



THE WITTENBERG DOOR

FEBRUARY 2026 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

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Pastor's Message

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SERVING IN GOD'S MISSION, LETTING JESUS TAKE THE LEAD, LETS FOLLOW TOGETHER

"He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption; therefore as it is written, Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord." (I Corinthians 1:30-31).

First steps in Re-Vitality for our congregation is to come together around the Word of God (Christ Jesus, (John 1:1-5) and Scripture, and admit a few things about ourselves, our Lord Jesus of Nazareth, and His servant Paul (formerly Saul). Saul was changed forever as he walked on the Road to Damascus, and Jesus revealed Himself to him in a great and powerful light, and thunderous voice that called out, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:1-19).

Jesus already knew Paul, and had been planning to call Paul, in the power of the Gospel, "not from men, nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead..." ((Galatians 1:1). Paul was to mention elsewhere that this calling as an apostle was from the very beginning, and was foretold by the Prophets (Romans 1:1-5), and that he was called not merely due to his family lineage, education, exploits on behalf of Israel, or a zealous attitude, but by the Lord Jesus Himself, who called him and sent him as an apostle to the Gentiles (I Corinthians 1:26-29).

As we enter the New Year, 2026, I encourage you to read God's Word daily, Pray and ask the Lord to guide your hearts and minds; In hearing His Word and receiving the Sacraments as your calling to obey and follow Jesus, ask that you might to hear and know the calling of God to you as a member of the Body of Christ here at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Humbly ask the Lord to encourage you in His Word and Sacraments, to know that we are your brothers and sisters in Christ, and we face the same temptations to wander, challenges to what the world calls a "foolish faith", and a seemingly overwhelming tide of confusion over who in the world is even telling the truth?

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Pastor's Message continued.....

According to God's Word and Holy Spirit, we can come home to the truth in Christ, by which only the power and grace of God can call us to right relationship with Him by grace and through faith. It is through trust in Him alone, and daily strength through God's promised Holy Spirit in the Word and Sacraments. By grace, and in receiving Him, we can be confident and know this peace in Christ, unto life everlasting! (Think of the blessing Pastors are able to say during the distribution of Holy Communion:

"Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in One true faith in Him, unto Life Everlasting. Amen!"

Thank you for calling me to be your Pastor. As a learner and as a servant, I Invite you to join with me in service, prayer, and by God's grace the blessings of His Word and Sacraments. May the Lord do amazing and marvelous things among us, as those called and empowered in His name! (I Corinthians 1:26-30):

-Pastor Gary Koutsopolous

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Join us for a special Ash
Wednesday worship
service on Wednesday,
February 18th at
3:00 pm.



Lenten Soup Luncheons

February 25th marks the beginning of
our Lenten services and soup
luncheons. There is a
sign-up list to help
with soups and
breads. Luncheons
start at 12:00, noon.



ELC Staffing & Elected Positions—2026

Congratulations Emmanuel for a great spirit of unity and support during the 2026 Annual Meeting. Below are our new staffing and elected positions for 2026.

Council President: Larry Farner, **Vice-President:** Rose Link, **Church Treasurer:** Judy Armstrong, **Church Council members:** Glen Adrig, Steve Armstrong, Judy Armstrong, Larry Farner, Carl Knight, Rose Link, Teresa Prange, Chelette Williams, Jim Turowski, and Miki Turowski.

Financial Secretaries: Bob Klempan, Jo Klempan, Larry Farner, Sally Farner, Angela Branson, Glen Adrig, Sharie Adrig, Teresa Prange

Altar Guild: Jo Klempan, Sharie Adrig, Teresa Prange, Chelette Williams, Sally Farner, Larry Farner, Rose Link, Steve Armstrong, Kristin Covarrubias, Maurine Simons (Alternate)

Kitchen (hospitality) staff: Teresa Prange, Rose Link, Stu Link

Lutherhaven Reps: Glen Adrig, Teresa Prange, Larry Farner (Alternate)

“Crossing the Finish Line”

In the recent newsletter we received from our missionary, Bob Fox, we were so sad to read that his beloved wife and our dear friend, Cheryl, went to be with our Lord on Monday, February 2nd. She was only 59 at the time of her death.

Cheryl was an amazing person. She devoted much of her life to helping and supporting others. This included their time spent in Niger as missionaries. To know Cheryl was to love her. She had the spark of the holy spirit.

Our prayers are with her beloved husband, Bob, and their family during this difficult time.

-friend and editor



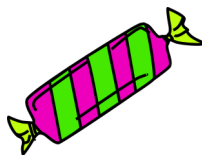
Everybody Wins!!!

