
THE MESSENGER OF HOPE



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pentecost 15 to Pentecost 19

September 2024



WORDS OF HOPE

Reflections by Pastor Terry Richardson

Words of Hope
September 2024

Know that the Lord is God. It is God who made us, and we belong to God; we are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture. Psalm 100

People

Remember the little children's lesson with your hands? *"This is the church, this is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people."* The church is the people. We meet in a building dedicated to God's glory. But we are the church: people living under God's grace in Christ, seeking to be led by God's Spirit.

People can form a society, an organization, a mob, a circle, a community. People can be passive and let others walk on them. People can demand their rights. People can establish relationships and work with trust. People can be unreasonable and refuse to listen to anything but their own voices. People can lay down their lives in service to others.



People represent diversity. We come in different sizes, shapes, gender, and color. We have roots in different cultures, claim different religious beliefs, and support different approaches to life. But blood transfusions and organ transplants still save lives regardless of surface differences.



People have feelings. I have a friend with an infectious laugh. When he starts to laugh, the whole group ends up laughing. I saw a toddler in daycare fall down on the floor one day. With a big sad face, he began crying. Other children turned their heads and soon they were crying as well. We affect each other in our joy and pain. Being together helps us learn about our emotions and how to keep our balance.

People can hurt each other. Words and actions arising from pain or carelessness can tear us apart and have long term consequences. No one really wants to be hurt, so we try to resolve differences

and sort out problems. But there are times when all we can do is part company with respect. At a deep level we know that life is better with harmony than with brokenness.



People live with pain and some of those situations cannot be repaired. Consequences have to be managed. It can be difficult to find strength and we may seek a source of hope beyond ourselves.

I remember an elderly gentleman who was living his final days in a local hospital. We had become friends over the previous year. Hiram spoke his mind and was clear about his needs. During one hospital visit he interrupted me in mid-sentence and asked, "Do you have that Bible with you? Read me something from there." I read to him and he smiled. In his last hours and he was unable to speak. As I approached his bed he glanced at my coat pocket and then looked in my eyes. I took the small Bible out and read to him. He smiled. The hospital was a five-minute walk from my home. Before I got in my front door Hiram had died. His situation could not be repaired and Hiram knew what was needed: the face of a friend and a promise from the God who cared.



The church is people. In the midst of busy lives we will need the face of friends and sometimes the encouraging words of God. That's why we regularly gather as church. We gather to sing, to pray, to listen to God and each other, to be together, to support each other, to laugh, to cry, to be quiet, to stand for justice and mercy and to be reminded that we are not alone.

Don't forget about your people, your family, your church.



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

This year's theme for the Season of Creation is, **To Hope and Act with Creation**, which emphasizes our collective responsibility to nurture and protect our environment. This year's logo is "**The first fruits of hope.**" It offers to us a biblical image of Earth as a mother groaning as in childbirth and reminds us that to hope, in a biblical context, does not mean to stand still and quiet, but rather groaning, crying, and actively striving for new life amidst the struggles.

The Season of Creation, September 8, through September 29th provides us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our relationship with the natural world and to reaffirm our commitment to stewardship. We can make a meaningful impact in promoting sustainability and environmental justice through worship, education, and community outreach.

Let us join hands and explore how we, as individuals and congregations can contribute to the well-being of others and fulfill our duty as caretakers of God's magnificent Earth.

Note: Here at Hope we will be learning a new hymn during the Season of Creation, to remind us all of the wonders of God's creations. Individuals are encouraged to make time to enjoy nature, and thank God for his gift. In addition, some possible stewardship opportunities re caring for the earth will be mentioned throughout the month in the bulletin, and the next newsletter.

Carolyn Iles for the **Worship Committee**

CONTINUOUS LEARNING [Web notes]
Submitted by Carolyn Iles

What Will You Do Today?

"Compassion is the wish to see others free from suffering." ~ Dalai Lama

I have a piece of kindergarten handwriting paper taped to the wall where my kitchen table sits. Written on it is a question that I ask my children and myself every morning as we are eating our breakfast. The question? ***What can we do TODAY to make the world a better place and reduce the suffering of others? Each of us without caring who gets the credit...***

The answers that most frequently pop out of their mouths are "Hug someone.", "Tell someone that you love them.", "Talk to a person who looks sad.", "Share my lunch with a friend.", "Color a picture for the neighbor." Their answers are not any grand gesture like volunteering at the homeless shelter or donating a bunch of money to charity. They are small things that each of us can do every day. And these seemingly small acts of kindness are at the very heart of what it means to live a life of compassion.



