

# THE WITTENBERG DOOR

MARCH 2020  
ELCBREMERTON.ORG

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

## Pastor's Message

### PAST REFLECTIONS.....

As a boy, my father insisted I work. I remember pushing the lawn mower when my head was little taller than the mower handle to mow our lawn which was over a quarter of an acre in size.

I remember my friends riding bikes on Saturday morning while I weeded in our large flower beds. I remember the guys meeting for coffee after school while I worked in the barn.

As a youth I resented my father's will. As a man I thank God for him and the life lessons I learned from him. He taught me how to work and the intrinsic value of work.

Jesus taught His disciple, "....when you pray...." and ".....when you fast..." and ".....when you give.." Jesus was teaching them, and us, the value of spiritual work. We call this work "spiritual discipline."

Lent is the season to practice spiritual discipline. The traditional disciplines are prayer, fasting, giving and meditation/study. Here are others:

Observe the true Sabbath day each week

Read a chapter of the Bible each day

Join one of our weekly Bible studies

Keep a daily gratitude journal

Thank God every morning when you get up and again when you go to bed.

Say Grace at meals

Offer bed time prayers

Pray the Lord's Prayer each day

Spend a few minutes in silence, listening to the Lord each day

Volunteer in a church or community service project

Give gifts to a worthy ministry or mission

This Lenten season Jesus invites us at Emmanuel Lutheran Church to draw near to Him with a true heart. He has, by grace, drawn near to us. Through the use of a spiritual discipline we can more fully sense His sweet presence, listen to Him, and follow Him to the Cross of Calvary.

Pastor Tim Cartwright



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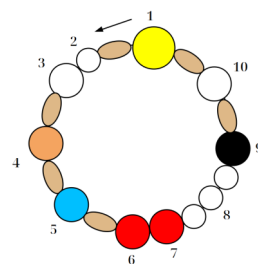
### In case of an Emergency

Please call  
Pastor Tim  
on his cell  
phone

**360-286-1090**

## Vicar's Message

During the season of Lent, we are given an opportunity to engage in spiritual discipline, practices that emphasize and develop our relationship with God. This is traditionally observed by fasting, and I often hear people today speak of “giving something up,” often alcohol, fast food, or social media. The idea, informed by our Roman Catholic priors, is that you must afflict yourself so you can more closely relate to the afflictions Jesus Christ went through. We also grow more connected to our persecuted ancestors in the Early Church; to spread the Gospel, they gave up many comforts in life, sometimes to the point of near-starvation. These are good and honorable practices, so long as we understand that they are *options* we can choose– not ways of earning merit before the Lord or saving our own souls.



But we don't have to afflict ourselves to understand God. You can foster a spiritual discipline in prayer as well. I mentioned a few months ago that the Lutheran Church retains the Rosary (minus the Hail Mary) to help in our prayer walk, but did you know that Lutherans also have a distinctive prayer tool of our own?

In 1995, a Swedish Lutheran bishop named Martin Lönnebo observed some Greek fishermen using *kompoloi*, or worry beads. Each fisherman had a small loop of beads that he would use to either keep his hands busy, or perhaps he would use them to pray the Jesus Prayer – *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner*. Bishop Lönnebo wondered why Nordic countries, like his native Sweden, had no such way to meditate or pray. To remedy this, he created a kind of bracelet that emphasizes both silence and prayer – the Wreath of Christ, or Pearls of Life.

The Wreath of Christ has eighteen beads, some having various sizes and colors, and others being uniform and oblong. The oblong beads, or “beads of silence,” are used to simply *be* in the midst of stress, or for a prayer of releasing our loneliness in favor of God's presence. The other beads, from the golden bead of God to the white bead of Baptism to the “I” beads and beads of “secrets,” each emphasize different facets of our lives as they relate to the Lord. Lönnebo was keen to include brief meditations on the aspects of our walk, and how they are connected to the Divine. For instance, the black bead of darkness is a chance to meditate on our afflictions, and to remember that our Lord does not leave us alone – no matter how isolated we may feel.

If you were to use the Wreath once a day or more during the season of Lent, it would be a good option for exercising discipline. Instead of fasting (or maybe in addition to it), you could spend the time getting to better know our Lord, and noticing how He is intimately involved in your life. I have been using it for some time now, and it has been a great encouragement. And not just me, either – Pastor Tim, my wife, and a few others in our church have enjoyed this beneficial tool as well. In addition to these devotions, I have also formed a prayer cycle for traditional and Scriptural meditation. It is useful for memorizing passages and creedal statements (I would never have learned the Aaronic benediction by heart without it), and remembering the core message of the Gospel.

