
THE MESSENGER OF HOPE



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pentecost 18 to Reformation Sunday

October 2023



WORDS OF HOPE

Reflections by Pastor Terry Richardson

Do this for the remembrance of me. Luke 22:19

Weekly Communion



One of the activities that brings us together as God's people, reminds us who we are and that we are loved, is *Holy Communion*. This gathering at the Lord's Table is called by many names such as the *Eucharist*, the *Lord's Supper*, *Breaking of the Bread* and so on. But whatever we call this time together, Jesus set the table "for us" with the intention that we regularly experience this moment of love for the living of our lives.

Like Baptism, Holy Communion is not just a concept or a teaching. It is an experience. It has a tactile quality, meaning that our senses are involved. We can see this gathering around the table, we can *taste* and *smell* the bread and wine, we can *feel* the cup and bread in our hand, and we can *hear* the promise of Jesus spoken to us in that moment: *given for you*.

Over the years, this reminder of the Lord who journeys with me has helped keep me spiritually alert and able to manage many of life's "roller-coaster rides" from week to week. In the bump and grind of life with surprises and other unexpected turns of events, the Eucharist provides a moment of calm to regain balance, remember who we are and whose we are, and realize that we are not alone. Our journey of faith calls us together at the Table of the Lord where the family gathers. Welcome is extended to guests and other strugglers on the road of life.

You may recall the words I often use just before the table opens:
*From all corners of the earth, Christ invites everyone to this table.
So come to this table...
You who have much faith and you who would like to have more.
Come to this table...
You who have been to this sacrament often and
You who have not been for a long time.
Come to this table...
You who have tried to follow Jesus and
You who have failed.
Come to this table...
For Christ invites us to meet God here.*



Coming to the Eucharist is about strengthening our faith, the renewal of hope, assuring forgiveness and being able to start again. We remember and experience the presence of our gracious Lord Jesus Christ.

May the promises of the Lord's Table "*strengthen and keep you firmly in your faith, both for the good times and also for the hard times*" as each week goes by.

WORSHIP NOTES SEASON OF CREATION **Submitted by Carolyn Iles**

The Season of Creation ends on October 4th. The hymn we have been singing during this time is '*Touch the Earth Lightly*'. Here is some background information about this hymn.

'*Touch the Earth Lightly*' is the work of Shirley Erena Murray, born in 1931 in Aotearoa / New Zealand. She is a former Methodist, now an 'ecumenical Presbyterian'. She wrote: 'At home in New Zealand, it is enormously important to me to be able to sing our story from our own soil, especially our efforts as an anti-nuclear nation, standing in the Pacific for world peace.' 'Touch the earth lightly', whose first line was suggested by a poster, goes back to the time of the French nuclear testing in the Pacific, which New Zealand had protested against for years at the United Nations: 'agents of death for all creatures that live'.

Composer Colin Gibson (b.1933), formerly Professor (now Emeritus) of English at Otago, is a Methodist organist and lay preacher, composer and promoter of hymn singing, sharing in the development of the New Zealand Hymnbook Trust. Among his compositions are music-dramas for children. 'Touch the Earth Lightly' appears in hymn books all over the world.

The end of the Season of Creation is the day we commemorate St. Francis of Assisi, the founder of the Franciscan order of monks - the Order of Friars Minor. These monks took literally Jesus' words to take nothing on their journey and receive no payment for their work. Francis had a 'spirit of gladness and gratitude' for all of God's creation. One of his texts, from around 1200, was set to music in the 1600's and we know it today as All Creatures, Worship God Most High, hymn #835. Here are the first three verses.

"All creatures worship God most High, every voice in earth and sky, Alleluia!
Alleluia!

Sing brother sun in splendor bright, sing sister moon and stars of night. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia.

Sing brother wind with clouds and rain, you grow the gifts of fruit and grain.

Dear sister water useful, clear, make music for your Lord to hear

Sing brother fire so mirthful strong, drive far the shadows, join the throng,

Dear mother earth, so rich in care, praise God in colours bright and rare "

Long before our current concern about 'climate change', before concerns about nuclear testing, the church leaders, such as St. Francis and others, promoted love of creation. May we remember our heritage, and continue to be stewards of the gift of creation we have been given.



