

THE WITTENBERG DOOR

OCTOBER2024 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCBREMERTON.ORG
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Pastor's Message

3 For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. (1 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

I. A Sacred Trust (the Call from God to the pastor).

In our Adult Sunday School Bible study this past month, we read that, “God worked an abundant faith in the Thessalonians, which produced love and hope.” 1 This was discussed as an abundant faith gift that is “engendered” (“or worked and given us), by... God’s Word. “Then the questions that followed in the first and second chapter of this book, asked the question:

“20. Paul was “entrusted with the Gospel.” A sacred trust existed between God and Paul.

How would you describe Paul’s sacred trust?” (Gary Dunker, pg. 19*)

A) I answered this way: “Entrusted with the Gospel (v. 3) Paul was “qualified by being approved by God”, not in his pleasing people, but instead, pleasing God, who as Paul comments – “tests our hearts”.

The ministry is itself to be founded on the Lord’s calling, and the test of God’s Word, all requiring the Spirit, the grace and the power of God that through the Word of God, discerns the thoughts and intentions of our hearts before God (Acts 5:3-4;7:39, 15; 8:21; I Corinthians 4:5; Hebrews 4:12). As I wrote this out, I realized that I am not worthy of this calling, and it is a privilege to graciously called by God, and trusted by others in serving God’s people as their pastor. The fact that God would call me to serve in the pastoral role, is one both of His grace, and of his love. First, “Grace” because I am a perfect example of what God can do with a sinful, frail, imperfect, and dependent follower. Yes, like Paul, I was too, born into sin, and in life and faith, a wanderer and lost child. It was and is by God’s grace, and through faith in Christ, that I am like all who have fallen short; called, reclaimed, saved and redeemed by God’s sheer goodness and love.

It is the Word of God which got ahold of me early on, and thanks to our Lord Jesus, is still calling me to ministry, to remain accountable to Him, and by His grace, to serve in His kingdom

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Pastor's Message continued.....

This class, and the insight from God's Word to the Thessalonians, reminds us that being called to serve the ministry of the Gospel as a pastor, or a gifted and committed lay person, is not to be taken lightly. It is a blessed gift of God as both a direct personal calling from God to serve, and from the Church itself that deems the person qualified, trained and approved by God and the larger Church body.

That Church at large then becomes the church in our neighborhood, in our county, state and world, that both prays, discerns, petitions the Lord for guidance, and then decides by God's grace, to call a redeemed sinner who lives and believes in Christ, by the grace of God. This is through faith in Jesus our Lord, and according to Scripture. Paul was called and empowered to serve in the ministry of the Gospel to the gentiles (Acts 9:1-22).

We are called by our Lord in the same way, to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:15-20). That calling to follow means you and me. I pray that as we study God's word and receive the Sacraments in our church life, we might hear weekly sermons and receive the Sacraments and ministries of the Church in worship each Sunday. May we be blessed in the calling of God's Holy Spirit upon our lives, whether as a pastor like Paul, lay-minister, or any person called as a servant in the house of the Lord.

Please ask me any questions you may have related to my calling as your pastor, and I hope you will pray for me and all of our lay, and pastoral ministry leaders. We are all very approachable, very human, super blessed servants of God, and our stories are different and gathered into God's grace of being loved and blessed in Christ.

To God be the glory!

Pastor Gary Germanos Koutsopoulos

*(I and II Thessalonians: The Lord is Faithful. By Gary Dunker. (Concordia Publishing House. Saint Louis, MO. 2007. Pg. 12,19)

Note: In preparation for this article and its content Read: I Thessalonians 2:3-4 Paul's message of salvation came to him by divine revelation; Acts 9:3-6 Paul's calling was to

"carry Christ's name before the Gentiles"; Acts 9:15 "Paul was entrusted with the Gospel." (Mr. Gary Dunker. I and II Thessalonians the Lord is Faithful Concordia

Publishing House, St. Louis, MO. 63118 pg. 19)

God, Time and History

The written word is the most important evidence of ancient time and events. The earliest religious records were written on rolls of papyrus or parchment. This form of "book" was awkward to use. The first Christians wanted the "word" more available. They may have been the first people to make wide use of "codex", the bounded book with pages, such as we have today. Tens of thousands of papyri discoveries include the oldest known fragments of the New Testament, including John's Gospel.

