



From the Pastor

There is amazing power in the Gospel. Without the promise of Christ's resurrection, we would be those who would be most pitied. We would not have the life of Christ in us and be forever dead in our sins and trespasses. Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, we become saints in God's sight. We are cleansed from the spots and stains of sin to enjoy the grace of God.

Sounds like a pretty standard description of the Gospel, I know. My point is that this not only frees our mortal flesh from sin but has ongoing effects. What does it mean for us to be saints in God's sight? It means for us to live out the Gospel given to us with fear and trembling (Php 2:12-13). We are refashioned in Christ to be the people we were supposed to be—prior to the Fall into sin, that is. Therefore, we should do all the good works God designed us to do (Eph 2:10). The power of the Gospel is not just about cleansing us from the sins we have done but moving us in directions away from our sinful habits. The Gospel not only forgives but sanctifies, making us progressively more holy. This is why we are given the Holy Spirit. He dwells in us so we live a holy life in glory to God (1 Cor 6:18-20).

To further describe this effect of the Gospel, let's turn to the scripture readings in the worship services this month. During the Easter season, the first reading of the service switches from the Old Testament to the book of Acts. This book chronicles the progression of holiness in the early Church as the Apostles spread the word of

God to the ends of the earth. The Acts reading for the first Sunday of May is Acts 9:1-22, the conversion of St Paul. This displays the real power of the Gospel where Jesus not only forgives Paul his sins, but propels Paul toward a holy life in spreading the good news of Christ's death and resurrection.

It was quite intentional that the second paragraph of this newsletter article contains three citations of Paul's letters (and the first paragraph has four references that I did not cite; challenge yourself and try finding them in the Bible). Paul was originally a terrible sinner against the Church. He tried to hunt down Christians to be executed. As Luke writes in Acts, before his conversion, Paul was "breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord" (9:1, Luke was a companion of Paul through much of history of Acts, he might have used Paul's own words here). Jesus had to step in Paul's way, condemn his sins, lead him to grace, and bless his way with baptism. From that point on, Paul learned about Jesus and then started spreading the Gospel, which included writing thirteen letters which are in our Bibles today. The Gospel turned a murderer into a faithful, loving servant of Christ.

This is the amazing power of the Gospel. It transforms us. We are not the same people we were before we came to faith. God has made us his and has given us His Spirit to make us holy. Although we are sinners, the Spirit leads us away from sin by allowing us to see our sins and repent of our wickedness. Then we find more

grace and love in God as He forgives these. Then the Spirit shows us more sin, and we are led to more forgiveness. He shows us then more sin, and yet more forgiveness, and so on. We find ourselves like Paul and other saints in the book of Acts which present to us our need for holiness and God already leading us into more holiness. This is one of the great things about the Easter readings. This Easter, why don't you challenge yourself and try to read through the book of Acts to see how the Gospel transformed the lives of Paul and the other Apostles that we might have the Gospel given to us today.

God bless,
Pastor Adam F

How can I help you ask???

Music adds beauty, joy, and passion to our worship services, and it is so wonderful that we are now able to worship together in song with our hymns.

If you **play** a musical instrument, or if you love to **sing**, or if you would like to join our chime choir, please come up t the balcony and talk to me! There is a place for everyone, and we welcome all!!

Our **chime choir really needs two more people** as we now can have more chimers in the balcony. Please think about your time and talents.....we owe them to our Lord, and musical offerings are one way to give back to your church!

Yours in Christ
Barb Guidetti

Lent and Easter Celebrations

On Ash Wednesday we gathered together to enjoy a pancake supper and the disposition of ashes and throughout the forty days in between Pastor Chandler led us in devotions on the

Lord's Prayer culminating in our Easter celebrations when we again experienced a



delicious breakfast and heard the wonderful message of Hope – that God's own Son died for our sins and rose to life again so that we may have life abundantly now and for eternity. It is LWMLC's honor to welcome Fisher and Milo into God's family here at Hope and their joining us in the work of bringing the Gospel to all people everywhere.



