

New Hope Lutheran

Newsletter

Dec 2017, Jan 2018

From the Pastor's Pen....



In a popular Finnish Christmas carol we wish that we could have an everlasting Christmas. At first that sounds like something I wouldn't want. As nice as Christmas is, in many families it also means being busy for weeks and stressing out from cooking, buying presents or cleaning the house. The Christmas songs that start playing at malls as early as the beginning of November make some people crazy. And let's not forget those, for whom Christmas is a painful time that makes you feel lonely while everybody seems to be celebrating with family and loved ones. In these situations an everlasting Christmas might sound like a nightmare.

But when we wish for that everlasting Christmas, we are obviously not wishing for everlasting stress or supermarkets to play Christmas songs all year round. We often have pretty high standards and expectations for Christmas and it's easy to think that only if things are the certain way and only if this and that is perfect, Christmas can happen. There is nothing wrong with having decorations, enjoying a nice meal together or cleaning your house, but if all that make us forget the true meaning of Christmas, we lose something extremely valuable.

In my mind I often go back to that very first Christmas. To the moment when nothing seemed to be perfect. I think about the family that couldn't find a guest room. I think about the young woman who was about to become a mom to a pretty important child. And I think about the shepherds, whose ordinary "day at the office" was cut short. But often, maybe a bit surprisingly, I find myself thinking about Joseph more than anyone else. Even though he gets to be a part of nativity scenes, we forget him and just focus on Mary and baby Jesus. But Joseph, too, has something to teach us. And in his story, we can also find at least one reason why it might not be that silly to long for that everlasting Christmas.

Let's remind ourselves of the situation Joseph was at on that first Christmas. His life with his fiancé didn't have a rosy start - Mary was pregnant before they were legally married. What must have gone through Joseph's mind and heart? All the questions, feelings of being betrayed, anger, sadness... Joseph had to deal with the unexpected news and figure out what to do. The Gospel of Matthew tells us that he did not want to expose Mary to public disgrace, but had in mind to leave her quietly. This would have meant trouble for Mary. But then an angel of the Lord appeared to him and encouraged Joseph to take Mary home as his wife, be a father to the child she was carrying and name him Jesus. The name Jesus derives from the Hebrew name Joshua meaning "The Lord is salvation". In the midst of all the uncertainty and his own doubt, Joseph decides to trust in God's promise, that the Lord is salvation, and do what just a moment ago seemed impossible.

We don't know much about Joseph's life. He pretty much disappears from the Gospels after Jesus' birth. But we do know the story of Jesus and that makes it clear that the promise the Lord's angel made to Joseph, still stands. The child Mary was carrying is *our* salvation and encouragement, too. This is what Christmas is all about. That in the midst of our troubles, worries and darkness God brings a light, a promise, saying that the Lord is salvation. Just like He did with Joseph. Christmas is a gift to us, because that promise will be given and Jesus will be born despite of our own efforts. Christmas happens, God comes to us even if we burn our food, forget to buy presents to our loved ones, our house is a mess and nothing is ready. God wants to save us, be our safeguard and refuge. We can be like Joseph and trust in this with all our hearts. That is why it is okay and good to long for that everlasting Christmas - it means we long for Jesus to come and fill our hearts, bring light where there is darkness and be our Lord every day of the year.

In Christ's Service
Pastor Mira

LCW Report - Nov 2017

The LCW meeting was held in the fellowship room at St. Timothy's on Monday, November 6th with eleven members present.

Vice-President Joyce Nelson presided over the meeting. She read an article entitled "All That I Can Do" which was written by Jane Ansamaa and reflects upon her previous ministry work with "First Steps to Freedom".

An opening prayer "The Neglected" was said in unison encouraging us to bring help and healing to those that are homeless and destitute. Hymn #767, "Lord Take My Hand and Lead Me" was sung.

The bible study led by Anita Suosalo and focuses on the story of Joseph. Joseph is now 30 years or age and has gained power over the land of Egypt. He was to prepare for the coming famine by storing food and grain in abundance. When the seven year famine arrived he was ready.

Card convenor Elvi Mikkola sent out 2 cards this month. Congratulations to Maija Hautamaki on her 90th birthday!

The ELCIC Praise Appeal Service was held on Sunday, October 22nd with LCW members participating. The offering was \$503.00 and was sent to the National Church Praise Appeal.

