



# Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

July 2023

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## *From the Pastor*

A lot of talk in our congregation in the past month has been about where we are going as a congregation and how we can address the challenges we are facing. The presentations from the Parish Planning Council on challenges to be addressed are focused on our finances and our building. The Council is for administration of our congregation after all. Toward this end, materials have been prepared (handout, online presentation, flowchart in the narthex) for our members' digestion of possible options to solve the financial issue. We will also be having discussion sessions over the summer to aid conversations amongst our members of what to do. The first was on June 27, the second will be on July 22, and the third is set for August 19. (Please, members of the congregation, attend one of these discussions to aid you to think through what you would like to see the congregation to do.)

All this is good, but we must keep in mind our church is not just finances or a building. Our church (and the entire Christian Church) is founded upon the cornerstone of Christ who forgives our sins and brings us into everlasting life. The Church is a spiritual entity which happens to have some of its elements tied to the world. This is fundamentally because of who God made us to be: souls enfleshed in bodies. The grace we receive is received not just spiritually but tangibly. If we have the Word of God, then our ears hear and our eyes read. If we consume the body and blood of Christ, then we

are also physically eating and drinking bread and wine. If we gather together as the Church on earth, then we gather in a specific space at a specific time. There is no getting around the earthiness of the flesh and we shouldn't try. We are flesh and blood because that is how our Lord created us. But we are not only flesh and blood, we are spirit which needs nourishment from the Holy Spirit.

Addressing our challenges of the flesh—namely financing our church and securing a place for our worship in the body—is only part of what we need to do. The much greater challenge lies not with the flesh but with the spirit. In fact, the challenges of the flesh are only here because of our spiritual challenges as a congregation. The cause of our financial woes is due to fewer people than before gathering in Spirit and Truth here at Hope. If more people gather to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord in the fellowship of our altar, then our attentions would be on how to evangelize more people instead of how to become financially secure.

Why is this the case? Many people have left the faith over time and fewer people are coming in. This is not a problem unique to us but the general state of the Western world today. What will be unique to us is how we address it with our unique gifts and opportunities.

The Word of Christ must go out. Our Lord has called us to do this in order for disciples to be made in His Church (Matt 28:18-20). The responsibility to proclaim Christ in our words and actions with is each and every one of us—that's just part of the faith. According to Barna Group data in their book *Household of Faith*, the people most influential for someone coming into the faith when a person is not born into the faith are: the mother (68% of people surveyed), father (46%), a grandparent (37%), and a friend (14%). Barna's *Spiritual Conversations in a Digital Age* also notes, in a 2017 survey, people who experienced a significant spiritual change did so most after an in-person conversation (over 70%) with phone calls being the second best method. We are going to be the biggest spiritual influences to people we know. Obvious, I know, but we need to realize it in order to be encouraged to talk to our loved ones.

Hope Lutheran Church should be doing more to help equip our saints to talk with family, friends, and strangers about the Christian faith in order for these people to hear the message of Christ's love. Our finances are important to keep in mind, and they need to be addressed, but the true purpose of our congregation is to spread the Gospel and encourage the saints in worship and fellowship. In August, I will be sitting out on the lawn of Hope Lutheran to talk to passersby, like I did back in 2021. Others are welcome to join me. In September, I'll be starting up a Bible study on apologetics (defending the faith). As a side project, I will also be starting up a new YouTube channel with apologetics in mind to defend the faith beyond just our city—but it will also be another resource our congregation can use.

Christ is with us. Regardless of what comes in the future, our Lord will guard and keep us in his loving embrace through Word and

Sacrament. What we want is for Christ to be with everyone else too..

God's Blessings,  
Pastor Adam Chandler

### *"Gathered Together in My Name"*

On reflecting on Pastor Chandler's online devotion on Hebrews 10:23-25, as well as the congregation meeting that we had on June 11th, on prayerfully considering the church building, I was reminded of the following verse, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am with you".

Hebrews 10:23-25 states the same belief, "Let us not give up meeting together....but let us encourage one another" (verse 25).

