

# New Hope Lutheran Church

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## November 7, 2021 *All Saints Day*

### Coming Events

#### Nov 9

11:30 Worship & Music **Zoom**  
2:00 Finnish Bible Study **Finlandia-Impola Room**

#### Nov 10

10 – 1 Kahvi Time **Regent St. (inside)**  
6:30 Council Meeting **Regent St.**

#### Nov 11

6:30 Finnish Bible Study **Zoom**

#### Nov 14

10:00 Finn. Worship Service † **Voima Hall**  
2:00 Eng. Worship Service † **Regent St.**

**In our prayers** Ruth, Esme.

**Remembering** Fred Lahti 83 yrs



Loving God, you mourn with those who grieve and give comfort to those in sorrow. We pray for the family of Fred Lahti, that you would bless them with your loving presence and hold them in your comforting arms. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Opening Hymn – Day by day (490)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INVCcph6cni>

### Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Psalm 24

<sup>1</sup> The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

<sup>2</sup> for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

<sup>3</sup> Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?

<sup>4</sup> The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

<sup>5</sup> They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God their Savior.

<sup>6</sup> Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.

<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

<sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>10</sup> Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

### First Reading “**Isaiah 25:6 – 9**”

**6** On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. **7** On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; **8** he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. **9** In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

### Second Reading “**Revelation 21:1 – 6a**”

**1** Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2** I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4** ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” **5** He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” **6** He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel “**John 11:32 – 44**”

#### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”*  
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

By Rev. Charles Nolting  
“Making Things New”

It is said that back in 1844 the mayor of New York City used the phrase: “*Oh for the good old days – for the first time.*” It might seem to be kind of an odd phrase, but if we think about it, it also might make some sense. I know that we all long for the “good old days”, days when we were younger, when the world may have seemed simpler, and life just seemed to go better. At least in our memories.

And that is part of the point because so often our memories distort things, especially the further time takes us away from them. For whatever reason we seem to remember the good, but forget what was wrong with the world back then. Do we really want to go back to times that included things like: blatant prejudice, poorly insulated homes, and no public health insurance? So yes, we long for the good old days, but for the first time, so that all might be perfect.

In our 2<sup>nd</sup> lesson, John, who left us the book of Revelation, speaks about God’s response to that ancient longing that is still with us. He talks about the beauty of God dwelling among us and with us. He tells us that God will wipe away our tears of sorrow. And best of all, John tells us that God will erase death and all the mourning, crying, and pain that go with it. All this will all be gone forever. And instead, God will make all things new!

These are promises God makes to us and we are assured of that by the initial coming of Christ, as well as the action of Christ such as reported in our gospel for today. The sisters of Lazarus brought to Jesus their lament, their sorrow, and their grief and what did Jesus do? He made Lazarus new! It’s a sign of the power of God, and the promise of God, that in time God intends to make all things new.

I like that promise. No more of all the things that make life seem weary or frustrating or pointless. No more sorrow. No more death. Unfortunately, it can be hard to believe those things. We are inundated with so much bad news, that it seems to drown out the good news God so badly wants us to hear.

And that’s why we need a day like this, All Saints Day. We need to set aside a day to remember those who have gone before us in faith. We need to remember to give thanks to the

saints who are part of our pilgrimage of faith today, meaning all of us gathered here as well as the rest of the body of Christ in the world. We need to remember those who will follow us and keep the faith alive in generations to come.

Most of all, we need to remember the one who promises to meet us at God’s table for a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. A Swedish bishop once pointed out that *the saints make it easier for us to believe in God.* We saw how their faith sustained them in their lives. We witnessed how strongly they believed and knew the power and love of Jesus. We observed how they put faith in God above all else even – perhaps especially – during painful times in their lives. Remembering them helps us to ask ourselves; “can we not do the same? Can our lives not be as blessed as theirs were?”

And so, today we light candles here at the front, in the same space where we gather at the Lord’s table. Candles to remind us of the saints who have gone before us because, in Christ they are with us at the table - even if we are separated by death. It’s a reminder that death is not a barrier for Christ, and he made that clear in the raising of Lazarus, as well as his own resurrection.

We remember the saints because they were very much aware that God will make all things new. They were aware that at some point in the future death, mourning, crying and pain will be no more. They were aware that they could take God at God’s word and trust in God’s promises.

Longing for “the good old days for the first time”, is actually our longing for God to make things new again and reunite us with those whom we have lost. May we remember how they were examples of blessings in our lives, and how their faith was an example for us in following God’s will. Amen.

Hymn – God, whose giving knows no ending (678)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUKNNdpMdHs>

### A Remembrance Of The Saints

We now honor the saints of our community who entered into life eternal this past year.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation.

He comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death.

We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Thanks be to God!

Let us pray; Almighty God, those who die in the Lord, still live, with you, in joy and blessedness.

We give you heartfelt thanks for the grace you have bestowed upon your people who have finished their course in faith and now, rest from their labours.

We remember all those who have passed away in the last year, whose hearts touched our lives, and have now gained their eternal rest.

We also remember loved ones of congregational members, service members, victims of natural disasters, and Canadian Service members.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our brothers and sisters. Acknowledge, we humbly ask you, sheep of your own fold, lambs of your own flock, sinners of your own redeeming. Receive them into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.

## Prayers

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

Merciful God, we give thanks for all missionaries who have brought your message of hope to new communities and wiped tears away. Continue to raise up courageous missionaries to

share your gospel of hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, we praise you for abundant harvests and the goodness of creation. Create communities of care for your earth so that all land, water, and soil will be celebrated and cherished by future generations of saints. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of peace, we give you thanks for nations of peace that serve as a refuge for all whose homelands are afflicted with violence. Strengthen those who continue to work for peace and support all veterans who carry the scars of war. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of healing, we give you thanks for health care workers who labor around the clock to answer cries for help. Bring wholeness to all who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, addiction, and all who long for healing in any way. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of justice, we praise you for the feeding ministries and for all meals that bring people together for nourishment and fellowship. Bless chefs, bakers, servers, dishwashers, communion assistants, and meal ministry coordinators. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the ages, we give you thanks for the saints of this congregation who have inspired, challenged, loved, and taught us. Wipe away our tears and lead us by their example until we feast together on your holy mountain. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our protection and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn – All Who Love and Serve Your City (736)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=genI\\_JRVbB8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=genI_JRVbB8)