



THE WITTENBERG DOOR

MARCH 2026

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

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Pastor's Message

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When God Guides... God Provides Matthew 14:22-34

Jesus Walks on the Water and other things that only God can do.

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, (Matthew 14:22-23)

When we consider this biblical account of what Jesus was doing, and what He had experienced in this fourteenth chapter of Matthew, we might hear more clearly the Word of God by which Jesus was both considering the sad departure of His cousin John the Baptist (who had been brutally beheaded by Herod, as a favor to the daughter of Herodias, who had greatly pleased Herod, and was promised by him, up to half of his Kingdom as a way to impress his guests (Matt. 14:6). Because Herodias, and her daughter, who contrived to get revenge on John the Baptist, who had spoken out against her adulterous life, she asked for the head of John the Baptist. She chose to target the Baptist, because he had rightly said that she was committing adultery in how she was living.

In a world that was not known for pulling any punches, or lightening any blows, Jesus was confronted with the multitudes seeking healing and restoration from earthly woes and brokenness, and then in the disciples' revelation concerning John's death, the gripping news that his cousin John the Baptist had lost his life to senseless, abhorrent decision by Herod. He further showed all who would listen and we pray, believe in Him, that the plan of God which was from the beginning a mark of God's Holy and Righteous way, could be hidden to unbelievers, in man's earthly ways.

II. Take Courage, it is I, Do Not Be Afraid (Matthew 14:22-27)

²⁴ but the boat by this time was a long way^[a] from the land,^[b] beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night ^[c] he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear.

It is because in the notion of "Where God guides", we know that He promises to also be there with us in every time and place. Yes, HE Provides the things of life and the keeping of life throughout all of life. In Deuteronomy 31:6:

⁶ Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."



Pastor's Message continued.....

III. "It is I, do not be afraid" (Deuteronomy 31:6; Matthew 14:27; John 14:2-3)

It is not only that Jesus is a great Heavenly Father and loving Savior, and that through His Holy Spirit, and in His Word, He accompanies us and wraps us into His loving arms; But by His Holy Word, with which He powerfully and mysteriously created all things in heaven and on earth (Genesis Chapters 1 and 2; John Ch. 1, those things seen and unseen, known and unknown, impassible and impossible, and carrying with them seeming challenges that we will never overcome apart from Him; that we can trust in Him, and Him alone to reach us, comfort us, save us and deliver us from darkness into light, (I Peter 2:9; Colossians 1:13; Ephesians 5:8), from sin into salvation and from death into life (John 3:16-20), by grace and through faith in Him (Romans 5:1-5). He will come unto us and take us to that place which He has been preparing for us, that we may be always with Him (John 14:2-3; Hebrew 11:16)).

In the hardest and most severely trying times, we have peace in Him which passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7-9)

⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned^[a] and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:7-9)

As we journey to the Cross this Lenten Season, I pray we remember the miracles, power, love and firm foundation that Jesus our Lord has been for all His disciples and us, through rain and storm, life and death, fear and hope, prayer and Praise. To Him be the Glory, Amen.

-Pastor Gary Koutsopolous



Holy Week Services!!

Maundy Thursday

April 2nd— 3:00 PM



**MAUNDY
THURSDAY**

Good Friday

April 3rd—6:00 PM



Join Us For

Easter Sunday

-April 5th



**Worship Service &
Easter Egg Hunt**



Service Starts at 10 AM

The children's Easter Egg
Hunt

follows after the service.

March

March is the month when our Church begins our Wednesday lunches during Lent. Then before we know it, Palm Sunday and Good Friday and then....Easter. God loves us and we are so thankful to have a church and fellow members with whom we celebrate this Holy Season together. We can show our love and obedience to our Lord this month by donating our time, our Talent and possessions. Among those possessions are food items we put into the grocery cart each First Fruit Sunday. This is only "one" way we show our love for others.



***Our next First Fruits is April 5th-
Easter Sunday***

Sally-coordinator

Lenten Soup Luncheons

Our Lenten services and soup luncheons are happening each Wednesday at 12:00. There is a sign-up list to help with soups and breads.

Now is the Time!!!!



If you want to order your Easter flowers for our service please let Sharie Adrig know as soon as possible. You can either let me know by placing an order form in our box or email me. Six inch Azalea's are \$20 and six inch Easter Lilies are \$14. If you have a mail box you will find an order form there or on the table by the mail entry of the fellowship hall. Questions? Ask Sharie Adrig

Just For Fun

Acupuncture, a jab well done
Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the agony
of de feet

Let's Hear From You

What makes a home? What piece of music touched my soul? What does it mean to die well?

The Story Behind the Hymn....."Because He Lives"

This hymn was written by Gloria and William Gaither. They were married and starting their family during the sixties when the country was going through racial tensions and tearing the country apart. "Civil rights activists had suffered and some had been killed. The Vietnam conflict was claiming thousands of lives and tensions boiled over on university campuses."

The Gaither's wrote songs with lasting answers to the turmoil of the human spirit. In the fall of 1969 the Gaither's experienced challenges in their own lives. "While pondering and praying about these things, we came to realize anew that our courage doesn't come from a stable world, for the world has never been stable. Jesus, Himself, was born in the cruelest of times. No, we have babies, raise families, and risk living because the Resurrection is true!"

"'Because He Lives' was born in our hearts and poured from our souls. Over the years this song has reassured us that our Lord's resurrection is the central truth of life. Because He Lives, we can face tomorrow"

-Gloria & William Gaither

Emmanuel Has Now Adopted TWO!

