

# THE WITTENBERG DOOR

NOVEMBER 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**

## A Message from our President.....

### A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE



“Good evening Mr. & Mrs. America, there’s sad news tonight”! When I was a boy in the 1940’s our family would listen to the news reader Gabriel Heater on the radio every night during the years of WWII. There never seemed to be any “good” news. The only “good” news was reserved for Christians who would attend Church every Sunday to hear the promise of forgiveness and salvation from the Bible. This was why, I believed it was called the “good book”. I never cared for Gabriel Heater. Who would care for someone who never had anything “good” to say? Thank God, we always had the “good book” to comfort us! And, do you know it “really” is the “good” book. (check it out). There is absolutely “zero” times that the word “sad” is mentioned in the Bible? On-the-other-hand, “good” is mentioned “85” times. Almost split 50/50 with 37 mentions in the OT and 48 mentions in the NT. Beginning in Gen 1:4, through PS 34:8 and IS 52:7 to MT 7:11

And ending with I CO 15:33. Clearly, “good” ends over “sad” with our Lord. So, here we are in November, the month when we celebrate Thanksgiving – a time when we all sit around the table and give thanks to the Lord, our God for all His love and for the many times He has blessed our lives. It all began with the Pilgrims. School teachers for evermore have told their students before releasing them for the traditional “Thanksgiving” break the story of the Pilgrims. And, it was all good! There are even pictures of the Pilgrims all dressed up in their Pilgrim clothes, setting at a huge table with their Indian friends, all smiling – poised to slice into a huge turkey with cranberry sauce, biscuits and potatoes with gravy and frozen peas, followed-up with Pumpkin Pie and Kool Whip. However, as it turns out, that is not the whole story. To begin with, Plymouth rock was across the bay from where the Pilgrims finally settled. And, in actual fact it was just an ordinary medium and probably slippery stone. In the area the Pilgrims selected to build their village the land was poor, the wind blew almost constantly there really were no turkey’s just hanging around waiting to be put into the oven. And, there is good evidence that the relationship between the Indians and the Pilgrims was problematic. That first year at Plymouth had been a disaster with sickness, hunger and emotional challenges. Many of the villagers could and probably did say, “I’m out of here – heading for Florida” But, the Pilgrims were made of sterner stuff (probably Lutherans), who had really come to Massachusetts from Minnesota instead of Holland. So, did they turn on their radios and listen to Gabriel Heater because they needed something more to be sad about? No, they got together, built a big fire, invited all their friends and had a “cook-out” to give thanks for their survival and their freedom and for their Faith in the Lord, who had led them to a place where they could celebrate their faith in a land where their future success and prosperity which could not at all be imagined. So, what specifically, was it that was clearly “the” good part of this story that most of us never really knew? As it turned out, the place the Pilgrims chose to establish their village was on a bluff above a river that was eventually named the “Eel River”. Yep, you guessed it! The river was full of Eels and Eels are loaded with protein, fat and vitamins. God not only saw them safely across the sea, but also provided them with a handy Pharmacy and a Food Bank just down the hill from their back yards. Isn’t that the “goodest” story you ever heard? Please read Psalm 9:1 and “Happy Thanksgiving.”

Larry Farner

## THE "CHRISTMAS SPIRIT"

When December draws near, we Christians begin to think about what the birth of Jesus means for family and about the wonderful "warm" spirit and, warm meal we will be sharing with our loved ones. This year may be different than last year. As families and close friends may actually be able to sit down and break bread together.

What a special and joyous event that will be for us all. But, not everyone will be joyful and thankful on this Christmas. There won't be presents for the children under the tree, even "if" there is a tree. And, for many, the Christmas dinner may only be a picture out of a book. The rent had to be paid, a child needed shoes for school, a surprise medical bill has arrived. For some, there is not enough money for necessities and "food" is what is often cut back on. Or, it runs out altogether around the third week of each month. As we at ELC continue our mission of feeding the hungry, may we consider donating, in great quantities, the following items: Cream soups, broths, canned vegetables, canned yams, stuffing and cake mixes. Gravy packets and instant mashed potato packets. Canned meats and canned milk. What a treat these items may be toward giving the gift of a wonderful Christmas dinner. Jesus said, "When you give unto others, you give unto me". When it is time for us to give on First Fruits Sunday the first Sunday of December, be a cheerful giver-remembering what Jesus the Christ, has given for us!

Sally



## Project Challenge 2021



Emmanuel Lutheran Church has just been approved to receive funds from Thrivent (\$250) to purchase food for folks in our community who are expecting a "pretty bleak" Christmas this year. Sally is challenging our members to contribute "big time" to First Fruits Sunday on December 5<sup>th</sup>. This, along with the food we are able to purchase will be used to assemble "Christmas Food Baskets". If you know of a needy family, please contact Sally...And bless you one and all!

## Helping One of Our Own !!!!

We are adopting four children from our childcare center this year. Last year was amazing how we helped 3 families from our childcare center. We are wanting to do the same. However we have scaled it back to just 4 children since we supported our Operation Christmas Child ministry too! Our gift tags are out in the fellowship hall. Please look for them. Please consider taking one. Gifts need to be returned, unwrapped by December 12th Thank you for your support. Questions, ask Sharie.



