



# Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

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## *From the Pastor*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Php 1:2-6)

This is how Paul begins his letter to the saints in the church in Philippi. Paul is absolutely joyous to be speaking with those who share in the grace of God. Paul came preaching and teaching so many would be brought to faith and encouraged within that congregation. The joy Paul has is knowing that, whatever affliction he may be experiencing, the saints in Philippi are assured of their salvation in Christ.

Although Paul was the preacher, the Lord was the one doing the good work within the people. The people were not in a partnership with one another because they put their heads together and said, "Let's get things done!" The people are partnered in the Gospel because God united them in faith so everyone receives the same gifts of forgiveness, life, and mercy. The partnership of all people in the Church of God is based on God's grace freely and continuously given to us. God makes us partners by always supplying us with what we need in the faith. You can find joy for others in the faith because the same grace you receive from God is found within them.

The greatest grace we have received is salvation from sin, death, and the devil through Jesus Christ, our Lord. This was first given to us when faith was awakened within our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Yet, we are not currently residing in heaven. We remain in this world with its troubles and its ills. Paul himself was writing to the Philippians while he was troubled in prison. But all of us in the faith possess

the assurance that the salvation we have received will be brought into fulfilment at the day of Jesus Christ, when he returns to this world and brings heaven along with him. All of us share in his salvation, in this faith, and in this hope. My hope is your hope, and your joy in Christ is my joy in Christ.

The joy of Christ's salvation is not quashed by evil. His salvation already overcame evil on the cross. So, we who participate in this salvation also spread the joy of Christ to others that they may not sorrow over the evils in their lives, but rejoice that salvation from evil is already assured. We may not know what others are experiencing at this holiday time (happiness, sadness, or loneliness as only a few examples) but we can continue blessing the saints with our greetings which speak the good work of God: grace in Jesus Christ.

This newsletter features the Christmas greetings of the saints at Hope Lutheran made in joy. May you too experience the joy that comes with the partnership in the Gospel of salvation.

Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. (Php 4:21-23)

God's peace,  
Pastor Adam Chandler

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

## *Greetings from Vernon!*

Hard to believe but October has marked one full year for us here in the Okanagan. We started the year with covid, a mild winter, then heatwaves, a horrific fire season and now BC highway closures and still covid. Despite what is happening in the world, we are staying well and keeping busy.

This past February Karlee completed her Masters in Special Education, and Ripleigh is currently working on a Teacher Librarian Certificate. Both girls are working full time at the same elementary school. Peter got a part-time job at the local driving range this past Spring and enjoyed spending lots of time at the golf course. Diane's only work so far has been the one day for Election Canada but otherwise keeps busy running the household, volunteering and catching up with extended family and old friends.

In October, Diane and Peter took a road trip to Edmonton and had a nice visit with Pastor Scott Lyons and Noah. It was really nice seeing them and catching up. In November we all travelled to Toronto to watch Diane's brother, Ken was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame. We are proud of his accomplishment and happy that we could all attend.

After looking around at homes in Vernon, we decided to live in the home that Diane's parents built in 1955. We are currently knee deep in major home renovations. These renos should be completed by next spring and ready for Karlee and Kevin's Vernon wedding in the summer of 2022 with Pastor Scott officiating.

In the fall, Diane attended the Okanagan Zone LWML Ladies Day held at St. Johns and it feels good to be able to finally attend church service in person.

May the Lord grant you peace and renew your strength for the year ahead. Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas season and a healthy 2022.

The Bowers – Diane, Peter, Karlee, Ripleigh

## *From the Worship Committee*

Advent Greetings to All...

As pre-service music for the Advent 1 Worship Service, I played the organ prelude and chorale of what I feel is one of our most beautiful Advent hymns: **O Lord, How Shall I Meet You.** This hymn is perfect for the joy that comes with expecting the coming of Jesus, and the wonder that comes along with waiting for his love to arrive! Though the hymn is an advent hymn, it does cover many topics of Christ, including when Christ would leave this world. The voice of the text is one that is humbled and is one that comes from an introspective point of view. During this time of Advent, it is important for us to look inside and see what it is we can do to honor and worship Christ. Sometimes, it is as simple as asking Christ in prayer to show you how, but sometimes, we need to sit back and listen to the words that Christ is telling us through our lives. As the third stanza says, Christ will always come to people in their darkest hour, and he will raise those people up to the glory that is only possible through Christ. Christ came so that we can trust that God will help us through our times of trial, and that we will always have a place to turn when we are in the darkest parts of our lives. The verses of this hymn were written by Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676), a Lutheran pastor, and the tune was written by his friend Johann Cruger (1598-1662), who served as a musician with Paul Gerhardt in ministry. Take a moment to read the verses of this truly beautiful hymn #334. May your Advent season be blessed, may it bring joy, may you find peace in your heart, and may you find

time to 'look inside and see what it is you can do to honor and worship Christ'.

