

THE WITTENBERG DOOR

SEPTEMBER 2023
ELCBREMERTON.ORG
2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PASTOR'S MESSAGE	1
PASTOR'S PREACHING SCHEDULE	2
FIRST FRUITS & VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	3
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	4
ANNUAL PICNIC	5
LUTHER & LUTHERANS OCC	6
LUTHERHAVEN & BIBLE STUDY	7

Pastor's Message

This last month, on August 18th, 2023 we had a super-blessed and life-giving Vacation Bible School here at Emmanuel Lutheran Church! During this one-day event, we were reminded of and empowered by God's Holy Word in Matthew 4:19-20, where Jesus told His disciples, "If you follow me, I will make you fishers of men (people)".

Altogether we had fifty-three youth (forty-eight youth, five youth helpers), and 12 adult helpers and leaders for music, food, games, running errands, organizing and teaching. Before, during and after we gathered in prayer and dedication in sharing Christ, providing breakfast and lunch, and all together learned what it means to fish for people, like you might catch a fish! And what if you don't like to fish, let alone don't care to eat fish even if someone else caught it for you? You can see how it took a brief time to encourage the kids, that it is not about animals or preferred taste, using nets or bait, or fishing poles. It's not even about our liking different foods. It is about reaching people, for whom Jesus came to earth, taught, healed and fed; He was innocent and yet tried, and sentenced to death on the cross, and after three days He was raised from the dead by the Glory of God the Father (Matthew 27:11-66). He knew his first disciples were fishermen by trade and he was going to call them and send them out to begin their new lives by following Him. They understood that just like those that left their nets, tax collector duties, families or homes, and laid down their careers and followed Jesus in the beginning, all who followed would be changed forever. and living in obedience to His Word. So too, are those who are young and old, learning, or scholars, growing and mature. We have now been called to live as Baptized believers in God's Name. "We are called and empowered by grace and through faith in Christ Jesus, according to His Word and in the power of God's Holy Spirit". When illustrating this by describing the Sacrament of Baptism, one of the insightful young people, thoughtfully asked, "does that mean that Jesus is the first one to be resurrected from the dead?" (This is a seminary plus, level question!) Yes, I told him! Yes. He is. St. Paul writes, "*But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen.*"

Today, our youth and adults are among those who can join with believers of every generation and declare: "*I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith, to the Jew first and to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed though faith for faith; as it is written, "He who through faith is righteous shall live."* (Romans 1:16-17).

At the end of our one-day Vacation Bible School, with the amazing opportunity to reach out to and teach young people, we sang a song that came from the Mission field.

Contact Pastor

Gary at

1 (541) 350-7737

OR

ggkouts65@gmail.com

"I will make you fishers of men, fishers of men, fishers of men;

I will make you fishers of men,

If you follow me.

If you follow me; If you follow me.

I will make you fishers of men , if you follow me." (Matthew 4:19-20)*

By Harry D. Clarke ((Hear Christ calling come unto me.."))

We shared with the kids that every step we will take in following Jesus, will be one with a foundation that He (God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit) has already laid, and a price that He has already paid. We invited them to Church for hearing God's Word, being Baptized, receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion, coming to Sunday School, and we pray, following Christ by His grace and faith in Jesus. These blessings are given to all Baptized and believing members of the Christian family, and can be theirs as well! Because of His great love for us, He calls us, enlightens us and sanctifies us, so that even as He has loved us, we can love and forgive others. Just like the Adults and Youth gathered for this blessed VBS Day, we pray the Lord will regularly gather us in by grace, and in His Name as we reach out to and fish for people! May God bless and Keep in Jesus our Lord, Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos

Volunteers Needed for This Fall

If you would like to help be a volunteer "fisher of people this Fall, and serve in ministering to opportunities listed please see the forms for volunteering on the "Sign-Up" table on your way out Church today; and place your volunteer response in the offering during the Church Service, or give it to one of our ushers or Pastor Gary. Thank you and God bless our Vacation Bible School Youth and each one of You! God bless you in your fishing for people! ([Matthew 4:19-20](#))

Glory to God and blessings to you! Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos

Pastor Gary's Preaching schedule (from the Holy Bible/Lutheran lectionary

September 10th, 2023 Romans 13: 1-10 : "Fulfilling of the Law to obey those in authority over you, and to " You shall love your neighbor as yourself"(Rom.13:9) .

