



THE WITTENBERG DOOR

OCTOBER 2025 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCBREMERTON.ORG
2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

Pastor's Message

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A Good Soldier of Christ Jesus (11 Timothy 2:1-13)

I. Live and Serve by grace in Christ Jesus

You, then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful me, who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

As we progress into these "20's" (now 2020's). I remember back to my childhood, and watching on the news reports the footage of those soldiers returning from war. The stories of what they had experienced were etched into their faces, and our minds, and all with concern over what had, and would continue to change forever our un-certain world. It seemed easier to stand at allegiance and put my right hand over my heart with a moment of patriotic silence and prayer; a consideration of all that they must have experienced, and sadness over their lost youth. We were all beholden to forces we could not fully control, and that would lead some to their greatest and most final gift of sacrifice for our nation and people. Who wouldn't agree it was a golden era of innocence, alongside a growing wave of rebellion. We will never forget those friends, family members, and trauma-born loved ones, who in stepping forward into eternity, were offered up as heroes for us all.

Now apply this level of cataclysmic World change to the Scripture, the early Church, and in our day, as the hoped for coming of the world to faith in Jesus of Nazareth. Yes, this is still the goal and hope of Jesus our Lord and His Church to which we have been grafted as eternity-long, Baptized members!

You will see in the battle tested language, that Paul was not talking about a military battle but a spiritual one. He knew from Scripture, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, that they, and we are facing a epoch of water-shed moments that would decide the life and future of the Church, and each person gathered by grace and through faith. As followers of Jesus the Christ, who is, The (only) Way (Romans 6:4-5; John 14:6; Mark 1:16-20).

Contact Pastor

Gary at

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or

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Pastor Message continued.....

Not only was Jesus calling the spiritual followers and fishermen in the Scripture, but now His call goes out to you and I, as their obedient and great, great grandchildren in the Lord. He is calling us to follow Him, and make Jesus known in our generation!

Today, in our world, and in light of our Christian faith, the Church is that place where the Word of God and the Sacraments, are the certain voice of the God Shepherd's voice, and in the power of His Holy Spirit, are His guidance in reaching out to a world not yet reborn. It is to us, that the Apostle Paul calls out, to, *"be strengthened by the grace of God that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses. Entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."* (II Tim. 2:2)

God bless you richly as you, both are a disciple, and reach out to make disciples in Jesus' Name this Reformation Season!

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for:

"If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself." (II Timothy 2:8-13)

God bless you as you serve and follow Him each day!

Your fellow servant in Christ, Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos

Hope

Some people believe hopeful thinking is deluding oneself ignoring the problems and not being realistic. Those who do not believe in hope are missing out on its benefits. We need hope because life can be discouraging. We get deflated, feel defeated and want to quit whatever hard thing we are facing. It is during those times that we need hope. Hope, is about lifting ourselves up, and aiming for something that feels expansive, exciting, inspiring. Hope is about seeing the beautiful nature of other humans and of ourselves. Hope is about focusing on what we can do, something that's under our control that feels doable-so that we can create something good. When life gets hard, connecting to something that feels hopeful can be incredibly powerful. As Christians, our hope is in the Lord. (Ref. The Epoch Times)

-Larry

Did Ben Believe in God?

The epitaph of Benjamin Franklin, written by himself. *"The body of B. Franklin, printer like the cover of an old book its contents torn out and stripped of its lettering and gilding lies here, food for worms, but the work shall not be wholly lost; For it will, as he believed, appear once more in a new and more perfect edition, corrected and amended by the author."* What do you think, was BF a believer?

-Larry

What's Happening at Emmanuel?

Christ Is "Our" First Fruit!

The weather is changing, maybe not pouring rain but ...fall is in the air. We always enjoy hearty meals in the fall. Our neighbors who are struggling would like to have a hearty meal as well. This then, is a good time to put oatmeal and pancake mix, soups, pasta, rice and bags of potatoes and apples in the "First Fruits Cart" on First Fruits Sunday. Let's fill that cart..., let's be agents of hope and joy. In fact, Christ has raised from the dead, the "First Fruits" of those who have died (1 Cor 15:20). "First Fruits Sunday" is "always" the first Sunday of each month!



-Sally, coordinator

Operation Christmas Child

For the next month we will be collecting gifts for our shoebox ministry. We already have some gifts but these are the items we are lacking: Girl's Toys, Washcloths, Combs, Pencils, sharpeners, erasers, crayons, markers, colored pencils, Calculators, Scissors and children's size small socks.



Our gifts are due by November 9th and our packing party is scheduled for Saturday, November 15th at 10 am. All ages are

encouraged to come and help pack our boxes. It is so much fun.

