



# THE WITTENBERG DOOR

MAY 2026

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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## Pastor's Message

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## *Hosea: Modern Adultery as Unfaithful Behavior Before God, Both in Culture and in the Church.*

### Hosea 4:1-19

Dear Church Family,

For the next few Pastor's Newsletter articles, I would like to reflect upon the Old Testament prophet Hosea. Hosea was given one of the most difficult prophetic assignments recorded in Scripture. Though he was a humble and faithful servant of God, the Lord commanded him to marry "a wife of whoredoms" (Hosea 1:2, KJV), symbolizing the spiritual unfaithfulness of Israel toward God.

Through Hosea's painful experience, the Lord revealed His own grief over the sins of His people. Israel had repeatedly turned away from the Lord, dishonoring His commandments, rejecting His covenant, and disregarding His call to repentance and obedience. Yet even in judgment, God continued to call His people back to Himself in mercy and love.

The Lord had long promised that if His people returned to Him, He would restore them and dwell among them as His treasured possession (Exodus 19:5–6; Jeremiah 7:23; Ezekiel 36:27–28). Sadly, the nation continued in rebellion, and the consequences of sin eventually led to captivity and national judgment.

## *The Lord has a Controversy*

### Hosea 4:1-14

"Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land."

—Hosea 4:1 (KJV)

The Lord's controversy was not without cause. Hosea describes a society marked by lying, violence, stealing, adultery, and spiritual corruption. Even the priests and religious leaders were affected by the widespread disobedience of the people.

This passage serves as a solemn reminder for our own day. Whenever the knowledge of God is neglected, moral confusion and spiritual decline follow. Leaders in the Church—including pastors, teachers, parents, elders, and ministry leaders—must remain faithful in handling the things of God with humility, reverence, and obedience to His Word.

## ***Pastor's Message continued.....***

As believers, we should regularly pray the words of Psalm 139:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart:  
try me, and know my thoughts:  
And see if there be any wicked way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting."  
—Psalm 139:23–24



The good news of the Gospel is that God has provided salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. Though we are sinners, Christ took our sins upon Himself at the Cross, died in our place, and rose again so that all who trust in Him may receive forgiveness and eternal life.

Our hope is not found in our own goodness or worthiness, but in the grace of God alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone. May we continue to walk humbly before the Lord, seeking His forgiveness, trusting His promises, and giving all glory to God for His mercy and salvation. In Christ's Love and Service,

**Pastor Gary**

### ***First Fruits for Children***

In one month the school children will be out for Summer break. That means they will need a nourishing breakfast and lunch.

This next month, when you are shopping for the food to be placed in the first fruits shopping cart think of the children. What would make a simple breakfast or lunch for them. The Food Bank tries to fill backpacks with food for the children for the summer. What could be portable and could possibly be placed in a backpack. Thank you for feeding our local kids this summer.

Remember, you can always place a monetary donation in the offering bag. Just indicate that it is for the food bank or first fruits. -Sally, coordinator



### ***Did You Know This?***

JOASH. While still an infant Joash narrowly escaped being murdered by order of his grandmother, Athaliah, who ordered the massacre of the Royal family of David. But, his aunt Jehoiada stole him away and for six years he was safely hidden. When the time was right, he was presented to the palace guards as the legitimate heir. He became the king of Judah. Athaliah was removed from the Temple and was killed and the cult of Baal was banished. Since Joash was only 7 years old, his aunt Jehoiada ruled as regent. -Larry



### ***God, Time and History***

By 565, the Church began to regard correct belief as more important than correct behavior. This involved traditional duties of priests. Preaching was considered of great importance. Throngs of converts to Christian belief and behavior were exposed to heavily Theological sermons, establishing the Liturgical tradition. Some of the hymns that survived the Liturgical tradition are still included in worship. -Larry

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY  
*Her children rise up and call her blessed...*  
Proverbs 31:28



### *It's Difficult to Say Goodbye*



A couple of weeks ago we had to say goodbye to two dear members of Emmanuel. Bob and Jo Klempan moved to Oklahoma. They are dearly missed. We wish our best to them in their new home and location!



### ***Congratulations, Marsha !***



A couple of weeks ago McCloud's Grill House sponsored a Bingo night to help raise money to support Lutherhaven. The grand prize winner splits the money with Lutherhaven. It was a win-win situation. The grand prize winner was our newest praise singer, Marsha. Way to go, Marsha.

