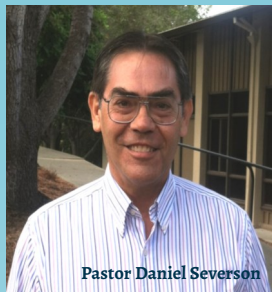


The Voice of Hope

APRIL 2019

“Knowing and sharing the good news of Hope in Christ”



Pastor Daniel Severson

Dear Friends,
In our midweek class on the life and times of Jesus, we have looked at how Jesus' teachings, particularly his parables, were designed to change the worldview of his listeners. Who were his

listeners? In first century Galilee, most people lived in small villages. Nazareth for example, where Jesus grew up, was a collection of caves, some natural and some man made. Somewhere around 200-400 people lived there, most of whom were involved in the agriculture industry. Small land owners farmed their own land, growing grapevines for wine, (not grape juice) olive trees for their oil used in cooking and lamps, or grain used for baking bread, which was much like our pita bread. Taxes were high so in years of drought, some land owners lost their property due to debt or unpaid taxes. The next option for them was to become a tenant farmer, (Mark 12:1-11). If a person lost this job, they became a day laborer, (Matthew 20:1-16). If this didn't earn enough to eat, a person became a beggar, (Luke 16:19-31) or a bandit, (Luke 10:30-37). These people were called "people of the land." Sociologists call them "peasants." All the people with money, large landowners (Luke 12:16-21), the people who worked for them (Luke 16:1-13), rulers like Herod Antipas, (Mark 6:12-29) and his supporters, called "Herodians" (Mark 3:6, 12:13) lived in one of the two cities, Sepphoris or Tiberius. Jesus never set foot in either place. These people became rich on the backs of the poor through numerous taxes. The religious authorities, the Pharisees and the Sadducees, did nothing to change this corrupt system. Jesus warned his disciples about the teaching of these people because it actually supported the status quo, (Matthew 16:5-12). We can also see Jesus' attitude concerning this in Luke 6:20-26; "Blessed are the poor...but woe to you who are rich."

Read in context, its fairly easy to see how Jesus' teaching was designed to change the thinking of the "peasants." Jesus wanted them to recognize that the teaching of the authorities concerning God and God's law was based on a world view that perpetuated these unjust systems, and served only the interests of the rich. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, (Luke 15:11-32) God welcomes the brother who became poor, God frees oppressed women, (John 8:1-11), he makes heroes out of despised Samaritans, (Luke 10:30-37) and puts love above Sabbath Laws, (Luke 13:10-17). In other words, Jesus' teaching became very dangerous precisely because he was changing the way people think about themselves and God, and this revolution in their thinking was a threat to the social order. We tend to spiritualize Jesus' messages so that its hard to see how they challenged the politics and economics of the time. But this was clearly seen by the religious thought police and this is why they came to the conclusion that he had to be destroyed.

This is also why some people more recently have come to the conclusion that Jesus was primarily a political revolutionary, (liberation theology). However, as he himself said to Pilate when questioned about this, (John 18:33-38), were he an advocate for violent revolution, his followers would be fighting against his enemies. Jesus never advocated for violent rebellion. He told Peter to put his sword away when Jesus was arrested, adding, "He who lives by the sword dies by the sword." Moreover, he was very clear about loving enemies, praying for persecutors, and the use of nonviolence, (Matthew 5:38-48). He was a revolutionary all right, but not in the conventional sense. For Jesus, anyone who comes to a knowledge of the truth concerning God's will and grace; anyone who is set free from bondage to sin and evil, which is the very thing that creates social injustice and totalitarianism, through God's love and mercy, embodied in Jesus himself and received through faith; these followers of Jesus

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

will become nonconformists to the evils of their time. Lincoln expressed this to his dejected cabinet after his army lost the battle of Antietam. "We must think anew and act anew. Then we will save our country. Moreover, after Lee surrendered, he addressed the nation by saying, "With malice toward none, and charity for all..." Lincoln was the best!

