



The Voice of Hope

The newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church, San Mateo, CA
"Knowing and sharing the good news of Hope in Christ"



Pastor Daniel Severson



Dear friends of Hope, After receiving your feedback from the survey asking for some of the goals our congregation should be working toward in the future, it was clear that attracting new and younger families was high on the list. So, when a vision group met two times to try and set some short term goals with this in mind, we looked at what we are currently doing here at Hope in the various ministries we have, and we looked at how we might add or change some things related to this overall goal.

The difficulty of this has gotten more acute in recent years because the way in which Lutheran churches have traditionally grown is by reaching out to people who were raised Lutheran, and who therefore preferred to become a member in a Lutheran church. But these folks don't exist anymore around here. Moreover, the generation of our boys are not as loyal to the Lutheran denominations as I was. I couldn't even consider another option. If they join at all, they are more likely to join a non-denominational church, and this for several reasons. Music is one of the big ones. They like the music of the culture they grew up in.

With respect to this issue, my view is that we should keep and cherish our heritage. However, at the same time, it is possible to shape the service, and select the music, in such a way that embodies newness, we have, and we can use, a variety of music that up-builds, inspires, and sends us out with a sense of hope. While I do not always succeed, this is my goal for the sermon as well. When people rightly hear the Gospel proclaimed, it inspires hope, and faith, and the desire to serve. The whole service ought to be doing that.

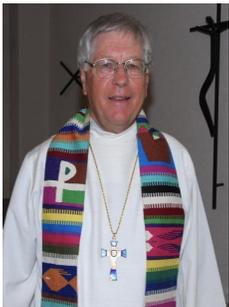
So, I am hoping in the months to come that we can do exactly this. Specifically, this may mean using more recourses from the blue book. I would also like to look beyond Lutheran sources for recently composed hymnody that we could reproduce after receiving a license to do so. This does not represent a transformation of the service. It rather is an attempt to reform it somewhat so that it remains the same beautiful service while at the same time perhaps connecting with folks outside Lutheran tradition. If anyone has any good ideas in this regard, let me know. I would be happy to talk about it.

The Wednesday class got off to a good start but I would like to see more people attend, if, of course, you can fit it into your busy schedule. My overall goal with these classes is spiritual growth. The class on spirituality and doctrine in particular was designed for this purpose. The little known Orthodox doctrine called "divinization" is an idea based on the spiritual growth that takes place over time as a person struggles to receive the love of Christ into his/her heart. God, out of his infinite love, desires to lavish spiritual blessings on all of us. And since Luther's idea of Christ present in faith is basically the same idea, I thought this would be a perfect topic for those interested in their spiritual life. It was for the same reason that I chose Luther's "Large Catechism" for the Men's Breakfast and Bible Study. In fact, he wrote it for precisely this purpose.

Also, on the horizon is the possibility of establishing a prayer group. We would do some of the traditional things prayer groups do, but we would also learn new ways to pray, particularly ways that are designed to help us reach out and participate in the Spirit of God—who is always present. This would make sense with any of the two studies mentioned above. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for announcements on this. And in the meantime, may the Word of God dwell in you richly.

Pastor Dan

Pastor Paul's Notes



I recently attended the Second Clergy Summit on "The Housing Crisis" in San Mateo County. Of course we are all aware of this situation, with increased traffic, high prices of housing and the environmental consequences. Some of what we learned is as follows:

In the last six years 60,000 new jobs have been created but with less than 2,000 new housing units established; nearly 70% of workers live beyond the County; more and more people are leaving to move into places with affordable housing, teachers, nurses, doctors, fire fighters among them; in the County the median rent for a 1 bedroom apartment is \$2,735, rent for a 2 bedroom apartment is \$3,409!

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors convened a task force to explore the challenges of the market and identify creative solutions for producing and preserving housing. "Home for All San Mateo County" was launched to establish local partnerships, educate the community and build support for new housing types. The task force states that "Closing the housing gap will require a range of solutions, including shared housing, second units, employer housing and multi-family housing." Individuals and groups are invited to seek information and identify ways to get involved, by contacting the website: HomeforAllSMC.com.

