

THE WITTENBERG DOOR

DECEMBER 2024 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCBREMERTON.ORG
 2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PASTOR'S MESSAGE	1 & 2
ATTRIBUTE TO MEMBER	2
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD	3
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EMMANUEL	4
MEMBER'S NOTES	5
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES	6
MEMBER'S SERVING & ELC ACTIVITIES	6

Pastor's Message

**Jesus saving the world from before the manger and onward:
 Chapter One - The Shepherds and the Angels, fear of the Lord and faith in His name (Luke 2:8-14)**

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

This Christmas season, you may be aware of events and circumstances that incite uncertainty and fear, weaknesses and loss, loneliness and pain, and the reality that what God has said is actually coming, or will soon come to pass. Perhaps like the shepherds, we may be walking in the strength of our youth, or the sureness of what we can yet accomplish in our own strength; But then a diagnosis, quick shift of hand by life's unexpected tragedy, and very quickly the falling away of that for which we had hoped. In the way that is appointed unto all humankind, we enter the shadows of life that whether young or old, will bring to account the more difficult days of our walk on this earth. Have you ever seen an angel, or a chorus of angels whose brilliance and holy radiance lit up the sky like a great explosion of gleaming light; and the power of God enwrapped in a godly messenger? Thus were the Shepherds addressed and the angel of the Lord arrayed, as "the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were filled with great fear" (Luke 2:9).

The modern American version of the Christmas story, and the selling only that which will bear profit in the world's marketplace, is contrasted with the actual and undying power of the incarnated Son of God and the holy child's blessed birth by the power of the Holy Spirit. This confession we believe, is that Christ was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, and announced here and in the prophets in accordance with God's Holy Word. Both truth-claims seek to contact and control our hearts and minds, our faith and our lives, and in our hearing, will meet each person exactly where they are at, and in whatever condition of faith in God that they are found. It could be in a condition of worldly commercialism that rarely mentions Christ and his holy plan to save the world; or it could be by the revelation of God, by His holy angels, that foretold the coming of God's Son to save all those who would believe upon Him (John 3:16-20)

Today, whether living in the reality of life's fragility or in wonderment related to the shepherds, angels, manger in Bethlehem and the Christ-child, hear the Good News of Christ Jesus:

**Contact Pastor
 Gary at
 1 (541) 350-7737
 or
 ggkouts65@gmail.com**

Pastor's Message continued.....

*¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
 and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"¹⁴*



This Christmas season, may you be blessed by God, and in life and death may we join the heavenly host in praise, and all glory, honor, and power to Christ the newborn King! Amen.

Pastor Gary Koutsopolous

The Lord Giveth----The Lord Taketh Away

A few weeks ago we lost our member, Dick Cockrell, unexpectedly. Dick was a big help around our church. He was quite the handyman. He did several jobs in the kitchen. Our kitchen crew loved Dick and his wife, Chris. They described them as funny and enjoyed many laughs together. Dick also helped Bob Klempan with numerous jobs in the parsonage. Dick always had a smile on his face. He and Chris always came to the Bingo nights at McClouds that supported Lutherhaven. He or Chris were quite often winners too.



Words from a special friend.....

Dick Cockrell wil always occupy a special place in my heart. I thank the Lord for the pleasure of knowing him.

I never knew him to simply sit by when something needed doing. Almost immediately after he and Chris came to Emmanuel he attached himself to the Building Maintenance ministry and helped me with the various taks that needed attention. He was not afraid to climb a ladder to change a bulb in the sanctuary, and he was a tremendous help with the parsonage.

As a valued part of "The Group" from Family of God, Dick could always be counted on to come up with something to keep the rest of us entertained, or at least having us wondering, "What's next?" By the way, he and I did NOT set any table on fire; the small conflagration in the ashtray was quickly extinguished!

Whether we were at the fair, out for a meal or a show, spending a weekend in Port Townsend, watching a game, whatever, Dick added so much to a memorable and enjoyable time together.

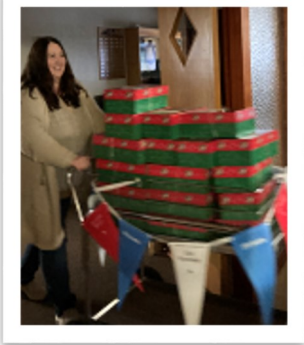
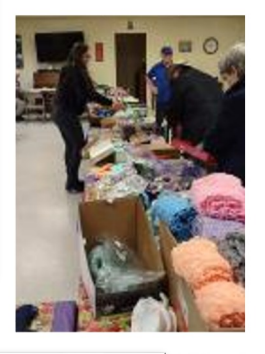
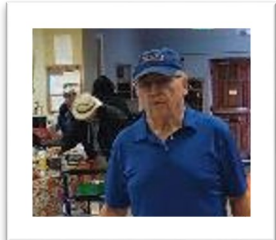


Dick Cockrell was my friend, and he counted me as his friend. I gratefully accept that honor.

-Bob Klempan

Operation Christmas Child ---100 Boxes Strong

This year we packed more shoeboxes than we have ever packed. Many thanks to all who donated gifts, prayed in regard to this ministry, made monetary donations and came and helped pack the shoeboxes. Thanks to our childcare center who packed 15 plus our 85 adds up to a glorious **100!**



Special Thanks to Teresa and Glen for the awesome pictures.



What's Happening at Emmanuel?

