

Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

January/February 2026

Volume 16 No. 01

Pastor's Message

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church is 80 years young! The adoption of the congregation's constitution was on 29 Dec 1945, although the history of the congregation begins earlier than that. At the time of the constitution's adoption, the congregation had been worshipping in rented space from another church body with a baptized membership of 97. It was only a preaching station before becoming an individual congregation, being served by Rev. W.F. Doeling.

There have been changes over the years. For one thing, we now own our building and rent it out to a fledging congregation. Other things have remained the same. Back in 1945, as well as today, our congregation is being graced by God Almighty who sustains us through His Word and Sacraments. These are the marks of God's Church and though the faces may change as our saints move or pass into glory, the Lord will remain the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Those present at Hope Lutheran today are a mixture of members new and old. Some of us have been at Hope since our baptism, some since our confirmation, and many have transferred from other churches. There are those who have been born into the congregation to live many years here, others who have been periodic visitors, and yet others who have made Hope their home quite recently. Regardless of when we arrived or how, the Lord has brought us all here to receive His love.

Jesus told the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Matt 20:1-16). The owner of a vineyard hires some people to work the field at the start of the day. The owner ends up going out again and again to hire workers with the last ones hired an hour before the sun sets and the workday ends. At the very end, the owner gives each worker, regardless

of when they arrived to work, the same amount of money which he promised to each worker. The point of the parable is that the Lord will give the fullness of His grace to all who come into His Church. It does not matter how long they have been part of the Church. What matters is that they are here and living in Christ. We should be overjoyed that we get people entering the grace of God and that they are saved just as we are.

Reflecting back on our congregation, there has been a lot of work we have done in our "vineyard". There has been preaching, teaching, women's groups, and student groups. There has been contributions given, building upkeep and renovations, yard work, and a lot of meals organized and cooked. There also remains a lot of work yet to do so God's grace still must be proclaimed to the people of Victoria. May we join together in sharing this grace with each other and our community unto when the Lord calls us home.

In Grace,

Pastor Adam Chandler



Dedication Day

Music Notes



A huge thank you to all the many musicians in our church community that helped to make our Advent and Christmas Services so very memorable and meaningful. We have many opportunities to be involved as a musician in our church – all are welcome.

We welcome new chimers: rehearsals are Thursdays at 4:00 pm

We welcome new Belle Voci members: rehearsals are Thursdays at 3:00 pm.

We welcome new 'extra' musicians to accompany the hymns in melody or harmony!

A Blessed New Year to all,
Barb

80th Year Anniversary Luncheon of Hope

Wow, 80 years since we became a congregation! Adele Yager, our oldest member, was married in the Lutheran church on Princess and Chambers in 1948. Some of us go back to Sunday School and confirmation classes many years ago. We have members who were baptized, confirmed, married, raised their children here and/or now have grandchildren and one did all of these (Fred Smale).



THE OLD CHURCH
CORNER, PRINCESS AND CHAMBERS

We have a Memorial Board and dedicated windows that record our heritage, of the saints that have gone before us. We started as a group of Lutherans that met in people's living rooms, before they continued to meet in a store. Pastor Doeling started a mission congregation in the 1940's. and on January 26, 1946 the church's constitution was signed. Before our present church, services were held in the church on the corner of Princess and Chambers.



In 1962, Mr. Max Uhl and Mr. John Carter stood in line at the Saanich City Hall at about 5:00 am, to purchase the Carrick Steet property. The shovel hit the ground with Pastor Carlson as the young pastor. Check out the granite



Left: Rev. Biberdorf, Right: Rev. Carlson

cornerstone on the left side of the church's front steps.

Those same steps held children and teachers from VBS summer classes, welcomed

newlyweds, and LWML-C Rally attendants posing for photographs. Please check out the photo boards as well as the photos on the screen on the 8th. Our church hall has hosted wedding receptions, bridal and baby showers, potlucks, celebrations, VBS classes, Sunday School, anniversaries, games nights, and meetings as well as groups from the community such as Clothaholics.

So bring your stories and your photos to share. There will be opportunities to tell your anecdotes and play "Who's that in the photo?".

There will be a special worship service to give thanks, followed by the potluck in our church hall. We invite you to bring cold dishes such as salads, fruit or veggie platters, finger food, or desserts to share with others. There will also be an anniversary cake, coffee and tea for everyone!

A mass photo, taken in the sanctuary, will be taken following worship before we go downstairs to remanence and enjoy wonderful fellowship and good food.

