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What is marriage?

Part III of IV

Last week, I wrote that: "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." And so, when the man and the woman cling to one another, become one flesh, and a little one is brought forth – he is the delight of his parents and the delight of the Lord.

When a little one is brought forth, parents are enriched in their call to love each other through the joining together in loving one of their own. Their love for each other grows as they join together in the duty and delight of raising a child. And in the raising of a child, they join in the priestly duties of loving the Lord together and instructing their little one in loving God. In this sense, the proper aim of parents is to present the extraordinary gift of the child back to God – as one who loves Him.

This will always be a fierce challenge. For the world that we find ourselves in is, to the spite of her Creator, hostile to God. After the gorgeous gift of Creation – the universe, time, our world, *our own lives* – sin entered the world. Fallen angels – demons – wield desire as a weapon to deceive us into sin, to place us into rebellion with God. Sin – the hostility of the world against her Creator – attacks marriage and the family. When a man and his wife are unable to conceive, this is not only a physical, but also a spiritual attack. It was not meant to be so, and yet, that is the reality some marriages face. In such cases, it is *not* the result of the sin of either the husband or the wife, but the fact that our world is marred by sin. Truly terrible things happen – including the deaths of the little girls of *Camp Mystic*. That tragedy lays bare the horrors of sin and evil in this world, the horrors of what you can face as a parent or child. But we, as Christians – and therefore also those little girls and their parents – are not without hope. We have a Savior who poured out his blood for us, and who will return to judge the living and the dead, separate the good from the bad, bringing an end to the work of demons and disasters and evil men.

It is this world into which we rear children and in which we teach them the Christian faith. As parents, we are *called* to do so, and yet, we do not do this alone. In the Church, the married, the widows and widowers, and singles form *one* single family. In the Church, we are adopted by God into *His* family. In the Church, we join in the priestly duties and delights of loving the Lord and each other *together*. On Sunday I preached that the home is the best place to put the mercy of the Good Samaritan into practice. But we see as God's family, this extends to our home, the Church, as well.

+ Pastor Justin Baker

JULY 20 BULLETIN

The Sixth Sunday After Pentecost



Council Installation

Mother of Sorrows Community Food Pantry **TOILET PAPER NEEDED**

Mother of Sorrows hosts a community food pantry that collects additional items each month to give to those in need. We collect through July for the August donation date, where 204 families will receive food alongside four toilet paper rolls.

Our goal of 816 toilet paper rolls reflects enough for all 204 families to have 4 rolls each.

We have collected 278 Rolls, and we'll need
538 more rolls!

July 20: NEW GOAL of 269 rolls

July 27: NEW GOAL of 269 rolls

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 26th at 12:00PM and We
will need volunteers to help set up
Sunday the 27th 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!

THANK YOU!



Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help from this congregation, and thank you to Michele Hiener for coordinating volunteers. I'm delighted to report that our congregation has ten volunteers, double what I was hoping for!

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

Presenting During Sunday School

Dure will be presenting on the mission work she shares with her husband, Dagaga. Only Dure will be joining us.



**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!

Lena, our secretary, has resigned.

We wish her well going forward. She leaves us
with these words:

“Being part of Emmanuel Lutheran Church and serving its community has been an incredibly meaningful experience. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the mission of the church and to support its ministry.”

As a result...

Church Office Closed

July 21 - July 25 (Pastor in Maryland)

August 3 - 8 (Lutheran Week)

As always, Pastor Justin is reachable by phone or email, especially in urgent situations. I'll be working throughout both weeks, just won't be in the Office.

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, 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.

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

August 6, 11AM (1st Wednesdays)
in the **Sanctuary**

Who will volunteer to lead August's
Family Prayer Service? Pastor Justin
will be serving at the NALC
Convocation.

PRAYER GROUP

Second Wednesday in August,
11AM

In the **Library**

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

**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.



The Good Shepherd Foundation in Haiti

Thanks its Mission Partners:



The Good Shepherd Foundation is excited to report that as a result of the support of our church as well as a few other churches and individuals, progress has been made on the latrine/well project. After years of struggle (getting the permit, getting materials, getting some additional grants, getting workers) they have informed us that three latrines have been completed, and a well is almost done in the area where our clinics are held. It is hoped that with the addition of clean water and latrines, the health of the residents will be greatly improved. In the midst of terrible gang violence in Haiti, with support the clinic is thriving and treating approximately 150 patients in the Grand Saline area each week. The Good Shepherd Foundation extends many thanks to Emmanuel for our continuing support!

