

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,

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is only a few months away. While this transformative event in western history cannot be nailed down to any one event, nevertheless, when an unknown monk from Wittenberg nailed 95 theses to the church door so as to debate such issues as the sale of indulgences, and this eventually led to the formation of "Protestantism," this is as good a place to mark this anniversary as any. We have been, and will continue to celebrate this anniversary in a variety of ways.

Another important event in the life of Martin Luther was when he came to what has been called "the Reformation insight." He described this in his preface to the German translation of the Bible. He was reflecting on the meaning of the biblical notion of the righteousness of God. Up to this point, he had always thought that this was a way of characterizing the nature of God, and that this meant that God required righteousness in order to be acceptable to God. In other words, obedience to God's law was the way to salvation. While the sacraments provided the grace necessary for the forgiveness of sin, and for help in becoming obedient, nevertheless, righteousness was understood as conforming one's life to the law.

In any case, he was reflecting on a verse in Romans where Paul defines what the righteousness of God means, namely, Romans 1:15-16. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith...For in it, the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith..." In this verse, Paul clearly says that the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel—the good news that in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus

Christ, God brought salvation to all who put their faith in him. It did not mean, as Luther had previously supposed, that we are required to make ourselves acceptable to God. Rather, it meant that God loved us so much, that he acted to make us righteous in God's site as a gift, received by faith.

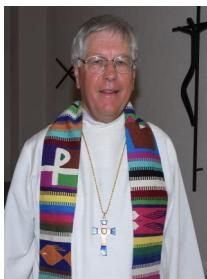
As Luther describes it, coming to this insight was as if the gates of paradise had been opened for him. His overburdened conscience was freed from the tyranny of the law and freed for faith in Jesus Christ, the gift of God's love and grace for our salvation. This, in turn, is what led to the central reformation doctrine: We are justified (made righteous) by grace through faith. And this is not our own doing. It is a gift from God.

This insight changed the very core of the Christian life. Our relationship with God is made right and secure by growing in faith and trust in the gospel promises of forgiveness and new life in Christ, not by works of the law. Moreover, it transformed the meaning and purpose of good works. Good works are not a way to earn God's favor. Were this the case, we would be doing them for our own sake, not for the sake of those whom they benefit. Rather, Christians reach out to others in their time of need not because we can earn favor, but in order to help our neighbor. Love is sacrificial, not self-centered. And in this way, it reflects the sacrificial love of God in Jesus Christ.

Starting in August and running up to Reformation Sunday in October, we will be including bulletin inserts on various topics of reformation history. I hope this will increase your understanding of, and appreciation for our Lutheran tradition.

Blessings,
 Pastor Dan

Pastor Paul's Notes



For those of you who didn't know, I am now a member of Hope! (being official zed) I am also planning on singing in the choir, flaws and all!

Now that we are realizing the beginning of this positive chapter in

Hope's life, with the Calling of Pastor Dan, the next challenge for our membership is to respond with leadership, commitment and participation. It will involve renewed creativity and a willingness to exercise our gifts and play an active part in reaching not only current goals but those that will soon be established.

Since the congregation's demography and that of the communities around has included a high percentage of Seniors, we are identifying a Seniors Ministry as a major component of our mission/vision. That is NOT to say that we are not reaching out and seeking to care for all age groups. "Single Seniors" is now one part of our ministry. We invited everyone to assist and be part of the activities that are planned. A particular objective is to identify and meet the needs (as possible) of those who are alone and/or isolated in our communities. We have invited the closest ELCA congregations(St. Andrew's, Holy Trinity and Messiah) to join us in this effort. Members of those churches already have been active in "Single Seniors." Securing volunteers to serve in a variety of ways will be an integral part of this new phase.

For my part, I am consistently reaching out and being involved with various agencies and retirement centers who can help us identify people who are in need of social contacts and spiritual nourishment. Making different presentations in various places will allow me to further this objective. I also want to make a "pitch" regarding having a volunteer to assist in making this happen.

It would involve * publicizing Seniors activities * contacting area churches *encouraging & organizing volunteers for specific services *providing information to area media, such as the Daily Journal

If you or perhaps two of you would be interested, please let me know and we will work together.

Does anyone want to see a Hillbarn Theater play in August or September? "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" is playing August 24-Sept. 10. We can look at other plays later on in the year.

