



Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

October 2023

Volume 13 No. 10

From the Pastor

We have come to the month of October and the celebration of holidays inside and outside the Church, such as Thanksgiving and Reformation Day. The latter celebrates when the Gospel message was displayed in its purity after being veiled by the Law within the medieval Church. There were calls to things like pilgrimages and indulgences to secure or enhance one's salvation instead of the clear word of scripture; "by a single offering [of Christ crucified, God] has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified" (Heb 10:14). We do not depend on our works to save us or contribute towards our salvation or to sanctify us from spiritual fallenness (the first denied but the last two still affirmed by Roman Catholicism even today). Rather, we rely on Christ alone for our salvation and sanctification, who washes away our impurities by his blood in baptism and raises us to new life.

Having re-emphasized the Gospel in the Reformation, we can be thankful that we no longer have to put our emphasis on performing God's commands. We can put our good works in their proper place, which is joyful living out of the Gospel. The Law is not followed because we are trying to earn something from God. We follow the Law of the Lord out of thankfulness for all His blessings to us. Or, as it appears in the Formula of Concord as one of the Lutheran Confessions, "This trust and knowledge of divine grace renders us joyful, fearless, and

cheerful towards God and all creatures...and on account of this, man becomes ready and cheerful, without coercion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, and to suffer everything for love and praise to God, who has conferred this grace on him..." (FC SD IV.12)

Our thankfulness extends to every good thing the Lord gives to us, which includes the blessings of the harvest that Thanksgiving Day celebrates. The Lord gives us much for which to be thankful from nature itself: food, drink, shelter, clothing, and even other people. Everything we have in this world is a blessing given by our Creator who sustains us.

And as those whom He sustains, we thank the Lord where the natural and the spiritual blessings He gives coincide. Our congregation of Hope Lutheran is where the Lord blesses us with each other in a building made with hands in preparation for the temple made without hands where all believers will enter (Heb 9:24; 10:19-21). I am sure that it is not just I who is thankful that we, as a congregation, have moved forward in the decision-making process for the future of our congregation, as we did during our Congregation Meeting on Sept. 17th.

So, mindful of the divine blessings of God in His Church and the natural blessings on our congregation, let us be thankful this October for all the Lord continuously gives us.

Thank the Lord,
Pastor Adam Chandler

Congregation Update

Bringing you the latest news from our September 17th Congregation Meeting

In the Spotlight: Important Congregational Decision

Based on the thoughtful discussions, survey results, and the updates provided by the PPC, our congregation has made progress in charting our path forward. We've narrowed down our options to two compelling choices:

Option A: Path 1- Staying on Our Land and in Our Building

Under this option, we'll retain our cherished building and consider selling equity in our property to All Saints of Alaska Orthodox Church.

Option B: Path 2- Embracing a Fresh Start

Alternatively, we can choose to stay at our current location, albeit in a brand-new building. This would involve selling our property to a developer and purchasing unit(s) in the building to be constructed on-site.

But before making our final decision, it's essential that we reflect on the values that define us as a congregation. We must ponder the significance of our current building, examine our methods of evangelization, and ensure our financial stability for years to come.

The Decision-Making Process

In our collective journey towards a well-informed choice, our members recognized the need for additional information. Therefore, a motion was proposed and approved:

Motion: "To explore options for selling equity to All Saints of Alaska Orthodox Church and to seek three proposals from developers by January 15, 2024. These proposals will be presented to members at a special Congregation Meeting."

For further details, please refer to the September 17th Congregation Minutes.

We believe that this exploration will guide us toward a decision that aligns with our values, secures our future, and strengthens our bond as a faith community. Stay tuned for updates as we embark on this path together!

In Service to the Lord,
Your Parish Planning Council

Musical Notes



My heart, which is so full to overflowing, has often been solaced and refreshed by music when sick and weary."
— Martin Luther

This month of October, my inspiration comes from Martin Luther. As we celebrate **Reformation on October 29th**, Martin Luther's music will be highlighted by the singing of some of his well-known hymns of faith.

