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# THE MESSENGER OF HOPE

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## HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2174 Departure Bay Road Nanaimo, BC V9S 3V6

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Website: [www.hopelutherannanaimo.com/](http://www.hopelutherannanaimo.com/)



Pentecost 13 to Pentecost 16



September 2025

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### WORSHIP NOTES

Submitted by Carolyn Iles



#### Here is the Worship Leader schedule for the month of September.

September 7	Pastors Marvin Svingen and Deborah Van der Goes
September 14	Pastor Bill Fehr
September 21	Carolyn Iles CLWR Sunday (no communion)
September 28	Bishop Ray Schultz

### Guest Musicians

The Worship and Music committee are looking for an occasional church musician. If you know of someone or are someone who might be interested in this paid position, please talk to a committee member.

### For pastoral care in an emergency situation, such as death or hospitalization, please

1. Call Joan at 250-729-3677. Should she be out, she will check her messages upon returning home, usually within a few hours. She will connect with pastors providing this service, and let you know who and when they are able to reply. Or ...
2. Call the church office at 250-758-1232. The messages are checked daily, and will be transferred to Joan.



Garden of Peace  
Isaiah 32:14-18

**PEACE  
WITH CREATION**  
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

## PEACE WITH CREATION

Submitted by Carolyn Iles

Our Biblical text for this year's *Season of Creation* is Isaiah 32:14-18. The prophet Isaiah pictured the desolated Creation without peace because of the lack of justice and the broken relationship between God and humankind. This description of devastated cities and wastelands eloquently stresses the fact that human destructive behaviours have a negative impact on the Earth.

Our hope: Creation will find peace when justice is restored.  
There is still hope and the expectation for a peaceful Earth.

The symbol for 2025 is a dove carrying an olive branch, bringing life to a renewed garden. It echoes the story of Noah, where the dove's return signals the end of the flood and the beginning of peace. This imagery reminds us that hope and healing are possible when we act in solidarity with creation. The Season of Creation is more than a campaign—it's a spiritual journey from despair to hope, from exploitation to restoration.

Find out more at <https://seasonofcreation.org/>.

To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and be quiet, but to act, pray, change, and reconcile with Creation and the Creator in unity, metanoia (repentance), and solidarity.

Our Hope: Creation Will Find Peace When Justice Is Restored "Then justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness abide in the fruitful field" (Isaiah 32:16).

There is hope for a peaceful Earth. Biblically, hope is active—it involves prayer, action, and reconciling with Creation and the Creator through repentance (metanoia) and solidarity.

## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Submitted by Rosalind Schramm

*What an exciting month August turned out to be!*

*Thank you* to everyone who attended the service on Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup>. Our collective voices in song seemed to reach to the Heavens. And thank you to everyone who attended the luncheon and the all-important vote afterwards, both in person and online. Once again, our voices were collective, unanimously accepting the motion to call Pastor Derek to Hope Lutheran. We know that God has been alongside us during this process, and will continue to be with us in the months to come.



We have been supported by so many throughout the call process, and during this time of transition, and we have many people we would like to thank.

*Thank you* to the Church Council for accommodating the incredibly quick timeline we presented to them, for arranging the luncheon on August 10<sup>th</sup>, and for working so diligently behind the scenes to facilitate bringing Pastor Derek to us.

*Thank you* to Bishop Kathy for all of her help and support during the call process. She met with us several times online, and had many email communications with us as well. Her wisdom, guidance, and communication with us and with the pastoral candidates was invaluable.

*Thank you* to Stephen Holmes for being Bishop Kathy's representative, attending the important vote on Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup>. Once again, working behind the scenes and overseeing the necessary paperwork brought forward by Church Council.

*Thank you* to the many lay people and retired Pastors and Bishop who have led and will continue to lead services while we await Pastor Derek's arrival. Pastor Bill Fehr, Carolyn Iles, Martin Madelung, Bishop Ray Schultz, Doug Roszmann, Pastor Marvin Schultz, Tim Stime, Pastor Marvin Svingen and Pastor Deborah Van der Goes.

