



Our Family

Hope Lutheran Monthly Newsletter

July/August 2026

Volume 16 No. 04

Pastor's Message

Blessings and peace be with you. The Lutheran Church Canada (LCC) synodical convention was held June 12-15 in Winnipeg, and there is a lot to talk about. (I know because I was feeling my throat wear thin from all the talking there.) It will be good to give you a summary of what went on to give you an idea of what our synodical conventions are like.

LCC holds convention every four years, changed from awhile back when it was every three years. This year we had well over 300 people in attendance including: clergy and lay delegates, Lutheran Service Organization representatives, synodical office staff, volunteers, observers, and more. And not everyone who wanted to come was able to make it either. Considering the Council of Nicaea (in 325 which started the Nicene Creed) had an estimated 318 bishops (with others present), the historic parallels in attendance delighted me.

For voting delegates, Hope Lutheran sent myself, as our clerical delegate, and Deborah Gruben, as our lay delegate. Voting would be on matters of elected positions and on resolutions proposed from within the synod for consideration. Elections were looked after by the Commission of Nominations and Elections (CNE) while the resolutions were divided for overview by three groups: Structure & Handbook, Theology & Church Relations, and Financial & Sundry. All of them did work well before the convention started in

order to produce votable matters on the convention floor. However, as things go, there are always changes that can be made up to when the resolutions are presented on the convention floor. Even on the floor as well, voting delegates can suggest amendments which will be voted on at that time.

I was extended the honour of serving on the floor committee dealing with Theology & Church Relations. As secretary of the committee, I took notes on what was discussed and wrote whatever changes needed to be made. Some of the resolutions we worked on involved no work and others involved work until the day before they were voted on. The most contentious issues were removing time limits of service from regional pastors and the synodical president, changing the titles for regional pastor to “regional bishop” and “president” to “synodical bishop”, and declaring limits of ministerial service to PAT graduates (Pastors with Alternative Training). There were dozens of conversations I had while at the convention, and quite possibly a third of them involved at least one of these topics. In the end, removing time limits and changing titles were put to study in preparation for educating our synod on those matters, and the PAT resolution was amended to allow them to serve as circuit counselors—which definitely should be the case since one PAT graduate has already been doing that.

As regards for voting, everyone can vote on synod-wide positions but regional positions

are limited to those who are in that area. There is no voting on behalf of another region to give them a regional pastor, nor trying to parachute a candidate in by voting for someone outside of your area. For Hope, the major names who won elections to remember are:

- President David Haberstock (former Central Regional Pastor)
- Vice President Ted Giese (arts writer, critic, and teacher such as with *The Canadian Lutheran*)
- Regional Pastor Michael Schutz (former Vice President)
- Circuit Counselor Stephen Chambers (former seminary professor)

Aside from these positions, there were several Boards and Committees that needed to be voted upon: Board of Directors (BoD), CNE, Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR), Commission on Adjudication (CoA), Commission on Constitution Matters and Structure (CCMS), Regional Mission and Ministry Council (RMMC), and selections for the boards of regents for the seminaries. All of these were required to have a certain number of laypeople in addition to clergy. As you might imagine with the electronic voting, we spent a lot of time on our phones selecting names or waiting for names to be loaded or reloaded.

We also fun and games, though. Evenings had sponsored events for fellowship. Saturday night was hosted by Lutheran Layman's League where they had a "passport" to mission, showing different missions around the world. Sunday featured a "Night in Wittenberg" by the local LWMLC which offered dinner, entertainment, and a trivia game. (My team was leading trivia until about halfway through and ended around 5th place.) The meals at the hotels were incredibly filling

and offered a lot of opportunity to talk with other people. Pretty much all the time I wasn't in convention business or asleep was spent talking (even right before boarding at the Winnipeg airport!). There were some people I hadn't seen for years and other people I had never met before. When I was made known as the president for Lutherans for Life Canada (LFLC), there were several people who wished to say hello to me.

Many different Lutheran Service Organizations (LSOs) were represented at the convention alongside LFLC, such the familiar BC Mission Boat and LWMLC, but also lesser-known LSOs like hospital ministries in Alberta and Malabar Mission Society. Only 19 of the total number had a table in a hall where they could display what we do and showcase the various materials we produce. The Edmonton seminary was able to receive a foosball table on loan from one of the local churches for a very fitting display of what they offer too. (It was a great disappointment that I never had time to play a game.)

