

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 in Christ,
 Sunday, May 15th is Pentecost Sunday. On that day in the year 30 A.D. (probably), the Holy Spirit entered the lives of Jesus’ disciples. (Acts 2). The immediate result was an ability on their part to proclaim the Gospel in many

languages. This enabled many Jewish pilgrims-- in Jerusalem to celebrate their own festival-- to hear the good news that God had acted through his Son Jesus Christ, and that because of this, salvation was now a done deal. Another way of putting this—one that would have been important for them to hear—is that we have been made righteous in the sight of God by what God had done in Jesus. Our reconciliation with God happened because of what he did. There is nothing left to do in this regard. His suffering and death eliminated the old alienated, lost, and broken self—the one we try to straighten out through our own efforts to become better people in the eyes of God—and by his resurrection, a new self, capable of demonstrating all the spiritual virtues, especially love, rose in its place. Thus, in the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are made righteous—or, what is perhaps more familiar to Lutherans, we are justified.

But how does this message of being made righteous through the gift of Jesus become an effective means of change and transformation for me, and for you, and for anyone who hears it? How does this message become “the way” (an early label for the Christian faith) through which we are healed of our shame and guilt, through which we are brought closer to God, and through which we become people who live the spiritual virtues of faith, hope, and love? In a word: Pentecost. God the Father created us in love. God the Son saved us from sin and death in love. God the Holy Spirit pours that love into our hearts. It

is God’s love that makes us new people. It is God’s love that frees us from guilt and shame over the sins we have committed. It is God’s love that heals our broken hearts. And it is God’s love that gives us eternal life.

Pentecost is the story of how God’s love became the power of new life in us. Externally, we hear of God’s love in the story of Jesus. We hear (and read if we wish) stories of how that love healed people and made them whole. We hear stories of how that love overpowered evil and freed people from powers of self-destruction. We hear stories of how that love fed the hungry masses with five loaves and two fish. We even hear stories of how that love calmed storms and thereby saved people from a natural disaster. And, we hear stories of how we too can demonstrate the power of love (The Good Samaritan). All of this is external. It comes to us through the message of the Gospel which we either read or hear. It also comes to us externally through the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. These are, as St. Augustine said, “external signs” of God’s gift of grace. How the external word of God, and the signs of God’s grace in the sacraments—how these things become an internal source of renewal and new life is the story of Pentecost.

When the disciples received the gift of the Spirit, all that they had learned and been witness to was sealed in their hearts. It became a truth that was true for them. The message of salvation was now in the process of being fulfilled. The Kingdom of God that Jesus said had “...come near,” was now growing in their hearts. The promises of Jesus: promises such as forgiveness, peace, love, hope, and eternal life: the blessings of God’s Kingdom, were now becoming real for them. The Kingdom is not something we just wait for: something that comes only upon Jesus’ return. It begins now—in the power of the Spirit—as the prophet Joel, who Peter referenced in his

Continued on the bottom of p.2

From our Council President



The Time is Now!

The Steering Committee has finished our site profile and is submitting it the Synod for review and approval. Hope is ready for the next step in our congregational life - electing a Call Committee. We need your help - to serve and support.

Call Committee Elections

Semi-Annual Meeting
Sunday, June 12, 2016

The Call Committee is responsible for arranging and conducting interviews of candidates recommended by the Bishop. When the Call Committee identifies a suitable candidate, they notify the Church Council and arrange for a Congregational Meeting to vote on extending a call. Of course, that is a very simplified version of the process. The process requires a lot of thought, support from the Congregation, and prayer.

Hope is looking for dedicated members to serve on this important committee. Please submit a short biography (one or two paragraphs) that describes you and states why you would like to serve on the Call Committee. You can email them to anniehelc@pacbell.net or bring a copy to the office (by May 23rd).

It is vital that as many members attend the Semi-Annual Meeting. Of course, we need a quorum of 50 members to be able to elect the Call Committee (and the council). Our Constitution states that 'voting by proxy shall not be permitted'. Hope's future starts now and the support of all the members is essential.

