

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 of Hope,
 The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10th. That evening, we will have a full communion service with the imposition of ashes at 7:00 pm. I encourage everyone to attend this

important service as it marks the beginning of our Lenten journey.

Speaking of that, what does the phrase “Lenten Journey” mean in the context of Lutheran Tradition? One of the most important contributions to theology that was made by Martin Luther was his so-called “Theology of the Cross.” In a nutshell, this means that God meets us where we are most needy, broken, spiritually disabled and at times feeling hopeless. Jesus did not come to us as a glorified and regal king with power, pomp, and circumstance. Rather, he came to us and revealed Himself to us most fully as a broken, crucified, and dying man on the cross. What is this if not God taking our broken and mortal condition on himself so that he, in turn, might give us the power of his life and love and joy and peace in return? Through faith in Jesus Christ and, as Paul put it, “him crucified”, we experience a “marvelous exchange”. Through faith, our sin, brokenness and death is exchanged for his life love and joy. Not a bad deal.

However, this also means that we follow him by taking up our own cross. That is, we need to be on a journey whereby we confront our own need, our own sin, and our own inability to save ourselves from the mortal condition within which we live. It is not an easy thing to acknowledge and confront the ways in which we have fallen short: the ways in which we have lived in denial of the truth concerning how we have failed,

hurt others, held grudges: in short, how we have caused pain for ourselves and others.

Each of us has our own personal life story. The dark side of that story: the part that causes shame, guilt and regret such that we would sooner forget about it and move on: this is our cross to bear, for these things can never be healed until they are acknowledged and allowed to come to light. And this includes confronting our own mortality. This is what a Lenten journey looks like. However, like I said, we don’t do this in order to revel in our pain and problems or to experience the hopelessness of death. We do it in faith so that the gift of the crucified and risen Christ might heal us and bring us to an experience of the joy that comes through his unending love and life. We are brought low so that we might be raised by the love and power of God. This is what we mean by salvation. It comes to us not just in the future, but gradually as we confront our need, and thereby reach out to Christ in faith that he even now is present with his life-giving love. May the blessings of God in Jesus Christ be yours through faith during this Lenten season.

Pastor Dan



Pastor Paul's Notes



I have read Robert Hill's book, entitled Seven Strategies for Positive Aging. In it he quotes the MacArthur Study which identified factors that enhanced mental and physical activity in later life. The Study said that it is lifestyle choices and not hereditary genes that determines how well we age. "Successful aging", it said, is "being engaged socially and being active in faith communities." The seven strategies are:

1. Finding Meaning
2. Learning in Later life
3. Growing in Wisdom
4. The Need to Belong
5. Giving & Receiving help
6. The importance of Forgiveness
7. Practicing Gratitude.

Here's a story that illustrates this spirit: There's an old tale of a monk who found a precious gemstone. He picked it up and put it in his knapsack and carried it with few other belongings. One day he struck up a conversation with a traveler. When the monk opened his knapsack to share some food, the traveler saw the jewel and asked the monk to give it to him. And the monk did so. The traveler went on his way, overjoyed by this unexpected gift...that would bring wealth and security for the rest of his life. After a few days, however, the traveler returned in search of the monk. Once he found him, he immediately gave the stone back and begged him: "Please give me something much more precious than this stone, as valuable as it is. Give me that which enabled you to give it to me." (What captures our attention in this story is the monk's generous spirit.)

"Single Seniors" will meet on Tuesday, February 2, 12:30 to 2 pm. It will take place in Nielsen Hall: bring a bag lunch. Our speaker that day will be Martha Kay Nelson, spiritual counselor with Mission Hospice. She will share how she serves those approaching end of life, and how those values can also enrich our lives.

"Single Seniors" will have a lunch-outing on Thursday, February 18, the place to be determined. Stay tuned to the Sunday bulletins for the specifics.

CAFÉ HOPE can use your lead in providing hospitality. Guidelines are available on the table in Nielsen Hall. Sign-up along with a friend and do it together !

from our Choirs Director



The Merriam-Webster Dictionary says CHANGE is to make or to become different.

Change is not always good, not always comfortable, but it is inevitable .We have used Setting 3, and 8 and WOV setting 5 for a considerable length of time, and we are now ready to try something new. We will be learning ELW Setting 2 beginning January 24 and continuing into February. It is easily learned, and I suspect some of you already know it or portions of it. The choir will be helping you learn the new music, and by the middle of February, we will be familiar with the whole setting. The ultimate goal is to become familiar with many settings and use them frequently. You will soon become comfortable with this "new" setting.

