

THE WITTENBERG DOOR

JUNE 2023

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

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Pastor's Message

Confirmation of Faith—2023

After two years of study, prayer and instruction in the Holy scriptures, learning the Lutheran Confessions and now professing their faith in Christ according to God's Word; our confirmands will be confirmed in their faith and receive Holy Communion! Then, as led by Pastor Cartwright and our church leaders, they will assist in distributing the elements of Holy Communion as newly trained and confirmed servants of our Lord. We invite all those who are Baptized, and believe that in, with and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion, we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is for the forgiveness of sins, for life, and for salvation. Come, take and eat; for this promise of forgiveness, life and salvation applies to all who simply believe in the words, "given and shed for you, for the remission of sins; which words besides the bodily eating and drinking, are the chief thing in the Sacrament." (Luther's Small Catechism. Concordia Publishing House, 1921, pg. 166)

We congratulate and welcome our Confirmands and their families! We celebrate with them the life-giving faith that they are professing and practicing. We pray for them and look forward to sharing with them the ministry and Gospel mission of our Church!

Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos



Contact Pastor

Gary at

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or

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Congratulations to our Three Recent Confirmands!



Kaitlyn recited Luther's Explanation to the 2nd Article of the Creed



Nathan recites Luther's Explanation to the 2nd Commandment



Tiffany recited Luther's Explanation to the 1st Commandment



A special blessing for our confirmands delivered by Pastor Tim and assisted by Grandpa Steve

After two years of intensive study under the guidance and instruction of Pastor Tim, Kaitlyn Armstrong, Nathan Armstrong and Tiffany Johnson were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday and are now considered adult members of our congregation. Their first duty was assisting with communion. Congratulations to the three of you and thanks to Pastor Tim for his guidance and instruction over these past two year. Well Done!!



A Special Coffee Hour was Served in Recognition of Our Confirmands



Special thanks to Judy Armstrong for the wonderful pictures and to those that helped coordinate and serve a special coffee hour.

Father's Day Picnic at Olympic Lutherhaven

Time: 1 pm

Date: Sunday, June 18th

Come one, come all to the first BBQ of the season! Hot dogs and burgers provided. Bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Come and enjoy an afternoon on the lake with swimming, boating, and the Hometown Band!!

Olympic Lutherhaven is on Wildcat Lake.
9375 NW Holly Road, Bremerton, WA 98312
Olympiclutherhaven.org



Christmas in July!

Cheryl and Bob Fox, our sponsored Missionaries to Africa, will be visiting Emmanuel on Sunday, July 16th. We had asked them to provide us a list of items they need but have difficulty acquiring at their Mission location. So, we have put— together a “**Fox Box**”, located in the Fellowship Hall. Below is a list of those items they most need which YOU might like to purchase in their behalf and put into the “**Fox Box**”. It would “*kinda*” be like the Christmas’s we’ve missed with them over the past few years. So, “fill-up” your hearts with the joy of giving and give generously to the “**Fox Box**.”



Bob & Cheryl's Wish List

- Seattle's Best, 6th Ave. Bistro Ground coffee
- Post-it notes (smaller ones and bigger square ones)
- Blue or black pens (not gel -they dry up)
- Scotch tape
- Dried Shitake Mushrooms
- Almonds
- Bacon Bits— real not artificial
- Dental Floss

Any donations will be gratefully accepted.



Update from our Presiding Pastor,

Rev. Curtis Leins Ph.D.

You will find on our table near the entry of our fellowship all the latest update from the American Lutheran Theological Seminary. This includes student registration, accreditation, and Fund raising.

Each congregation has been asked to help by hosting a fund raiser this summer. This is called the "Philippians Project." See a more complete report in the fellowship hall.