Jerilyn Struven
Council President

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

Continuation from p. 1

Pentecost sermon said. And it grows like a mustard seed, starting out small, but becoming the largest plant in the field upon Jesus' return.

You have been graced with this same Spirit. The Holy Spirit nurtures and grows the seeds of God's word and promises in our hearts as we receive them in faith, and thereby fulfills those promises in us over time, as we mature in faith. Moreover, as it did for the disciples, the Holy Spirit enables us to become witnesses to the Gospel in what we say and do. This is what it means to be a church. It is a group of people who have been taken up into the love of God by the Spirit; people who have been thereby enabled to love one another; and people who therefore create ministries to bear witness to that love in their communities and in the world. This is what we celebrate on Pentecost Sunday. Actually, this is something we really ought to celebrate every day in our prayers, in our devotions, and in our faith and love for God.

Blessings, Grace, and Peace,
Pastor Dan

Pastor Paul's Notes



Many people gathered on Saturday, April 16, to celebrate the life of Marj Hroziencik. We want to remember Bill and his family and uphold them in prayer during this time. The verses of "Borning Cry" are still

ringing in my ears, from the solo sung by Judy Whitmer who joined us from her home in San Diego.

"I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold. I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun. I'll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise."

May the faith Marj evidenced during her life be ours as well!

"Single Seniors" had a great trip to St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco last month. We had a bus load of 18 people along with several from St. Andrew's and Holy Trinity. (see pictures below)

SS will have an outing on Tuesday, May 3. The plan is to visit Filoli Gardens in Woodside, both for lunch and then to enjoy the grounds. Car pool earlier, leave church at 11:30 am. The group will also have a lunch outing on Thursday, May 19; the restaurant yet to be decided. Suggestions? Information will be given in Sunday bulletins.

The Stanford Episcopal-Lutheran Ascension Day service of worship will be on Thursday, May 5, 7:30 pm at Memorial Church on the Stanford campus. This year the preacher will be the former Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Pastor Mark Hanson. A combined choir from Peninsula churches will provide special music.

Two brief news items: 1) The ELCA's magazine, "The Lutheran," has a new name. It is "LIVING LUTHERAN", with an accompanying website, LivingLutheran.org. The new name signifies a living, daring confidence in God's grace and will continue to offer stories, reflections and news that illuminate Christ's presence in the world. You may visit LivingLutheran for a past issue to read online. 2) University Lutheran Church, at Stanford, will be celebrating "Unilu's First 50 years" on Saturday evening, May 14. It will consist of dinner, memory sharing, music and fellowship, taking place on the UniLu Green at 1611 Stanford Ave., Palo Alto. To attend, please contact Pastor Greg Schaefer at Pastor@UniLu.Church.

May you feel the hope and joy of new beginnings this Easter season!

Photo credit to Maggie K. Timeus





Spark Time Sunday School in May

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
May 1	Lydia	Acts 16:9-15
May 8	Paul and Silas	Acts 16:16-40
May 15	The Holy Spirit	Acts 2:1-4, 36-42
May 22	Praise God	Psalm 8
May 29	TBA	TBA

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
5/1	Mary Phillips	Phil & Marilyn Gaal	Don Hermansen	Sandi Kane Heather Hoover
5/8	Jack Coyne	Bob & Ruth Lillo	Sandi Kane	Judy Jeschke Kailen Sallander
5/15	Sandi Kane	David & Mary Phillips	Heidi Waters	Deb Stucke Rachael Stucke
5/22	Jerilyn Struven	Carole Setzer Kirsten Severson	Jack Coyne	Monika Hastings George Stdule
5/29	Skip Dahl	Tom & Deb Stucke	Lois Nieman	Jessica Stucke Emma Worthge

Congratulations!



