

THE WITTENBERG DOOR

AUGUST 2024

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

ELCBREMERTON.ORG



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Pastor's Message

In walking through life and experience this past winter, Spring and now mid-way through Summer, I realize that in considering life after death (a very Christian subject), the reality which comes home for all who believe in God, is that the Word of God (Jesus), made flesh and having come among us: did so, not to condemn the world, but that through Him, the world might be saved (John 3:16-20). You know, the basic Gospel message; of sin, forgiveness, life and salvation, and resurrection by grace and through faith in Jesus our crucified and Risen Lord! Why is it that we all know that, and it seems like the fact that "I am saved" is enough to say thank you Lord, and then go about living my blessed life, and maybe sharing the good news with family and a few friends and then wait for the latter days of this life, for our eternal rewards? I think there's more to it, and in the midst of life. In preparing for a "Means of Grace" Adult Sunday School class, I came across a section in the explanation of the work of the Holy Spirit in the Third Article of the Apostle's Creed. It was nearly the last thing said related to Holy Communion and our promise in receiving it; for forgiveness, life and salvation. Even as these scriptures meet death head on, and in Christ Jesus our Lord promise resurrection and new life of grace and through faith. I began to think that it is still for all who believe in Jesus, to not only believe in the hope of these truths, and live in Christ; but to at any time in the blessed reality of God-given faith, be a testimony to others that live lives of sin, brokenness and fear of death. This is the, "light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6). Related to life and Hope in the face of dying in Christ and in awaiting life in His name, the Small Catechism refers the learner and believer to these passages in Revelation Chapter 1:17 through chapter 2 verse 11. This seems a lot like the times when the things which are Holy, come home to us and tap us on the shoulder:



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Pastor's Message continued.....

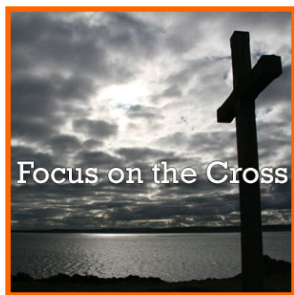
17 When I say him ("one like a son of man"), I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying "Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. 19 Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this." (Revelation 1:17-19)

Can it be we are granted a "foretaste of the things to come" while still in this life of sufferings and sorrows— for which our hope is most assuredly directed to Christ who is victorious over the grave?

8 And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: "The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life."

9 "I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander (a) of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 *Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.* 11 *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death"* (Revelation 2:8-11)

John, the beloved Disciple of our Lord, was given this vision and inspired by the Holy Spirit, to record it for us to read and trust as the comfort of our Lord God for all times—even the most difficult. Just as the Apostle Paul in our sermon series on 2 Corinthians and then in Ephesians



for the sermons this Summer, it was in the light of our frailty, weakness and sheer "earthen vessel" realities, that Jesus was to come shining through. This is the hope and truth in Jesus, who forever changes our lives and circumstances, and call us to take and receive these gifts, and then go and tell others. (Matthew 28:18-20; John 3:16-20; 24-26). Christ has died and been raised from the dead by the glory of God the Father, in granting us new through faith in Him. He desires to call all people unto Himself, in this life and unto eternity. (John 12:32, Acts 2:39-40).

May God bless you and keep you unto life eternal, Pastor Gary Koutosopoulos

First Fruits Bear Hope

During these hot August days, you may not be thinking of school starting and hungry kids.



But those kids will be thinking of you—the supporters of the Mission of "First Fruits". And, they will be counting on you to provide the nourishment those kids will need as summer comes to an end and school doors open.

Nourishment=learning and hope. -Sally Farner, coordinator

Juha Esanpoika Toivola's Descendants Can Tell You His Stories

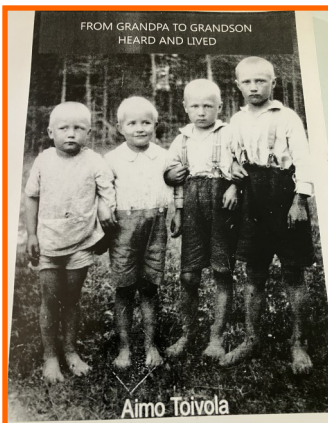
I inherited some letters from Finnish relatives that had been written to my grandmother (Helmi Katriina Toivola), my grandfather (John August Asikainen), and my father (Arne August Asikainen). Ilona Perry translated the ones written in Finnish into English for me. These letters gave me a glimpse into the lives of people in Finland, Canada, and the U.S. from the turn of the century to about the 1970's.

After arriving in Finland, some of the first relatives I met were my father's cousin, Aili Lamminpera Huuskonen, and her son, Kari. My father and Aili had written to each other. Aili's mother, Maija, and my father's mother, Helmi, were sisters. Aili (now over 90) and Kari live in Tampere, Finland. I am so happy that I had a chance to meet them.

