

# Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

March/April 2025

Volume 15 No. 02

## *Pastor's Message*

There's a lot that can occupy our minds as a church as we move forward towards Easter on April 20. The hope is that the number one thing we think about is God's love through Christ Jesus saving us from sin and death through Christ's death and resurrection. Something that can intrude on these joyful thoughts is the upcoming federal election on April 28.

Considerations of politics of certainly have come up at Hope Lutheran recently. Back in December, the federal Finance Committee recommended that "advancement of religion" should be removed as a charitable purpose. Should this recommendation ever be writ into law, that would jeopardize the finances of churches across Canada. A frightening thought but this is hardly the first time Christianity found itself in conflict with political powers.

I could give numerous examples of Christians at odds with governance over the centuries, but why should I look further than Christ's own struggles on the way to the cross? Christ had four examinations before elected and appointed leaders of the Jews: Annas, the deposed high priest; Caiaphas, the current high priest; Pontius Pilate as the Roman governor of Judea; and Herod Antipas, ruler of Galilee. Typical politics. Jesus had to be passed around to all four of these people before a decision could be made about Jesus.

What is the point we can take away from Christ's clashing with these political powers? Something we can draw from the conversations is that those in power will not necessarily listen to Christians. We can be dragged in front of rulers but our claims to

God's righteousness will not be heard. Christ committed no sin, yet was condemned. There's a possibility of being condemned for confessing the right thing, like Christ did. But this isn't the main point to take away from Christ's trials. The main point is that no one can truly defeat our Lord. The political powers threatened and condemned him, yet he still rose victorious in the end. Try as they might to defeat our Lord, he has overcome the world. When we are condemned, God will exonerate us for living in Christ and hail us as good and faithful servants.

Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection serve as our example (1 Pt 2:21). When the powers that be come after us, we know they cannot truly overcome us. The Lord has given us life and love. No powers across heaven, earth, or hell can remove His gifts (Rom 8:39). Worldly powers can hurt us but they cannot conquer us who are more than conquerors in Christ. We need not tremble at the prospect of death because Christ will raise us from it. More pertinent to today, when we are threatened with high taxation and uncharitable status, we know we can weather this too. Politicians could not keep Jesus down in his day. He rose up from the grave. Politicians will not keep us down as the Church either.

God bless,  
Pastor Adam Chandler



## Music Notes



Hope Lutheran Church, 1924 Carrick Street,  
presents.....

### *Repose...*

30 minutes of choral music...Belle Voci Community Choir

### **"A Requiem for Those We Love!"**



**Sat, April 5<sup>th</sup> 3 pm**

***All Welcome!***

Belle Voci will be taking a break after the Repose and will resume rehearsals on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Blessings to all,  
Barb

### ***What Makes You Smile?***

*This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice in it and be glad. Psalm 118:24*

April is a month of contrasts. We are still in the season of Lent. Yet, before the end, we will experience great joy and thanksgiving. At present, we are to meditate on what Jesus has done for us with the ultimate sacrifice. We also know that He has risen, risen indeed, to clean away all our sin and prepare everlasting life for us. Great sorrow is followed by great joy.

So, back to my initial question, "What makes you smile?". Jesus tells us to not worry about today because He has a plan for us. We are to be joyful because God created a whole world of reasons to do so. Even in grief, God gives us empathy from others with a comforting hand on the shoulder to wordlessly say, "I am here.". After a difficult day, a child hugs away our tiredness. A smile from a stranger brightens the darkest hour. A gloriously, brilliant sunset fills us with awe. The soft breeze on our cheek calms our soul. A song lifts our spirits. The aroma of a good meal promises satisfaction for enough of what we need. For each of us, the answer is slightly different or somewhat the same.

Give thanks for your moments of joy that give you reason to smile, for God is good.

Louise

### ***Some Thoughts on Animals***

According to Genesis (Ch 1:24) "God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God said it was good".

Only then, (1:26) did He create humankind – in other words, the animals were there first! And then humans misbehaved, and God was sorry that He made humankind (6:6-8) and decided to blot them out, together with the animals and creepy things and birds of the air; but Noah found favour in the sight of the Lord. Thus he was spared in the flood, together with his family and seven pairs of all clean animals, a male and a female each – the beginning of the world's current population of humans and animals.

How have they behaved since then? Any outsider would have to agree that, faced with the human record over the last thousands of years, another flood would be more than justified. But what about the animals?

Let's just talk about the four-legged ones, typically in many ways... None of them behave as badly as humans do! Yes, some males will fight over females, but they rarely kill their opponents. And yes, some family units or small tribes fight interlopers over territory, yet again, they rarely kill the others, just put them to flight, often wounded.