In Biblical times, there was the temple in Jerusalem, the upper rooms where early Christians met behind locked doors, homes of the faithful, or the public areas where Christ and the disciples or followers of Christ preached the Word.

Now, we have similar and different locations to listen to or discuss God's Word. We still gather in churches or people's homes or public locations to hear the Gospel. The Lutheran Hour has been available on radio stations for several decades. In the last few years, new methods have been added: the Internet, YouTube and livestreaming.

Sometimes, there is only one in the household; sometimes friends or whole families gather around an electronic device to hear the Word. Yes, it would be better to meet in person. However, circumstances beyond their control, can prevent it. There can be mental or physical

health issues, time or job restraints, lack of bus fare, or other reasons unknown to us.

The verse, "Let us encourage one another", still applies today. By welcoming people online while they are listening to our broadcast, we support them and encourage them to continue listening. We can phone each other or write or text them telling them that we are praying for them or thinking about them and care about their physical and spiritual wellbeing.

For those of us who are able to worship in person, we are to continue to care for people who do not come, regardless of their reasons and welcome them when they return. We are not to be discouraged. In Hebrews, we are to, "Hold to the hope that we profess, for God who promised, is faithful, " v. 23. The author also writes, "Let us not give up meeting together (for the purpose of) encouraging one another." v 25.

Therefore, for those of us who are able, we are to do whatever we can to maintain or build a new church for our fellow Christians now and in the future. We can be encouraged by the fact that the Living Hope church who worship the same God of Grace, whom we now share our house of worship with, also calls our church home.

We, as a community of believers and followers of Jesus Christ, pray that we can work together as a congregation and actively listen to suggested ways to create a space to worship God now and in the future. We are to maintain or build a place to continue to house our worshippers, to welcome our visitors and new members, and to support our youth. We are to encourage and listen to new ideas from our young people.

"Therefore, brothers (and sisters) since we have confidence to enter the most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, this is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith." Hebrews 10:19-22.

Let us prayerfully and purposefully, "Consider how to spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Hebrews 10:24.

In Christ,  
Louise

### *Musical Notes*

During the summer months, our worship services will utilize our extra musicians more for the opening meditation music as well as for worship leadership. We warmly welcome Ian (and Sally) who will be playing the coronet, and is joining our community choir 'Belle Voci', singing tenor!

Linda and Mel will lead the hymns for two services this summer, (and we will speak the liturgy). Thank you!

Laura has been practicing the organ each week lately in the hope that she can slowly return as one of our organists - you are in our prayers Laura for a recovery of your vision issues, and that you may once again be a part of our music here at Hope - we miss you!

Each Saturday, I practice organ, I sort and file music, tidy the balcony space, meet with extra musicians to work on special music for our services, and I dream up new ideas!! If you have a favorite hymn you would like to hear as an

opening meditation, please let me know and we will be honored to play your request.

One of my favorite hymns is 'Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart' (708). The text is by Martin Schalling (1532-1608), derived from a combination of scripture sources including Psalm 18, Luke 16, and Matthew 22. While this hymn is often referred to as the 'song for the dying', it is also very often used for ordination and installation services for Pastors. It is a hymn of hope, love, the resurrection of our soul, and eternal praise to our Lord. It is a beautiful hymn, it reflects on our sole purpose as Christians and the strength of our faith, and I will likely play it as part of the opening prelude on July 2nd. J.S. Bach used the tune of this hymn, known as 'Herzlich lieb hab ich dich, o Herr' for his closing chorale of his most famous St John Passion. If you have time on Sunday morning before the service begins, read the text - hymn 708. Powerful.

Blessings,  
Barbara

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



## *For the Fruits of His Creation (LSB 894)*



For the fruits of His creation,  
Thanks be to God.  
For His gifts to ev'ry nation,  
Thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
Silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping,  
Thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,  
God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbour,  
God's will is done.  
In our world-wide task of caring  
For the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,  
Thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit,  
Thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
For the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all, that love has found us,  
Thanks be to God.