My friend, Marja Alastalo, translated for us as we shared about our families. We found out that Aili had only met her grandfather, Juha, once. He had come to the huge Lamminpera farm in Athari to get a wagonload of potatoes. Juha was taking it back to the Toivola farm and, also, sharing with people in the Kuotane area who were in need of food. Aili said that he was a jolly, happy man that smiled a lot. When I asked her if they ever went hungry (because many Finnish people had times of extreme hunger) she said no. She said they always had plenty to eat and found berries and mushrooms in the surrounding forests to supplement their diet.



Martti & Anneli Toivola in traditional Finnish Clothing



This is the English translation of the book that was written about Melody's family.

The next time I was able to meet more relatives, I was able to meet Martti and Anneli Toivola. Martti's grandfather was, Aleks Toivola, my grandmother's brother. Martti's father, wrote a book about the family in Finnish. The title translates to "FROM GRANDPA TO GRANDSON HEARD AND LIVED". It includes a photo of Juha. That was the first (and only) photo of Juha I have ever seen.

Martti started telling us about Juha. He said he was a beloved husband and father, and a devoted Christian. He was often seen reading from his Bible, which had a wooden cover to protect it. He and his wife, Sanna, faithfully had brought the children to be baptized, confirmed, and to church services. (Church records were kept in the church so attendance was encouraged.)

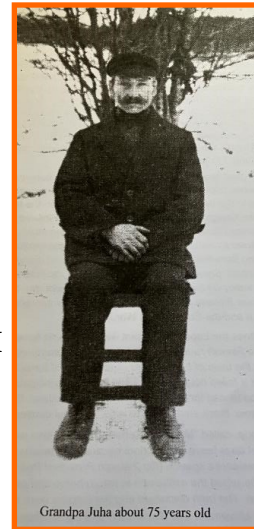
Melody's story continues on page 4.....

Melody's story continues.....

In the photo he was said to be 75 years old then. Martti told us that he was still performing duties as a church carpenter at that time. He was still able to get up on the church roof and use tar to prevent leaks. He even joked that he sat on the rooster weather vane to spread it.

Since I have more to share about Juha, I will share more about him that I gathered from Martti and from the book his father, Aimo Toivola, wrote about the Toivola family. Since it was written in the Finnish language I had it translated by Ilona. I also, edited and printed it. I'll share more about Juha next time.

Melody Knight

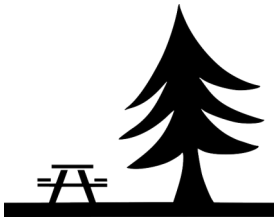


Grandpa Juha about 75 years old

Melody's Grandfather

Annual Church Picnic

Our annual church picnic will be held on August 25th following our worship service. It is at Olympic Lutherhaven. You can plan on swimming and boating as well as plenty of good food. You are welcome to bring some food to share. Please bring your own dishes



Sunday School Begins

Sunday, September 8th at 9:00 AM marks the beginning of Sunday School for the season. Like the beginning of school for our students and staff we have Sunday School to look forward too.



Trillium Women's and Children's Center

The Trillium Center (formerly the pregnancy center) needs our help and support. There is a need for diapers (sizes 4,5, and 7). The center also needs baby wipes and toiletry gifts for the mothers. Our church has been a supporter of this mission for several years. If you have any questions, please ask our coordinator, Rose Link.



**Memorial Service—
September 7th at 2:00 PM**

Former member, Breezann Stouffer, suddenly passed away a few weeks ago. Breezie (as fondly called by those that knew her) grew up at Emmanuel. Her dad, Mark, is a current active member. Please keep her family, husband, Stefan and daughter, Hannah, in your prayers.

Bob and Cheryl Fox, Emmanuel Lutheran's Missionaries

Hello everyone! We are so glad to call Emmanuel Lutheran Church our home, even though we have not been able to visit you this year due to the many changes going on in our lives.



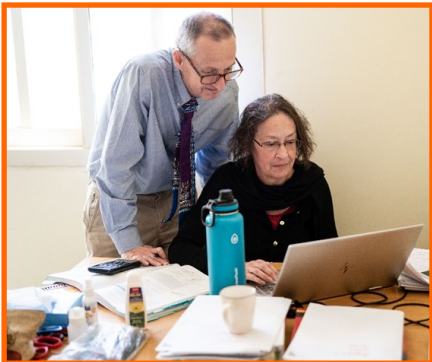
As many of you know, we have been missionaries for the past eight years. Most of this time has been spent working as teachers at Sahel Academy in Niger, other than the years we spent dealing with Cheryl's



Sahel Academy Campus after the old campus flooded. The swimming pool is now a play field.

breast cancer and the discovery of her lung disease. Amazingly, that was five years ago, and so she is now considered a breast cancer survivor. Last June, when we returned for our annual summer visit, Cheryl's pulmonologist said that her lung disease had progressed to the point that it was no longer safe for her to return to Niger. This was an unexpected blow to us, and was made extra difficult because at the same time Cheryl's parents were in declining health and being moved to an assisted living facility near Cheryl's sister in Texas. In addition, the day we were scheduled to return to Niger, there was a military coup that shut down the

borders, making any return impossible.



