



THE WITTENBERG DOOR

APRIL 2026

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

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Pastor's Message

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He is Risen!

As an opener to my Newsletter, I want to say on this day after Easter, that we had a beautiful and well attended Church Service, Easter Breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt, Musical ministry by our members, and a true blessing of others coming to Celebrate and be blessed in God's Word and Christian fellowship! We had 100 people come to the 10:00 am Worship Service, multiple people came for breakfast and Fellowship time, and volunteers both prepared and shared all that food! It was a months long effort by the women (men too), to fill and store the 3,000 Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg hunt, and the smiles, caring and ready service in greeting our new visitors, members, and families. I thank all of you who advertised, donated food, served in preparation and clean-up, and shared your hearts with others in Jesus' name! Set-up for the day, donated flowers for the Sanctuary, and stayed to clean-up afterward! Yes, we even had children and their families asking about Jesus and His Resurrection, about faith in God, and appear to be really excited that we celebrate Jesus and faith in Him – every Sunday (Every Day)!

In the recent blessing of our Easter Sunday Service and events, as an entry into the Scripture concerning the early Church:

In the Early Church, the scriptures say that they had many blessed days also, and it was this joy and confidence in the Lord and His Word that had been given them in what could also be harder days in getting things started and gathering people to come and hear about Jesus of Nazareth. They had just gone through the arrest of Jesus, His trial and flogging, and then the most life-shattering reality of Jesus' death on the cross. They could have remained afraid and motionless in the Upper Room indefinitely.

If remaining caught up in themselves and powerlessness after Jesus had so openly and unjustly condemned by Rome, they could have been immobilized by His death on the cross. Even a person with a high emotional IQ may have remained traumatized and secluded. They did not need to be scared into action. At the very least, and after three years of learning, training, loving and following Jesus their Master and Lord, their unknown future must have been frightful, and it would be Jesus' gifting that would be their only hope (Luke 23:1-44): What does the Bible say about this time before the crucifixion and resurrection?

Pastor's Message continued.....

First: Jesus was known to Mary and Sent her as witness to tell others the Good News!

“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, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” 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 Aramaic,^[a] “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

As the Resurrected Son of God and Lord of the Church, Jesus' arm is not shortened, nor His powerful gospel neutered. He told them He was going to ascend to God the Father, and it would be better that He did. Better? Yes, better, because He would send his Holy Spirit, and He would be even closer to them and they would, in His grace and power, do even more than they had been able while He was with them in the flesh (*John 16:7-9*): *but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.*

Jesus' own words empowered Mary Magdalene to believe; and go and make disciples of the disciples!

‘...but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” (John 20:17)

So if he was going to go to Heaven and sit at God's right hand, what would that mean for the church of their day and ours? A blessing of renewed faith and life in Christ, more than what they, or we can imagine:

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰. Of righteousness because I go to my Father, and you will see me no more. ¹¹. Of judgement because the prince of this world is judged. (*John 16:9-11*),

Are we not being likewise called to submit to Christ by faith and believe upon Him according to Scripture and our biblical Christian values? By this same calling, aren't we empowered Just as much to affirm and agree with the doctrines of our faith through all history? Is it possible that more time in God's Word, and prayer, and in the light of the Holy Spirit's empowerment, we will be recipients of the renewal of our faith and lives founded upon repentance and daily coming to Christ as His baptized children? Could it be the answer to continue preaching Christ and Him crucified and raised unto newness of life, and then go and make Him known to our world? (*I Corinthians 2:1-5; Romans 6:4-5; John 3:16-20*), He gave us the promise that He is and has always been the Way and the Truth that is foundational in biblically sound Christian life. This was and is in the risen Christ Alone. God bless you this Easter Season as we serve the Lord together, by grace alone, and through faith in Christ alone, according to Scripture alone. All praise and Glory to God the Father, through Christ the Son, and in God the Holy Spirit, Three in One! Happy Easter!

He is Risen! Amen!

-Pastor Gary Kostopoulos

Easter is Celebrated at Emmanuel.....



Thank You to all that donated flowers to help make our Altar so beautiful Easter Morning.

A Special Easter Egg Hunt for the Children



Special thanks to all that made this Easter Egg Hunt happen. Thanks to Rose and Stu, Teresa, all our childcare staff and the church members who helped stuff the 3,000 eggs.





***Support Lutherhaven Attend Bingo Night on
Sunday, April 19th at McCloud's Grill House!
Come at 4:30 for a place, Bingo is from 5-7 PM***

This Is Who We Are

(This was a Temple Talk that Larry Farner gave on Sunday, March 22nd)

Good morning....As we look around the Sanctuary this morning there are 3 things that are self-evident; (1) There are a lot more women than men in our congregation. (2) If we are totally honest, with some exceptions, it's the women who are the life blood and heartbeat of most Churches. (3) If the women would, and this only my opinion, choose to abandon the tasks and roles they fulfill in our church what would remain would pretty much be a cold and empty building.....thank fully that hasn't happened yet and I pray for all our sakes it never will.

