

THE WITTENBERG DOOR

APRIL 2023

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

ELCBREMERTON.ORG



**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

PASTOR'S MESSAGE	1
PASTOR'S & PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES	2
EASTER BREAKFAST	3
BAPTISM, FIRST FRUITS AND PASTOR ROB'S BLOG	4
MANY THANKS	5
FROM OUR MEMBERS	7-9
SPECIAL DATES & WHAT'S COMING UP?	10

Pastor's Message

But Mary stood weeping... saw Jesus ...and then went evangelizing!

John 20: 11-18; Matthew 28:18-20; John 3:16-20)

"¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rab-bo'ni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ¹⁸ Mary Mag'dalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her."

Happy Easter Season brothers and sisters in Christ at Emmanuel Lutheran Church! I want to share a portion of Scripture that describes the Lord's plan to keep blessing us in the Church which He has built, and is building here at Emmanuel! I add the verses for this Newsletter article, that I read to you and preached about for Easter Sunday April 9th, 2023; At that time I said that Jesus showed the first and best impulse of His calling; to seek and to save the World by loving the World so much, dying for our sins on the Cross, and then after He was raised from the dead, to call us to make disciples and baptize in God's Name, and teach others in the power of His Holy Spirit. What He did was to call Mary by name, encourage her by disclosing that it was Him who was now with her as risen again, and then sent her with his own Word (calling her to reach out to others), and go tell the disciples that she had seen the Lord! Jesus mission purpose to seek and to save that which is lost, and those who are living in darkness, has been, is and will be in effect for all those who believe in Jesus, repent, and proclaim the Name of Christ to the world (that means all people). Both His calling and the power of His Word, (ie. His promise for salvation, forgiveness and strength as we proclaim His Word) is the power of the gospel for salvation(Rom. 1:16-17); and to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20). This is and will be our new life and our new norm of how we live together and serve in this world. The specifics would continue to be given in the command of Christ to go, make disciples... and to, "baptize them in the Name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you". Then He promised, "...and Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (He would never leave us). (Matthew 28:18-20; Rom.8:28).
Continued on page 2.....

**Contact Pastor
Gary at
1 (541) 350-7737

OR
ggkouts65@gmail.com**

Pastor's Message continued

Just as Jesus showed Mary Magdalene who He was, in that moment outside the tomb, He went on to promise His disciples that He, with His commandment, would promise to be with them always, "even to the close of the age." In the months ahead, and the season of Easter and beyond, I hope to keep that as the central focus on what our Lord has gone on to call us to. To make disciples and bring people to Christ through the Gospel, that they might believe upon Him and have new life! (Matt. 28:18-20; John 3:16-20).



For all who came to church on Easter Sunday, we give you thanks for your service and volunteering in making the Church worship and Easter breakfast such a blessing for us all! We rejoice with Brian (Dad), Isabella (daughter, age 11 yrs.), and Victoria (daughter, age 2.5), and Sacajawea (Mother, already baptized), in their baptisms and family joy as our new brothers and sisters in Christ at Emmanuel Lutheran). This is a true testimony to how the Lord is calling our Church to reach others in His Name, gather them in, even as the Holy Spirit has brought them to us to care for and disciple. We are called, and empowered in Christ and by the Holy Spirit to share the simple and heartfelt testimony which Mary shared; By lovingly saying, **"I have seen the Lord!"**

Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos

President's Message.....

Dear Saints, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Thank you for celebrating Christ's resurrection by sharing fellowship and breakfast in the fellowship hall. Thank you for bringing food and helping clean up. You are precious to the Lord.

We hope you also enjoyed celebrating communion with real bread and with wine shared at the altar rail.

April 27th at 4 pm is the annual business meeting of the Martha and Mary Corporation. Emmanuel has one delegate and can have two. The responsibility of delegates is to attend this annual business meeting. Please speak to Tim Cartwright if you are interested in serving

Remember our Missionaries, Bob and Cheryl Fox and Marion Hungerford in your prayers. Their service is sustained by our prayers support.

We have applied for a grant from the Honeywell Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation to pay for a remodel that would add a second bathroom to the fellowship hall area. I will keep you apprised of the progress that is made.

May 28th is Pentecost Sunday and the Confirmation of Faith for our three Confirmands, Katie, Tiffany and Nate. Please remember them in your prayers.

Tim Cartwright

Council President

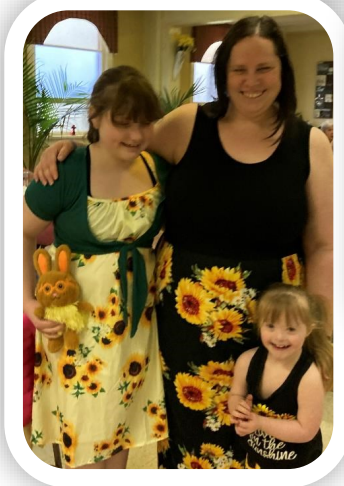
Easter Breakfast



A Time For Good Fellowship !!!



