

THE WITTENBERG DOOR



JULY 2024

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

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Pastor's Message

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My Grace is sufficient for you—Jesus (2 Cor. 12:9-10)

⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

A) Dear Christians at Emmanuel Lutheran, this weakness in us and power of God in Christ to save, is in keeping with the Word of God, the Sacraments, and with our daily and evident witness to Christ Jesus our Lord. First, this is a Holy Spirit -driven surrender, to the truth of the Word of God as Law and Gospel in God’s Holy Word. Then as preached, taught and received by grace through faith and in the power of the Holy Spirit, it is the Word of God for all who believe in Christ. It is God’s grace and love in Christ Jesus. This is the means by which we first and now continue to believe and receive the assurance of new life in Christ - in the power of His Spirit, the regular reception of the Sacraments according to Scripture, and the daily confession of sin and promise of forgiveness in and through Jesus our Lord! (2 Corinthians 12:10)

B) “So that the Power of Christ may rest upon me” (2 Cor. 12:9) His power rests upon us, and in His Power, we are at rest. Jesus paid it all; He has done it all – all to Him I owe. Sin has left a crimson stain; and He washed it white as snow.” (Pentecostal Hymn)

In our 5-week sermon series on 2 Corinthians we talked about who we are in this life; Yes, earthen vessels, tents that bear the name and even the Spirit of God; and now we see and receive by grace through faith the promise of Resurrection as re-born and humble servant people, following our Savior Jesus the Christ. The calling and the gifts of God in the Holy Spirit are for dying to our sins and living in Christ (think Baptism Romans 6:4-5)), for you and me. Amen

Pastor's message continued on page 2.....



Contact Pastor

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or

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As an ending to my sermon on 2 Corinthians 2:1-10, I used a well known and loved verse from St. Paul's other epistle, yet now, to the Romans (Romans 3:21-28):

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation 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. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Finally, as we continue on in the world and await the glorious day of our home-going to be with the Lord, we do so in His time and grace. I left the sermon series in 2 Corinthians with the beginning verse of the lectionary given, that I believe can guide the reader to humility, and perfectly declare Jesus' own glory:

⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants^[a] for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. (2 Corinthians 4:5-7)

God bless you and be with you always, brothers and sisters, Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos

God, Time and History

How do you know a church building when you see one? Many would say that pointed windows and arches are signs of a church. But a building with pointed windows and arches may well be a museum. Many modern churches have flat roofs and square windows. But, it would be wrong to think there are no guiding principles in church architecture. Churches have the same basic purpose—to provide accommodations for Christian meetings and worship. Some people feel that the church does not really need a building. The first Christians gathered in existing buildings or caves or, in the homes of other believers. Despite their apparent differences, churches, i.e., Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic or Protestant churches have an important development in common. They all separate the altar from the ordinary worshippers. During the Reformation, instead of accepting the power of the priest in relation to the sacraments, reformers preached the priesthood of all believers. The impressive buildings of the nineteenth century reflected the prestige of Christian contemporary styles, showing concern to make buildings relevant to the needs of Christians in the modern world. What makes a "place" a church has nothing at all to do with the design or style. But what takes place on the inside—kind of like our hearts.

Emmanuel is clearly of the best designs, for the best of reasons.

Emmanuel, after all, means, "God is with us".



Our first church building—1946

- Larry Farner

Were These Coincidences, Serendipity Moments, Blessings or Miracles from God?

I have lots of things on my “Bucket List” and some have been fulfilled in ways that seem almost unbelievable and miraculous to me. One of the things that is still on my list has to do with finding out more about my Finnish relatives. I especially want to know about their Christian faith or lack of it. My father’s parents each came from different sides of Finland. They immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1900’s. I knew little about their relatives so I took a DNA test and joined Ancestry.com.

One of my first genealogy finds was a ship’s manifest. It was for my grandfather’s arrival in America. It included the name of my great-grandmother, Aku (or August) Asikainen. For a long time I found nothing else about him. I went on to general searches and checking out my DNA cousins. One name intrigued me. His name was Netta Alastalo. She was 18, beautiful, and had the same last name as my closest friend in Botswana when Carl and I were serving as missionaries there. I immediately sent Netta a message asking her if she was related to my friend, Marja Alastalo, who was still serving as a missionary in Botswana. Two weeks went by and then we got a message from her. Netta just said, “She’s my aunt.” Wow, how cool was that! Marja had dropped Email and had gone to Facebook so we reconnected on Email and What’s App.



