

February 2023 Edition



What you'll find inside:

- Pastor's Page
- Worship News
- Christian Education
- Spiritual Life News
- February Birthdays
- Social Ministry News
- Fellowship Activities
- Reflections and Fun
- Online Service Details

We are making some changes to the office hours.
Please note the updated office hours, effective immediately:

Mondays 9am-1pm
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9am-4pm
Fridays CLOSED

The church will be closed Monday, February 20, 2023 for Family Day.

Connection Details for SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 10:00 a.m.

ALL SERVICES ARE LIVE-STREAMED THROUGH OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL which can be found through Hope Lutheran's website: <https://www.hopelutheran.ca/>

Connecting by phone:

1. Dial 587-328-1099
2. Then press 487-603-306 #
3. Press # again.

PASTOR'S PAGE

"Vocation: Calling, Resistance, Assurance, Blessing"

Adapted from a sermon from January 30, 2022

Vocation is a fancy Latin word that means calling. What's your vocation? What's your calling?

It used to be in the Middle Ages that only priests and monks and nuns had "vocations" because they occupied themselves full-time with religious and "holy" activities. But then Luther and Calvin and all the other Reformers came along and said, *"Wait a sec – God doesn't only just like religious-types of lifestyles; God whispers vocations and callings to every human heart, and honours the offerings of all kinds of occupations and activities. You could have a vocation of hospitality as a householder, or a calling of generosity as a businessman, or a gift of love as a craftsperson, or... almost anything!"* The Reformation recognized that God called people of faith throughout the Bible to all kinds of roles and activities. Noah was given the gift of single-mindedness and obedience. Moses' passion for justice was given the task of freeing God's people from slavery. Deborah's clarity of vision enabled her leadership in a time of distress. Hannah had devotion. Samuel had courage. Ruth had a calling of love and loyalty. You could go on and on through the story of scripture. Paul, himself called out as an apostle to the Gentiles, wrote to the Corinthians that every member of the body of Christ has a unique gift to contribute to the functioning of the body. The Reformers renewed Paul's insight after hundreds of years of religious vocations being held up as superior to others.

It's too bad that in later generations of Protestants we have tended to restrict the meaning of "vocation" again to just pastors, going back to the Medieval view. The world is ahead of us in this regard. Today you can find the word vocation in manuals on leadership and on the topic list of motivational speakers anywhere you turn. That's a good thing! They recognize what God's people have known since forever: that God speaks uniquely to each and every human being and gives unique gifts to be used in celebration and service. Everyone has a vocation. What's yours? What's ours together as people of Hope?

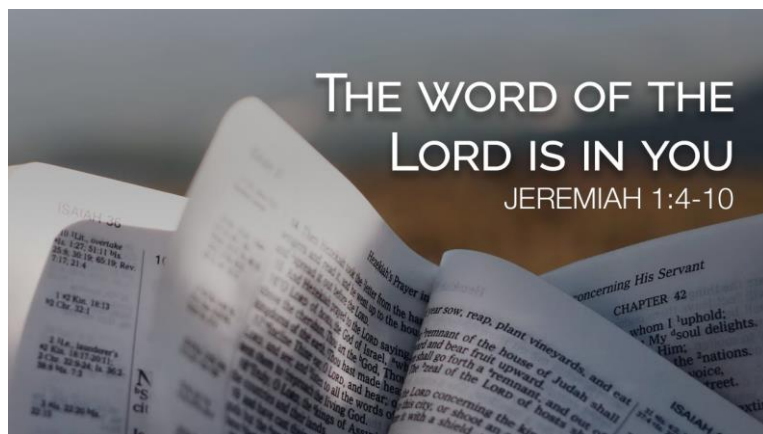
In Jeremiah 1:4-10 the prophet tells the story of his call by God. And there was a pattern in his experience of call that we can find elsewhere in scripture, maybe even in our own experiences of being called. The pattern is this: *Call, Resistance, Assurance, Blessing.*

Call

*Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”*

God says to Jeremiah that he was uniquely shaped from *even before he was born* for a special purpose in the world. God had a plan. God *knew* and *consecrated* Jeremiah. The calling was lovingly shaped into his very being.

As God knew and consecrated Jeremiah, so God knows and has consecrated *you*. We sometimes think of vocations as something outward and visible in the world, something we do like a job or profession. And certainly vocation manifests that way, but before it shows up as actions in the world it is expressed inwardly, as a unique point of view, passion of the heart, or way of being in the world. Vocation is the way you have been lovingly formed by God from even before you were born.



Before a vocation takes shape as an occupation it is a quality of your character, and a gift of the Spirit. Maybe you love to give to others. Maybe you are able to make space for people and show attentiveness to them. Maybe you've always had a clarity and strength of purpose. There are as many gifts and combinations of gifts as there are people in the world. In what unique way are you formed? What is your calling?

Resistance

Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”

Sometimes when we discern what our vocation is—when we have clearly felt what that thing is that give us passion, spark, energy, and joy—we draw back. Because we recognize that this calling is powerful. It has implications for how we live our lives. It might lead us in directions that are scary to follow, or unconventional, or will lead us into confrontation or trouble with others.

So we start to make excuses and find reasons *not* to act on the calling that is ours. Jeremiah said, “*God, I know you’ve given me this ability to see the ways that the world is wrong and a*

fire to speak up and tell the truth about the way things are. And I can see how my consecration as a prophet is going to get me in big trouble with powerful people. I just can't do it. I can't exercise this calling because A) I just don't have any ability to honey-coat my words—I can't speak; and B) I'm way too young; no one will take me seriously."