-Larry



What's Happening at Emmanuel

Blessings and Gratitude

The definition of blessings is.....to confer prosperity of happiness, bringing pleasure or contentment. In Malachi, Chapter three, God pours out His blessings to his people with not enough room to even store their abundance of food. He promised that their fields would overflow with crops and that all the nations would call His people blessed because they sparkle with happiness. In Matthew, Chapter six, Christians are told to not worry about what to eat or if they would be safe because, their Heavenly Father would always take care of them!

Gratitude is a state of thankfulness and of being grateful for your blessings-a state all true believers want to share...that's what First Fruits Sunday is all about! As we enter Fall and prepare for Winter, we "joyfully" need to prepare our gifts of cans of soup, pastas, hot cereals, bags of apples, onions and potatoes and beans.

-Sally Farner, coordinator



October 6th - November 17th- Operation Christmas Child 2024

It's that time of the year again. So many have already been so generous with their gifts this year. Not only people within our church but others in the community have given gifts. There are still a few gift ideas that we need: small balls, toothbrushes, washcloths, combs, erasers, solar calculators, socks, sunglasses, watches, and flashlights with batteries.



Also, many of you have asked that we increase the number of boxes we pack. The past couple of years we have packed 50 but this year we are aiming for 75 boxes. However, along with that we need to pay a \$10 fee per box for shipping.



Important dates include the following: November 10th (gifts are due), November 16th, 10 am (Packing Party), November 17th (Blessing the boxes)

November 16th I encourage all ages to come and participate in our packing party. It is so fun to include children in this process.

-Sharie Adrig, coordinator

Helping Our Own- Our Giving Tree

Our childcare staff has been busy identifying four families that 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 these families.



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

Supporting Lutherhaven

Last month Emmanuel sponsored a Sunday night Bingo night at McClouds restaurant. Over \$700 was raised to help with the water project at Lutherhaven. Special thanks for Teresa for coordinating this event and for getting some Barbeque grills donated to Lutherhaven.



Special thanks to Lowe's for their donations. We so appreciate Teresa and Glen for being our Emmanuel reps on the Lutherhaven board.



Our next Bingo night will be Sunday, November 3rd, 4:30 at McClouds. Join us for a fun evening and help support Lutherhaven

Vinland Lutheran Hosts a Dinner Auction



On the evening of Saturday, November 16th Vinland is hosting a dinner auction to raise money for Lutherhaven. Glen and Teresa are asking if some of our Emmanuel members could coordinate a gift basket that could be auctioned off. If you have an interest in helping with this endeavor please talk to Glen or Teresa.

Martha & Mary - Don't Procrastinate Vaccinate!

The Low Income Housing Institute and the Washington State Department of Health are partnering to host a vaccine clinic at Martha & Mary Health Services in Poulsbo.

When: Tuesday, October 15, 2024, from 10 am- 2 pm.

**Where: Martha & Mary Health Services
19160 Front Street NE Poulsbo, WA 98370**

Services being offered?

2024-25 Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines (Adults and Pediatrics)

Flu Vaccines

MPOX Vaccines

Childhood Vaccines

Blood Pressure & Blood Glucose Screenings

to register use the following link https://prepmo.doh.wa.gov/appointment/en/client/registration?clinic_id=24181

Melody's Family Story Continues.....

Juha's Grandson, Aimo, Tells U about Him in His Book

When my cousin, Martti Toivola gave me a copy of his father Aimo's book, I was really blessed. I learned so much about my grandmother Helmi's family. Each evening, Marja Alastalo, would read a few pages and translate them for me.

My friend, Marja, and I traveled with two couples to the Kuortane area of Finland. We visited the area where the Toivola Farm was, the church where the family worshipped, and the graveyard where some family members are buried. It was fun traveling with Martii and Anneli Toivola and Jaakko and Kyllikki Harjumaki. Genealogical sources say that the Harjumaki's and I have some relatives in common. Kyllikki is genealogist and did research for me. Harjumaki's hosted us and showed us the inside a typical farmhouse in Finland-their family farmhouse.

In Aimo's book, I learned that Juha taught him about Jesus and his teachings from his Bible but also taught Aimo how to read using it. I, also, learned that the family only saw Juha angry once. Some of the grandchildren had found Juha's axe and were using it to chop down a small tree. Juha grabbed the axe, finished chopping down the tree, and told them it was too dangerous to do that without being taught how to do it safely. The children never saw Juha's axe again.

