

THE WITTENBERG DOOR



DEC/JANUARY 2022 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

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**Annual
Congregational
Meeting is
scheduled for
January 30th
following the
Worship Service**

Pastor's Message

Christmas 1980. My first Christmas Eve as a pastor. I had been ordained in September and was now serving a church in Tacoma. Carolyn and I were both busy. She had charge of our first born, Andrew, who was learning to crawl. She was also the director for the Children's Christmas Program. The children were robed in bathrobes, shepherds sported canes and angels flapped wings. Meanwhile I donned my alb, stole and chausible, ready to lead God's people in Christmas worship. I had chosen a carol, "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve," to sing as a solo. I sang it in Norwegian as a tribute to my Mother and her family who had kept the faith for so many generations as well as passed it on to each new generation. The service went well. When the last of the Merry Christmas greetings had been shared, we headed for home in a light snow. This would also be our first Christmas as parents. We expected Andrew, at six months old, would enjoy the wrapping paper and empty boxes more than the gifts.

Christmas 2021. This will be my last Christmas Eve as a pastor, and as pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. You, the people of God at Emmanuel, have loved me and supported me and I am profoundly grateful to you. We have four adult children and ten grandchildren. They have electronic "toys" that were not invented when their parents were children. I haven't sung in Norwegian anymore, my parents have passed into glory. My greatest sorrow is that my beloved wife, Carolyn, after suffering a pulmonary embolism, also passed on into glory. She was unwavering in her love for our family and for me. She held our extended family together. We had planned a quiet and intimate retirement, sitting side by side in our recliners. Now I miss her every day. I'm grateful for my siblings. I talk regularly with Joyce, my sister-in-law, and that helps me feel connected to others.

I'm pleased the Lord has led Pastor Rob Stroud to Emmanuel. He and Delores will be a blessing to us and I'm sure we can be a blessing to them. I plan to continue my membership at Emmanuel.

Dear People of God, I thank you for the privilege of being your pastor for the past decade. You are doing great work to the glory of God and I am proud of you. Well done, Saints of God! Now I'll join you in the pews.

Loving God and loving you,

Pastor Tim Cartwright

Welcome Pastor Rob

Pastor Rob Stroud was born in California, but his mother was from a pioneer family in Poulsbo. Because of those ties, he eventually moved back to Kitsap County, where he graduated from North Kitsap High School, Shoreline Community College and the University of Washington.

Hearing God's call to pastoral ministry, he attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. His vicarage was in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and following his senior year at Luther, he was ordained as an American Lutheran Church pastor at his home congregation, First Lutheran in Poulsbo.

Pastor Rob served for more than five years as the pastor of an ALC church in Sacramento, California. At that time, he accepted a call from the ALC to become an active duty chaplain in the United States Air Force.

His USAF career took him to 11 assignments, all around the globe. He received numerous military decorations, including two Joint Service medals and one each from the Army and the Navy. After retirement from active duty, he moved to Seabeck and continued serving the church at District and National level. In addition to preaching in many local congregations, he has served as an Interim Pastor three times.

While on active duty, Pastor Rob went through the colloquy process to become a pastor in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, with which our AALC is in full fellowship.

Pastor Rob is a strong believer in the importance of education and following his ordination he continued his studies. He earned a Master of Theology degree in Patristics (early Church history) and a Doctor of Ministry degree in Military Chaplaincy.

Rob and Delores married in 1976 and she has been his faithful partner in all of his ministries. Delores retired several years ago after teaching Special Education the past decade at Kingston High School. She remains active as a volunteer in a variety of ministries. They have three children and ten grandchildren— all of whom love Jesus.



“Surprising Statistics”

When you donate each month to First Fruits, you are giving food to single moms with children of which, nearly half live in poverty. You are giving to Seniors who much decide each month which bill to pay instead of buying groceries. “Do I pay the heat bill? Do I get my medical prescription? Do I get a winter coat at Goodwill? Or, do I eat today? You are giving to students living on their own. You are giving to Military families who do not have extended family members living near-by-who could help them. Because we live in an area where there are lots of Military families, “we” are “their” extended family.

The U.S. has one of the highest child poverty rates in the developed world. These often overlooked groups, children, single mothers, the elderly and the military depend on local food banks from month-to-month for survival. Your monthly food donations on First Fruits Sunday comes from the heart. What you freely give, feeds one person, one student, one single parent family, one elderly couple who would otherwise go hungry. Thanks be to God that “you” members of Emmanuel are of a “giving heart.” Just a reminder, Sunday, February 6th is “First Fruits Sunday”. Think “SOUPER BOWL, “ and bring in cans and cans of SOUP to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters survive the coldBrrrr!

-Sally

Special Thanks to Thrivent!!!



Last month Thrivent donated \$250 to our First Fruits. This helped our local food bank purchase extra food for our local families to have a special Christmas dinner.

Also, Thrivent donated \$250 to our Special Angel” ministry. With an additional monetary donation each of our three families received a \$100 gift card to help with their Christmas dinner.

Special Thanks to Larry & Sally Farner and Pastor Tim that made this happen!!!

Emmanuel, You are Amazing!!!

I have never seen such an amazing group of people. Your generosity is overwhelming. Because of COVID our attendance is down. However, that has not slowed all of you down. I reached out to you to sponsor our Operation Christmas Child ministry. You did so with overwhelming support. With the 5 boxes from the childcare center, we were able to send 33 boxes that were packed full. Not sure if I was asking too much, I challenged us to help 4 children (3 families) from our childcare center. The "Secret Angel" ministry was an absolute success as well. Not only did the children receive an abundance of toys but they also received essentials that most of us take for granted. For instance, there were three requests for a warm winter coat. During this cold snap and snow I have thought a lot about those children with their new winter coats. They all received a special handknit scarf and matching hat. With the help of a monetary donation and Thrivent, each family received a \$100 gift card to help pay for a nice Christmas dinner.