## Special Thanks to All of You!!!!!!

After missing Operation Christmas Child last year due to COVID we were able to participate this year once again. Your donations were amazing. Thank you to all that participated. We had so many wonderful donations from hand –knit scarves for each child, to hand-crocheted adorable monkeys and bunnies with hand made clothes. Some of you donated tools that can be used in any village or town they arrive in. Many of you donated money which made it possible to purchase more essentials such as washcloths, bar soap, toothbrushes and hairbrushes.



Each box contained the following: a personal handwritten note of encouragement, 1 scarf, one bar of soap and washcloth, one toothbrush, a box of crayons or colored pencils



or markers, a notepad or two, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners and socks. For the older children they also had tools,



scissors , fabric and sewing kits. For the young children: books, and stuffed toys. Your donations were overwhelming. We do have some leftovers to start us out for next year. Our 28 boxes were stuffed full.

Special Thanks to the Childcare Center. They were able to add 5 more boxes to our 28. Grand Total: 33 !!!!



Thanks to all of you. In addition all shipping was covered from donations this year and previous years.

Sharie, OCC Coordinator

## 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 FOURTEEN—A Circuit Preacher & Missionary Fever

Andrew McNemee, a Methodist who was raised among Indians, preached "hell fire" religion, boiled Blue Jays for dinner and slept on the floor in the cabins of his congregation. Brother Mac, who was actually never ordained once sold his boots to buy food and tied himself in a tree to escape wolves. He worked all the little towns—Langley, Blain, Chimaquam, Ferndale, Kalama, Duvall (Cherry Valley) and the saloons in Friday Harbor. Mac died in Whidbey Island in 1936.



### WAITING UPON THE LORD

Just what exactly does "Waiting upon the Lord" mean? Do we have options? Is there a time limit? When Martin Luther uttered his now famous statement, "Here I Stand", was he standing alone? When some of God's people who lived as slaves in Egypt justified when they just gave up on being delivered from bondage? We at Emmanuel are "Waiting upon the Lord". Are we distressed, are we having doubts, do we sometimes feel we have been abandoned by our Synod—worse yet, by God? What do you think...? Will we get another Pastor? Will "never" get another Pastor? What do you think is going to happen to our Church, is there anything we can do? Yes to that question, there is something we can do, we can pray and we can "Wait upon the Lord". But I have been praying and nothing has happened, you may be thinking. If not for Covid, we may have had a Pastor, why did God allow Covid? Maybe God sent us Joseph and we just blew it! Maybe God wants ELC to fail! Maybe for some reason that isn't clear to us God has decided to turn away and leave us to find our own way? Is that how God works—is there anyplace in the Bible where God totally abandoned his people? Remember the story of Job.

These questions and these feelings are exactly how the German Jews, Polish Jews, Spanish Jew, Dutch Jews, etc., felt while they starved in the Ghettos, were loaded onto cattle cars and watched their friends and loved ones drift away as smoke coming out of the smoke stacks of the crematorium. Just imagine...put yourself in their place. Those people were devout. Some of them were Priests, Doctors, Scientists, Skilled workers, Children and for-the-most-part, all were devout. Those people were of the same blood and ethnic background as Jesus. Yet, here they were employed as slaves until the cost of food exceeded the value of their labor then they were murdered. They were gassed then burned because they as individuals were less valuable than the cost of a bullet. Can you even imagine "their" questions? Can you understand why they felt that God "had" abandoned them? And we think we have problems.

In the Scheme of things, what matters in this world, our problems and issues, while troubling to us does not deserve honorable mention when compared to the horrendous and indescribable horrors the Jewish people had to deal with during WW11. In His time, God rescued his people, just as he rescued Job and in His time he will rescue us. It may not be what we expected or what we planned for but, it will be, "The Will of God". Meanwhile we, "Wait upon the Lord".

Larry

**November Birthdays**

1 .....Lyn Herr  
 1 .....Larry Farner  
 6.....Pastor Tim Cartwright  
 13.....Carmen, Childcare staff  
 22.....Callie Woodward

**November Anniversaries**

16.....Jay & Stephanie Johnson  
 19.....Josh & Rosie Armstrong  
 20.....Bob & Cheryl Fox, our missionaries  
 24 .....Larry & Sally Farner

**December Birthdays**

6.....Mollie Erickson  
 7 .....Bonnie Mace  
 20 .....Matthew Johnson  
 29.....Denise Williams

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 November**

Altar Guild .....Sally Farner  
 Reader .....Larry Farner

**Members Serving in December**

Altar Guild .....Teresa Prange  
 Reader .....Glen or Sharie Adrig


**Men's Fellowship Breakfast is resuming. It is being held the second Saturday of each month. The location is All Star Lanes in Silverdale. If you would like to receive email updates on this please let Glen or Pastor Tim know so that your name and email can be added to the contact list.**

**Coffee Hour has resumed following the worship service. If you would like to provide refreshments for coffee hour or make a monetary contribution please talk to Carol Reece or Rose Link.**



**It's Time to Order Your Poinsettia's Again for Our Christmas Eve Worship Service !!!**

The order forms are in your boxes and on the table near the mailboxes. Please put your names on the order form and place them in Glen and Sharie Adrig's box by the first Sunday in December. You can place your checks in the offering but make sure you write Christmas Poinsettias on the memo line. -Sharie



**Mark Your Calendars!!!!**

**November**

24...Thanksgiving Service ..6:30 pm  
 25 .....Thanksgiving Day  
 27 ..Advent/Christmas Decorating Party .....9 AM  
 28..First Sunday of Advent

**December**

5.....Poinsettia Orders Due  
 12....Childcare Children's Gifts Due