

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,
 In 1st Peter, the author describes the Christian community as "A royal priesthood, God's own people." He is writing to a community that is under extreme stress and is in danger of falling away from

their faith. This, if you take human nature into account, is very understandable. It is difficult to maintain your identity in the midst of a situation where the bulk of the society in which you live denies your legitimacy, the ground of your identity as a people, and the truth of what you have put your faith in. Christians were, for a variety of reasons, considered an anomaly: a group of people whose beliefs were not consistent with what was considered acceptable at the time, and who believed in things that were indefensible. Because of this, Peter wanted to remind them that, in fact, they were people who had been chosen by God to be the ones who brought the knowledge of the living God to the rest of the world. They were not to allow the feelings of the majority, people who had yet to come to a knowledge of the truth, destroy their faith, or make them second guess their commitment to the Lord. Should this have happened, the Christian mission to the world would have suffered a serious blow. Therefore, he is saying, claim your identity in the face of pressure to the contrary. You are not what the world says you are. You are what God says you are.

However, this poses the question as to how, in the face of this pressure, they are going to continue in faith. Where are they going to find the strength and courage to remain faithful to their identity as God's very own people when they have to live in the context of social pressure to the contrary? Is this a simple matter of an act of their will? Do they, having come from less than influential and powerful sectors of their society, have the inner strength to resist social pressure from the majority? Not likely. In fact, on their own, Peter's words, while sounding inspirational, would not have given them the strength and courage to grow in their faith, and survive as a community everyone else believed was flawed, and a threat to the prevailing culture.

For this reason, Peter also says that the suffering they endured was like refining gold. In other words, while they will have to live in discomfort for a time, this difficult period in their lives will actually result in something more precious than anything else they might receive from conforming to the world around them. Should they decide to give up on their faith, and conform to the expectations of their social order, they will regain their standing in the community and receive the approval of the crowd. This would have solved the problem of being ridiculed and rejected by others. But it would also have resulted in losing their hold on Jesus Christ, the living and eternal Son of God, who for us and our salvation, came down from heaven and suffered death on a cross. But as we all know, on Easter Sunday, he rose again, ascended to his God and our God, his Father and our Father. From thence, he and his Father sent the Holy Spirit into our hearts, so that we could participate in the salvation he accomplished. Through the Spirit of God, the risen Lord continues to live among us—but now, not just as another human being, but as the Lord who, living now in our hearts, shares the gifts of joy, hope, love, and everlasting life.

Peter's point is that through their suffering for the sake of Christ, they are participating in his suffering: in his rejection: in his cross. Their old self, the one that is so attached to this world that it is tempted to exchange worldly benefits for Christ; this self is being put to death. The desires of our hearts that conflict with our faith in Christ must be eliminated. As Jesus had told them, we can't serve two masters. One or the other must be left behind. In its place, a new self is rising: the self which, because it remains faithful to Christ, shares in his resurrection from the dead, and thereby takes hold of the abundant life he gives.

All of us, in one way or another, face the same conflict. The language Paul uses is flesh versus spirit. But however you look at it, the promise of living in the resurrection of Christ is the message of Easter. While we will face various trials and temptations along the way, Christ is present with us through the Holy Spirit, and as we know from that first Easter, "We can do all things through him who strengthens us."

Pastor Dan

Pastor Paul's Notes



Special thanks to Shirley Fitzgerald, Douglas Franks, choirs members and all those responsible for our worship services during Holy Week. The sanctuary was beautiful and spoke eloquently of the Resurrection and New Life!

her presentation and how she is so accommodating. Roxanne has offered to bring lunch for everyone! Especially for that reason, we need to know how many are going to attend. PLEASE SIGN-UP! All are welcome.

SINGLE SENIORS will meet on Tuesday, May 2, in Nielsen Hall from 12:30 to 2 pm. Our guest speaker is Roxanne Jen, an attorney in San Mateo who specializes in Estate Planning and Trust Law. This is her second time being with us. Everyone appreciated

SINGLE SENIORS will have a lunch-outing and tour on Thursday, May 18. We have been invited to Sterling Court ("The Community for Seniors") in San Mateo. The address is 850 N. El Camino Real. We will car pool from church at 12 noon. PLEASE SIGN-UP! We need an accurate count so they are prepared.

Pictures from 4/4/17 Single Seniors at Filoli tour



Photo credit to Maggie K Timeus

From our Council President



Friends and Family of Hope,

I hope this message finds all of you in good health and still feeling the joy of Easter and the resurrection of our Lord. Easter to me is always a very special time and the services we have to prepare for Easter and then the celebration of Easter day with the

special music, trumpets, Bells, choir and of course the message was very special and enjoyable. Thank you to everyone who worked very hard to make this time at Hope so special.

