



THE WITTENBERG DOOR

JUNE 2015

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

BREMERTON, WA

Pastor's Message

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In case of an Emergency

Please call
Pastor Tim
 on his cell
 phone
286-1090

This year the Supreme Court is hearing the Obergefell v. Hodges case in which the questions before the court are whether the (Fourteenth Amendment to the) Constitution of the United States of America requires a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex, and whether it must recognize a marriage of two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-state. Their decision will be a supreme decision for our nation, probably redefining the historic parameters of marriage.

This decision has already been made in most of the states including Washington state. In 2004 no state recognized homosexual marriage. Today, primarily through state court action and secondarily through the initiative process, thirty-seven states recognize the legality of these unions. Should Christians care about this debate? I think we should. This issue has already become a battleground restricting our first Amendment right of free exercise of religion. Christians are now being described as intolerant (and that, ironically, by an ever increasingly intolerant society.)

So what do we teach and believe? God designed man and woman to compliment each other. This complimentary design is most apparent in our physical union where we, obviously, fit each other, and it extends to the emotional, spiritual and mental components of our being. So when a man and woman are joined in holy matrimony they are truly "one flesh" (from Genesis 2).

This union is designed to be stable, that is, to last a lifetime and to be a loving, nurturing setting for child-bearing and child-rearing. It is a setting where the needs of the family outweigh the needs of the one. It is a setting where romantic feelings and one's personal needs take second place to caring for one another. That the man and the woman were designed to meet these needs in each other and in their children is what we mean by complimenting each other.

Marriage, being the first institution of human relationships, is the foundation for a healthy family, for a healthy society, for a healthy church and for a healthy nation.

While the Supreme Court is likely to make its decision on what seems right to America, we as Christians, form our definition on the revealed truths of God's Word, which is what is ultimately best for us, our offspring and for our nation.

Pastor Tim Cartwright

Congratulations are in Order

A family in our congregation have just been hired as the new caretakers at Lutherhaven. Ward and Mollie and their boys will be the new residents. They are very excited about this new position and we are too! Ward is an RN at Martha & Mary Care facility and Mollie is a full time homemaker. Mollie has gone to Lutherhaven since she was a little girl. She has a real love for the spot. We can't think of a better match for the position. Congratulations to all of you !



Annual Father's Day Picnic

Come join us at Olympic Lutherhaven for the annual Father's Day all member picnic. Enjoy boating, swimming, fellowship and local live music from "The Hometown Band." (You may recognize our own clarinetist, Marialis.) It will be June 21st from 12:30—3:30. Food will be served at 1:00 PM. This is a potluck, please bring anything you would like to share. Lutherhaven will provide hamburgers, hotdogs and drinks. See you there! -Ward and Mollie



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Thank You for Supporting our Local Foodbank!

During the month of May our congregational members collected and donated 63 pounds of gently used clothes that were donated to our local food bank. The Bremerton Foodbank was so appreciative of Emmanuel's donation. Thank you so much for your commitment to helping others. Save your sweaters, coats, jackets and sweatshirts and we will do a warm clothing drive in October. 64 pounds of food was donated on First Fruits Sunday Thank you for caring for those who need our help. Our next First Fruits Sunday will be July 5th. Keep in mind that we are in summer months which means there are many children that are home alone and not receiving free or reduced breakfasts and lunches. Think about what a young person could easily make when you purchase next months donations. -Larry and Sally

Special Thanks to all of you that continue to try and keep our church grounds free of weeds and the lawn mowed. You know who you are and all of us appreciate you!

If you think about it please pick up a large bottle of vinegar so it can be used to keep our parking lot free of weeds!

“The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away



Our beloved member of many years, **Mary Walker**, went to be with the Lord on May 29, 2015. She passed away after her long battle of lung cancer. Mary was one of these quiet people that was always there ready to help with whatever came along. Each year at the Operation Christmas Child work parties she was always there. She came and supported our annual food basket work parties. Whatever it was, she was willing to help. The congregational members that sat near her during worship services had the joy of hearing her lovely singing voice. She was a lovely, faithful woman of God. She loved her gardening and many of us were the lucky recipients of tomato plants or various cuttings from her yard. You could say that Mary had a green thumb. Quite often she shared her prize tomatoes with others. We will dearly miss Mary’s beautiful smile and quiet, gentle spirit.

