

THE WITTENBERG DOOR



OCTOBER 2023

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Pastor's Message

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October belongs to Jesus and so do We. (i.e., "Living by grace through faith in Christ") (Romans 3:21-26)

The month of October for me has always been a transitional month, an earlier evening, a second admission to going back to school, and a movement toward my birthday, which occurs just six days into the month (October 6). As I went to college and learned during my study of religion, that Halloween is for many alternative religions, a high and unholy day for their celebration of all that is dark and ungodly. Pray on that day for the peace of our Lord and the safety of all our neighbors and friends. Thankfully the date of October 31st, in the earlier year of 1517 A.D., opened up a more God-given, holy, and life-giving conversation. It began with a humble monk as a courageous Pastor, with a biblical truth, and a God-inspired movement, that would reform the Church and free the Christian believer, and all those who might be saved by grace alone, through faith in Christ alone, and according to Scripture alone. In the growing light of the Reformation of the Church and the Holy Word of God, God's salvation no longer could be seen as earned in a system of human works. It is ours as a gift of grace, through faith in Christ, according to the Gospel message of the cross and resurrection of Jesus our Lord. His cross and resurrection, is the good news of the Gospel. In the power of the Holy Spirit, we are called by God, gathered in His name, baptized into Christ, and sanctified by His Holy Spirit. We are now free through the redemption which ours through faith in Christ Jesus (Rom. 3:24). It is by grace, through faith that we are saved! (Mark 16:16). Martin Luther found the long-sought pearl of great price, and the scriptural promise of freedom for his, and any troubled and law-bound conscience. It was plainly given in Scripture that it is by grace we are saved, not by our works or our own merit. The Apostle Paul, the Disciples, the Early Church, and Dr. Martin Luther, found repentance, forgiveness, faith as God's gift, and the grace to lean heartily on the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from law, although the law and the prophets bear witness to it, ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction; ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ they are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as an expiation 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; ²⁶ it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies him who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:21-26)

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Pastor's Message continued.....

This October, turn again to the foundation of our Church, the hope of forgiveness and life through faith in Christ, and the oft-repeated and ne'er depleted, truth of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, according to Scripture alone. May your October, and your time in God's Holy Word this month, bring you blessings of peace and new life in Christ.

October belongs to the Lord, and so do we! To God, in Christ, be the glory. Amen.
Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos

Luther and Lutherans—Conclusion

Opening doors, opening hearts! In all his preaching, the central theme for Luther was that God in Christ offers himself freely to us while we are still sinners. Would Friends be able to recognize one another in Heaven? Luther held that they would. Just before he died, Luther said, "into your hands I commit my spirit". The prayer from Psalm 31:5 which was also the words spoken by Jesus from the cross (Luke 23:46). Luther had confidence that he was going to be with God and did not fear death as others did. He was sixty-two years old when he passed from this world. Luther had brought to light the true and necessary doctrine, he showed what true repentance looks like and he expounded Paul's doctrine, which says that "Man is justified by faith". What Luther did in his ministry was to open the door to a second church, what today we call the Lutheran Church.

Thank you, Larry, for your series on Luther and Lutherans



Questions Beg More Questions

We all know the story in the Book of John, Chapter 8, concerning the woman taken in adultery. We know the questions asked of Jesus by the Pharisees. But, of the questions asked by Jesus of the woman, her response and His response to her, perhaps we have some questions of our own. (John 8:11), "And Jesus said to her, neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more." Here, is the rest of the story...the "other" questions. Why is the woman taken in adultery and not the men who took her in adultery also to be stoned? And, when Jesus says to her, "Go and sin no more", did He mean just that particular sin or, all sins? Doesn't Jesus



know this may not be possible? Does it matter? If it does or does not matter, why did He even say it? As the woman departs from Jesus and goes on her way is she clear with regard to what Jesus meant? Does she have any options? What do you, dear reader come away with after reading John 8:1-11? E-mail your responses to this last question to Sharie Adrig, our Newsletter Editor, who will forward the responses on to me, Larry Farner.

