



Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

July 2021

Volume 11 No. 07

From the Pastor

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:34-36)

Freedom to worship is a freedom flowing from the Gospel itself. Our Lord has freed us from the slavery of sin. Once our flesh was mastered by its lusts but the Son of God loosed the grip sin had upon us. We are not slaves to sin anymore but slaves of righteousness for Christ's sake (Rom 6:17-18). God is our Lord and master who bids us do only that which is good and lovely. In this, our freedom, we worship Him in thankfulness and praise. When we were sinners, we were alienated from God and could not worship Him for our sin prevented us (Col 1:21-22). Now we are reconciled to God and freely capable of coming before Him as those thankful for His grace.

Our hearts and minds are not bound by sin but enabled to express the life and love that has flowed into them from Jesus. Worship of our Lord is not hindered by anything in this world for worship is that which descends from heaven to earth by grace to elevate our heartfelt praise from our souls to heaven. The form of worship can at times be restricted in this world but it can never be completely done away.

A simple definition of worship is that wherein God gives His gifts of life and salvation by means of Word and Sacrament. Worship is not far from any of us since any prayer is an act of worship, but the fullness of worship comes

about in a full feast of Word and Sacrament. This takes place in the divine service where we come together as baptized children of God to hear the Gospel for us in the sermon and receive the body and blood of Christ in communion. We have gone through various periods of restrictions over the past year and a half, but now the restrictions are now officially off.

During the pandemic, restrictions were placed to varying degrees on both Word and Sacrament. The fullness of the grace God offers to us in worship could be received, but the Lord was never far from us. The grace of God abounds beyond our understanding and always remains with those wherein the Holy Spirit is pleased to dwell. Even when worship was completely forbidden, the love of the Lord remains.

Take, for example, Daniel the prophet. He lived during a time when worship services were not only restricted but even private prayer to God as an act of worship was forbidden (Dan 6). The grace of the Lord remained with Daniel which eventually led to Daniel being freed from the lion's den. Enemies of the Lord cast the Lord's servant, Daniel, into the lion's den but the prophet was raised from the pit by God. Salvation—freedom from sin, death, and the power of the devil—is with everyone, including those of us who are restricted in worship.

There are no government restrictions on us now but Hope Lutheran is still mindful that many people are concerned about their health when coming to worship. Instead of jumping right back into everything as we once did it, we will gradually return to how we once conducted

worship over the summer. We do this not because we are slaves to anyone for we are free in Christ. Yet, we are servants to our neighbours. As Luther said, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

Let us be mindful of our neighbours in the congregation as we return to worship. We will get back into singing hymns, chanting the liturgy, and standing shoulder to shoulder in the pews. If we have to place some minor restrictions on ourselves to serve our neighbours, then so be it. We are free to worship not because of a lack of restrictions. We are free to worship because we have been freed by Christ from sin so we may worship our Lord. His grace flows freely to all who trust in him.

Pastor Adam Chandler

Confirmed by the Power of His Word

This April, was the 50th anniversary of my confirmation. This July, is the 70th anniversary of my baptism. My age is insignificant to me, but not these life altering events.

My parents took me to the Port Alberni Lutheran church to be baptized a month after my birth, because the doctor was convinced that I was not to live out my first year of life. As a young person, I continued to be in church choirs, but did not return to the Lutheran church until I again met Pastor Schultz (while he was on a Pastor's retreat at the park where I worked) who had baptized me. He encouraged me to go to Hope, in Victoria, where I was attending the University of Victoria. Here, I was encouraged by Pastor Carlson, to take confirmation. I eventually married the young

man who helped me understand and get through the Catechism lessons. (God had a plan.)

However, this story is not about me. It is about our Triune God. It is about God who created me, the Holy Spirit who filled me with faith at my baptism, and Jesus, who, through the Word, continues to guide my feet and forgive my sins with His death on the cross and His Resurrection to life everlasting. Looking forward in my youth, events in my life were disruptive, "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet, not one of them fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father." Matthew 10:29 and at times tragic, but, "in all things God works for good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 Looking back, Jesus was and is by my side, "And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." as He promised us at His Ascension.