Compassion's only requirement is that you take action to reduce the suffering of another. And no matter how small that action may feel... know that its ripples are expansive and infinite.

So what about you? What will YOU do today to make the world a better place and reduce the suffering of others?

Thanks to **Stacey Dalili** **St. Francis Church, San Francisco**

Note: If you find something on the 'net and want to share it, please submit it to the church office, for the next newsletter!

WITNESS AND MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT
Submitted by Joan Roszmann

Fatima and her Family have Arrived! Come and meet them October 6th!

You may recall from an earlier newsletter this year that Karin Kronstal, wife of Joel Roszmann, confirmed in our church, is on the 5-member team to bring an Afghani woman and her 3 children to Canada for safety and freedom.

Good news! Fatima Panahi and her three children recently relocated to Nanaimo from Afghanistan as part of Canada's Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program. Following the **October 6th service**, there will be a brief presentation from Fatima and those involved in her journey to Canada about her experience and the sponsorship process. Coffee and cookies will be provided and tax-deductible donations accepted toward Fatima's relocation costs.



Donations may be made through our church with “Alghani Refugee Relocation” written on the offering envelope.

Mark your calendars to stay for about 45 minutes following the October 6 service!

CLWR SUNDAY

Submitted by Joan Nolting

On September 29, we will be celebrating **Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)**. Established in 1946, CLWR is one of Canada’s oldest and most trusted humanitarian organizations.



Inspired for God’s love for humanity, Canadian Lutheran World Relief challenges the causes and responds to the consequences of human suffering and poverty. As a specialized agency of the Lutheran community in Canada, CLWR offers Canadians opportunities to understand the needs of others.

CLWR is involved in community development including safe water supply, sustainable agriculture, food security, health care, education, refugee relief and resettlement and emergency relief.

Your gift to CLWR makes you a partner with displaced and food-insecure people as they develop solutions that last, so all people can live in peace with dignity and hope.

When communities are devastated by disaster, drought or conflict, your gifts provide life-saving support as families get through crisis and begin to recover. Everywhere CLWR works, their response is guided by the voices of the people they serve.

CLWR is working for a world where everyone lives in peace, so it is not enough to deal with problems as they come up. They are challenging root causes.

Together with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, of which CLWR is a founding member, CLWR is giving families the food they need today plus the skills and supplies to grow their own food tomorrow.



In regions facing extreme poverty and unemployment, CLWR is providing education and skill-training for people who face unjust barriers in accessing education and work.

Through the Government of Canada, CLWR helps churches in Canada participate in refugee resettlement, providing a new start in Canada for families in urgent need.

CLWR works in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, ACT Alliance and the Humanitarian Coalition.

Contributions can be made through your church offerings designated for CLWR.
Cheques should be made payable to Hope Lutheran Church.

CURRENT ACTION REPORT

Submitted by Carolyn Iles

Doctors and nurses from Augusta Victoria Hospital provide support for largest evacuation since outbreak of conflict



Through Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Lutherans around the world support Augusta Victoria Hospital, which serves people living in Gaza. As the war continues, patients needing medical support have been stranded. Here is a part of an article that details how CLWR/Augusta Victoria Hospital have been trying to assist those in need.

(LWI) - The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has been supporting the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Palestinian Ministry of Health with the largest evacuation of sick and severely injured patients from Gaza since the current conflict started last October.

At the end of July, 85 patients were driven from Gaza to Ramon airport in the south of Israel, from where they departed by plane to the United Arab Emirates. They included 50 adults and 35 children, accompanied by family members and other caregivers, as well as a team of 3 doctors and 4 nurses from the Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) in East Jerusalem which is owned and operated by the LWF.

AVH staff were asked to support the United Nations' evacuation effort because of their experience in coordinating the transport of patients from Gaza to the hospital prior to the start of the conflict. The hospital, which specializes in cancer and diabetes care, serves over 5 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Located on the Mount of Olives, it is part of the East Jerusalem Hospital Network.

Following identity checks, patients were authorized to leave Gaza and board buses waiting at the Kerem Shalom checkpoint. Pediatrician Dr Nasser, a member of the AVH support team, reported that the medical staff were not allowed to cross into Gaza to help patients. He said he was shocked to hear "heavy bombardments, at least four times, and to see smoke close to the crossing."

