

THE WITTENBERG DOOR

FEBRUARY 2022 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCBREMERTON.ORG
 2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310



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Contact Pastor

**Rob at
 360-204-4851
 or
 pastor.rob
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Pastor's Message

"The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid." - Martin Luther

Since we recently celebrated the Christmas miracle, mangers have been on my mind. Pastor Martin Luther reminds us that we don't need to travel to Bethlehem to find our Lord.

Jesus has promised to remain with us always (Matthew 28). Even when we don't "feel" His presence, there is a very concrete place in which we can come face to face with our Lord—in the Bible.

As Luther wisely declared, the Scriptures cradle Jesus. In their words, we encounter our Savior, hear His promises of forgiveness, receive His healing touch, and learn His will for our lives.

One way our Lutheran tradition illustrates its commitment to the Word of God is through the lectionary. Every Sunday when we gather to celebrate Christ's resurrection, we read three separate passages from the Bible. Usually one comes from the Old Testament, another from the New Testament, usually one of the epistles or letters, with a final reading from one of the four Gospels.

In addition, many congregations join Emmanuel in reading a fourth biblical selection, from one of the Psalms. I'm so pleased to see that here in our congregation we read the Psalm responsively, since many were originally composed for just such use in the worship of God.

Reading God's Word

Many Christians set aside a special time to privately read God's Word every day. If you do not already do that, I encourage you to try it. Begin with something small, and easy to accomplish. Find five minutes when you can reliably read just a few verses each day. You will be blessed. It will make a difference in your day, especially if you make it part of your morning routine.

You might sit at your table with your first cup of morning coffee, read three or four verses. Close your eyes for a minute or two to reflect on what the Lord has said. Then offer God a silent, brief prayer that relates to the text, or simply a thank you for His faithfulness and the gift of a new day. You can accomplish all of this in a brief five minutes.

You will also read in this issue of the Wittenberg Door that I'm hoping to start a midweek Bible study soon. If you are able to attend, be assured we have a spot reserved for you. Join us as we gather around this precious cradle wherein Christ is laid.

In the light of God's Word,
 Pastor Rob Stroud



President's Message

BEHIND THESE WALLS

I remember when Bob Fox confessed to me how many times he drove past Emmanuel without a second thought. Having no clue what was going on in that Old Church with the tall cross at the intersection of Perry and Magnussen. That was of course, before Bob and his wife, Cheryl, became members of our Church then answered the call to be Missionaries in Africa. It was a good question actually ... what is behind these walls? We know of course that behind these walls is a spirit of love for our Lord and for one-another. Behind these walls are people who really care not only for one-another but, for the people in their community, and the world beyond. Behind these walls we sing together, we laugh together, we cry together, we pray together and we give together. We give of ourselves, we give to our community in so many different ways. We, behind these walls are a happy society-with only one regret...that more people are not behind these walls with us. So, how do we reach-out and share that which "is no secret", of the joy of being together behind these walls. Well, there is the witnessing...but, there is something else. There is "The Wittenberg Door". Yes, our colorful and well designed Newsletter. Full of articles and pictures of people sharing the "story" of how life is for "The People of Faith" - Christians, living, laughing and playing together and serving the Lord....together! For our Newsletter is not "just" for us. We know what's behind our walls. Our Newsletter is for "others" who would have the opportunity to look behind our walls, into our Church to see how it is. The "magic" that takes place, the joy, the feeling of family, the feeling of real and genuine love. It is Sharie Adrig who enables the "others" to get a peek of what happens , behind these walls. Shar is the ever faithful reporter, recorder, historian, photographer, proof reader and managing editor of "The Wittenberg Door." And, we should add, "Missionary." For it is Shar's Newsletter that "reaches out" to not only show photos of what takes place behind our doors but also the message of forgiveness, of acceptance and of salvation to not only those who stumble across it on the net, but those who



The walls began in 1956

receive in the mail. For there are people in other cities, other states, and yes, even in Africa who monthly get the word that whoever they are they are always welcome to join us and share the secret of what takes place, behind these walls.