THANK YOU, EMMANUEL!!!!

Greeting From "Your" Council President

The Christmas season which historically runs through January, is one of peace, joy, good will and hope. Since the birth of Jesus, Christians the world over have always embraced a spirit of hope and joy and promise during this time of year that His spirit will "always" be with us, as individuals and as Christian communities. This past Christmas eve, while we all shared in the special and spiritual service with the fragrance of candles and the beauty of a Liturgical service, I'm sure we all uttered a private prayer of thanks that our Lord has brought us exactly where he wants us to beat Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Bremerton, Washington.

May His Peace "always" be with you!

-Larry



A Special Christmas Eve Worship Service

As always our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is always a very special service. We realize that many of you were not able to attend. You were missed. Technically, this was Pastor Tim's last service. He did most of the readings with Glen's help. St. Nicholas returned this year. Last year he was unable to attend due to the COVID pandemic. Our message was delivered by our new Interim Pastor, Pastor Rob. I feel bad that many of you that purchased flowers were not able to be there. Hopefully the pictures will reflect some of the beauty of that special service.



The Religious History of the State of Washington

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 FIFTEEN—The Monticello Porch

Minnie Pierce was born in Canada in 1871. A "Shouting Methodist". Committed to the Salvation Arm, she became a child bride at 15 to 48 year old James Kennedy. In 1890 she gave birth to a baby girl who she name Aimee Elizabeth, who would in the 1920's cause a sensation in America as the Evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson. At age 17, Aimee married



Aimee Semple McPherson

a preacher named Robert Semple. They served a year in China as Missionaries. They then toured as itinerant Evangelists, preaching in exotic places such as Dayton, WA. Minnie, Aimee's mother, also undertook Missionary work in Portland and Seattle, Longview, Kelso and other Puget Sound cities. Her "Official" headquarters was the Monticello hotel in Longview , where she often rode her white horse "Billy Sunday" across the front porch.

The Liturgy and ELC

The liturgy is basically, "The order of events". A common definition is, "The ritual for various forms of public worship in churches." For Lutherans, the Liturgy is a communal response to and participation in the sacred thought. The Liturgy is about God and His work. The purpose of the Liturgy is to give glory and honor to God. To build up the faith of the people and instruct the faithful. The Christian Liturgy is the response of faith and love to the "spiritual" blessings with which the Father constantly enriches us. Biblical references which supports the Liturgical form of worship are: Mat 28:19; Acts 2:42; Act 10:9; Acts 20:7; and Rom 10:17; 1 Cor 11:3-16; Cor 14:26-40 and 1 Tim 4:16.

Not all Christian Churches practice the Liturgy. Those that do are referred to as Liturgical Churches or simply congregations that participate in a Liturgical worship service. Typically these types of congregations follow a ritualistic form of service based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and the practices and instructions of the Disciples as led by the Holy Spirit.

My mother's family were catholic (a Liturgical Church). I was baptized in a Catholic Church and declared my religious preference on my dog tags as Catholic. However, my father's people tended to be protestant and my favorite aunt with whom I spent a great deal of time was a Pentecostal. When visiting my aunt I attended services in her church. While I always thought of Church as a place of ritual and incense, there were some things about my aunts church that appealed to me. Those things were praise songs and the feeling of love for the Lord and for one another. However, I could not ignore the value to me of worshipping in the Liturgical (Catholic) Church. Over my early years, I tried other churches until I one Sunday, walked into a Lutheran Church (ALC). Here was my answer, where God was leading me. This was exactly what I had been looking for.

However , after a period of mergers and questionable Synod leadership, I found myself in a Church that accepted the concept that the Bible was not necessarily the actual Word of God. And now , here I was back where I started looking for a Church that was Liturgical, loved the Lord and one another, believed the Bible was "exactly" the Word of God, and included "praise songs" into their Worship Service. He had led me to Emmanuel Lutheran Church (AALC), Thanks be to God. As I look around in the Sanctuary every Sunday, I see others who have made the same journey. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. -Larry Farner

January Birthdays

14Chris Knight
 18Dolly Williams
 26Gladyce Castagnola
 29Larry Ficca
 29.....Miki Turowski

January Anniversaries

14Mike & Carverlyne Prothero

February Birthdays

2.....Tiffany Johnson
 5Pat Alcantra
 11Patrick Gehring
 14.....Ward Erickson IV
 15.....Bob Klempen
 23.....Jim Turowski
 29.....Annabell Williams

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 January

Altar GuildSharie Adrig
 ReaderGlen or Sharie Adrig


Members Serving in February

Altar GuildTBA
 ReaderTBA

Sign up sheets are in the fellowship hall. We would love to have you sign up for Altar Guild and to be a Reader.

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour has resumed following the worship service. If you would like to provide refreshments for coffee hour or make a monetary contribution please talk to Carol Reece or Rose Link.



Men's Fellowship Breakfast



Men's Fellowship Breakfast is being held the second Saturday of each month. The location is All Star Lanes in Silverdale. If you would like to receive email updates on this please let Glen Adrig know so that your name and email can be added to the

Special Thanks!

Hats off to Judy and Steve Armstrong and their family. They provided a wonderful, inspiring service telling the story of Jesus Birth. It was wonderful!!

To all that provided beautiful Poinsettias to adorn our altar on Christmas Eve.

To Larry and Sally for all you do.

To Carol and Rose for all you do during Coffee Hour.

To St. Nick for his return the year.