

# THE WITTENBERG DOOR

JULY 2023

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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## Pastor's Message

<sup>28</sup> We know that in everything God works for good<sup>[a]</sup> with those who love him,<sup>[b]</sup> who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified (Romans 8:28-30)

Through this month of preaching, and sermons based on the lectionary from Romans, chapters 4 – 8, we have been able to look at Romans as more than a basic book of world revealing, Christ-centered, cross focused and life - redeeming doctrine. It has been a declaration of the disparity and ultimate inability of humankind to save ourselves. It has been a record of dying and rising. The former, to our sin and the latter unto Jesus Christ, our knew and living hope! It has beckoned us to yield our members to righteousness in God and through His Word, control the nature and behavior of a body given over to a condition of sin (Rom. 6), and the calling to refrain from “boasting in ourselves” as a source of our own salvation and better position before God (Rom.3:27-30). This is not that God would deny salvation if we could earn it, or in any way help God along in bringing it to us in a more satisfactory way. Romans tells us that our standing before God is not by our own innate goodness or previous record of accomplishments. It is simply that, “...no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds described by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.” (Romans 3:20). It would go on to say, “... *but now apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, as is attested by the law and the prophets.* <sup>22</sup> *The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...*” (Rom. 3:21-23).

Notice, it says here there is no distinction. This is because of the equal opportunity nature of God’s truth and love.; His law and gospel. This includes “all” statements that impact every human born since the original sin into a fallen humanity. The Lord wants to share with all who believe, the truth of how we all stand before God. First “all statement” for these chapters;

1. All have sinned:

<sup>23</sup> “since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> they are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as an expiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins; <sup>26</sup> it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies him who has faith in Jesus” (Rom. 3:23-26).

2. In Christ, all are made righteous by faith (Rom 5:18):

<sup>18</sup> *Then as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men*

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## Pastor's Message continued .....

### God's Love in Christ Jesus (Romans 8: 31-39)

*In the last Sunday of July, dealing with Romans chapter 8, we discuss the ultimate promise and hope of those who follow Christ and bear His name. That the suffering, the sacrifice, the pain and the sorrow that may come, will leave us as they did all of God's faithful servants: Content and blessed to be considered worthy of bearing Jesus' Name, and living out the plan to disciple others as He commanded (Romans 8:28-30)*

*This comes with the promise, the Word and the person of Christ, who himself is our hope, our strength and our victory by grace, through the faith we have received as a gift from Him: <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; <sup>34</sup> who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us?<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written,*

*"For thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."<sup>36</sup> As it is written, "For thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."*

*<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

### In Christ, more than A Conqueror

In my trip to Europe to visit my family in Sicily this June, I realized that the journey of Paul in the first century was a real journey, by a real person, who was really called to serve and give his life to preaching Christ, and him crucified (I Cor. 2:1-5). His weakness, fear and trembling much like our own, left him and us, with our speech and message, not in plausible words of wisdom, nor in lofty words (v. 5). Our world is as much in need of God's grace, truth, and hope in Christ, as any time in history. Not only for godliness and forgiveness, but also for life and salvation that is ours by a simple faith in Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior (see Luther's explanation of the Holy Communion and worthiness in believing Jesus' Word, "given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Small Catechism , pg. 29). . Our focus, on Jesus the Christ and the very Son of God who was "put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification." (Rom. 4:24-25). We go forward into a modern world of great need and deep darkness. Yet, by Grace and the Power of God we have been granted the precious gifts of God's Holy Word (in Christ, the Scriptures, and the means of grace -Sacraments) and it is still not in our plausible words or wisdom, but "... in demonstration of the Spirit and power, that your faith and mine might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God". (I Cor. 2:5). God bless you and your loved ones this Summer, and may you hear and know again the calling and voice of God in Christ, to disciple all peoples and build them up in the Body of Christ as we follow our Lord together!

*Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos*

## What's Happening at Lutherhaven?

### ***Emmanuel's Church Picnic***

Sunday, August 20th following our worship service is our annual church picnic. All are invited for the fun, food and fellowship! Hope to see you and friends all there!