Don't you recognize this response? Do we not do it too?

"God, I know you've given me this generous and caring heart, but in my line of work you have to be tough and strong; you can't show your feelings or everyone will take advantage of you. I can't be that person."

"God, I know you've created me to have insight and originality, but if I speak up for these things the world will laugh. It's so unconventional and I'd lose standing and respect."

Our reasons for keeping our light hidden under a bushel are as unique and numerous as our callings themselves.

Assurance

But wherever there are doubts, God give reassurance. Whether it's Moses or Ruth or David or Jeremiah or you or I, when we express our hesitations and fears, God always gives assurance. Jeremiah reports:

*But the Lord said to me,
"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord."*

God's word to Jeremiah, part of the call, is: Do not be afraid; I am with you.

And so it is with us. Whatever our doubts or fears about living fully into our callings, God will always meet us with the word of assurance: Do not be afraid; I am with you. There is something about expressing our vocation that will be so fulfilling, meaningful, and joyful to us, that whatever the other consequences in the world might be, they will not matter.

And that's not to say that there won't be serious consequences. You might lose your job. You might become estranged from your family. You might suffer alienation from a world that just doesn't understand. This is what the Lutheran Study Bible says about Jeremiah's life: *Most of his listeners thought he was a heretic. Some people thought he was insane. His friends and family stayed away. Religious leaders called for his death. But he endured all of the persecution and rejection.* He could endure because he knew he was faithful to his calling. Beneath his fears, doubts, and whatever the world threw at him there was a calm certainty that he was the right person for the right place at the right time.

Do not be afraid of fulfilling your call, says the Lord. I am with you.

Blessing

*Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”*

Not only does God offer ASSURANCE to those who express their fears and their doubts, but God also offers a BLESSING. Moses receives his staff and a companion. Jonah gets relief from the heat under a tree that grows for him. Elijah is fed by ravens in the wilderness. Ruth receives the loving relationships of husband and children. Jeremiah feels God’s presence and sees a vision: *Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth.*

When you exercise your vocation, not only do you have the secure sense that you are the right person for the right place at the right time, no matter what the world may think, but there is a way in which blessing will arise in your life. Because the exercise of our vocation is its own reward, fulfillment, pleasure, and blessing.

Vocation begins as an inward passion and unique way of being in the world. Before it manifests externally in any activity, job, or career it is a quality of one’s being. But eventually it does manifest as an activity in the world. Some are lucky to be able to fulfill their vocations in the context of their jobs, and that is a wonderful thing, but others have hobbies, volunteer involvements, or lifestyles that give expression to their vocations. In whatever way we fulfill our callings, there is a way in which that fulfillment becomes a blessing to us. God is in this, we feel, and this is true.

In Christ

For Christians, Jesus is the one whose calling is the original and foundation of all our vocations. In him our own vocations find focus and meaning. And he himself experienced the same pattern of CALL, RESISTANCE, ASSURANCE, and BLESSING in his discernment of vocation.

In the River Jordan Jesus heard the voice from the heavens naming him the Beloved Child; this fundamental CALL was the spring from which all his actions flowed. Immediately after the baptism he was driven to the wilderness by the Spirit, where he experienced the RESISTANCE of doubt and temptation. Here, though, he also received ASSURANCE and BLESSING as the angels waited on him. After returning from the wilderness, when Jesus spoke to the synagogue at Nazareth by reading from the book of Isaiah. Through the prophet’s words he articulated his CALL as a mission—what would become his job, career, and action in the world: *to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of*

sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. It was a shockingly large mission, disturbingly upsetting to convention. Jesus even sharpened the point in his follow up discussion after the sermon, saying that he came to offer these things, not just to Israel, the "in group," but to all people. At first they tried to contain his message with a condescending "That's our boy!" but when he wouldn't be contained they tried to hurl him off a cliff. Such things can be the world's response to the authentic expression of our vocations. But they couldn't suppress Jesus. He went on to offer healing and hope and forgiveness and reconciliation to a world lost in sin and suffering. He confronted the powers and principalities. And he lost his life. But God gave it back to him again, overflowing and abundant, and eternal, for all the world to share.

We who are followers of Jesus and his Way find the fulfillment and focus of all our vocations in him. Offered to him, our calls become part of his, offered back to the world as light and life.

What is your call? What is your vocation? May you be granted discernment, courage, and joy in its fulfillment.

Pastor Kristian

Pastor's Studies

This January 4-11 I made my last trip to Jacksonville, Florida, for the intensive class that has launched me into the final stage of my *Doctor of Worship Studies* degree. This final project is the thesis, which will involve

reading and research in a subject area related to worship, designing and teaching course to teach on that subject, preparing a worship activity, and finally writing up the results of that research and project. I'm so thankful for the support and involvement Hope Lutheran has provided over the past years of this degree, coming with me on a journey of discovery of various aspects of worship—telling scripture by heart, practicing a seven-week Advent, Dinner Church. I hope all these projects have enlivened others' worship lives as they have mine.

In the early stage of this final project, I'm still looking for a topic to study, and for that I would love to have your input. What is a need *you* see in our worship life? What kind of project or special activity in worship would *you* like to see happen at our church? What do you think we need *more of* at church? What would you like to know more about if you took part in a course on an aspect of worship?

