



# MESSENGER OF HOPE

“We have our hope set on the living God.”

Timothy 4:10

## PASTOR’S MESSAGE

### RETURNING, REPENTANCE, AND RENEWAL

*“Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.” But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord... (Jonah 1:2-3)*

When I was a teenager, I wanted to leave. Leave home, leave St. Albert, leave the Edmonton Area, leave Alberta. I just wanted to flee, start fresh, and forget.

My childhood had been good till then, but my teenage years were not. I didn’t fit into the world as a teen, at least not where I was. Better yet, I didn’t know how to.

It was my own fault, and the fault of a world gone bent. I was angry and bitter. I didn’t know how to be salt and light, or what true faith and God’s love were all about. All I knew, as “the worst of sinners,” was how to be curved in on myself (what Luther and Bonhoeffer describe as the key problem of sin).

Reluctantly, because I was afraid of the alternatives, I didn’t leave until after high school. But I longed for that day of departure the whole time, expecting never really to return to the place I had learned to loath.

Well, I failed at that too, and ended up returning home two years later for six more years, for a variety of reasons. And, to varying degrees, I still kept my eyes towards the skyline, with hopes of escaping the darkness, regrets, and repetitiveness of home.

Finally, not long before Megan and I’s wedding, plans quickly changed. We were moving to Langley, BC, for at least two years, far from family and friends, and with no idea if we’d ever return.

Right around the time I was feeling more equipped to stay, I was gone.

Three years later, we moved back to Edmonton, and now three years after that, we’re still here, and with more certainty than we’ve ever had about what Megan and I are doing, and where we’ll be in the near future (and hoping for more than that).

So, when I think of returning, I have a few more mixed emotions than a simple warmth of going back to better times, or of placing my hopes in this life. I first think of leaving. Maybe even *fleeing*.

Speaking of fleeing, sometimes The Book of Jonah is portrayed as a children’s story. It’s not. It’s really not. Jonah tells the story of a mean, rebellious prophet who hates God for loving his enemies, and heads in the opposite direction when God calls him to preach to the Ninevites. Jonah, though a prophet, isn’t great at his job, and tries to run away from it. (Cont’d pg. 2)

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The purpose of this newsletter is to inform and encourage! Do you have a story, event, testimony or a recipe to share? Contributions can be sent to the church or Pastor’s e-mail or to the Newsletter Editor, [dorothy@hlainc.ca](mailto:dorothy@hlainc.ca). If you prefer, Dorothy will call and interview you to prepare the news item/article for you!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Special Congregational Meeting Notice.....	2
50th Anniversary Plans .....	3
Birthdays .....	4
Council Meetings.....	5
AGM Report .....	6
Council Report.....	4
Recipes.....	7
Update on Fitness.....	7
Seniors info & How to Submit	
To this Newsletter.....	8

Pastor's Message Cont'd From Pg. 1

When you read through Jonah, all the stereotypical kinds of characters are there, but they don't act how you'd expect. For the most part, they do the opposite. You might even categorize The Book of Jonah as satire, since the worst nation, with the most ruthless people, repent and do the right thing, while Jonah, the supposed "man of God," grumbles and complains and does the bare minimum. Jonah's the one you'd expect, going into the story, to worship The One True God. But he doesn't, and everyone else does and is saved instead, through no real effort on Jonah's part as the mouthpiece of God.

I hope I can do maybe just a bit better.

In general, we like things simple and distant from us. But Christ throws us into the fray, and shows us that only he is good, and that only he can save us. The rest isn't really trustworthy or predictable. He's the only anchor upon which we can stand.

And so, we go out into the world to preach this challenging message, even to our enemies, even to places we sometimes wish we could just leave behind, and even though we're imperfect and underqualified to do so. God's plans are bigger than our own.

Sometimes, we're called to return to the scene of the crime, and bring renewal. Sometimes, returning home is the best thing, at least for a time.

*Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?" (Jonah 4:10-11)*

Grace, mercy, and peace,

Pastor Erik

Notice:  
Special Congregational Meeting:  
Sunday October  
17, 2021

Right After The  
Worship Service!

The purpose of the meeting is to make a decision regarding replacement of the windows in the sanctuary/nave while leaving intact the tongue and groove cedar on the interior.

If you have questions about the meeting, please contact Catherine.



## Update on the “Bag of Hope” Project

All 51 bags (somehow there was 1 extra!) are complete and will be presented to a representative of Catholic Social Services—Gianna Centre for vulnerable women and their families who are experiencing a crisis pregnancy situation will be coming to our service on October 10th for the presentations of the bags at the end of the service.

