



# Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

April 2022

Volume 12 No. 04

## *From the Pastor*

Last month has been odd. I say this for myself, knowing not everyone may not have the same experience. Primarily, I have in mind what is going on in the Ukraine. When I crack open the latest magazines from within Lutheran Church – Canada, I find articles about the recent efforts in the Ukraine. The Spring issue of *Tapestry*, the LWMLC magazine, mentions Pastor Oleksiy Navrotskyy, who doubles as LCC's missionary in the Ukraine, regularly traveling to Lviv to lead a women's Bible study. This is definitely not happening now in the Spring. Pastor Navrotskyy is currently in a church basement preaching to people scared for their lives and their nation. Similarly, *The Canadian Lutheran* magazine, January/February issue, has a couple articles on the Ukraine at the back. One is about concerns about Russia's military build-up. The other article is about the repair of a church roof in a Ukrainian parish. Now that Russia's military is not only built up but spilling into the Ukraine, I can't help wondering if that Ukrainian church needs another roof with all the bombing.

A massive change has occurred in a relatively short period of time—the time between the writing of these articles and their distribution. Given everything going on, even the periodic updates on LCC's website from Ukrainian pastors feel almost out of date as soon as we get them. This world is not stable. If it is not failing in one way, it will be failing in another. And this can happen rather suddenly. (A number of the

people in the congregation with recent health concerns can tell you much the same.)

This gets me thinking back to Ash Wednesday. We had a boisterous pancake supper downstairs then went up to contemplate our own demise in the worship service a moment later. We went from enjoying life together to recognize that this world does not offer life. From dust you are and to dust you shall return. This swift change can be unnerving but the Ash Wednesday service really puts things into perspective. The things of this world are given to destruction. None of this world is meant to live forever because all of this world has been affected by sin. Where there is sin, there is decay unto death. But we look beyond death to a promise that is greater than death. We look forward to the hope of everlasting life in Jesus Christ. Even though your skin may be destroyed, yet in your flesh you will see God face to face.

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die...[God] has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. (Ecc 3:1-2a, 11)*

God has placed the eternality of Christ our Lord into our hearts. Christ lives forever and so do we. When we hear that from dust we are and to dust we shall return, we hear this in the context of knowing that Christ reverses death. In fact, he does more than reverse death. When Christ ushers eternity into our heart through faith, he

undoes the cause of death. Jesus dissolves the sin within the heart. The recreated heart beating in your chest is not bound to sin nor bound to dust but bonded to Christ. Although it may cease to function for a time, you will not be deprived of life for you are never without Jesus.

On Ash Wednesday, we are reminded of Easter. The promise of the resurrection is made so that during the whole of our Lententide, there is no lack of hope for us. Eternity is with us despite this world falling apart. Jesus is the risen Lord who has undone death. This world might offer a time to die like Jesus died at a time 2000 years ago, but through Christ we are also assured a time to be reborn in faith. We are brought out of the deadness of sin unto life everlasting, an eternity promised in our hearts at the present. And we eagerly await the time of the resurrection when eternity will not be only in our hearts but also in our risen flesh.

The world might turn quickly towards evil; now one way, now another. All the while, though, Christ maintains the gift of unwavering salvation that dwells with us. The situation in the Ukraine right now is volatile, frightening, yet still within the Lord's purview. He will continue to offer salvation through His Word the same as He always has. This is message being proclaimed by the pastors in the Ukraine. They preach Christ because in Christ is the hope of the resurrection. Before the war, they preached Christ. Now, during the war, they preach Christ. Our hope does not waver although the world falters.

God bless,  
Pastor Adam Chandler

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

## *From the Worship Committee*

Music in our worship services is all based on Martin Luther's high regard that music is essential to evangelical worship. He expressed many passionate statements throughout his life that 'next to the Word of God, music is the greatest treasure in the world'. And he set out to compose our greatest hymns of Reformation, to work with many of the greatest musicians of his time for hymn and liturgical composition, he modified and paraphrased Gregorian chants. His accomplishments are vast, and they have endured the test of time to be bound in our hymnals today.

In April, we will journey the final weeks of Lent and then Holy Week. Our hymns and meditative music will reflect the scripture of the service as we sing the poetic words of our faith. On Good Friday, the chimes will play 'Miserere Mei Deus' (G. Allegri), 'Have Mercy on Me, oh God'. This emotional piece was written in the 1600's for Holy Week, scored to be sung by two choirs, and we have adapted this score to our chime choir. The second piece our chime choir will play on Good Friday, is the closing chorale that J.S. Bach wrote for his 'Passion According to St. Matthew'. These are the words:

*With Thee, Jesus, will I stay, for Thou are the  
new Creation;  
Thou the Life, the Truth, the Way,  
Thou the well-spring of salvation:  
Blessed who can say with me: Jesus, I'll ne'er  
part from Thee*

I can think of no other chorale that so embraces our faith in the 'power of the cross', and bridges the sadness of Good Friday with the joy of Easter Sunday.

