

THE WITTENBERG DOOR

SEPTEMBER 2024 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCBREMERTON.ORG
 2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310



Pastor's Message

(Matthew 18:1-12 Psalm 91)

Jesus is our child-welcoming Lord and Savior. He declares that all those who are lost, are known by God, and “in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven”. For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.” (Matthew 18:10-11).

We pray to get on the Lord’s team to continue that ministry by His grace and through faith in Him.

We start with a biblical question: “who is the Greatest in the kingdom of heaven? (Mt. 18:1-5). 18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” 2 “And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them 3 and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, 6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, [a] it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”

The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Matthew 18: 10-12)

Martin Luther wrote, “The secret in reaching people is not just one at a time, but, “seeking the sheep themselves, not just what they have” (see: Luther’s Commentary on Romans Volume 25) John’s Gospel continues to illustrate the severity of disregarding this calling to become child-like and reach those who are as humble children in their faith and circumstances:

A) 10 “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. 11. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. 12 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?



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Pastor’s Message continued.....

Yes, it has always been the ministry of Emmanuel Lutheran Church and the Lord’s Church around the world, to serve the Lord and bring others to the Lord by preaching the Gospel, inviting them to come to Church and when they come to faith in Christ by His grace, to disciple them as the Lord has taught and commanded us (Matthew 28). In the Lutheran Book of Worship, in Baptism, we read: “As they grow in years, you should, therefore, faithfully bring them to the services of God’s house, and teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As they grow in years, you should place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith, that living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Congregation, along with the parents and sponsors (godparents); just like on the day of Baptism in our Church, I ask you, “Do you promise to fulfill these obligations? If yes, then please respond: “I do, and I ask God to help me”.

Remember, the baptized Child of God may come by His calling, by God’s grace and by His Spirit, at any age and time. Will you also bring them in and support and love them into God’s Kingdom in this place? I pray that the Lord Jesus will give us all this opportunity in the days, months and years ahead. God bless you and empower you in your own baptismal faith and life, and keep you in His grace as we disciple others in Jesus’ Name. Your brother in Christ, and recipient of God’s grace, Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos

Rally Day-September 8th

Join us on Sunday September 8th, 9:00 AM. Rally Day marks the beginning of the new Sunday School year. There will be education for all.

Adult Sunday School—Pastor Gary will be leading us through the study of 1st and 2nd Thessalonians.



Children’s Sunday School—All children are welcome to come and begin an exciting new year.

Thank you to all our Sunday School teachers!

Bingo Fundraiser for Lutherhaven



**September 1st
McClouds.....4:30**

Bread of Life

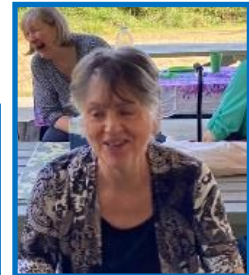
Yummy, yummy, yummy, I have love in my tummy. “I am the bread of life”. Jesus said. We all need nourishment, just to live! But in John 6:35, the “bread of life” refers to “Spiritual” nourishment. Which, as true believers, we also need just to live! In truth, we need both kinds of nourishment. The nourishment we (you and I) give on First Fruits Sunday and, the Spiritual nourishment is given by our Lord.



Sally—coordinator

First Fruits Sunday is the coming Sunday, September 1st

Emmanuel Lutheran's Annual Picnic at Lutherhaven



It Doesn't Really Matter

As I walked down the narrow gravel lane, which would soon become a double-lane paved street, I watched the dozers and loggers cutting down a small 40 acre forest of Cedars and Douglas Fir trees. Soon it would be cleared. Water and sewer lines buried and building lots staked on the property that my cousin and I had long valued. He had carefully trimmed the trees and removed the underbrush. It was his special place. The place where he was raised, the only place he called home. As children, my cousin and I would play games, build forts and make trails, pretending we were pioneers or Explorers. It was a kind of Shangri-La. A place that would be our secret. A place that we both felt nobody else knew about—a place after which Heaven had to have been designed. Now, in a few short months, this special place would become just another housing development. My cousin passed on just recently....a blessing, since he knew what would become of our special place. But then, does it really matter, when Heaven is just beyond the horizon.



-Larry

Malachi

The Thursday Bible Study group led by Pastor Rob finished it's study of the book of Malachi on August 22nd. One of the first things we learned is that Malachi actually means....."my messenger". Malachi deals NOT with God's love for His people (that is a given). It is His people's disobedience and dishonoring of Him. In Martin Luther's "Words of the Lord", he speaks of a kind of disgust with religious leaders, who are just "going through the motions". What is happening in Malachi and in Luther's time is happening "in spades" today. Nothing profanes the name of God more than the misconduct of those whose business it is to honor God. In Malachi, the question is asked, is evil ever good? When we see clearly among our brothers of omission and behavior, we ask yet another question. "Where is the God of justice?" In Malachi, we are introduced to the third use of the law. It is for us to be able to live a righteous life and, in so doing, we achieve joy and we understand the Gospel. God in His word teaches us how to live having, by His grace, the "gift of salvation." In chapter three, yet another question is asked. "Who are the righteous and who are the wicked?" The righteous are they who faithfully serve the Lord. The wicked, who appear like ornamental oranges...perfectly formed and perfectly colored, but empty! Two promises are clearly made to us in the book of Malachi...the first is that the names of the true believers will be listed in the Book of Remembrance, and the second promise is that the day of Judgment described in both the book of Malachi and the book of Revelations is actually, a new Genesis. All Christians should read the book of Malachi, after all..... it was written for you!

