

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,
 I am now in my seventh month here as your Interim Pastor. It has been a pleasure serving this congregation. As a person who has been Lutheran since the day of my Baptism, I have felt very

much at home with the traditions here at Hope regarding worship, music, the importance of the sacraments, the fellowship events, the Bible study groups, and the concern for ministry with children and young people, even though there are not many of them here. The Sanctuary is beautiful and the rest of the facility quite impressive.

Since this is my first go around as an Interim Pastor, I feel that I have had to learn much about that specific role “on the job” so to speak. I have been thankful to have Pastor Paul here as he has done interim ministry for many years. He has offered many helpful insights and has provided me with many resources regarding transitional work as well. I also want to thank the members of the Steering Committee who took their task seriously and did a very good job with respect to completing the necessary congregational profile. I’m sure this will be helpful for the Call Committee when they get started in the near future.

At the same time, I think it might be helpful for me to offer some of my own observations regarding times of transition in congregations in general. Perhaps this will be helpful in our considerations of Hope’s situation as well.

To begin with, I think it is important for the members of any congregation to be fully engaged in their own spiritual growth. The church is a Christian Fellowship and it is called to be in Christian mission. It is easy to fall into the habit of emphasizing the fellowship part, and the mission part forgetting that neither of these things have any particular relevance to our identity, or any spiritual depth if we do not focus in an intentional way on our need to be growing in our faith. No one is born a Christian. No one who is still breathing the air of this world is a fully formed disciple of

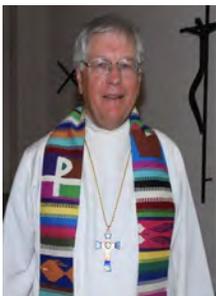
Christ. Another way to look at this is to say that, to be a Christian is to be in the process of being reformed into the image of Christ. We are never done growing into the image of Christ. From a Christian point of view, this is the purpose and meaning of life. God became Christ in order that we might become Christ-like. This is a concrete process that takes place over a lifetime.

When this is happening in an intentional way, our fellowship will look more and more like a fellowship that reflects the values of Christ: compassion, kindness, closeness, openness to one another in our needs and joys, slow to “sweat the small stuff” and get angry over non essentials, and eager to be of service using our particular spiritual gifts which, by the way, includes humility. In short, we grow in our ability to act in love, understanding that no one is going to do so perfectly and that forgiveness is an essential part of any Christian community.

Moreover, our outreach and mission will reflect the same values, and we can add to that creativity and energy. The shape a particular congregation’s ministry takes is dependent on how it can use its particular spiritual gifts, and the concrete assets it has been blessed with to serve the needs of the community in which it lives. Our purpose is not institutional survival. This is the byproduct of a ministry that is connecting to the community in a Christ-like way. My personal opinion is that congregations need to be continually reassessing how they are doing, and how they might do better. In this regard, it is a good idea to have formal discussions with a variety of members for the purpose of allowing our creativity to flow into a variety of concrete goals and ideas. If some group isn’t doing that, then how are we ever going to create a vital and meaningful ministry? In theory, this is the job of committees and the council. However, the problem is that this usually ends up becoming a way to simply keep up the status quo, or the traditions that are already in place. These are great. But we must

Continued on page 2 (bottom left)

Pastor Paul's Notes



On March 1 a group of 20 persons gathered in the Youth Room to view the video, "Being Mortal." It is based on the recent bestselling book, Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End by Dr. Atul Gawande. It provides a journey toward a better understanding of aging, serious illness and what it means to balance prolonging life with treasured, meaningful priorities as life comes to a close. Dr. Gawande confronted his own

"discomfort" in dealing with patients' end of life circumstances because he could not 'cure' the disease. He became acutely aware of the need to change how he practiced medicine. Such a



Photo credit to Maggie K. Timeus

change then focused on listening to people share what matters most to them. Questions everyone can reflect on are: "If your health declines, what does living a good life mean to you?" and "What really matters MOST in your life?" Dr. Gawande calls his renewed learning experience transformative, and it has resulted in frank and open discussion with 'efforts to retain quality of life. You will no doubt hear more about Dr. Gawande as he speaks at the Mills-Peninsula Community Health Dinner & Lecture April 25.

