



From the Pastor

Over the last few months, Hope Lutheran Church has been trying to reach her members and have serious discussion on our future as a congregation. This conversation has taken place in congregation meetings, summer discussion sessions, emails, newsletters, and more. Since some of this is online or just absorbed through word-of-mouth, it is difficult to gauge how many people of the congregation are aware of all that has been discussed. The turnout at the in-person events suggests that at least half of the congregation is grappling with our future and the current problems we face. These problems include the smaller and aging population of the congregation which has culminated in a significant deficit in our budget.

Those not yet attending the in-person discussions will probably be unaware of what is being discussed (but some notes have been compiled and will be available soon). Most of the print materials given to the congregation focus on the pending financial problem—our immediate need—so it might surprise people that a lot of discussion in our sessions has been about evangelism. A congregation engaged in mission to the community is a healthy congregation and will, over time, gather more people into God's Church. Finances are the immediate concern but a healthy congregation, over time, will correct financial issues.

With this in mind, I'll talk about a few things to

keep in mind about evangelism in the present day.

The if-you-build-it-they-will-come model of evangelism has not worked since the '90s. This model proposes that, by founded/constructed congregation/church, people will gradually fill it up. This worked well in North America, especially post-WWII, because of immigration from Europe and the profound need for Christ's peace following the war. However, the trend in the past thirty years or so has been people steadily leaving the Church. We have many churches built already but people are not coming. So, is there a point in "building" new programs and events? Absolutely, but the goal isn't to inundate people with events.

Building events won't make people come, but building relationships will. The statistics from the past couple of decades inform us that the majority of people are most likely to worship with us if there is a personal connection they have in the church or are supported by Christian connections. You yourself can likely point to friends, family, or strong role models who compelled you to be engaged in the faith. Therefore, we should keep doing events and programs at our church with the understanding that we need to be welcoming everyone in the name of Christ and sharing his love with them. The goal of our evangelism effort is to help people have a relationship (living faith) with Christ. Our relationships in Christlike love help others establish their own relationship to the love of Christ. This of course means we preach

Christ when people come and care about their personal needs.

Usually, converts to Lutheranism in North America come from other Christian denominations and not straight from unbelief. Even though Lutherans have not been as assertive in evangelism in our communities, our beliefs appeal to people who seek to deepen their faith and engage with historical doctrine. Lutheranism has deep roots in tradition, offers a sense of meaning and reverence, promotes strong morals, and proclaims the Gospel clearly over the condemnation of the Law. This is attractive to sinners seeking redemption and a connection to Christians not just in the present but also the past. (An issue we face is that many people seeking this stuff don't realize Lutherans exist or don't know what we believe so they bypass us as they enter Roman Catholicism or Eastern Orthodoxy.)

Lastly, developing faith takes time. It often takes years (the average I heard is four, but C.S. Lewis took about 15 years) between when a person begins to be challenged by matters of faith and when they fully engaged as Christians in God's Church. When you talk to someone, it is difficult to know what stage he or she may be in with his or her journey to Christ. You might be planting the seed, watering it, or trimming the full-grown branches. In any case, we should proclaim the Gospel at all times so that we might help people no matter where they are in the faith. But this also means, while evangelism is necessary, it will not immediately bring people into our building who are ready to start tithing. That's fine. Faith is not about finances and teaching about stewardship takes time. So we need to keep in mind that evangelism does not guarantee an immediate solution to our current financial problem, nor can we confidently say that it will be rectified several

years from now. Therefore, we need to consider how we can mitigate our financial problems in the near future so we can focus on our true task as a congregation: preaching Christ.

May the Lord guide us in our thoughts, words, and actions to spread the good news of salvation here in Victoria and lead us forward in continuing doing so in the future.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Adam Chandler

Self-Care So We Can Care for Others in Jesus' Name

In Philippians, chapter 2, we are reminded to imitate Christ's humility. Paul tells us, "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." v.4. "[Jesus] made himself nothing, taking on the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness." v.7. In 2:19, Paul writes that he will send Timothy to do the work of the gospel, because he "takes a genuine interest in your welfare."

We are to pray, praise God, study His Word, and care for ourselves with the greater purpose of being better equipped to serve others.

Years ago, when I was working in a dress shop, a regular shopper asked me why she should trust my suggestions for her wardrobe purchases if I did not shop for clothes at the store for myself.

If we do not search our conscience for how we are to follow Christ and then do it, how can we, with any honesty, ask others to model their lives after Jesus as well?

