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# THE MESSENGER OF HOPE



## HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Day of Pentecost to Pentecost 3

June 2022



## WORDS OF HOPE

Reflections by Pastor Terry Richardson

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.*

### Unwelcome Surprises

Life is full of surprises, some of them are unwelcome and just need to be managed. Like when I just administered the rapid test for Covid recently and it indicated that I had the virus.

Last week, I was not feeling right so I did the test then too, but it showed I was clear of Covid. As I got ready for a trip to Ottawa for an Interfaith Committee meeting on May 30-31, the coughing and sneezing began. Early Sunday morning after a restless night, I wasn't sure what to do. I thought and prayed about it on the way to the airport and by the time I got there had decided that I didn't want to make anyone else sick or risk getting stranded somewhere if this was Covid. I knew I was getting sick. I cancelled the flight and the hotel reservation. When I got home I did the Covid test again and it showed a positive reading. I waited an hour and did it again with the same result. This was very frustrating. I notified the Interfaith committee that I was sick and wouldn't be there. I notified church council and was glad that Pastors Marvin & Deborah were already covering Sunday because of my Ottawa meeting. Everything was disrupted. Covid was unwelcome to say the least.



I feel like I've been gradually improving the last couple of days. Sometimes I'm not coughing as much and sleeping better, but I can't make it hurry up and go away. I know that some of you have been through this. I mentioned to you during that time that the Lord is with you, that we are praying for you, and advised you to do what was necessary to take care of yourselves and others. Now I have heard your encouragement, appreciate your prayers, and also need to remember the consolation I have offered you. I am reminded of St. Paul's words above from 2 Corinthians 1.



I remain at home. I am not bedridden, but have been sleeping more than usual. I can walk the dog. I just can't be present to people yet due to the coughing that comes and goes. I did the Covid test again today (after isolating for five days) to see if it has run its course. It is not finished with me yet. I remain Covid positive, and the isolating continues. Thank you for your prayers and support during unwelcome surprises. Even then, the Lord is with us.

## WORSHIP NOTES

Submitted by Worship Committee

### Altar flowers

Do you have a birthday, or an anniversary coming up? Perhaps you would like to provide flowers for the altar to commemorate the occasion. You can provide the flowers or provide money for purchase of the flowers for a particular Sunday. You can arrange the flowers yourself, or someone can do that for you. You can decide where the flowers go after church – your home, or donate them to a particular person or place.



Just sign up on the new flower chart, which can be found on the door to the kitchen. If you wish to leave money for someone to purchase the flowers, you can leave the funds in an envelope in the church office.

### Loaves and Fishes

Every Summer Nanaimo Loaves and Fishes runs low on can goods. You can help! See the information about the Food 4 Summer 'food' raiser below. You can bring your bags of food to church and we will ensure they are delivered to Loaves and Fishes to be a part of this summer event. (Actually, food donated anytime can be brought to the Fry Street Warehouse.)

A colorful illustration of a family (a man, a woman, and two children) having a picnic outdoors. The man is grilling, the woman is holding a drink, and the children are sitting at a picnic table. The background shows green hills and a blue sky.

**IslandSavings** **THRIFTY FOODS**  
PRESENTS  
**FOOD 4 SUMMER**  
FOR LOAVES & FISHES FOOD BANK

**FILL A BAG**  
WITH NON PERISHABLE FOOD  
Most needed items:  
breakfast cereals, granola bars, peanut butter,  
canned proteins, canned vegetables,  
canned fruit, pasta & pasta sauce

**BRING TO**  
LOAVES & FISHES WAREHOUSE  
210 Fry Street  
OR A FOOD DONATION BIN  
at your local grocery store

**OR**

**GIVE ONLINE**  
VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE  
[VILoavesAndFishes.org](http://VILoavesAndFishes.org)

ISLAND SAVINGS WILL MATCH YOUR DONATION UP TO  
**\$10,000**

## WORSHIP NOTES

As part of the national ELCIC four year focus, this year we are asked to consider how we worship. Here is a poem that expresses worship that happens in support of a dear friend.