September 17th, 2023 Romans 14:1-12: "If we live, we live to the Lord; If we die, we die to the Lord". (Rom.14:8)

September 24th, 2023 (Matthew 20:1-16; Isaiah 55:6-9): "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while he is near" (V. Isaiah 55:6)



Vacation Bible School –2023

“Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”- Matthew 4:19

These words spoken by Jesus were the theme of our 1 day VBS event. It was held on August 18th from 9 am—2 pm and was a busy, fun packed, blessed day for students, helpers and staff.

Thirty-nine students heard the message through music, and prayers, led by Delores, Rhonda and Pastor Gary; Bible stories with Carol and Pastor; crafts with Judy, Samantha, Owen, Arrabelle and Sharie; games with Chelette, Nathan, Tatyanna and Maria and breakfast, snacks and lunch. Our kitchen staff included Teresa, Tina and Sach. What more could we ask for?

Thank you to Pastor Rob for ordering our lovely banner, to those who donated food, to those who helped out financially and especially for the support of our congregation through prayers.

I think we might do this again next year.

-Judy Armstrong,
co-coordinator



“Blessed to be a Blessing (First Fruits)



The food bank has recently gone through some major upgrades. Donations and grants have significantly helped. A new “larger”

refrigerator was installed, the old one was a worry...it could go out at anytime!

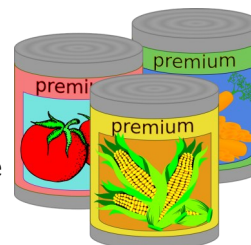
Now, the first reality of winter is upon us, with snowflakes just around the corner.

Canned veggies and meats are always a good buy and always needed. Every year, especially as we go into winter, the food bank is short of these items, including of course, cranberry sauce, gravy packets and other

“Thanksgiving type” items. There are those who desperately count on your continued

support. Remember....we are blessed to those in need of your donations.

Sally Farner, coordinator



Martha & Mary Caring for Children and Seniors since 1891

The latest Summer 2023 Issue of the Martha & Mary newsletter can be found on the table near the front entrance in the fellowship hall. This includes the latest update concerning the Martha & Mary Child Care and Learning Center in Poulsbo, the past year’s successful auction, the five star rating that their Nursing home received, Bay Vista Commons, Martha & Mary at home care and employment and educational opportunities.

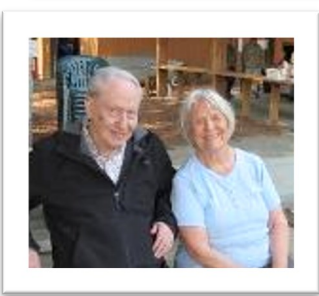
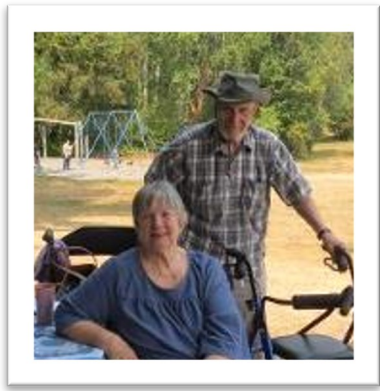
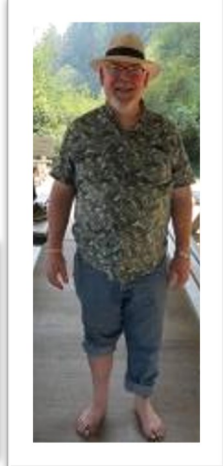
Vacation Bible School—2023



“Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”
Matthew 4:19



Annual Picnic—2023



Luther and Lutherans—Part Twelve

CONTROVERSY. Luther loved music and in fact, wrote music that is a part of worship to this day. Here is just one example...“A Mighty Fortress”, was composed by Luther. Not only the words, but the melody as well. Luther felt that music should be a part of worship. This was seen by the “official” Church and other reformers as heresy. But even worse, there was controversy between Luther and his brother reformers having to do with the concept of Free Will. In his book, “On The Bondage of the Will”, Luther’s response to his detractors is widely regarded as his best theological work. Some Christian denominations even today stand by their belief in the concept of Free Will. To Luther, the concept of Free Will was entirely fiction. While he did not question the concept of free will on a humanistic level, one-to-another, he insisted, “God’s” will is the very focus of human existence. Another controversy had to do with the Sacrament of Communion. Luther felt the plain meaning of Scripture must be accepted. Jesus said that the bread “was” His body and the wine “was” His blood. He did not say, “will become my body” or, “this wine will become my blood.” Luther said that when a Christian in faith says these words, the body and blood of Christ “is” present. Luther believed precisely in scripture...that we could not put “reason” above the Word of God. Luther felt similarly about infant baptism. It is by simple faith, claimed Luther, that the water of baptism transformed the child. It was and is the Spiritual reality produced by faith in God, claimed Luther, that makes everything even more real than physical reality.



- Larry

Operation Christmas Child?

Yes, that’s right. I said Christmas. No it’s not too early to start thinking about supporting this ministry. I am seeing school supplies on sale right now. Next time you go to the store think about picking up a small gift to pack in one of our shoeboxes this year. Remember, NO GLUE OR LIQUIDS. NO TOOTHPASTE. However, we can always pack pens, markers, color crayons , calculators, or erasers. Remember, a small purchase for us is a huge gift for a child. Our packing party will be scheduled for Saturday, November 11th. Our collection box will go out in the beginning of October.



-Sharie

Keep the Faith!

Believe it or not, there are some philosophers who value not reason and deduction, but faith! In our present age it seems to be one in which we are either struggling up a mountain toward utopia or running off a cliff. The philosopher Kierkegaard, dedicated his life to warning those in his age that instead of giving in to depression there actually was a way out-but, he was unsuccessful. Kierkegaard attacked the German philosopher Hagel – a major influence on Karl Marx, the apostle of communism. Hagel claimed average people had no control over events. Kierkegaard wrote that no sane person could ever believe in such a thing. He believed the religious life represented the highest stage of human existence. He wrote that certain choices lead in the right direction, while other lead to despair and confusion. He truly felt that authentic living involves leaving reason behind and making a “leap of faith”. -Larry



Lutherhaven Needs Our Help

The next work party for Lutherhaven is scheduled for Saturday, October 14, 2023, 9:00 AM—2:00 PM. Evergreen Lutheran and Bethany Lutheran will be hosting. Donuts and hot drinks will be available upon arrival and hot lunch items offered at noon. *Come on out*

and help get Lutherhaven ready for the “off season.” All hands are welcome.



Thursday Bible Study

Please join us at 10 AM, to gather to pray and study God’s word. We are now beginning a new study, looking at the book of Ephesians. Join us and find out why the Apostle Paul wrote like: “He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.”

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named...”

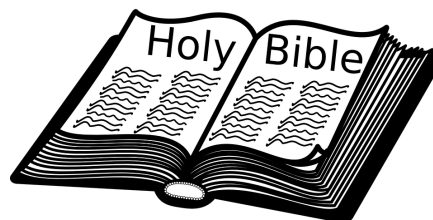
“Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger....”

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”

-Pastor Rob

Are Churches Failing Us?

