

# THE WITTENBERG DOOR

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



## Pastor's Message

***"This New Year, Our Fresh Start, Following Jesus with a Servant Heart"***

*-Mark 10:35-45*

35. And James and John the sons of Zebedee came up to him and said to him, "Teacher we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." 36. And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" 37. And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, on at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." 38 Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" 39. And they said to him, "we are able". And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized you will be baptized." 40. But to sit at my right hand, or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." 41. And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. 42. And Jesus called them to him and said to them "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant. 44. And whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. 45. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:35-45)

A year ago this October, I was working as a cashier at a Home Depot in Snohomish County, Washington. I was making just a dollar or two over what they are now calling minimum wage, and proud to have a full-time job with health benefits and time off for vacation. I worked with many hard-working people as colleagues. Most of us were second or third career employees who had previous goals and education, and were in-between jobs or supplementing retirement. We valued doing our best to "take care of the customer." Like many retail jobs, this would be a combination of daily time and duty disciplines, self-care to keep one's back, knees, shoulders and ankles, loose and free of injury, and finding a pace that was sustainable. We had some true giants in our midst, working well through chronic and regular health or mobility challenges, and these would include the aches and pains that they dealt with each time they arrived for work. Our hours of standing, cement floors and gravity, and long hours were felt by all. We also were aware of those who were half-hearted, and brazenly sought every effort to work conspicuously when the boss was around; and revert to doing as little work as possible otherwise. We knew people like James and John, in our Scripture for this article today, and some not only asked for advancement among their peers, but have also been promoted because of it. In this Gospel, the other ten were "indignant" because it must have seemed such an aggressive and presumptuous "power ask". (Mark 10:41).

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**Contact Pastor Gary at**  
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**Pastor's Message continued.....**

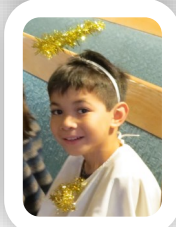
Like James and John, I have needed to hear, believe and be challenged to live out what true greatness, giving and love is in God's Kingdom. I need every day to both hear and practice the truth, that, "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant; and to be first among others, we must first be slave of all." (Mark 10:43-44). Then, when I realize Jesus qualifying His own life-giving service, with the very cup that he would drink, and the baptism with which He was baptized, I am even more set back. Can I bear the cross that He did bear, and drink the same cup that He would drink? I am humbled to tears that I have thought myself even remotely worthy. Perhaps Jesus said it most succinctly and powerfully in giving us His own life and ministry plan when he said, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45). As a Christian, husband, father, pastor and citizen, as well as servant at all points, I pray the Lord will give me His heart, and courage, along with God's calling to be as Christ unto those to whom I am sent.

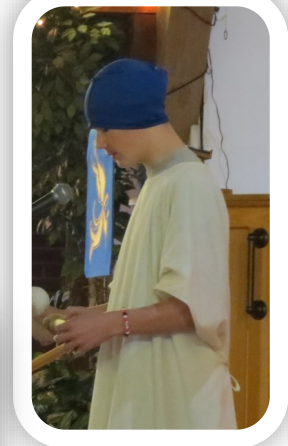
Please hear and consider in these verses the promised gift of God in Christ; that indeed, just as James and John were told, our Lord says to us today: *"The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized you will be baptized..."* In the very Word of God and the Sacraments, the whole of Jesus' righteousness is given by the grace of God, through faith in Christ, according to His Holy Word. All thanks and Glory be to God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!



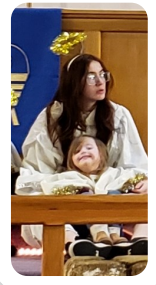
Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos

**Christmas Pageant .....2023**





Special Thanks to  
Judy Armstrong,  
Chelette Williams  
and Rhonda  
Jaramillo for  
putting together  
this wonderful  
pageant. Thanks  
to the children  
and young people  
that participated  
and shared a  
special story of  
Jesus's birth.



