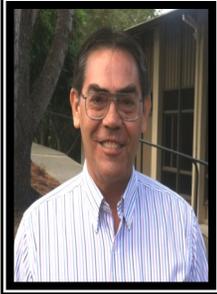


The Voice of Hope

The newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church, San Mateo, CA
“Knowing and sharing the good news of Hope in Christ”

Pastor Daniel Severson



Dear Friends,

You have perhaps heard the following from folks who are not involved in any form of organized religion, but who nevertheless want to affirm some kind of belief; “I am not religious but I am spiritual.” This has become something of a cliché,

and the subject of “spirituality” has become popular so I thought it might be a good idea to define in an abbreviated form what Christians have understood by spirituality throughout church history.

On the one hand, theology is understood as the study of Christian Doctrine. It is learning about God, Christ, human nature, the Holy Spirit and so forth. On the other hand, spirituality is concerned with knowing and experiencing God. Spirituality is seeking to become personally related to God in such a way that we experience God’s transformative effect on us. As such, spirituality involves not just our intellect, but our hearts. It is not directed primarily outward, as when we are learning about an object or even another person. It is directed primarily inward. It is about being truthful concerning what resides in our hearts. This is where God confronts us. We cannot see God outwardly. God is everywhere and at all times completely present. This being the case, God does not exist in time and space, like created objects do. God rather is Spirit. (John 4:21-23)

Spirituality is also about what we can do to seek and find God. This being the case, there has developed different forms of spirituality. For some people, encountering nature is a spiritual experience. For others, working together with others for a common good can be a spiritual experience. For yet others, issues of values are important to spirituality. Notice that in all these perspectives on spirituality, there is a sense in which we transcend or rise above ourselves and our specifically personal needs and desires. Spirituality involves self-transcendence such that we

participate in something greater than ourselves. In Christian spirituality, that something is the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ, and God—the Holy Trinity. It is an experience of the presence of God in us. Moreover, as Luther remarked many times, this experience can be weak or strong.

In other words, while some folks have had what they call “a born again experience,” for most of us, spirituality is less a matter of one big experience, and more a matter of spiritual growth, such as that described by Jesus when he compared faith to a mustard seed that starts out small and grows over time. In a biblical sense, what we are seeking in spiritual growth is life in the Spirit or life in Christ through faith. The Spirit is experienced as a source of life, strength, hope, and love. In Galatians 5, Paul describes the fruits of the Spirit. The presence of the Spirit brings these “fruits” into being. What spiritual practices (seeking) do is open us up to the Spirit. Traditionally, seeking involves prayer, bible study, worship, the sacraments, and devotions, which includes remembering God’s promise in baptism.

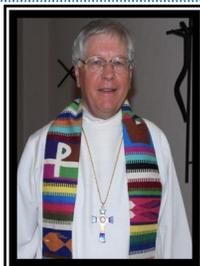
This process of growth is a lifetime experience, and if we are going to make progress in our spiritual growth, we must do it consistently. This is not always easy. Obstacles include simple things such as making time for spiritual practices, to the effort involved in seeking God’s help in times of suffering and loss. Progress can be very slow, halting, and there can be periods of stagnation when we feel as if we are committing the same sins over and over again. We need to remain focused, not on ourselves, but on the word and promises of God. The Spirit works faith in our hearts through the word, not through navel gazing. Moreover, spiritual growth is more often a matter of baby steps, not giant leaps. Here is a quote from Luther regarding spiritual growth. “This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness; not health but healing; not being but becoming; not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished, but it is going on.

This is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified."

Here's a friendly suggestion for the New Year; find more time seeking the One with whom you will spend eternity.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

Pastor Paul Michaelson



"If I had known I was going to live this long, I would have taken better care of myself." -- Mickey Mantle

Remember "the Mick"?
....Faster to first base than anyone before him.

His comment underlines the need for BALANCE in our lives. We need to maintain a "pace" that is right for us. Not too slow for that encourages laziness...or too fast for that can easily lead to burn out. To help us to think about this, it can be helpful NOT TO TAKE OURSELVES TOO SERIOUSLY. And to be willing to laugh at ourselves! That in itself is liberating.

