

The Voice of Hope

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

Building Blocks



In the Women’s Bible Study for December from the *Gather* resource we were discussing how faith is caught and not taught. Several early “converts” to Christianity were featured including Cornelius, Lydia, Titius Justus and Crispus.

It seems to me that a common thread running through all the accounts of those who became accepters of God’s grace through Jesus, both Jews and Gentiles, was a personal encounter with someone who professed in word and deed their own faith. This seems to support the idea that faith is “not taught but caught.” Living our faith, sharing our faith directly with others provides and opportunity for the Holy Spirit to work. And I believe we all learned in Catechism that faith in God’s grace through Jesus Christ is not something we can come to by our own effort or study -- “I believe that I cannot by my own reasoning or strength believe in my Lord Jesus or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the one true faith...” [Email, text or tell me on a Sunday if you remember from whence commeth this thought from Luther.]

God calls us not just to help people in their earthly, physical needs but to help others in their spiritual need as well. By being more willing to let others know about our faith, we provide opportunities for the Holy Spirit to nurture faith in them.

As a familiar, old hymn says “We are God’s house of living stones, Built for His own habitation.” We living stones, the building blocks of God’s Kingdom become the foundation for the next generation of living stones.

The following illustration from a preaching resource called *Proclaim* provides some food for thought concerning each of us as building blocks or stumbling blocks.

A mission team from an Ohio church traveled to a financially depressed area of eastern Kentucky where they helped to build a house for a low-income family. When they arrived, they found that the concrete footer

for the house had been poured the previous week by another work team, so the first job of the new team was to lay up the foundation, using cement blocks. But they were working under the direction of a professional builder, and he didn’t just hand out trowels and tell the team to go at it. Instead, he first set the blocks in all four corners, to the full height of the foundation. Next, he laid the first row of blocks all the way around. Then, and only then, did he let the team members lay blocks.

You see what the builder had done: He made sure the cornerstones were square and true and the first round of blocks was set properly. That way, he assured that the amateurs on the team wouldn’t get the blocks too far away from where things were supposed to be to build a proper house. Get the corners right, and the rest can line up with that. That was the cornerstone lesson.

But the team also learned about stumbling blocks. As some of the members worked directly on the foundation, other team members mixed the mortar and still others carried the block to the wall. The problem was, if they didn’t place them just right, those working on the walls tripped over them. The blocks were a nuisance underfoot.

We are called to be building blocks in God’s kingdom, but if we don’t respond, we can become stumbling blocks in the way of others working for the Lord.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

**Hope will Host the ELCA
World Hunger Leadership Gathering
January 16-18**

**We will provide meeting space for
their workshops and their 100+ lead-
ers from across the country will join
us for Worship on the 18th.**

Pastor Paul's Notes



Single Seniors will meet on Tuesday, January 6, 12:30 to 2 pm in Nielsen Hall. Bag Lunch with beverages provided. We have a special guest speaker: Curtis Golden. His group is called: "Seniors Savvy"---Bringing technology to work for you. Who doesn't need his assistance? All are welcome!

Seniors Savvy - January 6

Making technology simple to use with Curtis Golden—your technology partner

- Computer installation
- PC and MAC computer skills training and printer installation
- ...And lots more!



"Conversations: Seniors & Youth"

On Sunday, January 18, we will have a special get-together for Seniors and Youth. It will be lunch (or take aways from Cafe'Hope) noon to 1:30 pm. It will occur in the Education Building and is an OPPORTUNITY for learning and getting better acquainted.

The Task Force on expanding Seniors Ministry has met twice and will be determining possible programs and services in the near future. There is a survey form that we will administer in order to secure information on needs, desired programs and ways you may serve.



November lunch outing at the Blue Line Restaurant

from our Choirs Director



Thanksgiving is not just in November. We are thankful all year for our congregational musicians, Douglas Franks, singers and ringers, instrumentalists, and you our Congregational choir. Our members work especially hard during the Holidays,

but they are dependable and faithful a year long. Both our Chancel Choir and our Bells of Hope are getting smaller which places even more responsibility on each person and requires more dedication from each member. They all deserve our thanks and a round of "Good Job". We would welcome help from you in any capacity in the new year. Perhaps one of these "Top 10 Reasons" might influence you to become a "tenor" in our choir.

