



# Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

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## *From the Pastor*

There is a lot of richness in scripture. You can study the Bible your entire life and still find facets of well-read verses you haven't considered before. This is why pastors urge you to read your Bible often because it will always have something to say for your life. It is good to dig deep into God's word, and that can mean consulting new translations you haven't read yet or even get into the original languages. Regular attenders to the Bible studies at Hope know I like to reference the original languages of scripture. While faithful English translations are good, and certainly deliver to us the words of our Lord, there are often nuances in the original languages that are difficult to translate.

As an example, we are currently going through the gospel of John in the Tuesday morning study. Jesus says in John 3:3 is "unless one is born again (ἄνωθεν, anóthen) he cannot see the kingdom of God," to which Nicodemus confusedly asks if that means he should be born again by going into his mother's womb a second time (ouch). But Jesus then proceeds to speak about how this birth is of the water and Spirit in baptism. The confusion is over the word anóthen, which would be obvious to Greek speakers at the time. The word anóthen, has two meanings: born again and born from above. Nicodemus thinks Jesus is saying "born again" but Jesus corrects Nicodemus because he actually means "born from above". (For anyone curious about these types of things and much more, join us in person or online Tuesday mornings, or watch the recordings of Hope's Bible studies on our YouTube channel.)

One interesting instance of losing something in translation occurred when I was researching my sermon on Hebrews 4:12-13 for Sunday, Oct 17. There was a subtlety in the original Greek of the passage that produced a dramatic image that could

not easily appear in a translation. Here is the text as it was read in English from the ESV on that Sunday,

<sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Already we see the word of God as a sharp sword, able to cleave us apart to the depths of our very being. In the sermon (also available to watch on YouTube if you wish to refresh your memory), I explored how both God's Law and His Gospel perform this action. The Law tears us apart to expose every last sin nestled within our flesh, our hearts, and our very thoughts. Yet, the Gospel dives deep within us to forgive those exposed sins so we can be healed from our wickedness even to our core. The Gospel drives the work of Christ right down into us so we can declare with certainty that there is no sin within us which he does not cleanse.

Yet, there is an image lying even deeper than this in the text. For anyone reading the English, one might read "naked" in the phrase "all are naked and exposed" as synonymous with "exposed", that is, a person is without any covering before God. However, the two words "naked" and "exposed" are not synonyms in the Greek. The word for "naked" is exactly what you would expect. It means not to have any clothes on. But the word for "exposed" has nuances beyond simply being without cover. The word literally means "having been seized by the throat". This sounds quite different from "exposed",

and it is, but English translators are trying to capture a difficult sense to convey. While the word literally means to be seized by the throat, the word is more figuratively, “to pull back the neck of a sacrifice to expose/reveal the throat or belly”. With this, we get a fuller picture of what the author of Hebrews is trying to say.

Lying naked and exposed before God holding a sword to us is an image of potential execution for our sins. The sword would be at our throat (“throat” also being a possible definition for the word “soul/life” in Hebrew, our existence is at risk) to demand our death for our sins. God is in a position of judgement and we are called to give an account. We do not want to be killed for our sins by the Law but instead find Christ making amends for us. And thank the merciful Lord that Jesus does just this. The next verse is,

*<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*

The high priest is the one making sacrifices on the altar before God. Drawing back the necks of animals to expose their throats to be cut, the Israelite priest kills animals in the place of sinners so that by the blood of beasts the sinner may live. Jesus is the great high priest who does not kill us or animals but delivers up a greater sacrifice. This is because of the account (Heb 4:13, logos) we give. Instead of trying to let ourselves off the hook by trying to excuse or justify our sins, we simply confess our faith. Since Jesus is our great high priest, our confession (4:14, homologias) is of him and his work for us. In Greek, we see the account (logos) and the confession (homologias) are related words. Our confession of faith in our high priest is the confession we give when threatened by a sacrifice according to the Law. We may be vulnerable under the Law but the confessed Gospel stays the sword of the high priest. He does not demand our blood for our sins, but instead offers his blood in our place. Jesus uses

himself as the perfect sacrifice to save us based on the confession of we have.

What can you take away from all this, besides Heb 4:12-16 being an image of sacrifice that modern English speakers might overlook? Well, you can see how there is a richness to the biblical language that you might not see until you really dig down deep into God’s word. While it might be tempting to say, “I know all that,” there are still facets of scripture that you might have never considered before. Therefore, I encourage you to read from your Bible regularly and meditate on it. Also, come to Bible studies or discussions, as well as search through various biblical helps. God’s word always has something to say to you so you may have Christ in whatever situation you are in.

God’s peace,  
Pastor Adam Chandler

## *The Unity of the Body of Christ*

Romans 12:3-5 "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

As this church year comes to a close, the Parish Planning Committee, our church leadership group, and members in attendance at last year’s fall Congregation Meeting, agreed to extend the PPC leadership roles and placements for one more year before we chose to endorse new officers for leadership. Looking forward, it seemed like a long time; looking back, the time has gone quickly towards nominations for 2022.