I came across some "Lessons from Centenarians". Here is a sampling:

- "Don't let the sun set on your anger."
 - "Hard times pass by. Hang in there. Things will get better."
 - "Help others less fortunate. Be kind to those who don't have enough to eat."
 - "Be kind, generous and have a positive attitude."
 - "Perseverance.....Doing the daily work."
 - "Your attitude is everything. Your attitude is you."
- LET'S JOIN THEIR RANKS!**

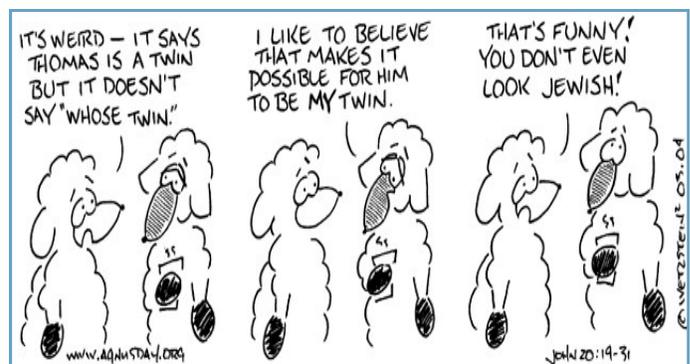
adapt to new situations and what worked in the past is not always the answer.

When we are taking our own spiritual growth seriously enough to take the time and effort this requires, the fellowship and the mission will also grow along with us. How do we do that? To provide guidance on this is one of the most important tasks of the clergy. It needs to be done in relation to all aspects of the Pastor's job. However, each person must also take responsibility for their own spiritual health. I am hoping to deal with this in a focused way through the class on Luther as I have in the Bible study. Moreover, there is much more we could be doing. That is for another conversation.

My heartfelt thanks again to the members of Hope for accepting me as your Interim Pastor. It has been a wonderful experience for me and I look forward to completing my time with you.

Blessings,
Pastor Dan

On Tuesday, April 5, SINGLE SENIORS will board a small bus and drive to San Francisco, first for lunch, and then a guided tour of St. Mary's Cathedral. We will leave church at 11 am and proceed to "Olive Gardens" restaurant at Stonestown, prior to the tour. It is important that we have a confirmed 'count' of who is going. Please sign-up ASAP in Nielsen Hall. There is a \$6 cost for the transportation. If you have questions, please contact Pat Duvall or Pastor Paul.



from our Choirs Director



CHRISTMAS OR EASTER

Both times of the year are hectic, but for the church family, perhaps Easter takes the cake, so to speak, because there are so many more services....mid week

Lent and of course Holy Week.

As you are reading this, we have survived Lent and Easter and we're on our way to our annual Music Sunday when we feature our choirs and Douglas' fantastic fingers. Following our fabulous musical treats, we're headed to a summer break from rehearsals and scheduled music. That's when we'll be getting back to you with opportunities for you to contribute to our summer music program. Start planning now for your special contributions, and we'll be glad to schedule you for the Sunday of your availability during the summer.

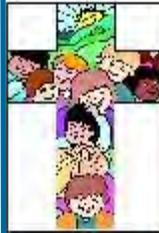
Thank you for your support this year.

Shirley Fitzgerald
Choirs Director

A note from the Financial Secretary...

It was decided during the January Council meeting that we only need to send financial statements out bi-annually rather than quarterly as has been the current practice, thus saving postage for two mailings. The statements will now be sent in July and at year-end. However, if anyone would like an interim statement at any time, please contact me and I will be happy to provide one.

Preschool Corner



Our Spring Sing was lovely and we could not be prouder of our little ones. Music makes everyone happy and such an important part of all our lives.

April will have lots of fun:

Crazy hair Day

Sports Day

Silly Dress Day

Special events where the children can be silly and expressive.

We are looking forward to our annual Family Night. It is our way of saying thank you to all the families at the preschool for their love and support.

