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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.

Sunday's Service

The Second Sunday After Pentecost



Worship Service
Emmanuel Lutheran Church

10:15 AM, Sanctuary
June 22, 2025

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

Celebrating July 13



Bishop Dan Selbo is calling every congregation in the NALC to observe Vocation of Marriage Sunday on a Sunday in the Season after Pentecost, in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's marriage to Katharina von Bora on June 13, 2025. It is a day set aside not only to honor a milestone in Reformation history, but 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.

Christianity on Tap, Film, & Topic

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

June: Christianity On Tap
Israel and the Church
@ Helltown Brewing

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

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

For further information, and to sign up, please contact Michele Hiener, who is this congregation's designated coordinator.

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.

LITURGICAL DAY	The Second Sunday after Pentecost	The Third Sunday after Pentecost	The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
DATE	6/22/2025 10:15AM	6/29/2025 10:15AM	7/6/2025 10:15AM
ORGANIST	Homer Adams	Homer Adams	Homer Adams
PASTOR	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Elizabeth, Hannah, & Lisa Yothers	Michele Hiener	
COUNTER TEAM	Lisa Yothers & Jeanne Yargar	Cherie Wolovich & Jeanne Yargar	Bob Jordan & Scott Wilson
GREETERS	Darryl & Elsie Brednich	Carol McDowell	Scott & Carol Wilson
USHERS	Mack & Karen Flood & Serenity Wee	Mack & Karen Flood & Serenity Wee	<i>Volunteer needed</i> & Serenity Wee
ACOLYTE	Hannah Yothers	Julie Schamber	
CRUCIFER	Matthew Yothers		
ALTAR GUILD	Donna Berardinelli & Kathy Potter	Donna Berardinelli	MaryAnn Sinwell & Bob Jordan
ALTAR FLOWERS	Penny Walker	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Dan & Danette Hunter
COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS	Susan Smith	Susan Smith	Susan Smith

Prayer Service for Family

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

Join us:

July 9, 11AM in the Library (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 Dorothy McWilliams, Richard, Rob Greenleaf, & Rosemary Palmer. Comfort all and pour out faith unto life eternal.

OFTEN

Sunday School (Pauses in July)	Sundays	9:00AM	Luther Hall
◦ Discipleship: Methods			
◦ The Apostles' Creed			
◦ Stories of Faith			
Worship	Sundays	10:15AM	Sanctuary
Acts Bible Study (Pauses in July)	Mondays	1:00 & 6:30PM	Luther Hall & Music Room
Start the Week with Bill, an AA group	Mondays	6:30PM	Luther Hall
Staff Meeting	Tuesdays	9:30AM	Offices
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

Setup for Sunday's Service	Sat, June 28	12:00 PM	Pavilion
Christianity on Tap! + Pizza	Sat, June 28	1:00 PM	Helltown Brewing
Fellowship Hour: Service Setup	Sun, June 29	9:00 AM	
Worship Service Outdoors	Sun, June 29	10:15 AM	Pavilion
Continental Breakfast	Sun, June 29	11:30 AM	Pavilion
Council Installation	Sun, July 20		
Discipleship Meeting	Wed, July 16	10:00 AM	Music Room
Council Retreat	Thurs, July 18	5:30 PM	The Bakers
	Fri, July 19	9:00 AM	The Wilsons
Christianity on Topic	Sat, July 26	1:00 PM	Sanctuary
Fellowship & Evangelism Meeting	Mon, July 21	11:00 AM	Music Room
Christianity on Film	Sat, August 30	1:00 PM	The Bakers
Oktoberfeast	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.

 Join Us for Outdoor Worship! 

We're excited to continue our Outdoor Services on the **Last Sunday of Each Month** for June & July!

