

Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

May 2024

Volume 14 No. 05

Pastor's Message

The Christian Church thrives on connection and a person thrives due to their connection to the Church of God. The Lord works through His Church to bring us life; therefore, we are thriving through the Church and people can thrive when the Church connects people to Christ. I am not talking about fellowship specifically, since that denotes having one faith, one Spirit, and one baptism in common. We are connected to more people than baptized Christians and it is always good to make these connections.

Last month, there were Sunday announcements of some connections we have. We took collections for the Lutheran Association of Missionary Pilots (LAMP) and BC Mission Boat. Then there was the call for LWMLC to join their sisters in the Vancouver Island circuit at the spring rally in Duncan. At the Duncan rally, donations were given to a Christian organization—Life on Wheels—to help street people in that city. This can remind us of how we donated 20 drawstring bags at Christmas to the homeless in Victoria through the aptly named Street Hope Victoria.

Part of our May announcements feature yet more connections we have: the monthly prayer service at Amica Jubilee House, participation with Lutherans for Life in the March for Life, and the LCC Vancouver Island Circuit, currently planning a circuit-wide picnic and hike at Mt Washington on July 6. Beyond this, we can also point out our connections to the whole LCC Synod, Hope Lutheran's Bella Voci choir (having

some members outside of our congregation), Heart House Victoria (our sewing group making their heart-shaped pillows), Living Hope Christian Church, parking lot renters, and many more.

When we get down to it, our congregation has a lot of connections to a lot of groups and individuals in both Christian and secular circles. This is good. The Church thrives on connections because it spreads life through Christ in these connections. Christ sustains Christians and offers life to unbelievers by his Word. For this purpose, Hope Lutheran lives in this city. We are here to spread the good news of Jesus Christ that all might believe and be saved in him.

The question now becomes: how can we best use our connections to spread the Gospel and help those in need? This means looking to the connections we have and thinking about how to strengthen and extend them. Something else we can consider is increasing the number of connections we have. Who do you know outside our congregation who you can contact or invite to worship or an event? There are outreach opportunities like Repose recitals and Lunch with Pastor while offering standing invitations to our services. It is good to think of our connections and consider how Christ may fill them with his love and grace. We are not yet doing all we can in upholding our connections, but with your help, by the grace of God, we can.

In Christ,
Pastor Adam Chandler

Music Notes



The month of May brings the long season of Pentecost, symbolized by the color green 🍃, and 'green' is known for symbolizing growth, tranquility, re-birth, and renewal. Take some time to look in our hymnal and reference some of the beautiful Pentecost hymns (496 - 503, 650, 768, 913). The most ancient, of course, is Veni Sancte Spiritus (Come, Holy Spirit), sung in Christian masses throughout time.

It is fitting that, during the month of May, our Chime choir has been refreshed by gaining a new member, Milo. We welcome him with open arms and are thankful for his energy.

It is also fitting to celebrate this season of spiritual growth and inspiration with another Repose Recital, Saturday May 25th 3 pm, with the voices of Belle Voci Choir and our Chime Choir. All are welcome, bring your friends and neighbours, enjoy the music, take time to reflect, and witness the growth of our musical garden and offerings here at Hope.

Blessings,
Barb

LWML-C News



We've Got Mail

Rally Thank You to Island Zone Societies

A heartfelt 'thank you' to everyone who opened wide their hands to help the homeless with addiction, mental health, and disability issues. The rally hosted at Trinity welcomed two Pastors, three guests and 27 LWMLC Island society members. (Due to illness and a date mix-up, six more had planned to attend.) Our Opening Devotion had to be changed to reading the April 20th Portal of Prayer, which focused on helping the homeless. Did the Lord,

knowing what would happen, inspire the writer for this day?

Thanks to our women who worked so hard preparing and serving a great lunch, and did registration and recording of the in-gathering. Also to Debbie, who did photocopying and helped designs the bookmarks and placemats. All things considered, it was a wonderful day.