Only humans kill their own kind, and brutally at that – read the accounts of warfare, often to



extinction, from past centuries right up to the present. And Christians were no exception; the crusaders misbehaved cruelly on entering Jerusalem in 1099, the

Thirty-Year War (1618-48) essentially was a war between Catholics and Protestants, and in both World Wars (1914-18 and 1939-45) Christians fought on both sides, often each other.

We don't know much about animals' brain function or capabilities and tend to look down on them, partly because they "can't even talk". Yet anybody who keeps a dog will soon note the different sounds it makes and get to understand them. We cannot explain or match how migratory birds find their way South without maps or butterflies get to Mexico without rest stops, or even know how night owls or bats find their prey in the dark. Nor are we physically superior proportional to size: Any tabby can jump higher or further, run

faster and fall deeper than we can. How far have we individually progressed from "hunter-gatherer" of a few thousand years ago? Indeed, were we ever Hunters? Not if you look at our teeth – can you rip the flesh off your prey as any cat can off a mouse?

Be that as it may; animals by and large are morally better than we: In general, they do not cheat, lie, or take advantage of you. On the contrary, they remain thankful for whatever good somebody did them (but also don't forget evil doers), and have been known to warn and even protect humans from danger. Yes, the wild ones tend to be mistrustful with good reason – but remain true friends once convinced of your sincerity and understanding.

So although God gave us "dominion over them" (Gen 1:26), let us look at animals as amazing examples rather than Lowly creatures: God made both them and us, and both can learn from each other and ideally live in harmony.

Paul

## Spring Cleaning

Bring your gloves, cleaning rags, and pruning shears and help us to clean the church inside and out on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

## 2025 Directory

Printed Directory is available in the Narthex. Please check our information and if there are any errors please leave a note in the church office or email [helc@shaw.ca](mailto:helc@shaw.ca).



*“And walk, in love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” Ephesians 5:2*

Lent reminds us of the sacrifices Christ made for us. We focus of Him and His plan for our salvation. As we continue our faith journey let us embrace His example and sacrifice into our lives offering our time, talents and resources to serve God and one another.

Being part of LWMLC is not a private members club; LWMLC is open to all women! God has given each



of us an opportunity to serve Him. Take a look around our church family and building; too, is there not a place or an individual who could use a visit, a note of encouragement, a smile and chance to experience God’s love through you? Is there not a small task you could do to keep the church building pleasing to God. You may ask am I a missionary? The answer of course is YES! Let’s reflect the face of Christ in all that we do.

Are you excited about Easter? We are! We are busy making plans for a celebratory breakfast on April 20<sup>th</sup>, Easter morning beginning at 9



am. This will be a full sunshine breakfast with a free will offering in support of the new

mission to the Shan people of northern Thailand.

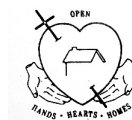
## May brings May flowers and the Island Zone Spring Rally May 3rd!

Plan to join us for a day of discovery and learning coupled with laughter, fun, fellowship and good food.



Travel with us to Port Alberni to hear Rev Chambers speak on his archeological adventures in Northeast Church in Hippos, Israel. Study God’s word with Pastor Chandler as he unravels the chosen theme verse *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,” Hebrews 12:1.*

Participate in the ingathering for Sage Haven a support network for women and children fleeing abuse. A detailed list is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.



Together let’s answer God’s call.

In His service  
Deborah









## Heart Pillow Circle Group

We will not be sewing heart pillows in April but you are most welcome to join us in May. Our next sewing circle will meet on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 1:00 pm.

Theodora

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Worship 10:30 am	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Supper 6:00 pm Mid-week Service 7:00 pm	<b>3</b> Belle Voci 3:00 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Repose Recital 3:00 pm
<b>6</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Worship 10:30 am	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Bible Study 10:00 am   Elvira Balodis	<b>9</b> Supper 6:00 pm Mid-week Service 7:00 pm   Matthew Russell	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Spring Cleaning 10:00 am Chimes Rehearsal 3:00 pm
<b>13</b> Palm Sunday Procession 9:45 am Worship 10:30 am	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Bible Study 10:00 am   April Gibson	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm  	<b>18</b> Good Friday Service 10:30 am   Helga Brown	<b>19</b> Amica Prayer Service 2:30 pm Chimes Rehearsal 3:00 pm
<b>20</b> Easter Sunday Easter Breakfast 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am  	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Bible Study 10:00 am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Lunch & Learn 12:00 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Chimes Rehearsal 3:00pm
<b>27</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Worship 10:30 am	<b>28</b>   Brenda McKinley	<b>29</b> Bible Study 10:00 am   Ryder McIntyre	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  	<b>3</b> Chimes Rehearsal 3:00 pm
	<b>Notes</b>	<b>ELDER:</b> Michael Rumsch (250-588-0776)		<b>Altar Guild:</b> Deborah Gruben Theodora Henry Louise Rushton		Happy Easter