

THE WITTENBERG DOOR

MARCH 2023 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCBREMERTON.ORG
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PASTOR'S MESSAGE	1
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE & BIBLE STUDY	2
EMMANUEL HELPS UKRAINE	2
FIRST FRUITS, SANCTUARY, LEARN TO KNIT	3
LUTHER AND LUTHERANS & SPECIAL THANKS	4
WOKE & THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN	5
SPECIAL DATES & WHAT'S COMING UP?	6

Pastor's Message

This past Lenten season we took time at our weekly "Lenten Soup Luncheons" and we studied the Apostle's Creed from the Small Catechism. In this month's newsletter, I hope to highlight a portion of those studies and time. Based on the Third Article of the Apostle's Creed, we learned about Jesus' love and sacrifice in going to the cross to take away our sins. We discussed our own deep need for, and yet, inability to earn this righteousness ourselves; in what only God could grant us through faith in Christ Jesus, He does so, by the power of His Holy Spirit. We call this both, "salvation" and in God's continued work in our lives and hearts through the Holy Spirit, "*Sanctification*".

No, we were not planning on skipping past the trial, suffering, agony and crucifixion of Christ. That was and is the greatest testimony of His love and valuation of all those for whom He came, took on human flesh, suffered and died to save those who believe in Him; and the blood He shed to take away our sins. In the faith-life of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, we hope to see in God's Holy Word and the confidence we share in the confession of our faith according to that Word, that The Easter Season and The Third Article of the Apostles Creed share God's work (not our own) "To Make Holy". As we studied through the Apostle's Creed during our Lenten Soup luncheons, it was clear that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; called us by the Gospel, enlightened us with His gifts, sanctified and kept us in one the true faith, "and will at the Last Day raise up me and all the dead, and give unto me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true." (Small Catechism, page 123*)

THE THIRD ARTICLE SANCTIFICATION

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Note: In the margins of the Small Catechism we were using for our Lenten studies of the Apostle's Creed, next to the title of "**The Third Article**", a simple note, by a Confirmand, was:

"TO MAKE HOLY".

The confirmation student, and now others who share this book and see the note, are called to remember this point: God, and He alone can, and has done, what is needed;

TO MAKE HOLY. those believing upon Him.

When asked, "What does this mean?" The small catechism says that, "*I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; Even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers, and will at the Last Day raise up me and all the dead, and give unto me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.*"

**(Dr. Martin Luther's The Small Catechism: Second Article "REDEMPTION"; Concordia Publishing House. St. Louis, Missouri, page 100; 123)*

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Pastor message continued

From beginning to end, in God’s creation, redemption and sanctification, we fervently pray that He will work mightily among us. We pray that by His Holy Spirit, He would enlighten us with His gifts. We pray that He will call us, gather us, and sanctify us, and all those whom He gathers. We pray that He will make our lives to be Holy, and raise up the whole Christian Church on earth, and keep it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. We pray for Spirit-led responses to the hope and new life that He gives through the ministry of the Gospel. We pray that He will gather those whom He calls to worship attendance, so that daily all who believe, and receive the Sacraments, might be forgiven and raised to new life in Christ Jesus. We invite others to the Church, in which His Word is rightly preached, the sacraments rightly are distributed and by His grace, we are made new through these means of grace and faith in Christ. We thank and praise our Lord Jesus Christ, as He daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all who believe; and will at the Last Day raise up me and all the dead and give unto me and all believers in Christ eternal life! As we walk through this Easter Season and see the trials and persecution, the humility and insult, the sheer pain and agony of Christ’s passion, we can by His grace, through faith in His Holy Word, offer thanks and praise to God in Christ; Together, on Easter Sunday, we can rejoice and say, Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

Please invite a friend or neighbor to Church and then meet them there!

Peace and blessings in Christ,
Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos



President's Message

Working To Improve God’s House

The Church Council has been discussing design options for remodeling the Fellowship Hall. The goal is to add a second restroom, a mop sink, and piping for hot water to the sinks.

If you have any good ideas please share them with a Council member or with the whole Council at our next meeting., the second Sunday in March.

Thank you,
Rev. Tim Cartwright

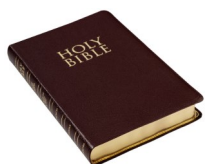


Helping the Citizens of Ukraine

It’s so sad seeing the images from the country of Ukraine. One of our AALC pastors, Pastor Yount and his wife, Lena, are witnessing this first hand. Emmanuel has been conducting a free will offering these past few weeks to support Pastor Yount and Lena in there efforts. If you are able, please consider helping not only in prayer but financially. Please make sure you clearly mark on your check for Ukraine or Pastor Yount , write a separate check or place in an envelope and identify your special offering.



