

Our Family

SPECIAL EDITION

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

March/April 2026

Volume 16 No. 02

Pastor's Message

Christ be with you in Hope,

Dec 29, 2025 was the 80th anniversary of Hope Lutheran Church. In celebration of the event, I appealed to former pastors and vicars of the church to share memories and prayers with us. Not everyone was able to respond, but several pastors shared words in Christ with us. The prayers were featured in the anniversary worship service on Feb 8, 2026, and the messages were read aloud during the potluck afterward.

As for my own word, it was shared as the sermon during the celebration. God has been faithful to this church for 80 years—and even longer considering it was a preaching station for many years before formally becoming a parish. During that time, God has continued to bless His people here with grace. When we pleaded our sins to Him, He forgave them. When people sought refuge in baptism, the Lord made them heirs of His kingdom in baptismal waters. When we hungered and thirsted for righteousness, the Lord slaked our need with His own body and blood in the Lord's Supper. God has been faithful to Hope Lutheran Church for 80 years and He will continue to be faithful to everyone who has their faith in Him.



In Christ,
Rev. Adam Chandler
Pastor of Hope 2020 –

Gracious God, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude as we celebrate 80 years of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church. Thank You for Your unwavering faithfulness, guiding us through seasons of joy and times of struggle.

We thank You for the vision of those who laid this foundation and for the dedication of all who have served this body of believers.

Lord, we ask that You knit us together in unity and love. Renew our passion for Your Word and strengthen our commitment to be a beacon of hope and light in this community.

As we look to the future, guide our leaders with wisdom and empower us to continue your mission with courage and grace.

May all we do bring glory to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Rev. Mark Beiderwieden
Pastor of Hope 1987-2008

To the Members of Hope Lutheran Church,
Victoria B.C.

God's richest blessings as you celebrate 80 years of proclaiming His grace to the members and surrounding community of Hope. It is with fond memories and delight I share with you some precious moments of my time among you as a vicar in 1992-93. My time as a vicar

truly shaped and formed me for pastoral ministry to this day. I still use what I have learned and experienced from my time among you.

The two most important aspects of my vicarage year were the guidance of Rev. Mark Beiderwieden and all the relationships with the members during my time with you. There are so many stories and memories that I have in just a short year, so I will just highlight some in bullet form.

- Meeting with Pastor Beiderwieden for the first time and one of his first expectations of me was to make 5 visits a week to members. That became an invaluable practice to this day for me.
- The drives to circuit meetings up the island where I was able to learn through the discussions of the pastors and the lunch breaks for a beer on the way home.
- A visit with Irene where we would visit over a cup of tea and how I commented on her tea cozy and before I left Victoria, she gave me my own tea cozy, basket and hand cloth to use as I pour so as not to burn my hand. To this day I still have that tea cozy, basket and cloth and still tell the story of who I received it from.
- Traveling with the LWML to Port Angeles on the ferry for a day visit with the LWML from that congregation.
- Visits with Peggy and Lawrence Jackal where he would share a shot glass of parsnip wine with me.
- Visits at the Zorn home and all their German decorations and souvenirs.
- Supper with Adele and Wally Yager where Wally told me I need to find my own way to introduce and start a sermon (which I have).
- Young adult bible studies in my basement suite

- Young adult hikes
- When Pastor Beiderwieden and I installed the huge drop-down screen that was lowered with a winch. We joked how we had the largest screen in the circuit.
- I wish I could remember their names, but visiting a couple, who were originally from my home congregation in Winnipeg. We visited in their enclosed gazebo for an entire afternoon having a beer and working on a jigsaw puzzle. That memory still comes to me when Jeanine and I work on puzzles.
- Frieda Smale...and how she graciously opened her home on weekends to allow Jeanine to stay there when she would visit me on the Island.
- Doing my laundry at the Klassens who lived across the street from me.
- Visits with Anne Richter on Dallas drive and looking out her huge living room window overlooking the sea and talking about light houses.
- Preparing the sanctuary for Good Friday service
- Preparing for VBS and the sea theme we had that year.
- Teaching Sunday confirmation classes in Pastor Biederwieden's office.
- More than anything I treasure all the time I spent at Hope and all the love the members showed to me.

Thank you for a trip down memory lane. There are more memoirs I have, and I wish I could share them all with you. I hope one day soon to be able to come visit and share those memories in person.

