

Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

June 2021

Volume 11 No. 06



From the Pastor

God's peace to you,

Indoor, in-person services will now be held beginning on June 6. It has been a long time but we can finally come together once more. The last time Hope Lutheran Church was able to do this was November 15. For the past six and a half months, it has felt like we have been exiled from corporate worship, but our good and gracious Lord never abandoned us. Even in the worst of times, He gives grace and support to us; and we certainly need Him to do this. The past year and a half since COVID-19 come about has been hard. Losing our ability to worship together in one building has added to the hardship. Yet we see some hope around us. We can truly thank the Lord for all that He has done for us and can look forward to speaking His praises within the walls of Hope Lutheran.

*O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no
water. (Ps 63:1)*

The life of the Christian is fraught with a longing for our Lord. The truth of God's Word reveals to us just how horrible this fallen world is. Evil and pain is obvious to everyone inside and outside of the Church, but the Law of God showcases the depths of depravity in the world. God calls what is evil to be evil, and what is good to be good. And it is certainly the case that it is not good for

man to be alone (Gen 2:18). Our separation from each other in worship these past six months—not to mention the separation from many other delights of life—has been a great evil. And the recognition of evil is paired with a longing for the Lord because He is the source of all good.

What God creates is by definition good (Gen 1:31) because God is goodness itself (Mk 10:18). Any longing for goodness is ultimately a desire for God and what He does for us. Because we are in the faith, we know the source of goodness is God Himself. Our need for goodness and love and truth and beauty is a need for God because He is the source of all these things. Being deprived of good things, it feels like being in a dry land without a lick of water to parch the tongue. God has been constantly supplying His grace and mercy to each and everyone of us (like having a never-ending canteen in the desert), but we imagine just how hard it would be to be without His goodness by looking around at the broken and hurting world.

*So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory. (Ps 63:2)*

Thankfully, part of the broken world has been healed so we may correct an evil that this world has dealt to us—the evil of being separated from each other at Hope Lutheran. Now we can enter into the sanctuary of the Lord to behold His power and glory working among us. The Lord works His goodness into us through His Word and His Sacraments. Outside of the sanctuary of

Hope Lutheran, we still had God bespeaking us righteous and not sinful, as well as God preserving us within our baptisms. Yet the fullness of this grace seemed to be a little lacking—not in the sense that any grace of God is insufficient for salvation, but in the sense that we did not have every opportunity to receive grace upon grace which we would normally have in the worship service.

The grace upon grace of God is not only prayer and devotions in our homes, but the corporate nature of faith brought among us here in the Church. The entire Church of God is united in the body of Christ so we are always spiritually together, but we desire that the body of Christ to also be physically together. Part of this is receiving the physical body and blood of Christ in the earthly physical elements of bread and wine. This is done in the flesh in the company of fellow believers. Witnessing the forgiveness of our brothers and sisters in the worship service brings its own kind of joy among us. Similar to how we pray, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,” we desire all to be saved and live in the forgiveness of Christ.

*Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you. (Psalm 63:1-3)*

This steadfast love of the Lord that He works among His people is better than life for it gives to us a life that is eternal—a life that is not just for us alone but for all the children of God. For this we wish to praise our God Almighty who sustains by His love. Make no mistake, this will still be difficult for the next few months. Our worship services will not be able to have singing for a while and not everyone will be able to come join our voices just yet. People in our congregation will be cautious and remain in their homes for a while longer. Their voices will still praise the Lord from their homes together

with our voices in the Spirit, although separated due to distance. But this is another reason to thank the steadfast love of the Lord. He does not abandon us or isolate us but unites all of us in the body of Christ. When we come together to praise Him for the love and grace He has given to us, let us also pray that He preserve and protect those of us whom we cannot see right now and allow them to join us when they are able.

Let us praise the Lord in His sanctuary and pray for the care and comfort of those who cannot.

Pastor Adam Chandler

From the Worship Committee

This Sunday we will celebrate together as a community of faith in-person at our church, Hope Lutheran! What a blessing to be thankful for! Our opening meditation will be the familiar Taize tune, 'Come and Fill Our Hearts with Your Peace, You alone, O Lord are Holy. Come and Fill Our Hearts with Your Peace, Alleluia!' We hope this meditative hymn is a blessing to you as we rejoice in being together again.

We continue to pray for Laura, who is awaiting eye surgery. Laura: we miss hearing you on the organ!

Our chime choir will now resume rehearsals Saturdays at 2 pm. I am most willing to start a **children's / youth chime choir**. Rehearsal days and times can be sorted out once we know who is interested? Send me a text at 250-216-4901 or an email at bmg203@telus.net or talk to me after church on Sundays! I hope to hear from some of you!

