



THE WITTENBERG DOOR

JUNE 2026

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

ELCBREMERTON.ORG

Pastor's Message

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PASTOR'S MESSAGE	1 & 2
CHURCH SEAT DRAMA	2
MEMBER REACHES A MILESTONE	3
FIRST FRUITS & MEMBER'S NOTES	4
UPGRADES AT LUTHERHAVEN	5
WHO IS SERVING THIS MONTH	6
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES	6

Contact Pastor

Gary at

1 (541) 350-7737

or

ggkouts65@gmail.com

A Nation Corrupted by Sin—Reflection on Hosea 4:5-13 (Part 2)

Dear Beloved Church Family,
The words found in Hosea 4:5–13 present one of the darkest spiritual pictures in Scripture. God speaks not only against isolated acts of sin, but against an entire people who had abandoned truth, holiness, and reverence for Him.

The Lord declared, *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge”* (Hosea 4:6). This destruction did not come because God failed His people, but because the people rejected Him. They refused His commandments, ignored His warnings, and pursued sinful desires without restraint.

The behavior of the nation had become deeply corrupt.

The priests—those entrusted to lead the people in righteousness—had themselves become spiritually blind. Instead of confronting sin, they fed upon it. Rather than calling the people to repentance, they benefited from the rebellion around them. Leadership had become compromised, and as the leaders fell, the people followed into greater darkness.

God described a society consumed by idolatry and immorality. The people sought guidance from idols instead of seeking the living God. They gave themselves over to drunkenness, prostitution, and pagan worship practices. Sin was no longer hidden; it was celebrated. What should have brought shame had become normal.

This passage serves as a solemn warning to every generation.

When people reject the truth of God long enough, their hearts become hardened. Moral confusion spreads. Families suffer. Worship becomes empty. Sin gains influence where holiness is neglected. Hosea shows us that spiritual decay never remains private—it affects communities, nations, and future generations.

Today, we are witnessing many of these same patterns in our world. Truth is often rejected. Sin is excused. Reverence for God is fading. Many pursue pleasure while neglecting righteousness. Yet the danger is not only outside the church; believers themselves must guard against spiritual compromise.

The message of Hosea calls us to serious self-examination.

Pastor's Message continued.....

Are we tolerating sin that God has called us to forsake?
Have we grown comfortable with attitudes and behaviors that dishonor the Lord?
Are we pursuing the knowledge of God, or merely the appearance of religion?

God's warnings are not given to destroy us, but to awaken us. Even in judgment, His desire is repentance. The Lord still calls His people to return to Him with humility, holiness, and obedience.

As your pastor, I urge you to seek the Lord earnestly. Spend time in His Word. Pray faithfully. Turn away from anything that pulls your heart from God. Let us not become people who drift spiritually while believing we are secure.

May we be found faithful in a generation that desperately needs the truth of God.

In Christ's love and Grace,
Pastor Gary

Church Seat Drama

Picture this: you walk into church, ready to sit down in YOUR seat...and someone is sitting in it.

You stand there frozen, hoping they'll get up. Your palms start sweating, and suddenly the room feel like it's spinning.

Why are they sitting in my seat?
Where am I supposed to sit now?

So you begin walking around the sanctuary trying to find another seat. First, you try sitting up front. Nope-that doesn't feel right. Then you move to the other side of the aisle.

"Will this work?" you ask yourself.

You try a few more seats, but none of them feel comfortable. Everything feels out of place. Eventually, you stay put because by now you've been moving around so much you probably look like an insane person.

The service continues, and although you're trying to listen to the message, your eyes, keep drifting back across the aisle....staring at your seat.

After service, you tell the pastor, "I'm sure it was a good message, but someone was sitting in my seat, and I just couldn't concentrate."

Lesson: next time, be on time to claim your seat.

Lesson learned!

- Chelette Williams



A Member Reaches a Major Milestone!!



Glen with the Bremerton YMCA director, Denise Landis



During the month of May, Glen Adrig, reached a milestone in his 20 year volunteer role with AARP. He taught his 100th in-person class to another group of seniors. Who knows how many lives he has saved with his instruction to seniors and more about safe driving. The YMCA director, Denise Landis, helped to make it a special class for Glen. Sharie surprised him with a cake. Not only does Glen teach classes but as the Washington Driver Safety Program Chief Trainer, he trains new instructor's across our state, is a district supervisor and also a marketing and recruitment specialist for AARP.

Congratulations, Glen.

Here is to another 100 classes.

God's House

When you visit someone's home, it's just human nature to do a mental evaluation. You look around at the furnishings, the drapes, the carpets and pictures on the walls and you can tell that the people who live there care or do not care about or love their home— by the way it's taken care of—that it is clean and well managed, a kind of obvious "pride of place." That is also true of the Lord's house. It's not just a place, it's the "Temple of the Lord." So, when visitor's enter the door of our church, what do they see? What do they think about how we feel about our church? I think we could all agree that our "Lord's Temple" needs some serious love and care. Do you have any ideas how we can remove the clutter and show our visitors that we do care? If so, please send me an E-mail or just drop a note in the Council President's box at church— I promise I will turn your ideas over to the council so we can make a plan to show the world that we are alive and well at God's house on Perry Avenue, Bremerton, WA.

