

### Greetings Saints of Emmanuel:

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and attended the Mission District Convocation this past Saturday (and helped Friday)! Because of your service, the convocation went smoothly and was even able to run ahead-of-schedule. I heard nothing but good things from pastors and congregations alike. Again -- thank you!

Bishop Dan Selbo was present for the convocation, giving a state-of-the-union address of sorts. I do recommend watching his address to get a sense of the direction he is taking the North American Lutheran Church. He was also present for worship, with his wife Mary, and preached. You can watch his address from the convocation *here* and watch his sermon *here*.

On Sunday, we had two knockout passages on faith. In Genesis 32, we heard the incredible story of Jacob wrestling with a man -- a man who gives him a new name, "Israel," and whom he says was God himself. And in Luke 18, we heard the passage of the widow persistently seeking justice from the unjust judge, which she received. Dan summarized this message as essentially: "don't give up." In both passages (Jacob wrestles with God *all night until daybreak*) there is a deliberate refusal to give up, no matter the odds.

All night, Jacob wrestles. But at daybreak, he emerges with a new name. Repeatedly, the widow seeks justice from the unjust judge. At last, she receives justice -- even from *that* judge!

In prayer, we don't set the timeline for when God answers or the guidelines for how God answers. (Bishop Dan reminded us that our first priority is to let our wills be drawn towards what God wants!) There's a reason that Jacob is named *Israel*, which means *wrestles with God*. Neither Jacob's story nor the widow's parable would matter much to us if Jacob had wrestled with simply a man, or if the parable was merely about justice. These matter to us because they are about God, and God alone has the power to accomplish his will.

How sweet it is when the prayers we want to pray are the same prayers he delights in answering.

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

In Christ our Lord,  
+ Pastor Justin Baker

Today, Wednesday, October 22nd

11:00 AM, Zoom  
Prayer Group

## United Together, We 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 and 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:*

*Bob Jordan, Steve Cehovin, Jim Troxell, David Weihe, Linda Casper, Vince Berardinelli, George & Donna Campagna, Gary Kral, Mary Lou McDonald, Gayle Wertz, June Ugen, Debbie Pritts, Dick & Sandy Lester, Alyssa, Jerry, Ryker, Lori, Aurelia, Rachael, Aria, Ray, Jeff, Cathy, Leila, Grace, Darin, Alice, Keith, Victoria, Zachary, Kevin, 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, the family of Don, the family of Pastor Brian Shirey, the family of David, and the family of Ryan Dean. 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.*

## Newsworthy

### **Secretary Out of Office | Oct 16th - 27th**

Caroline will be out of the office beginning this Thursday, October 16th. She will return Tuesday, October 28th, at which point regular hours will resume. If you need anything from the office during that time, please contact Pastor Justin.

### **Three Year Plan for a Vicar**

In three years, we (Pastor Justin together with Council) plan to bring a vicar to Emmanuel. It would be unwise to bring a vicar before my fifth year of pastoral ministry.

A vicar serves for one year (or for two years part-time) as a pastoral apprentice in his (or her) last year of seminary and candidacy. Candidacy is the name of the process for approval for ordained ministry. It is the final year of discernment for whether a candidate is a good and appropriate fit for pastoral

ministry, and for discerning the gifts of ministry of the candidate. As such, a vicarage committee from this congregation would be formed to support and help form the candidate. A vicarage committee provides two evaluations (mid-year and final) to candidacy, and so does the pastor.

An advantage for having a vicar is first and foremost participating in training and preparing candidates for ministry, as a service to the wider church. A vicar serves and receives training in all the aspects of pastoral ministry (leading the service, preaching, pastoral visits, leading meetings, teaching). I (pastor) would love the opportunity to mentor and train a vicar. The congregation would also benefit from the gifts of ministry of such a vicar. Because this congregation has removed a pastor from ministry, we are gifted towards discernment of the pastoral office, and exercising that discernment-- either in favor or against-- would be a help to the denomination and would strengthen the faith of this congregation.

The monetary cost to this congregation would be approximately \$75,000, which divided over three years (at \$25,000 raised per year), is reasonably sustainable. Forty families giving about \$62 more per month achieves this. Included in the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget is a vicar line-item with a \$1000 starting fund as a nod to this plan.

Going forward, we will have a special fund for which you will be able to designate support of a vicar. I encourage you to give towards a vicar.

### **About the Convocation**

The convocation ratified our mission district's change to become a mission region. The mission region is further subdivided into six districts. Simply put, the mission district was far too large (in terms of congregations, pastors, and geography) for one dean. As such, we now have two deans who represent us: the Reverend Jim Neal, serving as Mission Region Dean, and the Reverend Chip Frontz, serving as our more localized Mission District Dean.

Holly Pelusi, our lay delegate, took excellent notes, and so there will be plenty more details to come.

**Mary Lou's 90th Birthday | Oct. 26th, following the service**  
**This is an open house, so come as you are able**  
**Recommend that you RSVP to Barb (or Donna Berardinelli) by Friday**

## **Stewardship**

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### **Seminarian Scholarship Approved**

The Council ratified a seminarian scholarship, as we seek as a congregation to build ties to seminarians in candidacy at our Ambridge seminary.

