.

July 20: Goal of 242 rolls

July 27: Goal of 242 rolls

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



# 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

# July's *Christianity On... Series*

## Christianity On Topic

*1700 Years of The Nicene Creed:*

*Still Hard at Work*

**JULY 26, 1PM, Sanctuary**



Right after Saturday setup

Why would anyone want to come to a seminar on the Nicene Creed, especially after helping with setup (and probably sweating!) for the outdoor service?

What I will say is this:

The Nicene Creed is the *kind of thing* we, as Christians, should want to know more about. It has now been in service for 1700 years – since AD 325! It may not seem as relevant as AI or as gender/sexuality, but this creed has been hard at work, serving as a foundation for our faith and fighting against heresy for 1700 years. It continues to do a lot of heavy lifting, and will continue to do so until Christ's reutrn.

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

 Join Us for Outdoor Worship!   
and help setup!

Please use the signup sheet in the  
Narthex.

We will need volunteers to help set up  
Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:00PM and We  
will need volunteers to help set up  
Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00AM.

Join us after Saturday setup for  
Christianity On Topic in the Sanctuary  
at 1pm.

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

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# 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, 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, Lois, Tony, Sarah, Denise, Harry, Millicent, Stephanie, and Ruthie

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## Prayers of Bereavement

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



# Prayer Service for Families

**August 6, 11AM (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays)**

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

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## Prayer Group

**11AM in the Library**

2nd Wednesday of the Month

**July 23, 11AM on Zoom**

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the Month

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LITURGICAL DAY	The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
DATE	7/13/2025 10:15AM	7/20/2025 10:15AM	7/27/2025 10:15AM
ORGANIST	Homer Adams	Homer Adams	Homer Adams
PASTOR	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Michele Hiener	Karla Gustafson	Holly Pelusi
COUNTER TEAM	Bob Jordan & Stan Casper	Ed Datemasch & Stan Casper	Bob Jordan & Scott Wilson
GREETERS	Dan & Cherie Wolovich	Stan & Linda Casper	Bill Primozic
USHERS	Debbie Weigold & Matt Yothers & Serenity Wee	Elizabeth Yothers & Mary Whipkey & Serenity Wee	Dave & Mary Whipkey & Serenity Wee
ACOLYTE	Elizabeth Yothers	Lou Hiener	Kaleb Wee
CRUCIFER			
ALTAR GUILD	MaryAnn Sinwell & Bob Jordan	Kathy & Karla Gustafson	Donna Berardinelli & Jeanne Yargar
ALTAR FLOWERS	Ed Zinkan	Ross and Lisa Nese	Ed Zinkan
COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS	Susan Smith	Danette Hunter	Danette Hunter

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**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 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays	11:00 AM	Library
	4 <sup>th</sup> 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

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## UPCOMING

<b>Prayer Group (In person)</b>	Wed, July 9	11:00 AM	Library
<b>Discipleship Meeting</b>	Wed, July 16	10:00 AM	Music Room
<b>Marriage Sunday</b>	Sun, July 13	10:15 AM	Sanctuary
<b>Council Retreat</b>	Fri, July 18	5:30 PM	The Bakers
	Sat, July 19	9:00 AM	The Wilsons
<b>Council Installation</b>	Sun, July 20	10:15 AM	Sanctuary
<b>Fellowship &amp; Evangelism Meeting</b>	Mon, July 21	11:00 AM	Luther Hall
<b>Outdoor Set-Up</b>	Sat, July 26	12:00 PM	Pavilion
<b>Christianity on Topic</b>	Sat, July 26	1:00 PM	Sanctuary
<b>Fellowship/ Outdoor Set-Up</b>	Sun, July 27	8:30 AM	Pavilion
<b>Christianity on Film</b>	Sat, August 30	1:00 PM	The Bakers
<b>Oktoberfest</b>	Sat, September 27	11:00 AM	Pavilion
<b>Mission District Convocation</b>	Sat, October 18	9AM-3PM	The Church
<b>Christianity on Topic</b>	Sat, October 25	1:00 PM	Sanctuary

# 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.

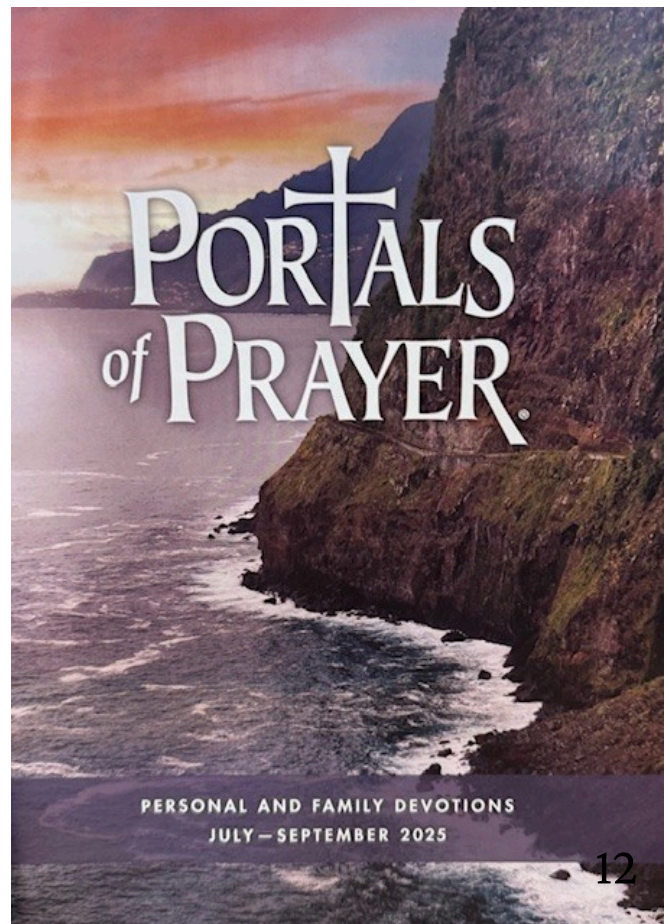
In our passage from Luke, Jesus encounters a terrifying man immediately upon stepping off the boat. For is that not how this man would seem to us, if we were to encounter him? The man had many demons, wore no clothes, lived in no home, but instead lived among the tombs. The man was also kept under guard, 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

7/10 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 **watch** the service on youTube and **read** the sermon.

Scan QR code (or click) to watch the service!



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



## The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost



**Worship Service**  
**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

*10:15 AM, Sanctuary*  
*July 6, 2025*