



OCTOBER 2017



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 call process here at Hope has stretched out for a long time. When I first arrived here in September of 2015, it was believed this would take no more than a year and I would be on my way after the congregation had found

a suitable candidate to call as your next Pastor. No one foresaw a two year stretch, including me, after which the congregation would end up calling their Interim Pastor against the wishes of the bishop. My personal view? Jesus told Nicodemus in the gospel of John that, "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes." He was talking about the influence of the Spirit of God. Or, to use a similar metaphor; Luther said the Spirit was like a passing thunderstorm. It's here for a time and then it passes on. This was an answer to the much larger question as to why the Gospel was rediscovered during the Reformation and not before. The influence and timing of God's Spirit is completely unpredictable. Since we have no control over it, we cannot know when and where it will influence events in our lives, or what that influence will be. The only thing that's certain is that it will bring unforeseen surprises. However, one other thing is certain about the Spirit. It blows in our lives only when the Gospel is preached, taught, heard and responded to. The Spirit does not create an undefined amorphous form of faith in our hearts. It creates faith in the redeeming power of Jesus Christ. That is the message the church has been entrusted to announce in whatever way conditions allow. And that is what I, in partnership with all of you, am determined to do on into the future. Whatever else the future holds, we need to put our faith in what

Jesus told his disciples after commissioning them to go out into all the world. "And lo, I am with you

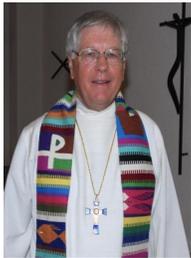
always, even to the close of the age." (Matthew 28:20) Speaking of the future, on Saturday, October 14th, your church council is going to meet off site to do some planning for the future of our ministry. Please keep our council members in your prayers for this event. Personally, I am excited about this event. Throughout my career as a pastor, I have attended council retreats where the goal was to discern what God was calling the congregation to do in terms of specific ministry initiatives. Many of these meetings have resulted in the birth of more effective ministries. That is my hope this time as well.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that the anniversary we have been preparing for with classes and special events is now upon us. In October of 1517, Brother Martin Luther composed 95 theses that spread all the way to Spain within a two week period. That was unheard of in those days. Contrary to his, or anyone else's expectations, this would lead to a period of change in the church and society that eventually ushered in the modern period in the western world. We are in the midst of our last midweek class on this subject, and we have planned a festive Reformation Service for Sunday, October 29. Please join us for these and other events (see the news regarding the Luther Musical in Pastor Paul's report) this month and next.

One other thing. Margo Kannenberg has been busy updating our website. Soon, audio versions of the sermons will be available. Already, we have posted recent lectures on Luther, and devotionals on various topics. Before the month is over, I am going to post a podcast on the influence of the Reformation on the history of the west, as well as the influence of Luther's theology on the Christian Church as a whole. Check it out.

Blessings,
Pastor Dan

Pastor Paul's Notes



A couple of questions that the Council will be considering at its upcoming retreat are:

- 1) Do our members understand what it means to be partners in God's mission?
- 2) Are the gifts of God's people at Hope released to advance the mission?

That is to suggest that WE ALL ARE ENGAGED IN MISSION. Here is a quote from pastor/author, Howard Thurman, that encourages us:

"Don't ask yourselves what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive and then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

The next event of our Seniors Ministry takes place on Tuesday, October 3. Bring a brown bag lunch to Nielsen Hall at 12:30. Our guest speaker will be Jackie Watkins. She is program assistant for Sam Trans Mobility Training. She will enlighten us about all the ways that transportation can happen for us. It will be exciting! Welcome...all.

Our lunch- outing for the month will be on Thursday, October 19. Our destination will be Paul Martins.

The Seniors Planning Task Force will meet on Tuesday, October 10 at 11 am.

If you would like to join us, please do. The group consists of:

Pat Duvall, Bill Hroziencik, Lynn Loveall, Lois Nieman, Dolores Roscoe and the Pastors.

Our new assistants for helping us to manage events will be Jackie & Ron Johnson, new members. Ron will be returning from Nebraska in October and will be invaluable.

Events celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation continue. We are tentatively planning to put on "Luther, Musical", a play which has been recently written by a local pastor, Peter Krey, and his son, Mark. We have set the date of Sunday, November 12, at 3 pm. More information will be forthcoming. We can use some assistance getting the word out!