Blessings to All,  
Barb

## *Find yourself in this design*

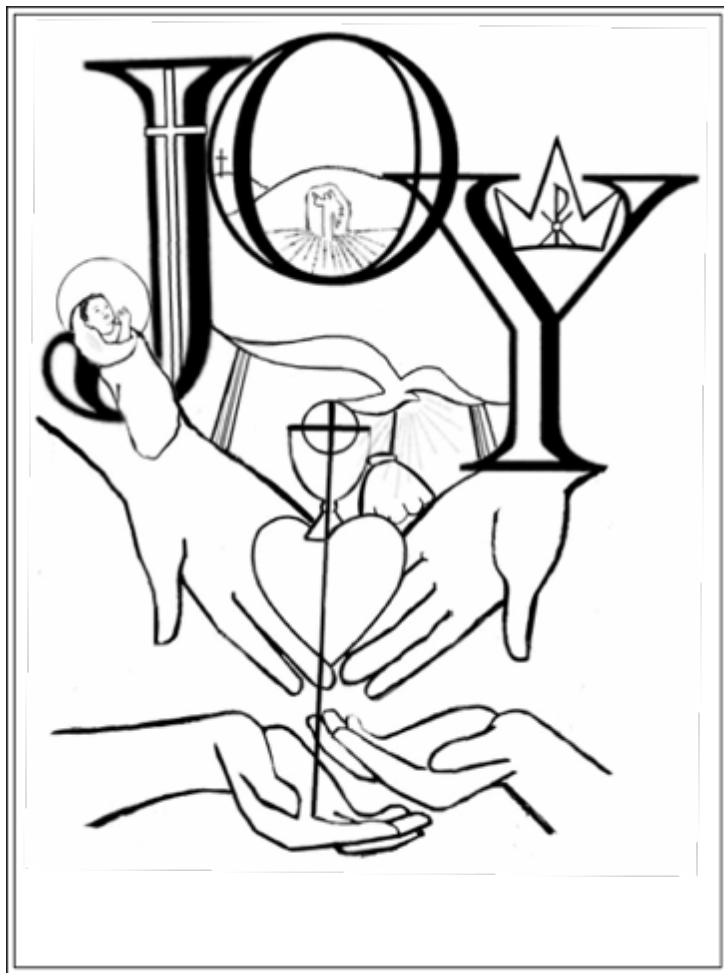
Can you see yourself in the design on the next column? Where? Each person will have a different vision of self. You may see your hands giving the love of Christ to others in acts of love. However, all of us have been in need of help from above and can see ourselves there. God has graciously put others in our lives to minister to us as well.

We find joy in having others help us or helping them through tough times, or joy in the pastor giving us the Lord's Supper that provides strength and peace. As the Word is preached or taught the Holy Spirit fills our hearts. We in turn share Christ's love in what we say and do.

The word JOY in the design is filled with the source of our joy—Jesus, everlasting God, who humbled Himself to become one of us through birth, died in payment for our sins...all forgiven. On the third day He rose from the dead to life eternal. Christ keeps His promises. We are chosen by God and given our faith through the work of the Holy Spirit in baptism.

This is true JOY to be given our salvation; to be given eternal life (the crown). It is true JOY to share Christ. It is true JOY to live in hope knowing God keeps His promises. Such JOY is a gift from God. Praise Him for His gift of JOY as you colour the next page. Alleluia!

Carol Harms  
Spring Tapestry



## *Easter Breakfast*

Join us on Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am for fellowship and breakfast. Breakfast sponsored by the LWML-C ladies. There will be Free will offering, funds collected will go toward LWML-C projects.



LWML-C

LWML-C News



“Praise is to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ in his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:3 A Blessed Easter to All!

Easter comes at such a hopeful time of year truly a season of rebirth. Annie’s House also provides a hopeful place for women and children seeking safety from domestic violence. A recent thank you note expressed their heartfelt thanks for “the six lovely quilts. We appreciate it so much.” These gifts of love will travel home with their clients. In addition 200 pocket prayer quilts were made and delivered to the BC Mission Boat coordinator. May all praise and glory be to God; the source of all time and talents. Special thanks to Pastor Chandler for delivering these quilts. Featured below are few samples of the quilts for Annie’s house.



