

THE WITTENBERG DOOR

MARCH 2024

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

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Pastor's Message

“Listen To Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ” (Matthew 18:1-35)

When we read the whole eighteenth chapter of Matthew related to relationships between believers and followers of Jesus, it is clear how we are to understand our own birth-order in God's family (i.e., we are enjoined to become like a little child v.1-4). If we were not to become like a little child, Jesus states clearly that we will, “never enter the kingdom of heaven” (V. 3) It is further evident how we are to receive other children of God: “Whoever receives one such child in my name, receives me (V. 5) and whoever causes one of these little ones to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea”. (Matthew 18:6).

The relationship with others continues to be the focus of this whole chapter as the notion of our causing others to be tempted would be considered so egregious, as for it to be better if we ourselves as perpetrators, would be maimed, have our hand or foot cut off or eye plucked out and be thrown into the hell of fire (Matthew 18:7-9). As you read these firm yet not exaggerated words, and consider their importance, how is it that you and I may be found at odds with each other, as though living in derision and discord was in any way acceptable to our Father in heaven and our Lord and Savior Jesus, who died for all our sins. (John 3:16). It was also God in Christ and through the Holy Spirit, that called us into the Body of Christ (The Church) and tells us to forgive others as we have been forgiven? You may be like me, when I need the reminder that if I do not forgive others, then my own sins will not be forgiven either (Matthew 6:9-15). When teaching us this truth and so teaching us how to pray, Jesus gave us this gift, and signed it: “The Lord's Prayer”.

As a sort of rule of thumb, or basic outline for how to pragmatically be about this regular forgiving and reconciliation, Jesus taught that: ¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you lose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (Matthew 18:15-18)

Contact Pastor

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OR

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Pastor's Message continued.....

Doesn't it make sense in a biblical way that Jesus was born of God, was crucified, died and was buried for our sins, after coming to us directly and offering the reconciliation that could now be ours by grace, through faith in Him? Are we not all recipients and participants as those baptized in His name, and buried with Him, so that just as He died, and was raised by the glory of the Father, we too might have new life? This "we too" does not mean just "also", as if it was just an unexpected add on to a television sales ploy. It means that all those being baptized into Christ Jesus – across this world and for all time, are our family in Christ, and ones whom Christ has died and been raised for, as much as you or I (Romans 6:4-5; John 3:16). Even as we are recipients of His grace, love, and forgiveness, we are now born again to forgive, love and serve one another as Christ has commanded us to do (John 13:34-35). It is even as He is risen, that we ourselves who are buried with Him by baptism, and raised with Him unto eternal life, may be given this Hope eternal. If you are at odds with a fellow-believer today, make this Lenten season a time to bring such offense and feelings of disparity to their attention directly and lovingly as Christ has said, pray they might be, like you, rejoined into the family of God. With God's Word, and the blessing of His Holy Spirit, go to that person and seek what the Lord has given us in all these verses shared here. If you go to those who have offended you, then who knows what great joy might be yours in that, "If he listens to you, you have gained a brother or sister in Christ" (see above).

- Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos



Imagine

“A child can be eaten away by hunger.” What does that mean exactly? It means; less food less energy, less ability to think, to plan, to do well in school, to live. How can a child be expected to do well in school when they are hungry-when their mental and physical health is compromised? IMAGINE, going home on Friday and having very little or



nothing at all to eat until Monday? The food ELC (we) donate on First Fruits Sunday can be “just the ticket” for feeding those kids over the weekend....just IMAGINE (John Lennon).

–Sally



Lenten Soup Luncheons

12:00– Noon

We still have another Lenten Soup Luncheon coming up on Wednesday, March 13th. Please consider coming and being part of this special time of worship and fellowship.



Order Easter Flowers-It's not too late!

Currently we are taking orders for Easter Flowers. These flowers always add such a special touch to our Altar at our Easter Worship Service. Azaleas are \$20 and Easter Lilies are \$15. You can fill out an order form at church and place it in Glen and Sharie's box or email Sharie at gadrig@comcast.net. Your payment can be placed in the offering bag at church.



Good Friday Service

Our Good Friday Service will be Friday, March 29th at 6:30 PM.



Educational Opportunities

Thursday 10 AM weekly Bible Study

Sunday 9 AM Adult Sunday School
"The Letters of John"

&

Children's Sunday School



Trillium Women's Center

The Trillium Women's Center (formerly called the Pregnancy Resource Center) is in need of the following baby items.

Boys Size 18-24 months fuzzy footed sleepers.

