



Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

August 2024

Volume 14 No. 08

Pastor's Message

In previous summers, I sat out on the lawn of the church with a sign to get some people to stop and have faith conversations. My hope this August is to move to a more public space with more people to have even more talks. The sign this time will read, "Jesus Christ rose from the dead," and there are some other signs to stand by which read disagree, agree, and neutral. The point is to get people thinking about the resurrection and to reply to their thoughts. I'll inform the congregation more about this later but, for now, there is one thing I wish to address in this newsletter.

When you talk to people about the Christian faith, it is useful to keep the conversation focussed on one or two main topics. For my conversations this summer, the main topic is Jesus Christ rising from the dead. If people try to move the conversation away from this, I will gently guide them back to the resurrection, as that is the foundation of our faith which proves our forgiveness and salvation. This is why St Paul says that if Christ has not been raised from the dead, then we are still dead in our sins and have hope only in the things of this world (1 Cor 15:16-19). With the resurrection alone, we make the case for the whole of Christianity. You might want to focus on this singular point in your own faith conversations.

The problem of trying to address more than one or two topics in a discussion is that you

and the other person will cover too much ground. The focus gets lost and now you must support an entire system of beliefs instead of one thing. That is too complicated and the talk tends to move away from the things that matter.

Let's have an example of an overly complicated conversation: I present the case for the resurrection of Jesus Christ to an unbeliever who stops by for a chat. This person is skeptical of Christianity because they think (along with many people in society nowadays) that Christians dislike Indigenous peoples, hate people with alternative sexualities, force their values on people, etc. Now, these topics are important and should be addressed, but none directly point to the Gospel. Getting stuck on these things might mean you never get to proclaim to this person the life-saving message that Christ rose again for their salvation. It is best to suggest tabling other topics for future conversations and to refocus on the Gospel. You can give the person your contact information, or the contact information of your pastor, to speak on these things later.

When you talk about the faith, make the case for Christ by sticking to one or two topics. Just explain the reasons why you know his salvation to be true. You do not need to be an expert, only a witness of Christ.

God bless,
Pastor Adam Chandler

Music Notes



Summer is a wonderful time of relaxation and renewal. One of our beautiful canticles speaks of renewal of our spirit and reminds us of the importance of restoring our faith to walk with our Lord..."*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit*". Think of your own renewal of faith the next time you sing this canticle.

During the month of August, I will continue to work on the music for the chime choir this fall, and Ian and I are practising the music for our upcoming *Repose Recital 'Celebrating Summer'*. In October, our *Repose Recital* will be 'Psalms and Songs', and in late November, we will enjoy another *Repose Recital* with the Belle Voci choir and the Chime Choir. Lots to look forward to!

On Thursday August 29th, 3 pm, we will have another choral reading rehearsal. This is an opportunity for choir members to take a quick study of the upcoming music for the fall. It is also a great time for those who may like to join to come and see the music that we sing.

Belle Voci choir begins rehearsals on Thursday, Sept 5th, 3-4pm in the sanctuary.

Chime choir rehearsals begin on Sept 7th, 3-4pm in the balcony. New members are always welcome!

If any carpenters in our congregation would like to make two chime tables for use in the sanctuary, please let me know!

One of our chimes was not working properly, and we are pleased to have ordered

and received a new 'G' 😊 thank you to Mel for doing the ordering!

Enjoy the rest of the summer, blessings to all,
Barb

LWML-C News



"Sing to the Lord a new Song"

The LWML-CANADA

Convention is over and wow, did they have a wonderful time. Together they sang, prayed, worshipped, contemplated, and studied God's Word, heard great speakers, laughed, ate great food, and made new friends.



