



# Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

February 2024

Volume 14 No. 02

## *Pastor's Message*

We have a rare occurrence this year where Ash Wednesday falls upon Valentine's Day. We might presume repentance and romance are like... maybe not like oil and water but rather ash and water but they do better together than you might think. Both days are about love, albeit different kinds of love. Valentine's Day is more about romantic love while Ash Wednesday is a heart-rending love of sacrifice and devotion. The two holidays are definitely like a mixture of ash and water; it can burn.

The Old Testament text for Ash Wednesday declares,

*Return to the Lord your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;  
and he relents over disaster. (Joel 2:13)*

It is not a romantic love God has for us; it is a steadfast love. The Hebrew word for God's abounding love (*hesed*; this is a guttural "h" so you need some rasp to pronounce it properly) is the love of the covenant God forged at Mt. Sinai. God's love is His faithfulness—His steadfastness—to His people even when they betray Him and turn to worshipping false idols. He will always be there offering His care and salvation. If your spouse is repeatedly unfaithful to you, you will find it more than difficult to accept him/her back. However, God makes the sacrifice of forgiving our guilt that we may be welcomed when we return to Him.

It is this sacrificial love that describes the love between spouses in a Christian marriage. When St. Paul says, "Husbands, love your wives," (Eph 5:25) he uses a word for love that is not an emotional kind of love (*eros*) but a self-sacrificing love (*agapé*). This is the kind of love Christ described as sacrificing one's life for one's friends (John 15:13). And Paul does not just say to husbands that they should love their wives, but husbands should be loving their wives "as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her." Our love in Christ, especially to our spouses (actual and potential), is a love of being willing to sacrifice of ourselves for our loved ones' wellbeing and our forgiveness of them. That is what God does for us in Christ Jesus and that is how we are made the bride of Christ, the Church.

There are many passages in the Bible about how the people of God have been "unfaithful brides" to God (e.g. Ezek 16; Hosea 3) but they all end with God offering forgiveness. This is love—not that we have been perfect and earned the romance of our partner, but that we have received the life of our spouse given in love to us. Love covers a multitude of sins (1 Pt 4:18). Let us encourage one another, including our spouses, to avoid sin while always being ready to show love in forgiveness, just as Christ gave us the example to do.

Love,  
Pastor Adam Chandler

## Music Notes



During Lent, we will be singing “Savior, When in Dust to Thee” (Hymn 419). The poetry of this hymn was written by Robert Grant, who was a lawyer by profession. The tune is named after a town in west Wales, Aberystwyth. It was composed by Joseph Parry, of Wales, who became the first professor of music at Aberystwyth University in the late 1800’s.

The beauty of this hymn struck me while watching the series “The Crown” this past year. If you have seen this series, recall the graveside scene of the townspeople gathered beside all the graves of the school children who so sadly had their lives taken in the Aberfan mining tragedy of 1966, in South Wales. The entire community sang this hymn spontaneously at the mass grave site as a cry of hope and comfort for the unimaginable loss they were suffering. During Lent, we will sing many hymns, all of significance, but this particular Lenten hymn is an unbelievable human cry of pain, suffering, and begging of forgiveness and mercy; *‘Hear our penitential cry!’*

In Service to Our Lord,  
Barb

## LWML-C News



### Tapestry Renewal

It has been reported by the LWML-C Treasurer that the production of the Tapestry is already over budget for this triennium with two more issues to come in the current subscription year. Changes will be made to avoid using mites to cover these costs:

1. The Spring 2024 issue will have four fewer pages, thus lowering both printing and postage

costs to some extent. Printing and mailing costs will be covered by funds other than mites on this one-time basis.

2. The Summer 2024 issue will NOT be published in print. That issue will be available online in some form although at this point, the details are still being worked out.

3. Looking to the 2024/25 subscription year, the board of directors has made some tweaks to the subscription rates and approved the production of three issues each year in place of four. Discussion regarding the possible publishing of an online fourth issue each year is ongoing.

The deadline date for renewals has changed from April 30 to March 15. This change was a request from the finance committee to make setting triennium budgets for the magazine easier. After this year, the deadline date will move to February 15 of each year with renewal forms available in November.

The renewal fee is \$15 for regular print, \$18 for large print. If you wish to continue your subscription or if you are a new subscriber, please forward your fees to Theodora Henry before March 15. A digital version is also available for \$10/year; forward fees and your email to Theodora.

In His Service,  
Theodora

### *A Note of Thanks*

Thank you to all who came to the “Carols of the Ukraine” Repose on Jan. 6, and for your generosity. A total of \$317 was collected to help with mission work in the Ukraine.

## *Church Directory*

The 2024 Church Directory will be available in print from the Office on February 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have any changes you would like to make to your information, please submit them to the Church Office (email: [helc@shaw.ca](mailto:helc@shaw.ca)) by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

## *Coldest Night of the Year*

The Coldest Night of the Year is a family-friendly walk in support of local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness.



