
THE MESSENGER OF HOPE



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Easter 6 to Holy Trinity

May 2024



WORDS OF HOPE

Reflections by Pastor Terry Richardson

To all God's beloved... who are called to be saints. Romans 1:7

To ., those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours. 1 Corinthians 1:2

Hope Lutheran Church

It is interesting to consider to whom the letters in the New Testament are addressed. The recipients are called: "God's beloved" and "saints." These are strong identifiers. We are people who receive mercy, who live by faith and who are bonded like family. I say, "we" because the letters are also addressed to us.

What about Hope Lutheran Church? Who are we? This is a "Lutheran" church and that provides an identity. We track ourselves back to Martin Luther who refused to tolerate anyone saying that we can earn our way into God's love. We are loved by God in Jesus Christ and that is it. Baptism is our touchstone where promises are often first applied to us. We are refreshed and renewed by similar promises at the Eucharist and any time we come to God with our concerns. We are loved by God and that is it.

We have taken the name Hope. The logo of the congregation includes an anchor.



Hebrews 6:19 states, *"We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul..."*

We are saying that people can anchor here in our community. Hope speaks of our concern for those we meet. There is something strong and steady among us regardless of the storms that life may carry. What does "Hope" mean to you?

We also call ourselves a church. We have our faith and our baptism in common. In a unique way we see ourselves as family. We pray together, we eat together, we laugh or cry together. We are together because the Spirit of God in our midst has brought us into relationship with each other. We are companions on the pilgrimage of life.

Where are we going? I see people who are passionate about their faith. We have been through ups and downs. We have made inroads into the community with a reputation of being respected among the faith communities in Nanaimo. We have been gracious with people and flexible in our attempts to

include others in worship. There is a heart for the marginalized and disadvantaged present in this church. Nobody wants to be forgotten: not those in nursing homes; the shut-in; the hungry; the prisoner; not children or youth; and not those of any group shunned or rejected. We have seen enough hate, violence and rejection to last a lifetime. May God keep building us into people who smile, open the door, and offer a helping hand.



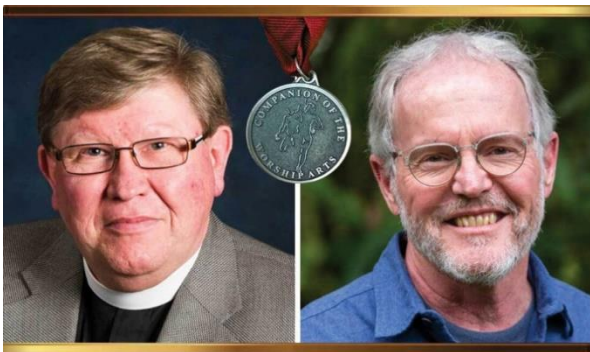
Let's keep praying and discerning where we can best channel our loving energy as we walk in pilgrimage together following Christ.

WORSHIP REPORT

Submitted by Carolyn Iles

2024 Companion of the Worship Arts recipients

In the continuing spirit of full communion, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2024 Companion of the Worship Arts (CWA).



The CWA is awarded every three years in recognition of significant contributions to the worship life of both churches. Since 2014, one Anglican and one Lutheran recipient receive the honour, recognizing ongoing inspiration and encouragement to others, and service to God, through worship, spirituality and the arts.

This year's Lutheran recipient is the Rev. Lyle McKenzie. He has served as Pastor/Developer of All Saints Lutheran in Calgary, AB, as Pastor/Chaplain of Augustana University in Camrose, AB, Pastor/Co-Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Cross in Victoria, BC, and Chaplain/Spiritual Care Provider in Multi-faith at the University of Victoria. He also served for over ten years as ELCIC's Assistant to the Bishop for Worship. Rev. McKenzie has worked on the worship planning teams of ELCIC National Conventions, Anglican Lutheran Assemblies, Alberta and BC Synod Conventions, National Worship Conferences, ordinations of bishops, pastors, and deacons, and national youth gatherings. In local contexts, he has worked with others to develop diverse and creative expressions of worship and the arts, as well as student chaplain, choral scholar, and artist-in-residence programs for young adults to share in worship training and leadership.

This year's Anglican recipient is the Ven. Dr. Richard Leggett. With an extensive record of academic publication in the fields of liturgics and ecumenical studies, Archdeacon Leggett has been committed to using his scholarship in the service of the church. He has served in leadership roles in Anglican-Lutheran dialogue, in championing the diaconate in The Anglican Church of Canada, in contributing to active discernment of inculturation, particularly in First Nations contexts, and in liturgical textual work.

