

# VOICE OF EMMANUEL

## SEEDS OF HOPE!



### Confronted By the Words

Reflections on the Rev. Dr. Wheeler Book Reading

July 13, 2023 | News

On Saturday, June 10, the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Wheeler joined the Racial Justice Network of the North Carolina Synod for a reading of his book, *US: The Resurrection of American Terror* at St. Paul's Durham. The Rev. Dr. Wheeler also preached at the congregation on Sunday, June 11.

Dr. Wheeler is “a retired ELCA pastor, sought-after preacher, public theologian, and writer. He is a guest lecturer on pastoral leadership in the 21st century at Wartburg Theological Seminary, where he received a Doctor of Divinity Degree honoris causa. A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Pastor Wheeler earned a B.A. in Religion from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and an M.Div. from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.” ([kennethwwheeler.com](http://kennethwwheeler.com))

“*US: The Resurrection of American Terror* offers a deeply vulnerable and piercing portrait of the human toll of white supremacy and points to the Cross as a place of hope and reconciliation. This is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the toxic and deadly interplay between anti-Blackness, nationalism, and Christianity in America.” ([kennethwwheeler.com](http://kennethwwheeler.com))

Thanks to the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Wheeler for his vulnerability in sharing his stories and Christ-Centered wisdom. His book can be purchased on **Amazon**.

Deb Tabert, member of St. Paul's, offered this reflection on the event.

Reading Reverend Wheeler's book was challenging, but as a white person, I must face the truth of what it is like to be a person of color living in a country that continues to make decisions based on centuries of advantages afforded to white people—white privilege and yes, supremacy. Hearing Dr. Wheeler's stories—a perspective quite different than my own—was more comfortable, but offered a revelation that what this country claims to be is VASTLY different from what it truly is for all!

Growing up in the Midwest, I was frequently told by my father that EVERY person was of equal worth and value, no matter the color of their skin or the job they did, and that all deserved respect. My father lived those words.

As the Rev. Dr. Wheeler read from his book, his voice cracked, full of emotion. I was confronted by his words and by the actions and injustices of white people, treating people of color as sub-human. I never knew that people of color practice unwritten rules of conduct to be safer around white people. It is still appalling that slavery ever happened in the US and that over 50 years after the Civil Rights movement, not much has changed.

This is NOT who Christ was, nor is this who He called ME—and us—to be. I'm pretty certain, given where He was born, Jesus was not white, and He desires ALL of us to live in harmony.

Continued page 2



Volume 4, Issue 30  
JULY 19, 2023

**Voice of  
Emmanuel  
Seeds of Hope!**

**ELC Seeds of  
Hope**

is published weekly to  
keep members and  
friends together during  
there time of physical  
distancing!

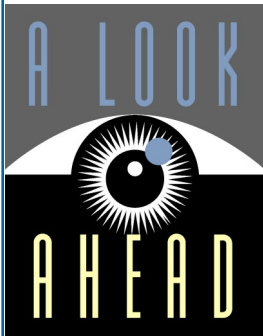
**Information  
submitted for  
publication must  
be received by  
Tuesday of Each  
week.**

**e-mail to  
lifewithemmanuel  
@gmail.com**

**Mission Statement:**

As the body of Christ,  
fed and nourished  
through worship, we  
are called to serve all  
people, through the use  
of our gifts to proclaim  
God's justice, mercy  
and love.

*Our Vision: Striving to  
Thrive with Vitality!*



## July 16

In the gospels of Matthew, John, and the longer ending of Mark, Mary Magdalene is the first to see the risen Christ, who commissions her to tell the other disciples the good news. In almost all the lists of women who followed Jesus, she is named first. Through the centuries, in the Western church she has been the object of misconceptions about her life and her relationship to Jesus. Now we recover her role as leader among Jesus' followers and as witness to the resurrection. Like Moses' sister, she came running with the good news that the one who had been given up for dead was restored to life.

*"Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another." John 13:34.*

So, what does this mean for me, you, and the Church?

We are to see God in EVERY face, no matter the color.