### As She Lay Dying

- Rebecca Garber

1. At the last, death crept in with the slow timidity of night at nearly summer solstice, and I sit there holding her hand while her motionless feet walk into mystery I cannot see soon to know a secret never told.

2. Her respiration rate like grains of sand too large to pass through the waist of an hourglass, nothing left to do but wait, her hands tiny like squirrel's feet her radio still sputtering as she dances along into eternity.

3. She drinks a tot of scotch then another, and one more lighting up her face briefly sips of creaturely satisfaction her very last.

4. In the face of nothing more to do except wait, I read to her the mystery she wants (by morning, she'll have read one more). She slowly says "I...am...afraid—really afraid."

5. In the morning, all her vital signs drop and she is there only in her irregular breathing outside there's thunder and lightning.

6. Inside, she slips into a coma we all talk, knowing that hearing goes last. Everything slows down until quietly, without a whimper she succumbs to the inevitable and her eyes open wide. The doctor closes them with a finger and a thumb. It is over

## Church Seasons

We are beginning the "ordinary times", or Pentecost. In particular, Pentecost 1, which continues until Autumn, specifically, September 4<sup>th</sup>. Pentecost, sometimes called the 'birthday of the church' is June 5<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is encouraged to "wear red" to symbolize the flames of the Holy Spirit, that came upon the disciples, providing them with abilities and courage to minister to others.



Perhaps the Holy Spirit will come upon us, as a congregation and as individuals, providing the gifts, the encouragement needed to be the hands and feet of Christ in our world. Can we seek out ways to help others this summer? Encourage each other? Uplift those who have been carrying so much of the burden during the pandemic? Pray for peace around the world and at home. How and where will the Holy Spirit lead you this summer??

## APRIL & MAY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

Submitted by Randi Turner

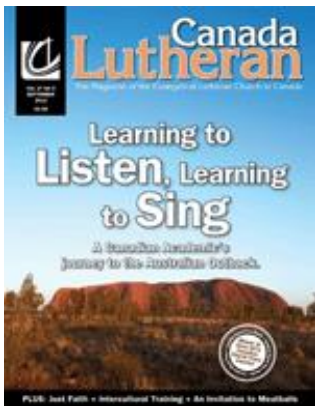
Council members meet the second Saturday of each month via Zoom. The following is a brief summary of our meetings held in April and May. Full meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the church basement and on the church website.



- Council members expressed their desire to continue meeting via Zoom instead of in-person. We appreciate the convenience and green initiative of meeting from home or while on-the-road.
- The Learning committee will no longer prepare and distribute monthly Sunday School packets. Instead, Sunday School will be offered during service on the first Sunday of the month. An Abuse Workshop will be organized in 2022.
- The Fellowship committee is looking forward to warmer weather and planning a simple, social, outdoor event.
- The Witness committee asked the council to send a card of thanks to Wendy Van Oldenborgh for her many years of service. Thank you Wendy!
- A letter of thanks was sent to Shepherd of the Valley, Comox for their generous donation towards hybrid service. We all appreciate their support!
- The Property committee organized the replacement of the building carpet. As this report is being written, the carpet is being replaced.

## CANADA LUTHERAN

Submitted by Witness & Mission Cmte.



Our church magazine is award winning!

*The following article is from the current issue of the Canadian Lutheran. This is our ELCIC magazine, and it recently won seven awards! There is usually a copy or two at Hope. (And we are encouraged to sign up for individual subscriptions later in the year.)*

[Canada Lutheran](#), the official publication of the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada](#) (ELCIC) received seven awards at the May 11 online awards event hosted by the [Canadian Christian Communicators Association](#) (CCCA). As the magazine of the ELCIC, the mission of [Canada Lutheran](#) is to engage the ELCIC in a dynamic dialogue in which information, inspiration and ideas are shared in a thoughtful and stimulating way.