Girls Size 9-12 months, 12-18 months and 18-24 months fuzzy footed sleepers

Size 4 disposable diapers

Baby Wipe packages

Gently used clothing is ok as long as it is washed. If shopping is difficult for you, you can always give Rose Link your



contribution and she will shop for you.

Thank you for your help, Rose, coordinator.

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 24th, 10 AM . Readers are needed for this dramatic reading. If you have been a reader



before and/or would like to be one of the three readers for Palm Sunday please see Pastor Gary.

Easter Worship Service

March 31st—10 AM

Easter Breakfast

On March 31st we begin our Easter celebration with a time of fellowship. At 8:30 we will have our traditional Easter Breakfast. Please consider signing up to help with helping to serve or clean up. Also, if you want to sign up to bring something to share such as a dish, beverage or bread or rolls.

Our Sympathies to These Four Families

The Lord Giveth –The Lord Taketh Away

Saturday, March 16th at 12:00 Noon will be the memorial service for Sachajawea Paulus' mother, Cheryl Denise Erickson. There will be a reception/potluck following the service. This service will remember and give thanks to God Sach's mother; a woman of God and a family member of our Congregational family. If you can help with food please speak to Pastor Gary or Rose Link

Remembering Our Dear Sister in Christ



Some loving words from a dear friend of our sister in Christ, Esther Tesch. "I have known Esther for many years but really got to know her when she and Steve stopped going south for the

winters. Jean Reed, Esther and I would meet at Jean's for tea and then of course at church and our friendship grew from there.

This past year a few of us (Esther, Mary, Rose, Carol and I) decided to do day adventures and of course with Esther's love of travel she was the first one in the car and said "Let's go". She was always happy, laughing and willing to try anything-except maybe zip lining!

She was always a joy to be around and I will miss her but will have many, many happy and fond memories." -Carol Henning

Esther Tesch's memorial will be Saturday, March 23rd at 2:00.

Thank you, Carol Henning, for your words.

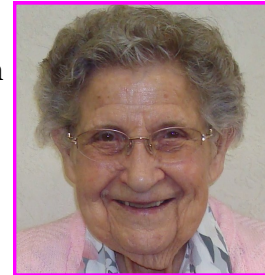
A Member from the 1950's

Helen Allen became a part of the Emmanuel Family back in the 1950's. This was when Helen and her late husband moved here from Idaho. At that time the church was meeting in a military Quonset hut prior to building of the sanctuary. Helen loved Emmanuel Lutheran. The family all grew up in Emmanuel. In 1955 there were 435 children enrolled in the Sunday School program. Helen's children were part of this group. In April and May of that year there were 84 baptisms.

Helen's son, Frank, was one of those children. Her children were also married in Emmanuel in 1985.

The congregation was very precious to dear Helen. Prior to 2020 her grandson, Daniel, faithfully brought her to church each Sunday. Her lovingly cared for Helen for several years. This loss has been very difficult for the family. Please keep Daniel and the Case and Allen family in your prayers.

Thank you, Daniel, for your information.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Steven Michael Boyce

1953 - 2023

SUNRISE SUNSET
March 3, 1953 June 4, 2023

Funeral Service:
Bethany Church
713 S. Hill Park Dr.,
Puyallup WA 98373

MARCH 23, 2024 - 2PM

God, Time and History

EUSEBIUS (263-339), was the first to attempt a history of the Church. He was born in Palestine and narrowly escaped the great persecution. At one time, he was imprisoned in Egypt because of his faith. He eventually was made a Bishop of Caesarea and became a close friend of Emperor Constantine.

-Larry



Did You Know This?

AHAZ, the 11th King of Judah—one of the worst examples of an apostate King. He actually burned his own son as an offering. (2 Kings 16:3)



Just For Fun!

Venison for dinner again? Oh deer
England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool

What It Means to be a Christian

I call myself a Christian but I am the first to admit I am a work in progress. No, I am not a Bible Scholar (far from it). Somehow I don't believe that our ticket to heaven will be measured by how many Bible verses we have memorized. I do understand that it takes more than just being a good person. However, I believe that is a start. I try to be honest with others but be kind too. I am sure I have unknowingly hurt others and I am sorry for that. When I am in a difficult situation I ask myself, "What Would Jesus Do?" When we tell someone we are going to pray for them I feel it is important to follow through. All of us have our gifts that are a blessing to others. It's important that we encourage each other. None of us are perfect but we need to practice what we preach. If we have knowingly hurt another it is our moral duty to apologize and try and make it right with that other person.

-Sharie

The Story Behind the Hymn- "Christ Arose!"