Happy Spring and Blessings,
Jeanne



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



We Can Be Matthew
25:35

*"For I was hungry and
you fed me.*

*I was thirsty and you gave me drink.
I was a stranger, and you invited me
in."*

Many of us desire to experience and understand the relevance of the Gospel in the context of our modern, daily lives. During the week of April 17-23, 2016 we have yet another opportunity to live the Gospel right here at Hope as we welcome our Home and Hope guests – up to five homeless families from San Mateo County.

Our guests arrive about 6pm for dinner, fellowship, respite, and overnight shelter in our Sunday School rooms. They awake at 6am for breakfast, then leave at 7am for the H&H Day Center in Burlingame, where resources are available to help them be self-sufficient once again. You, as the Family of Hope are the people who make this possible during the week. We need volunteers to be Evening Hosts, Overnighers, and Dinner preparers and servers.

We are at a crossroads with our H&H ministry. Without you as volunteers we cannot sustain our living Gospel here at Hope Lutheran Church. Due to a lack of response to our initial appeal for your commitment to volunteer, we still have not committed our congregation to serve Home and Hope in 2017. Our support congregations, Congregational Church of Belmont and St. Ambrose Episcopal in Foster City, already carry a large portion of our hosting week. Hope needs to step up and cover especially our evenings and overnights if we are to maintain a presence in this program.

Please prayerfully consider the importance of our congregation's ministry with Home and Hope and how you can participate in this living Gospel. Sign up to help as you feel called in April. Then, tell the Social Concerns Committee (Helena Dummier, Kris Brooks, Jerry Brooks) if and how you wish to volunteer into the future so that we have a sense of whether our volunteer base is sufficient to continue this ministry at Hope. We give you our thanks in advance.

Stewardship

Faith Practices in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed

"And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah" (Acts 5:43)

Think about proclaiming the good news. It's easy to envision a pastor in the pulpit on Sunday morning

bringing, the word of God to the gathered people. But through our baptismal covenant, we all are called to proclaim the good news of God in Christ. Not just the pastor; but every one of us. And not just once, or once in a while. We are called to proclaim the good news day after day, never ceasing, just as the disciples did in the passage above.

What does it mean to proclaim the good news of God in Christ? As the church, acting together and as individuals, we have a story to tell. We have the story of God's movement in our lives through the saving actions of Jesus Christ. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus is not simply a story in the Bible. Rather it's the story of our lives and the story of what brings us life. We simply share with others how God is working in our lives. We share the story that shapes our story.

We are living out the story of Christ in us. We are proclaiming the story of God's saving grace in our lives when we:

- Invite others to the church where Christ is proclaimed
- Confess our faith through song and word in worship
- Offer encouragement to a friend and others who are ill or in need
- Show Christ through our daily lives and work, which express thanks to God and care for common good
- Talk about our faith in our homes and with others
- Live prepared to give a reason for the hope within us

Stiches & Ties x x x x x



Handprint Animal
A-B-C Quilt

Recent meetings of Hope Quilters were joyful...Louise came in bearing a bag of donated items almost too large for her to carry.

Very welcome were Jerilyn and Lana, each with an artistic enthusiasm for quilting. Lana Saner, who brings her grandchild to Hope Preschool, showed us her Handprint Animal A-B-C Quilt pictured here. Her original applique pattern is available. Jerilyn Struven is the first council president to come and cut coordinating fabrics for quilt-front kits. She also devised a larger ironing table.

Pastor Dan, Pastor Paul, Shirley and

Annie often join quilters for lunch.

Quilter's second meeting in March will occur on the 5th Tuesday, the 29th, instead of the usual 4th Tuesday.

Please pick up a pre-arranged and easily sewn bundle of fabric pieces and stitch one quilt front.

Many non-sewing tasks are necessary to complete every quilt. There is room for your heart and hands at every meeting of Hope Quilters. Join us soon from 9-3 or any part of the day or just for brown bag lunch. Come a few minutes early so we'll have a chair for you.

SEE YOU SOON!!

