



# Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

March 2021

Volume 11 No. 03

## *From the Pastor*

While I am unsure how many of us expected the restrictions on religious services and social gatherings to be extended, I bet it came as a slight shock to many for the restrictions to be extended indefinitely. The indefinite nature of the provincial government's restrictions adds a fair bit of uncertainty to how we plan our lives right now. Without knowing what will happen in the future, we can only guess when the restrictions will end and when we can come back into Hope Lutheran Church to worship side by side (albeit, still probably two metres apart) once again. The dread of not knowing can grind us down. This will surely come to pass when Easter rolls around. We do not know if we can meet each other for Easter greetings, and it is disheartening. Yet, Easter cannot be undone by COVID or restrictions. Jesus has risen and is alive unto eternity. The hope and joy of Easter cannot be quenched by COVID for the promises gives to us are absolute certainties. Life and forgiveness are promised to us and no undefined, worldly restriction can keep Christ from giving these to us.

Christians have been living with uncertainty from the time of Jesus Christ. When Jesus spoke of when the Son of Man will return and this world will pass away, Jesus said that not even the angels in heaven know the day or hour of this occurrence, nor the Son, only the Father (Mark 13:32). Going way back to the time of Christ, no Christian has known when the end of this world will come about. Of course, many have put forward guesses and suggestions—

even going so far as creating cults to promote false prophecies. Yet, all predictions have come to naught for the Son of Man has yet to descend from the heavens. The end of the world is indefinite to us. We do not know when this will come about, but do you despair over this fact? Not exactly, no. Instead, we stay awake as the Lord has called us to be in that we continue to live in His grace (Mark 13:37). We act in the faith—hearing God's word, confessing our sins, receiving the sacraments—all the while knowing that the Lord can come in the next second. Amen, come Lord Jesus (Rev 22:20). We rather the sin and death promised by this world cease right now and our Lord will join us in the flesh to usher us into his heavenly kingdom. Until then, we continue by the grace of God and receiving His blessings. The uncertainty of this does not need to discourage us. Quite the opposite. It can encourage us to remain in the Word and Sacraments our Lord provides for us.

So, what of the government and its restrictions? Should we take joy in knowing that the restrictions could be rescinded any day now so that we can go back living closer to how we want? Well, that is not really my point. In truth, the world will consistently disappoint us with its uncertainties and evils time and time again. I would hardly be worth my salt as a pastor if I pointed you toward this sinful world for a notion of salvation instead of our Lord. Look to Christ and his coming for his salvation. A COVID-cure would be nice for life in this world, be we are more concerned with eternal life. For the past 2000 years the Church has lived in the constant disappointment of this world and its

uncertainties and there is not any chance the world will stop disappointing us. The indefinite nature of the provincial restrictions is simply the newest form of disappointment we have. Our hope is in Christ as it always has been, and we know that he is coming. He is the one who promised us salvation from this world. The world offers no true salvation, only feeble comforts that cannot save us from the guilt of sin or death. Christ gives to us so much more.

Christ promises to us death to sin in our baptisms (Rom 6:3). He promises to forgive us our sins throughout our lives (1 John 2:1). He promises the Holy Spirit to groan alongside us in our frustrations and pain (Rom 8:26). And Christ promises to us a love that will never be taken away from us no matter what happens (Rom 8:35). All of this Christ gives to us in the here and now so that we may live in his grace unto when he returns. The uncertainties of this world can be weathered because Christ remains faithful to us in this world as we look forward to when uncertainty ceases, that is, when Christ descends, and we can embrace our Lord in the flesh as he brings us out of a sin-filled world.

At that time, we are promised more than we have now. We are promised a world without death, sin, or tears (Rev 21:4). To you is promised a body raised from the grave (1 Cor 15:20-22). Your body will be made glorious like Christ's body, free from sin and clothed with immortality (Php 3:21). Christ will shepherd in his kingdom, no longer vulnerable to the evils of the world, but fed the bread of life (Ezek 34:22-23). In the new Jerusalem, you will drink of the water of life without price (Rev 22:17).