Quoting Scripture, the speaker kept us all in rapt attention as she described her life as a mother, grandmother, former teacher, author, Olympian athlete, farmer, and gardener, just how the Lord prepared her for these times and the tough work of helping the homeless. In-gathering totals to date: Many toiletries kits for men and women, laundry soap, face cloths, paper products, new socks, underwear, bags of extra socks, toiletries, and using thrift store value on gently used items of clothing, bedding, quilts, totaled \$1195. Plus \$705 in credit cards, cash = \$1900, with more coming in, it will be over \$2000 for this charity.



To God Be the Glory



Plans are well underway for the national convention, and you are encouraged to attend either in person or online. Registration is available online at lutheranwomen.ca/event/national-convention/. If it is not possible for you to attend, you can still be part of the convention. Society members will answer the call to serve God's people by assembling Cups of Blessings. We all have an overabundance of cups in our cupboards; fill one of yours with a tea bag, hot chocolate, soup mix, grocery gift cards, coffee cards, or bus tickets, and place them in the basket in the Narthex. We are currently looking into Street Hope Victoria for distribution.



Let's Get Physical! Plans are being made for a one-and-a-half hour hike up Mount Washington on July 6. This is a Circuit-wide challenge to us all to join our brothers and sisters in spending some time together in God's creation. Pledges collected by LWML participants will support the work of LWML-Canada.



To God be the Glory!

His servant,
Deborah

Public Recognition of Baptism

A Public Recognition of Baptism occurs when the body of Christ, represented by the congregation, accepts the baptism of a Christian based on one or more witnesses reporting it so that the baptized may be welcomed as a fellow Christian.

On April 21, this rite was performed during the Service at Hope for Roman Paquette, who had been previously baptized by his mother, Marie-Ève. Welcome to the family, Roman!



Congregation Meeting on Sunday, May 26

The next meeting, after worship, is an important one because the members will elect the congregation's officers for a two-year term, starting July 1. Without a full complement of officers, it will be difficult for the church to continue its day-to-day activities, and to move forward with our "hope-full" plan for the next five years. So, if you are interested in *standing for any position*, please contact Melvin or Linda.



A Note from Praise Youth Group

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the youth free-will offering during the Easter Morning Breakfast; we received a total of \$290!

On April 20th, the youth group visited Beacon Hill Park. We started at the Children's Farm, where we enjoyed petting the goats, and looking at the peacocks, chickens, and ducks, as well as the other wonderful animals they have there. Then we walked around, enjoying nature, and then we got lunch from the Beacon Hill Drive-In restaurant, and sat in the sun while having a devotion. To finish it off, we had ice cream while walking around some more. Needless to say, we had a wonderful time, enjoying God's beautiful creation!



Milo



Rest in Peace

It is with much sadness to write to you about Ralph Huber; God called him home on April 25th.

Ralph and his wife Elaine attended Hope for many years in the past. He was a gentle man, quiet, but would gladly help when he was able to do so. He served as Lector, and also made crosses for our hall.

The next time you are in church, sitting at one of the tables downstairs, with either a beautifully made wooden cross or one of the white Easter crosses, you will notice a small imprint of RFH near the bottom. Ralph, by request, made all these crosses as a visual statement of our faith for when we join together in fellowship for a meal or other gathering.

Ralph will be missed by his wife, family, and friends, but we have the reassurance that he is now with our Lord. God be with you all.

In remembrance of Ralph, there will be a Celebration of Life at 1155 Fort St on May 13th at 2pm. Donations to the Alzheimer Society are much appreciated.

Words of Wisdom for our Children; Instructions for our Fathers and Mothers

In the first chapter of Proverbs, King Solomon tells young people to "embrace wisdom". "Listen, my [child], to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck." (vs. 8-9, NIV).

Not just Solomon but all his subjects were teaching his children. He says it is good to be well-educated and disciplined so that you can know, "right and justice and fair" (vs. 3, NIV). I believe that any young person today is content with his or her life if actions affecting his/her life are right and just and fair.

