

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

January 15, 2023

The 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Coming Events

Jan 17	2:00	Kammari Impola
	7:00	Eng Bible Study Zoom
Jan 18	10 – 1	Kahvi Time Regent St.
	2:00	Mission Circle Finlandia
Jan 19	6:30	Finnish Bible Study Zoom
Jan 22	10:00	Finnish Worship Service Voima Hall
	11:30	English Worship Service Regent St.

In our prayers Eero, Ron, Ruth, Marilyn.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading “Isaiah 49:1 – 7”

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother’s womb he named me. ²He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. ³And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” ⁴But I said, “I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God.” ⁵And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—
⁶he says, “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” ⁷Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, “Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Psalm 29

¹ I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.
² He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.
³ He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their

trust in him.

- ⁴ Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.^[a]
⁵ Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.
⁶ Sacrifice and offering you did not desire— but my ears you have opened^[a]— burnt offerings and sin offerings^[a] you did not require.
⁷ Then I said, “Here I am, I have come— it is written about me in the scroll.^[a]
⁸ I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart.”
⁹ I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, Lord, as you know.
¹⁰ I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help. I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness from the great assembly.
¹¹ Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord; may your love and faithfulness always protect me.

Second Reading “1 Corinthians 1:1 – 9”

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is

faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Gospel “**John 1:29 – 42**”

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹ John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.” ³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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

Sermon

By Rev. Charles Nolting

“Called To Be”

We are called to be where God wants us to be.

Life can be funny in the way it brings us twists and turns. Just when you think you might finally have things figured out, events in life can bring about changes that cause us to rethink our entire direction.

Take John the Baptist for example. Born to an elderly couple, his father had been a priest in the temple. One would think that this would result in John also becoming a priest, as that was how things worked in those days. You followed in your parent’s footsteps. You did what they did.

But that’s not how John’s life worked out, is it? Somehow John wound up being a lone voice in the wilderness, asking people to submit themselves to the waters of baptism; a ritual signifying the washing of one’s sins away. How did that happen?

Some speculate that because John’s parents had been elderly when he was born, he may have become orphaned at an early age and was sent to live with a sect which had settled in the desert at the point where the Jordan river emptied out into the Dead Sea. In that place they studied scripture and made copies of sacred writings and thought; laboring to put words on parchment, papyrus, and even a sheet of beaten copper, some of which were sealed into clay jars and hidden in the nearby caves in the hills where they would lay until accidentally found in 1946.

It was a very devout community who seems to have had cleanliness as their theme, as small aqueducts for moving water leading to ritual baths can still be found on the site. Such an upbringing in his later years would explain John’s zealous fascination for strict adherence to God’s word, and a leaning toward ritual cleansing. John’s life changed because God needed it to change. Unfortunately, John never got to see the full extent of

where his work led as he died before Jesus’ resurrection. He played an important part, and then moved on.

We see some of that with a couple of John’s disciples as well. Today’s gospel talks about Andrew, a fisherman by trade, as his father had been, and probably his father before him. But something drew Andrew away from fishing and to listening to the teachings of John. He might have stayed there as several of John’s disciples did, but when it was pointed out that Jesus is the Lamb of God, Andrew went to check that out.

It’s strange, isn’t it, how things come about? Andrew and another simply began following Jesus down the road. They didn’t call out to him, they didn’t run up to him, they didn’t try to get his attention in any way. And when Jesus noticed these stalkers behind him, he called them on it. “*What are you looking for?*” They claimed to be wondering where he was staying, which seems like kind of an odd thing to ask a stranger.

Yet Jesus’ answer is odd as well. “*Come and see.*” That’s it. He doesn’t give an address and move on, but what he does do is to invite them – not necessarily to see where he is located, but rather to see who he is. Something similar can happen to us in life as well. We can be looking for one thing, and then stumble on something else we hadn’t even thought of.

As today’s gospel tells us, that invitation led to Andrew looking up his brother Peter and bringing Peter to Jesus as well. It just goes to show that one little event can lead to another action which can lead to something else. Growth happens when we let God lead us, not only in big ways, but in small ways as well. John pointed away from himself to Jesus. Jesus invited Andrew, and Andrew went to invite Peter. Sometimes God simply calls us by invitation to be where God needs us to be. And we can do the same.

I saw this for myself when I came here almost 8 years ago. I left my last parish because Val's work brought us up here, and I felt that I had done pretty much everything I needed to do in the last parish. In spite of arriving here without any job prospects, I strongly felt the invitation, the call to move north. Without that calling, that sense of moving on, I never would have wound up in your midst.

The reason that this has all come to mind recently is that I have received another invitation, and I've decided to take it. After much prayerful consideration, I have chosen to take a call to Christ Lutheran in Peterborough, effective May 1 of this year. It wasn't an easy choice, as this is a good congregation to be a part of, but once we came through the worst of the pandemic, and once we got to a point where we can see something of where the future is taking us; it seems that my work here is pretty much done. While I look forward to hearing about your future endeavors, I strongly feel that God needs me to be in a place where I am sorely needed – as much as you needed me here over the past years.

Today I want to assure you that taking God up on the invitation to our various callings is a rewarding experience. While there were a couple of rough spots, I have overall thoroughly enjoyed this calling in the north, and learned so much about Finland in the process! May you follow where God is calling you, and may you invite others to this grand adventure as well. May God bless each of us in our calling. Amen.

Prayers

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Put a new song in the mouth of your church. Inspire the baptized to tell of your faithfulness, sharing the good news of your salvation throughout the earth. Bless the

witness of missionaries. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The waters of baptism call us into life in the Spirit. Preserve the world's waters: protect them from pollution, support plants and animals who depend on them, and bring rain in places of drought. Guide us in protecting local waterways and in responding to devastating floods. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In Jesus you are the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Show your mercy to all nations. Direct leaders to do your will; fill governing bodies with righteousness; equip judges with discernment and compassion. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You incline your ear to all who cry to you. Draw near to individuals and communities suffering violence, injustice, illness, or poverty. Hide them in the shadow of your hand and make us signs of your faithfulness to all in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are glorified in the servants you have called. Give us courage to receive and act on your call to repentance and racial justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In every place and time, you have sanctified your people. We praise you for the testimony of those who have died in the faith. Strengthen us as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

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.**