Independence-The First Freedom

Next month, on the 4th of July, we will acknowledge one of our first freedoms, the Freedom of Worship. As we celebrate that special event, we do so with the knowledge that secularism has "fired the first shot" since the Revolutionary War, against conservative Christian faith congregations. Freedom of worship is dependent upon living a life of faith. However, in America today, there is a clear message spreading throughout the land. That message is that Churches that claim traditional religious views of morality and the belief that the Bible "is" the actual word of God, is clearly being warned that they need to keep their beliefs behind closed doors. Or, they will have to be prepared to deal with a level of religious persecution that could not have been imagined, only a scant few years ago. Today, secularists are determined and confident in their eventual victory over faith communities. Freedom of worship may very well be the first freedom eliminated from the Constitution. So, what can we, members of a faith community do to stand against the powers of evil? We simply keep the faith. Support our Church. Commune daily with the brotherhood of believers. Experience the joy of worship and fellowship and, pray without ceasing.

—Larry



Notes on 1st Peter

The Thursday Bible Class conducted by Pastor Rob completed I Peter on June 1st. As usual, I have taken copious notes which I am herewith sharing with those in our fellowship who are unable to attend this informative and inspirational class. Please note; *my* comments and opinions will appear in italics. At the beginning of our study, we were confronted with the question, "did the people Peter convert become the Armenians"? Their is no proof of this. But; *"I believe they did and reside today in Turkey"*. Early on, Peter tells us to be sober minded but not legalistic. Commenting on Christian conduct, Peter clearly addresses the separation of Church and State. He points out that doing good is putting to silence the ignorance of foolish people. However, in Peter's view, doing good is not to be confused with "works". Addressing the role of women, Peter tells us that women do the Lord's work by their righteousness and their gentle and loving spirit. Peter goes on to tell us that women are accountable to God and not "necessarily" to their spouses. Returning to the issue of human behavior, Peter tells us that God makes it clear that even though your neighbors want to live lives focused on sensuality, drink, orgies, parties and lawless idolatry, Christians are not to follow their example. Yes, your neighbors will malign and scoff at you. In the face of this, we are to be self-controlled. Keeping the faith, obedient to His word, praying and loving earnestly for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Addressing Women as the "weaker" sex, Peter clearly means that women are vulnerable in authority and more likely to be mistreated. Which is why Peter encourages men to honor and protect their wives, mothers and daughters. Peter also points out that God chooses what is weaker in the world to make change. The main focus of I peter appears to be relationships and preparing yourself to be able and willing to answer the question, "why do you honor Christ (sharing our faith)". Toward the end of the book of I Peter, vs 4:7, we are told that the end of things is at hand. *If you live in the Sonoran desert, hang onto your umbrella because it's going to rain sometime.* Finally, Peter makes it clear that Jesus never said it was going to be easy. But as it is also made clear in the book of Job – your reward is at hand!

- Larry

Luther and Lutherans—Part Nine

THE KERNEL, THE MARROW AND WORKS: Luther wrote that John's Gospel and St. Paul's Epistles and St. Peter's first Epistle, are the true kernel and marrow of all books. Every Christian must read them first and most – in them, you find how faith in Christ overcomes sin, death and hell and gives life righteousness and salvation. We all have choices on the horizontal level. The idea that all Bible verses are technically equal because they are all the Word of God should not prevent us from saying that some verses are more important than others. Anyone reading the Bible without an understanding of what he/she reads is certain to fall into error, just as anyone who refuses to read the Bible. Embracing the Word is essential in order to have a relationship with God. Just as no one can die for us, (with the exception of Christ), no one can have a relationship with God for us. So we must take full responsibility for how we read scripture. At some point, we must assume the personal responsibility to be involved. It is because of our belief in the Word that we have faith and it is because of faith that we do works. Not because works gain us our salvation but, because works is driven by faith. Faith is a Devine work in us which changes us and makes us to be born anew in God...Faith is a living and daring confidence in God's grace. Thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate heat and light from fire.



