

# THE WITTENBERG DOOR

DECEMBER 2020    EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH    ELCBREMERTON.ORG  
 2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310



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**In case of an Emergency**  
 Please call  
 Pastor Tim at  
 360-286-1090 or  
 Pastor Blake at  
 760- 637-4099

## Pastor Tim's Message

Thank you, Dear People of God at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, who have served the Lord with me over this past decade. Your enthusiasm and faith rise up to the Lord as sweet smelling incense.

Over these past ten years it has been my privilege to share God's inspired, inerrant and infallible Word with you from the pulpit and in your homes. God built a fire in my heart for his Word and I love sharing it.

In this past decade I have baptized the new born babies, children and some adults too. I have catechized the teens, married couples in love, and called on the sick. I've buried our loved ones who have gone on before us. Ministry at Emmanuel has been a blessing for me.

During the past decade I have also felt the power of your prayers and your words of encouragement. Your support was especially meaningful to me during the dark days after Carolyn's sudden and unexpected passing, and then as I was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. From the bottom of my heart I say, "thank you."

God used four individuals, two couples, to act as my "Elders." They gave me their wisdom which I tried to receive as God's direction. I want to say a personal thanks to them. Your guidance was very important to me.

I've also been pleased to serve with our Vicar, Pastor Blake Kilbourne, this past year. God has placed a call on his heart and equipped him with skills to serve the church. Pastor Blake, you have been a great help to me and I hope I have been able to provide you with meaningful counsel.

My retirement from ministry begins the end of December. The AALC Presiding Pastor has asked me to step back from Emmanuel for a period of two months, then I can return as a member and fellow servant. So that is what I plan to do. I've learned to love you people and to appreciate you. You are precious to the Lord and to me, so I say of you:

***Well done Faithful Saints of the Lord!***

Pastor Tim Cartwright

*Thank you* ❤️

## Pastor Blake's Message

### Christmas in California



When I was eight years old and Christmas was around the corner, my parents asked me what I was hoping Santa would bring me. Now, no one could tell that it was Advent season though, as 1998 in our neighborhood was one big, long summer. El Niño, the season of high temperature coastal winds, had ravaged the Pacific and heated up the entire West Coast to an unbearable level.

So what did 8 year old Blake ask for? Why, snow of course! My grandmother had spent time with us that year watching Christmas specials, especially the Charlie Brown Christmas special, and *every single one* of them featured snow. Having had a scorcher of a year in our little corner of Oceanside, my child heart reasoned that Santa could bring some relief from the heat, and it sounded like fun to have a snowball fight in the yard – right next to the palm trees in our front yard.

To my parents, this must have been a ridiculous request. How could “Santa” make it snow in California? I laugh a good bit imagining them scratching their heads and wondering why I didn't ask for an RC car or a Gameboy or something. Either way, though I had made an impossible request, I spent the entirety of Advent that year fantasizing about snow, hoping for snow, and talking my mom's ears off about my Christmas wish.

However impossible it seemed, on Christmas day I got my wish. There was a little Christmas tree that we had set up outside of our house that year, and to my delight it was covered in that cold white powder. Now the rest of California was still an arid desert, but that didn't matter to me. That tiny pine tree had the snow on it that I had coveted all month, and it meant the world that “Santa” had pulled off in granting my impossible request.

This year, as we celebrate Advent, we are celebrating that our Lord has granted us an even *more* impossible request. He has kept His promise in sending a Savior to the world, who would take poor, miserable, undeserving sinners like ourselves, and promise them eternal life. In remembering the birth of Jesus Christ, we remember that He came to change the leopard's spots, to turn darkness into light, and to make our lives, stained crimson with sin, as pure as the first snow of winter. We celebrate that, 2000 years before a silly California boy got his wish for some ice on the ground, God did much more than this, and promises with Christ's return to do it yet again.

-Pastor Blake

## What's New at Emmanuel

### The Kitchen Remodel is Complete



The kitchen is complete and beautiful waiting for our first coffee hour. Thank you to all of you that made this possible. Special thanks to Richard Boyce and family and Mae McConnell and family. Also, thanks to Carol Reece and Glen Adrig that acted as advisers during this process.

## What's New at Emmanuel



Congratulations to Sharon, Pastor Blake and big brother, Gary!!!

Sharon and Pastor Blake are proud to announce and welcome their new son Earl Thomas Kilbourne, who was born at 7:30 am this past Tuesday. Sharon had a natural birth and Earl Thomas was 8 pounds 1 ounce and 20 inches long.