*You’re invited to Celebrate*



Celebrate the ways God has blessed our LWMLC League by joining us on April 23 in Courtenay from 10am -3pm. Zone Counsellor Pastor Platz will officiate a communion service beginning at 10am after a warm welcome from our host society. Registration begins at 9:30am with a cost of \$8.00 including lunch. The afternoon will include an in gathering for Lillie’s place and a brief business meeting. We will gather a free-will offering during the service. This invitation is extended to ALL the ladies. If you are able to join us please RSVP to Theo at [helc@shaw.ca](mailto:helc@shaw.ca) or Deborah at [wsgruben@hotmail.com](mailto:wsgruben@hotmail.com) or 250-478-6451.

*The End of an Era*



Celebrate the more than 70 years of God’s blessings to the Alberta British Columbia District by joining your LWMLC sisters at the hybrid convention in Red Deer, Alberta June 2-4. This will be the end of the era for District Conventions. Registration is available at LWMLC website. Share memories of mission grants reaching Nicaragua, Ukraine, Thailand and Cambodia, learn from Bible studies and guest speakers, share the joy of worshiping together as sisters in Christ and then partake in servant events and display booths. Either virtually or in person experiences the joy of serving the Lord.

I also offer this message on Leadership for your consideration and written by my friend and fellow LWML sister serving our Lord in Prince George Penny Bobier

## LEADERSHIP

With elections for society, Zone and national officers coming up soon, I've been doing a lot of thinking and praying about leadership. I think we know that we need leaders to run our organization. So why is it so hard to get leaders? We know even God had a hard time getting leaders ...the chosen leaders all had a reason why they couldn't take on the role. I can't speak well, I'm too young. I'm too old, I'm too busy and the list goes on. We also know that the old have a lot to teach the young and the young have a lot to encourage the old. When we put our trust in the Lord, He will guide our ways and direct our paths and words to say. We see very few saying, "Here I am Lord send me". I don't think any of the past leaders will say it doesn't take time to be a leader. However, it takes even more time when we don't have a full executive, or people willing to serve on the various committees. We all know many hands make light work, but we don't want to risk being the only hand. Maybe you don't want to be the leader but you can help the leader by being on a committee. So what makes a good leader? Following Jesus' example, He showed us leadership by showing us servanthood. He encouraged, uplifted and trained. Not all have the gifts of encouragement, not all should be teachers. I heard it said many times LWML is a great place to practice what God has given to us. LWML does not ask us to be the perfect leader, only the willingness to lead. I don't think there is anyone in our organization that can't say, I'm too old, too young, or too busy. God tells us we are never too old or too young and we should never be too busy to work for Him. Find time for that which is important to us and we do not make excuses for that which we want to do. Do we want the LWML to continue, to grow and be effective; or, maybe, is the purpose for LWML is over?

## UKRAINE UPDATE



The United Nations reports more than 3.5 million people have fled since its invasion by Russian forces. An additional 6.6 million people in the country are internally displaced. Reliable counts of civilian deaths are not available at this time, but thousands are believed to have been killed in the conflict so far, with the number expected to continue to rise. It is amazing how God's promise of providing for His people and never abandoning them still continues to be fulfilled today. On Saturday March 26, LWMLC sponsored a webinar to learn and hear directly from our brothers and sisters in Christ about the ways God is blessing and comforting His people. Rev Mark Smith LCC Mission executive, Claire Gerzanova from London, Ontario, a volunteer for LCC missions and Rev Oleskiy Navrotsky, Missionary at large for LCC.

Their heartfelt stories provided an insight to the ongoing mission work and the emergency aid efforts. Financial aid is being directed to Lutheran churches in Ukraine as they offer emergency and pastoral care to those still in the Ukraine, as well as support to Lutheran churches in neighboring European nations offering physical and spiritual support to newly arriving refugees. LCC President Timothy Teuscher issued a call for prayer. As the conflict in Ukraine rages on, let us continue to bring this tragic situation before the throne of God in our prayer and especially for the pastors and congregations living in the midst of conflict. *God says, "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you" Isaiah 66:13.* We are but His instruments!

For more detail check the LCC webpage <https://www.canadianlutheran.ca/ukraine-update-being-the-church/>

His humble servant  
Deborah

# Children's Corner

If all Jesus had to do was die,  
then why is Easter such a big deal?