The CWA awards will be presented by ACC Primate Linda Nicholls and ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson at the 2024 National Worship Conference "**STONES CRY OUT: Praying with the land**," which will take place from July 18-21, in Regina, Saskatchewan.

For more information, visit: www.nationalworshipconference.org.

Canadian Lutheran Magazine

WORSHIP NOTES

Submitted by Carolyn Iles

Church Season of Pentecost

Pentecost, sometimes called Whitsunday, is an important event in Christianity. It falls 50 days after Easter. Here are some key points about Pentecost:



Origins: Historically, it is a Jewish feast celebrating the giving of the Torah and the summer wheat harvest.

Events: The day is marked with church services, festive meals, processions, baptism, confirmation, ordination. Some places included dancing, spring and woodland rites. More religious activities include special prayers, vigils, fasting-before the festivals, retreats etc.

Date: Since its date depends on the date of Easter, Pentecost is a 'moveable feast', which in 2024 falls on Sunday May 19th.

Impact: The day of Pentecost marks the beginning of the church's global mission, to make disciples of all nations - sometimes explained as the birthday of the 'church'.

Pentecost Sunday marks the beginning of the season of Pentecost. This church time continues until the end of the church year, which then begins a new year with the season of Advent. This is the longest season of the church year, and is loosely broken down into Pentecost Summer and Pentecost Autumn. Watch for some changes in our liturgy, and possibly new music as we begin the church season of Pentecost.

Your help is needed!



A few more people willing to serve as ushers are needed. As the summer approaches, those who have been regularly serving as ushers may be away on holiday. With a few more volunteers we can be sure this important role is being filled each Sunday. Even if you could help out once in eight weeks, this would be a great help. Please talk/e-mail Shirley Forwell, or Carolyn Iles.

And opportunities to provide goodies, set up the coffee/tea and clean up are also available for your consideration!!

CONTINUOUS LEARNING

Submitted by Carolyn Iles



Perhaps this opportunity is of interest to you?

Join the Webinar on Social and Ecological Justice Work - May 7th

If your congregation is interested in deeper engagement in God's mission to love and heal the world, you are invited to join a webinar on *Engaging Your Parish in Social and Ecological Justice Work: From Discernment to Action* on May 7 at 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

In this webinar, you will be equipped with the tools to help you and your congregation prayerfully discern and engage in work on social and ecological justice. You will learn more about the tools offered in the [Parish Engagement Resource](#) for social and ecological justice which was developed

and shared with Assembly in July 2023 when the [Anglican Church of Canada](#) and the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada](#) gathered for Assembly 2023. For more information and to register for this event, contact Carolyn Iles, or the ELCIC e-mail weekly newsletter.

TEN TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION CALLS TO ACTION: JUSTICE. Please read, reflect, pray.



We have committed to including 10 of these calls to action each month in the newsletter. Hopefully you can read through them, and reflect on the how and the why each call was crafted.

38. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody over the next decade.

39. We call upon the federal government to develop a national plan to collect and publish data on the criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization.

40. We call on all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, to create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal-specific victim programs and services with appropriate evaluation mechanisms.

41. We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal organizations, to appoint a public inquiry into the causes of, and remedies for, the disproportionate victimization of Aboriginal women and girls. The inquiry's mandate would include:

- i. Investigation into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.
- ii. Links to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools.

42. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to the recognition and implementation of Aboriginal justice systems in a manner consistent with the Treaty and Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples, the Constitution Act, 1982, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, endorsed by Canada in November 2012.

Reconciliation Canadian Governments and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

43. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.

44. We call upon the Government of Canada to develop a national action plan, strategies, and other concrete measures to achieve the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Royal Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation

45. We call upon the Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians, to jointly develop with Aboriginal peoples a Royal Proclamation of Reconciliation to be issued by the Crown. The proclamation would build on the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and the Treaty of Niagara of 1764, and reaffirm the nation-to-nation relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Crown. The proclamation would include, but not be limited to, the following commitments:



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- i. Repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius.
- ii. Adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.

- iii. Renew or establish Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future.
- iv. Reconcile Aboriginal and Crown constitutional and legal orders to ensure that Aboriginal peoples are full partners in Confederation, including the recognition and integration of Indigenous laws and legal traditions in negotiation and implementation processes involving Treaties, land claims, and other constructive agreements.