News from our Childcare Center

A couple of field trips are planned this month. The pre-school children will be going to the Bremerton Waterfront and Boardwalk on June 12th. The school-age children will have several Field Days at Mountain View Middle School. On July 13th –17th, the Good News Club will be visiting to share the Good News of Our Lord. For the pre-school the letters they will be reviewing are A–L. They will be learning about the number 12. The colors they are reviewing are red, blue and green. They will learn more about Circles, Squares and Octagons. The devotions will center around King Solomon. Week one will be about storybooks, week two will focus on Father’s Day, week three about frogs and week four will be Beach Week.

Carverlynn Prothero, Childcare Coordinator



Aug 10-14 9:30am - 12:30pm

All children ages 4-10 are invited to join us as we experiment with fun and excitement at SonSpark Labs! We will have a great time with songs, crafts, Bible stories and lessons, snacks and games. Most important, we'll discover

God's loving plan for everyone is Jesus! It's sure to be a blast!

Registration forms are available at the church, by calling (360) 373-0290, or by following the link on our website

at www.elcbremerton.org .



In the Mission Field

News From Marian Hungerford

Marian has sent different topics that we can pray for in Bainga,

- rainfall at the correct time for good crops
- peace in the Bainga household
- plans to return in fall of 2015
- checking and verifying of the translated Guidar Old Testament now in rough draft
- political peace and stability, salvation of key Boko Haram islamists
- for the hearts of two mothers—Sadjo whose baby, Konofung died some time ago and now Sabine whose baby, Enok, died last week.

Also, you please keep Marian and Marian’s mother in your prayers.

You can always financially support Marian by designating your offering to go to Marian Hungerford.

Thank you, Marian, for your service to others. We look forward to seeing you again in the future!

Introducing Bob and Cheryl Fox

Bob and Cheryl Fox have been members of Emmanuel Lutheran for the past several years. After much prayer they have decided to enter the mission field. They will eventually be serving in Niger through the organization called SIM.

“God has called us to serve as secondary school teachers at Sahel Academy in Niger. As one of the world’s 10 most impoverished countries, Niger has literacy rate of only 28.7 percent and desperately needs educators. In spite of the inhospitality of the desert climate, we want to serve the peoples of Niger and missionary families working in West Africa.

Sahel Academy provides a Christian education to nearly 200 students from 20 countries. As we follow God’s call, we know our educations and real life experiences, and love for the Lord will bless them and their parents. We have a love of learning, a passion for God’s Word, and hearts to serve.

We trust God will use us to teach and encourage these students, preparing them to be the next generation of leaders as they follow Him. We eagerly anticipate what God will do through them in West Africa and beyond.”

- Bob and Cheryl

If you have questions for Bob and Cheryl you can contact them by email at cheryl.fox@sim.org or bob.fox@sim.org to find out more. If you wish to send a financial contribution to Bob and Cheryl’s ministry your can send your money to SIM P.O. Box 7900, Charlotte, NC 28241 or at www.sim.org or www.simusa.org If you wish to send a contribution to go directly for Bob and Cheryl please include the following. SIM #041764.

Reaching Beyond Our Borders

Recently we received a letter and certificate for our contribution of 51 shoe boxes we filled last fall.

Good News!

God has impacted thousands of children and families around the world in the past few months through shoebox gifts like yours! 10,621 Operation Christmas child shoebox gifts were collected in 2014 in our Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas alone. That 10,621 opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with children in Indonesia, Bangladesh, Peru, Nepal, and the Philippines.

These children heard the Gospel and had the opportunity to participate in a 12 week discipleship program to learn more about the love of Jesus Christ and His saving grace. Upon completion of these classes, each child received a Bible written in his own language and was connected with local churches (some of which were established as a result of OCC shoeboxes.

Thank you for your efforts in the OCC shoebox ministry! The love of God, expressed through you, in these simple shoebox gifts, is being felt around the world. Your investment of prayer, time and energy is having eternal impact.

As OCC volunteers, we are blessed to serve beside you.

In the joy of Jesus Christ !

Cyndi Gilman, Operation Christmas Child Church Relations Coordinator
Tamara Henry, Area Coordinator



Update: Please note that some of our shoebox gifts went to Nepal. As you pray for their recovery from the devastating earthquakes, pray that your box provides joy and an eternal hope in Jesus Christ. You ARE making a difference.

Special Thanks to Emmanuel Lutheran Church for your contributions and support of OCC. I am looking forward to another successful year this Fall. Sharie Adrig , ELC's Coordinator

Just for a Laugh

"During conversation at a dinner, I informed the man seated next to me that I was a preacher. He replied, " You know, we're actually in the same trade. I am an anesthetist; my job is putting people to sleep. And you do the same thing!"

-Walt DeRuiter