If you are interested in having one of your own and learning a few of its uses, I would be happy to make one for you – at no cost.\* Simply email me at [bkilbour@yahoo.com](mailto:bkilbour@yahoo.com) or call/text me at 760-637-4099, and I will be happy to make one for you. I will include a guide to the two ways they are used, both the devotional prayer cycle that Lönnebo formed, and the traditional passages and meditations I included. May our season of Lent be blessed with growth!

-Pastor Blake

# What's Happening At Emmanuel!

## Pregnancy Resource Center

March is the time of the year that you will find baby bottles out in the fellowship hall. It is an opportunity for us to support our local Pregnancy Resource Center. All donations large or small appreciated. This fundraiser is called *"change for life."*



You know that loose change that weighs our purses or pockets down? Find a spot to collect your change and you will be able to fill a baby bottle in March. Coins and paper money will be collected.

Sharon Kilbourne is our new Pregnancy Resource Center coordinator. Thank Sharon, for taking this on.

## Women of Emmanuel

It's not too late to join us for our Tuesday morning Bible Study, *Breathe*. Come learn how to incorporate God's gift to us of Sabbath in our every day lives. We began the video sessions this past Tuesday, 3/10, 9:30 am here at Emmanuel. We start each gathering with coffee, goodies and checking in with each other, followed by the video and group discussion. Sharon Kilbourne is our facilitator. See Miki Turowski for a copy of the study book. The church is sponsoring this study, however, donations will be accepted. Speak to Miki if you are interested in joining this study.



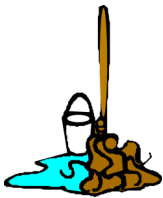
## Saturday Matins Service

Every Saturday at 9:30 am Pastor Blake is offering a short worship service. Currently Pastor Blake is studying the Ten Commandments. He includes a bit of singing, prayer and study. If you are available join us.

**Remember First Fruits Sunday is April 5th!**

## Deep Cleaning of Church

On Saturday, March 21st, all are invited to come and help with a deep cleaning of the church. It is long overdue and with the Coronavirus concerns it is needed. So please come, bring your rubber gloves and some elbow grease and let's see what we can accomplish.



## Lenten Soup Suppers

On Wednesday evenings at 5:30 all are welcome to attend Emmanuel's Soup suppers. These begin the first week of March and go until the week before Easter. Each week people sign up to bring different soups, bread and butter. There will be a sign up sheet soon. We encourage you to attend for some fellowship. A short devotional service follows.



**March Birthdays**

5 .....Chelette Williams

7 .....Hailey Dupree

17 .....Peyton Dupree

18 .....Henry Simons

19 .....Melody Knight

25 ...Kneeda Williams, Childcare Sup

27 .....Jim Mace

27 .....Josh Armstrong

**March Anniversaries**

13 .....Cole & Maurine Simons

18 .....Steve & Judy Armstrong

**April Birthdays**

2 .....Victoria Gehring

4.....Parker Cartwright

5.....Richard Boyce

6.....Rosie Armstrong

10.....Riley Dupree

11.....JoEllen Klempan

12.....Gail Campbell

15.....Glen Adrig

17.....Judy Armstrong

17 .....Lamonte James

20 .....Marialis Jorges

21 ..... Mary Clare Gehring

22.....Keri Bjornemo Roberts

22 .....Ida Ficca

28 .....Ward Erickson III

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 March**

Altar Guild .....Sharie Adrig  
 Teresa Prange

Reader .....Jean Reed

**Members Serving in April**

Altar Guild.....JoEllen Klempan  
 Chelette Williams

Reader .....Bob & JoEllen Klempan

**Sunday School for all ages!**

We offer Sunday School at 9:00 AM for All ages. Young children through Adults are welcome.

**Men's breakfast is the first Saturday of the month at 8:00 am. The location is Der Blokken in Manette. Questions? Talk to Larry Farnor or Pastor Tim.**

**Your help during coffee hour?**

Thanks to all who are signing up to host coffee hour! If you are interested, the sign up sheet is on the counter in the fellowship hall! Thank you to Carol R. for being our coordinator for coffee hour. Thanks to Rose L. for all your help in the kitchen during coffee hour.

If you are not able to host a coffee hour some of us are giving monetary

contributions to help cover the cost .

Contributions can be given to Carol Reece.