46. We call upon the parties to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to develop and sign a Covenant of Reconciliation that would identify principles for working collaboratively to advance reconciliation in Canadian society, and that would include, but not be limited to:

- i. Reaffirmation of the parties' commitment to reconciliation.
- ii. Repudiation of concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and the reformation of laws, governance structures, and policies within their respective institutions that continue to rely on such concepts.
- iii. Full adoption and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.
- iv. Support for the renewal or establishment of Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future.
- v. Enabling those excluded from the Settlement Agreement to sign onto the Covenant of Reconciliation.
- vi. Enabling additional parties to sign onto the Covenant of Reconciliation.



47. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.

CONTINUOUS LEARNING

Submitted by Carolyn Iles



There is a page from a December 2010 *Good Housekeeping* magazine that I have found helpful over the years. Finding the Right Words is the title of that article. I keep it in a box with cards to mail, and often re-read it to help me find the right thing to write in the card.

Words of support and sympathy should be just that - words that are supportive and sympathetic, not trite and judgemental. Some suggestions from the article are:

More helpful: **"It sounds like this is really hard."**

Less helpful: *"God doesn't give you any more than you can handle."*

More helpful: **"I'm so sorry this has happened."**

Less helpful: *"This happened for the best."*

More helpful: **"I'm here if you need to talk."**

Less helpful: *"You need to be strong for your children, (family, co-workers)".*

More helpful: **"You already had enough on your plate."**

Less helpful: *"Your problem is not as bad as what my friend is going through with cancer."*

More helpful: **"I hope things get easier for you soon."**

Less helpful: *"This was God's will."*

More helpful: **“I’ll be sending you my thoughts and prayers.”**

Less helpful: *“You need to pray more.”*

May we all find positive ways to support those who could use words of kindness and comfort.

ELCIC GLOBAL MISSION SUNDAY – JUNE 2

Submitted by Joan Nolting



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) is encouraging congregations to take a Sunday to lift up Global Mission. They affirm the importance of Global Mission in the whole ministry of the ELCIC, and encourage the church to engage in Global Mission as a way of living out our relationship with the Lutheran World Federation and a reminder that we are a part of the global church.

Global Mission is one way the ELCIC is able to grow and strengthen relationships with its partner churches. This is done through bilateral (church to church) and companion (synod to church) relationships.

The British Columbia Synod companionship is with the Iglesia Lutherana del Peru.

Saskatchewan Synod: Iglesia Lutherana Unida, Argentina.

Eastern Synod: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

Manitoba/Northwest Ontario Synod: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon.

Synod of Alberta and the Territories: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Colombia.

The current ELCIC bilateral relationships are:

Iglesia Evangelica Lutherana Unida in Argentina and Uruguay.

Iglesia Lutherana del Peru.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

This year the ELCIC is focusing on the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Since the horrific attacks carried out by the Hamas against Israel and the subsequent war on Gaza, they have focused on the Middle East as it is affecting our partner church. They have experienced increased unrest and violence as well as restricted movement in the West Bank where the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) has congregations in Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Beit Jala, and Ramallah.

How we can help:

PRAY for the Global Mission of the ELCIC, for our bilateral partner church relationships and our Global Mission Companions, for the Lutheran World Federation, the World Council of Churches, and for Canadian Lutheran World Relief.

LEARN more about our synod’s Global Mission Companion program, and Global Mission in the ELCIC. Visit elcic.ca/Global-Mission.

SUPPORT these ministries by considering a financial contribution designated for ELCIC Global Mission. Donations can be made through your church envelopes payable to Hope Lutheran Church.

UPDATE ON “BRING FATIMA AND HER FAMILY TO CANADA”
Submitted by the Witness and Mission Committee

Karin Kronstal, wife of Joel Roszmann, confirmed in our church, is on the 5-member team to bring an Afghani woman and her 3 children to Canada for safety and freedom. In the fall we hope to offer a chance to learn more about this project following a Sunday morning service. Here is the latest letter from their team:

Dear family and friends,

I hope that this email finds you well and enjoying a slow but sure start to spring. We have some good news to share with you about the application for Fatima and her family to come to Canada.

In February, she received appointments to complete all required screening for her application, and yesterday, completed the in-person interview at the Canadian High Commission in Islamabad.



