

New Hope Lutheran

Newsletter

May 2025

Good Shepherd Sunday

Having been invited, I sit by the hospital bed, and ask a patient who is close to the border between life and death: "Shall I read you something from the Bible, what is an important passage for you?" The patient is silent for a moment and speaking is a bit difficult anyway. After a moment, he says in a quiet voice exhausted by illness: "Read that shepherd's psalm."

I read him the familiar and beloved psalm. The patient listens and a tear rolls from the corner of his eye. Then the word thank you is quietly heard. I bless him with the Lord's blessing and sit quietly next to him for a moment until he falls asleep.

A snapshot of the work of a hospital chaplain. Later, he was allowed to depart safely towards eternity and his home in Heaven.

The 23rd Psalm, the Lord is my Shepherd, brings security to many people with its words and familiarity. The psalm speaks of green pastures and water as sources of joy and rest. The shepherd of the Psalm is also present in the painful moments of life, in the dark valleys. With the guidance of the Good Shepherd, there is no need to fear, you can trust in His guidance. A good shepherd cares for and carries even the weakest of his sheep. A good shepherd leaves no one alone and unsafe.

However, in this world, many people, from the smallest to the largest, lack security and care. There is no good shepherd, a safe person, to care for and carry them through difficult times.

The image of the Good Shepherd, God, can also be broken or God is the only security and strength that helps us cope with our own pain,

physical or mental, day after day. The heavenly shepherd calls us to be one another's support in His guidance.

On Good Shepherd Sunday, we are also reminded of our own task according to the double commandment of love. Let us love, support and carry one another. We, the bearers and sometimes the ones being carried, can trust in the guidance of God, our Heavenly Shepherd, all the days of our lives.

Let our prayer be the first verse of the Finnish hymn #378: "Keep me, Jesus, good shepherd, in your flock. I am lost and erring without you. In you I find the best refuge, help me never to stray from you or abandon your flock."

Kati Häkkinen, Family Counselor and Pastor
Joensuu Evangelical Lutheran Congregation
From their Kirkkotie magazine

Prayer

"Jesus, our good shepherd.

Today we want to thank you for your goodness and your care. You are the shepherd of the small and the great. You guide us throughout our lives. We do not know the way ourselves, nor the dangers that threaten us. Do not let us stray far from you. Teach us to distinguish your voice from all other voices and your call from those calls that are leading us astray. If we go our own way, draw us back to you. Thank you for your love and care."

Amen

Council Corner

Here are some highlights from the April Council meeting:

1. We have had the altar pictures photographed. We will be printing copies of the pictures to be framed and displayed in our new worship space.
 2. Mother's Day Services will be held at Finlandia on May 11, with coffee being served between services. Finnish Service at 9:30, then coffee, English Service at 11:00.
 3. Don't forget Mayfair on May 10 at Finlandia. Look for New Hope's table. We will have goodies for sale including Piiraka's.
 4. Don't forget Coffee Time at our Regent Street location every Wednesday from 10-1. Everyone is welcome to come and chat, have a cup of coffee and enjoy meeting with friends. Everyone is welcome. Free will offering is suggested but not required.
- Until next month.

Jane Ansamaa, NHLC Council Secretary.

Spring has sprung!

The saying is "April Showers bring May Flowers". Our month of April had everything from warm days to freezing cold, bright sunshine to rain to heavy snowfalls. Hopefully May is more routine and we do have spring flowers.

During the first English service of April the 2025 New Hope Church council was installed. Please get to know your council members. These are the people you can contact if you have any concerns or items you want brought forward to council.

A committee led by members of the council also completed an inventory of all our possessions. The council evaluated their recommendations of what we need to keep and what we can release. We are now deciding how to proceed with these recommendations.

At the end of April we also had a membership meeting to see if the candidate selected by the Call Committee and council was acceptable with the congregation. At the time that I am writing this article I do not know the outcome of this congregational vote. I can tell you that if the congregation voted to accept the candidate then the candidate has 30 days to decide if they want to accept our offer to become the new pastor for New Hope. This means it will probably be the end of May before we know if we have a new pastor.

We are holding both our Finnish and English services for Mother's Day (Sunday May 11) in Voima Hall. The Finnish service will start at its normal time of 9:30am followed by coffee and cake at 10:30am. Our English service will start following the coffee at 11:00am. Please come and have coffee and cake.

I hope the weather in May allows you to get out and enjoy nature before the bugs arrive.

Warm wishes,
Jimmy Krats
Chairperson

Upcoming events

English Worship and Sunday School

May 4, 18 11:30pm Regent St

Finnish Worship

May 25 9:30am Voima

Mother's Day

May 11 at Voima

9:30 Finnish service

10:30 Coffee

11:00 English service

Kahvi Time

May 7, 14, 21, 28 10 - 1 Regent St

Council Mtg

May 14 6:30pm Finlandia

LCW

May 14 11:00am Regent St

Mission Circle

May 21 2:00pm Impola

Kammari

May 6, 20 2:00pm Impola

Meadowbrook

May 13 10:00am

Welcome

Some time ago I got a lovely surprise all the way from Sweden when my friend from Gothenburg stopped in Montreal on her way to New York. Together we went to a concert and shared a nice meal – it was wonderful to see her again! My friend enjoyed her stay, but there was one thing that annoyed her. You see, the place where she was staying at had a long list of detailed rules and it was made clear that breaking any of them might lead to getting kicked out. “I’m a grown woman, but that place makes me feel like a misbehaving child!”, she huffed over dinner.