### ***Special Thanks to our Childcare staff and Others!***

A couple of Saturdays ago our Lutherhaven board member, Glen Adrig, coordinated a work party at Lutherhaven. ELC is working on fixing up cabins 7 and 8. Three members of our childcare staff (Carverlynn, Crystal and Kneeda) as well as Mark Stouffer and Sharie worked together to eliminate graffiti and refresh the paint within the cabins. We were able to complete about 75% of the work within a relatively short timeframe, and will return to finish the remainder on an upcoming Saturday prior to the opening of the camping season. Also, the childcare team will be replacing curtains in the cabins and shower curtains in the boys and girls bathrooms. Thanks for all of the support you have given to help Lutherhaven.

### ***Free Child Care***

Each Sunday, Emmanuel is now providing free Child Care by a trained Child Care professional. Sunday worship time is 10 AM. And, a very nourishing food service is also provided following worship. Members of Emmanuel, please pass this information along to your friends and neighbors who may have long wanted to attend Church but felt it was just too much of struggle with small children.



### ***Not Worthy***

I once knew a man who worshipped at the church I attended who though he appeared to be devout never took communion.



So, I finally worked up the courage to ask him about it. He told me that even though he was a believer and would like to take communion, he felt unworthy. “Unworthy” I asked? “if we had to be “worthy” not a single member of our congregation would be able to take communion.” It’s not about being “worthy”-when our Lord tells us to “do this in remembrance of me”. He is not just asking us to sup with Him, He is asking us to “sit at the head of the table”. Does a child have to be “worthy” before he or she is allowed to sit down to dinner with his or her parents? I know some churches do have “conditions” in order for their members to be “allowed: to take communion-however, what I hear when I read the words of Jesus, “do this in remembrance of me” is not just an invitation but a command. Who on this earth then has the authority to counter that command, with a “condition”? That we in some way must first be “worthy”. Jesus tells us that we who are true believers “are” worthy. So, be obedient to our Lord and “take communion.”

- Larry

### ***Rebel “With” a Cause***

In a dramatic scene in the movie “Rebel without a cause”, the character played by James Dean who had been arrested and placed in a holding cell, cries to his parents who are questioning his behavior. “You’re not listening to me” cries the young man. No truer statement has so often been uttered between husbands and wives, parents and children, well-meaning friends, counselors and even between nations. All seeking peaceful resolutions. It’s a cry of frustration of despair of anger, and, of fear. For those of us who are struggling to be heard, to be understood, to be consoled it is part and partial of the human condition. However, for Christians, we have a comforter-someone who does listen and understands, someone who encourages us-who unconditionally loves us. That “someone” is our own Lord, God and savior. When we are feeling depressed, unloved or uncared for,



LISTEN

remember He is with us-  
He cares and Listens.  
Thanks be to God.

-Larry

### ***Who Are You?***

The content of your character is your choice. Day by day, what you choose, what you think, what you do—is who you become. Your integrity...it is the light that guides your way. (Heraclitus) That light is the Holy Spirit. -Larry

### ***Let’s Hear From You***

Do you believe in ghosts, why or why not (how about the Holy Ghost? Do aliens exist? How do you know? Describe the best day in your life.

1-----Sacajawea Paulus  
2-----Stephanie Johnson  
10-----Kaitlyn Armstrong  
16-----Sally Farner  
21-----Maurine Simons

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

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

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

Altar Guild-----Teresa Prange  
Sally & Sharie  
Reader-----Miki Turowski

Altar Guild-----Sally Farner  
Reader-----TBA

|    |      |                                  |
|----|------|----------------------------------|
| 9  | 8:30 | Men's Breakfast                  |
| 10 | 9    | Sunday School                    |
|    | 10   | Worship Service                  |
| 11 | 6    | Kitsap Peninsula Knitter's Guild |
| 17 | 9    | Sunday School                    |
|    | 10   | Worship Service                  |
| 21 | 10   | Mid-week Bible Study             |
| 24 | 9    | Sunday School                    |
|    | 10   | Worship Service                  |
| 28 | 10   | Mid-week Bible Study             |
| 31 | 9    | Sunday School                    |
|    | 10   | Worship Service                  |

|    |                |                                  |
|----|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 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                  |

**Questions? Ask Glen or Pastor Gary**