Reaching Beyond our Borders

Each year at this time we have the opportunity to help children in need from countries that are currently struggling whether it be war torn situation or one that has been hit with a natural disaster. Operation Christmas Child is a wonderful ministry that we and our childcare center are part of. Our collection box will be on display from October 1st—November 5th. When you go to the store and are doing your essential shopping for your family consider picking up a small gift for our shoeboxes. What these children consider a gift is something as simple as a toothbrush, a bar of soap or a box of markers. Please put Saturday, November 11th, 10 am on your calendar so you can be part of the packing party. If you have small children or grandchildren bring them along. What a wonderful opportunity to teach children the gift of giving.
 - Sharie Adrig, Coordinator



AARP Safe Driver Program

Glen Adrig will be conducting the last class of the year for the AARP Safe Driver Program on October 16th and 17th from 9 am until 1 pm each day. The next class for this program will not be held until February or March of next year. If you have an interest in getting a small reduction on your auto insurance, please see Glen soon to learn more about the class.



Sometimes, They Have Only You

Did you ever consider that criminals, foreign spies and terrorists in our prisons are fed three meals a day, given hot showers, medical care, clean sheets, state-of-the art education and entertainment opportunities all paid for by taxes; while God fearing, law abiding Americans; Adults, children and the sick and weary are barely getting by? Sometimes, they must choose between food and paying the heat bill. Or, cutting their pills in half because they cannot afford to pay for prescriptions. Sometimes, they have only us! People like the members of ELC who faithfully contribute each month to the “First Fruits” mission. Those like YOU, our fellowship of believers, are blessed in so many ways. Let us, in our small way, continue to bless others, by our giving, in knowledge that we are truly blessed to be a blessing.
 -Sally, Coordinator



Baby Bottle Fund Raiser

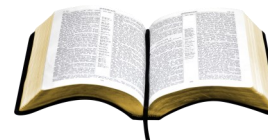


For the month of October, we will have a Baby Bottle Fund Raiser for the Trillium Women’s Center. There will be 40 baby bottles available for you to put your cash or change into. For further information, contact Rose Link.

Educational Opportunities

Adult Bible Studies: Thursday, 10 am.
 Sunday, 9 am.

Children’s Sunday School: Sunday, 9 am



The Lord Giveth the Lord Taketh Away

“Mary Jane Michaels (Moen) was born September 23, 1947 in Vancouver, WA to John and Leona Michaels. Her brother, James, who passed in 2004, was two years older.

A short time after her birth the family moved to North Dakota and soon afterwards moved to Vashon Island where they resided for seven years. In 1959 the family relocated to Bremerton. Her father, John, who worked at Earl Brown’s Music Store, passed in 1962.



The Michaels family, especially Leona who passed in 2014, were longtime members and attendees of Emmanuel where all three children were confirmed. Mary married John Moen at the church on her 19th birthday in 1966. Later she worked for many decades in the collections field.

Mary loved Emmanuel and enjoyed bringing neighborhood children to Vacation Bible School for several summers before she became ill. She was an avid traveler, reader and a master gardener. She loved to collect vintage items and was a talented jewelry-maker with a great eye for beauty. Christmas was her favorite holiday. She loved gift-giving as well as cooking for friends and family.

Mary bravely struggled for three years with LEMS, and eventually succumbed to COVID-related pneumonia. She passed away peacefully on September 12, 2023 at St. Anthony’s Hospital in Gig Harbor.



Mary’s Senior Picture

She is currently survived by her younger sister, Susan Casey of Shelton; her children, Mike Moen (Andi) and Dan Moen (Judith Estribor); two grandchildren, Casey and Thea Estribor; and her beloved great-grandchild, Marcy Valencia.

A memorial followed by a potluck meal will be held at Emmanuel on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 2:00 pm. Please attend so that Mary’s family and friends can share in your fond memories of her.”

