



# THE WITTENBERG DOOR

JULY 2025

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

ELCBREMERTON.ORG

## Pastor's Message

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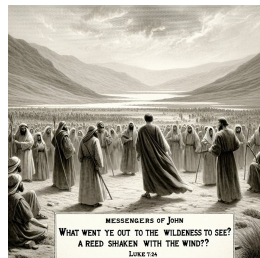
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### *From Luke 10 verses 1-10*

On the Sunday in Pentecost for July Fourth weekend, we read in Luke's Gospel that Jesus sent His original twelve disciples, and then soon after, he will send seventy-two more, to both reach out to surrounding towns and regions, preaching and teaching, healing and encouraging those in even the most adverse situations ("amongst serpents and scorpions, all the power of the enemy" Luke 10:19). He sent them with instructions on what to take and what not to take, and promised that His face would always be before them. When they came back from their mission trip, they came with joy and surprise! They recounted that they were amazed that they were so enlivened and empowered by their ability to do exactly as Jesus had foretold (their ability in casting out demons, preaching and teaching in His name). He used their "experience of His sending them into all the world, as yet another way to free others in bondage to darkness, and to teach them the Gospel of God's grace in Christ. It was Jesus' Word which emboldened them and His Spirit that gave them hope to be bold in their calling. Then He said something that is for them and for Christians in America to take to heart: He calls us in making disciples of all nations, and including our own town and homes. The meeting after their ministry and growth of their ministry successes sounded like this:

*<sup>17</sup> The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" <sup>18</sup> And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. <sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:17-20)*

As we hear this gospel Word of God, and come to believe that this is the same Word of God, as His calling upon us in both the founding of our Church and the calling upon each of us as members today, Not only do we rejoice in the enlivening and blessed ministry successes that we may find in our obedience to God's Word, but also in the most foundational truth that it was Jesus himself who is the hope and embodiment of God's love; It is by His grace and through faith in Him alone, that we have life, and it is He who has written our names in heaven (Luke 10:20). May the Lord bless you this "Freedom Month" with this true hope of heaven in the promise of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ: "rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (John 10:20).



-Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos

### Contact Pastor

Gary at

1 (541) 350-7737

or

ggkouts65@gmail.com

## *A First Time Event.....Community Barbeque*



Thanks to an idea that Jo had to Rose and Teresa planning this great idea, the first Community Barbeque, was quite a success. Special thanks to all who helped whether it was cooking, serving, waving flags along the side of the road to attract the passersby or simply being there to welcome and talk to our guests. You were all an important part of this first time event being a success. Some of us have gathered and discussed plans for next year. If you didn't help this year I encourage you to come and participate next year. It was a lot of fun. Thank you to all of you who helped.

## What's coming up at Emmanuel

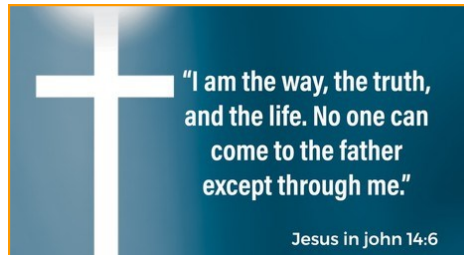
### One Day Vacation Bible School

**August 22nd -9 AM - Noon**

**Theme: John 14:6**

There will be a Bible Story, Music, Crafts, Food and Fun. This VBS will be for our Childcare Children and children in the community. Share this information with those that have children 3 years - 5th grade. I would suggest they contact the church to obtain registration forms.

If you are able to help in anyway that would be great and appreciated. Please contact Judy Armstrong.



### Independence???



For some of our neighbors, "Independence" means food on the shelf or in the fridge. Nobody wants to be "dependent" on others but for some, it's a reality. This

month, we all celebrated "Independence Day." For some folks in our community there were no hot dogs, hamburgers or steaks on the grill. No beans or potato salad; no iced tea or cola. For them, "Independence" is just another empty and depressing day. You can give the gift of hope and independence from hunger to those who are just scraping by when you load up the food cart on First Fruits Sunday on August 3rd for those who our Lord Jesus Christ loves just as He loves and cares for us.