Netta & Tuula Alastalo – Melody’s DNA Cousins

As I reconnected with Marja, I also got to see and talk to Netta. Netta said she would encourage her mother, Tuula to take a DNA test too, so that we could find out how we are related. Marja told me that she would be in Finland in a few months and that she would be there for a whole year. She also invited me to come to Finland and she would drive me wherever I wanted to go and do whatever I wanted to do. She said her dad would fix up his already reliable car so that we would not have any car trouble. What an amazing gift. I never expected these kinds of blessings and there were so many more of these extraordinary happenings to come.



Left, Netta, Marja’s niece
Right, Tuula, Netta’s mother
Middle, Tuula’s Sister

After hearing some of the stories from my trip to Finland before the pandemic. Pastor Tim urged me to write about the blessings I received and the men and women of faith I learned about and share this in the church newsletter. I’ll share with you about some of them in the months to come.

Melody Knight

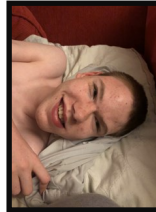
Thank you, Melody, for submitting the interesting story and pictures. We look forward to reading more

Congratulations, Matthew, on Your Recent Graduation!!

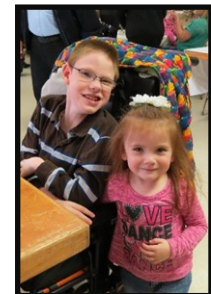


Twenty-one years ago Matthew Johnson was born in the Bremerton Naval Hospital. He literally died at birth and had to be resuscitated.

His parents, Jay and Stephanie received the devastating news that he may not live an hour. He was airlifted to Mary Bridge Hospital where he stayed for 4 1/2 months. Matthew has had to endure countless surgeries. He is what we call a miraculous fighter. He has had to face so many challenges in his life but he is a happy young man in spite of it.



Matthew went to elementary school at View Ridge in Bremerton School District. His middle school years were spent at Mountain View Middle. The family moved to Central Kitsap and he attended and recently graduated from Central Kitsap High School.



Matthew got to pick out his new service dog, Onyx



Proud Parents, Jay & Steph

Not only is his family proud of him but so is our church family. Matthew is always such a happy friendly young man. You are truly inspiring and loved .

Special Thanks to Matthew's mom, Stephanie and Grandma, Judy for your pictures and words.



A Proud Grandpa!!



Landen with his proud family!!

Recently Pastor Tim’s grandson, Landen Cartwright, graduated from Olympic High School. He attended Central Kitsap schools and will be attending Olympic College. He received two sports scholarships for his participation in Baseball while attending Olympic High School. Congratulations , Landen!! Not only is your grandfather proud but those of us at Emmanuel are proud also.



Landen with his Grandpa & Aunt Joyce.

Special thanks to his Aunt Joyce for the pictures.

Registration closing soon for our 2024 Youth Bible Camp!!

Camp Dates: Sunday, August 4th at 1 pm—Saturday August 10th at 12 pm.

Location: Olympic Lutherhaven on Wildcat Lake in Bremerton, WA

Cost: \$400 per camper (half-price discount on a 3rd child registered)

Questions: reach out to alyssakharper@gmail.com

Check out the website at www.olympiclutherhaven.org/youth-bible-camp



Colossians

In our Thursday Bible Study class, Paul begins his letter to the Colossians with these words. “Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable—who have become lax in their relationship with God.” The promises given to the Hebrews by the Lord is now given to the Gentiles (us). If we allow it, Paul tells us, God will work within us. The mystery of God’s plan of redemption through the Messiah (Jesus Christ) and the Holy Spirit that resides in us—in you and in me sets us free and binds us to Him. Paul continues his letter to us by introducing the concept of “conscious” as a gift from the Holy Spirit. You can have either good or a bad conscious. The term, “let you conscious by your guild”, is a kind of mind set given to us from God. Always consider the consequences of your actions. Continue in the faith daily, steadfast and not shifting from the hope of the Gospel Paul reminds us that the Church is the body of Christ and it is this “body” that binds us together. Our task as Christians Paul tells us is not to change peoples hearts, “that is the job of the Holy Spirit”. It is through our faith and our Baptism that we become a new person—a true believer, able to combat and survive the battle against evil. Remember, Baptism is not an initiation or a rite of passage—it is a Sacrament. The underlying theme of Colossians is found in Chapter 3, verse 11; “Where there is neither Greek nor Jews, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bond or free, Chris is all, and in all”

-Larry Farner

Annual Church Picnic

Our Annual Church Picnic will be held again at Olympic Lutherhaven. The date is Sunday, August 25th following our Sunday Worship Service. Bring your favorite dish to share with others.