But a Lutheran convention can hardly be complete without an abundance of God's Word. Every day was begun and concluded with a worship service. Prayers were made before our elections. There were Bible studies from seminary professors on the word *koinoia* ("fellowship" or "having in common") and the passage Eph 2:13-22. There were also breakout sessions which mostly focused on how to bring the word of God to different people in our congregations and communities.

It is also in keeping with our adherence to God's word that the synod recognized the ending of fellowship with the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) as they moved away from upholding the biblical understanding of

ordination. Thankfully, in recognizing our biblical values, LCC officially entered into fellowship with Lutheran Mission—Australia (LM-A) and the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP). We uphold God’s Word as Lutherans. And, undoubtedly, if you have been reading through this summary, you will also notice the Lutheran penchant for acronyms.

Overall, convention was a great experience and I do recommend it to anyone who is on the fence considering being Hope’s lay delegate in 2030. If you would like to know more, the daily newsletters (*The Standard*) of the convention and some of the livestream can be found here: [2026 LCC Synod Convention - Lutheran Church-Canada](#)

God bless,
Pastor Adam Chandler

A Delegate’s Report

On June 11-16 God’s people from coast to coast gathered in Winnipeg for the 13th Regular Convention of Lutheran Church Canada (LCC) under the theme “Together One”.

LCC President Rev Teuscher with assisting pastors led delegates in an opening Divine Service drawn from John 17, where Jesus prays that we may “become perfectly one” in Him. His sermon emphasised the unity that we find in Christ. “It is only as we are united in Christ and work with Christ and to Christ that we can truly be united with one another.” Chills went down my back as we sang together the familiar hymn The Church’s One Foundation.

Business began early the next morning with presiding President installing of delegates and representatives and asking God to guide the convention by His Holy Spirit.

A few Highlights:

Unanimously welcoming of St. Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Church (Cornwall, Ontario) into membership of LCC and recognizing fellowship with Lutheran in the Philippines (LCP) and Australia (LM-A) and sadly to end our fellowship with Lutheran Church Australia and New Zealand as a result of their decision to allow the ordination of women.

Since the last convention 27 Pastors and one deacon have received calls within LCC and were invited to sign LCC’s constitution as well as Pastor Chandler with this being the first opportunity to do so.

Voting Results:

President Rev David Haberstock who succeeds President Teuscher who announced he would not seek re election

Vice President Rev. Ted Giese who succeeds Rev. Michael Schultz who with his name for consideration prior to the vote

Regional Pastor West Rev Michael Schultz (Concordia, Penticton, BC) who succeeds Rev Robert Mohns who announced that he would not seek re election

Vancouver Island Circuit Counsellor Rev. Stephen Chambers, Our Saviour, Parksville succeeds Rev. Fraser Coltman who announced that he would not seek re-election.

Resolutions with friendly and minor amendments nearly all were adopted and with the notable exception being sent back for further study , being the resolution we took a straw vote on at our last congregational meeting.

Keynote Speakers:

Dr Alex Vieira discussed the meaning of Koinonia and Rev. Dr. James Kellerman, discussed *Ephesians 2:13-22* highlighting how Christ creates true peace, how the church proclaims it and how we live in that peace. "It is a peace founded not in an idea but in Christ being God in human flesh."

Information Sessions or breakout sessions I attended two:

- 1) Engaging Young Adults stressing the importance of investing in our youth with time and mentoring
- 2) Parenting and Grand Parenting exploring the sharing our faith onto the next generation

Greetings from A far

Like family reunions conventions provide an opportunity to be reacquainted with old friends and former Pastors so on their behalf greetings and hugs from Pastor Lyons with Anniversary congratulations and his humble apologies for missing it, Pastor Pastuka and wife Janine, Pastor Darren Seigle , and Alex Klages, and former members Nathan Goebel Grand Prairie, Jean Denman, Winnipeg, Barbara Darrah, Edmonton and LWMLers President Marilyn Wittie ,Vice Presidents Sherley Hearty, Ruth Coe, Annette Borchard, Central District and from the Mission field Sonja Bland with BC Mission Society, who shared the pocket quilts our sewing group made with those visiting her booth.

It takes an army of people to organize and facilitate such a convention from the bottom of my heart I want to say well done good and faithful servants may we too answer the call to serve.

In His service
Deborah

Strive to be a Prayer Warrior



"Grace and peace be with you".