- Sally Farner, coordinator

### Annual Church Picnic

**August 24th - Lutherhaven**

All members, friends, and family are invited to our annual church picnic at our beloved Lutherhaven. Please bring your own tablecloth, table ware, and plates. Consider bringing some food to share

with everyone. Boating and swimming are available.

We hope to see everyone there. Get the word out to your friends and family.



### It's Not Too Early

Many people have already been donating to our Operation Christmas Child ministry. Some of our biggest contributors are not even members of our church.

Chelette and I spent an afternoon sorting and organizing our donations so far. It's truly a blessing. We realized that we have an abundance of little cars and not much for girls. Also, this time of the year is a great time to buy school supplies. They are on sale right now.



-Sharie Adrig, coordinator

### Special Thanks to a Special Family!

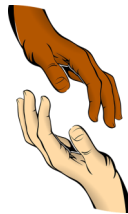
Recently the Haynes family lost their beloved family member, Kris. The Haynes family has been very special to our Child-care center and church. They donated a beautiful wheelchair, two walkers and a cane. What a generous donation. They are at the church if anyone has a need.

**Thank you to the Haynes family!**



### ***ELC Mid-Term Report***

On February 1st, 2025, a 14 member planning group met at ELC to identify and prioritize goals for our congregation for 2025. the group identified the top three goals as Outreach; Christian growth and Spiritual revival. To date, planning group members are working on a plan-of-action to address 14 focus goals. And, are on-schedule to meet these goals which are listed as follows: (1) Outreach, (2) Christian growth, (3) Spiritual revival, (4) Child outreach, (5) Inviting, (6) Child and adult choir, (7) Altar Guild, (8) Position descriptions, (9) Greeters, (10) Restoration of the church office and resource center, (11) Support of Lutherhaven, and (12) Kitchen upgrade (dishwasher). A most important goal for our church, one in which we making good progress is “involvement” of our members to “reach-out” to one-another and to our community. 2025 is not the end of our effort of growing our church-it is only the beginning.



-Larry Farner, Council President

### ***Going to the Dogs***

It's the “Dog Day's” of Summer. Long hot days and warm nights. Children are busy playing, adults and seniors worry how they will feed their families and themselves. It is always a challenge on limited incomes to have enough money for groceries and other necessities. You help them to deal with these issues with your donations of food and money every “First Fruits Sunday.” Thank you for being a good neighbor.....thank you for being a “Home Missionary.”

- Sally Farner

### ***God, Time and History***

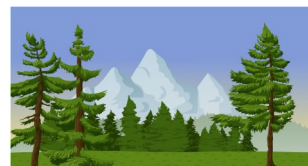
**Christians and Morality:** The success of the early church in dealing with the social evils of the day is debatable. It succeeded in ending Gladiatorial combat and crucifying Christians but chariot-races and extremely immoral theatre continued in spite of Christian condemnation. In some cases, the rigid sexual standards of the church were not observed. For many, it was difficult to live a Christian life in a secular world. A Christian magistrate for example, might have to order torture or execution. Thus, Christians were often advised, for the sake of their souls, to leave public office. The attitude of the church probably contributed to the decline of public morality in the Empire, as post were often filled with people of lower ideals. Does this story sound familiar to you? (de-ja vu).

-Larry Farner

### ***Dealing with Change!***

An important thought to keep in mind is that it is during the period of greatest change that the biggest improvements are made; that periods of our greatest challenge brings our greatest success that when we most fear, we are most brave; that when we confront a problem we eliminate it; that when we go forth to face our oppressor, we come away in peace. Whenever we seek to overcome, we discover who we are, and we bear the standard of faith, hope charity, forgiveness and love....we have ascended the mountain and moved closer to God!

-Larry Farner



***Let's Hear From You***

Please E-mail your responses to Sharie-our Newsletter editor.