Canada Lutheran was recognized for the following awards:

Third Place, Service Journalism: *COVID Grief* - Jamie Foley

Third Place, Column: *Surviving or Striving?: Called to Reconciliation, Coping with Changes* - MNO Synod Bishop Jason Zinko

Third Place, Best Photo: *COVID Grief* - Ebonie Klassen

First Place, Editorial: *Black Lives Matter* - Rev. Kenn Ward

First Place, Front Cover Magazine: April/May 2021 - Catherine Crivici

First Place, Feature Layout & Design: *We Are Lutheran* - Catherine Crivici

Honourable Mention, General Excellence in Print: January/February, September, and December Issues

Canada Lutheran magazine would not happen without an amazing team that extends well beyond the national office. Many thanks to synod editors and the many contributors, writers, those with whom they consulted for feedback, artists, photographers and more.

## **ELCIC GLOBAL MISSION SUNDAY – June 12<sup>th</sup>** **Submitted by Witness & Mission Committee**



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. They encourage all expressions of 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.

ELCIC 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 companion church of the BC Synod is Iglesia Lutherana (ILEP) in Peru. Some of you may remember Katharine Bergbusch who did her internship at Hope in 1981-82. In 1994 she went to Lima, Peru where she served as a missionary with ILEP which has 13 congregations, several mission starts and about 1100 members.

In addition to the BC Synod companionship with **Peru**, the current companion relationships are:

- Saskatchewan Synod: Iglesia Evangelica Lutherana in **Argentina**
- Eastern Synod: Evangelical Lutheran Church in **Guyana** and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in **Jordan and the Holy Land**
- Manitoba/Northwestern 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, Argentina
- Iglesia Lutherana del Peru
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land: Part of this partnership includes scholarships for students of the ELCJHL schools

How we can help:

- **PRAY** for the Global Ministries 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](http://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 with cheques payable to Hope Lutheran Church or directly to the ELCIC.

The following prayer is written specifically for Global Mission Sunday by The Rev. Susan C. Johnson, National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada:

*God. You call us into relationship with you and with all of creation. We give you thanks for the relationships we have with our Global Mission Partners. We thank you for the accompaniment we share with each other's churches and lives. Our partners may have less in terms of financial resources but it reminds us of the blessings we have to share. We have much to learn about faith and witness from these siblings in Christ. Bless and strengthen our relationships with our partners and help us to keep them always in prayer. In your life-giving name we pray. Amen*

## **LUTHERANS CONNECT**

### **Submitted by Witness and Mission Committee**

Lutherans Connect is an online portal for devotional projects with an ecumenical reach. Begun in association with Lutheran Campus Ministry Toronto in 2008, now, in 2022, Lutheran Connect has evolved over the years into its own dedicated ministry which publishes devotionals in relationship to the seasons of the church and the times in between. Recently, the Lutherans Connect devotional ministry has come under the auspices of the Centre for Spirituality and Media at Martin Luther University College in Waterloo, Ontario. The Lutherans Connect online devotional project are supported by Martin Luther University College and the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, through its Mission Committee partnerships. Source:

<https://spiritofrestlessness.blogspot.com/>

The devotions are available during church seasons such as Lent or Advent and may be accessed through our church website. There is also an e-service that sends the devotions to a personal email address.

## **MEET THE UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN NANAIMO!**

### **Submitted by Witness & Mission Committee**

The Witness and Mission Committee has been in touch with Virginia (Ginny) Brucker to see how we can support a family of 14 Ukrainian refugees now living in one house in Nanaimo.

Rent is \$3000 per month. Groceries for 14 people are expensive too. There are dental and medical bills. While the families move towards self-sufficiency, the following would be appreciated:

- Cash donations, grocery cards, gas cards
- Yard or house cleaning work
- If you have need of these services, please contact the pastor or church office.
- If you wish to donate through your offering envelope, the designation is "*Local programs to support Ukrainian refugees*".

## **The LyLytvynenkos**

Jane (27) had come to Canada in 2017 on a volleyball scholarship. She first settled in Kamloops. Initially, her husband Luka had to stay in Ukraine, but two years later, he was able to join her, and their son David (now three) was born in Canada. Jane is studying business administration at VIU

while playing volleyball and parenting David. In April, she led the Mariners to the Canadian national championship. In addition to being a talented athlete, Jane is an A student.