A prayer for your Anniversary
Lord God, heavenly Father, O Christ, Exalted Prince of Peace, Radiant King of Earth in whom we have all our hope.

You are the living head of your body, the divine bridegroom of your church. Through you all things were created, and by your redeeming work all things will be made new. All glory and power are yours. You give your church, Hope Lutheran, 80 years of blessing in which we lack nothing. Saints of God have come, grown and even departed this life, we remember all those who have been a part of this congregation. Haste the day, O Christ! For it is unto that day we labor today. As we walk this pilgrim road together as a congregation, Jesus, draw us ever nearer to your coming kingdom, may your light shine ever more brilliantly from our lives, and your pure love be made ever more visible in our thoughts, words and deeds even as you labor in us, among us and through us unto your eternal ends. In Christ whom we give praise. Amen.



PAX
Rev. Jan Pastucha
Vicar of Hope 1992-3

Dear friends in Christ at Hope in Victoria,

Grace and peace to you from our God and Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

As I write these words I realize it was nearly 25 years ago that I served among you and the saints at Redeemer in Langford, in my vicarage year of 2001-2002 under your then-pastor, Mark Beiderwieden. I am certain you have had many changes in your congregation in that time! My time in the Victoria area was a time of great personal growth and development for me in my work as a vicar, meeting with Pastor Beiderwieden every Monday morning at his office in Hope, getting to preach every Sunday—if I remember correctly our arrangement was that one Sunday a month I

would come to Hope and Pasto Beiderwieden would go to Redeemer and celebrate the Lord's Supper with them—and also learning the nuts-and-bolts of day-to-day ministry.

As I recall, I spent about 85% of my time at the church in Langford, so the bulk of my vicarage memories revolve around my time there. Yet I also did a fair bit at Hope. I was involved with things like confirmation classes, the youth group, and Vacation Bible Study at Hope. My apologies, again, for encouraging the children to jump a little too vigorously during one particular song in VBS and causing a crack in the ceiling of the basement! I remember serving with the folks of Hope at a food kitchen for the needy in Victoria. I have fond memories as well of being treated to and trying sushi for the first time by a family from Hope while a vicar there, of going to the ski retreat in Campbell River, and hanging out with the Young Adults/University group regularly, which was wonderful.

And I am especially thankful to have had the opportunity to repay the kindness I experienced from Pastor Beiderwieden and the folks of Redeemer and Hope in helping to guide 9 vicars of my own at this point, including your own Pastor Chandler during his vicarage time in 2018-2019, at the Trinity-Zion parish I have served in Winkler and Morden since July 2003. Some of you, no doubt, have seen the Facebook updates and know that I am married to my wife, Kelly, for 21 years, have three children, Anastasia, 18, Micah, 16, and Timothy, 13. God has richly blessed me and I remain thankful for my time among you as helping form and shape me into the pastor I am today.

I would, in conclusion, like to pray for you:

O lord, You have been our dwelling place from generation to generation. Thank you for the many blessings you have given and continue to give to your faithful people at Hope in Victoria as they celebrate 8 decades of blessings, chiefly those blessings which flow through Your life-giving Word and Your precious Sacraments. Continue to bless Pastor Chandler and the members of Hope in all their ways, that by Your grace and according to Your will, they may continue to shine the good news of the Gospel of Christ into the Victoria area for decades to come. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With great thankfulness for my time among you,



In Christ,
Rev. Alex Klages
Vicar of Hope 2001-20

Psalm 150:1-6 Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sounds; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud crashing cymbals!

These verses bring back many fond memories of my time as your interim pastor. It was truly a time of praise, as is the occasion of your congregation's eightieth anniversary.

Allow me to share some of those fond memories in the form of a poem.

Though the call process and the length of the vacancy led to concern,

To trust and wait on the blessings from Jesus was our lesson to learn.

The invasion of our VBS by juveniles was a blessing,

Their voices so joyful, whether singing or confessing.

Where's the vacant pastor can we look him in the eyes?

Look closely for a pirate's garb; he might be in disguise.

OH! OH! look around could he be in the Maze, a snore from the structure his presence relays.

Though his exhortation from the rostrum causes some members to slumber,

Moving the coffee urn led to "sharing the peace" in much greater number.