The challenges of teaching online.

Despite the coup, our school remained open and Bob was able to teach two high school English classes online. Cheryl helped Bob teach by helping with the technical aspects of online teaching. During that time, Cheryl's father's health continued to decline and he died in early January. Because of the difficulty in effectively teaching online and the loss of Cheryl's father, Bob resigned from teaching at Sahel at the end of that semester. It was a very hard decision, but we both felt we needed to shift our ministry in a new direction as it was clear we could not return to Sahel, or any overseas ministry.

After much prayer, and with the guidance of our mission organization, we connected with Global Frontier Missions. While we are still under the authority and supervision of SIM (and our financial support still goes to them), we work directly with Global Frontier Missions (GFM) on a daily basis.

What does GFM do, you ask? They train future missionaries to serve cross-culturally and also work with the large refugee community near the area where we are working and living, in Tucker, Georgia. GFM has the motto "Until All Have Heard." Their heart's desire is that the good news of Jesus will be spread across the globe. To further that aim, GFM focuses on reducing the number of missionaries that leave for preventable reasons, for example unmet expectations and culture shock. They have found the best way to train missionaries for long term service is to offer a cross-cultural ministry experience before the missionaries leave for the field.

GFM chose its location in Tucker because of the neighboring town of Clarkston. Clarkston is a refugee resettlement city and has at least 90 different nationalities represented, most of whom are refugees. The students learning to become missionaries can experience working among many different people groups, including those of the Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist faiths.

Bob and Cheryl's story continues on page 6.....

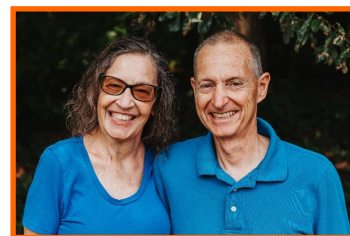


Shops in Clarkston (Courtesy of GFM)

In order to make this experience meaningful for students, GFM has missionaries whose main role is to share the gospel to the large refugee population. These missionaries live in the same housing complexes as the refugees and invite the GFM students to share in their work. Living in that environment can be quite challenging. The landlords take advantage of the lax landlord-tenant laws in Georgia to allow overcrowding and unsanitary conditions. We have heard tales of mold, cockroaches, and the like going untreated or just being painted over. Gun shots are not uncommon, and some of these missionaries have had bullets pierce the walls of their apartments. Others tell of the refugees who can identify the type of gun by the sound of the gun shot.

Arguably, the most troubling aspect for the GFM missionaries living in Clarkston is listening to the stories of the refugees' experiences that brought them to this country. As refugees, they have left behind horrifying situations of violence and war. While the refugees themselves have escaped, they have family and friends who were not so lucky. Some of their family or friends died trying to leave and others still live in the horrors the refugees were blessed to escape. As the refugees grow to trust the missionaries they share their stories of horror and abuse, but at the same time this opens the door to share the Gospel with them.

You can see how desperately Christ is needed in such a situation. You can also understand how the missionaries working in such an environment need people to come alongside them to encourage them and give them a listening ear. Our job, is to encourage those missionaries, particularly when feeling broken hearted for the suffering others have endured. How do you find Jesus in all that suffering? And yet, He is there through the presence of missionaries listening and caring.



Cheryl & Bob in Atlanta

Please pray for Bob and I in our new roles. It is quite a change from teaching and we know that we too will experience the heartbreak of hearing these stories, even second hand. Thank you for your willingness to come along side us.

If any of you would like to join in our work by praying for us, we will gladly add you to our mailing list so you can receive email updates. In these emails we share some of our work and experiences, share prayer requests and praises, and give a brief family update. Our email addresses are: Bob.Fox@sim.org and Cheryl.Fox@sim.org. Thank you again for being our home church. We miss you all.

