

# THE WITTENBERG DOOR

JUNE 2022

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

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**Rob at  
360-204-4851**

or

**pastor.rob**

**@airpost.net**

## Pastor's Message

### Are You Righteous?

*"We do not become righteous by doing righteous deeds but, having been made righteous, we do righteous deeds."*

*Martin Luther*

This is not how one should write – by asking a question, and answering it immediately. But it is a simple truth: our righteousness is not something *we do*, but something that has been *done for us*.

The only reason we can do anything truly good is because of the Holy Spirit, God within us, whose arrival on Pentecost we recently celebrated.

The Apostle Paul says it this way: I consider nothing more precious than being found in Christ, "not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith." (Philippians 3).

If you or I rely instead on our own goodness, the fact that we avoid "major sins," and try our best to be good, we are lost. The Law won't ever justify (or forgive) anyone. Instead it will say, "your efforts are noted, but so are your sins... and the payment for even a single sin is death, and separation from God.

In C.S. Lewis' book about heaven and hell, *The Great Divorce*, he paints the portrait of a man who claims to be good enough for heaven. And he says if God doesn't agree with him, he wants no part of heaven. After bragging about how "I done my best all my life," he declares, "I only want my rights. I'm not asking for anybody's bleeding charity."

He doesn't recognize the irony of his words. But an angelic being who is God's witness says to him, "Then do. At once. Ask for the Bleeding Charity. Everything is here for the asking and nothing can be bought."

Trusting in our own goodness is a recipe for disappointment. Sure, the world is filled with people far worse than each of us, but as we wisely remind ourselves, we have all fallen short and require God's mercy.

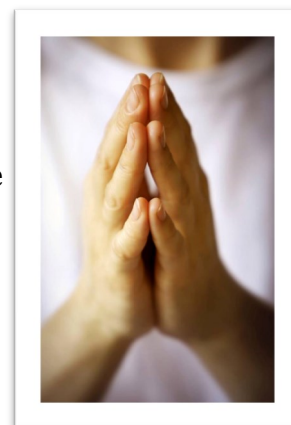
So, let me ask again. Are you righteous? If you believe and are baptized, you most certainly are! But never confuse your own works with the true righteousness, which comes only through faith in Christ."

Pastor Rob Stroud

## From the President.....

What a Church is –is not: A Church “is” the House of God. It is a place where we Christians go to worship, a place of fellowship. It is a sanctuary of peace, of love, of healing and of safety. A Church is a care center for mental, spiritual and health issues. It is also a Christian education resource center. A Church is the place where we find forgiveness. A Church is a community of believers. A Church “is not” a building, a business, an exclusive club, a religious institution, the morality police or a place where a person goes to receive acclamation or a “pat-on-the-back” for offering up their time and talent. When your neighbors or loved ones notice how you faithfully pile into the car and head for Worship Service or Bible Study, or notice how you faithfully offer up your time and talents, when they see how you rely on prayer to confront the challenges we all face in our day-to-day lives, when they look into your face and see the joy you have in the knowledge of your salvation and the comfort that comes from knowing that in all things, God is with you, then, they will realize what a Church “is”. For those who have been absent because of COVID, please know and understand that we miss you and that we, “the Church” is here for you. “May His peace be with you.” Come home... come home to Jesus.

Larry Farner



## Missionaries Are We



Grocery shopping is not what it used to be, when we could find what we wanted AND what we needed and, actually be able to pay for it. Now, we are lucky to find what we NEED and the WANT? ....well, that has “Gone with the Wind”. For those whose income just does not go as far as it used to due to higher priced for EVERYTHING, it is a real challenge to supplement food NEEDS for children, seniors and families. As we give food donations via “First Fruits ”each month, now is a good time to consider giving the basics. Items like, Oatmeal, Pasta, Rice, Tuna Fish, Canned Soups and Veg-ies. Every food item we give feeds someone who really NEEDS help. Thank you, Emmanuel, for being faithful, for being willing to feed our neighbors in this challenging time in which we find ourselves in today. Is it a MISSION? Yes, you be it is, and .....that makes YOU a MISSIONARY!