There are several of us who are setting the stage for the development of VISION for the future of Hope Lutheran Church. So far (after discussion and several meetings) we have identified THREE MAIN PILLARS (or Spokes or Categories) that describe the specifics of our Mission. They are: Education, Seniors and Youth. We are involved in developing the objectives or programs for each of these. And the congregation is being asked to help further this development. This is to be a topic for the semi-annual meeting on January 28. It will be exciting to cast this solid and relevant vision for the days ahead and to invite and welcome the necessary support for it all to happen!

SENIORS EVENTS in February:

Tuesday, February 6 – brown bag gathering in Nielsen Hall, 12:30 -2 pm. Our guest speaker will be Stan Maupin, Redwood City Fire Chief. He will address "special awareness of fire prevention and

other safety issues." All are welcome! Please sign-up in Nielsen Hall so we know how many people to expect.

Thursday, February 15 - Lunch-outing to Half Moon Bay. We have chartered a bus to go over to a great restaurant there. Cost of transportation is just \$6. We will leave church at 12 noon. Please sign-up in Nielsen Hall.

SENIORS PLANNING GROUP -- meets on **Wednesday, February 7th @ 2pm**. If you would like to join us please be invited! We meet in the Resource Center office.

FOR EVERYONE: The St. Olaf Choir will present a concert at Stanford Memorial Church on **Wednesday, February 7**, at 7:30 pm, sponsored by "The Stanford Office for Religious Life." Several years ago the Choir was at Stanford and sang before a standing room audience. We have chartered a bus and you are invited to attend. We will leave Hope at 5 pm to avoid problems with traffic, and will return around 9:30. It will be a musical treat! For more information call the office, 349-0100.

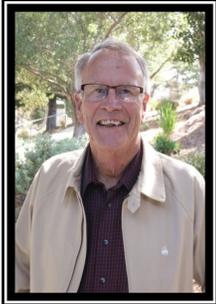
Remember this phrase...

"LIFE ISN'T ABOUT WAITING FOR THE STORM TO PASS, BUT...LEARNING HOW TO DANCE IN THE RAIN."

Blessings,
Pastor Paul



From our Council President



On Sunday, January 28, we will have had our annual meeting to establish our budget for the coming year. This allocation of resources God has provided is also a good time to assess the health of the church and to determine whether this can be improved. To this end, it was suggested at the December Council meeting that we review our vision for Hope. Accordingly, the Hope Vision Committee has been established which has the following members: Pr. Dan Severson (chair), Margo Kannenberg, Frank Lin, Pr. Paul Michaelson, David Phillips, Mike Sallander and Jerilyn Struven.

Hope Vision has now met twice and has now begun the work of the committee. At these meetings, the committee first reviewed the many aspects of our church life (e.g. worship, evangelism, social concerns) and how the Hope campus has recently opened up to include additional organizations to allow for expanded Christian education and spiritual growth (i.e. to the Bible Study Fellowship and the Goshen Christian Church). Wanting to focus on a few important areas for the church, rather than being spread too thin, Hope Vision elected to focus on three ministries that could provide for increased growth of Hope: youth, seniors and education.

Youth was selected because young people are the lifeblood that renews the church. Without new youth, a church will slowly diminish and eventually cease to exist. Youth provide us with the opportunity to pass on our faith. While this may be done within biological families, the opportunity and potential impact within the congregational family is much bigger. Our vision is an active program with regularly occurring events that provide youth with the opportunity to serve and contribute to the congregation and community in order to further their personal and spiritual growth.

Seniors was selected because older people have an abundance of life experiences, have developed the wisdom so very helpful to the church at large and have a developed spirituality that is so essential to a

healthy church life. Pr. Paul has several active and well attended senior ministry programs. Our vision is to facilitate a positive aging experience within the church by providing opportunities for seniors' involvement, fellowship and service and to suggest resources that will assist them in their daily lives.

Education was selected because continued learning is another lifeblood of the church, because a strong education program is an attractive vehicle for church growth and because our lead pastor, Pr. Dan, is an outstanding Christian educator. Ongoing components of our existing education program are numerous and include: Spark for elementary ages; Confirmation for middle school, First communion for first graders and older; Women's Bible study groups; Men's breakfast and bible study; Christian book club; Sunday morning bible study; and the Mid-week theological and spirituality study. Our vision is not only to strengthen these programs for the spiritual growth of the people at Hope but also to bring this to the broader San Mateo community.