Council President,

Larry Farner

IN GOD WE TRUST!

The congregation of ELC was thrice blessed on January 30th, during the Annual Meeting. First, there was the presentation of the “Marty” award to Pastor Tim, followed by the vote of the members attending to call Pastor Rob, followed by the approval of the budget and Church officers for 2022. There was some drama however when it looked like we would not attain the required number for a quorum. That number was 25. Our actual number of qualified voting members is 31. One of our members had a tournament commitment and two more members were dealing with Covid issues and could not leave their home. It was a close thing but we actually had 28 out of the available 31 who were present to vote. As a congregation we, in the words of Pastor Tim, “scored well”. And, we are now “at the starting gate for 2022”. And finally, as it has always been at ELC, “The Spirit was with us” and it is God in whom we trust. Thanks for your commitment!

Larry Farner

Pastor Tim Receives the “Marty” Award !!

At our annual meeting president, Larry Farner, presented Pastor Tim with the “Marty” award. It was Larry’s way of showing his appreciation for all the work and dedication that Pastor Tim has shown Emmanuel all these past 11 years of service. You may ask what is the “Marty” award? It was a bobble-head of Martin Luther. Special thanks to Pastor Tim for all he has done for Emmanuel and continues to do. You are such a special pastor to all of us.



New Midweek Bible Study Beginning

Everyone is invited to attend the new Thursday Morning Bible Study that Pastor Rob is starting at **10:00 on the tenth of February**.

Assuming it lasts about an hour a brief study at the first gathering of the group and at that time participants can decide whether they would prefer to do a verse-by-verse study, or a topical study, which would consider what the Scriptures have to say about particular subjects.

Everyone would be welcome. Even if you have never studied God's Word with other people, you will feel comfortable there, because no one will be "put on the spot." However, if you

COME JOIN OUR

BIBLE



Study

consider yourself to be the most brilliant theologian west of the Mississippi, don't be surprised if Pastor Rob expects you to prove it with flawless exegesis.

Seriously, the study will be serious and fun. (Yes, those two traits can both apply.)

Bring your questions, and your ideas for what you would like to study.

Contacting Pastor Rob

Members of the congregation should add Pastor Rob's phone number and contact information to their records.

For emergencies and personal conversations, he prefers a phone call to guarantee immediate contact. If he does not answer, try Delores' phone, since they are usually together and if there is a problem with the number she can usually reach out and touch him. For routine business or contact, Pastor Rob prefers using email. Messaging can also work, but email is better.

Pastor Rob: 360-204-4851

Delores: 360-434-2575

Email: pastor.rob@airpost.net

Alternate: chaplainstroud@gmail.com



Suggestions for Emmanuel's Website Welcome.....

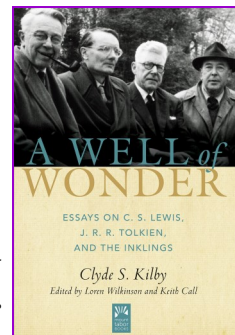
We have a good website at www.elcbremerton.org and we are ready to update it. If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve it, now is the time to direct them to Glen Adrig.

Did you know that Chelette Williams maintains our Facebook page? If you have any comments or suggestions concerning our Facebook page contact Chelette.

Do You Like C.S. Lewis?

Pastor Rob has a weekly blog called *Mere Inking*. It covers a very wide range of subjects, and usually pulls in some connection to C. S. Lewis and the Inklings (Pastor Tim is a fan of C.S. Lewis' writings too.)

If you would like to check out Mere Inking, go to www.mereinking.net If you would like to receive a note when a new post is added, there's a convenient place on the website to enter your email address and "subscribe."



New Pictorial Directory in the Works

We're looking forward to updating our congregational directories so we have current photographs of all of Emmanuel's members and friends. As our Administrator, Glen will coordinate the details for ensuring the information in the directory is correct.

