

Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

March 2022

Volume 12 No. 03

From the Pastor

The season of Lent is upon us. It is a time of penance and reflection in our faith where we dwell on our relationship with God, both our need for the Lord's forgiveness and His satisfaction of our need. An essential element of this relationship with God is prayer. Prayer is where we come before our Lord and king, our Saviour and Comforter, beseeching Him for His mercies. Prayer is the normal way we communicate to God. Therefore, we should not limit our prayers to requests but should also include other marks of conversation like praise and thanksgiving to God.

Part of your Lenten devotions can be trying to thank God for something that you normally wouldn't. Perhaps thank Him for the wonders of the sunrise or the gift of family. Thank Him for your job or any meaningful hobbies. You can even thank God for small mercies such as finding that nothing new hurts when you roll out of bed in the morning. The important thing is to continue in conversation with our God who speaks to us not only in words but through the fulfilment of His promises to us.

Prayer is a holy conversation where our God has given to us His words in scripture that we might speak them back to Him. The whole book of Psalms is devoted to this. But speaking God's

words is hardly a parroting back of what He says to us. We do not pray with empty thoughts or empty words but in the Spirit of Truth who leads us to Christ. We provide our wants and needs in prayer, shaped by the words of scripture, and the Lord provides His side of the conversation in His promises. These promises are proclaimed in the scriptures and are manifest in the sacraments. And beyond these our Lord also demonstrates His works in the world. We should not always expect miraculous signs (because God never promises miracles as His primary response) but sometimes He does bring about miracles.

Showcasing the conversation we have with our God is the Lord's Prayer. In the prayer which Jesus taught us (Matt 6:9-13), we find all our requests laid out in addition to the expected answers of our Father in heaven. We are not praying for our daily bread to be given as a last-ditch effort to receive what we need. We pray for our daily bread because our God promises to provide it. Likewise, we pray for God's kingdom to come and for our sins to be forgiven because God promises these things to us.

Part of your conversation with God is also praying not only for yourself but for all people. Shifting the petition "give us this day our daily bread" to "give *me* this day *my* daily bread"

makes it sound somewhat hollow. You are not praying just for your needs but for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their need. God responds by not only giving you your daily bread but all people their daily bread. This is what He promises so that is exactly what He is going to do.

But if God will supply all people with daily bread, then why do you need to pray for it too? The reason is that prayer is not only a holy conversation to tell God what is on your heart and mind but a conversation which shapes and forms you according to God's word and promises. Luther explains in his Small Catechism that God gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, but we pray for daily bread so we would realize His mercy to all people and that we receive His bread with thanksgiving. The Lord gives us His prayer that we may become holy through it.

As we journey through the season of Lent, I will be exploring the Lord's Prayer in the midweek services on Wednesday nights. We will be using Luther's Large Catechism (not the Small Catechism) to explain each petition of the Lord's Prayer and what it means for us as Christians.

God bless,
Pastor Adam Chandler

From the Worship Committee

After two years of chiming outside before each worship service, the chimers are taking a bit of a break. We will now chime outside at the beginning of each new season of the church

year, on festivals, and for funeral services. We will of course, continue to chime at the beginning of each worship service for the opening meditation. Many thanks to each of the chimers for their past and continued dedication.

Our pipe organ is in constant need of repair, and Richard faithfully does work on the organ as he has time available. Our church has an organ fund, and if you are able to donate to the organ fund towards needed organ parts, we will try to get some of the stops repaired that have not been working for some time.

Pastor selects the hymns for each Sunday service, with some input from our church musicians. If you have a favorite hymn that you would like to sing, please send the name of the hymn and the hymn number, to Pastor, to include in a worship service. Or you can send it to me to include as one of the chime meditation pieces or to be played during communion. It is an honor to play requested hymns - please do not hesitate to send in your favorite hymns.

During Lent, I will play my harp in the sanctuary, as meditative pre-service music, for each of the evening mid-week services. As Plato stated.."..music gives wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, gaiety and life to everything....." Harps and lyres date back to 300 BC, with the triangular shaped harps dating back to the 11th century, and are well-suited to intimate gatherings, such as our mid-week services. I hope this musical offering enhances your personal Lenten journey.

Lenten Blessings to All,
Barb

Earthly Peace or Peace that passes all understanding

The peaceful feeling at the end of the day when you or you and your companion in life, step out on the porch after a long day and gaze at the night sky, the sight can take our breath away. The full "snow moon" of these last few days in February, the crisp chill and the unfathomable immenseness of the heavens above without end, can wipe away every thought, for that moment.