The representative’s name is Eoin Murray.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this project! The bags include a gift card, granola bar & small juice container, toiletries, a scripture card and poem, and from the Gideon’s Bible group, a small book of the full scripture of John.



### Please Note: New Outreach Project for Celebrating- Hope’s 50th



*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink... Matthew 25:35*

Please join in our latest outreach project as we mark the 50<sup>th</sup> year of Hope Lutheran Church. Let’s show how much 50 means to us and what a difference 50 can make.

Council had planned to hold a celebration complete with a special worship service and fellowship meal to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of Hope in 1971. We hoped to invite previous pastors and past members to join us. Unfortunately, large gatherings with food have not been possible since the pandemic began. But fortunately, it is always a good time to think of others who are less fortunate than we are.

**Everyone is invited** to bring non-perishable food items for the Edmonton Food Bank on upcoming Communion Sundays and special days in the church calendar.

Our goal is to collect 50 items each Communion Sunday beginning with Reformation Sunday which is October 31.

The next collection dates will be: November 7 and 21.

The last Sunday for this special collection will be the First Sunday in Advent which is November 28.

Unless it continues in December by popular demand...

## Birthdays

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 - Ardell Schowalter
- 2 - Reinhard Kroller
- 5 - Walter Pulyk
- 7 - Avott Bouvier
- 7 - Xander Schening-Bartel
- 15 - Johannes Kroller
- 23 - Diana Woronka

### OCTOBER

- 5 - Eric Breitreuz
- 12 - Matthias Kroller
- 14 - Thomas Hodgson
- 14 - Catherine Moir
- 15 - Laura Hughes
- 22 - Sebastian Schening-Bartel
- 25 - Andrew Norton

### NOVEMBER

- 5 - Brant Halbert
- 7 - Angela Woronka
- 9 - Greta Breitreuz
- 11 - Jessica Hodson
- 13 - Larry Ferchoff
- 18 - Phyllis Raycroft
- 22 - Laura Grynas
- 23 - Janet Dews
- 25 - Richard Grynas

## Baptism Anniversaries

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 - Bob Osterman
- 10 - Sharon Halbert
- 12 - Jean Meger
- 15 - Anna Elford
- 15 - Jeffrey Hanasyk
- 19 - Bradley Hanasyk
- 26 - Dylan Norton

### OCTOBER

- 1 - Geoffrey Norton
- 5 - Xander Schening-Bartel
- 17 - Kaleigh Armstrong
- 23 - Edwin Breitreuz
- 26 - Rhys Norton
- 28 - Noah Goudreau
- 31 - Dale Allen

### NOVEMBER

- 7 - Matthew Hanasyk
- 10 - Michael Hanasyk
- 11 - Eleanor Smith
- 13 - Steven Elford
- 16 - Helen Bartel
- 17 - Sebastian Schening-Bartel

## Special Days of Our Church Family

### Note:



Our apologies to those with September special dates. The last *Messenger* only went up to August. Let's give people a call who had birthdays and baptisms in September that we missed.

Please contact the church if your birthday or baptism anniversary is not on the list. We want to include you

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS JUNE TO SEPTEMBER



### Council Planning Retreat: June 19, 2021

Council adopted new guidelines and procedures for Council Meetings.

We also had conversations about the small specific steps we can take over the next few months. Council is focussing on:

1. Reconfiguring the narthex as a gathering place
2. Re-connecting with previous Hope members, inviting them to meet, visit, attend services etc.
3. Plan to host one or two small events or activities for children & their families and seniors.

### Council Meeting July 19, 2021

Some changes were made to the narthex to provide more room for gathering on Sundays

Work is being done on updated church family list

Several ideas for activities and events to involve families and seniors are being considered

Council approved the use of a new accounting software. Roger Osness has been very helpful in figuring out what software will do the tasks that Hope requires and also helping to make the transition to the new software program.

Dale is looking into new envelopes for offerings that will be less expensive and less wasteful than the current weekly envelopes that many people do not use. Please talk with Dale if you have questions or want more information.

Richard G. updated Council regarding Faithus and the status of the immigration for her family

Quotes on the replacement of the front doors were circulated for Council's consideration in addition to the windows in the nave and sanctuary.

As is the tradition at Hope no Council Meeting will be scheduled in August.

### Council Meeting September 13, 2021

Financial data has been transferred to the new accounting software and things are running smoothly thanks to Roger Osness and Richard Baron. The software has many additional features which we hope to adopt as we become more familiar with these features.

Final preparations were made for the AGM on September 19<sup>th</sup>

Council designated Thanksgiving Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, as the day for monetary contributions to The Rock Outreach program.