Shirley Fitzgerald, Choirs Director

Opportunity to Help Beautify the Sanctuary

We are looking for someone to help change the large banners behind the altar. This task requires some physical strength as well as some flexibility (the floor of Nielsen Hall is the ironing board). The banner is usually changed on Saturday, but can be changed at anytime during the week. As the liturgical seasons change, so does the color of the banner.

The banner needs to be changed for the following dates:

- February 7 - White - Transfiguration
- February 10 - Purple - Ash Wednesday
- March 20 - Red - Palm Sunday
- March 24 - Maundy Thursday - the banner is removed at the end of the service
- April 3 - White - Easter (also putting up the large butterfly)

If you can help, please contact Jerilyn Struven

Social Concerns



Thank You's
The Social Concerns Committee would like to extend our appreciation to the congregation for the generous gifts to our local charities during the Christmas season. You gave a resounding response to the Samaritan House's Toy and Coat Drive (about

3 large bins of donations) and sent 21 boxes of groceries to Call Primrose! We also adopted two lovely families through Samaritan House's Family Sharing Program, and the Social Concerns Committee was privileged to meet the families while delivering their gifts. Your love for our neighbors truly made a difference for many in need in our community. Thank you for sharing Christ's light.

Following our busy holidays, we continued our whirlwind mission to serve our community by welcoming three homeless families from Home and Hope in the first week of January. We are so grateful for the staunch volunteers who rallied their energies to help with the hosting so soon after Christmas. We even had a special visit from former members and H&H coordinators Mark and Devra Dallman, who hosted in the evening and overnight as well! Our next Home and Hope hosting is the week of April 17-23, and we look forward to seeing all our veteran volunteers and (maybe some new ones?) in action in a few months.

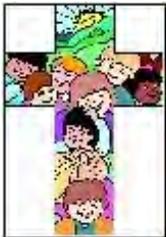
Sustaining Our Home and Hope Ministry

Speaking of new volunteers, it is time again for the Social Concerns Committee to reassess the feasibility of sustaining Hope Lutheran Church's involvement in the Home and Hope sheltering program. While Home and Hope is one of our most fulfilling ministries and we remain passionate about helping our homeless neighbors, we are hesitant to commit Team Hope to any dates in 2017 without first hearing from the congregation about your commitment to the program.

An overall decline in our volunteer base coupled with the loss of one of our support congregations last fall has resulted in our need to seek help from outside volunteers almost every hosting. Although we have had some newer volunteers in the past year, for whom we are ever grateful, more are needed to sustain the program, especially to host in the evening and overnight.

If you want to see Hope continue our involvement with Home and Hope, we need to hear from you. We want to hear from existing volunteers that you are committed to continuing your participation, and we want to hear from potential new volunteers that you would like to help! You may wonder what volunteering with Home and Hope involves and how to fit the time into your complex and busy lives. We have senior volunteers, young families, and busy working individuals who can share how we make room for this important ministry in our schedules. Feel free to talk to Jerry or Kris Brooks or Helena Dummer. Regardless of your ability to support Home and Hope, we ask for your prayers as we evaluate our role in this ministry.

Preschool Corner



The children have settled back in after Christmas break. They returned energized and ready to continue their studies.

We have been hosting tours for families interested in the fall school year and we are receiving completed applications. Word of mouth is our best marketing tool and we appreciate our current families spreading the word.

We had pajama week and it was fun to be

warm and cozy during the rainy days. Teachers were happy too!

February we celebrate holiday's with Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, President's Day. Our activities and art support those themes.

Wishing you warm and cozy days.

Blessings, Jeanne



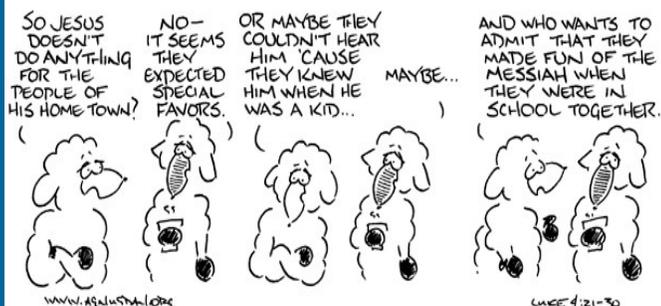
REPORT FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

(Karen Reed, Helena Dummler, George Amaranodos, Debra Stucke, Lyle Johnson, Jerry Brooks, and Pastor Dan Severson)

The Steering Committee, whose task is to develop the Congregational Profile used for the purpose of calling a new Pastor, began its work by creating a set of important survey questions designed for each member of Hope to fill out and return to the church office. We need the feedback of everyone to insure that the profile accurately reflects the wishes of the congregation with respect to our future mission and ministry. Everyone should have received the survey questions by now and you are encouraged to fill it out and send it back by February 8th. We thank everyone for doing so.

