



Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

April 2023

Volume 13 No. 04

From the Pastor

Where is our Lord on Easter? The answer is obvious: not the tomb. On Easter Sunday, the tomb of Jesus Christ is empty for our Lord has stepped out of death into life by stepping out of the tomb into the garden surrounding it. Yet, Jesus does not remain in the vicinity of the tomb for the whole day. Jesus moves around.

First, He is away from the tomb so the women, Peter, and John arrive to find nothing left but the linen that once wrapped our Lord's body. Then Jesus is back at the tomb to console a weeping Mary Magdalene. For part of the day, He accompanies two disciples on the road to Emmaus to break bread with them at the onset of evening. And lastly, Christ appears in the locked room in the evening to give the disciples the Holy Spirit. This is a pretty full day.

Thinking about ourselves, though, we are not only concerned with where Jesus was on the first Easter but where He is in our own Easter celebrations. Rather than searching for chocolate eggs, which have nothing to do with the Bible (despite being rather delicious), we should be searching for our Lord because our need for Him is always great. There are the sins that weigh heavily on our conscience. There are the evils which attack body and spirit. And most recently, there is the concerning news of the lack of finances threatening our congregation. (This subject garnered much attention during our last Congregation Meeting.) Thankfully, we were able to discuss some possible options for approaching this

issue; but if we were to pursue any one of them without Christ, then we would be working in vain.

Some Christians may point to Christ being at the right hand of the Father in heaven, since that is where Christ ascended to be, but we know that our Lord extends Himself beyond that locale. We find Jesus is exactly where He promises to be: among His people in the Church through Word and Sacrament. The Lord declared that wherever two or more are gathered in His name, there He will be among them (Matt 18:20). Therefore, when Christ is present in discussion and worship, He is there alongside us. Likewise, Christ declares the bread of holy communion is His body and the cup is His blood shed for the forgiveness of sins (Matt 26:26-28). So, here He is again for those who are gathered to receive Him.

Like the first Easter, Jesus sojourns with and dwells among His people. Jesus is the One who actively seeks us out to be with us. He appeared to Mary Magdalene and the disciples when they were in despair over their deceased Lord. And Jesus gave Mary and the disciples the Word of the Gospel that He lives and reigns eternally, that all those who believe in Him have everlasting life. For us at Hope Lutheran, Jesus seeks us out through His people and through His word spoken by them. Whatever troubles we may face in our future, the Lord is present with us and will guide us through them.

God Bless,
Pastor Adam Chandler

He Is Risen

(by E.H. Stokes)

He is risen! Christ the holy,
He the Christ who once was slain;
He the earth-born, lone and lowly,
Bursts the tomb, and lives again.
Grace divine to men abounded.
Grave, sin, hell, are all confounded.

He is risen! men despising
Truths of God, revealed in time;
Risen! to His foes surprising,
To His friends a joy sublime;
Risen? yes, alive forever,
Christ, of endless life the giver.

Risen! risen! every nation
Join the universal joy;
Let the song fill all creation,
Men and angels' tongues employ,
Sadden hell and gladden heaven.--
Death is conquer'd, Christ is risen!

Risen! risen! joy forever,
Christ is victor, death in chains;
Grave shall gain dominion never,
Jesus lives! Messiah reigns!
Thrill the earth with the glad story.
We shall reign with Him in glory!

Grace Through His Daily Renewal of Right Spirit Within Us

*²²The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;²³
His mercies never come to an end;²³ they are new every
morning; great is your faithfulness.*

Lamentations 3:22-23

The devotion from Our Daily Bread this morning—The Reboot of Grace—based on Lamentations 3:22-23, an answer to a prayer for inspiration, was all I needed to start writing.

There are times during the day that I feel drained, exhausted from emotions or physical tasks. Yet, after sitting for a while with perhaps a cup of tea or taking a quick nap, I feel refreshed. We could give credit to the refreshment or the rest, but as a child of God, knowing that the source of renewed energy is from our Lord is a given.

