

# THE WITTENBERG DOOR

NOVEMBER 2022 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCBREMERTON.ORG  
 2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310



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## Pastor's Message

**Thank you Emmanuel Lutheran Church for Calling me to be your Pastor**

Hello members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Bremerton! I want to spend time with this first Article, to say thank you very much for your kind hearts, hard work, support and sincere prayer in calling me to be your new Pastor! I have so many of you that I have grown to appreciate, and hope to thank personally in the days and even years ahead. As I see it, this Call process and reality, by God's grace, is a true Call from God. All the meetings and discernment that you so graciously endured, and the arduous task of discerning, "Lord, how will you guide us in deciding the candidate you would choose?"; was culminated and richly blessed by God's Holy Spirit in our Worship and Installation Service on Sunday, November 13th. The Church and denominational leaders, Church Council and president, Call Committee, treasurer, praise music team, congregation, AALC and presiding pastor, and you who served and supported faithfully on the sidelines, (you know who you are) altar guild, musicians, those who hosted the reception afterward, and many who generously and anonymously served the congregation in the Call process for a long time; and then worked with others in the Installation Service-were, and are a gift of God to us all! You did not go unnoticed. For myself, as your new Pastor, and my wife, Lori, we thank you very much for welcoming us and inviting us into your hearts! The whole Worship Service and installation was a true gift of God. Let me share with you some of my favorite verses, liturgical parts and responses of the installation service: In Scripture from the Apostle Paul, to Timothy:

*"Continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work". (2 Timothy 3:14-17 NKJV)*



Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos

**Contact Pastor Gary at**  
**1 (541) 350-7737**  
 or  
[ggkouts65@gmail.com](mailto:ggkouts65@gmail.com)

## An Historical Event for Emmanuel

After several years of searching and much prayer we were thrilled to be able to install our new Pastor, Reverend Gary Koutsopoulos last Sunday, November 13, 2022. It was an eventful day with a visit from our AALC Presiding Pastor, Reverend Dr. Cary Larson. We are so happy to have Pastor Gary and his wife, Lori.



**Pastor Dr. Cary Larson:**

Dear brother in Christ, the Lord grant that you receive and keep these words in your heart so that you may be strengthened and encouraged in your labors.

In the presence of this congregation, Emmanuel Lutheran church, and before our Lord God to whom you much give an account now and the Last Day, I now ask you:

We were blessed by a special message from our presiding pastor, Rev. Dr. Cary Larson



Do you acknowledge that the Lord has called you through His Church into the ministry of Word and Sacrament? **Pastor Gary:** I do

**Pastor Larson:** Do you believe and confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

**Pastor Gary:** Yes, I believe and confess the canonical Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.



**Pastor Larson:** Do you believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds, namely, the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds, as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures and do you reject all the errors which they condemn? **Pastor Gary:** Yes, I believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds because they are in accord with the Words of God. I also reject all the error they condemn.

**Pastor Larson:** Do you confess the Unaltered Augsburg Confession to be a true exposition of Holy Scripture and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? And do you confess that the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, The Smalclad Articles, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, and Formula of Concord-are also in agreement with this one scriptural faith?

**Pastor Gary:** Yes, I make these Confessions my own because they are in accord with the Word of God.

**Pastor Larson:** Do you promise that you will perform the duties of your office in accordance with these Confessions, and that all your preaching and teaching and your administration of the Sacraments will be in conformity with the Holy Scripture and these Confessions?

**Pastor Gary:** Yes, I promise, with the help of God.

**Pastor Larson:** Will you faithfully instruct both young and old in the chief articles of Christian doctrine, will you forgive the sins of those who repent; and will you promise never to divulge the sins confessed to you? Will you minister faithfully to the sick and dying, and will you demonstrate to the Church a constant and ready ministry centered in the Gospel? Will you admonish and encourage the people to a lively confidence in Christ and in Holy living?

**Pastor Gary:** Yes, I will with the help of God.

**Pastor Larson:** Finally, will you honor and adorn the Office of the Holy Ministry with a hold life? Will you be diligent in the study of Holy Scripture and the Confessions? And will you be constant in prayer for those under your pastoral care?