### **Congregational Budget Meeting**

Thank you for attending the congregational budget meeting from two weeks

ago. A reminder that we passed our 2026 budget, as well as the three proposed constitutional amendments from the NALC.

## Worship

### From Sunday's sermon

Bishop Dan Selbo preached this past Sunday and gave an excellent primer on the Lord's Prayer using the parable from Luke 18.

### Upcoming

Third Friday in November, 11AM. Worship at Brookdale. Stay tuned for more details.

## Discipleship

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### Bible Study in Acts | Mondays, 1PM & 6:30PM

#### What We Heard

No matter what forces, whether in the realm of the body or the spirit, are at work against the apostles and the Word, the Word nevertheless increases. Now to the complaint. This “murmuring” calls to mind the murmurs of the Israelites in the wilderness, which resulted in manna from heaven for daily bread and quail for meat (Exodus 16). But this murmuring also brought about the death of those who were unsatisfied with just the manna, and who demanded meat, resulting in a great plague that put them to death (see Numbers 11). The Israelites’ murmuring ultimately resulted in that generation’s not being allowed to enter the Land of Promise (Deuteronomy 1:26-27, 34; Numbers 14:26-30). And so, they were made to wander until that generation—the same one that was liberated from Egypt!—died off. All this to say that murmuring is a dangerous and deadly thing for a congregation.

#### What We Reflected On

What is the church’s central focus? What can stop the spread of the gospel?

[View Last Week's Lesson Here](#)

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### Sunday School, 9AM Fellowship Hour on Reformation Sunday (10/26) The Reformation: Three Life-Giving Changes

**Live Not By Lies | A Four-Part Class Beginning November 2, Music Room**  
*Sign-up in the Narthex*

A Four Part-Docuseries based on Rod Dreher's [book](#), which itself was based on Alexander Solzhenitsyn's [essay](#), all of the same title.

This will be a four-week class meeting every Sunday in November. [Watch the Trailer Here.](#)

## **Fellowship Hour | Last Sunday in October**

*Stay Tuned for More Details Here*

### **Fellowship & Evangelism**

#### **Giving**

The special giving to our mission workers was very generous. Thank you!

### **More This Week**

#### **Thursday, October 16**

All day: Secretary Out of Office

7:00 - 9:00pm: Troop 208

7:30 - 9:00pm: Al-Anon

#### **Friday, October 17**

10:00am: Help us set up for Mission District Convocation!

6:00 - 8:00pm: Troop 50327

6:00 - 7:30pm: Troop 22123

#### **Saturday, October 18**

8:00am - 3:00pm: Mission District Convocation

#### **Sunday, October 19**

9:00 - 10:00am: Sunday School

10:15 - 11:15am: Worship Service

#### **Monday, October 20**

All day: Secretary Out of Office

1:00 - 2:00pm: Acts Bible Study

6:30 - 7:30pm: Start the Week

6:30 - 7:30pm: Acts Bible Study

#### **Tuesday, October 21**

All day: Secretary Out of Office

9:00 - 10:00am: Bell Choir Rehearsal

10:00 - 11:30am: Bell Choir Subset

6:00 - 8:00pm: Champion Cheerleading

7:00 - 8:00pm: Council meeting

7:00 - 9:00pm: Troop 208 Leaders

Wednesday, October 22

All day: Secretary Out of Office  
11:00am - 12:00pm: Prayer Group- Zoom  
6:00 - 7:30pm: Troop 53155  
7:00 - 8:00pm: Steps and Stories

[Click to View More](#)

### Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### **October Birthdays:**

10/22 Keenan Seidling  
10/23 Ed Zinkan  
10/27 Bill Lavallee

#### **October Anniversaries:**

10/26 Ed & Susan Zinkan (51 years)

#### **November Birthdays:**

11/1 Jeanne Yargar  
11/1 Mary Lou Zalin  
11/3 Judy Sieg  
11/8 David Yargar  
11/10 Ernesto Carns  
11/14 Dana Sadler  
11/14 Scott Gustafson

#### **November Anniversaries:**

11/26 Rev. Greg and Angela Held (48 yrs)













# CAREGIVERS CAFE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH.

RUMMEL CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

3432 GRAHAM AVE. WINDBER, PA

1:00 PM | Last Sunday's Service LIGHT LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS

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

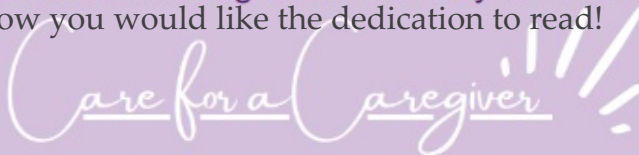
## National Family Caregivers Month

**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!



- Extend a personal invitation and accompany them
- Offer to care for their loved one so they can attend
- Cover their \$10 registration fee

[Download the Bulletin](#)

Everyday, Caregivers give their time, energy & love to care for others - often at the expense of their own health & well-being. By sponsoring a caregiver, you're giving them a moment of rest, recognition and an opportunity to connect and share with others.



Emmanuel Lutheran Church | 5000 Old Widdow's Ferry Highway PO Box #396 | Export, PA 15632 US



Please register using the QR Code OR by contacting Linda Goodwin at 717-514-7825

by November 1<sup>st</sup>

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

\$10/per person

Emmanuel COB



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