

New Hope Lutheran Church

189 Regent St. 12 Collins Dr.
Sudbury, Ontario Copper Cliff, Ontario
P3C 4C4 P0M 1N0
705-673-2933 705-682-2511
email: office@nhlc.ca
website: nhlc.ca
face book: New Hope Lutheran Church

Pastor:

Rev. Charles Nolting
phone: 705-920-3573 email: pcn@nhlc.ca

May 10, 2020
5th Sunday of Easter



*Happy Mothers Day
to all mothers*

**ALL EVENTS FOR THE COMING
WEEK HAVE BEEN CANCELLED EXCEPT:**

May 13 @ 6:30pm Council Zoom meeting
May 15 @ 6:00pm Youth Zoom meeting

Please remember to send in your offering.

*We now have a **donate button** on our web site nhlc.ca
The office is closed, but phone messages, email and mail
are being checked regularly.*

IN OUR PRAYERS

Aline, Fred, Pentti, Esme, Martha, Derek, Maria and Kai.

Funeral Elma Vakkuri 96 yrs



Mighty, gracious, compassionate Lord, we pray today for the family of Elma Vakkuri, that you would comfort them in their grief, guide them in their sorrow, and give them your peace. We pray this in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.

First Reading Acts 7:55 – 60

55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. **56** “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” **57** At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, **58** dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. **59** While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” **60** Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Psalm 31:1 – 5, 15 – 16

1 In you, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. **2** Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me. **3** Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me. **4** Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge. **5** Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, LORD, my faithful God. **15** My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me. **16** Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:2 – 10

2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, **3** now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. **4** As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— **5** you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” **7** Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” **8** and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. **9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful

light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Gospel John 14:1 – 14

1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. **2** My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. **4** You know the way to the place where I am going.” **5** Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” **6** Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7** If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” **8** Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” **9** Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10** Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **11** Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. **12** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

May 10, 2020 – The 5th Sunday of Easter
“A Shock To The System”

What would you think if you woke up tomorrow and discovered that the world-wide pandemic we're currently experiencing actually didn't exist? What if all the news stations were explaining that it was just a social experiment pulled off by a bunch of Queens University students, and that our reality was that nobody was sick and no one had died? How would you feel? What would you think? What would you do? How would you react?

I suspect that reactions would be all over the map. You would have those who would be saying; “Aha! I knew it was fake all along.” Others wouldn't be so sure, now believing that you can't trust any news sources anymore, or the politicians and doctors featured in the news. And many would be of the belief that COVID-19 still existed, and someone is trying to kill us all by getting us to let our guard down.

Let's face it, such news would throw the entire world into chaos. It would be a real shock to our entire social system. And amidst all the voices seeking attention, many would be breathing a sigh of relief and thinking: “finally, we can get back to normal.”

But would we really be able to get back to normal, even if the pandemic was a hoax? After all these weeks of being physically isolated, being careful to limit where we went and how we behaved around others, after purchasing endless rolls of toilet paper, countless bottles of sanitizer, and scrounging for every face mask available; could we really go back to what we called “normal”?

I have a feeling we couldn't because it would be too much of a shock to our system. After who knows how many more weeks of isolation we face, I don't think we will ever be able to go back to what we once considered normal. Yes, we will go back to jobs and shopping rhythms, we will get out of the house and visit others, and we will go on long distance trips similar to how we once did.

But will we do those things with the same mentality as we used to? How long will it take before we feel comfortable standing in close company with complete strangers in a store lineup? How many days or months will pass before we just jump in the car on a whim to pick something up, and get away from single weekly shopping trips? For how long will we jump

in dismay when someone sneezes within two meters of our bodies? I'm pretty sure we will find that things have changed because of what we have learned through this experience.

We've learned a lot during this time. We've learned how much fuel is saved by not just taking the car anytime we feel like it. We've learned that we can do all our weekly shopping within the confines of one day. We've learned what lurks in the depths of our freezers, and how much food we actually have in our homes. We've learned that we don't use as much toilet paper as we may have thought we would. And all this knowledge we have gained is going to affect our behavior going forward. We can't help it because of what we now know, and now we will always question what may happen in the future.

In a lot of ways this outcome is similar to the way the disciples were feeling in our gospel lesson. They had been with Jesus for several years, witnessing the miracles, healings, and teachings. They had absorbed many of his ways of thinking. In spite of having come from a variety of backgrounds, they felt that they had reached a new normal in their lives. But now Jesus was talking about leaving them! It must have been quite a shock to their system.

And that explains some of the questions they have for Jesus. *How can we know the way if we don't know where you are going? Can't you just show us the Father so that we can get on with believing?* After having become attached to Jesus, he is attempting to prepare them for another shock to their system, and they aren't sure they can take it.

But the thing they fail to realize is that they are changed people. They are no longer regular working folks, because their time with Jesus has made them disciples. Just as we will have changed some of our habits and ways by the time this pandemic is over, so they too changed. They could never think about the world, or people, or God in the same way, ever again. It must have unnerved them to think that their normal was once again changing.

Jesus comforts them with his words. He is going ahead to prepare a place for them, and us. In a world of confusion and changing norms we are reassured that Jesus is the way, and the truth, and the life. Yes, the pandemic is certainly real. People are ill. Others have and will die. All aspects of our lives will be viewed in a slightly different light. What we need is comfort that we can survive through this, even if we have changed somewhat. Like a child looking for its mother we long

for comfort. And Jesus can give us that comfort. In seeking out Jesus and following his lead, we too become changed, and comforted. Amen.

Prayers

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Build us up, mothering God, as living stones united in your spiritual house. Continually strengthen your church as it is sent forth to proclaim your love. We pray especially for new congregations and those in redevelopment.

Align our ways to your love, O God. We pray for countries, leaders, and other organizations as they prepare places for those seeking refuge and safety, especially Lutheran World Relief.

God of healing and rest, help those whose hearts are heavy and weighed down by many troubles, especially in these troubling times. Be with the many who are ill, who live in fear for their lives, who have constant pain. Comfort their suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens.

Nurturing God, we pray for those who tend and teach young children. Be with those parents who struggle with home schooling, as they attempt to assist their children's education. Give them patience, understanding, and the knowledge that you are present with them. We give thanks for all who have shown mothering care, and we remember all for whom this day is difficult.

Generous God, you call into your brilliant light all who have died. Give each of us faith to take hold of the promise of your eternal life.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**