-Larry

All are welcome to the
Thursday Adult Bible Study!

10 AM

This is taught
by Pastor
Rob



Trillium Women's and Children's Center

The Trillium Center (formerly the pregnancy center) needs our help and support. There is a need for diapers (sizes 4,5, and 7). The center also needs baby wipes and toiletry gifts for the mothers. Our church has been a supporter of this mission for several years. If you have any questions, please ask our coordinator, Rose Link.



God, Time and History

The promise: Some writers have suggested that a better name for the book of “Acts of the Apostles, would be Acts of the Holy Spirit”. The book tells of the coming of the promised Holy Spirit and how the earliest Christians witnessed to their Lord in various parts of the Roman Empire. The account of Acts gives only part of the picture. It tells of only a few important Churches and individuals. But Acts also gives a clear insight into the patterns of growth of early Christianity and together with the New Testament letters, provides most of what is known of the spread of the Gospel in the first century. Clearly, Acts stresses that the Holy Spirits power enable the disciples to witness effectively in their world—a small band of discouraged and disillusioned men and women were transformed into a bold company of enthusiastic evangelists. Their work began in Jerusalem, but quickly spread to other communities.



Thirty years later, this new faith had reached throughout the Roman Empire, to include Rome itself.

- Larry

Memorial Service— September 7th at 2:00 PM

Former member, Breezann Stouffer, suddenly passed away a few weeks ago. Breezie (as fondly called by those that knew her) grew up at Emmanuel. Her dad, Mark, is a current active member. Please keep her family, husband, Stefan and daughter, Hannah, in your prayers.

Emmanuel will be providing salads and desserts. Please consider signing up to help provide these. Questions, ask Teresa or Rose.

Did You Know This?

CRISPUS. One of Paul's converts, was a Jew of Corinth in Greece and head of the city's Synagogue— a natural place from which to spread the gospel. Although many of the Jews opposed and reviled in Paul, Crispus along with his household, came to believe in Jesus. The Church of Corinth however, became racked with dissension, leading Paul to write to the Christians there. “Is Christ divided?” I'm thankful that I baptized none of you, except Crispus and Gaius; lest any one should say

that you were baptized in my name. Paul made it clear that he wanted



Marble relief from the remains of the synagogue in Corinth

followers not for himself but for Jesus (Acts 18 and 1 Cor 1).

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went and then it dawned on me; This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

September Birthdays

6-----Bob Fox (Missionary)
 10-----Nate Armstrong
 11-----Victor Gehring
 24-----Carl Knight
 26-----Judy Lund
 28-----Andrew Atienza

October Birthdays

6-----Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos
 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



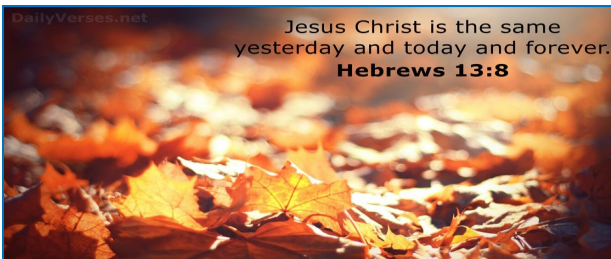
Helping with Coffee Hour

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.



Special Thanks to all who assist with our worship service. Thanks to those who acolyte, usher and assist with communion. You are so appreciated.

THANKS!



Thanks to all of you who are submitting articles and pictures for our newsletter. I encourage you to continue doing so. Interested in telling your story? Talk to the editor, Sharie Adrig

Members Serving in September

Altar Guild-----Chelette Williams
 Sharie Adrig
 Reader -----Maurine Simons

Members Serving in October

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

What's Coming Up?

September

1-----10-----Worship Service
 2-----Labor Day
 5-----10-----Adult Bible Study
 7-----2 pm----Breezie Stouffer's Memorial Service
 8-----9-----Adult & Children's Sunday School
 9-----6-----Peninsula Knitting Guild's meeting and potluck
 12-----10-----Adult Bible Study
 15-----10-----Worship Service
 19-----10-----Adult Bible Study
 22-----9-----Adult & Children's Sunday School
 10-----Worship Service
 26-----10-----Adult Bible Study
 29-----10-----Adult & Children's Bible Study

October

3-----10-----Adult Bible Study
 6-----9-----Adult & Children's Sunday School
 7-----6-----Peninsula Knitting Guild
 10-----10-----Adult Bible Study

Thanks to some very generous members and one that is not a member, we have a great head start on our Operation Christmas Child Boxes. Some items that would be very helpful that are still needed are toothbrushes, children's socks, and markers.