The reason I wanted to chat with you this morning is to make it clear that in this Church, we do not do anything in a vacuum, we do it together...men and women equally, with total visibility. For example, there are 10 members of our council, 5 men and 5 women. The President is a man the Vice President is a woman, the Treasurer is a woman, and the Secretary is a man. If I were to fall off the turnip truck, the VP (a woman) would step in that leadership role. If the Secretary goes missing, we simply rotate that position. However, if the Treasurer resigns (a woman) we are in trouble. So, of the 10 who is most important? None of them....we all stand together- equally!

This morning, I would like to tell you a little story and you all know how I like to tell stories. This story is called...."This is who we are."

In a war, Generals make plans but on the front lines are the infantry companies where the Platoon leaders, the Sergeants, the Corporals and the Privates have to deal with reality. We at Emmanuel are "E" company....not "E" as in easy, because it's not easy being one of only two AALC churches in the State of Washington. And, we're on the front lines of a sinful, confused and delusional world. We are a small company surrounded by those who would destroy us both internally and externally. However, we have found a way to survive-that is, by caring for one another and working together-a Band of Brothers and Sisters in Christ. We do recognize the authority and resources of the Synod (our headquarters), but the Synod is not here in our foxholes with us. So, here we are, our own little island, a family of true believers who do what needs to be done, knowing full well that God is with us. He has always been with us and will always be with us. Recently...we have had to deal with some issues relating to our Child Care and Communion. Those issues have been resolved and we are moving forward, thanks be to God. This IS who we are.. Thank you and may our Lord bless us one and all.....Go in Peace and serve the Lord.

-Larry



Special Thanks!!!

Thank you to Teresa and Rose for coordinating our Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

Thank you to all who helped fill the 3,000 eggs.

Thank to all who helped coordinate the Easter Breakfast.

Thank you to all who purchased flowers to adorn our Altar.



Easter Prayer

Most gracious and forgiving Lord, we celebrate the season of Easter not only because of the resurrection of your son but also, for the promise. Jesus died was buried and rose again and ascended into Heaven— just as He said He would. And, He also said rise from the grave and ascend into Heaven. That was His promise...and, it is that promise that



brings us hope and joy as we come together each Easter Season.
Amen!

-Larry Farner

Native American Spirituality

All things are the work of the Great Spirit. We should all know that He is within all things; the trees, the grasses, the rivers, the mountains and all four-legged animals and the winged people. And even more important, we should understand that He is above all these things and peoples.

(Crazy Horse, Chief of the combined Cheyenne and Sioux nations) -Larry



Crunch Time

On Easter Sunday-also First Fruits Sunday, members of Emmanuel donated 193 pounds of food and \$75.00 in cash which was delivered to the Bremerton Food Bank on the following Monday. On that day, there were many people waiting to pickup free food items. Our food delivery went directly into the “grocery store” to be distributed. It is so amazing seeing those in need smiling as we shared our donations with them. Believe it or not, summer will be coming soon and the food bank always experiences even more shoppers during summer because school is out for the summer, kids are no longer getting breakfast or lunch at school. So, the need is “over the top”. Thanks to Emmanuel, our support helps to fill the gap. Our next opportunity to donate will be May 3rd....the summer crunch begins.
-Sally, coordinator

You Will Be Missed!

Our dear members, Jo and Bob Klempan, are moving out of the area. They have done so much for Emmanuel. We can't begin to thank them for all they have done for us and Emmanuel Lutheran.

Thank you so much, dear friends!!!



April Birthdays

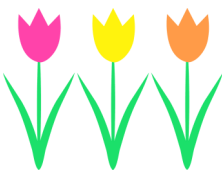
2	Victoria Gehring
6	Rosie Armstrong
11	Jo Klempan
12	Gail Campbell
15	Glen Adrig
17	Judy Armstrong
17	Lamonte James
20	Marialis Jurges
21	Mari Clare Gehring
22	Keri Bjornemo Roberts
22	Ida Ficca
23	Dr. Arriel Atienza

May Birthdays

1-----Sacajawea Paulus
2-----Stephanie Johnson
10-----Kaitlyn Armstrong
16-----Sally Farner
21-----Maurine Simons

May Anniversaries

1-----Bob & Jo Klempan
12-----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

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 and Stu for all you do.



First Fruits Sunday is May 3rd

It is an opportunity for you to help those less fortunate than yourself. Bring in nonperishable food or a monetary donation for our local food bank.

Members Serving in April

Altar Guild-----Jo Klempan
Chelette Williams
Reader-----Larry Farner

Members Serving in May

Altar Guild-----Teresa Prange
Reader-----Miki Turowski

What's Coming Up?

April

11-----8:30---Men's Fellowship Breakfast
12-----9-----Sunday School
10-----Worship Service

13-----6----Kitsap Peninsula Knitter's Guild
16-----10----Mid-week Bible Study
19-----9-----Sunday School
10-----Worship Service
23-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
26-----9-----Sunday School
10-----Worship Service
30-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study

May

3-----9-----Sunday School
10-----Worship Service
7-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
9-----8:30-----Men's Breakfast
10-----9-----Sunday School
10-----Worship Service
11-----6-----Kitsap Peninsula Knitter's Guild
14-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Second Saturday of the month!

8:30 AM at All Star Lanes

Questions? Ask Glen or Pastor Gary

do good, lend, and
expect nothing in return
and your reward will be great

Luke 6:35