Activities coming up:

Tuesday, Sept. 5, 3 pm –guest speaker on "Housing" at Wendy's, Belmont

Thursday, Sept 21, Outing to Winchester House, San Jose (time TBD)

Tuesday, Oct 3, guest speaker from SamTrans, 12:30-2,Nielsen Hall (brown bag lunch)

Thursday, Oct 19 salad lunch (bring to share)-Reformation theme TBD 12:30 – 2, Nielsen Hall

Tuesday, Nov 7 guest speaker, Kathy Kaufmann, ("Avenue 62, Your Roadmap to Life's Golden Years") She is a specialist in 'transition & relocation' 12:30-2, Nielsen Hall (brown bag lunch)

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel!
Pastor Paul

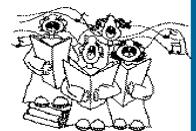
From our Choirs Director



SUMMER MUSIC

Many thanks to all who have provided special music so far this summer and to those who will be helping out on through the middle of September. We have had a variety of musicians in size, talents, and styles of music. As we get closer to the beginning of the new season for the chancel choir and handbell groups, we want to acknowledge the extra time and effort it has taken to keep special music in our services this summer. You are greatly appreciated. As always, we send a THANK YOU to Douglas for his music and helping supply wonderful organists while he was on vacation.

Shirley Fitzgerald



Election of Council Members

On July 16 the new church council was installed. They are listed as follows, with the designated ministry area each is assigned:

President: David Phillips

Vice President: Margo Kannenberg

Secretary: Marlys Jungroth

Education: Paul Forbes

Evangelism: Margo Kannenberg

Finance & Personnel: Lynn Loveall & Heidi Waters

Preschool: Nancy Kehl

Property Management: Mark Grimstvedt

Social Concerns: Anne Wilson

Stewardship: Jerilyn Struven

Worship: Marlys Jungroth

Youth: Judy Jeschke

At Large: Martha Welch

Treasurer: Tom Stucke

Financial Secretary: Linda Harvey

Let's pray for all these members and for Hope Lutheran Church as we move forward "Knowing and sharing the good news of hope in Christ!"



Celebrating birthdays in August

Kathryn McAuliffe

Karl Voss

Pamela Rianda

Eva Landmann

Helen Hanlon

Meghan Foster

Pat Kennison

Andy Hermansen

Norma Martin

Sue Voss

Stephanie Bravo

Lyle Johnson

Andrew Hastings

Alex Bootzin*

Jennifer Crawford

George Studle

Haley Blundell

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

* = Friend of Congregation



Reformation 500

50 things you may not know about Luther *continued from the July Voice of Hope*

By Timothy J. Wengert

(posted in the June 2017 LivingLutheran Magazine)

- 11.** In 1520, Luther became convinced that the word in the Greek New Testament translated as “grace” (*charis*) did not designate a power dwelling in us but God’s undeserved mercy.
- 12.** Despite some movie depictions to the contrary, Luther never met privately with his prince and protector, Elector Frederick the Wise.
- 13.** Luther wasn’t a monk but a friar. Friars (Dominicans, Franciscans and Augustinians) lived in community in cities and often had responsibilities as university professors of theology or preachers. Monks often lived in isolated areas and focused their lives on work and prayer.
- 14.** Luther’s “theology of the cross” was not a theory about only the cross but the belief that God always reveals himself in the last place human beings would reasonably look: with the Israelites, not the Egyptians; in a manger; on the cross; among mortal sinners in the church.
- 15.** When Luther and other reformers distinguished between “law” and “gospel,” they weren’t differentiating between the Old and New Testaments but between two ways that God’s word works: to reveal sin and mortify the “old creature” (law), and to reveal God’s mercy and make the new creature of faith alive.
- 16.** Although Johann Eck numbered among his most formidable opponents, prior to the Reformation, Luther had hoped to become friends with him.
- 17.** Philipp Melanchthon, Luther’s associate at the University of Wittenberg and one of Europe’s foremost Greek scholars, was less than 5 feet tall, prompting Luther to nickname him “our little Greek.”
- 18.** Although he began preaching at Wittenberg’s city church in 1514, Luther was never its head pastor, but always an assistant. From the early 1520s, Wittenberg’s chief pastor and preacher was Johannes Bugenhagen.
- 19.** Luther understood the common priesthood that believers share with Christ through baptism not as a way to divide the clergy and laity but as a way to unite them in the single body of Christ. He felt that within that body, or common priesthood, different members have different “offices,” but all are spiritually equal in God’s grace.
- 20.** Luther probably never said “Here I stand” when appearing at his trial before Emperor Charles V in the city of Worms. Instead he or a compatriot wrote it (in German) in a Latin description of the events of 1521 to emphasize Luther’s refusal to recant what he had written.
- 21.** However, Luther did say this at the Diet (parliament) held in the imperial city of Worms: “Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason … I am bound by the Scriptures that I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience.”
- 22.** Luther’s translation of the New Testament (which he completed in just a few weeks while in hiding at Wartburg Castle) was not the first printed German translation. All previous translations were based upon the Latin “Vulgate”; Luther was the first to use the original Greek text.
- 23.** Although his superior had released him from his vows as an Augustinian friar, Luther maintained a monastic lifestyle until shortly before his marriage in 1525, thinking of himself as a “Daniel in the lion’s den” of monastic practices.
- 24.** Even though Luther did not always mind that people called his followers “Lutherans,” he preferred to think of all believers as “Christians.” In German-speaking areas, the usual designation is “*evangelisch*”—that is, people oriented toward the gospel.
- 25.** Luther had deep respect for the role of government in keeping good order and just laws in a society, but he also thought that a Christian prince “would be a rare bird in heaven.”
- 26.** Luther’s chief concern for the church was how bad the preaching was. Not only did he publish “sermon helps” (postil in German) for the epistle and gospel readings appointed for the church year, but his 1520 tract, Freedom of a Christian, outlined the content of true evangelical preaching.