In addition to these 3 ministries for our congregation, the Vision Committee recognized the key importance of Worship and Evangelism in providing the support for all of these areas.

The challenge now is to act on these, the three areas of our vision focus for 2018. While the committee has some ideas, input from the congregation is needed and is actively solicited. To achieve this objective, several meeting times for Hope Vision Discussion Groups will be planned for the months of February and March: it is hoped that all congregants will attend one of these. The Hope Vision committee will take this information, decide on a plan for implementation and will present this at the mid-year congregational meeting in June. We are asking you to keep the 2018 Hope Vision effort in your prayers.

David Phillips



From our Choir Director



Where's The Choir Been?

The Chancel choir as an ensemble has not sung for the Sunday morning services for three weeks. The choir traditionally gets some R&R after busy times during the church year. They were given time to relax the two Sunday's after Christmas.

They worked hard and deserve some down time. The third Sunday after Christmas, Marlys volunteered to sing a solo for which we are grateful.

Beyond that, the truth is that we have a good choir who do well, but we are so small that even if a few are missing, we don't have enough people to sing as a choir. We really need YOU to join us. You've heard this plea multiple times over the years, but now YOU may

be the one who makes the difference. I know those of you in the congregation who could be in the choir. We're not professionals, and we don't need professionals. What we need is YOU, the person who can carry a tune, and many of you have sung before. We're all busy people with busy lives, and being in the choir does mean a certain amount of commitment, but it doesn't need to be the straw that breaks the camel's back in your busy schedule. We do accommodate personal schedules when needed, but the truth is we love what we do and need you to join us when you can.

Are you the one that will make the difference?
We need you!



Shirley Fitzgerald



Social Concerns Committee



Happy New Year THANKS from your Social Concerns Committee

Many thanks to our Hope Family for your generous gifts in Nov-Dec 2017.

Anne Wilson, our SC chair, delivered 27 'Feed a Family' boxes to CALL Primrose for Thanksgiving meals. We also hosted four families from Home & Hope Nov. 26-Dec. 3rd. Set-up was a breeze with the Hoover-Owens Family (Alex, Owen, and Mom Claire), Helena and two friends, and Lisa Lucette from Belmont Congregational Church. Take-down was equally smooth with the help of Riley, Owen, and Dad Michael Sallander jumping right in with Jerry and Kris. Our fridge and cupboards were kept stocked by Nancy Jung. We were very happy to provide safe evening/overnight shelter, while adjusting our dinner meals to the guests' schedules/needs. Once again, many thanks to our volunteers for flexibility,

understanding, and generosity. Laundry Angels continue to support us from their laundry rooms...couldn't do this without you!

New Year 2018 gives us the opportunity to celebrate 18 years of caring partnership in Home & Hope, originally Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN). Our next Hosting is the week of February 25, 2018.

We have seen many changes in the H&H leadership team at the Day Center in Burlingame, but the families who come to their door are the same...families facing challenging situations, in need of shelter, comfort, and support. That has remained the same for 18 years and Hope Lutheran continues to do our small part as Team Hope, with St. Ambrose Episcopal and Belmont Congregational Churches to meet their needs. Please join us in February!

Seniors Luncheon at Kabul!

Pictures taken on 1/18/18
at Kabul Afghan Cuisine in
San Carlos.



Photo credit to Maggie K Timeus

Preschool Corner



We had a very restful Christmas break and now back in full swing. February finds us celebrating special days and holidays. Of course, the favorite is Valentine's Day. The children get so excited passing out and receiving cards and treats from their friends.

Registration is now open for the 2018-2019 school year. Our hope, as always, is to get new students as well as keep the ones we have. A challenge, but we are reaching out and marketing our amazing school.

Have a great month, spread the love and be loved.

Blessings,

Jeanne



-----Stitches & Ties x x x x x

The most generous gift may be an item given anonymously. Recently a woman delivered a quantity of fabric to the Hope office and slipped away before Tanya could learn her name. To this ministry donor Hope Quilters here and now say, "Thank you".

Donations during 2017 totaled 70 quilts: to Children's Fund 16 small; to Lutheran Social Services 15 large; to Home and Hope 3 large and 1 small; to LWR 35 large quilts and 32 fabric kits. Each fabric kit had 6 yards of fabric and 2 spools of thread. Many of the quilts still in the closet will be given to north bay fire victims and Home and Hope.

