



THE WITTENBERG DOOR

JANUARY 2025 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCBREMERTON.ORG
 2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

Pastor's Message

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STILL BEING A DISCIPLE AND MAKING DISCIPLES (Acts 17:20-32; Matthew 28:16-20)

²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,^[a] ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for" 'In him we live and move and have our being';^[l] as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring."^[c] ²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." ³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." (Acts 17:22-32)

This is why Paul responded to such human centered religious practices by saying that : "²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,^[a] ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ":

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Pastor's Message continued.....

God gives us assurance in Jesus the Lord

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Members, in this New Year 2025, in remembering the blessed years of life and ministry here at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. It is still our goal and hope to follow and obey our Lord and God, and His calling to follow Christ and him crucified; To obey His command to make disciples of all people and nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Just as for decades, the efforts to teach and disciple others as our Lord has taught us, is still the life-blood of our church's heart and Gospel message to those whom He is sending us. As the song, writer Stuart Townend has written:

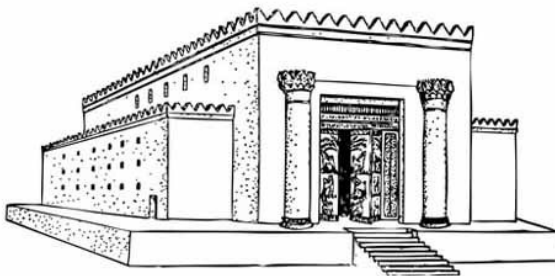
*“I will not boast in anything, No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom But I will boast in Jesus Christ His death and Resurrection; Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give and answer But this I know with all my heart His wounds have paid my ransom”** (2 Corinthians 10:13-18; Romans 5:8-11; (You Tube .“How Deep the Father's Love for us, Stuart Townend. May 6, 2012).

(Matthew 28:16-20) It will be our goal and Great Commission, to begin, carry out and continue in this calling, and to branch forth every day in renewing this response according the Gospel Word, given by grace, through faith in Christ, by the power of His Holy Spirit (Romans 1:16-17). Amen and God bless you in this New Year and Continued Hope in Christ our Savior!

Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos

God, Time & History

How the first Christians worshipped. Since the first Christians accepted and believed Jesus was the Messiah, it is not surprising that Jewish influences are seen in the patterns of early Christian worship. The two centers of Jewish worship, the Jerusalem Temple and the network of local synagogues throughout Palestine handed-on a recognizable legacy to the Christian Church. The synagogue played the most dominate role with it's pattern of scripture readings



and sermons within a framework of praise and congregational prayers. (Luke 4:16-30), gives a description of Jewish worship. Later, the Apostles used the synagogue as a springboard for evangelism and teaching. The sermons reported in the book of Acts are examples of early Christian preaching.

- Larry Farner

Are You a Magi?

The Magi were a priestly caste in Persia, who brought gifts to the infant baby Jesus. (Matthew 2:1-2). Actually, there were 66 verses in the Bible that contain the term, "to give". For a true believer, the message couldn't be more clear. When you bring "your gifts" to place upon the altar on First Fruits Sunday, you are not only being obedient, you are being a Magi!



-Sally Farner, coordinator

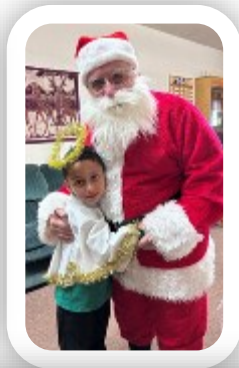
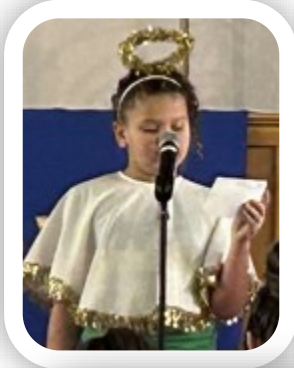
Emmanuel, You Are Special!!

Emmanuel has a small congregation but are you ever mighty in spirit. You were challenged to pack 100 shoeboxes, YOU DID IT!! You were challenged to provide a wonderful Christmas for three deserving families in our childcare center. YOU DID IT!! You were asked to help update our kitchen with some new supplies and equipment. YOU DID IT!! We are so blessed by all that you are capable of doing.

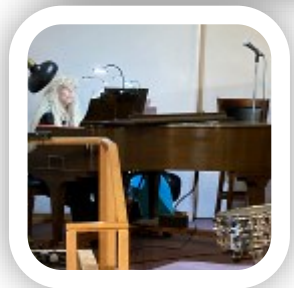
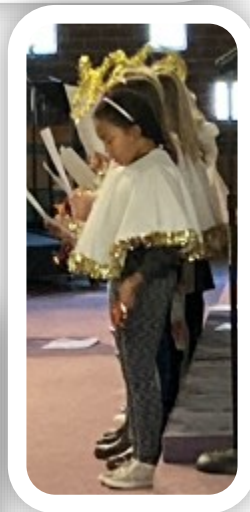


Sharie, Editor

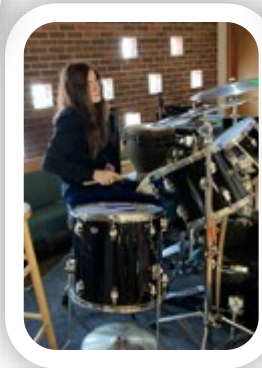
Children's Christmas Pageant.....2024



Our precious angels!