Much as we want a world with these qualities, neither we nor the world are without sin. It is for this reason that parents and guardians are instructed to bring their children to be baptized and instructed in the Word so that they can be children of God, so that He will always be at their side. Jesus told the disciples not to keep the children from Him; "People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Luke 18:15-16, NIV).

When Paul was teaching Timothy, a young disciple being instructed to care for the church at Ephesus (Concordia Self-Study Bible NIV, p. 1847), it is noted in 1 Timothy 5:10 that [a woman] should be, "well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children". As in the past, women (and men) are still encouraged to support and encourage all children in their

midst. In the recent Public Recognition of Baptism of Roman Paquette, everyone in our congregation was asked to repeat, "We welcome you in the name of the Lord." We are not only to pray for Roman, but also to love and nurture him as our brother in Christ.

So it is to be for all of us. We are to pray for and love all our brothers and sisters. Mother's Day and Father's Day are special days set aside for us to recognize our parents. However, every day we are to "honour [our] father and [our] mother so that [we] may live long in the land the Lord [our] God is giving [us]" (Exodus 20:12, NIV). As well, "[Parents], do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4, NIV)

God encourages us to share His wisdom with our youth so that it, "may be a garland to grace [their] head[s]." Ephesians 6:24 closes with this blessing, words of wisdom for all of us, "Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love."

In Christ,
Louise

To the Hope Congregation,

My deep thanks to you all for your concern, your cards and calls and visits—it's so heartwarming to feel Christian neighbourly love!

The worst is over, but now one month of controlled recovery... see you in May!

Paul

Some Thoughts on Success

We all like success stories—the accomplishment of some worthwhile aim or an outstanding career. But here in [North] America, success usually means the attainment of wealth and the position and fame that go with it. All good stuff, people say, especially when they accomplished it, or it happened to them.

But like always, there are two sides to it: Was the success for a truly good goal in the first place, and by what means was it reached? Both are important considerations for Christians, for, as Mother Theresa said, “We are not called to be successful, only faithful”.

Success can be achieved over a short term (for example, graduating from confirmation class or high school) or can take many years (like raising your children to be upright citizens, firm in faith). Either way, what matters is the quality of the accomplishment and its lasting effort.

How may good people have been corrupted to commit bad deeds by so-called opportunities to enrich themselves! Refreshingly, there are also examples of bad people seeing the light and going straight—like the tax collector Jesus called from the tree (Luke 19:5). The decisive factor always is the motivation for achieving “success”—is it only for your own benefit or also for that of others?

It is especially so with accumulating riches, for “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt 6:21). While there is no inherent virtue in being poor—you may become a burden on others—and even Jesus said the poor will always be with us, there is certainly nothing wrong with striving for better pay or position, especially when your family is

growing and requires more. Yet once you have what you need and a nest-egg to boot, continuing to chase after more even in retirement easily degenerates into plain greed (Luke 12:15), a grave, often self-destructive, sin.

[North] Americans are famous for their entrepreneurial spirit to become successful, and yes, there are truly amazing stories of inventors and businesspeople. On the other hand, do we need millionaires and now even billionaires, who spend incredible sums on questionable projects? They may employ people, but rarely help the masses or reduce social ills. True, there are good examples of rich people having donated millions to worthwhile causes, like building hospitals or funding universities, and that is good for them, too, for it will be difficult for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God (Mark 10:23).

Clearly, whether being rich is a sin or not depends on what you do with those riches (which also may be in the form of talents or capabilities—think sports and entertainment figures). That question leads all the way back to why we are on earth and what we are expected to do here; Follow His commandments, notably the later “love one another as I have loved you” (John 13:34). In other words, help others (and without boasting, see Eph 2:8-10), that is support your church and give to charities, together with neighbourly deeds. That may be a tall order but fulfilling it or trying to will be satisfying indeed.

