

THE WITTENBERG DOOR

SEPTEMBER 2025
ELCBREMERTON.ORG
2509 PERRY AVE. BREMERTON WA 98310

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Pastor's Message

Revitalize according to God's Calling and God's Holy Word and Sacraments

DOCTRINE OF THE WORD (AALC)

"It is the conviction of the AALC... (and therefore, Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Bremerton, WA), "... that we battle not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers in heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12). In this battle the Lord has given us his armor. We put it on and use the sword of the Spirit as our weapon of attack against the power of evil. God did not give us a dented, broken blade but a sharp, two-edged sword. This "sword of the Spirit" is His inerrant, infallible Word.

Furthermore, it is the conviction of The AALC that spiritual renewal within the Lutheran family can take place only where there is an unwavering commitment to Jesus Christ as the only Lord and Savior and to his totally dependable and reliable (inerrant and infallible) Word, the Bible." (II Tim. 3:14-17; Hebrews 4:12-16) (Constitution and Bylaws)

Revitalization 2025-2026

As we begin this Fall, we are starting up some familiar Ministry programs that we feel will be a blessing to you and all who will come to Emmanuel! This begins with the confidence that we have in our Lord Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah, and our Savior according to Scripture. We will begin right here, in Scripture and prayer, and seek the Lord of the Church in prayer and study of His Word regarding to the ministry of our church and all those from the very beginning. Then, yes, we will include the insertion of faith-sustained programs and efforts that will be taking a pulse on thoughts and concerns that you may have had for years about the blessings of our Church, the ministry that you have most appreciated, and how you feel we might consider serving you and others in our church, day-care, and community in the future.

Step One: Pray to the Lord concerning the Life of our Church and your own faith in Jesus – and then prayer for others who need Jesus for salvation and peace in Him too. Then, for our "Revitalize" effort and goal to mobilize all our member in seeking the Lord and trusting Him in the years ahead, pray about and take our "whole Church Survey" (handed out on Rally Day, and as long as it takes to get every member's input)!

After you have filled out this easy, and thoughtful Survey, turn it into Pastor Gary by placing it into the Large "REVITALIZE MINISTRY 2025-26 COLLECTION BOX" In the Sanctuary. (It will be up near the front of the Sanctuary on a small table, and will be a reference of our weekly Church prayers and conversations after Church, because it is a Holy and God dependent request of the Lord to guide us in these days of Revitalization!

Contact Pastor

Gary at

1 (541) 350-7737

or

ggkouts65@gmail.com

Pastor's Message continued.....

Step Always:

Come to Church and Bible Study, Fellowship time and Service, each week with an eye toward the calling of Jesus to His disciples as He sent them out to make disciples, and by regularly coming to Him in worship by His calling all to repentance, confession of our sins, receiving of the absolution by faith, and reaching out to other people in witness and the fellowship of the Body of Christ (Mark 1:15; Luke 5:31-32; Mark 8:34).

As your Pastor, I was asked this last year to “come up with an outreach plan for our Church”. I remember the words of the Small Catechism about what any one of us alone have the power to do related to our own, (let alone any other's) hearing and believing the Word of God. I was moved by considering the Salvation of a soul that is lost apart from God's Son, Jesus, and It literally took my breath away in considering the enormity of the request, and the truth of what I have (not) in my own strength to make happen. I would not reject the calling of our Lord to follow and by His grace, serve Him. I would not cease to be diligent in praying for His strength to respond to His calling to which He has called me and each one of us. I trust that the Lord brings life, and that begins with those whom He calls. If you feel that way regarding your journey as a child of God, and a called member of the Body of Christ here at Emmanuel Lutheran in Bremerton, please pray with me, seek the Lord in His Holy Word with me, and encourage our whole Church and its members with me, as we seek the Lord's grace and guidance in His revitalizing of our Church and families. Then, as the Lord leads, please join me in reaching the people the Lord is calling us to reach out to in love, as part of these REVITALIZE efforts throughout this next year!

Thank you, and God bless you richly! I look forward to sharing your thoughts and lives, and serving together with you, your fellow servant,

Pastor Gary Koutsopoulos



September Mourn

Supporting Our Local Food Bank

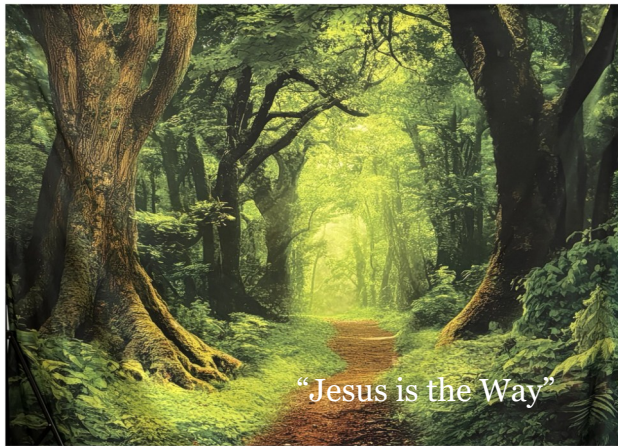
September already and children are going back to school and all the costs that incurs. The Food Bank cautions us that the next several months will be very tough on families and on seniors. Food prices go up in winter and we need to eat more in winter. Add to that, heating homes, apartments and tents becomes an issue. Consider also the rain and the darkness and it can be a very depressing time, especially, for our senior citizens. Mark you calendar to remind yourself that the first Sunday of each of these dark and dreary months is OUR chance to bring a little “light” to those dark days. “Fill those food baskets and fill those empty tummies! “ As always, you must believe that any donations really count! May His peace be with you.