Look for an announcement on the installation of Pastor Dan soon. We are excited about the prospects

for the future here at Hope with fresh vision and renewed commitment.

Pastor Paul

Pictures taken from the 9/5/17 Home Sharing meeting, with HIPhousing in San Mateo.



From our Choirs Director



The Lutheran church is often called "the singing church". In preparation for the "500th" anniversary of the Reformation, Hope congregation has chosen to feature hymns that are meaningful to the Reformation. The church is always reforming and the commemoration of the Reformation should be a celebration of Jesus Christ. Martin Luther and the other reformers sought to be "witnesses to Christ".

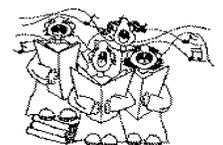
The hymns that Hope has used this last year all have a theme applicable to Reformation:

- January, # 309 – "The Only Son from Heaven"
- February, 313 – "O Lord, Now Let Your ServANT"

- March, 641 – "All are Welcome"
- April - N/A
- May, 519 – "Open Your Eyes, O Faithful People"
- June 755 -, WOV – "We All Are One in Mission"
- July 650 – "In Christ There Is No East or West"
- August, 720 – "We Are Called"
- September- 597 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

These hymns all focus on Christ, and we are sent out in common service with and for others in communion with Christ.

Shirley Fitzgerald



From our Council President



While I consider it an honor to take on the role of President of Hope's Council, I also am finding that it is also somewhat humbling. It is humbling because this position been occupied in recent years by very talented and committed individuals who have provided great service to Hope. By contrast, this will be my first foray into such a role. As we observed last Sunday, knowledge of Robert's Rules, the voting age defined in our constitution and the requirements on starting and ending a meeting are signs of my steep learning curve for this position. Thankfully, we got through it because there are others in the congregation that are knowledgeable and willing to help. Since other situations will certainly arise during this next year, it is for sure that I will need all of your help to get through it. I will also continually seek God's guidance, particularly when the road forward is not apparent or is tough going.

I think for my first communication it is appropriate to summarize where we stand concerning the 2017 call and our continued interactions with the ELCA. We have spent more than two years in the process of selecting a new pastor following the retirement of Pastor Eric. Throughout this process, the Council and the Call Committee have rigorously followed the rules established by the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA. The nine candidates provided by the synod were thoroughly interviewed and evaluated, all the time adhering to the rule that we not involve our Interim Pastor, Pastor Dan Severson in this process. Three months ago, finding none of the candidates suitable for Hope, the Call Committee interviewed Pastor Dan. Even though it was against the wishes of the synod, the Call Committee subsequently proposed that the congregation consider him for our call. At a special meeting on September 10, the congregation did indeed select him as our new Pastor. The bravery of the congregation in taking this uncharted road is exciting. It almost seems like a new era at Hope. The Call Committee, Pastor Dan and I think the council and congregation believe that Hope was following divine guidance in following the path that has been chosen. It is essential that we continue to look for God's guidance in making our selection of Pastor Dan as the Pastor of Hope a success. I see this as an opportunity for us to have a

renewed focus on the mission of Hope.

Our selection of Pastor Dan does have consequences. While these are minor, it is worth pointing them out. Because he was not approved by the synod at this time, the pastor position at Hope will be listed as "vacant" on the synod directory. Since the synod did not approve of the call, they will not be signing the call letter nor will they be involved in Pastor Dan's installation. Also, since his call to Hope is not recognized by the synod, Pastor Dan will lose his rostered status in the synod next year. Finally, he will not be able to vote in synod matters. While it is disturbing that we will have to live with these restrictions, I think it essential that we at Hope take the high road, continue to respect the synod and its rules and remain actively involved in the Sierra Pacific Synod and the ELCA. I believe we should continue our benevolence practices to the synod and be attentive in sending delegates to synod conventions with the lay members participating in synod votes. Bishop Holmerud has indicated that he will continue to be our bishop; Hope will remain in good status with the synod. We should all remember that it is possible that at a future date the synod may reconsider these restrictions and that we should pray that this happens.

While these disagreements with the synod have been troubling, we should not let them in any way diminish our Lutheran heritage or direct us apart from our association with the Sierra Pacific Synod or the ELCA. Pastor Dan is solidly in traditional Lutheran theology and practice – and will remain so. We should also all do our part in the practice of our faith to maintain this tradition.