PENTECOST 2/AUTUMN, NOVEMBER

From October 8th through November to December 1st we will be in the season of Pentecost again. This is also called 'Ordinary Time'. And the first Sunday of this Ordinary Time, is no ordinary time in Canada....it is Canadian Thanksgiving! The first official, annual Thanksgiving in



Canada was celebrated on 6 November 1879, though [Indigenous peoples in Canada](#) have a history of celebrating the fall harvest that predates the arrival of European settlers. In 1957, Thanksgiving was proclaimed an annual event to occur on the second Monday of October. It is an official statutory holiday in most provinces and territories. Today it has become a day to celebrate not only a harvest of foods, but a day to be grateful for all our blessings.

YOU ARE INVITED.....to be a part of our Thanksgiving service in a special way. **On October 1st**, paper and pencils will be provided, and you are encouraged to write down something(s) for which you are grateful; and place them in the nearby basket. (If you attend on zoom, please e-mail your thoughts to Pastor Terry.) These comments will become a part of our Thanksgiving service. No names are required! Share your 'Attitude of Gratitude'!



CONTINUOUS LEARNING **Submitted by Carolyn Iles**

Learning Connections

For the past four years, ELCIC Bishop Susan Johnson has been encouraging congregations to practice "Living our Faith". In the September edition of the *Canadian Lutheran*, Bishop Johnson said "...we have been practicing elements of how we discern God's will, through praying, reading scripture, our devotional and worship life and by the way we live out our faith in love." Here at Hope, our newsletter has had articles on these topics throughout the years. (Well, not so much the 'living our faith' year, as few people responded with their stories – but I know they have such stories!) Bishop Susan went on in the article to talk about discernment. Often when individuals – or say a church – need to make a big decision, we try to use analytical ways to consider the 'pros' and 'cons'. Sometimes we make decisions based upon tradition, or finances. There is another way to make decisions, though.

Discernment "What if we really took time to try to discern God's will in a given situation? What if we spent time together in prayer? What if we studied scripture to learn ways other children of God have come to know God's will? What if we spent as much time in silence listening and reflecting as we did in speaking?" asks Bishop Susan.



The BC Synod has been hosting an 'Online Learning Circle' - *Moving from Decision Making to Discernment*. The series is led by Reverend Susan Beaumont, who is an ordained minister within the American Baptist Churches, USA, a consultant on church leadership, coach, and author.

Those churches (or individuals) who have joined the group, listen to a lecture from Rev. Beaumont, then meet at a later time in small groups to discuss and practice the concepts of discernment. For most of us, this is not easy, as we are comfortable with the way we've always done things, and being silent and listening does not come easy. Yet, like Bishop Susan, I think it is important we spend the time we need in prayer, reflection and silence as we discern what is the will of God, especially when we are facing big decisions. That leads me back to the article in the *Canadian Lutheran*...

Our National Bishop says, "At the 2023 ELCIC Special Convention I shared that at our next National Convention in 2025, we will be calling a new National Bishop. This will be a big discernment for our entire church." As Bishop Susan Johnson has led the ELCIC since 2007, this is certainly a big change for us all! Later the ELCIC will be sending out a resource booklet to help congregations spend time in prayer, reflection and silence to consider what is the will of God regarding new

leadership for our national church. Watch for more information as it arrives, begin praying for discernment today.

**CLWR – TRAIN WOMEN IN THE WEST BANK
WITNESS AND MISSION REPORT
Submitted by Joan Nolting**

The Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Technical and Vocational Education and Training (GRIT) project aims to improve education and training in the West Bank so that women can escape poverty and pursue their dreams.



Women in the West Bank face momentous barriers to education, training and employment opportunities. Many are living in poverty with no means of financial independence. Disruptions to education have left them ill-prepared for work. Furthermore, discrimination and barriers to free movement continue to hinder their access to vital training programs and workplaces.

Today you have the chance to show that barriers can be overcome. You can empower women and girls in the West Bank to help them reach their potential.

A gift will help with the cost of training and educating a woman, providing training equipment and contributing towards a scholarship, bringing hope to thousands of women and girls.