- (1) What does it mean to truly understand someone?
- (2) Is it always possible to do your duty? How do we know what our duty is?
- (3) How much does our ancestry shape who we are?
- (4) What piece of music most touches your soul and why?

***Just For Fun***

If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.

With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.

Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.

***Did You Know This?***

ITTAI. The leader of a band of 600 Philistine soldiers employed by David at the time of the rebellion of his son, Absalom. Ittai showed remarkable loyalty to the King. When fleeing Jerusalem, David told Ittai what he did not need to follow him into exile. Ittai vowed to remain with David, however and later served as one of the principal generals in the victorious battle against Absalom.

-Larry



***Today's  
Forecast the  
Son Shines and  
God Reigns!***

***The Story Behind the Hymn-----"Be Still, My Soul"***

***"Truly my soul silently waits for God; From Him comes my salvation." Psalm 62:1***

This has always been one of my personal favorites. For two reasons: First, the melody is "Finlandia", the national anthem for Finland. My dad was Finnish and I am 48 % Finnish. Secondly, when my longest dearest friend's mother was dying my friend played this hymn for her mom, she was at peace and quietly passed away. I learned the words were written by a German author, Katharina von Schlegel. "This became a hymn that was sung during World War II when it comforted an entire nation. An American GI from WWII recalled his experience with this hymn when he was on the front lines in France. While a group of GI's gathered in a little church part of the roof of a quaint church in France opened up. The group began to sing "Be Still, My Soul". "As they began the second stanza, 'Be still my soul, Thy God doth undertake to guide the future as he hath the past', God seemed to whisper, Don't give up, I'm still in command, yes, even here. I'll guide the future as I have the past."

"As we left that little church, the peace I felt among the horrors of war was nothing but a gift of the Holy Spirit. God did spare me and allow me to return to my loved ones and His service and still preserves me. - Virgil J. Bachman, American GI

Taken from "Then Sings My Soul Book 2, by Robert J. Morgan-----submitted by Sharie Adrig

**July Birthdays**

1-----Cole Simons  
5-----Lori Koutsopoulos

**July Anniversaries**

17-----Pastor Rob & Delores Stroud

**August Birthdays**

15-----Bonnie Stouffer  
27-----Teresa Prange  
28-----Kris Covarrubias

**August Anniversaries**

1-----Pat Alcantra/Nancy Kerlee  
10-----Jim & Miki Turowski  
12-----Glen & Marialis Jurges  
27-----Carl & Melody Knight

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

**One Day VBS- August 22nd**

*How can you help?*

**Church Picnic -August 24th**

**Olympic Lutherhaven following  
our worship service!**

**Members Serving in July**

Altar Guild-----Teresa Prange  
Elli Anderson  
Reader-----Judy Armstrong

**Members Serving in August**

Altar Guild-----Sally Farner  
Reader-----Glen Adrig

**What's Coming Up?****July**

20-----10-----Worship Service  
24-----10-----Midweek Bible Study  
27-----10-----Worship Service  
31-----10-----Midweek Bible Study

**August**

3-----10-----Worship Service  
7-----10-----Midweek Bible Study  
9-----8:30 -----Men's Fellowship Breakfast  
10-----10-----Worship Service  
11-----Kitsap Peninsula Knitting Guild Field Trip  
14-----10-----Midweek Bible Study  
17-----10-----Worship Service  
22-----9-12-----VBS  
24-----10-----Worship Service  
12?----Church Picnic (Lutherhaven)

**Congregational Prayer-  
Scotland 1830**

"O God, our heavenly Father, almighty and  
everlasting Lord, which has safely brought  
us to the beginning of this day, defend us in  
the same with thy mighty power and grant  
that this day we fall into no sinne, nor off  
thy planet Earth, neither runne into any  
kind of danger; but, that all our doings may  
be ordered by governance, to do always that  
is righteous in thy sight, and to hold down  
fast upon thy earth which has made for us  
they children; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord, Amen." any prayer is a good prayer-  
God just loves to hear from us- just like we  
love hearing from our Grand kids!

-Larry