We go back into our home to the sound of the phone ringing or the busyness of undone tasks before a night's rest. In an instant, the momentary peace vanishes like the wisp of cold breath. We are thankful even for that short stillness, for our minds to realign to finish the day. Jesus shows us, by His example, to step back and refresh the spirit within us.

Then, there is the greater peace, God's peace, "that passes all understanding to keep our hearts and minds in Christ." God uses nature to explain His actions to us. Like the stillness of the evening to calm us amid all distractions, there is also the "eye in the storm" imagery.

Read the news on your phone for either local events or instantaneous coverage from anywhere and "peace" is not how the state of the world is described. Conflicts within human control or weather and nature's catastrophes which are not, fill the airwaves. There is no calm or stillness. Yet, in the epicentre, life carries on, with purpose. Babies are born, prayers are answered, skies light up with sunrises or starlight.

Through baptism and Jesus's sacrifice for us, "the peace of God, which transcends all

understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally. (sisters) and brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me-put into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." *Philippians 4:7-9*

Louise
Evangelism

Congregation and PPC Reports Summary

Minutes and reports will be posted or can be requested for the Feb 16th PPC meeting and the Feb 27th Congregation meeting.

For a brief summary, an annual audit was conducted, tax receipts sent out, a properties assessment re upcoming repairs and/or maintenance with volunteers needed being done, the beginnings of a call for people to stand for the upcoming PPC boards in June, and a review of the two "three year plans". The first 3 year plan was a result of the townhall meetings, which called for improvements in communications, increases in opportunities for Bible Studies and increased member involvement. The second three year plan, is to financially support our pastor, newly graduated from seminary. The topic of "roles and responsibilities" has been tabled for the time being as it is interdependent with a review of the bylaws, which is a huge task.

The positive news includes the ability for the treasurer to pay the bills, outreach is being done through Christian booklets distributed in "free libraries", monthly Theology on Tap sessions out in the community, online worship services, devotions, and Bible studies, public FaceBook

page, neighbourhood clothing bin, and collaborative work with community charities such as Mustard Seed, Our Place, transition houses, BCMB and the Vancouver Island Cardiac support group, by helping to sew coughing control pillows for outgoing open heart surgery patients at our sewing group.

BC Mission Boat weekly Sunday School online videos are presently being shared with 14 families with children. If there is anyone, not receiving these emails, that wish to have them sent to family members, please contact Louise Rushton and their emails will be added to the mailing list. These videos are directed and supported by Rhonda and Julie and produced with the help of youth teams, based on curriculum kits.

"Serve one another"

As well as new people being needed for PPC boards, if you are interested in other ways to serve God and our church community, consider becoming a teller, helping on the Altar Guild, joining the music team, being a reader for Sunday worship, helping with tech work with online or our Sunday morning power point slides, or even a one-off job of building maintenance. Visit our Thursday afternoon sewing group for conversation and interaction. With the weather to warm up, at some point soon, Properties and garden maintenance are looking for helpers. Or write an article for the newsletter or one of the Lutheran publications. Zoom in to a Bible study or come out for a coffee and fellowship at a monthly Theology on Tap get together. Call or visit a member and brighten their day. Doing for others, lowers our blood pressure, raises our spirits and calms our minds. It also lightens the workload for those around you!

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." 1 Peter 4:10-11

Louise
Evangelism

Our family

Let's welcome together the newest addition to our family, Elliott Smale, brother to Mattias and Isaiah born January 28th. May



God bless this addition with abundant blessings and happiness in the years ahead. May he bring joy and pride to his parents Darrell and Vanessa, grandparents Fred and Gaylyn and great grandparents Bruce and Lorraine Nystedt

Rejoice in the Lord always! The gift of long life is worth celebrating and that is just what we did when we sang to Edel Satermo on the occasion of her 101 birthday. Thanks be to God for this gift of long life. May she continue to endear God in her heart and enjoy the love of family and friends.



Prayers

Prayers of thanksgiving for the families and individuals who are recovering from illnesses, surgery or a bout of Covid. Thanks be to God.

Our condolences to the family of Fern Rushton, whose memorial service was held on March 2, at Trinity Church in Richmond, BC. She was called home on Jan 14th. She was baptized at Hope and attended Sunday school and worship services with her family before they moved to Vancouver in the late 60's. May she rest in peace.

A prayer for peace in our world, especially in Ukraine and Russia, grant a speedy reconciliation to those on opposite sides of the conflict.

Heavenly Father, God of all concord, it is Your gracious will that Your children on earth live together in harmony and peace. Defeat the plans of all those who would stir up violence and strife, war, and bloodshed, and, according to Your will, end the current conflict that now rages in Ukraine. Protect those who are suffering and being displaced from their homes. Bring a restoration of calm and security, and heal the wounds that have been inflicted.