- 10) Tenors get high – without drugs.
- 9) Name a musical where the bass got the girl

- 8) You can show the sopranos how it SHOULD be sung.
 - 7) Did you ever hear of anyone paying \$1000 for a ticket to see The Three Basses?
 - 6) Who needs brains when you've got resonance?
 - 5) Tenors never have to waste time looking through the self-improvement section of the bookstore (editor) because they're already so perfect.
 - 4) You get to sing along with John Denver singing Calypso
 - 3) When you get really good at falsetto, you can make tons of money doing voice-over for cartoon characters
 - 2) Gregorian chant was practically invented for tenors. Nobody invented genre for basses
 - 1) You can entertain your friends by impersonation Julia Child.
- Stay tuned, and maybe in the future we can share 10 good reasons for being a soprano, bass, or alto.

Shirley Fitzgerald

Social Concerns



Our Family-to-Family Program this year was hugely successful due to the generosity of so many of you. All four of the families from the Samaritan House's Family Sharing Program were adopted, and we sent over 50 boxes of groceries to Call Primrose.

It was joyous to see so many of you getting involved, from sharing your time with needy families, to shopping for groceries and delivering boxes to Call Primrose. Thank you for giving and sharing of yourselves during the busy Christmas time.

We start off the new year with a running start to host Home and Hope. Our neighbors from Home and Hope will return to us for two weeks in January, from 1/18-1/31. Our primary responsibility is the second week starting 1/25, which we will host with our support congregations. The first week is being coordinated by the Home and Hope staff and will be hosted by volunteers from the entire network, though anyone can sign up to help in the first week as well.

If you have never participated in this sheltering program for homeless families, why not make it a new resolution to minister to your neighbors? The guests at Home and Hope truly are our neighbors, as they go to our kids' schools and I have seen them working and living in our communities after exiting the program.

It is our great privilege and special calling to participate in our guests' lives. Provide a home cooked meal, spend the night sleeping over, or just spend a few hours visiting with them. Talk to Jerry or Kris Brooks or Helena Dummler if you have questions. Look for sign-up sheets in Nielsen Hall. Sign up to help in Nielsen Hall.

College Student Care Packages

The Education and Evangelism committees, on behalf of all of our college students, would like to thank the congregation for your generous support in providing the supplies and postage for mailing out care packages. 16 students, thanks to your kindness, received a surprise package in early December with all of the essentials for getting through winter exams (pretzels, popcorn, red licorice, gold fish – and a bunch of other high-energy snacks). They each also received letters of encouragement from some of our congregation members. This act of caring is a vital part of our evangelism and outreach, and it reinforces to the students that they remain in our hearts and in our prayers at all times.

Thank you again for your support!

Care Package Responses

Melissa received hers and went on and on with a long list of goodies she received. She also shared the sweet message from Marlys, I believe. As a mom, I am touched, and I know Melissa was, too. She also mentioned that she has been receiving the *Voice of Hope* and appreciates getting it. Thanks, all!!!

Monika Hastings

Shafer was so happily surprised when he received his care package and couldn't believe Hope would send him such a thoughtful gift. He was sick with a cold and had finals so the care package was a great pick-me-up. Joanne Smith

Thank you so much for sending me a Christmas care package. It was such a lovely surprise! The treats will surely keep me going during finals next week. Thanks for blessing me and remembering me off at college.

Meghan Green



We need a
Grocery/Supplies Shopper
for the Home & Hope hostings.

If you can help, please respond to
Helena Dummler at 650-598-0188 or
skiruns@comcast.net.

From the Council President



We began the new church year with Advent - a time of joyful expectation and preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. These festivities are over, now we must prepare for Hope's fiscal year.

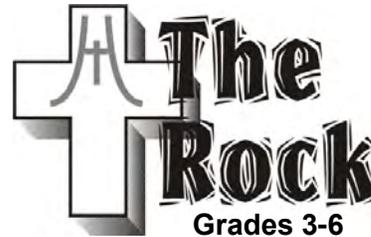
The Council will present the proposed budget at our semi-annual congregational meeting on January 25th. Let's make this a time of joyful expectation for the ministries of Hope and tackle the basic necessities of maintaining the Hope campus.

HEROES of the FAITH

Our popular Church History Class continues with more sessions on The "Heroes of the Faith." This is a great adult fellowship and faith gathering that meets in the Youth Room from 10am to Noon on the Second Thursday. No experience or preparation is necessary. Come join us and bring a friend.