Pastor Chandler is leading a team to walk in this fundraiser, hosted by Our Place Society, on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. A pledge form will be available in the narthex, and you can contact Pastor Chandler to join the Team. You can also visit [cnoy.org/home](http://cnoy.org/home) to donate or register to fundraise.

## *Showing our Appreciation for Our Gifts from God*

February is sometimes called Friendship Month, but it is also a lovely time to express appreciation for others, including: Mission workers, pastors, volunteers, neighbours, friends, support people, family, and people who serve God in so many other ways. It can also, like any other month, be a time to support anyone in the community in need of being cared for themselves.

At the same time, it is right to give thanks and praise to God for being able to serve each other. In Matthew 5:6, it reads, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." We serve, with love, because of God's love first heaped upon us.

A letter, card, small gift, or phone call acknowledging positive attributes are just a few ways to uplift people. That one action may be an answer to their prayer of asking God for reassurance that they are doing His will through their own actions.

We gain strength from God, by way of encouragement, to not hide our gifts, but to support our community in whatever way that we are able to do so. In verse 16 of the 5th chapter of Matthew, it tells us to, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Therefore, we give thanks to God for Pastor Chandler, our church leaders and organizers, our musicians, and for all the "behind the scenes" people who quietly serve the Lord by serving others.

Finally, we can all say, "My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:2

Thanks be to God!  
Louise

### *A Word of Thanks*

Thank you to the ladies who took part in the Cookie Walk and then let me have a box of the ensuing sweet results.

Paul

## *A Note from Praise Youth Group*

Greetings from the Hope Lutheran (Praise) Youth Group. We're looking for new members! If you or someone you know is between the ages of 12 and 19 and interested



in fellowship with other young Christians, join us on the first and third Saturday of every month at 11:30am for lunch and fun activities. We're also planning monthly outings to places such as the trampoline park, the pool, and mini golf.

In His Service,  
Fisher

### **The Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-12), Modified for Friends of the Aged**

BLESSED are they who understand  
my faltering step and palsied hand  
BLESSED are they who know that my ears today  
must strain to catch the things they say  
BLESSED are they who seem to know  
that my eyes are dim and my wits are slow  
BLESSED are they who look away  
when coffee spilled at table today  
BLESSED are they with a cheery smile  
who stop to chat for a little while  
BLESSED are they who never say  
you've told that story twice today  
BLESSED are they who know the ways  
to bring back memories of yesterdays  
BLESSED are they who make it known  
that I'm loved, respected, and not alone  
BLESSED are they who know I'm at a loss  
to find the strength to carry the Cross  
BLESSED are they who ease the days  
on my journey home in loving ways.

Paul Loofs

### **Psalm 23**

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Though are with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

### *God's Blessings to Everyone with February Birthdays!*

### **Newsletter Submissions Wanted!**

Please send your articles, updates, photos, stories, memories, artwork... any and every thing to do with Hope Lutheran (and our faith) to [helcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:helcnewsletter@gmail.com) Hard copy submissions can be left in the designated mailbox right of the members' mailboxes.

Submissions are due the 26<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Thank You and God Bless,  
Nicole





## *Lenten Services*

February 14, 2024	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Pancake Supper (free-will offering, proceeds will go to fund our Youth events)
		7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
February 18, 2024	Sunday	10:30 am	First Sunday in Lent
February 21, 2024	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
		7:00 pm	Mid-week Service, Lent 1
February 25, 2024	Sunday	10:30 am	Second Sunday in Lent
February 28, 2024	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
		7:00 pm	Mid-week Service, Lent 2
March 3, 2024	Sunday	10:30 am	Third Sunday in Lent
March 6, 2024	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
		7:00 pm	Mid-week Service, Lent 3
March 10, 2024	Sunday	10:30 am	Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 13, 2024	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
		7:00 pm	Mid-week Service, Lent 4
March 17, 2024	Sunday	10:30 am	Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 20, 2024	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
		7:00 pm	Mid-week Service, Lent 5
March 23, 2024	Sunday	10:30 am	Passion/Palm Sunday
March 28, 2024	Thursday	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
March 29, 2024	Friday	10:30 am	Good Friday Service
March 31, 2024	Sunday	9:00 am	Easter Breakfast (free-will offering, proceeds will go to fund our Youth events)
		10:30 am	Easter Sunday Service



# Children's Corner and For Those Young at Heart

## What is Lent?

Lent is a season of the Church Year that lasts six weeks. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends the day before Easter Sunday. During these six weeks we look forward to Good Friday, the day our Lord died on the cross to pay for our sins, and to Easter Sunday, the day He rose from the dead to prove it!



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## How can I remember to think about Jesus during Lent?

You can give up something you enjoy during Lent. You might see your parents give up their morning coffee. Maybe your brother or sister has decided not to eat candy during Lent. Every time you think about doing what you gave up for Lent, it will remind you of what Jesus gave up for you — His life! Blessings to you as you experience the wonderful journey of Lent!



