

# THE WITTENBERG DOOR

NOVEMBER 2024    EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH    ELCBREMERTON.ORG  
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## Pastor's Message

Thanksgiving and Reformation Living Why an identity in God and salvation through faith in Christ makes our lives Thankful John 8:31-36; Rom 3:19-28 Thanksgiving dinner started with the law...and God's Word kept telling us the truth.

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup> For by works of the law no human being<sup>[a]</sup> will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:19-20)

You know, in life we wish it was as easy to keep the law and be justified before God, as it is to be following a diet. We probably also wish in this Thanksgiving season that the results of our sin would be just like having too much dessert or not eating enough vegetables. It is so much more than that, and it is what Scripture calls “the knowledge of sin” through the law, that shows us our sin but does not deliver us from it (Romans 3:19). It gives name to our bondage to sin, and like a diet that we cannot keep, in our condition and sinful deeds, we cannot free ourselves. You see, when you talk about both sin and weight issues, there is a sad correlation and a world and Spirit difference. The spirit upon which the Apostle Paul establishes this conversation, is God's Holy Spirit, and it begins with the true proclamation from God's Word, that: “all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory” (Romans 3:23).

We know from our readings in the Gospel of (John 3:16-20), and the epistle to the Romans, that, “no one understands, no one seeks for God. All have turned aside, together they have gone wrong; no one does good, not even one.” (Rom. 3: 11-12). They can hear of the dark shadows of what becomes of all who sin, and realize that it was Jesus' love that was not tepid, but the very power of God. If we are tempted to walk away in fear, He was walking toward trial, beating, and death on the cross, in our place. Then the gospel of this blessed and richest treasure and gift from God for all who believe in Jesus: He did not come to “condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through faith in Him” (John 3:17-21). We are by faith invited to walk humbly and in repentance, by the grim and torturous cross, and kneel in obedience and godly love, before the one whose death and suffering were given and shed to take away our sins. Jesus, in his death and resurrection gives us, by grace and through faith in Him, a new and eternal life! (John 3:16-20).

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

This is the best kind of “Everlasting Life”, where Jesus of Nazareth, true son of man and true God, in full view of the cross and suffering, and His blessed and eternal resurrection from death and grave, receives all who believe upon Him. We respond by singing and speaking words of thanks, praise, honor and all glory to God on high.

### **The Church built on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the Righteousness of God, by grace and Through Faith** (Romans 3:21-24)

<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...

Enter the Church built upon the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the means of salvation by hearing and believing the Word of God, and rightly receiving, taking and eating His sacraments, the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion and being baptized into Christ through Holy Baptism. These are the very means of grace, freedom from sin, and Salvation, in accordance with Scripture.

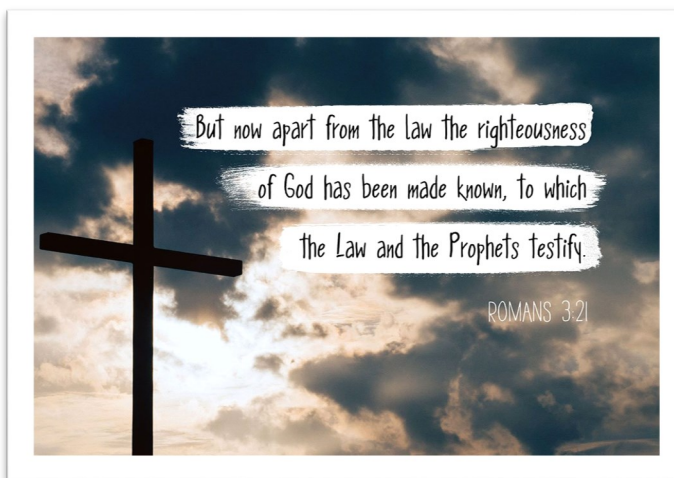
People in our nation and community are ready to be, and many are now being, delivered from sin and brokenness by God's grace and the power of His Holy Spirit. Each time we carry out God's Commands to “Go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them all that which I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:15-20). This means that we are not ashamed of the gospel (Good news), nor of the One who died and was raised to new life for the salvation of the world (John 3:16-20). We are called as Jesus' Body, to “be eager to preach the gospel to you and all those who are in Rome.” And for us, many other towns around the world, as the Apostle Paul suggests (Romans 1:15-16). This redemption is and will always be in Christ Jesus...