This transition of pastoral leadership has been challenging, However, this is now behind us, allowing us to focus our attention on OUR church. Events put on hold during the summer recess are restarting. Our website is continually being upgraded and worth a visit. Music is still an integral part of our services. And, people will be returning from vacations. The council will be meeting offsite on October 14 to identify and implement new areas that will be useful for the congregation (suggestions can be sent to me or to other council members and are welcome).

So, it's off to a great Fall!





Reformation 500

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

By Timothy J. Wengert

(posted in the June 2017 LivingLutheran Magazine)

- 41.** In Wittenberg, the local “Community Chest,” which received money from individual contributions and other sources, provided welfare for the poor, zero-interest loans to get impoverished artisans back on their feet, and funds for teachers, church workers and even a physician to care for those unable to afford medical care.
- 42.** In Luther’s last great tract, *On the Councils and the Churches* (1539), he listed seven visible markings of the true church: preaching and professing the gospel; baptism; the Lord’s Supper; public absolution; the call and consecration of public ministers; public prayer, praise and the catechism; and the cross (misfortune and persecution).
- 43.** In 1540, when Melancthon got sick in Weimar on his way to meetings in Alsace, Luther traveled to be at his bedside. When prayers for his stricken colleague were answered, he reported to his wife that he was “Eating like a Bohemian and swilling like a German (yet not too much)” in part to celebrate Melancthon’s recovery. [*Luther’s Works*, vol. 50:218f.]
- 44.** None of Luther’s hymns were based upon barroom songs (but rather upon the “bar form” of A-B, A-B, C-B [“A Mighty Fortress”]) but came instead from a variety of sources, including medieval chants and hymns (“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast”); ballad forms and other folk tunes (“Dear Christians” and “From Heaven Above”); ancient Latin poetry and the Psalms (“Savior of the Nations” and “Out of the Depths”).
- 45.** In 1543 Luther wrote a series of hateful tracts against the Jews. Although not all of his colleagues approved of them even at that time and sometimes preferred his more balanced comments about the Jewish people from 1523, Luther’s comments were for the most part ignored by later Lutherans until the Nazis reprinted them in the 1930s
- (accusing the Lutheran churches of suppressing them). Only after the Holocaust have many Lutheran churches around the world (including the ELCA) explicitly condemned Luther’s statements.
- 46.** Luther died in his 63rd year in Eisleben, his birthplace, where he had been invited to resolve a territorial dispute between brothers, the princes of Mansfeld.
- 47.** Before his death, Luther’s wife Katharina sent a letter to him, worrying about his health. Luther responded by counseling her to read the Gospel of John and the Small Catechism, “about which you once said, ‘everything in this book has been said about me.’”
- 48.** The pulpit where Luther preached his last sermon (in Eisleben) is now in Wittenberg’s Luther House.
- 49.** Luther’s last written words were a mixture of German and Latin: “Wir sind bettler; hoc est verum” (“*We are beggars; this is true*”). Among his last spoken words were Psalm 31:5: “Into your hand I commit my spirit.”
- 50.** After his death, four different people gave funeral sermons or orations. In Eisleben, Justus Jonas (Luther’s former teaching colleague, then the pastor in Halle) and Michael Coelius (the princes’ court preacher) did so; in Wittenberg, where he was buried, Johannes Bugenhagen (Wittenberg’s pastor) preached and Philip Melancthon delivered a Latin oration.



Timothy Wengert, an ELCA pastor, is professor emeritus of Reformation history at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.





Why I Am a Lutheran?

I was born into a Lutheran family who were immigrants from northern Norway. In the small farming community where I grew up, the Lutherans were the largest “in town” population, and there was also a country parish with three smaller congregations. The school property was surrounded by four Protestant churches; a Catholic church was two blocks from the school.