This longtime favorite resurrection hymn was written by Robert Lowry. He was a Baptist pastor. "What do pastors do to relax on a Sunday night after a hard day's work? Lowry went home to his wife and three sons—and wrote hymns. Dr. Lowry will continue to preach the gospel long after his sermons have been forgotten. He gained a reputation for keen biblical scholarship and powerful, picturesque preaching." Music was a side issue with Lowry. He always looked upon himself as a preacher however he gained his notoriety as a composer.



Some of his most popular gospel songs include: "Nothing But the Blood", "Shall We Gather at the River?" and "I Need Thee Every Hour (music)."

"Christ Arose!" was written one evening during the Easter season of 1874 while Lowry was engaged in his devotions. He became deeply impressed with Luke 24:6-8, especially the words of the angel at the tomb of Christ: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!"

Taken from Then Sings My Soul Book 2 by Robert J. Morgan

Love Story

What is it about the Bible that in times of tragedy, despair and loss, it is the Bible we reach for? Some say the Bible is a book of rules and laws. Or, a book about relationships. The Bible is all that but, it is something very much more than that-it is our Lord's gift to us... it is a Love Story about how God really feels about us. About you, about me. It is a profound treasure, full of promises and terms of endearment. And, one of the Bible's most inspiring, endearing and revealing verses that we should re-visit often isJohn 3:16. This is most definitely a promise. And, a term of endearment from our Lord to us...it is God's promise and God keeps his promises. BecauseHe loves us!

-Larry Farner

Thank you, Larry. I think we all needed to hear that. By the way, John 3:16 was one of Denise Williams favorite verses. When I hear that verse I think of her. -Sharie

It's pretty exciting to think our 50 boxes were part of the 12,792 boxes that came from the Kitsap Peninsula.

Well done Emmanuel!!



A Change of Heart



We all have a road to walk. The foolish walk blindly. The intelligent navigate it. The good repair it as they go...that is repentance. The Hebrew word for repentance is SHUB, which literally means to turn around. Repentance isn't about praying for our sins; that's what Christ did for us-it's about rethinking our actions. It literally means changing your mind. Punishment doesn't do that. Punishment can create obedience but, not true changes of heart. And, that is what God wants....our hearts. In life we seek to find what we think we want. God wants us to find what we need. And sometimes, what we need is to turn back-to repent.

-Larry

March Birthdays

- 5-----Chelette Williams
- 7-----Hailey Dupree
- 17-----Peyton Dupree
- 18-----Henry Simons
- 19-----Melody Knight
- 25-----Kneeda Williams, Childcare Supv.
- 27-----Josh Armstrong

March Anniversaries

- 13-----Cole & Maurine Simons
- 18-----Steve & Judy Armstrong

April Birthdays

- 2-----Victoria Gehring
- 6-----Rosie Armstrong
- 10-----Riley Dupree
- 11-----Jo Klempan
- 12-----Gail Campbell
- 15-----Glen Adrig
- 17-----Judy Armstrong
- 17-----Lamonte James
- 20-----Marialis Jurges
- 21-----Mary Clare Gehring
- 22-----Keri Bjornemo Roberts
- 22-----Ida Ficca
- 23-----Arriel Atienza

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

Members Serving in March

- Altar Guild-----Jo Klempan
- Reader-----Linda Hagan
- Acolytes-3rd, Nathan-10th, Tiffany - 17th,Nathan--24th, Bella-28th, TBD-- 29th, TBD-31st, Tiffany

Members Serving in April

- Altar Guild-Chelette Williams & Sharie Adrig
- Reader -----Eric Branson
- Acolytes-----TBD

What's Coming Up?

March

- 10-----9:00 -----Children's & Adult Sunday School
- 10:00- Sunday Worship Service
- 13-----12, noon--Lenten Soup Luncheon
- 14-----10:00 --Weekly Bible Study
- 16-----12,noon-----Memorial Service
- 17-----9:00----Children's & Adult Sunday School
- 10:00-Sunday Worship Service
- 24-----10:00----Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Service
- 29-----6:30-----Good Friday
- 31-----8:30-----Easter Breakfast
- 10:00--Easter Worship Service

April

- 1-----6:00pm---Kitsap Peninsula Knitting Guild
- 3-----12,noon--Women's Lunch
- 4-----10:00--Weekly Bible Study
- 7-----9:00----Children's & Adult Sunday School
- 10:00--Sunday Worship Service
- 10-----12,noon----Women's Lunch
- 11-----10:00----Weekly Bible Study

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.