

THE WITTENBERG DOOR

DECEMBER 2023 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCBREMERTON.ORG
 2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310



Pastor's Message

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The Birth of Jesus Foretold (Luke 1:26-38)

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, **"Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"**^[a] ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ **And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.**

If God were going to save the world, and set up a plan to do so, how would you imagine that would look? Would it be in a quiet backwater town of Nazareth, or an even smaller one that the prophets had foretold? And who would God choose to bring this about, of all the peoples, individuals, imperfect ones and those in desperate need of God, who would He choose to present such a divine and holy calling?

God would send His very angel to make his plan known to a man from the house of David. It is just like God to keep His word to his servant David, and then to bless all the others in the story of God's salvation. Joseph would be the man chosen to bring God's Son into the world, but it is also the young girl named Mary whom God would bless and lift up and say, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" One with a blessing from God's promise to David, and one with the Word of God's favored blessing, and then both given the details on how God will do this miracle: *"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus"*. ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" ³⁵ And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[b] will be called holy, the Son of God".

Yes, Jesus, the Son of God, the Lord's Anointed One, the Prince of Peace, and Lord of Lords! He is real and has not forgotten you. He is the calm and powerful Spirit that will bring you home and give you faith when all you have known is doubt and fear. You can come to God through His Son, Jesus and each time be reconciled to God by grace and through faith in Him. This Jesus, was born and intends to save you and the whole world!

³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

This is your Savior and mine, our hope for all time. Amen

Contact Pastor

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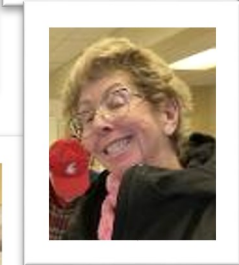
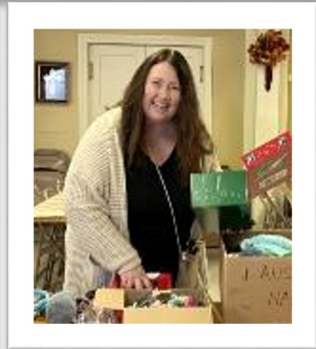
or

ggkouts65@gmail.com

The Joy Of Giving!!!



A few weeks ago we gathered on a Saturday morning and packed 40 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Our childcare center packed 10. **Grand Total: 50**



Each year Pastor Tim faithfully comes and writes personal messages to the special child that receives our box.





The boxes are packed and are on their way to special children that will be delighted with our boxes. Know that they will be hearing the special story of Jesus. Thank you to all of you who helped whether it be packing a box, bringing in gifts, contributing to the shipping of our boxes or praying for this special ministry. You are all appreciated!!!



Thank you!!!



Last month Rose brought baby bottles in from the Trillium Women's Center. For the month we filled them with coins, dollars and checks. Rose just reported that our little church gave **\$933.50**. God has been generous with this gift. Special thanks to all of you. Like the local food bank says, "We are the little church that gives big." **Well done everyone!!!**

Rose Link, coordinator

What's It All About?

As we prepare to sit down to a nice hot meal during the Holy season with family and friends we are reminded that this is the time when we need to share food and blessings with our neighbors in need. We can and should be in the spirit of giving a little or even a "lot" of food and blessings and, in-turn, hope Remember, "hope" is what Christmas is all about. As our First Fruits donation opportunities come to an end in December 2023, lets go out with a "great big bang!" And turn our hearts and

minds toward and even bigger bang in 2024!

After all, isn't that what its all about? Have a merry Christmas and a happy new year.



Sally Farner, coordinator

Learn More about God's Will for Your Life

Everyone is welcome at the Thursday, 10 am Bible study. You don't need to wait until we are "starting a new book of the Bible." You can benefit from joining us at any time!

-Pastor Rob

Bible Study and Sunday School for all ages!!

Thursday Bible Study—10 AM
taught by Pastor Rob Stroud

Sunday Children's Bible School—9 AM
taught by Judy Armstrong and assisted by
Chelette Williams

Sunday Bible Study—9 AM
taught by Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos



Annual Christmas Pageant

Once again the children of Emmanuel will be telling the miracle story of our Savior's birth. You can't miss this special occasion. Please put Sunday, December 17th at 10 AM on your calendar! Thank you to all the coordinating this special event.

Helping with Coffee Hour

There are several ways you can help with coffee hour. 1. You can sign up to host a Sunday. 2. You can put money in the offering and designate it for coffee hour. Or 3. You can talk to Rose Link or Teresa Prange and ask what you can bring to help supplement the coffee hour refreshments.

A Farmer's Christmas Song

Where I grew up there were folks who drove GM or Ford cars, Plymouths, Studebakers, Nash, Hudson, or Kaisers. Those same folks "always" owned "only", Tractors that were either, John Deer, Case, Ford, McCormick, Minneapolis Moline, International Harvester, Massy Fergusson, Allis Chalmers or Oliver. My family were Oliver folks. We even had a special Christmas song for our Oliver..... "Ollie The Green Nose Tractor."

