



# Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

August 2021

Volume 11 No. 08

## *From the Pastor*

July 22 was the Festival of St. Mary Magdalene on the liturgical calendar. On that day, I conducted a devotional livestream commemorating the occasion. For the newsletter, I would like to expand on the person of Mary Magdalene for your devotional reflection on the history of God's people and how they provide faithful examples to us today.

If you were to name some of the women who appear in the Gospels, odds are Mary Mother of Jesus is going to be the first one to come to mind with Mary Magdalene following close after (the other Marys would likely be after that with probably Martha or Anna). Despite this popularity, Mary Magdalene only appears a few times in the New Testament, but mostly during important events.

She first appears fairly early in Jesus' ministry when he was travelling around the Sea of Galilee, before he broadened out his ministry to the region of Galilee then Israel as a whole. Mary is mentioned as a follower of Jesus after he exorcised seven demons from her (Luke 8:1-3). She is often confused with the prostitute who pours ointment on Jesus and wipes his feet with her hair. This is probably because the story of the sinful woman occurs shortly before the mention of Mary Magdalene in the company of Jesus (Luke 7:36-50), but there is no mention of the sinful woman's name nor is she claimed to be possessed with demons as Mary was possessed.

Mary is not mentioned again until the crucifixion where she accompanies Mother Mary and some other women (Mark 15:40; Matt 27:55-56; John 19:25). Here she witnessed her Lord die so there was no doubt in her mind Jesus was dead and not someone else (as Islam professes) or that Jesus simply fainted (promoted by some secular scholars). Mary then watched Jesus be buried (Mark 15:46; Matt 27:61) so she could not mistake where Jesus tomb was (some other modern scholars have claimed the tomb was empty because the women looked at the wrong tomb, and other secular scholars have claimed there was no tomb at all). Finally, on Easter morning, Mary Magdalene accompanied other women to apply spices to the deceased body of Jesus (Mark 16:1; Matt 28:1; John 20:1) only to find the tomb empty.

John's gospel (20:2-18) is the only account telling what Mary did after seeing the empty tomb. She ran to get Simon and John, who themselves rushed to the tomb to find it empty then returned to their homes. Mary came back to the tomb to weep outside of it because she did not know where the corpse of her master was. Jesus appeared to her in the flesh, and she only recognized him when he called her by name. This woman watched the man die on the cross and be buried in a tomb. She knew that Jesus was dead but was now alive. The glorious news of the resurrection was upon her lips, and she was the first one to spread this Gospel to the disciples: "I have seen the Lord."

The importance of Mary Magdalene in the scriptures is firmly placed on her evangelism. Mary is the first one to see the risen Jesus Christ and proclaim the good news of the resurrection. She herself was a witness to all these things and could verify the resurrection to be true. Mary saw the Gospel promise of life everlasting in the living flesh of Christ our Lord. She spread this good news so that all may believe and be assured of their salvation from death.

Mary stands as an example to us—not just as a faithful woman to our Lord, but as a faithful follower of Christ that every Christian should emulate. Like Mary, we are to bear witness of the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. All the world needs to hear of the promise that death has no hold over us because it had no hold over our Lord Jesus. This we do as imitators of Mary and the disciples.

God bless,  
Pastor Adam Chandler

## *Our Devotion to Jesus; Stay Connected*

We are devoted to Jesus, Son of God. We want to keep connected to our Saviour. The Bible says to "pray without ceasing". [1\\_thessalonians/5-17](#)  
In the past year and one half, some of us have found it easier to do this: others harder. There are certainly more ways now available through Hope and other churches to be virtually connected to the Word.

At Hope, Pastor Chandler facilitates the recording of worship services, devotions, Bible Studies, Bible Basics, and Catechism videos. These are posted on Facebook sites (public and group), the new Lutheran website [Lutheran](#)

[Parish Life - Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church](#)  
[Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church \(lutheranchurchcanada.ca\)](#) and  
on <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCya4c5da1khaxQR8Nj1iuSg/playlists>  
with links also emailed weekly and posted in the monthly newsletters.

Yet, with all this easy accessibility, our days and evenings have also become busier than before, with extra Covid related tasks. Daily life is now more complicated than ever, with even less spare time for our personal lives and families.

To fit in time to listen to devotions and so on, I have tried out several methods. Some of them include having "video" company over breakfast, tuning in during errand runs, listening while doing household chores i.e., laundry or dishwasher jobs, during "down time" before sleep or at the day's end, while walking or working out (if you have data), sewing, or a number of other tasks that require action but not as much mental attention.

This morning, I decided to check out the Lutheran Theology Study. Pastor described it as for people new to the faith or a refresher for the rest of us. I didn't know what I was missing! I learned some new ideas about scripture and was reminded of others. More significantly, I enjoyed the comfortable discussion, punctuated with laughter, and as a bonus, cleaned out two large kitchen drawers!

I can pause the videos and come back later for the rest, after other commitments.

Integrating spiritual mindfulness with daily tasks, gives me a feeling of calm, of peace. This, I find much better than when, my otherwise unoccupied mind, wanders to the "what ifs" of daily stresses.

In any secular articles that I have read on maintaining good mental health, stress reducing measures include meditation or spiritual connections. I think that God wired the brain to need faith or spiritual connections to function at full speed. When we contemplate how the rest of the body interconnects, it is not an unreasonable theory.

