



Times of Hope

Small Groups Resume

Most of our home small group studies will begin again in January. After a couple of sessions studying books, most of the groups are back to studies that are more significantly directed to Bible topics. There are currently groups meeting on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings – all in Port Coquitlam – as well as a seniors' group that meets in Pitt Meadows on Thursday mornings, and a Sunday young adults' group that meets on Sunday mornings.

For those who have been involved in these small groups, please check with your small group leader or

host to see when your small group will resume.

If it's just time for you to join a small group, please talk to Patti Messmer or Pastor Laverne about joining a group on a night or in a neighbourhood that suits you.

Also please see the separate article – *The Sanctuary Course* – about one group that is just about to start a study on mental health.

Small groups are a great way to develop and deepen your relationship with God and with others.

~ Pastor Laverne Hautz



hope lutheran
CHURCH • SCHOOL

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Marriage Encouragement Evening... On the Horizon... For Couples

With Valentine's Day coming up as we turn the next calendar month, the Second (Annual?) Marriage Encouragement Evening is being planned... especially for couples. Have you ever wanted to renew your wedding vows? Have you ever wanted to hear some good, strong, positive, Christ-centered words about marriage? Have you ever wanted your marriage to get an extra shot of encouragement and blessing? Mark your calendar for the evening of Sunday, February 10. Couples celebrating 25, 40, or 50 years of marriage are especially invited, but married couples of any vintage are welcome to attend. (Oh, and last year's participants are welcome to join us again.) Watch for more details in upcoming Sunday bulletins... but save the date NOW!

What participants (pictured below) said about the 2018 Marriage Encouragement Evening:

- "Renewing the commitment that was made many years ago reminds one of the many blessings they, as a couple, have encountered. A meaningful evening..."

- "We thoroughly enjoyed the evening. It was nice reaffirming our marriage commitment and receiving a personalized blessing. We loved hearing all the wedding stories, eating the delish desserts and spending time in fellowship."

- "Great desserts, good fellowship and an opportunity to reflect back on a big day in your life... makes you appreciate each other more."

~ Pastor Laverne Hautz



The Sanctuary Course

Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries is a faith-based Canadian non-profit organization, rooted in the Christian tradition. Sanctuary began in 2012 with a dream to address the gap between Church, faith, and mental health as identified in a Vancouver Coastal Health Region survey.

Sanctuary believes that the Church has a central role to play in promoting mental wellness and mental health recovery. Sanctuary offers training, tools, and resources to equip the Church to be a sanctuary for all people, at all stages of their mental wellness journeys. The teachings and spirit of Christ are central to the vision, mission, and values of Sanctuary.

Some people from Hope have become aware of Sanctuary and the resources that they are developing. Mental health (which includes a sense of emotional and spiritual wellbeing and the ability to cope with the normal stresses of life) issues affect many families, including families in our church community. Because mental health is being talked about more freely, the Monday evening small group (currently meeting at Nicola Lodge, just north of WalMart) is going to pioneer "The Sanctuary Course" (a discussion and video study published by Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries) in January and February, with the first session on January 7. One or two of the other small groups may also be using this material when they complete their current study. Pastor Laverne is also considering a group that would be open to anyone who is not presently involved in a small group. If this is of particular interest to you, please feel free to talk to Pastor Laverne about joining the Monday group or a new group that would start in late January.

~ Pastor Laverne Hautz



Volunteers

In November, on our Commitment Sunday, we asked people to consider volunteering for various roles – especially for Sunday mornings. Thank you to all those who freely offered your time and efforts in service to God and others!

We still have an urgent need in a couple of areas:

9:00 Oasis set up (for second & fourth Sundays)

[NOTE: So far we only have two volunteers!]

9:00 Oasis baking

11:00 Oasis set-up and clean-up (NOTE: We need 3 or 4 more people / teams.)

If you are willing to step up and do this once or twice before the end of May, please contact Janice in the church office, and she will add you to the new 2019 schedule. (In case you have never done that before, there are “job descriptions.”)

We also need some ushers for the 9:00 service, and offering counters for the 11:00 service. If you are willing to take on one of these roles, please contact Christine Intile, who is one of our Sunday Team Leaders.

Thank you!

~ Pastor Laverne Hautz

Psalm 5:1-7

Give ear to my words, O Lord;

consider my groaning.

Give attention to the sound of my cry,

my King and my God,

for to you do I pray.

O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice;

in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.