But right now *we are looking for a volunteer*, or volunteers, to actually take the photographs on Sunday mornings, before or after church.

Are you an amateur photographer? Would you be willing assist with this update? Then talk to Glen or Pastor Rob and we can coordinate the details.

One exciting aspect of this is the possibility of printing up a few copies of the photographs for members of the congregations who have not been able to share photos with their family in recent years. We'll have more news about that option in the future. Right now we are seeking the volunteer (s) to take the photos.

No special camera is required, since current cell phones take exceptional pictures which are quite suitable for the directories.

Pastor Tim's Retirement Party

Saturday, April 30th

11:00 AM

Decorating Party April 28th 1:00.

Sign-up sheet to bring food!!!!

Ladies Lunch Group

Wednesday is our ladies lunch group meeting for a "bring your own lunch", visit, and prayer time.

See Carol, Rose or Judy for further information.



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 SIXTEEN—Christian Works and Missions

In 1889, Washington became a State and religious groups dealt with changing conditions. To deal also with influences of unique groups, like the Keil Colony on Willapa Bay; the Davisite Kingdom of Heaven in Walla Walla; the Dunkards Christian Cooperative in Yakima; The Holly city of Sunnyside; The Burley colony on Puget Sound's Henderson Bay and the Brook Farm Oneida Community. Only one of those movements arrived, the Mormons. By 1904, Mormons established several branches in the Northwest. In 1938 The First Northwestern Stake was organized in Eastern Washington. The Mormons focused on Christian works of mercy and health care. The first hospital in Washington however, was St. Joseph's in Vancouver by the Sisters of Providence in 1858. support for this Catholic Hospital also came from women's groups of Methodists, Episcopalians and Jews. The Sisters of Providence took over the operation of the King County Poor Fam and transformed it into Providence Hospital in Seattle. The Sisters also founded St. Mary's Hospital in Walla Walla, St. Peter's in Olympia, It Ignatius in Colfax and St. Elizabeth's in Yakima. At the time, there were fewer than 20,000 Catholics in Washington and most were poor. The Catholics also built orphanages. St. Euphrasia's Home in Seattle in 1890 and another in Spokane in 1905. During this period of expansion, the Episcopalians and Methodists (1881-1894) build five hospitals. Fannie Poddock in Tacoma, Grace in Seattle, St. Elizabeth's in Sedro, St. Luke's in New Whatcom and St. David's in Hoquiam. The Methodists opened Marie Deaconess in Spokane, The Washington Deaconess in Wenatchee and the Seattle General Hospital. Christian works and missions were having a major impact on the development of the Northwest at the dawn of the 1900's.



Original St. Joseph's Hospital- Vancouver

Larry

The Sixth Day

When I went for my post op following Prostate Surgery the doc asked, "How are you doing?" I said, "I am still having problems." "Oh, it'll be ok," said the doc. "Your prostate just needs a little time to reprogram itself." "How does that work-how does the Prostate know how to do that?" I said. "It 's just the way we humans were created," said the doc. What came to my mind at that moment was, our God truly is a great God! Remember Gen 1:26-27? God created us in "His" image. Why else would our internal parts not know how to reprogram themselves! Isn't it interesting that a doc used the word created? And, isn't it great that we are clearly just "another one" of His miracles!

Larry



February Birthdays	
2.....	Tiffany Johnson
5	Pat Alcantra
11	Patrick Gehring
14.....	Ward Erickson IV
15.....	Bob Klempan
23.....	Jim Turowski
29.....	Annabell Williams
March Birthdays	
5.....	Chelette Williams
7.....	Hailey Dupree
17	Peyton Dupree
18	Henry Simons
19	Melody Knight
25	Kneeda Williams, Childcare Supv.
27.....	Jim Mace
27	Josh Armstrong
March Anniversaries	
13	Cole & Maurine Simons
18.....	Steve & 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 Guild.....Teresa Prange
 ReaderMiki Turowski

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.



Next "First Fruits"

Sunday, March 6th



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 contact list.

