
THE MESSENGER OF HOPE



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Baptism of Our Lord to Epiphany 4

January 2018

Words of Hope

Reflections by Pastor Terry Richardson

So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today. Matthew 6:34

The Trouble Tree & Tomorrows

A burly carpenter was hired to help a man restore an old farmhouse. On the first day of the job, a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his power saw quit, and his old pickup truck refused to start. It was discouraging. His employer drove him home. Upon arriving, he was invited in to meet the family. The carpenter walked toward the front door, but paused



briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands. As he opened the door to his home, he underwent a transformation. His tanned face smiled and he hugged his children and gave his wife a kiss.

*A few minutes later as they walked back to the car, the employer asked about the tree and what he had seen the man do earlier. "Oh, that's my **trouble tree**", he replied. "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and children. So I just hang them on the tree every night when I come home. Then in the morning I pick them up again. Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to*

pick 'em up, there ain't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

Did you ever notice that there is no end to all the possible troubles to worry about? Family, health, aging, circumstances, and the world around us — all try to push each other out of the way demanding our attention. We do have



some options. We can choose to bury our heads in the sand and try to live in blissful ignorance

of the facts. We can fret and jump at solutions that are put in front of us by advertisements, acquaintances or political leaders who come and go. Some things may help, many things don't.

Jesus was a realist. He had rough days too, but he took them one at a time and let tomorrow have its own shape. An additional feature in Jesus' experience was his confidence that his heavenly father was present. It explains his capacity for compassion, how he managed the unexpected, and the importance he gave to quiet moments of meditation and prayer. His faith served as his own trouble tree. He would leave his worries there and the next day there were fewer to carry forward.



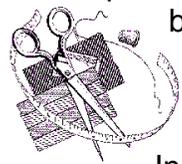
God is present. As close as a whispered promise. As near as bread and wine. As real

as the loving touch of the person closest to you. A New Year is a collection of many tomorrows. But like today, each tomorrow includes God's care. Why not use your faith like the trouble tree? Hang the worries up for today and see what tomorrow brings. We can face each day, one at a time, with growing confidence God is close at hand. Amen.

WE CARE KITS AND QUILTS **Submitted by Joan Nolting**

Thank you to all who contributed to the We Care Kits and Quilts projects. Two shipments were made in June and November which were transported free of charge by Home Hardware to the CLWR warehouse in Winnipeg.

The shipments consisted of 129 quilts, 112 knitted pneumonia prevention vests, 23 knitted baby hats, 14 tuques, 3 pillowcase dresses, 6 receiving blankets, 11 Learning and Living Kits, 2 Hygiene Kits, and 4 Sewing Kits.



In addition, \$450 was donated for CLWR Quick Kits which will purchase 30 kits identical to the Learning and Living Kits for children. These will be assembled by volunteers at the CLWR warehouse in Winnipeg. Also, \$70 was contributed towards the overseas shipping.

These gifts are received by those displaced by war, famine and natural disasters and are vital to the operation of hospitals, schools, refugee camps and development programs.

VISITORS OF HOPE HAS EXPANDED **Submitted by Glenn Harvey** **Co-ordinator of Visitors of Hope**

You may recall that we started a visiting program a year ago with **Lay Visitors**, called **Visitors of Hope**. It has been very well received by members due to the dedication of the 15 lay visitors taking the time to visit and/or call by phone. There are about 15 households

that are receiving regular visits or calls. This really helps keep their connection stronger with our congregation. We offer our sincere thanks to each of the visitors.

To enhance the **Visitors of Hope** program, we are now expanding it to include visits in the hospital and also to those dealing with illness at



home. In the past there have been times when a number of our members, at the same time, have been hospitalized or housebound due to illness. When this happens, it is impossible for one pastor to make all the visits he would like to make and that members would like to receive. We need to support Pastor Terry and our members when this happens.

We are fortunate to have a number of retired pastors in our congregation who bring a wealth of experience for these types of visits. We thank the following pastors who are participating in this new element that we call **"Pastoral Visitors"**: Ray Schultz, Al Pope, Wil Porat, Bill Fehr, Gary Schenk and Marvin Svingen. They each have a career of experience in this area and bring a diverse pool of talent to share with our members.



Pastor Terry will be the key person to activate pastoral visits. As he feels or hears that more visits are desired he will request assistance from our Pastoral Visitors. This will ensure that all members have as many visits as they desire at a critical time in their lives. Our volunteer pastors can also bring communion to members, at home or to the hospital, which is often requested during these times of restricted mobility.

We truly are blessed at Hope Lutheran to enjoy such a caring environment. If you become aware that one of our members is in need of a pastoral visit, please contact Pastor Terry.

**THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR ---
I WISH I HAD**

~excerpts from CPR for the Soul, Tom Stella
Submitted by Carolyn Iles

I ... have found as most people approach death they feel worse about things they didn't do, opportunities they allowed to pass them by; than about things they wish they had not done. ...We can begin today to live in such a way as to have fewer regrets when there is no tomorrow.

But if you are like me, attempting to change for the better will soon give way to returning to old patterns. Progress is usually slow. Change, if there is any, is measured in small increments, not large ones. Because becoming our best self is a lifelong and often discouraging venture, it is advisable not only to be persistent but also to be gentle, compassionate, patient, and forgiving as we stumble toward our goals.

When I find myself frustrated and impatient with my failure to achieve my inner bucket list, I think of the saying, "The road to enlightenment is long and difficult, so don't forget snacks and a magazine!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Clothing Drive

The Nanaimo Correctional Centre has requested men's clothing for inmates released into winter weather conditions. Items needed are: jeans, sweat pants, work boots, winter coats and runners in usable condition. Please place donations in the bin provided in the narthex.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPE

Your 2018 offering envelopes are in your mailboxes in the narthex. Please pick them up. If you do not have numbered offering envelopes and would like to receive some, please contact Joan Nolting at church or 250-729-3677 or jnolting@shaw.ca.

ANNUAL REPORTS DEADLINE

The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held on **February 11th** after the 10:00 am service. Please have your Annual Reports for the year of 2017 submitted to the office by noon, Thursday, January 18, 2018. Thank you.

FLOWERS



The flower chart for 2018 is up on the kitchen door. If you have a Sunday where you would like to supply flowers please enter your name for the chosen day. If it is for a personal memorial, anniversary or blessing you can note that beside your name. An indication by a to the left of the date will indicate that a reminder by a phone call is requested during the week.

The Worship Committee would like to establish a list of people who would be willing to be ushers for Memorial/Funeral services. Ushers work in pairs, and help make sure those attending are as comfortable as possible. If several people would be willing to serve once in a while, no one would have to work all the time. We would like to set up a list of 'head ushers', who would be called by the pastor with date/time, etc of a service. That head usher would then call 1-2 people on the Usher list. This could include someone to assist with parking, or to usher inside. Please consider this opportunity to serve once in a while. Please let Wendy Van Oldenborgh, or Carolyn Iles know if we can add your name to the list of ushers for Memorial/Funerals. Both men and women are welcome as ushers!