For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;

evil may not dwell with you.

The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;

you hate all evildoers.

You destroy those who speak lies;

the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house.

I will bow down towards your holy temple in the fear of you.

Food Bank Fund December

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.” Matthew 25:25

Contributions during December gave our Food Bank Fund a healthy boost with \$296 on the Sunday of the pancake breakfast. Heppell’s price for potatoes destined for the SHARE Food Bank has remained steady at \$8 per 50 lbs. The balance in our Food Bank Fund stands at \$303 as of December 27.

The first delivery of potatoes in 2019 is scheduled for Monday, January 7.

Here the figures for the past 3 months:

	Contributions	Deliveries
October	\$520	\$768
November	\$365	\$512
December (to December 27)	\$851	\$512

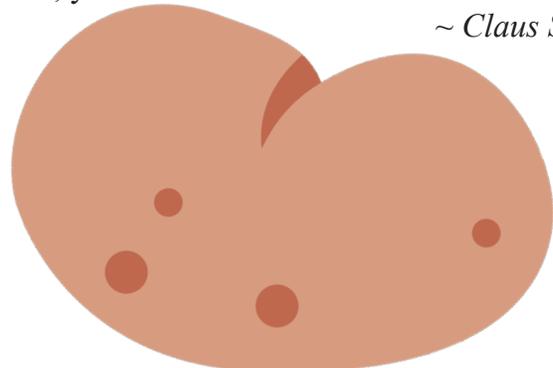
Total deliveries for the year to December 27 amount to 300 lbs. of beets, 39,200 lbs. of potatoes plus 403 lbs. of non-perishable food items from the narthex.

An above average amount of contributions in December enabled us to complete 2018 without an interruption in the supply of potatoes. This assured that each family in the Tri-City area had at least some potatoes in their weekly food hamper.

Many thanks to all of you who made this possible by your faithful support of the Food Bank Fund. The SHARE Food Bank and its clients in the Tri-City appreciate your generosity.

Jesus said, “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25:40.

~ Claus Schultz



State of the Parish / Pastoral Report

The 2018 calendar year is now well into the history books, and we can look back and see what God has done in and through our Gospel ministry here at Hope Lutheran. Below you will find some “State of the Parish” facts and figures:

Pastoral Ministries

My Pastoral Ministry for the year included these people:

Children Baptised: Evangeline Fortier, Hazel Fitzgerald, Gus Fitzgerald, Luke Fitzgerald, Zoe Zotzman

Adults Baptised / Confirmed: none

Youth Confirmed: Abby Berg, Ixshel Guiteirrez-Aguila, Madison Hunter, Sam Koutsouropoulos,

Ryan Schmidt,
Lauren Towriss

Professions of Faith: Criag Neill, David Fitzgerald, Alana Fitzgerald

Transfers in: Fred & Karen Albrecht

Transfer out: Dennis & Reuben Friesen, Jim Boraas

Weddings: None

Funeral Services: Naomi Boraas, Susan Orr, Simon Verboom (Sr.), Cecile Lutz

During 2018, our change in membership was an increase of 4 baptised members, and an increase of 6 confirmed members.

The Fruits of our Faith

One of the measures of the fruits of our faith is our faithfulness at worship.

Our average worship attendance for 2017 was as follows:

The 9:00 services (34 Sundays) yielded an average attendance of 48 (down slightly from 2017).

The 11:00 services (37 Sundays) averaged 113 per Sunday (up slightly from 2017).

In the summer months, the 10:00 services (15

Sundays) saw an average of 127 (down slightly from 2017) attend worship. For the entire year, the average attendance per Sunday was 148 (down slightly from 2017).

This average attendance continues a slight downward trend that is in some ways hard to explain, and is in other ways understandable. In a quick review of our church phone directory, there are approximately 325 active members (including children) of our congregation. (That’s people who come more than just at Christmas and Easter!) That average attendance of 148 based on 325 people means that just less than half of our active members attend on any given Sunday. (Of course, this doesn’t take into account visitors or extended family members who worship at Hope.)



Busy family lives, travel (for business or vacation), the aging of our congregation members, and the deaths of some are all factors that contribute to a slightly reduced attendance. However, the people who call Hope their

home church are still quite faithful in their overall worship attendance, and that worship is heartfelt in nature.