Front: Nicole and Milo. Back: Jim, Fisher and Pastor Chandler

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

Update from Ukraine

(source: INFODIGEST)

UKRAINE – The following update is provided by Rev. Sergey Bevz, pastor of Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC)’s partner church the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Ukraine (SELCU) and was written on April 12, 2022:



For the last six weeks the doors of Living Water Lutheran Church in Dnipro have been widely open day and night... It is so because Dnipro—a city of more than one and a half million citizens—is located on the crossroads of Eastern Ukraine. As a result, it has become a refuge during the war for citizens fleeing conflict zones in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Lugansk, Mariupol, and Zaporizhye. Dnipro municipality is doing everything possible to cope with such a humanitarian crisis. People are everywhere in the city. The floors of many city malls, schools and churches are covered with mattresses. Although some refugees are trying to find housing in Dnipro (which is very expensive and rare), most only stay a few days before moving further to the West.

We are doing everything possible to use all our resources to respond to the situation and to host and support the people that come to our church building, which is not even fully

restored after a winter roof collapse in 2019. People are able to stay here for 1-3 days. We are able to provide for them meals and a warm place to sleep; help them with their laundry; and we try to provide basic medicine and hygiene supplies to those in need. We use every meter of our church space, including the unfinished sanctuary and second floor.



We have purchased a washing machine and dryer; it works almost nonstop now. We have also installed a new shower and additional toilet in order to meet the basic needs of 20-25 daily guests. Our Mission House is also hosting refugees. Neighbours in this village said we've inspired them to open their homes to house the refugees we are unable to look after.



For the last few weeks our church has hosted hundreds of people. We are now receiving around 200 phone calls daily from those

searching for shelter. As much as we would like to, unfortunately, we don't have the space to host more people. We simply do what we can to care for people who have lost their homes and all their material goods. Our little church team consists of church members and volunteers living nearby.

Three weeks ago, our team was significantly strengthened when SELCU sent us Rev. Valery Verba. As a result, we are now able to not only provide more physical care for people, but—most importantly—more spiritual care for the refugees.

SELCU Bishop Alexander Yurchenko recently made a trip to Dnipro to support and inspire us as well as to deliver necessary goods and food for people hosted by our congregation.

Listening to our guests we hear many terrible stories. People are fearful and traumatized. Many of them stayed in dark and cold basements for a month with no electricity or heat. Women are crying often. Men are mostly silent. All of them have a physical reflex to loud sounds. Yet all of them are grateful for the simple things we are able to offer them—a safe space, hot food, clean linens, electricity, and warm water. Most of them are anxious to hear the Gospel and we spend a great deal of time with them in prayer.

Although all our volunteers are overwhelmed at times and exhausted we all recognize the need to continue to do what we can for these people. To be useful for our country and community is a deep desire of most Ukrainians. For us, as a church of Christ, the Lord has given us this opportunity to serve people and to share the Good News about our Saviour in such a dark and difficult time—to weep with those who are weeping, and to suffer with those who are suffering. In so doing, those who would have turned their backs on our ministry before this conflict are now eager to hear the comforting Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

We are deeply thankful for all the ways in which Lutheran Church–Canada is assisting us with this ministry. All the people we are caring for are grateful for your financial support and prayers. We pray that the Lord will soon bring an end to this terrible war. Until then, we are strengthened in our hope and continue to serve His people.

Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. | Jude 1:2

UPDATE: As of April 21, 2022, the people of LCC have raised a total of \$405,823.00 for the LCC Ukraine Relief Aid Fund. For those who would like to direct financial support to the pastors and people of the SELCU, you can do so through **[LCC's Ukraine Aid Fund Here](#)**.

REMINDER: Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC)'s Ukraine Aid Fund directly supports our partner church, the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Ukraine (SELCU) during this current crises. The Ukraine Aid Fund established by Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS) will contribute to rebuilding efforts and other expenses, anticipating the significant financial need that will arise in the aftermath of this current conflict. As auxiliaries of LCC, the funds raised through CLMS, and Lutheran Women's Missionary League of Canada (LWMLC) to name another example, will be directed to our partner Church in Ukraine through LCC. This is just one of the ways that the various auxiliaries, listed service organizations, and people of our Synod are working together, as one Body under Christ in support of humanitarian works of mercy. Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) is also working to provide general humanitarian relief in Ukraine through the help of their partner organizations.



Awesome totally awesome... that is how I would describe our first in person Zone Rally since the pandemic began two years ago. Faith, fellowship, friends, fun and food. What a celebration! Our hostesses, from Faith Lutheran, Courtenay rolled out the red carpet. It began with a communion service officiated by Zone Counsellor Pastor Kevin Platz. Pastor also led us in a litany for our gifts of love distributed to the Comox Valley Woman’s shelter.