You Emmanuel have done it again....75 cans of soup (+ other nourishing food) for a total of 157 pounds AND \$75 was donated as well on “Soup-er—Bowl” Sunday. You have shared the bounty, the Lord is pleased and the good folks who need our help are “gonna eat another day”everybody wins!!!!

Next First Fruits Sunday ———Sunday, March 1st



We Need Candy



We have 3,000 eggs to fill for our Easter Egg Hunt this year. Some of us are filling them on Sunday after our services. Keep in mind that we need small wrapped pieces of candy. Each egg has candy and a Bible verse included.

Next time you go to the store think about putting in a bag of small wrapped candies. Thank you to Rose and Teresa for coordinating this. Thanks to all that are helping to fill the eggs.

God, Time and History

By 324 Constantine was master of the Roman world an epoch of peace and prosperity. He established a new capital on the Bosphorus which was called “New Rome”. As the center of a thriving civilization and economic and political power, it became known as Constantinople-the greatest city in the Christian world. It would become the modern city of Istanbul in Turkey.



-Larry

Blunted Toys



Why would God allow elements like Uranium U-235 and U-238 to be available so we could build an Atomic Bomb? Why didn't He protect us from harming ourselves like we do when we buy our kids "blunted" toys? Does it perhaps have something to do with the concept of discernment that is so prevalent in "His" Word. Is it kind of like the life lessons passed along to us in the book of Proverbs? Or is it just our nature to self-destruct? That is not what our Lord wants for us when He speaks to us through His Word about love, about obedience, about husbandry or our world and about doing to and for others with whom we share the resources and beauty of this place-this world He has given to us. It is all about lessons learned and faith- acceptance that in all things, "His" will be done!

-Larry

Did You Know This?

JOAB, the son of David's sister, Zeruah, was a fearless warrior and commander of David's Army. Joab was either a loyal supporter or in opposition to David. It was Joab who eliminated Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba in David's behalf. Joab also supported Absalom, David's son who had been in revolt against his father. In the end, Solomon had Joab killed.

—Larry



Coming in Second

I've known Minister's wives who clearly did not have the same commitment to the "call" as their husband. Becoming a Pastor is not at all like choosing a profession. If you are a Doctor, Plumber, or a Police Officer you expect from time-to-time to be called out at all hours to respond to an emergency. Usually, their wives and children recognize and accept this. However, this is not always true for a Pastor's family. For a Pastor it may be seen by his family that members of the Congregation "always" come first. Even when the Pastor is at home, he is often not always available to his family because he is preparing sermons, Sunday School lessons or on the phone with troubled members of his Church. He is virtually on call 24-7 and not just for emergencies or home visits but also, weddings, counseling, funerals, hospital visits or as a mediator between an angry husband and wife. Not to mention there is never that special time at home for Christmas or Easter as he is on those occasions in the Pulpit. If it any wonder that a Pastor's wife isn't as "bubbly" or "smiley" as maybe we think she should be? Or that "Preacher's kids" tend to feel that "dad is never there for us"? Or that they won't be getting that new bicycle for Christmas because dad had to buy groceries or fill a gas tank for a member of his flock! Jealousy and resentment may be a Sin but it's also a very human and real emotion. We may ourselves have dealt with the feeling of not measuring up or that we are of little value which is why we need to "be there" with love for both our Pastor and his family because life can be so hard when you feel like you are "always coming in second."

-Larry

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
 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

**Let's Hear From You**

Be worthy of love and love will come. Do you think that's true?
 Success is not final, it is the courage to continue that counts. What does it mean to be successful in life?

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 and Stu for all you do.

**Men's Fellowship Breakfast**

Second Saturday of the month!

8:30 AM at All Star Lanes

Questions? Ask Glen or Pastor Gary

Members Serving in February

Altar Guild-----Sally Farner
 Reader-----Bob Klempan

Members Serving in March

Altar Guild-----Jo Klempan
 Reader-----Larry Farner

What's Coming Up?**February**

14---8:30-----Men's Fellowship Breakfast
 15-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 18-----3:00-----Ash Wednesday Service
 19-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 22-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 25-----12, noon-----Lenten Service
 & Soup Luncheon
 26-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study

March

1-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service (First Fruits)
 4-----12, noon-----Lenten Service,
 & Soup Luncheon
 5-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 8-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 9-----6-----Kitsap Peninsula Knitting Guild
 11-----12, noon-----Lenten Service
 & Soup Luncheon
 14-----8:30 -----Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Good Friday Service—April 3rd

Easter Sunday Worship Service—April 5th