In the June LWML-C webinar, "Service in Mission- LWMLC Mission Trip 2025 to The Philippines", Sherley Hearty, used the phrase, "prayer warrior", to describe one of the three women, Jill, that she travelled with to the Philippines. By description, this woman would approach women in the churches they were visiting there and, after introducing herself, would ask how they would like her to pray for them. Then she would pray with them.

As I have matured in my faith, I have become more comfortable saying to people that I will pray for them. Only, if they ask for a prayer at that moment in time, will I try, but usually it will be a little later, in silent words with God.

It is my own lack of confidence, not my belief that God may or may not answer the prayer for help. God will answer our prayers, "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer." 1 Peter 3:12

As we age, praying to our Lord is an action that we can do as long as we have breath. I have had the honour of knowing several "prayer warriors" in my own journey of faith.

While watching the webinar, several opportunities for the need for our prayers are suggested. These include: prayers for the Pastors, their wives and families, Deaconesses that need to travel to other cities to train, families that are separated by one of the members needing medical attention in another location, the seminarians, the homes for the care of orphans and "aunties" (elderly women unable to care for themselves), and other

physical and spiritual needs for our Sisters-in-Christ in the Philippines.

Just as their families and congregations need prayers, our congregations and communities do as well. Each one of us are able to be active prayer warriors. The new PPC boards, people in our congregation, our Pastor, the Living Hope congregation, the workers who use our parking lot, and the Park Lane Preschool workers and students are all in need of prayer. We can also pray for other organizations that support those in need of care.

Our prayers may be requests for help or they may be prayers of thanksgiving. I encourage you to become or continue to be prayer warriors, joining together as one, in our faith, knowing that we are to "Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." These are the words from Paul, Silas and Timothy in the first letter to the Thessalonians in their instructions to the congregation, in chapter 5:16-18.

In Christ,
Louise

Please pray for: our Pastors and church workers, our next Parish Planning Council members, safe summer travel, our sisters in LWML in Canada and around the globe, our seminarians, our fellow Christians and all people, for healing, and for peace.

Some Thoughts on Good Works

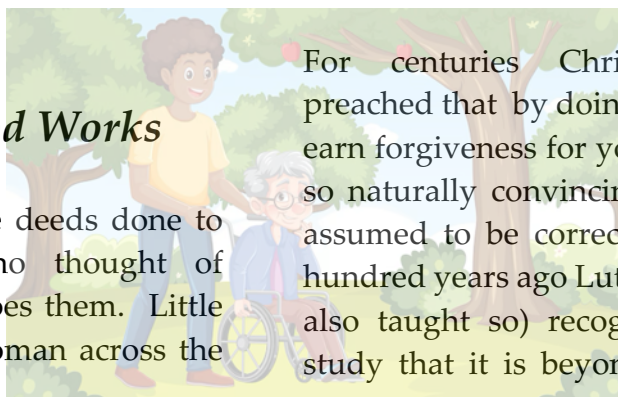
By definition, good works are deeds done to help someone else, with no thought of benefitting the person who does them. Little things, like helping an old woman across the

street or giving a ride to someone with a heavy suitcase – common courtesies – or bigger things, like helping your handicapped friend building his new garage or caring for his animals when he is away, or really outstanding actions like rescuing people from life-threatening situations are all good deeds as you receive nothing in return.

Why would anybody want to do things like that, when “there is nothing in it for me”? Simple, not only because of our inclination to help our neighbour, but because Christians are expected to do good works – it says so in the Bible (Ephesians 2:10): “...created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life” – now that’s something! Not only are we to do good works, but God has already some in store for us to do! The trouble is, He did not tell each of us precisely what to do and when. However, we can rest assured that the time will come when a distinct opportunity (or several) will arise – we won’t have to waste time looking for such an opportunity, just be ready to act on it!

Yet there can also be a problem, and that is the motivation for doing so-called good deeds. While we are all agreed that they should not bring benefits to the doer – otherwise they would not qualify as “good works” – some may (perhaps secretly) hope they would “count” to their advantage when it comes to Judgement Day.

For centuries Christian churches have preached that by doing good works you could earn forgiveness for your sins, and that idea is so naturally convincing that it is still widely assumed to be correct even today. But five hundred years ago Luther (who as a monk was also taught so) recognized after deep Bible study that it is beyond our capacity to earn



God's forgiveness and that God, through His son Jesus, has already forgiven our sins. The Reformation is based on the recognition that Christ is the sole source of salvation.