See you there!
Your Sister in Christ,
Louise

Thanks be to God

We do not take credit or sometimes even talk about what we do for our congregation and community as we are not to boast about what we do in Jesus' name. We are to give all glory to the Lord.

And we do. People quietly and humbly serve God by serving our church and community in so many ways. The church and gardens are maintained, the PPC board and committee members and individuals run the workings of the congregation and form the caring ministry

for any in need of care and prayer. The worship service is enhanced with music, and by the lectors, the altar guild, technical support, office staff, tellers, and spiritual guidance. Fellowship and hospitality are supplied by many people to help others feel welcome and included (Thank you to everyone who brings snacks to share for coffee hour). Gifts of crafts and skills, time and monetary offerings are freely given. Charities and missions, here and across the globe, are generously supported. The organizations that we support include: Our Place, Mustard Seed Food Bank, street ministry including Street Hope Victoria, single parents' organizations, Amica a Senior's residence on Fort Street (with monthly worship services), LWML-C mites which support mission projects around the world, BC Mission Boat, LAMP, Concordia Seminary, First Open Heart Society of BC (by sewing heart pillows for Vancouver Island's cardiac patients), the Coldest Night of the Year awareness walk, and Pro Life. Thanks be to God for the Living Hope congregation, the people who use our parking spaces and the Preschool for being part of our community. We may not have a formal Prayer Committee but be aware that many of our members include the rest of us in their prayers. We are blessed. We are thankful for our leaders, particularly, our main spiritual leader and counselor, Pastor Chandler.

Thanks be to God for all of you! Have a Blessed, gentle, peaceful, and happy new year.

We look forward to seeing you and your family at the potluck on February 8th.



Your Sister in
Christ,
Louise

80th Anniversary Fund Raiser Project

A proposal was raised in the November Congregation meeting to do a fund raiser to mark the 80th Anniversary of our church. After a special congregation meeting was held on Sunday, January 18th, the following motion was discussed and voted upon:

“Be it resolved: that the Parish Planning Council of Hope Lutheran Church recommends to the congregation the establishment of a 80th Anniversary Project under the policy for Special Projects, accounted for by the Treasurer, to which donors may contribute monies to the project. The goal of this project is to raise \$96,000 for the purpose of repairing the roof of Hope Lutheran Church. Be it further

Resolved: that this project will remain in effect until December 31, 2026 at which time any unused monies donated for this project will revert to the Contingency Fund and be administered according to existing policy.”

N.B. It is intended that this special project be understood to be financed by the gifts of interested persons or groups, over and above support of the ongoing ministry of our congregation supported by their offerings.

After some back and forth discussion, the motion was approved by majority. A Fund Raise Thermometer will be posted in the Narthex to show the progress.



Some Thoughts on Being Christian

Most maps of world religions I have seen show Canada as “Christian” right across our land; more detailed ones marked some two-thirds of Canada and much of the USA as Protestant (even White, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant, WASP) and the Eastern third as Roman Catholic. But is that still true today?

Meanwhile, our birthrate has fallen dramatically while immigration is almost exclusively Asian and largely non-Christian. Thus Canada’s official claim to be “multicultural and bilingual” has pretty well become reality.

Nothing wrong with that per se, but where does that population change leave Christianity in our land now, and does anybody care? Do you see new churches being built? No, but many empty or for sale. The separation of Church and State has led to there being no religious instruction in our schools, and fewer and fewer young parents teaching their (fewer) children anything about Christian lifestyle—if they have that lifestyle themselves. The downward trend is painfully obvious. Yet when those children grow up, sooner or later they will ask about the meaning of life and what to aim for. Sadly, the evident answer in capitalist North America is “money”. Wherever you go or look, it is the same message: become rich and you’ll have a wonderful life!

Compare that with the Christian theme of love (the agape kind of love that cares for another). As Christians, we are bound by the ten Commandments as we know them. In addition, we ought to follow Jesus’ exhortation to, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind,” and “love your

neighbour as yourself.” (Matt 22:37, 39) That last part is further explained by the story of the Good Samaritan (Lule 10:25-37) and of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31).

Also note Christ’s warning, “How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the Kingdom of God” (Mark 10:23) and the general statement, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Luke 12:34). Getting or being rich in itself is not a sin; what the wealthy do with their riches decides whether it becomes sin.

We are also told in the Great Commission to, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you” (Matt 28:19-20). If we do that and love one another and our neighbour in our daily lives (1 John 4:7), then it can be said as in the song “They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love”, with such lyrics, “We are one in the Spirit...we will walk with each other...we will work with each other...all praise to the Father...” Amen

Paul



Park Lane Preschool's First Recital

Park Lane Preschool had their very first recital in the Sanctuary on December 12th. The children performed their Christmas Concert to their families and friends.