The next Council Meeting will be held October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) SEPTEMBER 19, 2021



Following a postponement from February due to Covid restrictions, the Annual General Meeting was held in the hall following worship on September 19, 2021.

A summary follows:

The Minutes from the AGM in February, 2020 and the Special Congregational Meeting in August 2020 were approved.

Officers and Council Members were elected and Appointments confirmed.

Council Officers were elected for a one- year term:

Catherine Moir- Chairperson

Carol Schweder- Secretary

Richard Baron - Treasurer

All currently serving Council members continue in the 2nd year of their 2-year term.

Tom Hodgson was elected as a Council member for the 1<sup>st</sup> year of a 2- year term. Special thanks to him for the many years he served as our Treasurer.

All appointments continue except for Irene Dmitri who is stepping down from Good Samaritan. We thank her for her dedication and service over the years.

The Treasurer's Reports were approved for the revised year-end financial statements for 2019 and 2020 as was the revised Proposed 2021 Budget.

**Old Business:** Council is working on a first draft of a new constitution to bring to the congregation for review and suggestions this Fall. Once the draft is ready, small group meetings will be held following public health guidelines with a goal of having a revised constitution to bring to the AGM in February 2022.

**New Business:** During a discussion regarding the quotes for the replacement of windows in the sanctuary/nave, a question arose about what might happen to the tongue and groove cedar high up on the walls by the windows. There was a motion to table while clarification was sought by Council. (see note regarding the Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to vote on a motion to replace the windows and leaving intact the tongue and groove cedar intact.)

## ZUCCHINI RECIPES -

THANKS TO TERESA GRYNAS

### **Update on Seniors' Fitness Class**

Given the situation with COVID in Alberta, we are still on pause in terms of our weekly seniors' fitness class with Tonia Leske.

Many participants are missing the weekly sessions and the camaraderie as we exercised together.

Tonia does hold 2 seniors' zoom sessions as week on Mondays and Thursdays at 12:30 that we can join at home. She also sends out the workouts as a video for people to use whenever it works in their schedule. Cost is \$8 a session or \$56 per month.

If you want to join the zoom sessions while we wait until we can be together again safely, please contact Catherine at 780 474 8090

### **Zucchini with Corn and Cilantro**

- 1 tsp. olive oil
- 3 1/2 c. cubed zucchini
- 1 c. frozen kernel corn
- 1 tbsp. chopped cilantro
- 1 tsp. lime juice
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. ground black pepper

Heat oil in large non-stick skillet over medium high heat. Add zucchini and corn stirring occasionally. Cook for approximately 7 to 8 minutes or until zucchini is crisp but tender.

### **Cheddar, Chive and Zucchini Quick Bread**

- 1 1/2 c. zucchini, shredded (do not squeeze or drain)
- 1/4 c. chives, diced
- 2 large eggs (or 3 medium eggs)
- 3/4 c. sour cream
- 1/4 c. butter, melted and cooled
- 1 1/2 c. cheddar cheese, shredded
- 2 c. all purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt

Measure flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a medium bowl.

In a large bowl, mix the zucchini, chives, eggs, sour cream and butter well then mix in the cheese. Add the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients.

Pour the batter into a greased 9" x 5" loaf pan. Bake in preheated oven at 350 degrees F for 50 to 60 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.

Take out and top with fresh cheddar cheese and chives and bake an additional 10 minutes.

## EDMONTON SENIORS INFORMATION

<http://www.seniorshomesupports.com/>

The Edmonton Seniors Home Supports Program is a referral service that gives seniors referrals to screened service providers which offer snow removal, yard help, housekeeping, home repair and maintenance, personal services, and moving help.



The Seniors Home Supports Program divides the city of Edmonton into six districts. In each district a seniors organization acts as a community hub to coordinate the program in that area of Edmonton.; contact information is available on the “Businesses” tab of this website (if you do not have internet and need help with finding a number, please

contact Dorothy at the number below and she will help you out!

**West:** Westend Seniors Activity Centre

**North West:** North West Edmonton Seniors Society

**North East:** North Edmonton Seniors Association

**South East:** South East Edmonton Seniors Association

**Mill Woods:** Mill Woods Seniors Association

**South West:** SouthWest Edmonton Seniors Association

Do you have an idea or story to share in the newsletter? Would you prefer to have someone interview you and write the article (for you to review):

Please contact Dorothy Lowrie at [dorothy@hlainc.ca](mailto:dorothy@hlainc.ca) or call Dorothy at 780 418-2292!

The next newsletter will be out at the beginning of Advent— November 28, 2021 through Christmas and Epiphany. You are invited to contact Dorothy to share your stories of the merging of congregations in the early years of Hope Lutheran, memories of special events, people, changes in the building etc.