Now We Know

It's at this time of the year that we come to realize that the true joy of the Christmas season is not what we receive-but, what we give. Brothers and sisters of Emmanuel, know and understand that YOU have brought much joy to our neighbors who are in need, by your generous spirit of "giving" throughout the year 2024, by your support of First Fruits Sunday. May God bless us one and all this Christmas Season. -Sally, coordinator



Helping our Own



A big thank you to all who have given so generously to our four children who were identified in our childcare center this year. With your wonderful, generous gifts these families will be richly blessed with a wonderful Christmas. **Please consider coming to the wrapping party on Saturday, December 14th at 10 AM.** No prior experience necessary. The more the merrier. Sharie, coordinator

Emmanuel Lutheran Church & Childcare Center's Christmas Pageant

It has been a number of years since the church and childcare center have collaborated on this project. It is so much fun seeing all the children tell the story of Jesus birth. Come and bring your family and friends.

Sunday, December 15th, 2024

10:00 AM

Special Thanks to Judy Armstrong and Carverlynne and staff for all their work, planning and preparation!!



Christmas Poinsettias

The order forms for our Christmas Poinsettias are either in your box or on the table in the entry way of the fellowship hall. Please fill them out and place them in Sharie Adrig's box as soon as possible. Your payment can go directly into the offering bag. Designate that you are paying toward your Poinsettia on the memo line.



-Sharie , coordinator.

Kitchen Wishlist

We are trying to upgrade our kitchen. The kitchen crew have a wish list that you can sign up to help support. All it takes is designating a contribution and placing it in the offering bag. There are several items listed. Even a small donation will make a big difference.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Tuesday, December 24th 3:00 PM

Help

I know I'm not the sharpest blade in the drawer. So, when I encounter something I don't clearly understand, at my age, I usually just let it go. However, I recently encountered a term that I just cannot let go..."Secular Christian." That term makes no more sense to me than a vegetarian who eats steak and eggs for breakfast. Or, a Rainbow Trout who visits a tanning booth prior to his annual vacation to Palm Desert, California. So, I'm asking for help.....if you can clearly explain this term, "Secular Christian", to me in such a way that would be crystal clear, please submit an article to the Wittenberg Door (our monthly newsletter), thanks.

- Larry Farner

Time Travel

Our life is a kind of map of time. Especially when we consider that our life is made up as a series of events. Most of us tend to see ourselves as, "just another traveler." But, we are not just another traveler. The Word of God tells us that He knows all the hairs on our head. We are then, one of many, yet unique. The "universal" individual. Time according to Bergson (Philosopher), is either discovery or it is nothing at all. What then makes man willing to abandon a "plan" for life. If time is discovery on man's part, does it have anything to do with God's plan? Abraham was a man with a plan. Then God told him to leave all that was familiar and to go to a land which God would show him. Abraham's plan then was a journey of discovery. Or, was it his plan at all? God had a plan of Abraham just as He has a plan for each of us. Since through time, before "our" time had even begun.



-Larry

Just for Fun

War does not determine who is right-only who is left. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit....wisdom is not putting it into a fruit salad. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism-to steal from many is research.

Did You Know This?



HANNAH, was mocked by her husband's other wife, because, she was unable to bear a child. She often cried out or fasted, calling upon the Lord to bless her with a child to honor her husband. Once when she was praying at the Temple for a son, a local priest saw her moving her lips silently as she prayed. The priest cursed her and accused her of drunkenness. However, when Hannah explained that she was pouring out her soul before the Lord, the priest, Eli, asked God to grant her petitions. Hannah then gave that son, Samuel, over to the service of the Lord. The song Hannah is precursor to Mary's song of thanksgiving. (1 Samuel 2:1-10 and Luke 1:46-55)

- Larry

God, Time and History

Early Christians took two main approaches to spreading their faith. They used a variety of direct methods to communicate the good news, but, in addition, they took care to explain the faith intelligently and counter the attacks of critics. This second activity is often known as "Apologetics".

-Larry

December Birthdays

2-----Brian Boisjolie
 19-----Emma Atienza
 20-----Matthew Johnson

January Birthdays

14-----Chris Knight
 18-----Dolly Williams
 29-----Larry Ficca
 29-----Miki Turowski

January Anniversaries

2-----Pastor Gary & Lori Koutsopolous
 14-----Mike & Carverlynn Prothero

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 December

Altar Guild-----Teresa Prange
 Reader -----Maurine Simons

Members Serving in January

Altar Guild-----Sharie Adrig
 Chelette Williams
 Reader-----Glen Adrig

What's Coming Up?

December

6----- 6 pm---Peninsula Knitting Guild Party
 8-----9-----Children's & Adult's
 Sunday School
 Worship Service
 Giving Tree Gifts are due
 12-----10-----Midweek Bible Study
 14----- 10 am----- Wrapping Party
 15-----9-----Adult's Sunday School
 10-----Children's Christmas Pageant
 19-----10 -----Midweek Bible Study
 22-----9-----Children's & Adult
 Sunday School
 26-----10-----Midweek Bible Study
 29-----9-----Children's & Adult's
 Bible Study

January

2-----10-----Midweek Bible Study
 4-----10-----Un-decorating Party
 5-----9-----Children's & Adult's
 Sunday School
 Worship Service
 9-----10-----Midweek Bible Study
 11-----8:30-----Men's Breakfast
 12-----9-----Children's & Adult's
 Sunday School
 Worship Service
 13-----6 pm-----Peninsula Knitting Guild
 16-----10-----Midweek Bible Study

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 26th
 following the Worship Service.

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 for all you do.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Second Saturday of the month!

December 14th- 8:30- All Star Lanes



Check out our new updated Website at ELCBremerton.ORG

Special thanks to our Webmaster: Aaron Maruska