

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

July 3, 2022

The 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Coming Events

- July 6 10 – 1 Kahvi Time **Regent St**
- July 10 11:00 Finnish Worship **Hannah Lake**
12:00 Lunch \$15 / ticket **Hannah Lake**
(call Hilikka 705-562-3959 for tickets)
1:30 English Worship **Hannah Lake**
- July 13 10 – 1 Kahvi Time **Regent St**
- July 15 Suvijuhla / Mid Summer at **Hannah Lake**
5:00 Dinner \$25 / ticket
(call Allison 705-562-3137 for tickets)
6:30 Bilingual program
- July 17 10:00 Finnish Worship **Voima Hall**
10:00 English Worship with Trinity **Regent St**
- July 20 10 – 1 Kahvi Time **Regent St**
- July 24 No Finnish Worship **Voima Hall**
10:00 English Worship with Trinity **Regent St**

In our prayers Tyson, Ruth, Marilyn.

Prayer of the Day

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, we pray through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Psalm 66:1 – 9

- ¹ Shout for joy to God, all the earth!
- ² Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious.
- ³ Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you.
- ⁴ All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing the praises of your name."^[a]
- ⁵ Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind!
- ⁶ He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot—come, let us rejoice in him.
- ⁷ He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations—let not the rebellious rise up against him.
- ⁸ Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard;
- ⁹ he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.

First Reading "Isaiah 66:10 – 14"

¹⁰ "Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice greatly with her, all you who mourn over her. ¹¹ For you will nurse and be satisfied at her comforting breasts; you will drink deeply and delight in her overflowing abundance." ¹² For this is what the LORD says: "I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. ¹³ As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem." ¹⁴ When you see this, your heart will rejoice and you will flourish like grass; the hand of the LORD will be made known to his servants, but his fury will be shown to his foes.

Second Reading "Gallatians 6:7 – 16"

⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. ¹¹ See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand! ¹² Those who want to impress people by means of the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ Not even those who are circumcised keep the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your circumcision in the flesh. ¹⁴ May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. ¹⁶ Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God.

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

Gospel "Luke 10:1 – 11, 16 – 20"

Glory to you, O Lord.

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker

deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.'

"Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me." The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

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

Sermon

*By Pastor Charles Nolting
"God Does Not Give Up"*

One of the best parts of my life (and perhaps yours) was the time when young children were included in the household. Part of the joy of having children around, is that pretty much anything appears possible for them. When you have a child in your care, it seems to them that you can make almost anything happen. Imagination is all it takes, and children have lots of it, so their ideas can become pretty contagious, regardless of how outrageous they seem.

On top of that, we have all had high hopes and dreams for our children, that pretty much anything can happen for them in their lives. We may have dreamt about who they would become and what they would accomplish. However, it seems that as we age, our imaginative visioning all goes out the window. Why is that?

I think that for most of us, what we often term as "reality" sets in. Over the years we've had our own dreams blown away, and – because of such disappointments -we may have allowed our visions of what the future might be get tossed in the garbage. We come to accept failure as being the last word, and perhaps move on to something else less ambitious, allowing dreams to die.

I understand that kind of thinking. When I was turned down by university after university following high school, I simply gave up on the vision that I would ever gain a university education. I convinced myself that it just wasn't going to happen. The thing is though, that God never gave up on me. It took some time – years - to sort that out, but in the end, in spite of previous failure, I actually wound up in university!

God never gives up on us. We see that in our gospel lesson for today. Jesus sent out 36 pairs of people who we might swear have been set up for failure. They are to head out for parts unknown without any money or even luggage. Just go. Do what you have been sent out to do.

It's important for us to note that they were told right from the beginning that this would not be an easy feat. Jesus compares it to lambs being sent out among a pack of wolves. Jesus warned them that some places would not welcome them. Essentially Jesus tells them that it is not going to be easy, but it is going to be successful, and it is going to be worth the effort. He also instructed them on what to do when their efforts failed. Move on, but keeping trying.

Those people were sent out to believe that anything was possible. While it seems incredible that such an imaginative ministry could happen, that's an attitude we've also had - when you think about it. Years ago, before I even got here, you dared to dream, to use your imagination, to envision something possible for the future of this congregation. You dared to imagine that

we could begin a new congregation in a new location and with a new vision.

Of course, this all hasn't happened in the time frame you envisioned. It wasn't as easy as you might have envisioned. But we are in the midst of it right now, and we are at the final steps of seeing that vision completed. We are getting ever closer to completing that vision. God hasn't given up on us, and God never will give up on us. If anything, we might be tempted to give up on ourselves.

The reason we might do that, is that we keep getting older, and our experience of getting older too often tells us that we aren't as adequate as we once were. Physically we become weaker. Our ambition wanes. We become satisfied with the bare minimum. But is inadequacy or age an excuse? Or are we just tired of trying to accomplish some imaginative visioning? Has the pandemic wiped away our enthusiasm? If so, we may need to be reminded of what it says in the book of Galatians: "*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*" (Gal. 6:9)

Ah, the harvest. That's what we're waiting for, isn't it? How do we get to that harvest, the place where our visioning from years ago is finally fulfilled? Well, as Galatians mentions, we do not give up. We do not falter because some measly pandemic came along and took the wind temporarily out of our sails. We are still a congregation, a worshipping community that is attempting to spread the good news of the gospel in any way we can.

If we look back at our own lives, I'm sure we have all faced some sort of setbacks. And when we faced such setbacks, what did we do? If we were fortunate, we learned from them. We gained more knowledge of what works and what doesn't. And that has happened for our congregation in the past 2 years. We have learned how to do ministry without gathering. It hasn't

always been the greatest ministry, but it has been a resilient one. We used our imagination to envision ministry that we hadn't used before! Our knowledge actually grew.

When Jesus sent those people out, he wasn't sending them out to fail. He was sending them out to plant seeds. And we all know that seeds don't immediately produce anything visible. It takes time. Even when plants begin to grow they don't produce vegetables right away. That takes time, but we see something happening. Nobody gives up weeding the garden because you don't have cucumbers after a week.

As our gospel shows, when those sent out finally returned, they were not only successful, but enthusiastic! If we can do such things as this, what more might we possibly achieve? As a congregation we have already achieved something very remarkable; to come together, and to stay together, even though a pandemic! God will never give up on us – may we never give up either. May our imaginative visioning continue well into the future. Amen.

Prayers

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

Lord of the harvest, you send your church into the world to proclaim Christ's new creation to all. Renew the church as it carries out your mission of peace and healing. We pray for missionaries who accompany your people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation abounds with flowing waters and diverse creatures. Guide the work of climate scientists as they develop and advocate ways to restore earth's natural balance. Motivate humankind to adopt lifestyles that protect and sustain the earth. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You guard the nations; let no leaders exalt themselves, but lift up the most vulnerable and work for the good of all. Send your Spirit to eradicate classism and inequity, violence and war, poverty and hunger. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You desire abundant life for all. As we celebrate our nation, instill in us gratitude, generosity, and persistence in working toward freedom for all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Mothering God, you care for all people in need. Nourish those who are hungry. Restore employment to those who have lost work. Heal those who are sick, and comfort all who are dying or grieving. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the saints who proclaimed your reign on earth and now rest in you. Make us faithful in our witness to Christ's new creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.

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.**