The luncheon for the installation service of Pastor Charlie on Saturday, November 18th was discussed. The menu was decided upon and LCW members are asked to meet at the church Saturday morning at 11:30 am for the luncheon setup.

The next meeting for the LCW is to be held on Monday, December 4th at 1:30 pm in the fellowship hall at St. Timothy's. This will be our Christmas meeting and each member is asked to bring some Christmas baking to share and enjoy. Eila Saari to be asked to play piano for our Christmas caroling.

*May the gift of faith,
The blessing of hope,
The peace of God's love,
Be yours at Christmas and always.*

Submitted by: Peggy Kujala – Secretary - LCW

Upcoming events

Council Meeting CC site

Dec 12 6:30pm

Youth Night CC site

Dec 15 6:00pm

Most Beautiful Christmas Carols (Finnish) SUD site

Dec 17 11:15 Finnish Service

Christmas Services listings on next page

Funeral

Antti Kurkimaki

Baptism

Aria Sadie Kenna McCausland

Thank You from Group #3

Thank you to the members of Activity Group # 3. Your generosity allowed us to raise \$1570.00 for the church. Special thanks to Maria Laamanen who acted as the treasurer and to Irene Pakkala who donated the stamps for the group letter. This money will be put to good use and once again, thank you!

In October wizards, pirates and superheroes gathered at St. Matthew's with their friends for Messy Halloween. Together we worshipped, ate delicious hot dogs, decorated cookies and enjoyed a tour of the church with exciting, Halloween themed stations. A special thanks to our youth group, whose job was to decorate the church and look after the different stations - they did a wonderful job!

Most Beautiful Christmas Carols

The Finnish Most Beautiful Christmas Carols even has been hosted by the Mission Circle since 1977. Once again this year for the event will replace the regular Finnish service on Sunday, December 17, 2017 beginning at 11:15. As before the day includes carol singing, rice pudding and mixed fruit soup and a candle raffle. The Finlandia bus will bring people from Finlandia Village to the church. Everyone is welcome. The offering in the church will go to the congregation. A freewill offering downstairs as well as the proceeds from the candle raffle will go through the Mission Circle to the Finnish Mission Society which provides the carol booklets for the event.



Christmas Services

- Dec 10 9:15am Eng. Service † and Sunday School pageant **Sud**
11:15am Finnish Service and Sunday School pageant **Sud**
Dec 17 10:00am Eng. Service † and Sunday School pageant **CC**
11:15am Finnish Service †, most beautiful Xmas carols and rice pudding **Sud**
Dec 24 11:00am Finnish Service † **Finlandia**
6:00pm Eng. Service † **Sud**
8:00pm Eng. Service † **CC**
Dec 25 9:00am Finnish Service † **Sud**
Dec 31 10:00am Joint Eng. Service † **Trinity**
11:15am Finnish Service **Sud**



Merry
Christmas

Council Corner

Saturday, December 2/17 at 4:00pm at New Hope, Copper Cliff

Preparations for Advent - Christmas Tree decorating, Christmas carolling, children's crafts and lunch. Everyone is welcome.

Sunday, December 3/17 at 10:30 am at New Hope, Sudbury

In between the English and Finnish church services, there will be a **Congregational meeting** to vote on the acceptance of our revised New Hope constitution, which has now been accepted by the Synod and recommended by our Church Council. This will be a brief meeting and we hope to see many of you there to take this final step in order to be able to forward this information to Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Then they can proceed with concluding the process of joining our two churches. Activity group #5 will serve coffee and lunch after both services.

CELEBRATION AND GRATITUDE

On October 28, we gathered at the Lexington Hotel to celebrate the anniversaries of St. Timothy's and St. Matthew's. St. Timothy's celebrated their 120th Anniversary and St. Matthew's their 85th. Taking part in the bilingual service were the Finnish Choir and the Luther Bells Choir. It was a festive service. During brunch historical photographs of both congregations were shown. Also on display were other materials depicting the life of the congregations. We thank God for all those who have gone before us, those who have accepted responsibility, worked hard and sacrificed for the good of the congregations. The long list would include members of the congregations, pastors, members of council, Sunday school and confirmation class teachers, choir directors, organists, group leaders, treasurers, secretaries, cleaners, cooks, men who have built, repaired and kept up buildings, and the thousands of hands which have been ready to help in one way or another. We are grateful to them all.