-Sally, coordinator

***First Fruits Sundays: September 7th, October 5th,
November 2nd and December 7th!***



Vacation Bible School—2025



“Jesus is the Way”



The Bible Story.....



The Games.....



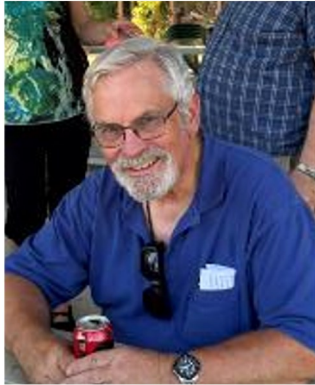
The Crafts.....



Snack Time



Annual Church Picnic—2025



We had a great time at Lutherhaven for our annual Church picnic!!





Wait? I didn't see him at the picnic!

God, Time and History

The Frankish Kings in Gaul were the only Germanic tribes to enter the Roman Empire as Pagans-not Arian Christians. Clovis-the first ruler decided to accept Catholic baptism following his marriage to Clotild, a Catholic Burgundian Princess. Clovis agreed to accept Christ if God gave him victory in a war against the Alemanni. Because he did win, he along with three thousand of his warriors were baptized. The Rulers conversion decided the religion of his Subjects. Clovis' conversation laid the foundation for an important alliance between the Papacy and the Franks.

- Larry

Our Amish Brethren

The Amish live by a kind of code. "Where there is darkness let me bring you light. Let me not seek as much to be consoled as to console. For it is in giving that one receives. Live your life with God's forgiveness and you'll never fear the past." The Amish, whose origins are German are pacifists, non-violent and believe in living in the spirit of Forgiveness. Who live in a modern and liberal world but are clearly "not" of that world. However, they are accepting and always willing to help others who are "not" of their world, but who are fellow travelers. The German expression for that point-of-view is: "mer sott emsei eegne net verlosse; gott veriosst die sein nicht". *One should not abandon one's own. God does not abandon His own.* The words of their table grace reflects their commitment to their faith. "O Lord, heavenly father, bless us and these our gifts, which we shall accept from thy tender goodness. Give us food and drink also for our gifts, which we shall accept from thy tender goodness. Give us food and drink also for our souls unto life Eternal, and make us partakers of they heavenly table through Jesus Christ. Amen

-Larry

Did You Know This?

Jael. The wife of Heber, rid the Israelites of a powerful enemy during a major battle between the Canaanite army and Israel. Sisera Canaanite Commander camped in Jael's tent. While Sisera slept, Jael took a hammer and drove a tent peg into his temple. When Barak, the Israelite commander came onto the scene Jael was hailed as a hero. Jael herself was descended from

Cain, her husband was a descendent of Moses' father-in-law, Jethro. In the "Song of Deberah", Jael is celebrated as "most blessed of women".



-Larry

Just For Fun

1. Local Area Network in Australia: The Lan down under.
2. He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
3. A calendar's days are numbered.
4. A lot of money is tainted: Taint yours, taint mine.

Let's Hear From You

What is the most beautiful thing you've ever seen? How do you define beauty? If you could live in any era of history, which one would you pick and why? Do aliens exist? Are Angels aliens?

September Birthdays

11-----Victor Gehring
 24-----Carl Knight
 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. 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



Operation Christmas Child is coming soon.....

We have received many gifts already. Thank you to all of you that have already been donating. We see short of girls toys and small children's socks. If you happen to see anything on sale remember the children. Also, we will need washcloths and bar soap. A more complete list will be coming out later. The collection box will go out in October.

Members Serving in September

Altar Guild-----Sharie Adrig
 Reader-----Glen Adrig

Members Serving in October

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

What's Coming Up?

September

7-9--Adult Sunday School (Children welcome)
 10-----Worship Service
 8-----6-----Kitsap Peninsula Knitting Guild
 (Off site, talk to Sharie Adrig)
 11-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 13---8:30-----Men's Fellowship Breakfast
 14---9--Adult Sunday School (Children Welcome)
 10-----Worship Service
 18-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 21-9-Adult Sunday School (Children welcome)
 10-----Worship Service
 25-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 28-9-Adult Sunday School (Children Welcome)
 10----Worship Service

October

2-----10-----Mid-week Bible Study
 5-9--Adult Sunday School (Children Welcome)
 10-----Worship Service

Beginning of Operation Christmas Child

13---6-----Kitsap Peninsula Knitting Guild
 (meeting at the Church)

