

THE WITTENBERG DOOR



FEBRUARY 2020
ELCBREMERTON.ORG

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

Pastor's Message

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PASTOR'S MESSAGE	1
VICAR'S MESSAGE	2
EMMANUEL HELPING THOSE IN NEED	3
UP COMING EVENTS AT EMMANUEL	4
PREPARING FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS	4
THE LENTEN SEASON	4
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES MEMBERS SERVING	5

In case of an Emergency

Please call
Pastor Tim
on his cell
phone

360-286-1090

Valentine's Day is February 14th and its theme is love. I remember as a child when my Mother would buy packages of Valentine cards to be signed and distributed to each of the children in our class. "B Mine" "I ♥ U" Although they were sentimental and cheap expressions they also taught us one of the virtues. By giving a card to everyone in the class we were reminded that everyone needs love.

Sometimes Valentine's Day love is reduced to romantic love and when that happens we are inclined to limit Valentine's Day to lovers and spouses. The historic story (or legend) of St. Valentine grew out of the Biblical revelation of God's love for us. It can include romantic love but it is not limited to romantic love. God's love ("agape" love, a love that is unmerited or given freely) treats others with courtesy and respect. God's love is given to everyone ("For God so loved the world....." John 3:16). God's love is given in service to others. ("He gave") and it is costly ("He gave His only Son").

When we experience the agape love of God we can begin to share it with others. In July of 2108, Carolyn, my bride of forty-three years, went to be with the Lord. Together we experienced and enjoyed romantic love. Since she has been gone from this world I have examined our time together and now see how she gave agape love to hold our family together and to draw our grandchildren close to us. It required sacrificial service from her and she gave that service freely and generously. She knew God's love in her heart and her heart was full of love for others.

I can confidently say that in Carolyn I experienced God's agape love. She loved me as I am. She accepted and supported me in spite of my shortcomings. She never gave up on me.

On this Valentine's Day for 2020 if you have a spouse then rejoice in the gift of romantic love that you share with him/her. If you do not have a spouse may this be a day to relish the gracious gift of love that God has for us. We are a people who need love. God loves us and we can love others.

Peace be with you ,
Tim Cartwright, Pastor

Vicar's Message

The Joy of Private Confession

Every Sunday, we start our worship service with an order of Confession and Forgiveness. The reason for this is simple.

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" -1 John 1:8-9.

"Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed." - James 5:16

We confess our sins to the Lord, so that we may give our burdens of guilt and shame to Jesus, who says "come to Me , all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28), and receive His Body and Blood with gladness at the altar. Together we confess that we cannot do anything to save ourselves, and we are heartily sorry for the sins we commit; in view of this forgiveness God then forgives us, and we are free in Christ to partake of all that He has to offer us in worship.

But sometimes, doing this in the Sunday morning service can leave us hard pressed to believe that we are *truly* forgiven. When I first joined a Lutheran church. I remember asking God in my heart, "what do mean, this sin was nailed to the Cross? Do You know what I've *done*?" The weight of my guilt was too great for me to let go of the sin I had committed. I asked Rev. Denis Huelle, my pastor at the time, what to do about it, and he pointed me to the Small Catechism, the section on confession. After going over some Scripture, he promised me that if I went to confession with him, I could expect 3 things:

1. Real privacy. What is confessed stays between the pastor and you. He cannot tell anyone.
2. Real forgiveness. If you are penitent, then your sins are forgiven without any strings attached. "No Hail Mary's needed.
3. Real direction. If you are feeling lost or confused, the pastor can point you in the right direction with the Word of God.

With this, I decided to try it, and found the experience to be greatly liberating. "Corporate" confession, done as a congregation, is great, but I cannot forget the feeling of relief in being able to be specific, to completely unload everything that was bothering me. Since that day. I have made a regular practice of it in addition to our normal worship, I want to invite anyone in our congregation to experience the same.

Starting on Saturday, February 29th, I will set aside time in my office after Matins for anyone who wants to come and will make time for private confession. This can be done in either an informal way, speaking one-to-one in the Church office, or in the traditional way, before the altar in the sanctuary. It will be up to you. I am also available for it (even now) whenever I am in the Church office.

You might wonder, well, why I want to bring private confession back into practice here at Emmanuel. First, we are entering the season of Lent, when we remember our Lord Jesus in His Passion; He came to die for our sins, every single one of them, that we may be forgiven. It is good to remember our sins, which He died for, and hear the good news that God does not hold them against us. Sometimes it is a precious thing to hear, directly to your ears only, that God loves you and has redeemed you.

But it is also something that Lutherans have been doing for 500 years. Of course, we will still retain *corporate* confessions every Sunday, but there was a time no Lutheran congregation did this, everyone set aside Saturday as the time to go to their pastor. When everyone was doing it the pastors were kept serving the people all day – some of the early Lutheran ministers of America had 90 hour workweeks because of this order! We introduced corporate confession in part due to the sheer time people needed.

Finally, please don't misunderstand me—I mean in no way to *impose* private confession on anyone. It is a free gift that God has given us through the office of the Keys (Matthew 16:18-19, 18:18 , John 20:21-23), and that on top of the corporate way we do it every Sunday. But if you are interested or feel like this would be a good addition to your devotions to the Lord, let me know – I'm here to help.

