



# Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

September 2021

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## *From the Pastor*

Summer is drawing to a close and people are returning from vacations. Hope Lutheran is about to start up Bible studies again and see what it can do to for Sunday school and confirmation classes. Yet, even though we are going through the regular run of events for the season, things are not exactly regular right now. COVID-19 has been the wrench thrown into any and all plans of the past year and a half; and it does not appear to be stopping any time soon.

Although we are looking to begin our usual routine (also maybe with some new evangelism projects) at our church, things are still uncertain with rising infection rates prompting everyone to persist in precautionary measures longer than we might have hoped. I have been asked many times already if there are many people who refuse to darken the door of Hope Lutheran due to health concerns, or perhaps if some people are not coming because the habit of regular attendance has been broken with suspensions of in-person services. Every congregation is dealing with these same issues at this point and we don't know anything for certain yet.

Something that can and should be done is regular conversations with people in the church and outside of the church, checking on one another to see how we are doing and offering a willing ear to listen to any concerns. You might say to yourself, "Isn't this what we have been doing?" or "You told us this months ago." But this is still necessary. We need to be maintaining and encouraging connections at this time just as

we tried to maintain and encourage connections with one another during the past couple years.

The Christian Church has not fundamentally changed. It is still founded on our Lord Jesus Christ. It is still nourished by Word and Sacrament ministry. And the Christian Church still is composed of every believer as the body of Jesus Christ. All of us are in fellowship with one another, and this means we should care for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Every single one of us is a precious member of the Church of Jesus Christ and need his love. This we abundantly receive through the saving grace extended to us through the Word found in scripture and the Sacraments which forgive us our sins. Even though the heavens and the earth will pass away, the Word of the Lord remains forever (Isa 40:8). You who are nourished by this Word will endure as well.

Whatever happens in this world, you still need the Word of God calling you to life everlasting...as do all the members of our congregation who remain at least two metres away (instead of the shorter distance of an arm's length). Keep in contact with your brothers and sisters in Christ and help nourish them with the Word of God so they may be members of the body of Christ side by side with you. Encourage them, if they are able, to join us in person for worship services and Bible studies. If they are not capable of doing so, there is always a lot of things they can do at Hope Lutheran through online media (services and devotions are on our Facebook page and YouTube channel; there are links to join Bible studies via Zoom). Feel free to

encourage people to contact me (or you can contact me on their behalf) for things like pastoral visits, private confession and absolution, and communion of a single household (for anyone with health concerns about receiving communion during Sunday service).

When making contact with those who have not been to Hope in a while, it is always good to listen more than anything else. We do want to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ strongly and surely, but we should also listen to see how best to proclaim the saving grace. Someone concerned about the uncertainty of the times and the ever-changing nature of our society might wish to hear most about the absolute certainty of our salvation in Jesus, who is himself the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8). Part of listening is also seeing what the Church can do for them. Maybe there is something Hope Lutheran is not providing that they need.

The Christian Church has not changed in its foundation on grace in Christ Jesus or its mission to preach Christ to the ends of the earth. However, the Church changes from age to age in how to provide for its people. When it saw widows and orphans, it created orphanages and facilitated almsgiving. When it saw people sick and infirm, it established the first public hospitals. If someone requests something from us, we can love our neighbour by listening and offering support where people need it. Anyone can contact either myself or one of the elders with suggestions on what we can be doing at Hope Lutheran. Jesus Christ is always and forever here with us, offering his love and grace. He enables and encourages to show his love and grace to others whatever the situation might be.

God's peace,  
Pastor Adam Chandler

## *Do Unto Others as You would have them Do unto You*

*"So (Jesus says) in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 7:12*

In Matthew, chapter 5, are the words of Jesus, as he spoke to the crowds on the mountainside, starting with the Beatitudes, to teach them (and us) about the Law and the words of the Prophets in the Old Testament. Jesus comes to us as the "fulfillment of the Law and Prophets". Jesus takes the Old Testament teachings and turns them around from what we should not do, to what we are to do. In other words, He teaches us to follow both the Law and Gospel!