We are called, as followers of Christ, to do everything we can to dismantle the system of white supremacy. Honestly examine your beliefs and attitudes. Do they align with the call of Christ?

Work towards changing the practices of law enforcement that treat white people one way and people of color as less. Research the candidates for public office, and support those who are actively working towards change. Question how decisions of those in power negatively influence those of color and unfairly benefit white people. Do something!

Examining attitudes and beliefs is difficult and potentially painful; it involves risk. So does getting involved. No one said following Christ was easy, but as the quote attributed to St. Francis of Assisi goes, "preach the Gospel at all times and if necessary, use words."

Thanks to Deb Tabert for reflecting on the stirrings of the Holy Spirit present as Dr. Wheeler spoke, exploring the fact that anti-racism isn't about making white people comfortable, and inviting the synod into tangible, sustainable action.

Are you interested in joining an online community of learners from across the synod working together to critically examine the sin of racism in our lives and to listen eagerly for God's call of love and justice? The Racial Justice Network is a network of Christ-followers learning to be anti-racist. Subscribe online to join: [nclutheran.org/public-witness/racial-justice-work](https://nclutheran.org/public-witness/racial-justice-work)

Attribution:

**Synod Staff**



Mr. Johnson, a businessman from Wisconsin, went on a business trip to Louisiana. He immediately sent an e-mail back to his wife, Jean. Unfortunately, he mistyped a letter and the e-mail ended up going to a Mrs. Joan Johnson, the wife of a preacher who just passed away.

The preacher's wife took one look at the e-mail and promptly fainted. When she was finally revived, she nervously pointed to the message, which read: "Arrived safely, but it sure is hot down here!"



### ?? ? Bible Quiz ? ??

Besides Mary Magdalene, which of the following women were also followers of Jesus.

- A. Agatha
- B. Joanna
- C. Naomi
- D. Rahab
- E. Susanna



The Women Bring Spices to Jesus' Tomb

Answer: 2 and 5. Luke 8:2-4

## Ministry in Action - July - August

	July 23	July 30	August 6	August 13
Greeters	Kenneth Pales Nancy Pales	Jim Williams Betsy Williams	Edward Little Doris Little	Buzz Cherry Pat Cherry
Lector	Jennifer Huskey	Ben Robinson	Jennifer Little	Steve Lounsbury
Crucifer	Nayshaun Holiday	Matthew Heavner	Mary Ellen Bridges	Jennifer Huskey
Acolyte	Mary Ellen Bridges	Jennifer Little	Quinlyn Cornwell	Hannah Brooks
Communion Asst	Randy Zimtbau	Ruth Murphy	Jennifer Huskey	Jennifer Little
Altar Flowers	Available	John Lineberger	Available	Bob and Carole Lake

### Monthly Duties July 2023

Councilperson	Cathy Lounsbury			
Altar Guild	Susan Boyd	Cathy Lounsbury		
Ushers	Stephen Lounsbury (Captain)	Ben Robinson Jody Rhyne	Randy Zimtbau Keith Saine	

John 20: 1-2, 11-20

<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”

<sup>11</sup>Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ” <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

## Faith5 Corner by Bob Lake

### Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

**Share:** Share your highs and lows

**Read:** John 20: 1-2, 11-20

**Talk:** Slowly reflect on the reading. Do find this an inspirational story? Are you surprised that Mary Magdalene was the first one to meet the Risen Lord? What do you know about her? Have you heard that she was a fallen woman? But that is based on a scriptural mistake made by Pope Gregory in 591. Does Mary's perseverance in looking for the Christ inspire you? Did she truly have unlimited devotion to Jesus?

**Pray:** Thank you God for all the saints that have come before us. Thank you for their perseverance in looking for Jesus. Thank you for their devotion to Jesus.