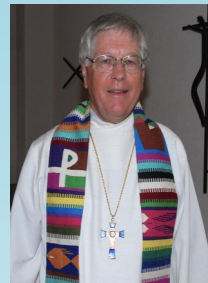
This month we celebrate the high point of our Savior's love, and his teaching that no society deserves to be called "the people of God" unless it treats all people with justice and compassion. Why? Because that's who God is, and the people of God reflect the presence of God in their life together. That high point is Easter: God's victory over sin, evil, and death. Jesus opposed individual AND social evils precisely because the consequence is death. People who push world views that create tribalism, insulting and demeaning political speech; people who do "opposition research" in order to destroy the reputations of their political opponents; In other words, those who push a world view that sees everything in terms of a power struggle between people of different races, genders and sexual orientations, as well as those who push a euro-centered white supremacist world view—both sides are stoking division, hatred, and violence. Throughout history, world views have radically changed. What has not changed is the sinful behavior of those who wish to impose their ideology on the rest of society so as to gain or hold onto power. Today, both right and left are guilty, and the hypocritical way in which the elites condemn their opponents for their sins while protecting their allies from the same scrutiny is so obvious that even shame has become a thing of the past.

In any case, followers of Christ do not oppose the behavior of idol-inspired haters with violence or by returning hatred, lies, and insults. We don't have to do that precisely because we live in fellowship and love with the One who has already defeated these enemies of life. While Christians, in imitation of their Lord, must not make deals with the devil by conforming to social evils for the sake of power, (Matthew 4:8-11, Luke 4:5-8), neither do we

attempt to impose faith in Christ through pressure or shaming. Rather, we witness to the truth as Jesus did, encouraging the doubters, and walking away from the scoffers. As Luther put it when asked how he was able to convince people of the truth, "The Word did everything."

A Blessed Easter to all, Pastor Dan

Pastor Paul's Notes



Seniors will come together on Tuesday, April 2 to view the movie, "The Mission." The congregation is invited as well. It will begin at 12 noon as the viewing will take around two hours. A time for discussion will follow. Here is a summary:

The movie is a powerful, historically authentic adventure-drama which depicts the religious and political tensions among the Spanish and Portuguese colonists, and the native people of South America. It occurs during the 17th and 18th centuries. The scenery and music are outstanding. It takes place in the jungles around the spectacular, world renowned Iguazu Falls on the border of Brazil and Argentina.

Starring Robert De Nero and Jeremy Irons, "The Mission" is a 1986 award-winning film.

Seniors will have a lunch-outing on Thursday, April 18. The restaurant TBD. Details will be coming in Sunday announcements.

"Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." ---Mother Teresa

"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." -----Howard Thurman

*From our
Council President*



No matter how often you are at church, there are ongoing activities that may not be on your radar. Some that may interest you are educational in nature. Each Sunday following worship, Pastor Dan leads a Bible study, currently working its way through the book of Romans. There

is reading the Bible, and then there is **READING** the Bible – on a deeper level, with comments about the people involved, the historical setting, the meaning of Greek and Hebrew words, and insights into how these particular passages affect us. On Wednesdays, Pastor Dan is leading a series on the Life and Times of Jesus. If you are not able to attend, you can catch his lectures on Hope's website, www.hopelutheransanmateo.org. Sunday sermons are also available on the website. Even if you heard a particular sermon in person, it might be helpful to listen to it again. You may pick up something that you missed the first time.

Aging is something that none of us can escape. Interests and activities and abilities may change, but there is usually more time to do what you want. Hope has a seniors ministry that involves both presentations on subjects of interest and social events just to get together to share time over a meal. Pastor Paul has put together a wonderful program. These activities are open to all, so you decide whether you feel senior enough to participate. You're only as old as you feel (or act).

If any men want to get up early on a Saturday, we have a Men's Breakfast and Bible Study twice a month. Currently, we are reading and discussing an inspirational book entitled, "They Were Christians." Although this book is historical, it is wonderful to know that there are people in public life who rely (perhaps quietly) upon their faith to guide them. (Psst! It's really worth getting up early, even though it's a Saturday.) The monthly book club also discusses this and similar books.

We have a number of children at Hope, but not the large number we had at one time. It is not just Hope where this is happening, but all groups seem to be affected in the same way – less involvement and less commitment. It is not my place to judge, but it's just something I'm pointing out. Of course we would love to have more children participating in worship and learning about Jesus. Pastor Dan presents a simple lesson to children during worship, and the rest of us can listen in and perhaps pick up something meaningful to carry with us. He also offers first communion instruction and confirmation classes. Children learn about their faith in an age-appropriate way during Spark Time Sunday School.

Easter comes very late this year. We are continuing to have our Wednesday evening soup suppers through Lent, followed by a brief devotional worship service. As exciting as Easter Sunday is (memories from childhood), I am awed by the events of Holy Week, especially Good Friday. It is a time to reflect deeply and appreciate the sacrifice that Christ made for us, unworthy as we are. May your Holy Week and Easter celebration be blessed.