Thanks to our Confirmation Students for their help at our Easter Breakfast.





Easter Worship Service

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!!



Pastor Gary and Lori's first Easter
Worship Service with
Emmanuel Lutheran.



A Special Easter Baptism



First Fruits-"The Real Story"

I have written many times of the challenges of our local and nationwide food banks to be able to feed the hungry. In our area, we are blessed to have good wages and comfortable retirement pensions. Of course, this is not true for everyone in our community. Some families, large and small have paying jobs or pensions that do not keep up with the extreme inflation we have regard to stretching every can, box package or dollar it receives from our donations. FOR example, receipts are provided on how to create a wholesome and nourishing meal-which, often does not include meat. Every month, you turn hunger on its ugly head with your faithful donations. In fact, approximately 18 pounds of food is provided by the individual households represented by Emmanuel Lutheran Church, each month. I'm sure you would "all' agree that,



"we are taking a very large bit" out of hunger. An example of your good will is that for First Fruits Sunday on April 2nd, 624 pounds of food and \$230.00 was donated. With an active membership of just short of 50 and an average Sunday attendance of around 30...that "is" significant! Sally , coordinator

Pastor Rob's Weekly Columns

Please consider visiting or "subscribing" to Pastor Rob's blog, called *Mere Inklings*. The weekly messages deal with a wide range of subject, and usually have some sort of link of C.S. Lewis, the author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*. His two most recent posts related to the Christian life and spiritual warfare. The web address for his blog is www.mereinkling.net



Pastor Rob Stroud

(I just checked it out. Outstanding website. I highly recommend taking a look. Sharie)

Many Thanks to a Few!!

Each Sunday we come to church but seldom think of the busy hands behind each worship service, ministry and fellowship time at our church. I would like to take the opportunity to thank these people that make our services, ministries and fellowship times happen. I hope I don't overlook anyone. My apologies if I do.

We all owe **Carol Reece** a sincere "thank you" for her constant attention to properly decorating the fellowship hall for seasonal events. This is especially significant during Lent and Holy Week, with different worship themes. And thank you also, Carol, for the wonderful new shelving you provided for the kitchen. It's a welcome improvement.

Special thanks to all **Altar Guild members** for the numerous parament changes that take place in our sanctuary each Christian season and your care in preparing and cleaning up after each communion Sunday.

Special thanks to **Steve Armstrong** for the superb job you do with our sound system each week and changing our large banners with the changes of the church season.

Each week we rely on our bulletins and announcements for our worship services. This would not happen without the collaboration of **Maurine Simons and Glen Adrig**.

So many of us look forward to and enjoy our time of fellowship during our coffee hours. This is thanks to our "coffee ministers," **Teresa Prange and Rose Link** and those of you that help out.

Worship Service would not be the same without our praise team, **Rhonda Jaramillo, Delores Stroud and Bob Klempan**. Thank you for the extra hours you put into preparing for our weekly services. Your PowerPoints are truly inspirational.

Each week we are greeted by our ushers. You are important to all of us. Special thanks to **Jim Turowski** that heads up the team.

Thanks to our **past and present council members** that handle the business of our church, keeps things financially sound and keeps us going.

We are so grateful to our faithful **Acolytes** that light and extinguish our altar candles each week. Also, thanks to **Delores Stroud** for coordinating their schedule.

Each week we give our monetary offering (of which we are very grateful). But what happens to it after that? Our 4 financial secretaries, **Larry and Sally Farnner and Bob and JoEllen Klempan**, can be found in the church office counting and recording the totals. Special thanks to these four.

Thanks to our two retired pastors, we have a weekly Bible study taught by **Pastor Rob Stroud** and a weekly Confirmation class taught by **Pastor Tim Cartwright**.

Many thanks to our prayer warriors on our **Prayer Chain**. It seems like there have been so many prayer requests. But there have been many prayers answered too. Well done!!!