Sally Farner, coordinator

## The Religious History of the State of Washington

*I have used many resources to assemble this series on "The Religious History of the State of Washington". If you are a Christian and a resident of Washington, this is not just a story – it's YOUR story.*

### PART TWENTY .....The Separation of Church and State

In the past few years, Lutheran Synod Assemblies began discussions with regard to the role the Church should play as our nation began to focus on the issue of the legality of same sex marriage, and denying the rights of gay pastors. Lines were drawn in the sand, the toe, many felt, was under the tent flap. ON the one hand, some congregations moved toward universal acceptance in the spirit of secular values. Other congregations stood with Luther. To them, God's word was clear, we could not but obey the true and unaltered Word of God. For Lutherans and many other Christian denominations, the choice was to leave the Church, join with a different community of true believers or reinvent themselves and form an entirely new and conservative synod. The result of this movement (separation) was that Churches like the Evangelical Lutheran Church begin to see a trend of members leaving to join with Synods like The American Association of Lutheran Churches who steadfastly defended their stand that the Holy Bible was and is the "actual and true" Word of God. At present, there are two congregations in the State of Washington who have separated themselves from the Evangelical Lutheran Church and become members of The American Association of Lutheran Churches, they are Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Bremerton, Washington and Elim Lutheran Church in Brush Prairie, Washington. The Religious History of the State of Washington is ongoing. What is the future history? We are the future history. If you are a member of Emmanuel or Elim you are a "significant player" in the religious history of the State of Washington. You have "made a stand" and that , is historical.

Note: This ends the series of The Religious History of the State of Washington. Beginning in July, I will begin a new series focusing on Martin Luther.



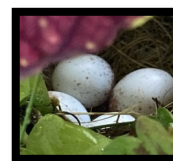
The American Association  
of Lutheran Churches

-Larry Farner

## Hidden Treasures



Each Mother's Day my son surprises me with a lovely hanging flower pot. It is something I look forward to each year. It's kind of a start to my spring gardening. This year he brought something a little different. Instead of a flower pot it was a shade hanging pot. It is truly beautiful and I was careful to find a nice shady spot in my yard to enjoy the whole summer. I hung it and a few days later I watered it. I startled a small bird that quickly flew out of the pot. After a closer look I discovered why. Now I am trying to not disturb our "Mama bird" and her little nest. I am actually grateful for the cooler weather so I don't need to water so often. June 16th (my birthday) our little baby birds came in to this world.



-Sharie

## Does Satan Own the Web?

Is that the answer to the question, “Why does it seem that people are turning to the dark side, thinking and doing really bad stuff”? The driver of this stampede “down the rabbit hole” appears to be the current trend toward, “Progressive Christianity”, which interprets the Bible through the lens of culture rather than criticize the “culture” through the lens of the Bible. Many believers today are not ready or willing to confront the pressures of persecution and this is very dangerous. “Biblical Teaching” today tends to be either neglected or distorted. So, there is a real ultimate danger that “Progressive Christianity” can send a person to hell. Since the beginning of the Christian Church, there has been no end of false prophets who walk like sheep and talk like sheep but inwardly they only want to feed on sheep. When you are swayed by these creatures, you abandon Biblical doctrine and you are then in fact, helping to set the stage to deny Biblical morality. So we need to ask, what is the spirit-the goal of “Progressive Christianity”? It is, or appears to be that “we know better than God, that the plain sense of the Words of the Bible cannot be trusted”. Long ago, we were told by the Apostle Paul that the day would come when mankind would turn away from the truth and believe a lie. “Progressive Christianity” imitates culture...Christians, should imitate Jesus, by recognizing and making a strong stand against the false teachings of this growing movement. So you may ask, what should we the true believer do? How can we confront so popular a new challenge to what we believe and what we know as “truth”? For me, I believe that we should simply trust The Lord and be willing to respond to God’s call to share the good news of truth, of forgiveness and of salvation. Look around. Everywhere there is and opportunity to have a ministry of your own—remember it is not about you or about me, it is about the Holy Spirit, who works through you and me!

Larry



## Helping Hands at Lutherhaven

Last Saturday Emmanuel and Silverdale Lutheran Churches joined forces to get our beautiful Lutherhaven ready for all-church camp, many picnics and other camps and events that are going to happen this summer. It was hard work but so worth it. Special Thanks to the following from Emmanuel: Kaelyn, Rebecca, Rachel, Dominic and Kristen Fuller, Delores Stroud, Tony Keene, Jim Turowski, Teresa Prange, and Glen and Sharie Adrig.



After several hours of pressure washing our member unburied the basketball court. Games were sorted, weeds were pulled, pinecones were raked, boats were moved. A job well done. Thanks to all who helped make this a successful workparty.