We have been chiming outside before the worship service for just over a year now, and

plan on continuing this to announce our worship to the community around us!

If you have a favorite hymn you would like the chimers to play for meditation, please let me know, and we will be very happy to honor your request.

Yours in Christ's service,
Barb

A Note About Indoor Worship Services

There are some rules that we need to follow when we come back into our sanctuary at Hope to praise our Lord. The provincial government has outlaid a four-phase plan for reopening, so hopefully all these restrictions will not be needed once we enter July, but we will keep you posted. Here are the things that need to happen:

- Preregister for each service you plan to attend through email (helc@shaw.ca) or by phoning the church office Wed. and Thurs. 10am-2pm (250-592-4124).
 - Let us know if you plan to attend every Sunday and we will keep you on our preregistration list so you do not need to phone every week.
- Wear a face covering at all times when you are inside the building, including during the service.
 - The usual exceptions like infants and breathing problems apply to this rule.
- You must go through a brief health check questionnaire upon entering the church. Ushers will be asking you questions for our records such as if you have experienced any symptoms of sickness.
- Upon entering the building, please sanitize your hands with either the alcohol pump at the entrance or wash your hands with soap in the washroom.

- We cannot sing during the service, but you are free to hum the tunes of the music and meditate on the lyrics of hymns.
- There cannot be any socializing in the church building before or after the service (and not during, either).
 - We can gather in groups of no more than ten people after the service outside of the church to socialize. You should not be travelling from group to group if you do.

There are a lot of regulations, I know, but we were following most of these before from July to November 2020. The end is in sight for the pandemic and we do not want to cause any unnecessary risks to one another's health.

If anyone is uncomfortable with attending Hope Lutheran in person at this point in time, Hope will continue livestreaming services on Sundays at 10:30am. Individual communion for household bubbles is also still available by appointment (contact Pastor by phone, email, or Facebook). Even if you cannot join us at the church building for worship at this time, we still want you to be part of Hope Lutheran Church.

Pastor Adam Chandler

Lectors

Thank you to all who had in the past volunteered to read the lessons during the Sunday services. As we are able to worship indoors in person once again, we would like to welcome you back and hope you will once again be able to volunteer your time. Anyone else who would like to read the lessons during the service, please contact Theodora Henry (thefarley@shaw.ca).

Looking for Ways to Help?

Servant event or offers of time and skills for:

- general gardening: weeding and pruning
raking up garden refuse and hedge/tree
trimming
- help tidy the hall area
- clean kitchen and bathrooms: just a wipe
down between scheduled cleanings
- weeding/lawn mowing/weed-eater trim
around the perimeter of yard
- painting/touch-ups

Please contact: Properties, Bert Weiss (250) 382-2902 or (250) 882- 2612 (text or phone)

BTW: Please notify Bert, with a short text, if you are going to do any work around the church or outside, so that he does not make plans for others to do these same tasks.

Looking for your sewing/knitting/crocheting skills: please contact Theodora Henry 250 216 1883

Telling subbing for the summer: please contact Gaylyn Smale 250 652 9396

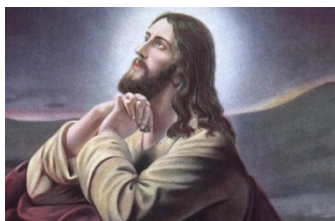
Sorting out the books in the elevator room

Prayers for our congregation and community

Donations to the Vancouver Children's Hospital/Salvation Army clothing/fabric bin, which is picked up weekly and contributed to by people in our neighbourhood.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name

Pastor Chandler's Lenten services followed the theme of Covid-



19 captivity compared to the Babylonian

captivity. This captivity is still in effect, but release is coming.

During a state of captivity, there are many reasons to grieve. We are separated from families, faced loss of family and friends, limited in our daily routines, and interrupted from services and products that were previously accessible. We are still not able to care for others in the same way; we are not able to grieve those "called home". Brothers and Sisters at Hope are separated from each other in person to person fellowship and/or from worship service, other than through digital means, though the end is near.

Even though Jesus commanded us to love one another, we are limited in the traditional ways that we can presently care for each other.

The month of May is Caregivers' Month. There has been much in the news and other media about caregiving, caregivers and the continued strain and drain on the mental health of all people. The new phrase to describe this is, "compassion fatigue". Sadly, even though, we as Christians, are well equipped with the Words of the Bible (Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.") and Jesus' many examples of how to show compassion and love, we are still showing signs of this fatigue.

When Jesus was told by his disciples, that John the Baptist had been killed and buried by his disciples, "He withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns." Matthew 14:12-13 In verse 14, Jesus, even in the time of his own grief, showed compassion for the people who had followed him to the distant shore.

