

# 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](mailto:office@nhlc.ca)  
website: [nhlc.ca](http://nhlc.ca)  
face book: New Hope Lutheran Church

## Pastor:

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

May 3, 2020

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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

*Please remember to send in your offering.  
We now have a **donate button** on our web site [nhlc.ca](http://nhlc.ca)*

*The office is closed, but phone messages, email and mail  
are being checked regularly.*

**Funeral** William Kiviaho 75 yrs



Almighty God; you bring us hope in our times of grieving through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. May this hope be spread to all those who grieve today, especially the friends and family of William Kiviaho, that they may find your comforting presence with them. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

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

## First Reading Acts 2:42 – 47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## Psalm 23

1 The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

## Second Reading 1 Peter 2:19 – 25

19 For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 24 "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." 25 For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

## Gospel John 10:1 – 10

1 "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is

a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. 7 Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

## Prayer of the Day

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## May 3, 2020 – The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter "The Best Shepherd"

In today's gospel, Jesus talks about what it takes to be a good shepherd. He mentions guarding the gate from those who would harm the sheep, calling out to the sheep so they hear his voice, and leading the sheep to a full life. The care of sheep is further emphasized in our Psalm for today, Psalm 23, where we are reminded that God calls the sheep to green pastures and life-giving water, while also providing protection even in hazardous situations.

Now I realize that most often we rightly think of ourselves as members of this herd of sheep which Jesus and the psalmist

are talking about. We listen for God's voice, and we know it most fully as being a voice of love for us, recognizing that even though we stray from time to time, we are still loved and forgiven because of our magnificent shepherd's sacrifice. We are promised a full life, even after death, and have been shown this in the resurrection we celebrate this Easter season. Thank God for the Good Shepherd!

But Jesus as the shepherd and we as the sheep isn't the only way to look at these Biblical images of shepherds and sheep. While it may give us a nice cozy feeling to think that God is constantly herding us in the right directions, and how we are so lovingly looked after, have you ever thought about how are we doing with being good shepherds ourselves? If we are truly feeling God's love and warmth for us, there is an expectation that the feeling will overflow to the point that we will share and pass such love on to others, so that more may know of this amazing grace in their lives. The way Jesus tells it, the love of the shepherd causes us to reciprocate that love forward in shepherding ways. So how have you been shepherding others in these tumultuous times?

During a recent zoom conference call, I was sharing with our bishop and northern pastors how we are doing as a congregation even in these difficult times. The things I'm hearing about some of our members is heartening, even uplifting in some ways. I'm hearing about people making face masks for others, and some making kits for others to assemble. I'm hearing about others taking the initiative to phone our members and keep in touch, reminding everyone that we are still a community. Then there were those who pitched in with our move from MacKenzie St., a few people working at a time. And many thanks to those who continue to support our congregation financially, as we still have expenses to cover – a shepherding exercise that can be done even in isolation. These are wonderful ways that we can shepherd others, and I encourage all to participate in some way, sharing this love which our shepherd has showered upon us.

These are times when shepherding is an important task for each of us to respond to. Being unable to worship together is difficult, (not to mention the loss of coffee time!) Being on a communion fast leaves us hungry for the sacred meal. What can be offered to feed our spirits in these times is kind of minimal compared to the full-blown liturgy, hymns, and live

word that we have gotten so used to. So how can each of us step forward and shepherd others in some way?

As a spiritual shepherd myself, one of my concerns is for those who are without the means to receive the emails, or access our web site and Facebook page. For those living at Finlandia, we have arranged for paper copies of worship materials to be picked up in the lobby. But what about the others? Is there a way you can play the part of shepherd and allow them the joy of remembering that they too are part of the New Hope Lutheran family?

Being a shepherd to others does not have to be difficult or require the skills of an atomic engineer. We have the Good Shepherd – the best shepherd – to look to for guidance, ideas, and ways we can support our faith community. In trusting that shepherd for all that we need, we find the strength to be shepherds to others; feeding them, helping them feel safe, giving them guidance and comfort as they need it. So shepherd others, guided by the promises and hope offered by the best shepherd. 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.

Shepherding God, you call each of us to a variety of ministries, even in these times of challenge and change. Bless each of us with a recognition of the ministry we are called to, especially in these times. In this endeavor we ask you to give us your guidance as our true shepherd.

Creating God, we praise you for those who maintain and operate farm equipment, for those who plant and harvest crops, for local farmers and those involved in agriculture of any kind. Strengthen their hands as they strive to feed the world, and may we always give thanks for their efforts.

Guiding God, no one should be in want. Bid the nations to return to your paths of righteousness and inspire our leaders to walk in your ways, so that all may have the opportunity to live abundantly and sustainably. May the cracks now so obvious in our economic systems be filled in the months to come.

Comforting God, you carry us tenderly. We pray for those who walk through dark valleys overshadowed by anxiety and overwhelmed with suffering. We pray for those still suffering grief in Nova Scotia, for those dealing with flooding in the Wood Buffalo community of Alberta, for the sick in our own community, for those who feel loneliness in their lives.

Nurturing God, you desire justice for the hungry. Bless advocacy work, food banks, and feeding ministries in our community. May we find ways to support them so that none of our neighbors lack for basic needs.

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