The afternoon session began with the singing of our official hymn Jesus you have called us and a brief medley of individual favorites. Guest



speakers Rhonda Kelman and Julie Bellrose shared with us a brief history of the BC Mission Boat Ministry and the challenges the ministry has faced during a pandemic. Each shared their personal experiences in witnessing their faith to the remote coast communities along B.C. God has granted them 19 years of sharing His love within these communities through Kids clubs, Bible studies, virtual Sunday school lessons and tangible gifts like the prayer pocket cross quilts. The afternoon concluded with a closing devotion and the singing of our anthem hymn “Called to serve”. Retired Pastor Richard Klein and his wife Rose, newcomers to our Zone and Circuit remarked that they were delighted to be able to assist and share in the fellowship of LWMLC ladies on Vancouver Island. The Lord’s presence and blessings were with us all. From Lent to Easter

If you are wondering what your LWMLC society can do or is doing join us on the last Thursday of the month for lunch at noon and an interactive Bible study led by Pastor Chandler at 1pm. Remember to check the bulletin for exact dates.

In His Service
Deborah



ALBERTA-BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT
CONVENTION, June 2-4, 2022
“One in Him” Galatians 3:28b
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church Red Deer, Alta.

Children's Corner

What is that great big candle?

There are many candles in our church sanctuary. Some we light every Sunday. Some we only light on certain occasions. The tall candle that you see up front, possibly next to the Baptismal font or up in front next to the altar, is one of those candles. That's the Paschal Candle!



What is the Paschal Candle used for?

The Paschal Candle reminds us of Jesus' victory over death. Do you remember the story of the pillar of fire that led the Israelites at night in the wilderness after the Lord delivered them from slavery in Egypt? When Jesus died on the cross, He released us from the slavery of darkness and death due to our sin. Now, through our Baptism, we have been buried with Him in His death and we are now raised to new life through His resurrection! The Paschal Candle reminds us of this. Let that Gospel light shine!

Parents: Before or after the Divine Service, take your children up to look at the Paschal Candle. Point out the beautiful symbols on its surface that remind us of our Savior and what He has done for us. Remind them that "Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the Light no darkness can overcome." (Lutheran Service Book, 243)

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MOTHER'S DAY WORD SEARCH



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|--------|-------------|------|----------|
| AUNT | CHILDREN | HUGS | MOMMY |
| BRUNCH | DAUGHTER | KIDS | MOTHER |
| CANDY | FAMILY | LOVE | PARENT |
| CARD | FLOWERS | MAY | PRESENTS |
| CARING | GRANDMOTHER | | SUNDAY |
| LOVING | | | |

THANK YOU LORD FOR MY











"Her children arise and call her blessed"
Proverbs 31:28

Happy Mother's Day!

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 2022

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|--|---|--|---|---|-----------|--|
| 1 3rd Sunday of Easter Worship, 10:30 am | 2 12:30 Devotion | 3 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion  Janine | 4 12:30 Devotion 7:00 pm PPC Meeting | 5 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Sewing Group 7:00 pm Bible Study | 6 | 7 10:00 am Confirmation Class 7:30 pm Theology on Tap (McRae's) |
| 8 4th Sunday of Easter Worship, 10:30 am | 9 12:30 Devotion | 10 12:30 Devotion  Nicola | 11 12:30 Devotion | 12 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Sewing Group 7:00 pm Bible Study  Deborah | 13 | 14 10:00 am Confirmation Class 12:30 Devotion 3:30 pm Chimes Rehearsal |
| 15 5th Sunday of Easter Worship, 10:30 am Congregation Meeting, 12:00 pm | 16 12:30 Devotion  Carole | 17 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion  Erika | 18 12:30 Devotion | 19 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Sewing Group 7:00 pm Bible Study | 20 | 21 10:00 am Confirmation Class 12:30 Devotion 3:30 pm Chimes Rehearsal |
| 22 6th Sunday of Easter Worship, 10:30 am | 23 12:30 Devotion | 24 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion | 25 12:30 Devotion | 26 12:00 LWML Lunch 1:00 pm LWML Devotion 7:00 pm Bible Study | 27 | 28 10:00 am Confirmation Class 12:30 Devotion 3:30 pm Chimes Rehearsal |
| 29 7th Sunday of Easter Worship, 10:30 am  Betty | 30 12:30 Devotion  Jan | 31 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion  Heidi | 1 12:30 Devotion | 2 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Sewing Group 7:00 pm Bible Study | 3 | 4 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: Michael Rumsch | |  |