

Words of Hope

Rev. Terry Richardson
Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church

Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. The islanders showed us unusual kindness. Acts 28:1-2

Kindness

A blessed Easter to you! He is Risen! Alleluia! Life can be new again!

I don't know about others, but I like it when people are kind. It is encouraging to receive kindness and to see it shown toward others. Kindness toward children, toward strangers, toward those closest to us can make a huge difference in the background of life that we help build for ourselves.

The alternative is to see everyone else as competition. Then we do not want to get left behind. We don't want to see others get something that we would like. We may have had someone be mean or aggressive or insensitive to our situation and as a result may be tempted to pass that attitude on. The effect can spread like a forest fire unless there is someone to challenge it.

Think of life without kindness. Maybe some feel that describes their current experience in life. This would mean that only the strong survive. This would mean that the weak and infirm get trampled. This would mean a law of the jungle. Life would either be sterile, without any smiles, without joy, without a sense of peace and safety; or we would simply join the animals.

Kindness is a human quality. It may be a missing piece in the bump and grind of daily existence. Kindness pauses to take time for someone else. It "can" happen anywhere.

I think kindness is like many positive qualities. We experience it when we start to express it. Instead of waiting for someone to be kind to you, why not start being kind to others and see if it doesn't come back around at you one way or another.

Try the experiment. Be kind in the neighborhood or in the yard. Be kind in the hallway or with people on the elevator. Be kind in the shopping mall. Show kindness to your spouse or partner. Slow down and be kind to your children or parents.

In spite of all of our negative attitudes and sinful rebellion God was kind to us and sent Jesus to be our saviour. And Jesus was kind in his approach with broken and hurting people. He sent his Spirit to us in order that such kindness and care and presence for others would continue. You might even try, just for a moment, being kind to yourself. It's a great way to make life new again.

COUNCIL NOTES

Submitted by Council Secretary – G. Ames

Coffee - Coffee - Coffee !!!

We are promoting FairTrade coffee for use during Coffee Hour – and we invite everyone to stay and socialize a while over a good cup of coffee - A truly Lutheran thing to do. You may show your appreciation for this tasty service in a couple of ways. You may donate a pound or two of FairTrade coffee or you may leave a donation in the jar provided and someone from the Fellowship Ministry will do the buying – possibly thru CLWR.

Charity of the Month

Please note that, although we no longer announce a 'Charity of the Month', you still have the opportunity to donate on a monthly basis to a designated charity of your choice - by using the line "OTHER" on your envelope. You can be assured that your offering will go to the charity so designated. Our most constant local charity is Loaves and Fishes, as they are always in need and can make good use of funds for bulk purchases. The 'Special Appeals' line would include - CLWR, LUMS, Haiti Relief etc. Remember that our budget is supported by 'Current Expenses'.

Comment on March Newsletter –

Thank you to all those who submitted articles and reports. It was great to have so much 'news'. Keep up the good work!

WORSHIP NOTES

Submitted by Carolyn Iles

With the introduction of a group of "greeters", who work in the narthex, that is the area near the outside door and the coffee table, your Worship Committee has 'redefined' the job of the usher. This is the job we have been calling the "host/greeter". We will now call it an usher. Generally speaking the usher's job is to make the worship area comfortable for people, and make sure hymnals are distributed and collected.

You may notice we are no longer asking ushers to set up the keyboard and microphones. We hope to find others to do this job. Our plan is to have all job descriptions written up, laminated, and placed near the sign-up sheet. There will also be copies for you to take home, once you have signed up for this exciting new opportunity!!!!!!

USHER

- Put up hymn numbers of hymn board.
- Turn on all lights and fan. (Two light fixtures on wall near keyboard.) Be aware of temperature rising, open windows, far door as needed.
- Handout the worship materials, bulletin and hymnal(s). Check bulletin to find out which hymnals, worship booklets are needed.
- Count the number of people present and record that on the form found on top of bookcase, or a small piece of paper. Place the form/paper in the offering plate.
- Gather the offering.
- Seat late comers. Set up extra chairs as needed.
- Direct people up to the altar for communion. Let Pastor know if someone needs communion brought to them.
- Collect Hymnals and return them to bookcase. Straighten worship area, removing any papers or bulletins left on chairs.
- Ensure the offering is placed in the safe, and offering plates are returned to sanctuary.
- Close and lock windows, turn off all lights and fan.

This is a wonderful way to get to know people, and help make sure our worship service runs smoothly!!!! Be sure to sign up soon to be an usher for Hope! Do talk to Carolyn Iles, Peggy McMannus, Loraine Mathern, or Arnold Gill if you have questions, or suggestions!

HOPE'S LIBRARY

Did you know we have a library at our church? Perhaps you have seen the bookcase near the front door. This bookcase holds just some of the books in our library. Other books can be found downstairs in the "council" room. Our hard working church librarian selects books for each church season and puts them on display upstairs. These are YOUR books, catalogued, and ready to be checked out. There are books for children, families and seniors. Books about hard topics, and books to make you laugh. The librarian would like to encourage you to look over the library. There may be a book you have been hoping to read just waiting for you!

Our librarian will soon be retiring. She has some great ideas about ways to make the library more 'user friendly'. Perhaps we could consider adding some videos, or CD's to our collection. So check out your library today! Out thanks to our hard working librarian. I wonder how many people know the librarian's name???