Bible Study Beginning New Book



During this Lenten season, in addition to the Lenten Luncheons, we’re continuing the Thursday Bible Study (just as we did last year). This would be a great time to return to Bible study, or to visit it if you’ve never come. We just finished the Book of James, and rumor has it we may be staring a brand new study of the first letter written by the Apostle Peter. It includes great stuff. Come and learn with us.

Dr. Rev. Rob Stroud

Sanctuary

Sanctuary....a word from the Latin “sanctus” (holy or sacred) and “arium” (receptacle). For Christians, sanctuary is a place for worship and of God. A place for solitude and safety– a basic need existing in all of us. A good sanctuary provides us relief, rest and renewal. The location or design of our sanctuary is a little value compared to the spirit of the place. The



spirit that transforms us and renews us. It is a place that is “in” but not “of” the world, that exists outside of it. Such a place is Emmanuel Lutheran Church, located on Perry Ave. in Bremerton, Washington. Here’s yet another familiar Latin term that gives us comfort, “Mandatum novum do vobis utdiligatis invicem”. (“A new law I give you, that you shall love one another”).

Larry Farner

It’s Time to Order Easter Flowers Again

It’s hard to believe but Easter is April 9th, just five weeks away. How could that be possible? Look for the order forms soon in your mailboxes or on the table in the entry way. If you want to order flowers to beautify our altar on Easter morning please fill out the order form and place it in Sharie Adrig’s box. You can directly pay for your flowers by placing your check in the offering plate. Please



make it clear that your offering is for Easter flowers.

Ever Wanted to Try Knitting?

Now is your opportunity. Kitsap Peninsula Knitting Guild would like to give you this opportunity. They are offering free knitting lessons to anyone 10 years and up. There will be flyer’s in your bulletin and on the entry table. The date is Saturday, April 15th, 1–3 PM. Pre-registration is required. Interested, ask Sharie Adrig.

Making Up the Difference!!!

During the pandemic, nearly 30 million Americans received extra government help with groceries. That program is going away! What that means is recipients will be losing an average of \$100.00 a month less with which to purchase food for their families. This will place considerable strain on those who have most recently been able to depend on that government assistance. We at Emmanuel are able to help and yes, even reduce some of the fear our neighbors feel with regard to the question, “how do we feed our kids?” We are helping to answer that question and provide some hope. WE ARE MAKING UP THE DIFFERENCE. Our contributions in 2023 have in face substantially increased over 2022 in spite of the fact that our numbers have decreased. This sends a message to our neighbors that WE, members of ELC, take this problem seriously and are willing to “step-up” in the way the world has come to expect of Christians, those who are clearly recognized as “True Believers.”

Sally Farner, coordinator



Special Thanks!!!

Some members and friends of the church helped to repair our beautiful Advent banners. Special thanks to the following for their efforts in restoring the banners. Thank you to Bella & Sach Boisjolie, JoEllen Klempan, Melody Knight, Carol Reece, Arriel Atienza and Sharie Adrig.



*Christ beside me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ within me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me.*

-Saint Patrick

Who's A Lutheran?



A Lutheran is somebody who gets a little nervous watching videos from mission fields for fear that the pedal pushers she gave to the clothing drive might show up on the screen;

A Lutheran is someone who got gold stars for learning things by heart;

A Lutheran is someone who thinks those folks at synod offices can get a little high falutin sometimes;

A Lutheran is someone who knows what these letters stand for: VBS, AELC, SS, NALC, TAALE, ELCA, KJV, ALC, AAL, LCA, RSV, LB and WELCA.

Luther and Lutherans—Part Six

Gunfight at the Worms corral. Confronted by the Pope's tribunal, Luther responds with, "If I am in error, I will be the first to throw my books into the fire, otherwise, here I stand. I can do no other. God help me." There isn't a historian who could argue against the idea that Luther's stand at Worms was one of the most significant moments in history, including the signing of the Magna Carta or the landing of Columbus in the New World in 1492. To Luther, when the scripture said one thing and the Church said another, he had no choice but to go with what the scripture (the word of God) said. Luther was not trying to destroy the Church, he was trying to call the Church back to its true roots, to a biblical idea of a merciful God. He was not asserting the freedom of the individual to do as he pleased. He was asserting the freedom of the individual to do a God pleased. Luther was actually asserting the modern idea of freedom of religion. The Church officials at Worms were not listening, at least, not with their hearts. To them, Luther was a heretic and needed to be burned at the stake. Realizing the truth and the futility of trying to "do the right thing," Luther with the help of Frederick the Wise, managed to flee and go into hiding at Wartburg where he began his great work of translating the New Testament. But that's not all that came out of that little room in exile at Wartburg.