"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed the sick."

Jesus suffered as we suffer, so that we know the breadth of his care and sacrifice for us. After the Lord's Supper, that Jesus gave to his disciples in the Upper Room at Passover, they went to the Mount of Olives. From there, they went to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus asked them to stay and keep watch while he prayed to his Father in heaven. And, Jesus said to them, as he began to, "be deeply distressed and troubled. My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." Mark 14:33-34

Jesus had compassion fatigue, as defined by Lisa Petty, PhD in *Caring for the Carer*, an article in *Alive*, May 2021. There, symptoms of burnout described, include: fatigue, emotional overwhelm and irritability ("Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?" Mark 14:37). In compassion, though, Jesus then said, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." On the third time, Jesus has regained his composure to face the events to come. He was now at peace with his Father and what he must do for the sake of all his people.

Jesus suffered everything that we suffer, and much more as he gave his life for us, to redeem us with his death and resurrection. He sets out our path and gives us the equipment to do his Will.

With each hardship, that we endure in our daily lives, we can trust that Jesus is beside us, listening to our prayers, watching over us, and guiding us along the path of righteousness. Jesus has abundant compassion for us. He will give us rest.

He has given us rest this past year. In some ways, 2020 was difficult, a year full of sadness and restraints. In other ways, though, we were given

the means to have more time to reflect, to reassess, to be calm, and to pray. We had time to pray for mercy, but also say prayers of thanksgiving.

Now, we are thankful, as we are being given the vaccines that we need and church attendance is opening up to in-person worship services. God is merciful. He is not giving us more than we can handle. The Lord is compassionate and He gives us peace.

We begin and end, each day, with prayer, " Our Father who art in heaven, "

*Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the
glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.*

<https://youtu.be/HzTHDZh35Vs>

Charlotte Church signing the Lord's Prayer.

There is much sadness for some families right now, both lost children from the past and suicides and drug addiction deaths of children in the present.

We pray for the children
We pray for the lost children
We pray for the children with serious health issues
We pray for the families
We pray for people, especially those in need of comfort in this time of their intense sorrow

We pray for the gift of peace for these people in need of Jesus' compassion

We pray for all.

In Jesus' name we pray

Amen

"And teaching them (the people in the world) to obey everything I have commanded you (love one another). And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20

Louise Rushton

Evangelism

Welcome!

We extend a hand of welcome back

Especially to you all

Lovingly we

Care for you and

Our prayers are for you too.

May God protect and bless you, in

Everything you do.

We've missed you all.

Flowers for summer, or any time of year



As we celebrate the season of Pentecost, the longest season of the church year. Pentecost goes from June to Mid-November. It is a time when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is also a time when the liturgical church color green is reflected in the outside natural world. As we continue to grow and nurture our faith and our relationship with God I am reminded that during the coming months many of us will grow and nurture our flower gardens creating an opportunity to share God's beauty with others. Though the altar will be prepared with green ferns each Sunday it is our

hope that members will share their garden flowers with us. Please sign up on the flower chart in the Narthex or call the office.

Deborah Gruben

Altar Guild

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: June 5, 2021 08:00 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



Servant Event

On May 20th four ladies socially distanced gathered together to write thank you notes to front line health care workers. Each hand made card contained a Bible verse and a personal note from each participant. Particular attention was given to the staff of the various facilities where congregational members live as well as to our neighbor the staff of the Royal Jubilee Hospital various floors. Pictured below is Donna Bourque who lovingly made the cards and Theo, Louise and Deborah who prepared their messages. Thanks to all

On May 27th Pastor Chandler led our Island wide monthly Bible Study on Katie Luther. Pastor's personal slide show drawn from his travel brought Katie to life for many of us who knew little about her. We all discovered how Katie like ourselves serve His people in various vocations. We are the instruments that accomplish his purpose. Remember this Woman's Bible Study is open to all women just follow the link on the next column.

LWMLC NATIONAL CONVENTION
-Theme Christ Lives in Me

Isn't it amazing how God gets His message out to us and reinforces it so that it stays firm in our hearts and minds. As of June 1st more than 200 ladies have registered for this historical Virtual Convention. Ladies are studying bylaws and

mission projects. Please join us in a prayer for guidance.

Mission Walkers are busy collecting pledges in support of women's campus at Wagner Hill farm. If you have not been asked but would like to support someone please speak to or contact Deborah, Theo or Louise.

Blessings and thank you
Deborah

Hope LWMLC Society Info

Our next LWML-C Bible Study on Zoom will be on June 24th, at 1:00 pm, everyone welcome.

Link to this devotion is as follows:

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

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

*God's Blessing to everyone
with June birthdays!*