My earliest worship recollection was standing to pray when I was 3 years old. I had to use the chair in front of me to keep my balance with my eyes shut. I loved sitting in the balcony of that small white church. During school-age years, my pastor expected all in school to be active in youth group activities as well as to be in Sunday School classes through the end of high school. So we did that. He expected us to read the Bible daily. So we did that. He also expected anyone who could play piano to accompany choirs or soloists for worship services, so we did that too. By eighth grade I became the church organist. It was convenient to zip across the street from school if there was an event that required my services, and then run back to my class. A classmate who did the same for the Nazarene church recently said to me, “I was so envious of you Lutherans. There were so many of you and you always had such fun in your activities. On the other hand, after a Friday night ballgame, you couldn’t go for burgers or hang out at Joe’s Café because you all had to go home to study for your confirmation classes every Saturday morning for two years.” Most of Luther’s Small Catechism still sticks in my brain not only for church, but any time someone asks the question, “What does this mean?” My brain thinks, “Martin Luther.” The bulletin on confirmation day asked, “What will you do with this Jesus?” Being a Lutheran means still working on trying to be the face of Jesus to someone every day. Our confirmation class gathered after 52 years to lead the congregation in singing “O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee.” Some of our Sunday School teachers were still singing with us. Our parents, our neighbors, and even our public school teachers were the faith community who showed us

how to live lives of faithful service. I’m Lutheran, in part, because of their example.

I was fortunate to go to a Lutheran college, Concordia, less than 100 miles from home. Religion classes were required but also faith building. At daily chapel, another requirement, we were inspired not only by our campus pastor but also by pastors in the community like Oscar Anderson and by faculty like Dr. Paul Sponheim. Music, part of the core experience in the Lutheran colleges, and the school motto *Soli Deo Gloria* shaped my conviction that of music in worship was to glorify God, not meant for entertainment or personal praise.

When I was surrounded by friends who shared my faith, it was easy to be Christian. Moving on, I wanted to know people who shared a Lutheran assurance of God’s grace. Going to Faith Lutheran in Great Falls, Montana, and then coming here to Hope in San Mateo gave me new Lutheran friends. In Bible study, I met women who later became Godmothers to my children. I also met a *lefse*-loving young pastor, and I married him. Hope is my faith family; in some ways it is the kind of Lutheranism I knew in a small town, but it’s not automatic, it’s intentional. Lutherans I know here worship, study and serve as the gospels ask us to because we love Jesus, and we believe in God’s gift of grace.

E. Dummler

In preparing for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, it has been suggested that we, individually, write a statement about “Why I Am a Lutheran.” Share your story with us, may be your parents raised you as a Lutheran? Or may be you have another meaningful reason? We’d like to share your story in our Newsletter with why being a Lutheran is special to you (if preferred we can post it in the weekly bulletins instead). Please submit your statement before the next Voice deadline, date is on pg. 12. Please limit your statement to one page. Thank you!

Preschool Corner



School is back in session and life goes on. We have a busy October, one of our favorite months.

Lemos Farm annual field trip 10/3
Village Host Pizza Night 10/3 (in house or take out)
Spaghetti/Bingo Night 10/13

Great California Shakeout 10/19 10:19a
Costume Halloween Party 10/26

We will also be doing the See's Candy Christmas Holiday fundraiser. If any church members are interested for yourselves or buying for your company employees/families the preschool would appreciate your order. Forms will be available shortly in the church office.



Blessings, Jeanne



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

Our Youth Committee would love to send all our college students a Care package. Please call the office by November 10 to provide us with their address so we can mail them a care package. We'll send the students treats and a special message of encouragement and we will add their name to our prayer list . Please also let us know if your student has any food allergies or specific snack likes/dislikes. You can also e-mail their information to Judy Jeschke.

Stewardship

Living God's purpose doesn't always require big change. It starts with little moments. Prayerfully consider how you will change your life to include Hope and its missions - with your financial contributions, your time, and your talents. Stewardship Sunday is November 5th.

Jerilyn Struven, Stewardship

Clean carpets for new H&H guests

As I write this Home and Hope update, we are in the midst of hosting for two weeks, thanks to volunteers from the LDS congregation in Foster City. They are hosting this first week, while our Team Hope volunteers continue Sept. 17-24. We are so blest to have newly shampooed carpets in the Sunday School rooms, thanks to Annie, Mark Grimstvedt and lots of cheerleaders for the project! What a joy to set-up for our two week hosting with freshly cleaned rooms and Ed. Bldg too ♥ We are able to share the Nursery with our Hope Quilters, I'm sure Marlys Jungroth had her hand in this. Special thanks to all for giving of yourselves on behalf of our H&H guests!! To be continued next month...

