

Our Family



Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

May 2023

Volume 13 No. 05

From the Pastor

Later this month, on May 11, Lutherans from the mainland and I will be taking part in the March for Life in Victoria. Hopefully you will be able to come as well. But even if you cannot take part in the March, you can still join us at Hope Lutheran Church for a worship service and lunch before the March. With this in mind, I thought it might be good to explore why life has such importance for us as Christians.

It might seem odd (even counterintuitive) to try to justify why life might be important to a person. If you were not alive already, you could not contemplate how life is important. Life and reflection on life's importance go hand in hand. But more generally: if you consider anything valuable and worthy of experiencing or considering, then you desire life to some extent in order to experience or consider this important thing. Yet, throughout time, there have been people who have proposed that life is not worth living—either for themselves or for other people.

The majority of the (secular) public debate today advocates that life is not worth living for other people, not necessarily themselves. This is evident more from the abortion debate. The unborn fetuses cannot voice their own opinions, so pro-choice advocates speak for them by declaring that these unborn babies should not be alive. The unborn are denied a choice at all in favour of the comfort of the mother. Ironically, the main line of defense for mercy killing,

euthanasia, assisted suicide, or medical assistance in dying (all different terms for basically the same thing) is that a person should be allowed a choice in saying they should die. This is also problematic considering that most—if not all—people who would be voicing that they want to die are under duress—significant pain on the physical and/or emotional levels are causing them to act against better judgment.

But how would Christians argue for life? So far, I have only been presenting some of the issues in the philosophical debate, not the theological debate. The philosophical debate is more concerned with attaching value to human life. If you have a valuable quality (such as health, wealth, happiness, or rationality), then your life is worth living. Without this or that valuable aspect of life, life for you is deemed not worth living. This is of course insulting to anyone clinging to life without meeting all of society's standards for what constitutes the good life.

The Christian argument works very differently. We are actually arguing that your life is not worth anything. In fact, your life is forfeit because it is tainted with sin and not worthy in and of itself to be saved. The worth of human life comes not from within us but outside of ourselves. Our Lord and God, Jesus Christ, came into this world to deliver us from sin and death. The greatest love this world has ever known was displayed at the cross where our God, in His humility, shed His blood for us that we might live with Him eternally. Christ places

worth on us by offering his life to each person through faith. Therefore, every human life—whether in the womb, in the prime of life, or in a sickbed—should be as valuable to us as the life of our Lord who died for them.

The Christian defense of life is a defense of the greatness and love of God. What if a human life is lacking in what the secular world considers valuable? Unborn babies lack rationality. Patients with chronic illnesses lack health. People suffering from depression lack happiness. But so what? Christ has died for them all that they may join him in righteousness and blessedness forevermore. The victory of his cross has undone sin and opened the way to paradise with resurrected flesh. The pains of body and soul found in this world will not be found in the next. Christ has not died so these people would die but that they may have new life—beginning in this world and extending to the world to come. And while they, like all of us, are not deserving of life on account of sin, Christ gives them life through faith that they may always live with him.

We love our neighbours because Christ has loved them through his cross. We should not count the life of our Lord so cheaply by throwing away someone for whom he has died. And we show this valuing of our Lord not only in championing protection of life. We also help our neighbours in their broken flesh, broken minds, and broken spirits in this world. For in this world or the next, all those who live in faith will have their bodies, minds, and spirits restored in fullness of life.

God Bless,
Pastor Adam Chandler



Musical Notes



We have been celebrating the season of Easter and all the joy that Christ's resurrection brings to us, through word and song. I would like to take the time to salute the various musicians who have joined in song to make our worship:

Chimers: Mel Klassen, Andrew Johnson, Theo Henry, Angel Star, Barb Guidetti

Belle Voci Choir: Juhree Zimmerman, Theo Henry, Laura Frandsen, Alice Lou, Elizabeth Summers, Suzanne Bell, Barb Guidetti

Organists: Richard Uhl, Barb Guidetti

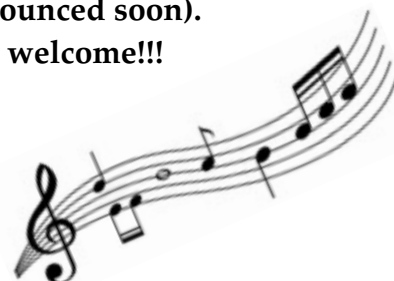
Linda Russell and Mel Klassen also lead in some of the hymns.

If there is a name you do not recognize as a member of our congregation, you would be correct! One of our purposes in a church music program is to *s p r e a d* the word of God! So, next time one of these music groups performs, please extend a warm welcome and a thank you!

We welcome new members for all of our musical offerings; there are no restrictions, just the willingness to learn and to serve as you can!

Please join us for an 'Afternoon of Music', and a Tea sponsored by the LWMLC on Saturday, June 10th, in the early afternoon (exact time to be announced soon).

All are welcome!!!



Blessings,
Barbara G

We May Have Entertained Angels Without Knowing It

Jesus' New Testament commandment is, "To love one another as we are first loved."



We are given gifts from God and we are to use these gifts well. The theme of Hebrews, according to the Bible, Concordia Self-Study, NIV version, is about, "the absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ as revealer and as mediator of God's grace."

In the first chapter of Hebrews, the author tells us that Jesus is above all angels. In 1:14, is this description, "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

The last chapter's first 17 verses are described as "practical rules for Christian living." Starting in chapter 13, verse 1, we are instructed to, "Keep on loving each other as brothers (and sisters). Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it." Entertaining, in this context, refers to welcoming, hosting, caring, and providing for others. We are to use our gift of hospitality to serve others.

Every day we are given opportunities to use these special gifts! Likewise, in church we are mentored by and mentors to our sisters and brothers in Christ; a training ground, so to speak, a place to learn and to practice our skills and then carry them out into our week. We are to be welcoming and sincere as we greet and converse with each other. We are to invite people to upcoming events and Bible studies.

Sometimes, these biblically given instructions seem more like pleasant platitudes in today's world. However, here is only one example of when not only greeters, but a number of our members, welcomed and chatted with visitors to our worship on Good Friday and were able to do so again on Easter Sunday, after Easter breakfast. When they were spoken with again, one of the gentlemen said that they returned on Sunday because they were made to feel so welcome at the Good Friday service.

Yes, we come for worship and the Word, but the fellowship before and after service is also important, as a way to build relationships and support and uplift each other.

So, "May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead, our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may he work through us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (13:20-21)

"Grace be with you all" (13:25)

Your Sister In Christ,
Louise

Call for Greeters

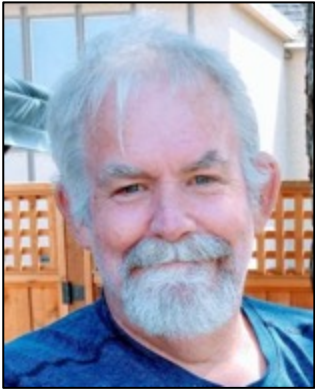
A greeter's Sign-up sheet will be put on the bulletin board; thanks for signing up for a turn at being a host.



Called Home



God has called two of His children home in April; Kent Russell and Hildegard Heimbach.



Kent will be very much missed by his large circle of family and friends. Besides helping to raise his family of four children and 10 grandchildren, he worked for 35+ years at the Cedar Hill Rec Centre. He will be

remembered for his generous nature and easy laugh. Family time included birthday dinners, Boxing Day celebrations, get-togethers, and annual road trips to Osoyoos. He served Hope, in the early years when they first moved to the next street over from the church, in numerous ways, including as usher and elder. He was close with his family until his body succumbed to ALS on April 9th. His parting words were, "I'll be seeing you," fitting for a baptized child of God.

On April 23rd, Hildegard went home peacefully to her Saviour, having lived a full life, with her faith strong to the end. She was a warm and gracious host, serving a cup of tea and often a slice of her favourite lemon loaf and good conversation to go with it.

In earlier days, when she was more mobile, she would attend worship with her daughter, Doris Kinnersley. Well into her nineties, she continued to live in her own home with her daughter and family close by. She enjoyed the times of carolling or visits with people who could converse with her in German, but she always welcomed you into her home. She will

be remembered for her warm smile and kind words and will be missed by all. God give her family and friends His comfort and peace that surpasses all understanding.

A Thank You Note

"Thank you for the work all of you did for Kent's funeral reception. Your love, prayers and continued support has meant so much to us."

– The Russell Family

Let There Be Light and There Is!



Thank you to the invisible property manager for replacing the lights in the Christian education meeting room as well the makeshift sewing room.

Lawn Mowing Volunteers

Now that spring has arrived, the grass and weeds are eager to sprout and grow. If you have some time to help mow the lawn, it would be very much appreciated. Please co-ordinate with Bert Weiss.



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



Privileges and Blessings of the 2023 Spring Rally

The privilege of attending the rally in person was exhilarating, a gift from God!

It was indeed a privilege to be with like-minded Sisters-in-Christ from different parts of Vancouver Island, as well as guests from Alberta, and meet for the day at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Langford. The twist was that Hope's Victoria LWML-C women hosted the Westshore rally. There was a gathering of women from six different Island societies. We were also blessed with the presence of three pastors: Pastor Washeim, the Redeemer Pastor and our host, Pastor Chandler, the Hope Pastor and our new Island Zone Councilor, and Pastor Klein, the interim Pastor for Trinity in Duncan.

The blessings of the rally started with the opening devotion led by Joyce D. of the Duncan Society with the theme of "On Solid Ground: Living and Sharing Easter Victory". It reminded us not to stand on sinking sand but to keep on the path of solid ground, to be with our Lord!

Pastor Chandler guided us through the Bible Study, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor 15:57) He inspired us to consider that we are not only to



live our own lives in Jesus' resurrection, but to share this good news Gospel with others, as a voice for the power of the Holy Spirit. "And I... did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." (1 Cor 2: 1-2)

Next, Joelle Maycock, from the Best Babies Program at West Shore Public Health, educated us about the support provided for young expectant and new Moms. She thanked us for the ingathering of funds and baby supplies for these families and hoped that all the donations would fit into her car!



We gathered for a group photo and then went downstairs for lunch!



Another blessing for all of us was to be served coffee, tea, and muffins—on arrival and departure—and a delicious lunch of salads and desserts, including a celebratory LWML-C anniversary cake. We ate our meal in the church hall dedicated to Dorothy Pearson, a long-time fellow LWML-er, and



enjoyed wonderful conversation with each other!

The blessings continued with Sherley Hearty, our new Vice President District Administrator! She and her husband, David, drove out from Edmonton, Alberta, to be our guest speaker. She reminded us to celebrate the small moments and the larger events of our lives! She encouraged us to not only be Christian sisters, but good friends to each other. Sherley read us a beautiful message on friendship from Tapestry magazine. We were given gifts, including a puzzle piece to illustrate, which will be joined together with jigsaw pieces coloured by others and displayed in her Alberta office before being returned to us.

Sherley presented 60th Anniversary certificates



to Arlene Friesen of Faith Lutheran, Courtney and Joanne Phillips, and Elaine Murphy of St. Paul's Lutheran, Nanaimo.

The day's skit, "Parable of the Shoes", was based on the similarity between an assortment of footwear of various sizes and with different purposes, such as the tongues, eyes, and soles (souls) of children's shoes to men's work boots and people's actions. It reminded us to be mindful of how we interact with others and to be sure that the content of our messages was done in a God-pleasing manner. It was presented by the Courtney ladies. It was a fitting message for our theme, On Solid Ground.



During the Business Meeting, the items were: the financial report, the extension of the present officers for one more year to facilitate the transition to 2024 (by a passed motion) and the May 20th registration deadline for the "Oaks of Righteousness" seminar on June 10th, in-person in Calgary or online. There is also the registration needed (by June 10th) for the webinar for information on the mission grant proposal submission process on June 17th at 8:00am PDT, as well as the Fall Rally on Oct. 21st (location to be announced), with the main business being to elect a Zone delegate for the 2024 National Convention in London, Ontario. On May 6th, we are invited to join Cathy Armstrong, from 2:00pm to 3:30pm, for a strawberry tea in Nanaimo to celebrate her 100th birthday! Blessed Birthday, Cathy!

The Closing Devotion by the Port Alberni ladies wrapped up a wonderful, joy-filled day!

What a privilege to come together as one in Christ! What a blessing for many hands to serve each other in the preparation of the many activities of the day! Thanks to you all, and especially to Deborah Gruben, our Zone President, who helped guide us through the day!

In conclusion, one of the many lovely blessings that brought joyful tears to my eyes was the musical invitations to gather together for each session and the opportunity to sing God's praises together, accompanied by our pianist, Arlene, from Courtney! "Go My Children, With My Blessing", set to The Ash Grove, a lovely Welsh piece, was our last hymn. We finished with this beautiful message from God, "Go, my children, and I will give you peace."

Your Sister-in-Christ,
Louise Rushton
LWML-C Society member at Hope



Muffins for Mom /Smell the Flowers

As we enter into May let us continue to support our five young people in their efforts to reach their financial goal of \$1,500, the amount required to attend the Impact Youth Gathering in Grand Forks this July.

On May 14th, Mother’s Day, treat your mom to (or in her memory enjoy) a youth-made muffin and coffee and take home a fresh carnation & bookmark .

Don’t worry, dads; on June 18, Father’s Day plans are being made to make Donuts For Dad, another opportunity to help our youth reach their goal.

In addition, June 10th brings another opportunity to support these young people at the Cheesecake Café, where \$10.00 will buy a slice of cheese cake, a cup of coffee or tea, plus an afternoon of great live music. Keep watching for more details.



May Day

I seem to be a sheep, just following traditions without thinking of why I do it or where the tradition came from. May Day is just one example. I have surprised my children and other children in the neighborhood with May baskets – setting them on their doorsteps, ringing the doorbell, and running away to leave them with a lovely surprise of candies. I’ve watched kids singing songs of spring and dancing around a Maypole. I am not sure I’ve ever thought about why May Day is celebrated.

So, I did a little research on the subject. In 1889, socialist groups and trade unions designated May 1st as a day in commemoration of the Haymarket Riot confrontation between laborers and police. President Grover Cleveland signed

legislation making Labor Day the official U.S. holiday for workers and May 1st went back to a day celebrating the coming of spring. This began as a pagan ritual in medieval times – and yet we celebrate it.

As a Christian, I am going to celebrate all that God has provided as I look forward to spring. I can celebrate God’s gifts in every season, and I find that, as I weary of winter weather (yes, some of us still have winter weather!) I look forward to His promise of making all things new.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22–23).

Whether the multitudes recognize the seasons as His gifts or not, He still provides.

“for behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance” (Song of Solomon 2:11–13a).

Please, do make your children May baskets – and include a Scripture message. Celebrate spring and share God’s promises of hope with your family and friends. We are sheep – but we are His sheep!

Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture (Psalm 100:3).

Read Psalm 23 right now – our cup truly overflows! Happy May Day!

Today, and always, we are surrounded by HIS grace,

Debbie Larson, LWML

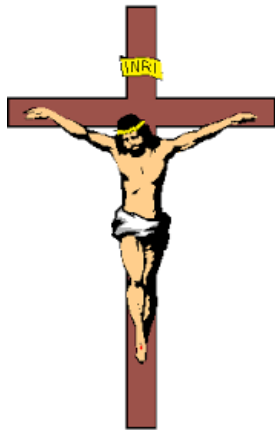
Children's Corner and for those Young at Heart


A great big word of love.

A word that you often hear used in the church is the word "redemption" (pronounced ree-DEMP-shun). All of the events in Jesus' life work together to form God's plan of redemption.

What does "redemption" mean?

The word "redemption" is a very important word used to describe what Jesus has done for us. Redemption comes from the root word "redeem" which means "to buy back." God's plan of redemption was His plan to buy us back from sin, death, and the power of the devil. This all happened when Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the Law perfectly and died on the cross in our place. He payed the high price for sin, and He bought us back! But He didn't stop there. He overcame death for us and rose from the dead to prove it! What a great Redeemer we have!



 Parents: What our God has done for us in Jesus reflects the Fatherly love He has for all people. As parents, we share this love with our children through the means our Lord has provided: Word and Sacrament. This is where we receive the real fruits of redemption.

Copyright © 2016 LCMS Worship. Created by Christopher Thoma. LCMS congregations and schools have permission to reproduce "KIDS in the Divine Service" for their use. lcms.org | 888-THE LCMS

Mothers' Day Word Scramble



*"She opens her mouth with wisdom,
And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue."
Proverbs 31:26 (ESV)*

- LAYMIF _____
- HEMO _____
- DAYL _____
- TRECTOP _____
- OILGVN _____
- ECHAT _____
- POTPRUS _____
- OMERTH _____
- NSO _____
- GUEADRHT _____
- SENTIL _____
- AICNGR _____



SON	DAUGHTER	LISTEN	CARING
LOVING	TEACH	SUPPORT	MOTHER
FAMILY	HOME	LADY	PROTECT



<http://minding-the-children.com>

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
30 4 th Sunday of Easter Bible Study 9:15am Worship 10:30am	1 12:30pm Devotion	2 10:00am Bible Study	3  Janine	4 1:00pm Sewing Group 3:00pm Belle Voci	5	6 10:00am Confirmation Class 1:30pm Worship Comm. Mtg 2:00 pm Organ Rehearsal 3:00pm Chimes Rehearsal
7 5 th Sunday of Easter Bible Study 9:15am Worship 10:30am	8 12:30pm Devotion	9 10:00am Bible Study	10  Eric Nicola	11 11:30am Prayer Service 12:30pm Lunch 1:45pm March for Life starts at Cent. Square 3:00pm Belle Voci	12  Deborah	13 10:00am Confirmation Class 2:00 pm Organ Rehearsal 3:00pm Chimes Rehearsal
14 6 th Sunday of Easter Bible Study 9:15am Worship 10:30am 	15 12:30pm Devotion	16 10:00am Bible Study	17  Carole	18 1:00pm Sewing Group 3:00pm Belle Voci	19	20 10:00am Confirmation Class 2:00 pm Organ Rehearsal 3:00pm Chimes Rehearsal
21 7 th Sunday of Easter Bible Study 9:15am Worship 10:30am	22 12:30pm Devotion 	23 10:00am Bible Study	24	25 12:00pm LWML Lunch and Learn 3:00pm Belle Voci	26	27 10:00am Confirmation Class 2:00 pm Organ Rehearsal 3:00pm Chimes Rehearsal
28 The Day of Pentecost Bible Study 9:15am Worship 10:30am	29 12:30pm Devotion  Betty	30 10:00am Bible Study  Jan	31	1 1:00pm Sewing Group 3:00pm Belle Voci	2	3 2:00 pm Organ Rehearsal 3:00pm Chimes Rehearsal
	Notes	ELDERS: Michael Rumsch (250-588-0776) Bert Weiss (250-382-2612) Fred Smale (250-652-9396) Elder of the Month: Michael Rumsch		Altar Guild: Deborah Gruben Theodora Henry Eleanor Murdoch Louise Rushton		