With Sympathy for the families and friends



Prayers and for the family of Gustav(Gus) Bergh. Gus was Stephen Ingstrup’s father-in-law. Service was held on January 10th for Gus.

Our long time member, Harold Beck, was called home to his Lord. A Celebration of Life was held at Norway House on January 17th.

Our sympathies go out to Pastor Liske and his family on the passing of his wife, Judith.

May God comfort all who are grieving.

2026 Directory

The Church Directory will be published at the end of February so please, in writing, notify Theodora, our church secretary, of any updates of your contact information.

Lunch with Pastor

Join Pastor Chandler for lunch and fellowship on the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 at the Hillside Mall Food Court. The next one will be on February 1st.



and



The season of Lent is coming early starting February 18th 2026. Invite family and friends to join us in fellowship, prayer and reflection.

- Feb 18th – Pancake Supper, 5:30 pm
Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 pm
- Feb 22nd – First Sunday in Lent, 10:30 am
- Feb 25th – Soup Supper, 6:00 pm
Midweek Lent 1 Service, 7:00 pm
- Mar 1st – Second Sunday in Lent, 10:30 am
- Mar 4th – Soup Supper, 6:00 pm
Midweek Lent 2 Service, 7:00 pm
- Mar 8th - Third Sunday in Lent, 10:30 am
Midweek Lent 3 Service, 7:00 pm
- Mar 15th – Fourth Sunday in Lent, 10:30 pm
- Mar 18th – Soup Supper, 6:00 pm
Midweek Lent 4 Service, 7:00 pm
- Mar 22nd – Fifth Sunday in Lent, 10:30 am
- Mar 25th – Soup Supper, 6:00 pm
Midweek Lent 5 Service, 7:00 pm



**Happy Birthday to you with
January and February
birthdays. Wishing you
many returns of the day.
May God Bless you with
health, wealth and prosperity
in your life.**

Celebrate with us Holy Week

- Mar 29th – Procession, 9:45 am.
Passion Sunday, 10:30 am
- Apr 2nd – Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm
- Apr 3rd – Good Friday, 10:30 am
- Apr 5th – Easter Breakfast, 9:00 am
Easter Service, 10:30 am

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

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LWML News

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Corinthians 1:9

God calls us together. We are His Body, we are His church; His people in short His hands, His feet, Called to Serve! Called to do His work!

In reviewing 2025 my thankfulness overflows at the generosity and commitment of LWML members and of the congregation in allowing God to work in and through us. Together we continue to reach out to those walking in darkness with acts of mercy and kindness, sharing the things that God gives us through Jesus, forgiveness, peace, life and salvation.

Recently Marie R and Louise R delivered donations to Janice and Emily at Our Place. They thanked the congregation for our consideration and generosity. They also thanked us for the timing (i.e. Epiphany). They said, "before Christmas they receive several donations and very little after Christmas when the need is just as great." There is still cold weather in the forecast. Our prayer is that the 24 Street Kit bags, each containing a handwritten message of hope plus the 28 gift cards for Save on Foods and local coffee shops to be distributed separately to the people in need, will provide comfort and a hug from God.

In addition I personally delivered three boxes of groceries provide by the BC Cancer society where my daughter works to Mustard Seed Food Bank. The next day, on Thursday, I

delivered extra toques, mitts, hand warmers and forty pairs of socks. SOCKS are the most favored gift and in the highest demand at homeless shelters. Did you know the Mustard Seed hosts foot care clinics three Thursday's a month providing essential foot washing, nail care, (trimming, filing) and treatment for common issues like fungal nails and ingrown toenails. New, quality socks are provided with each treatment to prevent infection. Volunteer nurses provide their time to care for people, whose feet take a significant toll from constant walking dozens of miles each day and under various weather conditions.

Since my delivery was on a Thursday I was able to witness and speak directly with Barb, a retired nurse and coordinator of this program. After hugging me she could not express enough times the joy and gratitude she felt for our kindness and generosity.

Other thank you notes received were from Fernwood Community Center's Best Babies Program for the quilts and bibs as well as Esquimalt Neighborhood House who wrote "I am writing in great appreciation to all the remarkable people who contribute to making the beautiful quilted and knitted blankets ..." Over Christmas, I was able to hand many of the lap blankets out, personally to my senior clients. What a joy from your effort, donations and love bring to the people who are so fortunate to receive them. We have many clients who have very little in terms of friends and finances. Your blanket donations make a difference for those people in a beautiful way. I know that many young families also receive the blankets within our family service program. So many happy faces."

