

THE WITTENBERG DOOR

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



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Pastor's Message—"We've Only Just Begun" (Mark 1:9-15)

The beginning of Jesus ministry in Galilee: ¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel."

Do you remember that melodic, somewhat melancholy song that hit the charts in 1970, "We've only just begun"? It sang about the early days of promises, and the cheers of others to get us on our way; about the things that were new to us in our youthful zeal, and the cultural call to live together day by day? Do you remember where you were in life when you may have heard or sung that song for the first time? Were you in any way caught up in a reality that was changing, seemingly getting out of hand, or drawing you to tune in to the voices of the sidewalk prophets of those changing times? I don't know if the modern, musical seers of that era were connected to Jesus by faith, or as the source of their words; but I do believe the disciples following Jesus in his life and ministry most certainly were. They needed to hear in the Gospel of Mark, that not only was the kingdom of God at hand, the time fulfilled, and the preacher, the Son of Man right before them, but what they were called and empowered to be and do, as He would lead them. The time for them was fulfilled in Christ from the beginning and revealed to Jesus' disciples as they believed and followed Him (John 1:1-5; I John 1:1-10).

As we continue to learn more about Jesus in our daily Bible reading, Christian life of prayer and in God's Word and Sacraments (Scriptures and faith in Christ by His grace), we learn quickly that Jesus was a consummate "doer of the Word and things of the Lord". He embodied the biblical notion of "be ye not hearers of the word only, but doers." (James 1:22-26). He is the Word of God, made flesh and living among us to "seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10; Zacchaeus, today salvation has come to this house".) He calls us to be about this same ministry. In seeing Jesus active and powerful in ministry and proclamation, they knew that their lives and ministry would be doing the things of Christ as He calls us and empowers us in His Holy Spirit. Now is the time, and Jesus leads the way:

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:15). We remember what the time was like in our lives before Christ called us to himself and gave us faith to believe the gospel; Being buried with Christ by Baptism and raised with Him unto newness of life, we now are called to receive regularly the means of grace. Christ has given us faith to believe in Him, to receive Baptism, and remain in Him, who is the "author and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2). He is our Hope, to send us, keep us, and deliver us on from all trials, and on our way with Him)! In His command to us that we reach others (Matthew 28:18-20), we hear in His calling the strains of a world that is broken in sin and lost without Him; and will perish apart from faith in Him (John 3:18). And we hear again the very reason why He came, that we and the whole world might be saved (John 3:16-17).

In Christ, and by his grace through faith, we have only just begun to live. In living in Him, let us follow Jesus' or Savior, and His great commission: To make disciples of all nations and peoples, baptize them in God's Name (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), teach them all that which He has taught us to know and observe; let us rejoice together that it is Christ our Savior who is with us to the very close of the age."



Contact Pastor

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Notes on Ephesians

These “notes” are for those who are unable to attend Pastor Rob’s amazing Thursday Bible Study Class. This is Paul’s dialogue with the Ephesians...Paul begins with, “Our prayers open a dialogue with God, expresses our compassion and gives us comfort, knowing God is there!” God has chosen us and has called us. Everything God does is just. The Church (the true believers) is the body of God. Paul rales against the legalism in the Church, which results in being judgmental. Jesus, by His sacrifice, established a new covenant. Christ “is” the Church. Gentiles and Jews are now united in God’s family. Because we were created in the image of God, we have a symbiotic relationship and a longing to be “with God”. We are told to forgive but, not necessarily to trust. Forgiveness is given, trust must be earned. Paul exhorts unity of the people and of the Church based on the law of God. Paul further tells us that the Holy Spirit will guide us, so we will not be tossed about by wrong doctrine by human cunning, by craftiness and deceitful schemes. When Paul refers to “the one Lord”, he is speaking of the “one faith” in the Lord Jesus Christ. This dialogue by Paul suggest the need for faith regarding the judgement. In this study...there is the issue of the question, “when we die do we immediately go to Heaven or hell?” And, what about those who died before the time of Jesus? The answer is the...”the day of judgement occurs at the state of awareness after death.” For those who have died, whenever they have died-our very next instant of awareness, even after 5000 years is the day of judgement. Now, back to Paul. God gave us skills and abilities that we employ in His Church and in His work, that we are able to use as well in our workplace. Some



