

# New Hope Lutheran Church

189 Regent St.  
Sudbury, Ontario  
P3C 4C4

705-673-2933  
email: [office@nhlc.ca](mailto:office@nhlc.ca)  
website: [nhlc.ca](http://nhlc.ca)

face book: New Hope Lutheran Church  
you tube: New Hope Lutheran Church Sudbury

## Pastors:

Rev. Charles Nolting  
phone: 705-920-3573 email: [pcn@nhlc.ca](mailto:pcn@nhlc.ca)

Rev. Johanna Porkola  
phone: 705-688-6284 email: [pjp@nhlc.ca](mailto:pjp@nhlc.ca)

*January 23, 2022*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

## Coming Events

Jan 25 7:00 English Bible Study **Zoom**  
Contact Pastor Charlie if you wish to participate

Jan 27 6:30 Finnish Bible Study **Zoom**  
Contact Pastor Johanna if you wish to participate

Jan 30 Sermons on our website [nhlc.ca](http://nhlc.ca)

## In our prayers Ruth.

Due to the tightening of restrictions brought on by the increase COVID-19 risk, Bishop Pryse has recommended that congregations in the Eastern Synod immediately suspend all in-person worship services and gatherings.

New Hope Lutheran Church council agrees with this recommendation. Therefore, **we are suspending all in-person services and meetings until further notice.**

Opening Hymn – Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (886)  
<https://youtu.be/LUjVTdeFvio>

## Prayer of the Day

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Psalm 19

- <sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
- <sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.
- <sup>3</sup> They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.
- <sup>4</sup> Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.
- <sup>5</sup> It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.
- <sup>6</sup> It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.
- <sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
- <sup>8</sup> The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
- <sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.
- <sup>10</sup> They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.
- <sup>11</sup> By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
- <sup>12</sup> But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.
- <sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.
- <sup>14</sup> May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

## First Reading “**Nehemiah 8:1 – 3, 5 – 6, 8 – 10**”

**1** all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel. **2** So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. **3** He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who

could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

**5** Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. **6** Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

**8** They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read. **9** Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. **10** Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

## Second Reading “**1 Corinthians 12:12 – 31a**”

**12** Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. **13** For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. **14** Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. **15** Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. **16** And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? **18** But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. **19** If they were all one part, where would the body be? **20** As it is, there are many parts, but one body. **21** The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” **22** On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, **23** and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, **24** while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, **25** so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. **26** If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. **27** Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. **28** And God has placed in the church first of all apostles,

second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. **29** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? **30** Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? **31** Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel “**Luke 4:14 – 21**”

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:*

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

*Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”*

*The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.***

### **Sermon**

*By Rev. Charles Nolting  
“Underused Tools”*

I don’t have a lot of tools that look very new anymore. Almost all of them have some of the finish scratched off them, a chip out of them, or just look a bit shabby in some other way. It’s not that I abuse my tools, rather I take pride in them because they are being used and useful. There is almost nothing sadder to me than a tool in a toolbox that is shiny and looking brand new. They are important because they are being used. We don’t usually hang our new tools on the wall so they can look good there.

So why is it that we often allow the most important tool in the Christian toolbox to be kept looking shiny and new? I’m speaking of course, about the Holy Bible. I don’t know about you, but at one time I had come to think of Bibles as such Holy objects that they should be rarely touched. I’m not sure where I got that idea, but I realize now that a lot of people think that way. They may even have a “coffee table bible”, the book that sits out on a table or is prominently showcased, cleaned and dusted regularly, but rarely

opened. How often does it sit neglected? If you think about it, what do we get out of anything we rarely use?

The use of scripture is highlighted in some of our lessons for today. In the first lesson, the newly returned citizens of Jerusalem are given a treat: a reading of the scriptures that they have missed for so many years. It brings them to tears. In our gospel lesson, Jesus reads from scriptures, making use of them to point out that his mission has been on the books for hundreds of years. Scripture is meant to be used. One reason these two lessons are important is because they highlight the importance of what is contained in our scriptures, or Bible. There is a lot of helpful information in there, information that can tug at our emotions and move us to Godly action.