-Sharie Adrig, coordinator



Our Giving Tree

Our Childcare staff have already started identify families that are deserving of a special Christmas this year. Each year the staff carefully identifies families whose parents are essential workers but have had an especially challenging year. We get a list of the children's needs and wants and we hang these tags on a little tree in the fellowship hall. Members can take tags off and go Christmas shopping for these precious families. In most cases these families may not have had much of a



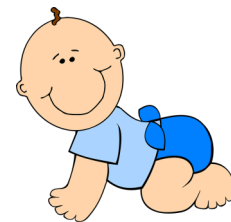
come.

Christmas otherwise. A few days before Christmas we gather and wrap the gifts up for the families. More information to

-Sharie, coordinator

Trillium Pregnancy Center

Currently the Trillium Pregnancy Center needs Sizes 6 & 7 disposable diapers and baby wipes. There is a white bookcase in the fellowship hall that your donations can placed on. If you have questions talk to Rose Link-coordinator



AARP Driver Safety Class Offered

Once again the AARP Driver Safety Class will be offered at Emmanuel Lutheran. It's an excellent class that is recognized by the state. By attending this class you can receive an insurance discount if you are 55 or older. October 27th and 28th starting at 9 am.

If you are interested ask Glen Adrig.

Cemetery Blessings Found In Finland

Some people may see cemeteries as a scary or sad place. However, I do not; I have found them to be a true blessing.

While doing Finnish research, tombstones or headstones took on a positive meaning. They became places where I could find information-like real names, places and dates. While in Finland they became places where I could honor my ancestors by planting flowers or bringing cut flowers. I left a heart-shaped stone on many of my relatives' graves as a way of symbolically leaving my heart there in Finland. I had time (sometimes with cousins) to spend in reflection of prayer and thank them for making it possible for me to be born!

The church cemetery in Kuortane is on the Western side of Finland in the Southern Ostrobothnia area. Being able to worship in the Kuortane church, which was built in the 1600's, was a spiritual experience I will never forget! I thought of my great grandfather, Juho Esanpoika Vainionpaa Toivola, who was so involved in the church (as a church sexton or carpenter), and still coating the roof of this church with tar at age 70. I thought of Juho, his wife, Sanna, and all their children (and maybe even their ancestors before them). I visualized them sitting in the pews, singing, and taking part in the services. As I worshiped and heard familiar tunes, and was able to miraculously sing in the Finnish language, I had to wipe away the tears that started flowing down my cheeks.



Juho, age 75

Kuortane Church was opened in 1777 by Architect Antti Hakola (incidentally, Juho said he was sitting on the metal rooster as he was applying the tar!)



Church records have filled in my details for me, also. Another DNA cousin found the church records for Sanna's family. They had to leave the house, called Maentausta, shortly after she was born in 1858. They were living in a multi-generational home. Apparently that was a breeding ground for some communicable disease. The pastor had written that a communicable disease took the lives of her fraternal grandparents, many of her siblings, and her uncle in that year and sometime later when again another disease hit. What a bitter-sweet time that must have been with her birth and their deaths!

Also looking at the church records I found out that Sanna and Juho had lost at least 4 children: their first son, Rinari, only lived two days; their twin daughters, Marai and Susanna lived three days and eight days respectively. I think their son, Heikki, died at two years old. Maybe losing so many children, sadness of losing them, the lean times (of poor nutrition, little food and no money for medicine), had caused him to be in poor health. It tells me more about her. I understand her more, since I've also lost a child, which has a profound effect on you!

Cemetery Blessings Found In Finland continued.....

Obituaries also became a blessing when a DNA cousin sent me the obituaries for my great grandparents, Aku Asikainen and Anna Greta Tolonen. They lived on the Easter side of Finland in the Iisalmi area. Before that I only knew that Aku looked like a very calm, thoughtful, sweet person, from his picture. And I guessed that Anna had had a difficult life from the same picture. I really wished I could meet them and talk to them. These obituaries were so beautifully written that they brought me to tears! The English translations for the two obituaries follow.

*Deeply missing, but with a hope of reunion, we let you know that my dear husband and the gentle father of the children **AUGUST ASIKAINEN** died with faith to his Savior in Akula in Koukinjoki on Sunday 20th November, at 9:30 a.m. Aged 78 years 10 months and 10 days; Missing him other than myself are 3 sons in America and 1 daughter with her family in Finland and several relatives and friends.*

Anna Asikainen (formerly Tolonene)

I am safe under His wings and storms of night will not trouble me because He took me as His child. He brought me glorified rest. I am protected, I am safe. Blessed wings cover me. My soul can hand over all the worries to the Lord.

*With deep sorrow I am letting you know that our dear mother and foster mother, widow **Anna Reeta Asikainen (formerly Tolonen)** died peacefully at her home in Akula in Koukunjoki on 19th May, 1928 after having lived 76 years 7 months 24 days. Left with sorrow myself with my family, 3 sons in America, 1 sister, foster daughters, grandchildren, etc. relatives and friends.*

Ida Vartio (formerly Asikainen)

Thank you Mom, for all your trouble!

Your memory will remain!