Heavenly Father, our hearts are full of gratitude as we mark this milestone—80 years of ministry at Hope Lutheran Church. Thank You for Your constant faithfulness over the years. We praise You for all Your servants, who, by Your mercy, grace, and provision, have upheld this congregation and its ministry through every season.

We seek Your Fatherly guidance for the years ahead, asking You to illuminate their path as they plan new initiatives and missions. Send Your Holy Spirit to align their ministry's vision with Your divine purpose. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



Rev. Al Dudiak
Vacancy Pastor of
Hope 2008-9

It was my pleasure to serve as vacancy pastor at Hope in 2019- 2020. As I recall the time spent with you all I remember the dedication of members in serving the church and the care

shown to each other. There was a wonderful sense of the love for the members as you made sure that people were not forgotten. There was joy as you gathered each Sunday and cheerily greeted each other before the service. Even though this was a difficult time because of COVID you wanted to continue to reflect God's love for us in reaching out to everyone in different ways. I appreciated your desire to serve and let your light shine and do what you could despite the circumstances. I appreciated my time with you all and thank God for you for what I experienced.

Father in heaven, bless your Church, especially Hope Lutheran Church as they celebrate their anniversary. Grant them to be refreshed by your Word and constant knowledge of your love for them. As they look to the future may you guide them by Your Spirit that they may be a beacon of light in their community. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Rev. Phillip Washeim
Vacancy Pastor of Hope 2019-20

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus, saints gathered as Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church of Victoria, including your dear Pastor, Adam Chandler:

Grace and peace be with you from God our Father and our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

God be thanked and praised for the years of grace that you have received from Him through His life-giving Word and encouraging

Sacraments over the course of these eighty years! To God be the glory for the many forms of faithful service that have sprung up to bring His salvation to people in your community.

Your brothers and sisters, who are members of the other eight congregations on Vancouver Island rejoice with you, and we pray that God will fill you with the confidence that He who has been with you since the birth of your congregation will continue His good work among and through you for many years to come.

May this precious benediction from Hebrews 13 be fulfilled among you always: *“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen”* (vs. 20-21).



Your brother and servant in
Christ,
Pastor Fraser Coltman
Vancouver Island Circuit
Counselor



80th Year Anniversary Luncheon of Hope in Pictures



When we go about our lives, serving the Lord as we have been taught, the assurance that God is with us, is everything. When we gather together, to do His work or hear His Word, we know that we can pray for what we need to do the task, even a difficult one.

"Though I am in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life: you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand, you save me. The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me; your love, O Lord, endures forever." Psalm 138:7-8

God tells us not only to look for help from Him, but also to help our sisters and brothers. As we believe in Him, "we are to encourage one another daily." Hebrews 3:13

Continuing with this thought, we are not only to uplift others, but to serve them. With our Mother, it was her actions, not as much as her words, that taught us about Jesus. No matter how difficult her days were, she lived her faith. "All things work together for good for those who love the Lord."

Serving others can be leading our families along God's path in our day to day lives. Or, it can be using the Holy Spirit's gifts, that are given to us, for the benefit of others in the community.

God has a plan for each of us and He will give us the strength, skills and guidance to see our purpose through to the end of our earthly days.

God tells us, in Deuteronomy 31:5-8, to "Be strong and courageous... The Lord, your God, goes with you; He will never leave you or forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

To this end, we are, at this time, being given opportunities to serve God by serving others in our church. Elections are coming up, in May, in our Parish Planning Committee (the PPC). They are asking members to speak to board chairs and therefore use their God given skills to serve the congregation and indirectly, our community. There are also ways that any of us can serve in supportive roles.

Our Elder, Mike, would be pleased to discuss how you can help others by helping with the Caring Ministry. Marie would appreciate having more Tellers. Board Chairs or Pastor would be pleased to talk with you about some of the choices of service available. Barbara and Linda are always looking to add you and your musical talents to enhance our worship services. There are fellowship, missions and maintenance tasks to be done. LWML-C ladies would be happy to tell you more about the missions and welcome you to Lunch and Learn on the first Wednesday of each month. Our church community can be served in many ways. By stepping forward, we can serve the Lord, continuing our life of service and "lest anyone can boast, give the glory to God".

In Christ,
Louise

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 April 12th.



and



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

- 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

Celebrate with us Holy Week

- Mar 29th – Procecion, 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

Thank You

To all who has helped us celebrate Hope's 80th anniversary!

