

Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

October 2022

Volume 12 No. 10

From the Pastor

Grace and blessing to you,

September ended with another congregational meeting. It was not terribly long since there was not a lot to say, for which some may have swept some sweat from their brows at the fear of a long meeting, but it could also be taken as disappointing in that there was not much to say about what is going on at the church. We would hope that Hope is a bustling pen of activity with throngs of people passing through our doors to celebrate the salvation we possess in Christ.

A resolution of the Parish Planning Council moving forward has been to be more transparent with information to the congregation. One of the reasons for Hope Lutheran's current situation (becoming smaller in size, predominantly greyer in hair, and progressively more burned out) has been a lack of communication of the issues as they arise to the congregation as a whole. Being a church that proclaims good news, we sure dislike giving bad news. Part of the bad news is that we are unsure of how to move forward in the future. This does not mean that Hope Lutheran does not have a future but that the long-term vision of how the congregation remains a bit murky.

While the particular challenges we are facing are unfamiliar to us, it is not as though the followers of Christ have never been confused about suffering while in the world. Christ gives this bad news directly to the disciples when he tells them, "In the world, you will have

tribulation." (John 16:33b) The particular tribulation we are experiencing right now is uncertainty—uncertainty about what to do in faith for all people and exactly how to do it. We do have a number of guidelines available for positions in the church, groups to help, and general tasks here and there to do. But how can we be comfortable with the notion that we don't know who will answer the call to faith and begin attending worship alongside us? Or comfortable with not knowing who will answer the call to serve within the congregation?

If we look to ourselves to comfort our uncertainty, we will just come up against the uncertainty we already have. The grey will get greyer and the burned out will exhaust themselves more. The true comfort comes from Christ. This is why he tells his disciples, after the grim declaration of tribulation in the world, that they can take heart because he has overcome the world (John 16:33c). The world cannot break or defeat Christ. He has laid low the opposition to his divine plan by delivering us from sin and death. Though we might feel uncertain about what the future will bring, we know that we will always have Christ. He does not leave his people but joins them to himself. He will forever be with us and guide us in what we need to do, whatever that may happen to be.

We may wish that our Lord will be more transparent about our future, but he already has divulged all we need to know—just not everything we want to know. We know that he

will bring us into an eternal paradise. We know that he will let things present nor things to come separate us from his love (Rom 8:38-39). He will be with us unto the end of the age. This does not mean he has revealed to us exactly what we can do to attract new members or bring back members are currently not attending. But the Lord has given us each other so that as long as we are in the world with each other we can work towards building up the congregation. Coming up this month we are already planning things like a new Bible study on early Christianity, a book study on "The Hammer of God" held at Redeemer Lutheran in Langford, and an Oktoberfest-style luncheon on Reformation Sunday (Oct 30). Take comfort and know that, ever and always, wherever we are, Christ will be with us through faith.

God Bless,
Pastor Adam Chandler



Gratitude that God is Always with Us

"Jesus said, " All authorities in heaven and earth have been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20

In the Concordia, it states that, "Matthew ends with the reassuring and empowering words of him (Jesus) who came to the earth to be "God with us."

When we are parted from fellow Christians, especially people in advanced years, we grieve.

We want them for a few more years to learn more from their shared Christian wisdom, evangelistic ways and their friendships. Two more people, from our congregation, were "called home" this summer. We miss them already.

Erika Waberski and Heidi Morgan are the two most recent people to now be at peace within the arms of our Saviour. Deep sorrow was my first reaction. Then I felt gratitude that I knew these people. They each lived their lives following Christ, knowing that He was their Saviour. These women mentored us by their examples of care and compassion for and service to, other people. Even with the sorrows and trials over the years, they, with God's help, walked along the path that Jesus sets for us all. Each, in their own way, mentored us through their teaching, service, dedication, and kindness (sprinkled with a healthy dose of humour and joy). They shared their beliefs in the community where they worked, volunteered and eventually retired, by their example of having strong Christian beliefs.

Yet, with humility, they sought the gift of Holy communion to wash away their sins. As Heidi often said, " Those moments after communion, fully forgiven, are so precious to me." They studied the Word of God throughout their earthly journey.

We are thankful to them and others in our midst, whose lives "shine with the light of Jesus".

We are to live our lives, knowing that He goes before us, walks beside us and stands behind us. He is with us always. Thanks be to God.

Louise

From the Worship Committee

We held a worship committee meeting last week, for the first time in a few years, due, of course, to Covid. It is good to have more people participating, and we all look forward to the wonderful festivals we celebrate in our church year in the fall: Thanksgiving, Reformation, All Saints, and the Last Sunday of the Church Year.