On my confirmation certificate is that promise, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." Revelations 2:10

My earthly Father died before I was nine, but he had set me on the right path with my heavenly Father on the day of my baptism, took our family to worship services and, at times, taught my siblings, nephews and I, Bible lessons. He instructed my Mother to see me be confirmed. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

I feel blessed that I am part of a Christian family who continues to encourage and pray for each other. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all

understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

I am thankful that my family prepared me for the road full of potholes, called life, by setting me on the path of righteous, "how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteous reign in life through one man, Jesus Christ." Romans 5:17b

Now, I am encouraging you people, in our church community, to give to your children what your parents gave you and what my parents gave me. "Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-- put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:9

Part of growing in the Christian faith, from youth to adulthood, is taking part in the Lord's Supper which takes some instruction to examine yourself. The Lutheran Church uses confirmation to prepare Christians to receive the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. Hope Lutheran's website has a page about confirmation ([Confirmation - Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church](#)). Anyone interested can contact Pastor Chandler about taking lessons. Helpful teachings of the faith for youth can also be found in the Bible Basics lessons that have recently been added to the Sunday worship services.

I will continue to be thankful as I have had the opportunity to be empowered by God's Word and Sacraments, in full knowledge of their meaning learned, when I was confirmed in the Word.

Your Sister in Christ,
Louise

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation'

Our chimers continue throughout the summer months with rehearsals, but we will not have a fixed date and time during these months, and will decide each week for the upcoming rehearsal so that we can accommodate as many personal schedules as possible! We welcome Linda back to chiming. We are praying for Laura's health and hope that she will be returning soon as one of our regular organists. It is so wonderful to see our members return to in-person worship services! If you have any favorite hymns that you would like to hear on Sundays, please let me know and we will be happy to play them as pre-service, during communion, or as the postlude!

As always, if you play a musical instrument, or if you like to sing, please let me know and I will be more than happy to include you in our musical offerings at Hope.

Yours in Christ,
Barb

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





Catch the Excitement!



Over the past few months planning continues to offer the "best convention ever" and now we are down to the last

week. It all begins with the opening service, being live streamed at 5 pm July 8th. This is a free event, and everyone is welcome. If you would like to join your LWMLC sisters at the church on Thursday July 8th at 5 pm Pastor Chandler has agreed to incorporate communion into this service. This is a unique opportunity to hear the President of Lutheran Church Canada Rev Timothy Teuscher preach. To attend follow the link: <https://lutheranwomen.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=52fc5c9e1d&id=3ffa8e0cbb&e=003fb355c2>

Further to this following the July 11th Sunday service at Hope LWMLers will gather together for a potluck luncheon to watch the convention highlights, particularly the mission walk and selected mission project videos. Together we will learn the plans God has prepared for us for the next triennium.

along the Victoria and Songhees walkways, a total of 12 kilometers. Their efforts realized \$885 in support of the women recovery from addictions at Wagner Hills Farms. Thank you to all supporters. Bless your Big hearts you added much joy to our service.



Sewing News



This group has no bylaws, no business meeting, and no officers. We have two rules arrive Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 pm and come as you are ready to join in the fun and fellowship involved in producing charity quilts.

Announcing a summer break from our monthly Bible devotions There will be no LWMLC bible study during July and August. See you in September.

May God bless you and keep you safe until we meet again,

Deborah

READY, SET, GO!



On May 23, Louise, Theo and Deborah participated in the National Lutheran Women's Mission walk; Fit or Freestyle. Their walk took them along the Selkirk trestle bridge and

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Children's Corner

How do we Love Others?

It is easy to love someone we like or one who is nice to us, but it is hard to be kind to someone we do not like or has done something to hurt us or make us sad.

God is a God of Love. He loves everyone and he wants to teach us how to love others too even when it is hard to do so.

