

THE WITTENBERG DOOR

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PASTOR'S MESSAGE	1
PASTOR'S MESSAGE & FIRST FRUITS	2
COUNCIL PRSDIENT'S MESSAGE	3
ALTAR GUILD, WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEES	4
NOTES FROM PASTOR GARY	5
LUTHER AND LUTHERANS	6
SPECIAL DATES & WHAT'S COMING UP?	7

Pastor's Message

God's Calling to His Church, and Power from on High

Toward the end of my Sermon on April 23rd, 2023, I scribbled out a note to summarize how the Lord had, in time, gone to each of His disciples (like Mary Magdalene, Peter, John and Cleopas) and restored them to Himself. This was for their faith, for their call to fearlessness and the power of the Holy Spirit for their future (Luke 24:30-35; 44-49):

30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us^[a] while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" 33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, 34 who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. It was in that gift of God (knowing Him in the breaking of the bread), and the Sacraments instituted by Christ (Holy Communion and Holy Baptism) that we have re-birth by faith, and in our burial with Christ by baptism into His death. Yes, that is the plan. We are empowered to believe in Christ by faith and then promised that in so doing, and being baptized in God's Name (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) we are promised resurrection with Christ, as He too was raised to newness of life! The disciples came to believe this by promise and by proclamation of the Church (Romans 6:3-11). Holy Communion, Holy Baptism (as commanded and instituted by Christ, as we have seen and in Matthew 28:16-20; and the Word and Promise of The Father, which they would receive when they were clothed from on high. Acts chapter two and elsewhere, and woven into the very fabric of our life in Christ, is the foundational work of God's Holy Spirit which brings us to repentance, grants us faith that we might believe in Christ and His Word, and be empowered by the very gifts of God's Spirit (Word and Sacrament, and power from on high (I Cor. 12; Rom. 12; Eph. 4).

44 Then he said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations,^[a] beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."

Pastor's message continued on page 2

Contact Pastor Gary at
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 or
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Pastor’s Message continued

As we go into this Easter season in Jesus’ name, we do so on our knees in prayer and repentance; on our feet in going and reaching out to serve others and share the gospel, as the Body of Christ together; we are gathered and called as one in Christ Jesus, to go and do as He has enlivened and commanded us by His grace and in His name.

He is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given unto me. Therefore, go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:16-20).

“For the promise is to you, and to your children and to all that are far off , everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” (Acts 2:39).

May God bless you this Easter season and the year ahead as we gather in, to disciple, encourage and love those whom the Lord calls to come to Him. Amen.

Peace and blessings in Christ, Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos

36 As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them. 37 But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. 38 And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? 39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have.” 41 And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate before them.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given unto me. Therefore, go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the end of the age.”



(Matthew 28:16-20)

Special Thanks to **Tony Keene** who faithfully takes the First Fruits donations out to Larry and Sally’s truck each month and neatly sorts it in the back to go to the food bank.

You are appreciated!!!

Can We “Bank” on You?

We are halfway through the calendar year and mid-summer will soon become a reality. And, often at this time of year people sometimes actually believe because it’s not so cold, that folks just do not need as much food as they need in winter-not so....nourishment is not climate oriented. Surprise, surprise...people can be just as hungry in July as they are in January. So, what is “our” role in this continuing drama? We are all aware that “Banks” are struggling. We are also just as aware that we can’t do anything about that. However, we can do something about struggling “food” we typically do in mid-winter. The hungry folks in our community depend on us-in fact, they “Bank” on us for their very survival. Sally, coordinator



Lifeguards Needed

Olympic Lutherhaven has a need for an estimated 4 Lifeguards to cover various events this summer. Due to an acute shortage of Lifeguards we are asking each church to please have any members or friends of members who are certified Lifeguards to please contact Jolene at Olympic Lutherhaven. We do require Waterfront Certification of Lifeguards due to being on Wild Cat Lake but we will arrange for that **training at no cost** to the Lifeguard. Anticipated first need of Lifeguards will be mid-June 2023. The lifeguards will be on an on-call but pre-arranged schedule basis thus it is not a full time position. Please call Jolene at 360-830-0445.



To Error is Human

But, to error intentionally is sin. We, not a one of us, cannot be obedient to God and follow Satan's temptations. Herein lies the difficulty of being human. The journey of a Christian is to in all things, obey our Lord and to aspire to a state of righteousness. Sometimes, we fall short of our allegiance to God. Yet failure isn't necessarily the end of the road upon which we journey.

Through determination, we can still find ourselves favorable to God. It's really all



about faith...the faith of "+the true believer".

Council President's Message

Happy Mother's Day to all our Mothers, Grandmothers, Sisters and Aunts! You are precious to the Lord, to your families and to your church family. The men of the church will wait upon the women to honor them on their special day.

