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## What is marriage?

### Part IV of IV

Last week, I wrote that “in the Church, the married, the widows and widowers, and singles form one single family.” In Baptism, we are born into the family of God, reborn as either a son or daughter of God, reborn as brothers and sisters of each other. When Jesus returns as Judge of the Living and the Dead, he rightly divides us into either God’s family or those who are children of Satan (John 8:44, 1 John 3:10). Each of us is destined for one of these two paths, one of these two families:

*It is a serious thing, to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or another of those destinations. (CS Lewis, The Weight of Glory)*

As Lewis put it, “we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or another of those destinations.” This puts in razor sharp focus the mission of the family and the mission of the Church.

The family is a microcosm – a world in itself – that reveals *who* the Church is. From the beginning, God made the woman to join the man in shared ministry – creating a household that loves God. The home was to be a place of prayer, worship, and love. Our destination as the Church is the same. As *the family of God*, the Church will spend eternity in God’s presence for worship and enjoyment of God’s love.

You may recall that the Sadducees – those Jews who rejected the resurrection – tried to trap Jesus in a story that would “disprove” the resurrection: A man married a woman but died before having children. And so, his brother – practicing levirate marriage according to the law of Moses – married her, but also had no children before he died. And so the story goes through the seventh brother. The Sadducees were wrong about the resurrection and about marriage. Jesus says: “For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.” (Matthew 22:30, ESV)

And this gets to the final point – those who have married may have melancholy about not remaining married in eternity; those who have not been married may have melancholy about not being married. But the end lot is the same – marriage *does exist* in heaven, for the Lord Jesus will wed his Bride, the Church (Rev. 19) and the feast will go on forever. And so now we see – the beauty of marriage and family on this earth is rooted and founded upon the richness and beauty of the Lord Jesus himself. Notice what this means. Even those who are single or widows, through the sharing the good news of Christ crucified and risen, share in the fullness of marriage. God blesses the *family of God* with children from now until the end of this age, and with marriage to Christ through eternity.

# Sunday's Bulletin

## The Seventh Sunday After Pentecost



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

*10:15 AM, Pavilion*  
*July 27, 2025*

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

## Christianity On Topic

*1700 Years of The Nicene Creed:*

*Still Hard at Work*

**JULY 26, 1PM, Sanctuary**

Right after a *brief* 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)

# Outdoor Worship

## This Week

*Brief Saturday Setup, noon*

*Food before Christianity on Topic, 12:30pm*

Sunday Setup, 8am

Service, 10:15am

**Brunch**, following the service

Please join us after the service for Brunch!  
Bring any dish that fits that category and join  
in a brunchy fellowship meal!



# Mother of Sorrows Community Food Pantry **194 Rolls 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.

**Great work so far!**

**We have collected 622 Rolls, and we'll  
need 194 more rolls!**

July 27: NEW GOAL of 194 rolls

# 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!



# 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!

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# 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, 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

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## 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 GROUP

**Second Wednesday in August,**

**11AM**

In the **Library**

**July 23, 11AM (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays)**

**on Zoom**

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## PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

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

in the **Sanctuary**

Who will volunteer to lead August's

Family Prayer Service? Pastor Justin

will be serving at the NALC

Convocation.

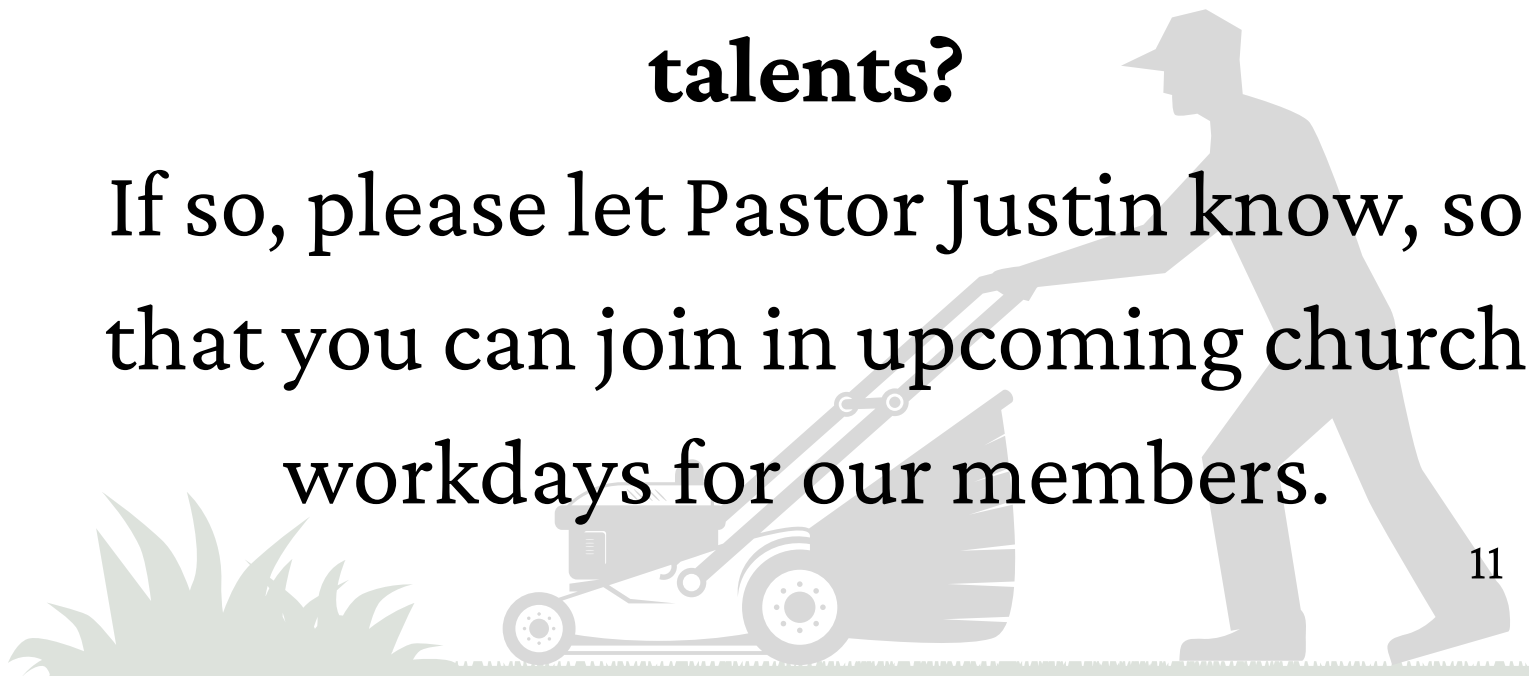
**Do you need help around the house?  
Around the yard? Would a church  
workday be good for you?**