More inspiration stems from Martin Luther's words in his quote below:

"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." - Martin Luther

To this end, our music offerings are growing here at Hope. **Belle Voci** will be singing during

the worship services on Oct. 1st, Nov. 5th, and for an Advent 'Repose' Recital on Saturday Dec. 2nd. Belle Voci was created to build a community choir that would provide musical offerings once per month for our worship services, to open our church doors to bring the neighbouring community into our church, and to hope that the Holy Spirit will enter the souls of all who are part of this choir. All are welcome!

Our **Chime Choir** has the same goals as Belle Voci with five members, and it has matured into a very steadfast choir that offers the lovely ringing of the chimes every week for worship. If you have time, come up to the balcony any Sunday before the worship service to see our Chimes! We have 81 chimes in total, all by donation!!! Mark Beiderwieden built two of the chime tables. We are blessed.



Chimes on display in the organ loft.

In the summer, I started a music offering series to the neighbouring community and to our parish members called '**Repose**'. This series will continue as a special offering each month to highlight our church musicians, to celebrate music, and to create an opportunity for personal reflection through the solace of music. The hope is to build community and to strengthen bonds amongst our own parish members. All recitals are on Saturdays at 3 pm, for 30 minutes. The upcoming dates are:

Saturday Oct. 28 'Pipes and Brass'

Saturday Nov. 11th 'Remembrance Day'

Saturday Dec. 2nd 'Advent in Song'



Barbara and Andrew after Repose performance on Sept. 2.

Our church's **pipe organ** has a wonderful collective history and Richard Uhl provided an article for our church's website; be sure to read the article as it explains so much history of our church, beyond the organ itself! Once again, we are blessed. We have an on-going organ fund in our church budget for donations to financially help with organ repairs - I am thinking that many are unaware of this fund? So, we will be placing a box at the sanctuary entrance for donations so that we can reach a specific financial goal to repair some of the pipes.

In Christ's Service,
Barb



By the time you read this we will have celebrated LWMLC Sunday; a time to celebrate with our sisters across Canada and internationally with a service of praise and thanksgiving to our Lord for his blessings upon our league. This year marks our 30th anniversary as LWML Canada and our 59th year as an LWML society here at Hope. LWML women come in all ages and stages, and even shapes and sizes. Nevertheless, we share the common denominator: A heart for missions.

Our desire is to encourage all women to be rooted in God’s word and to respond to His grace through mission service and fellowship with other women. Won’t you join us?

October 21st is the next Vancouver Island Zone Rally!

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
394 Shepherd Ave., Nanaimo
9:30am – 3:00pm, Cost: \$10

Under the theme “Oaks of Righteousness” in which women weathering the storms of life place their trust in God’s promises of protection, mercy, and grace. “Come and lay your burdens down. To a place where freedom is found at the feet of Jesus, come! Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.” Proverbs 3:5



In His humble service
Deborah

Lutherfest Dinner



After Service on Reformation Sunday,
October 29th

Everyone Welcome!

Generously Sponsored by Hope
Lutheran’s LWML



And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matt 28:18-20)

Mustard Seed Bank - The Unseen Guest

When I was young, helping my mother set the table, I didn't always get the right number of place settings. If I set one too many, she would say that it was for the unseen guest, "Come Lord Jesus, be our guest...", as in in our table prayer.

Thanksgiving is a time of the year specifically set aside to give thanks. As Christians, we give thanks every day for what the Lord gives us! Jesus also reminds us to show love to one another.

With the struggles that many individuals and families face today, sometimes they are only able to afford one or two meals a day. Parents may not be able to send full lunches with their kids to school. This is why support of organizations like the Mustard Seed Food Bank



can make a difference in someone's life. Hope, for many years, has set aside April and October to support the food bank in Victoria.

Back to the idea of the unseen guest, I am asking you to consider donating (on the Other Missions line of your offering envelope one can write, "Mustard Seed Food Bank") the cost for just one meal for an individual or a family for the "unseen guest" at your table.