I can now announce that Emmanuel Lutheran is not adopting just one, but now TWO.

Let me tell you a little bit about them. They are named Cabin 7 and Cabin 8 and sit on about 33 acres of our beautiful campgrounds at Olympic Lutherhaven, which we support along with other local Lutheran Congregations.

Over many years, some of our children and grandchildren (and maybe even YOU) have enjoyed the joys of sharing Christian fellowship camping with others, all while learning of the many wonders of nature that the Lord has provided for us.

So, what does that mean to us? Speaking personally, our daughter and all of our granddaughters first started as campers, who then moved up in later years to become kitchen helpers and then counselors at Lutherhaven. Along the way, they and many others (perhaps many of your family members) have also left their legacy on the walls and bunk beds of our cabins with their names and or a personal message. It's not that we don't appreciate their efforts to leave their historical marks for others, but the time has come to clean up the cabins to start this year with a fresh look.

Emmanuel Lutheran and our other member churches are now in the process of "adopting" and re-painting the cabins. We are going to start on the inside of two of the smaller cabins # 7 and #8. Practically speaking, we can comfortably fit two workers in each cabin to work at the same time. We will paint what we can and then wait while things dry a bit before we move the bunk beds (we have a tool to help move them) to continue with the remainder of the work. It will probably take about two days to complete each cabin. So, I would like to see if I can get a total of four volunteers each day to accomplish this work. I will be one of them so I only need three more who would like to help for one or maybe more days as needed.

We have the paint and other needed supplies already staged at Lutherhaven, so all we need is the volunteers who would like to help transform the cabins into a fresh look.

As far as the schedule goes, I am waiting for our Lutherhaven Board President to let me know. We can keep the cabins heated enough so that it can be done any time of the week or perhaps on a couple of Saturdays. I will have a better idea of timelines sometime soon, but we want to do this fairly soon, ahead of when Lutherhaven reopens for regular use.

If you would like to help, please contact me so I can begin planning the "what and the when" goal points for this project. Thanks for your consideration.

Glen Adrig Lutherhaven Board Member



Neglect

Neglect may describe our home, our yards, our garden, a dirty car, etc. It may also describe our relationships with our spouse, our children, our Friends, or our relationship with our Lord. Jesus told a parable about weeds in the garden. When the farmer discovered weeds in his field, he decided not to pull them as it could damage the good plants. So, he waited for the harvest when he would first pull the weeds and burn them, gather the wheat and bring it into his barn. Kind of a scary parable when you understand the message. Some people are the wheat some are the weeds. The wheat is harvested and safely taken into the barn. The weeds are burned. I want to be the wheat, don't you? I want to be gathered up by our Heavenly Father not thrown into the furnace. The weeds sprout up everywhere if we allow it. We need to fight the weeds in our lives. We need to fight weeds in our relationships and we need to fight the weeds in our devotional life. -Larry



Did You Know This?



Joanna, a woman who was healed of evil spirits and infirmities by Jesus, was the wife of Harold's steward. She along with Mary Magdalene and Susanna traveled with Jesus and His Disciples providing food, encouragement and other necessities. After the crucifixion, she was present at his burial. When she went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with spices and ointment and discovered the tomb was empty it was she, who went to tell the Apostles. -Larry

God, Time and History

God's chosen deputy (tradition), the Holy Roman Emperor was the head of the church in Constantinople. His office was sacred, a mixture of priest and king-this was not originally a Christian idea. The Emperor, as head of the Church, presided over synods and councils. So in the Eastern Church the ecclesiastical role as head of state became accepted and Roman Emperors ceased to exist in the 15th century. -Larry

Just Accept It!

Why me? Falling in love, surviving a battle, getting a sizable inheritance from an unknown relative.....you didn't expect it, didn't feel you deserved it but...well, will take it. That is most especially true when we come to know the incredible love God has for us that He gave His "only" son to die for our sins. We may ask, why me? I don't deserve your love God. I'm not anything special. How could You, the God of the universe love such an insignificant and sinful person as me? Our brain just can't take it in. But it's not about our brain. It's about our soul, our heart, and the heart and love of our Lord. Don't try to figure it out, "just take it" and love one another as our Lord has and will always love us. -Larry



March Birthdays

5-----Chelette Williams
 18-----Henry Simons
 19-----Melody Knight
 25-----Kneeda Williams, Childcare Supv.
 27-----Josh Armstrong

March Anniversaries

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

April Birthdays

2-----Victoria Gehring
 6-----Rosie Armstrong
 11-----Jo Klempan
 12-----Gail Campbell
 15-----Glen Adrig
 17-----Judy Armstrong
 17-----Lamonte James
 20-----Marialis Jurgas
 21-----Mari Clare Gehring
 22-----Keri Bjornemo Roberts
 22-----Ida Ficca
 23-----Dr. Arriel Atienza



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

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

**Members Serving in March**

Altar Guild-----Jo Klempan
 Reader-----Larry Farner

Members Serving in April

Altar Guild-----Jo Klempan
 Chelette Williams
 Reader-----Larry Farner

What's Coming Up?**March**

15-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 18-----12, noon-----Lenten Service
 & luncheon
 22-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 25-----12, noon-----Lenten Service
 & luncheon
 29-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Palm Sunday

April

2-----3-----Maundy Thursday
 3-----6-----Good Friday
 5-----10-----Easter Worship Service
 First Fruits Sunday
 Easter Egg hunt following service
 11-----8:30-----Men's Fellowship Breakfast
 12-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 13-----6-----Kitsap Peninsula Knitter's Guild
 16-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 19-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service

