



# Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

December 2022

Volume 12 No. 12

## *From the Pastor*

Grace and blessing to you,

With Christmas occurring on a Sunday this year, Advent started early on Nov 27. This means our holiday busyness is starting earlier than it usually does, not even waiting until December. Per usual, the secular world is celebrating early too with massive Christmas displays and present-pushing as of mid-November. In your personal life, you might already be preparing baked goods, presents, travel plans, etc. Hope Lutheran is not far behind with our religious celebrations of Christ coming in the flesh—which marks the true spirit of this time of year—and we are busy too. There are Sunday Advent services, midweek services on Wednesday evenings with a soup and bun supper, the Christmas tree decoration on Dec 10, and the usual Bible studies and confirmation classes going on until Dec 20. And we brush against the common temptation of succumbing to the busyness of the season without paying homage to the cause of celebration.

The origin of Christmas is Christ. Christ is the child of promise born of a virgin in Bethlehem. He came into this world that he might take upon our flesh, offer up that crucified flesh for the forgiveness of sins, and raise that flesh from death for our deliverance. All our celebration revolves around this; Christ came into this world to bring us into the salvation of the Lord. Truly, it is a joy knowing that we need not die

in our sins but find life and light in Jesus, the babe born in Bethlehem. The spirit of the Christmas season is captivated by the precious gift God has given to us in the manger. This greatest gift of all should inspire all our giving and goodwill at this time of year—and all year round.

Yet, the perennial message we find at Christmas is not “look to the Christ child” but “prepare”. Advent is a season of preparation but the reason for our preparation is not busyness for the sake of being busy. Our thoughts, actions, and prayers should always be centred on Christ for it is he who gives us the joy to celebrate the season. He has come that we might live eternally. He is present in the manger that we may gaze upon our Saviour. He is the Light of the World that outshines the Star of Bethlehem, making God’s glory manifest around us.

Sadly, the secular message we hear is “be busy”. We are to do more, talk more, and consume more. Even the parts of Advent meant to proclaim Christ sometimes feel like they are a bit much; should we participate in all of them—all the services and studies? But what is the true message of the season? The coming of Christ for our salvation. When things seem too busy and hectic, meditate on this. Think of how Christ has come that you may have life in his name and find peace in paradise. For this reason, do not frame the activities of the holiday as things you

have to do but things you get to do on account of Christ.

The presents you give are not about making sure you appease whoever receives it. Your presents are the outworking of the joy you have because you have already received the gift of Christ. You are not scheduling family gatherings because you have to but because you can share the love which Christ has worked within you. You come to worship in church not because you must but because the Lord has made available times for you to dwell on the promises in Christ and receive His love and forgiveness through Word and Sacrament. Church should not be an obligation but a privilege where you come before God with other believers to receive His grace in Christ and thank Him for this most precious gift. Let us encourage one another in Christ not to be busy but to celebrate Christ in all that we do.

Merry Christmas,  
Pastor Adam Chandler



### *Joy to the World*

"Joy to the world! The Lord has come! Let earth receive her King".

Joy! What brings you joy? How do you give joy to others? Are these joyful moments

only when something extraordinary happens or do you find joy in everyday moments? How do you share joy? How do you give thanks for joy?

At the November "Hammer of God" monthly book study with Pastor, we discussed prayer

and the types of prayer. One form of prayer is for giving thanks. As all things come from God, prayers of thanksgiving—including for joy—are pleasing to God. There are differences between happiness and joy as well as degrees and types of joy and ways that they are experienced by each person.

Beethoven dedicated a musical ode, recognized around the world, to joy. A whole host of angels proclaimed "joy" to shepherds in the field. Joy is an element in our lives that promotes longevity and better memory retention. We don't have to look far to see the proof of that even in our own congregation.

Earlier I asked what are some ways that you share joy with others. When we share the means of joy through donations of funds, goods, or services, we don't always see how the recipient expresses their joy; we can only imagine it and be pleased.

