

THE WITTENBERG DOOR

OCTOBER 2022 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCBREMERTON.ORG
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Pastor's Message

“Everything that is done in the world, is done by hope”
Martin Luther

One of the great gifts we receive as God’s people, is *hope*. Hope is a sister to faith, in that it anticipates God will act mercifully, and lovingly, toward each of us.

The Psalmist repeatedly reminds us “Blessed is he whose hope is in the Lord his God” (Psalm 146). And our hope will not be disappointed, because the One in whom we hope and trust, always keeps his promises.

As “people of hope,” we look toward a bright future. At the cross, Jesus was triumphant, purchasing our forgiveness through his own sacrifice. We proclaim his resurrection, and look forward to the quickly approaching day when our Lord will return to judge the living (Christians) and the dead (those who have rejected Christ).

In the meantime, we wait. Hopefully, but not passively. We actively worship God, and do the work to which he was called us. We feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and proclaim the good news to all.

Emmanuel has always been a church of hope. That remains just as true today as it was when our sanctuary overflowed on Sunday mornings.

God is with us. He nourishes us with his word and sacraments. And now he has brought us new reason to be hopeful for our congregation’s future.

When I came to serve as Emmanuel’s Vacancy Pastor, we did not know how long our search for the new, permanent pastor would take. But now we see the fruit of our prayers. We look forward to the November arrival of Pastor Gary and his wife, Lori.

These are exciting, hopeful days. My prayer is that as Pastor Gary comes to Emmanuel, each of us will *renew our commitment* to our congregation and to the other members of Christ’s body here. Begin praying for Pastor and Lori daily. And please, continue to pray for me and Delores as the Lord brings us to your mind, as well.

Pastor Rob Stroud

Big “Historical” Day at Emmanuel

It was a major event on September 18th when 34 members, well beyond the number required for a quorum, were “on hand” to vote “YES” on the motion to offer a Letter of Call to Pastor Gary. Since Emmanuel established itself as a member of the AALC Synod with our first AALC Pastor Tim, we formed a Call Committee, followed through the Call process and have now, with the help of our Lord, made it clear that we “are” the chosen ones and that God “is” clearly with us. We have so much to be thankful for...with our first AALC Pastor (Tim) and our interim Pastor, retired Air Force Chaplain, Pastor Rob. It was a good show all around members of Emmanuel. We expect Pastor Gary will be installed in November. Our Presiding Pastor of the AALC (Pastor Larson) has already promised he will be on-hand for that event. As Council President, I want to thank all the members of the Council, of the Call Committee and all the members of the congregation who were with us on September 18th. Larry Farner, Council President



Join Us on Thursdays for Bible Study

We’re nearing the end of our study of First Corinthians, and will be choosing a new book to study next. Join us so you can have a “vote” in that choice.

Pastor Rob thinks one of “pastoral epistles” would be good, since they equip us for living as serious Christians. First Thessalonians is also a very appealing text, and it includes solid teaching about Jesus’ second coming.

The only book choice Pastor will “veto” is Leviticus; although you have quite the challenge to get him to lead the congregation through the book of Numbers, as well. (if you wonder why, just ask him.)



A Tribute to Our Veterans

On Sunday, November 13th we will celebrate Veterans Day at our morning worship service. In gratitude to our veterans we will be offering a special “Military Challenge Coin.” Unlike most such medallions, this one has includes a spiritual message. In addition to acknowledging a veteran’s contribution in their respective military branch, they include the reminder to Pray and Trust God. Widows of deceased veterans will be given a coin in their honor.



Who’s A Lutheran?

A Lutheran is somebody who....1. Would rather vacation in South Dakota than Italy.
2. Regards “Children of the Heavenly Father” as the most beautiful song in the world.
3. Wears a suit to service in the summer even if the sanctuary isn’t air-conditioned.

From The Council President

A WALK WITH JOHN. John's letters are about fellowship and understanding our relationship with one-another and with Jesus Christ. In every congregation there are those who are unable to attend Sunday School or mid-week Bible study. There are those who miss "breaking bread together" and there are those who cannot drive after dark and miss out on a chance to share an evening event or a dinner with a beloved brother or sister in Christ. "Missing out", is a sad reality. But, we all never miss out on our relationship with our Lord. And, if you would like to be "close and personal" with our first century brothers and sisters, walk the shores of Galilee or the streets of Ephesus with John. Reading the letters of John is like reading a personal letter from a great and good friend or loved one. It will bring you great comfort and help you to remind yourself "again" that you are loved by God and that you are included in the brotherhood of believers. Or, if you would like to share a time of fellowship and study in God's word, set aside time to attend Pastor Rob's Bible Study class at 10 AM each Thursday. If you need a ride to talk to Pastor Rob or a member of Council.



Streets of Ephesus

Larry Farner, Council President

Helping Our Neighbors

November 6th is our next First Fruits Sunday. It is our opportunity to help neighbors in need. When making your purchases think of the latch key children that take care of themselves after school. What is easy to prepare for them? Think of the seniors that are on a fixed income and find it difficult to make their money stretch. Also, the next first fruits is prior to Thanksgiving. Think of some essentials



for a Thanksgiving dinner. Special thanks to Larry and Sally for all your work supporting our local food bank.

What You Are-What You Are Not!