To be continued in the next Voice of Hope



Spark Time Sunday School in August

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
August 6	The Empty Tomb	Matthew 28:1-10
August 13	The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin	Luke 15:1-10
August 20	Joseph Helps his Family	Genesis 45:1-15, 50:15-21
August 27	Peter's Faith	Mark 8:27-38

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
8/6	Don Hermansen	Tom & Deb Stucke	Sandi Kane	Deb Stucke Rachael Stucke
8/13	Jerilyn Struven	Phil & Marilyn Gaal	Marth Welch	Monika Hastings
8/20	Margo Kannenberg	Don Hermansen Sandi Kane	Bill Hroziencik	Jessica Stucke Emma Worthge
8/27	Kirsten Severson	Marlys Jungroth Nancy Kehl	Lisa Sallander	Hank Harper

Upcoming Events

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, September 10

Our Sunday morning bible study is on vacation for the summer. However, before we wrapped-up the last class on the gospel of Matthew, we discussed the topic for next Fall. Majority opinion was, "Let's dive into the most controversial book in the New Testament." "What is that?" you might ask. The book that just about every generation since the turn of the first century, including our own, has thought was a description of current events, namely, the book of Revelation.

This book was written by an elder of the churches in Asia Minor (present day Turkey) by the name of John. This was a time of persecution for those churches and John had been banished (a common punishment designed to keep a person from having influence over others) to a barren Greek island named Patmos. While he was there, on "the Lord's day," he had a series of visions designed to convey the fact that "the Lamb of God" would win the ultimate victory over the forces of evil. These visions include much symbolism drawn from the rest of scripture and thus were inexplicable from all who were not familiar with the Bible or the Christian faith—as John wanted it. Unfortunately, John's visions are also baffling for many others down to our own day. However, if you know this: that John's purpose was to create hope in the midst of extreme danger, then you have the point of the whole thing.

We will begin our study of this book on Sunday, September 10th after Café' Hope in the educational building. I hope you can join us as we strive for clarity in a book that Luther considered to be altogether too confusing for the average reader of scripture.



BOOK CLUB

Join our book club at Hope. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, August 3 at 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room. We will discuss the book Same Kind of Different As Me By Ron Hall & Denver Moore.

HLCW Summer Circles

All daytime Women's Circles will meet as a group on the 3rd Tuesday of the month during summer in Nielsen Hall at 10 am.

Save the date!!! Saturday, September 9

God's work. Our hands. We will participate in ELCA's God's Work Our Hands event, by hosting a dinner barbecue for folks at Samaritan's House's Safe Harbor Shelter on Saturday, September 9. Details to follow.

Save the Date!! Save the Date!!



Save the Date!!!!

We will create a new picture directory for Hope Lutheran Church this year. Lifetouch Photography will be at Hope from Oct 12 through Oct 15 to take member and family pictures for a new updated directory.

Members and families will receive a free 8x10 photograph and additional pictures ordered will be ready in time for Christmas.

Details will be sent out later.

Lifetouch

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~ August 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 30 10am Worship 11am Café Hope	31 AIW Camp* 9:30am Aerobics 7:30pm AA*	1 AIW Camp* 12pm Staff Meeting	2 AIW Camp* 9:30am Aerobics	3 AIW Camp* 1:30pm Christian Book Club 7pm Evangelism Committee Meeting	4 AIW Camp* 9:30am Aerobics 1pm Myrdal Memorial Service 8pm AA*	5 7 pm San Jose Giants Baseball Game
6 10am Worship 11am Café Hope	7 AIW Camp* 9:30am Aerobics 7:30pm AA*	8 AIW Camp*	9 AIW Camp* 9:30am Aerobics	10 AIW Camp*	11 AIW Camp* 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	12
13 10am Worship 11am Café Hope 11:30 am Council Meeting	14 9:30am Aerobics 7:30pm AA*	15 10am HLCW Summer Circles	16 9:30am Aerobics 12pm Staff Meeting	17	18 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	19
20 10am Worship 11am Café Hope	21 9:30am Aerobics 7:30pm AA*	22 9am Quilters	23 9:30am Aerobics	24	25 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	26
27 10am Worship 11am Café Hope	28 9:30am Aerobics 7:30pm AA*	29 9am Quilters	30 9:30am Aerobics	31	1 9:30am Aerobics 8pm AA*	2

* = Outside Organization