As for kinds of joy, there are numerous ones. As I write this, I am watching the performance of an orchestra playing music by Handel. "Pure majesty" is all that I can say! Joy can be felt when a tiny finger grasps yours or an age-worn hand gives your arm a gentle, loving pat.

The angels that night near Bethlehem could not contain their joy and sang it out from the heavens to shepherds! They knew that Jesus Christ was coming to earth to save us, to forgive all our sins, to teach us about our Father in heaven and knew that he would ascend again to intercede our prayers and be with us always! What joy!

Each day, recognize joy in your lives, be it the brilliant colours of leaves or soft shades of glowing sunsets, the meals that we prepare, the blessings of family and friends, or the Bible

scriptures that give us reassurance that we are loved by Jesus Christ.

Then give thanks, "with a grateful heart", knowing that we have the blessings of earthly joy and the promise of joyful, everlasting life, through Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

God bless you and keep you and give you peace that passes all understanding and keep all of our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ.

May the Advent and Christmas seasons bring you and your family joy throughout the coming new year! Amen

" And heaven and nature sing, Joy to the World".

Blessings,  
Louise

### *From the Worship Committee*

The Ladies' Ensemble is now taking a break over the Advent and Christmas season and will resume rehearsals on Thursday, January 12th at 3 pm. All are welcome! We came up with many different names for our vocal group and in the end decided upon 'Belle Voci' (beautiful voices)! Our goal is to slowly grow in number by reaching out to members of this congregation as well as to the greater community around us, to sing music that inspires, that teaches, that feeds our spiritual needs, and to 'give back' by singing a musical offering for our services once every month or so.

Our chime choir will now be focusing on the musical selections for our Christmas services, as we traditionally take a break over the Advent season. Our rehearsals are Saturdays at 3 pm. Chimes are easy to play, fun to play, and they

provide beautiful music for our services each Sunday! We could really use one more chimer as Andrew is away until the New Year. If you can count to 4 and know your alphabet (A, B, C, D, E, F, G) you can play the chimes!!! It is that easy! Please consider joining our chime choir and helping to make a joyful sound unto the Lord!

We thank all who provide music for our services: organists, chimers, singers, guitarists, and pianists. Enjoy the music of Advent, meditate during the calm of the evening mid-week services, and look forward to the bells of Christmas as we ring in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Blessings,  
Barbara  
250-216-4901

### *Advent Paraments*



The history of the Advent paraments: They were crafted by Eleanora Bruce (sewing) and Emma Reintz (crocheting). Anne Klassen. What a blessing!

### *Photo Board and Phone Directory*

The photo board needs your assistance this Christmas! Lots of photos being taken this holiday. Would you please bring a 3" (w)x 4"

(h) photo of yourself/family to help update the board. Photos can be left in the church office.

The church directory will be updated in January. If you have any changes to your information shown in the current directory, please mail the correct information to [helc@shaw.ca](mailto:helc@shaw.ca) or leave a note in the church office. Thank you.

Theodora Henry  
Church Secretary

### *Our Second Church Congregation - Living Hope Christian Church*

We welcome Pastor Allan and members of Living Hope Christian Church to our church family. They started worship in the church hall in November, with services taking place 1:30pm. I was invited to attend this past Sunday to hear their senior pastor from their sister church on the mainland.



They were most welcoming, introducing me to some of the families and to their guest speaker, Pastor Jun Torres. They began worship with a praise and worship team leading them. Later, their children were prayed for and then went to their Sunday School class in one of the rooms

nearby. During the service, I was invited to speak briefly about some of the activities in our congregation. After their worship service, they provided fellowship luncheons for their members and guests.

Pastor Allan and his wife Evelyn said that being able to establish a congregation at Hope was an answer to their prayers and that they are truly grateful to the Lord for our generosity of renting our hall to them.

They feel as blessed to be at our church as we are to host them. God is good.