Preschool Corner

The children enjoyed March Madness with all the crazy activities and the leprechaun's shenanigans.

April brings spring flowers and the children are preparing for their Easter sing. They will be amazing!

We are gearing up for Family Night on May 8th in Nielsen Hall with a new entertainer, Steve Koehler. This year the theme is "Under the Sea" and the children are busy creating sea creatures and learning about the ocean life. This is our way to show case Hope Lutheran Preschool.

Wishing a Happy Easter from the Preschool Staff.



Blessings,
Tracy Siri
Preschool Director

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Worship



In celebration of Easter Sunday, everyone is invited to bring one or more flowers to decorate the cross that will be on the patio.



From our Choir Director

GIFT often implies a special favor by God or nature. The *gift* of singing beautifully is often considered a gift from God. Often people think that

singers in a choir possess the gift of singing as a gift from God. Sometimes that's true, but often it is someone who acts on a talent or a gift that they embrace and develop which then becomes a gift to other people. Many of our choir members possess this gift or develop their gift from God. Many choir members are "ordinary" singers but choose to use their talents, big or small, to benefit others.

What is your gift? Whatever it is, making soup, repairing equipment or making music, God has given you a gift to develop and benefit others. When you use your talent, it is not only of benefit to others, it fulfills your sense of fulfillment. DON'T WASTE GOD'S GIFT TO YOU.

Shirley Fitzgerald
Choir Director

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The Mission

**April 2nd at 12 Noon
in the Youth Room**

This is a powerful historically authentic adventure drama depicting the religious and political tensions among the Spanish and Portuguese colonists and the native people of South America during the 17th and 18th centuries. In addition to being a gripping story, the scenery and music are outstanding. It takes place in the jungles around the spectacular, world renowned Iguazu Falls (consisting of 275 falls) on the border of Brazil and Argentina. This is certain to invite discussion afterward.

The movie will begin at 12:00 and run approximately 2 hours. Bring a bag lunch. Popcorn will be served.

To our friends and family at Hope

Thank you for all your prayers for our Dad, Niels, during his illness. Your prayers, cards, words of encouragement and support were a source of strength for him. The day of his memorial service (Feb 9) was beautiful, as your presence, along with Dad's neighbors, beekeeping and construction friends, gave witness to a life well lived.

Thank you to Pr Dan for his many visits with Dad. We also want to thank Pr Dan, Pr Paul and Doug Franks for the worship service, to Marlys Jungroth and all who helped with the refreshments afterwards. And thanks to those who helped distribute flowers for others to enjoy. We are grateful that Hope has been our family's faith community for many years. Your loving support in these day of grief has carried us.

In Christ, with hope in the resurrection,

Dorothy Nielsen Dallum and Lisbeth Nielsen

Please pray for Douglas



Please pray for our organist Douglas Franks and his family. He was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor and is now at home under hospice care. Cards can be sent to his address. The family has requested no flowers. The email and phone number listed below is to Douglas' step-daughter, Lola. She would like to receive messages that she can read to Douglas.

Treasurer's Report

Dear Members and Friends of Hope,

Our 1st two months of income for 2019 have fallen significantly short of our budget goals for this time period. 2019 income is down 31.3% compared with last year's income at the same time.

Can you pray-fully consider your 2019 giving now and help Hope become financially strong as we move through 2019? There are so many ways that Hope has and will share God's love with our community. Please consider your support in that mission. :

January - February 2019 Financials

Total church income: **\$49,402**

Operating church income: (without memorials) **\$48,537**

Total church expense, including mortgage: **\$71,168**

Income **down by 31.3%** over last year's income in Jan/Feb

Expenses **up by 6.1%** over last year's expenses in Jan/Feb

Budget income shortfall: **\$15,902**

Expenses in line with Budget: **\$72,105** budget vs **\$71,168** actual

Preschool Jan/Feb profit: **\$7891** (note: need profit to cover salaries in July/Aug)

Margo Kannenberg
Treasurer

The youth of
Hope present...