I’m Finnish, so, for the most part, I absolutely love rules. I think – and forgive me for this terrible pun – they rule! In society and in traffic rules offer safety, at the gym or at the mall it’s the rules that help keep places at least somewhat clean for everyone. If we all did whatever we liked at any given moment, the world would probably be even more chaotic than it already is sometimes.

But even though I love rules, I also love the fact that, in Christianity, we basically have just the one rule: Love. The life of a Christian can take many forms and follow many different traditions, but if we see our neighbours, ourselves, and the creation like God sees us, through love, we are probably on the right path.

Even though everything was seemingly fine at the place my friend stayed at, the circumstances made her anxious. She was so nervous that she was going to break one of the many rules without even meaning to do so, that she couldn’t relax. She didn’t feel welcome. And when the day of her departure arrived, she checked out hours before she had to because she didn’t want to spend another minute in that place.

Paul says in Galatians 5 that Christ set us free. We are free from oppressive systems. We are free from the kind of anxiety that makes us question whether or not we are good enough for God. Even when we, out of the sheer fact that we are imperfect human beings, end up breaking the only rule given to us, we won’t get kicked out but will be welcomed to the presence of Christ with open arms. This also calls us to do the same for the people around us. As Christians and as church communities it is our mission to offer the people around us places where they can feel safe and know they are good enough. Places they don’t want to leave the first chance they get.

Pastor Mira Salmelainen

St. Michael’s Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Montreal

Mother’s Day services

all at Voima Hall

9:30 Finnish service †

10:30 Coffee

11:00 English service †

and Sunday School

**please note the English service time
has changed only for May 11.**



Readings for May

May 4, 2025 **3rd Sunday of Easter**

First Reading	Acts 9:1 – 6 (7- 20)
Psalm	Psalm 30
Second Reading	Revelation 5:11 - 14
Gospel	John 21:1 – 19

May 11, 2025 **4th Sunday of Easter**

First Reading	Acts 9:36 - 43
Psalm	Psalm 23
Second Reading	Revelation 7:9 – 17
Gospel	John 10:22 – 30

May 18, 2025 **5th Sunday of Easter**

First Reading	Acts 11:1 – 18
Psalm	Psalm 148
Second Reading	Revelation 21:1 – 6
Gospel	John 13:31 - 35

May 25, 2025 **6th Sunday of Easter**

First Reading	Acts 16:9 – 15
Psalm	Psalm 67
Second Reading	Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5
Gospel	John 14:23 – 29



Financial Reports

2025

March

Offering	\$5,545.00
Interest	\$1.57
Memorial	\$20.00
Chaplaincy at	
Finlandia	\$582.00
Other	\$1,064.50
Total Income	\$7,213.07
Expenses	\$8,879.02

Bank Accounts

Memorial	\$29,746.27
Current	\$55,446.43
Building Fund	\$1,726.40
Food Bank	\$20.00
Mission Circle	\$658.90
	\$87,598.00

Investments

Charitus Current	\$239,600.01
Charitus Memorial	\$240,535.44
	\$480,135.45

PAR

PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) is a great way to contribute each month, to support your church.

New Hope Lutheran Church

189 Regent Street, Sudbury ON P3C 4C4

Email: office@nhlc.ca Website: nhlc.ca

For Facebook, search: New Hope Lutheran Church

On the Facebook PAGE, click “like” and “following”.

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, its members or items of interest. Please send submissions to office@nhlc.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

April 2024 Scrapbook



New Hope Lutheran Church 2025 Council
Back row: Jimmy Krats, Henry Laamanen, Chris Jillings, Allan Luolaja
Front row: Maria Laamanen, Aila Maki, Paula Reynolds, Jane Ansamaa, Debbie Frantila
Missing: Marita Saari

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN

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May / Toukokuu 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<div>OFFICE OPEN / TOIMISTO AUKI Regent St Finlandia Wed 9 - 1 Tues 9 - 12</div>			1	2	3
4 11:30 Worship Service † and Sunday School Regent St.	5	6 2:00 Kammari Impola	7 10 - 1 Kahvi Time	8	9	10 Mayfair 2025 10 - 2
11 MOTHER'S DAY ÄITIENPÄIVÄ 9:30 Suom. Jp † Voima Hall 10:30 Coffee 11:00 Engl. Service and Sunday School Voima Hall	12	13 10:00 Meadowbrook	14 10 - 1 Kahvi Time 11:00 LCW Regent St 6:30 Council meeting / Neuvoston Kokous Finlandia Newsletter Deadline	15	16	17
18 11:30 Worship Service † and Sunday School Regent St.	19	20 2:00 Kammari Impola	21 10 - 1 Kahvi Time 2:00 Lähetyspiiri Finlandia	22	23	24
25 9:30 Jumalanpalvelus Voima Hall	26	27	28 10 - 1 Kahvi Time	29	30	31