- January 8: HEAVEN IS FOR REAL
- February 12: MARIAN ANDERSON
- March 12: RUDY
- April 9: OUR PEOPLE - The Salvation Army
- May 14: MEET THE ROBERTSONS (Duck Dynasty)

Youth Activities



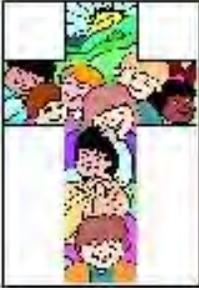
Hey gang! THE ROCK goes OVER-NIGHT! We will join other youth from California for a high-energy overnight event led by *SuperStart*. With the help of the Real Encounter BMX stunt team, you will explore Ephesians 2:8 and celebrate that God's grace is an undeserved gift, freely given. You'll know beyond a shadow of a doubt that this gift called Grace is SOMETHING AMAZING.

This event takes place at Destiny Christian Church in Rocklin (near Sacramento). Cost for this event is actually \$145.00 each but Rockers pay only \$75 with support from our youth fund. Your fee covers registration, Friday night hotel, and skating at Skatetown Ice Arena in Roseville. You also need money for four meals.

We leave from Hope's parking lot promptly at 4pm on Friday, January 16, and return Saturday, January 17, between 7 and 8pm.

Contact Pastor Eric or chaperone Tom Stucke (Council Youth Chair) if you want to be part of this Amazing Adventure no later than Sunday, January 11.

*For those who are new to ice skating, Skatetown offers bucket helpers to give you the balance and confidence needed for an enjoyable experience. Warm clothing and gloves are recommended. Skatetown staff is always happy to help you select and lace your skates. Skatetown has nearly 1200 pairs of figure and hockey skates for rent. Skate sizes range from children's 6 to adult 15. Skatetown recommends the use of helmets and has helmets available free of charge.



Preschool Corner

The time, and the years, fly by so quickly. It seems like we just started school and here I am getting ready for new families touring for the fall school year. The "HOPE" is to have more students and we are

marketing the school as much as possible to spread the word that we are an amazing Preschool.

Thank you to our families at school and the church who helped with the See's fundraiser. We made \$931.00 adding to our \$324.00 that we

made from the spaghetti/bingo night. Hard work pays off!!!

Sending wishes that you and your families are blessed with good health and happiness. Let's always remember to be kind, understanding, and helpful to each other.

Blessings,
Jeanne



Celebrating birthdays in January

Anne Hermansen

Bob Smith
Holly Hermansen
Olivia Moore
Hillary Coyne
Mehri Vantanparast
Verena Brauen
Carol Feige
Stewart Hoffheins
Jack Coyne
Anders Voss

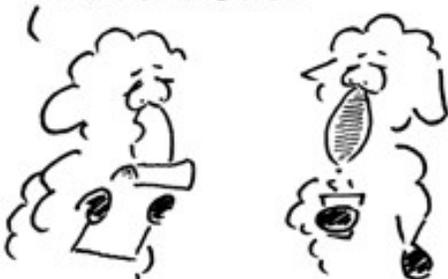
Margo Kannenberg

Bob Paulus
Gregory Pedro
Jerry Butler
Douglas Johnson
Marilyn Johnson
Gilbert Schroeder
Richard Hopper



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

I **ADMIRE** THIS LIST,
I JUST DON'T THINK
IT'S **REALISTIC.**



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

NOBODY CAN PRAY
CONSTANTLY.



OH.

ARE THERE TIMES
WHEN YOU **DON'T**
NEED JESUS?



1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

All ages support and participate



HLCW Circles

Priscilla Circle

3rd Tuesday of the month 9:30am
Location Varies
Contact: Joan Cleven 650-593-9896

Mary Circle

3rd Tuesday of the month 9:30am
Location Varies
Contact: Martha Welch 650-637-1475

Sarah Circle

3rd Tuesday of the month 10am
Location Varies
Contact: Elis Nielsen 650-341-8144

Lydia Circle is open to women of all ages and stages; Evening or weekend meetings; Our schedule is flexible.

Location: Hope Youth Room

Contact: Heidi Waters heidewaters@yahoo.com



Pastor Eric and the Hope Lutheran Congregation,

As many of you know, Julia and I completed our move to our new home in Thousand Palms, CA at the end of August. This has been quite the emotional journey as

we prepare for my retirement at the end of the year. We miss our children, grandchildren and our friends at Hope. While we will not be with you during the worship service in person, we will be with you in heart, spirit and support during 2015. As our travels bring us back to the Bay Area, we will make every effort to worship with you when possible.

Much love to you and our Hope Family...

Ron and Julia Henderson

Dear Friends of Hope & Pastor Eric,

The warmth & inclusiveness for all who come to worship at Hope has sustained us the past several years. The Lord has started a new path for us & under His guidance will bless us. Our love for Hope & its members continues, but we will be retiring from your site into our new life. Our interlude with you at Hope offered us more than we deserved. Please keep us in your prayers as we begin our new challenges. Hope will always be in our hearts as the keys of the piano bring joy to all. Ray & I leave with hearts full of love.