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers.
(1 Thessalonians 1:2)



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

Fund Raising Update

We have raised \$75,708.00! THANK YOU to all who have contributed. Please help us reach our goal of \$96,000 to fix the church roof.

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Remembering...

Carol Connolly 1940- Jan. 2026

We first met Carol after inquiring about heart pillows being sewn for cardiac surgery patients. She had a design for pillows for patients to protect the stitches after their operation and was looking for more sewers. For more than three years, some ladies at Hope, have been meeting, at the church, with Carol, to sew together 50 to 60 heart pillow panels each month.

As Carol also put in several hours a month, volunteering at Victoria Heart House, she graciously gave us a tour there.

Carol was kind, organized, generous with her time, and encouraging. She became a good friend and will be greatly missed. Our condolences to her family and friends.



Denise Ellie Ragan

Our sympathies and God's love to Helga Brown, Brenda McKinley and their family, on the loss of a daughter, sister, aunt, grandmother, and Mother of three sons. The service for Denise Ellie Ragan, was held on Saturday afternoon, March 7th., led by Pastor Chandler. Her family is comforted, knowing that she is now in the arms of Jesus.

In Christ,
Louise

2026 Synod Convention

The Thirteenth Regular Convention of Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) will meet from June 12-15, 2026 with the theme: “Together One: One Lord, One Faith, One Body,” based on Ephesians 4:4-6.

The convention will be held at the Victoria Inn and Conference Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It will begin with an orientation session on Friday, June 12 at 4:00 p.m., with the Opening Divine Service that evening. It will conclude at noon on Monday, June 15.

The key focus of the convention is the encouragement and celebration of our shared confessional unity, grounded in our rich Lutheran heritage. The primary purpose is the election of individuals to leadership roles, including positions of the Board of Directors and various commissions.

As members of LCC, our congregation will be represented by a Clergy Delegate (Pastor Chandler) and a Lay Delegate (Deborah Gruben, with Marie Russell as the Alternate Lay Delegate).



One Lord, One Faith, One Body



LWML News

Lent is the time of waiting and preparing for #Easter. The 40 days of Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday and ends the Saturday before Easter Sunday, commemorates Jesus' forty days in the wilderness, when He fasted and was tempted by the devil.

Here at Hope LWMLers began our waiting period with a pancake supper with the famous blueberry sauce. Plans are underway for an Easter Breakfast when we celebrate our Lord's glorious and triumphant resurrection. Until then we wait.

Lent is also a time for self-examination and repentance. Each midweek service provides such an opportunity. The light supper nourishes our body while God's word nourishes our hearts and souls. Our heartfelt thanks are extended to April and Laura for their faithfulness in preparing and providing these dinners. To God is the glory.



April Showers Bring May flowers

West coast winters are undeniably soggy causing us to chuckle at this old wives tale with signs of spring popping up everywhere and we've just begun the month of March. Nevertheless with spring comes our Spring LWMLC Rally; scheduled for APRIL 11th hosted by our sisters in Courtenay under the theme is encouraged for God is with Us... You

won't want to miss it! This day of fellowship begins at 9:30 with of coffee and muffins and a registration of \$10.00. For carpooling contact Pastor or Deborah

Meditating on Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding." the Youth director of Trinity Richmond and Killarney Park will share her insights and challenges in encouraging youth to learn and grow in God's word. Adrianna Blitterswyck has vast experiences both domestically and internationally working as a volunteer and in her current position with outreach to youth and young adults. We are excited about learning of her firsthand experiences as a recipient of a mission grant. Zone Counsellor Pastor Chandler with Pastor Kubke will share the Divine Service responsibilities. Our ingathering gifts of love will be for the nesting Place a local sanctuary for pregnant women.

We are all different ages and different backgrounds yet have something in common, our faith! Let's celebrate! Join us for Easter Breakfast on April 5th

God's peace be with you,
Deborah

Lunch & Learn

Join us for lunch and bible study on the first Wednesday of the month. The next one will be on April 1st at noon.

Heart Pillows

Join us on Thursday, March 19th as we sew heart pillows for the First Open Heart Society of BC. No sewing skills required.

