

# THE WITTENBERG DOOR

FEBRUARY 2023 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCBREMERTON.ORG  
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## Pastor's Message

*“And after six days, Jesus took with him Peter, James and John his brother, and led them up high mountain apart. 2. And he was transfigured before them and his face shown like the sun, and his garments became white as light. 3. And behold there appeared to them Moses and Elijah talking with him. 4. And Peter said to Jesus, 4. “Lord it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”. 5. He was still speaking, when lo a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him” 6. When the disciples heard this they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. 7. When the disciples heard this they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe 8. And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.” 9. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead” (Mt. 17:1-9)*

In this months Newsletter, I am focusing on one of the sets of verses I will be preaching on in February (Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>). In itself, the Mount of Transfiguration is a Judeo-Christian, sort of futuristic, (1982) “E.T. go home” kind of moment, where the rural life of small town Galilee morphs into a mountain where Jesus, and His disciples are faced with the epiphany of Christ in His pre-incarnate godly radiance. It is here that a transfer of God the Father announcing His Son, and then decisively and gently instructing us to “listen to Him”. This makes the future of who and what we follow more clear. It was a part of Jesus teaching and equipping the disciples, as he gathered key biblical persons and Old Testament figures (Moses and Elijah), as well as his chosen disciples (Peter, James and John) to witness the transfiguration of Jesus, and direct guidance from God. Only Jesus, is verbally presented and announced by God in this account, and only in directing us to Jesus, could God’s plan, most clearly be carried out by His Word. Combine the imagery and commandment directing them to listen to Him (Jesus), and you have the foundation of that truth (revelation) of Jesus’ glory which was His in the beginning, and which would be shown by Christ, on Easter Day. This was an event they would not soon forget, and they were told to not say anything to the others, right away; but await later instruction from Jesus. No, it’s not like Hollywood might portray with computer graphics, 3-D imagery, or systems that would erupt into piercing lights or euphonious symphonies. It was more like a family and cultural reunion, where everybody knew how they used to be, and yet came to see for the first time, how things would be forever different and transformed by Christ. This change was itself akin to the events that lay ahead in their lives and in the future; The unexpected arrest and trial of Jesus, the flogging and brutal death of Christ on the cross, and then the glorious resurrection of Jesus, the Son of God. That was only later to make sense in light of God’s Word; as it had been newly revealed in Christ, according to God’s Command and Jesus’ instructions in Scripture (Matthew 17:9, 22).

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*Pastor's Message Continued.....*

It was a revelation and celebration of the Son of God made flesh among us; and the Call from heaven to listen to Him and follow Him, both the in the dark days ahead, and in the glorious light of His resurrection. It was a visual testimony to the promise of life for all who believe in God's Son and our Savior. As for the impact of the Mount of Transfiguration on a listener today, and the condition of our own towns, Cities, States, Nations and the world, how do we see or hear God's calling upon us to Listen and follow Jesus alone, today? What are the things that also seem surreal or other-worldly, and are coming out as the failure or disappearance of previous securities, organizations, peoples or groups? Is that the message and the hope that motivates and empowers us like it used to? Or are current realities remaining like the old ways of seeking peace, and safety, strength and security? Or is there a new need for us to hear Jesus – and His calling to go and make disciples, of all people; by sharing the Gospel, gathering people in, whom the Lord calls by His Holy Spirit? In seeing Moses the law giver, and Elijah, the great prophet who would announce the Messiah, they must have felt confirmed in their earlier faith-hopes to bring salvation to Israel and to the world. They must have been ready to usher in what they and the religious leaders of their day had already planned. This had been their hope and confidence for generations, and they had sought to secure what they knew. And then Scripture tells us that, *5. He (Peter) was still speaking, when lo a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him"* *6. When the disciples heard this they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe."* *7. But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Rise and have no fear."*

In both what they saw, what they heard, and by God's own Word, they came to realize the truth, and, in awe, they fell on their faces before God. After being raised up by Christ, they were ready to hear His voice and follow Him:

*8. And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only."* *9. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead"* (Mt. 17:1-9)



Jesus was to be transformed before them, and then to comfort them, as He would always promise them in the future (Matthew 28:20; Acts 1:5;2:1-4). They were now experiencing God's blessings, by God's grace through faith in Christ, according to God's word; and the Lord Jesus was with them in all holiness and power. Believe and be baptized and you shall be saved. Thanks be to God! (Matthew 28:1-10; 17-20; John 3:16-20; Mark 16:16; Hebrews 1:1-6; Rom. 6:4-11)

Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos

### **A Note to the Congregation**

I want to thank everyone who attended and participated in the Congregational Meeting (Annual Report) on January 29th. And, I want to especially thank those who served on Council and on the Call Committee. 2022 was a challenge but, we "together" did what was need to ensure that "it was indeed a very good year". The Lord truly was with us every step of the way.