### ***Lifeguards Still Needed!!***

Lutherhaven is a wonderful spot to swim but we still need lifeguards for our safety. If you know anyone who is a lifeguard and wants to get some extra hours please have them contact Lutherhaven at [alysakharper@gmail.com](mailto:alysakharper@gmail.com) or call 360-620-9154

### ***Camper's for All-Church Camp***

If you know any children that are starting Grades 4th—9th in the Fall of 2023 and looking for a week of fun and outdoor living you have found it at Lutherhaven. It is an overnight camp that starts on July 30th at 1 pm and will go through Saturday, August 5th at 12 pm. Registration ends on July 14th. The cost is \$450 per camper. If you haven't priced summer camps lately that is truly a bargain. What a deal! All meals, overnight accommodations and trained counselor's. Plus, daily swimming and boating as well as crafts and plenty of fun to fill their days.



Interested? Registration can be found at <https://form.jotform.com/231338596083159>

## **Congratulations Henry!!!!**

Recently, our member, Henry Simons, was recognized for his academic achievement this past school year with the distinguished President's Academic Achievement Award. He was even presented with a letter of congratulations from our President, Joe Biden. We are so proud of you, Henry, for this awesome award.



Congratulations from all of us at Emmanuel Lutheran. We are truly proud of you for this outstanding accomplishment!!!



## A One Day VBS Event !!

Emmanuel is offering a one day VBS event on Friday, August 18th. We would like to be able to offer games, snacks, music, crafts and a Bible Lesson. The sign-up sheet is in the fellowship hall. We still need people to sign-up to help with this fun and meaningful day for children.



***The theme is "Following Jesus."***

If you are interested or have questions ask Judy Armstrong or Delores Stroud.

## Next "First Fruits" Sunday is August 6th

Last Sunday to help the children while on their Summer vacation!!

## Because of You!!

The Children of our community are still out of school. They have over a month to go until school starts and school lunches resume.



During this time, they no longer are able to rely on school meals. Summer is supposed to be fun for "kids." But, it's not fun being hungry. That is where WE come in ...WE are consistent in our food giving; summer, fall, winter and spring. Our donations to "First Fruits" help stock the food bank shelves year around. Every time you donate food,



remember, there is a child who won't go hungry and, .....it's "All Because of You!!"

-Sally, coordinator

## What Will Heaven be Like?

Have you ever found yourself in a group when the question came up. "What will Heaven be like?" typically, the answers are; Heaven is a place where the streets are paved in gold, where everyone is healthy and happy. A place where the grass is always green and the sky is always blue and it only rains at night. The best answer for me is the story of a country Preacher who always took his dog wherever he went. One day, he had to visit a lady in her home who was very ill. The Pastor knew this lady was afraid of dogs, so closed the door to her bedroom, leaving his dog outside. The dog went crazy...barking and scratching on the door. The dog did



not know what the room was like beyond the door, he only knew that behind that door was his Lord and Master. We may have a clue what Heaven is like but, we do know that "our" Lord is there and that is where we want to be.

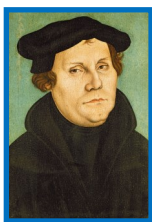
## Freedom

Freedom, we all want it, we all claim it, we all "demand" it. But we can't



seem to agree what it is; Consider this.....Freedom is the ability to do what we want? Or, is freedom manifested in our ability to control ourselves? Does freedom occur when we can guarantee equal outcomes for all? Is freedom bound to what we reap, a consequence of how we employ freewill. Or, is freedom our reward for sowing righteously? Bobby Darin wrote and recorded "A Song of Freedom" that, if not right on does come pretty close.

## Luther and Lutherans—Part Ten



**AUTHORITY.** Luther saw both sides of the freedom promised in the Gospel, the claims of the Church and the point of view of the reformers. He saw the denial of the “real presence” of Christ in the Lord’s Supper as a denial of everything that mattered. He felt that both the Church and the reformers failed to teach how we are to become free from our sin, obtain a good conscience and win a peaceful and joyful heart. That Luther said, “is what really counts.” Luther also made clear that he was never against authority. It was because of his respect of true authority, that he spoke out against false authority (the Church leadership). Luther made it clear that Christians were free, but he also made it clear that their freedom made them duty-bound to behave well toward others. For those who despised the authority of the Church, Luther reminded them that if your ideas are right in your mind then any man might become judge over another. Then authority, government, law and order would disappear from the world. As soon as anyone saw that someone was wronging him, he would begin to judge and punish him. Now if that is unjust and intolerable when done by an individual, we cannot allow a mob or crowd to do it. Like his namesake, Martin Luther King Jr., Luther was not advocating doing nothing but he was strongly advocating against violence as a Christian as a means of solving social injustice. Luther’s advice was to trust in God. On this point, Luther references Romans 12:19.



