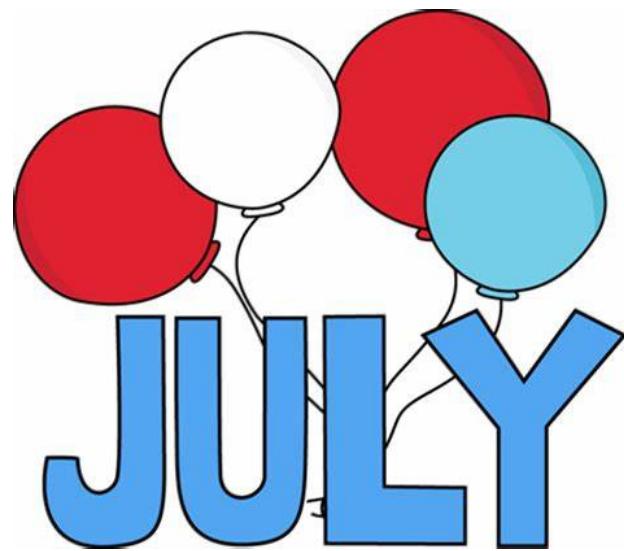


Emmanuel's Good News



2025

1900 Baker Street
Bakersfield, CA 93305
661-323-3355
www.emmanuelbakersfield.org
emmanuel@emmanuelbakersfield.org

Like us on Facebook 

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Vision: A Thriving, Joyful, and Prayerful church that changes lives.

Mission Statement: To live faithfully, to witness boldly, serve joyfully for healing and justice in the world.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dawn Wilder, Pastor
Tracey Poteet, Administrative Assistant
Ryan Ramming, Music Minister
All members, Ministers

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS & COUNCIL MEMBERS

Member	Office	Term	Team Liaison
Erin McGee	President	2028	Technology
Jason Gratt	Vice Pres.	2027	Property
Tina Gerber	Treasurer	2027	Finance
Jean Adams	Secretary	2027	
Kyra Brost		2028	
Jane McGee		2027	Fellowship, Hospitality Inreach
Karin Urso		2028	

Pastor's Paragraphs

Dear Emmanuel,

Some days, it feels like the world is unraveling. I don't say that to be dramatic. I say it because I know many of us are waking up each morning to news that tightens the chest and troubles the spirit. ICE raids are sweeping through neighborhoods, tearing families apart. In Gaza, entire communities grieve children who should still be alive. Here at home, anti-trans violence rises while the voices of LGBTQ+ people are silenced or distorted. Healthcare is more expensive, food insecurity is rising, and even Social Security—something many of us depend on—feels uncertain. And all of it is wrapped in the noise of politicians shouting over one another, grasping for power while people suffer in the margins.

It's a lot. I feel it too. As your pastor, I often wrestle with how to preach the gospel in a time like this. What does it mean to speak of resurrection when the air is thick with grief? What does it mean to speak of peace when the very systems we live in seem to thrive on division and exploitation? And yet... that's exactly what we are called to do. Jesus never promised that following him would be easy. He didn't say the road would be smooth or the work simple. What he did promise was presence. "Peace I leave with you," he said. "My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27) But also notice what Jesus *doesn't* say. He doesn't say: "The world will stop being scary." He doesn't say: "You won't be overwhelmed." He says, "Do not be afraid"—not because the danger isn't real, but because *you are not alone in it*. The Spirit of Christ is alive and active even now, even here, even in the heartbreak.

And Christ's peace? It's not the kind of peace that looks like silence or avoidance or denial. It's a peace that rolls up its sleeves. A peace that reaches out to those cast aside. A peace that joins the protest and sets the table. A peace that calls out injustice and still makes room for joy. So, if you feel like you're at your limit, I want you to know that's not a failure of faith. It's a symptom of being human. And the beautiful thing about being human in the body of Christ is that we don't carry the weight alone.

Let's be a church that tells the truth. Let's be a church that mourns and prays and shows up for one another and the world. Let's be a church that reminds each other that we were made for this moment—not because we are strong, but because Christ is with us. Christ is in us. Christ is still calling us to love fiercely, serve boldly, and live like resurrection is real. We are still the church. And Christ is still leading us.