Stay awake. The Lord comes to give you all things. The promised time is not yet but he still sustains you by grace from day to day. The day and hour are uncertain, as is everything in this

world, but your Lord is sure and certain. You are secure in him.

God bless,  
Pastor Adam Chandler

### *From the Worship Committee*

During the month of March, we continue with our Lent worship services. Pastor's messages, using the analogy of COVID captivity, remind me that it has been basically a year now since we have not been able to worship together, as a community in Christ. Each Sunday, the chimers ring outside on the front steps to announce Sunday, to invite the world around us into a few minutes of peace and beauty, to remind ourselves and those that hear us that it is the Lord's day, that it is Sunday, a day of worship, with or without COVID. We must not let this disease control our souls, our hearts, and our minds. Worship brings us back to our faith, gives us solace and hope, and fuels us for the challenges of everyday living. Come and listen to the chimers on Sunday morning on the front lawn (masks and distancing) - it will re-connect you to your community of faith.

Yours in Christ,  
Barb

### *Mary or Martha, Which am I?*

Back eons ago, when we were attending church and perhaps setting up for coffee afterwards, people around me in the kitchen, would watch the clock and listen to the organ. When they both indicated that it was time for service to start, we would hang up our dishtowels and untie our aprons to hurry up the stairs for worship.

Now, as we are unable to physically attend worship, I have to make more of an effort to click on the live streaming link, with a hymnal on hand or after having read through this Sunday's bulletin, have marked the readings in my Bible and be ready for Sunday worship. There is no one around to encourage me to be on time for church. Sometimes, I think, I will listen later, but not always make the time during the week to visit Facebook or YouTube to view the video.

I was letting busyness get in the way. I was being a Martha doing up the dishes, preparing a meal or even worse, spending an hour scrolling through my phone. I was not putting my relationship with God first in my day or worse, in my life. I was like Martha, distracted by completing chores or doing tasks for the congregation or complaining about how much I had to do each day. I was worrying about the state of the world and what other people were or weren't doing to help.

At some point, I was reminded of the actions of some of my "Mug Mates" or Christian friends or family. They shared with me how they set aside a regular time to prepare for and listen to devotions and worship each week. They were quietly sharing a reminder of the first commandment, "Have no other gods before me".

Without knowing it, my friends were having the same conversation with me that Jesus had with Martha. They were uplifting me to set aside my "busyness" and re-establish my relationship with Christ. Like Christ, who went into the wilderness to fast (like our days of Lent) and was tempted by Satan, we are also being tested. Jesus showed us that he kept his eyes on his Father. Through listening to the Word each week, we will also be able keep our eyes on our Heavenly Father. We can have "God

conversations", through prayer, to help keep us in our close fellowship with Him.

Jesus told Martha that her sister Mary was receiving what she needed the most. Mary was setting aside her own worries to listen to the Words of Scripture, the teachings of Christ. She was living with the right perspective, with God front and centre in her life.



"Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house." Luke 10: 38

In Christ,  
Louise Rushton  
Evangelism

*Notes from the Congregation Meeting*  
of Feb 28th, 12pm by Zoom.

13 people were present by Zoom, constituting a quorum.

Pastor Chandler encouraged members to contact him to arrange for a household bubble or individual meeting in the church sanctuary or in their homes for the opportunity to have communion. This would all be done, following safe protocol. He mentioned this, knowing that several households or individuals have not

taken to opportunity to do this for a year. If you have any concerns or requests, please call him.

**Theology Tapped In**, led by Pastor, will have its second Zoom meetup, this Saturday evening at 7 pm. Please join the conversation.

The motion to accept the amended 2021 Budget, was passed.

A motion was made from the floor to apply for the Canada Business Account Expansion of \$20,000 (\$10,000 of which is forgivable). The motion was carried, unanimously. It is to make up for the loss of income from the reduction in parking rental income. Consideration for the use of the funds, will be for covering wages, if necessary, or for non-deferrable renovations/repairs. Bert is still researching roofing repair or placement costs.