If you do, drop a note into my mailbox with her name, and your name. First five people to guess correctly win....no, not a book! A candy bar!

ALTAR FLOWERS

How often have you admired the flowers on our Altar. How often have you signed up to bring flowers. Did you know you can bring flowers in honor of someone's birthday...or to honor all mothers, or sisters, or to celebrate Canada? There are many reasons to sign up to bring flowers to our altar.

It takes just a little time. Flowers from your garden are fine...as are flowers from the grocery store or florist. There are lots of vases located just above the stove in the kitchen. Saturday is a good day to come to church with the flowers, arrange them and place them on the altar. Even early Sunday morning, before the 8:30 service is fine.

PLEASE sign up today on the flower chart in the kitchen. Our faithful altar flower coordinator is taking a break, so we ask everyone to please be sure to sign up to bring flowers, put them in the vases and place them on the altar. Do it today!!!

Does being our Flower Coordinator sound like a dream job for you? Please let someone on the Altar Guild, Shirley or Sonja, or someone on Worship, Peggy, Carolyn, Loraine or Arnold know today.

WITNESS AND MISSION COMMITTEE

Submitted by Joan Nolting

CLWR 'ONE COMMUNITY' PROJECT

Community development is the primary focus of Canadian Lutheran World Relief's humanitarian efforts. They work with communities in the developing world to help make life better by supporting programs and projects that feed families, provide knowledge, improve health, preserve creation and create employment.

The **One Community** project allows a congregation to equip a community with the various resources needed to undertake sustainable community development. Using a list of symbolic gifts from CLWR's Gifts from the Heart catalogue, we will be able to equip a representative community with a variety of material items such as sacks of seed potatoes, fishnets, livestock, granaries and non-material items such as training for teachers, business people and community leaders.

We already have a start on equipping a village with the wells we were able to purchase through our Advent Conspiracy project and the goats which the youth group purchased.

A display of a village will be put up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. As items are purchased, they will be added to the village. There will also be a shopping list of the items needed. Purchases can be made through your offering envelopes or directly to CLWR.

If members of the congregation have in the last few months purchased Gifts of the Heart, or will purchase them directly through CLWR, please let Joan Nolting know or put a note in the pouch below the display of which items you have purchased so that they can be added to the display. Consider giving Gifts of the Heart as birthday, anniversary or other special occasion gifts.

This project will continue for the balance of this year. Keep an eye on the bulletin board for an update of how we are doing.

UPDATE ON HAITI

The latest word from Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) is that \$1.1 million had been received for the CLWR appeal for Haiti. About \$300,000 of these funds are being used to support emergency relief work being carried out by CLWR's primary partner, the Lutheran World Federation which is also a member of Action of Churches Together (ACT). Plans are being formulated to provide longer term recovery assistance, most likely through the construction of earthquake and hurricane proof housing.

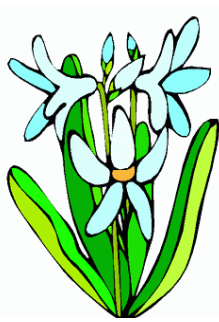
CLWR and other members of Canadian Churches in Action have submitted an application to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for \$1.9 million in matching funds.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

PLEASE DO NOT USE OFFERING ENVELOPES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS.

Although most people have received the same numbered envelopes in 2010 as they had last year, it was necessary to change the numbers in some cases. Using an outdated envelope could result in the wrong person being credited. If you have not received 2010 envelopes and wish to have them, please contact the church office or Joan Nolting at 729-3677 or email jnolting@shaw.ca.

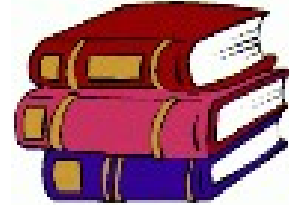
ANNOUNCEMENTS



A Fund-Raiser for Flooring – generously supported by a matching grant from Faithlife Financial Saturday April 10 from 9 am to 3 pm

The Property and Gardening groups are holding a fund-raiser towards completing the flooring project in the multi-purpose room. Items for sale are limited to hard and soft-cover books, DVDs, indoor and outdoor plants and home baking. *If you can*

donate to the sale, please bring items to the church the week of April 5 as we cannot store them before then. If you can help on the day of the sale, please sign up in the Narthex - or call Frances Hastings at 250-756-7958, or Wendy van Oldenborgh at 250-741-1028.



CARE HOME AND HOMEBOUND VISITATION

If you know of a member who is in need of visitation from our team of visitors, please call Kathy Karr at 250-756-4744 or email kkarr@shaw.ca or leave a message at the church office or in her mailbox.

PRAYER REQUEST FROM

**+ Gerhard Bishop Gerhard A. Preibisch
British Columbia Synod**

Rev. Ron Sedo who in serving Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran in Comox was in an accident with his motorcycle on Monday afternoon. I spoke with him and Marilyn today. He has three cracked ribs and is fortunately recuperating at home.

We invite your prayers for healing and swift recovery. Rev. Al Pope has agreed to fill in while Ron is recovering from his injuries.

Shalom

“WHAT’S A LUTHERAN?”

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. – April 8, 22, 29 & May 6.

This is a group led by Pastor Terry for anyone interested in membership or who is just curious.