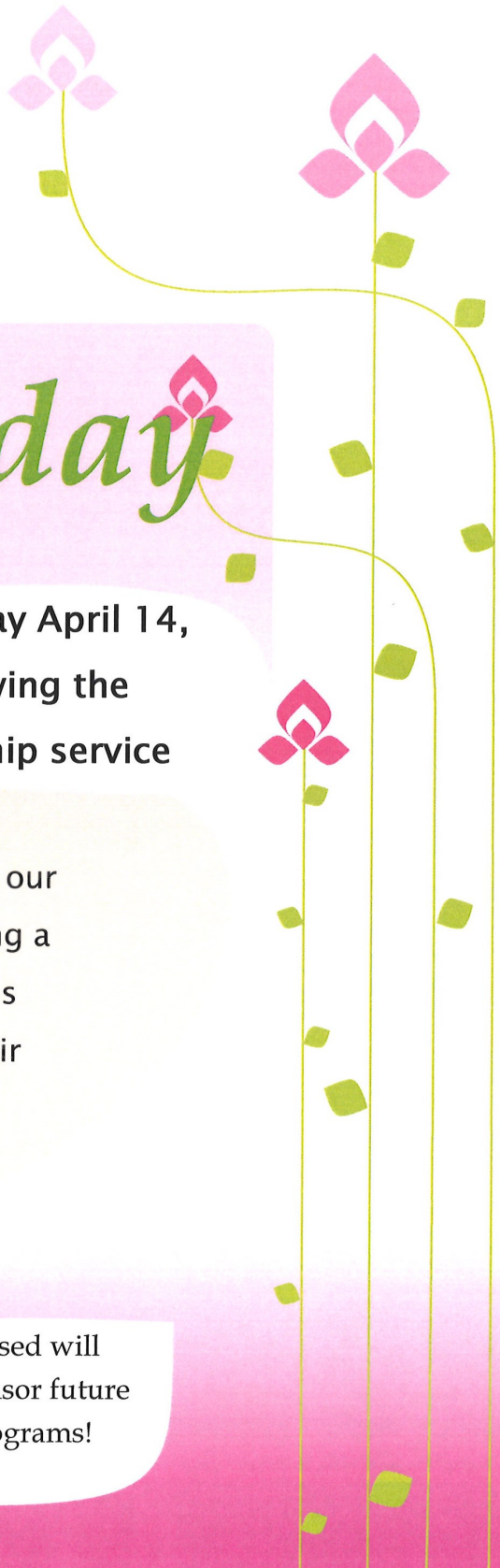
Palm Sunday

Brunch

Sunday April 14,
following the
worship service

Please join us in Nielsen Hall for our annual fellowship event, featuring a delicious variety of brunch dishes prepared by Hope youth and their families!

Funds raised will
help sponsor future
youth programs!



Midweek Services on Theological and Spiritual Topics

We continue our study of the life and times of Jesus the Messiah. The class will meet for the last time on Wednesday, April 10th, assuming that we have completed our task of putting together a coherent biographical account of Jesus' life. We have looked at the geography, the climate, the economy, the culture, the politics, and the religion of first century Galilee. We have also been introduced to the formal study of the four canonical gospels, along with the written accounts of people who were not biblical authors. We are now reconstructing as much historical and biographical information as possible so that, in theory, we can look at the events and people who contributed to Jesus' life and teaching. Our main goal is to be able to hear his words with the ears of a first century Galilean. Please join us in the Youth Room on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 2:00. It will give you the tools you need to read the New Testament with greater understanding.

Our next class, time yet to be determined, (it depends on the wishes of those who are attending now) is entitled, "The Underground Bible: Learning the History of Israel from Archaeology." For this class, we will go through the entire history of ancient Israel from the Patriarchs to the Roman period. That would be from around 1900 B.C. to 70 A.D. Since the 19th century, there have been countless archaeological digs in the Holy Land. Biblical archaeology is a subject unto itself with its own academic journal and many trained professors. The information that has been discovered, and the methods of discovering that information is fascinating. Moreover, it will surprise you. In connection with the archaeological information, we will also be reading the biblical texts, especially those of 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings. The start date for this class will be announced soon.

We also still have a book club that meets on the first Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. We are finishing the book, "They Were Christians," and we will be starting a new book soon. Please join us in the Fireside Room.

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study will continue to meet through the month of June on the first and third Saturday of the month from 7:30 to 9:00 am. We continue working our way through the book, "They Were Christians," stopping periodically for lively discussions. If you are not in the habit of coming, please give it a try. Attendance has been good, and the cooks always have a great breakfast prepared for your enjoyment.

Holy Week Services

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 14th. After our 10:00 service, Cafe' Hope will be the youth brunch, always a favorite. Please come, enjoy the meal and support our youth.