We especially commend to Your care and keeping our Lutheran Church–Canada missionary in Ukraine, Rev. Oleksiy Navrotsky and his family; Bishop Alexander Yurchenko; and all the pastors and members of the congregations of the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Ukraine. Preserve them from all harm and danger. Grant them an extra measure of Your Holy Spirit at this time that they would remain steadfast in the one true faith in Him who is Lord and Saviour of all. In the midst of this conflict, empower them to reach out to others with the precious Gospel of God's peace and love in Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
(a prayer from Lutheran Church Canada)

For more than 75 years Lutherans have been generous supported humanitarian aid through CLWR. The political and economic crisis in Ukraine requires our immediate action. Let's us send a strong message of Christ's love to all of His people with our gifts of love.

Lenten Services

Come, invite a friend and join us this Lenten Season for midweek services:

- March 2nd – Pancake Supper, 6:00 pm
(free will offering, LWML)
Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 pm
- March 9th - Lent 1 Midweek service, 7:00 pm
- March 16th - Lent 2 Midweek service, 7:00 pm
- March 23rd - Lent 3 Midweek service, 7:00 pm
- March 30th - Lent 4 Midweek service, 7:00 pm
- April 6th - Lent 5 Midweek service, 7:00 pm
- April 10th - Palm Sunday service, 10:30 am
- April 14th - Maundy Thursday service, 7:00 pm
- April 15th - Good Friday service, 7:00 pm
- April 17th - Easter Breakfast, 9:00 am
(free will offering, LWML)
Easter Sunday service, 10:30 am

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



Church Directory

Last call for corrections or additions to the 2022 Directory before it is published in mid-March. Phone in or email to helc@shaw.ca

LWML

LWML News



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

In response to God’s love for us LWMLC partnered with the families, especially the children of our congregation to create 16 Valentine gift packages delivered to homebound members.



A BIG thank you to all participants and the children’s artwork can still be viewed at the church on the bulletin board. Be sure to check it out.

February 17th marked our second workshop with BC Heart and Stroke society. Fifty heart shaped pillows were sewn and sent along for stuffing. Next workshop is March 17 at 1pm. This activity is open to all! You do not need to be an LWML member to join in the fun. Meanwhile the sewing group continues to sew pocket quilts for the BC Mission Boat ministry. Feel free to drop in any Thursday afternoon after 1pm. Employing the old adage many hands make light work and no contribution is too small!



A TIME TO CELEBRATE FACE TO FACE



God has indeed been good to us. With the lifting of the restrictions surrounding Covid 19 we rejoice in being able to meet face to face with our LWMLC sisters at this year’s Vancouver Island Spring Rally scheduled for April 23 in Courtenay. God has further blessed our mite offerings such that our ABC District Mission goal of \$88,000 has all but less than \$3,000 been paid. With one month remaining it is our prayer that God will continue to bless our mites, so willingly and joyfully given. We rejoice in the work God has set before us and look forward to attending our last District Convention in Red Deer under the theme “For you are ALL one in Christ Jesus” Galatians 3:28b and rejoice in the new opportunities God will set before us.

O Give THANKS to the Lord Psalm 106:16



Annie’s Place an emergency shelter, at no cost for women and children fleeing abuse was the recipient of six quilts and pillows. This house provides safety and support to those transiting into a life free of violence.

We, too, are thankful to be transitioning back into life with our Lord in his house at Hope. . . Last year we had to make appointments to begin our Lenten journey with the imposition of ashes. This year we’re able to celebrate together. Face to face with a pancake supper providing support and encouragement as well the imposition of ashes and God’s word.

In His Service,
Deborah

Children's Corner

Why do we celebrate Lent for 40 days?

Don't forget what Lent is all about! It is a time when we are reminded of what Jesus gave up for us, and a time when we look forward to and prepare for His death and resurrection!



We celebrate Lent for six weeks, or 40 days, as we remember Christ's temptation in the wilderness in the Gospel of Matthew. There **Jesus was without food** for 40 days.