Another fruit of our faith is Bible Study attendance. The number of Bible Studies at Hope and the number of those attending has been very encouraging, and a source of spiritual growth for all those involved. In 2018, around 100 people were involved in home small group studies, the Sunday Bible studies, the young adults study, and the seniors’ Bible Study. During any given week, half of the people who attended worship on a Sunday also explored God’s Word during the week in one of those groups. Those small groups continue to meet, and learn, and grow, and follow Jesus. If you’re not in a small group, it

might be time for you to connect with God and also with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

A third fruit of our faith is our financial support of God's mission in our congregation and beyond it. Because our fiscal year runs concurrently with the school year, our final financial report will only be available after the end of June.

However, we do support the work of our church body (including seminary training and world missions) to the tune of \$3,000 per month and there are literally thousands of dollars given each year to other donor designated mission agencies (things like Canadian Lutheran World Relief, BC Mission Boat, Lutheran Bible Translators, etc.) At the end of the first half of our fiscal year, we are slightly behind on projections, but strong rental revenues have left us in a stable financial position. On-going strong and regular giving will enable us to fulfill all of the ministries that have been planned for 2018-19. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

Together we want to pray for the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers (including us!) into the harvest field so that His Kingdom would come to one person at a time.

~ Pastor Laverne Hautz

Best Practices for Ministry

Two years ago, I attended a Best Practices for Ministry Conference at Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix. (Why they have conferences for pastors in Phoenix in winter, I can never figure out!! But I love it!!!!) With my role of mentoring Vicar Peter, I thought that attending the BPM Conference again this year would be a good "continuing education" opportunity for both of us to take advantage of – it's a FREE conference, so the only cost is airfare and hotel.

So, off to Phoenix we are going – February 20 to 23. There are generally over 2,000 people from all across United States and Canada in attendance, and there are some 300 electives offered on a variety of different topics (preaching, youth ministry, missions, evangelism, music and LOTS more!). Besides listening to the large group sessions, each participant gets to choose 8 of those 300 electives to attend. There are also a multitude of displays from various organizations, so it's a great way to network with others.

This will be an amazing opportunity for Vicar Peter to be connected with what's happening in the church at large, and to be made aware of what's available for continued growth as he moves into his vocation as pastor. Please keep us in your prayers. (I don't think there will be any room in our carry on luggage for passengers. :))

~ Pastor Laverne Hautz



Big Eight Dialog Series

As highlighted in the announcements that have been taking place during the past two Contemporary Services, the Big Eight Dialog Series has officially launched!

Designed to take place every sixth Sunday (approximately), these dialogs are an amazing opportunity to talk through the key social issues that face each of us as members of Hope Lutheran Church & School (and as members of society).

The topics on the table include...

Gays, lesbians, transgender / gender identity, same-sex marriage, abortion, assisted suicide, women's role in the church, and creation care.

Our first Big Eight Dialog Series session is on Sunday, February 3 immediately following second service. Food will be provided by the youth / young adults (for a donation).

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex! All are welcome. All are encouraged to attend.

PS: If you have any questions, please feel free to chat with any of the Big Eight crew... Pastor, Deanna, Stephanie, Peter or Laurel Knelson, Carl Schmidt, Mike Goetz, Ken Kroeker or me (John D).

~ John Diack

Hope's Youth Ministry – February 2019

February 2: Junior Youth (grades 5 to 8)

February 9: Junior Youth (grades 5 to 8)

February 16: NO YOUTH

February 23: Junior Youth (grades 5 to 8)

Information about Junior Youth Events are posted on Edmodo weekly. Join our group by visiting www.edmodo.com and using the code: yptd7w

Information about occasional Senior Youth Events or ALL-PLAY (grades 5-12) events are posted on our instagram – follow us @hopelutheranyouthgroup

Have questions? Want to get involved? Contact Stephanie: smayer@hopelcs.ca – I would love to hear from you!

God's blessings!
~ Stephanie Mayer

Report: Reverse Advent Calendars 2018

A BIG thank-you to all of you who were involved in our Reverse Advent Calendar initiative to support the SHARE Food Bank in Port Moody. During the month of December, our minds are often focused on giving – but this initiative is neat because our donations don't get to the food bank until January – a time when we return to the familiar rhythms of regular life.

The non-perishable items donated through Reverse Advent Calendars were picked up on January 3, and the weight of the donations was 450 lbs!!! Praise the Lord for how He has worked through you to provide for those in need! If you feel moved by this ministry, I invite you to consider supporting SHARE throughout the year! Please refer to the other Food Bank article to find out how you can help.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel by sharing with your neighbours in need. May God bless you in 2019 and always!