Congregations in the County are seeking to call this issue to everyone's attention during the week-end of October 21-23.

"Single Seniors" will be meeting on Tuesday, October 4 with a Brown bag lunch in Nielsen Hall, 12:30 to 2 pm. Our guest speaker will be Chris Benson, Thrivent representative. He will speak about charitable giving with the topic, "The Spirit of Giving." All are welcome!

"Single Seniors" will have a lunch outing on Thursday, October 20, going to "Dominic's" restaurant at Poplar Creek golf course. Car pool from church at 12:30 or meet there at 1 pm.



Pictures taken at the Single Seniors group with guest speaker: Nicole Fernandez on September 6, 2016

Topic: "Scams & How to Protect yourself"

In San Mateo County, 1,500 reports of elder abuse were reported in 2015. To report elder abuse please call Department & Older Elder Abuse hotline at 800-675-8437.

Please Visit Our New Website!



Our website has been upgraded with a brand new look! It has the same web address, but looks much more up to date. Please check it out:

<http://hopelutheransanmateo.org/>

The Evangelism Committee and many others would like to thank an anonymous donor - a friend of Hope Lutheran Church - who provided both the funds and the web designer for this project. It was truly a beautiful gift to all of us. I would also like to thank all of those who contributed to the content of the site and did so in a timely manner, so that we could have the new look by fall.

This website is just the beginning of new and better ways of outreach. We will now turn our attention to our Facebook page and make this an active mechanism for communication.

One last note: We need testimonials -- We are building a set of testimonials that can be used on the site or as part of Facebook. They can be anonymous or not. Check them out at:

<http://hopelutheransanmateo.org/new-to-hope/>

Please send them directly to me.

Margo

From our Council President



Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
 Time seems to really be flying by, Summer has ended Fall seems to be zooming by and we have already seen the first sprinkling of snow in the Sierra Mountains, while leaves seem to be dropping from trees daily and in large amounts.

Hopefully we will still have a few nice days during our traditional Indian Summer, but if not then we can hope for a wet winter to continue building up the depleted water supply.

As we move through the seasons, it is always good for us to remember and reflect on what it means to be brothers and sisters in Christ. God has given us so many gifts at Hope including a magnificent Church facility to worship in, wonderful people to worship and celebrate the love of God with, and great leaders and ministers to help us better understand God's word and our role as children of God and brothers and sisters in Christ. We need to find ways to live the mission we repeat weekly of knowing and sharing the good news of hope in Christ and live that mission for both each other and our broader community.

As part of that effort the Council committees are continuing to look at ways we can reach out to others, how we can share activities with people from St. Andrews and other local Churches, and what we can do to support, encourage, and serve each other. During the Fall and Winter you will see additional activities being planned and scheduled, we will be making an effort to open these activities up to other Churches also as well as bring information about their activities to Hope. Pastor Dan and the

Education committee have put together a shared Confirmation program with two other Churches and we hope to have some shared youth activities.

Even with that we need to think about ways we as the family of Hope, brothers and sisters in Christ, can add to what we do in order to live our mission of knowing and sharing the good news of hope in Christ, and that starts with what we do together and expands into what we can do with and for others.

As a Council member I keep trying to come up with the next great idea that will help us live our mission and will attract more people to Hope. Unfortunately, I haven't had that great idea yet, so I am asking all of you to help come up with ideas as to how we can share the good news of hope in Christ. Now I know the "regulars" at Hope have probably already suggested some ways to improve and grow Hope, but I am hoping those who don't always attend Church but read this article may respond also. I would like everyone to think of one thing we could do at Hope that you would like to do and would come to Hope to participate in. That could be something in the Sunday service, a new service project, a social event, anything one thing that you would really like to see and do, and send that to me. I can't guarantee we will do what you suggest but I will take all suggestions and bring them to the Council and committees as suggested ways for the family of Hope to live out our mission statement to serve our family at Hope and the community being brothers and sisters in Christ. Please send your one idea to me so we can all benefit from you suggestion.

