

TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY – 2026

SCHEDULE

Sunday School & Sunday Bible Study will resume in September

Sunday Service: 11: a.m.

Wed. Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

SPEAKERS

July 5: Ivan Niemela, *Holy Communion*

July 12: Ivan Niemela

July 19: Mark Sunnarborg

July 26: Paul Coponen

CONTACTS

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The Image of God

“Male and female created he them...” (Genesis 5:2)

Who is man? Who is woman? These are two of the most basic of basic questions being challenged in the church today. It’s a subtle challenge, but a challenge none the less. Let’s take it back to the beginning, when God created man. *“So God created man in his own image; male and female created he them”* (Genesis 1:27). Adam and Eve were created after God’s likeness, pure and perfect. They were formed from the dust of the ground; God breathed into them the breath of life and gave them a living soul (Genesis 2:7) and all was very good.

After God created them, he gave them dominion over this earth. With the command to be fruitful and to multiply, to subdue the earth. But first, let’s take a step back. God created Adam and placed him in the garden, giving him the responsibility to dress it and keep it. To have dominion over it. The meaning of dominion is, the power to direct, control, use and dispose of at pleasure; right of possession and use without being accountable. God also brought the animals to Adam and charged him with naming them. But God saw that there was one thing missing, an help meet for Adam.

A woman, made from the side of man. God took one of Adams ribs and ... *“made he a woman, and brought her unto the man”* (Genesis 2:22). And in Genesis 2:23, Adam called her woman because she was taken out of man. God has just made an help meet for Adam. What is this, an help meet? First let’s do away with the common mistake of joining the two words, helpmeet. In other words, a helper suitable for him. A helper is someone who compliments the other, who fills the void where he is weak. The Hebrew word for this is *ezer* – an ally or rescuer, depending on the context.

What a great and blessed responsibility women have! Whereas Adam is given charge over Eve and all the world, Eve is given charge unto Adam, to be and to do what he cannot do. Two separate duties, two separate responsibilities, minimized on their own, magnified together. Man is ultimately given the responsibility to lead, but only as Christ does. *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it”* (Ephesians 5:25). Even as Christ also loved the church! This nails home the deepness of the love, responsibility, and duty that God placed on man.

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body” (Ephesians 5:22-23). Unto the wives, God has given this command, not in a tyrannical way, but as the same way the church submits under Christ. A humble submission for what he has done for us. Words escape here, unable to fully describe the vastness, the richness of it.

This lastly paints the beautiful picture of how the church is to be unto Christ. *“That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any*

such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:27). Here the glorious church is used to describe the bride. This is also to all men and women, husbands and wives, we are to be unto Christ, holy and without blemish. If you are raised again in him and walk in newness of life in him, then you are a bride of Christ, covered in his holy and precious blood. But if you are not, repent of your wicked ways, turn to Jesus Christ, because he is your bridegroom, your head. Humble yourself before him and know that he is lord.

God's Mercy and Peace be on to you all,
Eric Olson