Luther and Lutherans—Part Seven

REVOLUTION OF WORDS AND IDEAS. While in exile, Luther quoted James 5:16 to prove that the biblical idea of confession was something Christians can do with one another. So, it wasn't necessary to abide by ecclesiastical strictures insisted on by the Church. Luther felt confession must not be mandatory but rather, should be something Christians could do when they felt the need. Another bombshell was when he made it clear that the necessity of celibacy for priests was not biblical. Also, separating priests into a special caste apart from lay people was unbiblical. Therefore, the idea that only they and not the lay people should take the bread and the wine during communion was wrong. It was obvious to all that Luther was concerned more about the people than about the correctness of the theology. Luther's ideas were not only radical to the Church but, also to some lay people as well. The radicalness of hearing one's own language (not Latin) spoken by the priest at the holy culmination of the mass was probably shocking for some in the pews. It was during these "writings" that Luther rejects the name "Lutheran" which was being taken by many who sided with him. He wanted people to simply call themselves "Christians", saying, "How then should I, poor stinking maggot-fodder that I am, come to have men call the Children of Christ by my wretched name"? It was at this time also that Luther was beginning to consider the issue of "God's Will" and the concept of "Free Will". He wrote, one must allow God the freedom to do what He wished to do. But to force things by dragging one's own dead flesh into what ought to be done only by the Spirit of God was to play into the hands of and do the work of Satan.



Larry Farner

Jesus and the Thief

"Look with thine ears; see how justice rails upon you simple thief! Hark, change places; and handy-dandy, which is the justice and which is the thief?" -William Shakespeare

Jesus has been arrested, forced to carry a heavy cross to the top of a hill where He will soon be crucified. At this point, the Disciples have no clue what will happen next, for them. In a matter of days it will all become clear, but for now? If they had hung around rather than run like scared rabbits they would have had an "ah-hah" moment if they had heard the dialogue between Jesus and the thief. Jesus sees true repentance in the heart of the thief and He says, "verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke



24:43). And, handy-dandy, just like that, the man on the cross next to Christ is no longer a thief but a true believed-a saint, justified through faith!

2023 Annual Plant Sale

The Master Gardener Foundation of Kitsap County is holding an annual plant sale on May 3, 2023 between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm in the President's Hall at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds.



We have two master gardeners in our congregation.; Carol Henning and Marialis Jorges

When You Get a New Rig You Need to Learn how to Use All of It's Features



Getting old is not for sissies and the Lord continues to teach us important lessons in unique ways. Do you think God has a sense of humor that He sometimes uses to get a point across or teach us something? I think so.

Carl and I are trying to adjust to our current medical situations and old age in general. I am struggling with my recent diagnosis of widespread peripheral neuropathy because of falling too often and he to upgrade from my quad cane to a 4-wheel walker for the rest of my life. The first thing had to do was figure out how to put two walkers in the car every time we go somewhere in it. Both of them do not fit in the trunk of our car. I also had to rearrange furniture in the house so we could both use walkers in the same areas.

We have had to get used to a new routine because of these changes. It takes practice. The first time I used my “all terrain” walker was at one of the Lenten services at church. As we left I put my purse on the ground and put my walker in the back seat. I got in the front seat and was talking to Carl. Carol Henning and Pastor Gary came out and it soon became a “God moment”. Carl has asked Carol about some muffins and she was bringing him some of them. She saw my purse by our back tire and said “Do you want your purse?” I thought I had put in in the backseat. It would have been ruined along with everything in it if she had not seen it because we would have run over it!

The next day we were headed to the Thursday morning Bible study. I told myself that I would not repeat my mistake from the previous day. I grabbed my purse off my walker and put it in the front seat. I turned to do the same thing with the plastic bag with our Bibles in it. I found it about a yard away hitching a ride on the seat of the runaway walker that was slowly gaining speed as it took off on its own adventure along our sloped driveway. It took the path of least resistance and sped to the street which is on a steep hill. I tried to reach our Bibles but realized, as I almost fell on my face, that I was helpless to do anything but I had to chuckle because it was also so hilarious. Anyone, like God or our neighbors seeing this would see the humor of it all, my frustration, and also be powerless to help in time! The runaway walker finally hit a mailbox post and then the curb of a neighbor’s driveway and turned over and laid there. My poor balance would not allow me to go get my walker so I made my way back to the car. Carl was already behind the wheel on the drivers side so I asked him to open the trunk so I could pull out his walker and asked him if he could go get our Bibles and the two walkers.

Carl took his walker, went to get the other one, and picked up the bag and the Bibles on the way up. I was glad he had better balance and mobility to be able to go and retrieve everything.

As I look back over the incident, I realize that none of my other walkers have taken off on their own so I was not expecting that to happen. But this one has special “all terrain” features which allow it to go anywhere so I’ve concluded that if you have a new fancy rig you have to take more precautions. God wanted to teach me that **“SOMETIMES I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL AND PUT ON THE BRAKES! LESSON LEARNED LORD!** No people, animals, cars or homes were harmed during this accident but the runaway walker got a few “battle scars” from its adventure.