As easy as it to tell people to "do as I say", actions speak louder than words, as parents well know. It doesn't matter what we tell our children to do, they will usually copy our actions and most loudly, our mistakes and "slips of the tongue"~! Even David had difficulty with words, at times. In Psalm 38:1 he asks God to "not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath." for his own sin. In Psalm 39:1, David continues with, "I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked (I will not say wrong things, lest others hear) are in my presence."

Jesus knew that the teachers of the day were saying the right words of the Law and the Prophets, but he wanted them to follow through with the right action. Yes, the result of sin is death, but Jesus bought us everlasting life through His own sacrifice of His death on the cross. Then He defeated death and rose again. These are not just words. They are Jesus' actions of His great love for us and His gifts of

forgiveness, grace and everlasting life! Jesus' words are His actions!

As personal stories often better illustrate the meaning behind words, I am sharing a story from my childhood.

My Father did not talk much. I cannot remember much that he said, but his actions were profound. This was an example of one of them.

Through his work in the logging industry, he met a non-Christian couple who could not have children. He not only brought them to believe in Jesus Christ and to attend church, but when I was born, he asked them to be my Godparents. They became even more a part of our family and took their promised commitment to me, seriously for the rest of their days. My Father's actions, like this one, continues to help direct my choices and guide my path through life.

As members of the Christian community of believers, we are all to demonstrate our faith through our work in addition to our words. By "acting out our faith" each day, the Words of our Saviour will shine through our "doings", keeping in mind that, "It is by grace you are saved, through faith -- and this is not of ourselves, it is a gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Jesus Christ to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:8-10

God prepared work for all of us to do to the end of our days. As we age, we are to continue to pray for strength to do what we are able to do for each other in the name of the Lord. Our prayers, asking for guidance in our daily lives, will be answered. We are instructed to look to our Lord, for our strength to do His Work and act on His Words.

*"Hear my cry, O Lord; and listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I will cry unto Thee, I will call as my heart goes faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you are my refuge, a strong tower against my foe." Psalm 61: 1-3, a Psalm of David*

Board of Evangelism,  
Louise

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



*From the Worship Committee*

Our worship services are so much nicer now that we have 'people in the pews'! The church musicians are wanting to bring an even greater sense of 'normalcy' back to our congregation by hosting an afternoon of music for our members some time in November.....we, of course, will have to abide by the public health guidelines and the overall covid situation, but, we want to send a message of peace, joy, beauty, and hope, to our congregation by having this event, so we look forward to being able to provide more details next month!

Laura is returning as one of our organists in September, after a long absence. We are so grateful for her return!

If you play a musical instrument and would like to play during a service, please let me know - we welcome all with open arms.

If you have a favourite hymn that you would like played during a service, please let me know - Thanksgiving and Reformation services are soon upon us, and it is always nice to hear and sing our favourite hymns, especially on these such celebrations!

Our pianos will be tuned before Christmas, and our organ is in constant need of repair. If you would like to contribute to the organ fund, your gifts will be graciously accepted - Richard works on the organ repairs most weeks when he is in town playing for one of our worship services - thank you Richard.

Blessings to all,  
Barb

### *Sharing God's Love*

With cooler weather around the corner many of us are going through our wardrobes. We are deciding what to keep for another season and what to pass on for a clothing drive or to a thrift store. With the clothes that are being sent, would you be slipping a note into a pocket? You could use the benediction from Numbers 6:24-26: *The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace.*

You will probably never know who it may touch, a worker who is tired from separating used clothes, or someone who finds that they need second-hand clothing. But prayerfully it will remind them that no matter what their lot, there is a loving Lord watching over them.



Please share ALLI with anyone who is looking for A Little Loving Idea.

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## LWMLC- News



### *Surprise Visitors*

It was with great joy to see Linda Long (our LWML-C national president) and her husband Bill; and Penny Bobier (our newly elected national financial secretary) and her husband Randy on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. It was just by coincidence that they were both here in Victoria vacationing.



Penny, Laura, Linda, Deborah, Theodora

### *LWML Monthly Devotion*

We are starting up our monthly devotion and fellowship this month. You are invited to join us on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. We will meet in person in the church hall, but we will also continue to livestream it on Zoom. To join us on Zoom follow the link below:

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

Meeting ID: 875 4159 6485