

New Hope Lutheran Church

189 Regent St.
Sudbury, Ontario
P3C 4C4

705-673-2933
email: office@nhlc.ca
website: 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

Rev. Johanna Porkola
phone: 705-688-6284 email: pjp@nhlc.ca

April 17, 2022
Easter Sunday

Coming Events

Apr 19	1:30	Finnish Bible Study Impola Room
	7:00	English Bible Study Zoom
Apr 20	10 - 1	Kahvi Time Regent St
Apr 21	6:30	Finnish Bible Study Zoom
Apr 24	10:00	Finnish Worship † Voima Hall
	2:00	English Worship † Regent St

In our prayers Ruth, Marilyn.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection; we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 31:9 – 16

- ¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.
- ² Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."
- ¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my defense^a; he has become my salvation.
- ¹⁵ Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: "The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!"
- ¹⁶ The Lord's right hand is lifted high; the Lord's right hand has done mighty things!"
- ¹⁷ I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.
- ¹⁸ The Lord has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death.
- ¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.
- ²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter.
- ²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.
- ²² The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
- ²³ the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- ²⁴ The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

First Reading "Acts 10:34 – 43"

34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism **35** but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what

is right. **36** You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. **37** You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—**38**how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. **39**"We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, **40**but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. **41**He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42**He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. **43**All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Second Reading "1 Corinthians 15:19 – 26"

19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. **20** But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. **22** For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. **23** But each in turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. **24** Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. **25** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **26** The last enemy to be destroyed is death. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel “**Luke 24:1 – 12**”

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” Then they remembered his words. When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

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

Sermon

*By Rev. Charles Nolting
“Calling Jesus Name”*

I am so happy to be able to finally celebrate Easter with you once again. 2019 – the last time we celebrated Easter together - seems so long ago. And so much has happened in the years since, events that have torn us up and caused us a lot of concern and anxiety.

We’ve been going through a pandemic that still isn’t over or extinguished. That has given us a lot of grief since it caused our in-person worship to come to a halt,

to begin again, to come to a halt again; a cycle that jars us because, in spite of what may have ever happened in our lives, one could always attend worship to find some peace and fellowship. Worship used to be the one thing that stayed normal.

In the past years we’ve also had concerns about all the changing regulations. We had to adapt to wearing masks in public, to using hand sanitizer regularly, to keeping apart from other people. We wondered for a while when a vaccine might be available and how good they might be. We stood in distanced lines to receive them; one after another, after another. Many have been living a lonely existence without a sense of social interaction. We only wanted things to be normal.

And then, just as it seems like this pandemic might be waning, (or at least we are getting used to handling it), a major war began in Ukraine raising new concerns. Will this spread into Europe? If Russia isn’t going to play nice with neighbors who are friendly with NATO, will Finland eventually be affected? What can we do to assist the millions of refugees fleeing war?

One of the effects of that war are the repercussions of the sanctions western countries have put in place. Russia is a huge supplier of fuels and in attempting to cut off their profits from fuel there is a shortage, which means that the price of fuel has increased, which means the cost of a lot of items has gone up causing inflation. And so we worry about the economy, and how we might be able to get by in the future. We just want things to go back to normal.

One other thing that has caused us anxiety over the past years has been the inability to properly grieve. So many have died and, because we have been unable to gather for funerals, all we have been able to do is to grieve on our own without the ability to comfort the families. Yes, there have been some funerals, but they were mostly lonely affairs with only immediate family present. For others, their remains are being stored,

waiting for an appropriate time for the service of burial. So many loved ones grieve alone. When can funerals become normal?

All these things have caused us to see the world differently, and to make changes to our lives. It saddens us to think that because of all these events we may have lost something for good.

But we should remember that this is also how the followers of Jesus felt on that first Easter morning. In their experience, they had been living a good life filled with the awe, wonder, and mystery of Jesus presence among them. And then, as Holy Week progressed, they watched it all go down hill with the arrest, torture, and death of their beloved leader. After his death they all went into hiding, fearing for their own lives. They too must have felt that their normal way of living had also been lost for good.

To top it all off though, we have the earliest events of Easter morning. The women dared to gather to grieve and take spices to the tomb which they found opened and empty. They were now unable to do the one thing that could give them some sense that life might be able to continue as normal.

We, of course, know how the story goes. “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, he is risen!” In their attempt to normalize their lives, they discovered that life would never again be what they considered “normal”. Instead their lives would become more blessed and spirited than they had ever been before – when times were normal. Out of their sense of horror and fear would come the knowledge that not only had Jesus beaten death, but that they too would be able to beat death because of that sacrifice. Simply being normal now seemed like a bland path compared to the lives they were about to lead. The followers of Christ would now veer off in a new direction; one of purpose and meaning.

Perhaps we too, in our situation, can learn something from them. The pandemic has exposed a number of flaws in the health and elder care systems we have. We have discovered that many “necessary workers” are underpaid. Those are just a few flaws. Do we want to return to that normal?

We’ve also been reminded that the church is more than a building being used once a week. The church is instead built on people who reach out to the world. Our former web page used to contain contact information and that was about it. That was normal. We now reach out hundreds of times a week to the world with messages of hope, prayers, and studies of scripture – the things we are supposed to be doing. In some ways, all these concerns we have may well mean the resurrection of the church’s main reason to exist; to reach out to the world explaining and demonstrating God’s love.

The reason we celebrate the resurrection of Christ with such enthusiasm is because it shows us that our darkest hours can become the most life affirming times of our lives. Christ has thrown off the mantle of our greatest fear, the fear of death. After that, what do we have to fear? Regardless of the concerns that plague us in this life, we can boldly address them knowing that our hope is in Christ.

It occurs to me that the greatest experiences of our lives are the ones that convince us to change direction in some way. Look at how the Easter experience changed the lives of the followers of Jesus for good. They encountered an empty tomb that frightened them, and perhaps with good reason. If Christ has risen it means we can live as if death does not exist. We are then free to – as Peter put in in our lesson from Acts: “preach to the people and testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.”

*When normal changes, as it has in past times, and as it did for the followers of Jesus, we may want to view it as an opportunity to renew our commitment to the gospel, to modify our course, and to remind our selves that our lives have meaning and are indeed blessed for Christ is risen!
Amen.*

Prayers

On this day of resurrection joy, let us offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and our world.

Renewing God, the good news of your resurrection changed the world. Give church leaders and all the baptized the same excitement as the women at the tomb, and inspire us to share your abundant life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustaining God, your creation abounds with signs of new life in budding trees and newborn creatures. Provide fertile soil, ample sunlight, and nourishing rain for the growth of plants and provide farmers with a plentiful harvest. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sheltering God, strengthen and sustain all who support vulnerable people across the world. Empower government agencies and international organizations that provide for refugees and migrants forced to leave their homelands. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Encouraging God, you do a new thing among us. We pray for those gripped by fear and anxiety or who suffer in any way. Send us as your healing presence to places of hunger, pain, illness, or overwhelming sorrow. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Surprising God, you offer endless ways for us to delight in your grace. Give this community of faith a sense of joy and wonder in exploring new avenues of faith formation, worship, and discipleship. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Resurrecting God, you make us alive in Christ. Thank you for blessing us with faithful witnesses who now rest in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We offer to you these petitions and those we carry in our hearts, trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy.

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.**