Showcased bibles are like underused tools; they look good, but don’t have much use. They are underused, which is something Jesus warned us about back in the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent. He said: “*Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation...*” (Luke 21:34) Now the word “dissipation” means to waste by misuse, it describes energy that is used or lost without accomplishing any useful work. It’s like leaving the lights on but not being in a room for hours at a time. The energy used contributes nothing. A showcased Bible falls into that category. It may look good, but if it isn’t used, there is a lot of waste.

Of course, waste is a term that depends on your outlook in life. Many people have an old pair of scruffy shoes or boots that should be tossed out. I have some. They have miles of wear on them, the soles are pretty much smooth, they might even have a hole in them. But we wear them anyway because they are the most comfortable footwear we own for going outside. They sit by the back door waiting to be slipped on to go out to the garden or the mailbox, or just to putter around the yard. They may or may not have laces, they are permanently scuffed, but some people find it hard to toss them out because they are so comfortable and useful.

Bibles can be like that too. With it’s beat up appearance, my most used bible has a lot of resemblance to those old shoes. It’s frayed along the edges, some pages have small rips, it’s been highlighted and written in. Post-it notes and various bookmarks fill pages. My “cheaters” are looking kind of ragged. I even have some stuff taped in the covers from a sermon illustration going way back. At one time I might have been a bit ashamed to own such a beat up piece of literature because in our culture today, you are expected to put your best and shiniest out front and hide away the shabby stuff. But what I’ve found is that this bible is a lot like an old pair of sneakers – I’m comfortable with it and can work with it a lot better and faster than most of my other versions. Don’t be afraid to let your Bible look like its being used.

To get the most out of it, you have to make a Bible YOUR Bible. So how do you make a bible “your Bible”? Start by buying a Bible you like. Take the time in a store to browse through various versions – and I warn you there are a lot of them. Do you like background notes? There’s a bible for that. Do you prefer a camouflage cover? There’s a bible with that. Do you favor commentary or thought provoking questions? They have bibles like that. There are Bibles designed for singles and couples, professionals and lay people, the highly educated and the not so educated. You can get almost any kind of Bible today. So begin by picking one you like.

Picking one out and buying it is only the beginning. There’s more to personalizing your bible. For one thing, let it travel with you. Keep it in convenient places. You can read it waiting at the dentist’s office just as well as at home. Read it often, and regularly. And don’t be afraid to keep a pen, pencil, or highlighter near your bible so that you have something ready when you want to underline, make notes, or highlight. Mark verses that inspire you so you can find them again easily. Write in those profound thoughts that occur to you. It may be God speaking to you.

Let yourself become as comfortable with your Bible as you are with an old pair of shoes. And when it wears out, don’t be afraid to buy a new one! Think of the Bible as your personal handbook for living, and a working tool for growth, exploration, and discernment. It won’t be important to you until you make it important to you. As Christians, it is our scriptures that motivate us, inspire us, and give us hope for the future. Don’t let them sit around unused and unloved. So a question I’d like to leave you with today is: Do you love your Bible enough to wear it out? Amen.

Hymn – When Our Song Says Peace (709)  
<https://youtu.be/PwOkefjPal4>

### **Prayers**

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

All creation proclaims your handiwork. Teach us to love the intricate and beautiful bodies that you have created. Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between. Sustain species at risk of extinction. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You desire that there be no dissension among us. Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor. Grant provision and justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability, those living with pain, or those living under oppression. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Build up the body of Christ in this place. Bless the variety of ministries in this congregation. Empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving we lift before you the saints for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled. Tend to those who mourn. Bring us together in your everlasting glory. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all our prayers to you in confidence and faith; 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 – Let Streams of Living Justice (710)  
<https://youtu.be/yJ1D-rGQZ5M>