We encourage you to help your child decide on something in their life that they can give up during Lent. Be sure to give up something too. Being their example and companion on this journey makes a big difference!

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## Love Thy Neighbor



### Word list:

- |               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| BUILD         | HUMBLE   |
| CARE          | KIND     |
| COMPASSIONATE | LOVE     |
| ENCOURAGE     | MIND     |
| FORGIVE       | NEIGHBOR |
| GOD           | PRAY     |
| HEART         | SHARE    |
| HELP          | TREAT    |

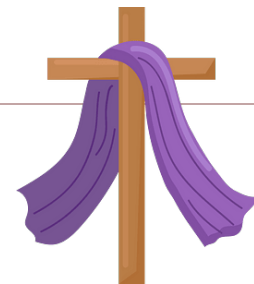


Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
28 4th Sunday after the Epiphany 10:30am Worship	29	30 10:00 am Bible Study	31	1 3:00pm Belle Voci	2	3 10:00am Confirmation 11:30am Youth Group 3:00 pm Chimes Practice
4 5th Sunday after the Epiphany 10:30am Worship 12:30pm Lunch with Pastor  Lindsay Marie Fitterer	5  Jacob Lind	6 10:00 am Bible Study  Richard Uhl	7 6:15pm PPC Meeting	8 3:00pm Belle Voci	9	10 10:00am Confirmation 3:00 pm Chimes Practice  Pastor Chandler
11 The Transfiguration of Our Lord 10:30am Worship	12	13 10:00 am Bible Study	14 Ash Wednesday ✝ 6:00pm Pancake Supper 7:00pm Service  Valentine's Day	15 1:00 pm Sewing Group (Heart Pillows) 3:00pm Belle Voci	16	17 10:00am Confirmation 11:30am Youth Group 3:00 pm Chimes Practice
18 1st Sunday in Lent 10:30am Worship	19	20 10:00 am Bible Study	21 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lent 1 Service	22 12:00 pm LWML Lunch & Learn 3:00pm Belle Voci	23	24 10:00am Confirmation 2:00pm Youth Group Activity 3:00 pm Chimes Practice
25 2nd Sunday in Lent 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Congregation Meeting	26	27 10:00 am Bible Study	28 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lent 2 Service	29 1:00 pm Sewing Group 3:00pm Belle Voci	1	2 10:00am Confirmation 11:30am Youth Group 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:** Michael Rumsch


**Altar Guild:**  
 Deborah Gruben  
 Theodora Henry  
 Eleanor Murdoch  
 Louise Rushton



# Prayer Calendar



## February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> Be with us Lord Jesus as we enter into a new month.	<b>2</b> Lord we thank you for being with us through this week's challenges.	<b>3</b> Father help me to slow down and enjoy this day with my family.
<b>4</b> Dear God be with us as we go to your house of worship today.	<b>5</b> Father God we ask you to be with us as we begin another week.	<b>6</b> We pray for those who are lonely and aging. Please send them some joy today.	<b>7</b> Lord, thanks for family and friends. A quarter for each of the people you love.	<b>8</b> Heavenly Father we pray your blessing on mothers with small children.	<b>9</b> We pray that You Lord will be with those who suffer daily with chronic pain.	<b>10</b> Lord please lead guide and direct us today according to your will.
<b>11</b> Lord God we pray for all pastors as they share the wisdom of your word today.	<b>12</b> Lord, please lead guide and direct us through this coming week.	<b>13</b> God, help us to see this life from a heavenly perspective.	<b>14</b> Lord, thank you for your unconditional love for us. \$2 for every Valentine you receive.	<b>15</b> Lord, Help me to follow you all the days of my life.	<b>16</b> Dear Father, thank you for the privilege of being called your Child.	<b>17</b> Father, please make yourself known to us in our weakest moments.
<b>18</b> Lord be with all families today as they worship you today.	<b>19</b> Dear Lord, help me to be sensitive and caring as I serve others this week.	<b>20</b> Father God, give us grateful hearts, today and every day.	<b>21</b> Father, thanks for the people in my life. \$2 for everyone you encounter today.	<b>22</b> Lord, please use me as Your instrument to touch others' lives.	<b>23</b> Help me Lord to build others up with words of encouragement.	<b>24</b> Teach me, Lord to still my soul before you. 
<b>25</b> Lord, help us not to be just hearers of Your Word; but doers as well.	<b>26</b> Give me a strong desire, Lord, to seek your Word daily.	<b>27</b> Father God, please use me in the lives of others.	<b>28</b> Lord, keep us safe during this winter season. \$1 if you shovelled snow this week.	<b>29</b> Lord, You have done so much for me, please show me what I can do to serve you today.		

This calendar has been prepared for your use by the Christian Growth Committee of Lutheran Women's Missionary League—Canada