During Lent, there is much time for meditation and sometimes remorse. Good Friday comes and we both lament the grief we have caused Jesus with our sinfulness and rejoice at forgiveness of those sins, given to us by His sacrifice. We are renewed every day by His resurrection, forgiveness, and unfathomable love.

He lays out our jobs to complete, just as He lays out our white clothes of righteousness. He gives us rest and renews our energy for the next task.

We pray, with thankfulness: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit." Psalm 51:10-12 (KJV)

In Christ,
Louise

Musical Notes



I thought to write a bit about Bach's most powerful "St Matthew Passion". I had the honour of singing this incredible music with orchestra twice in Calgary, and it is a memory that will never fade. The first ever performance of this great musical oratorio was performed on Good Friday, 1727, in St. Thomas Church, Leipzig. From the opening chorus, 'Come Ye Daughters, Share My Wailing', to the second movement soprano aria 'For Love of Me My

Savior Now is Dying', to the closing chorus 'Here at Thy Grave Sit We All Weeping', it is a musical and scriptural work that touches the soul of each and every listener of this grand masterpiece.

During Holy Week, I encourage you to take time to listen to a recording of Bach's Passion According to St. Matthew. There are many, many recordings to choose from and are available at the public libraries. Close your eyes, blank out everyday life for a few hours, and immerse yourself in this most beautiful musical delivery of scripture.

Blessings,
Barbara G

RightNow Media Resources

During the last Congregation Meeting on Feb. 19, a point of new business was brought forward. Hope Lutheran had been contacted by a company called RightNow Media, which has an online database of Christian materials for personal and group study. The congregation voted in favour of paying for a one-year subscription to this service for the purpose of using it in evangelism. We can give access to these materials to people in our congregation (or outside it) who are currently not in active worship or study at the church. Also, if we rely on some of these materials for Bible studies, I (Pastor Chandler) can spend a couple of hours a week (normally dedicated to Bible study prep) toward other projects like evangelism in our community.

Keep in mind, this is not a Lutheran-specific resource. There are some materials on the site with which we are not in doctrinal agreement. I will be dedicating some time soon toward weeding out as much of these materials as I can from our congregation's account. Even so, there

are loads of resources that you can use across many devices that can be useful for us. (Don't be shy in asking me about things you find on the site. My job is to instruct and teach.) I will be talking more about this as time goes on, as well as making playlists for the congregation.

An email has already gone out from RightNow Media to you to create an account under the umbrella of Hope Lutheran Church. You can also scan the QR code below or go to this link: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/helcvictoria>. It is fairly easy to do.



Sign Up for After-Service Coffee

First, a big Thank You to all who have contributed goodies to the after-service coffee fellowship we enjoy every Sunday. Your generosity is always much appreciated!

This month a new sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board with many opportunities to contribute baked goods (home-made or store-bought is great!) on a Sunday of your choosing. Please note: those who sign up need *only provide the treat* and leave the coffee-making to me (or other volunteers).

In Gratitude,
Nicole (778-265-6522)

**God's Blessings to all with
April birthdays!**



Coming Events

Easter Celebrations

Spring has arrived and tea is steeping. Everyone—including friends—is invited to enjoy the scrumptious, full-course Easter Breakfast before worship on April 9th at 9:00am. Coupled with a generous helping of good conversation and fellowship, you won't want to miss what promises to be a fabulous start to spring!

A free-will offering will help our youth attend the Impact Youth gathering in Grand Forks, B.C. All proceeds will go towards their goal of \$1,500 for the registration fee. Together, let's help them reach their goal!

On Common Ground
– April 22, 2023



Ladies of all ages are invited to join us for the LWMLC Vancouver Island Zone Spring Rally at Redeemer Lutheran. The Rally will run from 9:00am-3:00pm and will consist of Bible study, lunch, keynote speaker Sherley Hearty's address, Ingathering gifts, layette items for the Westshore Healthy Baby program, music, and lots of fellowship. Mark your calendars now! You won't want to miss this unique opportunity to study God's word, learn about LWMLC and make new friends. Registration is only \$10.00 per person and includes lunch. Any questions, please phone Deborah Gruben at 250-478-6451.

In His Service,
Deborah

Looking for a devotion?