Larry Farner, past council president

**Thank  
You**

## Council President's Message

February 14 is Valentine's Day, a day to celebrate love, God's love and romantic love. Carolyn, my wife of forty-three years, and I had developed a tradition for Valentine's Day. The kids were sent to their rooms early in the evening. We prepared a home-cooked dinner of steak (rare), baked potatoes, asparagus and salad. For dessert we enjoyed chocolate covered ice cream bars. We set the dining room table with Carolyn's good china (the "Carolyn" brand of dishes), fresh flowers and candles. We sat side by side and talked about our year together. As much as I miss Carolyn, I know that one day we will be re-united, and we will be able to share our love again. I am sustained by this hope.

The story of the life and ministry of St Valentine illustrate God's love for us and the love that we share in the Valentine season. Valentine was a Christian bishop in the third century of the Roman Empire, an era when Emperor Claudius II needed to recruit soldiers for his army who could stave off invaders. These men needed to be attentive to their duties, not dreaming of wives and families. So new marriages were outlawed. Bishop Valentine understood God's plan for marriage over-ruled the emperor's plan for his army. So, Valentine quietly and secretly continued to perform weddings. Consequently, he was arrested and sentenced to death. While awaiting his sentence he befriended his jailer and, at his jailer's request, began to educate Julia, the jailer's blind daughter. Before his death Valentine wrote Julia a note of expressing his love and devotion. He signed it, "from your Valentine." This story spread through the empire and it continues to be spread today as people send "valentine" cards to their loved ones.

May you be a Valentine to someone you love during valentine season.

Pastor Tim Cartwright



St. Valentine

## Celebrate Operation Christmas Child

All of you are invited to a local event celebrating Operation Christmas Child. Celebrate what God has done this past year. The event is being hosted by the Area Team at Silverdale United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 4th at 10 AM. At that time you will learn where our shoeboxes were shipped and you will learn more about the Greatest Journey Discipleship program that children are invited to attend after receiving their shoeboxes. -Sharie

## We Are Emmanuel!!

Don't be fooled if anyone tells you that Philadelphia or Kansas City are SOUPERBOWL Champs! ~ "Team Emmanuel" won that title on Souperbowl Sunday. Team Emmanuel scored with 79 cans of soup and a total "final" score of 132 pounds of food. The answer to the question, "Should those in need heat or eat?" YOU, the members of ELC have covered the eat part. Now...the needy in our community can



cozy-up with their family with a hot meal in a heated environment—truly, a win-win for everyone! -Sally

## What's the Deal with Ash Wednesday?

Recently, the question came up. "What's the deal with Ash Wednesday?" The easy answer is.....that's what we do! A more responsive answer to someone who is not familiar with Liturgical Churches is that Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent-it's when we go to Church where the Pastor makes the sign of the Cross on your forehead with ashes made from crushed palms and Holy oil.



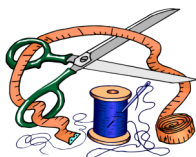
While I was in the military, we Liturgical service members were given time off to attend Ash Wednesday services. Typically, Catholics attended a Catholic service and Protestants attended a service presided over by a Liturgical Pastor. However, in a war zone you took what you could get. While in Viet Nam if I couldn't attend a Protestant service I would attend a Catholic service, especially since the Liturgical service was very similar to a Lutheran service and both "Palms" and "oil" were abundantly available. After all, wasn't it really mostly about tradition? Do you recall reading in the Bible where Jesus asks his Disciples..."Do you understand?" And then, on the "first" Easter Sunday, they did finally "get



it". A short time after I began my second tour of duty in Viet Name, our Chapel took a direct rocket hit and was totally destroyed. Lent was approaching and it was time for Ash Wednesday. I along with some friends made our way to a makeshift "tent" Church where we were blessed with the sign of the Cross by a Baptist Chaplain who had prepared the ashes from the burned out remains of our old Chapel. Ash Wednesday is about sharing, it's about our relationship with our Savior, it's about repentance and it's about receiving a very unique and a very special blessing!

Larry Farner

## A Lenten Project



For anyone that can thread a needle or wants to try their hand at a little hand sewing we have a project that would be fun to do as a group. Our beautiful Advent banners are needing a little TLC. Jo and Sharie could do this project on their own but it would be so much more fun with others. We will have the supplies if you bring the talent. We are going to meet at the church at 1 PM on Saturday, March 4th and we will even provide lunch. Come and bring your talent and appetite. What a deal!

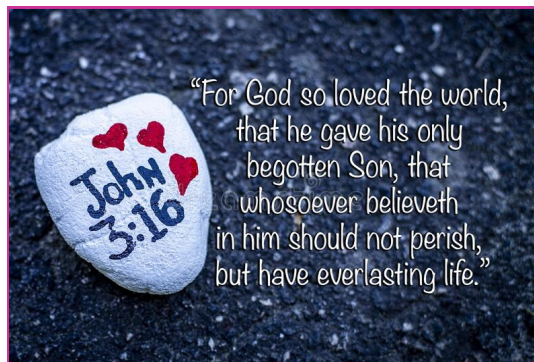


## Who's a Lutheran?

A Lutheran is somebody who belongs to a Church that keeps the funeral tablecloths in a special drawer; Gets nervous when the phrases "voluntary prayer" and "witness" are mentioned; Knows what it feels like when the Jell-O melts into the scalloped potatoes on a paper plate.