Congratulations to our First Communicates:

Noah Lin, Niels Voss and Soren Voss

*Who received Holy Communion on
March 24, 2016*



Celebrating birthdays in May

Philip Gaal
Lana Saner
Mackenzie Mesa*
Erica Lin
Nikolaus Grimsby
Leroy Rockafellar
Barbara Blundell
Jerry Nabhan
Kailen Sallander
Ruben Cleven

Ruth Lillo
Bryan Rianda
Niels Voss
Lois Kornahrens
Claire Owens
John Truscelli
Doug Kannenberg
Edem Ekong
Julie McAuliffe
Gisela Han

Kai-Erik Schroeder
Louise Fischer
Lois Florea
Warren Struven
David Schoch
Ian Colgan
Marlys Jungroth
Lisa Green
Rosemarie Nickel
Trudy Gamborg

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

* = Friend of Congregation



Upcoming Events

Martin Luther: Theology and Spirituality



The class meets on Monday afternoons at 1:00 pm in the Youth Room. We look at how Luther's Theology can be used as a catalyst for our spiritual growth and maturation. We 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

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

Stanford Episcopal-Lutheran Ascension Day Service

Christ is risen! In keeping with tradition, the Lutheran and Episcopal congregations of the Peninsula will celebrate the Ascension together with the Episcopal Lutheran Campus Ministry at Stanford on May 5th at 7:30pm in Stanford's Memorial Church! This year, former Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Pastor Mark Hanson, recognized as one of the finest preachers in the ELCA, will be preaching, and the combined choirs of churches from around the Peninsula will be singing. All are welcome! Please contact the Rev. Andy Shame! revandy@stanford.edu with any questions!



Confirmation Sunday, May 15, 2016

Congratulations to our Confirmands:
 Alex and Owen Hoover



Music Sunday

June 5, 2016

Join us for Worship



Music Sunday as we know it, is the last Sunday with Choral music before their summer break. You won't want to miss this.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 12, 2016

After Worship

Election of Church Officers
Election of Call Committee

University Lutheran Church (Palo Alto) - May 14th and 15th

This May, University Lutheran Church will be celebrating "UniLu's First 50 Years!" and they invite you to join them! On Saturday evening, May 14th, there will be a Gala Celebration—dinner, memory sharing, music, and fellowship - on the UniLu Green at 1611 Stanford Ave. in Palo Alto. Hope that all of you who have had any connection to or interest in UniLu will join them for this celebration! Childcare will be provided. For more information, including to reserve tickets (\$30 –note that this is not a fundraiser), please contact Pastor Greg Schaefer at Pastor@UniLu.Church.

Join us for Vacation Bible School!!

Monday July 25—Friday July 29, 2016

Who: Pre-School (Age 4+) to 6th Grade

Where: Hope Lutheran Church,
600 W. 42nd Avenue, San Mateo CA 94403

Schedule:

Monday—Thursday 9am-3pm*

Friday 9am-Noon.

Thursday evening 6:30-8pm Kids Program and
Ice Cream Social

**Preschool and Kindergarten participants can
choose to attend 9am-Noon each day*

Cost:

Full Day (9am-3pm) \$80/week for first child,
\$50 for additional siblings

Half Day (9am-Noon) \$50/week

Financial Assistance available upon request

To Register:

