



# Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

April 2021

Volume 11 No. 04

## *From the Pastor*

A blessed Easter to you all,

He is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!

We joyfully proclaim our alleluias now that Lent has passed and we join in celebrating the resurrection of our Lord. It is in this resurrection that we find comfort and hope because Christ promises us eternal life through it. But I know there might be some of us who are not quite ready to celebrate yet. This is not because they do not believe in the Easter hope placed upon them. The reluctance to celebrate is due to the inability to come together in celebration with family, friends, and everybody else at Hope Lutheran Church.

Right now I must sound like a broken record (and, yes, I listened to records as a kid) since I've mentioned something along these lines just about every newsletter we have had since I became pastor at Hope Lutheran. It has been over a year now since the initial shutdown and ever since we have been living with restrictions of one sort or another. There was a period of a few days when it looked like we could have an indoor service at Hope, but the number of COVID cases climbed too high for comfort. After consulting with the representatives of the congregation (Parish Planning Council and the Board of Lay Ministry), Hope Lutheran is going back to having only online services. Outdoor services are permitted under restrictions, but are not the preferred option until the weather

warms up. We continue online and sorely miss those of us who are unable to join us technologically. Thankfully, there will always be opportunities to connect with your church family online, over the phone, and even through scheduling to have communion inside your household bubble (contact me and we can arrange the date, time, and place).

We are disappointed with the way things are, because the hoped-for indoor services for Easter did not come about but we still have the hope of Christ in the resurrection. That can never be taken away from us. Reflecting on this disappointment after a ray of hope, we are like the disciples of Jesus shortly after the crucifixion.

On the Sunday following Christ's death, two of Jesus' disciples (not any of the twelve) were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). They were talking about what had been going on the past few days in Jerusalem. We don't have their exact words or mood, but I think we can guess they were downcast. The teacher they had been following around for quite sometime had been humiliated and killed before their eyes. The disciples hoped this fellow would redeem Israel by driving out the Roman conquerors and the Herodian kings who were not themselves Israelite. The disciples wanted a restoration of Israel's golden age underneath King David with a messiah descended from this great king. With Jesus dead, the worldly hopes of the two disciples were crushed.

Part way through the conversation, a man comes alongside the disciples on the road. The guy is curious what they are talking about and the two disciples are amazed this man has no idea what happened in Jerusalem in the past several days since all of it was loud and public. A week before, there was a parade in front of the city with people throwing coats and palms who were shouting that Jesus is their king. Jesus led speeches and disputes in the temple courts for two days. Crowds moved about the city on Friday to shout condemnations against Jesus and forced him to be crucified publicly near the city gate. Even that day on the Sunday, women in Jesus' company were spreading the news that they discovered Jesus' tomb to be empty and that Jesus was alive again. On this last point, the disciples were a little skeptical since none of the twelve disciples saw Jesus alive.

The man who was listening to this from the two disciples was disappointed that they had not applied their knowledge of the scriptures to what their teacher had been doing. This man then revealed that this Jesus fellow fulfilled many prophecies and must have arisen from death to reign forever over Israel. Had they noticed how Jesus brought the Word of God alive right there in front of them, maybe they would not be as disappointed as they were. They could have hope in the promises of Christ. The disciples were intrigued, so they requested this man accompany them for dinner. At the breaking of the bread, the disciples realized this man was Jesus because the Lord was giving to them the Lord's Supper right then and there. Immediately they went back to Jerusalem and told people that Jesus is alive and they had seen him.

Like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, we might focus too much on how our hopes have been disappointed to see the true hope we

have and its unfailing promise to us. As Jesus revealed the scriptures to those disciples, all we need to do is turn to the Bible and see our hope in Christ. Jesus foretold that there would be famines and pestilences before the end of this world (Luke 21:11) and right now we face economic downturns and the coronavirus. These are difficult to live through, but Christ points us ahead to when he comes again (Luke 21:25-28) when he will destroy this world and usher in the new heavens and the new earth. The evils of this world will end and we will be delivered from it all through our resurrection hope in Christ. You are not lost. You remain on the road, not to Emmaus but to salvation, on which Christ has placed you.

To remind you of your hope in Christ, he also points you to his sacraments. Jesus broke bread in the Lord's Supper with his disciples to reveal himself to them, and he breaks bread with you in communion wherein you receive salvation in his body and blood. Although we cannot come together as an entire congregation to receive the body and blood in the bread and wine, you can make appointments with me to receive them. It is an honour for me to do this for you.

The disciples on the way to Emmaus thought of Jesus lying in the tomb, instead of the promise of the resurrection; and we might dwell on not being able to worship at the church instead of the hope of Christ's coming and the life Christ supplies you in word and sacrament. But whatever situation we are in, Jesus will continue to care for you and raise your heart from sorrow to life.