ABC District

They chose worthy new mission grant recipients:

- Regina Street Reach, Rev. DJ Kim (\$24,000)
- Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary Technology Upgrade (\$7,500)
- Lutheran Hospital Ministries Southern Alberta Society (LHMSAS) (\$10,000)
- Diaconal Support Cambodia (\$30,000)
- National Youth Gathering (\$7,500)
- Bible and Catechism Booklets, Mount Olive, Regina, SK (\$1,000)

LAMP 55 for 55 Anniversary Project (\$15,000)
 Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Central
 Region (\$6,000)
 Nicaragua Ministry and Outreach (\$30,000)
 French Liturgy Foundations (\$3,735)
 Ethiopian Ministry and Outreach (\$21,000)
 First Lutheran Academy, Windsor, ON (\$9,475)
 CLS/CLTS Joint Faculty Retreat (\$4,000)
 *Bus Ministry, Christ Our King, Mississauga,
 ON (\$3,880)
 *Youth Director, Trinity/Killarney Community
 Lutheran Churches (\$27,910)
 Mission Opportunity Fund (\$50,000)
 TOTAL - \$251,000
 (*The last two grants tied in votes, and each
 received 77.5% of their request.)



Deaconesses in Cambodia

In the Servant events, \$625 in gift cards (+ some already packed in cups), 221 Cups of Blessings, 206 Blessings in a Bag and 2 kits + 1 bag of dog food were gathered. These ingathering items were blessed at the closing service and given to My Sister's Place and various homeless shelters in London and Church Out Serving's programs in Simcoe. Lastly, \$550.00 was collected for the Living Hope Ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Mississauga. These funds will help First Nations families with children who travel great distances from their communities to receive intensive or ongoing medical care.

A new slate of officers was also voted in:
 President—Marilyn Witte
 Vice-President, Christian Growth—Jill Munoz
 Vice-President, Christian Mission—Lorraine Kaija
 Vice-President, Communication—Karen Hildebrandt
 Vice-President, Member Development—Ruth Coe
 Vice-President, District Administration, ABC District—Sherley Hearty
 Vice-President, District Administration, Central District—Annette Borchardt
 Vice-President, District Administration, Ontario District—Sharlene Procknow
 Vice-President, District Administration, Laurentian District—Rena Detlefsen
 Recording Secretary—Diana Grant
 Financial Secretary—Penny Bobier
 Treasurer—Linda Horton



L to R: Sharlene Procknow, Karen Hildebrandt, Ruth Coe, Diana Grant, Marilyn Witte, Sherley Hearty, Annette Borchardt, Linda Horton, Rena Detlefsen

Through the generosity of the LWMLC members and guests, the following offerings were collected:

Offering #1—LWMLC Mission Grant Goal, \$5,587.77

Offering #2—Shared by Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, And Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, \$5,107.61

Offering #3—Historic St. Paul's Lutheran Church Community Cupboard, \$4,990.74
Mission Movement—Supporting the work of LWML-CANADA, \$5,904.75

Many of the Societies and Zones completed their Mission Movement events prior to the convention. However, they also had an opportunity to do some movement as a group, led by Cindy Hamather from Zion Lutheran Church.



The Convention closed with a banquet, and the ladies and gentlemen from Central District gave a rousing musical invitation to the LWML-CANADA Convention in 2027. So, mark your calendars and hope to see you there!

Theodora Henry

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

The end of July, for me, is a difficult one. Dates remind me of much sadness and loss, but, thankfully, much to be grateful for in my life. As well as final days of loved one's lives, there are also significant anniversaries and birthdays on the calendar.

"God's steadfast love for us", was the sermon's message on July 28th. It helped me to remember that even with, at times, overwhelming sorrows and struggles in our

world, God's Love and Christ's forgiveness are front and centre. We do not have to bear hardship alone. Jesus promises, "I am with you always". Beyond my own small troubles are those trials borne around the globe. For all of that, His Word and His Presence are there, constantly comforting us.

We pray, with a grateful heart, for forgiveness, for help, and for solace from pain, knowing that at no time are we without God beside us. We are not alone.

Our Lord listens to our prayers day or night. As we pray for guidance and healing, passages in the Bible direct and comfort us. Psalm 23, verse 4, tells us, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;". Psalm 136, verse 1: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever", and verses 23-24, "It is He who remembered us in our low estate (slaves in Egypt), for His steadfast love endures forever and rescued us from our foes, for His steadfast love endures forever".

We read how Jesus, while on this earth, modeled how to handle despair, loneliness, enemies, anger, and even death, by forgiving others and teaching us to continually pray to our Father. In this imperfect world, Jesus speaks of a place in heaven that He has prepared for us, and of God's perfect world to come.

So, let us remember the words of the beautiful hymn, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (#809):
"Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy Faithfulness!

*Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!"*

In Christ,
Louise

Some Thoughts on Contentment

For countless generations in the past, “being content” simply meant having a roof over your head, enough to eat, not being sick, and having a job or work to make a living. That would make it possible to enjoy a satisfactory life, bring up one’s family, and retire without hardship.

Yet we all know that history often interfered, disrupting peaceful contented life with wars, diseases, inflation, and all kinds of national or personal upheavals to destroy that perceived natural order of carefree youth, fulfilled adult life, and quiet retirement. In general, we have to accept these upheavals, as we are individually powerless to prevent or ameliorate them; however, we can and should change our attitude toward them—perhaps they came about by our own fault, or were sent to teach us to live more simply.

Think of the people who lost their livelihoods and/or family members during the Depression or in World War II bombings, or in earthquakes, forest fires, or some other accident, only to have to rebuild their shattered lives. We ought to imitate St. Paul, who “learned in whatever situation I am to be content” (Phil. 4:11), even if it means to subsist for a while on just the basics. That, in turn, means to learn to “be content with what you have” (Heb. 13:5), something we in the rich Western countries seem to have lost.

Here, where the average citizen (except the homeless and marginalized) lives fairly well with various services and conveniences, we are bombarded daily with aggressive advertising trying to convince us that we need this or that new gizmo or service. Once that artificial need has been satisfied—the market is “saturated”—

a new round of even fancier devices is foisted on the public to “keep the economy growing”. But the service-life, and thus contentment with the new items, is now measured in shorter and shorter intervals instead of a lifetime. Meanwhile, many households have accumulated so much “stuff” that they need to “declutter”. The Spanish Caritas had it rights with its plea *no necesitas tanto*, meaning “you don’t need that much”.

Comparing life in the rich West with that in the Third World is not only illustrative but downright shocking when we see that not all suffer abject poverty, but a good many live fairly content with or despite so few possessions. Children play happily with a few sticks—ours expect/need(?) fancy, manufactured toys, but are they happier? Indeed, does our stuff make us more content than our parents or grandparents were with half as much?

It is a dangerous illusion to believe that artificially increasing demand will lead to lasting bigger prosperity in the face of dwindling resources and finite raw materials (not to mention wars and disasters); the sooner mankind in general and we in the West realize that, the better. Collectively, we will have to live with less and learn to be content in whatever circumstances, as St. Paul said 2000 years ago. Let’s be thankful to the Lord who provides what we need.

Paul

Thank you all for your cards, calls, good wishes, and encouraging words for my 95th birthday.

*God bless,
Paul*

Children's Corner and For Those Young at Heart

What are "ceremonies"?

The word "ceremony" comes from the Latin word that means "ritual." Ceremonies are the actions associated with the words we use in worship. For example, when the Pastor says "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" you may see people making the sign of the cross. Making the sign of the cross is a ceremony. Can you think of other ceremonies that occur during the Divine Service?

Why do we have ceremonies?

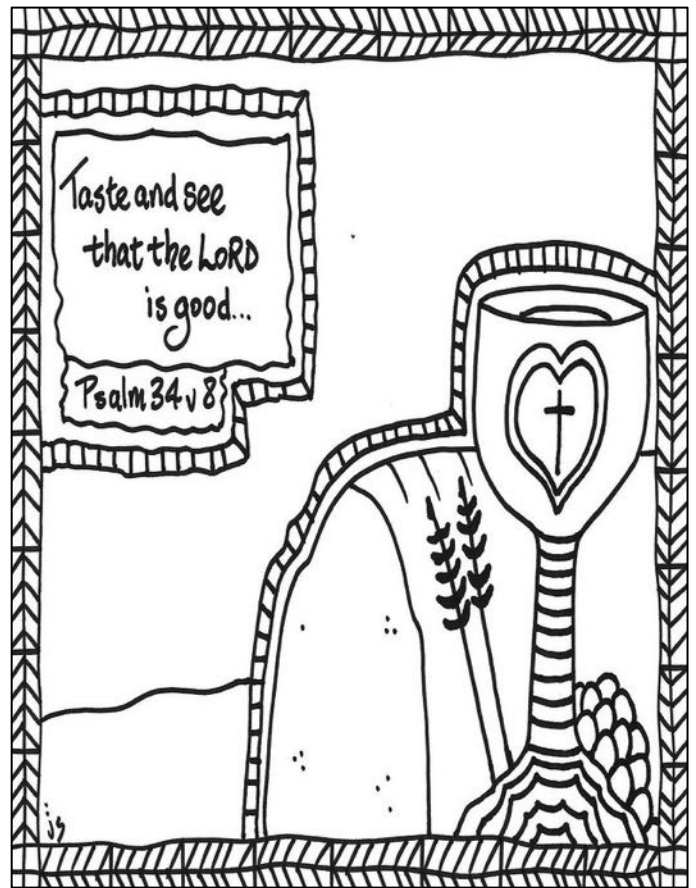
Ceremonies help to keep things reverent and in good order during worship, but **their main purpose is to teach the faith through sight, sound and action.** For example, when we make the sign of the cross, we are reminded of our Baptism. At your Baptism, you received the sign of the cross on your forehead and on your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified! Ceremonies also show what a congregation believes. You can learn a lot about a church by the ceremonies in their worship.