Juha had a real reverence for bread knowing that God provided it, but also because he had lived through the "Hunger Years" of 1866-1868. During these two years the crops had failed and many people died of hunger. Juha was 10-12 years old during that time. He, like others, learned to dry pine bark, grind it, and use it instead of flour to make bread. He knew that Jesus was the "bread of life" as Pastor Gary wrote about recently.

After Sanna died, Juha did not remarry as most of the people in my family tree did, especially if they were farmers. For some it may have been a necessity because someone was needed to care for young children, cook for the family and workers and care for the home. I think Juha was honoring his marriage vows, and that he loved Sanna so much that he didn't want to replace her. One of his daughter's, Maija Lamminpera, came for a time to help him adjust to his new life. Juha was an inspiration to me. I'm glad I learned about him through his descendants.

- Melody Knight



From left to right: Marja Alastalo, Melody, Jaakko & Kyllikki Harjumaki, Anneli Toivola & Martti Toivola in front of the Harjumaki's family farmhouse.



LAND OF MAKE-BELIEVE—Stuffed animals, dolls and other toys will set theme for mother-daughter banquet tonight at Emmanuel Lutheran church. The 6:30 dinner in the church parlors will be given by Men of Emmanuel. Taking peek at some of the toys to be used in decorations are (from left) Mrs. Lewis Stouffer and daughter Noreen; Mrs. Walter Wuetherick and daughter Mrs. Cecil McConnell, and Mrs. Peter Strom, chairman of decorations.

A Historical Picture

This picture was in preparation for a mother-daughter banquet. The toys were going to be used as part of the decorations. The people left to right are Mrs. Lewis Stouffer (Mark's mother), Noreen Stouffer (Mark's sister), Hazel Wuetherick (Miki Turowski's grandmother) and our late beloved member Mae McConnell (Miki's mother). Thank you, Miki, for sending the picture.

Let the Journey Begin

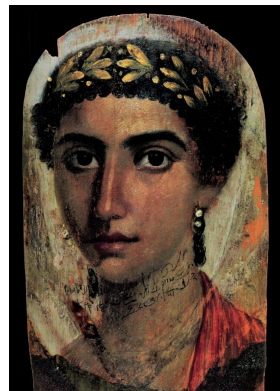
A journey can be the making of a religion. For example, the journey of the Mormons to the Great Salt Lake. Another would be the Salt march led by Gandhi in India. The journey of Abraham and the journeys of the Disciples, to share the "good news." The common experience of man or woman at prayer is not so much of finding all the answers at once- it is part of the journey. Human reasoning demands that we ask, "whom shall we follow?" With the human journey, choosing a way of life becomes less a matter of attitude, facts, dogma or discovery but, simple faith. In our search through the story of God's people from Geneses through Revelation, we discover that, "it's all about faith." We finally then, discover that faith begins where human reasoning leaves off. In our search for and our discovery of and our relationship with God, we must ultimately accept that this journey involves our whole heart, our whole mind and our whole soul.

-Larry Farner



Did You Know This?

DAMARIS When Paul preached at Athens about the resurrection of the dead, some mocked him. But, a woman named Damaris, was among those who "joined him and believed." (Acts 17:34). The fact that she, along with Dionysius the Areopagite, was mentioned by Luke, suggests that she was a woman of some prominence. It also indicates that the gospel was meant for women as well as men.



Damaris of Athens, Acts 17

-Larry Farner

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak; If I agree with you, we'd both be wrong!

October Birthdays

6-----Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos
 21-----Jay Johnson
 24-----Mark Stouffer
 29-----Tatyana Johnson

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

If you have any additions or corrections to our birthday or anniversary list please let our editor, Sharie Adrig, know at 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



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

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

Members Serving in October

Altar Guild-----Sally Farner
 Reader -----Larry Farner

Members Serving in November

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

What's Coming Up?

October

13 -----9 -----Children's & Adult
 Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 Operation Christmas video
 17-----10-----Midweek Bible Study
 20-----9-----Children's & Adult's
 Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 24-----10-----Midweek Bible Study
 27-----9-----Children's & Adult's
 Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 Melody Knight's Temple Talk- OCC
 31-----10-----Midweek Bible Study

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

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Second Saturday of the month!

November 9th- 8:30

All Star Lanes

**Questions? Ask Glen Adrig or
 Pastor Gary**