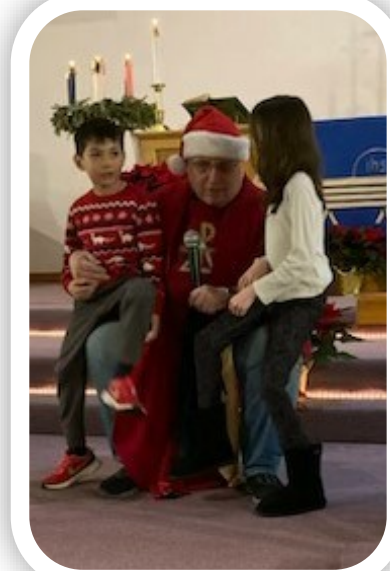
Special Thanks to  
Maurine Simons  
for the many  
pictures.



Special Thanks to all that purchased Poinsettias  
for our Altar on Christmas Eve.



## Christmas Eve Service at Emmanuel- 2023



The Celebration of Life service for Mae McConnell has been set for Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 11 am.

Miki and Jim thank you for your prayers, cards & words of condolence. They have been a true source of comfort to the family.

### Emmanuel You are Amazing

You supported 50 children outside our borders with our shoeboxes. You supported 5 children in our childcare center. The parents were moved to tears with your generosity towards their children. Because of you, children have warm jackets, hygiene supplies, a warm blanket and toys



to play with. Thanks to Thrivent they had a Christmas dinner and food on their table.

### Because of You

In 2023 because of YOUR food donations these are some of the things that could have happened: Following Souper Bowl Sunday in February of 2023, 153 bowls of hot soup were enjoyed by 152 cold and hungry homeless folks; Kids were able to go to school because parents were able to buy them shoes instead of groceries; Students were able to wash their clothes at the laundromat; Kids had food for weekends and school breaks; Gas was put into a gas tank for someone to go to work; A surprise medical bill or co-pay was paid; A much needed winter jacket was purchased; A medical prescription was filled; These are just a few things our neighbors in need were able to do, BECAUSE OF YOU and your good will and your food donations .....Hallelujah and Amen!

Sally Farnar, coordinator



## Adult Sunday School Study for 2024, “1st, 2nd and 3rd John January 7th—March 17th 9 am in Fellowship Hall

Study Content: Among the many books of the New Testament, these are close to our hearts because of their confidence and trust in The Word of God as true, and the importance of God’s Word in the faith, life, families, confession of sins, and absolution of those following and obeying Jesus. *(Paraphrase) “When we strip away what is superficial... a discover what is the essence of genuine Christianity ... we see what qualities and beliefs must be present in a living and life-changing faith?” (paraphrased from John’s Letters, Life-Guide\* Ron Blankley, Bible Studies: Discovering Genuine Christianity. Intervarsity Press. Downers Grove, ILL 60515*

*Key Concepts: Christ is God’s Truth and Love revealed: I John 3:16-19: v.16. By this we love, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17. But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? 18. Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth. 19. By this we shall know that we are of the truth, and reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts and He knows.” 23. And this is the commandment that we should believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He has commanded us. 24. All who keep His commandments abide in Him and He in them. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit which He has given us.” (I John 3:16-19; 23-24).*

**You are invited to come to this time of study, prayer, discussion, learning and we pray, growing in Jesus’ name. Bring your Bible and bring a friend!**

God bless you in Jesus, and in His Word, Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos

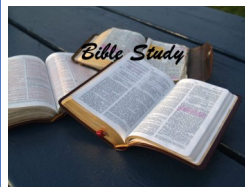


### Children’s Sunday School

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



### Mid-Week Bible Study



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

### God, Time and History



Christianity is a historical religion. God reveals Himself to His people, not in doctrinal statements nor in theoretical studies but, in action and as a story of relationships. If Christianity is indeed a historical religion, then “all” history is God’s history, which is a witness of a divine purpose which is moving toward a divine goal—the “strategy” of God. -Larry