God bless you this Easter season,

Pastor Adam Chandler

## *From the Worship Committee*

While we re-invent our worship service delivery method every week, the constant has been hearing the Word of God through Pastor's sermons, the readings, and the prayers. For this, we are truly thankful. The chimers will continue to announce each Sunday by ringing outside before worship begins, and we will play the processional meditation to prepare for worship. We look forward to being able to have our whole choir back, as we are missing some members. We welcome Laura back as organist soon after her eye surgery, which was successful! Andrew is having extensive dental surgery during Holy Week so we are not going to hear his trumpet for Easter, but are hopeful that he can chime for the services this week. This Easter marks a year of 'COVID captivity' for our congregation: a year of testing our faith, a year of worry, a year of creative worship, a year of stress, a year of self-reflection, a year of reprioritizing, a year of hope. For Easter this year, a hymn that seems so fitting is 'Onward Christian Soldiers'. We continue to hope for safe, inside worship services, and in the meantime, we will march on.

Yours in Christ,  
Barb

## *What About Outdoor Services?*

Hope Lutheran Church is only livestreaming worship services at the present time but outdoor services are permitted to be held. This would allow us to serve communion to the entire congregation and allow us to worship together.

Why are we not holding outdoor services at this time? After careful consideration, there would

be a lot of difficulties involved. While we would be able to worship together, there is no social interaction allowed under provincial restrictions because socializing is a major cause of virus transmission. We can see each other, but the restrictions say any socializing before or after the service is not allowed. Also, the two options available for outdoor worship are sitting on chairs or sitting in cars. Sitting on chairs requires providing rented tent coverings. The church has one small tent canopy, but this will probably be used to protect any musicians playing for the service. Sitting in cars might be preferred to protect you from the weather, but this provides the difficulty of providing sound. An amplifier for our sound system might not be the best solution considering we are in a residential area. A better method of providing sound would be using an FM transmitter which would broadcast the service on the car radio. However, as was pointed out to me, listening on the radio in the church parking lot might not be a great improvement over watching the service at home on a computer. There is also the negative effect of needing the cars to run their engines for the radio and heater. This costs gas and is none too friendly for to the environment. Another drawback is that many people in our congregation will not come to outdoor services because they are unable or cautious about COVID. An online service would still be needed for them. The screen used for livestreamed services will not work in sunlight and the projector for the screen can be damaged by rain. Hope would need to record a service before hand to post online in addition to having an outdoor service, but since we need an online service anyways, it would make more sense to simply choose the online services.

Considering all this and more, it was decided that outdoor services would not be the best option for now. The primary benefits would be

in-person communion and fellowship, but we cannot have fellowship in line with the provincial restrictions and any household bubble can schedule to have private communion with the pastor at any time. Outdoor services are definitely still an option, but it would be better to wait until the weather is warmer before we try to have these services. In the meantime, we continue as we have before with online services and fellowship with one another over the phone.

Please feel free to share you opinions about outdoor services (yay or nay) to the pastor.

### Memory Verse Challenge for March

And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him..."

*Mark 16:6*

*Blessed Easter to all!*



Blessed Easter to all our families! Easter bag greetings and activities were given to the Sunday School families this past week. It was with thanks to all the people who helped put it together, with special thanks to Hilary and Deborah!

Even though we are not able to physically meet together this Holy Week, please join each other, in fellowship, by watching one of the livestream devotions or worship services and then phone or message your Sisters and Brothers in Christ, with the words, " He is Risen, He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!" just as we would do if we were attending worship together Easter Sunday! I pray that the phone lines and texting communications will be buzzing!

We are blessed in so many ways, in spite of the pandemic. God takes sorrow and gives us reason to rejoice. He recognizes that we are alone and in despair and brings us together in community with the Word and Sacraments. We fear death and He gives us eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ! Alleluia!

In Christ,  
Louise Rushton  
Evangelism

*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 April birthdays!***

## Grace and Faith Stan Lind Jan 27th 1932 - March 22nd 2021

When Stan was growing up in Norway, he had the occasion of being on a ship in the North Atlantic, in rough seas. The passengers were scared. During the storm, the Captain and his officers came out on the deck and started singing, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save".

"O Christ, whose voice the waters heard  
And hushed their raging at Thy Word,  
Who walkedst on the foaming deep  
And calm amid its rage didst sleep:  
Oh hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea."

Stan told his young sons that the sea didn't calm right away, but that the people started to feel better right away and soon the storm lost its rage and the sun came out.

By grace and in faith, is how Stan tried to live his life, in marriage and in teaching life lessons to his family. Many of these life lessons and stories were shared with us, that afternoon.

He was predeceased by his wife Anne. He is mourned by his three sons, John, Eric and David and their wives and families. He was part of both the Church of the Cross and Hope Lutheran Church congregations.

When his grandchildren, Jacob and Jessica, studied Catechism, here at Hope, Stan retook the lessons with them. They were confirmed together on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and took their first communion together with David and Julie. Stan's legacy was to have all the grandchildren baptized at Hope. He also enjoyed coming to potlucks with his family and talking, in fellowship, with his friends there.

While there was sadness during the graveside funeral service at Royal Oak, there was also peace in that he would be joining Anne.

Our sincere condolences to the Lind family, knowing that they have the assurance of God's grace and His gift of faith.