Jesus taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer so that we also would have a script for our daily lives about how God expects us to walk in His

path. We are asked to put God first, to pray to Him to lead us on the path of righteousness, to forgive and love others as He first forgives and loves us. He gives us everything that we need to keep our hearts and minds in Christ.

We are also asked to pray for each other. In Hebrews 13:18, the writer, a follower of Christ, says, "Pray for us. We are sure that we have a in every way." He then prays, "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 work in us what is pleasing to Him through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen". v. 20-21

In Christ,
Louise

Musical Notes



Each month, our church will be hosting a musical performance/recital that will be open to the community around us as well as our congregation! There will be a free-will offering with any proceeds going towards the church operational expenses. This is a wonderful opportunity to support our church music program, to listen to beautiful music, to support our young and young-at-heart musicians, to close your eyes and enjoy the lovely music that is being performed, to invite a friend, to open the doors of our church to the community around us, to pause from our busy lives.....

The first recital will be performed by our young Belle Voci accompanist, James Summers. He will be playing roughly 40 minutes of piano solos including pieces by Chopin, Mendelssohn, and Beethoven.

Date: SATURDAY August 19th

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: Our church sanctuary

All are welcome!

Blessings,
Barbara

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill;
He treasures up his bright designs,
And works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the LORD by feeble sense,
But trust him for his grace;
Behind a frowning providence,
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding ev'ry hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flow'r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
And he will make it plain.

William Cowper, 1773

IMPACT Youth Gathering

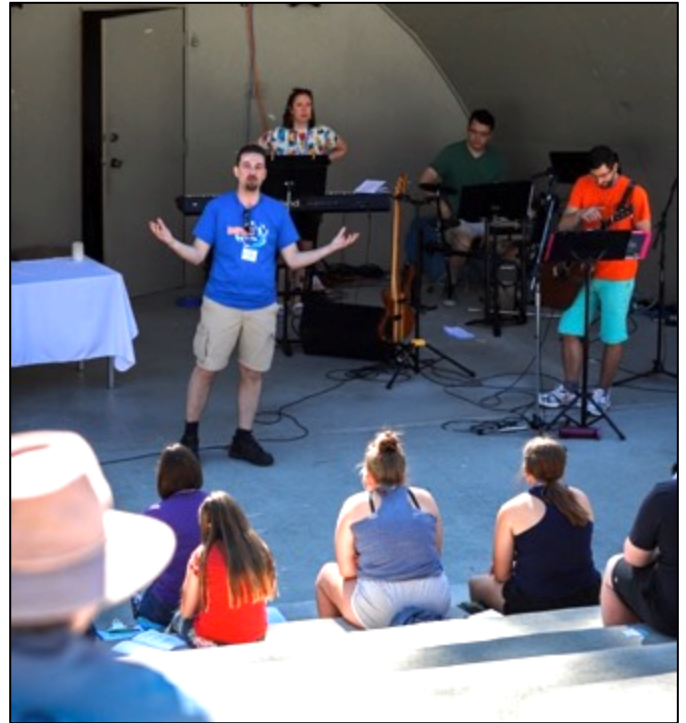


We would like to express our gratitude to the generous members of the congregation who paid for us, the Praise Youth Group, to go to the youth gathering in Grand Forks. We raised a total of \$1632, which not only covered all our registration fees but also part of our travel costs!



We all had an amazing time and were all pushed out of our comfort zones. We enjoyed the opportunity to worship and learn more about God together with an amazing group of people. We enjoyed Bible studies, talks, games, devotions, and much more.

I think the thing that stood out to me the most was when we would all get together for any meal, we would sing "Be Present At Our Table Lord", and it was beautiful. I remember someone saying that we brought one of the camp staff to tears the first time we sang it.



We all had such a great time and can't wait to be able to go again soon to the next one.

Emily Russell
Praise Youth Group





We got Mail...

A message of gratitude — we wanted to write to say how much we've fallen in love with this beautiful handmade blanket one of the people of your congregation made for us and donated to the Fernwood Community Centre.

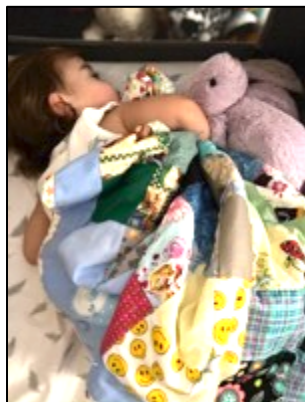
I'm not sure who the kind person was who donated these, but this has become my daughter Sofi's fav sleeping comfort, and I'd love for someone to know how much it has meant that we received this gift.

