



Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

April 2024

Volume 14 No 04

Pastor's Message

Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. This is the foundation of our faith, for without Christ's triumph over death we ourselves cannot be raised.

¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. (1 Cor 15)

The whole of Christianity rests on Christ's resurrection. If Christ had not been raised from the dead, that would mean that God had not raised him, which would mean God the Father had not listened to Christ as His Son and Christ was wrong about being the Son. And if Christ's testimony was wrong, then his declarations of forgiveness and eternal life would be wrong.

Christ rising from the dead is the miracle that demonstrates God has heard the Son and that Christ has power over death. It is proof that Christ's words are true and the Father listens to him. On account of the resurrection, we know that we have an advocate with the Father for the forgiveness of sins.

When you share the faith with people outside of the Church, you should be preaching the Gospel: Christ died to forgive your sins and rose from death to give you new life (1 Cor 15:3-4).

These words "witnessing Christ" is what creates faith and brings people into salvation (Rom 1:13-17). Therefore, we should always lead our witness of Christ with the Gospel that people may have the word of salvation given to them. From there, the Holy Spirit will take care of the work of conversion.

When people are hesitant to believe the Gospel, that is the signal for us to provide further support for the hope of our salvation. Since our salvation lies in the resurrection, the best thing to do is focus on proof that Christ rose from the dead. You can ask, "If Jesus rose from the dead, what would that mean for you?" If Christ did rise from the dead, the only explanation would be there is something supernatural raising him from the dead. Christ explained this as God raising him from the dead and God equipping him to raise others from death to life at the final judgment (John 5:24-29).

What is the evidence we have to conclude Jesus rose from the dead? We have four eyewitness biographies of Jesus in the Bible, all of which were written by people willing to suffer, die, and be judged eternally by God for these statements. There is no good reason to believe that these are lies or illusions but historical accounts of Jesus' life and death. Of course, this is only a quick explanation. Anyone can contact me for further information on how to defend the faith or request a Bible study on the topic.

Pastor Adam Chandler

Music Notes



Martin Luther proclaimed that, “Music is one of the fairest and most glorious gifts of God.” He refers not only to the gifts of musicians and the importance of their role in worship, but to the gifts we all receive when we incorporate music into our lives, either by actively being part of a musical collaboration or by being a passive listener of music. And to quote Plato, music “...gives wings to our souls”.

Within our worship service, music has many roles to play, and it allows each and every person to be enriched by it. Some of these roles are:

- a signal for the beginning of worship service, as we have incorporated with our ‘Meditation’ at the beginning of our services,
- an opportunity for people to share in community, as we do in rehearsal time with our choirs,
- an opportunity to share God’s love, as we do when we open our doors to newcomers, and in offering community recitals,
- a time for meditation, as we do with pre-service music,
- a chance to express joy, sorrow, faith, love, hope..., as we do when we sing our hymns.

Imagine a worship service without music... When we have been uplifted through the music during the service, the entire worship service itself is uplifted. Those who worship in the pews find their hearts and minds opened to hear more clearly and receive more fully the spoken messages of the readings, the sermon, and the prayers. And, when we scatter into our weekday world, we will do so with more God-given power if there is music echoing in our hearts and a tune on our lips. Music is that powerful medium to

embed an emotion that will enhance the spoken word.

When you see one of our church musicians, take the time to thank them for uplifting your spirit, for making the worship service more powerful, for augmenting the spoken words of the sermon and the readings, and for keeping us ‘alive’ here at Hope.

In Christ’s service,
Barb

Repose Recital

“Songs from Ireland” was the theme of the Repose Recital held on March 16, and it was a festive St. Patrick’s event that included four instruments—cornet, voice, piano and ukulele! Many thanks to Barbara and Ian for sharing their beautiful music with us fortunate listeners!



Photo courtesy of Theodora Henry



Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord.

The old adage tells us that with April showers come May flowers. In LWMLC terms, the month of April brings our annual Spring Rally, a special day to gather together with our sisters in Christ from across Vancouver Island.

ALL ladies are invited to join in this fellowship:
on:

Saturday, April 20th
At Trinity Lutheran
2704 James Street, Duncan, BC
9:30-3:00pm

Under the theme “Open Wide Your Hands to the Poor and Needy” based on Deuteronomy 15:11

Come! Meet Cheryl Howard, director and outreach worker sharing the love of Christ through her faith based “Life on Wheels” ministry.

Our ingathering gift items are primarily for women’s needs (see bulletin board for a complete list). We suggest items of personal hygiene, warm socks, underwear, snacks, and gift cards. Learn through Bible study, skits, and devotions how Jesus exemplified the commandment to love one another. Carpooling can be arranged, if needed.

“Sing to the Lord a New Song” is the theme for the 12th Regular LWMLC Convention, scheduled for July 11-14 at the Four Points Sheraton in London, Ontario. REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE. Don’t miss this opportunity to hear how music glorifies God in worship and its use in other cultures. Meet

keynote speaker Deb Burma and inter-session speakers Rev. Paulo Brum, from Brazil, Rev. Walta Clercius, from Haiti, French Ministry, and Rev. Peter Gatluak, Sudanese Ministry. Together they will share the gift of music as used to glorify God in cross-cultural ministry. More details to follow.