Not that such recognition would or should invalidate the desire - ability or doing good works - it just shifts their importance from sole source of salvation to desirable support. As Luther himself has stated neatly: "Good works do not make a good man, but a good man does good works".

Let us then be prepared to do good works whenever an opportunity arises, without any thought of personal gain. Also remember that such good deeds are God-pleasing: "...whatever you did to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me" (Matthew 25:40)

In His Service,
Paul

"Shout for joy to the Lord"

Many of the Psalms, especially Psalm 98, 100 and 101, tell us to make music of joy and praise on the harp, trumpet and horn. We are to "burst into jubilant song with music". Psalm 98:4

Barbara Guidetti often writes about the music that is presented by the choir and chimes musicians during worship services or at Reposes.

I would like to acknowledge and give thanks to God for the musical gifts of Hope's musicians! Barbara is our creative director, leading the members in choir and chimes as well as sharing her talents on the organ, piano, flute, and harp. She also creates and presents our excellent and musically diverse Reposes. Laura Gibson (and

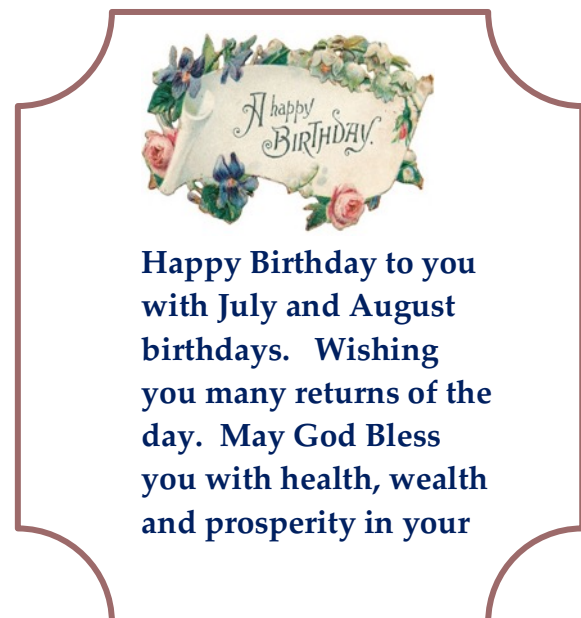
Richard Uhl up until this past year) also leads the musical portion of services on the organ. Laura occasionally plays piano as well. The choir and chimes musicians, who include: Barbara, Brian, Carla, Helga, Ian, Laura, Melvin, Theodora, April, and Angel, will return in the fall to again enrich our worship times. Melvin and Ian share their skills with multiple groups including the Beacons, which Linda leads on her guitar. Thanks to Holly, a gifted flutist and member of the Victoria Symphony who, when she is able, accompanies the organ during our Sunday services. Thank you all and God bless you for sharing your God given talents!

Also, thanks to our congregation and Pastor, who raise their voices in praise and thanksgiving to our God during worship each week.



So, "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs." Psalm 100:1-2

In Christ,
Louise



Introducing your Church Council Members

After the May Congregation meeting here are the elected members to the Parish Planning Council (PPC).

President - vacant

Vice-President – Mel Klassen

Secretary – Theodora Henry

Treasurer – Linda Russell

Financial Secretary – Marie Russell

Chair of the Board of Lay Ministry – vacant

Members: Mike Rumsch, Cole Salsman

Chair of the Board of Properties – Alex Schmidt

Members: Ken Hartig

Chair of the Board of Stewardship-vacant

Chair of the Board of Ed & Youth – vacant

Chair of Evangelism - vacant

Members: Charles Hartig

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the leaders you have placed over our church. Please grant them a listening heart and divine wisdom as they guide this congregation. Give them clear vision, discernment between right and wrong, and the ability to make decisions that honor You and bless Your people. Amen

Fund Raising Update

We have raised \$93,903.00! THANK YOU to all who have contributed. Please help us reach our goal of \$96,000 to fix the church roof.



Victoria lighthouse Harbour Ministry



VICTORIA
LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY

At Ogden Point, there is a multi-denominational tent where volunteers provide WIFI and snacks. They also share the Gospel and pray with shore workers and cruise ship crews. "God is at work in lives and we praise Him for the privilege of sharing His Word and encouraging others to know Him as Saviour. Thank you for your prayers, and your part in the ministry," (a quote from Evelyn from the Living Hope Church.) New volunteers are welcome.