<sup>25</sup> “whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. <sup>27</sup> Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”

Simple, True, powerful and pure Gospel! Like the old Hymn: “Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow.” (“Jesus Paid it all”, by Elvina M. Hall. Hymns for the Family of God. Copyright 1976 by Paragon Associates, Inc. Printed in the United States of America. Hymn # 273).

May God bless you in your days of seeking His face, may you receive His gifts in faith and celebrate His love with your families and Church this Season!

In Jesus Name,  
Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos



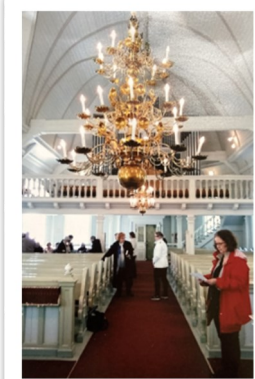
## Melody's Family Story Continues.....

### Experiencing the Church in Kuortane, Finland Where Many Generations of My Family Worshipped

Marja and I spent a few days in Kuortane to really explore the area, the church graveyard, and the church itself. On one of our first days there, we located Toivola, Vainiupaa, Mikkola and other surnames in the churchyard. I didn't know for sure that the Vainionpaa graves were the graves of my 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandparents or their children, but I knew the Toivola's were my direct relatives, their spouses, children, or grandchildren. I was in a hurry, so I didn't stop to write down the names on the Mikkola headstones, but I wish I had since I have DNA cousins with that last name.



We went to a local florist to buy pots of flowers to put on some of the graves. I chose some beautiful pansies in purples and yellows to put on Juha and Sanna Toivola's grave. Later when Martti Toivola and I prayed and thanked them for making our lives possible, I put a beautiful heart-shaped rock on the headstone so I could say, "I left my heart in Finland."



When we entered the cross-shaped sanctuary, I was impressed by its beauty. I don't know what it looked like when my relatives worshipped there, but I could picture them there in the pews. I imagined that Sanna and Juha probably had to keep their active young ones in line—just as we had to keep our own two boys quiet and not so wiggly during the services. As it sunk in that I was worshipping in the same space my ancestor's had, I was overwhelmed with what an honor it was. As we started singing songs I knew, sat next to my friend who sang in Finnish, and knew enough about the language to sing along with her, tears flowed from my eyes. Christians all over the world have sung songs like "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" and other songs in their own languages. I felt united to them and to with those who came before me who helped me become the Christian person I am today.



The beautiful painting was above the area that was used for communion. Since I didn't know if people would understand if I stood, I sank into the red velvet-covered pad and immediately regretted it. It felt like these were the original pads used decades or hundreds of years before because they were hard and lumpy—despite how everything else looked new and modern including the people and their devices.

I will treasure this visit to the church in Finland forever. It was truly a spirit-filled visit.

Melody Knight

## Supporting Lutherhaven

### Bingo Night at McClouds



Last Sunday, November 3rd, was another Bingo night at McClouds to help support Lutherhaven. We had three winners from Emmanuel. Bob Klempan took home a beautiful comforter and Chris Cockerel took home a jumbo package of TP. However the top winner for the night was Jo Klempan. She won half of the jackpot. She and the other winner from Vinland generously gave it back. That gave Lutherhaven a whopping \$1200. Thank you, Jo, for your amazing donation. Also, special thanks to all from Emmanuel who came.

### Vinland Lutheran Hosts a Dinner Auction

On the evening of Saturday, November 16th Vinland is hosting a dinner auction to raise money for Lutherhaven. Some of our members took the time and money to put together a wonderful "Game" basket to be auctioned off. If you wish to help off set this cost talk to Jo Klempan. Thank you to all who helped put this generous basket together. If you are interested in attending the dinner talk to Glen or Teresa.