~ Stephanie Mayer



Food Bank Fund January

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.” Matthew 25:35

Our first delivery of potatoes in 2019 to the SHARE Food Bank in Port Moody took place on January 7. The price remained unchanged at \$8 per 50 lbs. The second load is on order for delivery Monday, January 21. We opened the new year with a fund balance of \$368. As of January 18 the balance stands at \$262.

During 2018 our congregation contributed a total of \$5,616 with a start-up balance from 2017 of \$1,248. The total cost for the same year amounted to \$6,496.

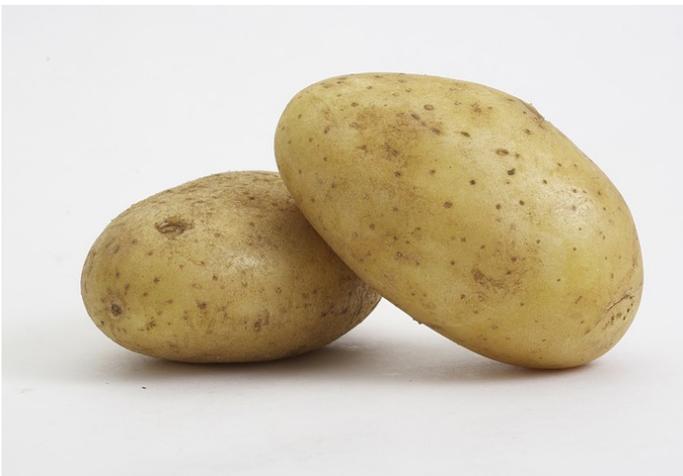
Total deliveries for this year amount to 800 lbs. of potatoes.

To all of you who have been able to assist in the support of our less fortunate neighbours in the Tri-City area, many thanks from the recipients, the SHARE Food Bank and yours truly.

May God grant that our congregation may again be privileged to lend a helping hand to our neighbours in need throughout 2019.

Jesus said, “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25:40.

~ *Clause Schultz*



Small Groups in the New Year

Gracious joy to all as we begin a new year. The Small Group Bible sessions are well underway and digging into various study material. Our Thursday evening group is working on the “I AM” series. Last night we covered “I am the Light of the World.” This gave us an opportunity to discuss many bible passages that pertain to God’s light, and how it has guided us throughout the ages and is still so very present in our lives today.

Pastor and Deanna’s Monday evening study group are embarking on a new and exciting venture. They are working through The Sanctuary Course, which is a study on mental health and how the church is responding to it. Pastor has written a separate article on this subject if you would like to know more about it.

It is such a blessing to be involved in small group bible study on these long winter evenings. The joy of reading God’s word in a group setting followed by open discussion and prayer brings comfort beyond our understanding. The Lord’s gentle presence often guides our conversations to a place of perfect peace. He is definitely a lamp for our feet and a light for our path on these dark nights!

If you would like to join a small group you are more than welcome! There is space available on some evenings as well as opportunity to start a new small group. Please speak to Pastor or Patti Messmer and we would be happy to assist you in finding the evening and location that works best for you.

~ *Patti Messmer*



February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Small Groups happening in homes this month		Regular Mondays 6:00 (gym) Tuesdays 6 (gym) 7:30 (Room 103)	Rentals Wednesdays 7:30 (Rooms 103 & 104) Thursdays 6 (gym) Fridays 7:30 (Room 104 & Sanctuary)		1	2 6:30 Jr. Youth
3 9:00 Communion 10:00 Bible Studies 11:00 Communion & Sunday School	4 5:30 LWMLC	5 Pastor at Winkel 6:30 Confirmation Class	6	7 10:00 Seniors' Bible Study (Pitt Meadows)	8	9 6:30 Jr. Youth
10 9:00 Worship 10:00 Bible Studies 11:00 Worship & Sunday School 6:30 Marriage Night	11	12	13	14	15	16 NO YOUTH (Family Day Weekend!)
17 9:00 Communion 10:00 Bible Studies 11:00 Communion & Sunday School	18 Church Office closed – Family Day	19	20	21 10:00 Seniors' Bible Study (Pitt Meadows) Pastor and vicar at conference until Saturday night	22	23 6:30 Jr. Youth
24 9:00 Worship 10:00 Bible Studies 11:00 Worship & Sunday School	25	26	27	28		

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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