Congratulations to our Confirmands, **Tiffany Johnson, Katie Armstrong and Nathan Armstrong**. Following two years of study they have made profession of their faith in Christ as Savior and Lord, and Sunday, May 28th, they make public profession of their faith.

Marth and Mary is sponsoring its annual fund raiser, the Generations of Care Auction. Call 360-394-4067 to make a donation or for bidding information - Rev. Tim Cartwright, Pres.

Pastor Rob—A Good Shephard

Along with his educational achievements and his commitment to serving the Lord Pastor Rob could have had his pick of serving in any congregation. Yet, he answered the call to serve with us! During our call process at ELC we clearly needed an interim Pastor who was a man of faith with strong leadership skills. The Lord answered our prayers in a most positive way when He opened the door for Pastor Rob to "step through." Like Ananias who reluctantly answered the call, Acts 9:10-15; Pastor Rob and his wife, Delores, "became one with us." His leadership, alone with the work of our call committee and the help of our Synod resulted in our being able to call Pastor Gary. Just a reminder.....Emmanuel means, "God is with us". Who could possible deny that God has been with us all along here at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. -Larry

Altar Guild / Worship and Music Committees

1. These thoughts and action points were brought up at the Church Council Meeting related to Altar Guild and Worship leadership.

A) Return to traditional Communion – how did it go on Easter?

1. Should we schedule communion assistants and have confirmation/ Young people trained and able to pick up cups after Communion? Comments from members?

2. Should we regulate the type of bread used for the elements (Hawaiian rolls, non-yeast wafers like the covid packets, gluten free, etc.)

3. Will communion continue on the first and Third Sundays? Any variation for the Church holidays? Pastor recommends that we stay with the First and Third Sundays in general Communion Sundays, and then build other non-Communion Sundays to be more like the LBW “Service of the Word” format for Ministry themes like “Youth Sunday”, “VBS Week and Sunday”, “Tithing sermon series” Sundays, Fall Ministry Kick-Off events, or Season of Pentecost evangelism Sundays (Invite a friend Sunday, etc).

B) Reinsert Traditional offering time and collection into the Church Service

Holy Communion Setting One (LBW, pages 56-66)

(The Gospel reading; sermon; Hymn of the Day, Confession of faith; The Prayers of the Church; Peace of the Lord; Offering).

1. The Offering is Received as the Lord’s table is prepared (for Holy Communion)

Pastor Gary’s recommendation: Let’s proceed with the traditional collecting of offering by using the two offering plates where they are currently stationed; one near the narthex entrance “bulletin table” and one near the front pew before the altar area, as you come forward for Holy Communion. This will mean that members can place their offering in the plates either as they come forward for Holy Communion, or later following the Worship service at the “Bulletin table’ in the narthex. Also, I recommend an addition of an offertory prayer, following the offering. This can be found in the LBW, and/or printed directly in the Church bulletin (LBW, pages 67. “Merciful Father; We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us...”)



If the Worship and Music committee, ushers and members desire, we can also, in time, sign-up and assign lay-people to usher, so that the Offering plate could be taken from both sides, pew to pew, and the offering collected during played music, and then brought forward and placed on the altar (just like the prayers for those in need). Symbolically, this is the most traditional and perhaps most gratifying way to express a tithe as a heart-felt faith response to God; because of His goodness in what He has first given us.

Pastor Gary



Fishers of the People God sends

At Church council we discussed an Adult Sunday School Class on Sunday mornings. This has been a hope of mine, and on the hearts of many of you in our Congregation. Some of you have participated and led in this same ministry of making disciples through Study of God's Word and Sunday School, for years. This would be for adults. Along with this we would continue our Sunday school for Children on Sunday mornings. I am recommending the meeting, planning, praying and development of these ministries, to be done by a Youth Ministry team or Board, and to include previous leaders (Judy Armstrong, any former, or new volunteers, church families and Pastor Gary and our Council leadership) Due to timing and the goals being attempted, I recommend planning for these ministries during these next four months, as the Lord leads and guides us all. We hope to survey the level of interest and support, pray daily and organize any schedule and curriculum needs. and then after securing and training any Sunday School adult volunteers, and getting them background-checked, we could start this ministry in the Fall 2023. This could incorporate a "Fall Kick-off" Sunday, advance advertising efforts, and an all church-members prayer support effort from now through September, 2023. What I will do soon, is to meet with Judy Armstrong and those of you that choose to support these ideas, and want to see this idea of Sunday morning Sunday School for adults and young people be re-born. I will gather a list of those interested, call together a group of all of us, and get your names as partners who will pray for this ministry, and volunteer to serve the Lord in any of these ways. Let me know if you are interested!

Pastor Gary



Jesus Calls the First Disciples



As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they let their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zeb'edee and John, his brother, in the boat with Zeb'edee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Please let me know what you think and share any responses of your desire to participate and help in volunteering for these ministries! Now is the time to reach people who need Jesus, in every season and stream of their lives!

Peace in Christ, our Lord and Savior!

Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos

Luther and Lutherans—Part Eight



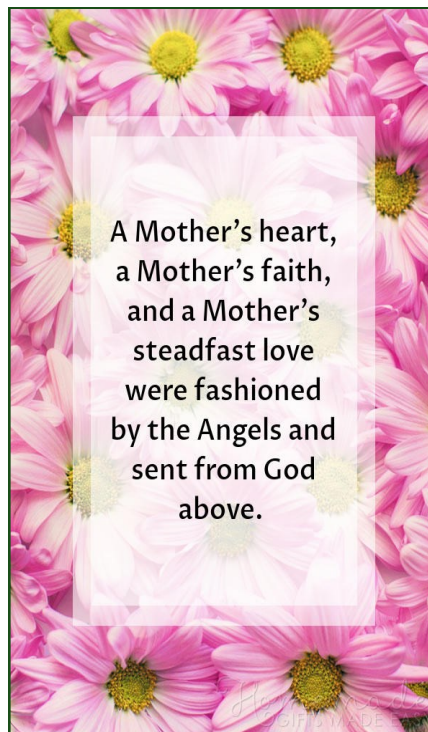
Reliance and Relationships. “The summons of death comes to us all.” Luther’s special skill was the ability to communicate with people at all levels, especially with regard to our fears and relationships. “Everyone”, Luther said, “Must fight his own battle with death by himself alone. We must all be prepared for the time of death. We may not rely upon nor blame others for our relationship or lack of relationship with God.” Luther had a Pastor’s heart. He was deeply concerned not merely with being right, but with how what one said affected the faithful. “To be right” said Luther “required being right not just in what one did and said but in the way one did and said things.” And when it came to human conflicts, Luther’s advice was, “where things are nonnegotiable, one must be firm and clear and uncompromising. But where things were optional, one must be clear that they were indeed optional.” When asked about Churches as monuments, Luther’s response was, “just because someone may take great pride in a Church building did that mean we should not build Churches?” Adding “men can go wrong with wine and women so, shall we prohibit wine and abolish women?” Haste and violence shows a lack of confidence in God. See how much God has accomplished without our help at all. Be forgiving and tolerant. Freedom and love must be at the center of Christian faith. A faith without love is not enough, indeed, it is no faith at all. Luther believed in a personal God and wanted his followers to know and understand exactly what that meant. He understood that the God of the Bible was a loving father, eager to hear the prayers of His children. Luther quoted Luke 11:9-10 when questioned about faith and answered prayer.

Larry Farner

Don’t Worry-Be Content!

“Wish the things which are, and you will have a tranquil flow of life.” (Epictetus, Roman Philosopher). Advice that is rejected out-of-hand by people in the 21st century. Everyone wants everything and they want everything to be better. Get a grip and accept with joy the life God has created for you and make the best of it! Strive to become “an optimistic stoic”, and you will be amazed at how wonderful your life really is—thank God every day for the gift of “your” life. Meanwhile, consider the words of yet another philosopher and poet; “Life is inherently a movement and, if we can’t escape suffering, we can allow beauty to move us so that rather than passively waiting for death to come, we may approach it confidently, having engaged fully with the beauty life has to offer.”

(Keats 1845)



A Mother’s heart,
a Mother’s faith,
and a Mother’s
steadfast love
were fashioned
by the Angels and
sent from God
above.

May Birthdays

2-----Stephanie Johnson
 3-----Jim Mace
 10-----Kaitlyn Armstrong
 16-----Sally Farner
 16-----Nancy Kerlee
 21-----Maurine Simons

May Anniversaries

1-----Bob & JoEllen Klempan
 12-----Dr. Arriel & Tina Atienza
 21-----Loyal & Gail Campbell
 30-----Mark & Bonnie Stouffer

June Birthdays

2-----Linda Houlton
 4-----Rev. Rob Stroud
 6-----Marian Hungerford, missionary
 6-----Tina Atienza
 7-----Loyal Campbell
 7-----Carol Reece
 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

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 May

Altar Guild-----Sally Farner
 Reader-----Pastor Tim Cartwright
 Acolytes--7, Tiffany--14, Bella-
 21, Nathan--28. Bella

Members Serving in June

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

What's Coming Up?

May

14-----10 am-----Worship Service
Mother's Day
 17-----12, noon-----Ladies' Lunch
 18-----10 am-----Bible Study
 21-----10 am-----Worship Service
 24-----12, noon-----Ladies' Lunch
 25-----10 pm-----Bible Study
 28-----10 am-----Worship Service

**Confirmation of Faith
 June**

4-----10 am-----Worship Service
 7-----12, noon-----Ladies' Lunch
 8-----10 am-----Bible Study
 10-----8:30 am--Men's Fellowship Breakfast
 10-----noon-----Kitsap Knitter's Guild
 (at Evergreen Park)
 11-----10 am-----Worship Service

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.