Submitted by Mary’s sister, Susan Casey.

(Thank you, Susan, for your words, pictures and memories Sharie, editor.)



The Founders-What Has Changed?

The original political parties (groups) that framed or influenced the Constitution appear in some respects kind of like, “same chapter, different verse” from similar groups today. Consider these first early groups who somehow make it all happen: Group 1: Unreconstructed Tories. Loyal to the Crown, favored limited government. Group 2: High Nationalists. Welcomed American Independence but admired the British political system. Favored an executive chosen for life. Group 3: Moderate Nationalists. Favored a powerful central government, willing to reserve a subordinate body for the states. Group 4: Centrists. Favored a strong federal government with restrictions concerning specifically listed powers, i.e., the election by States of U.S. Senators. They also wanted protection for the rights of individuals within each State. Group 5: Conditional Federalists. Favored Federalism of the Constitution but only on condition that the document could be amended. They sought a Bill of Rights, a democratic House of Representatives, protection for states against central interference and full state control of federal elections. Group 6: Firm Antifederalists. Wanted to retain the Articles of Confederation, did not believe that a 13 state union was manageable, favored dividing the country. FINALLY; there were no major divisions concerning religion-it was accepted universally that we would be a Christian Nation. Considering the “themes” of each group, it’s clearly a wonder it worked! Today, we don’t have groups, we only have two major political parties...or, do we still have groups? One particular group– we at Emmanuel hold most dear is that group of Christians that stands for Law and Obedience to the “actual” Word of God. The name of that group...? The True Believers!



-Larry Farner

Forgetting Something?

Computer files are a bit like sin-they can be absolved , but they never really go away? Is that true? Didn’t our Lord say, “Your sins are forgiven”. They were more than forgiven-they were forgotten....they have simple cease to exist! - Larry



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.



October Birthdays

- 3-----Helen Allen
- 3-----Wayne McElroy
- 6-----Kaelyn Fuller
- 6-----Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos
- 9-----Kristen Fuller
- 21-----Jay Johnson
- 24-----Mark Stouffer
- 29-----Tatyana Johnson

November Birthdays

- 1-----Victoria Boisjolie
- 1-----Lyn Herr
- 1-----Larry Farner
- 4-----Delores Stroud
- 6-----Pastor Tim Cartwright
- 13-----Carmen (Childcare Staff)
- 22-----Callie Woodward

November Anniversaries

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

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



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-----Jo Klempan
- Reader-----Maurine Simons
- Acolytes-1, Bella-8,Nathan- 15, Tiffany-22, Bella-29, Nathan

Members Serving in November

- Altar Guild-----Sally Farner
- Reader-----Judy Armstrong
- Acolytes- 5. Tiffany-12, Bella-19, Nathan--26, Tiffany

What's Coming Up?

October

- 11-----12, noon--Women's lunch
- 12-----10 am-----Bible Study
- 14--8:30 am--Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 2:00,pm--Mary Moen's Memorial
- 15-----9:00 am --Adult Bible Study
- Children's Sunday School
- 10 am ----Worship Service
- 16 & 17-----9:00 am----AARP Safe
- Driver Course
- 18-----12, noon--Women's lunch
- 19-----10 am-----Bible Study
- 22-----9:00 am-Adult Bible Study
- Children's Sunday School
- 22-----10 am--Worship Service
- 25-----12, noon--Women's Lunch
- 26-----10 am-----Bible Study
- 29-----9 am -Adult Bible Study
- Children's Sunday School

November

- 1-----12, noon--Women's Lunch
- 2-----10 am-----Bible Study
- 5-----9 am--Adult Bible Study
- Children's Sunday School
- 6-----6 pm ----Kitsap Peninsula
- Knitting Guild
- 8-----12, noon--Women's Lunch
- 9-----10 am-----Bible Study
- 11-----10 am--OCC packing party