

THE WITTENBERG DOOR

AUGUST 2025 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCBREMERTON.ORG
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Pastor's Message

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I. A Worldview begun and Continued with Jesus of Nazareth, God's Son (Colossians 3:1-4)

When we look at our church or the churches of our nation, do we consult mainly our nation's and church's past, or our former strengths and our well-rehearsed answers, in order to succeed in new outreach to a culture that seems much less godly? What in a clearly changing time, would itself be the energy which propels us in an ever-forward, clearly vibrant walk with God in this life? In Scripture, both Paul's letters to the Corinthians and in Colossians, the Apostle Paul is inspired by God in leading the followers of Christ to "key in on the "One thing" that has never, nor will ever change". This one thing, is "Christ and Him crucified", and our baptism into Him (Romans 6:4-5; Colossians 2:12=15) according to God's Word and by grace and through faith, we were never called to "man-handle" the saving of our world. It was Jesus' calling us to "go out into to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you;" (Matthew 28:18-20).

The Apostle Paul, being called by Jesus himself, was inspired to write:

2 And I, when I came to you, brothers,^[a] did not come proclaiming to you the testimony^[b] of God with lofty speech or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men^[c] but in the power of God. (I Corinthians 2:1-5)

In Colossians 2:8-15, the tenor of God's call to follow Christ and remain in Him by grace and through faith in Christ Jesus, took on a more somber, cross-shaped tone in addressing the Church's means of grace, in the Word and Sacraments:

8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits^[a] of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities^[b] and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. (Colossians 2:8-15)

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Pastor's Message continued.....

This is the ancient and new, humble and powerful Gospel call of God's Holy Spirit, to receive Baptism into Jesus Christ, and it is the circumcision of Christ by which we died and our life is hidden with Christ in God, (Colossians 3:1-4).

II. Not worldly but Godly in Christ and according to Scripture (Colossians 3:5-9)

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:^[b] sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ^[c] 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self^[d] with its practices." (Colossians 3:5-8). The power of the Gospel (Romans 1:16) and the means of grace with God, and in Christ, has been engendered in those hearing the gospel, and by that grace and faith, we have new life in Jesus of Nazareth, our Lord and Savior (Colossians 3:1-3; John 3:16-20).

III. If you have been raised with Christ...(Colossians 3:10-11)

“3 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your^[a] life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. “



Closing example: Thanks be to God for the hope of heaven in Jesus the Christ! May the Lord call you according to the Gospel, gather you by grace, enlighten, and sanctify you in the Spirit, and enjoin you to the whole Body of Christ, in this life and by His grace in the life of the world to come. Amen.

4 When Christ who is your^[a] life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

-Pastor Gary Koutsopolous

First Fruits SundaySeptember 7th



Summer will be coming to a close in the next few weeks. Students will be heading back to school. This means there will be many latchkey children that will need a breakfast or after school snack they can manage on their own. When we think of filling our First Fruits basket keep that in mind.

Some families may be having to decide between school supplies and food right now. With prices going up it's only becoming more difficult. All donations are appreciated whether they are grocery donations or monetary donations. Know that any monetary donations are used for perishable food that our community comes to the food bank for. So whether your give in the form of groceries or money both are used and appreciated.



-Sally Farner, coordinator

What's Happening at Emmanuel

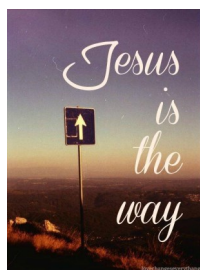
One Day Vacation Bible School

August 22nd -9 AM - Noon

Theme: John 14:6

There will be a Bible Story, Music, Crafts, Food and Fun. This VBS will be for our Childcare Children and children in the community. Share this information with those that have children 3 years - 5th grade. I would suggest they contact

the church to obtain registration forms.



If you are able to help in anyway that would be great and appreciated.

Please contact Judy Armstrong.

How Can You Help Our Childcare Children Start School?

For many of us we haven't had to buy school supplies for children starting the school year. But for many of our childcare families this is a financial burden. We all remember starting out school with our brand new pencils, pens, notebooks, paper etc. Right now you can find great deals on school supplies. Next time you are at the store think about our childcare children and throw in a couple supplies that you can give to the children. I am sure they will appreciate it and I know the parents will.



The large basket in the fellowship hall is ready to receive your gifts!

The Trillium Center

The Trillium Center needs diapers size 6. They also need wipes and tubes of lotion. Please see Rose if you have any questions.



Annual Church Picnic

August 24th - Lutherhaven

All members, friends, and family are invited to our annual church picnic at our beloved Lutherhaven. Please bring your own tablecloth, table ware, and plates.



Consider bringing some food to share with everyone.

We hope to see everyone there. Get the word out to your friends and family.

Mid-week Bible Study Continues

Our Thursday Bible Study will be continuing through the summer. It starts at 10 am. Currently they are studying Proverbs. All are welcome!

Let's Hear From You

What does it mean to be a person of integrity?

What's one thing you would change about the world?

What does it mean to die well?

What was the best year the world has ever seen?

*Any responses can be sent to editor,
Sharie Adrig*

Did You Know This?