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

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**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

The background features several large, semi-transparent balloons in shades of purple, blue, teal, pink, and yellow. Thin brown lines representing strings converge at the bottom center of the page.

7/23 Rich Lee

7/27 Scott Wilson

7/28 Tim Ford

7/29 Susan Smith

7/30 Mike Jaszcar

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

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**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 <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>Outdoor Worship Set-Up</b>	Sat, July 26	Noon	Church
<b>Christianity on Topic</b>	Sat, July 26	1:00 PM	Sanctuary
<b>Outdoor Worship Set-Up</b>	Sun, July 27	8:00 AM	Pavilion
<b>Christianity on Film</b>	Sat, August 30	1:00 PM	The Bakers
<b>Oktoberfest</b>	Sat, September 27	11AM-2PM	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

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 Thomas Thorstad	Pastor Justin Baker
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Holly Pelusi	Elizabeth, Hannah, & Lisa Yothers	Steve Cehovin
COUNTER TEAM	Ed Datemasch & Cherie Wolovich	Cherie Wolovich & Jeanne Yargar	Scott Wilson & 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	Ed Zinkan	Ed Zinkan	
COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS	Danette Hunter	Danette Hunter	Danette Hunter

# Sermon From July 20, 2025

PENTECOST 6 | JULY 20, 2025

✝ PASTOR JUSTIN BAKER

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

Good morning.

We heard last week in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, that the best place to “*Go and do mercy*” is in our homes — in our homes and among each other in this congregation. We need not be anxious about seeking out a neighbor on the side of the road, or a solicitor in the parking lot, or someone in need at a stoplight. We will almost certainly miss *those* neighbors, when we forget that our first neighbor(s) are in our homes, and the very ones whom we see and know in this sanctuary. *When* we recognize our spouses, our children, our family, our guests in our homes as our neighbor — and when we see each other in this sanctuary with fresh eyes — when we practice mercy *with each other* — then we are cultivating the virtue and habit and judgment of *doing mercy* to anyone we encounter.

Our passage in Luke begins with Martha showing mercy to her neighbor — with Martha opening her home to Jesus. *38 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house.* But, as the story progresses, we find that Martha is having a difficult time showing mercy to her own sister, Mary. There is just too much work to be done; too much serving to be done. And Mary, it seems, is getting away with it by spending time at the feet of Jesus, listening to him. Surely, Jesus will intervene and get Mary back to work! There's just too much to be done.

Isn't that always the case? There is always something else to be done. Even if you're not playing whack-a-mole with projects, knocking one down only for a few more to show up, there's still *the list*. That list of things that must be done. That's how it is — at home, and in the church. Each chairperson, each officer, has a list of things to be done — this, then that, then that. And so on. And, of course, it's no different for me, as the pastor.

So, with the piles of things to do, in your homes, in this church, why doesn't Jesus get onto Mary, why doesn't he have her help Martha with all that needs to be done? Why is Martha left to do all the work? When we ask this question in this way, we won't find out why. Because we're asking the wrong question.

Here's the right question: *When will Martha have time for Jesus?* We've already come to terms here that there's *always* something to do. There's always serving to be done, a project to be done, work to be done. We won't run out of things to do; neither will Martha. So, when will Martha have time for Jesus? Perhaps she thinks, if only Mary would come help for an hour or two, then she would finally be able to sit with Jesus! “Hurry, come help for a while, and then we will have time for *him!*”

Martha's approach seems to be: “let me get this done first, and then I will \_\_\_\_\_.” And I suspect, that this is the approach of many of us, the majority of us, perhaps *all* of us. There's more than enough work to go around. Let me just get this thing done first, and then I will \_\_\_\_\_.

The Lord Jesus Christ — Creator, Ruler, and Judge of the whole universe — is in the home of Martha, and she's *distracted* by serving. She's missing out on the only thing that is worth doing, the only thing that is good and worthwhile, so long as Jesus is there, which is to be in his presence and listen to him. Jesus has come to see Mary and Martha, and Martha has found other things to do!

But, of course, so it is with us, too. In serving as pastor, there are always *many* things to do, many things — even the things that must be done! — that may and do distract me from the main thing — from the Lord Jesus Christ serving me, and from me giving the Lord Jesus all *time* and honor and glory and praise due him. In serving as officers of this congregation, there are always *many* things to do, many things — things that, of course, must be done! — that will chew through time, that will pressure your priorities, that will serve as distractions from *being served by the Lord Jesus Christ*, and from the officers giving all *time* and honor and glory and praise due him. And so it is, too, with all those gathered here in this sanctuary and listening online. There are always necessary things



# 7/20 Council Installation



# Miss Last Week's Service?

## The Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

