



THE WITTENBERG DOOR

DECEMBER 2012

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

BREMERTON, WA

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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Emmanuel Lutheran Church, like the church at large, observes the seasons of the church year, which serve as a guide to the life of Christ and the walk of the believer. The four Sundays leading up to Christmas are the season of Advent. Advent means, "coming," and refers to the coming of Christ, the Son of God, our savior and Lord. Jesus makes His advent among us first as the Babe of Bethlehem, whose innocent appearance as a baby foreshadows His work to be the Suffering Savior of the world. He then makes His advent among us in the person of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us. Through His presence in our lives, we have daily fellowship with God. Finally, He makes His advent among us in His second coming, as Lord and Judge of all. On that day all will stand before His throne of judgment. Those who by faith know the Savior have already passed through this judgment and will enter into eternal life. During the season of advent we follow Jesus' admonition to "prepare" and "be ready" for His coming. We do this through our tradition of seasonal preparations. At home this means our cleaning, baking and decorating. We do this in our tradition of family activities such as using the Advent Calendar and the Advent Wreath. In our home we have an Advent Calendar and use it each week with our grandchildren, who also are delighted to light the Advent candles (and blow them out). We do it in the tradition of special Scripture readings, songs and prayers. Advent is a season rich in song and prayers. We do it while we are at church, and we do it at home in our personal devotions and reflections.



The point is, Jesus is coming. Luther reminds us there is nothing we can do to hasten His coming or to delay it. He is coming according to the Father's timetable independent of anything we do or do not do. May you be ready for His Advent by your tradition of preparations. May you know the sweet presence and joy of Jesus as He comes to you, according to His Word.

Pastor Tim Cartwright

In case of an Emergency

Please call
Pastor Tim
on his cell
phone
286-1090



During the Advent Season, Jesus comes to us in those who are in need. It is our privilege to serve Him by providing food for families and individuals in our Christmas Food Baskets. You may bring food each Sunday, Canned, boxed or in sealed plastic, to the church for distribution to those in need.

Operation Christmas Child ——— A huge success !

During the months of October and November we collected items to go into our Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Each year we are able to send more boxes. Our first year, 2010, we sent 18 boxes, in 2011 we sent 29 boxes, and this year we were able to send 35 boxes. As we gather together this holiday we can think of that excited child that will open one of our boxes from Emmanuel Lutheran Church.



Thank You for your generosity ! On November 10th we gathered together and shared in the joy of packing our 35 boxes. Thank you to all that came on the 10th.

It proved to be a special day for all.



How Can You Help?

Packing Christmas Food Baskets

We are gathering on Thursday, December 20th, to pack our food baskets for the community families in need. You can come and be part of this joyous day.

Items still needed are: Boxed potatoes, pasta/noodles, Spaghetti Sauce, applesauce, Jello or pudding, Hamburger Helper, Instant Cocoa Mix, Snack Crackers and dry cereal.



Reaching out to our shut-ins



Each year our Altar Guild members bake cookies to be delivered to our dear members that are no longer able to attend church. These members are very important to our church. It is important that we recognize and remember them. Altar Guild is extending this invitation out to all of our friends and family at Emmanuel. We are gathering on Thursday, December 13th at 11:00 to put together cookie baskets. You are welcome to bake or purchase cookies and/or come and help put together the baskets. If you are not able to be there on December 13th but wish to donate some goodies you can either contact Carol Henning or Sharie Adrig at 377-2448.

Children's Christmas Pageant

The Children's Christmas Pageant is a highlight in the Emmanuel Lutheran Church year. The program is scheduled for December 23rd, 10 am, and will feature the children, attired in first century-like clothing, acting out the story of the birth of Christ. There will also be the singing of Christmas Carols. Please come and invite a friend.



Our thanks to Judy and Carverlynn for managing this program.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

Come join us for our special Christmas Eve Worship Service on December 24th at 6:30 PM. It is a special service to worship the coming of our Lord.