Thank you
 Council President
 Jack Coyne



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

Quilters Request Help....Tying and Transportation

At 3:15 pm on the second Tuesday in September, Nielsen Hall was silent. Since 9 AM ten persons including May Fong had tied, sewn, ironed, cut and arranged quilt components. Twelve more quilts were completed for our neighbors in need. Thirteen additional quilts still need esthetic and structural completion in the form of square-knot ties.

Quilters will meet just three more times this year: 9-27, 10-11 and 10-25, always 9am to 3pm with an hour 12-1pm for lunch. The door to Nielsen Hall is always open to you.

On Saturday, October 15, 50 Lutheran World Relief quilts must be delivered to Advent Lutheran in Morgan Hill before 1 PM. The quilts will be packed in 7 boxes, each 18x18x24 inches. Anyone with the time and a suitable vehicle, please call The Hope office. Hope Quilters are forever grateful for all of the congregation's support. All quilts are given in the name of Hope Lutheran. May God continue to bless your support and our efforts to love our neighbors as ourselves.



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

Preschool Corner



We're Back!!!!
The first days are behind us and we are well on our way to the new school year. Our classes are filled with children who have wonder in their eyes and are excited to be in school.

Tracy, Lorraine and I have prepared monthly curriculum that will educate and entertain the little one. Truly blessed to work side by side with such wonderful teachers and friends.

A big thank you to all those that helped get the needs of the school met. Annie for overseeing the projects you are appreciated. The floors were polished very nicely, new tan bark, water faucet no longer drips, the new website is awesome, fans in bathrooms are quiet and the upper sidewalk is no longer a trip hazard. The school looks amazing!





To Hope Congregation:

We just heard that your former organist at Hope Lutheran, Shirley (Sellman) Lilljegen's husband, Bill Lilljegen, died August 28, 2016. He has not been well and has been in the care center for a long time. Shirley is doing fair—able to get around and is in the assisted living area. She hasn't played the piano for a group for a long time. Once in awhile she will play in the lobby and plays well.

Shirley Lilljegen

(This message was given to Marilyn & Lyle Johnson and to Don & Holly Hermansen from Marshall & Joyce Ogne)

ATTENTION!!! Families of Hope's College Students:

Our Education Committee would love to send all our college students a Care package. Please call the office by November 14, so we can add their name to our prayer list and provide us with their address to mail them a care package. We'll send the students treats and a special message of encouragement. You can also e-mail their information to Annie at anniehelc@pacbell.net.



Evangelism/ Social Concerns/ Worship

God's Work, Our Hands Event: Safe Harbor Shelter BBQ, September 10

Hope shared their hands at Samaritan House's Safe Harbor Shelter, on September 10, participating in the ELCA event: God's Work, Our Hands. Several members traveled to the Shelter, near the airport, and cooked burgers, dogs, sausages and all the trimmings for residents. Other members provided donations that more than covered the cost of the food.

BBQs are a rare treat for those who are living in the shelter. Marlys reported:

"The residents there were very nice, polite and complimentary. They said we were spoiling them and could come back every day"

Although we would not want to come back every day, we will see if the congregation would like to repeat this event again!



Stewardship

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word “stewardship”? Budgets and spreadsheets? Money? Pledge cards? Time and Talent? A grateful response to God? What about love?

For many, stewardship means “the church asking for money”. If it draws to mind anything, it is the three-week annual financial response that happens every fall to ensure there is enough money to fund the budget for the next year. While the annual financial response may be wrapped up in religious language, at the end of the day it seems to be about the need of the congregation to receive rather than the need of the giver to give.

Stewardship encompasses so much more than money. It is a way of life. It calls for integration between our faith and the way that we live our lives — we are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life. Stewardship is a mindset, a culture and a discipline that can never be contained in an annual three-week financial response. According to Clarence Stoughton, former president of Wittenberg University, stewardship is everything we do after we say “I believe.” It is the way in which we use all of the resources that God has entrusted to our care so that we can love God and our neighbor. **Stewardship is about love.**

Stewardship, in its simplest form, is the practice of generosity. It is essential to the daily expression of our faith. Our practice of stewardship can begin by looking at how God has come down to us in love. Stewardship begins with God and how God has shown love for us. We are first receivers. We belong to God and all that we have belongs to God. Out of this receiving, we are freed in Christ to love, give and serve.

During the month of October, Hope will conduct its ‘three week financial drive’, moving toward our pledge Sunday on November 6th. In response to God’s commandment to love God and our neighbors, we are challenged as Christians to reimagine the ways in which we steward God’s resources — time, talents and treasures.

In God’s Love,
Jerilyn Struven - Stewardship



August 24, 2016

Dear Pastor Severson,
It warms my heart when we receive a gift from a generous supporter that allows us to say “yes” to one more struggling family or individual who comes to Samaritan House for help. On behalf of the board and staff of Samaritan House, I’d like to personally thank you for your gift of \$1,600.00 for our Kid’s Closet and to share a few words of thanks directly from our clients.

“if it wasn’t for you guys, my husband and my kids and I would be living in our car.” - Lucy, emergency assistance client

“I never needed help before, but now I do. I was laid off and, recently, my unemployment ran out. Getting food for myself and my child is a huge help during this hard time.” - Bill, food program client

“At Safe Harbor, I feel like I’ve gotten the positive support I need to get motivated. Instead of being put down, I finally got to a place where people were sheering me on.” - Bill, Safe House Shelter client

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 the rent, access health care 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 we fulfill their immediate needs and guide them toward self-reliance.

Thank you for making it possible for us to say “yes” to one more family or individual who needs us today.

Sincerely,
Bart A. Charlow, LMFT
Chief Executive Officer

HOPE PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a need to place a prayer request on the PRAYER CHAIN, please contact either Dolores Roscoe or Else Welch. They will make certain that your request is forwarded to those on the PRAYER CHAIN list.



Upcoming Events

Doctrine, Spirituality and Luther Class

The class will meet from 1:00 to 2:00 pm, Wednesday afternoons in the Youth Room.

Session 4: October 5th

Interpreting the Bible: Orthodoxy emerges in the midst of Heresies galore.

Session 5: October 12th

Formulating the Doctrines of Trinity, Incarnation and Grace.

Session 6: October 19th

The Eastern Doctrine of "Theosis" or "Divinization": Participation in the Divine

Session 7: October 26th

Luther, Theosis, and "Christ Present in Faith." The new Finnish interpretation of Luther.

Confirmation Class, 5 - 7pm

This year confirmation classes will be jointly hosted at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Andrews and Hope Lutheran Church. This month's schedule is:

October 2—St. Andrews

October 16—St. Andrews

In November the confirmation class will be held at Hope.

Food For The Poor, Sunday, October 23

Now celebrating it's 34th year of operation, Food For The Poor (FFP) is an interdenominational Christian relief and together with pastors, missionaries, partner organizations, clinics, community leaders and churches in these regions, they ensure that aid reaches those who need it most. Hope welcomes guest speaker Pastor Abrahamson on October 23rd. During Café Hope, in Nielsen Hall, he will share with the congregation facts, information and how we can help Food For The Poor. Please join us.

Reformation Sunday Barbecue— Sunday, October 30

Join us for a Reformation Sunday Barbecue on Sunday, October 30, immediately following Worship Service—at 11:30am. This will be held in Nielsen Hall. This is in celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation led by Martin Luther—truly an event to recognize and celebrate.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

This adult bible study will begin after Café Hope. As usual, we will meet in the Education Building. We will continue on the gospel according to John. All are welcome!