The LCC connected website is now up and in its beginnings. The office is working to add information as they are able.

2020 income tax receipts have all been issued. If you have any queries, please contact Gaylyn Smale.

A motion was passed to delay the May 2021 election of new Officers for the PPC until May 2022. This was done to better serve the congregation. It will allow the PPC to focus on meeting members needs during the restrictions and to make plans for when the restrictions are finally lifted. The PPC is also looking to make plans, with membership input encouraged, for Hope's focus as we move forward in the next few years.

Pastor suggested that, as a congregation, we should take up a mission project which actively engages the members and gets them involved with various people beyond simply contributing money or goods. In other words,

that we have personal correspondence and long-term interpersonal relationships between parishioners and the people with whom we are in ministry. In this, we would limit the projects to our general area (e.g. Vancouver Island, BC Mission Boat, etc.). Essentially, it is better to rally behind a mission project in which our members take a personal interest in the persons and/or projects. This can still happen at a distance within the Island or the province.

We are also to remember that our church, in itself, is a mission, which continues to need our stewardship support with our offerings, skill sets, and time. It is encouraged that through these times, we support one another and stay connected with the Word and each other.

Pastor closed the meeting with a prayer asking God to help the people of Hope to be in service with one another.

Louise as acting recording secretary

### **Local outreach request for people working through Our Place and other frontline workers.**

Local agencies are in need of blankets, personal items such as underwear and socks in good condition, toiletries, small towels and bar soap. If you have any donations to make, please contact the office or email Theodora, to arrange for pickup and we will distribute.

**Mustard Seed Food Bank**, the same as last year, welcomes monetary donations. Donations can be added on the Missions line, on your offering envelope. Donations will then be mailed to them by the Treasurer. Thank you for your generosity of support for local missions.

We hope that you are enjoying your weekly **Mug Mates** phone chats. It is fun to

share a cup of tea or coffee with a friend, albeit it, across the phone wires, with friend!

## 2021 Church Directory

The Church Directory has been updated and is available on request. If you wish to have a copy, please either phone or email the church office and one can be mailed or emailed to you.

## New Website

<https://hopevictoria.lutheranchurchcanada.ca>

Hope Lutheran Church has launched a new website, do check it out and give us your feedback. We are still in the process of uploading relevant information so please be patient as we work out the details. The calendar and some of the services are uploaded.

## God's Blessing to everyone with March birthdays!

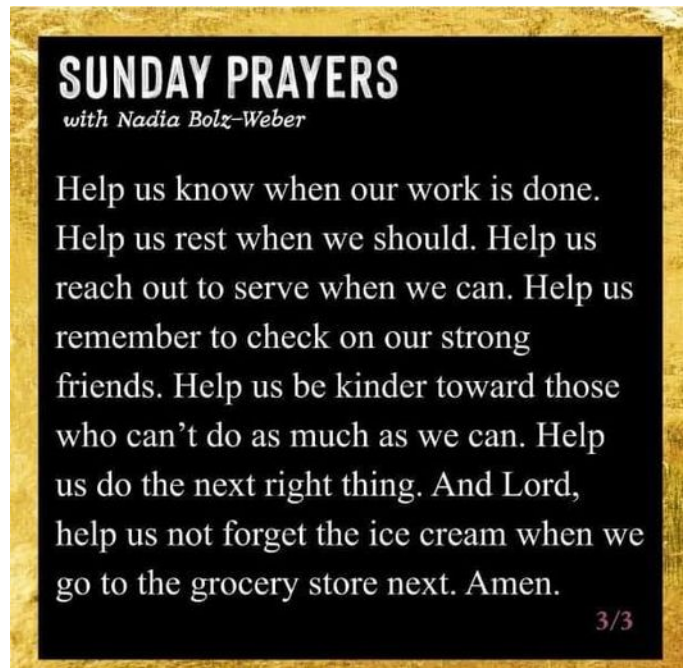
### Memory Verse Challenge for March

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*Romans 5:8*

"Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>and rend your hearts and not your garments."