Dates:

June 29

10:15 AM

July 27

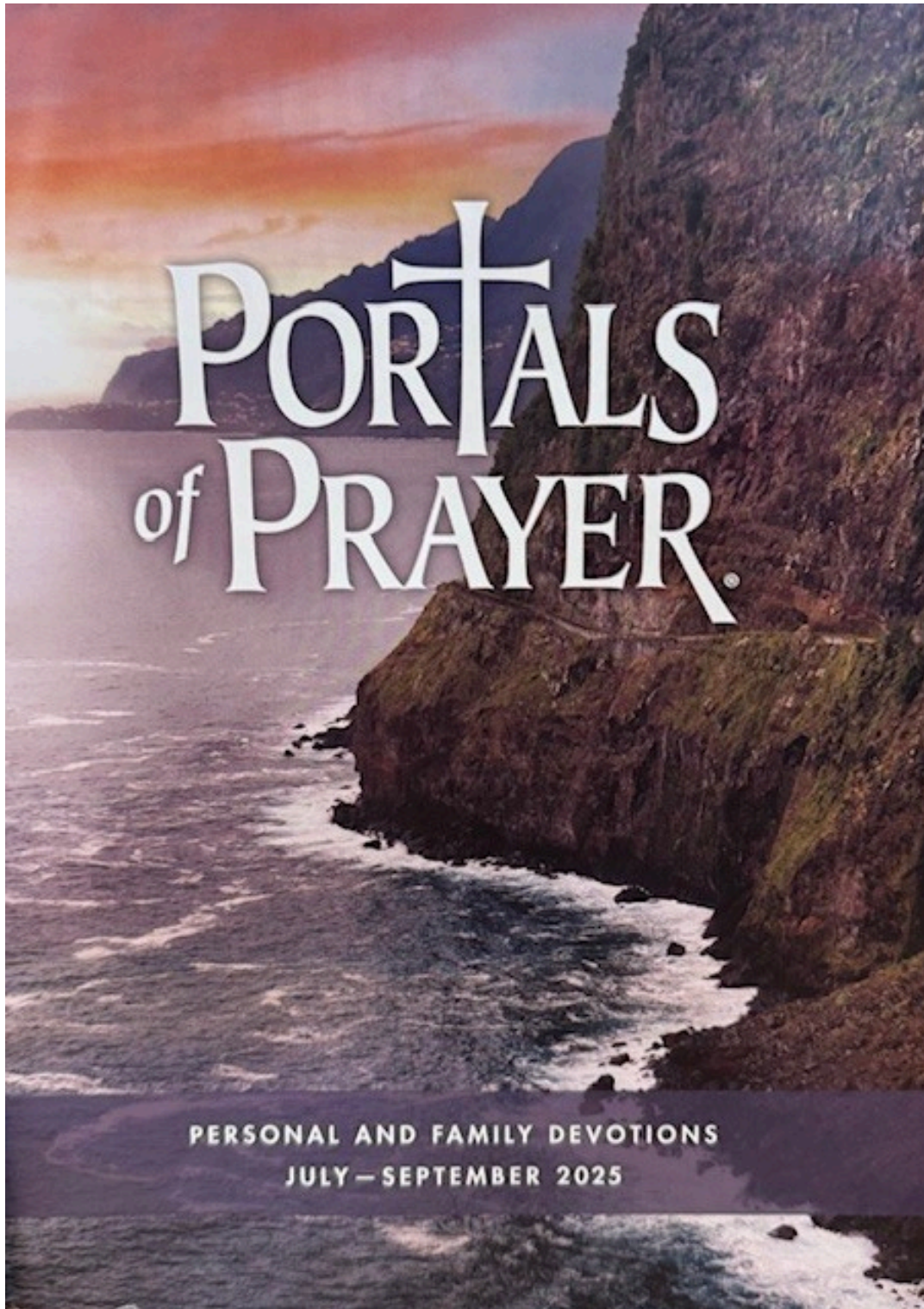
at the Pavilion

August 24*

We will need volunteers to help set up on the Saturday before each Service at 12:00PM!

(Then join us for pizza and *Christianity on Tap* at Helltown at 1pm)

Don't forget—Portals of Prayer devotionals are still available in the narthex! Be sure to pick up your copy this Sunday before or after the service. It's a great way to stay rooted in God's Word throughout the week.



Anniversaries and Birthdays

6/23 Karla Gustafson

6/28 Mack Flood

6/28 Scott & Carol Wilson (50 yrs.)

