

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,

First, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Sunday morning survey of the Bible class, and the Monday afternoon class on Luther. Both classes will end on the first week of June.

(Actually, the Bible study ends the last week of May since I will be attending the synod assembly on June 5TH) However, summer doesn't have to mean no more Bible study until the Fall. There is no down time for scripture.

The need for biblical literacy is more necessary now than ever before for the simple reason that those who are intimidated by spirituality (because it promotes a "fairy tale" understanding of life) are selling the public a bill of goods. While I can understand the struggle some of them have had in trying to free themselves from a naïve, fundamentalist past, nevertheless, an inability to figure out that scriptural texts mean something other than what they think is not so excusable. In fact, the message of the Bible has zoomed over their heads without their even being aware of it. Moreover, popular science writers such as Bill Nye who promote what an NYU philosopher called "scientificalism" (the view that only science knows "the truth") need to be called on their ignorance of subjects about which they know virtually nothing. It seems to me that the church, which is us, needs to address these issues in order to fulfill our mission to invite people into healthy and life-giving spiritual lives. (If you are interested in more on this, see an article in the May 15th San Francisco Chronicle by John Davidson who, at 74, describes how he finally "came out" as a person who is convinced that the Bible contains nothing but "myths" and laws that nobody could possibly accept)

Since the Bible study we had was a general survey of the biblical literature, with the exception of Genesis and Exodus where we went into some detail, perhaps it would be preferable to look at one gospel, or one letter. In any case, if you are interested, watch the announcements.

We are now in the long season of "the Sundays after Pentecost", year C. This means that on Sunday mornings, the gospel texts will focus on Jesus' Galilean ministry as described by Luke. The text could be a parable, a story describing a healing or an exorcism, or it might focus on a controversy of some sort where Jesus' behavior looks lawless to his contemporaries. All of these stories are meant to say something significant about what Jesus means by "The kingdom of God." This concept is often misunderstood as a reference to something that is only in the future. While it's true that the kingdom of God is only fully established at the end of time, nevertheless, it is also a realm of influence that comes into our lives through faith in the present. When the Spirit of God's creative love and life enters our lives through faith in Christ's redemptive presence, our hearts and minds, over time, change in ways they would not otherwise. These changes are described and demonstrated in Jesus' ministry.

For example, one of my favorite stories in Luke is the parable of the "prodigal son." The parable illustrates the fact that the presence of God's Kingdom offers us a way back to God no matter how lost we may have become. Sometimes we make bad choices. And these choices can lead us down a path that results in unintended consequences, such as those suffered by the son who spent all his money on "loose living." How do we get back on track when we encounter such dead ends? Are we stuck? Have we made our bed, and now we simply have to live in it? God's kingdom offers us a way back. It's called "forgiveness." Forgiveness is a process whereby we can experience healing for ourselves, for our relationships, and for others. It is a way to restore that which is broken so that we can learn from our mistakes rather than die in them.

This is just one example of many life-giving messages that are recorded in Luke's version of Jesus' ministry. I look forward to sharing them with you throughout the summer.

Blessings, Grace, and Peace,
 Pastor Dan

Pastor Paul's Notes



Iwant to encourage your "active participation" in the Annual Meeting coming up on Sunday, June 12. During this interim time the matter of discerning God's call to specific ministry challenges is the task at hand. From an Augsburg publication, OUR MISSION, is this description:

"The church does not exist to serve itself but rather to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ. Consequently, every congregation needs to pause periodically, to remember the mission mandate given by Christ, and to concretely discern how it is being called by God to live out this mission mandate."

At the annual meeting the Steering Committee will present its work in developing the congregational "profile" and you will elect a Call Committee. Your input, involvement and support are most important as this process goes forward.

We were saddened by the death of Bob Myrdal on May 8. The memorial service will take place at Hope on Saturday, June 11, at 1 pm. Bob had been a faith-

ful church member and a self-less care-giver for Sue in recent years, as he kept up with friendships and took part in many activities including church services. Over the years in visiting with him and Sue, he was always so gracious and thankful for bringing communion and spiritual emphases. The family had been members at Hope from the mid 60's with then an interval in Washington, and then back again in the mid 70's. We extend our love and support to the family: Sue and daughters, Mary Beth Shimmon and Nancy Carroll and their families.

Ernie Johnson underwent a heart valve replacement in early April and now is recovering with various therapy. Since his nephew has been a primary care-attendant for him and lives in San Ramon, Ernie is moving on a trial basis to "assisted living" in San Ramon.

"Single Seniors" will have lunch outings during the summer months but not the usual events or programs on the first Tuesday. The next lunch outing will be on Thursday, June 16. Stay tuned to Sunday bulletins for the place and kindly sign-up in Nielsen Hall.