In the doxology we sing praise to our God from whom all blessings flow and we come before Him and you with thanks and praise in our humble hearts as we reach the end of our triennium, meeting all our mission goals. Definitely something to sing about!!

In church life we joined in the celebration of two birthdays: Adele Yager and Theo Henry, each lady an example to us all. May God grant them wisdom, courage and strength as they shine His light forward.



Photo of Adele courtesy of Theodora Henry

In His Service
Deborah

A Note from Praise Youth Group

The youth group played mini golf at the Haunted Manor on Yates St on March 22. It was a fun and, at times, a puzzling course that elicited only a few screams from certain attendees.



I asked God for strength, that I might achieve;
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health, that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.

I asked for riches, that I might be happy;
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men;
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need for God.

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life;
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for,
But everything that I had hoped for.

Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were
answered.
I am, among all men, truly blessed.

Author Unknown

And Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; peace I give to you." (John 12:37)

After reading an article in the Spring 2024 LWML-C Tapestry by Jane Jacob, entitled, "Understanding the Hebrew Word Shalom", my writing focus changed.

I had already begun this month's article, but had stopped. It seemed all wrong. When I read the above mentioned one, I realized that I had written about what we needed to do to get the results we wanted, not about how or what the Lord freely gives us, at times even before we ask, including the gift of peace. When we worry about the tasks God sets out for us or what the future holds for us concerning our church, we forget what it says in Isaiah 26:3, "You (God) keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."

Worry, in the sense of doubting God will do as He promises, is a sin. Jesus died and rose again to take away our sins. We say that we believe this with our whole hearts! He has risen, He has risen indeed! Alleluia!

However, we at times think that by worrying, we somehow can fix the problems ourselves. No! God tells us to, "Be still; trust in Him!". "Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Philip. 4:6). Continuing, Paul says to the Philippian congregation the same words that our Pastor tells us every Sunday when he says, "Amen", (it will be done) "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.". In other words, God gives us a peace that we

cannot even fathom as well as protects our emotions and our thoughts each and every day as we follow Jesus!

We are not to sit, do nothing, and hope for the best. God gives us our hearts and minds and His Word to help us choose the best course of action. It is for us to pray, to make calm decisions and do the tasks before us with a thankful heart and in a peaceful way, together as a community of faith, while trusting in our Lord.

When we make decisions and act in this way, then we can start to understand that what Jesus tells us is most certainly true.

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I will give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." (John 14:27)

In Christ,
Louise



Photo courtesy of Laura Frandsen

One Day at a Time

One day at a time, with its failures and fears,
With its hurts and mistakes, with its weakness and tears,
With its portion of pain and its burden of care;
One day at a time we must meet and must bear.

One day at a time to be patient and strong,
To be calm under trial and sweet under wrong;
Then its toiling shall pass and its sorrow shall cease;
It shall darken and die, and the night shall bring peace.

One day at a time - but the day is so long,
And the heart is not brave, and the soul is not strong,
O Thou pitiful Christ, be Thou near all the way;
Give courage and patience and strength for the day.

Swift cometh His answer, so clear and so sweet;
"Yea, I will be with thee, thy troubles to meet;
I will not forget thee, nor fail thee, nor grieve;
I will not forsake thee; I never will leave."

Not yesterday's load we are called on to bear,
Nor the morrow's uncertain and shadowy care;
Why should we look forward or back with dismay?
Our needs, as our mercies, are but for the day.

One day at a time, and the day is His day;
He hath numbered its hours, though they haste or delay.
His grace is sufficient; we walk not alone;
As the day, so the strength that He giveth His own.

Annie Johnson Flint

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 Hard copy submissions can be left in the designated mailbox right of the members' mailboxes.

Thank You and God Bless,
Nicole

Children's Corner and For Those Young at Heart

What is the "church"?

When someone says the word "church," we usually think of a place people go to worship. The Lutheran Confessions teach us that the church is the "assembly of all the believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the Holy Sacraments are administered according to the Gospel." Wow! The church is so much more than a building!



If the church is more than just the building, then why is the building and everything in it so important?