### ***Emmanuel Stands Tall During Troubled Times!!***

Who wudda thunk it! That our little Church could “out-match” the matching funds provided by Thrivent. The food that was delivered by ELC to the food bank which were purchased with a grant from Thrivent added up to 175 pounds. On First Fruits Sunday, Dec. 6th, our little congregation (attendance currently is averaging 30) donated a total of 360 (that’s three hundred and sixty) pounds of food. When the people at the Bremerton Food Bank saw us back up to unload our contribution on Tuesday morning they said, “but you folks from Emmanuel were just here”. Then when we opened the back of our truck, their mouths dropped open! In total for the month of December (Christmas month no less) **YOU**, the members of ELC provided 535 pounds of food for Moms and Dads, Grandpas and Grandmothers and scores of children who could very well have missed out on a nourishing meal over Christmas. As Tiny Tim would say, “God Bless You Everyone.”

***If that isn't enough***, Emmanuel, you really came through for the three families in our Childcare Center that we are helping this Christmas. Each child will be blessed with a large “leaf/garbage” bag full of gifts. They range from colors and coloring books, pants, shirts, shoes, socks, jackets to various toys. You are amazing. In addition to your generosity, Thrivent is donating a substantial monetary gift that will be given to each family to pay for their Christmas dinner.

**Generosity**  
changes everything

We are all familiar with the “loaves and fishes” story of Jesus feeding the thousands. I feel like we are living it. You all are truly amazing. Thank you, one and all.

## The Religious History of the State of Washington

### THE JOURNEY

*I have used many resources to assemble this series on "The Religious History of the State of Washington". If you are a Christian and a resident of Washington, this is not just a story – it's YOUR story.*

#### PART FIVE - MOTHER JOSEPH

In 1856, 33 year old Sister Joseph of the Sacred Heart, along with five colleagues from the French Canadian "Providence Aisle", all veterans of missionary work in Panama, Jamaica and New York City where they had established 29 hospitals, schools, orphanages, shelters for the mentally ill and a number of native schools, crossed the Columbia Bar. They then set up camp in the Diocese of Nisqually in present day SW Washington State. Mother Joseph, a title given to her in 1864, was a teacher, business manager and carpenter. She then created the name "providence" which she ascribed on shelters, schools and hospitals across the State. On the side, she marketed "Gum Syrup", as a patent medicine. In 1895, she established Providence Hospital in Seattle. A statue of Mother Joseph stands today close to the statue of Marcus Whitman in the National Statuary Hall in Washington D.C.



Larry Farner

### From the Turowski's

"As I watched them I was reminded that this piece of land my family occupies really doesn't "belong" to us at all. God has graciously allowed for us to be caretakers here, but it all still belongs to Him. Someone should tell the deer."

Miki Turowski



### Pastor Tim's Retirement



Our dear Pastor Tim is retiring at the end of December. His last service is December 27th. Due to the situation with COVID we are waiting to celebrate when we can all safely attend. This will be determined after the first of the year.

Questions ask Sharie 360-377-2448

**December Birthdays**

6 .....Mollie Erickson

7 .....Bonnie Mace

20 .....Matthew Johnson

21 .....Gladys Willis

29.....Denise Williams

**January Birthdays**

14..... Chris Knight

18 .....Dolly Williams

26 .....Gladyce Castagnola

29 .....Larry Ficca

29.....Miki Turowski

**January Anniversaries**

14 .....Mike & Carverlyne Prothero

I am sure that there are many members that I don't have your birthdates or anniversary dates. Any additions or corrections please contact the newsletter editor, Sharie Adrig at gadrig@comcast.net.

**Members Serving in December**

Altar Guild.....Ida Ficca  
( JoEllen Klempan & Sharie Adrig)

Reader .....Bob Klempan

**Members Serving in January  
to be announced.**

**Sunday School for all ages!**

We offer Sunday School at 9:00 AM for adults & children.

Pastor Blake holds his Wednesday Compline Service at 6:30 in the fellowship hall.

**Men's fellowship breakfast will begin when Phase 3 is in effect. Location TBA .**

**According to the State Guidelines we are not having a Coffee Hour right now.**

Christmas Eve Service .....6:30

Annual Meeting .....Jan 31st

**IT'S ROUND-UP TIME IN THE OLE EMMANUEL CORRAL!**

With the Annual Meeting waiting at the "Trailhead" on January 31<sup>st</sup>, it's time to "get those doggies Rollin" (i.e., the Pastor's Report, Treasurer's and Childcare Financial Reports, etc). There won't be a big barbeque at the end of the "drive" this year but it will sure feel good to "shake off the dust from 2020". **BUT WAIT!!!** There is yet "another herd" heading up the trail....It's being driven by those "rascals on the call committee". I can tell you right now, they are "Movin rite on". They have completed all their Synod documents so now, "every thing is up to date in in Fort Wayne (isn't that close to Kansas City)? Now, they are "riding full out", driving those candidates through the chutes in hopes of soon electing a "new trail boss" for Emmanuel Lutheran Church. So, hang-on cowboys and cowgirls, you're in "for a wild ride".



**If you are submitting a report for the Annual Meeting please put it in Larry Farner's "saddlebag" in the Narthex by Jan. 3rd .**