

THE WITTENBERG DOOR

NOVEMBER 2019
ELCBREMERTON.ORG

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310



Pastor's Message

"O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good and His mercies endure forever" (Psalm 136:1).

I come from a close knit family. Although we live in different cities we gather several times a year and Thanksgiving is one of those times. The family table is stretched, a fitted sheet of plywood is added and we seat over twenty people around it. There may be thirty or so who gather, so more tables are added in the living room. The tables are beautifully set with the best china, including handmade name tags for each place setting. The food, brought by many, fills the house with delicious aromas and warm memories of Thanksgiving meals past. The conversation and laughter fill our hearts with joy and thankfulness. It is a wonderful gathering and I thank God for the rich gift He has given to us. Before we sit, while we are standing around the table, we turn our hearts to God singing a song of thanksgiving to God who has filled our lives with His riches.

Our lives are also enriched when we gather in God's House for Thanksgiving Eve Worship. Turning to God in the assembly of the faithful opens our hearts to the One who is greater than we are, to the One who is beyond us, to the One who is our Creator and Redeemer. He is due our gratitude for His mercies and His love which He richly bestows upon us in Christ.

Emmanuel will sponsor our traditional Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 27 at 6:30 pm. Included in this service are the great songs of thanksgiving that we offer to God as well as an opportunity to share with one another why we are thankful and how we may be celebrating Thanksgiving this year.

This will be my second Thanksgiving without my bride, Carolyn. There is a deep sadness in my heart. I deal with this loss by recalling and clinging to the hope of everlasting life that Jesus Christ offers us. This separation will only last a few years until we too enter eternity and are united with our loved ones. In my mind I see Carolyn's chair and her place setting at the table. I imagine her at my side, our elbows bumping as we smile at each other and decide who gets the first bite.

The Advent-Christmas Decorating Party is Saturday, November 30, at ten a.m. We will decorate God's House to honor Him and to inspire us in our Worship. Advent, meaning "coming," refers to God's coming into this world, as the Babe of Bethlehem, the Savior, and as the King who brings God's rule. It is a time to prepare our hearts for His coming to us.

May the richness of these seasons fill your lives with God's joyful presence.

-Pastor Tim Cartwright

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In case of an Emergency

Please call
Pastor Tim
on his cell
phone

360-286-1090

Vicar's Message

Advent and You

Over the Advent season, Emmanuel Lutheran Church will be having Matins prayer services, every Saturday at 9:30 in the morning. Initially, this kind of service was held at dawn in the Western monasteries where it was invented ("Matins" means "of the morning"), but I believe that a nice, restful wakeup before the service helps us to concentrate more on the meaning of the season. And what is that meaning? Watchfulness and hope!

During the period of Advent, we await the coming of Jesus in much the same way as our forebears in ancient Judah. In the time of struggle and uncertainty, the children of Israel were promised a Messiah, our deliverer. The Prophets gave the Old Testament saints a Gospel, which said that God's new Covenant would be ushered in by this Anointed one, with His law written on their hearts and all their sins forgiven (Jeremiah 31:33). This Savior would come to bring harmony and reconciliation before our Lord in a way that no ordinary man could achieve. In the cold and dark night of Israel under the Mosaic Law, the Lord swore to us that there would be a morning where we could feel the warmth of His love.

We live in that morning, the Eighth Day as Lutheran theologians call it, living with the joyful knowledge that our sins are forgiven and we have an eternal home with God. We have faith that the Father sent us the Messiah, His Son, just as He promised, winning that great reconciliation for us by His blood. With them we can pray with confidence,

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning."
– Jeremiah 3:22-23.

Yet just like the Old Testament saints, we have our own troubles. Temptations are everywhere and the Church is still being persecuted all over the world. We struggle with financial hardship, health problems, political strife, and familial pain. And we also know that we cannot deliver ourselves from the harshness of this world. We too look for the day when Jesus returns to us, "with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God" (1Thessalonians 4:16). We look for the same hope, the same Messiah, and with the same diligence. This is the meaning of Advent; we celebrate that God kept His promise at Christmas, and look forward with diligent hope to the fulfillment of the next Promise – when Jesus comes back (Acts 1:10-11).

When the Israelites celebrated Passover of the festival of lights, there were often all-night vigils kept, to wait for the Lord's deliverance. This year at Advent, we rejoice to be watchful in the morning with Matins services, remembering that our Lord who has saved our souls will deliver us from the hardships the Church faces today. It will be quiet, without music accompanying, to remember that we wait with baited breath for Christ's return, but peaceful, knowing that our salvation has already been won. After each service I will be available to any brother or sister who comes for private prayer, to express our longings and anxieties before our God, who promises to hear us in all our struggles. Let us take all these to the Lord in prayer, and rejoice at the coming Day of redemption!

Blake Kilbourne—Vicar



2019 = SUCCESS



ALL AGES
GATHERED FOR
ONE PURPOSE—
TO SHARE THE
LOVE OF JESUS





82 BOXES
STRONG WITH
12 BOXES FROM
OUR CHILDCARE



Mark Your CalendarsAdvent Season

November 27.....6:30 pm.....	Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service
November 27	Deadline to order Poinsettias
November 3010:00 am	Decorating for Advent & Christmas
December 1	First Fruits Sunday
December 79:30 am	Advent Matins Services
December 712:00 pm –2:00 pm.....	Advent Potluck Lunch
December 1210:00 am	Packing cookies for shut-ins
December 148:00 am.....	Men’s Breakfast
December 1510:00 am	Children’s Christmas Pageant
December 246:30 pm.....	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Operation Christmas Joy!