<https://www.victoriaseafarersministry.ca>

LWML-C Corner

LWML News



With sunny skies and warm weather, summer is upon us. We wish you all a wonderful and blessed summer!

Lunch and Learn and Sewing Circle will be taking a break for a couple of months and will restart in September.

Coming in the Fall will be the LWML Vancouver Island Zone Rally. Look for more information in the Church bulletins and in the September Newsletter.

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July 2026






SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Canada Day – God keep our land, glorious and free.	2 Lord, encourage the Cambodian deaconesses as they serve You.	3 As we enter the weekend, please give safe travel to our sisters in Christ.	4 As the United States celebrates 250 years, remind them of your blessings.
5 Our trust is in you, O Lord, our trust is in You.	6 We lift Street Reach, the ministry of DJ Kim in prayer. Keep him safe.	7 Lord, please bless the farmers and the fields that will reap a good harvest.	8 We pray blessings on the Niagara and Windsor fruit production.	9 Let us be still and know You are God.	10 Forgive us from not trusting in You with our whole heart.	11 Forgive us from leaning on our own understanding.
12 Forgive us for not acknowledging you in all our ways.	13 Please direct and guide our steps.	14 Glory to You, our Saviour and our King!	15 Sing a favourite hymn to our Lord.	16 Read a favorite Bible verse and meditate on it.	17 Thank God for His Word which gives us life.	18 Bless the LAMP teams who go out to the remote villages to share God’s love.
19 Keep the LAMP pilots and planes safe as they minister.	20 Please help us to keep our minds focused on You, Lord.	21 Please help us to encourage and support our LWMLC sisters.	22 Bless all families and children.	23 There is peace within your presence, I speak Jesus.	24 I speak your name, Jesus, let every dark addiction start to break.	25 Declaring there is hope and freedom in You, Jesus.
26 Your name is power, healing, and life.	27 I speak your name, Jesus, over fear and anxiety.	28 Help every soul held captive by depression for Your name is healing.	29 Jesus, you are in the darkness over every enemy. Thank you for your protection.	30 Lord, be with our LWMLC mission projects as they support the work of the church.	31 Let us sing praises to God with hearts and hands and voices.	
We find encouragement and hope in scripture.... and share that hope with others.						

This calendar has been prepared for your use by the Christian Growth Committee of Lutheran Women's Missionary League–Canada




Hope Lutheran Calendar

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 5 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30 am	29	30 Bible Study 10:00 am	1 	2	3	4 
5 6 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30 am Lunch with Pastor 12:30 pm Mel Klassen 	6	7 Bible Study 10:00 am	8  Margaret Scherly	9 	10	11
12 7 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30 am  Charles Hartig	13 	14 Bible Study 10:00 am	15	16  Paul Loofs	17	18 Amica Prayer Service 2:30 pm
19 8 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30 am	20 Pastor Chandler on vacation July 20 - 25					
			22 St Mary Magdalene			25 St James the Elder
26 9 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30 am	27	28	29	30	31	1
26 Pastor Chandler on vacation July 26 - 31						
2 10 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30 am Lunch with Pastor	Notes	ELDER: Michael Rumsch (250-588-0776)		Altar Guild: Deborah Gruben Jade Russell Laura Frandsen Louise Rushton Theodora Henry		

Hope Lutheran Calendar

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30 am	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 10 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30 am <i>Lunch with Pastor</i> 12:30 pm  Michael Russell	3 	Pastor Chandler on vacation August 3 - 7				8
9 11 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30 am	10	11  Sandra Starling	12  Stephen Gruben	13  Fred Smale	14  Erwin Theim	15 Amica Prayer Service 2:30 pm St Mary, Mother of our Lord
16 12 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30 am	17  <i>Discovery Day</i>	18	19	20	21	22  Marilyn Hess
23 13 th Sunday a Pentecost Worship 10:30 am	24 St Bartholomew, Apostle	25	26  Mark Beiderweiden Ken Hartig	27	28	29 The Martyrdom of St John the Baptist 
30	31	Notes	ELDER: Michael Rumsch (250-588-0776)		Altar Guild: Deborah Gruben Jade Russell Laura Frandsen Louise Rushton Theodora Henry	