Contributions can be made through your church envelopes designated as: **CLWR – Train Women in West Bank**. Cheques should be made payable to Hope Lutheran Church.

**JUST SAY: SAYSUTSHUN
Submitted by Tim Stime**

Following our weekend Reconciliation Event here in Nanaimo, before Covid hit, we had agreed on our follow-through intentions: *“We know so little about our neighbors on whose traditional Territory we live. We would like this to change. We desire to take part in more opportunities where we do not dominate an agenda but rather, as guests, listen to and respond in positive ways to the direction and leading of the Snuneymuxw Nation.”*

Our desires on that account were, in part, fulfilled when early in September several of us from Hope ferried from Maffeo Sutton Park out to Saysutshun Island (formerly “Newcastle Island”) to experience a Cultural Interpretive Tour of that sacred space and its history. Snuneymuxw elder, story-teller, weaver and genealogist Dave Bodaly competently guided us on that tour.



At the Saysutshun Welcome Pole.

The cultural interpretive tour was rich with history, cultural understandings, flora and fauna insights, folklore stories and lots of Q and R time. During the group's debriefing following the tour several ideas were generated about where-to-next for us on this learning journey. This included more such cultural tours around significant historical Snuneymuxw sites like Departure Bay, Gabriola Island, and the Petroglyph Park near Cedar.

Here are a few of several positive comments:

"I'm experiencing a growth of respect for Indigenous people the more I hear their stories." "It's mind boggling to hear about the taking of the land." "Dave is looking to the future in positive ways, moving forward together with us in reconciliation. He shows us what reconciliation is about by hearing and thoughtfully responding to participants' questions and comments."

The consensus within the debriefing group was to continue this learning journey series with Dave Bodaly, Part 2 at Departure Bay. We'll keep everyone posted as plans unfold.

COMPASSIONATE JUSTICE



On National Housing Council's Review of Purpose-Built Rental Housing
[Citizens for Public Justice](#) sent a submission to the National Housing Council's Review Panel on the **Financialization of Purpose-Built Rental Housing**. The ELCIC is one of the endorsers in this submission. The submitted brief expresses our solidarity with other housing and human rights advocates, and people with lived experience of core housing need and homelessness, and to share stories from our own communities about the lived impacts of financialization on the right to housing. To view the submission, please ask Pastor Terry or Carolyn Iles to forward a link.

Green House Gas (GHG) Inventory Calculator for Congregations

Faith communities can calculate their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. If you are interested in finding out your congregation's GHG emissions, please contact Pastor or Carolyn Iles for the link.. This document is also available on our website under [Congregational Stewardship Resources](#).



OKTOBERFEST & SILENT AUCTION AT HOPE

Saturday, Oct. 14 at 5 PM

Proceeds of the Silent Auction will help Hope Quilters with their **baby bundle project**.

Please sign the "sign up" list and choose what food you can bring. Pork loin, bratwurst, sauerkraut and German Apple Cake will be

provided.

Donations are gratefully received to help the Quilters with their project and to help cover the cost of the meat.

Silent Auction articles are needed. Please leave them on the table the library. (Please, no large articles or furniture)!!!



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BABY BUNDLES

The Quilter of Hope's new project! Bundles given to the Mental Health & Addictions agencies for mothers with babies. Articles Needed: For 0 to 9 months size:

Sleepers, onesies, bibs, burp pads, knitted or sewn hats, sweater, socks, receiving blankets, car seat chenille blanket, teething toy & face wipes. *Please place donations in the church library. If you would rather, monetary contributions are*

welcome. Mark envelopes "Baby Bundles". All items are wrapped in a baby quilt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Danish Harvest Service

Saturday October 7, 2023

Doors open at 1:30pm

Service at 2 pm.

Everyone is welcome.



NOTICE – ALL USERS OF HOPE LUTHERAN'S FACILITIES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27TH COMMENCING AT 8:30 A.M. THE UPPER FLOOR OF THE CHURCH WILL BE INACCESSIBLE AS THE CARPETS WILL BE CLEANED. DO NOT ENTER THE FRONT DOOR OR USE THE UPSTAIRS UNTIL THE CARPETS ARE DRY AND THE FANS TURNED OFF. THANK YOU for your assistance.