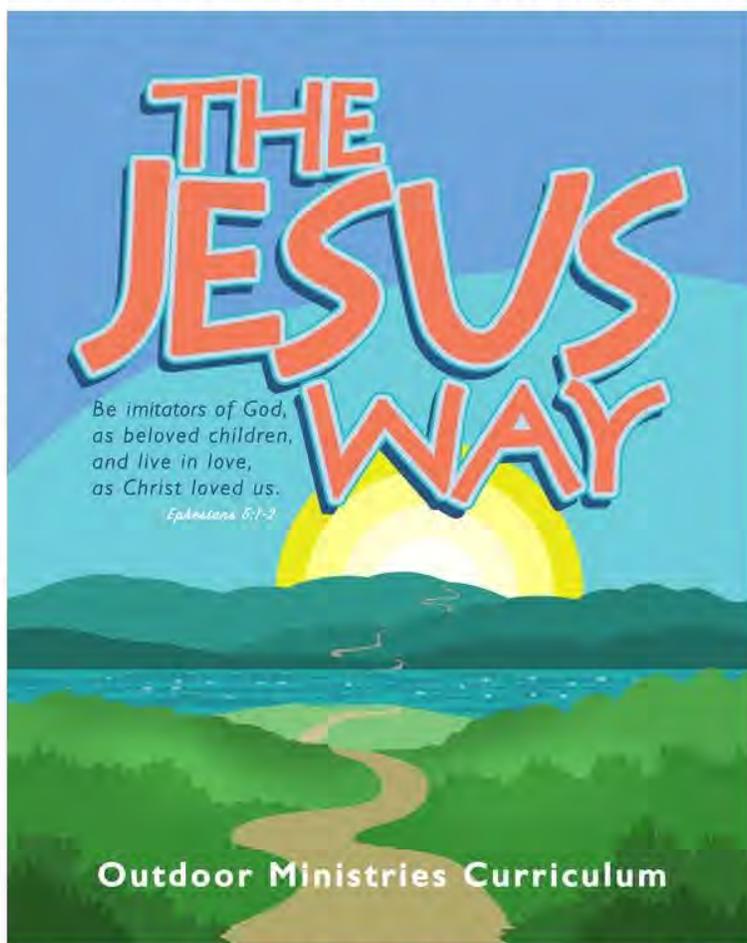
Complete a Registration and Camper Health
form and return these with your payment to:

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

*Please note VBS and the camper's name on the
memo line of your check.*

**Registration and Health Forms are
now available in the Narthex and
church office!!**

**Hope Lutheran Church &
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church present:**



*We need volunteers to make this an awesome week for our
children! Contact Judy Jeschke*

Adult Volunteers

- Overnight Host to house
2 Mt. Cross Staff
- Dinner Hosts (Sunday-
Thursday evening)

High School / Young Adult

At camp staff to assist as:
youth counselors, check-in/
check-out, arts & crafts,
snack prep, and photography.

Our Easter Celebration

Photo credit to
Kenneth Struven



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

Quilters have stacks of backs, bolts of batting and fabulous fronts as well as able assemblers and several stitchers.

Needed are additional square-knotters to put the finishing touch on unique pieced quilts. As the knotters tie, they may visit, take a break and enjoy morning and lunchtime treats.

Is there a more pleasant volunteer function??

Of course quilting volunteers are welcome to do any task on the assembly line of over 100 quilts completed and given away annually.

Bundles of cut and arranged fabrics are always available for stitching. Pick up a few from Nielsen Hall soon.



With your help Hope's quilts can warm even more hearts and homes.

In advance, THANK YOU!

Preschool Corner



Well here it is the final weeks of preschool and we truly had a fun and exciting year. The children are a delight to us and we are very proud of their progress. I have finished assessments of our transitional kindergarten students and they are well on their way to success in kindergarten.

The preschool will host Family Night on May 4th with the Happy Birds performing. This is our way of thanking the families for being part of the preschool. Summer Birthday's will be celebrated May 26th and June 1st. An ice cream party for all!!! Our plans for our graduates will be the annual pizza bowling day. Formal graduation will be Tuesday June 7th.

Although school will be out, I will stay close to assist new families who may be looking to enroll their children.

Happy summer!!
Blessings, Jeanne



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



Stewardship

Faith Practices in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Serve all people following the example of Jesus

“For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

Serving is at the heart of Jesus’ ministry. Making the connection between Jesus feeding the five thousand and setting up a food pantry is easy. God serves others through us. Jesus calls us to be more than good waitstaff. The ministry of feeding is commendable, but there is more to serving.