think we have gifts (natural skills) we use from time-to-time at Church. That would be incorrect, those gifts are given by God to be used in His Church and for the wellbeing of His people. To be a true Christian, Paul tells the Ephesians (and us) to put away our old habits and be totally committed to the teaching Word of Christ. We must strive to be imitators of God. Giving instructions on Holy living, Paul shares that Christians are to lead Holy lives centered on wisdom in speech, sexual purity and associations. He (Paul) cautions us to turn away from crude jokes and foolish talk and to concentrate with thanks for the good things the Lord has given us. Paul then

focuses on the duty of husbands and wives to give themselves up for one another in love. Paul then concludes this dialogue by telling us to “put on the whole armor of God and to stand firm!”

-Larry Farner

God, Time and History

Pentecost is the story of the outpouring of the spirit upon the Disciples. Such was the force of that experience, that the structure of Synagogue and the Temple were made obsolete. But, the coming of the Spirit renewed the personal lives of believers and created a new community and a new fellowship, dedicated to the mission of the Gospel. Life in this new Apostolic Church consisted of an interplay of Spirit, community and witness.



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|-----------------------------|--------------|---|
| IN LOVING MEMORY OF | |  |
| Steven Michael Boyce | | |
| 1953 - 2023 | | |
| SUNRISE | SUNSET | |
| March 3, 1953 | June 4, 2023 | |
| Funeral Service: | | |
| Bethany Church | | |
| 713 S. Hill Park Dr., | | |
| Puyallup WA 98373 | | |
| MARCH 23, 2024 - 2PM | | |

Mid-Week Bible Study



Thursday, 10 am is mid-week Bible Study. Pastor Rob is teaching. Consider attending.

Importance of Church Family

Being part of a church family is definitely more than thoughts and prayers. What does it mean to be part of this unique family? It means reaching out even when you don't know what to say. It could mean patting someone on the shoulder to show you care even if you aren't sure how that person will respond. Sometimes you are concerned about saying the "right" thing. However, sometimes it just means being a good listener and not having to feel like you need to fix things. If it is difficult to say something in person, even a brief or meaningful text or email will help. Don't be afraid to pick the phone up or write a short note. It's amazing how much that can help this "family" member.

Sometimes you don't realize the importance of being part of a church family until a crisis touches you personally. Our family experienced one of those moments this past week. It was one of those situations that you only read or hear about and never imagine would happen to someone you love. At that point you are numb and don't know how to react. This was when my church family stepped in and helped me pick up the pieces. I want you to know how much I appreciate you. With every text, email, phone call, conversation and hug it gives you just a little more strength and encouragement.

Thank you to all of you that reached out, Sharie

It Matters

On the first Sunday of every month you, members of Emmanuel, share your "First Fruits" with food donations to our local food bank. Some people may think it is so easy to put something in the food cart but, they would be wrong. It takes planning on the part of the "giver" who while doing their weekly shopping, you, the giver, see items you know the food bank could really use. At the same time, you think of those who are hungry or need help in their day-to-day struggle to just get by. You even pray for them to have hope and God in their lives. The "Them" for March is "clean out the cupboards". Maybe there is an extra gravy packet, a stray bag of stuffing, even an extra can of beans or fruit. All these items will put food on the table for children, low income working parents and seniors. Some may think...."does my small contribution really matter"?..... It matters!!!



-Sally Farner, Coordinator

Did You Know This?