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 April

Everett Bootzin*
Kim Schroeder
Elizabeth Dallman
Arthur Schillberg
Krista Wilson
Elaine Dummler
Joan Grimsby
James Schulte
Ima Ekong*

Crystal Dahl
Erin Gaal
Ernest Johnson
Frank Lin
Robert Mendes*
Barbro Sandberg
Wayne Westphal
Barbara Kreslake
Pamela Loo

Bradley Worthge
Bob Way
Richard Ekong
Kaitlyn Blundell
Kris Brooks
Karin Pickard
Calvin Noecker
George Henderson

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

* = Friend of Congregation



Upcoming Events

Martin Luther: Theology and Spirituality



The class will meet on Monday afternoons at 1:00pm in the Youth Room Starting on April 4th. We will look at how Luther's Theology can be used as a catalyst for our spiritual growth and maturation. We will also focus on how Luther can help us properly interpret the Bible, and use the Bible in our devotional and prayer life.

- A) The Life of Luther.
- B) Luther's spiritual conflict.
- C) The 95 Theses: A preliminary resolution
- D) The three early works that started the Reformation. "The Freedom of a Christian", "The Babylonian Captivity of the Church", and "A Letter to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation."
- E) Excommunication, The Peasant War, The Translation of the Bible, Luther marries a Nun "to make the devil cry."
- F) Humanism and Luther's "The Bondage of the Will"
- G) Ana Baptists and the controversy over Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- H) The Professor: Commentary on Galatian's, 1534. "My best book."
- I) The interpretation of Luther today.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

April 3rd: The Prophets

April 10th: Wisdom Literature

April 17th: From the Old to the New Testament

April 24th: The Synoptic Gospels: Matt., Mark, Luke

May 1st: The Gospel of John

May 8th: Paul's Letters

May 15th: NO class, Confirmation Sunday

May 22nd: The General Letters

May 29th: The Book of Revelation

June 5th: (optional) How to interpret the Bible for spiritual growth

Summer Day Camp/VBS

Jointly sponsored by Hope Lutheran Church and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

"Live in love as Christ loved us" - Ephesians 5:1-2

Dates: July 25-29, 2016

More details coming soon!



WHEW!!! TAXES ARE OVER!!!



LET'S CELEBRATE!!



The Evangelism Committee invites YOU and YOUR FRIENDS to a...

HARD TIMES DINNER



**Sunday, April 24 at 5:00 pm
In Nielsen Hall**

Good food, games, award-winning fellowship
All Are Welcome!

Upcoming Events

HLCW Spring Luncheon

Come and Relax
SATURDAY, APRIL 30
12 NOON

SIGN-UP on the Patio before and after Worship:
April 10, 17 or 24
\$12 per guest

ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDED



Celtic Sands will bring a tear to your eye and a bit of dance to your step with their mix of traditional Irish reels & jigs, plaintive Celtic airs and ballads.

Lenten Suppers & Services at Hope & St. Andrews



Photo credit to
Maggie K. Timeus





February 2, 2016

Dear hope Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your support of Home & Hope! Your gift of a check was received on 1/19/16. 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.

Our families have found caring people who help them realize that they are not alone. They are thriving with the support of case management, learning about programs that can help them on their journey to self-sufficiency. Home & Hope fills the void, creating a family of support by building relationships with them based on kindness and trust. They are able to settle their families are happily in places of their own because of the support that Home & Hope was able to offer and the fortitude of their spirit bolstered by the encouragement of people like you. Just last year, 71.8% of our sheltered homeless families transitioned into housing and 67% increased their income.

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.

Wishing you the best,
Meg Clark, Executive Director of HOME & HOPE

February 5, 2016

Dear Pastor,

Thank you! We received your gift to help make disciples and transform urban communities across America.

Because of your support, the communities where we serve can become a beacon of hope in the city. Los Angeles Christian School principal Sara Marroquin had to face a tough situation when she chose to keep LACS's doors open after a bomb threat was made on the Los Angeles School District. She wrote, *"Opening in prayer is not unusual for our students, but that morning's prayers were profound as they prayed for safety and could experience shelter in a God that is not shaken or moved ... I could hear parents praying in unison strong, bold prayers for the safety of the students, but it did not stop there. They prayed for the neighborhood as well as for the students and faculty that attend our local public schools ... This day reaffirmed that our small inner-city school was called to*

stand firm and bring hope to our community."