*Joel 2:12-13a*



### Get Connected

Live-streamed **Sunday** services and the devotionals throughout the week on

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HopeLutheranChurchVictoria/live/>

YouTube archive of services, devotionals, Bible studies, and **Sunday** school

catechism: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCya4c5da1khaxQR8Nj1iuSg/playlists>

Topic: **Lutheran Theology Bible Study**

Time: Sundays 09:15 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85986925367>

Meeting ID: 859 8692 5367

Topic: **Job Bible Study**

Time: Tuesdays at 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87246179005>

Meeting ID: 872 4617 9005

Topic: **Theology Tapped In**

Time: **Feb 6, 2021** 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the **First Sat**, until **Aug 5, 2023**, 31 occurrence(s)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82144008271>

Meeting ID: 821 4400 8271



*Prayer ideas -Calendar*

Choose a theme for the month and brainstorm with your family, or others, something to pray about each day. Make your own calendar and enter the prayers. Remember to praise God as well as make requests.

Incorporate these prayers in your daily devotions.

Monthly prayers calendars are available to download from the LWML-Canada website –

<https://lutheranwomen.ca>

or directly at:

<https://lutheranwomen.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/March-2021-calendar.pdf>

Devotions are also available to read or listen to from the LWML-Canada website -

<https://lutheranwomen.ca/resources/the-word/devotions>

*Convention 2021*

**OFFICIAL CALL**

Tenth Regular Convention  
Lutheran Women’s Missionary  
League–Canada, Inc.  
July 8-11, 2021  
to be held online

The official voting body of this convention shall be the members of the General Council and one elected delegate from each zone.

**Big location change!**

**VIRTUAL** – that is correct. Due to the pandemic and the related uncertainty making the required advance planning difficult, LWMLC has decided that the best course of action for this convention is to go virtual.

Look for further details in the convention newsletter on our website ([lutheranwomen.ca](http://lutheranwomen.ca)).

*Hope LWML Society Info*

Our next LWML-C Bible Study on Zoom will be on March 25<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm, everyone welcome. Link to this devotion is as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87541596485>

Meeting ID: [875 4159 6485I](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87541596485)

The Spring edition of the Tapestry have arrived! If you have not received your copy please let Theodora know. Just a reminder that subscription renewal will be due April 30<sup>th</sup> and can be paid to the Society Treasurer, Theodora. Anyone wishing to subscribe to this inspiring magazine, please let Theodora know. Subscription cost is \$15.00 (regular or large print) for the year (4 editions) or if you wish an electronic version, the cost is \$8.00.

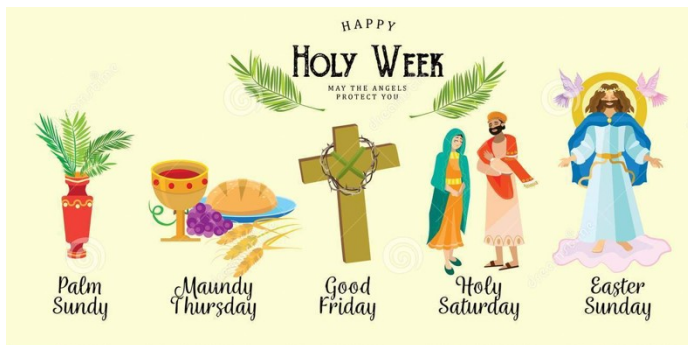


## Children's Corner

### Why do we have a week called "Holy Week"?

Why would we refer to a week as being holy? The word "holy" means that it is from God. That's why we call the Bible "holy." It isn't just any book. It is God's living Word given to us for our salvation! The same goes for Holy Week. This is "God's Week." This is the week in the Church Year when Jesus actually paid for our sins and won our salvation!