This is the last step in the process before a final decision is made on her application and she gets connected with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to begin travel planning and logistics. It will be a relief to have passed this final step in the application process, and be able to focus on planning for their arrival - anytime in the next six to eight months, potentially.

Despite Pakistan's crackdown on Afghan migrants, we've been thankful for the relatively short processing time and the provision of security documents for Fatima and her family by the High Commission. Fatima has retained valid visas for the whole family throughout this process, which has made for a much less concerning waiting period until now.

The situation in Afghanistan continues to deteriorate, especially for the Hazara ethnic minority, and as women are increasingly restricted in their ability to move physically in the country. To say that we're thankful that Fatima and her family will be able to make a new home in Canada is an understatement.

Thank you again for being such incredible supports in this process of the application and fundraising - we are very close to reaching our goal, and have been fortunate to have a few fundraisers locally organized by our team as we pivot to working on our plan for supporting Fatima and her family to settle in once they arrive.

Hopefully our next update will be with arrival information for the family. Thank you again!

*Warm regards,
Naomi (for the team)*

If you wish to donate to this project, please mark "Fatima" on your offering envelope.

WINDS OF CHANGE

A Documentary followed by Q&A with Daniel R. Elliott, Stz'uminus First Nation watercolour artist and descendant of residential school survivors. Daniel wants to take people on a healing journey. But first, he's asking people to confront the history and impact of residential schools head on, and not look away. . .

Daniel, whose father is from Stz'uminus First Nation and mother is Scottish, has always felt like he was straddling two worlds. In the 1990s, he went through a spiritually transcendent experience in a sweat lodge that allowed him to feel, for the first time, at home with who he is as an Indigenous person of mixed ancestry.

"My art is about helping people forge a new relationship," said Daniel. "I've tempered all this pain and sorrow with hope. That was hard to do. I want to explore how this healing can happen, how we can bridge Canadian educational structures with Indigenous knowledge, how we can find a way to put that together in a good way."

Daniel will also be selling his book "Truth, Art and Reconciliation: The Winds of Change Project" in the lobby. This is a FREE event, donations are gratefully accepted through eventbrite, or at the door, and will go towards future Reconciliation programming.

In the ongoing series of partially or fully HLC-sponsored Reconciliation events, we are pleased to bring this one to your attention:

"WINDS OF CHANGE", May 8th, 2024, 7-9 pm

DANIEL ELLIOTT, Stz'uminus First Nation Artist

MALASPINA THEATRE, VIU Building 310, 900 5th St, Nanaimo

Truth, Art & Reconciliation: a Winds of Change Project

This presentation with discussion takes us on the journey of an Indigenous artist who transforms his experience and life into a body of artwork that shares his vision of Reconciliation: A Path Forward.

For more information and FREE tickets (*donations accepted on Eventbrite or at the door*) go to [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com), or call 778.269.0090.

Beware of any Christian movement that demands the government be an instrument of God's wrath, but never a source of God's mercy, generosity or compassion.

[Rev. Bejamine Cremer]

EASTER SERVICE PHOTOS AT HOPE LUTHERAN



SPRING CLEANING BEE PHOTOS AT HOPE LUTHERAN



CLEANING BEE (cont'd)



We Celebrate Birthdays

For the month of **May 2024**:

May 1 Kelly Nielsen

May 8 Marg Fredericks

May 10 Jacob Weber

May 18 Sam Geberdt

May 3 Conrad Geberdt

May 9 Donna Kuffler

May 11 Kathy Karr

May 18 Evelynne Pallard

May 7 Wilfred Luedke

May 9 Cheryl Satre

May 16 Payton Kuffler

May 21 Wendy Van Oldenborgh



We Celebrate Anniversaries

For the month of **May 2024**

May 5 Jan & Rosina Nilsson



Special Prayer Requests:

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. We pray especially for . . . *Carolyn B; Bill & Donna B; Mike B; Bonnie C. & family; Bill L; Kaela D; Ken D; Gary G; Helena G; Ahmad H; Alyx M; Charlotte M; Marjorie M; Hans N; Janet O; Paula & Ana O; Irene P; James S; Birgit S; Evan S; Jack W; Zach & his children; Alana; Audrey; Bernie & Erna; Chittri; Colleen; Graham; Helena; Julie's family; Kristi; Leah & the Nicholsons; Louise; Margaret; Pentti; Quinn; Tanu; Zack...* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**



Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries and committees of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY