

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 happy to say that I will continue to be with you for another six months. This would bring us to the end of February. Whew, that means we will get through the season of Christmas without

interruption. There is one caveat to this. Should the call committee recommend a new candidate for the position, and should the congregation approve the recommendation, and should the candidate of your choice accept and desire to begin his/her ministry before the six month period is up, then there would be a one month interval between the arrival of the new person and my departure. However, knowing the call process as I do, this is not a likely scenario. In any case, keep the call committee and the congregation as a whole in your daily prayers. The guidance of the Holy Spirit is everything in this process and we all need to be still and listen so that the Spirit's direction can be discerned in the midst of all the rules and details governing the selection of a new spiritual leader. When the church is guided by the Spirit, and when our present and future are thereby entrusted to divine guidance, then, while we may be surprised by where we end up, nevertheless, we will be where we ought to be. And this is for the good of us as individuals, and for us as a congregation. We have been planted here for a purpose and a mission. This is where the Spirit will lead us—in a way that will better enable us to fulfill the mission and calling we have received from God at this time and in this place. Pastors are called to serve the congregation in the sense of leading it to fulfill its mission. Consider the biblical book of Acts. Throughout, whether you are reading about Peter, Paul, or one of the other leaders of the early church, they led through the influence of the Holy Spirit. Nothing has changed.

What is the mission of the church? Why are we here? Any institution has a mission. A business exists to provide a product or service. A government agency exists to govern. What is the church here to do? The church is not here to sell anything. This is a common misconception in a day and age of consumer oriented religion. Rather, the church is here to witness to what God offers. Human beings cannot provide people with a saving relationship with God. Only God can do that. Only God can bring people to faith in the Gospel. What we are here to do is witness to the Gospel. People come to faith through hearing our witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ but this can happen only as the Spirit gives people the spiritual ears to hear. Recall Luther's explanation to the third article of the Apostle's Creed. "I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel..."

Our purpose and mission is to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ in all that we say and do. That's why we are here. In our worship, our evangelism, our social outreach, our fellowship, and our youth programs, this is what the Spirit is leading us to do. When we develop goals, create programs, or do outreach, this is what these things are about—they are to be a witness to the Gospel in some sense of the word.

How do we do that? By making sure that we ourselves are spiritually centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ. Again, consider the book of Acts. What made Peter, Paul, and the others effective witnesses? The fact that their faith in what God has done for us in Jesus Christ was strong and vital. The Spirit made it so. And just as the Spirit brings others to faith, the Spirit strengthens and nourishes our own as well. Nurture your faith in Christ. Be spiritually disciplined. This is how we become good witnesses and so fulfill our calling as the Body of Christ.

Blessings on your faith journey,
 Pastor Dan

Pastor Paul's Notes



I want to call your attention to a global ministry that we share as Lutherans, the work of Lutheran World Relief. Our Hope "Quilters" contribute numerous quilts to LWR annually for distribution, and they are sent to 19 countries. Can you believe LWR Quilts and Kits reached more than

674 million people in 2015? The annual report of LWR is entitled, "Creating Opportunity, Realizing Potential." Here are some amazing statistics: "In 2015, together we reached 4 million people in 36 countries through 126 projects with 104 partners. For the past 70 years, it has worked in some of the world's poorest places, helping communities through some of the most complex emergencies, and it has given a better idea of the complex relationships among poverty, human dignity and security. LWR's mission is "Affirming God's love for all people, we work

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View more statistics about the Lutheran World Relief programmatic reach at lwr.org/impact.

with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice and human suffering. Thank you to those of you who have supported this global ministry. If you are interested in such assistance going forward, here is the contact: LWR, 700 Light ST., Baltimore, MD, 21230 - phone 800 597-5972, or contact lwr.org/impact.

"SINGLE SENIORS" will meet on Tuesday, September 6, 12:30 to 2 pm in Nielsen Hall. Bring a lunch with beverages and goodies provided. Our guest speaker is Nicole Fernandez, from Aging and Adult Services of San Mateo County Health System. She is a Training/Outreach Specialist. She will speak on the topic, "Scams and How To Protect Yourself." We are pleased to have people from St. Andrew's, Holy Trinity and Messiah joining us. All are invited to attend, even if you are not a single Senior.

"SINGLE SENIORS" will have a lunch outing at Mimi's restaurant on Thursday, September 15. We will car pool from church at 12:30 pm, or meet there at 1 o'clock.

A Welcome back!! To Margit and Jens Hansen, who are transferring from Holy Trinity.

You are encouraged to 'take a turn' at providing hospitality at CaféHope. It's easy, guidelines are on the table in Nielsen Hall. Thank you in advance for your willingness.

Celebrating birthdays in September

- Lorraine Johnston**
- Alex Hoover
- Owen Hoover
- Jillian Coyne
- Jackie Fischer*
- Judy Grimsby
- Lynn Loveall
- Stephanie Westphal*
- Niels Nielsen

- Melissa Hastings
- Nancy Jung
- Shirley Rohe
- John Dummler
- Dorothy Stienstra
- Deb Stucke
- Phyllis Kilgore
- Mary Phillips
- Ashley Pedro*



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

* = Friend of Congregation

From our Council President



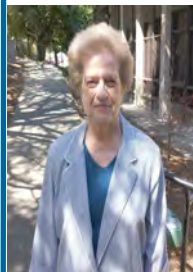
Hello to the Hope family,
Well here we are in late August, enjoying the lazy days of summer, hoping for a nice Indian Summer, and getting ready for another busy Fall. I was able to spend some time enjoying nature and God's glorious gifts up in the Lake

Tahoe area. I enjoyed the sunshine streaming through the trees, warm comfortable weather, the smell of the trees and nature, and I had time to relax, do a few chores, get some rest and even watch a Bear walking towards where we were sitting and stopping about 30 feet away. Marcia and I spent time enjoying nature and friends, and I hope you had some time to relax, and enjoy some of the many gifts God has given us all. We are all truly blessed in many ways from the area we live in, to God's creations all around us, but especially for our family at Hope which is a wonderful gift.

But don't worry because while some of us were enjoying Summer, many things were still occurring at Hope, from work being completed to improve the Church grounds and facilities, youth participating in Vacation Bible School, and people attending a Baseball game. We had the Call Committee working hard to move that process forward and meeting with Synod representatives to enhance our Congregational Profile making it more detailed and more attractive to potential applicants. We were also able to work with Pastor Dan to extend his Interim contract to run through the end of February 2017 providing more time for the Call process to proceed. Work continued on a new updated Web Site and is nearing completion along with an updated Facebook page to increase our visibility and outreach, new Bible studies are beginning and many more things. So overall even during the summer, we have had a lot of activity and progress at Hope and there will be more as we go through the Fall season, so take advantage of the opportunities at Hope, take part or volunteer to help, and enjoy being a part of this wonderful family at Hope.

Jack Coyne
Council President

from our Choirs Director



"Music in Your Tribe...."

In our Tribe, Hope Lutheran church we have music. We have the *big choir* which is the congregation, the Chancel choir, and the Bells of Hope. Our tribe, LUTHERANS, have a long history of being music makers. In making music, we have traditionally heard that art and music belong to the right brain, and language and mathematics belong to the left brain. Neuroscientists now say that music is distributed throughout the brain. Neuroscientist Daniel Levetin believes that music is at the heart of being human. Music not only expresses emotion, it is crucial to how our minds work and respond to stimuli.

Educators believe that children involved in music are more likely to remain engaged in school who otherwise might be lost. In my teaching career at high school level, I had several students who continued to come to choir even though they were cutting academic classes.

Music we learn and experience in church marks the important events in our life...marriage, death, etc. Garrison Keillor says in his description of Lutherans, "linked with singing, is a moral imperative. If I am singing with you and making beautiful music, I cannot ignore you as a human being and must care for your concerns as my own".

Music in the church gives us an opportunity to change the church in positive ways and capable of forming human beings with moral and spiritual sensibilities who then will change the world within and beyond the church. Choir singers exhibit values and lifestyles consistent with a moral life and fulfill the mission of the church to serve the world beyond the local church. Fine church music will: **RENEW OUR CAPACITY FOR SONG, ENRICH MUSIC IN OUR CHURCHES, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE, ENHANCE OUR ABILITY TO PRAY AND PRAISE, LINK HEAD AND HEART, PREPARE FOR SERVICE, AND REVITALIZE THE CHURCH.**

Music-making with other people in your tribe is a very ancient, human thing to do.

Information taken from "Choral Journal", the June/July 2016 edition. Article by Charlotte Krockner, Executive Director of Church Music, Institute, Dallas, Texas.

Shirley Fitzgerald

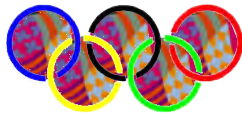
Needed: 1000 Ties

Observing the summer Olympics reminds one of the continuing dedication of Hope's cross-trained, multitasking charitable quilt-makers. If the phases of construction of one quilt were an Olympic contest, the persons performing the finishing touch of placing ties would win a medal for endurance and patience.



