

New Hope Lutheran Church

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September 11, 2022

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Coming Events

- Sept 14 10 – 1 Kahvi Time **Regent St.**
6:30 Council mtg **Regent St.**
- Sept 16 **Hannah Lake's Event**
5:00 Dinner \$25
Please reserve or purchase tickets in advance. Call Allan (705) 691-5767
6:30 Presentation on Regreening of Sudbury
- Sept 17 **Hannah Lake Closing**
10:00 Bilingual program
11:00 Annual meeting
12.30 Lunch \$15
Please reserve or purchase tickets in advance. Call Allan (705) 691-5767
13:30 Board meeting
- Sept 18 10:00 Finnish Worship Service † **Voima Hall**
2:00 Eng Worship Service † **Regent St**

In our prayers Ron, Ruth, Marilyn.

Prayer of the Day

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading “Micah 6:6 – 8”

⁶ With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? ⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Second Reading “1 John 4:7 - 12”

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel “Luke 10:30 – 37”

Glory to you, O Lord.

In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite,

when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

*The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon

*By Rev. Charles Nolting
“A Saving Community”*

The parable of the Good Samaritan is possibly one of the best-known parables of Jesus, who used it in an attempt to demonstrate the attitude one is to have in order to inherit eternal life. It is a story demonstrating the utmost compassion shown to a person who was thought to be an enemy. What makes it even more astonishing is that the like-minded people who passed by the wounded man appear to pretend he doesn't even exist. Those who might be expected to be the heroes are the villains, and the expected villain turns out to be the hero.

It's an example of the topsy-turvy world that Jesus called “the kingdom of God”, something apparently we are all seeking. Interestingly, in Luke 17:21 Jesus mentioned that, “*the kingdom of God is within you and among you*” as in right here and right now. While the question about finding eternal life put to Jesus was spoken of as some future event, the parable makes it

quite clear that we are to be living this kingdom right here and right now, not just at some future point in time.

And this is brought about when we behave as if the kingdom of God is among and within us; meaning that we are to think and live differently from the rest of the world. It means that, if we see someone in trouble – regardless of who they are – we help them. They may not be “one of us”. Their problem may be one we’d rather not deal with, but that doesn’t allow us to just pass by on the other side of the road. We are to have care, and concern, and respect for our fellow human beings, and when we show that, we are being part of the community known as the kingdom of God.

As we gather together on this Rally Sunday, let us remember that we are part of that community which God has called us to. We are a community whose purpose is not only to live in the kingdom of God, but also to show the world what the kingdom of God looks like and why it is a better place than most can even imagine.

Perhaps it would help to think of in this way: Like the Good Samaritan, Jesus has come to help us regardless of who we are or what we have been. We know we are in need of assistance, lying beaten on the side of the road of life. We have difficulties in life that require help. Unlike most who breeze past without any regard to our situation (or perhaps even make our situation worse), Jesus comes to us, not because we are somehow worthy, but simply because we are in need of assistance.

Now consider the mindset of that traveller who received assistance in our parable. What would he have been thinking as he was recovering? Would he not have a newfound respect for his savior? Would he not praise up the Samaritan to any who would listen? Our mission then, as a community, is to do the same with the one who has come to save us. Amen.

Prayers

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God’s good creation.

Your people receive mercy and your grace overflows in our lives. Fill your church with faith and love, and give understanding hearts to those who work to strengthen our ecumenical and interreligious commitments. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation groans as it suffers the impacts of pollution and lack of care. As the seasons change, renew in us the will to protect plants, animals, and habitats. Bless us with bountiful harvests that all may share. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your world is shattered and the nations rage. Remember us in your mercy. Teach wisdom to our elected leaders so that we know peace in our world, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children wander homeless and the hungry cry for bread. Seek out those who are lost or lonely, anxious or depressed, or struggling with addiction or illness. Provide for those in any need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your work is done in this congregation with our hands, feet, voices, minds, and hearts. Build up the ministries of this community, that we serve our neighbors and welcome the stranger in your name. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your blessed saints who have died now rest in your presence. Give us thankful hearts for those who have been examples of faith in our lives, and receive us with joy when we come to share eternal life with you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers

to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**