Among those evacuated were patients who had attended appointments at AVH before the conflict escalated. They included a woman with pancreatic cancer, a 14-year-old boy with leukemia and a woman with breast cancer. Another young patient was a 13-year-old boy with a leg fracture in a wheelchair, travelling alone as his father was in Jenin and his mother was in Oman with another injured sibling. A younger sister and an uncle had been left behind in Gaza.

Dr Nasser said that almost all the patients showed signs of shock and trauma, speaking about "their loss of homes, parents, siblings and other relatives," as well as the uncertainty of not knowing where they were headed or whether they would be able to return to Gaza. "They all worry about leaving family members behind," he said, "asking if they will be safe, if they will ever see them again."

Dr Fadi Atrash, CEO of the August Victoria Hospital, expressed satisfaction for the successful outcome of the evacuation. "We were pleased that we helped our patients to get access to their much-needed treatment," he said. "Yet we believe and will continue to advocate for Gaza cancer patients to be referred back to AVH, the place and the team that they are familiar with and trust."

LWF/S. Weinbrenner & P. Hitchen

When you are scrolling through the 'web, or on your phone, you may come across something that would be of interest to other readers of this newsletter. Share the item, through writing a summary, maybe include the web address? This newsletter welcomes submissions! From Carolyn Iles

THANKS FOR THE THANKS

First, a big thank you to the church Council for sponsoring and organizing the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. Good food, good entertainment, good friends sharing laughter and song, and hopefully attracting new volunteers.

Second, here is a short story regarding volunteers at Hope Lutheran:

A few days before the picnic, the leaders of "Hostess Team Two" were sent a notice that two new volunteers had been assigned to our team. I sent a quick note of welcome, and mentioned that Hostess Team two would be doing clean up at the picnic. The note concluded with a comment re not to feel obligated, as they had just joined us, but if they wanted to meet other members of the team to stop by the kitchen as we cleaned up.

A few of our team members set up the kitchen for clean up at the end of the worship service, then we went out to eat and enjoy some conversation with friends and neighbours. Imagine my surprise, when, I walked into the kitchen to find some of the team AND our two new members busily washing dishes! As the clean up continued, team members were able to work for a while, and then were 'spelled off' by others.

When we all share the load, the load is so much lighter. Thanks to all the volunteer hostess team volunteers, both Team one and Team two!

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION CALLS TO ACTION



In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) published its final report detailing the experiences and impacts of the residential school system, creating a historical record of its legacy and consequences. The TRC recorded testimony of more than 6,000 survivors affected by residential schools.

Over more than a century, it is estimated approximately 150,000 Indigenous children were separated from their families and communities and forced to attend one of 139 residential schools across Canada.

One outcome of the report was a document detailing [94 calls to action](#) across a wide range of areas including child welfare, education, health, justice, language and culture.

Hope Lutheran is printing 10 or so calls to action each month. These smaller lists are meant to allow us time to consider these actions, and what we might do as a church and individuals to respond to the calls.

Museums and Archives, continued

69. We call upon Library and Archives Canada to: i. Fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Joint-Orentlicher Principles, as related to Aboriginal peoples' inalienable right to know the truth about what happened and why, with regard to human rights violations committed against them in the residential schools. ii. Ensure

that its record holdings related to residential schools are accessible to the public. iii. Commit more resources to its public education materials and programming on residential schools.

70. We call upon the federal government to provide funding to the Canadian Association of Archivists to undertake, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, a national review of archival policies and best practices to: i. Determine the level of compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Joint-Orontlicher Principles, as related to Aboriginal peoples' inalienable right to know the truth about what happened and why, with regard to human rights violations committed against them in the residential schools. ii. Produce a report with recommendations for full implementation of these international mechanisms as a reconciliation framework for Canadian archives. Missing Children and Burial Information

71. We call upon all chief coroners and provincial vital statistics agencies that have not provided to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada their records on the deaths of Aboriginal children in the care of residential school authorities to make these documents available to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

72. We call upon the federal government to allocate sufficient resources to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to allow it to develop and maintain the National Residential School Student Death Register established by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

73. We call upon the federal government to work with churches, Aboriginal communities, and former residential school students to establish and maintain an online registry of residential school cemeteries, including, where possible, plot maps showing the location of deceased residential school children.

74. We call upon the federal government to work with the churches and Aboriginal community leaders to inform the families of children who died at residential schools of the child's burial location, and to respond to families' wishes for appropriate commemoration ceremonies and markers, and reburial in home communities where requested.