**June Birthdays**

- 2.....Linda Houlton
- 4.....Pastor Rob Stroud
- 6.....Marion Hungerford, Missionary
- 7.....Loyal Campbell
- 7.....Carol Reece
- 13.....Cheryl Fox, Missionary
- 14.....Landen Cartwright
- 16.....Sharie Adrig
- 16.....Peter Cartwright
- 19.....Carol Henning
- 21.....Lilian James
- 23.....Steve Armstrong
- 26.....Carverlyne Prothero, Childcare dir
- 27.....Owen Johnson
- 27.....Crystal, childcare Staff

**June Anniversaries**

- 10.....Glen & Sharie Adrig
- 13.....Larry & Ida Ficca

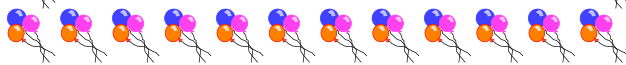
**July Birthdays**

- 1.....Cole Simons
- 16.....Amanda Andrada
- 26.....Peter Erickson

**July Anniversaries**

- 17.....Pastor Rob & Delores Stroud
- 20.....Jim & Bonnie Mace

I am sure that there are many members that I don't have your birthdates or anniversary dates. Any additions or corrections please contact the newsletter editor, Sharie Adrig at [gadrig@comcast.net](mailto:gadrig@comcast.net).



**Members Serving in June**

Altar Guild .....JoEllen Klempan  
 Reader.....Pastor Tim Cartwright

**Members Serving in July**

Altar Guild.....Sally Farner  
 Reader.....Maurine Simons  
 Glen Adrig

If you are interested in helping with Altar Guild it is not too late. Just ask JoEllen Klempan or Sharie Adrig.

**Coffee Hour**

If you would like to host a coffee hour there is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship all or you may make a monetary contribution please talk to Rosie Armstrong



**Women's Luncheon on Wednesday.**  
 Contact Carol Reece for information.

**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.

**Don't forget Bible Study on Thursday at 10 AM**

### Moving Forward on Re-Heating Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Childcare Center

The good news is that we will be able to get our church and childcare center warm once again with work being accomplished the week of October 10<sup>th</sup>. The bad news is that it is going to cost a significant amount of money to do so.

So how did we get to this point? The most basic answer is that we had a system installed a little over a decade ago, but the installation was done with questionable methods taken on how the system was mated with the original plumbing, so it was always headed for failure. And although we paid for maintenance services to the system, the contractor was just doing a superficial job of it which also helped lead to guaranteed failure. Let me assure you that no one at our church was aware of this impending disaster. If anyone wishes further details, you can contact me, and we can talk about it.

Once we had the catastrophic failure of the system, I started to contact heating specialists in our area, The original contractor had no answer and it took me until my fourth meeting with other contractors, to find one who dealt only with hot water heating systems. When we actually tested the existing system to see if we could at least temporarily get heat, it was found that a critical ignition module, one which was built in Ukraine (that's right) was both obsolete and unavailable. We also had corroded valves (one was totally broken) and a seized up circulation pump, along with leaking pipes which were flooding the furnace room floor.

The only real solution was to do a cost analysis to remove the old system and faulty piping, determine the work and materials required to reconfigure and replace the boiler, pumps, valves and ancillary equipment items, test and guarantee the equipment, and include a one-year maintenance agreement. Our intention is to continue to with regular "quality maintenance" to ensure that the system is reliable well into the future.

Now as to cost, which will be split equally between the church and the childcare center:

The installation and tax add up to a total of \$57,610.64 which I know is significant. This means that the cost for each of us (church and childcare) comes to \$28,805.32.

In order to get on the schedule (which was pushing further each day that we waited), we had to put a down payment of 50% or \$28,805.32. The church and childcare each contributed \$14,402.66 so far, and we are now on the installation schedule for the week of October 10<sup>th</sup> of this year. The work is scheduled to take a full week using 2 experienced installers. The balance of payment is due upon completion of the work.

Needless to say is that an unanticipated expense of \$28,805.32 to our church budget will have a significant impact, but we have done this before and have come out fine. I expect the same result this time too.

To lessen the impact to our church, we would like to encourage everyone to find a way to contribute to this project over the next three or so months, so that we can remain on solid financial ground as we move forward. If you can find it in your heart and your budget to contribute to this project, we would like to encourage you to add funds into what we will call "The Furnace Fund". Designate an additional donation to The Furnace Fund through your weekly or monthly offerings, or via a separate donation(s).

As the Church Administrator and as members of the congregation, Sharie and I are committed to helping our church, and we would like to encourage you to join us as we move forward.

Remember, Emmanuel means God is With Us. We will get through this with God's blessings.

Glen Adrig Church Administrator