God is using World Impact staff and the prayers of His people to continue to shine light into what could be dark places and situations. Thank you for being a part of that transformative light.

Thank you again for your continued prayers and financial support!

Blessings,
Efrem Smith
President of World Impact

Thank you so much for the wonderful well wishes for the birth of our daughter, Zabrina Louise Mesa, born January 21, 2016! We are all doing well, and Mackenzie is thoroughly enjoying being a big sister!

God bless,
The Mesa's
(Joella, Kevin, Mackenzie, Zabrina)

February 5, 2016

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,

"What has come into being in the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people."

*The Nativity of Our Lord,
John 1:3b-4 (NRSV, Emended)*

Thank you for your recent gift to Lutheran Disaster Response. Your Faithful support makes a difference for families and communities in need of food and water, housing and health care, safety and security.

Your gifts make it possible for Lutheran Disaster Response to work with churches and companions to respond in times of greatest need, both immediately and for as long as it takes to rebuild, reclaim and recover.

Together we are doing what none of us can do alone. As the ELCA, we are accompanying, providing and encouraging — bringing help, hope and healing.

Thank you for responding in faith this holy season to Christ, the light and life of all people.

In Christ's service,
The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal



Spark Time Sunday School in April

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
April 3	Doubting Thomas	John 20:19-31
April 10	Saul to Paul	Acts 9:1-20
April 17	Peter and Tabitha	Acts 9:36-43
April 24	Peter's Dream	Acts 11:1-18

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
4/3	Don Hermansen	Tom & Deb Stucke	Kirsten Severson	Deb Stucke Rachael Stucke
4/10	Bill Kannenberg	Don Hermansen Sandi Kane	George Amarandos	Monika Hastings George Studle
4/17	Kirsten Severson	Jerry Brooks Marlys Jungroth	Bill Kannenberg	Jessica Stucke Emma Worthge
4/24	Skip Dahl	Bill & Margo Kannenberg	Sandi Kane	Hank Harper Ken Struven

~ April 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Mar. 27 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 8:30am Easter Worship Service 10:30am Easter Worship Service * = <i>Outside</i> <i>Organization</i>	28 9:30am Aerobics 7:30pm AA*	29	30 9:30am Aerobics	31	1 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	2 7:30am Men's Breakfast
3 10am Worship 11am Café Hope 11:30am Adult Bible Study 12:30pm Confirmation Class	4 9:30am Aerobics 1pm Martin Luther Class 7:30pm AA*	5 12pm Staff Meeting 12:30pm Single Seniors	6 9:30am Aerobics 3:45pm Preschool Board Meeting 6:45pm Bells 7:45pm Choir	7 7pm Evangelism Committee	8 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	9
10 10am Worship 11am Café Hope 11:30am Adult Bible Study	11 9:30am Aerobics 10am Women's Bible Study Leaders 1pm Martin Luther Class 7:30pm AA*	12 9am Quilters	13 9:30am Aerobics 2pm Worship Committee Mtg. 6:45pm Bells 7:45pm Choir	14 7pm Council Meeting	15 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	16 7:30am Men's Breakfast
17 <i>Home & Hope</i> 10am Worship 11am Café Hope 11:30am Adult Bible Study 12:30pm Confirmation Class 1pm Estonian Church*	18 <i>Home & Hope</i> 9:30am Aerobics 1pm Martin Luther Class 7pm Education Committee 7:30pm AA*	19 <i>Home & Hope</i> 9:30am Priscilla Circle 10am Mary Cir. 10am Sarah Circle 11am Preschool Chapel 12pm Staff Mtg. 3pm Preschool Chapel	20 <i>Home & Hope</i> 9:30am Aerobics 6:45pm Bells 7:45pm Choir	21 <i>Home & Hope</i> 12:30pm Single Seniors	22 <i>Home & Hope</i> 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	23 <i>Home & Hope</i>
24 10am Worship 11am Café Hope 11:30am Adult Bible Study 5pm Hard Times Dinner	25 9:30am Aerobics 1pm Martin Luther Class 7:30pm AA*	26 9am Quilters	27 9:30am Aerobics 6:45pm Bells 7:45pm Choir	28	29 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	30 12pm Women's Spring Luncheon