Bob and Cheryl Fox

AARP Driver Safety Classes

A driver safety class for seniors on August 19th and 20th is full. However, if you still wish to take advantage of this great opportunity you have another chance. Glen will be teaching another class at the Bremerton YMCA on September 5th and 6th from 9:00—1:00 PM. You do not need to be a member of the YMCA or a member of AARP. Questions, ask Glen Adrig



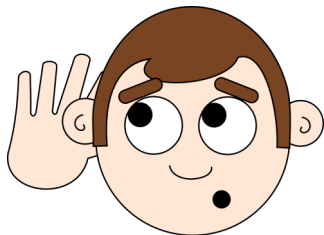
All We Need is Love

There are those who pursue Christianity on the bases of finding cause and effect, rather than active faith. Other's simply accept that-it is what it is! If is kind of like love. Emotional relationships are relationships of desire, tainted by coercion and constraint. Love on-the-other-hand, seems to be a central secret, where nothing is expected from the other person. Our love is simply a gift. Kind of like our relationship with God. Love however, often includes suffering. So, what is the end of suffering? Compassion! Kind of like the passion of Christ on the cross as the ultimate expression of love. -Larry

The Voice of God

In Exodus 3:13, Moses asked God, “When I come before the people and they ask, what is His name, what shall I say unto them?” And, in verse 14, God says, “Tell them, I am.” It is like a pair of syllables. The first, “I” is soft, the second, “am” is loud. Kind of like the rhythm of the human heart. It is also, the natural rhythm of human speech. We hear this same term spoken by Jesus in John 8:58. “Verily verily, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” When God spoke to Moses did He in John, Chapter 3, He spoke so that our ears could hear. So, what are the different ways that God talks to you?

-Larry Farner



Saturday, September 14th 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast at All Star Lanes in Silverdale.

If you have any questions either contact Pastor Gary or Glen Adrig.



Thursday 10 am Bible Study is currently studying Malachi.



Pastor Rob is the instructor for this Bible study. All are welcome!!

Sunday, September 8th, is the monthly church council meeting.

Did You Know This?

Chloe was a woman, presumably a Christian of either Corinth or Ephesus. Writing to the Corinthians from Ephesus, Paul noted that he had heard of dissension in their church from “Chole’s people.” (1 Cor. 1:11), possibly her slaves who had converted to Christianity. Chloe is not mentioned anywhere else in the Bible.

God, Time and History

Christians and war. Throughout Christian history, there has been war and rumors of war. So, what is the relationship between war and the Christian dogma? There exists three types of war. The most recent was the Crusade. Pope Urban II initiated the Crusade to route the Muslims to reclaim the Holy Land. Over the centuries, the Crusader’s enemies have included Catholics, Protestants and French revolutionaries, to the Germans and Communists. The second approach to war is the “just war.” The just war theory is driven by a clear “just” cause. It is to be waged by a legitimate and moral means. The third Christian approach to war is Pacifism, which is based on the Christian ethic that all men are brothers. The belief that Christ is also among the barbarians. The Protestant Reformation, was among the first to revive pacifism. Those “reformers” denied that the government could legitimately interfere with the reformation of the Church. The Pacifists ask, “where is God’s primary action in the world among the powerful or the Church? All things considered, we much wonder how genuinely real is the reality, how genuinely just is war. To be able to answer that question, we must be able to know and clearly understand, “what is purpose and what is reality?”

-Larry Farner

August Birthdays

15-----Bonnie Stouffer
 27-----Teresa Prange

August Anniversaries

1-----Pat Alcantra/Nancy Kerlee
 10-----Jim & Miki Turowski
 12-----Glen & Marialis Jurges
 27-----Carl & Melody Knight

September Birthdays

6-----Bob Fox (Missionary)
 10-----Nate Armstrong
 11-----Victor Gehring
 24-----Carl Knight
 26-----Judy Lund
 28-----Andrew Atienza

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.



Members Serving in August

Altar Guild-----Teresa Prange
 Reader -----Glen Adrig
 Acolytes-----TBA

Members Serving in September

Altar Guild-----Chelette Williams
 Sharie Adrig
 Reader -----Maurine Simons
 Acolytes-----TBA

What's Coming Up?

August

21-----12,noon-----Lady's Lunch
 22-----10-----Adult Bible Study
 25-----10-----Worship Service
 following worship service Church Picnic
 (Lutherhaven)
 28-----12,noon-----Lady's Lunch
 29-----10-----Adult Bible Study

September

1-----10-----Worship Service
 2-----Labor Day
 4-----12,noon-----Lady's Lunch
 5-----10-----Adult Bible Study
 8-----9-----Adult & Children's Sunday School
 9-----6-----Peninsula Knitting Guild's
 meeting and potluck

Future Dates:

*August 25th Annual Church Picnic--
 Lutherhaven*

September 8th - Rally Day

*September 9th--6 PM-- Beginning of Knitting
 Season Potluck*

Thanks to all of you who are submitting articles and pictures for our newsletter. I encourage you to continue doing so.

Interested in telling your story?

Talk to the editor, Sharie Adrig