The committee will meet again in mid-February to compile the survey results and begin the process of creating the profile. However, there is one more step in the process before we can complete our work on this.

Everyone is invited to attend one of two meetings scheduled on Sunday, February 21 after church, or Tuesday, February 23 at 7:00pm. Both meetings will be held in Nielsen Hall. At each meeting, we will divide up into small groups so that everyone has an opportunity to voice their ideas and concerns regarding our mission and the gifts required in a new Pastor to carry out this mission. Again, we encourage everyone to attend one of these important meetings. The more participation we have, the better the completed profile will be. This, in turn, will help the Call Committee enormously in their task of recommending a new Pastoral candidate for call as the Senior Pastor of Hope Lutheran Church.



Stewardship

Faith Practices in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Live Among God's Faithful People

"As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:27-28)

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers ... Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all people" (Acts 2:42. 46-47)

"...their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints—and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us..." (2 Corinthians 8:2-5).

Living in community as God's faithful people is a gift of love, and an invitation to serve in mission. We are chosen not for position of privilege, but to live as faithful witnesses to the good news of Jesus Christ. In our baptism we were made children of God and members of the body of Christ, the church. God's message of hope and reconciliation strengthens us in our faith walk, our faith walk. Our life in Christin community supports us as we experience the joys and struggles of life. In our walk we are encouraged to equally embrace all differences and celebrate the diversity of gifts that can strengthen us.

As we live among God's faithful people we:

- Read and study God's word
- Celebrate God's presence in our lives through regular participation in worship
- Receive gratefully God's blessings and return a portion of God's abundance through our giving
- Live a new life in Christ by caring for and encouraging others
- Pray daily for each other, our communities and all of creation as we move into God's future
- Renew daily a connection with baptism by making the sign on your forehead

-----Stiches & Ties x x x x x

Hope's quilters have resumed arranging, stitching, tying and giving to the less fortunate folks in our community and world. On January 12 Louise and Elaine supervised the development of a nutritious, delicious pot-luck soup, our first-meeting-of-the new-year -tradition.

During 2015 119 quilts were shared as follows:

30 to Samaritan House, 16 to Home and Hope, 12 to Children's Fund, 10 to Hope's college students, 3 to Synod Assembly, and 48 to Lutheran World Relief. (Please see portions of a thank you from Marge Johanson, volunteer leader of the Northern CA LWR quilt and kit ingathering in this Voice.)

We invite you to come to Nielsen Hall 9am to 3pm on any 2nd or 4th Tuesday, January through October. Come to help touch a life with a quilt. Use your hands, an iron, pins and needles, stiches and ties, your artistic talents, even your kitchen skills.

We look forward to welcoming YOU and YOU and YOU!

Message from Marge Johanson, Volunteer Leader,
Northern CA LWR Quilt and Kit Ingathering

Dear Northern California Donors of Quilts and Kits,
On behalf of Lutheran World Relief, I want to thank you for your generous donation of quilts , kits and financial resources at the October N. CA Ingathering....Those suffering around the world will sleep un-

der a warm quilt, be able to brush their teeth, go to school or diaper their baby. They will experience the love that you have generously given to them and it will help ease the challenges that they are facing.

The Ingathering occurred at Redding, Antioch and Morgan Hill with 41 churches involved. Items collected : 1176 quilts, 1028 school kits, 750 personal care kits, 91 baby care kits, 78 fabric kits, 18 fleece blankets and \$6254 for the Shipping Fund.

Looking ahead: I hope that N CA can double the number of items collected and double the number of churches participating. Can you help me with this plan by committing to making more quilts and kits? Can you commit to making a kit that you've not made before? How about a fleece blanket? Give it a try! There are great ideas on the LWR website.
www.lwr.org

Thank you for your generosity! God's blessings to you! from M. Johanson, margejohanson@charter.net (a copy of her entire letter is on the Nielsen Hall bulletin board.)

HLCW Circles

Mary Circle

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

Priscilla Circle

3rd Tuesday of the month 9:30 am
Location Varies
Contact: Joan Clevon

Sarah Circle

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

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

Celebrating birthdays in February

Max Prasad
Tom Torgerson
Herta Von Rautenkrans
Judith Jeschke
Jeanne Helland
Scott McAuliffe
Helen Widdra
Karen Noecker
Jessica Stucke

Gerrie Rockafeller
Judy Neumann
David Phillips
Joanne Smith
Charlotte Hess
Lesley Johnson
Eric Hoover
Helina Jensen
Caroline Dallman



Save the Date

SCHEDULE OF SOUP SUPPERS AND LENTEN SERVICES

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10. Our Ash Wednesday Service is scheduled for 7:00pm and will include communion and the imposition of ashes. Everyone is encouraged to attend this important service which marks the beginning of our Lenten journey.