She's one and a half now and I think it's doubly special as Sofi doesn't get to see grandparents very often and this blanket has so much loving energy poured into it. Someone really took time to make it so special, and it shows — and is felt by this little one. ❤️

A photo is attached here of this sleeping angel for proof. 🥰

Thank you again so much for the generous gift, and for sending it to an organization that would help get it into loving hands.

All the best,
Danielle



In His Service,
Deborah

A Gentle Reminder and An Invitation

As we continue to enjoy the dog days of summer, let us be mindful the days are getting shorter and Back to School is fast approaching; before long it will be fall. We want to welcome the congregation to join us for our fall lineup.

In October we plan to celebrate LWMLC Sunday under the theme "Walk with you God in Justice, Kindness and Humility". Regular meetings will begin in September; gathering in person or via Zoom the last Thursday of the month for Lunch and Learn starting at noon with a potluck luncheon and our Pastor-led Bible study at 1pm. For more info contact Deborah G.

*God's Blessings to everyone
with August birthdays!*



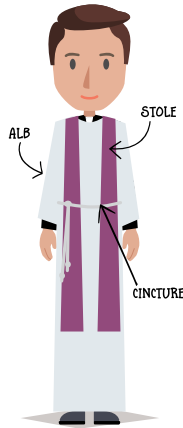
Looking ahead:

- Tuesday Bible Study will start on Sept 5th.
- Welcome Back BBQ following worship on Sunday, Sept 10th. Everyone is invited to join in the celebration of a return to regular church life and an opportunity to share your summer vacation stories.
- Sunday Bible Study will resume on Sept 10.
- Congregation Meeting on Sept 17th.

Children's Corner and for those Young at Heart

What are "vestments"?

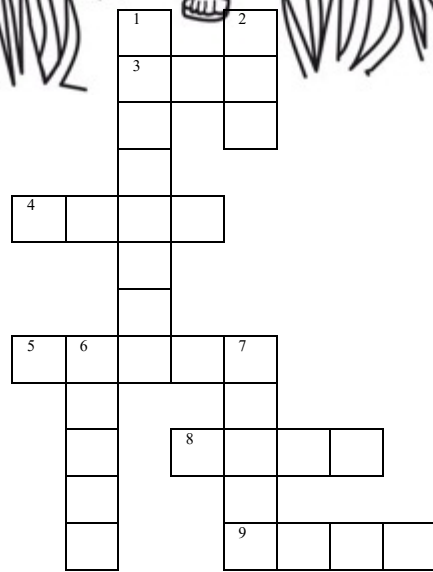
When you first see the pastor and his assistants in the Divine Service, what do you notice about them? They are wearing long robes and other unique garments. These are called "vestments." The word "vestment" comes from the Latin word *vestmentum* which means "garment of office." Vestments are garments worn by the pastor and the assistants during the Divine Service and other prayer offices..



Why are vestments used?

A person's vestment tells us about who they are and their role during the Divine Service. If you have two or more pastors, one may be dressed in vestments that mark him as the presiding minister. The other pastors may be dressed in vestments that mark them as assisting ministers. Vestments help to keep the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Sacraments in good order. Did you know that God's people have been using vestments since Old Testament times? Wow! Vestments are great tools in the church!

Parents: Before the Divine Service, direct your child's attention to the pastor's vestments. What color are they? How are they different from what you are wearing? Be sure to let your child approach the pastor after church to ask him questions about the vestments.















Across

3. The Shepherd anoints with _____
4. The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not _____
5. Who in the New Testament claims to be The Good Shepherd _____
8. Sometimes the sheep will wander off the _____
9. As long as you are walking with Jesus, you should not _____ evil

Down

1. Surely _____ and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life
2. The book of Psalms is found in the _____ Testament
6. The Good Shepherd prepares a table in the presences of the _____
7. The Shepherd guides me with his rod and _____

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

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
30 9 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30am	31	1	2  Michael	3 3:00pm Music Theory	4  Willie	5 2:00-4:00 pm Organ Practice  Stephen
6 10 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30am	7   Erwin	8  Harold Karla	9	10 3:00pm Music Theory  Sandra	11	12 2:00-4:00 pm Organ Practice
13 11 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30am  Fred Smale	14  Nicole	15	16	17 3:00pm Music Theory	18 	19 10:00 am Discussion Session 3 at Hope 3:00pm Piano Recital by James Summers
20 12 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30am	21	22  Marilyn	23	24 3:00pm Music Theory	25	26 2:00-4:00 pm Organ Practice  Mark
27 13 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30am	28	29	30	31 3:00pm Music Theory	1	2 2:00-4:00 pm Organ Practice
	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		