Paul

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

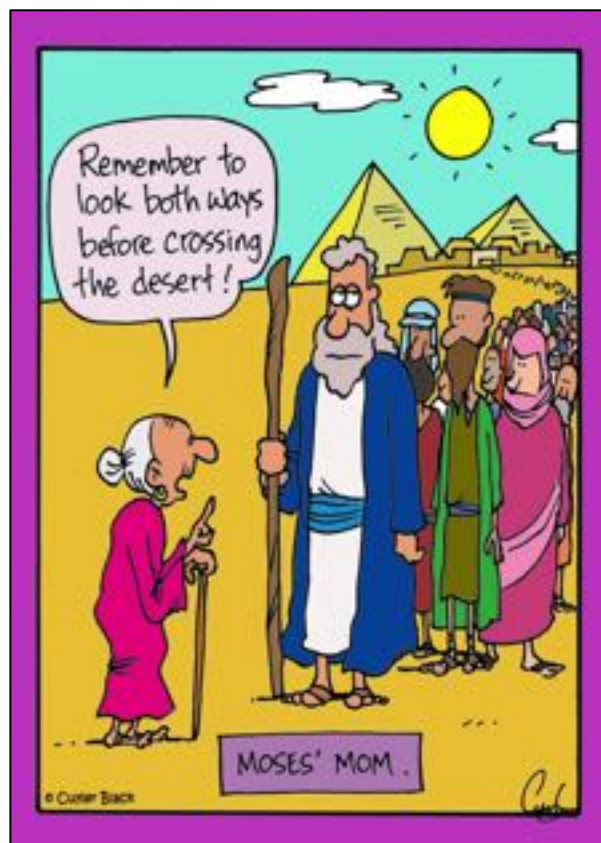
Children's Corner and For Those Young at Heart

What is "Pentecost"?

The word "Pentecost" (pronounced PEN-tuh-kost) comes from the Greek word pentekostos which means "fiftieth." Exactly 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in the form of flames of fire.


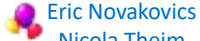






Why is Pentecost so important?

When Jesus died, the disciples were sad because they thought that their friend and Lord was gone forever. But Jesus rose again! Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus did finally ascend into heaven leaving the disciples below. However, before Jesus actually died, rose again, and ascended into heaven, He made a promise to His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit to them. He said that the Holy Spirit would come and guide them "into all the truth" (John 16:13). Jesus doesn't leave us alone to fend for ourselves. Jesus is here with us, and the Holy Spirit guides and leads the Church into the truth of the wonderful Gospel! We celebrate and remember this at Pentecost.



At home, read the story of Pentecost in Acts 2 to your children. Remind them that the Holy Spirit comes to us through the Word and Sacraments just as our Lord has promised. Encourage them to thank God for the gift of His Holy Spirit in their lives.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 5 th Sunday of Easter 10:30am Worship	29	30 10:00am Bible Study	1	2 1:00pm Sewing Group 3:00pm Belle Voci	3 	4 10:00am Confirmation 11:30am Youth Group 2:30pm Amica Service 3:00pm Chimes Practice
5 6 th Sunday of Easter 10:30am Worship 12:30pm Lunch with Pastor	6	7 10:00am Bible Study	8	9 11:30am Walk for Life Prayer Service 1:45pm March 3:00pm Belle Voci <i>The Ascension of Our Lord</i>	10 	11 10:00am Confirmation 11:15am Chimes Practice
12 7 th Sunday of Easter 10:30am Worship <i>Mother's Day</i>  	13 	14 10:00am Bible Study	15	16 1:00pm Sewing Group (Heart Pillows) 3:00pm Belle Voci 	17	18 10:00am Confirmation 11:30am Youth Group 3:00pm Chimes Practice
19 The Day of Pentecost 10:30am Worship	20	21 10:00am Bible Study	22	23 3:00pm Belle Voci & Chimes 12:00pm LWML Lunch & Learn	24	25 3:00pm Repose Recital
26 The Holy Trinity 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Congregation Meeting	27	28 10:00am Bible Study	29 	30 1:00pm Sewing Group 3:00pm Belle Voci	31 	1
	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		