-Larry

Open Hearts & Open Arms

Every month the Food Bank is so amazed about how much food Emmanuel Lutheran donates. The Food Banks expect lower donations during the summer months. It's just the "way it is". But YOU the "True Believers" of Emmanuel are consistent and loyal in your monthly giving to our hungry neighbors. And basically, "spill out" from your hearts, bounty in the form of food and genuine love for the hungry. The Food Bank always tells us to be sure to thank the members of Emmanuel for their generosity.

-Sally

Did You Know?

The children of Israel, in the generation of conquest, were not circumcised. This is the very first thing that was supposed to happen to an Israelite boy in those days, but the command was ignored. Furthermore, the attitude of the Israelites was fully informed by the Law; they believed that they had the power to honor the Covenant of Law with God, instead of recognizing that the previous generation had fallen precisely because they could not. It is this PRIDE that becomes their downfall...since that time, pride has always proceeded a fall.

Pro-Life and U.S. Colleges

Recent studies have revealed that nearly 10% of Christian colleges, including Catholic and Baptist denominations continue to maintain a relationship with planned parenthood. Among the more visual of these Christian schools is Duke University (Methodist); Rhodes College (Presbyterian); Augsburg University (Lutheran); Holy Cross and Marquette (Catholic). A notable exception is Baylor University which promotes the sanctity of life. Baylor publicity claims that, "we do not allow the promotion of abortion-related services on campus." Baylor representatives frequently supports care pregnancy centers through volunteer work as part of the university's community outreach programs. This is a "touchy issue" to say the least. We mere mortals may or may not be on shaky ground when we take on the responsibility of declaring what is or what is not moral, legal or acceptable in the eyes of God. Pro-life vs planned parenthood can only be resolved through individual personal convictions. For those who are unsure about this issue, ultimately, we must turn to His Holy Word for answers. For now, we would do well to accept that we are not accountable for the actions of others. But, we are clearly accountable for the choices "we" make and the actions "we" take.

- Larry

June Birthdays

2-----Linda Houlton
 4-----Rev. Rob Stroud
 5-----Isabella Paulus
 6-----Marian Hungerford, missionary
 6-----Tina Atienza
 7-----Loyal Campbell
 7-----Carol Reece
 12-----Makenna Boisjolie
 13-----Cheryl Fox, missionary
 16-----Sharie Adrig
 19-----Carol Henning
 21-----Lillian 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
 5-----Lori Koutsopoulos
 16-----Amanda Andrada
 26-----Peter Mace

July Anniversaries

17-----Pastor Rob & Delores Stroud

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



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 June

Altar Guild-----JoEllen Klempan
 Reader-----Eric Branson
 Acolytes -4,Arabelle--11, Tiffany- -
 18, Bella--25, Nathan

Members Serving in July

Altar Guild -----Teresa Prange (Sat),
 Sally Farmer (Sun)
 Reader-----Miki Turowski
 Acolytes -2, Tiffany-9, Bella- 16, Nathan-
 23, Tiffany- 30, Bella

What's Coming Up?

June

11-----10 am ---Worship Service
 14-----12, noon ---Ladies' Lunch
 15-----10 am -----Bible Study
 18-----10 am ---Worship Service
 1 pm ----All Churches
 Picnic at Lutherhaven
 21-----12, noon---Ladies' Lunch
 22-----10 am -----Bible Study
 25-----10 am ---Worship Service

July

2-----10 am-----Worship Service
 10-----6 pm -----Knitting Guild
 12-----12, noon----Ladies' Lunch
 13-----10 am -----Bible Study
 16-----10 am ----Worship Service
 Missionaries, Bob & Cheryl Fox visit!!

Helping with Coffee Hour



There are several ways you can help with coffee hour. 1. You can sign up to host a Sunday. 2. You can put money in the offering and designate it for coffee hour. Or 3. you can talk to Rose Link or Teresa Prange and ask what you can bring to help supplement the coffee hour refreshments.