

THE WITTENBERG DOOR



MARCH 2021 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCBREMERTON.ORG
 2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

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In case of an
 Emergency
 Please call
 Pastor Tim at
 360-286-1090

Pastor Blake's Message

Mesmerizing Memorizing

In Bible college, my professors made a point of telling us that we needed to memorize large sections of the Bible. In seminary, there were tests that consisted of writing out large amounts of verses by memory – making the practice go from recommendation to requirement for graduation. The understanding was, so long as we put the Bible in our heart, it will never leave our head, and with so many verses memorized we would never be caught flat footed in a moment of temptation or doubt. It was presented as a non-negotiable aspect of being a Christian.

There was just one problem. I am terrible at memorizing Scripture. For that matter, I am terrible at intentionally memorizing *anything*, let alone entire Psalms or passages from St. Paul's epistles! While certainly I have memorized much of Scripture, for the most part this is unintentional; the more you read from the Bible, the more you know where to find a specific verse as it comes up. Somehow, I was able to spend the hours necessary to graduate seminary unscathed, but I never resumed the practice for its own sake after receiving my Masters of Divinity degree. Why is this?

The trouble with memorizing verses or Psalms is that they end up divorced in our mind from the other parts of Scripture. It is one thing to remember Ephesians 2:8, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God," but if we memorize that without knowing *why* we must be saved by grace – found in Ephesians 2:1, "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins." Most of the time, unfortunately, people do not memorize Scripture to meditate on things like salvation or praise: they memorize Scripture to be able to say that they did it.

Is there still a benefit in memorizing things? Absolutely! But it depends on what we are memorizing and *why*. If we can put something to memory that has a special use, something more than just knowing what a text says, then we are putting tools in our toolbox and it is worth doing. Knowing the Lord's Prayer by heart, we always know what to pray. Knowing the Apostle's Creed by heart, we always know what to believe. Knowing the Ten Commandments by heart, we always know what to do (and even more, what *not* to do). All three of these also give us something to chew on, think about, roll around in our minds and hearts until we see the endless value in what our Lord has revealed to us in them. For that matter, memorizing the passages that give us great comfort will help us see that we are never alone and never abandoned by our Lord. Now *that* is worth the effort! May our memorization be of this kind.

“A LITTLE BIT OF HEAVEN”



Lutherhaven is “a little bit of heaven”. We just cannot risk losing this truly spectacular blessing for our kids and our extended family members. And, for our Congregation! However, we need someone to “step up” and be willing to serve as a board member representing Emmanuel. Bring it up on your computer SEE for yourself what one of the most wonderful recreation properties in Kitsap County looks like and it’s YOURS!! Call Larry Farner...be the one who will say “YES” I will make it happen, for my family and for my Church. Think about it, pray about it and call me!

Early Registration is OPEN! Register online.

supportus@mmhc.org

Join us for a celebration of 130 years of serving children and senior within our local community.



March 12th 12:00 AM—Online Auction Bidding Opens.

March 20th 6:00 PM—Virtual Celebration & Live Auction preshow begins at 5:45 PM
online auction closes at 7 PM.

Learn more about Golden Tickets, Raffle Tickets, Make a Night of It, Dessert Dash, and Fund a Need.

WE ARE NO LONGER THE EXCEPTION



“The Land Of Opportunity”; “The Promise Land”; “The Golden City On The Hill”; “The Land Of Plenty”. This is how America has often been described. But, not anymore...A 9-year old girl recently broke down in the middle of her virtual class, admitting to her teacher and her classmates that she was starving. Her mother, a restaurant worker had lost her job a year ago. There was never enough food in the household. 28% of “American” children last year (2020) were food insecure, and, it may only get worse. This is happening in our neighborhoods as well. This is why we (YOU) give via “First Fruits” to our local food bank every month. Have you ever wondered if you were ever actually doing anything worthwhile? Well, every time you put something in the food basket on “First Fruits” Sunday, you are definitely doing something worthwhile.

Sally Farner

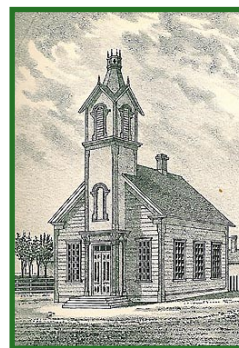
The Religious History of the State of Washington

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 EIGHT-Elder VanHorn

Seventh-day Adventist Van Horn and his wife arrived in Walla Walla with a large tent in April 1874. Arriving in Portland by steamer, they traveled by river to Walla Walla and pitched their tent on a vacant lot at Fourth and Birch Streets. Seventh-Day Adventism was a young faith, originally known as Millerism. Within twenty-five years, the Millerites had become a main-line pioneer religion. A typical meeting in the tent of the Adventists included a sermon, hymn-singing, prayer and baptism. Elder Van Horn later established permanent churches in Salem, Oregon City, Weston, The Dalles, Milton, LaGrande and Pendleton, Oregon. And, Waitsburg, Dayton and hamlets in the Palouse in Washington. By 1880 Seventh-Day Adventist Churches were thriving from Vancouver to Cheney. In 1891, Walla Walla College was founded by the Adventists as a school emphasizing religious education.

Larry Farner



Walla Walla church—1875

Spotlight



The February Newsletter introduced something new that we hope to continue. Each issue we will feature 1–3 statements. Anyone who wants to share what they think the statement means and how it relates to Christians can simply write up their opinion and email it to me. Send it to me at gadrig@comcast.net subject newsletter attention Sharie. Please indicate which statement you are responding to. It will be fun to compare the responses. I encourage you to join in on the fun. If your response you wish to keep unanimous please let me know in your email.

1. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Letter to the Philippians).
2. We tend to ritualize any hope of contact with God to such an extent that we have interfered with our ability to pray-to talk to God DIRECTLY.
3. A person's faith goes at it's own pace.
4. Belief is not an intellectual matter.



March Birthdays

- 5.....Chelette Williams
- 7.....Hailey Dupree
- 17Peyton Dupree
- 18.....Henry Simons
- 19.....Melody Knight
- 25...Kneeda Williams, Childcare Sup.
- 27.....Jim Mace
- 27Josh Armstrong

March Anniversaries

- 13Cole & Maurine Simons
- 18Steve & Judy Armstrong

April Birthdays

- 2.....Victoria Gehring
- 4.....Parker Cartwright
- 5.....Richard Boyce
- 6.....Rosie Armstrong
- 10.....Riley Dupree
- 11JoEllen Klempan
- 12.....Gail Campbell
- 15.....Glen Adrig
- 17.....Judy Armstrong
- 17.....Lamonte James
- 20.....Marialis Jurges
- 21Mary Clare Gehring
- 22.....Keri Bjornemo Roberts
- 22Ida Ficca
- 29.....Ward Ericson 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.



Members Serving in March

Altar Guild.....Sharie Adrig
 ReaderMaurine Simons

Members Serving in April

Altar Guild.....JoEllen Klempan
 Sharie Adrig
 Reader.....Keri Roberts

Sunday School for children!

We offer Sunday School at 9:00 AM for children

Men's fellowship breakfast will begin when Phase 3 is in effect. Location TBA .

According to the State Guidelines we are not having a Coffee Hour right now.

An Irish Prayer

May God give you...
 For every storm, a rainbow,
 For every tear, a smile,
 For every care, a promise,
 And a blessing in each trial.
 For every problem life sends,
 A faithful friend to share,
 For every sigh, a sweet song,
 And an answer for each prayer.

PointOfGrace.net