I did discuss this with Pastor Chandler, before writing this article and he had no qualms about my suggestion for multi-tasking, while listening to live streams or videos. I find listening to Pastor's videos, much the same as tuning into Ted Talks, but often more satisfying, as his enthusiasm to share his knowledge of scripture and related information, is invigorating!

So the next time you have a physical but not mentally demanding task, try tuning into one of the engaging studies on God's Word.

*God will go before you, walk beside you and stand behind you. "I am with you always, to the very end of the age!" Matthew 28:20*

Your Sister in Christ,  
Louise

## *From the Worship Committee*

This summer we will all focus on slowly coming together in worship, adding hymns and liturgy as we are able. We thank our chimers and organists for their continuous devotion, and we pray that Laura will soon return as one of our organists. If anyone is interested in singing in a small group, please let me know! It would be so wonderful to have a small choir again!!!

Starting in September, the chimer's meditation pieces will be a variety of songs that have messages of 'gathering together in worship'.

If you have any favorite hymns that you would like to hear during worship, please let me know and we will be delighted to honor your request.

From the words of our meditation song for Sept 19th:

Here in this place the new light is streaming,  
Now is the darkness vanished away;  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Yours in Christ,  
Barb

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



## *Prayer for God's Guidance*

*Anonymous*

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at my end, and at my departing.



Convention Summary



Wow! What a convention, God provided for us to enjoy, under the theme Christ Lives in Me! Galatians 2:20

Couldn't attend don't worry here are a few highlights and for further details watch the convention you tube videos accessible from [lutheranwomen.ca](http://lutheranwomen.ca) or watch for the Fall Tapestry with a special section on the convention.

Briefly: Zone delegates (our rep was Theodora Henry from Vancouver Island Zone) and voting members of the General Council acclaimed a new slate of officers by welcoming two new members Iris Barta (Winnipeg) as VP Christian Mission and Penny Bobier (Prince George) as Financial Secretary. May God bless their service.

Voting Delegates approved a new work program with nine new mission grants as listed in order of votes received:

1. Street Reach, Regina, Sk – Rev DJ Kim
2. Vancouver Youth Worker, Samantha Neeb
3. Contribution towards land purchase for building first Lutheran Church in Costa Rica
4. National Youth Gathering, 2022
5. Concordia Lutheran Seminary Electronic Library Update
6. Translation and formatting of French Sunday School Materials

7. Jackfish Lutheran Camp, Roblin, Manitoba
8. Development of New Mission Site in Lviv Ukraine
9. Diaconal Support in Nicaragua, Central America

Plus a Mission Opportunity Grant of \$26,000 to support unforeseen opportunities that God may place in our path during the triennium for a grant total of \$130,000.

With a virtual convention there were no hugs or kisses, no in person laughter or discussions but with the aid of technology (thanks be to God) much of the business of our League was completed and voting delegates will reconvene in December to complete voting on bylaw changes

Mites collected in mite boxes are the backbone of our League. Boxes have changed in color and design over the years but what has not changed is the dedication of freely giving so that we can reach out to others and spread the good news of Jesus Christ. As we take a respite from our regular activities let us keep our mites growing. Perhaps at the end of each day say "thank you" with an appropriate amount when you feel especially blessed and keep mission grant recipients in your prayers.

With a grateful heart for your partnership in the Gospel and your faithful support of our League

I remain In His Service

Deborah

## *LONGEST MISSION WALK IN LWMLC HISTORY – A true Tour of DISCOVERY!*

As a staple of in-person conventions this year's Virtual Fit or Freestyle Mission Walk surpassed expectations. Our tour began at the mile zero signpost in Victoria



B.C. and together participants reached Corner Brook, Newfoundland; a distance of 6,525 km

or in old school 4,054 miles. A complete Coast to Coast trip in, six weeks! Wow! Praise God.

Along the way participants experienced the splendor of God's creation, rolling country sides, stunning views, and beautiful gardens. Had encounters with wildlife, particularly wild turkeys, and even met a sleeping giant. Some visited historical sites, strolled around man-made lakes, neighborhoods and walked along seaside shorelines with Presidents. While others travelled by tricycle or bicycle along the edge of three great lakes, namely Ontario, Huron and Erie. Took cool dips in the pool and relaxed to the sounds of choral music, the clicking of knitting needles and the hum of sewing machines, while others took in a round of golf.

Like any tour or convention met lots and lots of people. God's people united: united in one body, with one spirit by the waters of baptism. As His hands and feet we serve as His instruments for His purposes and together nearly \$12,000 was realized to support women recovering at Wagner Hill farms. May all glory and honor be God's, along with thankful hearts we proclaim Christ Lives in Me.

Special thanks to those who heeded the Call to Serve Christian Mission Vice President Bev McKean: Walk Coordinator Deborah Gruben,

Distance Tracker Meaghan Maskowitz and Video Producer Melissa Henke-Lambert

### *Our First LWMLC Potluck Lunch*

On Sunday, July 11, 2021, we had our first potluck lunch after the morning Service. In attendance were Adele Yager, Debora Gruben, Gail Milling, Laura Gibson, Louise Rushton,



Theodora Henry and Pastor Adam. Deborah and Theodora gave a brief summary of the National LWMLC Convention and showed a couple of videos (Mission Project Proposals and the Fit and Freestyle Mission Walk).

It was a blessing to be able to once again meet in fellowship and share a meal with our sisters in Christ and of course with Pastor Adam. We look forward to our next face to face meeting in September.

In Christ,  
Theodora Henry

#### **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)