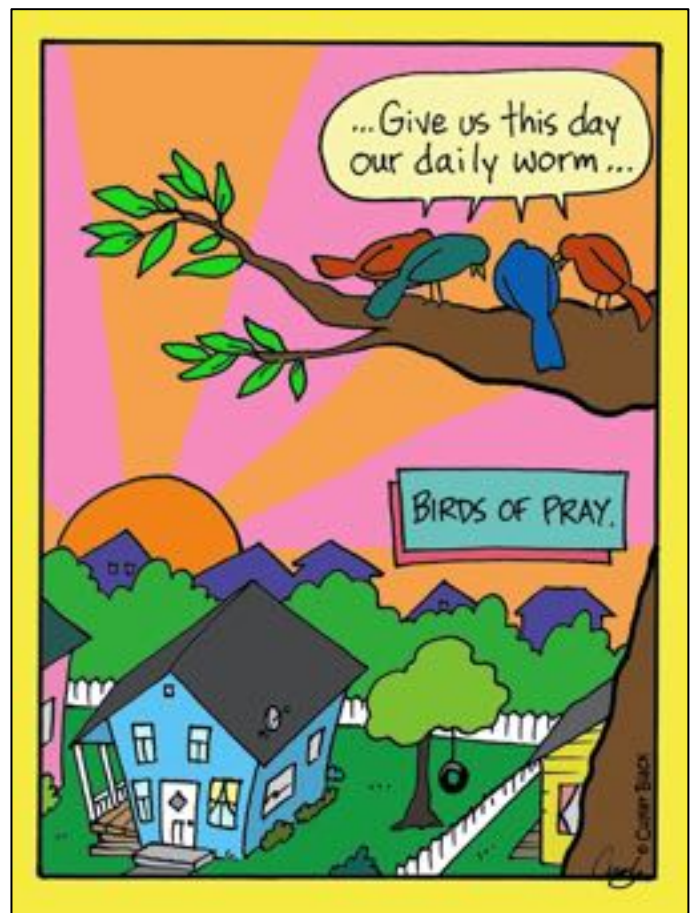
The church building, or the "sanctuary," is a place where God is present. We know that our Lord has promised to come to us in His Sacraments. Since God is actually here with us in His house, we should be very reverent, or respectful. We don't want anything in the church pulling us away from what God gives us in His Word and Sacraments. Everything should direct our attention toward Him.










Before or after the service, direct your children to the wonderfully Gospel-rich symbolism found in the sanctuary, including the altar, windows and banners. Remind them that the Lord truly comes to us here in

His Word and Sacraments. He brings us what we really need: the forgiveness of sins.

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Easter Sunday 9:00am Breakfast 10:30am Service	1	2 10:00am Bible Study	3	4	5	6 10:00am Confirmation 11:30am Youth Group
7 2nd Sunday of Easter 10:30am Worship 12:30pm Lunch with <i>Pastor</i>	8  Elvira Balodis	9 10:00am Bible Study  Matthew Russell	10	11 1:00pm Sewing Group	12	13 10:00am Confirmation
14 3rd Sunday of Easter 10:30am Worship	15  April Gibson	16 10:00am Bible Study	17	18 1:00pm Sewing Group (Heart Pillows) 3:00pm Belle Voci  Helga Brown	19	20 Vancouver Island Zone LWML Spring Rally 10:00am Confirmation 3:00pm Chimes Practice
21 4th Sunday of Easter 10:30am Worship	22	23 10:00am Bible Study	24	25 12:00pm LWML Lunch & Learn 3:00pm Belle Voci	26	27 10:00am Confirmation 3:00pm Chimes Practice
28 5th Sunday of Easter 10:30am Worship  Brenda McKinley	29  Rider McIntyre	30 10:00am Bible Study	1	2 1:00pm Sewing Group 3:00pm Belle Voci	3	4 10:00am Confirmation 3:00pm 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			

Prayer Calendar



April 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Thank you, God for this Easter season. The strife is o'er, the battle done; Alleluia!	2 Thank you God, <i>"that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."</i> (Romans 5:8)	3 Thanks Lord, for the feeding program in Nicaragua. \$2 if you started any vegetable seeds.	4 Gracious Lord, grant us patience as we wait for new growth to sprout this spring.	5 God bless our brothers and sisters in the ILUCOR church in Costa Rica.	6 Dear Lord, help us to be still and know that you are God. 
7 Our Father, open our ears to hear Your Word and to take it to heart.	8 Please God, bless us this week. Guide us to do Your will with our words and actions.	9 May Your will be done through the work of the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society.	10 (Sibling Day). Lord thank you for family. Give \$1 for each sibling you have.	11 Praise and thanksgiving to You, for the hope that is ours in Christ Jesus.	12 Protect our youth and young adults from the lures of the devil, dear Lord.	13 Dear God, help us to see the needs of those around us and to do what we can to help.
14 <i>"This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."</i> (Psalm 118:24)	15 God, bless the people working for the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua.	16 Please help us share Your peace and comfort with those who have lost a loved one.	17 Lord thank you for our youth. \$5 if you have attended or helped with a youth gathering.	18 Guide our prayers and support for the people of Ukraine and Russia.	19 Keep Rev. Navrotsky and the people of the SELCU synod in Ukraine safe.	20 Help us to live as your forgiven children, praising You with our words and actions.
21 Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.	22 Thank you God for creating our world and everything in it. Keep us mindful of this gift.	23 Guide us to support Malabar Mission Society, Inc. workers in India with our prayers.	24 Lord prayers for all in war-torn countries. \$5 if you participate in earth day.	25 Our Father, hold our families and loved ones in Your hand and keep them safe.	26 Lord, help us to hold fast to the blessed hope of everlasting life through Christ Jesus.	27 Thank you God for the growing church in Cambodia. Uphold the CLC and it's people.
28 May Your Word be proclaimed in it's truth and purity from every LCC pulpit today.	29 Please Lord, grant a day of rest to all our clergy this week. Grant them Your peace.	30 May you provide for the needs of the TCLC ministry and it's people in Thailand.				