Why Jacob became Israel. In the Bible, a name change marks a turning point in a person's life—a major alteration of character, direction or status. Abram became Abraham when God promised to make him “the father of a multitude of nations.” After Jacob wrestled with a mysterious stranger, his adversary told him that henceforth his name would be Israel, meaning - “he who strives with God.” -Larry



Defending the Bible in the 21st Century

“The only way for evil to triumph is when good people do or stand for nothing,” Edmund Burke. How does God speak to us today? Often, He speaks to us through the Holy Spirit. But most often, He speaks to us through His Holy Word, the Bible. But is the Bible truly the word of God? Just for fun, let's try a little “truth table.” (To each question answer yes or not.) If the Bible is not always right, is it not always true ___? If we agree with the Bible then, it is true ___? If we do not agree with the Bible then it is not true ___? If the Bible is always true then, it is always right ___? The Bible is right if and only if it is true ___? If the Bible is always right it is always true ___? What say you? (This is an ungraded exercise.) - Larry

Creation VS Evolution

You can tell a particular carpenter's work from the 1700's in New Hampshire when you examine a chair built by him found in cellar in Oregon in 2025. The creation vs evolution issue has been a focus of speculation by great minds for eons. But, what do you think? When you graft fruit from one tree to another does that mean a “new” species has evolved? When a doctor removes an organ from a pig or a goat to replace a lung or a stomach in a human does that mean the one who benefited from the transplant has become a new species of mankind? It's true things change or are improved on. Skinny boys become fat old men, seats in an auditorium are reconfigured to adapt to wider hips. However, the skinny kid is also the same old man. The seats in the auditorium are all made from the wood of the same species of oak. Even different and unrelated ideas come from the same human brain. When someone remarks “things aren't like they used to be,” is that true? Or is everything the same and only the names have changed? If you are overwhelmed with this issue, consider the source of everything. Then, ask yourself; “Does it seem that everything and everyone exists because it was intended to exist? Then you have solved the mystery....the World is what is, and we are what we are, simply because that is how it and we were “Created!”



- Larry

God, Time and History

CELIBATE CLERGY. The idea that clergy should remain unmarried developed slowly. Most of the apostles were married, including Peter and the brothers of Jesus. Often an apostle would take his wife with him on church work. Paul supported the practical advantages of being unmarried. By the third century, celibacy was beginning to be valued as a mark of holiness. In the fourth century, moves were made to restrict marriage after ordination. Celibacy of the clergy introduced two great abuses. Many so-called celibate clergy in fact lived with women who were not their wives. And there were often undocumented instances of sodomy and child molestation. In Eastern churches deacons were allowed to marry but bishops were always chosen from among the celibate clergy. During the sixth century, married men could become bishops. In the Roman Catholic church celibacy of clergy continued to be praised as an ideal, although it was not enforced legally and effectively until the time of Pope Gregory VII (1085).

-Larry

The Story Behind the Hymn....."This Is My Father's World"

"For the world is Mine, and all it's fullness." - Psalm 50:12

This famous hymn was written by Maltbie Babcock. He was probably one of the most remarkable student that Syracuse University has ever seen. He was not only an outstanding scholar but an amazing athlete too. He excelled as an expert swimmer and was captain of the baseball team. He also was an amazing musician. It's like there wasn't anything he couldn't do. He conducted the university's orchestra and played several instruments in addition to composing music at a very young age. He was also an accomplished vocalist and conducted the university glee club. "He entertained other students by drawing and doing impersonations. On the side, he was an avid fisherman.

He could have been successful in any profession, but God called him to the ministry; and after further training at Auburn Theological Seminary, he became pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Lockport, New York. It was a beautiful area- midway between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, not far from Niagara Falls. Maltbie enjoyed hiking and running in the hills outside town. Telling his secretary, "I'm going out to see my Father's world," he would run or hike a couple of miles into the countryside, where he'd lose himself in nature."

It was during this time in his ministry that he was truly inspired to write his famous hymn, "This Is My Father's World." After his tragic death in 1901, his wife compiled his writings into a book called, *Thoughts for Everyday Living*." Included in this book was his famous lyrics, "This Is My Father's World."

Taken from the book, "Then Sings My Soul" by Robert J. Morgan

-Sharie, editor

August Birthdays

15-----Bonnie Stouffer
 27-----Teresa Prange
 28-----Kris Covarrubias

August Anniversaries

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

September Birthdays

11-----Victor Gehring
 24-----Carl Knight

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



Members Serving in August

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

Members Serving in September

Altar Guild-----Maurine Simons
 Sharie Adrig
 Reader-----Maurine Simons

What's Coming Up?

August

11-----Kitsap Peninsula Knitting Guild Field Trip
 14-----10-----Midweek Bible Study
 17-----10-----Worship Service
 21-----10-----Midweek Bible Study
 22-----9-12-----VBS
 24-----10-----Worship Service
 12?---Church Picnic (Lutherhaven)
 28-----10-----Midweek Bible Study
 31-----10-----Worship Service

September

4-----10-----Midweek Bible Study
 7-----9-----Adult Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 8-----6 pm----Kitsap Peninsula Knitting guild
 (location talk to Sharie)
 11-----10-----Midweek Bible Study
 13-----8:30-----Men's Breakfast
 14-----9-----Adult Sunday School

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.



Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Second Saturday of the month!

8:30 AM at All Star Lanes

Questions? Ask Glen or Pastor Gary



One Day VBS- August 22nd

How can you help?

Church Picnic -August 24th

Olympic Lutherhaven following our worship service!