*Thank you* to Janice Valecourt, Hope Lutheran's secretary. She has prepared the zoom material and the bulletins, including the memorial bulletins. She also continued the Hope Newsletter over the summer months, so the Call Committee could share our monthly updates.

*Thank you* to the Musgreave family for hosting Pastor Derek in their beautiful home, during his stay in Nanaimo.

And *thank you* to the members of Hope Lutheran, for your patience and understanding during the call process. At times, it may have seemed like you were kept in the dark, and we understand that this may have caused some anxiety and some concern. We shared as much information as we could, and gave updates as we could, while respecting the confidentiality of the pastoral candidates and their congregations.

I have been asked by some members of our congregation why our church was able to attract so many excellent pastoral candidates. I believe that while we cannot discount our beautiful location, it was mostly because of our incredible congregation. Through the workshops we held in January, we were able to capture the values and beliefs, and warmth and love we share with each other and with the community, including the First Peoples. Bishop Kathy and the pastoral candidates all spoke so positively to this.

We would ask you to keep Pastor Derek, his family, and his church family at Emmanuel in your prayers, as they face the emotions and challenges of saying goodbye to their current life in Maryland, and transition to a new life on the island. While there will be many steps in their relocation to Nanaimo, Pastor Derek hopes to begin as our pastor by the end of November. Church Council will continue to update the congregation on the progress of Pastor Derek's and his family's relocation.

Once again, *thank you* to everyone for assisting us to navigate the Call Process, and congratulations to Hope Lutheran as we begin a new and exciting chapter together. It has been our pleasure to serve as members of Hope's Call Committee.  
*Bill Fehr, Bonnie Law, Martin Madelung, John Musgreave, Gerry Owen, Rosalind Schramm, and Randi Turner*



### **Pastor Derek's Bio**

<https://www.elcbethesda.org/content.cfm?id=149&pid=17>

**Link to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Bethesda, MD YouTube channel**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_He0YiSrZLb8UWCt4wtWA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_He0YiSrZLb8UWCt4wtWA)

**On the YouTube channel, you will find a welcome video and many recordings of past services.**

## CLWR SUNDAY

Submitted by Joan Nolting



On September 21, we will be celebrating **Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)**. Established in 1946, CLWR is one of Canada's oldest and most trusted humanitarian organizations.

Inspired for God's love for humanity, Canadian Lutheran World Relief challenges the causes and responds to the consequences of human suffering and poverty. As a specialized agency of the Lutheran community in Canada, **CLWR** offers Canadians opportunities to understand the needs of others.

**CLWR** is involved in community development including safe water supply, sustainable agriculture, food security, health care, education, refugee relief and resettlement and emergency relief.

Your gift to **CLWR** makes you a partner with displaced and food-insecure peoples as they develop solutions that last, so all people can live in peace with dignity and hope.

When communities are devastated by disaster, drought or conflict, your gifts provide life-saving support as families get through crisis and begin to recover. Everywhere **CLWR** works their response is guided by the voices of the people they serve.

**CLWR** is working for a world where everyone lives in peace, so it is not enough to deal with problems as they come up. They are challenging root causes.

Together with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, of which CLWR is a founding member, **CLWR** is giving families the food they need today plus the skills and supplies to grow their own food tomorrow. In regions facing extreme poverty and unemployment, **CLWR** is providing education and skill-training for people who face unjust barriers in accessing education and work.

Through the Government of Canada, **CLWR** helps churches in Canada participate in refugee resettlement, providing a new start in Canada for families in urgent need.

**CLWR** works in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, ACT Alliance and the Humanitarian Coalition.

**Contributions can be made through your church offerings designated for CLWR. Cheques should be made payable to Hope Lutheran Church.**

## September 30 – ORANGE SHIRT DAY – A Closer Look

Submitted by Peter Clark & Tim Stime

This day has become a poignant occasion across Canada, inviting reflection, education, and action in the ongoing journey toward truth and reconciliation.

Schools, public service organizations, and faith communities—including Hope—wear orange shirts to recognize the history of Indigenous children who were forced to attend government residential

schools away from their families beginning at ages 5 or 6, and to acknowledge the principle that “every child matters.”