Bless you for considering this "thanks offering" to help a neighbour in our city. "We thank the Lord for meat and drink in Jesus' name. Amen"

In Christ,
Louise

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Heb 10:23-25)

Thanks To the Many Hands That Make Light Work!

Thanks to everyone who came out for the Servant Event!

Not able to come out for the event? There is a list of possible ways that you can serve your Lord on the bulletin board or below. As the tasks are completed, new ones can show up!

Some are ongoing ones to add to your weekly routine! Thanks be to God as we work together to support our church community!

These are opportunities to use the gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit! Suggestions, some of which are from the LWML-C's Tapestry, are below:

- Be a greeter and build relationships as you get to know people better
- Go to a Bible study that you haven't been to before,
- Knit or crochet hats/gloves/scarves to be donated this fall
- Set aside stamps to be put in the box in the foyer
- Drop in on the sewing group on Thursdays; experience not required
- Phone one person not on your regular list, just to say "hello"
- Donate, "with a grateful heart", to support your church, local organizations or ones from around the world,
- Drive someone to and from worship service or Bible Study
- Pray for others; phone and ask if they would like to pray with you
- On the calendar, write the name of a person or organization to pray for each day
- Assist with the slides or sound system
- Share your musical talents with us and/or become a lector or teller
- Contact the PPC or other church committees to offer to share your skills
- Be a photographer to take and print colour photos for the photo board and newsletter
- Contribute to the research for updating our church history

- Offer your talents as a touch up painter, a writer, cleaner, baker, weeder or pruner, event planner, phoner, and so on to Michael Rumsch, our Head Elder who can direct you whom to speak with (I pray that you are flooded with offers of help!) marumsch@hotmail.com or 250-588 - 0776

There are many Biblical verses to encourage and give us good reason to step out of our comfort zones to do something for someone else! Jesus tells us, whatever we do for the least of them, in His name, we do for Christ. God bless your day!

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col 3:16-17)

A First Anniversary

September 17th was the anniversary date for Living Hope Church, the second congregation in our church community. They celebrated with a special worship service in the sanctuary with guests from the rest of the Island and the lower mainland. Afterwards, celebrations continued downstairs with a delicious, shared meal. Thanks be to God!



Thank you, Theodora

for your many years of editing and publishing the "Our Family" newsletter. Your time and effort have been a great blessing to Hope Lutheran Church!



Newsletter Submissions Wanted!

Looking for articles, updates, photos, stories, memories, artwork... any and every thing to do with Hope Lutheran (and our faith) to be shared in our monthly newsletter.

Please contact me in person or at helcnewsletter@gmail.com with your submissions and suggestions. Hard copy submissions can be left in the designated mailbox near the members' mailboxes.

Please note, submissions are due the 25th of each month.

Thank You and God Bless,
Nicole

***God's Blessings to Everyone
with October Birthdays!***

Children's Corner and For Those Young at Heart

What are the peculiar windows in the church?

If you look around while sitting in the Divine Service, you'll most likely see windows that are different than the windows in your house. These windows are made with pieces of colored glass. These colored pieces may even have designs painted on them. Stained glass windows are a very important part of the church building.



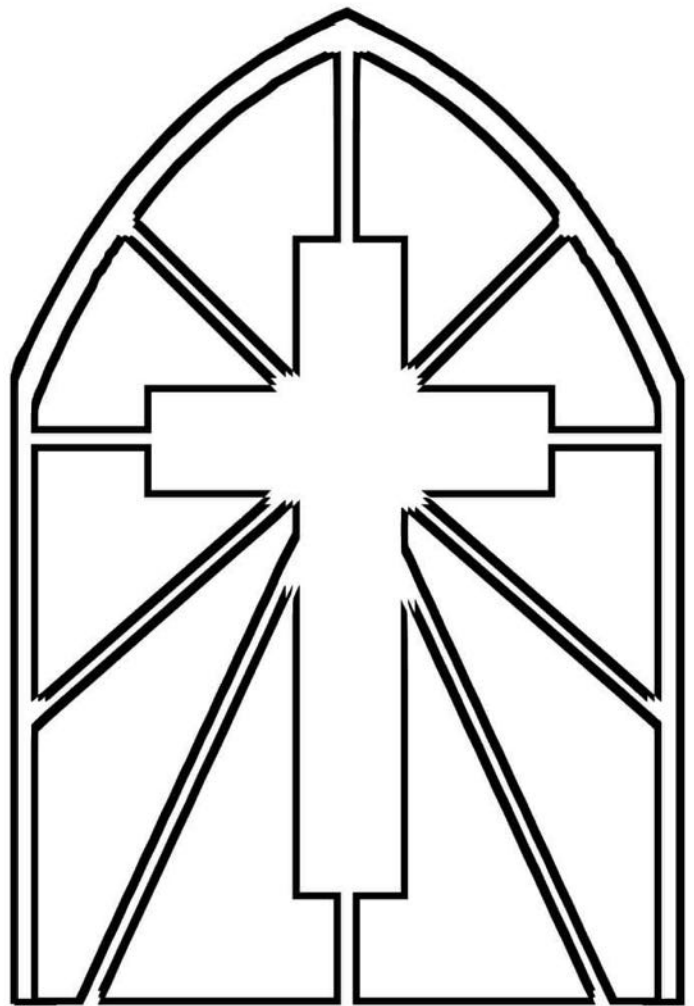
Why do we have stained glass windows in the church?

Stained-glass windows add to the beauty of God's house, but that's not all that they do. These windows are designed to teach us. If you look closely at the windows, you'll find that most of them contain wonderful imagery. This imagery usually depicts stories from the Bible, different Christian symbols or different articles of the Christian faith; and it's all wrapped up in beautiful pictures made from colored and painted glass! What a wonderful way to glorify our Lord and to proclaim the Gospel!



After worship, be sure to walk around and look at the windows with your child. If there are windows with different themes, take a few moments each week to discuss the individual teaching points of each window. Encourage your child to ask the pastor for help.

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Reformation Sunday

D S C S F F 5 L 9 T O F A D N F U
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95 Thesis
 Grace
 Lutheran
 Protestant

Faith
 Holy Spirit
 Martin
 Red

Germany
 Luther
 Printing Press
 Scripture

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1 18 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30am LWMLC Sunday 	2	3	4  Herb Hess	5 1:00 pm Sewing Group 3:00pm Belle Voci	6	7 10:00am Confirmation
8 19 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30am  Thanksgiving	9  Hilary McIntyre	10 10:00 am Bible Study	11	12 1:00 pm Sewing Group 3:00pm Belle Voci  Marie Russell Jean Bricklund Jessica Lind	13	14 10:00am Confirmation 3:00 pm Chimes Practice
15 20 th Sunday a Pentecost Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30am	16  Kevin Starling Milo Novakovics	17 10:00 am Bible Study	18	19 1:00 pm Sewing Group 3:00pm Belle Voci  Judith Kovats	20	21 9:30am-3:00pm LWMLC VI Zone Rally 10:00am Confirmation 1:30 Worsh. Comm. 3:00 pm Chimes Prac.
22 21 st Sunday a Pentecost Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30am	23 Pastor Away until Oct.28	24 10:00 am Bible Study	25  Robert Gibson	26 12:00 pm LWML Lunch & Learn 3:00pm Belle Voci	27  Eleanor Murdoch	28 10:00am Confirmation 3:00 pm "Repose"
29 Reformation Sunday Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30am Lutherfest Dinner   Gene Murdoch	30	31 10:00 am Bible Study  Nicolle Rushton	1	2 1:00 pm Sewing Group 3:00pm Belle Voci	3	4 10:00am Confirmation 3:00 pm Chimes Practice
	Notes	ELDERS: Michael Rumsch (250-588-0776) Bert Weiss (250-382-2612) Fred Smale (250-652-9396) Elder of the Month: Fred Smale		Altar Guild: Deborah Gruben Theodora Henry Eleanor Murdoch Louise Rushton		