Larry Farner



Wartburg

Woke

WOKEShouldn't it be "wake," as in wake up? "Woke" is used by both liberals and conservatives as a political or social issue. It is actually, a term referring to those who care about racial intolerance and social injustice. But, this term is only one for which understanding and use is "lost in the shuffle." For example, a word we do not ever use anymore is "evil". We no longer use it to describe psychopath, criminals and other scary people. Instead, we use words like "unacceptable" behavior. Or, he/she had a bad childhood or was abused by the system. We are obviously, afraid we may be accused of being judgmental if we use the word "evil" to describe a person's behavior. So we come up with a softer, more acceptable word. Or we re-define it altogether. Even in the Bible (Isaiah 5:20) there was a time when evil was actually called good. Over time, we have re-defined our standards of morality. Satan, by interjecting his influence over us is gaining ground at a very rapid pace. We need to



re-establish the term "evil" and deal with it as our Lord has instructed us. There are three ways to deal with evil: (1) Realize and accept "evil" for what it is (2) Accept that it cannot be overcome by any individual alone-it must be overcome through prayer and help of God and (3) We must courageously hold the line and "call a spade a spade."

Larry Farner

"The Story Behind the Lenten Hymn...."Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

We are all familiar with this old, well-known Lenten hymn but do you know how the lyrics to this hymn came about? The author of this hymn is a woman named Elizabeth Clephane. Elizabeth was born in Edinburgh. Her father was sheriff of Fife. She is described by one of her siblings as "a very quiet child, shrinking from notice and was always absorbed in books. The loss of both her parents at an early age taught her sorrow. As she grew up she was recognized as the cleverest one of our family. She was the first in her class and a favorite at school. Her love for poetry was a passion. Among the sick and suffering she won the name, "My Sunbeam." Within the lyrics you can hear her own description of her nickname. "I take, O Cross, thy shadow for my abiding place:/I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face."

Elizabeth and her family eventually moved to Melrose where she remained the rest of her life. Elizabeth was quite the Bible scholar and there was a soft spot in her heart for the poor and less fortunate. At one point she and her sisters sold their horse and carriage to help a family in need.

Elizabeth published poems in a Scottish magazine titled, *The Family Treasury*. Beneath the Cross of Jesus was not published until after her death.

The original tune for this hymn was written by Sankey but was replaced with the tune we are familiar with. The music we use was composed by Frederick C. Maker.

This information came from the book, Then Sings My Soul (Special Edition) by Robert Morgan

March Birthdays

5-----Chelette Williams
 18-----Henry Simons
 19-----Melody Knight
 20-----Rachel Fuller
 25-----Kneeda Williams, Childcare Supv.
 27-----Jim Mace
 27-----Josh Armstrong

March Anniversaries

13-----Cole & Maurine Simons
 17-----Randy & Kristen Fuller
 18-----Steve & Judy Armstrong

April Birthdays

2-----Victoria Gehring
 6-----Rosie Armstrong
 11-----JoEllen Klempan
 12-----Gail Campbell
 15-----Glen Adrig
 17-----Judy Armstrong
 17-----Lamonte James
 20-----Marialis Jorges
 21-----Mary Clare Gehring
 22-----Keri Bjornemo Roberts
 22-----Ida Ficca
 23-----Arriel Atienza
 28-----Ward Erickson III



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 March

Altar Guild-----Sharie, Dr. Arriel, Chelette
 Reader-----Dr. Pastor Rob Stroud
 Acolytes -12,Tiffany -19, Bella- 26,Nathan

Members Serving in April

Altar Guild-----Sharie, Judy, Chelette
 Reader -----Dr. Arriel Atienza
 Acolytes--2,Arabelle-7 TBD -9, Tiffany-16,Bella-23,Nathan- 30,Arabelle

What's Coming Up?

March

15-----12, noon--Lenten Soup Luncheon
 Following Lunch,Lenten Worship Service
 16-----10 am -----Bible Study
 19----- 10 am -----Worship Service
 Confirmation Class
 22----- 12, noon-Lenten Soup Luncheon
 Following lunch, Lenten Worship Service
 23-----10 am -----Bible Study
 26-----10 am-----Worship Service
 29-----12, noon--Lenten Soup Luncheon
 Following Lunch,Lenten Worship Service
 30-----10 am -----Bible Study

April

2-----10 am-----Worship Service
 Confirmation Class
 3-----6 pm--Kitsap Peninsula Knitting Guild
 6-----10 am -----Bible Study
 7-----3:00 pm -Good Friday Worship Service
 9-----10 am----Easter Worship Service

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

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.