More than 100 ties are essential to secure the three layers of one 60" x 80" quilt. More than a dozen quilts are waiting. More volunteers will make it possible to donate 135 quilts to neighbors in need again this year.

Come to Nielsen Hall on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 9am to 3pm through the month of October. You will be Appreciated!



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 Cleven

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 hediwaters@yahoo.com

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
9/4	Jerilyn Struven	Tom & Deb Stucke	Kirsten Severson	Jessica Stucke Emma Worthge
9/11	Skip Dahl	David & Mary Phillips	Karl Voss	Hank Harper Ken Struven
9/18	Mary Phillips	Phil & Marilyn Gaal	Karen Reed	Sandi Kane
9/25	Bill Kannenberg	Bill Hroziencik Kristen Severson	Martha Welch	Judy Jeschke

VBS at Hope



A HUGE Thank you to everyone who helped with VBS. Especially to Judy Jeschke & family, Laura Quanbeck & family, Annie Martinez, Aileen, the Mt. Cross Staff; Elizabeth, Kyra, Colby, and Claudia, to all the volunteers, the Education Committee, Pastor Dan, Pastor Connie and everyone of our church members & St. Andrews members.



**Live
In
Love.**
Ephesians 5:1-2
Provided by **Mt. Cross**

Upcoming Events

God's Work. Our Hands.

Saturday, September 10, 4 to 6pm

We will host a barbecue for Samaritan House's Safe Harbor Shelter!! We need volunteers who can help serve and cook and donations to buy the food -- for 90 residents!! Donations in excess of the food will be given to Samaritan House for use at Safe Harbor. Please contact Margo Kannenberg, if there are further questions.

God's work.
Our hands.

Adult Bible Study

Sunday, September 11

The Sunday morning adult Bible study will begin again on Sunday, September 11 after Café Hope. As usual, we will meet in the Education Building. We have covered the gospel according to John through chapter 9. Previous lectures are available on the website. Whether you have missed some or even all of the previous classes doesn't matter with respect to coming on the 11th. Please join us as we continue to wade through the so-called "spiritual gospel" starting with chapter 10. And by the way, a very good follow-up on a study of John's gospel is a study of Matthew's gospel. The subject matter of both is the same, namely, God's story of salvation in Jesus Christ, but the story is told from a completely different angle. This means that our picture of Jesus and his ministry is significantly more well-rounded and detailed. This should take us to the end of the year.

New Class on Doctrine and Spirituality

Wednesday, September 14 from 1pm to 2pm

In the August "Voice of Hope", I described a possible new class on Doctrine, the Bible, Spirituality, and Luther. Sounds complicated but it isn't. Rather, it's a class designed to look at how the development of Christian doctrine and spirituality are closely related, and at how Luther's theology was consistent with both. We will begin by looking at how the spirituality of the Church Father's (3rd—6th centuries) guided their formulations of basic Christian doctrine. We will then look at how Luther's "reorientation of spirituality" represents a rediscovery of what the Christian Church had said many centuries before.

The purpose of the class is simple—proclamation of the Gospel. We will do that by looking at a segment of

the rich history of Christianity. During these years, the church struggled with many alternative interpretations of what the Bible taught about God, Jesus, salvation, ethics, and faith. In order to be faithful to biblical teaching, the church had to clarify these things for the sake of unity, and for the sake of its mission. Because biblical doctrines involve matters of the heart as well as the mind, spirituality played a large role in this. Since we continue to prepare for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, it is important, especially for Lutherans, to understand how Luther's theology is faithful to the greater Christian Tradition.

The class will meet on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 to 2:00 pm in the youth room. This way, we can avoid scheduling conflicts with other activities here at Hope. Start date is September 14. I anticipate 8 sessions, which means we will conclude on November 2nd. Please join us—and invite friends and neighbors.

MEN'S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY

Starts Saturday, September 17 at 7:30am

Our men's breakfast/bible study will begin meeting again on Saturday, September 17th. Thereafter, we will meet on the first and third Saturday of each month in Nielsen Hall. Breakfast is served at 7:30 am and the study begins at around 8:00. We conclude with prayer at 9:00 am.

The study/discussion this year will be based on Luther's "Large Catechism". This follows the same format as the more familiar "Small Catechism" but has significantly expanded explanations of the Ten Commandments, The Lord's Prayer, The Apostle's Creed, and the Sacraments of Baptism and The Lord's Supper. The edition we will be using includes annotations that help explain Luther's context and purpose.