I would love your feedback on these questions. Please talk with me if you have ideas, or call, or email, or text, or however you best like to communicate! I can be reached, as always, at pastor.kristian@hopelutheran.ca, or 587.581.4154.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Greetings from Church Council

Dear Friends in Christ,

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our Annual General Meeting which will be held after the worship service on Sunday, February 26, 2023. One important component of this meeting will be congregational voting on the budget for our church for 2023. Only those attending the meeting in person will be eligible to vote. Council really appreciates the feedback provided by our members as we strive to make decisions that reflect the priorities and goals of our community.

During the AGM, we also present the new list of council members who will provide oversight to our church's affairs in the upcoming year. Our constitution permits as few as 6 council members; however, we prefer to have a better representation of up to 12 members from the congregation. Some council members chose to represent a particular ministry area, while others prefer to participate as a member at large. Our meetings are held on the evening of second Tuesday of each month and we are flexible with either in person or Zoom attendance. We seek a balance of perspectives to be represented on council, whether that be from younger or older folks, traditionalists or expanding boundaries thinkers, and gender diversity.

I encourage you to reach out to either myself or Pastor Kristian if you want to explore the idea of becoming a council member further. We are including a list of the ministry descriptions in this newsletter.

Peace be with you,

Joyce McKenny, Council Chair

Phone: 587 583 3459

Email: joyce.mckenny@gmail.com



An Outline of the Responsibilities of the Church Council and Its Various Ministries For Information Purposes

Church Council is a group of elected representatives of the congregation. There needs to be a minimum of 6 and up to 12 members who must be voting members of the congregation. The normal term is three (3) years and no member of the Church Council should serve more than three (3) consecutive terms. At the first Church Council meeting after the Annual

Meeting, the council elect officers consisting of a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. The remaining council members are either liaisons representing various church ministries or members at large. The Council Chair is automatically the council liaison for and a member of the Mutual Ministry and Personnel Committee.

CHAIR PERSON

The Council Chair presides at all meetings of the council and the congregation, organizing regular council meetings by setting dates and sending out agendas to council members prior to the meeting.

The Council Chair also organizes the Annual General Meeting of the congregation and special council and/or congregational meetings as needed.

VICE CHAIR PERSON

The Vice Chair presides at the meetings of the council and/or congregation in the absence of the chair. In the event that both chair and vice-chair are absent, the chair of the meeting will be chosen by the quorum present.

SECRETARY

The Secretary is responsible for recording and maintaining the minutes of the monthly Church Council meetings, as well as the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and any special congregational meetings.

TREASURER

The Treasurer prepares an annual budget based on input from the Ministries, supervises the expenditure of funds and ensures the financial affairs of the congregation are conducted efficiently. They monitor the month-to-month revenues, expenditures, net income and restricted funds and reports to Council on a monthly basis. The Treasurer also reports to the congregation at the Annual General Meeting.

MUTUAL MINISTRY

The mandate of the Mutual Ministry committee is to support the well-being of Hope's rostered personnel and other staff members. It is concerned with the personal wellness and working conditions of the staff in order that the ministry of the congregation is effective. The Mutual Ministry committee is meant to minister mutually: **TO** the staff as a way to assure good ministry within the congregation; and **WITH** the staff to assure good ministry among members.

This committee will normally be the first and safest place for congregation members to express concerns and issues regarding staff, and the first and safest place to hear staff express concerns about the congregation. Openness is important, confidentiality critical. This committee will from time to time be a liaison between staff and congregation. The Mutual Ministry committee is a "sounding board" for both staff and congregation and therefore will play an intercessory role. Its most powerful role is in affirming what is going well.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee is responsible for overseeing the smooth and effective functioning of the staff team at Hope Lutheran Church. Its roles include: recruiting trained clergy (in conjunction with a Call Committee) and staff, developing and reviewing staff job descriptions, conducting annual performance reviews for the pastor and staff, setting and annually reviewing compensation guidelines according to established Synod policies, and helping to resolve any conflicts that may arise from time to time among staff members. The Council Chair is a member of the Personnel Committee.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

The purpose of the Worship Ministry is to encourage and assist the congregation to gather for worship regularly and, in accordance with the traditions of the Lutheran Church, to recruit, equip and support members for leadership in worship, to use appropriate worship materials, and to make certain that worship has a place in other functions of the congregation.

Worship Ministry oversees three subcommittees: music, worship planning and altar guild.

The Music Subcommittee encourages the creative and appropriate use of music in the life of the congregation, developing and accessing the musical gifts of the members of the congregation. They select hymns and music for worship services and arrange for special music such as choirs, vocalists and instrumentalists as needed.

The Worship Planning Subcommittee selects and plans for the liturgies and special worship services, respecting our Lutheran traditions as well as the tastes and needs of the congregation. They also look for new, creative and appropriate opportunities to enhance the worship life of the congregation.

The Altar Guild arranges for the practical and physical needs of the worship services and worship space (i.e. communion wine and bread, candles, flowers, banners and paraments).

INREACH and FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

The Inreach ministry strives to promote a sense of community and caring among church members and build a sense of Christian family. The Fellowship Ministry strives to bring people of different ages and interest groups within our congregation together to enjoy Christian community as a family in Christ. This ministry is dedicated to facilitating opportunities to welcome visitors, to get to know each other, to meet and mingle and to support one another in Christian love.