Evangelism/ Social Concerns/Worship

God's Work, Our Hands Event: Safe Harbor Shelter BBQ, September 9

God's work.
Our hands.

Hope celebrated ELCA's national God's Work Our Hands weekend, by hosting a BBQ again, at the Samaritan House shelter, Safe Harbor. Safe Harbor provides 100 beds for adults who need a home and it is always full. The residents there were so gracious and thankful for the special meal. Many came back for seconds!!! Many thanks to Hank Harper, Marlys Jungroth, Nancy Kehl, Skip Dahl, Ellen Leaf and Monika and Bill Hastings, who cooked and served the meal again this year. The feedback from the Hope servers: "Let's do this again, but let's not wait for an entire year".

Thank you to all those who provided cookies for the BBQ!



--- Stitches & Ties x x x x

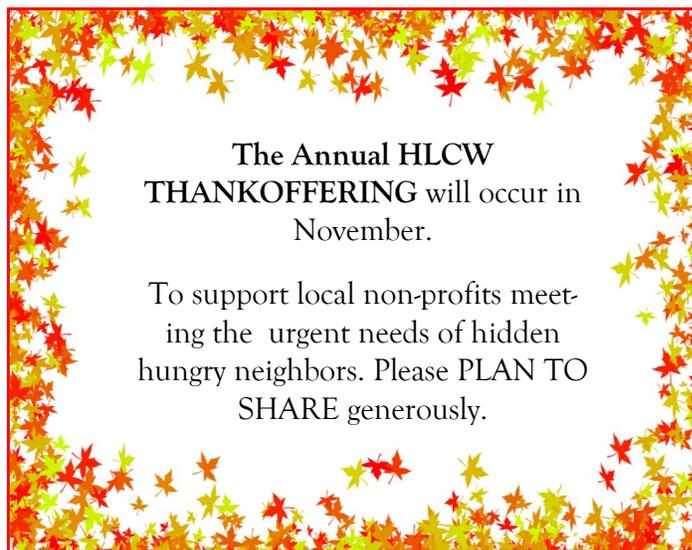
A 'barrel' of fabric contributed from an estate by a friend of a Hope quilter, as well as quality and quantity of fabric from a Hope member, have enriched the choices of color and texture and pattern for quilter's creations.

Quilters are adding steadily to the number of 60" x80" Lutheran World quilts as well as to LWR fabric kits for sewing students abroad. On Saturday, October 21 quilts and kits will be delivered to the LWR Ingathering at Advent Lutheran in Morgan Hill by Bill Kannenberg. Travel fare requested by LWR is \$2.25 per quilt and \$1.00 per kit. Please direct your financial help for any phase of quilting to Hope's Church Women (HLCW). Thank you in advance!

Receiving a blessing during a Sunday service recently were 15 quilts destined for Lutheran Social Services, Northern CA., a heart-warming event.

New hands-on participants welcomed since spring include Erika Grimstvedt and Shirley Klemons. (I may have missed others as this writer was MIA frequently.)

Final meetings for 2017 will occur on Sept. 26, Oct 10 and Oct 24. Quilters love drop-ins, luncheon crashers and secret sewers stitching the pre-arranged bundles of fabric into gorgeous quilt fronts. May God bless our combined efforts.



The Annual HLCW
THANKOFFERING will occur in
November.

To support local non-profits meeting the urgent needs of hidden hungry neighbors. Please PLAN TO SHARE generously.

HLCW Circles

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

Mary Circle
3rd Tuesday of the month 10:00 am
Location Varies
Contact: Martha Welch

Sarah Circle
3rd Tuesday of the month 10:00 am
Location Varies
Contact: Lois Nieman



Celebrating birthdays in October

Shirley Klemens
Brian Fong*
Joan Clevon
Annie Martinez*
Samuel Jung
Kristen Pang
Nathan Amarandos
Linda Harvey

Eric Ackerman*
Mark Grimstvedt
Christa Basch
Shirley Davanis
Hermine Bauer
Caitlyn Holl
Henry Lin
Marilyn Gaal

David Hayes
Shaina Prasad
Elizabeth Dummler
Judith Hartnett
Kari Dahl
Norma Henderson
Riley Sallander
Julia Henderson