Prophets in the early Christian community were believed to be divinely inspired. Agabus, a prophet of Jerusalem, was therefore given a respectful hearing when he warned the church of Antioch of impending famine. The famine indeed happened during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Later Agabus warned Paul that the Jews would have him arrested by Roman soldiers if he returned to Jerusalem, this prophecy also was fulfilled. Have you read the book of Revelations lately?

Wisdom

A man, according to Augustine, goes from remembering to understanding and from understanding to willing. This how we move from thinking to doing. But, how do we know our understanding is correct? I know a man who believes that his understanding, his beliefs, his conclusions are absolutely correct and he will not even consider a compromise. So I asked him, "Do you believe that God loves you?" "Absolutely he replied". "Don't you know", said I, "That in order for God to love you just as you are He had to compromise?" He allows us to believe we are in control. Some people actually believe they are in control! As proof, they go to the seashore and standing in the surf they say. "Let the sun rise" and the sun does rise. Then, he says, "Let the mist vanish." And the mist begins to vanish. Then he says "Let the tide ebb and let the beach appear." And then man says, "See what I can do!" Jesus, in His word says, "Have I been with you so long a time and yet you have not known me?" To really understand what Jesus said is a lifelong journey. As man goes about on his journey through life, finally realizing that he is clearly not in control, then his life begins to reveal God. -Larry



You Make the Difference....Yes, You!

It takes a lot of people giving of their time and talents and their financial support to have a Church....a place of worship! Without people answering the call, Emmanuel wouldn't be here. Look around the next time you attend a worship service, a Bible study or a special Church event. Imagine that if all those folks who it took to make it happen just disappeared? Or never existed. Just imagine as you look around at all those Christian Brothers and Sisters that you have come to love and care about had never known there was a Lutheran Church on Perry Avenue, a place where they could have come to for Worship and fellowship. Do you, for even a minute, believe you have not made a difference because you have taken on a role, as task, a mission as a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. A Church is not a place, or an address..it's a congregation and a congregation of people. People working together to create a place where we all share together a "little piece of Heaven", a sanctuary for "True Believers ". For all of you who make it happen for all of us....Thanks and may our Lord Bless you as you have blessed all of us, the members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. -Larry



Sunday School for All Ages

All ages are invited to Sunday School starting at 9:00 am.



Signs



A sign along the road in an area suffering extreme destruction because of forest fires, with no rain for over two months read...."Even if you are an atheist, pray for rain."

February Birthdays

- 2-----Tiffany Johnson
- 5-----Pat Alcantra
- 11-----Patrick Gehring
- 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-----Josh Armstrong

March Anniversaries

- 13-----Cole & Maurine Simons
- 18-----Steve & Judy Armstrong

If you have any additions or corrections to our birthday or anniversary list please let our editor, Sharie Adrig, know at gadrig@comcast.net



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.

Palm Sunday —March 24th

Good Friday Service ----

March 29th

Easter Sunday —March 31st



Members Serving in February

- Altar Guild -----Carol Henning
Arriel Atienza
- Reader -----Arriel Atienza
- Acolytes ---4, Bella---11, Nathan---
18, Tiffany---25, Bella

Members Serving in March

- Altar Guild-----Jo Klempan
- Reader-----Linda Hagan
- Acolytes -----TBA

What's Coming Up?

February

- 18-----9:00---Children's & Adult
Sunday School
10:00---Worship Service
- 19-----President's Day
- 21-----12, noon---Lenten Soup Luncheon
- 22-----10:00 ---Mid-week Bible Study
- 25-----9:00 ---Children's & Adult
Sunday School
10:00 ---Worship Service
- 28-----12, noon---Lenten Soup Luncheon
- 29-----10:00 ---Mid-week Bible Study

March

- 3-----9:00---Children's & Adult
Sunday School
10:00---Worship Service
- 4-----6:00 pm---Kitsap Peninsula
Knitting Guild
- 6-----12, noon-Lenten Soup Luncheon
- 7-----10:00---Mid-week Bible Study
- 10-----9:00 ---Children's & Adult

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.