Hope's Thankoffering last November provided \$1800 to Second Harvest Food Bank. HLCW APPRECIATED Hope Family's tremendous response. When we learn of anyone in need of food we can provide the phone # and website of Second Harvest:

Second Harvest Food Bank Connection

Phone 1-800-984-3663 M-F; 8am-5pm
 Online shfb.org 24/7

Check out the website yourself.

Quilters' meeting January 9th celebrated the new year with their traditional pot-luck soup. This year the soup chef 'hiked' to obtain produce, because the pot was somewhat un-lucky. (smile) The end result for the 15 soup-sippers was souper-satisfying on the chile day..

Quilters invite YOU to join us in Nielsen Hall any second or fourth Tuesday, 9am to 3pm or drop-in and drop out as you have time.



Preschool Recognition Sunday!

Save the Date!

Preschool Recognition Sunday will be held on March 18th! As in the past, the children will share a songs with us during the service.

Please come and help us honor our Preschool!

Schedule of Services and Soup Suppers for Lent

Ash Wednesday is **February 14th**. Please join us for a traditional Ash Wednesday service at 7pm.

The schedule of soup suppers and Lenten services is as follows:

February 21: Soup supper @ 6pm. Service at 7pm will focus on Luther's understanding of the first 3 commandments.

February 28: Soup supper @ 6pm. Service at 7pm will focus on Luther's understanding of the 4th-10th commandments.

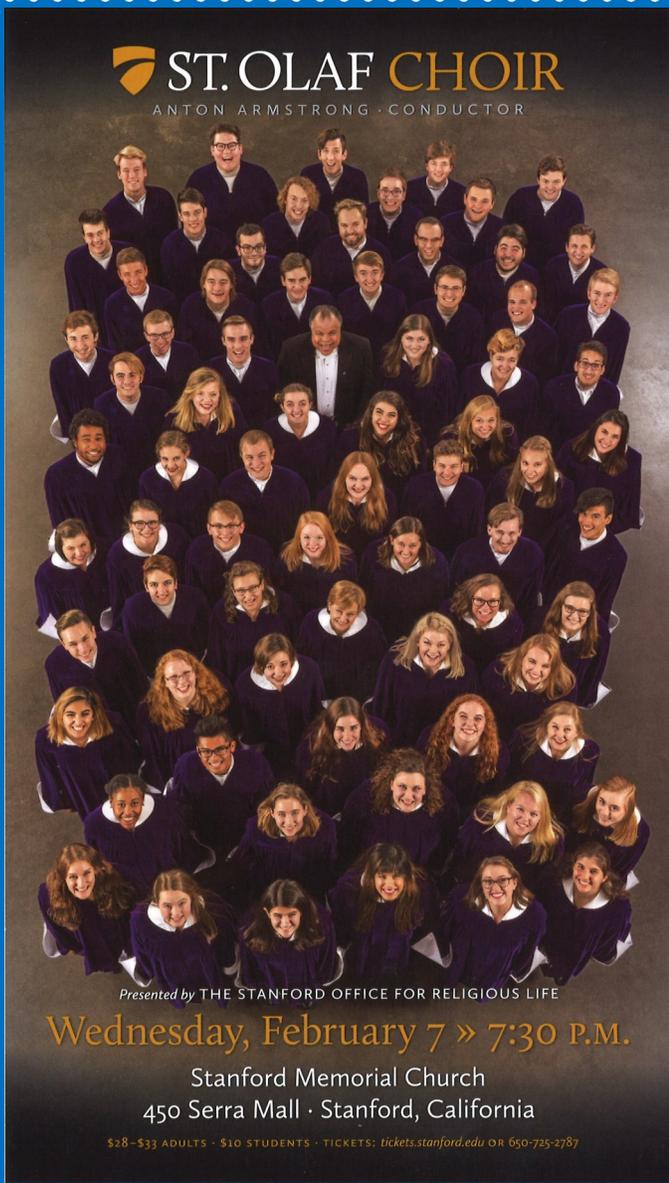
March 7: Soup super @ 6pm. Service at 7pm will focus on Luther's understanding of the Apostle's Creed.

March 14: Soup supper @ 6pm. Service at 7pm will focus on Luther's understanding of The Lord's Prayer.

March 21: Soup supper @ 6pm. Service at 7pm will focus on Luther's understanding of the sacraments.