**Pastor Gary:** Yes, I will, the Lord helping me through the power and grace of His Holy Spirit.

**Pastor Gary:** Yes, and it is my great joy and privilege to be called by God to be your Pastor-preach, teach and confess my/and our faith, through the Church, and this amazing congregation, Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Bremerton! This new fellowship, and these words of faith and life that you allowed me to affirm, confess and practice, are important to me. I both agree and accept this Call from the Lord and from you, Emmanuel Lutheran Church: and now we join together in hearing and receiving the Word and Sacraments (means of grace), prayer and fellowship, Scripture reading and Bible Study, support groups and Christian fellowship, Worship and praise, and to follow Christ our Lord, go and make disciples, and reach out to in truth and love in Jesus' Name (Matthew 28:18-20; John 3:16-20).

Let us Go in Peace and Serve the Lord Together!

Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos

Left to right. Rev. Tim Cartwright, Pastor Emeritus; Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos, Rev. Dr. Rob Stroud, and Rev. Dr. Cary Larson, AALC



Thanks for the special music provided by Delores Stroud, Rachel Fuller, and Rhonda Jaramillo



## One Chapter Ends .....Another Begins

I was ordained on September 14, 1980, in Lynden, WA. We celebrated my retirement from Emmanuel and from the Gospel ministry on April 30, 2022. That Retirement Program was one of the highlights of my life. To all those who attended and all who participated, Thank You. Special thanks to Sharie and her crew for all your beautiful work. You are appreciated.

I shall cherish that day and my years of service with you. You have loved me and blessed me. I am grateful for the privilege of having been your pastor.

I wish Carolyn could have been present for the Retirement Program. She was always my greatest supporter. I love you my Dear and I am anticipating our heavenly reunion!

We shall soon have a new pastor, Pastor Gary. I know you will support him as you did me. Well done, people of Emmanuel. I am proud of you.

Rev. Tim Cartwright  
Pastor Emeritus, AALC



## Some Things Don't Change

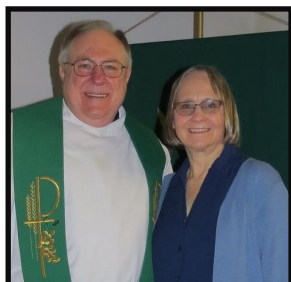
“Every word of God proves true; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him”

(Proverbs 30:5)

In answer to our prayers, the Lord has blessed us with the arrival of Pastor Gary. I am eager to see the new ideas and energy he will bring to our family at Emmanuel.

I've been honored to serve as your pastor for nearly a year. And I am delighted that Pastor Gary has invited me to continue teaching our midweek Bible study, on Thursdays at 10:00 am.

Now would be a great time to begin attending the study, since we are finishing our study of Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth. Join us as we decide which portion of the Scriptures



we should examine together. Suggestions include the Proverbs, Luke's Gospel, and the book of James. There are many other worthwhile writings in God's word, and your suggestion may be the one the group chooses for the coming weeks.

One wonderful truth about studying the Bible is that whatever we read, we can't go wrong.

Pastor Rob

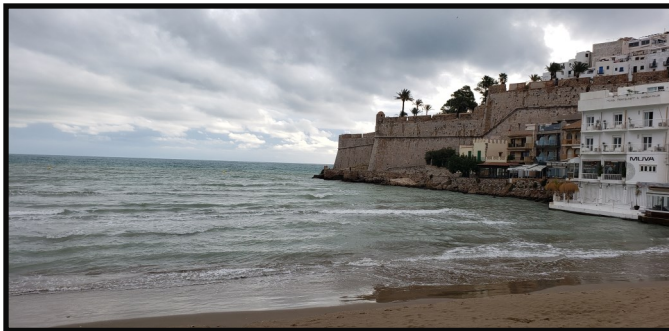
***Special Thanks to Pastor Tim, Pastor Rob & Delores for what you have done for Emmanuel and what you continue to do. Pastor Tim continues to teach confirmation classes, Pastor Rob continues to teach Bible Study and Delores continues to be our praise song leader!!!***

## Our President Goes to Spain

A few weeks ago our council president, Larry Farner, went on a trip to Spain with his daughter. This was a trip Larry had been looking forward to and planning for several years. Unfortunately the trip did not turn out like anticipated. First off, the airlines lost their luggage and they had to buy clothes while in Spain. Then Larry got seriously ill and spent some time in the hospital. They managed to catch up with their group but unfortunately missed some sights along the way. I think he still had a good time in spite of the set backs but is probably pretty happy to be home.