Louise

### *Remember When...*

Back in the 1990's, our congregation took the bold step to publish a monthly newsletter under the guidance of a various editors; Karen Trent, Bob Jones, Marilyn Hess, and Theodora Henry to name but a few. In the beginning, every issue was in black-and-white and produced using Publisher software. Today it is produced in colour with Word software. Now, nearly thirty years later, we are still enjoying a monthly newsletter. God has indeed been good to us, blessing us with gifted servants and the hearts to share their time and talents so that the body of Christ can be glorified, and the people of Hope informed. Beginning in the New Year we welcome a new co-editor to continue this legacy. Welcome Nicole Novakovics; may God continue to guide and bless you in this new position and, like all editors, she looks forward to reviewing your articles and submissions.

In His Service,  
Deborah

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



## Where do you fit into the puzzle?

Life is a puzzle but God sees the whole picture. The first verse of Psalm 139 begins, “O Lord, You have searched me and know me!” God knows our actions, our inner thoughts and our future, which raises the question: What does God have planned for our future? At LWML we strive to develop and maintain a greater mission consciousness by being rooted in God’s Word. Immersed in God’s Word, our hearts are tugged to serve out our faith. The how and where are by His design. We are each a unique puzzle piece used by God to complete His work.

Today he gave me the privilege of delivering 11 lap robes to a seniors housing complex, as well as a box of 48 hand-knitted wash cloths for the maternity kits assembled by Compassionate Resource Warehouse for distribution overseas. These tend to be the gifts most recognized, and if we do not have these gifts, we may feel like we have nothing of value to contribute. Well, LWML would like to guide your puzzle piece gifts into God’s masterpiece.



We would like to challenge everyone to consider a Reverse Advent Offering. Each day over the next few weeks, we add a food item to a box, and on Epiphany we will donate the boxes to the Mustard Seed Food bank.

This is our list, but feel free to create your own (after all you are a unique puzzle piece!):

- December 1: Box of cereal
- December 2: Peanut butter
- December 3: Stuffing mix
- December 4: Instant mashed potatoes
- December 5: Macaroni & cheese
- December 6: Canned fruit
- December 7: Canned tomatoes
- December 8: Canned tuna
- December 9: Dessert mix
- December 10: Jar of applesauce
- December 11: Canned sweet potatoes
- December 12: Cranberry sauce
- December 13: Canned beans
- December 14: Box of crackers
- December 15: Package of rice
- December 16: Package of oatmeal
- December 17: Package of pasta
- December 18: Spaghetti sauce
- December 19: Chicken noodle soup
- December 20: Tomato soup
- December 21: Creamed corn
- December 22: Canned mixed vegetables
- December 23: Canned carrots
- December 24: Canned green beans

“For unto us a Child is born.” Isaiah 9:6

In His Service  
Deborah



## Advent Services

*Please join us to celebrate the Season of Advent. Invite a family member or a friend to the following events:*

December 4th: 10:30 am Second Sunday in Advent Worship

December 7th: 6:00 pm Soup and Buns Supper  
7:00 pm Mid-week Service, Advent 2  
(Cain and Abel and Seth)

December 10th: 2:00 pm Christmas Decorating and a Movie

December 11th: 10:30 am Third Sunday in Advent Worship

December 14th: 6:00 pm Soup and Buns Supper  
7:00 pm Mid-week Service, Advent 3  
(Adam and Jesus)

December 18th: 10:30 am Fourth Sunday in Advent Worship

December 21st: 6:00 pm Soup and Buns Supper  
7:00 pm Mid-week Service, Advent 4  
(Lament Service)

December 24th: 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

December 25th: 10:30 am Christmas Day Worship

*A Blessed and Merry Christmas to All!*



# Children's Corner

## The Advent of Christ

As you may remember, the word Advent means "coming." During the season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. But that is not the only coming of Jesus that we hear about in the Advent story.



## What is the rest of the Advent story?

The Advent of Christ has three parts. God's Word tells us that Jesus not only came to earth as a man at Christmas, but that He comes to be with His church through His Word and Sacraments.

Finally, God's Word reminds us that He will return in judgement on the Last Day. If you think about it, there sure are a lot of great things to remember and look forward to during the season of Advent!

## What does it mean when four candles have been lit on the Advent wreath?

You've been preparing and patiently waiting for that wonderful day of celebration. When four of the candles on the Advent wreath have been lit, it means that Christmas is almost here! That's right! The day on which we remember the birth of our Saviour is right around the corner!



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## What does this mean to me?




Today is the Fourth Sunday in Advent. Today is the last Sunday of preparation for the birth of Jesus. Next week the Church will celebrate Christmas Day, one of the most important days of the whole year. As you can see, Advent has prepared us for the coming of Jesus, our wonderful Saviour from sin!



## Advent Word Search

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

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |

| Sun.   | Mon.   | Tue.                                      | Wed.  | Thu.  | Fri.   | Sat.  |   |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| 27<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent<br>10:30 am Worship   | 28<br>12:30 Devotion   | 29<br>12:30 Devotion<br>10:00 Bible Study | 30<br>12:30 Devotion<br>6:00 pm Soup & Buns<br>7:00 pm Advent 1<br>Mid-week Service   | 1<br>12:30 Devotion<br>1:00 pm Sewing Group   | 2  | 3<br>10:00 am<br>Confirmation Class<br>12:30 Devotion<br>3:00 Chime Choir   |   |
| 4<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent<br>9:15 am Bible Study<br>10:30 am Worship<br><i>Congregation Meeting</i>                            | 5<br>12:30 Devotion<br> Sterling Gaylyn | 6<br>12:30 Devotion<br>10:00 Bible Study  | 7<br>12:30 Devotion<br>6:00 pm Soup & Buns<br>7:00 pm Advent 2<br>Mid-week Service  | 8<br>12:30 Devotion<br>1:00 pm Sewing Group   | 9<br> Kent Rachel, Jade and Emily | 10<br>10:00 am Conf. Class<br>12:30 Devotion<br>2:00 pm Christmas<br>Decorating and<br>Movie<br>3:00 Chime Choir  |   |
| 11<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent<br>9:15 am Bible Study<br>10:30 am Worship  | 12<br>12:30 Devotion   | 13<br>10:00 Bible Study<br>12:30 Devotion | 14<br>12:30 Devotion<br>6:00 pm Soup & Buns<br>7:00 pm Advent 3<br>Mid-week Service   | 15<br>12:30 Devotion<br>1:00 pm Sewing Group<br> Makayla Julie | 16<br> Rose                       | 17<br>10:00 am<br>Confirmation Class<br>12:30 Devotion<br>3:00 Chime Choir<br> Laura |   |
| 18<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent<br>9:15 am Bible Study<br>10:30 am Worship  | 19<br>12:30 Devotion   | 20<br>10:00 Bible Study<br>12:30 Devotion | 21<br>12:30 Devotion<br>6:00 pm Soup & Buns<br>7:00 pm Advent 4<br>Mid-week Service   | 22<br>12:00 LWML Luncheon<br>1:00 pm LWML<br>Devotion   | 23   | 24<br>12:30 Devotion<br>3:00 Chime Choir<br>5:00 pm Christmas<br>Eve Service  |   |
| 25<br>Christmas Day Sunday<br>10:30 am Worship<br> Bert | 26<br>12:30 Devotion   | 27<br>10:00 Bible Study<br>12:30 Devotion | 28<br>12:30 Devotion  | 29  | 30<br> Doris                    | 31<br> Nancy   |   |
|   |  | <b>Notes</b>                              | <b>ELDERS:</b><br>Michael Rumsch (250-588-0776)<br>Fred Smale (250-652-9396)<br>Bert Weiss (250- 382-2612)<br><b>Elder of the Month:</b> Fred Smale |   | <b>Altar Guild:</b><br>Deborah Gruben<br>Theodora Henry<br>Eleanor Murdoch<br>Louise Rushton                         |   |  |

*Stewards of your Environment: Do you know that the coffee cups we use are both compostable and recyclable? So, please do not put the cups into a garbage bin*