We love & pray for Hope.

Helene & Ray Looze

Hope Lutheran Church,

Thank you so very much for your generous donation of \$500 to the ministry here in Los Angeles reaching college students. We feel so blessed and encouraged by Hope. Thank you! We pray the Lord will bless you this Christmas season and you would experience His great love and presence in your midst.

Thank you so much again,

Joseph & Michelle Butlig

Dear Pastor Eric,

My sister, brothers and I are so happy to have had our mother's memorial service at Hope Lutheran Church. That was her wish and we know she would be pleased.

Sincerely,

Mary Hiemenga

Thank you for your generosity that we may continue raising up Christian leaders from among those society has written off.

Albert was among the first TUMI students at RJ Donovan Prison (San Diego) in 2008. After finishing half of his required courses, he was suddenly transferred to Ironwood Prison, which had no TUMI program. He and nine other TUMI students persistently asked Prison Fellowship to start TUMI in Ironwood, and finally in 2012 their request was granted. In April 2014 Albert was almost ready to graduate; but at the last minute he was transferred to yet another prison, where, again, there was no TUMI program.

Finally Albert's graduation was approved by the prison, and his special day arrived. "TUMI is the first thing I have ever finished in my life," he said. It was a proud day for Albert and his Prison Fellowship mentors who took part in the grand transformation of a man who was once a criminal and now is a leader for the Kingdom of God!

Thank you for your partnership in helping us transform "the least of these" into leaders of Christ.

May you have a blessed Christmas celebration of our Savior's birth!

Chad & Fabiola Wolyn

Thanks to our anonymous member donor for the \$1000 gift to our ailing Pastor's Fund!

Perhaps many of you did not know we had such a fund. These funds are used by Pastor Eric to help those who contact our church periodically in need of emergency help for such things as food, shelter or transportation. Our Pastor uses this resource in conjunction with referrals to Call Primrose, Samaritan House and the Shelter Network to aid individuals and families in crisis.

If you wish sometime to contribute to this ministry simply put "Pastor's Fund" in the memo line of your check and the amount will be added in your contribution statement.

~January 2015 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>New Year's Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	2 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	3
4 10am Worship 11am Cafe Hope	5 9:30am Aerobics 7:30pm AA*	6 12pm Staff Meeting 12:30pm Single Seniors	7 9:30am Aerobics 3:45pm Preschool Board Mtg 6:45pm Bells 7:45pm Choir	8 10am Church History Class 7pm Council Mtg	9 <i>Confirmation Retreat</i> 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	10 <i>Confirmation Retreat</i>
11 <i>Confirmation Retreat</i> 10am Worship 11am Café Hope	12 9:30am Aerobics 9:30am Women Bible Study Lead- ers 7:30pm AA*	13 9am Quilters 11:15am Preschool Chapel	14 9:30am Aerobics 3pm Preschool Chapel 6:45pm Bells 7:45pm Choir	15	16 <i>ELCA World Hunger*</i> <i>SuperStart—The Rock Trip</i> 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	17 <i>ELCA World Hunger*</i> <i>SuperStart—The Rock Trip</i> 7:30am Men's Breakfast
18 <i>ELCA World Hunger*</i> <i>Home & Hope*</i> 10am Worship 11am Cafe Hope 12pm Youth/ Senior conver- sation 1pm Estonian Church*	19 <i>Home & Hope*</i> <i>Martin Luther King's birthday – Office Closed</i> 9:30am Aerobics 7:30pm AA*	20 <i>Home & Hope*</i> 9:30am Mary Circle 9:30am Priscilla Circle 10am Sarah Circle 12pm Staff Meeting	21 <i>Home & Hope*</i> 9:30am Aerobics 6:45pm Bells 7:45pm Choir	22 <i>Home & Hope*</i>	23 <i>Home & Hope*</i> 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	24 <i>Home & Hope*</i>
25 <i>Home & Hope*</i> 10am Worship 11am Cafe Hope 11:30am Semi- Annual Meeting	26 <i>Home & Hope*</i> 9:30am Aerobics 7:30pm AA*	27 <i>Home & Hope*</i> 9am Quilters	28 <i>Home & Hope*</i> 9:30am Aerobics 6:45pm Bells 7:45pm Choir	29 <i>Home & Hope*</i>	30 <i>Home & Hope*</i> 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	31 <i>Home & Hope*</i>