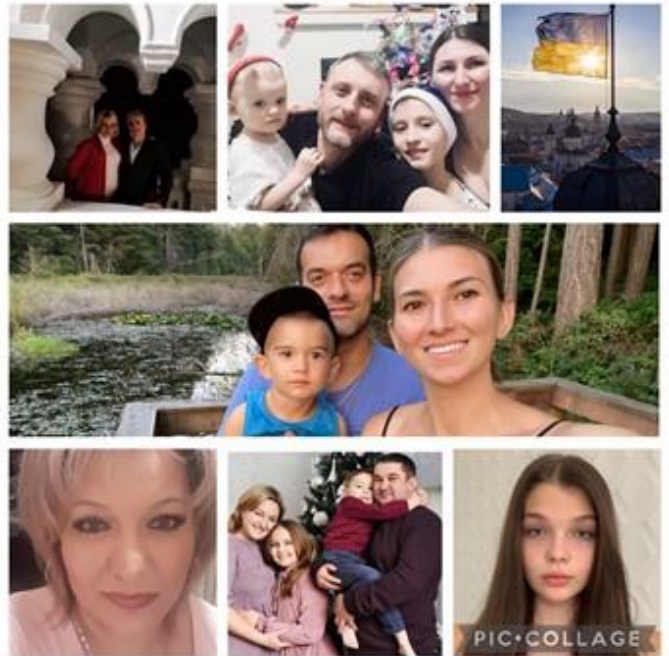
Luka (31) trained as a lawyer, then worked in criminal investigation in Ukraine. He went to military school for high school, and fought in several “hot spots” when Russia moved into Luhansk and Donetsk. At the present time, he works for John’s Bedroom Barn part-time and assists a friend who has a reno business as well.

Jane’s student visa allows her to work 20 hours a week. Together, they have been able to manage their modest lifestyle well. But on February 24th, their whole world changed when Russia invaded Ukraine. They realized they would have to bring family members to Nanaimo.

### **The Extended Family**

When Russia attacked Ukraine, Jane’s sister Viktorria (39) was talking on the phone with her. Jane could hear the shelling in the background. The two instantly decided Viktorria must come to Canada as soon as possible. She packed her bags and left with her children, Arsen (10) and Sofia (18 months) immediately. They fled to Helsinki; her husband has stayed to defend Ukraine. One of Viktorria’s best friends asked her to bring her daughter, Yevgenia (16) to Canada with her. Yevgenia’s parents have stayed in Ukraine to do everything they can to support their own parents and their country.

When war broke out, Jane and Luka realized that his mother needed a safe home in Canada too. Oksana (49) was the first to arrive, and is looking forward to learning English and to finding a job.



A few days later, Oksana’s sister, Tetiana (56) and her husband, Volodymyr (63) called Jane and Luka. They needed to escape the fighting and fled to Poland, where they spent five weeks in a shelter. Tetiana is a speech therapist and Volodymyr is a plumber-welder. Neither speaks English yet.

Not long afterwards, Oksana’s cousin’s daughter, Iryna, who is very close to the family, called. She had traveled across Ukraine on a train for hours without food or water. Iryna and her two children, Timor (5) and Yevgenia (11) were desperate to find a safe place and fled to Berlin. Iryna’s husband has stayed behind to help his country. Right now, he’s helping plant much-needed grain crops. Iryna wants to learn English as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Jane’s mother, Valentina (62) was caring for her father (87) in Severodonetsk, one of the cities in Luhansk that has almost been destroyed. After a bomb hit their apartment building, they slept on a neighbour’s floor for a few weeks. Jane’s mother has advanced Parkinson’s and her health has been set back by the strain of the war. She spent some time in Berlin and is now trying to recover from her arduous journey.

Volodymyr has found some part-time work (he has a heart condition that prevents full-time employment). Viktorria found a job a few days after she arrived. In time, she hopes to find work in her

medical field, but under the terms of the CUAET program, that is not allowed initially. Sixteen-year-old Yevgenia is eager to find part-time employment too.