Please join us for good food, fellowship and a trip through Luther's "Small Catechism".





ST. OLAF CHOIR
ANTON ARMSTRONG · CONDUCTOR

Presented by THE STANFORD OFFICE FOR RELIGIOUS LIFE

Wednesday, February 7 » 7:30 P.M.

Stanford Memorial Church
450 Serra Mall · Stanford, California

\$28-\$33 ADULTS · \$10 STUDENTS · TICKETS: tickets.stanford.edu OR 650-725-2787



HLCW Circles

Lydia Circle is open to women of all ages and stages; Evening or weekend meetings; Our schedule is flexible. Location: Hope Youth Room
Contact:

Mary Circle
3rd Tuesday of the month 10:00 am
Location Varies
Contact: Martha Welch

Sarah Circle
3rd Tuesday of the month 10:00 am
Location Varies
Contact: Lois Nieman

Celebrating birthdays in February

Max Prasad	2/3	Jessica Stucke	2/13
Herta Von Rautenkrans	2/6	Judy Neumann	2/15
Judith Jeschke	2/9	David Phillips	
Jeanne Helland	2/10	Joanne Smith	2/21
Scott McAuliffe	2/12	Charlotte Hess	2/24
Helen Widdra		Lesley Johnson	2/25
		Eric Hoover	2/27

Names in bold = our brothers/sisters turning 90-90+ years!

* = Friend of Congregation



Spark Time Sunday School in November

Children from Kindergarten thru Grade 6

dismissed to Sunday School during Sending Hymn and
join parents in Café Hope after approximately 30 minutes of study and activity.

Date	Theme	Scripture
February 4	Jonah and the Big Fish	Jonah 1-4
February 11	Teaching and Healing	Mark 1:21-28
February 18	Jesus Heals	Mark 1:29-39
February 25	Naaman Is Healed	2 Kings 5:1-19

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
2/4	Jerilyn Struven	Sandra Polster Mark Grimstedt		Judy Jeschke
2/11	Sandi Kane	Jack Coyne Linda Harvey	Esther Ekong	Deb & Rachael Stucke
2/18	Don Hermansen	Bill & Margo Kannenberg	Lois Nieman	Monika Hastings
2/25	Skip Dahl	Philip & Marilyn Gaal	Hank Harper	Jessica Stucke Emma Worthge

Youth News

Hope all our families recovered from the holiday season and everyone is back into their normal routines. I wanted to take a moment to remind everyone of our upcoming youth events.

Sunday February 11 will be a Valentine's Day event for all ages. Dinner will be served and there are various games planned. Join the Hope family for an entertaining evening out.

The annual Youth Hosted Palm Sunday Brunch is March 25. As always, we need youth to help make this another successful event.

Lighten Up Lutherans will be returning to Hope on April 29. If you have any type of talent (musical, athletic, or just great at telling knock-knock jokes) please plan to participate in this important youth fundraiser.

In Christ,
Judy



Save the
Date!!

Lighten Up Lutherans Returns to Hope!



Can you WOW others with your hidden talent? Or maybe you are a comedian searching for an audience?

WE WANT YOU to join our list of acts as the ever entertaining "Lighten Up Lutherans" returns to Hope!

Date: Sunday April 29, 2018

Time: 12:00 PM

A light lunch will be served followed by the show

Place: Nielsen Hall at Hope

Contact person:

Judy Jeschke

Show proceeds will help fund the youth trip to the 2018 National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX

INFORMATION ON HOW TO SIGN UP YOUR ACT WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON ON OUR WEBSITE, IN THE WEEKLY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS & BULLETIN AND IN THE MARCH NEWSLETTER.



December 2018

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,

Because you have shared so much with others, may peace, joy, hope and happiness be yours during this holiday season and throughout the coming year!

Warmly,

Your friends at Samaritan House

January 5, 2018

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for supporting us as missionaries to the urban poor of South Central Los Angeles in your prayers and for your donation which enables us to be here giving 100% of our time and energy to ministry. We miss our family at Hope, but pray all is well and that there is growth and growing faith throughout the church. Thanks for partnering with us.

In Christ's Amazing Love,

Chad + Fabiola Wolyn

January 2018

Dear Pastor Paul, Pastor Dan and the Hope family,

Thank you Pastor Paul for the visits. Pastor Dan for the phone calls. Thank you for all the beautiful get well cards from the Hope family. Thank you for your caring and prayers.