A TIME TO SERVE














Gardeners	Here I am – I will try	Chimers
Youth	Lord, you have called me to minister in as way I never have before. I feel so inadequate for this task.	Greeters
Altar Guild	My qualifications are few, and my reasons to say “no” are many. Are you sure you have connected with the right person?	Sewers
Musicians	Lord, you have called me to minister in as way I never have before. I feel afraid and unsure of what to expect or what I am to do. What if I do not like the job I am involved with? What if I am a failure? What if? What if? What if? Lord is it too late to say “no”, is it?	Singers
Cleanup Crew	Lord, you have called me to minister in as way I never have before. I am overwhelmed by the mere thought of what you have asked me to do. It requires considerable time and effort to walk on unfamiliar ground. How about letting me choose something else I can do To help you that feels more comfortable?	Acolyte
Lectors	Lord, you have called me to minister in as way I never have before. You say you will be with me each step of the way. You ask me to remember Moses and countless others Who thought they were the wrong person to serve. You remind me that I am the one you want in spite of all my excuses.	Office Helpers
Prayer Warriors	Lord, you have called me to minister in as way I never have before. Hesitantly, I take that first step of faith. Here I am, Lord. I will try. Amen	Organists
Knitters		Ushers
Board member		Beacons
Kitchen Helpers		Tellers
Bible Study		Visitors by phone or in person

Anonymous

God has given each and every one of us special gifts and talents. May we prayerfully consider ways we can do His work; in doing so we too are blessed.

Please contact the Pastor, the church office or anyone of the Parish Planning Committee (PPC) members if you would like to volunteer in any of the tasks in and around the church. Thank you.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 2 nd Sunday in Lent Worship 10:30 am Lunch with Pastor	2 Confirmation Class 6:00 pm	3 Bible Study 10:00 am	4 Lunch & Learn 12 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Midweek Lent 2 Service 7:00 pm  Adele Yager	5 Belle Voci 3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00 pm	6	7 Remember to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour
8 3 rd Sunday in Lent Worship 10:30 am  Day Light Savings Time begins	9	10 Bible Study 10:00 am	11 Soup Supper 6:00 pm Midweek Lent 3 Service 7:00 pm	12 Belle Voci 3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00 pm  Helga Sidhu	13	14 Games Night 4:00 pm
15 4 th Sunday in Lent Worship 10:30 am  Cassidy Johnson	16 Confirmation Class 6:00 pm	17 Bible Study 10:00 am  Happy St. Patrick's Day	18 Soup Supper 6:00 pm Midweek Lent 4 Service 7:00 pm	19 Belle Voci 3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00pm	20	21 Amica Prayer Service 2:30 pm  Alexander Schmid
22 5 th Sunday in Lent Worship 10:30 am	23	24 Bible Study 10:00 am  Theodora Henry	25 Soup Supper 6:00 pm Midweek Lent 5 Service 7:00 pm	26 Belle Voci 3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00pm	27  Tyler James Gardiner	28  Angelo
29  Palm Sunday Procession 9:45 am Worship 10:30 am	30 Confirmation Class 6:00 pm	31 Bible Study 10:00 am	1	2 Belle Voci 3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00pm Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm 	3 Good Friday Service 10:30 am 	4
	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
29  Palm Sunday Procession 9:45 am Worship 10:30 am	30	31 Bible Study 10:00 am	1 Lunch & Learn 12 noon	2 Belle Voci 3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00pm Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm 	3 Good Friday Service 10:30 am 	4
5 Easter Sunday Easter Breakfast 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am 	6	7 Bible Study 10:00 am	8	9 Sewing Circle 1:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00pm  Matthew Russell	10	11 Vancouver Island LWML Spring Rally, Courtenay
12 2 nd Sunday of Easter Worship 10:30 am Lunch with Pastor	13	14 Bible Study 10:00 am	15  April Gibson	16 Sewing Circle (Heart Pillows) 1:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00 pm	17	18 Amica Prayer Service 2:30 pm  Helga Brown
19 3 rd Sunday of Easter Worship 10:30 am	20	21 Bible Study 10:00 am	22	23 Sewing Circle 1:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal 4:00pm	24	25
26 4 th Sunday of Easter Worship 10:30 am	27	28 Bible Study 10:00 am  Brenda McKinley	29  Ryder McIntyre	30 Chimes Rehearsal 4:00pm	1	2 
	Notes	ELDER: Michael Rumsch (250-588-0776)		Altar Guild: Deborah Gruben Jade Russell Laura Frandsen Louise Rushton Theodora Henry		