The following Wednesdays in the season of Lent will consist of soup suppers at 6:00pm and a short service at 7:00pm. This year, we are going to share our special Lenten suppers and services with the people of St. Andrews Lutheran Church located at 1501 South El Camino Real, San Mateo. **The schedule is as follows:**

Wednesday, February 17th, the supper and service will be at St. Andrews.

Wednesday, February 24th will be at Hope.

Wednesday, March 2nd at St. Andrews.

Wednesday, March 9th at Hope.

Wednesday, March 16th at St. Andrews.



At each service, we will use the Holden Evening Liturgy and a short homily will be included.

OUR HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 20 at 10 AM

Maundy Thursday, March 24, at 7 PM,

We'll have a full communion service and will also be celebrating First Communion For the young people who will have instruction over the two weeks prior to Holy week.

Good Friday, March 25, at 7 PM, we will Have a service of darkness based on the seven last words of Christ on the cross.

Easter Sunday, March 27, 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

Hard Times Fellowship

Save the Date: **Sunday, April 17, 5:00pm** With taxes out of the way .. it is time to celebrate! You are cordially invited to an always yummy dinner, hosted by the Evangelism Committee! You will NOT want to miss this! Details ... later ...



December 17, 2015

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the recent donation of many Holiday boxes to CALL Primrose. We are so very appreciative of your support which allows us to continue our

mission to assist those in need in our community.

Gratefully,
Terri Boesch
Executive Director

December 24, 2015

Dear Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church Women,

Thank you for your support of Home & Hope! Your gift of a check written on 12/15/2015 was received on 12/24/2015. Your contributions will allow us to provide homeless families with not only food and shelter, but with hope and stability as we partner with them to overcome devastating circumstances.

Just last year, 71.8% of our sheltered homeless families transitioned into housing and 67% increased their income. Your kindness will have a lasting impact as parents overcoming tremendous odds build safe, nurturing futures for their children. The personal care provided to our families by community members like you sets our services apart.

On behalf of the families we serve, as well as the clergy, staff and board of directors of HOME & HOPE, please accept my sincere gratitude for your care and support.

Warmest wishes,
Meg Clark
Executive Director

P.S. Thank you for all you do for Home & Hope. Happy Holidays!

December 31, 2015

Dear Ladies,

Thank you for the recent generous donation to CALL Primrose. We are so thankful to receive your Thankoffering. We are so very appreciative of your support which allows us to continue our mission to assist those in need in our community.

Gratefully,
Terri Boesch, Executive Director

January 8, 2016

Dear Hope Friends,

Many thanks for the cards and get well messages of cheer and encouragement while I was recovering from knee surgery. Also, thanks to Pastor Paul who visited me in the hospital. It meant so much to be remembered and made my recovery much more tolerable to know I was surrounded by many prayers and caring thoughts.

Sincerely,
Dolores Roscoe

January 14, 2016

Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

Please accept our warmest thanks for your gifts to Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. Your investment will be put to work immediately as we work to build a hunger-free community.

Only with your support are we able to provide the equivalent of nearly 142,500 meals per day to hungry neighbors - thank you! **These meals are truly a gift for local families struggling to maintain any holiday spirit in the face of hunger.**

Like countless other parents, the spiraling cost of housing left Yanet desperately trying to feed her family: *"Once when there wasn't enough money to buy groceries I had to cut an apple into four slices. Each of my kids received one slice to hold them over between breakfast and dinner."*

But thanks to supporters like you, Yanet now receives monthly groceries through the Food Bank's Family Harvest Program and no longer has worry about how to keep her family healthy and happy.

She recently shared, *"I'm so grateful that my kids have food to eat. We have big dreams for their future and the healthy food we get from the Food Bank makes all that possible."*

Thank you for taking action to show that you care for her family. You're making a difference for local families this holiday, and sharing the season of celebration, hope, and happiness.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Jackson, CEO



Spark Time Sunday School in February

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 7	The Transfiguration	Luke 9:28-36
February 14	Tempted	Luke 4:1-13
February 21	God's Promises to Abram	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
February 28	Parable of the Fig Tree	Luke 13:1-9

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
2/7	Don Hermansen	Sandi Kane Karen Reed	Doris Childs	Sandi Kane Heather Hoover
2/14	Bill Kannenberg	Jerry Milner Carole Setzer	Kirsten Severson	Judy Jeschke Kailen Sallander
2/21	Jerilyn Struven	Don Hermansen Kirsten Severson	Pat Duvall	Hank Harper Ken Struven
2/28	Kirsten Severson	Tom & Deb Stucke	Don Hermansen	Monika Hastings George Studle