Our two musicians, Rhonda and Tiffany did an incredible job!! Well done!





Special Thanks to our Pageant coordinators, Judy Armstrong and Carverlyne Prothero!!
Thank you to one of the mom's, Linda, for sharing the pictures.

Christmas Eve Worship Service.....

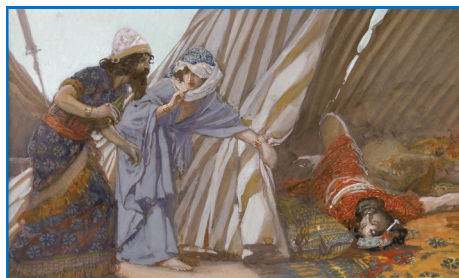


Special Music for a Special Candlelight Service.
Thanks to our musicians!!



Did You Know This?

HEBER. A descendent of Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, Heber lived apart from other Kenites at the Oak Zaananim, near Kadesh. After the destruction of his army by the prophetess, Deborah, and her commander, Barak Sisera, the leader of the Canaanite forces took sanctuary in Heber's supposedly neutral tent. Thinking he was safe, Sisera fell asleep-only to be assassinated by Heber's wife, Jael.



-Larry

Can They Be Believed?

Many of our elected Presidents claimed to be Christians. Often, they would say things like, "May God be with us", "May God Bless America", or, "I place my trust in the Lord." Some of them even attended church and befriended noted Christian leaders like Billy Graham or Martin Luther King Jr. But...were they sincere? I leave that answer to you....as for me? I would like to share a diary entry from one of our former Presidentsone I do believe. "The only crown Jesus ever wore was one of thorns place there by the emissaries of the Roman Emperor and the Jewish priesthood. He came to help the lowly and the down trodden. If Jesus were to return, he'd be on the side of the persecuted all around the world. He would not be wearing a golden crown and fine raiment, He'd most likely be wearing a ready made sack suit and be standing on a street corner preaching tolerance, brother love and truth. He's be shunned and persecuted by the most liberal of our modern day followers of the man with the gold crown. He'd probably be placed in a sanitarium in the free countries. He'd be shot, hanged or sent to a slave labor camp behind the iron curtain. He'd no more recognize the teachings in St. Peter's or Canterbury Cathedrals than he would in Riverside or Trinity Churches in New York or the First Baptist or Foundry Methodist Churches in Washington. He was a reformer and a



protestant against organized, priesthood-controlled religion. He taught that every man is the creation of a merciful God, that men are sinners and that He had come into the world to teach sinners how to approach His Father-and the way was not through Caiaphas, the High Priest, or Augustus, the Roman Emperor. The way is direct and straight. Any man can tell the Almighty and Most , Merciful God his troubles and directly ask for guidance. And, he will get it. (Harry S. Truman, U.S. President, 1945-1953

- Larry Farner

Just For Fun

You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice;
I used to be indecisive, now I'm not so sure;
To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target;
You are never too old to learn something stupid.

Thanks Larry, for your contributions!

January Birthdays

14-----Chris Knight
 29-----Larry Ficca
 29-----Miki Turowski

January Anniversaries

2-----Pastor Gary & Lori Koutsopolous
 14-----Mike & Carverlynn Prothero

February Birthdays

2-----Tiffany Johnson
 5-----Pat Alcantra
 11-----Patrick Gehring
 14-----Ward Erickson IV
 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



Members Serving in January

Altar Guild-----Sharie Adrig
 Chelette Williams
 Reader-----Maurine Simons

Members Serving in February

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

What's Coming Up?

January

13-----6 pm-----Peninsula Knitting Guild
 16-----10-----Midweek Bible Study
 19-----9 -----Adult's & Children's
 Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 20-----Martin Luther King Day
 23-----10-----Midweek Bible Study
 26-----9-----Adult's & Children's
 Sunday School
 10 -----Worship Service

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 26th
 following the Worship Service.

30-----10-----Midweek Bible Study

February

2-----9-----Adult's & Children's
 Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 6-----10-----Midweek Bible Study
 9-----9-----Adult's & Children's
 Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 10-----6 pm-----Peninsula Knitting Guild

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

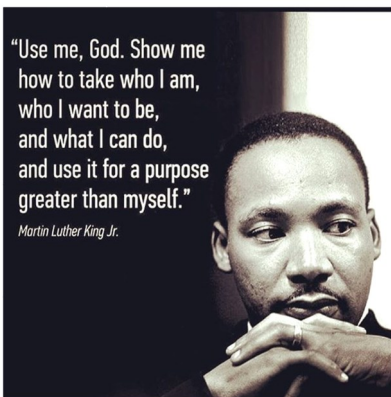
Second Saturday of the month!

8:30 AM at All Star Lanes

Questions? Ask Glen or Pastor Gary

"Use me, God. Show me how to take who I am, who I want to be, and what I can do, and use it for a purpose greater than myself."

Martin Luther King Jr.



Check out our new updated Website at ELCBremerton.ORG

Special thanks to our Webmaster: Aaron Maruska