On Thursday, March 18th, we have scheduled a Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 pm. in commemoration of our Lord's last supper with his disciples. We will reflect on the meaning of communion, celebrate the sacrament, and, at the conclusion of the service, strip the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

On Friday, April 19th, a Good Friday service has been scheduled for 7:00 pm. This will be a rewrite of the service based on music and reflections on the seven words of Christ from the cross. It will include a narration of the dramatic events that took place in Jerusalem at that time, and what these events mean for us.

On Sunday, April 21st, we will have two festival Easter services at 8:00 and 10:00 am. The trumpets, the organ, the liturgy, hymns and flowers will all combine to proclaim "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" Please bring some flowers from your garden to decorate the cross on the patio, and bring a friend as well.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Starting this Sunday, our Sunday morning Bible study will begin a study of the Gospel according to Mark. Mark was the first gospel to be written, somewhere between 65 and 70 A.D. Mark was, according to the church fathers, the scribe for Peter. Since by the mid 60's A.D., it was clear that Jesus' return would be delayed much longer than most people thought at the time, and since the only remaining eyewitnesses to Jesus' ministry were dying, it became clear that a written record of Jesus' life and ministry was going to be a necessity for future generations. Peter was in Rome at this time, and the Emperor Nero was busy trying to kill off the Christians in Rome as scapegoats for the fire he set. The man was insane, and his tortures of Christians were insane to a degree never seen again. Peter, sentenced to crucifixion, insisted on being crucified upside down since he felt unworthy of dying as Jesus had. As the story goes, Peter had shared his memories of the time he had with Jesus, and Mark wrote them down. But whatever happened, its clear that Mark was written in the context of a community that was suffering for the faith, and so Mark focuses on Jesus as the suffering Messiah. Its also interesting to note that both Matthew and Luke used Mark as one of the sources for their own gospel accounts. This should be a great study so I hope all of you previous attenders will want to return. Sunday mornings from 11:45 to 12:30, excepting the second Sunday when church council meets.

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Women's Spring Luncheon

Save the Date!

May 4th
 12:00pm
 Nielsen Hall
 \$15 per person

Entertainment by:
 Nucleus Jazz Trio

Please sign up on the patio before or after worship:

April 7, 14, 21, 28

Youth News

At long last, we are starting to see a break in the chilly, wet weather that characterizes a Northern California winter. Spring is upon us! For our family, that marks the start of spring sports like baseball and track and the end of football and the boys gymnastics competitive season. And of course, spring ushers in Easter, the highlight of the Christian Church Year!

Once again, the youth of Hope will be hosting the Palm Sunday Brunch following the church service on Sunday April 14. We hope to see many of our congregation for this annual time of fellowship. I will be contacting many of our families to ask for your assistance in preparing this meal. Please consider helping - it is a great opportunity to help our children stay connected through Christ. Please contact me if you are willing and able to prepare a dish or help with serving after the Palm Sunday service.

Also, I wanted to once again add a note that we are still looking for 1-2 more volunteers to assist with our search for a part-time youth director. If you are willing to serve on the committee or have any leads of anyone that might be interested in this position, please contact me.

May the Spirit be with you in this Holy Season!

Judy Jeschke
 Hope Council Secretary & Youth Representative

Home and Hope Guests in April

April brings the pensiveness of Holy Week, our glorious celebration of Easter, and our Home and Hope guests returning to Hope April 7-14, 2019. It's a special opportunity for self reflection, renewal, and realignment of ourselves in service to those around us.

Much thanks and appreciation are extended to Bill and Scott Hroziencik for helping with set up/ take down, and Pastor Dan with set up for our February Hosting week. Due to scheduling conflicts, we missed our few regulars, and as we all know from all areas of the church, a single step up to the plate is tremendous help. We certainly appreciate the flexibility of our cooks, as well as laundry Angels.

Let's open our hearts and arms to our families April 7-14, especially with serving dinner for our guests, or staying overnight 8:30pm-7am the next morning. We know this form of service is not for everyone, but if you have wondered about an evening with H&H families, now is the time to try it. We also can use someone to purchase our cupboard/frig food, with our list of course and deliver to the Education kitchen before guests arrive at 6pm on Sunday, April 7. This could also be done ahead of time.

Our viability is being challenged, as it is with our support congregations. How wonderful if we could rise to this Hosting and the next one in November as we wrap up our 19th year of serving H&H.

Sign ups are in Nielsen Hall, or SignupGenius, or talk with Helena Dummler, Kris or Jerry Brooks.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0b48ada623a57-home4>



HLCW Circles

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



Birthdays in April

Kim Schroder-Siguenza	4/2	Wayne Westphal	
Bruce Bulkin	4/3	Barbara Kreslake	4/22
Arthur Schillberg	4/5	Pamela Loo	4/23
Krista Wilson	4/6	Bradley Worthge	4/24
Elaine Dummler	4/8	Bob Way	4/25
Joan Grimsby		Richard Ekong	4/26
Crystal Dahl	4/12	Kaitlyn Blundell	4/27
Frank Lin	4/16	Kris Brooks	4/28
Barbro Sandberg	4/18	Karin Pickard	4/28

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

* = Friend of Congregation



Spark Time Sunday School

Children from Kindergarten thru Grade 6
dismissed to Sunday School during Sending Hymn and

Date	Theme	Scripture
April 7	Mary Anoints Jesus	John 12:1-8
April 14	Holy Week	Luke 19:28-40; 23:26-56
April 21	NO SPARKS	— —
April 28	Doubting Thomas	John 20:19-31

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
4/7	Sandi Kane	Helena Dummler Erica Grimstvedt	Lisa Sallander	Sandi Kane Hank Harper
4/14	Mary Phillips	David Schoch Kirsten Severson	Carole Setzer	Monika Hastings
4/21	Skip Dahl Don Hermansen	Nancy Kehl Don Hermansen David & Mary Phillips	Skip Dahl Bill Hroziencik	NO SPARKS
4/28	Bill Kannenberg	Hank Harper Linda Harvey	Karl Voss	Debra Stucke

Upcoming Events

ADULT BIBLE STUDY Sundays @ 11:45am

Starting this Sunday, our Sunday morning Bible study will begin a study of the Gospel according to Mark. Mark was the first gospel to be written, somewhere between 65 and 70 A.D. Mark was, according to the church fathers, the scribe for Peter. Since by the mid 60's A.D., it was clear that Jesus' return would be delayed much longer than most people thought at the time, and since the only remaining eyewitnesses to Jesus' ministry were dying, it became clear that a written record of Jesus' life and ministry was going to be a necessity for future generations. This should be a great study so I hope all of you previous attenders will want to return. Sunday mornings from 11:45 to 12:30, excepting the second Sunday when church council meets. the educational building on Sundays from 11:45 am. to 12:30 pm.

Seniors Luncheon—April 18

Seniors will have a lunch-outing on Thursday, April 18. The restaurant TBD. Details will be coming in Sunday announcements.

ST. ANDREW'S LUNCHEON—JUNE 8

On the second Saturday every three months @ 11:15am, St. Andrew's will be hosting their Senior Caring Communion Service and Luncheon. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP ASAP! From Hope Lutheran there is room for only the first 10 people who RSVP. If you would like more information about this event or would like to attend, please call the church office.

THE UNDERGROUND BIBLE

Our next class is entitled, "The Underground Bible: Learning the History of Israel from Archaeology." For this class, we will go through the entire history of ancient Israel from the Patriarchs to the Roman period. In connection with the archaeological information, we will also be reading the biblical texts, especially those of 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings. The start date for this class will be announced soon.

Seniors Ministry—April 2

Seniors will come together on Tuesday, April 2 to view the movie, "The Mission." The congregation is invited as well. It will begin at 12 noon as the viewing will take around two hours. A time for discussion will follow.

Men's Breakfast

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

Men's Breakfast will meet on Saturday, March 2nd & 16th.

BOOK CLUB—April 4

Our next meeting of the book club will be on Thursday, April 4th at 1pm in the Fireside Room. The book we will be discussing is entitled, They Were Christians: The Inspiring Faith of Men and Women who Changed the World by Cristóbal Krusen. Please join us for inspiration and a great discussion.

Confirmation Classes

**Confirmation classes will be hosted at
Hope Lutheran Church.**

The schedule is as follows:

April 28

**If you have any questions, please contact
Pastor Dan Severson (650) 349-0100 x102**

Hope Lutheran Church
600 W. 42nd Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94403

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April 2019



Voice of Hope Deadline for May edition: Friday, April 19



Hope Lutheran Church

650-349-0100

helc@pacbell.net

www.hopelutheransanmateo.org

www.facebook.com/hopelutheransanmateo

Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM

Sunday School at 11:00 AM