### Never Turn Away

Jesus tells us to never turn away from those in need. In Thomas Hood's 1844 poem, after a destitute woman threw herself from Waterloo Bridge in London, the author pretty much sums up our role as Christians. *"Alas, for the rarity; of Christian charity; under the sun; oh! It was pitiful! Near a whole city full, home she had none!"* After the poem became popular the bridge became known as "The Bridge of Sighs." In Deuteronomy 14:28,29 God tells His people to devote a tythe, for local welfare programs, especially for widows and orphans. In Isaiah 3:14, the Lord judges those who have frauded the poor. In 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:9, we are told that a Godly man gives generously to the poor and in James, Chapter two we are told that it isn't enough just to have faith if your faith doesn't show itself by good works. Soon, we at ELC will have the opportunity to share our bounty at the Thanksgiving table...



the season of giving when we share the gift of good will in the name of He, who gave us the ultimate gift, His only son. And so, how do we do this? By filling the basket to overflowing on First Fruits Sunday.

-Sally, coordinator

### Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to all for your generous donations to Operation Christmas Child. It is amazing the amount of gifts that have come in, not only from our congregation but those outside our church. I truly feel blessed by your generosity. Our packing party is this coming Saturday, November 16th at 10 am. We are still accepting monetary donations to help with the shipping costs.



Thank you so much!!!!!!

- Sharie Adrig, coordinator



## We Are All Hussites!

“You should be wary of people who seem too perfect”, a line in “Against the hypocrites”, a work written not by a reformer, i.e., Martin Luther, but by a papal bureaucrat living and working at the center of the Roman Catholic hierarchy. A century later, Hus was challenging the power of the pope, while Luther, mounting a more successful challenge, remarked; “We are all Hussites without knowing it.” In the mid 1500’s Catholics were considering the impact of Greek philosophy on the Christian faith. Theologians were seeking a resolution of the debates concerning the nature of the “central Christian mystery. Thomas Aquinas, a leading theologian, attempted to reconcile the concept of Transubstantiation and the laws of physics. Philosophers at the time were asking, “How is it possible that something that looked an smelled and tasted like a piece of bread could actually be Christ’s flesh? Aristotle, a pagan absolutely denied the distinction between substance and an “accident”. This was a serious assault on Catholic doctrine. But, it was no problem at all for the reformers, like Lutheran, who said, “faith must take first place among all the other laws of philosophy”; And, that the Word of God, may not be exposed to falsity. Isn’t it curious, that issues in the Church are the same kinds of issues today as they were in 1550?

(\* ) John Hus was a Bohemian priest and reformer who was burned at the stake by the Roman Church. Hus’s crime was his statement, “To rebel against the pope is to obey Christ.” Hus, was among the first to propose lay communism as a command of Christ. Hus’s Christianity was based exclusively on the Bible as “the” Word of God.



-Larry Farner

### Thanksgiving Service

Our Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held November 27th at 3:00 PM. It is a chance to give your thanks for this past year.



### Helping Our Own- Our Giving Tree

Our childcare staff has been busy identifying four families who have had an extremely difficult year. They will be giving us names, needs, sizes and wishes. We will have a small tabletop tree that will have tags with these needs and wishes written on them. We in turn select a tag or tags, purchase these items and we as a church will wrap them for each of the families.

**Gifts are due December 8th -  
Wrapping party is Saturday, December  
14th at 10 AM**



### Did You Know This?

DORCA: Also known as Tabitha, was a Christian, living in Joppa. She was known for her acts of charity, including making clothing for the poor. When Dorcas became ill and died, Peter was asked to attend to her, Peter secluded himself in her house in a room where her body lay. Then Peter prayed and said, “Tabitha, rise.” She then opened her eyes and extended her hand to him. Peter then, “presented her alive”, (Acts 9:40-41). The raising of Dorcas was the first such miracle by an Apostle of Christ.



-Larry Farner

### Christmas Poinsettias



After Thanksgiving weekend there will be more information about ordering poinsettias for the Christmas Eve service.

Please look for more information to come.