OUTREACH AND SOCIAL MINISTRY

Building on the mission statement of Hope Lutheran Church, the purpose of the Outreach Ministry is to promote, encourage, equip and participate in witnessing Christ's love to the world. Social Ministry organizes and promotes an awareness of opportunities for members of Hope to engage in social services programs as well as social justice projects that benefit the wider community.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

The purpose of the Christian Education ministry is to develop, implement, oversee and support the educational programs of Hope Lutheran Church such as Sunday School, Confirmation classes, VBS, Bible studies, Adult Education etc). This includes recruiting and training teachers/leaders, ordering and distributing curriculum and making budget requests for the purchase of necessary materials.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Each one of us has been blessed with unique gifts, talents and abilities. All that we have and all that we are comes from God. We have a responsibility to make the best possible use of the time, talents and money with which God has blessed us.

Stewardship ministry sponsors programs focused on congregational giving of time, talents and money, and works to build a sense of belonging, ownership and community in the congregation.

PROPERTY MINISTRY

The Property Ministry's mandate is to ensure the church building and surrounding property is kept clean and cared for, maintained, repaired and improved as needed. Requests for funds in each annual budget should include funds for anticipated repairs, regular maintenance and potential equipment purchases to assist with interior and exterior tasks. There should be scheduling of outdoor cleanups with volunteers from the congregation to assist in the spring and fall yard work.



AGM

Hope Lutheran Church
Annual General Meeting

Sunday, February 26, 2023

11:00am

Coffee and muffins will be served after worship!

The meeting will be livestreamed via YouTube and Zoom.

Please note: **you must attend the meeting in person to vote.**



We hope you will join us! We value your input and ideas!

Childcare will be provided!

WORSHIP NEWS

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are a beautiful addition to the sanctuary on Sundays. The weekly bouquet costs \$50 – if you would like to sponsor a bouquet for a particular date, please contact the office, or use the sign-up sheet by the office door. Once you sign up for a bouquet, please include the \$50 in your offering envelope or e-transfer. There are several dates open in February!

Thank you to the following folks for sponsoring the February bouquets:

February 19: Kathy and Jim Lee, in loving memory of granddaughter, Meredith

February 26: No flowers for Lent

Home Communion Sunday, February 5

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers for making this opportunity to commune a possibility for all members. If you or a family member are no longer able to get to worship on Sunday, or if you feel called to support this ministry, please speak with Zena or Pastor about becoming a part of this program.

Usher positions have been filled right up to April! Many thanks to *all of you* who have offered to help out!

Children in Worship

February 12 – we welcome the kiddos to join Pastor Kristian for a special lesson just for them!

February 26– children 4-10 years old are welcome to join us for Sunday School lesson and activity. (Younger children are welcome to join with a parent).

During the AGM on February 26th, Sarah K. will supervise the children so parents can stay for the meeting. Thanks Sarah!

Lent and Easter

Ash Wednesday – February 22nd Service at 7:00pm

Join us every Wednesday in March for Holden Evening prayer at 7:00pm.

We will have TWO soup and bread suppers – March 8th and March 22nd at 6:00pm. Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar- we will enjoy a simple supper and fellowship together before Holden Evening prayer.

Ash Wednesday



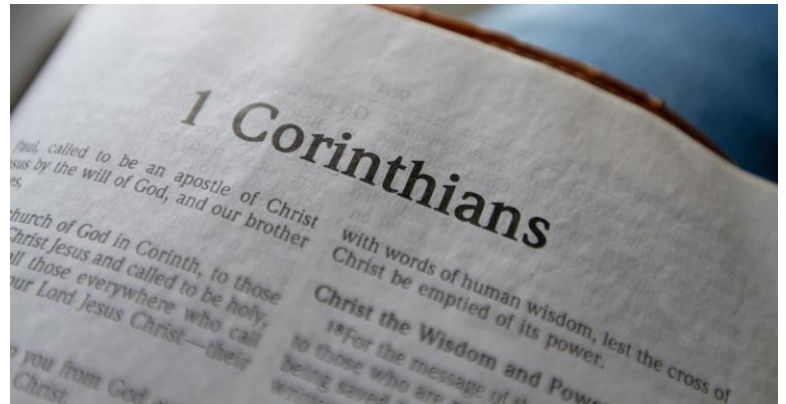
*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0

We are making plans to hold an Easter Vigil, supper and interactive service on Saturday, April 8th. Sunday School and Confirmation families – please make plans to join us this day, as we will be having participants of ALL ages sharing in skits, stories and music.

Bible Study: Corinthians

In 1 and 2 Corinthians we find correspondence from the apostle Paul to the early church in Corinth. Paul's letters to this church provided guidance--for persons new to the faith as well as those growing in faith--about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. These letters continue to provide guidance to us today, as we face many of the same "big questions" as the early Christians.



Sunday School teachers are needed!!! If you can teach even once, please let me know – I will give you an outline, supplies, whatever you need. Teenagers and grandparents make great Sunday School teachers too! Eager to volunteer? Zena would be happy to hear from you 😊

Confirmation continues in 2023, with six youth anticipated to making their Affirmation of Faith on Pentecost Sunday, May 28. In the new year we also welcomed three more young people into our first-year class, bringing our total to ten! (six confirming this year and four ongoing).