It is always a fun afternoon of swimming, boating and fellowship.

The Trillium Women's Center

The women's and children's center are in need of diapers sizes 4,5,6 and 7. Also, wipes and toiletry gifts for the mothers. Our church supports this mission. Thank you to those of you that are supporting them. If you have any questions, please see Rose Link, our coordinator.



I changed my IPAD's name to Titanic, it's syncing now.

Helping to Feed the Hungry

Each month the members of Emmanuel Lutheran support our local food bank. Special Thanks to all of you that either bring food in or financially donate to help feed the hungry in our community.



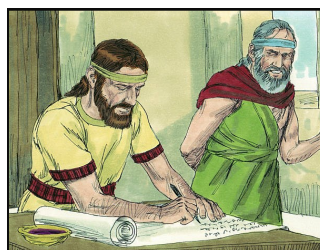
We are in the middle of summer still and that means children that are possibly home on their own during the day. When you shop this month you may want to consider food that is easy to prepare. Possible ideas to help feed children could be boxed cereals, cereal bars, or fruit snacks.



Our next First Fruits Sunday is August 4th !

Special Thanks to Sally and Larry Farnar for all you do!

Did You Know This?



BARUCH: The Royal Scribe Baruch sacrificed his own rising career to assist the prophet Jeremiah. At Jeremiah's dictation,

he set down the first collection of his friend's oracles in 605 BC. And later, read them publicly at the gate of the temple— King Jehoiakim having banned the prophet from the sanctuary. Then, the scroll was confiscated and personally destroyed by the King. Baruch and Jeremiah went into hiding to avoid arrest by were able to make a new and expanded copy of the prophecies. Many scholars believe that Baruch was the author of the historical narrative included in the book of Jeremiah.

- Larry

Thursday 10 am Bible Study is currently studying Malachi.

Sunday Adult Bible Study at 9 am is studying the Means of Grace.

The Sunday morning Bible Study will be taking a break starting July 21st.

Saturday, July 13th 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast at All Star Lanes in Silverdale.

If you have any questions either contact Pastor Gary of Glen Adrig.

This Sunday, July 14th, is the monthly church council meeting.

July Birthdays

1-----Cole Simons
5-----Lori Koutsopoulos

July Anniversaries

17-----Pastor Rob & Delores Stroud

August Birthdays

15-----Bonnie Stouffer
27-----Teresa Prange

August Anniversaries

1-----Pat Alcantra/Nancy Kerlee
10-----Jim & Miki Turowski
12-----Glen & Marialis Juges
27-----Carl & Melody Knight

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



Members Serving in July

Altar Guild-----Jo Klempan
Reader-----Jo Klempan
Acolytes-----TBA

Members Serving in August

Altar Guild-----Teresa Prange
Reader-----Glen Adrig

What's Coming Up?

July

14-----9:30 am ---Adult Sunday School
10 am -----Worship Service
17-----12, noon-----Lady's Lunch
18-----10 am -----Adult Bible Study
21-----10 am-----Worship Service
24-----12, noon-----Lady's Lunch
25-----10 am -----Adult Bible Study
28-----10 am-----Worship Service

August

1-----10 am-----Adult Bible Study
4-10-----All Church Camp-Lutherhaven
4-----10 am-----Worship Service
7-----12, noon-----Lady's Lunch
8-----10 am -----Adult Bible Study
11-----10 am -----Worship Service

Future Dates:

*August 19th & 20th AARP Driver Safety Classes
(see Glen Adrig)*

*August 25th Annual Church Picnic--
Lutherhaven*

September 8th - Rally Day

*September 9th--6 PM-- Beginning of Knitting
Season Potluck*

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.

Helping with Coffee Hour

I am sure many of you enjoy coffee hour and would like to help in some way. Please talk to Rose Link or Teresa Prange about ways you can help. Thank you two ladies for all you do.

Thanks to all of you who are submitting articles and pictures for our newsletter. I encourage you to continue doing so. Any ideas? Talk to the editor, Sharie Adrig