Ollie the green nose tractor had a very shiny light and if you ever saw it, you would all agree...it's bright! All the other tractors used to laugh and call him names, they never let poor Oliver join in any tractor games. Then one foggy Christmas eve, Santa came to say "Ollie, with your light so bright, won't you lead my sleigh tonight?" Then all the other tractors shouted out with glee, "Ollie the green nose tractor, you'll go down in history"! That's my story and as Tall Carol would say. I'm sticking to it. -Larry



A Pearl Harbor Story!

Only a fool would underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit...never ceases to amaze! Commander Mitsua Fuchita, commander of the Japanese Air Wing that attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, became, after the war a Christian convert, a protestant minister and a U.S citizen.

-Larry



Healing

There are many categories of healing.. Most of the healings in the Bible are straight-forward and were based on need and individual faith. Other, not so much. (Hosea 11:3; 1 Peter 2:24; Malachi 4:2; Revelation 22:2). There is healing of relationships; healing of forgiveness and healing that takes place following trauma, sexual abuse, financial loss, natural disasters and the healing that eventually occurs after a war with the healing of nations and innocent victims. What we all know and accept, as Christians, is the physical healing and emotional healing is both mysterious and in accordance with the will of God. There are, in the Bible, documented instances when healing took place. But, does healing always occur in the way we pray and expect it to occur? Seldom. In the movie, "The Robe", a Centurion asks a Christian woman who was crippled, "why her God was unwilling to heal her and why, in spite of not being healed was she still a believer." She replies, "just so, to use me as a witness of a true believer." We have all know or know of people, both believers and non-believers, who have been healed. It is not uncommon for a medical doctor to say, "it was a miracle", when a person, not expected to survive from an accident or serious illness, does in fact, survive. However, sometimes healing means not surviving...but a "crossing over from this world to be joined with our Lord in Heaven". It's not uncommon for true believers in the final moments of their life to say, "I'm ready" and you know in your heart as they quietly slipped away that this was true, a trip they were prepared to make! Is healing a reality in our lives today? Does healing still happen? It happened to me...catch me sometime during coffee hour and I will be glad to tell you a personal event in my life.



Larry Farner

Trust

Indecision occurs when we no longer believe God is with us. Kind of like the story of a man who swam halfway across the English Channel, before deciding he couldn't make it and swam back. Keep the faith and "carry on", God is "always" with us!

It's Greek to Me!

We Christians like to think that blessings come down to us from Heaven. To explain this "coming down" from Heaven to us, we are stymied, since Biblical Greek (Koine) is no longer used, so we use the current (modern) Greek to explain the coming down as "katabatic", which literally means "flowing down".

A Message For You?

There are arguments on both sides of the global warming issue. The question to be most concerning for True Believers however, is much more an issue of obedience than simply weather forecasts. Consider a message from the Prophet, Jeremiah 2:7. "And I have brought you into plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination." Oh, that was just for the Jews. No.....the message of Jeremiah 2:7 is for "all" the Children of God. -Larry

December Birthdays

2-----Brian Boisjolie
 6-----Mollie Erickson
 7-----Bonnie Mace
 19-----Emma Atienza
 20-----Matthew Johnson

January Birthdays

14-----Chris Knight
 18-----Dolly Williams
 29-----Larry Ficca
 29-----Miki Turowski

January Anniversaries

2-----Pastor Gary & Lori Koutsopoulos
 14-----Mike & Carverlyne Prothero

If you have any additions or corrections to our birthday or anniversary list please let our editor, Sharie Adrig,



Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Men's Fellowship Breakfast is being held at 8:30 am the second Saturday of each month at All Star Lanes in Silverdale. If you would like to receive email updates on this please let Glen Adrig know so that your name and email can be added to the contact list.



Fellowship



Members Serving in December

Altar Guild-----Teresa Prange (Sat)
 Carol Henning (Sun)
 Reader -----Maurine Simons
 Acolytes -3, Bella-10, Nathan-17, Tiffany-24, Bella-31, Nathan

Members Serving in January

Altar Guild -----Sharie Adrig
 Reader -----Glen Adrig
 Acolytes -----TBA

What's Coming Up?

December

2-----10 am--Advent Decorating party
 3-----9 am--Adult Bible Study
 Children's Sunday school
 4-----6 pm----- Kitsap Peninsula
 Knitting Guild Christmas Party
 6-----12, noon---Women's Lunch
 7-----10 am -----Bible Study
 10-----9 am---Adult Bible Study
 Children's Sunday School
 10-----10 am ---Worship Service

(Childcare Gifts are due)

13-----12,noon---Women's Lunch
 14-----10 am-----Bible Study
 16-----10 am -----Wrapping Party
 (please come and help with wrapping the Childcare Children's gifts for Christmas)
 17-----10 am ---**Christmas Pageant**
 20-----12, noon---Women's Lunch
 21-----10 am-----Bible Study
 24-----10 am -----Christmas
 Candlelight Service

January

6-----10 am -----Undecorating Party
 8-----6 pm-----Kitsap Peninsula
 Knitting Guild