Anniversaries and Birthdays



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

8/6 Bob Jordan

LITURGICAL DAY	The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
DATE	7/20/2025 10:15AM	7/27/2025 10:15AM	8/3/2025 10:15AM
ORGANIST	Homer Adams	Homer Adams	Homer Adams
PASTOR	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Karla Gustafson	Holly Pelusi	Elizabeth, Hannah, & Lisa Yothers
COUNTER TEAM	Ed Datasch & Stan Casper	Ed Datasch & Cherie Wolovich	Cherie Wolovich & Jeanne Yargar
GREETERS	Stan & Linda Casper	Bill Primozic	Sally Seidling
USHERS	Elizabeth Yothers & Mary Whipkey & Serenity Wee	Dave & Mary Whipkey & Serenity Wee	Stan Casper & Ed Damasch & Serenity Wee
ACOLYTE	Lou Hiener	Kaleb Wee	Faith Palmer
CRUCIFER			Matthew Yothers
ALTAR GUILD	Kathy & Karla Gustafson	Donna Berardinelli & Jeanne Yargar	Donna Berardinelli & Jeanne Yargar
ALTAR FLOWERS	Ross & Lisa Nese	Ed Zinkan	Ed Zinkan
COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS	Danette Hunter	Danette Hunter	Danette Hunter

Sunday School (Resumes in August)

Worship	Sundays	10:15AM	Sanctuary
Acts Bible Study (Resumes in August)			
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

Discipleship Meeting	Wed, July 16	10:00 AM	Music Room
Council Retreat	Fri, July 18	5:30 PM	The Bakers
	Sat, July 19	9:00 AM	The Wilsons
Council Installation	Sun, July 20	10:15 AM	Sanctuary
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	July 21-25		CLOSED
Fellowship & Evangelism Meeting	Mon, July 21	11:00 AM	Luther Hall
Outdoor Worship Set-Up	Wed, July 23	12:00 PM	Church
Tech Wiring	Sat, July 26	9:00 AM	Church
Christianity on Topic	Sat, July 26	1:00 PM	Sanctuary
Outdoor Worship Set-Up	Sun, July 27	8:00 AM	Pavilion
Christianity on Film	Sat, August 30	1:00 PM	The Bakers
Oktoberfest	Sat, September 27	11:00 AM	Pavilion
Mission District Convocation	Sat, October 18	9AM-3PM	The Church
Christianity on Topic	Sat, October 25	1:00 PM	Sanctuary

SERMON FROM July 13, 2025

PENTECOST 5 | JULY 13, 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 seventy-two disciples from last week returned *with great joy and with great success* — even the demons submitted to them in the name of Jesus! Yet how did Jesus respond to their joy? He said; “Do not rejoice in *that*, but rejoice rather *that your names are written in heaven.*”

The return of the seventy-two would have drawn a crowd. And so, it's worth noting that Jesus said publicly — to these disciples and the crowd who gathered around — that the names of these seventy-two were written in heaven. If you had happened to have been in that crowd, you would have been wondering: *What about me? How do I get my name written in heaven?*

This is the question our lawyer asks Jesus. Our lawyer might have some other questions in mind, too — questions like, *Just how does Jesus know these men's names are written in heaven? What gives Jesus the right to say that?*

This is not a contract lawyer or a market acquisitions lawyer. This lawyer is *Torah* lawyer — a man who knows the first five books of the Bible, which contained the laws of religion and state. There was no distinction in Judah between *religious law* and *state law*. So these laws speak about sacrifices and religious festivals, and also about the value of property and matters of disputes. This man knows about all of this. And so, this lawyer sees that Jesus has told the seventy-two their names are written in heaven, and assumes that he will easily trap Jesus in the law. If Jesus can tell these men that their names are in heaven, what will he tell the lawyer? And so, he asks: *What must I do to inherit eternal life?*

Jesus parries; he turns the question back to the lawyer: *What does the law say?* Now the lawyer must prove his stuff. The lawyer is on the defense. Will he get his own question right? He gets to the heart of the law: *love the Lord God with everything; love your neighbor as yourself.* So far, so good. And Jesus commends him: “*You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.*”

Notice that this is exactly what the seventy-two had just returned from doing. They loved Jesus and put him and his mission above their comfort, above their responsibilities, and above their relationships. They brought nothing with them. With no money, no overnight bag, no supplies, the seventy-two traveled from town to town, and they cared for their *neighbors*. They cared for the *afflicted* — just as the lawyer is about to hear the Good Samaritan do.

We hear the story of the Good Samaritan, because the lawyer believes he has one more move on the chess board. Even though Jesus has parried his first trap, and even though Jesus has commended him, the lawyer is not ready to give up, and so he tries to set one more trap. He asks: *Who is my neighbor?* Jesus responds with our beloved story:

A man is robbed, beaten, half-dead, left to die on the side of the road. What will become of him? Will anyone find him? *Unlikely.* He will die if not. And yet — a priest comes. Surely, the priest will stop and help this man! Isn't this what priests are for? To intercede for the people to God? To offer themselves in service to God? But the priest doesn't stop. In fact, he crosses the road to the other side. He walks by. Next a Levite comes. Surely, the Levite will stop! If not a priest, a Levite is the next best thing — priests come from the tribe of the Levites. But the Levite doesn't stop either. He crosses the road to the other side. He walks by. Will anyone find this man and help him?

A Samaritan arrives. We learn from John's Gospel (4:9) that Jews do not associate with Samaritans. A Samaritan is therefore the *least likely* to help a Jew. And yet, this Samaritan stops. The Samaritan does not merely talk to the man, or wait with the man, but he cares for the man. He pours wine on his wounds to cleanse them; he pours oil on his wounds to dress them. And then he places him on his animal, and he takes him to the inn, and he pays

Miss Last Week's Service?

Follow the QR codes to **watch** the service on youTube and **read** the sermon.
Scan QR code (or click) to watch the service!



The Fifth Sunday After Pentecost



Worship Service
Emmanuel Lutheran Church

10:15 AM, Sanctuary
July 13, 2025