Saturday November 18 was a day of high celebration for our parish as we gathered for Pastor Charlie's installation service at our Copper Cliff location. Pastors Mira and Charlie presided, our Northern Area Dean, Pastor Brad Mittleholtz, preached and conducted the installation service, and seminarian Leena Jensen assisted in this bilingual service. We would also like to thank the Finnish and Luther Bells choirs, our readers, Niilo and Eila, and the presenters: Inga Nelson for the council, Annikka Reynolds, Kathy Kujala, and Marita Saari representing the congregation. A huge thank you also to our LCW for providing the luncheon afterwards.

Christmas Tea at St. Matthew's

Our church family is amazing! They never let us down! A few weeks before the tea, items for the craft table and for the gift draws mysteriously begin to appear at the church. On the day of the tea, cookies for the tea tables and baking for the bake table appear. It is wonderful that you support the work of the church and we are extremely grateful for your help. The volunteers who tirelessly bake the piirakkas and the pulla, help organize, set up, decorate, serve, make sandwiches, sell tickets, work at the sale tables, and clean up, do so willingly and most of you even come back year after year! To all of you and to those who attended the tea and who supported us in any other way, thank you, thank you, thank you!

Thank you to Hilka McDowell who made the posters and tickets, sent the advertising to the media and was our "Money Lady." Your diligence, organizational skills and happy disposition certainly made our job much easier.

The profit from the Christmas Tea on November 25th, 2017, was \$7,042.78. This includes \$1,022.88 profit from the raffle.

Raffle Winners:

Quilt, made by Riitta White-Saara Honkanen
\$150.00 cash-Juhani Keiski
Pulla gift card-Arja Makinen

Door Prize Winners:

Afghan, made by Eila Saari-Monica Kopsala
Hair Care gift card, donated by Heleena Heikkila
and a poinsettia-Arlene Paganucci
Gingerbread house, made by
Kirsti Hirvi-Tarja Ukkola

Cake Table: These lucky people took home a delicious cake - Val Nolting, Hannele Valtonen, Jane Ansamaa, Carol Ihander, Sari Muinonen and Paula Kankaanpaa

Rocking Chair: Val Nolting rocked away with the beautiful rocking chair.

Once again, thank you to everyone for supporting the tea and our church.

Financial Reports

	October 2017	Copper Cliff	Sudbury
Balance September 30, 2017		\$ 30,768.23	\$ 52,865.55
Income	Offerings	\$3,610.50	\$ 9,193.20
	Groups		2,285.00
Synod	Benevolence	355.00	35.00
	CLWR	120.05	20.00
	Praise Appeal	303.00	200.00
	Mission		85.25
	Scholarship		25.00
<u>Other</u>	Interest	171.62	
	Foodbank	370.00	1,777.00
	Lexington tickets	1,940.00	180.00
	Baking		3,981.00
	Other		5,544.98
	Total October Income	\$ 6,870.17	\$ 23,326.43
	Total	37,638.40	76,191.98
	Less October Cheques	- 7,064.18	- 25,066.28
	Balance October 31, 2017	\$ 30,574.22	\$ 51,125.70
	GIC's	\$ 195,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
	Memorial	\$ 124,858.63	\$ 46,343.86
	Franssi / Rinta Acct	\$ 1,187.27	

PAR - is a great way to contribute each month, to support your Church.

Sudbury Location
 264 MacKenzie Street, Sudbury ON P3C 4Y6
 Tel: (705) 673-2933
 Email: stmatts@vianet.ca

Copper Cliff Location
 12 Collins Drive, Copper Cliff, ON P0M 1N0
 Tel: (705) 682-2511
 Email: sttimothy.coppercliff@gmail.com

Website: lutheransudbury.ca

For Facebook, search: Evangelical Parish of St. Matthew and St. Timothy
On the Facebook PAGE, click "like" to read. On the Facebook GROUP, click "join".

New Hope Lutheran Newsletter is created and translated by volunteers each month in both English and Finnish. The Newsletter accepts articles and pictures having to do with our church, it's members or items of interest. Please send submissions to stmatts@vianet.ca and please keep all articles to under 250 words. We cannot guarantee to use all submissions, but will try our best! Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month in order to have time to translate! If you have questions, please feel free to contact Paula Reynolds through the church's office.

New Hope Lutheran

November 2017 Scrapbook



A busy November! All Saints Day, Baptism, Installation, Bilingual service at the Lexington, Children's Messy Halloween!