The Lutheran Confessions say: "The purpose of observing ceremonies is that men may learn the Scriptures," and "the chief purpose of all ceremonies is to teach the people what they need to know about Christ." If you have questions about the ceremonies

of your church, ask your pastor. He will be happy to explain them!

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10 th Sunday a. Pentecost 10:30am Worship	29	30	31	1 2:00pm Organ Practice	2  Michael Russell	3
4 11 th Sunday a. Pentecost 10:30am Worship 12:30pm Lunch with Pastor  Willie Fitterer	5  Stephen Gruben	6	7  Erwin Theim	8 2:00pm Organ Practice  Harold Beck  Karla Rudram	9	10 1:30pm Worship Committee Meeting  Sandra Starling
11 12 th Sunday a. Pentecost 10:30am Worship	12	13  Fred Smale	14  Nicole Novakovics	15 2:00pm Organ Practice	16	17
18 13 th Sunday a. Pentecost 10:30am Worship	19	20	21	22 2:00pm Organ Practice  Marilyn Hess	23	24
25 14 th Sunday a. Pentecost 10:30am Worship	26  Mark Beiderwieden	27	28	29 3:00pm Belle Voci Choral Reading	30	31
	Notes	ELDER: Michael Rumsch (250-588-0776)		Altar Guild: Deborah Gruben Theodora Henry Eleanor Murdoch Louise Rushton		



Prayer Calendar

August 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 “Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2)	2 Thank You that my good deeds can be done out of love for You.	3 Lord God, help me to know You more through Your Word.
4 Lord, give me a heart to recognize my sin and my Saviour.	5 Precious Lord, thank You for clothing me in Your righteousness	6 “Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy.” (Matt. 5:7)	7 Lord, your creation amazes. If you enjoyed the sunshine this week add a toonie.	8 Thank You for bearing fruit in me, Lord Jesus!	9 Oh Lord, let my faith always win out over fear.	10 Dear Lord, I praise Your holy name!
11 “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” (11Corin: 12:9)	12 Precious Savior, thank You for your grace!	13 Lord, teach me to love like You do!	14 Thank you Lord for the hobbies I enjoy. If you have plants growing in your garden add .25 for each type.	15 O Lord, open our ears that we may hear and follow You.	16 Guide us by Your Word and Your Holy Spirit.	17 “..in everything by prayer and supplicationlet your requests be made to God.” (Phil.4:6)
18 Help us this day to listen intently and obey willingly, O Lord.	19 Lord Jesus, help us this day to pray.	20 Dear Lord, help us to draw close to You today.	21 Thank you that we can travel again Dear Lord. If you travel from home this summer add a loonie for each trip.	22 Lord, guard and protect those who protect us and our freedom.	23 O Lord, be present and hear our prayers today.	24 Jesus, please help me love You more and more each day.
25 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, ... soul,...and... mind.”(Matt. 22:37)	26 Dear Lord, help us to follow you fully.	27 Lord, lead me by Your Spirit.	28 Thank you Lord for fresh fruit and vegetables. If you have had fresh vegetables this week add \$.25 for each type.	29 Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus.	30 Lord, let Your gracious hope and joy fill me today.	31 “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.” (Ephesians 5:1)