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 1	The Chief Priests	Matthew 21:23-32
October 8	Parable of the Vineyard	Matthew 21:33-46
October 15	The Wedding Banquet	Matthew 22:1-14
October 22	Paying Taxes	Matthew 22:15-22
October 29	The Greatest Commandment	Matthew 22:34-46

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
10/1	Margo Kannenberg	Don Hermansen Sandi Kane	Skip Dahl	Monika Hastings
10/8	Jerilyn Struven	Phil & Marilyn Gaal	Margo Kannenberg	Judy Jeschke
10/15	Kirsten Severson	Deb & Tom Stucke	Hank Harper	Deb Stucke Rachael Stucke
10/22	Don Hermansen	Marlys Jungroth Skip Dahl	Karl Voss	Ken Struven
10/29	Skip Dahl	Nancy Kehl Kirsten Severson	Lois Nieman	Jessica Stucke

Youth News

Our Hope youth joined youth from St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in August to celebrate the last days of summer with two fun events. The first was a trip to Half Moon Bay with a Stand-Up Paddleboard (SUP) tour and an afternoon at Venice Beach. The overcast day did not keep the children from enjoying the water with boogie boards and burying each other in the sand! Our second joint event was an afternoon of water play at Raging Waters in San Jose. Everyone had a blast and we stayed until the park closed!

There are two upcoming events to get on your calendar. On Sunday November 19 following our church service we will meet in Nilsen Hall to assemble care packages for our College Youth as they prepare for their final exams. All members of the congregation are invited to help, but we especially would love to have assistance and notes of encouragement from our elementary and high school youth.

I am also excited to announce that the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held from June 27th-July 1st in Houston Texas. This event occurs every three years, and is open to high-school aged students including those who are entering high school next fall and those that will graduate this spring. This year's theme is "This Changes Everything" and is based on Ephesians 2:8. I hear from past attendees that attending a youth convention is a powerful, positive, life changing experience. I am working to provide the congregation more information this fall, but in the meantime interested parents and youth can visit the gathering website at www.elca.org/gathering for details.

Finally, I am working to form a youth committee to help plan future youth events. Meeting times will be determined based on the schedules of those who are available to assist. If you would be willing to serve Hope in this capacity, please contact me.

In Christ,
Judy Jeschke

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church 2017 Financial Update

Jan - Jul 2017	Actual	Budget	Difference
Offering Income	\$187,498	\$197,500	-\$10,002
Other Income	\$11,225	\$11,407	-\$182
Memorial Income	\$20,781	\$0	\$20,781
Total Income	\$219,504	\$208,907	\$10,598
Total Expenses	\$233,643	\$208,907	\$24,737
Net Ordinary Income	-\$14,139	\$0	-\$14,139

*****Note**—If you remove the \$20,781 of Memorial Income received in 2017, our income falls short of our expenses for the period by (-\$34,920).



August 31, 2017

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your recent gift given to your synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in June 2017. With these gifts you are providing

education and advocacy, water and sanitation, live-stock and agriculture, health care and microloans.

With your gifts you are making possible ministry and projects that are transformative, holistic and integrated. With your gifts you are working here and in 62 countries around the world. With your gifts you are walking with communities to address hunger and poverty in a way that barriers are broken down, inequality is decreased, and relationships are whole and flourishing.

Thank you for this gift and all your gifts. Thank you for your faithful generosity and for encouraging others to join ELCA World Hunger in the fight against hunger and poverty. Thank you for living into God's words of justice and mercy and for joining with the whole church to love and serve one another.

In God's grace,
Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

September 5, 2017

Dear Pastor,
Your generous contribution is more than just a donation. Your help provides vital services to struggling families and individuals throughout San Mateo County, making it possible for them to survive and thrive. On behalf of the board and staff of Samaritan House, I'd like to personally thank you for your monetary gift. These funds, combined with those from others like you, will be used to provide backpacks and school supplies to hundreds of schoolchildren in need.

Clients seek our assistance at a very difficult time in their lives. Samaritan House provides not only appropriate resources, but also the hope, dignity and empowerment they need to work toward a more stable future.

Your gift is an example of what Samaritan House is all about: "Neighbor helping Neighbor." We simply can't thank you enough for providing support, care hope to those who truly need it, right here in our community.