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## Always

The very first time I had a shave was after I enlisted in the Air Force. When I looked into the barracks mirror that first morning basic training I saw a boy who just yesterday, had left the chicken farm and now stood before the mirror, not really needing a shave. Today, I look into the mirror, these 67 years later and I see an old



in



man who clearly, does need a shave. From boy to man, over the years, many things have changed. From lying in the wreckage of a war plan to graduating from college on the G.I. bill, my life, like all of us has had it's good days and it's not so good days. But one thing that I took from the farm and my small home town with it's small Church that has always been with me and has always sustained me— always. Read the 23rd Psalm and believe that in all things and in always God will be with you, always.

Larry Farner

### Love in Abundance

Going out with a bang? No....a bag, a very LARGE bag, full of groceries! We are almost at the end of 2022 and what a year it has been for ELC. But, the Lord has been with us. Now that we are nearing the season of joy have you noticed how cold it has gotten? A reminder to us all that when we are cold we need food-good food to warm us and keep us healthy. So..please fill those bags and our grocery cart at Church with goodies to bring warmth and joy to those in need on **First Fruits Sunday, December 4th**. The last time this year to remember our own blessings and to pass – on a blessing to others. Members of Emmanuel, you have always been generous and you have always shown your love for those in need, just as our Lord has always shown His love for us...indeed a mystery and a miracle to behold!  
Sally, coordinator



### Decorating For Advent and Christmas

We are gathering on Saturday, November 26th at 10 am to decorate our sanctuary and fellowship hall. It is always a fun and festive time.



Please come and help with this joyous occasion.

### A Tribute to Our Veterans

On Sunday, November 20th we will celebrate Veterans Day at our morning worship service. In gratitude to our veterans we will be offering a special “Military Challenge Coin.” Unlike most such medallions, this one has includes a spiritual message. In addition to acknowledging a veteran’s contribution in their respective military branch, they include the reminder to Pray and Trust God. Widows of deceased veterans will be given a coin



### Ordering Poinsettias

You will find an order form in your mailbox or on the table in the entry of the Fellowship Hall. We will have the opportunity to display them on the altar and recognize someone who has passed away or someone who is special to you.



4 “ Poinsettias are \$8.00, 6 “ Poinsettias are \$14.00.

You can fill out your order form and place it in Glen and Sharie’s mailbox and put your check in the offering. Make sure you make a note on the memo line that it is for poinsettias.

### Helping Our Own

Over the next few weeks look for special gift tags that will be displayed on a small table top tree. This is a way of helping some of our Childcare Children whose families have had a tough year. We will gather together before Christmas to wrap the gifts. Consider being part of this special event.

## From Our Council President

Economics is basically about income vs expenses..the bottom line! It's a secular term...or is it? Every December, the Church Council prays for a miracle, then sits down to work on the budget. We, the Council members know the Lord doesn't need our help to manage His Kingdom here on earth-it's not about management though, it's about obedience and faith. He (The Lord), often gives us a kind of "magic" word to guide us along our "feeble" way...the word is TITHE. That Tithe is what the council counts on when they prepare the annual budget. Beyond the Tithe, there are different ways we give and those ways are in the form of "gifts" and our own good service. The Tithe is not just something God commands, no— expects from us. It is also a way we demonstrate our obedience to our Lord and Savior. It is a promise, like you know, gifts God gives us every day and like the ultimate promise of John 3:16. As your Council President I know I do not have to remind everyone that prices are going up! It's a fact and a good old Marty Luther would or should have said, it's time we took a look at our tithe and consider a bit of an increase....on this "I" stand. Larry



**Who Said That?** Learning to live loved, it's not an easy concept; You have to take the time to prepare the soil, if you want it to embrace the seed; All I want from you is for you to trust me.