### Which days are in Holy Week?



There are particular days during Holy Week that are extra special. During Holy Week we celebrate **Palm Sunday**, when Jesus went to Jerusalem and people celebrated His arrival; **Maundy Thursday**, when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper; **Good Friday**, when Jesus died on the cross; and **Holy Saturday**, when we await His resurrection on Easter Sunday!

### Why do we celebrate "Palm Sunday"?

The Sunday before Jesus was crucified by the people, they honored and adored Him as their Lord and king with palm branches. We remember this as the beginning of Christ's bitter walk to the cross.

### Why did the people honor and adore Jesus on Palm Sunday and then kill Him on Good Friday?

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the people began to praise and honor Him as their king. They believed Him to be a powerful leader who would overthrow the Roman government and restore Israel. When Jesus did not do this, the people wanted Him crucified. You and I know what kind of a king He is. He's a king who came to die for the sins of His people. Wow! What a king!



Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people cried "Hosanna!" and waved palm branches. John 12:12-15

#### Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

1924 Carrick Street, Victoria, BC V8R 2M4

Phone: 250-592-4124 Email: [helc@shaw.ca](mailto:helc@shaw.ca)

Web site:

<https://hopevictoria.lutheranchurchcanada.ca>














Pastor Adam Chandler


778-350-9332

Email: [pastorhelc@shaw.ca](mailto:pastorhelc@shaw.ca)

# Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

## March 2021

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>28</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent Bible Study 9:15 am Service at 10:30 am Congregation Meeting	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 12:30 Devotion 6:30 pm Chime Rehearsal 	<b>3</b> 12:30 Devotion <b>Mid-week Lent Service</b>	<b>4</b> 12:30 Devotion  Adele Yager	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Adult Catechesis 7:00 pm Theology Tapped In
<b>7</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent Bible Study 9:15 am Service at 10:30 am	<b>8</b> 12:30 Devotion	<b>9</b> 9:30 Devotion 12:30 Devotion	<b>10</b> 12:30 Devotion <b>Mid-week Lent Service</b> 	<b>11</b> 12:30 Devotion	<b>12</b>  Helga Sidhu	<b>13</b> 12:30 Devotion 1:00 Adult Catechesis 2:00 pm Chime Rehearsal  <b>Change your clocks before going to bed</b>
<b>14</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Bible Study 9:15 am Service at 10:30 am	<b>15</b> 12:30 Devotion  Cassidy Johnson	<b>16</b> 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion 	<b>17</b> 12:30 Devotion <b>Mid-week Lent Service</b> 	<b>18</b> 12:30 Devotion	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9 12:30 Devotion 1:00 Adult Catechesis 2:00 pm Chime Rehearsal
<b>21</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Bible Study 9:15 am Service at 10:30 am  Alexander Schmid	<b>22</b> 12:30 Devotion	<b>23</b> 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	<b>24</b> 12:30 Devotion <b>Mid-week Lent Service</b> 7:00 pm PPC Meeting   Theodora Henry	<b>25</b> 12:30 Devotion 1:00 LWMLC Devotion	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 12:30 Devotion 1:00 Adult Catechesis 2:00 pm Chime Rehearsal  Tyler James Gardiner
<b>28</b> Palm Sunday Bible Study 9:15 am Service at 10:30 am 	<b>29</b> 12:30 Devotion	<b>30</b> 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	<b>31</b> 12:30 Devotion	<b>1</b> Maundy Thursday 12:30 Devotion	<b>2</b> Good friday	<b>3</b> 12:30 Devotion 1:00 Adult Catechesis 2:00 pm Chime Rehearsal

<b>Notes</b>	<b>ELDERS:</b> Gene Murdoch (250-704-1029) Bert Weiss (250- 382-2612) Fred Smale (250-652-9396) Michael Rumsch (250-588-0776)	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Deborah Gruben Theodora Henry <b>Elder of the Month:</b> Bert Weiss & Michael Rumsch	
--------------	---	--	---