Celebrating birthdays in October

Shirley Klemens

Brian Fong*

Joan Cleven

Bonita Baker

Annie Martinez*

Samuel Jung

Kristen Pang

Nathan Amarandos

Bryan Feige

Linda Harvey

Eric Ackerman*

Mark Grimstvedt

Christa Basch

Shirley Davanis

Hermine Bauer

Henry Lin

Marilyn Gaal

David Hayes

Shaina Prasad

Elizabeth Dummler

Kari Dahl

Norma Henderson

Riley Sallander

Jeana Feige

Julia Henderson

Susan Myrdal

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

* = Friend of Congregation





Spark Time Sunday School in October

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
October 2	A Seed of Faith	Luke 17:5-10
October 9	Ten Men Healed	Luke 17:11-19
October 16	Jacob Wrestles	Genesis 32:22-31
October 23	The Pharisee and the Tax Collector	Luke 18:9-14
October 30	Zacchaeus	Luke 19:1-10

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
10/2	Jack Coyne	Tom & Deb Stucke	Lois Nieman	Deb Stucke Rachael Stucke
10/9	Sandi Kane	Bob & Ruth Lillo	Karl Voss	Monika Hastings
10/16	Don Hermansen	David & Mary Phillips	George Amarandos	Jessica Stucke Emma Worthge
10/23	Eric Hoover	Don Hermansen Carole Setzer	Doris Childs	Hank Harper Ken Struven
10/30	Heidi Waters	Jerry Brooks Sandi Kane	Carole Setzer	Sandi Kane

~ October 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sept. 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*	1 7:30am Men's Breakfast
2 10am Worship 11am Café Hope 11:45am Adult Bible Study	3 9:30am Aerobics 7:30pm AA*	4 12pm Staff Meeting 12:30pm Single Seniors: <i>Guest Speaker, Chris Benson, Thrivent</i>	5 9:30am Aerobics 1pm Doctrine & Spirituality Class 3:45 pm Pre-school Board Meeting 6:45pm Bells 7:45pm Choir	6 <i>Preschool: Lemos Farm</i>	7 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	8
9 10am Worship 11am Café Hope 11:45am Adult Bible Study	10 <i>Preschool: Columbus Day— NO SCHOOL</i> 9:30am Aerobics 10am Women Leaders Bible Study 7:30pm AA*	11 9am Quilters	12 9:30am Aerobics 1pm Doctrine & Spirituality Class 2pm Worship Committee Mtg. 6:45pm Bells 7:45pm Choir	13 7pm Council Meeting	14 9:30am Aerobics 5pm Preschool: Spaghetti/ Bingo Night 8pm AA*	15 7:30am Men's Breakfast
16 10am Worship 11am Café Hope 11:45am Adult Bible Study	17 9:30am Aerobics 7:30pm AA*	18 9:30am Priscilla Circle 10am Mary Cir. 10am Sarah Cir. 11am Preschool Chapel 12pm Staff Meeting 3pm Preschool Chapel	19 9:30am Aerobics 1pm Doctrine & Spirituality Class 6:45pm Bells 7:45pm Choir	20 12:30 pm Single Seniors Lunch Outing	21 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	22 3:30-5pm Schroeder/Siguenza Wedding
23 10am Worship 11am Café Hope: <i>Guest speaker Pastor Abrahamson "Food for the Poor"</i> 11:45am Adult Bible Study	24 9:30am Aerobics 7:30pm AA*	25 9am Quilters	26 9:30am Aerobics 1pm Doctrine & Spirituality Class 6:45pm Bells 7:45pm Choir	27 <i>Preschool: Halloween Costume Party</i>	28 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	29
30 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> 10am Worship 11am Reformation BBQ 11:45am Adult Bible Study	31 9:30am Aerobics 7:30pm AA*	Nov. 1 12pm Staff Meeting 12:30pm Single Seniors	2 9:30am Aerobics 1pm Doctrine & Spirituality Class 6:45pm Bells 7:45pm Choir	3 7pm Evangelism Committee Mtg.	4 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	5 7:30am Men's Breakfast * = Outside Organization