With everything going on in March it seemed like a very long and busy month, but fortunately Marcia and I did have a few days to get away and experience the majesty of one of God's creations. I saw the Grand Canyon from a flight over the canyon and it is amazing how magnificent it is, how small you feel and the absolute wonder of God's creations. It was a wonderful experience you should try if you get the chance.



Last month I did talk about being open to the Nominating Committee asking you about serving on the Council because everyone has things to offer our congregation. Please consider how you can help your brothers and sisters at Hope by serving on the Council. The Council and your Call Committee are continuing to do the work of the Church and we are starting to plan for the June Semi-Annual meeting and then events and activities throughout the summer months, so continue to read announcements in the Sunday bulletin and participate where you can.

Council President
Jack Coyne

Call Committee News:

Call Committee Update

The Synod has informed the Call Committee that they will have a second slate of candidates for Senior Pastor prepared for us by the second half of May. This timing has been confirmed by the Synod. The committee will review these candidates as soon as they are received and schedule times to speak to each of them. Please continue to pray for our process of discernment.

from our Choirs Director



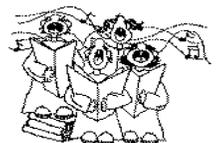
Many thanks to all those people known and unknown who contributed to our Easter celebration. All those who decorated, provided Café Hope on Easter, and all those willing hands who helped out. Perhaps the most visible were those who contributed to the

music. Behind the finished product on Easter, there are many hours of rehearsals, dedication, and just plain showing up. Our Bells of Hope worked harder than usual to provide music for Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday in addition to two Services on Easter. The Chancel Choir had their usual weekly schedule to maintain plus all the special music for Holy Week and Easter. It was our pleasure to welcome our trumpet players, Larry Souza and David Bendigkeit, who added their special touch to the Easter services. Of course our hard working

organist, Douglas Franks, spends countless hours "behind the scenes", and is the support for the choir and all services. The entire staff does many extra tasks during this season, and they all did a fine job.

We won't be resting on our laurels though. There are several weeks left in our traditional calendar with several more special occasions. Our music people will continue to prepare special music for the festivals as well as "the usual". Following our season, we will as usual be scheduling special music to tide us over the summer. Be planning your summer music, and let Shirley or any of the staff know what and when you would like to help.

Again, my thanks and appreciation for your work,
Shirley





March 24, 2017

Dear Mrs. Dummler,

I write on behalf of our guest families and staff in gratitude for Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church's support of Home & Hope since 2001.

We are extremely grateful for your congregation stepping forward and taking extra weeks for hosting our families. Your generous support in many ways is above and beyond expectation. Thank you!

I hear that you do a wonderful job coordinating hosting week in your church. We truly appreciate your commitment to our program. Please let us know how we can be of assistance during your many hosting weeks.

With many thanks,
Olga Poole
President, Home & Hope

April 18, 2017

Dear Hope friends,

Thank you, to those who've sent me cards and prayers.

Sincerely,
Verena Brauen

April 2017

To ALL who helped with Lenten Service & Holy Week:

Thank you to everyone who helped with all the Lenten services leading up to Holy week. To our Pastors, Choirs director, Organist, our Choir members, Handbells, Sound board tech, Lay volunteers; Acolytes, Greeters, Communion Assistance, Readers, Assisting Ministers, Spark Leaders, Flower donators, Café Hope helpers, staff, the Altar Guild, Banner Risers, and everyone who helped before, during and after the services. And those who helped behind the scenes, THANK YOU! It takes a large group of people to run a church and make it seem smooth and effortless, we hope your Easter was blessed and we thank God for your help!

God Bless,
Hope Lutheran Church Staff

Preschool Corner

Hope you all enjoyed Recognition Sunday and the lovely song the children sang. Thank you to Sandi Kane and all the members who made the event so special. We had an amazing turnout and a reminder how supportive our preschool families are.

The children also did an amazing performance for their families at our preschool Easter Sing. We are proud teachers!

We wrap up the school year the first week of June. Our pre-k students will have a Pizza/Bowling Party and graduation ceremony.

May you all have a fun and safe summer, see you in September.

Blessings,
Jeanne



Celebrating birthdays in May

- Philip Gaal
- Lana Saner
- Mackenzie Mesa***
- Erica Lin
- Nikolaus Grimsby
- Leroy Rockafellar
- Barbara Blundell
- Kailen Sallander
- Ruben Cleven**
- Ruth Lillo

- Bryan Rianda
- Niels Voss
- Lois Kornahrens**
- Claire Owens
- Margit Hansen
- 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



2017 Synod Assembly

"WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER: TELLING OUR STORIES"

**30th Annual Synod Assembly—
Thursday, May 4 - Saturday, May 6, 2017**

Thank you to Pastor Dan, Paul Forbes and Carole Setzer who've volunteered to attend the assembly as Hope Lutheran Church attendees.