Pastor Blake Kilbourne, Vicar

Emmanuel helping those in need!

Pregnancy Resource Center

March is the time of the year that you will find baby bottles out in the fellowship hall. It is an opportunity for us to support our local Pregnancy Resource Center. All donations large or small appreciated. This fundraiser is called ***"change for life."***



You know that loose change that weighs our purses or pockets down? Find a spot to collect your change and you will be able to fill a baby bottle in March. Coins and paper money will be collected.

We have new list on our baby dresser in the fellowship hall of suggested items to fill our dresser. Let's make it a goal to fill the baby bottles and dresser draws this next month.

Some suggested items might include small gifts for mom, small stuffed animals around 8"-10", diapers sizes 4, 5, and 6, wipes, toddler size socks, sleepers—size 6-12 month, toddler pajamas—size 18 month to 3 T.

Thank you, Carol Reece, for your service to the Pregnancy Resource Center.

Helping Kitsap Mental Health

Don't forget we have a collection box for donations to Kitsap Mental Health. They need gently used clothing for all sizes. From infants to adults. Also, they can use used books and stuffed animals.

Questions ask
Rosie Armstrong.



Is That Not A Mission?

In February, Emmanuel contributed enough to the Food Bank to feed a family of 4 for 10 days. Just imagine, if two more churches matched our giving. We could feed a family of 4, 3 meals a day for an entire month. Just imagine, if we did that "every" month, we could feed a family of 4, 3 meals a day for an entire year! Is that not a mission? God be praised!



Special thanks to our First Fruit's coordinators, Larry and Sally Farner. A year well done!

How Can You Help Support Olympic Lutherhaven?

When you shop on-line any day of the year at smile.amazon.com/ch/91-0677163, Amazon Smile donates to Olympic Lutherhaven at no cost to you!

In Addition:

If you shop at Fred Meyer and join their Rewards program, Fred Meyer donates a portion of the sale to Olympic Lutherhaven at no cost to you. To join the Fred Meyer Community Rewards program go to this address:

<https://www.fredmeyer.com/signin?redirectUrl=?account/communityrewards>.

Thank you for your support!

Upcoming Events

February 26th	Ash Wednesday Service	6:30
March 1st	First Sunday of Lent	10:00
March 1st	First Fruits Sunday	
Wednesdays of Lent	Soup Supper and Lenten Devotions	5:30
March 15th	Martha and Mary Service	2:30

Secret Prayer Partner Ministry



This year we again call for God's Saints to volunteer to be Prayer Supporters and Encouragers for people in need through the **Secret Prayer Partner Ministry**.

You will have the opportunity to sign up on February 16th. You will be able to secretly pray for and encourage a person who will be assigned to you. You may want to give them cards of encouragement or even a small gift. The program will run 6 weeks and you may reveal your identity to your friend at that time.



Questions ask Pastors Tim & Blake

Saturday Matins Service

Every Saturday at 9:30 am Pastor Blake is offering a short worship service. Currently Pastor Blake is studying the Ten Commandments. He includes a bit of singing, prayer and study. If you are available join us.

Lenten Soup Suppers

On Wednesday evenings at 5:30 all are welcome to attend Emmanuel's Soup suppers. These begin the first week of March and go until the week before Easter. Each week people sign



up to bring different soups, bread and butter. There will be a sign up sheet soon. We encourage you to attend for some fellowship. A short devotional service follows.

Soon We Will Be Ordering Easter Lilies and Azaleas!



Women's Bible Study

Look for more information in the bulletins regarding the upcoming Women's Bible Study.

February Birthday

2Tiffany Johnson

5Pat Alcantra

11Patrick Gehring

14Ward Erickson IV

15Bob Klempan

17 ...Brandee Haynes, Childcare Sup

23Jim Turowski

27James Tewksbury

March Birthdays

5Chelette Williams

7Hailey Dupree

17Peyton Dupree

18Henry Simons

19Melody Knight

25 ...Kneeda Williams, Childcare Sup

27Jim Mace

27Josh Armstrong

March Anniversaries

13Cole & Maurine Simons

18Steve & Judy Armstrong

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 February

Altar GuildSally Farner
 ReaderBob Klempan

Members Serving in March

Altar GuildSharie Adrig
 Teresa Prange
 ReaderJean Reed

Sunday School for all ages!

We offer Sunday School at 9:00 AM for All ages. Young children through Adults are welcome.

Men's breakfast will continue. This month it is Dec. 15th at 8:00 am. The location is Der Blokken in Manette. Questions? Talk to Larry Farner or Pastor Tim.

Your help during coffee hour?

Thanks to all who are signing up to host coffee hour! If you are interested, the sign up sheet is on the counter in the fellowship hall! Thank you to Carol R. for being our coordinator for coffee hour. Thanks to Rose L. for all your help in the kitchen during coffee hour.

If you are not able to host a coffee hour some of us are giving monetary contributions to help cover the cost . Contributions can be given to Carol Reece.