### Called Home

"The best Granny has gone to be with Jesus and we are going to miss her a lot." A few days ago, while Gaylyn (Smale) was visiting with Ella (Campbell), Ella asked her, "To tell the ladies at Hope that she loved them all!"

And, we all loved her.

God be with us all, as we grieve the woman who brightened our day with her loving smile and is now with her Saviour, Jesus Christ.



## 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/UCya4c5da1khaxQR8NjIuSg/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: April 3, 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

LWMLC- News



## *A Little Society with Big experiences*

Each month we continue to explore God's word under the guidance of Pastor Chandler. By searching the scriptures and spending time reflecting on our individual and collective experiences we learn that our God, our awesome God provides everything needed to proclaim His life saving message.

Grounded by His word and serving from home various tangible gifts of love are shared each month within the community. Pictured below are Fish 'n' Chip baby sweaters and newborn hats. These are a blessing from COVID 19, being



home has given us extra time to make knit these items.

Babies born in some of the poorest areas of the world are wrapped in newspaper, hence the name "Fish 'n' Chip babies", to keep them warm when mothers have no clothes for them, so in addition we've knitted tiny newborn hats.

What's needed is double knitting yarn, pair of 5mm needles and a willingness to share your talents. Detailed patterns are available by telephone or email from the church office.

## *Thank You*

As you know, March was our time to collect donations for the Mustard Seed Food Bank, and thank you for your generosity a check for \$220 will be delivered to Mustard Seed.

## *Coming Soon!*

Tenth National Convention - July 8-10, 2021

Yes, we're hosting a convention this year, albeit VIRTUALLY

Beginning with a message from our Synodical President Rev. Teuscher on the convention theme "Christ Lives in Me" Gal. 2 :20. Everyone is invited and encouraged to join the voting delegates and members of the General Council to hear this message from the comfort of their home online and its free.

The official business of the convention begins Friday July 9th. Our Island Zone Delegate is Theodora Henry having the privilege of voting for a new set of mission projects, electing a new general council and approving bylaw changes. Please keep her in your prayers.

A staple of our conventions has always been a mission walk. As a virtual convention, this too will be a virtual event. Participants are free to choose how they wish to participate. You can walk, run, swim or ride, knit, sew, crochet or read; you're free to choose your own method of participation. All methods will be converted to a virtual distance with the goal of traveling from West to East ending in St. Catherines in time for the convention. Pledge forms are available on the LWMLC website. Collect pledges or support your local LWML er.

All proceeds will support Wagner Hills Farm Women's Campus an addiction recovery center. See you at the Convention - No travelling required!

Deborah

## *Hope LWML Society Info*

Our next LWML-C Bible Study on Zoom will be on April 22<sup>nd</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)

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.



*Morning and evening prayers*

This is a good time to mention Luther's Evening Prayer, p. 298, Lutheran Service Book. He concludes with: "Then go to sleep at once and in good cheer." Also, his Morning Prayer, p. 295 LSB, that ends: "Then go joyfully to your work." Or you can use your own version of these well-focused prayers. Morning and evening devotions as well as grace at the table should become sacred moments.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

## Children's Corner

*If all Jesus had to do was die,  
then why is Easter such a big deal?*

Easter is a very important day. Easter is the day that we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

After Jesus was crucified, His disciples were very sad. It seemed like their God and friend had been defeated and killed. They had forgotten that Jesus told them that He would rise from the dead. They must have thought Mary Magdalene was crazy when she told them that Jesus had appeared to her at the tomb where He was buried. But her story was true! Jesus was alive! He had risen from the dead!



Later, Jesus appeared to His disciples many times to prove it. And that's just what He did, *He proved it!* By His resurrection, He proved to the world that He was victorious over death and paid for our sins completely. Now, the first words you hear in church on Easter Sunday are: "The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"



### **Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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Web site:

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# Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

## April 2021

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
28 Palm Sunday Bible Study 9:15 am Service at 10:30 am	29	30 12:30 Devotion 6:30 pm Chime Rehearsal	31 12:30 Devotion	1 Maundy Thursday 12:30 Devotion	2 Good Friday	3 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Adult Catechesis 7:00 pm Theology Tapped In
4 Easter Sunday Bible Study 9:15 am Service at 10:30 am	5 12:30 Devotion	6 9:30 Devotion 12:30 Devotion	7 12:30 Devotion	8 12:30 Devotion  Elvira	9  Matthew	10 12:30 Devotion 2:00 pm Chime Rehearsal
11 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Bible Study 9:15 am Service at 10:30 am	12 12:30 Devotion	13 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	14 12:30 Devotion	15 12:30 Devotion  April	16	17 9 12:30 Devotion 2:00 pm Chime Rehearsal
18 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter Bible Study 9:15 am Service at 10:30 am  Helga	19 12:30 Devotion	20 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	21 12:30 Devotion	22 12:30 Devotion 1:00 LWMLC Devotion	23	24  Ryder 12:30 Devotion 2:00 pm Chime Rehearsal
25 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Bible Study 9:15 am Service at 10:30 am	26	27	28	29  Hildegard Brenda	30	1 12:30 Devotion 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 & Gene Murdoch	