## Satan, His Own Worst Enemy!

Satan, the lord of sin and earth is tormented with the truth that Hell is his reality. He is no longer a glorious being of Heaven. He blames God, but admits that God does not deserve his hatred. The separation from God and torment of Hell causes Satan to consider repentance but, refuses to submit to God. He considers an insincere repentance but, knows God will not be fooled. So, he continues to suffer because he has willingly separated himself from God. Does this sound familiar? Has our own sinful nature and our unwillingness to submit separated “us” from God? Is there still hope? Yes...repent and accept the Lords grace. Do not, like Satan, insist on being your own worst enemy!

-Larry

## Notes on Second Peter

The Thursday Bible class conducted by Pastor Rob, completed second Peter on July 6th. So for those who are unable to attend-these notes ARE FOR YOU! According to Peter, salvation is not dependent on works. But, faith must take concrete form. We much be diligent to confirm our calling as Christians. We must develop a lifelong habit of living effectively for Christ. The Gospels of Christ was no myth, as non-believers claim. The Apostles were “actually” eyewitnesses. Peter, a leader in the early Christian Church, emphasised virtue, knowledge, self-control and Godliness. Good works, are evidence of our obedience to persevere in our calling. Through Scripture, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. Beware of false prophets-they will always be with us, for they serve the will of Satan. Peter’s goal in this letter is not to preach a new Gospel but , to stir-up and encourage believers. Peter warns us that in the last days, scoffers will come in abundance, even with the Church. We are encouraged by Peter to live in holiness and godliness. We are to be diligent and at peace. Meanwhile, we must take care that we are not carried away with the error of lawless people and loose our stability We must grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

- Larry

**July Birthdays**

1-----Cole Simons  
 5-----Lori Koutsopoulos  
 16-----Amanda Andrada  
 26-----Peter Mace

**July Anniversaries**

17-----Pastor Rob & Delores Stroud

**August Birthdays**

8-----Dominic Fuller  
 15-----Bonnie Stouffer  
 27-----Teresa Prange

**August Anniversaries**

1-----Pat Alcantra & Nancy Kerlee  
 10-----Jim & Miki Turowski  
 12-----Glen & Marialis Jorges  
 18-----Ward & Mollie Erickson  
 27-----Keri & Patrick Roberts

If you have any additions or corrections to our birthday or anniversary list please let our editor, Sharie Adrig, know at [gadrig@comcast.net](mailto:gadrig@comcast.net)



**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.

***Our Thursday Bible Study group just finished 2 Peter and before we begin our next book, we are taking a summer break. We plan to resume in August. Look for more information coming later.***

**Members Serving in July**

Altar Guild -----Teresa Prange (Sat),  
 Sally Farner (Sun)  
 Reader-----Miki Turowski  
 Acolytes -2, Tiffany-9, Bella- 16, Nathan-  
 23, Tiffany- 30, Bella

**Members Serving in August**

Altar Guild-----Jo Klempan  
 Reader -----Larry Farner  
 Acolytes -6, Nathan- 13, Tiffany- 20. Bella  
 -27, Nathan

**What's Coming Up?**

*July*

2-----10 am-----Worship Service  
 10-----6 pm -----Knitting Guild  
 At Jo Klempan's home  
 12 -----12, noon-----Ladies' Lunch  
 16 -----10 am -----Worship Service  
 17 & 18--- 1 - 5 pm---AARP Driver Safety Class  
 19-----12, noon -----Ladies' Lunch  
 30-August 5th-----All-Church Camp

*August*

2-----12, noon-----Ladies' Lunch  
 6-----10 am-----Worship Service  
 9-----12, noon -----Ladies' Lunch  
 13-----10 am-----Worship Service

August 18th Vacation Bible School

August 20th Church Picnic at Lutherhaven

Thursday Bible Study TBA

**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.