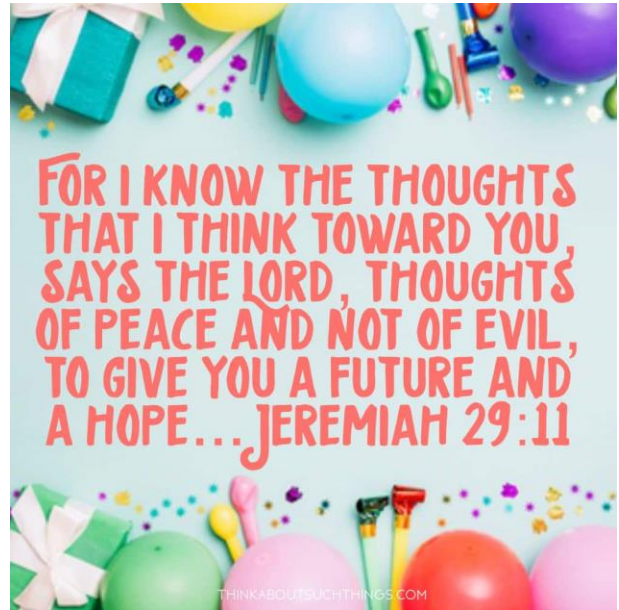


The new year started with Swiss raclette hosted by Regula Witschi and her daughter Christine. Thank you so much for a wonderful evening! We'll be continuing with a Confirmation Retreat at Camp Kuriakos on February 3-5, and then ongoing shared classes with other Calgary Lutheran churches. We are looking forward to hosting/participating in the Easter Vigil again this year, an event for the whole congregation, but especially our young families.

SPIRITUAL LIFE NEWS

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Tina Linder – February 1
Erik Linder – February 2
Jane Henderson – February 11
Brenda Zimmer – February 12
Sharon Alcock – February 13
Marilyn Haugen – February 13
Len Christensen – February 15
Rachel Schmidt – February 16
Joanne Seminuk – February 17
Byron Bergh – February 19
Toni Hencke – February 20
Kathy Lee - February 20
Garth Sartison - February 20
Paul Scholz – February 23
Mark Christensen – February 26
James Gattinger – February 28



**if we haven't listed your birthday, we don't have it in our records so please let us know!*

Daily Bible Readings for February 2023

Wednesday, February 1, 2023: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22; Luke 6:17-26
Thursday, February 2, 2023: Psalm 112:1-9; Deuteronomy 4:1-14; 1 John 5:1-5
Friday, February 3, 2023: Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:1-12; James 3:13-18
Saturday, February 4, 2023: Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:13-16; Mark 7:1-8
Sunday, February 5, 2023: Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Monday, February 6, 2023: Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 22:3-20; Romans 11:2-10
Tuesday, February 7, 2023: Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12
Wednesday, February 8, 2023: Psalm 119:105-112; Proverbs 6:6-23; John 8:12-30
Thursday, February 9, 2023: Psalm 119:1-8; Genesis 26:1-5; James 1:12-16
Friday, February 10, 2023: Psalm 119:1-8; Leviticus 26:34-46; 1 John 2:7-17
Saturday, February 11, 2023: Psalm 119:1-8; Deuteronomy 30:1-9a; Matthew 15:1-9

Sunday, February 12, 2023: Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Monday, February 13, 2023: Psalm 119:9-16; Exodus 20:1-21; James 1:2-8
Tuesday, February 14, 2023: Psalm 119:9-16; Deuteronomy 23:21-24:4, 10-15; James 2:1-13
Wednesday, February 15, 2023: Psalm 119:9-16; Proverbs 2:1-15; Matthew 19:1-12
Thursday, February 16, 2023: Psalm 2; Exodus 6:2-9; Hebrews 8:1-7
Friday, February 17, 2023: Psalm 2; Exodus 19:9b-25; Hebrews 11:23-28
Saturday, February 18, 2023: Psalm 2; 1 Kings 21:20-29; Mark 9:9-13
Sunday, February 19, 2023: Transfiguration Sunday
Monday, February 20, 2023: Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; Exodus 33:7-23; Acts 7:30-34
Tuesday, February 21, 2023: Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Romans 11:1-6
Wednesday, February 22, 2023: Ash Wednesday
Thursday, February 23, 2023: Psalm 51; Jonah 3:1-10; Romans 1:1-7
Friday, February 24, 2023: Psalm 51; Jonah 4:1-11; Romans 1:8-17
Saturday, February 25, 2023: Psalm 51; Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 18:1-7
Sunday, February 26, 2023: First Sunday in Lent
Monday, February 27, 2023: Psalm 32; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Hebrews 2:10-18
Tuesday, February 28, 2023: Psalm 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14-5:10
(Thanks to the Vanderbilt Divinity Library for posting.)

FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

January was a busy time at Hope. It was wonderful to have opportunity to gather and enjoy being among Hope family and friends!

Ladies Raclette Night – Saturday, February 4th – 5:00pm at Hope. Please contact Zena to register by Wed. Feb. 1st. Space is limited! Cost is \$10/ person – please pay cash that night, if possible. MANY thanks to Regula, Christine and Lena for offering this fantastic evening!

"Under 100 Club Event" on Thursday, Feb. 16th at 1:30pm at Hope

We will have a toe-tapping afternoon of musical entertainment, with special guest Gord Barge. Gord is a long-time musician who currently plays in two bands. His performance will include classic country and country rock music from Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, George Jones, and Hank Williams. He also enjoys playing songs from Alan Jackson and George Strait. Of course, a great afternoon of music must include some 50's and 60's Rock 'n Roll!