Melody Knight

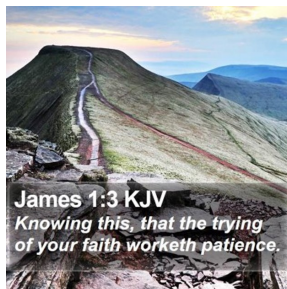
Tax Avoidance

If you are at an age where you are required to make withdrawals from your IRA (and are in compliance with Leviticus 27:32), consider the following, If you ask your financial advisor to send a monthly check directly to the Church to be deposited into the Church account then you are meeting the requirement to withdraw from the IRA while avoiding the tax as an “added” income. Of course, that means you can no longer claim that amount as a contribution. However, because of the liberal allowances the government currently has built into the tax laws for various contributions, you will still be coming out ahead while perhaps, remaining in a lower tax category. Plus, you will be coming out ahead while perhaps, remaining in a lower tax category. Plus, you will no longer have to write a check to the Church each month for your tithe. In addition (just so you know); It is the policy of ELC that all tithe and offerings to the church are strictly confidential. That information is entrusted specifically to your elected financial secretaries who count and record the income and make bank deposits in behalf of our congregation.

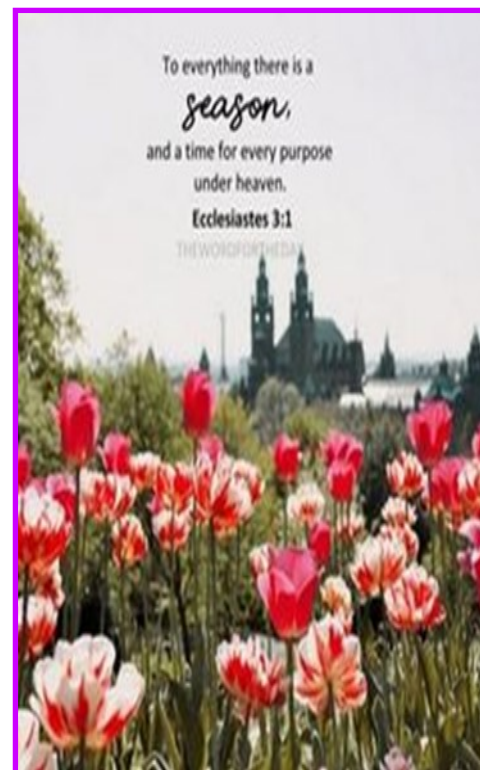


Notes From James

Members of ELC recently completed a study led by Pastor Rob of the book of James (brother of Jesus). As I often do-I took notes. And, some of those notes I would like to share with you: (1) Works are both behavior and our public witness– James however did not believe in works righteousness, (2) James, to me is a kind of guidebook for Christians. (3) When we die we may become fertilizer but, when we are resurrected we will not be resurrected as a tree. We will instead, become a heavenly body. (4) Focus on Jesus to find joy. (5) Doubting is natural. But, when a Christian doubts he/she is not a doubter. (6) The rich often appear to have no need for God. But, the poor clearly do. So, God’s promises have great value to most of us! (7) When we repent of our sins we are asking for forgiveness for both our conscious and unconscious sins. (8) Finally, James reminds us to put a governor on our tongue.



Larry Farner



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

May Birthdays

2-----Stephanie Johnson
 3-----Jim Mace
 10-----Kaitlyn Armstrong
 16-----Sally Farner
 16-----Nancy Kerlee
 21-----Maurine Simons

May Anniversaries

1-----Bob & JoEllen Klempan
 12-----Dr. Arriel & Tina Atienza
 21-----Loyal & Gail Campbell
 30-----Mark & Bonnie Stouffer

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 April

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

Members Servin in May

Altar Guild-----Sally Farner
 Reader-----Pastor Tim Cartwright
 Acolytes--7,Tiffany--14, Bella-21,Nathan--28.Arabelle

What's Coming Up?

April

16-----10 am-----Worship Service
 Council Meeting
 19-----12, noon -----Ladies' Lunch
 20-----10 am -----Bible Study
 23-----10 am-----Worship Service
 Confirmation Class
 26-----12, noon -----Ladies' Lunch
 27-----10 am-----Bible Study
 30-----10 am-----Worship Service
 Confirmation Class

May

1-----6 pm --Kitsap Peninsula Knitter's Guild
 3-----12, noon -----Ladies' Lunch
 4-----10 am -----Bible Study
 7-----10 am-----Worship Service
 Confirmation Class
 10-----12, noon -----Ladies' Lunch
 11-----10 am -----Bible Study
 14-----10 am-----Worship Service

Mother's Day

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.