What you are not....smart as you think you are, as gifted, as charming, as skilled. You are not always right and you are not in charge. What you are....is loved by God, the God of the universe. Of all the beautiful things created by God; the snow-capped mountains, the green valley's, the fields of golden wheat, the mighty rivers, the oceans, the breath-taking sunsets and sunrises, the promise of the rainbow...you are the most prized of all. You, His sons and daughters created in His own image. You are even above the Angels. YOU are HIS ultimate glory. Our prayer is that we never forget what we are not and always, every day of our lives remember what we are!

An Everyday Essential For Us——A Precious Gift to Others

We take a toothbrush or a bar of soap as everyday essentials for ourselves and can't imagine if we had to live without them. However, there are so many children out there that don't have access to these essentials. We wouldn't dream of letting our children or grandchildren go without these and necessary school supplies. However to so many children these are a special gift, a luxury. So many children do not know what it is like to receive a birthday gift or a Christmas present. All it takes is each of us picking up a handful of essentials to pack boxes for so many children that have nothing. Next time you go to the store consider buying something for a child. Remember to think small. These gifts are smaller than a shoebox. If shopping is difficult for you, all you need to do is ask Sharie to shop for you. Remember, the gifts are due by November 6th. Our packing party is November 12th. I hope to see you there. It will prove to be a fun time for all. I encourage young children to participate.



Sharie Adrig, coordinator

What is Your Ministry?

Just as some of our youth are now serving as acolytes, we have a number of other ministries that could be just right for you!! Be assured, your unique gifts and talents are needed to bless your sisters and brothers here at Emmanuel.

We need all sorts of volunteers, including: Council members, Readers, Altar Guild members, trustees (to care for our property), and more.

One of our most acute needs is for someone to coordinate *Ridesharing* in the congregation. This person will recruit and coordinate drivers for those who would not otherwise be able to attend worship services.



If you have a talent you would like to share, or are curious about specific needs in the church, talk to Pastor rob or Chelette Williams, our Lay Ministry Coordinator.

Acolytes Return

In September, Pastor Rob provided acolyte training so we could resume our past practice of having young members of the congregation share in this ministry of the church.



New Insert for Your Congregational Directory

We were blessed to receive new members into our congregation in September. We have updated copies of the address pages available so you can keep your directory current. Pick one up at the church.

Luther and Lutherans—Part Two

The theology of the church under Pope Leo X (1510-1530), was not consistent with the “Word”. Martin Luther tried to point that out to the church leaders. Luther’s goal was not to challenge but to correct errors in interpretation and edits by the church, which conflicted with the Bible (*sound familiar?*) Luther did not want to leave the church he just wanted to “fix” it and make it and the “Word” more accessible to the common believer. Today, many main-line churches are following the same course as the 15th century Catholic Church. Except now, rather than trying to defend the erroneous declarations concerning the message of the Word of God-they simply “change it”.



Larry Farner

October 30th is Special

Five centuries ago, the Church had gotten so corrupt that a number of priests begged the leaders to return to the teachings of the Bible. Unfortunately, the Roman Catholic pope and most of its bishops rejected their plea. In fact, they even martyred (murdered) many of them.

Fortunately, God preserved the life of the most important of these “Reformers,” Martin Luther. Luther was a seminary professor and pastor who refused to deny the truth of the Gospel. And he did something else that was vital and a blessing to all people.

Luther translated the Bible into German! Well, Luther’s German translation doesn’t *directly* benefit everyone, but the principle Luther established certainly does.

Martin Luther strongly believed that every person-throughout the world-should be able to read the Bible in their own language. And because of that conviction, Lutherans have always been at the forefront of Christians who work to translate the Bible into every language.

On October 30, we will celebrate Reformation Day, to commemorate the precious witness and gifts of the early Reformers. Through us, their work continues today.

Pastor Rob



Who Said That?

1. Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious convictions.
2. Normal is a myth.
3. This always works better when we do it together.

October Birthdays

3 -----Helen Allen
 3-----Wayne McElroy
 6-----Kaelya Fuller
 9-----Kristen Fuller
 21-----Jay Johnson
 24-----Mark Stouffer
 29-----Tatyana Johnson

November Birthdays

1-----Lyn Herr
 1-----Larry Farner
 4-----Delores Stroud
 6-----Pastor Tim Cartwright
 22-----Callie Woodward

November Anniversaries

3-----Patrick & Victoria Gehrig
 16-----Jay & Stephanie Johnson
 19-----Josh & Rosie Armstrong
 20-----Bob & Cheryl Fox
 (our missionaries)
 24-----Larry & Sally Farner

If you have any additions or corrections to our birthday—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 October

Altar Guild-----Sally Farner
 Sharie Adrig
 Reader -----Glen Adrig

Members Serving in November

Altar Guild -----Maurine Simons
 Reader -----Larry Farner

If you are interested in helping with Altar Guild just ask JoEllen Klempan or Sharie Adrig

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.

What’s Coming Up?

October

12-Wed.- 12:00-----Women’s Lunch group
 13- Thurs.-10:00-----Bible Study
 14-Sun.-10:00 -----Worship Service
 19-Wed.-12:00 -----Women’s Lunch group
 20-Thurs.-10:00 -----Bible Study
 23-Sun.- 10:00-----Worship Service
 26-Wed.-12:00----- Women’s Lunch group
 27-Thurs.- 10:00-----Bible Study
 30-Sun.-10:00 -----Worship Service

November

6-Sun.- 10:00-----Worship Service
 Operation Christmas Child Gifts due
 7-Mon.- 6:00 pm---Peninsula Knitter’s Guild
 9-Wed.- 12:00 -----Women’s Lunch group
 10-Thurs.-10:00 -----Bible Study
 12-Sat.-10:00 -----Operation Christmas Child Packing Party