To follow the example of Jesus and serve all people requires us to get involved in the lives of others. Jesus valued relationships. Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman, making time for children or comforting his friends Martha and Mary serves as a blueprint for moving us beyond projects and anonymous charitable activities to relationships.

Following the life of Jesus leads us into the mess of life where lives are transformed and Christ is made known. Serving as Jesus serves brings us closer to Jesus, the one who did not come to be served but to serve.

As we serve following the example of Jesus Christ, we can:

- Visit the sick and the imprisoned
- Feed the hungry
- Respond to disasters
- Walk alongside others
- Give of our resources



Why Go To Church

If you’re spiritually alive you’re going to love this!

If you’re spiritually dead, you won’t want to read it. If you’re spiritually curious, there is still hope!

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper & complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. “I’ve gone for 30 years now”, he wrote, “& in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can’t remember a single one of them. So I think I’m wasting my time and the preachers & priests are wasting theirs by giving sermon at all”.

This started a real controversy in the “Letters to the Editor” column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

“I’ve been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me & gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.”

“Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!”

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical & our spiritual nourishment! If YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL! B. I. B. L. E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!

Courtesy of Marlys Jungroth



February 11, 2016

Dear Pastor,

Because of you and Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, local people struggling with homelessness, hunger, and poverty will be able to get the

food, shelter and care they need to survive. On behalf of the board and staff of Samaritan House, I'd like to personally thank you for the Church's gift.

Thousands of people across San Mateo County come to us each year because they don't know how they are going to feed their families, pay rent, or, sometimes, where they are going to sleep.

Contributions from you and others in the community enable Samaritan House to bring a new level of hope, dignity, and empowerment to people living in poverty as fulfill their immediate needs and guide them toward self-reliance. Though efforts like our financial Empowerments Program, we are giving our clients the tools they need to build a more promising future for themselves and their children.

Since 1974, recognized as a role model in the community, Samaritan House has grown to be the largest nonprofit food distribution agency in the county. Other free services include shelter and housing assistance; medical and dental clinics; children's services; personalized case management and much more.

We're grateful for your support to fulfill our mission to mobilize all available resources and work hand in hand to break the cycle of poverty— thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Bart A. Charlow, LMFT
Chief Executive Officer

March 18, 2016

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,

Thank you so very much for your recent generous donation to us and the ministry here in Los Angeles. We feel so humbled and encouraged by Hope Church, which is so dear to our hearts. Thank you so very much again. We pray the body is doing well and the Lord continues to bless you and draw you close to Him.

Love,
Joseph & Michelle Butlig

April 11, 2016

Thank you to all the kind people who sent cards & prayers for me during my recent fall. I'm back walking—presently with a walker—and talking with a new hair due in case you don't recognize me. Plan to be back at par soon.

Sincerely,
Jerry Milner

April 13, 2016

Dear Rev. Severson and Members of Hope Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous and thoughtful donation for the work of the San Francisco Night Ministry. Your partnership with us provides care, support and encouragement to those who come to us in the middle of the night.

Night Ministry continues to be an effective agent of healing and hope for many people in the San Francisco Bay Area. Last year, our Crisis Line Counselors received over 6,800 calls and Night Ministers were engaged in over 22,000 significant conversations on the streets of San Francisco. In addition, 150 people gather each week at our Open Cathedrals in the Civic Center and Mission neighborhoods, for spiritual reflection, prayer, and lunch, followed by the same crisis intervention, counseling and referral service we provide at night.

As we continue into the New Year, please remember us in your prayers, and know that we are truly grateful to you for your support.

May God's peace be with you,
The Rev. Lyle J. Beckman
Night Minister

April 19, 2016

A HUGE thank you to George Studle and Kailen Sallander, who have served as a Spark Leaders for a long time and are now retiring! Thank you for helping us pass on the faith!

Sincerely,
Hope Lutheran Church Staff

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

Address Service Requested

May 2016

Voice of Hope Deadline for June 2016 edition: Wednesday, May 18



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