**Bless:** "\_\_\_\_\_, may you always persevere in looking for Jesus like Mary Magdalene."



*Jesus appears  
to Mary  
Magdalene*



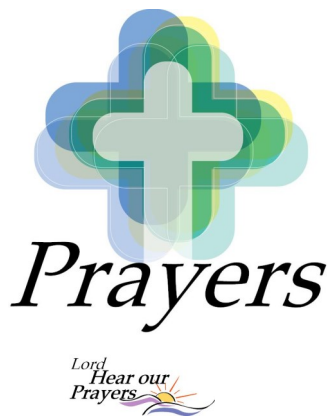
Every night in every home



[www.fait5.org](http://www.fait5.org)







Shirley Barnes, Polly Bryant, Kathy Cromer, Laura Cromer, Max Edwards, James Gantt, Suzette James, Betty King, Nancy McCoy, Gary and Susan McConnell, Trudy Perkins, Jim Sain, Paula Turner, Joan Warren, Pat Wilburn, Rick Norine and family (cousin of Barbara O'Neill), Evelyn Cochrane (neighbor of Susan McConnell), Barbara Stillwell (sister-in-law of Rusty Rhyne), Tommy London (father of Tonya Lawson), Sherri Beam (friend of Julie Leonhardt), Drew Milholland (Pastor Mike), Jane Smith (mother of Kathy Cromer), Larry Clark (John Lawson), Wayne Dodson (Rusty Rhyne's son David's father-in-law), Anna Lineberger (John Lineberger), Judy Bullard (John Lineberger's grandmother) April Wellman (Susan Boyd), Rosa Guerra (Susan Boyd), Rob Gregor (Susan Boyd), Anita Cable (Ashley Peaslee), Charles Ferguson (son-in-law Judy Blanc), Doug Norwood (Dara Jarrett)



Sunday, August 6th

We will be having a coffee hour before church.

**Please plan on joining us in the Fellowship Hall  
9 AM on August 6th.**

No Agenda, just a nice time for fellowship before services.



Carl Leatherman is in the Nursing Home, Peak Ressources, in Cherryville.

Carl is having a bit of a hard time right now.

I am sure that he would so appreciate any cards, calls and of course visit him in person.

Carl Leatherman  
7615 Dallas Cherryville Hwy  
Cherryville, NC 28021

# Sunday, July 13th



**Blessing of Backpacks** will take place on Sunday, August 13th. All children, youth and teachers are encouraged to bring your backpacks with you to worship so they can be blessed and that each person who comes forward feels the love and encouragement of this congregation.

First day of school for students is August 16.



THE EARTH HAS  
YIELDED ITS  
INCREASE;  
GOD, OUR GOD,  
HAS BLESSED US.  
PSALM 67:6

How are your gardens growing?

*Christian*  
MINISTRY

If you have an abundance of fruits and/or vegetables, Christian Ministries of Lincoln County will take your extra crop!

You can take directly to Christian Ministries to help the food bank with fresh food.



***Sunday, July 23 at 9 AM*** in the Chapel

If you would like to take communion to anyone who is not able to attend church, please join us for this informative group.



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
216 S Aspen St Lincolnton, NC 28092

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Randy Zimbaum	7/06
Donnie Robinson	7/08
Todd Heavner	7/14
Jim Sain	7/14
Johnnie Gonzalez	7/16
Susan McConnell	7/16
Christopher Hoffman	7/18
Mary Rhodes	7/18
Zachary Zagorski	7/18
Andy Deal	7/19
Nayshaun Holiday	7/20
Joe Scronce	7/21
Rhonda Harrill	7/22
Robert Doehling	7/23
Denise Yoder	7/23
Williams O'Dell	7/25
Ashlyn Rhyne	7/25
Ashely Peaslee	7/27
Martin Eaddy	7/29
John Lineberger	7/29
Elizabeth Stone	7/31



Seeds of Hope

A PUBLICATION OF  
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PHONE: 704-735-9033



*Newsletter Content  
Contributors  
Bob Lake  
Ben Robinson  
WELCA  
North Carolina Synod*

Sunday worship, study and  
fellowship opportunities

Traditional Worship Service  
10:00 am in the Sanctuary

Service is live streamed on  
Facebook at 10 am each Sunday  
and will be posted to YouTube.