Sincerely,
Bart A. Charlow, LMFT, CEO

September 7, 2017

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your donation of 15 handmade quilts benefiting Lutheran Social Services of Northern California.

Housing first is our blueprint for success. We serve 3,500 clients daily and offer them tools that will enable them to build stable lives. Most of them share a common history of long-term poverty and homelessness often complicated by serious mental and physical health issues.

LSS is in this work to help our clients and their families to build a better future. I am glad to know that there are generous individuals like you whose support we can count on. You allow us to offer stability and hope for a better future to those we serve.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,
Carol Roberts, Ph. D.
Chief Executive Officer

September 11, 2017

Dear Hope congregation,
It's been my privilege and honor to serve as your Administrative Assistant over the last couple of years. It's with a heavy heart that I inform you of my departure. My family and I have made the decision to move to Arizona for an affordable living. I was born in the Bay Area and have never lived anywhere else, but it's time for a new adventure in my life and I have faith that things will work out for the best.

I hope you understand, that this decision wasn't easy but it's what's best for us. I hope you keep my family and I in your prayers and keep me in your memory. I will cherish all the friendships I've made, and I'm grateful for those who've welcomed me and appreciated my work. My last day will be September 29, 2017 and even though I'm leaving I hope I can take what I've learned and serve my Lord wherever He leads me.

Sincerely,
Annie Martinez and family

Upcoming Events

Men's Breakfast

The Men's breakfast meets the first and third Saturday of the each month in Nielsen Hall. Breakfast is served at 7:30 am and the study begins at around 8:00 am.



New Picture Directory! Sign-up to reserve a spot, Oct. 12-15

Please sign up for your session for our picture directory NOW!! You can sign up on the patio, or use the online signup system:

<https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y6cevql0/>

Lifetouch

Day/Times:

Thursday, October 12: 2pm to 8pm

Friday, October 13: 2pm to 8pm

Saturday, October 14: 9am to 4pm

Sunday, October 15: noon to 6pm

You will receive a free 8x10 photo with your session and photos will be available for holiday cards and gifts. We want everyone to be included in our directory! If you have any questions, please call Margo Kannenberg.

Fall Confirmation Classes, 5 - 7pm

Confirmation classes will be jointly hosted at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Andrews and Hope. The schedule is as follows:

October 1—St. Andrews (5-7:30pm)
October 22—Hope Lutheran Church
November 5—Hope Lutheran Church
November 19—Good Shepherd
December 3—Good Shepherd

Any questions, please contact Pastor Dan Severson.

Christmas Worship Services

Due to the fact that Christmas Eve Falls on a Sunday this year, we will not have a service on Christmas Day. We'll have 3 service on Sunday, December 24th.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY Sundays at 11:45 am

Our Bible study class will meet after Café Hope in the educational building.

The topic selected by the class is the book of Revelation, the last book in the New Testament. This book has been controversial as well for other reasons. Some of the early church fathers did not want to include it in the canon of apostolic books that make up the New Testament. Luther did not think the book was helpful because of its obscurity. In any case, it will be an interesting challenge to wade through this book, and to try and discern its message to us. If it's not to be understood as predictive, then how should we understand it?

Hopefully, we will bring some clarity to all of this in a way that may give us some assurance of the fulfillment of God's promises of redemption. Everyone is invited to join us for this study. See you all there.

- Pastor Dan

Luther & Church Doctrine Wednesday Class

We are going to put everything we have learned about Luther together over the next couple months as a kind of finale to our celebration of the Reformation. The class is entitled "Luther and Church Doctrine." Each week, we will look at another important topic in Luther's thought. The outline is as follows:

- 1) Luther's Doctrine of God
- 2) Luther's Theology Creation
- 3) Luther's Anthropology
- 4) Luther on Sin and Evil
- 5) Luther on Christ's Person and Work
- 6) Luther on the Church
- 7) Luther on the Holy Spirit
- 8) Luther on Eschatology (*Last Things*)

The class will meet each Wednesday afternoon at 1:00 pm in the Youth Room, beginning Wednesday, September 13. It will end Wednesday, October 25th, just before the 500th Anniversary service of Reformation Sunday.

BOOK CLUB

The book club at Hope meets every first Thursday of the month, at 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room. This month's book is Left To Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust by Immaculée Ilibagiza.