Why is it called an Under 100 Club event??? Because we want to see folks of all ages come out for a great afternoon. Who doesn't enjoy music... and coffee...and treats....and fellowship?!!! Please bring friends along and a plate of baking to share if you wish!

Mindful Movements Exercise Class

A new session is in-progress on Wednesday mornings! Thanks to Tonia for leading this!

Coffee on Sunday Mornings

The signup sheet remains mostly blank.... If you enjoy having coffee after church, can you put your name on the signup sheet to take a turn with clean up? It isn't a challenging task but it's so nice to share duties around the church, rather than assume someone else is going to do it.

Men's Breakfast – Join the group for upcoming breakfast on Saturday, February 4th at Cora's in Brentwood at 8:30am. Contact Robert Hiebert if you want to be added to the Men's Breakfast "Remind Me" list. Email: robert.hiebert@gmail.com

Stitching for Hope

This group will continue to meet Tuesday mornings at 10am. Join us anytime for a cup of coffee and some fun conversation!



The winter months are a great time for **puzzles and books!** The puzzle and book shelf is full and ready for you! Please take, or donate! (ensure that puzzles are not missing pieces and tape boxes shut).

SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

CARE CONNECT – Hope has committed to providing volunteers every Thursday morning to deliver food hampers to those in need who are unable to pick up their hamper. Contact Zena if you can join our volunteer group.

SWARM Update:

SWARM is very appreciative of the generous donations by Hope members. Currently they are looking for financial contributions so they can buy mattresses/ bedding and driving lessons for newcomers. Winter jackets, mitts, toques, scarves all also needed right now.

SWARM DONATIONS CHANGE as of Jan 1, 2023

Effective January 1, 2023 donations can be made directly to the Southwest Area Refugee Mission (SWARM). Cheques can be written to your local congregation and designated to "Southwest Area Refugee Mission" or "SWARM" or cheques can be made directly to "SWARM" and sent to Southwest Area Refugee Mission, 8831 Fairmount Drive SE, Calgary, AB, T2H 0Z4 or donations can be made via e-transfer: calgaryswarm@gmail.com

Feed your faith and doubt will starve to death!

OUR CHARITY OF CHOICE for January and February is Parachutes for Pets.



Parachutes for Pets is a registered charitable organization in Calgary, AB, founded in 2019 by Melissa David. It assists low-income families, victims of violence, foster children, seniors and veterans in Calgary with emergency pet care in their time of need. This includes, veterinary care as well as emergency pet food hampers and medication.

On January 22nd Sunday School held a bake sale to raise money for Parachutes for Pets. \$250 was collected! Thank you Hope, we hope you enjoyed the baking!

Please continue to contribute to Parachutes for Pets through your offering envelope, or drop of pet food, pet treats or cat litter at the church office, by the end of February.

Our favourite attitude should be gratitude!

Volunteer Driver Needed

Beginning in January, some Hope members would love a ride to and from Varsity for Sunday worship. If interested, please contact Zena and she will get you connected. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

We are looking for suggestions of charities you would like to see Hope support in the upcoming year. Contact coordinator@hopelutheran.ca

COMMUNITY NEWS

Services at Sage Hill and Varsity

This year, Pastor Kristian will continue to bring worship services to two retirement communities. On the second Wednesday of each month at 3:00pm he will lead a service at the *Manor Village, Varsity*, and on fourth Wednesdays at 3:00pm he will be at *Sage Hill Retirement Residence*. Hope members live in both facilities but services will be open to all. Please contact Pastor Kristian if you would like to assist with worship at either of these times or places.

Pastor's Availability

With the new church office hours, Pastor Kristian's availability has not changed. He is available any time of the week by appointment, but also keeps regular hours for drop-in connections.

Mondays he works from home (still available by phone). Tuesday to Thursday mornings are in the church office, and afternoons reserved for meetings and appointments.

Friday and Saturday are days off.

Please call his cell number *any time* in case of pastoral emergency.

Pastor's Cell: 587.581.4154.

Kuriakos

Last Chance for Last Year's Prices – register for camp by February 1, 2023 for 2022 rates!

Kuriakos is now accepting applications for summer 2023
They are looking to fill a variety of staffing positions. For more information visit: <https://kuriakos.ab.ca/about/apply>



Men's "CraftsMen" Retreat with Rev. Mick MacIntyre, military chaplain at CFB Edmonton
FEB 3-5 2023 | \$160 +GST | AGE 18+

Arrive 8-8:30pm on Friday, Wrap-up 12:30pm on Sunday

Join us for craft pizza, craft beer and crafting your faith in our beautiful Dana Lodge. Bring your friends and family or meet new friends. Consider joining one of the many pop-up winter fishing villages, using snowshoes or bringing your skis, or working on a project in the shop!

Family Day Getaway

FEBRUARY 17-20, 2023 | \$160 +GST/adult, \$130+GST/child, Max \$380+GST/family

A mid-winter retreat for families.

This retreat over the Family Day long weekend will follow a "messy church" style with games, crafts and activities incorporated into Bible study times. Time will be spent outdoors, playing games, worshipping, relaxing and enjoying great meals together.