So, as you can see, I found out that they were deeply religious, loving, hard-working Christian people! I also found out that Anna was a foster mother, but that is a story for another time. So don't think of cemeteries, obituaries, and death records with sadness. Think of them as a blessing that tell us more about the people that came before us and about the times they lived in!

-by Melody Knight

Thank you, Melody, for sharing your family history stories with us!



Aku and Anna

Forwarded from the LCMS Resource on Reformation by Pastor Gary “the Protestant Reformation”

“More than 500 years ago, the Protestant Reformation brought the church’s focus back to God’s free gift of salvation in Jesus Christ.

On Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses– the “Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences”–to the church door in a small city call Wittenberg, Germany. This event ignited the Protestant Reformation, and thus the Lutheran Church officially commemorates this important anniversary on Oct. 31st.

As you and your congregation prepare to celebrate this year, you are invited to use a variety of resources that highlight the history, theology, and continued effects of the Reformation today.

The Reformation was, first and foremost, all about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It was then, and it still is now. The task of reformation never ends. Every person, in every generation, needs to hear the Good News of their Savior from sin and eternal death.”

Three-Year Series and One-Year Series

Scripture readings

- Psalm 46
- Revelation 14:6-7
- Romans 3:19-28
- John 8:31-36 or Matthew 11:12-19



Lectionary summary

The Son of God Has Set Us Free from Sin and Death by His Grace

“Wisdom is justified by her deeds” (Matt. 11:19), and the true Wisdom of God, Christ Jesus, the incarnate son, has justified us by His deeds. He prepares His way by the preaching of repentance, but He has suffered the violence of the Law and voluntarily handed Himself over to violent men, that we might eat and drink with Him in His Kingdom and “remain in the house forever” (John 8:35). He is “a friend of tax collectors and sinners” (Matt 11:18-19), and He has rescued us by His grace from the slavery of sin and death. By the proclamation of His eternal Gospel “to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people” (Rev. 14:6), “the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law” (Rom. 3:21), “that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus” (Rom. 3:26). And by the hearing of that Gospel of Christ Jesus, “whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith” (Rom 3:25), “you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32).

Lcms.org/worship Internet, October 2025

God, Time and History

Gregory the Great: Gregory, from a wealthy Roman family refused high office after becoming a Bishop and instead, became a lowly Monk. He eventually became the first Pope who had been a Monk. One matter of high importance that he influenced after becoming Pope was his decision to send Monks to the Kingdom of Kent in Britian. Gregory also produced a basic textbook for the training of medieval clergy. Gregory's mission to England resulted in the conversion of the Angles, Saxtons and Jutes. Theodore of Tarsus, a Greek, Arch-Bishop of Canterbury and Hadrian from North Africa, both appointed by Gregory are considered the real founders of the Catholic Church of England.

-Larry



Did You Know This?

James, the son of Zebedee was one of the original 12 Apostles. His mother, Salome, was one of the women who witnessed the crucifixion of Christ and discovered the empty tomb on the third day. Eventually James was put to death by Harold Agripa I. His death is the only martyrdom of one of the 12 apostles that is recorded in the New Testament. It was James, who brought the Gospel to Spain. He is the patron saint of that country, and it is the place of his burial.



-Larry

If you have a special story and or picture you would like to share with us please send it to me.

Sharie Adrig, editor

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GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES:
FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD
IN CHRIST JESUS FOR YOU.

1 Thessalonians 5:18



Just For Fun

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

He had a photographic memory which was never developed .

A plateau is a high form of flattery .

The short fortuneteller who escaped from prison. A small medium at large.

- Larry

Let's Hear From You

Describe the best day of your life.

Don't be ashamed of your tears, when was the last time you cried?

What's a skill you have that not many people know about?

October Birthdays

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

November Birthdays

1-----Victoria Boisjolie
 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 (missionaries)
 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 two ladies and Stu for all you do.

**Men's Fellowship Breakfast**

Second Saturday of the month!

8:30 AM at All Star Lanes

Questions? Ask Glen or Pastor Gary

**Members Serving in October**

Altar Guild-----Jo Klempan
 Reader-----Larry Farner

Members Serving in November

Altar Guild-----Jo Klempan
 Chelette Williams
 Reader-----Maurine Simons
 Glen Adrig

What's Coming Up?**October**

11-----8:30--Men's Fellowship Breakfast
 12-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service

Beginning of Operation Christmas Child

13-----6-----Kitsap Peninsula Knitting Guild
 (meeting at the Church)
 16-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 19-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 23-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 26-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 27-28-----9 am-----AARP Driver Safety Class
 30-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study

November

2-----9-----Sunday School
 6-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 8-----8:30--Men's Fellowship Breakfast
 9-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service

Operation Christmas Child Gifts are due!

13-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 15-----10-----Operation Christmas
 Child Packing Party!!!
 16-----9-----Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
(Blessing our shoeboxes/Giving Tree goes out)
 20-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 23-----9-----Sunday School
 26-----TBA-----Thanksgiving Eve Service