The basic character of America has changed. Today, only 38% of Americans believe patriotism is important and only 39% believe religion is relevant. We are rapidly becoming a secular nation, no longer believing, “In God We Trust”. People from other countries who in the past looked to us as “the light on the hill” now look at us and see doubt, fear and “it’s all about me”. Our children are being encouraged in school to believe that the only “true” God is the government. More than 65% of our youth have never been inside a Church, so why would they not believe otherwise? And, even if they did attend, what are they hearing from the Pastors? Many Pastors are caving to the political correctness themes. They consistently leave key moral and ethical issues from God out of their sermons. While Pastors understand the story of Christ, they clearly seem not to understand the “message”. People without a faith base will trade their very freedom for a full belly or a paycheck without work. They no longer love and trust in God. They love “things” and the ease of having things. Whose fault is this? Like Martin Luther did so long ago, it’s time for Pastors to stand up for what they believe... that is, if they truly believe it themselves!
- Larry



Hey Jude!

The Thursday Bible Study group just finished the Book of Jude (just one chapter, 24 verses). If you were not aware, Jude, along with James, was the half-brother of Jesus. Jude was the first Pastor of the Christian Church in Jerusalem. His major theme in this book was that we must beware of false teachers; who are treacherous, dangerous and divisive ! Although we are loved and protected by God, we must beware of the consequences of our behavior. We will be held accountable for our associations and our rejection of God’s Word. However, there are also “good” consequences! Jude reminds us to be on the “look out” for false teachers, rebellious angels, unnatural desires, sexual immorality and miss -interpretation of prophecies and events. Jude calls us to persevere and trust in the Lord. Our Thursday Bible study is a real joy (trip). If you are able, please join us...you WILL be blessed!
- Larry

September Birthdays

- 5-----Randy Fuller
- 5-----Bob Fox, Missionary
- 10-----Nate Armstrong
- 11-----Victor Gehring
- 23-----Mary Moen
- 24-----Kim Bjornemo
- 24-----Carl Knight
- 26-----Judy Lund
- 28-----Andrew Atienza

October Birthdays

- 3-----Helen Allen
- 3-----Wayne McElroy
- 6-----Kaelyn Fuller
- 6-----Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos
- 9-----Kristen Fuller
- 21-----Jay Johnson
- 24-----Mark Stouffer
- 29-----Tatyana 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



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.

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.

Members Serving in September

- Altar Guild -----Carol Henning (Sat)
Maurine Simons (Sun)
- Reader -----Miki Turowski
- Acolytes-10. Bella - 17, Nathan-
24, Tiffany

Members Serving in October

- Altar Guild-----Jo Klempan
- Reader-----Maurine Simons
- Acolytes-1, Bella-8, Nathan- 15, Tiffany
-22, Bella-29, Nathan

What's Coming Up?

September

- 3-----10 am-----Worship Service
- 6-----12, noon-----Ladies' Lunch
- 7-----10 am-----Bible Study
- 10-----9 am-----Rally Day
10 am-----Worship Service
- 11-----6 pm-----Peninsula Knitting Guild
(Celebrating the beginning of knitting season
with a potluck.)
- 13-----12, noon-----Ladies' Lunch
- 14-----10 am-----Bible Study
- 17-----9 am-----Sunday School
Adult Bible Study
10 am-----Worship Service
- 20-----12, noon-----Ladies' Lunch
- 21-----10 am-----Bible Study
- 24-----9 am-----Sunday School
Adult Bible Study
10 am-----Worship Service
- 27-----12, noon-----Ladies' Lunch
- 28-----10 am-----Bible Study

October

- 1-----9 am-----Sunday School
Adult Bible Study
10 am-----Worship Service
- 2-----6 pm-----Peninsula Knitting Guild
- 11-----12, noon-----Ladies' Lunch
- 12-----10 am-----Bible Study
- 14-----8:30 am-----Men's Breakfast