Renew Spiritual Retreat for Women, March 31-April 2, 2023

| \$160 +GST | AGE 18+

Rev. Prema Samuel (Assistant to the Bishop of the Alberta Synod of the ELCIC)

Arrive 8-8:30pm on Friday Wrap-up 12:30pm on Sunday

This is a weekend for women to come together to be renewed - in their faith, in their life, in their relationships. Through prayer, teaching and meditation, we will experience the grace of God.

This weekend runs at a slower pace than many of our retreats, with an intentional focus on rest and spiritual renewal, however we will still have lots of fun, laughter, worship, great food and growth.

Youth Retreat, March 10-12, 2023

\$140 | Ages 13-18

Can't wait for summer? Come join us at camp for a retreat this spring. Enjoy games, worship, meals, learning and lots of fun together with new and old friends.

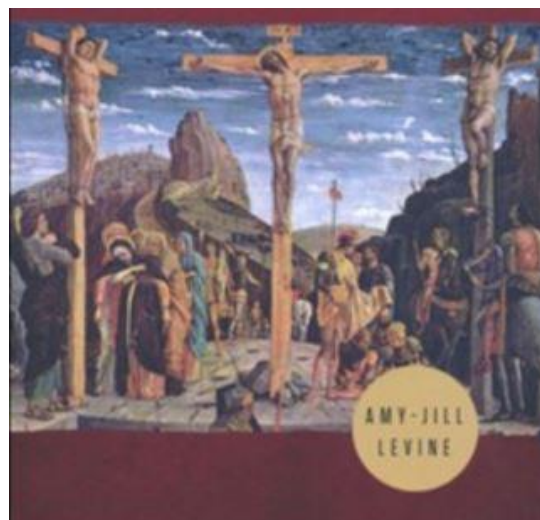
ABT Synod-Wide Lenten Bible Study

Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday by Amy-Jill Levine

Join Bishop Larry in an online Bible study each Tuesday in Lent, beginning February 21st.

The study will be offered at 9am and again at 7pm each Tuesday until Holy Week. Each participant will be asked to purchase their own copy of Witness at the Cross by Amy-Jill Levine. Prereading in preparation for each week will be expected. Each 75 minute session will view the crucifixion from the viewpoint of a different witness: bystanders and scoffers, the other victims, the soldiers, the beloved disciple, the women, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Discussions will include historical contexts, different biblical texts, and social backgrounds and contexts for each of the people at the cross.

The author of the study, Amy-Jill Levine, is an eminent Jewish Biblical scholar, a professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies and Hartford Seminary and professor of Jewish Studies Emerita and Professor of New Testament Studies Emerita at Vanderbilt University. She is considered one of the best teachers and scholars alive.



A Message from Pastor Peter Chau:

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy 2023 Chinese New Year of the Rabbit! Chinese New Year 2023 starts on the 22nd of January, and ends on the 5th February, lasting 15 days with the Lantern Festival on the final day. It is also known as the Chinese Valentine Day. As the Spring Festival is one of the most important Chinese celebrations of the year. Families gather to enjoy the New year feast and pay visits to their family members and friends.

The cost per person for the meal is \$35. We have invited more than 50 students from Hong Kong, the congregation of Hope Lutheran Church, the First Lutheran Church, the Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church and the Spiritual & Faith Centre of the University of Calgary. We

pray that God will use this event to reach our community and to further build friendships between the Lutheran congregations and the newcomers from Hong Kong.

Donation would be greatly appreciated and any donation over \$30 can be tax receipted upon request. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your love and support towards this ministry. May you be blessed abundantly so that you can further advance the kingdom of God.

Your sincerely,

Rev. Peter Chau
Lutheran Care Ministry
Synod of Alberta, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

If you would like to take part in this New Year event, please contact Grace Li at 825-438-0391

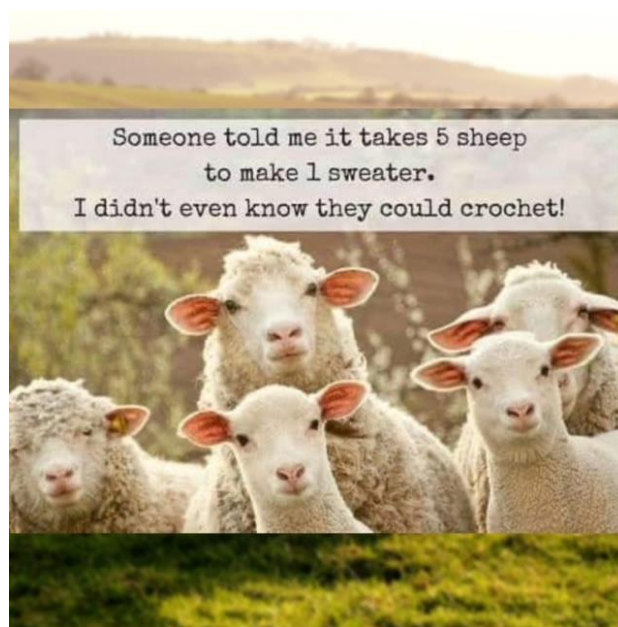
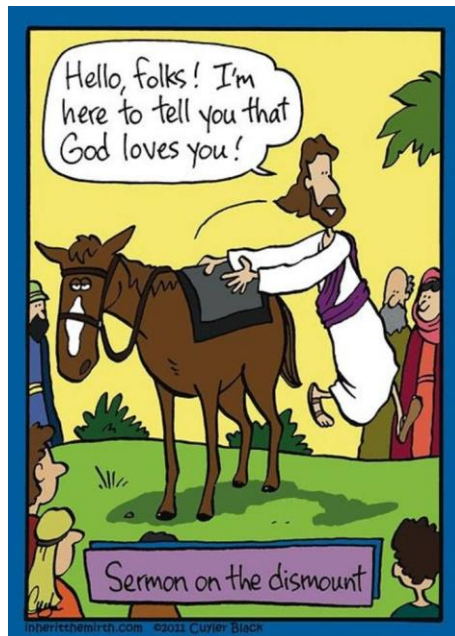