From our Council President



The time is now! I would like to thank our Steering Committee - George Amarandos, Jerry Brooks, Helena Dummler, Lyle Johnson, Karen Reed and Deb Stucke (and Pastor Dan for his guidance) - for all their hard work in preparing Hope's new profile. We are blessed by their service.

On June 12th, at our Semi-Annual Meeting, we will elect our church leaders and our Call Committee. Your participation in this election is vital. The selection of a new council and Call Committee will help determine the future Hope Lutheran Church. Our new church profile has clarified the ministry of what Hope is all about, and with that information, the Call Committee will be able to select the pastor that will fit Hope's needs. We are setting our priorities and prayerfully making decisions towards our future. We must be open to God's vision for Hope. Hope should be thankful and full of joy that members of this congregation are willing to serve.

God's generous goodness comes to us new everyday. We all have many things in life to be thankful for and things that bring us joy. Every evening, on a small piece of paper, write down these thank yous and joys then place these thoughts in a jar - a joy jar. These could be personal joys and/or Hope joys. Pray a prayer of thanks and joy each evening. Then at Thanksgiving, open the jar and read your joys. We will all be amazed at how much we have to be thankful for both here at Hope and in our personal lives.

Lord our God, pour your love into our hearts, that overflowing with joy, we may freely share your blessings. Our future is not yet known. Help us use your blessings to see which way we should go, and whom you will send to us a pastor. Your presence is very much needed. Help the members of Hope to look for the Light of your Son, Jesus the Christ, that the Way may become clear, and your will may be done. Amen.

Jerilyn Struven
Council President

from our Choirs Director



Summer Music

The choirs will be taking a well deserved rest during the summer, and we will have the pleasure of having "special music" during their sabbatical. This is a time for people who don't have the opportunity to be involved at other times, to gift us with your talent. Singers, instrumentalists, and other special talents are welcome and urged to sign up. Solos duets, small ensembles are all welcome. There will be sign up sheets just outside the choir room door, and on a table in Nielsen Hall. The sign up sheets will be up the first week in June, but you can always call or email me with the date you'd like to participate. Accompaniment can be provided.

Social Concerns



Social Concerns Committee happenings Our recent Mother's Day In-gathering for CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse) was met with a great response from the congregation. The Quilters donated 11 quilts, and there were many boxes of diapers and socks, as well as an infant rocker, that we sent to families in need. Thank you for your generosity!

Many thanks also to our wonderful volunteers for Home and Hope in April: set-up and clean-up crew, laundry angels, cooks, and hosts. We now take a well-deserved hiatus from hosting through the summer. Our next hosting is the week of September 18th.

We are excited to announce that we are in the process of identifying an ELCA missionary for whom to provide sponsorship. Our previous missionary, Pastor Arden Strasser, returned from Zambia in 2014, and this is the first time we are participating in Global Ministries since then. Watch for more information about our new missionary and how you can help soon.

Hope also provides substantial support to ELCA World Hunger annually. In addition, there are many things that we as individuals can do to increase awareness of hunger issues and combat hunger. Look for inserts in the Sunday bulletins about World Hunger programs.

Please sign up and/or contact me.

Special music doesn't mean just solos or magnificent voices or skilled instrumentalists. We need duets, trios, quartets, ensembles, and so on. We are few in numbers, but we are mighty in commitment, willingness, and variety of talents. Bells, it would be awesome to have a bell ensemble or even a bell solo.

Don't wait for me to "pick" people. Get together and form your own groups. I am willing to help anyone find music to do, and of course I know you have other resources as well. Let's make this a summer of creativity and joyful noise!

Shirley Fitzgerald
Choirs Director



CALL Primrose needs your help!! Summer can be a difficult time for many local, low income families who rely on school lunch programs to feed their children. CALL Primrose, an emergency aid and referral Center in downtown Burlingame, is reaching out to families within the community who need help filling this void. Last summer, CALL provided more than 2500 extra bags of groceries and snacks to children in need within our community.

Please consider helping CALL help others by:

- Donating non-perishable items like Peanut butter, Soup and Mac-n-cheese
- Donating excess produce from your yard or from trees in the neighborhood
- Making a Tax Deductible, Financial Donation to support our "Kids Helping Kids" summer lunch program

The ongoing support of our generous community is greatly appreciated - Thank you.

For more information or to donate on line, please visit our website: www.CALLPrimrose.org, or call (650) 342-2255
CALL Primrose, 139 Primrose Rd, Burlingame, Open M-F, 9am-2:45pm

Stewardship

Faith Practices in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Strive for justice and peace in all the earth

"And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8b)

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9).