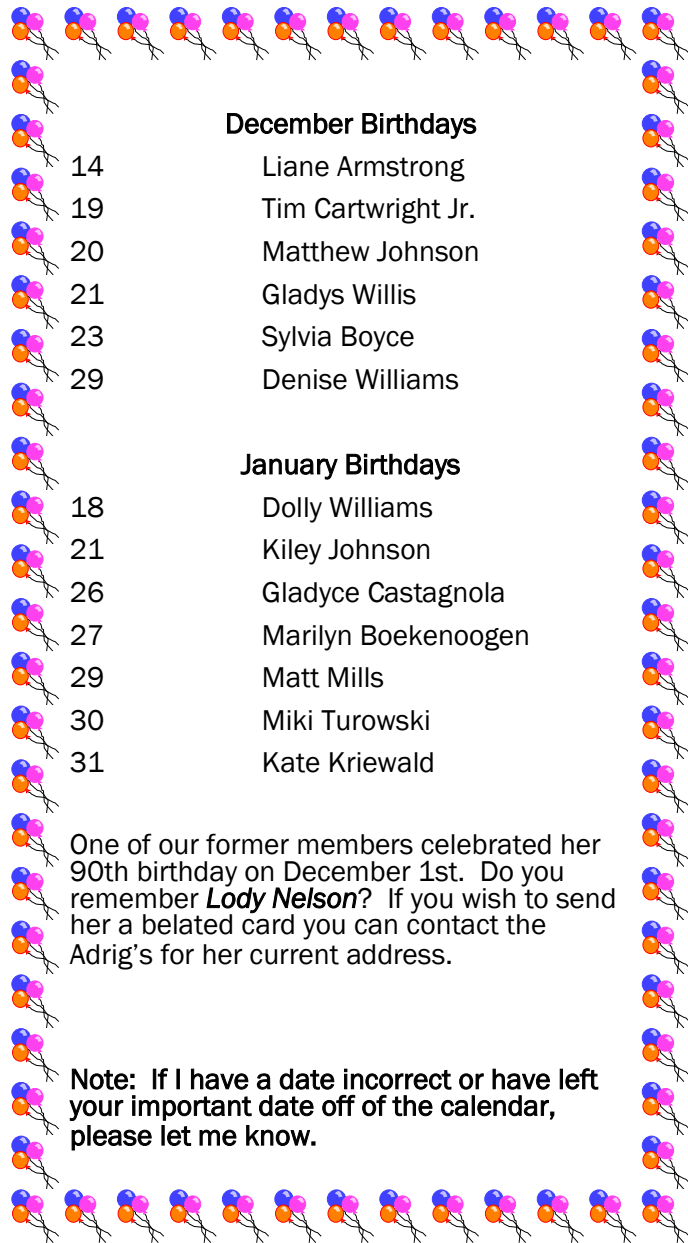


What is the Origin of "Silent Night"

We all know the words to Silent Night and for many of us it is our favorite Christmas Carol. Did you know that it originally came from Austria? It was Christmas Eve in the Austrian Alps back in 1818. Father Joseph Mohr was preparing for the midnight service. This was a frustrating evening for Father Mohr because the church organ was broken. "But Father Joseph was about to learn that our problems are God's opportunities, that the Lord causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him. It came into Father Joseph's mind to write a new song, one that could be sung organless." He quickly wrote the words to Silent Night and asked his organist, Franz Gruber to compose a simple tune. On December 24, 1818, "Silent Night" was sung for the first time as a duet accompanied by a guitar. Ironically enough, this was at the Church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf.

"Were it not for a broken organ, there would never have been a "Silent Night."

- Taken from the book, "Then Sings My Soul" by Robert J. Morgan (thanks to Gerri Sutherland for her donation).



December Birthdays

- 14 Liane Armstrong
- 19 Tim Cartwright Jr.
- 20 Matthew Johnson
- 21 Gladys Willis
- 23 Sylvia Boyce
- 29 Denise Williams

January Birthdays

- 18 Dolly Williams
- 21 Kiley Johnson
- 26 Gladyce Castagnola
- 27 Marilyn Boekenooogen
- 29 Matt Mills
- 30 Miki Turowski
- 31 Kate Kriewald

One of our former members celebrated her 90th birthday on December 1st. Do you remember **Lody Nelson**? If you wish to send her a belated card you can contact the Adrig's for her current address.

Note: If I have a date incorrect or have left your important date off of the calendar, please let me know.

Members serving in December

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Altar Guild | Carol Henning |
| | Sharie Adrig |
| | Jean Reed |
| Reader | Tim Cartwright Jr. |
| Sunday School | Carolyn Cartwright |
| | Mary Moen |
| | Judy Armstrong |
| Coffee Hour ...Dec. 30 – | Glen and Sharie Adrig |

**Members serving in January
will be announced later.**

Check us out at

<http://www.elcbremerton.org>

Hint: If you are seeing this newsletter in black and white, our website has the full color version posted for you !



Merry Christmas to All

If you need to contact Pastor Tim Cartwright you can call his cell phone – 286-1090.

If you have a prayer request for the prayer chain call Sharie Adrig 377-2448 or Judy Armstrong 479-4892.

Any comments or questions about the newsletter call Sharie Adrig–377-2448