-Larry Farner, Council President



God, Time and History



JOCHEBED, Born during the Israelites sojourn in Egypt, married her nephew Amron—a relationship that would have been prohibited under later religious law. She became the mother of Moses, Aaron and Mariam....was Jochebed the first actual recorded "cougar"? -Larry

Have Faith-Keep Faith

Of course, life will never be weightless. We all struggle. We all suffer and we all face challenges. Without them though, how would we grow? Have faith that there is a higher purpose to the burdens we carry and see opportunity in each challenge we encounter. It is how we learn. How we grow and develop our faith. It is because of this faith that we can meet struggles with curiosity and reason. The mindset brings true lightness into our lives. (Read Philippians 4:6 and John 14:27).



-Larry

Following The Light

Did you know seniors are the fastest growing group of people facing homelessness? Half of all senior households are now struggling to survive. They are on the economic ledge, sliding into poverty. Quite a scary statistic-generous pensions of the past are insufficient to meet even basic needs. Social Security does not keep pace with the cost of living. Rent, insurance, taxes, home repairs, association fees, health care and of course food, are going through the roof. Depressing as this is, even more depressing is that there seems to be end in sight for seniors and struggling families. But...there is help-we at ELC are God's helpers. God leads us with His spirit, to reach out to those who need help. We do this every single month with our First Fruits food donations. Just think, if someone didn't have to use their last dime to pay for groceries, maybe they could put gas in the car for a Doctors appointment, or attend Church. Or, maybe pay the light bill of the phone bill. When Moses followed the light (Exodus, Chapter three), he knew what God wanted him to do...and he did it! We are also following the light by our service to others. - Sally, coordinator



Did You Know This?

ICONS. Today everything is Iconic. But it has not always been so. In 741 Emperor Leo launched an attack on the use of Icons. Christian antagonism against Icons developed in seventh century in the Eastern regions next to the Arab frontier. Leo ordered the Icon of Christ over the bronze gate to Constantinople to be replaced with a cross. Under Constantine, those who supported Icons were persecuted. A Synod of Bishops met in Hieria in 753 and declared the use of Icons as idolatry. Constantine argued that when consecrated, the elements of the Lord's supper, were the only true Icons of Christ.

- Larry

Mysticism and Superstition

Since like forever, man has looked for "signs". Mysticism and superstition, even today, has a serious impact on our spirituality. For example, Jesus and the Apostles at the last supper (13); XII Romans believed meant death (13) ; The Apollo Space Mission which did not make it (13). Hotels that do not put guests on floor number (13). In the Bible and even among ourselves, if we care to admit it often catch ourselves asking god to"show us a sign."

-Larry

Is This True?

PLINY , a historian and naturalist in the first century AD wrote that "men were slaves luxury." I tend to think "ole Pliny" was dead on! What say you? -Larry

Lutherhaven May 2026 - Cabin Upgrades

Emmanuel Lutheran's Work Team

Glen & Sharie Adrig, Carverlynn Prothero, Crystal Henry,
Kneeda Williams, Mark Stouffer

Work accomplished:

Girls and Boys Showers/Bathrooms: Our childcare team purchased and added curtains to the shower room entries & replaced old/worn shower curtains.

Cabin 7: Painted out all graffiti, painted out the storage bin cabinet, repainted all of the bunks, painted wall panels and the cabin door. The childcare team purchased materials to replace the window covering drape.

Cabin 8: Painted out all graffiti, painted out the storage bin cabinet, painted out graffiti on ceiling and for an additional replacement ceiling panel. The childcare team purchased and installed new window covering drape.

Cabin 7



Cabin 8



June Birthdays

2-----Linda Houlton
 4-----Pastor Rob Stroud
 5-----Isabella Boisjolie
 6-----Marian Hungerford
 6-----Tina Atienza
 7-----Loyal Campbell
 7-----Carol Reece
 12-----MaKenna Boisjolie
 16-----Sharie Adrig
 19-----Carol Henning
 21-----Lillian James
 23-----Steve Armstrong
 26-----Carverlynne Prothero, Childcare Dir.
 27-----Owen Johnson
 27-----Crystal Henry, Childcare Staff

June Anniversaries

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

July Birthdays

1-----Cole Simons
 15-----Lori Koutsopoulos

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

**Members Serving in June**

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

Members Serving in July

Altar Guild -----Teresa Prange
 Rose Link
 Reader-----Sarah Kaiser

What's Coming Up?**June**

4-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 7-----9-----Sunday School
 8-----6-----Kitsap Peninsula Knitter's Guild
 11-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 13-----8:30-----Men's Breakfast
 14-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 18-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 21-----10-----Worship Service
 23-----1-----Childcare Craft Club
 25-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 28-----9-----Worship Service
 30-----1-----Childcare Craft Club

July

2-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 4-----**Independence Day**
 5-----10-----Worship Service
 7-----1-----Childcare Craft Club
 9-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 11-----8:30-----Men's Fellowship Breakfast
 12-----10-----Worship Service
 13-----6-----Kitsap Peninsula Knitter's 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 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

You, therefore, have no excuse,
 you who pass judgment on someone else,
 for at whatever point you judge another,
 you are condemning yourself, because you
 who pass judgment do the same things.

Romans 2:1