In 1907 and 1909, Dr. Peter Bryce, Chief Medical Officer for the Department of Indian Affairs, conducted a study of the health of school children in government boarding schools, and found extremely high rates of death from tuberculosis. His reports were circulated to medical, school, and church officials. In 1922, after years of inaction, and no change in the death rates, he published *The Story of a National Crime: An Appeal for Justice to the Indians of Canada*, to bring awareness to the issue, but change, if it came, was slow in coming.

### **The last residential school closed in 1997.**

In 2015, the Orange Shirt Society was formed to create awareness of the inter-generational effects of the residential school experience on survivors, and to tell the story of Phyllis (Jack) Webstad.



*Phyllis (Jack) Webstad*

She is the founder and ambassador of the Orange Shirt Society. Here is her story (edited) of the movement’s origins taken from the Society’s website.

*I went to the Mission for one year in 1973/74. I had just turned 6 years old. We never had very much money, but somehow my granny managed to buy me a new outfit to go to the Mission school. I remember going to Robinson’s store and picking out a shiny orange shirt. It had a string laced up in front and was so bright and exciting, just like I felt to be going to school! When I got to the Mission, they stripped me, and took away my clothes, including the orange shirt. I never wore it again. I didn’t understand why they didn’t give it back to me. It was mine! The color orange has always reminded me of that, and how my feelings didn’t matter, how no one cared and how I felt I was worth nothing.*

What began as a little orange shirt taken from a six-year-old on her first day at a residential school, has grown into a powerful symbol recognized across Canada and beyond. Phyllis Jack Webstad’s story reminds us that children are precious, that every child matters, that the smallest acts of injustice can leave the deepest wounds, and that healing begins with truth. Her courage in sharing her pain has sparked a movement of remembrance and reconciliation – one orange shirt at a time.

*Orange T-shirts are now available at Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose) Shell station and Market on the Island Highway, at Walmart (Woodgrove), and at Thrifty Foods and London Drugs in September.*

The Orange Shirt Society was founded by Phyllis (Jack) Webstad and other passionate individuals. We have Indigenous Staff and Board Members. Our Staff and volunteer Board Members govern the Society and are a group dedicated to supporting our mission.

We gratefully acknowledge that the Orange Shirt Society Office is located on the unceded traditional lands of the T’exelcenc, or Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN), a member of the Secwepemc Nation (Shuswap people) located in the central interior of British Columbia.



## HEADS UP FOR AGM 2025

Submitted by Jan Nilsson

We are inviting you to consider standing for council in 2026. **It is unusual that 5 council member's 3-year terms expire at the same time.**

We currently have 10 members on council. Time commitment is not onerous. It involves 1 council meeting a month with July off. Currently we meet on ZOOM. In addition to council meetings, we do work on projects benefitting our congregation as well. Being on council gives you insight into how your church functions. It also connects you with a bunch of great people. So please consider volunteering.

The purpose of our AGMs is to:

1. share what we as the congregation of Hope Lutheran did during the year.
2. approve our new budget
3. to elect council members
4. and thank all volunteers who helped run our church

Please let me know if you have been thinking about serving on council. We need you.

Jan Nilsson, Council co-chair

250-933-3038 or jan-nilsson@shaw.ca

## We Celebrate Birthdays

For the month of **September 2025:**

**September 10** Frieda Kalack

**September 10** Randi Turner

**September 10** Jasmine Lushman

**September 11** Gerry Owen

**September 17** Steven Turner

**September 22** Kim Iles

**September 22** Sonja Cole



## Special Prayer Requests:

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people, especially for *Faith Lutheran in Powell River and Our Saviour's Lutheran in Prince George*. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace, **receive our prayer**. We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.



We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace, **receive our prayer**. We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely especially... *Trisha G; Pat & Judy H; Frieda K; Dennis K; Rev. Jukka Joensuu; Steven M; Marilyn N; Glynis; Nathan; Wyatt; the family of Gary G; the family of Ahmad Hussain* ... May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**