(Fred Pratt Green)





## LWMLC NEWS



### LWMLC News

Over the last few months the “M” in the LWMLC has stood for MENTORING. As an experienced guide we served to help the youth reach their goal to attend the National Youth gathering in Grand Forks, BC. From making pancakes, setting and clearing tables, serving Easter Breakfast, to celebrating mother and father days with Youth made treats to converting the narthex into an inviting cozy café their commitment to seize this unique opportunity to grow their faith never wavered. Thanks be to God, along with your generosity and willingness to share your God given talents ALL five will attend.

We too as followers of Christ need mentoring, a trusted advisor. Jesus our master mentor teaches and guides our lives into a lifelong journey of discipleship. Prior to dropping in at the cheesecake café ladies across the ABC District gathered together (in person and online) to participate in the Oaks of Righteousness Seminar. This three-part study was uplifting, empowering, enjoyed by all and well worth an encore. Watch for more dates.

As we move into the summer season and a break from regular monthly meetings plans are afoot to host a summer outing, an opportunity to relax in God’s creation and enjoy some face-to-face fellowship. More details to come.

May God bless you and keep you until we meet again.

In His Service,  
Deborah

### A New Banner

MORDEN, Man. - The banner pictured on the right was designed by Kelly Klages, Pastor Alex Klages’s artistically talented wife, and made by their LWMLC ladies. The design reflects the LWMLC motto, logo and colors and the chain represents our connectedness.



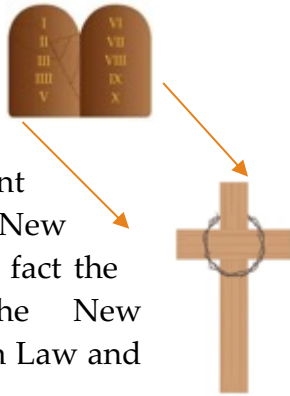
*A Prayer for the Nation*  
(From LSB)

*Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberties, and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

# Children's Corner and for those Young at Heart

## Law and Gospel

Many people wrongly think that the Old Testament is the Law and the New Testament is the Gospel. In fact the Old Testament and the New Testament each contain both Law and Gospel.



## What are the basics of the Law and the Gospel?

**The Law** teaches us God's will for how we live, namely the Ten Commandments. God's Law demands perfection, but it is impossible to be perfect. According to the Law, we are sinners, and are in big trouble with God. We need someone to save us. The Law shows us our sins.

**The Gospel** tells us what Jesus has done to save us from our sins. But the Gospel doesn't stop there. It tells us what Jesus continues to do for us because of His great love for us. The Gospel shows us our Savior, Jesus!

An easy way to remember all of this is to think of the following letters: S.O.S. The Law "shows our sins" while the Gospel "shows our Savior"!

**Parents:** Distinguishing between Law and Gospel is a life-long venture of study. Perhaps you or your child can take notes during the sermon. Following the Divine Service, discuss these notes, identifying the Law and the Gospel in the sermon.










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Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
25 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday a Pentecost Bible Study 9:15am Worship 10:30am	26 12:30pm Devotion	27 10:00am Bible Study	28	29 3:00pm Belle Voci	30 Youths off to Impact Youth Gathering	1  Phillip
2 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30am	3	4	5  Memory	6  Mel Iris	7	8 2-4 pm Organ Practice  Margaret
Pastor Chandler is out of the office.						
9 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30am	10	11	12	13 3:00pm Theory	14	15 2-4 pm Organ Practice
Pastor Chandler is out of the office.						
16 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30am  Paul	17  Darrell	18	19	20 3:00pm Theory	21	22 1:00 pm Discussion Session 2 at Hope  2-4 pm Organ Practice
Pastor Chandler is out of the office.						
23 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30am	24	25	26	27 3:00pm Theory	28	29 2-4 pm Organ Practice
30 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30am	31	<b>Notes</b>	<b>ELDERS:</b> Michael Rumsch (250-588-0776) Bert Weiss (250-382-2612) Fred Smale (250-652-9396) <b>Elder of the Month:</b> Bert Weiss		<b>Altar Guild:</b> Deborah Gruben Theodora Henry Eleanor Murdoch Louise Rushton	
					