## Angel of Mercy

On a cold snowy day in February 1940, a motorist driving through eastern Pennsylvania stopped to provide aid to a man who, while driving too fast, wrecked his car and was lying unconscious in a ditch. The passing motorist took the injured driver to a hospital where the injured driver laid in a coma. Then, finally recovered. Four years later in the winter of 1944 in Germany, the recovered driver, now a captured B-17 pilot was being marched several miles to a pow camp. Exhausted and suffering from the cold he collapsed along the roadside. When he came to, he realized he was being helped by the same person, also a B-17, who had rescued him in Pennsylvania during the winter of 1940. Both men survived the war. After the war, the former pilot who had been rescued twice by the same man was in a deep depression. He had lost his job and was now enjoying what he was sure, because he was broke, was his last meal with all the change he had in his pocket. As he sat there head down, he felt a tap on his shoulder. Looking up, he saw the very same man who had rescued him in Pennsylvania and again in Germany. After a shared meal and words of comfort from



the man who had decided to stop at a small café he had never previously visited on his way to inspect a factory he owned in Harrisburg, the man who had come to the “end of his trail”, was offered a job with a weeks pay in advance. This is actually, a true story and, doesn't it remind us of how many times our Lord, by way of the Holy Spirit has intervened in our lives to guide us along life's journey.

Larry Farner

### Did You Know This?

Abigail was the wife first of Nabal and later of King David. She bore David his second son, called Chileab (2 Samuel 3:3) But Daniel in 1 Chronicles 3:1.

### Know Your Bible

On the third day, God (a) created the great whales, (b) Said, “Let the Earth bring forth grass”, ( c) Created called and creeping things, (d) Created man. (Gen 1:11-13)



**I encourage personal stories and articles to be submitted for our monthly Wittenberg Door newsletter. Please**

**email to Sharie (editor) at**



**gadrig@comcast.net**

**January Birthdays**

14-----Chris Knight  
 18-----Dolly Williams  
 29-----Larry Ficca  
 29-----Miki Turowski

**January Anniversaries**

2-----Pastor Gary & Lori Koutsopoulos  
 14-----Mike & Carverlyne Prothero

**February Birthdays**

2-----Tiffany Johnson  
 5-----Pat Alcantra  
 11-----Patrick Gehring  
 15-----Bob Klempan  
 23-----Jim Turowski  
 29-----Annabell Williams

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



**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.



**Members Serving in January**

Altar Guild -----Sharie Adrig  
 Chelette Williams  
 Reader -----Glen Adrig  
 Acolytes --7, Tiffany--14, Bella---  
 21, Nathan--28, Tiffany

**Members Serving in February**

Altar Guild -----Sally Farnar  
 Arriel Atienza  
 Reader -----Arriel Atienza  
 Acolytes -----TBA

**What's Coming Up?**

*January*

6-----10 am ----Undecorating Party  
 7-----9 am-----Adult Bible Study  
 Children's Sunday School  
 10 am-----Worship Service  
 8-----6 pm-----Kitsap Peninsula  
 Knitting Guild  
 10-----12, noon---Women's Lunch  
 11-----10 am -----Bible Study  
 13 -----8:30am ---Men's Breakfast  
 14-----9 am-----Adult Bible Study  
 Children's Sunday School  
 10 am ----Worship Service  
 17 -----12, noon---Women's Lunch  
 18-----10 am -----Bible Study  
 21 -----9 am ---Adult Bible Study  
 Children's Sunday School  
 10 am ---Worship Service  
 24-----12, noon---Women's Lunch  
 25 -----10 am -----Bible Study  
 28 -----9 am --Adult Bible Study  
 Children's Sunday School  
 10 am ---Worship Service  
 31-----12, noon -Women's Lunch