REFLECTIONS

RIDDLES

1. What type of flower is kissable?
2. During what month do people sleep the least?
3. If your aunt runs away to get married on Valentine's Day, what do you call her?
4. What do you call two birds in love?
5. Why is romaine the most loving lettuce?

FUNNY BONES



RIDDLE ANSWERS

1. Tulips
2. February, it's the shortest month, after all.
3. Antelope
4. Tweet hearts.
5. Because it's got heart.

Ideas for Your Lenten Practice This Year

OFFERING UP:

Sharing Your Resources with Others

WEEK 1: *Give up something you usually buy for yourself, such as a cup of coffee or a song downloaded from the Internet. Double the amount you would have spent and place it in the collection basket at church.*

WEEK 2: *Share the world's energy by turning down the heat, taking shorter showers, or walking or biking instead of driving to a destination.*

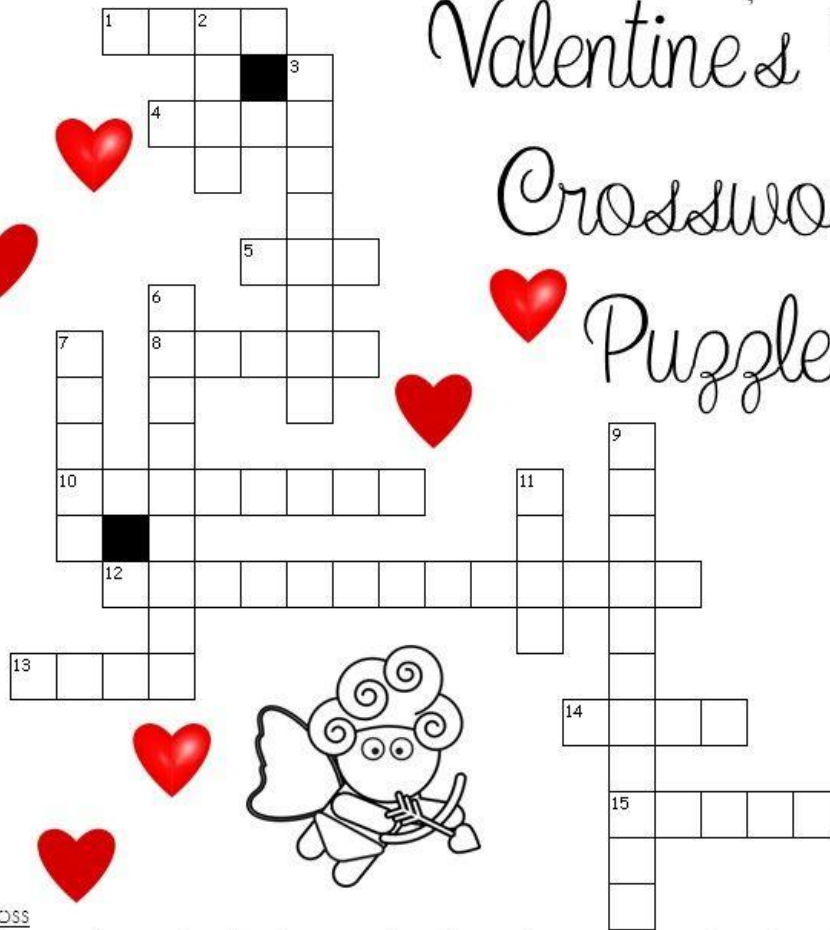
WEEK 3: *Offer to help someone else in the family, at work, or in school with a chore or task.*

WEEK 4: *Visit someone who is sick or in a nursing home, or donate your time to a parish social ministry project.*

WEEK 5: *Clean out a closet or chest of drawers and give away clothes, toys, books or other items you haven't used in the past year.*

WEEK 6: *Write a letter of gratitude to someone at your parish or in your community to thank them for the services they are extending to those in need.*

Valentine's Day Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. A genre of writing that often rhymes and can be used to express love through words
4. A type of bird that is often associated with Valentine's Day
5. Gesture of love and an embrace from one person to another
8. The shape that is often red in color and associated as a symbol for Valentine's Day
10. Phrase one person says to another person to show affection
12. Holiday in February that celebrates love and is named after a Saint
13. The four-letter emotion expressed from one person to another
14. A decorated memento expressing a sentiment of love that is exchanged on Valentine's Day
15. A type of red flower that is typically given by the dozen as a gift for Valentine's Day

Down

2. The mythological god of love (also known as Cupid)
3. The month in which Valentine's Day occurs
6. Made from cacao, this candy is brown in color and typically given in a box as a gift on Valentine's Day
7. A small, winged boy who carries a bow and arrow, and is a symbol of Valentine's Day
9. The items Cupid carries and uses to cast love spells
11. Gesture of love from one person's lips to another's cheek or lips

Valentine's Day Coloring Page