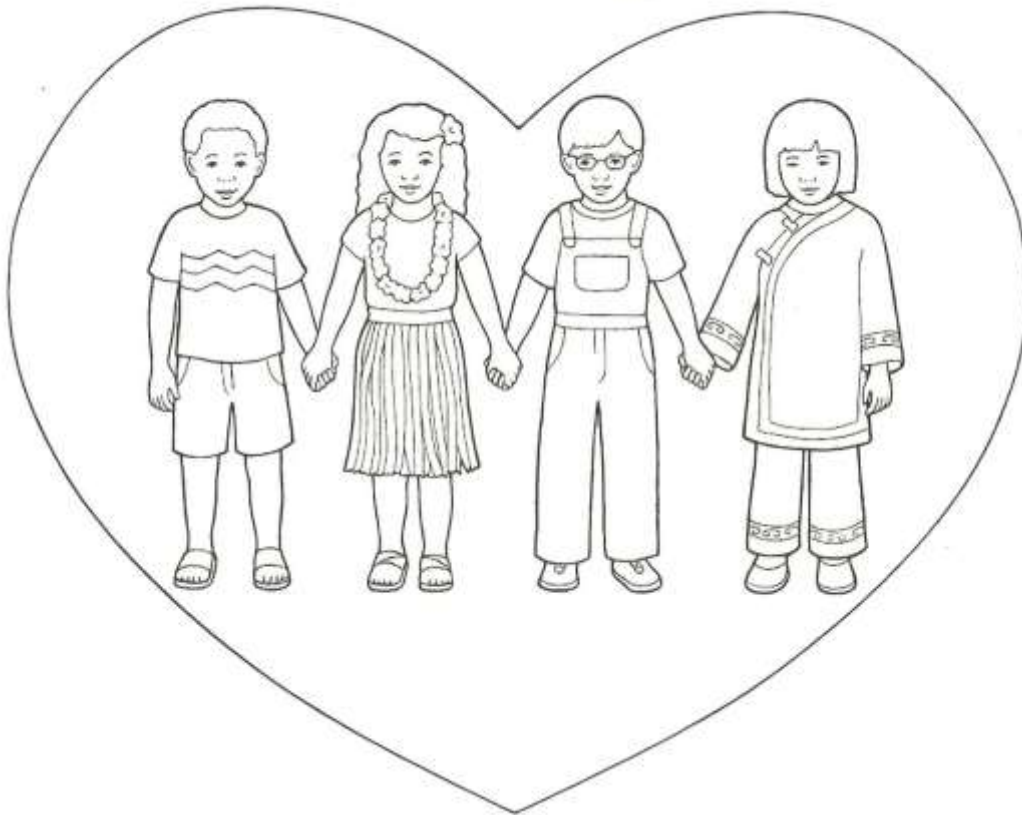
The Bible tells us that we should love others as our selves (Matthew 22:39). This means that we should show the same kindness and love to others as we would want them to show us.

For example, if you want to ride your friend's bike, would you take it without asking him? You wouldn't like it if your friend rode your bike without asking you first, would you? You would probably like him to ask you politely first before riding it. Showing love would be doing the same to your friend. Love is doing the best you can to care for someone, even when that is hard to do.



When we show love to others we are being like Jesus who loves us.

I Will Love Others



Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

July 2021

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
27 5 th Sunday after Pentecost Bible Study 9:15 am Service at 10:30 am	28 12:30 Devotion	29 9:30 Devotion 12:30 Devotion	30 12:30 Devotion	1 12:30 Devotion 	2	3 12:30 Devotion
4 6 th Sunday after Pentecost Bible Study 9:15 am Service at 10:30 am	5 12:30 Devotion  Memory	6 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion  Melvin Iris	7 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Sewing Group	8 12:30 Devotion  Margaret	9	10 9 12:30 Devotion
11 7 th Sunday after Pentecost 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 1:00 pm Sewing Group	15 12:30 Devotion	16  Paul	17 12:30 Devotion 2  Darrell
18 8 th Sunday after Pentecost Bible Study 9:15 am Service at 10:30 am	19 12:30 Devotion	20 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	21 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Sewing Group	22 12:30 Devotion	23	24 12:30 Devotion
25 9 th Sunday after Pentecost Bible Study 9:15 am Service at 10:30 am	26 12:30 Devotion	27 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	28 12:30 Devotion	29 12:30 Devotion	30	31 12:30 Devotion

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