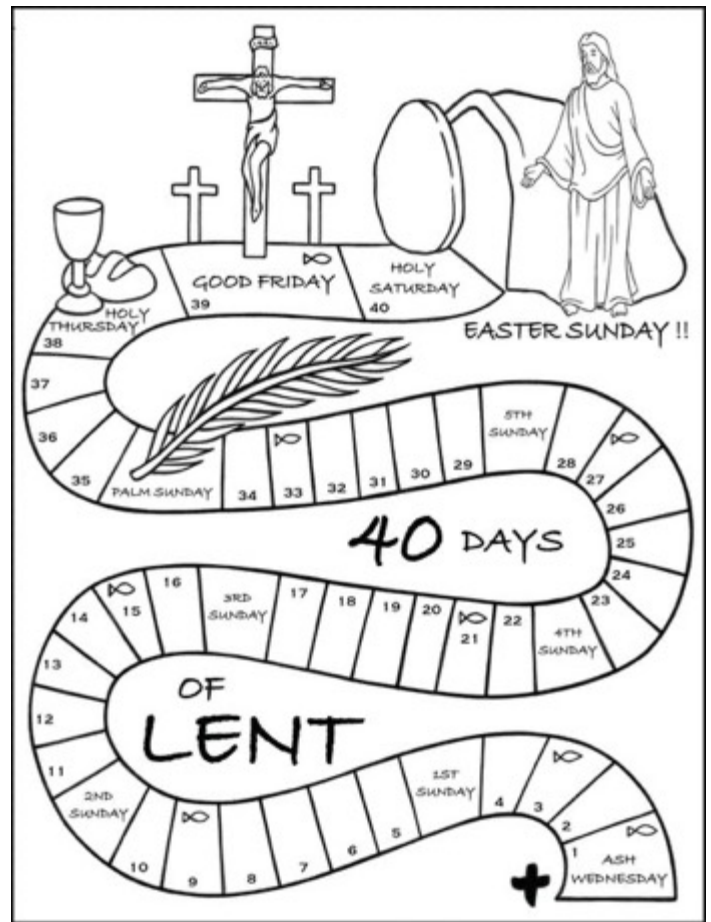
We remember the temptation of **the Israelites in the desert** after the Lord had delivered them from Egypt. This lasted 40 years.



Finally, we can remember the story of **Noah and his family**. After 40 days and 40 nights of rain, the Lord delivered them as He promised.

During these 40 days of Lent, we remember God's faithfulness to His people and how His faithfulness is complete in Jesus, our Savior. Jesus remains faithful to us, always being where He promises to be: in His Word and Sacraments. Wow! What a Savior!

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Unscramble Lent



Unscramble each set of letters to form words associated with Lent







1. yWssAdene hda _____
2. osf ydtayr _____
3. entL _____
4. F oroidGady _____
5. vPossrea _____
6. yHkeelo W _____
7. PaSnd mylau _____
8. dMahyuTad nrysu _____
9. ldaSt uoHyyar _____
10. daytS ransEeu _____

Answer

1) Ash Wednesday; 2) forty days; 3) Lent; 4) Palm Sunday; 5) Good Friday; 6) Holy week; 7) Holy Thursday; 8) Maundy Thursday; 9) Holy Saturday; 10) Easter Sunday

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

March 2022

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
27 Transfiguration Sunday Worship, 10:30 am	28 12:30 Devotion	1 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	2 12:30 Devotion 6:00 pm Pancake Supper 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	3 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Sewing Group	4  Adele	5 10:00 am Confirmation Class 3:30 pm Chimes Rehearsal 7:30 pm Theology on Tap (Maude Hunters)
6 1 st Sunday in Lent Bible Study, 9:15 am Worship, 10:30 am	7 12:30 Devotion	8 12:30 Devotion  Helga	9 12:30 Devotion 7:00 pm Midweek Service Lent 1	10 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Sewing Group	11	12 10:00 am Confirmation Class 12:30 Devotion 3:30 pm Chimes Rehearsal
13 2 nd Sunday in Lent Bible Study, 9:15 am Worship, 10:30 am	14 12:30 Devotion	15 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion  Cassidy	16 12:30 Devotion 7:00 pm Midweek Service Lent 2	17 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Sewing Group 	18	19 10:00 am Confirmation Class 12:30 Devotion 3:30 pm Chimes Rehearsal
20 3 rd Sunday in Lent Bible Study, 9:15 am Worship, 10:30 am	21 12:30 Devotion  Alexander	22 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	23 12:30 Devotion 7:00 pm Midweek Service Lent 3	24 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Sewing Group  Theodora	25	26 10:00 am Confirmation Class 12:30 Devotion 3:30 pm Chimes Rehearsal
27 4 th Sunday in Lent Bible Study, 9:15 am Worship, 10:30 am  Tyler James Gardiner	28 12:30 Devotion	29 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	30 12:30 Devotion 7:00 pm Midweek Service Lent 4	31 12:00 LWML Lunch 1:00 pm LWML Devotion	1 	2 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:

Theodora Henry
Deborah Gruben
Elder of the Month:
Fred Smale