75. We call upon the federal government to work with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, churches, Aboriginal communities, former residential school students, and current landowners to develop and implement strategies and procedures for the ongoing identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration, and protection of residential school cemeteries or other sites at which residential school children were buried. This is to include the provision of Calls to Action| 9 appropriate memorial ceremonies and commemorative markers to honour the deceased children.

76. We call upon the parties engaged in the work of documenting, maintaining, commemorating, and protecting residential school cemeteries to adopt strategies in accordance with the following principles:

- I. The Aboriginal community most affected shall lead the development of such strategies.
- II. Information shall be sought from residential school Survivors and other Knowledge Keepers in the development of such strategies.
- III. Aboriginal protocols shall be respected before any potentially invasive technical inspection and investigation of a cemetery site. National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

77. We call upon provincial, territorial, municipal, and community archives to work collaboratively with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to identify and collect copies of all records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system, and to provide these to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

78. We call upon the Government of Canada to commit to making a funding contribution of \$10 million over seven years to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, plus an additional amount to assist communities to research and produce histories of their own residential school experience and their involvement in truth, healing, and reconciliation.

Building Relationships- Ministry of Reconciliation Committee [Hope Lutheran Church]

The Hope "Building Relationships- Ministry of Reconciliation Committee" would like to invite you to join us at 2 upcoming & interconnected Workshops sponsored by Brechin United Church. More information & Registration instructions are outlined below.

Questions? - Please feel free to reach out to Tim Stime, Peter Clark or John Musgreave.

The Village
workshop series



villageworkshopseries.com

To Register:

Call Colleen at 778-269-0090
or

Email: brechinmando@gmail.com

To Attend:

Wednesday Oct. 16th, 2024.

at Brechin United Church
Unit 100 - 2020 Estevan Rd., Nanaimo.

Doors open at 9:00 a.m.

Start time is 9:30 a.m.

We try to wrap up by 3:30 p.m.

Covid protocol may be in place

Please bring a bagged lunch. Coffee,
tea, water & treat will be available

There is **no charge** to attend, but
donations are appreciated
to assist with expenses.



Building Bridges:

Through Understanding the Village ©

An Experiential Workshop designed to advance our understanding from a merely cognitive level to a deeply emotional level, through exploring our own personal role in supporting the revival of Indigenous values, and collectively, the effects of Residential Schools and Canada's Policy of Assimilation.

This workshop is geared to solutions rather than recrimination, and is a great forum in which to ask questions. It's done from a non-blame and non-shame perspective, and invites all participants to become a

part of the healing that IS already happening.

PLEASE NOTE: This workshop is not mandatory. Participation may trigger unresolved grief and loss issues for some. Support options are highly recommended, and will be offered both during and after the workshop.

"It was a deeply moving experience, and I can see that it is an incredible tool for education and healing." – Workshop Participant



Kathi Camilleri is an Indigenous Cultural Safety Practitioner. Inspired by the teachings of Jann Derrick (*The Circle and The Box*) and of many dear Elders, she has coordinated healing programs in community settings for almost 25 years. Kathi holds certificates in Re-enactment Therapy for Trauma Survivors, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) for Trauma, as well as Dialectical Behavioural Therapy (DBT), and has earned a Master of Arts in Leadership. Her thesis, *Returning Home to the Values of the Village*, focused on the revival of culturally-based values in order to increase collaboration among staff within an Aboriginal service-providing agency. She now has her own consulting business, and facilitates Strategic Planning Sessions and Experiential Workshops regarding Canada's Policy of Assimilation.

The healing power and personal impact of this work elicits rave reviews.

Contact Kathi: 250-287-0150 cckc@telus.net www.villageworkshopseries.com

We Celebrate Birthdays



For the month of **September 2024**:

September 10 Frieda Kalack

September 10 Randi Turner

September 10 Jasmine Lushman

September 11 Gerry Owen

September 17 Steven Turner

September 22 Kim Iles

September 22 Sonja Cole

We Celebrate Anniversaries



For the month of **September 2024**

September 3 Garry & Alice Heiman

September 15 Gerry & Jean Jacob

Special Prayer Requests:

Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts, especially...

Ahmad H; Ana B; Anne-Marie B; Bill & Donna B; Carolyn B; Chris B & family; Carol D; Gary G; Elizabeth H; Dennis K; Kari K; Donna & Larry K; Ryan K; Charlotte M; Colleen M; Lilah M; Mary M. D; Carole O; Paula O; Colin V; John & Marily; Lorraine & Al; Kristi; Miriam; Tania; Pastor Kristen Steele; Zack...

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**



On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world.

Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**



Augusta Victoria Hospital