Lucille Housholder

December 2018

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response this year. Thanks to you, together we're working for justice and peace in the United States and more than 60 countries around the world. May God bless you this Christmas and always, even as you and your generosity are a blessing to others.

With gratitude,

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

December 2018

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift—we are grateful for your support. Your generosity makes it possible for over 257,000 people a month to receive healthy food. Among those 257,000 are Annie, Robert, and their 5-year-old daughter Abby.

The holiday season is a reminder that food is more than just sustenance: It brings friends and family together for celebration and creates memories of favorite meals. And in the case of families like Annie and Robert's, food from Second Harvest is a *hand up*. Through your support of Second Harvest, you are ensuring that the families we serve are not in need during this festive time...and beyond.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

Leslie Bacho
Chief Executive Officer
Second Harvest Food Bank

January 8, 2018

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your faithful support of ELCA global missionaries and ministries. We are a church that believes God is calling us into this world—together.

Thank you for your support, and may we continue to walk faithfully together in this mission.

In gratitude,

Andrew G. Steele
Director, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship

Upcoming Events

ADULT BIBLE STUDY Sundays @ 11:45am

Our Bible study class will meet after Café Hope in the educational building.

We are continuing our study of the Galatians and the Philippians. The former covers essential ideas in Paul such as justification, the Holy Spirit, new life in Christ, and Christian ethics. The latter was written by Paul while he was in prison and is perhaps his most joyful letter, speaking of the love of Christ.

Valentines Dinner Fundraiser

Save the Date! Hope Lutheran Church will be hosting a Dinner Fundraiser on Sunday, February 11th at 5pm.

- Assortment of mouthwatering Italian dishes
- Desserts to die for!
- Music with a DJ!
- Fun games, door prizes, music dedications and MUCH MORE!

RSVP by signing up in Nielsen Hall or by calling the church office!

Seniors Ministry—February 6th

The Seniors Ministry will be sponsoring a program on “special awareness of fire prevention and other safety issues”. Our guest speaker will be Stan Maupin, the Redwood City Fire Chief! This will be a fun and informative program with special emphasis on the senior population, but is open to everyone that would be interested. Ask your friends and neighbors if they are interested in attending. If you would like, bring a sack lunch; coffee and drinks will be provided.

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Wednesday @ 1pm

The Christian Spirituality class will continue to meet each Wednesday from 1-2pm.

We are going to learn how to read the Bible as a personal address from God to us. There are many ways to use the Bible in a devotional way. Some include prayer.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's breakfast meets the first and third Saturday of each month in Nielsen Hall. Breakfast is served at 7:30am and the study begins at around 8:00am.

On Saturday, February 17th, we will begin our study of a wonderful book entitled, Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about God But Were Afraid to Ask: The Jesus Edition, by Eric Metaxas. The author became well known for his biographies of Martin Luther (just out this last October), and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and another Christian book entitled Miracles. I highly recommend all of these books.

Everything You Wanted... is written in the form of a dialogue. A seeker, who knows very little about the Christian Faith, asks many questions for which the author provides an answer. I'm quite sure you will enjoy this book, so please come to the Men's Breakfast. It meets on the first and third Saturday of each month from 7:30-9am. There is always good food and a lively discussion.

Seniors Luncheon—February 15

On February 15, the Seniors Luncheon will be at Miramar Beach Restaurant in Half Moon Bay! If you are interested in attending we will be taking a bus to Miramar that will begin boarding at 12:00pm. Sign ups will be in Nielsen Hall or you can call/email the church office to be added to the list.

BOOK CLUB

The book club at Hope meets every first Thursday of the month, at 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room.

Confirmation Classes, 5 - 7pm

Confirmation classes will be jointly hosted at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Andrews and Hope. The schedule is as follows:

February 11—Hope Lutheran
March 18—Hope Lutheran
April 15—St. Andrew's
April 29—St. Andrew's
May 6—Good Shepherd

Any questions, please contact
Pastor Dan Severson.

Hope Lutheran Church
600 W. 42nd Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94403

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February 2018

Voice of Hope Deadline for March edition: Friday, February 16



Hope Lutheran Church

650-349-0100

Email: helc@pacbell.net

www.HopeLutheranSanMateo.org

Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM

Sunday School at 11:00 AM



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