7/1 Stan & Linda Casper (47 years)

7/7 Daniel & Danette Hunter (46 years)

7/7 Irv & Debbie Pritts (54 years)

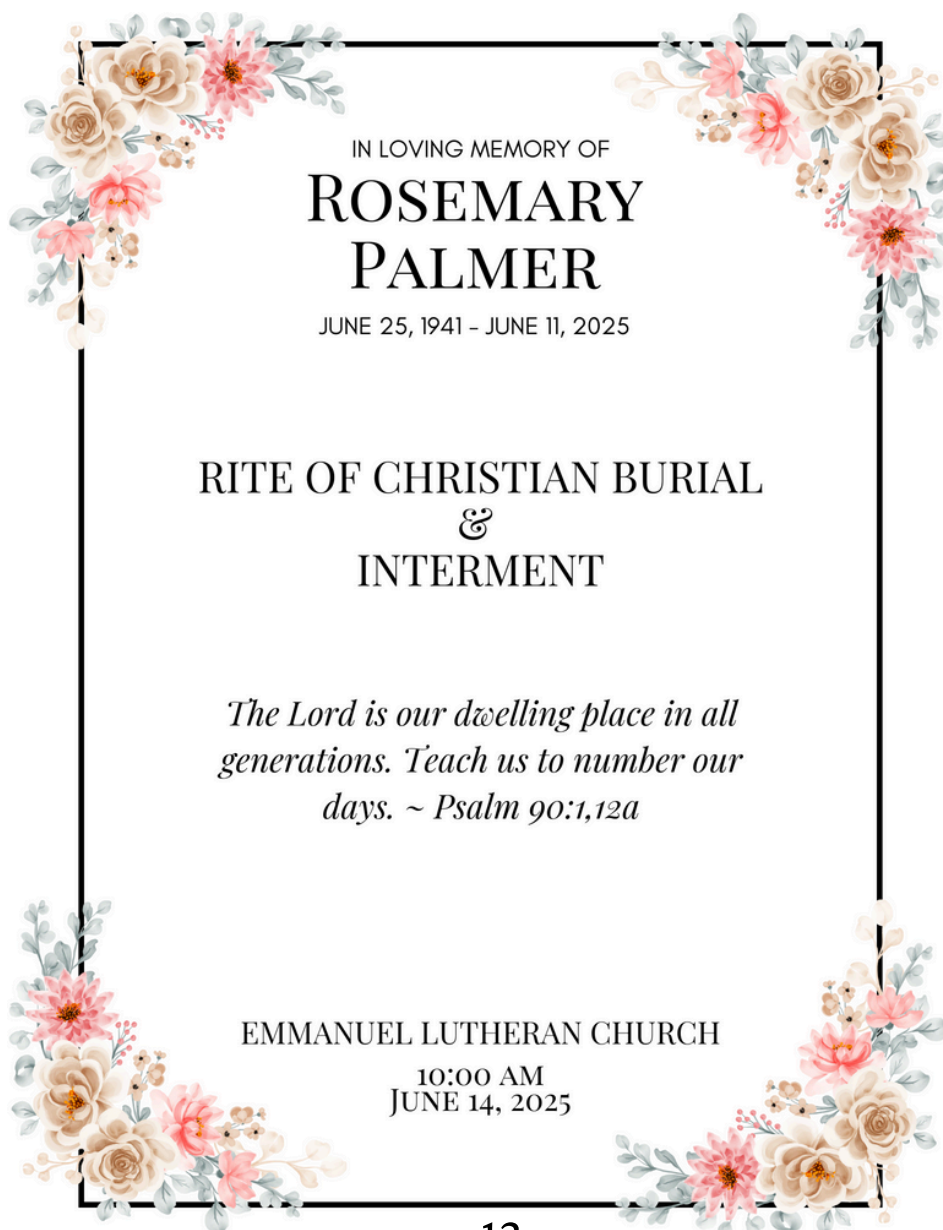
7/7 Chi & Colleen Wee (18 years)

7/8 Lou Hiener

In Loving Memory of Rosemary Palmer

Follow the QR code **read** the sermon.

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



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 Holy Trinity



Worship Service
Emmanuel Lutheran Church

*10:15 AM, Sanctuary
June 15, 2025*