In the Book of Romans, the early church members were encouraged to use God given gifts for His glory and for service to God, and each other as Jesus directs us. As we look to the Scriptures for direction, this directive is as important in our present church as it was in Paul's day. We are to take these words to heart. Many of our members have changed their roles within the committee. Others have found that their gifts are needed elsewhere, whether with their families or in other places in our community. Still others know the time has come that their roles now are to be mentors and encouragers to younger members of our congregation. As people who step down pray that those replacing them, even as they fulfill their responsibilities in different innovative ways, are using their gifts to "For God works all things together for good to those who love him and are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

There also may be the need for combining offices or developing different working policies, which is possible without re-writing the bylaws. Pastor Lyons, with the BOLM and other officers, introduced the idea, based on observation, that we have become a small church and that we may need to adjust our governing and decision making body to fit this model. With Pastor Chandler and the necessity brought on by the pandemic, we have changed and improved many of our means of communication. As the congregation agreed that this was one of the most important functions of the church to improve upon, when we last voted on a plan for our church, we have worked hard (with the help of God) to improve on this concept. Perhaps, the main idea for the next structural change, could be simplifying our organization to be better suited for our size and demographics.

The PPC leaders, ask you to consider your gifts and your commitments of service to God. You may step forward and offer your thoughts or hope that we recognize your gifts and approach you. Sometimes we are to be "bold in our faith" and sometimes we are to "be still". You and God alone knows which way to respond to the needs of our church remembering that God loves a cheerful giver! "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" Hebrews 12:2.

"So 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.

"They also will answer, Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help me? He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'" Matthew 25:44-45

Board of Evangelism,  
Louise

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

*From the Worship Committee*

I have had a few members of the congregation mention to me names of their favorite hymns, and each time we have included them in the worship service, and some are planned for the upcoming season of Advent! Thank you for

your input, and please, keep sending me your favorite hymns!

Speaking of favorite hymns, please mark your calendars for our Afternoon of Music!

Saturday, Nov 20th

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

We will have the chime tables set up in the sanctuary so you can 'see and hear' our beautiful chimes! Richard will play our pipe organ for the hymns that we will all sing, we will play the piano in the sanctuary for some pieces, and Linda will play her guitar for some pieces.

If health regulations allow us to provide some refreshments in the sanctuary, we will look forward to some fellowship after as well!

'Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord!!'

God's blessings to all,  
Barbara

### *Called Home*

Thanks to research by some of our members, this memorial for Margaret Sabiston, one of our members, was located. She was visited by Pastor Lyons and some of our members, after she moved from up-Island to Minton Place on Southgate. She was called home to the arms of her Lord, on January 21, 2020. God give her family and friends the peace of Christ.

<https://memories.net/timeline/margaret-sabiston-26767>

### *Congratulations Nicola*

Nicola Theim won first place in the Professional category for the Timeline Challenge! The following video demonstrates her strength and dance. Congrats!

<https://fb.watch/92yK93QcxO/>

Thank you so much for sharing, Nicola!

### *Mug Rugs and Cookies*

Special thanks to Adele, Emily, Rachel, and Jade for making and baking the cookies to go with the Mug Rugs made by the Sewing Group. There are some mug rugs left for anyone who did not get one.

### *Servant Event Ideas*

During the month of November, please consider taking some time to come to the church to help in some activity to prepare our church for Advent season. This could be a garden clean-up, extra dusting, cleaning or organizing in the church building, minor repairs (thanks for the repairs to our church's lit sign on the front of the church and other small jobs that people have quietly gone about doing recently). Please speak to Bert Weiss, before starting any projects, so that work can be coordinated and recognized. Perhaps speak to a member of the Altar Guild and ask if extra help is needed with the Advent season. Consider phoning or visiting, with proper protocol, other members that may now have new needs as the winter months arrive. The sewing group is always looking for help. Whatever you decide to help with, know that it is good and right to do and much appreciated!

### *LWML Monthly Devotion*

We continue to have our monthly devotion and fellowship. You are invited to join us on Thursday, November 25<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

# Children's Corner



What does the Luther Rose mean?

Black cross: We are saved from sin because Jesus died on the cross.

Red heart: We live because Jesus shed his blood for us.

White rose: Our faith gives us joy, comfort, and peace.

Blue sky: Reminds us of our hope for the coming joys of heaven

Gold ring: Reminds us that the eternal joys of heaven are the greatest of all treasures

## Psalm 46:1

*"The Lord is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."*

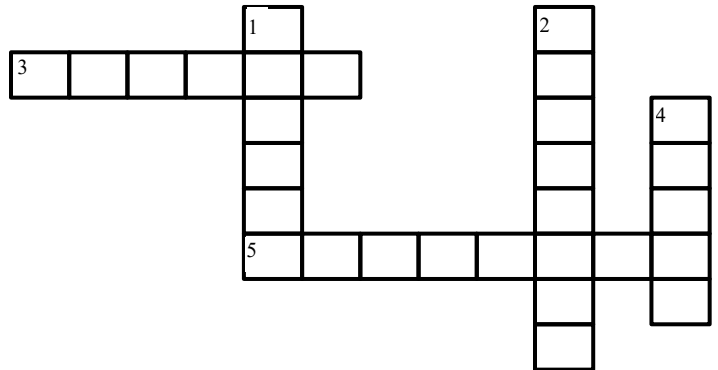
Colour your own Luther Rose



Answers: 1-Gospel; 2-Proclaim; 3-Nation; 4-Angel; 5-Language

# Crossword Puzzle

During Reformation Sunday we read Revelations 14:6-7. Fill in the blanks using your bible to complete the crossword puzzle.



## Revelations 14:6

"Then I saw another \_\_\_\_\_ (4) flying directly overhead, with an eternal \_\_\_\_\_ (1) to \_\_\_\_\_ (2) to those who dwell on earth, to every \_\_\_\_\_ (3) and tribe and \_\_\_\_\_ (5) and people."