Emmanuel’s challenge for the Christmas Food Bank drive. Please make a “special” effort to bring “Christmas Joy” to the homeless and disadvantaged, especially the children by bringing them some Christmas Joy, via your food contributions during December 1st. This is our last First Fruits of 2019. We will put our food and cash donations at the altar that day along with purchased items from the Thrivent Christmas Joy Project. By doing a little we actually do much.

Remember, we have the reputation of

“ The Little Church that Gives Much!”

Thank you Larry and Sally for all your hard work coordinating this monthly ministry.



Special Thanks to all of you that contributed to Operation Christmas Child in any way. Whether it was through prayer, monetary donations, gifts, or helping to pack the boxes, you are all appreciated.

Help Prepare for our Advent and Christmas Season!

On Saturday, November 30th at 10 am we will gather together and help decorate our sanctuary and fellowship hall for Advent and Christmas. The more that come, the easier the task.



Advent Matins Services

Starting December 7th, Emmanuel will have Advent Matins Services in devotion and preparation for celebrating our Lord’s birth. Each Matins will be at 9:30 am in the sanctuary, and all are invited! After each service there will be time for private prayer and devotion. Please see Pastor Blake for more details..



A special thank you to Thrivent for their donations to help us with our shipping costs on our shoeboxes and our local foodbank this Christmas season!

Ordering your Poinsettias

Orders for this years poinsettias need to be given by Thanksgiving. We get them through Bremerton Greenhouses and they are asking for the order before December. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Also, you can contact Sharie at gadrig@comcast.net. When you pay please give the money to Glen or Sharie and they will see that you are given credit through the offering. That way they can keep track of who has paid and who still needs to pay.



The three sizes and prices are the following: 4" - \$6.00, 6" - \$12.00 and 8" - \$30.00.

Annual Advent Potluck Lunch



Every year Miki and Carol plan a lovely potluck lunch. You may be thinking that you are just too busy this year but I recommend you take time out of your busy schedule come and enjoy the two hours. These two ladies go to a lot of planning and work to make this a special event for us. They always have a special story to share and we bring a dish to share with each other. It's just a wonderful time for fellowship and a meaningful way to start the Advent Season. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. We hope to see everybody on Saturday, December 7th at 12:00 pm. As long as you sign guests up feel free to bring friends and/or family to this special meal and program.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Please join us Wednesday, November 27th at 6:30 PM for our annual Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. It is an opportunity to take a moment to reflect back on this past year and think about all that we can be grateful for.



Children's Christmas Pageant

This year our annual Christmas Pageant is December 15th during the Sunday Worship Service at 10 AM. Every year it is a little different but the same message. The children tell the story of birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, They do a wonderful job under the direction of Judy Armstrong and Carverlyne Prothero. Please plan on coming, I am sure you will leave feeling blest.



November Birthdays	
1.....	Lynn Herr
1.....	Larry Farner
6	Pastor Tim Cartwright
22	Callie Woodward
November Anniversaries	
3	Patrick & Victoria Gehring
16	Jay & Stephanie Johnson
20	Bob & Cheryl Fox (Our Missionaries)
24	Larry & Sally Farner
December Birthdays	
6	Mollie Erickson
7	Bonnie Mace
20	Mathew Johnson
21	Gladys Willis
29	Denise Williams
I am sure that there are many members that I don't have your birthdates or anniversary dates. Any additions or corrections please contact the newsletter editor, Sharie Adrig at gadrig@comcast.net.	

Members Serving in November

Altar GuildChelette Williams
Kneeda Williams
Sharie Adrig
ReaderVictoria Gehring

Members Serving in December

Altar GuildCarol Henning
Jean Reed
ReaderKeri Roberts

Sunday School for all ages!

Sunday school will begin on Sunday, September 15th at 9:00 AM. We have adult Sunday School as well for children and young people.

Men's breakfast will continue. This month it is Dec. 15th at 8:00 am. The location is Der Blokken in Manette. Questions? Talk to Larry Farner or Pastor Tim.

Your help during coffee hour?

Thanks to all who are signing up to host coffee hour! If you are interested, the sign up sheet is on the counter in the fellowship hall! Thank you to Carol R. for being our coordinator for coffee hour. Thanks to Rose L. for all your help in the kitchen during coffee hour.

If you are not able to host a coffee hour some of us are giving monetary contributions to help cover the cost . Contributions can be given to Carol Reece.

An Old Tradition Continues

We realize that this time of the year is busy for everyone but packing cookies and treats for our shut-in and special members has been a tradition at Emmanuel for years. We are continuing this tradition. You can either leave your cookies or treats at church on Sunday, December 8th designated for our shut-in special members or come join us on Thursday, December 12th at 10 am. The cookies do not have to be home baked. Our Vicar, Blake, is delivering the cookies this year.