"Along with all citizens, Christians and others have the responsibility to defend human rights and to work for freedom, justice, peace, environmental well being and good order." (ELCA Social Statement, "The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective," 1991, page 5)

We celebrate the abundant blessing that are a part of this world. But we also walk in the struggle of human existence where we face our own sin, our self-centeredness, and the collective sin of human institutions, for example, the church, governments, the nations. In this struggle however, we meet the suffering God who bears the sins of the world and sends us out, as ones who are joined in the crucified Christ and in his solidarity with the pain of the world. As believers in Christ we are called to be about the work of justice in our personal and public life. We recognize that God's justice is something deeper and purer than our own best understanding of Justice. And yet, we are called to love our neighbor as we would love ourselves.

We speak the truth in love as we participate in God's mission of abundant life for all. With a deep awareness of our sinfulness and the sin of our

society, with humility we speak with respect and promote change. And God calls us to speak out. An enemy of justice is silence. A justice mindset is one key way we practice our faith. A mindset and a heart filled with peace is faith in practice. Practicing our faith is something that we may never master. We always have more to learn. The focus of our practice is our gracious God, not the practices in themselves. Our faith practices are always an offering of response to our gracious God. May God work on you as you practice your faith in the midst of life in God's church and God's world.

As we seek justice and peace in all the earth we:

- Pray for peace among nations and peoples
- Host an after-school, summer or weekend feeding program for children and families
- Begin a "Go Green" Initiative in our congregation and community www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org
- Forgive as we have been forgiven by God
- Organize a community march against family violence
- Challenge the systems that perpetuate poverty
- Contact the ELCA Advocacy Office about joining with other Lutherans to speak to public officials about the difference your congregational ministries make in your community
- Sign-up for the ELCA Advocacy Network to receive information and other alerts
- Love all of humanity, respecting everyone, and seeing differences as a gift of God



ELCA.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Living in God's amazing grace



BUT IT'S NOT JUST FOR HIM OR HIS MOM. IT'S A SIGN THAT GOD HAS VISITED ALL OF US TO OVERCOME DEATH FOR US.



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LUKE 7:11-17

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

Hello to our Hope family....

Did you happen to notice the Mothers Day display of six quilts to be shared locally? Did you help tie a quilt at Cafe Hope two Sundays later?

The stack of quilts waiting for the finishing touch is growing like weeds after a rain.

Quilters will be meeting at the usual time, 9am to 3pm, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays through the summer. Everyone with time on their hands is welcome, including middle-school age and above, guys, too. Please phone or email Annie in the office that you are coming. (We want to prepare enough treats.)

Thank you, Hope family, for all your prayers, donations of fabrics, funds and hands-on help. Home and Hope and CORA have received quilts. this year. 22 quilts destined for Lutheran World Relief have been completed. Our goal remains to put together our 14-year average of 134 or more quilts.

Your hands are essential!!

Every Little Bit Counts!

Piece by piece Labels for Education and Boxtops for Education trickle into the collection drawer in Nielsen Hall to assist the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission and School (NELM) at Rock Point AZ. Amazingly eight vans have been purchased. The largest 15-passenger vehicles cost 1.5 million points each.

Include the UPC bar code as you cut each Label for Education from the surrounding product label. Note that the Boxtop for Education coupons have no bar codes. Please place your labels and Boxtop coupons in the drawer in an envelope marked Navajo Mission School. Websites to check for more information about products with Labels and Boxtops are: labelsforeducation.com ; nelm.com and boxtops4education.com.

I will send the 'little bits that count' to the Mission's agent as they accumulate.

Questions? Call me...Doris Childs



May 5, 2016

Dear Pastor Paul,

Thank you for your call today. I would like to give you an update on Ernest's condition.

Ernest Johnson had heart surgery on

Apr-6. The procedure is called TAVR (Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement). For details, here is a YouTube link to a diagram (not the actual surgery) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUXKwEDfJ8W>

Ernest was released from Sutter Mills-Peninsula Hospital on Apr-8. He stayed at our house for a few days, then had a 24-hour in-home caregiver. During his recovery, his condition improved and he now only has a caregiver during the day. He is also having physical therapy and occupational therapy at his home.

Ernest has decided to give "assisted-living" a trial. Ernest will move sometime in May.

I know Ernest has many friends at Hope, so you may use any part of this message in your church announcements.

Thanks, Russ Johnson

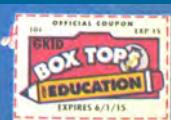
May 9, 2016

Dear Pastor Dan,

We at CORA were so touched and thrilled to receive the handmade quilts, diapers, socks and the infant rockers. Please share with the HOPE QUILTERS the quilts have been treasures to receive at our safe house. They are beautiful, joyful and handmade with love! The baby quilts are adorable and such fun bright red fabric. The infant rockers arrived in time for a baby shower we had for a client. The diapers and socks are always needed too.

Thank you from the bottom of our heart! You sprinkled magic with your generous and thoughtful gifts!