We begin October with a funeral, by celebrating the beautiful life of Heidi Morgan, a most beloved member of our congregation. Some time ago, Heidi called me to ask if I could find a few ladies to sing at her funeral. She loved the ladies' ensemble music of years past. I told her that I would have to give this some thought, but rest assured, I would make it my single goal to be sure that there were at least 3 ladies that could sing the musical selections she wanted at her funeral. Our Lord works in mysterious ways. Shortly after this request from Heidi, 2 ladies from our congregation asked if I would teach them musical theory. I said, 'of course, I would be happy to!' They then expressed an interest in singing as well. I gave this some thought, and it occurred to me that there are so many people that have been so separated from social life and joys because of Covid, and there is such a human need to 'connect' again. Music is such a universal way to connect with people, so I then asked a few of my friends if they would like to join in singing for fun, to learn, for fellowship, to feed this void that was created by covid, and to give back by singing for our church services periodically. Our numbers are growing, we now have 7 women. We are blessed, and I hope that the voices of these women are a blessing to the congregation for the services they sing at, including Heidi's funeral. In a way, it was Heidi who created this choir. Think of her every time the ladies sing, and thank our Lord for the life of Heidi, for the

gift of music, and for the many blessings bestowed upon this congregation.

Barbara

Thank you

A huge thank you to Marie Russell for organizing the Church Rally event after worship on September 11. Thank you too to her helpers: Shane Johnson for manning the BBQ and Taira Johnson for setting and cleaning.



Many thanks also to the garden helpers such as the Kutzners who trimmed the garden beds; the Novakovics who weeded and trimmed the lawn; Bert and Louise who trimmed the unwanted trees and shrubs. And to others who quietly work around the church keeping it clean and tidy.

Funeral Service

We bid farewell to our Sister in Christ, Heidi Morgan this Tuesday, October 4th. Service will take place at noon at Hope.

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

Children's Corner

What is a "steward"?

A steward is someone who has been put in charge of something. For example, if you are a babysitter, you are a steward for the parents of the



child you are watching. We have been entrusted as stewards, or keepers, of God's creation. That means that He has given us everything we have, and out of love for Him, we use all things for His will. This includes giving of our time, talents, money and all that we have in service to Him.

Why do Christians give?

Like everyone else, we belong to God because He created

us and sustains us. As Christians we belong to His kingdom of salvation through our Baptism. God's love motivates us to give of what we have. We don't give because we owe God for all He has done for us in Jesus. Instead, we give because of the powerful Gospel that is working within us! Wow! God really strengthens us for wonderful service!

Parents: Before or after the service, discuss stewardship with your children. Remind them why we give. Help them to discover how they might give of what they have. Encourage them to set aside a certain portion of their own money each week to give. They will experience the joy of giving first-hand.

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Happy Thanksgiving



Give thanks to the Lord for He is good

Psalm 136:1



Thanksgiving

Word Search



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

Word List:

pumpkin	thankful	harvest	gobble
turkey	pie	apples	feast
gather	pilgrims	corn	family

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
25 16 th Sunday a Pentecost 10:30 am Worship Congregation Meeting, 11:45 am	26 12:30 Devotion	27 12:30 Devotion	28 12:30 Devotion	29 12:30 Devotion	30	1 10:00 am Confirmation Class 12:30 Devotion 7:30 pm Theology on Tap (Maude Hunter's)
2 LWMLC Sunday 10:30 am Worship	3 12:30 Devotion	4 12:00 Heidi Morgan's Funeral  Herb Hess	5 12:30 Devotion	6 12:30 Devotion 3:30 pm Ladies Ensemble Rehearsal	7	8 12:30 Devotion
9 Thanksgiving Sunday 10:30 am Worship  Hilary McIntyre	10 12:30 Devotion	11 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	12 12:30 Devotion  Marie Russell Jean Brinklund	13 12:30 Devotion 3:30 pm Ladies Ensemble Rehearsal	14	15 10:00 am Confirmation Class 12:30 Devotion  Kevin Starling
16 19 th Sunday a Pentecost 10:30 am Worship  Milo Novakovics	17 12:30 Devotion	18 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	19 12:30 Devotion  Judith Kovats	20 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Sewing Group 3:30 pm Ladies Ensemble Rehearsal	21	22 10:00 am Confirmation Class 12:30 Devotion
23 20 th Sunday a Pentecost 10:30 am Worship	24 12:30 Devotion	25 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion  Rob Gibson	26 12:30 Devotion	27 12:00 LWML Luncheon 1:00 pm LWML Devotion  Eleanor Murdoch	28  Gene Murdoch	29 10:00 am Confirmation Class 12:30 Devotion
30 Reformation Sunday 10:30 am Worship <i>Octoberfest Luncheon</i>	31 12:30 Devotion	Notes	ELDERS: Michael Rumsch (250-588-0776) Fred Smale (250-652-9396) Bert Weiss (250- 382-2612) Elder of the Month: Bert Weiss		Altar Guild: Deborah Gruben Theodora Henry Eleanor Murdoch Louise Rushton	