### Future Goals

Enrolling the children in school is just around the corner. English lessons through the Multicultural Society for Iryna, Tetiana, Volodymyr, Oksana and Valentina are the next important goal.

### I Know Who Holds Tomorrow

- Sonja Cole

1. I don't know about tomorrow;  
I just live from day to day.  
I don't borrow from its sunshine  
For its skies may turn to grey.  
I don't worry o'er the future,  
For I know what Jesus said.  
And today I'll walk beside Him,  
For He knows what is ahead.

2. Every step is getting brighter  
As the golden stairs I climb;  
Every burden's getting lighter,  
Every cloud is silver-lined.  
There the sun is always shining,  
There no tear will dim the eye;  
At the ending of the rainbow  
Where the mountains touch the sky.

*R. Many things about tomorrow  
I don't seem to understand  
But I know who holds tomorrow  
And I know who holds my hand.*



*R. Many things about tomorrow  
I don't seem to understand  
But I know who holds tomorrow  
And I know who holds my hand.*

### WITNESS AND MISSION

Submitted by Joan Roszmann



#### Greeting Cards of All Kinds!

*Do you have a stash of cards you would prefer to part with?*

There is a need for these!

Reverend Burdge of the Nanaimo Correctional Centre makes cards available to his clients to send to their family and friends. A bin in the narthex welcomes your donations.

*Birthday Mother's Day Valentines Father's Day Halloween Thinking of You  
Get Well Sympathy Blank Christmas Any others you may have!*



### STAMPS FOR FREEDOM

Submitted by Witness & Mission Cmte.

Wondering what to do with your used stamps? The Canadian Bible Society collects donations of used stamps in a program called **Stamps for Freedom!**

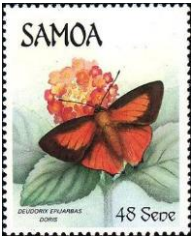
Here's how it works: stamps collected from donations across Canada are combined to create charity boxes and are sold to stamp collectors and vendors. The revenue generated from the stamps allows CBS to purchase Bibles for the Canadian prison ministry.

10 lbs of stamps= approximately 6 Bibles for distribution



St Paul's Lutheran here in Nanaimo is coordinating this collection. A container has been placed in our narthex for your used stamps. **Please keep the stamp on the envelope, cut out the stamp**





**leaving a 1/4 inch border around the entire stamp and place in the container.**

The Witness and Mission committee will pass them on to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Also accepted are personal collections that are already in books, binders, etc. Donate your used stamps today to help provide the Key to Freedom Bible to men and women in prison!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Thursday Hymn Sing Summer Schedule

Zoom Sing on May 26th, June 9th & 23rd  
9:50 am – 10:00 am

Two sessions in June      Break from sessions in July and August

Will resume on September 8, 2022 at 9:50 am

Hymn requests: [wedemire.grant@gmail.com](mailto:wedemire.grant@gmail.com)



### Global Village Nanaimo Spring Pop-Up Store

Wednesday May 11 - Wednesday June 9, 2022  
Nanaimo North Town Centre (near Centre Court)

We are pleased to announce that we will be acknowledging "FAIR TRADE MONTH" as well as our 25th Anniversary during May/June 2022 by opening a short term store in Nanaimo North Town Center again.

## We Celebrate Birthdays

For the month of **June 2022:**

**June 2** Lucas Swabey

**June 7** June Venters-Clark

**June 6** Janet O'Dubhghaill

**June 8** Gudrun Haase

**June 6** John Collett

**June 29** David Hart



## We Celebrate Anniversaries

For the month of **June 2022:**

**June 17** Edward & Catherine Saunders



## Special Prayer Requests:

*Baby K; Dan A; Hillary A; Ron & Edna B; June C., Kent C; Ron C;*

*Virginie, F; Anne G; Gary G; Hallowyn H; Donna K; Gloria L; Gail*

*M; Carole & Clyde O; Eva R; Maureen R; Sharon & Charlie S; Janice V; Cathy W; Jack Z;*

*Barbara & Al; Ingvar; Jordan; Noel; Quinn; Susan; Zak... and their families.*



# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