The LWML-C Christian Growth Committee provides a series of monthly devotions which are available in print or in audio.

This month's devotion is written by Pauline Huth entitled "I Know My Redeemer Lives". To download a printed copy, go to <https://lutheranwomen.ca/growing/devotions/>

To listen to the devotion go to the YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNi6SIyen-A>

You may also join us on the 4th Thursday of the month for our monthly devotion. The next on will be on April 27th at 1:00 pm.

Flashlight

The LWML-C ABC District publishes a quarterly newsletter called 'Flashlight'; to read follow this link: <http://bitly.ws/ChB4>

Hello... can I help?

Such beautiful words... whether we say them, or they are said to us.

Many of us want to help when those we care about are struggling.

We want to help but fear, confusion, or misunderstanding holds us back.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13

Children's Corner and for those Young at Heart

Why do we celebrate "Palm Sunday"?



The Sunday before Jesus was crucified by the people, they honoured and adored Him as their Lord and King with palm branches. We remember this as the beginning of Christ's bitter walk to the cross.

Why did the people honor and adore Jesus on Palm Sunday and then kill Him on Good Friday?

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the people began to praise and honor Him as their king. They believed Him to be a powerful leader who would overthrow the Roman government and restore Israel. When Jesus did not do this, the people wanted Him crucified. You and I know what kind of a king He is. He's a king who came to die for the sins of His people. Wow! What a king!



Parents: Remind your children that it was important that Jesus did die for their sins. That is exactly what He came to earth to do.

He came to pay the price that we could never pay. Direct your children to the symbols in the church that reflect Christ's death. Remind them that we will hear of His victory over death next Sunday on Easter!!!

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Palm Sunday Wordsearch

*"He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."
Philippians 2:8 (ESV)*

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| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|---|------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|
| 26 5 th Sunday in Lent Bible Study 9:15am Worship 10:30am | 27 | 28 | 29 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lent 5 Service | 30 1:00pm Sewing Group 3:00pm Belle Voci | 31 | 1 10:00am Confirmation Class 2:00 pm Organ Rehearsal 3:00pm Chimes Rehearsal |
| 2 Palm Sunday Palm Procession 9:45am Worship 10:30am | 3 12:30pm Devotion | 4 10:00am Bible Study | 5 | 6 1:00pm Sewing Group 3:00pm Belle Voci Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm | 7 Good Friday Service 10:30am | 8 10:00am Confirmation Class 2:00 pm Organ Rehearsal 3:00pm Chimes Rehearsal  Elvira |
| 9 Easter Sunday Easter Breakfast 9:00am Worship 10:30am  Matthew | 10 12:30pm Devotion | 11 10:00am Bible Study | 12 | 13 1:00pm Sewing Group 3:00pm Belle Voci | 14  April | 15 10:00am Confirmation Class 2:00 pm Organ Rehearsal 3:00pm Chimes Rehearsal |
| 16 2 nd Sunday of Easter Worship 10:30am | 17 12:30pm Devotion | 18 9:30am Devotion 10:00am Bible Study  Helga | 19 | 20 1:00pm Sewing Group 3:00pm Belle Voci | 21 | 22 9am-3pm LWMLC Rally @ Redeemer Lutheran 10:00am Confirmation Class 3:00pm Chimes Rehearsal |
| 23 3 rd Sunday of Easter Bible Study 9:15am Worship 10:30am | 24 12:30pm Devotion | 25 9:30am Devotion 10:00am Bible Study | 26 | 27 12:00pm LWML lunch 1:00pm LWML Devotion 3:00pm Belle Voci | 28 | 29 10:00am Conf. Class 2:00 pm Organ Rehearsal 3:00pm Chimes Rehearsal  Hildegard Ryder Brenda |
| 30 4 th Sunday of Easter Bible Study 9:15am Worship 10:30am | Notes | ELDERS: Michael Rumsch (250-588-0776) Bert Weiss (250-382-2612) Fred Smale (250-652-9396) Elder of the Month: Bert Weiss | | Altar Guild: Deborah Gruben Theodora Henry Eleanor Murdoch Louise Rushton | |  |