God's blessings to all,  
Barbara

*From the Altar Guild  
Poinsettias for Christmas*

If you would like to provide Poinsettias or flowers for the altar you may do it in one of two ways:

1. Make a donation- beside "Other" on your offering envelope please list your donation amount. Typically a bouquet of flowers or poinsettia costs around \$20 but all donations are appreciated.
2. Contact the office at 250-592-4124 to let Theo know that you will be bringing some flower that you have purchased.

Because the flowers are refrigerated in between services they typically last 2-3 weeks.

Thanks to everyone who has donated in the past and especially Theodora Henry, Deborah Gruben and Eleanor Murdoch who always ensure there are flowers on the altar.

LWMLC NEWS



### LWMLC CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year, our LWMLC will host a light luncheon on Dec. 12 following the Sunday Service. All members of the church are invited to attend! The league members will provide casserole, salad, dessert, tea and coffee for each table so there will be no moving about once seated and provincial covid protocols will be in place. To facilitate with the planning, please sign up to attend or call the office. Also please plan to bring \$5 for the food bank.

### Christmas Mission Project

Each year LWMLC members select a mission project to receive the bounty of tangible gift items made by the sewing, knitting and crocheting ladies of our church. The following letter is from one of this year recipients:



*Hello Deborah,*

*Thank you so, so much for the lovely donation of blankets and knitted items! We're very excited to include them in Christmas packages.*

*My co-worker, Sandra passed along your contact info to me as I am the Family Services Coordinator and the best person to keep in touch with about donations for families. Sandra mentioned that you were looking for ideas for other things to make for our families; I really loved her idea of matching sets. Moms and babies/toddlers love receiving matching slippers, scarves, pajama bottoms, mittens, hats etc.*

*Thanks again for the donation! I look forward to connecting with you.*

*Janik*

*Janik Belliveau, BCYC*

*Co-ordinator, Family Services*

*Esquimalt Neighbourhood House*

Our other recipient will be seniors using the food bank. Along with their Christmas hamper each will receive a Christmas toque filled with special toiletries. (fancy soaps, body wash, hand cream etc.) A gift the food bank cannot provide without our help. If you would like to provide such items please place them in the basket outside the church office. Your support is very much appreciated.

*In His Service,  
Deborah Gruben*

# Children's Corner

## *What is Advent?*

Advent marks the beginning of the Church Year. Advent is made up of the four Sundays that come right before Christmas. In other words, the deeper into the Advent you go, the closer you get to Christmas Day. For Christians, the First Sunday in Advent is kind of the "New Year's Day" of the Church Year calendar.

## *Why do we celebrate Advent?*

The word Advent means "coming". During Advent we prepare for the coming of One who was born that first Christmas in a stable. We prepare for the One who saved us from sin, death and the power of the devil: our Lord Jesus Christ! What a wonderful and exciting time of preparation.

## *What is the Advent wreath?*

The Advent wreath is the circle of candles that you see in the sanctuary during the season of Advent. There are three purple (or blue) candles, one pink candle and a white candle (also called Christ candle) in the middle.

## *How do we use the Advent wreath?*

Each Sunday in Advent, a new candle on the wreath is lit. During the first week in Advent, only one candle is lit. For example, during the second week in Advent, two candles are lit. We do this to remember and prepare for the coming of our saviour, Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

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# Advent Word Search

W	E	G	T	H	M	K	I	C	X	J	Q
R	W	R	E	A	T	H	S	A	Z	O	C
M	P	E	K	D	J	E	S	N	B	Y	A
A	Y	A	D	V	I	M	P	D	H	O	P
R	J	O	S	E	P	H	E	L	O	V	E
Y	E	B	A	N	C	O	A	E	O	G	A
P	S	X	G	T	H	P	C	S	P	K	C
Z	U	G	M	L	O	E	Z	E	A	Y	E
Y	S	Q	P	U	R	P	L	E	X	R	A

## Words to Find:

Advent ~ Wreath ~ Candles ~ Purple ~  
Hope ~ Peace ~ Joy ~ Love ~ Mary ~ Joseph  
~ Jesus

## Colour your own Advent Wreath



# A Blessed Christmas to you all!

God's Blessings  
to all our  
church family  
Leana, David  
& April Gibson

Blessed Christmas  
everyone!  
Andrew Johnston

Love, Blessing  
and Hugs  
Adele

Grace, peace, and love to  
all those in Hope and all  
the friends of the congregation  
in the name of Jesus Christ  
our Lord who was born on  
Christmas Day. - Pastor Adam Chandler

Season's Blessings,  
Benbara G.

Blessing to all!  
Ruth Magnusson (Darius)

Blessed Christmas  
Louise  
Ruston

Blessed Christmas  
Nancy

Christmas Blessings  
Fred & Jaylyn

All your  
brothers and sisters  
at Hope

Blessings  
to you with  
love  
Sharon

ERIKA WASSER  
Christa Kuterer  
Monah Jansen

Blessed  
Christmas!  
Praying for  
you & your  
families  
Love  
The Franken's  
Linda

Linda

Blessed Xmas!  
Paul

Miriam Cassen

Blessings  
Jisha Bland

Emily x

Rachel