In gratitude,
Jennifer"

These are but a few examples of God working in and through us.

With all my heart and soul I give thanks and praise to God for your continue partnership. Ecclesiastes explains “Two are better than one.” This is not only because two people are more productive as a team but also working in partnership is done for God’s, Good pleasure.

Your sister in Christ
Deborah



Thank you for your generous donations to the Epiphany Mitt Tree.

Lunch & Learn

Join us for lunch and bible study on the first Wednesday of the month. The next one will be on February 4th at noon.

Used Stamps for Missions

Please bring in your use stamps for the stamp bin in the Narthex, which are collected for mission work.



Mites in Action Webinar

On Saturday, January 24th at 8:30 am (PT) you are invited to join the first webinar of 2026.

Rev. Rekken, director of pastoral care for Lutheran Hospital Ministries, South Alberta and pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Calgary will be the guest speaker. Learn about experiences in ministry, preparing workers and sharing Christ in a healthcare institutional setting.



To participate send your request to webinar@lutheranwomen.ca.

Sewing Circle

Join us on Thursday, February 12th at 1:00 pm to sew up some Heart Pillows for the First Open Heart Society of BC. These are given to the patients after their open-heart surgery.









No sewing skills needed. We have tasks for everyone.











There will also be other sewing opportunities on Thursday February 19th and 26th at 1:00 pm. Join us as we plan and piece together quilt tops or sew baby blankets, burp cloths or clothing protectors. Everyone is welcome.

Hope Lutheran Calendar

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Feast of the Innocents. Martyrs Worship 10:30 am	29	30	31	1	2	3  Laura Frandsen
4 2 nd Sunday of Christmas Worship 10:30 am Lunch with Pastor  Emerson Starling	5  Fisher Novakovics	6 Bible Study 10:00 am  Linda Russell	7 Lunch & Learn 12 pm	8 Belle Voci 3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00 pm	9	10 Gustav Bergh's Memorial Service,
11 The Epiphany of Our Lord Worship 10:30 am	12	13 Bible Study 10:00 am	14	15 Belle Voci 3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00pm  Julie Lind	16	17 Worship Committee Meeting, 11:00 am Harold Beck's Celebration of Life, 2:00 pm Norway House
18 The Confession of St. Peter Worship 10:30 am	19  David Gibson	20 Bible Study 10:00 am	21	22 Belle Voci 3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00pm	23	24 Amica Prayer Service 2:30
25 The Conversion of St Paul Worship 10:30 am	26	27 Bible Study 10:00 am	28	29 Belle Voci 3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00pm	30	31  Arlene Dill
	Notes	ELDER: Michael Rumsch (250-588-0776)		Altar Guild: Deborah Gruben Jade Russell Laura Frandsen Louise Rushton Theodora Henry		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 4 th Sunday a. Epiphany Worship 10:30 am Lunch with Pastor	2	3 Bible Study 10:00 am	4 Lunch & Learn 12 noon	5 Belle Voci 3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00pm  Jacob Lind	6	7  Cole Salsman
8  80 th Anniversary Worship 10:30 am Potluck Lunch to follow  Richard Uhl	9	10 Bible Study 10:00 am  Pastor Chandler	11	12 Sewing Circle (Heart Pillows) 1:00 pm Belle Voci 3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00pm PPC Meeting 6:00 pm	13	14 
15 The Transfiguration of Our Lord Worship 10:30 am	16  Andrew Johnson	17 Bible Study 10:00 am	18 Pancake Supper 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm	19 Sewing Circle 1:00 pm Belle Voci 3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00 pm	20  Evangeline Frandsen	21 Amica Prayer Service 2:30 pm
22 1 st Sunday in Lent Worship 10:30 am Congregation Meeting	23	24 Bible Study 10:00 am	25 Soup Supper 6:00 pm Mid-week Lent 1 Service 7:00 pm	26 Sewing Circle 1:00 pm Belle Voci 3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00pm	27	28 Repose Recital, 3:00 pm
1 2 nd Sunday in Lent Worship 10:30 am	2	3 Bible Study 10:00 am	4 Soup Supper 6:00 pm Mid-week Lent 2 Service 7:00 pm	5 Belle Voci 3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00pm	6	7
	Notes	ELDER: Michael Rumsch (250-588-0776)		Altar Guild: Deborah Gruben Jade Russell Laura Frandsen Louise Rushton Theodora Henry		