## Luther and Lutherans—Part Three



Issues and implications. After much searching, prayer and frustration Luther found the key which anyone could use to enter into heaven. It was by simple faith that one could accept God's grace, be forgiven and enter into heaven. Luther early on realized that even when God reached out to us in love and grace, we were so used to seeing Him as a stern judge that we denied His love, thus denying the very thing we most wanted. At fault was the church and the elitist priests. Luther challenged the People of being more a tyrant than a servant because of the use of indulgences and military power to intimidate believers. Luther felt that priests created a false distinction between the priests and lay people by reserving the Eucharist for priests only. The theology of the Church during Luther's early years as a monk had strayed far from the idea that God saved us, and implied that we must save ourselves. Luther accepted this and searched for a path to heaven-it didn't work! Luther then challenged the Church and began to realize human truth had limits and by themselves they could never reach heaven. For answers, Church leaders often turned to the writings of philosophers. But the Bible, Luther believed was entirely apart from every book in the world-it (the Bible) was the living word of God-it was in the Bible where we would find our answers for everything. Luther was hunting for the truth itself about who we are and who God is and what He really expects of us. The only way to read God's word Luther discovered was to see beyond mere words. To read legalistically and simplistically was to miss God Himself. Luther believed well intended Christians perverted Church teachings, that we were in the last days in which the Church itself would corrupt the words of our Lord. ***Churches that are today questioning the validity of God's word are clearly doing just that.***

# Operation Christmas Child Packing Party Returns



For the past 11 years it has been an Emmanuel tradition to gather together and pack our shoeboxes as a group. Two years ago we had to cancel OCC. Last year we couldn't have our packing party. However, this year was a true celebration. We had more donations this year than we have ever had. We had a nice group of members and friends that came together and packed our boxes. It was a fun time for all.



Our new pastor, Rev. Gary Koutsopoulos wrote personal messages to be placed in each box.



Our Presiding Pastor, Rev. Dr. Cary Larson, from the AALC happened to be here this weekend for Pastor Gary's installation. He even helped pack boxes.

***Special thanks to all that contributed to OCC and special thanks to those that came and helped back boxes.***





**November Birthdays**

1-----Lyn Herr  
 1-----Larry Farner  
 4-----Delores Stroud  
 6-----Pastor Tim Cartwright  
 22-----Callie Woodward

**November Anniversaries**

3-----Patrick & Victoria Gehrig  
 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  
 19-----Tim Cartwright Jr.  
 20-----Matthew Johnson

If you have any additions or corrections to our birthday—anniversary list please let our editor, Sharie Adrig, know at [gadrig@comcast.net](mailto:gadrig@comcast.net)



**Who's a Lutheran?** A Lutheran is someone; Who is pretty sure that all the pairs of animals on Noah's ark were married; Thinks the parsonage is a public building; Has a last name that ends in son, sen, nes, berg, holm or land.

**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 November**

Altar Guild -----Maurine Simons  
 Reader -----Larry Farner  
 Acolytes 20th Tiffany -----27th Arabelle

**Members Serving in December**

Altar Guild -----JoEllen Klempan  
 Reader-----Maurine Simons  
 Acolytes -----4th Kaelyn- 11th Nathan  
 - 18th Rebecca - 24th/25th TBA

**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.

**What's Coming Up?**

*November*

23 ----- 12, noon ----Women's Lunch Hour  
 23 ----6:30 pm --Thanksgiving Worship Service  
 26-----10 am----Decorating for Advent  
 27-----10 am----Sunday Worship Service  
 30-----12, noon----Women's Lunch Hour

*December*

1 -----10 am-----Bible Study  
 3:15 pm-----Confirmation Class  
 4-----10 am ---Sunday Worship Service  
 5----- 6 pm---Peninsula Knitter's Guild  
 7-----12, noon ---Women's Lunch Hour  
 8-----10 am-----Bible Study  
 3:15 pm-----Confirmation Class  
 11-----10 am --- Sunday Worship Service

**Candlelight Service December 24th --6:30 pm**  
**Christmas Day Worship Service --10:00 am**