Easter is a very important day. Easter is the day that we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

After Jesus was crucified, His disciples were very sad. It seemed like their God and friend had been defeated and killed. They had forgotten that Jesus told them that He would rise from the dead. They must have thought Mary Magdalene was crazy when she told them that Jesus had appeared to her at the tomb where He was buried. But her story was true! Jesus was alive! He had risen from the dead!



Later, Jesus appeared to His disciples many times to prove it. And that's just what He did, *He proved it!* By His resurrection, He proved to the world that He was victorious over death and paid for our sins completely. Now, the first words you hear in church on Easter Sunday are: "The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"



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## EASTER WORD SEARCH

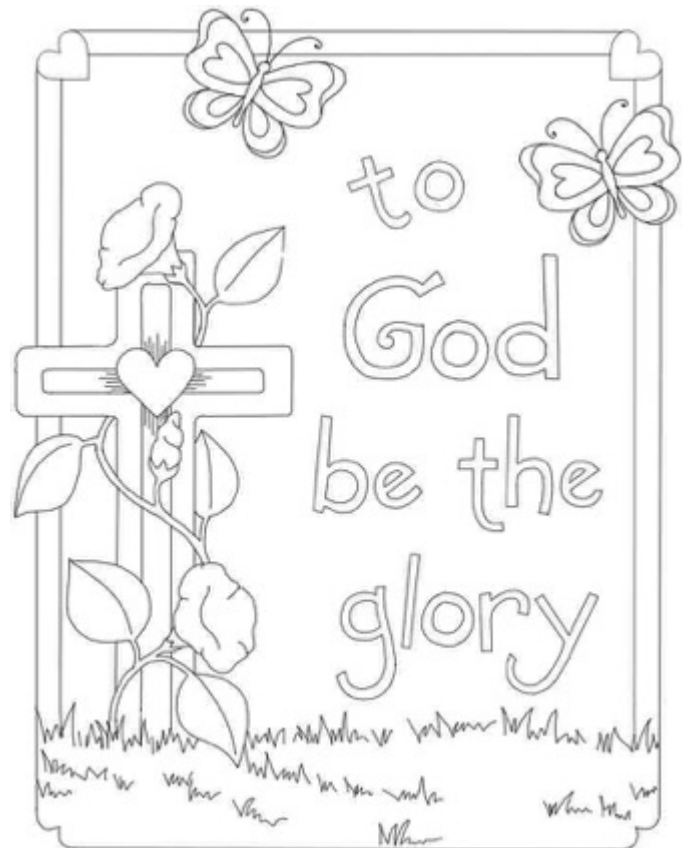


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JESUS  
ANGELS  
PASSOVER  
TOMB








CROSS  
GARDEN  
SUNRISE  
CHRISTIAN

GUARDS  
ALIVE  
SACRIFICE  
PILATE



# Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

## April 2022

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
27 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Bible Study, 9:15 am Worship, 10:30 am	28 12:30 Devotion	29 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	30 12:30 Devotion 6 7:00 pm Midweek Service Lent 4	31 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm LWML-C Devotion	1	2 10:00 am Confirmation Class 7:30 pm Theology on Tap (4 Mile House Pub)
3 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Bible Study, 9:20 am Worship, 10:30 am	4 12:30 Devotion	5 12:30 Devotion	6 12:30 Devotion 7:00 pm Midweek Service Lent 5	7 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Sewing Group	8  Elvira	9 10:00 am Confirmation Class 12:30 Devotion 3:30 pm Chimes Rehearsal  Matthew
10 Palm Sunday Bible Study, 9:20am Worship, 10:30 am	11 12:30 Devotion	12 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	13 12:30 Devotion	14 12:30 Devotion 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service 	15  Good Friday Service, 10:30 am  April	16 10:00 am Confirmation Class 12:30 Devotion 3:30 pm Chimes Rehearsal
17 Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast, 9:15 Worship, 10:30 am 	18 12:30 Devotion  Helga	19 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	20 12:30 Devotion	21 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Sewing Group	22	23 10:00 am Confirmation Class 12:30 Devotion 3:30 pm Chimes Rehearsal
24 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday a. Easter Bible Study, 9:20 am Worship, 10:30 am  Ryder Tyler	25 12:30 Devotion	26 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	27 12:30 Devotion	28 12:00 LWML Lunch 1:00 pm LWML Devotion	29  Brenda Hildegard	30 12:30 Devotion 
	Notes	<b>ELDERS:</b> Gene Murdoch (250-704-1029) Bert Weiss (250- 382-2612) Fred Smale (250-652-9396) Michael Rumsch (250-588-0776).		<b>Altar Guild:</b> Theodora Henry Deborah Gruben <b>Elder of the Month:</b> Bert Weiss		