Reformation 500 Celebration:

2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Hope Lutheran and St. Andrews Lutheran have formed a joint committee who have created 4 activities that we will do together to celebrate this wonderful event in history. Our first activity is an event entitled, "Reformation and its History: Some fantastic learning, some fun and some food" We will be meeting at Hope Lutheran on **May 21 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm**. Our time will begin with some education about Luther and the Reformation with speakers: Pastor Connie Winter-Eulberg and Pastor Dan Severson. We will then have a game centered around the information that we learn followed by a dinner that features German food. Please join us for this combined event of fascinating learning, fun and food.

Please RSVP to: anniehelc@pacbell.net OR pastorconniewe@gmail.com



Confirmation Sunday, June 4, 2017

Congratulations to our Confirmands:
Sam Jung and Owen Sallander.

**Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, June 25, 2017
After Worship
Election of Church Officers**

Vacation Bible School

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

"The Water of Life" - Isaiah 43:2

Dates: July 24 - 28, 2017

Registration forms & more detailed
information will be available
after May 1st on our website.



BOOK CLUB

Join our book club at Hope. Will meet once per month in the church Library. The dates are Tuesday, May 4 and June 1. Meeting time 1:30-2:30 pm.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Our study of the gospel according to Matthew continues every Sunday morning, starting after Café Hope and lasting anywhere between 45 minutes to an hour, depending on the chapter. It can be difficult to get into the habit of coming when you have not done this for a while. However, like most changes people make that have great benefits, once you have put forth the effort to start coming again, you are glad you did. I compare this to my struggle to get into a regular exercise program some years ago. I loved sitting in bed enjoying my coffee and reading my books. I still do. But I also wanted to improve my health and knew that if I didn't, I would be less likely to retain my energy and health in later years—which tend to sneak up on us rather quickly.

So, I joined a supervised program two days a week and on the other days, I take a brisk walk with my CD player and lectures from the Great Courses. While it's still hard to get going on some mornings, I now wouldn't give it up for lazily doing nothing while lying in bed for anything. I think I'm healthier now than I was 10 years ago. And it's fun!

Bible study is extremely important for many reasons. It strengthens your faith. You learn just how rich and full of insight all the books of the Bible are. And it's fun, especially when you share this with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Moreover, all you have to do is, after enjoying Café Hope, walk down the stairs to the education building, pick out a bible, find a seat, and enjoy learning from the most important book ever written.

Our study of Matthew will end in mid- June. After that, we will take a break, unless enough people want to keep going until August. Next fall, we will once again do a survey of the Bible as a whole, only this time, we will be focusing on how God has governed and revealed himself throughout history, and what it has meant to have faith in God's promises each step of the way. I hope you will join us.

May the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.

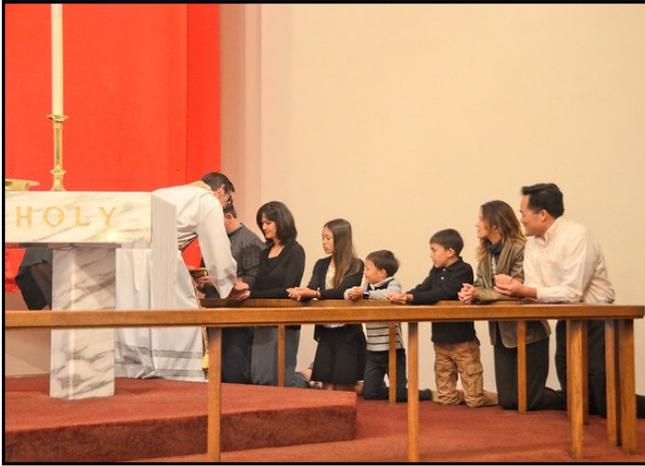
Pastor Dan

Lenten Suppers & Services with St. Andrew's



 Photo credit to
Maggie K Timeus

First Communion



*Congratulations to our First Communicants:
Caitlyn Holl and Henry Lin
Who received Holy Communion on
April 13, 2017*



Photo credit to
Kenneth Struven

Our Easter Celebration



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 7	Early Believers	Acts 2:43-47; 4:32-37
May 14	God's House	John 14:1-14
May 21	The Promise of the Holy Spirit	John 14:15-21
May 28	The Ascension	Acts 1:6-14

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
5/7	Jack Coyne	Phil & Marilyn Gaal	Karl Voss	Judy Jeschke
5/14	Don Hermansen	Bill & Margo Kannenberg	Erica Lin	Deb Stucke Rachael Stucke
5/21	Jerilyn Struven	Don Hermansen Jerry Brooks	Monika Hastings	Monika Hastings
5/28	Heidi Waters	Marlys Jungroth Kirsten Severson	Eric Hoover	Jessica Stucke Emma Worthge