In Christ,



Peace I leave with you;
MY PEACE I GIVE YOU.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and
DO NOT BE AFRAID.
JOHN 14:27 NIV

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 1900 BAKER ST
 BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
 661-323-3355

PASTOR'S EMAIL
 pastordawn@emmanuelbakersfield.org



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
		1	2
6 9:30am Worship Service	7 World Chocolate Day Pastor's Day Off	8	9
13 9:30am Worship Service	14 Pastor's Day Off	15	16
20 9:30am Worship Service	21 NATIONAL JUNK FOOD DAY JULY 21 Pastor's Day Off	22	23 Newslett DEADI
27 9:30am Worship Service	28 Pastor's Day Off	29	30 NATIONAL CHILI DAY



Office Hours
Tuesday and Wednesday 9am to 1pm

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	3 6pm Al-Anon Meeting: Paths to Recovery and Al-ATeen 7pm Al-Anon Spanish Speaking Meeting	4 	5
	10 6pm Al-Anon Meeting: Paths to Recovery and Al-ATeen 7pm Al-Anon Spanish Speaking Meeting	11	12
	17 6pm Al-Anon Meeting: Paths to Recovery and Al-ATeen 7pm Al-Anon Spanish Speaking Meeting	18	19
Letter DLine	24 6pm Al-Anon Meeting: Paths to Recovery and Al-ATeen 7pm Al-Anon Spanish Speaking Meeting	25	26 9am Food Distribution
	31 6pm Al-Anon Meeting: Paths to Recovery and Al-ATeen 7pm Al-Anon Spanish Speaking Meeting	1	2



July Sunday Servants

Assistant/Reader

6th Kristie Coons
13th Linda McCallister
20th Jane McGee
27th Jason Gratt

Counters

6th Erin McGee and Linda McCallister
13th Bob Coons and Elise Sotello
20th Julie Sweet and Jane McGee
27th Katie Mettler and Jason Gratt

Altar Guild

6th Julie Sweet and Janice Scanlan
13th Katie Mettler and Martina Salas
20th Linda McCallister and Ann Gallon
27th Jane McGee and Shannon Gratt

Fellowship Hostesses

6th Katie Mettler and Jane McGee
13th Julie Sweet and Linda McCallister
20th Suzanne Gost and Erin McGee
27th Katie Mettler and Jane McGee



Happy Birthday

Andre Poteet	07/08
Barbara Souza	07/16
Kathleen Ashland	07/17
Mason Gratt	07/20
Eddy Laine	07/23



Happy Baptism

Karin Urso	07/12
Pat Stramler	07/15



Happy Anniversary

Jason & Shannon Gratt	07/17
Larry & Tracey Poteet	07/21



Those in need of strength and healing: Bill, Bob, Amy, Barbara Long, Christian, Barbara Souza, Todd, Baylor, Benjamin, Marsha, Kerry, Manny, Jenny, Chris Simon, Babette, Lynn, and Kathy

Volunteers Needed

If you are wondering how you can be more active in the church, we have an opportunity for you!

We are in need of volunteers to host the coffee hour we have every Sunday. You are required to host only once a month with a partner. If you are interested, please contact Katie Mettler or Jane McGee for information. We look forward to working with you!



Sunday	First Lesson	Gospel
July 6	1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Elijah calls Elisha, who leaves all to follow.	Luke 9:51-62 Jesus sets his face to Jerusalem; the cost is everything.
July 13	Deuteronomy 30:9-14 God's word is very near—within heart and mouth.	Luke 10:25-37 A Samaritan shows mercy—love crosses every boundary.
July 20	Isaiah 66:10-14 God comforts like a mother; peace and joy overflow.	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 Jesus sends seventy; proclaim peace, heal, rejoice in grace.
July 27	Genesis 18:20-32 Abraham pleads for Sodom—God listens with mercy.	Luke 11:1-13 Jesus teaches prayer—ask, seek, knock; God gives abundantly.

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church
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Bakersfield CA 93305**