## Turning a Tragedy into Something Good!

Last December a Central Kitsap School District teacher, Ms. Amy Sudbeck, died suddenly over Winter break. Not only did this leave a family stunned, but also a shocked classroom of 20 first and second graders, and a staff at Cottonwood Elementary. This person happened to be an avid knitter. For any of you who knit or crochet or know someone that does, you understand a “yarn stash.” We are collectors of yarn. I consider it almost a disease. Anyway, the family was left with all this yarn. What to do? They are not local residents. They started researching our community and discovered our Kitsap Peninsula Knitting Guild on Facebook. This is the community guild that meets monthly in our fellowship hall. They could see that we are a group that knits for charity and reached out to us. Wow, did they have the yarn. Some yarn was appropriate for beginning knitters, some was quality yarn that many of us could not have afforded for ourselves. It literally took me a week just to sort through all of the yarn. If you don’t understand yarn you wouldn’t have a clue. The challenge was finding good homes for all this yarn. I just wanted you to know of the good that came from this.

Our member, Melody Knight, knitted over 80 scarves for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and made scarves for children from our childcare center. I am making hats to match



the scarves for our childcare center children.

Rose Link made the cutest little monkeys for each of the 20 students that lost their teacher.



Knitting Guild Members made hats for the 20 students and some fellow staff members. Jean Reed’s daughter, Pam, made little personalized tags remembering Ms. Sudbeck.



I made some hacky sacks that can be included in our shoeboxes and I also made some washcloths for the shoeboxes.

Mountain View Middle School’s art classes was given yarn to create with. (I was able to connect with the art teacher that coincidentally is the daughter of a teacher I worked with years ago at Woodlands Elementary. Small world!

Our daughter, Katie, works at a middle school in Clover Park and she was given a huge box for the after-school knitting club at her school.

Some of us are using yarn to make items for our annual donations to charity. Our Guild gives handmade knits to over 10 local charities.

Some of us are creating something special for our family members.

What an unexpected gift for so many. The family has felt blessed by this.

-Sharie Adrig, Knitting Guild President

**November Birthdays**

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

**November Anniversaries**

3-----Patrick & Victoria Gehring  
 16-----Jay & Stephanie Johnson  
 19-----Josh & Rosie Armstrong  
 20-----Bob & Cheryl Fox  
 24-----Larry & Sally Farner

**December Birthdays**

2-----Brian Boisjolie  
 19-----Emma Atenza  
 20-----Matthew Johnson

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



**Advent Decorating Party  
 November 30th 10 AM**

**Thanksgiving Eve Service  
 Wednesday, November 27th  
 3:00 PM**

**Men's Fellowship Breakfast  
 Second Saturday of the month!  
 December 14th- 8:30-All Star Lanes  
 Questions? Ask Glen or Pastor Gary**

**Members Serving in November**

Altar Guild-----Jo Klempan  
 Reader-----Judy Armstrong

**Members Serving in December**

Altar Guild-----Teresa Prange  
 Reader -----Maurine Simons

**What's Coming Up?**

**November**

3-----9-----Children's & Adult  
 Sunday School  
 10-----Worship Service  
 4-----6-----Kitsap Peninsula Knitting Guild  
 7-----10-----Midweek Bible Study  
 10-----9-----Children's & Adult's  
 Sunday School  
 10-----Worship Service  
 14-----10-----Midweek Bible Study  
 16-----10-----OCC Packing Party  
 17-----9-----Children's & Adult's  
 Sunday School  
 10-----Worship Service  
 Beginning of The Giving Tree (Supporting our  
 Childcare Children)  
 21-----10-----Midweek Bible Study  
 24-----9-----Children's & Adult's  
 Sunday School  
 Worship Service  
 27 -----3-----Thanksgiving Eve  
 Worship Service  
 30-----10-----Advent Decorating Party

**December**

1-----9-----Children's & Adult's  
 Sunday School  
 Worship Service  
 5-----10-----Midweek Bible Study  
 6-----6-----Peninsula Knitting Guild Party  
 8-----9-----Children's & Adult's  
 Sunday School  
 Worship Service  
 Giving Tree Gifts are due  
 12-----10-----Midweek Bible Study  
 Dec. 14th - 10 am- Wrapping Party