## Finding Love (Your Church Family)

Everyone needs love in one form or another—even if it is for nothing more than to be assured that someone cares. We can find many definitions of love in the Bible, in poetry and literature. But, that is nothing like “knowing” that you love and are loved in return. Love is the focus of 52 separate verses in the Bible. In our Church family, we embrace the concept of “unconditional” love and forgiveness. In our personal families we often experience a kind of dis-functional relationship that is hurtful and confusing with regard to the concept of what “real” love looks and feels like. But, there is nothing more crystal clear than the expression of love that is expressed in John 3:16.



## Luther and Lutherans—Part Five

**Battle Lines Being Drawn:** During a debate in Leipzig, Luther made a statement that put the Pope on notice, “A simple layman armed with the Scripture is to be believed above a Pope or a Council without it.” For Luther, it was faith (Romans 1:17) that created the Christian and the body of the Christians, called the Church. “This faith:, said Luther, did not come from us who were all broken sinners, but was a free gift from God. Criticizing Church leadership, Luther came out decisively for the idea that the Bible must supersede the Church. To Luther, the Scriptures established the idea of “a priesthood of believers”, and anyone who truly believed was a Christian. When asked, “without works, is faith enough”? Luther said, “it is faith in Jesus that brings us salvation and not our own moral efforts. Jesus did all that was necessary to bring us to heaven by His death on the cross, and we need only to trust Him. And, if we see that we are moved to do good works, it is simply as gratitude for salvation. Once we embrace Christ, we are instantly made righteous because of His righteousness, and not



because of anything we have done or could do or because we purchased our indulgence. Sixty days after receiving the Pope’s expulsion letter (bull) while standing near the same wooden door where he had three years earlier posted his theses, Luther threw the Papal bull into the fire, spoke the words from Psalms 21:10 and responded to the Pope’s action with; “because you have confounded the truth of God the Lord confounds you. Into the fire with you!”

Larry Farner

(final article of this series)

**February Birthdays**

2-----Tiffany Johnson  
 5-----Pat Alcantra  
 11-----Patrick Gehring  
 14-----Ward Erickson IV  
 15-----Bob Klempan  
 23-----Jim Turowski  
 24-----Rebecca Fuller  
 29-----Annabell Williams

**March Birthdays**

5-----Chelette Williams  
 18-----Henry Simons  
 19-----Melody Knight  
 20-----Rachel Fuller  
 25-----Kneeda Williams, Childcare Supv.  
 27-----Jim Mace  
 27-----Josh Armstrong

**March Anniversaries**

13-----Cole & Maurine Simons  
 17-----Randy & Kristen Fuller  
 18-----Steve & Judy Armstrong

If you have any additions or corrections to our birthday—anniversary list please let our editor, Sharie Adrig, know at [gadrig@comcast.net](mailto:gadrig@comcast.net)



**Men’s Fellowship Breakfast**

Men’s Fellowship Breakfast is being held at 8:30 am the second Saturday of each month at 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.

***The subject of the Lenten services will be The Apostles Creed: Living and breathing what we’re believing. There will be a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall for the luncheons.***

**Members Serving in February**

Altar Guild -----Teresa, Judy, Sacajawea  
 Reader-----Bob Klempan  
 Acolytes 12th-Nathan, and 26th –Tiffany

**Members Serving in March**

Altar Guild-----Sharie, Dr. Arriel, Chelette  
 Reader-----Dr. Pastor Rob Stroud  
 Acolytes TBA

**What’s Coming Up?**

*February*

15-----12, noon--Women’s Lunch Hour  
 16-----10 am-----Bible Study, James  
 19-----10 am -----Worship Service  
 Confirmation Class  
 22-----3 pm-----Ash Wednesday Service  
 23-----10 am-----Bible Study  
 26-----10 am -----Worship Service

*March*

1-----12, noon--Lenten Soup Luncheon  
 Following Lunch, Lenten Worship Service  
 2-----10 am -----Bible Study  
 4-----1 pm-----Repair Banners  
 5-----10 am -----Worship Service  
 Confirmation Class  
 6-----6pm-----Peninsula Knitting Guild  
 8-----12, noon-Lenten Soup Luncheon  
 Following lunch, Lenten Worship Service  
 9-----10 am -----Bible Study  
 12-----10 am-----Worship Service

**Helping with Coffee Hour**

There are several ways you can help with coffee hour. 1. You can sign up to host a Sunday. 2. You can put money in the offering and designate it for coffee hour. Or



3. you can talk to Rose Link or Teresa Prange and ask what you can bring to help supplement the coffee hour refreshments.