Brechin United Church's Brechin 4 ACTION group is hosting another series of Reconciliation workshops facilitated by Kathi Camilleri (Indigenous woman currently based in Campbell River). This will be our 6th year of bringing these workshops to the Nanaimo area and Kathi's 26th year of facilitating these workshops.

(www.villageworkshopseries.com) The *Building Bridges for Understanding the Village* workshop is scheduled

for **Wednesday, October 18th**. The follow-up workshop *Paddling Together for Community* will be held **Wednesday, November 15th** - both at Brechin United Church's new building, 2020 Estevan Road,

Nanaimo. Registration is free but donations are encouraged. Posters with more workshop details are posted in the downstairs hallway. To register, email: brechinmando@gmail.com

Global Village Nanaimo

Fall Pop-Up Store

Open until December 23, 2023

427 Fitzwilliam Street, Nanaimo

We are pleased to announce that the Fall Pop Up store is now open, bringing ethical, fair trade and practical items to the mid-island area, and we are inviting your congregation to visit the store to support these struggling artisans. We have been actively supporting these producers with our seasonal retail stores in the mid-island area for 26 years and are confident that our efforts have been of assistance to many of the same groups of people being supported by the mission teams and funds sent out by our local churches. Many of the co-operative groups that we work with in these countries have Christian origins.




Global Village Nanaimo is a not-for-profit social enterprise whose mission is to help producers & artisans in developing countries connect with local markets. We have introduced ourselves to you in the past, and we have had a positive response from many people who have heard about what we are doing through their church communications. This pop-up store is only open until December 23. Therefore, we are asking for your assistance in letting your members know where we are located.

Our store is located at 427 Fitzwilliam Street in Nanaimo, which is part of the Old City Quarter. The store is open Monday - Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm

This store is unique in the mid-island area because it sells only fair trade goods, guaranteeing that the fair price is determined by the producers, and is paid to them promptly. Customers in the store have the satisfaction of knowing that they are helping to turn the tide of unfair global and corporate purchasing practices, and providing artisans and craftspeople a chance to earn an income.

Thank you!

Joan Hiemstra, Global Village Nanaimo gvnanaimo@gmail.com



"Is God calling you to help the wounded, disadvantaged, and vulnerable in our community? Island Crisis Care society has been loving others as Jesus instructed in the parable of the Good Samaritan for over 34 years. We are inviting applications to our Board of Directors for experienced leaders to help govern the society as we develop new solutions for homelessness and recovery in our communities. Please e-mail Richard or call our office to receive an application by mail or e-mail. rpowell@iccare.ca or 250.585.5505"

**The ELCIC has a new address:
400 - 185 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3J1
Phone numbers and email are the same**



We Celebrate Birthdays



For the month of **October 2023**:

October 2 Andrea Roszmann	October 8 Sharon Hart
October 9 Jennifer Borzel	October 9 Bernie Hansen
October 10 Howard Collier	October 11 Rick Maher
October 21 Cynthia Cantelon	October 21 Chloe Swabey
October 26 Steven Musgreave	October 26 Dexter Vosper
October 30 Katrina Cantelon	October 30 Victoria Pallard

October 8 Kristin Karr
October 10 Terry Owen
October 12 Erna Hansen
October 24 Shyla Saunders
October 29 Iris Johnsen

Special Prayer Requests:



Trusting your goodness, we pray for all caregivers and people who are sick or suffering in any way, especially... *Bill & Donna; Viola B; Gail L; Audrey S; Katie Rose; Leni W; Zak; Michaela E; Lynn; Anne G; Gary G; Rosie G; Kathleen H; Jean J; Charlotte M; Garth N; Janet O; Paddy O; Carole & Clyde O; Jack R; Jim & Linda S; Greg V; Adele; Bernie & Erna; Bill & Donna; Dan; Doris; Ewen; Eva; Heidi; Ingvar; Kon Tet Chin; Lil & Cal; Louise; Margaret & Michelle; Ray, Frances & Toby; Roberta; Quinn; Susie; Tanu; Wally & Leslie; and their families...* Give them encouragement and consolation in your presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**