Warmly, Lynn Engel
Director of Development





Confirmation

CONGRATULATIONS TO
Alex & Owen Hoover

Confirmation Service Project

by Owen & Alex Hoover

For our community service project, we decided to make fleece blankets for an organization called Project Linus. Project Linus is a non-profit organization that gives blankets to children who are seriously ill or in need. Project Linus has chapters in each state, but are based out of Illinois. The blankets are made by volunteers who then donate them to the organization.

We focused on making blankets for teenage boys, since they have a shortage. We made a total of 22 blankets. We made the blankets by cutting the fleece into 1 1/2 to 2 yard pieces and cut off the selvage ends. After that, we put painter's tape 5 inches away from the side. We finished by tying each separate strip, folded the blankets and dropped them off in San Jose.



Photo credit to Kenneth Struven



Celebrating birthdays in June

Eno Ekong
Jerry Brooks
Hunter Feige
Brittany Gaal
Sandi Kane
Sydney Prasad
Heather Bootzin*
Gloria Paulus
Maxine Fisher

Wendy Hermansen
Dustynne Mendes
June Hendrickson
Dolores Roscoe
Colton Feige
Rea Tucker
Timothy Hanlon*
Esther Ekong
Robert Lillo

Shannon McAuliffe
Owen Sallander
Penny Spike
Shannon Wilson
Gretchen Noecker
Phyllis Carlson*
William Klemens
Jason Reed

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

* = Friend of Congregation



Upcoming Events



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

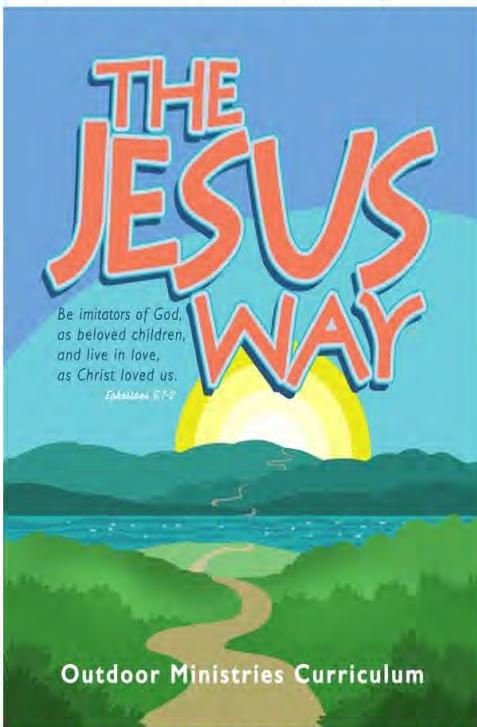
After Worship

**Election of Church Officers
Election of Call Committee**

Join us for Vacation Bible School!!

Monday July 25—Friday July 29, 2016

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



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

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!!

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.



San Jose Giants Baseball & BBQ
Saturday, August 6, 2016
Game Start Time: 5 p.m.

Take in the great times at the ballpark and enjoy delicious mouth-watering BBQ food with the San Jose Giants Baseball and BBQ package. You can settle into the relaxing atmosphere of Turkey Mike's BBQ picnic area and experience how baseball is supposed to be enjoyed.

**Cost: 27.00 Per adult;
16.00 for Children under 12,
under 5 years old FREE**

This price includes ribs, chicken or sandwich items plus side dishes, a non-alcoholic beverage and admission to the ballgame (vegetarian options are available). If you would like to carpool, we will meet at Hope at 2:30 pm. There are sign-up sheets in Nielsen Hall. Please sign up and provide payment by JULY 24th, so we know how many tickets we need to buy (we already have seats reserved, so we will need to give the ballpark a final headcount). Make checks out to Hope with "SJC BALLGAME" in the notes.

Please contact Sandi Kane if you have any questions. (If you do not want to carpool, the ballpark is located at: 588 E Alma Ave, San Jose, CA 95112)

See you at the ballpark!!





Spark Time Sunday School in June

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
June 5	Angels Visit	Luke 1:26-38
June 12	Jesus is Born	Luke 2:1-20
June 19	The Boy at the Temple	Luke 2:41-52
June 26	The Disciples	Luke 5:1-11, 8:1-3

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
6/5	Don Hermansen	Bill Hroziencik Bob Lillo	Esther Ekong	Hank Harper Ken Struven
6/12	Bill Kannenberg	Don Hermansen Marlys Jungroth	Mary Philips	Sandi Kane Heather Hoover
6/19	Kirsten Severson	Bill & Margo Kannenberg	Bill Hroziencik	Judy Jeschke <i>TBA</i>
6/26	Eric Hoover	Sandi Kane Skip Dahl	Martha Welch	Deb Stucke Rachael Stucke