



THE WITTENBERG DOOR

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

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Pastor's Message

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Serving Together in God's Mission

By the Word of God and the Sacraments the Church is created and in Christ Its Lord, we are called, enlightened and sanctified by His Holy Spirit. He is our life and vitality, and we follow Him by grace and through faith in Jesus, according to Scripture:

So in 2026 and our estimation of how it's going in our Church life, and what shall we make of the year gone by? What about the New Year Ahead?

Thank, honor, and glorify God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Some of the questions we tackled on the All-Church Survey, were difficult, One question asked, point blank, "do you think you will out-last your Church?" Good News, we may not be sure of our staying power, but Jesus is at the Cornerstone of His Church, and regardless of our human efforts or failures, both He and His Church will stand forever (Isaiah 40:6-8; 16:18-19;).

This is true, that the year that has been, and the year now ahead is gone to history, but kept solely in the bosom of Jesus of Nazareth, and the ministry to which He has now called us. From the time of Martin Luther, to the days of the beginning of our Congregation, if others were to ask what our hope and strength is, we would by grace be able to respond, It's in Christ and Him Crucified (I Corinthians 2:2). This one thing we could also preach, teach, share and hold fast by grace and confidence in Him alone.

Like on that far away mound of rocks called the Areopagus, where Paul met with the great philosophers, and minds of the ancient world in Athens, we can be sure that we live, move, have our being in the crucified and Risen Lord Jesus; It's in Him, by his grace, we have faith for believing. It's in Him, not by sight, but by His Spirit we'll be seeing; It's in Him we become more than safe in times fleeting; It's in Him we keep following in the lives He's still leading (Acts 17:28-31).

2026 Looks promising my brothers and sisters in Christ. It looks promising because the One who has promised, to never leave us or forsake us has never broken His promise, and He is not going to start now (Romans 8:28-30)!

May the Lord bless and keep you always in His care; today, this year and unto life eternal!

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos

Contact Pastor

Gary at

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Making a difference for 100 children.....



Between the childcare
center and our
congregation
(and friends) we packed
100 shoeboxes again!!
Well done!!

Our Giving Tree



This year we were able to help 4 children from our Childcare Center. Thanks to all that helped with this.

Thanks not only to members but friends of Emmanuel.



A Special Christmas Pageant



We had a wonderful Christmas Pageant. Special thanks to Judy Armstrong, Rhonda Jaramillo, Carverlynn Prothero and staff. And of course special thanks to the wonderful children.

A Special Christmas Eve Worship Service



Our musician, Rhonda, and her talented student made our service extra special with their beautiful stringed instruments.



Paying It Forward

Proverbs 19:17. Where did the year go? Not long ago, it seems, we were still wearing shorts. The Holy Season of Christmas is still with us during these rainy and dark days. Christ is "always" with us. We now are starting another year of giving to our local food bank. Last year was a real challenge for the hungry, lost wages, cancelled supplements and reduced giving. Soon, February First Fruits Sunday will be upon us. Last year in February you donated 101 cans of soup for that special SOUP-ER-BOWL Sunday. Got ready for the "Kick Off" and lets go for a new record...102(+)!
-Sally

Did You Know This?

JETHRO. When Moses fled Egypt after killing a man he caught beating a Hebrew, he went to the land of Midian in the Sinai. As descendants of Abraham by his second wife Keturah, the Midianites were his distant blood relatives. Stopping to rest at a well, Moses rescued the daughters of a priest named Jethro who were being attacked by shepherds. In gratitude, Jethro invited Mose to remain in Midian and eventually Moses married Jethro's daughter Zepporah by whom he had two sons Gersham and Eliezer.
-Larry

God, Time and History

Despair and darkness. From the late 9th century until the mid 11th century internal and external problems steadily weakened Western Christendom. The continued attacks of the Muslims in the south, a wave of attackers from central Asia, the Magyars (Hungarians), and the almost overwhelming movement of Norsemen from Scandinavia, brought more fragmentation and chaos. The end of the world seemed at hand. It was seriously expected by many as the year 1000 approached.
- Larry

Confession– Part III

1 John 1: 9 -10. If my truth causes someone to become angry or defensive am I wrong to have told the truth? Is that wise? Is it good even if it's true to make someone else unhappy? Or, would there have been another way? When we decide to tell the Truth, should we consider that it may have been kinder to not tell the truth if the truth hurts-is it ever better to just avoid? If God would have withheld speech in favor of mind reading would what we see be more acceptable or would too much be revealed? Is confession really healing? When we pray to our Lord, He sees our heart and knows who we are, what we need, and whether we seek judgement or forgiveness. The truth is what we seek, for resolution. It is the human condition to want to confront, to understand to want to be loved-to obtain peace of mind. Whatever causes us to feel hurt or misunderstood or to be frustrated know and understand that God "has your back", He knows and understands your pain, your feeling of emptiness and yes, guilt. He heals that pain, fills the emptiness, forgives and forgets our sense of shame and embraces us with love. The truth is that it is by way of confession that we are set free.
-Larry

The Light

Last night, as I always do, I checked to be sure the bathroom door was ajar and the night light was on. The reason I always do that is so I can find my way in the night, so I can just "follow the light". Thinking about this I am reminded that "following the light" is something we Christians do all the time. So, what is that light we follow? It is Jesus, He is our light. When things are not going well, when we have a difficult decision to make, when we or a loved one has a serious health issue-we follow the light. The light revealed to us through His word or by the Holy Spirit guides and comforts us on our journey through life until we finally enter the ultimate light-the light which "is" the glory of God!
-Larry

January Birthdays

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

January Anniversaries

2-----Pastor Gary & Lori Kostopoulos

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

**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 January**

Altar Guild-----Jo Klempan
 Reader-----Maurine Simons
 Glen Adrig

Members Serving in February

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

What's Coming Up?**January**

11-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 12-----6pm-----Kitsap Peninsula Knitter's Guild
 15-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 18-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 22-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 25-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 29-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study

February

1-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 "First Fruits" Sunday Service
 5-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 8-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 9-----6 pm-----Kitsap Peninsula Knitter's Guild
 12-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 14-----8:30-----Men's Fellowship Breakfast
 15-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service

Humble Service That Anyone Can Do!

I have served on the Altar Guild for years. There are the same four people that have served and continue to serve. I consider this a blessing and an honor. It is a ministry that I consider one of the most important to our church. However, there are only 4 people serving that aren't getting any younger. This is not a difficult ministry but necessary to continue communion. Many people may be under the misconception that serving on Altar Guild is "Women's Work". However we have had men serve in the past and would welcome more men and women in the future. We are blessed to have Steve Armstrong assist us with changing our beautiful banners. Also, thanks to Jim that helps with clearing the altar and other men that have helped on occasion. I guarantee if you are interested in helping with Altar Guild you will not be left on your own until you feel you are ready. If you are interested talk to Jo Klempan or Sharie Adrig.
 -editor