With great detail, Kirsi I. Stjerna introduces and annotates Luther's "Large Catechism", which the reformer offered as a radical reorientation in the matters of theology and spirituality. After diagnosing what appeared to him as the church's failure to provide proper spiritual care, Luther set out to offer a new compass for religious life. The sweeping...

Continued on page 7

Upcoming Events...continued

... reforms he proposed took root primarily through preaching and education as people embraced the new vision and transmitted it to their children. He believed all Christian people needed a guide to comprehend the basic biblical, creedal, and sacramental teachings...the Commandments express God's expectations; the Creed proclaims God's promise; The Lord's Prayer translates law and gospel into a personal discourse with God; the sacraments offer tangible expressions of God's grace and signs to lean on in faith." (From the Augsburg Fortress website)

All the men of Hope, young and old, are invited to join us as we experience together this spiritual "reorientation" leading up to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Call Committee News:

During the past month, the Call Committee has been working with Pastor Nancy Nelson of the Sierra Pacific Lutheran Synod and with Hope's Council to establish the Ministry Site Profile for Hope to call our new pastor. These discussions and the modifications of the profile were approved by Hope's Council at its last meeting. It is anticipated that the Synod will approve the profile very soon so that we can begin reviewing candidates.



August 7, 2016

Thank you to all who helped donate School Supplies, backpacks, and money. With your help Hope had 4 backpacks on Sunday 7/24, and the VBS families more than doubled that. Making our total of 9 backpacks and 10 bags of school supplies. We also collected \$1,600 which will allow Samaritan House to give another 40 backpacks with supplies and 40 gift certificates for shoes to needy children. What a blessing and wonderful turnout! Thank you to all and God bless you!

August 11, 2016

Thank you for being part of another amazing summer with Mt. Cross! We hope you enjoyed hosting a Day Camp as much as we enjoyed serving you! We look forward to serving you again!

Matt & The Mt. Cross Team

August 12, 2016

Dear Family of Hope,

Thank you for your prayers, cards, phone calls, visit from Pastor Dan and calls from Pastor Paul regarding my recent hip surgery. They all certainly helped me along the road to a successful recovery.

Much appreciated!!

Linda Harvey



Spark Time Sunday School in September

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
September 4	Do Not Worry	Matthew 6:24-34
September 11	The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin	Luke 15:1-10
September 18	Two Masters	Luke 16:1-13
September 25	The Parable of the Rich Man	Luke 16:19-31

~ September 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Aug. 28 10am Worship 11am Café Hope	29 9:30am Aerobics 7:30pm AA*	30	31 9:30am Aerobics	1 7pm Evangelism Committee Mtg.	2 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	3
4 10am Worship 11am Café Hope	5 <i>Labor Day- Office Closed</i> 9:30am Aerobics 7:30pm AA*	6 12pm Staff Meeting 12:30pm Single Seniors 6:30pm <i>Preschool Back to School Night</i>	7 <i>Preschool: Frist Day of School</i> 9:30am Aerobics 6:45pm Bells 7:30pm Men's Ensemble 8pm Chancel Choir	8 7pm Council Meeting	9 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	10 4pm "God's Work, Our Hands"
11 10am Worship 11am Café Hope 11:45am Adult Bible Study	12 9:30am Aerobics 10am Women Leaders Bible Study 7:30pm AA*	13 9am Quilters	14 9:30am Aerobics 1pm Doctrine & Spirituality Class 2pm Worship Committee Mtg. 6:45pm Bells 7:45pm Choir	15 12:30 pm Single Seniors Lunch Outing	16 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	17 7:30am Men's Breakfast
18 <i>Home & Hope*</i> 10am Worship 11am Café Hope 11:45am Adult Bible Study	19 <i>Home & Hope*</i> 9:30am Aerobics 7:30pm AA*	20 <i>Home & Hope*</i> 9:30am Priscilla Circle 10am Mary Circle 10am Sarah Circle 12pm Staff Meeting	21 <i>Home & Hope*</i> 9:30am Aerobics 1pm Doctrine & Spirituality Class 6:45pm Bells 7:45pm Choir	22 <i>Home & Hope* Preschool: Picture Day</i> 9am Peninsula Quilters*	23 <i>Home & Hope*</i> 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	24 <i>Home & Hope*</i>
25 10am Worship 11am Café Hope 11:45am Adult Bible Study	26 9:30am Aerobics 7:30pm AA*	27 9am Quilters	28 9:30am Aerobics 1pm Doctrine & Spirituality Class 6:45pm Bells 7:45pm Choir	29	30 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	Oct. 1 7:30am Men's Breakfast * = Outside Organization